

known to be GLBT.

She believes GLBT may describe only a very small percentage of the University community.

"Heterosexism, on the other hand," Braithwaite says, "describes the idea of heterosexuality as the social norm, which benefits and privileges those who identify as straight in all kinds of way that remain largely invisible to that group."

Braithwaite adds that benefits and privileges given to the heterosexual community are very visible to those who don't benefit from them, the GLBT community.

publishes a quarterly zine.

The presence of GLBT groups on other Canadian campuses, are likely not enough to eliminate distorted perceptions of the GLBT community. Concordia University Task Force findings included highly discriminatory activities such as "confusion among member [of the university] about sexual orientation being a private or public matter, resulting in a common misperception that implementing equality [into policy] is tantamount to giving 'special right' to gays."

Also it was noted that "hiring committees [at

"The Community as a whole might not be homophobic, but the atmosphere of (UPEI) is one of traditional, conservative heterosexism."

"I think that as a member of a learning community, it behoves us to break the silences around and examine much more closely those benefits and privileges, something that open diversity of all kinds allow for," says Braithwaite.

Although not as convenient, some support is available to GLBTs off campus. The Abegweit Rainbow Collective (ARC), PEI's first organized GLBT support/political/social group. ARC's is based out of AIDS PEI, and has monthly 'drop-ins'. Also, the group organizes social events, dances, and

Concordia] appeared to become preoccupied with the mere mention [on a curriculum vitae] (CV) that included the words 'gay' or 'lesbian.'" The committees appeared to be unable to assess the candidate's qualifications, leading to academics disguising the nature of research or omitting significant publications on their CV.

With all the tools needed, UPEI's GLBT students, faculty, and strides, are likely to continue fighting for recognition and equality.

* Name has been omitted. With files from Barry Dennison.

END



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
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