



Diversity Gazette

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365 Days of Awareness & Pride

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Between 1947 and 1950, 1,700 federal job applicants were denied for being suspected homosexuals. At that time, the US State Department deemed gay and lesbians to be “un-American and subversive.” For years to follow, many establishments refused entry and/or service to gay patrons.

On June 28, 1969, a police raid on the Stonewall Inn, a predominantly LGBT establishment in Lower Manhattan, turned into a series of violent demonstrations and became what is widely considered to be the most important event leading to the modern fight for LGBT rights in the United States. Those riots 50 years ago led to the first gay pride marches, which

commemorated those events, later coined *The Stonewall Riots*.

LGBT history month has been officially recognized since 2000 in the United States. It is a community building celebration that represents a civil rights movement which showcases contributions of the LGBT community. Many companies, including Starbucks, Verizon, Chipotle, Reebok, Nike, and Target offer rainbow-themed merchandise during the month of June to demonstrate their support for the cause.

While the month of June highlights LGBT issues, it is important to recognize that just because “Pride Month” has ended, these issues are not irrelevant during the other

11 months of the year. Individuals who identify as LGBT face continued discrimination every day and June is merely a dedicated time to celebrate their successes along with their struggles.

UNC Chapel Hill offers various resources to members of the LGBT community and its allies. Those wishing to learn more can contact the LGBTQ Center by visiting <https://lgbtq.unc.edu/>. Campus also offers Safe Zone courses specific to Sexual Identity and Gender Expression and Identity to those who would like to become allies and provide open doors for members of the LGBT community. For more information on Safe Zone Certification, please visit: <https://lgbtq.unc.edu/programs/education/safe-zone-training>.