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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### GSC Staff

Kaaren Williamsen, GSC Director  
Kristen Askeland, GSC/OIIL Secretary  
Alicia Morrell, GSC Advisor  
Heather Campbell, Educational Associate

### Center Associates

Nimo Ali, Seth Althausen, Sarah Berlin,  
Kendall Bills, Beth Budnick, Hannah Button-  
Harrison, Sara Cantor, Patty Dana, Marlene  
Edelstein, Michael McClellan, Jean Rhodes,  
Manny Silvestre, Kristy Spiak, Kristina  
Taketomo

### 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: [billsk](mailto:billsk). We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

## WINTER WONDERLAND 2011!

FEBRUARY

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- 8th Happy Flow!, 7:00pm, location TBD
- 9th Marlon Bailey, 4:30pm, Leighton 304
- 12th Vagina Monologues, 7:30 PM, The Chapel
- 17th Free and confidential HIV Testing, 10am -3pm , The Wellness Center

*And don't forget about ongoing events at the GSC like LGBTea time, and meetings student orgs like CIAO, CWI, GDG, the Sex Positivity Group, and SaGA*

### Student Org Meetings:

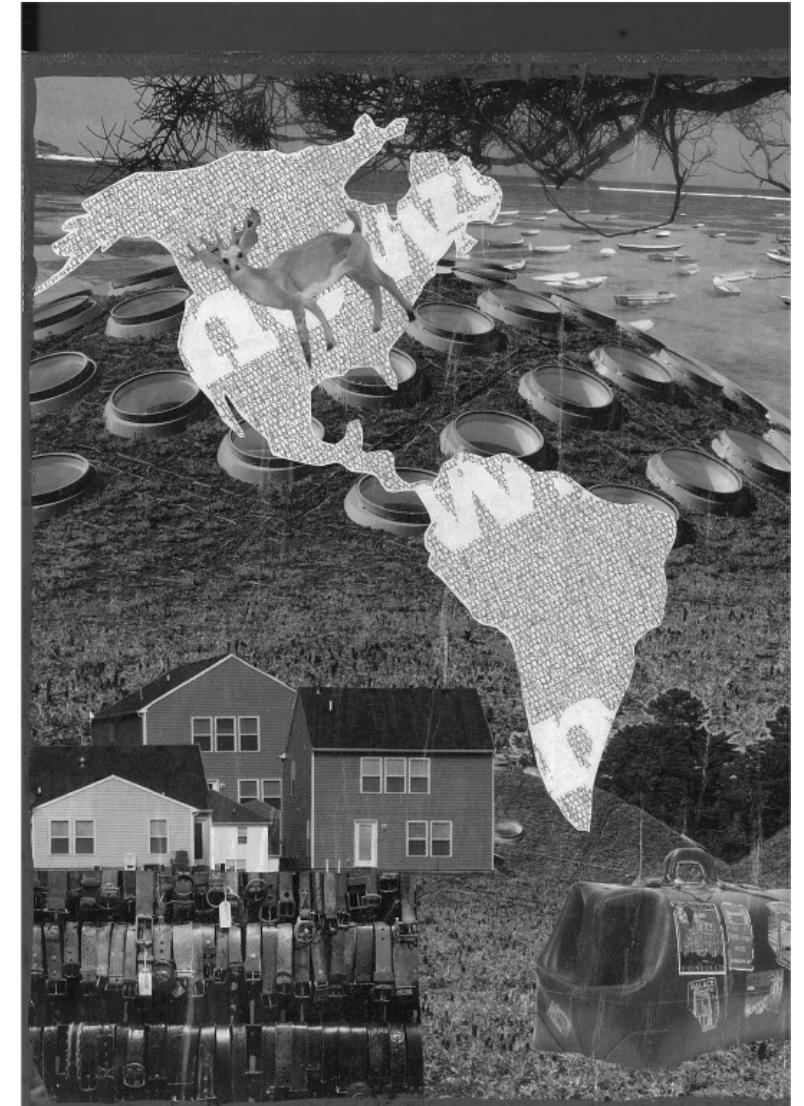
- Sex-Positivity Discussion Group: Wednesdays, Willis 204 7:00pm
- Carleton In and Out (CIAO): Odd Tuesdays, Leighton 330 8:00pm
- Sexuality and Gender Activism (SaGA): Wednesdays, GSC 8:00pm
- Collective for Women's Issues (CWI): Thursdays, WA (Berg House), 8:00pm
- Gender Support Group: contact althausb for time and location



GSC-

GENDER AND SEXUALITY CENTER  
BASEMENT SCOVILLE

# OUT OF THE BASEMENT



FEATURES  
JANUARY 2011

RAINBOW RETREAT  
REFLECTIONS

WORKSHOP UPDATES

UPCOMING EVENTS

IN THE NEWS

THE MAN DANCE

AN DIFRANCO  
APPRECIATION CLUB

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 3

# RAINBOW RETREAT REFLECTIONS

## Michael McClellan '13

The weather at Camp Pepin, Wisconsin may have been cold, but the people who went on this year's Rainbow Retreat found warm smiles from the moment they got on the bus at Sayles. Friday evening, GSC and OIIL administrative assistant Kristen Askeland helped see 43 students off with dinner from Hogan Brothers, and the buses rolled toward Wisconsin.

Friday night was filled with a special activity, the Gay Games. Events ranged from queer trivia to a can-do relay, and retreat-goers learned names and bonded over team activities. Congratulations are in order to the Blue Team, the winners of the Rainbow Retreat's first Gay Games (and to the Green Team, for a close second-place performance).

Saturday morning came early for some, with breakfast being served by Norm and Scott (the managers of Camp Pepin) at 8:00. Jamie Washington led the facilitated discussion during the rest of the day, in which everyone was invited to examine the issues that queer folks and allies live with, including the intersection of various facets of our identities.

For some, this was the most thought-provoking portion of the retreat: people came forward and explained problems that had impacted their lives. Some were able to verbalize problems they had never before brought up. This cathartic and community-building exercise led to the formation of various caucuses, groups that wished to discuss some identity aspect further. These caucuses then brainstormed ideas for programming on campus, which the GSC is working to implement.

After another night of fun at the "no-talent" show, retreat-goers packed up for the drive back to Minnesota. As everyone returned to campus, homework and sleep became priorities again. There was enormous productive energy during the weekend retreat; the question now is, how to replicate that on campus and build community?

## Kendall Bills '13

While at the Rainbow Retreat this weekend (my very first!) there was a great deal of discussion about community—the queer community in particular, and what we needed from it.

Calls for community are particularly striking to me in this moment, when in recent months, the lack of support for queer teens has had devastating consequences. Which is why, after the retreat, I spent hours reflecting on the needs I had heard spoken there. One request for community in particular stood out to me: the need for inclusivity, regardless of orientation/orientation status.

(continued on next page)



Although Minneapolis may be an awesome place to be LGBT, the same is not true for the rest of Minnesota. Eighteen year-old Lance Lundsten, an openly gay student at Jefferson High School in the small town of Alexandria, Minnesota killed himself on Saturday January 16 after reported bullying. Miltona is about two and a half hours north of Carleton. The Douglas County Sheriff's Office told local ABC affiliate KSAX that Lundsten took his own life, though Lundsten's father denies his son committed suicide. According to KSAX, several students say the teen was bullied at school, which they fear could have led to his death.

If you have experienced **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**  
**SEXUAL ASSAULT** or **INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR...**  
**You can talk with us.**  
**go.carleton.edu/sexual\_misconduct**

## NERVE.COM

Jean Rhodes '12

Want to make your day and just have a laugh? I suggest you check out [nerve.com](http://nerve.com) a site packed with interesting news, articles, advice, and fabulous real life interviews about love and sex. These interviews are great because it's such fun to hear other people's crazy relationship stories, get novel ideas on how to pick someone up, or ponder how people manage to get it on in the places they do. Some of Nerve's more extended personal stories delve into some weightier subjects, too, like first-times, revelatory coming out moments, and are quite touching. So if you're looking for something to add a bit of spice to your day, take a look!

# IN THE NEWS:

Beth Budnick '11

## THE EQUATION

Remember math? Our research team took a number of signifiers of gay-friendliness for each city (see below), assigned points for each, added them up, and then divided the raw scores by the population to achieve each city's per capita homosexuality.

 **Gay.com profiles**

+

 **Listed officiants for gay weddings within a 50 mile radius**

+

 **Elected openly gay officials**  
(1 point for state legislators, 2 points for members of Congress, 3 points for governors and mayors)

+

 **Tegan and Sara performances over the past five years**

+

 **Lesbian bars**

+

 **Gay and gay-friendly religious congregations**

+

 **Entries in YellowPages.com with "gay" in the business name or description**

+

 **Population within city limits**  
(and then we moved the decimal point over a bit)

## Minneapolis Is Apparently a Lot Gay Than You Thought

Hey Carleton, hope you're ready to party in the Gay Capitol of the U.S. What, you say you can't afford a plane ticket to New York City? Too far to get to San Francisco? Worry no longer! Turns out that the gay center of the United States is a mere 45 minute car ride away. Yes, that's right, Minneapolis. Using an algorithm to calculate "per capita homosexuality" for a variety of major metropolitan areas of the U.S.—including gay.com profiles, Tegan and Sara concerts (YES REALLY), gay-friendly religious congregations and lesbian bars—our local city came in as the top queer spot.

The others on the list were **2.** Santa Fe, New Mexico **3.** Pittsburgh, PA **4.** Orlando, Florida **5.** Las Vegas, Nevada **6.** Vancouver, Washington **7.** Atlanta, GA **8.** Washington DC **9.** Seattle, Washington **10.** St. Louis, Missouri **11.** San Francisco, CA **12.** Cleveland, Ohio **13.** Denver, Colorado **14.** Oakland, California **15.** Miami, Florida. Noting that San Francisco doesn't even make the top-10 and New York City is nowhere to be seen (despite way too many gay bars to handle and the most intense Pride I can

imagine), the list has been criticized across internet outlets. Despite all the bizarre calculating, having Minneapolis rock the status as "gay magnet city of the Midwest" and top gay city per according to the Advocate surely isn't bad news for Carleton students.



As someone who spent the majority of their freshman year questioning their confirmed identity as a heterosexual ally, and who has later come out to friends and family as queer, I have occasionally felt the shadow of self-doubt fall across my experience. While I am proud to be a part of a community with as many 'loud and proud' queers as Carleton is home to, I occasionally felt as though I wasn't 'queer enough'. After the retreat, I know that I was not alone in these fears. While I never doubted that the queer community would accept whatever orientation I chose, I occasionally worried that my heterosexual experiences and/or past identity would mean that I wouldn't be taken seriously in claiming my new identity as a queer woman.

As I reflected on my own insecurities in the community, and the concerns expressed at the retreat, I tried to brainstorm some ways to change the lurking feeling that we might not 'measure up' in the community. I came up with three challenges to our beautiful, vibrant queer community, to make it feel like a welcoming place to all Carls.

### ◆ Minding our language.

While this may sound obvious, I know I'm not the only one who often uses labels like "gay" or "queer" to express pride in my identity and to overcome historic stigma against non-hetero individuals. Yet not all people are prepared to claim these labels, and I hope that I can challenge myself to come up with ways to make language more inclusive and less static for people who may be unsure of their status.

### ◆ All welcome

While I often, as a Gender and Sexuality Center Associate, try to include 'all welcome' on posters or in publicity, in my personal life, I want to increase my efforts to speak in language that doesn't assume anyone's identity or labels—even if I feel like I have a good guess.

### ◆ Reaching out

The most notable moment in the retreat for me was the fact that I (a person with serious name-face issues) knew almost every single person's name as I left. This was not the case at the beginning, and would not have been the case if there wasn't a conscious effort to greet and engage with people we didn't know. Watching the community broaden was beautiful, and I hope to personally challenge myself to continue to make the awkward first step of introducing myself at events where it would be easier to just stick with friends.

Those are my ideas. In my opinion, none of them are spectacular, and all of them are obvious. I have more faith, however, in you, my fellow students. As we strive to make all of Carleton, including the queer community, more accepting and welcoming, I hope that all who read this will consider what they can do to make every member of our community feel as wel-

# COMING BACK FROM OFF-CAMPUS

Sarah Berlin '12

Whether you were studying abroad, studying somewhere else in the United States, taking a term off, or were gone for any number of other reasons, coming back to campus can be a strange and difficult experience. Even though I'm not adjusting to speaking and writing in English again like many of my classmates are (I was studying in the United States), a lot has changed on campus and it's definitely been a transition. Friends have graduated and left, the snack bar has stopped making the grilled hummus and pita (seriously, I'm struggling with this one), and there are many new faces around campus, including a new president and new members of the LGBTQA community. Also, it's winter and coming back to the short days and freezing cold can be tough for anyone.

The GSC and the LGBTQA community at Carleton have really helped me to get back into the swing of things and offered an incredible amount of support and understanding. Hanging out in the GSC and Q&A House, going to student org meetings, and looking forward to the events this term has eased the transition and made me feel part of the community again. Although I wasn't able to go on the Rainbow Retreat, the energy and ideas that emerged from it have been exciting to hear about. Something I appreciate about this community is that it's always there for us to return to and it's never too late to get involved. So if you're coming back from off-campus I encourage you to stop by the GSC, go to a student org meeting, come to LGBTea time or find other ways to reconnect with the community here.



Max Silver '11, OCS Photo Contest Winner



Chase Kimball '10 OCS Photo Contest Winner

# ANI DIFRANCO APPRECIATION CLUB

Beth Budnick '11 and Alicia Morrell

Here's a brief intro to some musical gems by Ani DiFranco, pretty much the love of our lives:

## NAPOLEON - Beth

This song has rocked my world on and on and on since 2005, when I first learned about it in European History my sophomore year. Seriously. This badass classmate of mine who I'm pretty positive I had a crush on brought in a CD she had burned for our stodgy and be-whiskered high school history teacher. She was all, "It mentions Napoleon!" In retrospect, this was sort of a bad idea that she had because this song says "f\*ck" at least 10 times I think. Regardless, he put it on and she just sat there and grinned as Ani started cranking up her raw raw rawwwwr voice and rants with using that sexy voice of hers about not selling out. I think this brave classmate of mine now identifies as bi (call me?) and I now identify as an incredibly passionate fan of this song.

The chorus that "Everyone is a f---cking Napoleon" could be the most cathartic five words in the history of the English language. Don't care about Napoleon the dude? Not an issue-- Napoleon can be SO MANY thing that you have an issue with. From the MMMSOOGOOD guitar-picking at the beginning of the song to the soft purr that Ani's voice starts out and then escalates into this amazing crescendo of ANGER, this song wins for me. Also, get the live version from "Living in Clip" not the studio version-- this song is simply too big not to be out there on a stage, in the open, thrashing about at Napoleon, The Man, or simply a shitty grade on a test. Why? 'Cause everyone is a f---cking Napoleon. So we might as well have Ani help us work through it.



## DILATE - Alicia

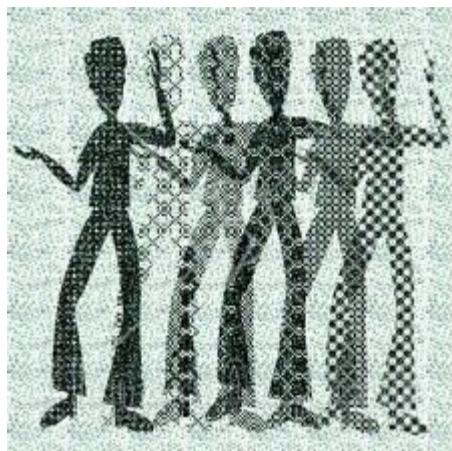
I can't even talk about this song it's that good... but since I'm all "writing an article" I'll try. Here's a list of the things that make this song great:

1. It's ANGRY!
2. Bare bones music and a fantastic voice. I think you can really appreciate her talent as a singer with a song like this.
3. Can everyone relate to the whole 'being in love/like with someone and it's **for rlz** no good' situation?(yes you can)
4. This jam is 15 years old and could have just as easily been written yesterday
5. "...you've left me with nothing, but I've worked with less."
6. I also like to take up space, just because I can. We're twins, Ani and me. (don't ever call me Ali, ok?)
7. The phrase "you sucked my brain out" kind of resonates with the part of me that likes zombie movies.
8. Ani named her daughter Petah Lucia which is adorable. (nothing to do with the song, whatevs)
9. when I hear this song I want to be in a relationship just to end it so I can be all catharsis-y on Grooveshark
10. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNP\\_fOK6Rqc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNP_fOK6Rqc) (never mind the awesome filmwork)

# REFLECTIONS ON THE MAN DANCE

Manny Silvestre '11

Since coming to Carleton, Ebony's Man Dance has been one of my favorite traditions. I still remember being a prospie and being told of this odd spectacle of a tradition, and finding it absurdly hilarious. Since then I've done Man Dance a handful of times, and have enjoyed making a fool of myself in front of my peers and at times in front of faculty and staff. But while I have a lot of fun with the Man Dance, I know there are some who see it as a problem. I still remember an alumnus from a few years back that said it was essentially a bunch of straight bros making fun of the queer community. I found myself in conflict with his statement. While I could see his point in that much of Man Dance involves men being rather sexual with one another on stage, I couldn't buy that Man Dance was just an excuse to act "gay" on stage with the excuse that it is just an act. It's possible that some view it as such, but I think it's also a little unfair to see it in such a limited way.



I've always viewed Man Dance as a way to make fun of the sexuality seen in so many other Ebony dances and really in everyday life. So many of the Ebony dances involve women on stage thrusting their hips, shaking their cleavage, and wearing skimpy outfits. Man Dance simply turns this on its head by having men perform these same gyrations, and pointing out the absurdity of making these performers the object of your gaze. They make moves that were meant to be erotic into comic spectacles. I've always considered the Man Dance choreographers to be very self aware of this. I don't want to make it sound that I'm ignoring the problems with Man Dance though. I see them whenever I'm at the practices; the jokes about "impressing the ladies" with our thrusting and sex

pushups occur all the time. There has also been a growing trend of having less and less clothing in each successive Man Dance, so much so that it seems to go beyond mocking the overt sexuality of the dance and begins to straddle a line of who will be more uncomfortable during the dance: the performers who are only wearing their skivvies or the audience members who have to see that guy from their 4a doing a sex pushup in skintight cutoffs.

I'm reflecting on Man Dance because this term I'll be sitting it out. Not because I've found the dance more offensive than I have in the past, or because I find it especially problematic, but because I present my comps the same week.

# WORKSHOP UPDATE

Patty Dana '11

Let's face it: kids at Carleton LOVE learning. Why else would anyone sign up for a 1a discussion or plan to double-lab *and* TA? Well, the GSC is no different. One of my favorite things about the GSC is its dedication to continuing conversations outside of the classroom and after regular business hours are over. In my opinion, the workshops offered by the GSC are examples of peer-education at its finest. We'll come to you (whether that's on your floor or at your secret team meeting place), teach you some things, get you talking (and thinking) about the topic of your choice, and leave in less than an hour so you can go back to (not) doing your homework like you usually do.

Where did we go last term? Well, we can't tell you about those secret meeting places, but we did a pretty fantastic job of running around campus with our posters and our post-it notes. Here's a quick summary:

- ◆ **The Anatomy of Pleasure** went to 3<sup>rd</sup> Burton, 2<sup>nd</sup> Davis, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Watson, pleasing approximately 61 of your peers.
- ◆ **What You Can Do about Sexual Assault** was presented to 40 peer leaders before New Student Week and to the full RA staff of Watson and the East Side Houses.
- ◆ **H.O.T.S.E.X. (Healthy Open Talking about Sex and Everything eXtra)** was facilitated for residents of the East Side Houses (and their friends) and is hopefully all over campus...
- ◆ **Gender 101** was presented to 37 peer leaders before New Student Week, the full RA staff of Nourse/Myers, a bunch of cool kids on 2<sup>nd</sup> Musser, and members of SaGA (Sexuality and Gender Activism).
- ◆ **LGBTQA Panels** have visited all of Cassat, Parish, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Musser, 4<sup>th</sup> Goodhue, 1<sup>st</sup> Nourse, and 4<sup>th</sup> Burton. Panelists also shared their coming out stories with 30 peer leaders before New Student Week. We had an incredibly successful panel training workshop for people interested in becoming panelists. If you want to be a panelist, contact [althausb](#) or [spiakk](#).

Wish your floor were a part of our collection? Want to talk about gender with your club sport team? Think it'd be fun to have your student org meet just to talk about sexual anatomy? We'd love to come see you. I know that I'm personally quite guilty of spending a lot of my time in the basement of Scoville, but I would happily brave the cold weather and slippery sidewalks in the name of quality learning and one more way to postpone (not) working on homework. Email me ([danap](#)) for more information or to schedule a time we can hang out. I'll bring the posters.

# VAGINA MONOLOGUES 2011

Marlene Edelstein '11

It is Winter Term again which means it is time for Carleton's annual production of the Vagina Monologues! Students are already hard at work ensuring that this year is our best VDAY yet. This year, the spotlight campaign is on the women and girls of Haiti which addresses the heightened levels of violence against women in the aftermath of the earthquake in 2010. We are excited to be partnering with Haiti Relief Carleton, a student organization, in our advocacy efforts.



In past years, the VDAY cast and crew planned a number of events in the week preceding the Monologues to build excitement and start the conversation early. This year, we have decided to do things a little differently. Instead of planning a week of activities leading up to the performance, we have decided to shift the majority of our programming to after. Our intention is to make the Vagina Monologues the start of a campus-wide conversation about violence against women, rather than its conclusion. We hope to provide outlets for those of us who are challenged, upset, empowered, enraged confused and/or excited by it. We want to make sure that there are spaces for diverse voices to be heard and affirmed.



*Meriam Merlet, the Chief of Staff for the Ministry of Women in Haiti, died in the earthquake. This year's spotlight monologue is in her honor.*

# ENGENDERING SPACE: BLACK QUEER PERFORMANCE & BALLROOM CULTURE IN DETROIT

Nimo Ali '11

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of February, Carleton will be lucky to have Professor Marlon Bailey from Indiana University here to present his research on the intersections of race, performance, and sexuality in his lecture titled *Engendering Space: Black Queer Performance & Ballroom Culture in Detroit*. He currently teaches courses in Theater and Drama, Gender Studies, and American Studies. His academic training is extensive and includes a PhD in Diaspora studies, with an emphasis on gender, women, and sexuality, a Master of Fine Arts in acting, and years of teaching in both fields. With a background in African-American studies, Professor Bailey has spent his years in education interrogating how and why LGBT people of color get written out of the black Diaspora whether in the academic world or in their community of color. His examination of this phenomenon challenges us to reexamine our conceptions of gender, community, power, sexuality and identity.

Thanks to the efforts of Professor Thabiti Willis, a history professor here at Carleton, we are proud to welcome Professor Bailey. Professor Willis believes that we should not divorce culture and identity from gender and sexuality especially in the academy. In bringing Professor Bailey here this February hopefully we can begin to investigate the ways in which we conceptualize our identities. Professor Willis believes at Carleton "there is a commitment here to promote this kind of scholarship, reading and rereading how we see the world."



*Professor Marlon Bailey*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9<sup>TH</sup>  
4:30PM LEIGHTON 304  
SPONSORED BY THE AFRICAN/AFRICAN AMERICAN  
STUDIES DEPARTMENT