

Q

tips

**The Lesbian,
Gay & Bisexual
Resource
Center's Monthly
Newsletter**

Tufts University

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Volume 1, Number 2

TLBGC News

Last semester was very exciting for the TLGBC. Beginning with the controversy surrounding the Culture Rep Amendment, shortly followed by the extreme reactions to the chalkings and the Coming Out Day rally, the TLGBC found itself in the *Daily* quite often last semester. However, in the minds of co-coordinators Danielle Costa and Jay Hardee, last semester was very productive. The dialogue sparked by the TLGBC drew much needed attention to LGB issues from all corners of the campus.

Moreover, the Monday night meetings at Hayes House have been great. The group has discussed topics ranging from coming out to parents, to queer media, to B&D/S&M. Our meet-
(see TLGBC NEWS, p. 2)

What the papers said

Last semester in the news at Tufts, queers were everywhere. From the *Daily*, to the *Observer*, the *Zamboni*, and yes, even our beloved *Primary Source*, visibility was definitely not something we were lacking. Gay, lesbian, and bisexual Tuftonians were out and about,

LGB issues made it
big in the press

making chalkings, making news, and making progress.

The *Primary Source* started off the year beautifully for us, giving us the first news coverage of the year. In the first issue, LGB course offerings, and RA sensitivity training were mocked, and once again, the *Primary Source* writing staff man-

aged to show its ignorance and pathetic misunderstanding of LGB issues.

Then, who could forget all the publicity afforded to the queer community surrounding the Tufts Coming Out Day chalkings? With a barrage of letters to the editor in the *Daily*, and having chalkings mimicked as quotes of the day, such as "Lesbian Schmesbian," to the usual jokes of the *Zamboni*, and full spreads in the *Observer* debating the issue of the chalkings and Coming Out Day in general, Tufts' queers were a hot topic of controversial debate for quite a while.

On a more positive note, President DiBiaggio was encouraged through petitions to include sexual orientation as a part of his vision of Tufts' diversity. When asked why he made the decision to include sexual orientation, he said, "It was simply the right thing to do." Thank you, President DiBiaggio!

Last semester, Tufts' queer community was able to take advantage of a fully operational Resource Center, despite the lack of our director, Charlene Waldron, being full time as needed. We also had the opportunity to visit our nation's capital, show our blue jean pride, celebrate a successful Coming Out Day, go to a queer holiday party, and overall, be heard on campus. Let's make the spring semester even more successful! ▼

Graduate Students Stirring

Lesbian, gay and bisexual Tufts graduate students are a quiet sort, less visible than our undergraduate sisters and brothers. Then again, graduate students aren't known for their visibility.

Hopefully this will change soon for Tufts' queer grad students. Last semester we created an official organization, and have planned several events for the weeks and months ahead.

The organization, offi-

cially named the Bisexual, Gay, Transgendered and Lesbian Graduate students of Tufts University (BGTLGT), seeks to provide a social network for graduate students.

The idea of focusing the activities of the group on social events grew out of students' need for increased interaction with lesbian, gay and bisexual men and women. As one grad student stated succinctly, going to grad school felt like going

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GRAD NEWS

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back into the closet (unless you're in the English department). In addition to needing an escape from predominantly "straight" academic environments, the graduate students who came to early meetings stressed their preference for a group with a social focus so as to counter-balance the "seriousness" of graduate studies. Nevertheless, when the need arises the group will also address issues of political concern and activism.

Since graduate students are split into many small pro-

grams or schools, which individually have even smaller lesbian, gay and bisexual populations, it made the most sense to have one university-wide organization uniting them all.

This semester, BGTLGT will host monthly social evening events at either a student's home or a local restaurant, and a monthly group lunch on campus.

For information about BGTLGT, contact its co-presidents Melissa Baker (mbaker1@emerald.tufts.edu) or Michael Torra (mtorra@emerald.tufts.edu). ▼

TLGBC NEWS

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ings usually see about 25 people, but some meetings have been as large 50. The TLGBC also sponsored a trip to Washington D.C. to see the Holocaust Memorial and the AIDS Quilt. This trip was a wonderful experience for everyone who went, and really brought people together. The TLGBC has proven an excellent way to make new friends, or to just see some different people on Monday nights from the same faces you see the rest of the week. The group is very welcoming and we are always glad to see new faces.

Our final gathering last

semester was a holiday party in the sculpture court welcoming students, faculty, and staff. During the party, several students were honored by the TLGBC: Liz Doherty and Eric Pliner were commended for all they have done for the Tufts queer community during their time here, Carl Sciortino was thanked for all of his contributions to the TLGBC during his first semester at Tufts, and Mary Kohler was recognized as a Hetero Hero for her willingness to become a positive voice in the ongoing debate about LGB issues at Tufts. The party was a very nice way to end a successful semester. ▼

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TEAM Q Update

by Noel Dennis

It's a new semester and TEAM Q (Tufts Educating And Mentoring Queers) is gearing up for some new challenges. This semester should prove to be interesting as we seek to expand the scope of our services. Originally our primary focus was speaking at Explorations Perspectives classes. Soon we hope to make our group available to the entire Tufts community as well as Boston area schools. Organization and training sessions will be taking place soon and new members are encouraged to apply. I'm also looking for other areas where a group of this nature could be utilized and your ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Please feel free to call the center (x3770), snail mail, or e-mail me at ndennis@emerald.tufts.edu. I look forward to seeing the old members and to seeing new faces. ▼

Comments? Viewpoints?

If you have any comments regarding this newsletter, or viewpoints you would like to express about LGB life at Tufts, please contribute to the "Letters" section premiering next month.

Please send letters to "Q-tips Letters" c/o the LGB Resource Center, Carmichael Hall, North Basement, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155. Letters should be no longer than 250 words, and may be edited for clarity and length.

LGB Programming on campus

As many of you are aware, spring is a very busy time for the LGB Community, mostly due to April Pride month programming. This year we hope to do more creative and joint programs for April with the hopes of getting as many communities on campus involved in the LGB Community as possible. We will soon send out a general letter to all departments and offices to invite programming ideas for April. However, don't feel that you have to wait until April to get involved with LGB events! February is already jam packed with great programs which we hope will appeal to everyone.

Social Night will continue

this semester on Wednesday nights at the Resource Center. We just received 15 new videos, so there are lots of great shows to watch. We have tried to do different things for social night, such as movies off campus and featuring different desserts each week. Watch for more details in the Daily!

QUEST, Questioning, Understanding, and Educating about Sexuality at Tufts, has moved to Thursday nights at 9pm. The feedback from last semester included criticism of the night of the week and time of day; hopefully the change will address those issues. The group is open to anyone who

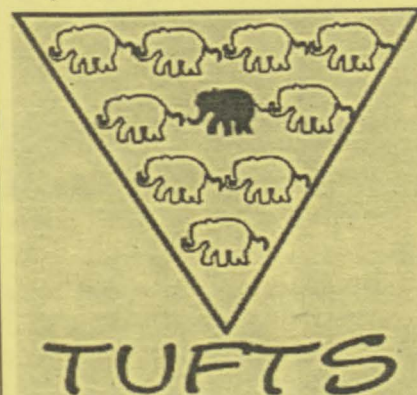
is questioning their sexual orientation or who would like to meet other people who might or are coming out.

The Rap groups on Thursday nights will continue at 7pm. There have been some slight changes, focusing on only three discussion groups and assigning topics to groups. The only exception to this change is the Graduate Student Group which meets the second Thursday of the month. This particular group has been very successful and the group of students have primary control of that group. The third Thursday of the month has become the Lesbian/Bisexual Women Discussion. The topic for this month is "Dating and Relationship Issues." The fourth Thursday of the month is devoted to a People of Color Gay Straight Alliance Discussion. This month's topic is "Is there More Homophobia in Communities of Color."

TLGBC continues to meet at Hayes House every Monday at 9pm. Programming meetings start at 8pm.

The featured events for the month of February are a discussion on the direction of the LGB Community at Tufts, Tuesday, February 4, at 6pm in the Zamperilli Room of the Campus Center.

A special Valentine's event (see PROGRAMMING, p. 4)



Boston's Queer Night Life

by Noel Dennis

While Boston's night life in general has been something of a joke for many years, Boston's queer night life has been a real laughing matter. Many students came to college expecting to find a variety of new social outlets, but the sad truth is that many of the clubs were little more than places to cruise for one night stands.

Well, it looks like some positive changes are taking place. During the last break, I spent most of my time in the greater Boston area having a great time. I visited a lot of the clubs and found the atmosphere to be more conducive to just having a good time. There has even been talk of getting Boston included in the party circuit (a suggestion that has been greeted with mixed reactions), in addition there seems to be a small but dedicated group of folks who are determined to get around the 2am curfew. I attended 5 after

hours events and heard of several others that were taking place. For both Christmas and New Year's Eve the festivities rivaled New York's much touted party scene, and were less expensive.

I wouldn't dream of claiming that all was bliss, there were some problems. Drug use does seem to increase after hours and cruising appears to be second nature to some of our family. The point isn't that Boston is becoming some queer paradise, but that our people are making efforts to make it more fun and perhaps safer. Most of the events that I attended had people monitoring those people who did chose to "indulge", and the attitude seemed to be one of all things in moderation. I was also glad to see more efforts being made to ensure that people leaving these events had a safe means of getting home.

Maybe the time will come when stories of great weekends and breaks won't start with "I went to". I certainly hope so. ▼

February Events Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>3</p> <p>8pm: Hayes House, TLGBC Programming</p> <p>9pm: Hayes House, TLGBC General Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6pm: Zamperilli Room, Campus Center, "Where Do We Go From Here?: The Future of the LGB Community"</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7pm: LGB Resource Center, Social Night</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7pm: LGB Resource Center, RA Info Meeting</p> <p>9pm: LGB Resource Center, QUEST</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>10</p> <p>8pm: Hayes House, TLGBC Programming</p> <p>9pm: Hayes House, TLGBC General Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7pm: LGB Resource Center, Social Night</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7pm: LGB Resource Center, Graduate Discussion Group</p> <p>9pm: LGB Resource Center, QUEST</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9pm: The Women's Center, The Sweethearts Cafe, dessert, videos and Newlywed game</p>
<p>17</p> <p>8pm: Hayes House, TLGBC Programming</p> <p>9pm: Hayes House, TLGBC General Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7pm: LGB Resource Center, Social Night</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7pm: LGB Resource Center, Lesbian/Bisexual Women Discussion Group: "Dating and Relationships"</p> <p>9pm: LGB Resource Center, QUEST</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>24</p> <p>8pm: Hayes House, TLGBC Programming</p> <p>9pm: Hayes House, TLGBC General Meeting</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7pm: LGB Resource Center, Social Night</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7pm: LGB Resource Center, People of Color Gay Straight Alliance Discussion: "Is there More Homophobia in Communities of Color?"</p> <p>9pm: LGB Resource Center, QUEST</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9pm: MacPhie Pub, Craig Hickman, "Portraits of a Black Queen" and a Dance</p>

PROGRAMMING

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will be held on February 14 in the Women's Center at 9pm. There will be a showing of videos with gay love themes and "The Gay Newlyweds Game" with prizes, frozen drinks,

instant pictures and desserts. If you're interested in competing in the game, please call the Resource Center. However, the big event for the month will be Craig Hickman's performance of "Portraits of a Black Queen" on Friday, February 28, in MacPhie Pub with a dance to fol-

low. Please show your support by participating in events!

We have already set the date for the Second Annual LGB Community Dinner. It will be on April 29 in the Remis Sculpture Court from 5pm to 7pm. Please save the date! ▼