



The Gender and Sexuality Center NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 1

Carleton College, Northfield, MN

Sept. 8, 2005

Mission Statement

The GSC offers resources and support on women's, men's, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues.

We work with other campus organizations and offices to strengthen and sustain an inclusive campus community that promotes gender equality and awareness and welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities by providing support, educational resources and advocacy.

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New Student Week Edition

Isn't It All About Sex?

By Julie Nicol '07

Welcome to College. We Carls often like to consider our community to be a near utopia – a stronghold of social progressivism. What need is there, then, for the Gender and Sexuality Center and its auxiliary list of acronyms? Why do we feel compelled to subject the frosh, year after year, to *It's Not All About Sex*?

As wonderful as Carleton can be, it still has its fair share of problems. As on any college campus, acquaintance rape is a major issue. Homophobia and heterosexism still have a resilient foothold. Last year, as in years past, there were reports of date rape drugs used on campus and inappropriate sexual advances toward students. Carleton made national headlines when four female students filed a lawsuit against the college for failing to protect them from two male students whom over seven women had filed complaints of sexual assault between 1984 and 1987.¹

How much can really change in a scant 20 years? In my opinion, a lot has changed – yet much remains to be done. The college takes charges of sexual misconduct very seriously and will investigate all charges brought to its attention. Staff, faculty, and students receive training on the college's policies of sexual misconduct. CAASHA exists to provide a confidential point of contact, referral, and comfort. However, victims are often reluctant to come forward or press charges, particularly when the perpetrator is well-liked or a member of the same group of friends. There remains much confusion about the meaning of 'consent,' particularly when alcohol is involved. As dedicated as the administration may be, Carleton exists within a larger society that encourages silence and shame and commonly shifts blame to the victim.

It's Not All About Sex is designed to educate students about consent, healthy sex, and relationships. It provides a common foundation of understanding essential for the maintenance of

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The Queer's Freshman Year at Carleton: A Survivor's Guide

By Derek Zimmerman '07

I can see you now (no, I can't really see you, these newsletters don't all have hidden cameras in them. But some of them do. Wait, I wasn't supposed to tell you that); you're extremely excited about being here. You can't wait to start the classes, the activities, and the sublime journey of self-discovery promised by the liberal arts. But I'm going to warn you: don't be surprised if, at the end of this year, you find yourself entirely exhausted, limbs draped at odd angles over the car or plane seat you're taking back home, asking yourself, "What the hell just happened to me?"

Your freshman year, if it's anything like what mine was, will be one of the most challenging and interesting times of your life. You'll be exposed to a broad range of amazing new people and ideas that will challenge your concepts of yourself and the world around you. You will experience, often within the span of an hour, the overbearing stress of classwork and the exultant

bliss that comes with putting down your book and doing something weird, funny, and random. And you will find friends who like you for the personality traits you didn't even know you had.

But I've learned a secret about getting along at Carleton that I wish someone had told me when I was a freshman; you can and will make friends with just about anyone at this school. And as the older queer in this author-reader relationship, I command you to do one thing: make at least one good queer friend. Also, try to get involved in at least one group (like CIAO, SAGA, CWI, or BQA) with other queer people.

Let me explain. As a freshman, I was too busy with singing, theatre, work in the dining hall, and those class things the Dean's office keeps telling me I should attend to go to the great queer events and groups that the GSC and the college have to offer. This isolation was not good for me, especially when I got the gay-related blues. As much as I would try to explain my problems to my straight friends, most of the advice they gave me didn't really help. I felt

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The Gender and Sexuality Center is located on Ground Scoville and is staffed 9am-6pm, Monday through Friday. Stop in!

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lonely, and became bitter about the queer community, as though they were the ones that let *me* down.

By spring term, I was entirely jaded about being gay at Carleton, and saw no way to get out of it – until the people at Queers and Allies House asked me if I might apply to live there for my sophomore year.

Living there was one of the best decisions of my life. Meeting a wonderful group of people who knew and were also experiencing the particular challenges and triumphs that LGBT people at Carleton face provided me with a sense of belonging and a desire to make the gay community as fun and as healthy as it can be. And when stress and insomnia combined to give me anxiety attacks on the nights before papers were due, I found my best friend in a bisexual woman across the hall who believed cartoons and cocktails were the best ways to relax.

So put a little effort into meeting some of your fellow queers here. It shouldn't be hard, because there are LGBT people of every shape, size, color and creed with all kinds of interests and life stories. We don't bite (well, not hard enough to leave a permanent mark), and we can't wait to meet you.

“Isn't It All About Sex?” continued from page 1

relationships between students with a diverse array of backgrounds and cultures. The quality of your Carleton experience will be determined by the texture of your relationships. Despite a heavy academic workload at Carleton, I guarantee that you will find the time to become friends with many amazing people and perhaps nurture more intimate relationships. In fact, one of ways to meet with similar interests is to join an organization or group, like the cast of INAAS.

The GSC and our fellow groups provide a forum for community, foster dialogue, and engage in activism and education. I can't encourage you strongly enough to get involved right away. Besides fighting the good fight as you work for social change, you'll meet a lot of awesome people. I transferred to Carleton from a similar college in New England – the main difference is the phenomenal level of involvement in the Carleton community. Carleton is made special by its students and their passion. The world contains overwhelming troubles, but the organizations of Carleton comprise a platform that you can use to address whatever cause you take to heart. Don't wait until sophomore year to take advantage of the amazing resources provided by Carleton.

1. Michele N-K Collison, “‘The College Knew This Man Was a Rapist,’ Carleton Student Charges,” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, May 15, 1991, pp. A29-A30.

Important Reading for All New Students!



**Make sure to pick up a copy of
The Carleton College Women's
Handbook, Allies 101, and the
Pregnancy Resource Guide in
the GSC**

About the Gender and Sexuality Center

The GSC offers resources and support on women's, men's and LGBT issues. We work with other campus organizations and offices to strengthen and sustain an inclusive campus community that promotes gender equality and awareness and welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities by providing support, educational resources and advocacy. Now beginning its fifth year of operation, the GSC offers a wide variety of programming and support for students on men's, women's, and LGBT issues, and issues of gender and sexuality in general. The GSC is staffed by Kaaren Williamsen, the LGBT Advisor and GSC Director, and by Center Associates (CAs), students with special interest in issues of gender and sexuality. We also maintain a growing library and a comfortable space for meeting, reading and relaxing. Feel free to stop by and hang out any time! Also check out our website at <http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/gsc/>.

Take Action! Join a Student Organization

AIDS and HIV Awareness (AHA!) AHA! strives to increase awareness about issues of sexuality in general, with specific focus on how to prevent the spread of HIV and other STDs. AHA! sponsors trips to anonymous HIV testing sites each term, distributes condoms on campus, and organizes Carleton's team for the MN AIDS Walk. Alla Goldburt (goldbura)

Black Queer Alliance (BQA) The purpose of BQA is to combine the cultural resources of the black, African-American and LGBT communities to put on social activities that celebrate the spirit of these intertwining identities at Carleton. BQA was created out of a growing need to form a space for students of color in the queer community and their allies. John Smith-Ricco (smithrij), Kelly Lewis (lewiske), Cassie Young (youngca), Byron White (whiteb), Cindy Lys (lysc)

Breaking Ground Breaking Ground is a radical feminist journal produced by members of the Carleton community. The purpose of Breaking Ground is to develop people's ideas and perspectives of gender, sex, sexuality, race, and class. We accept essays, stories, poems, and visual art, and welcome anonymous submissions. Rachel Vallens (vallensr)

Campus Advocates Against Sexual Harassment and Assault (CAASHA) Campus Advocates Against Sexual Harassment and Assault are an autonomous group whose purpose is to provide support to survivors and perpetrators (women or men) of sexual harassment, sexual assault. They are available 24 hours a day and offer non-judgmental listening, support, and information on resources and Carleton's policies. Contact: Rachel Vallens (vallensr), David Sterling (sterlida), Alisa Sanchez (sancheza)

Carleton In And Out (CIAO) CIAO is a social support and discussion group for LGBTQA students. It consists of biweekly meetings, discussion of relevant topics, support check-ins, and whatever else students feel like doing. Lucy Hodgman (hodgmanl), James Sanna (sannaj)

Carls for Choice Carls for Choice exists to increase awareness and activism within Carleton and its community in regards to reproductive rights, abortion, and pro-choice issues. We serve as an educational resource for issues pertaining to reproductive rights as well as an advocate for them. Carls for Choice provides a forum in which Carleton students, faculty, and staff can actively support reproductive rights, including the right to choose. Caitlin Canfield (canfieldc), Casey Hogle (hogleca)

Coalition of Women of Color (COWOC) COWOC creates an environment for women on the Carleton campus that is supportive, fun and

serves as a resource. COWOC will provide a sense of familiarity and extend many opportunities to further educate women and Carleton about multicultural and women's issues. Contact: Naomi Hattori (hattorin), Maya Warren (warrenm), Valerie Carter (carterv)

Collective for Women's Issues (CWI) CWI is an umbrella organization that provides avenues for community services, political action, and consciousness-raising for those interested in feminist and social justice issues at Carleton. In addition, CWI serves as a personal support group for women at Carleton. Contact: Alisa Sanchez (sancheza), Rachel Vallens (vallensr)

Men of Color (MOC) CWI is an umbrella organization that MOC serves as a support network and resource that functions to educate and empower male students of color at Carleton. MOC also strives to encourage campus-wide meaningful and thoughtful discussions as well as actions on multicultural and gender issues pertaining to men of color in Carleton community. Love Anani (anani), David McCrea (mccread) William VanStory (vanstowi), Peter Uwalaka (uwalakpe)

Sexuality and Gender Activism (SaGA) SaGA is Carleton's LGBTQA activism group. It addresses issues such as civil rights, legislation, human rights in the U.S. and abroad, community issues, college policy, and campus awareness around matters of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender interest. Nora Presson (pressone), Ben Egerman (egermanb).

Houses: Q&A and WA

Queers and Allies (Q&A) House, an alternative living space for LGBTQA students, provides a 24-hour welcoming environment. Located in Prentice House, Q&A works in conjunction with the GSC to provide a venue for community building throughout the year.

House Manager: Leah Entenmann '06, *entenmal*.

Women's Awareness (WA) House, offers educational and social programming to the campus and houses the Carleton Women's Center. Located in Berg House, WA House is a communal living space for women dedicated to furthering understanding and awareness of women's issues.

House Manager: Rachel Vallens '06, *vallensr*.



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CONTACT INFORMATION AND EDITORIAL POLICY

The Gender and Sexuality Center publishes this newsletter monthly for the campus community and friends. Information in the newsletter is based on the best available information at the time of publication. Items in the newsletter are provided for informational purposes only, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Gender and Sexuality Center or its employees, nor do they represent the views of the students, staff, faculty, or administration of Carleton College.

Please submit articles, calendar entries, letters and news to the Gender and Sexuality Center or via e-mail to: kwilliam@acs.carleton.edu. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

**Newsletter Team: Kaaren Williamsen,
Leah Entenmann, Erika Lewis, C.J.
Griffiths, Rachel Vallens**

Upcoming Events!

Saturday, 9/10 & Sunday, 9/11: GSC Student Directed Information Sessions.

- *Saturday, 10:00-10:45—TOGA Party! Trans or Gender Activism.*
- *Saturday, 11:00-11:45—LGBT 101: You Will Survive!*
- *Sunday 12:30-1:15—Gender Activism: Women, Men and Justice*

Sunday, 9/11: "It's *Not* All About Sex." 2-4pm and 4-6pm in Arena Theater.

Monday, 9/12: Cookie Night at Q&A. 7:30pm, Prentice House. Make new friends and meet others in the community— with cookies!

Tuesday, 9/13: Transgeneration 7:30pm, Leighton 309. Special Carleton preview screening of the new documentary series airing this season on the Sundance Channel.

Wednesday, 9/14: Ice Cream Get-together at WA House. 7:30pm, Berg House. Check out WA House and the Carleton Women's Center. Open to everyone (men too!).

Friday, 9/16: Student Organizations Fair 4:30-6:30pm, Bald Spot.

Saturday, 9/17: Union Street Block Party 4:00-6:00pm. Food and fun fall activities on the cultural house row.

Monday, 9/19: LGBTQA Community Picnic at Queers & Allies House (Prentice) for Carls, Oles and Northfielders, 6:30-8:00. Followed by a talk by **Rev. Rebecca Voelkel**, prominent activist in LGBT spirituality. 8:30pm Hill Lounge .

Friday, 9/23—9/25: Men of Color and Women of Color Retreats. Sponsored by the Multicultural Affairs Office. Stop by Ground Scoville for more info!