

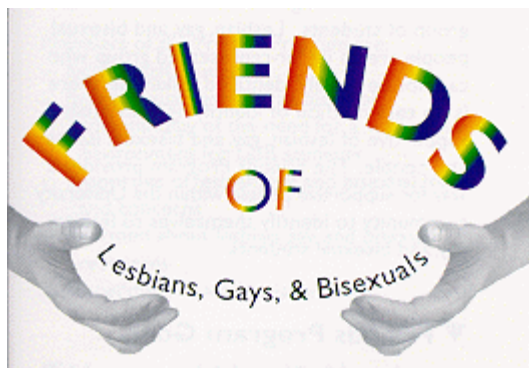
Friends of Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals - Information Pamphlet

Office for Student Affairs, Office for Student Services; 04/03/1998

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Friends of Lesbians, Gays, and Bisexuals



The University of Florida values and promotes a caring and supportive learning and working environment for a diverse group of students. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual people are an under-represented group who can not be readily identified. Likewise, there is no easy method of identifying individuals supportive of lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues and people. The Friends Program provides a way for supportive people within the University community to identify themselves to lesbian, gay, and bisexual students.

● **Friends Program Goal:**

The goal of the Friends Program is to provide a more accepting environment for lesbian, gay, and bisexual students at the University of Florida by identifying individuals who can provide a supportive environment and information for LGB students.

● **Program Objectives:**

1. To identify a network of allies who are concerned, empathic, and knowledgeable about LGB issues and who are willing to provide support and information.
2. To provide evidence of the support of LGB people within the University community by providing a sign as tangible evidence of that support.

3. To reduce the fear of reprisal and discrimination of LGB people within the University of Florida community.
4. To assist LGB students achieve their educational goals by creating an environment in which they can be themselves.

● **Who are Members of the Program?**

Members of the Friends Program are:

- faculty, staff, students
- heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual
- understanding of the need for a supportive environment for LGB students
- supportive of lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues and concerns
- informed about lesbian, gay, and bisexual resources
- respectful of confidentiality

● **How can I Identify Members of the Friends Program?**

Friends Program members are given an identifying sign and button, as depicted on the front of this pamphlet. The sign or button can be displayed in the Friend's office or room or on the member's backpack, brief case, or clothing. Any person in possession of this sign or button has agreed to be a support person and Friend for LGB students.

● **About the Friends Symbol:**

The sign on the front of this pamphlet represents the colors of the rainbow which is often associated with diversity within our society and in the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities. The hands represent comforting and supportive individuals who hope to assist LGB students achieve their goals at the University of Florida by providing an environment where students can be themselves.

● **How do I become a Member of the Friends Program?**

Faculty, staff, and students in the University of Florida community who are supportive of lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals and issues are encouraged to complete an [application for the Friends Program](#). Applications can be obtained in the Office for Student Services (202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261), the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (155 Tigert Hall, 392-1274), and the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Student Union Office (310 Reitz Union, 392-1665, ext. 310). Individuals who are accepted as a Friend in the program will receive the Friends sign and button and a resource guide.

● **Additional Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Resources:**

- Office for Student Services, 202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261

- Committee on Sexism and Homophobia, 392-1261
- Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Student Union Office (LGBSU), 392-1665, ext. 310
- Gay Switchboard, 332-0700
- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575
- Student Health Care Center, 392-1161

For students with disabilities, this publication is available in alternative formats. Please contact the Office for Student Services, P202 Peabody Hall, 392-1261 or 392-3008 (TDD). For students with hearing or speech impairments use the Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771 (TDD).

[Back](#) To Referring Memo

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