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Pride Week celebrates queer rights

By [biconews](#) On 10 Apr, 2001 At 05:00 AM | Categorized As [Archives](#) | With [0 Comments](#)

By Cay Miller

Last week, Haverford's Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian Alliance (BGALA) sponsored Pride Week 2001, organizing daily events from April 1 to April 6. Until showers on Friday washed the chalkings away, the campus was covered with colorful reminders of the week's significance.

BGALA co-chair Yaya Liem '03 was pleased with how the week turned out. "I think Pride Week was an overall success. Wednesday was especially powerful with National Day of Silence and Out Talk as well as a fun trip to Woody's [a Philadelphia dance club] later at night," Liem said.

The week was kicked off April 1 with two workshops entitled "Bisexuality 101: Understanding Bisexuality" and "Unlearning Homophobia," and headed by Robin Ochs, a widely published and renowned expert on bisexuality. Ochs has appeared on many talk shows, including "Donahue" and "Maury Povich."

The National Day of Silence, for which some students chose not to speak during specific hours on Wednesday, supports lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights. Participating students carried around slips of paper to describe their silence to others. Part of the slips explained the objective: "The Day of Silence is to draw attention to those who have been silenced by hatred, oppression, and prejudice."

Callie Lytton '03 participated in the Day of Silence at Haverford and saw it as a worthwhile experience. "It was interesting for me to do because I realized how hard it must be to walk around with something to say about yourself and your life," Lytton said. She continued: "[It must be difficult to hold in] just everyday comments that reflect yourself and know that you don't want to make those comments because they may hurt your relationships."

Other events during the week included "Queer Fairy Tales and Coffeehouse" on Monday, a "Queerness and the Bible" discussion on Tuesday, professional queer poetry readings in Lunt Café, and, finally, a BGALA Lunt basement party on Friday.

Liem was very pleased with the poetry readings as well. "Pride Week brought the first of hopefully many multicultural poetry nights, a joint venture by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and BGALA. [Thursday's] reading included Lamont Steptoe, Rosetta Williams, Janet Mason, Mee Lin Yuk, Juan David Acosta, and C.A. Conrad. Many of them also expressed interest in returning," Liem said.

She also acknowledged the assistance she received to make the event possible. "Evelyn Laurent-Perrault was key in getting these poets to come and read their amazing works."

Liem added, "Being in charge can be stressful at times, though very rewarding. There are definitely times when Thatcher [Mines '04, BGALA co-chair] and I, as well as other BGALA

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members, have put in hard work only to have it washed away the next day.”

Luckily, this year, the most obvious adversary to the week—the rain—had the courtesy to wait until Friday to wash away some of that hard work.



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