

## **Beyond Tolerance: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals on Campus**

### **II. Knowledge**

This content area will focus on the explanation of general terms and information. Definition of terms and an exploration of the various myths and facts through the presentation of research by Kinsey and Klein as well as discussion of issues of causation, individual, institutional and cultural manifestations of homophobia/biphobia and heterosexism. Individual issues include presentation of stereotypical information, statistics of violence and acts of homophobia/biphobia and hate crimes, characteristics of people who are homophobic, and exploration of attitude scales. Institutional policies, procedures and practices that maintain societal heterosexism and support homophobia and biphobia will be introduced and challenged. Cultural considerations will include societal misconceptions of sexuality in general and roles and ritual that exclude gay, lesbian and bisexual people.

Inter-relatedness of oppression will also be a strong focus during the workshop. Demonstrating the connectedness of the isms and how oppression keeps us fighting against each other. Multiple oppression issues will also be discussed and investigated.

Identity development models of Cass and Koones will provide primary information for discussion of the coming out process, internalized homophobia/biphobia and the development process impacted by race, culture, gender, class, ability, religion, etc.

All development issues centering on heterosexual privilege, the costs of heterosexism, and the benefits of being an ally will also be presented.

Individual groups may also explore specific issues base on the interest and needs of the group. These topics may include politics of the community, military/ROTC issues, AIDS, Queer Nation/ACT-UP, leadership on campus, addressing the issues of the right.

**Program:** Read Arounds 1989

**Purpose:** A history dated of events that took place between 1997-1989

## READ AROUNDS 1989

1. The Court of Appeals in Missouri ruled that a Missouri lesbian is unfit to have custody of her four children because of her gay lifestyle.  
Diamond Edge, October 1987
2. The Reverend Rose Mary Denman is the first Methodist minister to be brought to church trial under the church rule which forbids ordination of "self-avowed, practicing homosexuals".  
Diamond Edge, September 1987
3. The Department of Defense has asked a federal court in San Francisco to reconsider a ruling that ended anti-gay job discrimination, on the basis that gays are more of a security risk.  
Philadelphia Gay News, October 1987
4. John Silber, president of Boston University, claimed that anti-gay violence is not an issue on campus because there are no gay or lesbian students.  
Philadelphia Gay News, October 1987
5. Gay men in Los Angeles are held blackmail by a group identifying itself as the "Community Control Group of the Lord's Order". The group threatens exposure of these men to employers, friends and family members unless they pay the group \$3,000.00.  
The Baltimore Alternative, October 1987
6. A bomb threat failed to stop a performance of "Lesbo A Go Go" at Whiteaker School in Eugene, Oregon. The school and the producers had received numerous phone calls from angry people who didn't want a lesbian event in a school building.  
From Women's Press, reported in Lesbian Connection, September 1987
7. Five professors of women's studies and the director of the women's studies center at the University of California at Long Beach were recently forced out of their positions, according to The News. The dismissals were the result of an investigation of the women by the Evangelical Grace Brethren Church of Long Beach and Phyllis Schiafy's Eagle Forum. According to the women's attorney, the groups wanted to "purge" the faculty of suspected "radical feminists", by which they meant lesbians.  
From Gay Community News reported in Lesbian Connection, September 1987
8. In Providence, Rhode Island, a Family Court judge has placed restrictions on a divorced women's custody of her 12 year old daughter because the mother is a lesbian. The court ruled that the mother must not have a live-in homosexual lover, must not expose the child to any homosexual activities, and cannot bring the child into contact with anyone the mother has a homosexual relationship with.  
Newspaper clippings from Providence, Rhode Island, Lesbian Connection, January 1988

9. Canada Custom's seizure and detention of books on their way to Toronto's Glad Day Bookstore is continuing. Recently the focus has been on lesbian novels. In some cases it has taken up to 6 months for confiscated materials to be returned.  
From Rites, Lesbian Connection, January 1988
10. The three largest national newsmagazines (Time, Newsweek, and U.S. News and World Report) totally ignored the march on Washington, despite the fact that it was one of the largest civil rights demonstrations in our nation's history.  
Lesbian Connection, January 1988
11. The U.S. Marine Corps charged two female Marines Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> with committing "indecent sex acts with other women" at a training camp for women recruits. At least eight other women are under investigation in what military rights advocates are calling the military's latest anti-gay witch hunt. A court martial hearing for the two women, a captain and a sergeant who deny the charges, is scheduled for early March. Last year 68 Marine were discharged for being gay. Eighty-eight were discharged in 1986, 105 in 1985, and 116 in 1984.  
Gay Community News, February 28, 1988
12. "Superman won't 'play gay'": A ten year old screenplay for a movie with a gay theme continues to have problems with casting for lead roles, The film has been shuffled from producer to producer and has been rewritten several times. According to The Weekly News, the director of The Front Runner offered \$1 million to Christopher Reeves to play a gay track coach, The former Superman turned down the offer, apparently because he "played gay" once before in the film version of "Deathtrap", and is worried about his image.  
Gay Community News, February 28, 1988
13. In November 1983 Sharon Kowalski was severely injured in a car collision by a drunk driver. The accident left Sharon with a "closed head injury" and little mobility. When her parents learned of her relationship with her partner, Karen Thompson, they went to court and successfully got guardianship of Sharon, and then quickly denied Karen any rights to visitation or communication with her life partner. Karen has been unsuccessful as of yet to win her "rights" in subsequent court battles,  
Bay Windows, February 25, 1988
14. AIDS Update: As of January 18, 1988, there were 51,361 CDC documented cases, and 28,683 deaths.  
Bay Windows, February, 25, 1988
15. Two women in San Anselmo, CA won a \$500.00 settlement from an apartment owner who refused to rent to them because they are lesbians. The women filed a "sexual preference" discrimination complaint with the State Department of Fair Employment and Housing in June, after they were told by the landlord that she would not rent a 3 bedroom duplex to them because the current tenant did not want a lesbian couple living above her.  
Bay Area Reporter, in Lesbian Connection, January 1988

16. Those who watched last summer's tennis championships at Wimbledon may have noticed something new. While cameras routinely panned to the boyfriends and husbands of the female tennis stars, they did not neglect Martina Navratilova's off-court partner, Judy Benson, who was regularly seen reacting to Martina's plays on television.

From Lesbian News, reported in Lesbian Connection, January 1988

17. Among the regular characters in "Private Practice" (an upcoming ABC midseason replacement series set in a women's clinic), is a nurse practitioner named Marilyn McGrath, who happens to be a lesbian. Esther Shapiro, executive producer of the two-hour pilot and co-creator of "Dynasty", says, "Middle America had accepted (Dynasty's bisexual) Steven Carrington, an I have respect enough for the public to believe that they can accept Marilyn. We will just deal with her sexual orientation matter-of-factly. "Gail Strickland has been cast in the role".

TV Guide, reported in Lesbian Connection, January 1988

18. In Stockholm, the Swedish Parliament has passed two laws concerning gay rights. An anti-discrimination law makes it illegal for commercial establishments to refuse services to gays or for property owners to refuse to sign contracts because of sexual orientation. The other law gives gay couples living together the same rights as common-law heterosexual partners. In Sweden, unmarried sexual couples have virtually the same legal status as married couples; for example, unmarried couples can file joint tax returns, inherit property for a partner in absence of a will, and sign leases as couples.

Washington Blade in Lesbian Connection, January 1988

19. Washington, D.C. police have re-estimated the size of the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights as 650,000, according to Bravo San Diego. A National Park Police estimate of 200,000 was widely reported in the mainstream media the weekend of the March. The new figure makes this the largest demonstration ever in Washington, surpassing the Civil Rights March of 1963 and the Vietnam Moratorium of 1969.

Outlines, reported in Lesbian Connection, July 1988

20. A report released this month by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) revealed that anti-lesbian/gay harassment and violence reached a record high in 1987. Across the U.S., 7,008 incidents were reported to NGLTF, compared with 4,946 incidents reported in 1986. These incidents, indicating a 42% increase in one year, were documented by 64 organizations in different states and the National Gay/Lesbian Crisis line. NGLTF stressed that the anti-lesbian/gay statistics gathered for 1987 accounted for only a "very small fraction" of the actual total.

Gay Community News, June 19, 1988

21. Two gay men who were scheduled to participate in a discussion about sexuality at the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity at the University of Vermont (UVM) decided to forego the speaking engagement when they spotted a car outside the frat house with the words "kill queers" painted on the fender. The president of the fraternity was quoted in the UVM Cynic as saying the message on the car was merely a part of a spring ritual called "Car Wrecking" Weekend". This incident followed on the heels of a similar gay hate-message from another UVM frat where the message, "Drink Beer, Kill Queers" appeared on the Lambda Iota fraternity's bus parked in front of its house.

Gay Community News, June 12, 1988

22. The Boulder County, Colorado Department of Social Services approved an application by a lesbian living with another woman to adopt a child. An administrator for the social service agency said the woman's bid was considered as a single parent adoption. "We look at individuals regardless of their sexual preference."  
News of the Columbus Gay and Lesbian Community, reported in Lesbian Connection, July 1988
23. A Pennsylvania study demonstrated that gay men and lesbians were VICTIMIZED AT LEAST 7 TIMES MORE OFTEN than the average rate for the U.S. adult population.  
From: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Anti-Violence Project  
1517 U Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20009 (202) 332-6483
24. In 1988, 7,428 incidents were reported to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Anti-Violence Project. These reported cases represent a fraction of the estimated cases. Reports cases ranged from verbal harassment to homicide and included police abuse, bomb threats and arson.  
From National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Anti-Violence Project
25. The epidemic of hate motivated crimes against lesbians and gay men corresponds to an increase in crimes against Jews, people of color, ethnic "minorities" and women. Organized hate groups including neo-Nazi "Skinheads" are on the rise.  
From National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Anti-Violence Project
26. January 17, 1988  
Arsonists torched Womanspace, a Philadelphia community center serving lesbian/feminist women.
- April 30, 1988  
Vandals ransacked the home of a gay minister in Nashville, Tennessee, scrawling "homo" and "fag" on his possessions.
- July 8, 1988  
An openly lesbian candidate for a seat on the City Council of Hawaii Island was attacked in her home and left unconscious.
- August 7, 1988  
The (gay) Holy Cross Metropolitan Community Church in Pensacola, Florida was torched.
- November 18, 1988  
A man in Portland, Maine smashed the windshield of a car belonging to a lesbian and attempted to set it on fire. Later the victim found the word "dyke" scrawled on the car.
- From National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Anti-Violence Project,  
1988