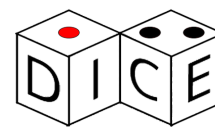


DICE | Diverse & Inclusive Community for the Environment

Official monthly newsletter



PRIDE IN NORTH CAROLINA

When we reflect on the contemporary celebration of Pride, we see the vibrant spectrum of the rainbow, we hear outbursts of music and laughter, and we feel overwhelming waves of support, joy, and belonging. This beautiful display of celebration symbolizes the generations of activism and the tireless fight against hate. These activists and allies have paved the roads that allow us to march while we proudly celebrate all diverse sexualities and genders.

North Carolina contains a deep history of intolerance and hate being transformed into LGBTQIA+ (queer) activism and progress. The origin of Pride in the state of North Carolina begins with a story the queer community knows as all too familiar. In 1981, at Little River, a gay man, Ronald "Sonny" Antonevitch, was tragically murdered at the hands of two homophobic men. This loss of life and the fear of light sentences of the attackers sparked the first public demonstration for civil rights of the gay and lesbian community. The queer community became surprised at the number of people who stood up against this act of hate— a realization soon came: this small closeted community was much larger than ever imagined. In 1986, the second public demonstration occurred, beginning at Duke University. This small gathering transformed into a march that continued for the following fourteen years. In thirty-four years of marching, the queer community in North Carolina simultaneously continued their activism— the notable achievements included the legalization of gay marriage, ending of sodomy law, and inclusion of queer people in the military.

This brief synopsis is inefficient in memorializing the momentous victories and the devastating losses of queer activists in North Carolina. However, we wish to remind all that by remembering the dark and painful elements of queer history and acknowledging the work of those who came before us allows us to fearlessly and shamelessly celebrate all colors of the rainbow.

The Stonewall Riots catalyze a new generation of LGBT+ political activism.

1969

In response to Antonevitch's murder, the first public demonstration for gay rights in North Carolina occurred at the Durham Court House

1982

North Carolinian voters approved a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

2012

1981

Ronald "Sonny" Antonevitch, a gay man, was tragically murdered because of his sexuality.

1986

The second public demonstration for gay and lesbian rights in North Carolina was held at Duke University.

2014

A U.S. District Court Judge rules North Carolina's same-sex marriage ban was unconstitutional.

HB2: THE NORTH CAROLINA BATHROOM BILL, AN UPDATE

What is HB2?

You may have heard about the controversy surrounding North Carolina and transgender rights that made it to the national stage in 2016: The state legislature passed a bill (House Bill 2, which has come to be referred in shorthand as HB2) requiring transgender people to use the bathroom matching the sex listed on their birth certificates in public and government buildings, which includes public schools and universities. The bill also banned cities and towns from having anti-discrimination ordinances stricter than state law, which made such ordinances passed in Charlotte, Durham, Chapel Hill, Raleigh, and others invalid. State anti-discrimination law does not currently include discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

What has happened since 2016?

- In 2017, newly elected Democratic Governor Roy Cooper signed a “compromise bill” (HB142) cosponsored by Republican state lawmakers, which partially repealed HB2, removing the ban of transgender people using the bathroom matching their gender identities, but maintained the state’s (exclusive) ability to regulate bathroom access and prohibited local anti-discrimination ordinances until December 2020.
- In 2019 (this summer), in response to a lawsuit asking for clarification on the law, a federal judge approved a settlement which says the new law cannot be used to prevent people from using the bathroom matching their gender identities in public/state-run buildings. The settlement did not change anything about the law or create new anti-discrimination protections.
- Still unresolved: We are waiting on the U.S. Supreme Court to rule on several cases related to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Local anti-discrimination ordinances still cannot be passed in North Carolina until December 2020.

For Your Information

Currently, the Nicholas School has 1 all-gender bathroom, located on the LSRC first floor between the computer lab and Hug Commons.

DICE UPDATES

- DICE is looking for motivated Master's and PhD students who are interested in promoting Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice conversations at the Nic School to join our executive board. Although we have distinct positions, we work together as a team to implement our events and initiatives. We encourage anyone who is interested in being part of the team to apply even if you are not sure what position is right for you.
 - *Please apply here by September 23rd, 9pm.*
- We will be having another general body meeting in October. Look for more information on the date, time, and location.

RESOURCES:

At Duke:

- Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity
- Women's Center

In the Durham community:

- LGBT Center of Durham
- LGBT Center of Raleigh

Both have libraries, support groups, and events.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PRIDE Training

- *9/20, 10am-12pm, Field Auditorium*
[Click to RSVP](#)

Durham Pride Parade

- *9/26, 6-8pm, Grainger Hall Orchard Courtyard*
Join the Nicholas Queer Network for parade prep & decorations
- *9/28, TIME TBA*
March with the Nic School! The parade will start at 1304 Campus Dr