

To the Editors and Lafayette Community:

QuEST would like to thank everyone who showed their support and helped to make *Gay? Fine by me* a phenomenal success, more than we ever could have anticipated. Over 300 people came out to the rally, and we received more than 650 requests for t-shirts (more than 25% of the campus)! It was truly inspiring to see the diversity of participants at the rally, an assembly whose representation included sports teams, Greek life, student organizations, and faculty. The green shirts can still be seen around campus, serving as a reminder of the victory that was won against homophobia. *Gay? Fine by me* was one of Lafayette's largest activist events in the college's history.

With this in mind, ~~we were shocked when~~ we heard that absolutely no mention of our event would be included in last week's newspaper. As the most widely-circulated official source for campus news, 'the Lafayette' is entrusted by the college to record all pertinent and significant events. QuEST felt that the newspaper had violated this trust with its failure to print an event of such magnitude. Suspecting malice or bias, we met with your representatives and clarified that this was not this case. But rather, it was an unfortunate lack of communication on all of our parts. Although you were understanding and promised to publish an article online, QuEST felt that we needed to take immediate action; the officers wrote an article detailing coverage of the event and inserted it into 600 copies of your newspaper. The article was not an act of vengeance, but rather a carefully prepared piece written to the best of our abilities.

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Many may judge our actions as rash or reprehensible, but please consider this from our perspective. We enacted this campaign to send out a message: that any member of this community, regardless of sexual orientation, religion, gender, or race, has a right to feel comfortable and accepted. Whether you intended it or not, the omission of our event was sending out a message of its own: that *Gay? Fine by me* was not worthy of news coverage. Clearly we can both learn from this experience – but we ask you, our newspaper, to be more attuned to the minority groups of this campus, who struggle everyday for representation. You are not only an organization, but a collective voice, the sum of every member of our community.

- QuEST (Questioning Established Sexual Taboos)