

A mission of tolerance, acceptance and diversity:

Queerical Up North launches on campus

By Helen Bailey and Johanna Kristolaitis

Queerical Up North (QUN) is a student-run organization, open to everyone, that aims to bring individuals together by providing a safe environment for discussion and education on a wide range of social issues. To this end, QUN examines the intersections of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, ablebodiness, geographical location, language and culture, inspired by what is called queer theory in sociology. In other words, QUN facilitates the study of all that makes us who we are and how that relates to other individuals and to society.

"Queerical Up North has great potential. With an expanded target audience, the campus and city community will grow in a variety of directions, assuring that all of its members become aware of the positive effects of tolerance, acceptance and diversity," said Jessica St. Peter, fourth-year student and QUN secretary. "I encourage everyone to consider involvement in Queerical Up North because each of us benefits from a broader sense of community."


During its inaugural year (2006-2007), QUN hosted a series of seminars to explore identity and power using artistic mediums such as film, television, children and adolescent literature, creative writing, poetry, music, collage and painting. Each of the events was highly successful. For example, more than 60 people attended the screening and discussion of the film "Simon and I" where the group examined the interrelatedness of sexism, racism and

homophobia. Many education students attended these popular seminars to gain critical insights into the diversity they face daily in the classroom; indeed, such insights would be useful in any field. Students from other programs, including Gender Equality and Social Justice, English and Psychology, also participated wholeheartedly in the events.

The plans for 2007-2008 include hosting monthly social events and bi-monthly educational seminars and discussions.

QUN is affiliated with the Northern Canadian Centre for Research in Education and the Arts (NORCCREA). Although it is student run, there are several dedicated faculty advisors, including Douglas Gosse, Katrina Srigley, Wendy Peters, and Ramona Lynn. The former executive, comprised of Nipissing University students Helen Bailey, Ashley Ward, and Jessica St. Peter, have been key in furthering the primary mandate of both

NORCCREA and QUN, since both strive to create bridges between academia and the broader North Bay community through educational discussion and research seminars that promote critical thinking. As a team, the members of QUN attempt to challenge status quo assumptions and beliefs in an academic manner in order to promote equity and inquiry into social justice.

Interested in getting involved? Join our listserv by emailing: norccrea@faculty.nipissingu.ca A list of upcoming events will be regularly updated on our web site: <http://www.nipissingu.ca/NORCCREA/events.htm#Queerical> 

"Each of us benefits from a broader sense of community."

Summer of 2008 Reunion

Classes of 1958-59, 1959-60
North Bay Teachers' College

June 20-22, 2008

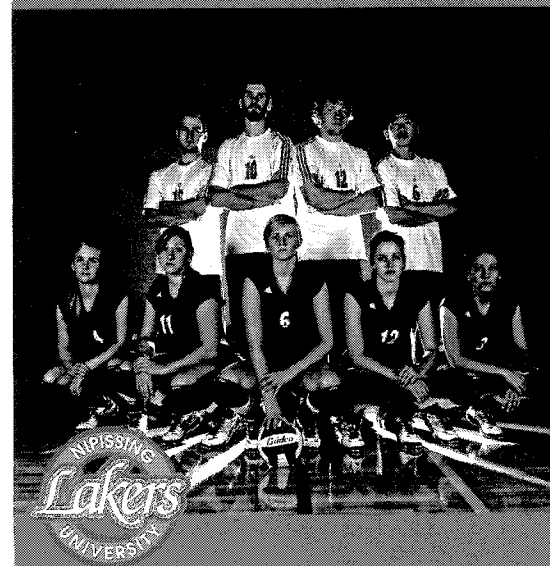
Location: Nipissing University,
North Bay

For more information contact
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Please set aside the third weekend in June 2008 for yet another trip down memory lane!



Volleyball Home Opener

Saturday November 24, 2007
Lakers vs Niagara College

Location: Robert J. Surtees
Student Athletics Centre
Time: Women's Game 12 p.m.
Men's Game 2 p.m.

Featuring a special ceremony to mark the Nipissing University Women's Volleyball team's Championship season.