

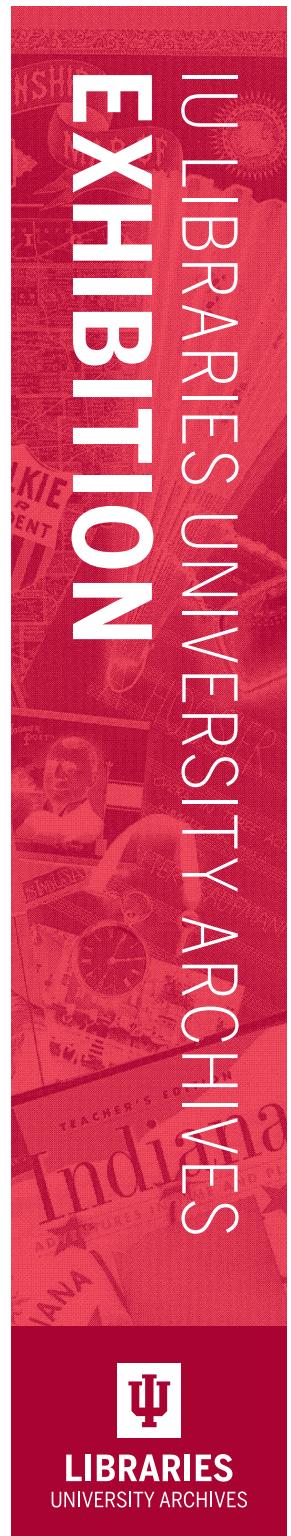


# ***"An Army of Lovers Cannot be Conquered": Exploring the History of LGBTQ+ Student Life in Bloomington***

**March 28–July 29, 2022 | University Archives**

Curated by Kennedy Jones, Graduate Assistant, IU Archives

**Overview:** LGBTQ+ people have a long history in America, and in Bloomington, Indiana. While we can't know how far back this history might stretch, an increased level of activity and documentation can be seen starting in the 1970s. At that time, a surge in the community's self-awareness led to political activism and community organizing, which saw the formation of the Bloomington Gay Alliance, the New Horizons Community Center, and the holding of annual Gay Awareness Conferences, among other events. This increased consciousness and organized activism led to calls for better representation by the university, and the eventual establishment of an office that would one day become the LGBTQ+ Culture Center. Running parallel to this institutional representation, the community has continued to form spaces of its own, as can be seen in the series of gay bars, special events, support groups, and student unions that have appeared throughout Bloomington over the years. In this exhibit a sampling of the photos, flyers, books, and other documents created and left behind by these organizations are on display.



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## Highlights of the Exhibition:

- *Common Sense* newspaper (November 1971) - This independent newspaper ran a special edition in the early 70s loudly declaring the place of the LGBTQ+ Community in Bloomington. The articles and imagery are a time capsule to thoughts and feelings of the community at the time.
- LGBTQ+ Culture Center scrapbooks - Documenting the many activities of the culture center over time, these colorful scrapbooks are full of photographs, letters and other memorabilia.
- Student Group flyers - These flyers from various student groups throughout the decades show the growth and change of LGBTQ+ self-representation over time.
- *The Privilege of Being Queer* (2021) - A memoir written by Doug Bauder, founding director of the IU LGBTQ+ Culture Center.

### Images, from top to bottom:

(Front) Photo of the Bloomington Gay Liberation Front, 1972

Photo of Doug Bauder shortly before retirement, 2019, shot by Ty Vinson for the Indiana Daily Student, used with permission.

Advertisement for a drag show put on by the Queer Student Union, 2021

*Gay Awareness Conference advertisement, circa 1975, from the collections of Michael Bedwell. All rights reserved.*

*Flyer from the opening of the Omni, 1978. From the collections of Michael Bedwell. All rights reserved.*

*Flyer advertising the opening of the New Horizons community center, 1975*

## This IU Libraries exhibition can be found at:

University Archives

Wells Library E460 (East Tower)

Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; weekdays

1320 E. Tenth Street, Bloomington, IN 47405

[libraries.indiana.edu/university-archives](http://libraries.indiana.edu/university-archives)



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