

GSA's GayPril promotes tolerance

BY JORDAN WALL
Staff Writer

Last week, the Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) kicked off its first "GayPril" by celebrating the lives of members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning/Queer (GLBTQ) community and educating the campus about daily issues that those individuals face.

The week started on Monday night with the opening of Richmond Blake '09's art exhibit, "Buying for Equality," in the Union Atrium.

The exhibit included boxes and labels of over 400 products that Americans typically buy.

Blake ranked these products as green, yellow or red based on a report ranking their manufacturers' equality practices that the Human Rights Council (HRC) issues annually.

"I was surprised by the products in the show," Elyse Harris '08 said. "It's made me a better shopper."

Blake envisioned the project after receiving a grant from the People for the American Way Foundation.

"I was fascinated with the idea of the [HRC-sponsored] guide," Blake said. "I really wanted to bring it to life, and I think it was a huge success."

GayPril continued on Wednesday with a display outside Chambers for the National Day of Silence.

The National Day of Silence recognizes individuals in the GLBTQ community who are unable to express themselves for fear of social ridicule and retribution.

Due to complications that prevented a representative from the HRC slated to come from speaking, the GSA instead sponsored a screening of the documentary "Almost Myself."

The documentary details the struggles of several transgender women who made the transition from men into women.

GSA screened another film, "Imagine Me and You," on Thursday night in the Sprinkle Room.

The movie concerns a woman who seems to have it all: a wonderful husband, a colorful mixture of friends and family and financial security.

Her life slowly disintegrates, however, after she falls in love with the florist from her wedding.

The GSA provided pink triangle-shaped cookies at the showing to promote equality.

The week of GayPril finished with an ice cream social in the Union Amphitheater where students could enjoy free Ben & Jerry's ice cream and gelato while tie-dyeing T-shirts.

Engage for Change chooses housing as its next theme

BY NINA MACE
Senior Staff Writer

Engage for Change (EFC), a social justice movement founded last year, will focus next year's programming on housing.

Steering committee members have not yet decided on an official title for next year's efforts, but they will meet on Friday to begin generating ideas.

Students selected to participate in an Engage for Change planning retreat chose the theme of affordable housing in February.

"I think the impetus for this theme was the Wildcat House," steering committee member Davis Greene '09 said. "We'll be using a lot of their planning and helping provide the manpower."

Fundraising for the Wildcat House, a house entirely funded and constructed by Davidson students, began last September.

So far, students have raised \$63,000 in cash and pledges toward their goal of \$66,550.

Construction is scheduled to begin in August.

"The Wildcat House will provide an outlet for direct service for those students involved with Engage for Change and will also serve as an educational opportunity for many to learn about the issues of substandard housing

in the United States," Our Town's Habitat Senior Coordinator Wes Fiser '07 said.

The EFC movement began last spring with students working together to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness.

The movement focuses on direct service, education, advocacy and philanthropy.

EFC recently finished two weeks of programming around the 2006-07 theme of inequality in education.

Greene emphasized the open nature of the EFC movement and encouraged interested students to get involved, even if they have never done anything with EFC before.

Assistant Dean of Community Service Stacey Reimer agreed.

"It's a fluid body, meaning that anyone who has an idea can implement it with this mechanism," Reimer said. "If you have the idea, it's easy to get it accomplished."

Greene anticipates that EFC efforts next year will not only involve work on the Wildcat House but also efforts to educate students and the community about domestic and international housing issues.

According to Greene, the next few weeks will focus on planning for next year and gathering people who want to be involved.

"We're trying to make sure everyone knows what [the theme] is so that when August arrives students can be willing to



Students enjoyed the sun and a free cookout at April at the Lake on Saturday.

Although Blake is not sure if the events actually increased acceptance and tolerance for GLBTQ issues on campus, he said that "it showed that the GSA, and the GLBTQ community is here."

"These events show that we're moving forward toward advocacy for gay rights, rather than mere awareness amongst students," Blake said.

"We want people to know that some of their friends, sitting right beside them, don't enjoy equal rights."

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guilty of those violations and levelled the seven sanctions, including Social and Activities probation until the end of spring semester 2008, Alcohol Probation until the end of spring semester 2008 and prohibition from recruiting or having a pledge class during the 2007-08 academic year.

The J-Board's sanctions displeased SigEp Defense Advisor John Anderson '09.

"Punitive sanctions only serve to drive people away from openness, to drive them back into the shadows of deception, and no one's interests are served by that," he said.

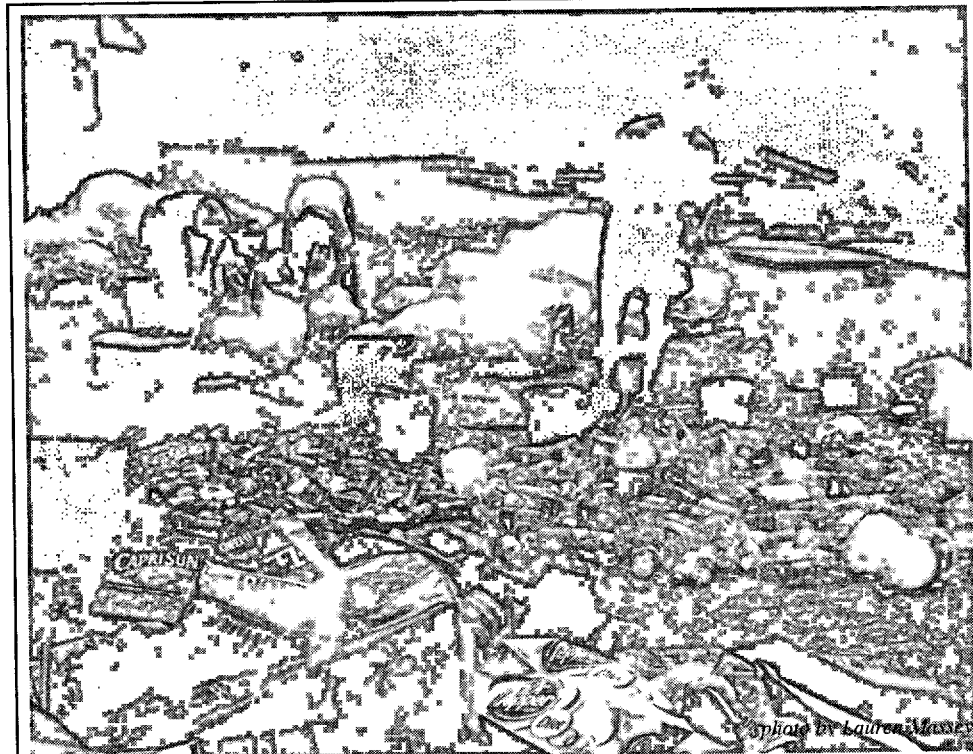
SigEp's decision to come forward impressed McPherson, too.

"In the end, I think they should be proud for coming forward," she said.

Dean of Students Ernest Jeffries could not comment for this article because the sanctions are currently under appeal.

jump in," Greene said.

Students interested in housing who want to get involved with Engage for Change (EFC) planning for next year should e-mail engageforchange@ davidson.edu, with their interests and ways in which they would like to help.



The EAC sponsored a waste audit on Monday to commemorate Earth Day.

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