

Hello Reader,

This activity is intended for students and learners of all ages to record and reflect on some of the knowledge presented in this archive.

I created this activity as part of a Duke University course entitled “LGBTQ History and Activism.” I hope it helps you grapple with the history and future of love and liberation in Durham.

-Nan

Before Beginning to Explore the Content of the Love and Liberation Website...

1. Write one thing you know about LGBTQ+ history in the United States.

2. Write three adjectives that you would use to describe what you think LGBTQ+ community in Durham has looked like over time.

3. Write one thing you want to learn about the LGBTQ+ history of Durham.

Connie Leeper Audio

Note: The term “internalized oppression” refers to when someone with an identity that is devalued believes the negative ideas and stereotypes associated with that identity

1. What does Leeper describe as the three forms of oppression she internalized and then overcame before queerness or same-gender-loving?

2. What does Leeper saying being “out” means to her?

3. What does Leeper say is an act of courage for her?

4. What is one negative message that you are courageously working to overcome?

The Newsletter

1. Look over the events of the newsletter example and use five to complete the table.

Topics	Does it surprise you that this event would be featured in a feminist/lesbian-oriented newsletter in the 1980s?	How do you think this event was relevant to the lives of feminist and lesbian women?	Do you think this event would still be relevant to the readership of a feminist-oriented newsletter today?
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

2. The Newsletter went electronic in the 1990s and then went out of publication in 2001. Do you think a publication like The Newsletter would still be informative and engaging to readers today? Why or why not?

Durham Crisis Response Center and Durham Rape Crisis Center

1. Lesbian women were an integral part of forming both the Durham Crisis Response Center and Durham Rape Crisis Center. What are some reasons that lesbians might have been leaders in the women's movement in the 1970s?

2. Two aspects of the work of the Durham Rape Crisis Center were to lobby newspapers not to print the names of rape survivors and to have a confidential hotline for survivors to call to talk. Why do you think these two measures would be important for the physical and emotional safety for survivors?

Lucy Harris Audio/ Women's Dance at the YWCA in the 1980s

1. Harris references that the women's dances were attended by women from around the state including from the military base at Fort Bragg. What do you think made these dances attractive to women from all around the state?

2. Harris mentions that her son was a kind of a “little mascot” for the dance. What does it say about these dances that lesbians, bisexual women, straight women, and children were present at these dances?

3. Draw a picture of what you think these dances looked like. Consider setting, decorations, and attendees.



Ladyslipper Inc.

1. What was the original goal of Ladyslipper’s founders?

2. Today how many and what type of listings does Ladyslippers Music Catalog and Online Resource Guide contain?

3. How did Ladyslipper Inc. contribute to lesbian and bisexual women moving to Durham?

Mignon Hooper Audio/ The Power Company

1. Hooper references that The Power Company was a safer space for several different groups of people. What are three groups of people that felt comfortable at The Power Company?

2. How did Hooper react to seeing her university professor and his wife at The Power Company? Why do you think she reacted this way?

3. Assuming you were over 21, is The Power Company a bar that you think you would want to visit? Why or why not?

The Little River Attacks and Our Day Out Protest

1. What were the facts of the Little River Attacks?

2. How many people protested at the Our Day Out Protest and what were some of other the movements protestors were also involved in?

3. Why do you think some protestors wore bags over their heads? What does that say about the acceptance of LGBTQ+ people in Durham at that time?

Travis Place

1. What problem prompted the creation of Travis Place?

2. What were the first three businesses that openly identified as lesbian-owned in Durham? What do the diversity of these businesses tell you about what options were available for lesbians in Durham?

The NC Lesbian and Gay Health Project

1. The NC Lesbian and Gay Health Project was founded in 1982 to combat what?

2. What were gay and lesbian activists protesting at Burroughs Wellcome?

3. In Mignon Hooper’s audio about taking care of a friend with AIDS, what are some of the details that show how severely AIDS can impact someone?

Dale Wolf Audio and The Lesbian Thespians

1. What were some of the factors that contributed to Durham’s LGBTQ community wanting to take action against Jesse Helm’s campaign?

2. Why does Wolf say people were able to connect to their in the story of “In The Outfield”?

Cedar Chest and Jaye Vaughn Audio

1. What does Vaughn say made LGBTQ+ life difficult in the black community?

2. What does Vaughn reference as one manifestation of racism in the LGBTQ+ community?

3. How was Vaughn able to reach out to people who might be interested in Cedar Chest?

Safe Schools NC

1. What was Safe Schools founding mission?

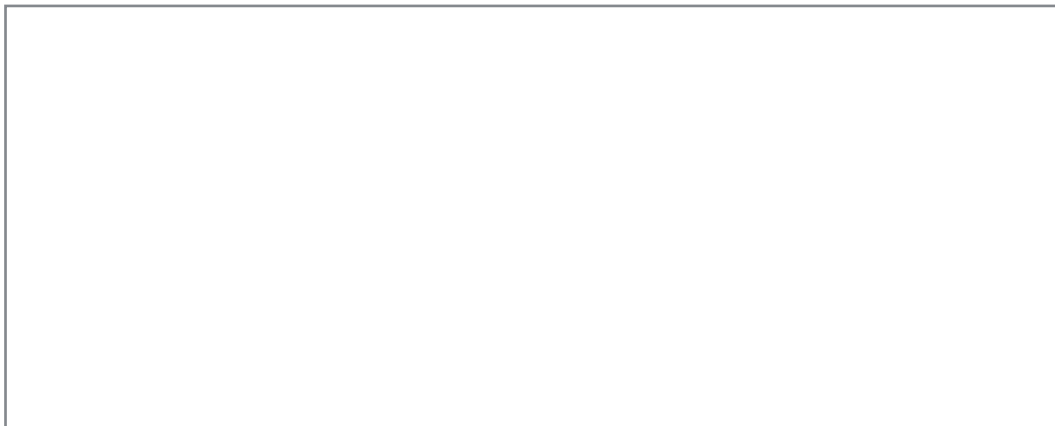
2. Do you think LGBTQ+ students are currently feeling physically and emotionally safe in North Carolina schools? Why or why not?

InsideOut

1. What makes InsideOut different than other LGBTQ+ organizations in the area?

2. Do you think LGBTQ+ youth have different perspectives than LGBTQ+ adults? What issues might be more or less important to them than adults?

QORDS



1. What is the goal of QORDS?

4. Draw a picture of what you envision a safer space for LGBTQ+ youth in Durham looks like.

After Exploring the Content of the Love and Liberation Website...

1. What is one thing you were surprised to learn about LGBTQ+ history in Durham?

2. Write three verbs that you would use to describe what you think LGBTQ+ people have done for Durham. What made you choose these verbs?

3. What do you envision LGBTQ+ people doing in the future in Durham? What forms of oppression might they try to combat? What victories might they have?
