

Homophobia continues to plague Powelton

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Drexel's Straight and Gay Alliance, formed with the goal to promote good relations between gay, lesbian, bisexual, and het-

erosexual members of the community, has called attention to recent homophobic incidents in Powelton Village.

Evidence in the form of a pile of ashes and flag material indi-

cates that a rainbow flag, a symbol of diversity often associated with the gay community, was set on fire in front of a house on Hamilton Street Feb. 10, according to an e-mail originally authored by President of the Powelton Village Civic Association Ben Dugan. The house has been the target for similar incidents in the past. Previously, a rainbow flag which hung on the house was destroyed. Most of the incidents have occurred between midnight and 2:30 a.m, according to incident reports from Drexel Public Safety.

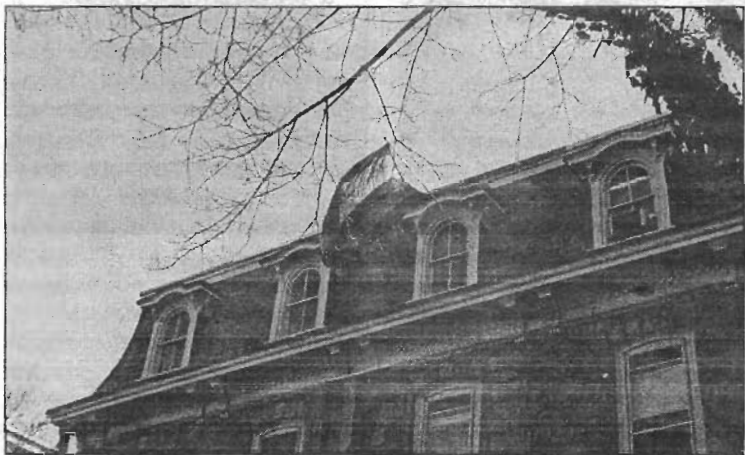
"As of right now, it is not safe for [gays, lesbians, and bisexuals] to live on Drexel's campus and we want to change [that] and make it a safe campus for everybody," said SAGA Co-President Carolina Zuppardo.

SAGA is currently working with the 16th and 18th Districts of the Philadelphia Police Department to get more police patrols in the neighborhood. They are also working with SpectaGuard and Crime Prevention Passport security services to create a safer atmosphere.

The group hopes University President Constantine Papadakis takes a stand against these crimes before both the Drexel and Philadelphia communities. The University already has a policy in place that states there will be no discrimination based on sexual orientation. "We want [Papadakis] to enforce the policy, and we want him to acknowledge these issues," said Zuppardo.

Student Life actively plans, promotes, and facilitates a num-

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Patrick Boyle The Triangle

A wave of vandalism recently hit many Powelton Village residents who display rainbow flags, often associated with the gay community, on their homes.

SAGA to provide rainbow flags to supporters

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ber of diversity programs each year. There have been specific programs on straight and gay issues.

According to Adam Goldstein, assistant dean for student life and director of student activities, the winter term has been filled with these programs, under a common theme called Celebrate Us. In the spring term, Student Life will be hosting a day of workshops, seminars, and an open lecture geared toward increasing the understanding of students, faculty and staff about the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community on campus, Goldstein said.

In an effort to promote diversity and equality in Powelton Village, SAGA is also providing rainbow flags to individuals and organizations. The flags will be sold in the SAGA office, located on the third floor of MacAlister Hall, Zuppardo told The Triangle.