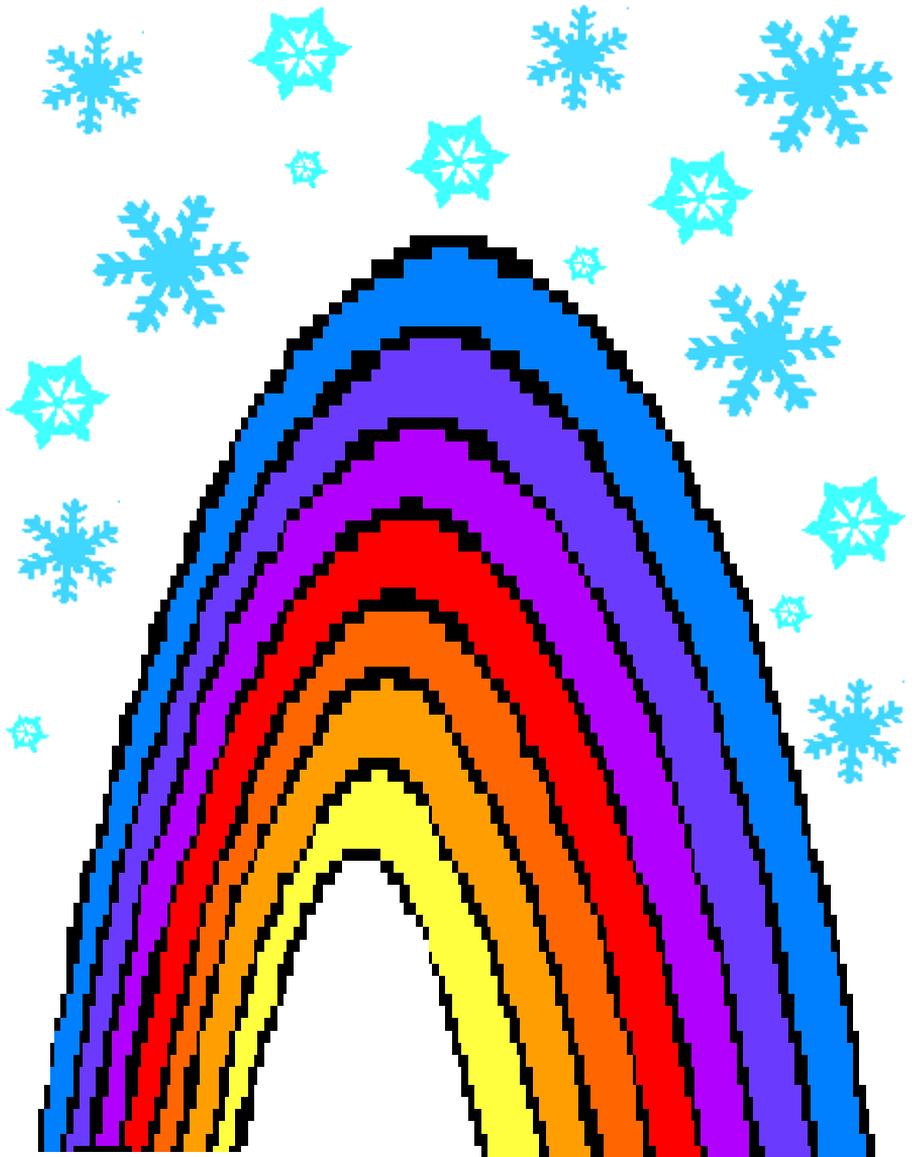




GSC

**Gender and Sexuality Center
Basement Scoville**

OUT OF THE BASEMENT



FEATURES

January 2008

STACEYANN CHIN
2-3

ELECTION 2008
4-5

**RESEARCH IN PUNE,
INDIA**
6-7

CARLETON DATES
8-9

**NEW IN THE GSC
LIBE**
10

**VAGINA
MONOLOGUES**
11

EVENTS
12

Volume 7, Issue 4

ROCKING WITH A FIERCE POET

By Angelica Johnson

On Friday, January 25th, a dynamic lesbian poet from Montego Bay, Jamaica, will perform in Arena Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Staceyann Chin has performed at the Nuyorican Poets' Café, poetry slams all over the U.S. and abroad, various colleges and universities such as Harvard, Cornell, and NYU and on Def Poetry Jam.

Chin is known for her fierce, radical rhetoric calling for an end to the injustices committed against oppressed peoples of the world: people of color, the poor, women and children, people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer, etc. Her poetry is also reflective of her bittersweet growth as a powerful lesbian woman of color through artistically painting images of her experiences of child abuse, poverty, racism, sexism, and homophobia. Such experiences have shaped her political agenda to mobilize people to stand up against dehumanization. Her social activism is her poetry. She uses art as a means of inspiration and resistance. As the lesbian feminist poet and writer Audre Lorde states so eloquently about the power of poetry:

...poetry is not a luxury. It is a vital necessity of our existence. It forms the quality of the light within which we predicate our hopes and dreams toward survival and change, first made into language, then into idea, then into more tangible action. Poetry is the way we help give name to the nameless so it can be thought. The farthest horizons of our hopes and fears are cobbled by our poems, carved from the rock experiences of our daily lives.¹



Poetry is the breath for which the souls of the underrepresented is preserved and inspired to continue the fight for social change.

If you are interested in being intellectually challenged on issues of diversity, inspired to stand up for human rights, or want to see a great performance of spoken word poetry, come to Staceyann Chin's performance on Friday, January 25th at 7:30 p.m. in Arena Theatre. After the performance, everyone is invited for dessert with Chin at the Women's Awareness House (Berg) at 9p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Angelica Johnson by email at johnsoan@carleton.edu. This event is sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Center, the Carleton Student Association and the Distinguished Women's Visitor Fund.

¹Lorde, Audre. "Poetry is Not a Luxury." Sister Outsider. Audre Lorde. Berkeley and Toronto: Crossing Press, 1984. 37.

CROSSFIRE

By Staceyann Chin

Am I a feminist
or a womanist
the student needs to know
if I do men occasionally
and primarily am I a lesbian

Tongue twisted in cheek I attempt to
respond with honesty-

This business of sexual dykes and dykery
I tell her
is often messy-with social tensions as
they are

you never quite know what you're getting
-some girls can only be straight at night
-hardcore butches be wearing dresses
between nine and six during the day
sometimes she is really a he trapped
by the limitations of our imagination-

Primarily

I am concerned about young women
who are raped on college campuses
in cars
after poetry readings like this one
in bars

bruised lip and broken heart
you will forgive her if she does not come
forward with the truth immediately

Everyone will think she asked for it
dressed as she was she must have wanted
it]

The words will knock about in her head
horny bitch
slut-harlot-tease
loose woman
some people cannot handle a woman on
the loose

you know those women in silk-ties and
pin-striped shirts
women in blood-red stilettos and short
pink skirts
-these women make New York City the
most interesting place
and while we're on the subject of
diversity

Asia is not one big race
and there is no such country called the
Islands
and no-I am not from there

There are a hundred ways
to slip between the cracks
of our not-so-credible cultural
assumptions
and other peoples' interpretations of race
and religion
Most people are surprised my father is
Chinese-like

there's some preconditioned
look for the half-Chinese lesbian poet
who used to be Catholic but now believes
in dreams

Let's keep it real
says the boy in the double-X hooded
sweatshirt
that blond haired blue eyed Jesus in the
Vatican ain't right
that motherfucker was Jewish, not white

Christ was a Middle Eastern Rastaman
who ate grapes in the company of
prostitutes
and drank wine more than he drank
water
born of the spirit the disciples also loved

him in the flesh
but the discourse is on people who
clearly identify as gay
or lesbian or straight
the State needs us to be left or right
those in the middle get caught
in the cross-fire away at the other side

If you are not for us you must be against
us
People get scared enough they pick a
team

Be it for Buddha or for Krishna or for
Christ
God is that place between belief and
what you name it
I believe holy is what you do
when there is nothing between your
actions and the truth

I am afraid to draw your black lines
around me
I am not always pale in the middle
I come in too many flavors for one
fucking spoon

I am never one thing or the other-
at night I am everything I fear
tears and sorrows
black windows and muffled screams
in the morning I am all I want to be
wild rain and open laughter
bare footprints and invisible seams
always without breath or definition-I
claim every dawn
for yesterday is simply what I was
and tomorrow
even that will be gone

Election 2008

As primaries and caucuses get underway, we'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the presidential candidates and highlight several hot button gender and sex related issues. This information does not represent the views of the GSC and is not meant to be your only source of election information. All information is taken from cnpolitics.com which is a great place to start for answers to general election questions.

	Supports a Women's Right to Choose	Supports Same-Sex Marriage	Supports Same-Sex Civil Unions	Voted against the Constitutional Ban on Same-Sex Marriages
Democrats				
Clinton	√	x	√	√
Edwards	√	x	√	√
Gravel	√	√	√	√
Kucinich	√	√	√	√
Obama	√	x	√	√
Richardson	√	x	√	√
Republicans				
Giuliani	√	x	√	√
Huckabee	x	x	x	x
Hunter	x	x	?	x
McCain	x	x	?	√
Paul	x	?	?	√
Romney	x	x	x	x
Thompson	x	x	?	√

√-Supports

X-Does not support

The Candidates



Hilary Clinton

The former first lady is now in her second term as the junior senator from New York..



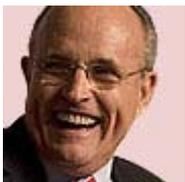
Mike Gravel

The former U.S. senator from Alaska now heads up a non-profit firm promoting civics and education.



Barack Obama

The former lawyer and state senator won a U.S. Senate seat in Illinois in 2004.



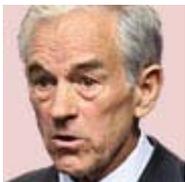
Rudy Giuliani

The two-term mayor of New York City once ran for the U.S. Senate, but dropped out in 2000.



Duncan Hunter

Hunter has served as a U.S. representative from California since 1981.



Ron Paul

The U.S. House member from Texas and medical doctor ran as a Libertarian for president in 1988.



John Edwards

The former U.S. senator from North Carolina was the Democratic 2004 vice presidential candidate.



Dennis Kucinich

Kucinich represents an Ohio district in the U.S. House and also ran for the '04 Democratic presidential nomination.



Bill Richardson

The New Mexico governor has also served in the U.S. House and as U.N. ambassador and U.S. energy secretary.



Mike Huckabee

Before he was a governor of Arkansas, Huckabee served as pastor to several churches.



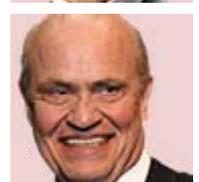
John McCain

The U.S. senator from Arizona ran for the GOP presidential nomination in 2000, but lost to George W. Bush.



Mitt Romney

The former Massachusetts governor made an unsuccessful run for the U.S. Senate in 1994.



Fred Thompson

The former U.S. senator from Tennessee also is known for acting, including his "Law and Order" role.

Research in Pune, India

By Dominic Vendell

Part of the effect of Carleton as an institution, including offices like the Gender and Sexuality Center and the Office of Intercultural Life, is to teach students both to understand and value their own identities and to develop an awareness about the matrices of oppression in which we all operate. One comes to believe that is possible to attune one's life to the ideals of social justice and sustainable development, all the time forgetting that Carleton has come to define the discourse about what is possible. My own conditioning in these terms became clearer to me when I pursued independent research on queer organizing in Pune, Maharashtra, India from July to December 2007.

While putting together my research proposal in the U.S., I hoped to produce research that was ultimately beneficial to queer organizers as well as to better understand how to forge links of transnational queer solidarity. I wanted to develop relationships of mutual growth with queer people in Pune so that in the future I could participate in activities that did not privilege a white gay First World subject. I made progress towards these goals by learning more about how queer organizing is structured differently in India than in the United States because of HIV/AIDS prevalence and funding, various colonial laws, heteropatriarchal marriage structures linked to caste, and a simple deficiency of economic resources. Throughout my time in Pune, these ideas framed my words and actions, but increasingly I realized how privilege ran deeply through my positions as a student and as a researcher. Because of the role of knowledge-acquisition that I had chosen as a sexual subject,

I was not able to fully engage in transnational solidarity.

Contextualizing my various identities, political perspectives, and knowledges was my ability to travel to India in order to encounter new kinds of collectivization. Queer organizers and even just people walking by me on the streets wondered why I would come all the way to India unless it would benefit my future career prospects. I realized how easy it would be for me to adopt and then discard the



mentioned set of concerns, while queer organizers were participating in support and awareness activities out of positions of collective need. It thus seemed somewhat ludicrous for me to ask for their time and trust for five months of casual knowledge-seeking.

This experience became even more conceptually complicated when I discovered that my interactions with queer activists would be confined to knowledge acquisition. Their organizations

did not have the resources to take on an extra worker, and I did not have the time and language skills to volunteer with them. Part of this restriction was my situation in a foreign study abroad program, including a home-stay with a fairly conservative Brahmin family. All that I could do were interviews with organizational leadership and some basic participation at organizational events. By the end, offering any critique in my paper felt presumptuous, fairly useless, and purely academic.

The limitations of my research experience became clear to me one night while I was talking with my one of my interviewees. He asked me if I had come up with any suggestions for future directions for queer activism in India. I was unable to respond. I had begun to analyze the history and character of queer organizing and how it has come to shape and organize sexual minorities. But I was certainly not in a position of knowledge compared to many of my interlocutors! In fact, the issues they were facing and that had caused them to organize in certain ways were not at all being addressed at Carleton. In addition, both the goals of American gay activism and the critiques of it that I could offer were not always relevant for them. Both of us were disappointed to see the borderlines of our commonality and my ability to contribute to his work.

A contrasting experience that nonetheless fits into this critique took place at a conference on HIV/AIDS support for men who have sex with men (MSM), which is a term frequently employed in public health work with sexual minorities. I attempted to participate in

and observe the conference, but it became difficult to interact with the other male participants because of their increasingly sexual interest in me. Their fascination with me centered on my status as a white foreigner who also engaged in sex with men. Because I could not speak the languages that they were most comfortable with, I could not use our similarities and differences for productive dialogue. Ultimately, my presence was distracting, rather than helpful, for the conference, and I frequently had to leave.

Fortunately, there were many moments of solidarity and mutuality in other interactions with sexual minorities and organizers in Pune. In particular it was gratifying when I and someone that I had interviewed or befriended

It is not enough to observe, to ask, and to make knowledge.

could trace the historical differences and hierarchies existing between the queer movements in the U.S.

and India. I am sure more of these moments would be possible if my engagement with queer activism in India became more egalitarian, consistent, and constructive.

So now I am attempting to reevaluate how I develop relationships while abroad. It is not enough to observe, to ask, and to make knowledge. I am eager to participate more in activities and movements that reach outside the boundaries of my own organizing experience and test the theory that has come to define my words. It has become clear that I must find new ways of becoming immersed whether it is through language, service, or employment. Perhaps then there will be greater possibility for knowledge production for the purposes of transnational solidarity.

---CARLETON

Whether you prefer to call it hanging out, getting to know someone or courting, dating is a healthy part of relationships both with potential partners and in committed relationships that started during your pre-frosh trip. While Northfield can often seem less entertaining than your friend's party on Friday night, getting off campus can be a great way to have a new experience and get to know your partner in a different way.

That other school in town, the one across the train tracks up on the hill, also feels that dating is important and has compiled a list of fun and interesting ideas for cheap dates in Northfield. Here are a few of our favorites as well as some original ideas. If you have any additions, please email conklin or mailbox 1596. St. Olaf's full list is viewable at: <http://www.stolaf.edu/stulife/deanofstudents/onadate/>.

Love/Co-op Bus Dates

- Go on a group date to Target. Every couple gets one dollar and has to search for the cheapest item they can find then purchase it. The couple with the most change remaining wins. Then have Slushies and a pizza dinner in the Target cafeteria before catching the bus back to campus.
- Play hide and seek in Target. Try not to scare the other customers.
- Play "randomization" at Cub. Put random items in people's shopping carts without them seeing you. The bigger the item, the more points you receive. A formal point system isn't necessary.
- Go to the Mall of America to people watch. Most of the stores in the mall close at 9:30pm on Fridays and Saturdays so be sure to plan accordingly (though the restaurants are generally open later).



Twin Cities Destinations



- The US Figure Skating Championships are in St. Paul at the end of January. Tickets for some of the junior, senior and novice performances start at \$5. Visit www.stpaul2008.com for more information and to order tickets online.
- Visit a museum! The Minneapolis Institute of Art offers free admission and many other attractions including the Science Museum of Minnesota have student pricing.
- See an indie film at a Landmark theater (www.landmarktheaters.com).

DATES! ————

By Christi Conklin

Dates Within Walking Distance



- Have an Iron Chef date. Walk down to Econo and split up to buy \$10 worth of random food your date doesn't know about. Go back to your room and have a contest to see who can prepare the best dish then enjoy them while watching a movie or MTV.
- Borrow a boom box, bundle up and go out the ice rinks to ice dance (with or without ice skates) then have hot chocolate in Sayles. You may want to consider borrowing one of the broomball helmets if you're a little unsure of your footing.
- Have a snow sculpture contest. Possible themes include bathroom fixtures, dorm furniture, and President Oden look-a-likes.
- Go cross country skiing in the arb. You can borrow skis and learn how to use them from the Rec Center for free!
- Grill outside in the middle of winter. You can get coals at Econo and use the grills located outside most dorms.
- Build a snowman and snowdog in front of your dorm, then go knocking on peoples doors to collect things to decorate them .
- Walk to Hogan Bros. for lunch or dinner and have an impromptu snowball fight or snow angel contest on the way.
- Get a copy of Northfield News (published on Wednesdays and Sundays and available at Econofoods) and sit by a sunny window reading it over snacks. Highlights include the Northfield security blotter complete with names and addresses (perhaps you'll see your roommate) and Maggie Lee's column on the back of the sports section. Past subjects have included the presence of albino squirrels in Northfield and Ms. Lee's cat nativity scene that sits on her desk at work.
- Go to Ragstock together and purchase items to create a super hero and a super villain costume for yourself and your date. Walk back to your room to get dressed and decide on special powers for each other. Then go to Sayles and battle it out, pretending to save random people from imagined peril. Ask people in Great Space to vote on who wins.

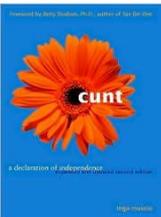
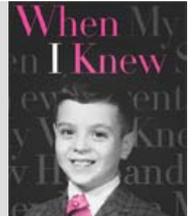


New in the GSC Libe

Did you just suffer through six weeks of GSC library withdrawal? Don't worry, we've got some hot new titles to keep you occupied this term.

When I Knew, Edited by Robert Trachtenberg

"I knew I was gay," writes public relations executive Howard Bragman, "when the most exciting part of my Bar Mitzvah was meeting with the party planner." Documentarian Trachtenberg brings together the comical, sometimes bitter and always poignant moments when gay men and women first realize (or admit) the truth about their own sexual preference. This book is perfect for a quick laugh or a pick me up.

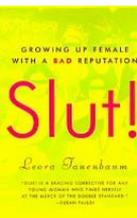
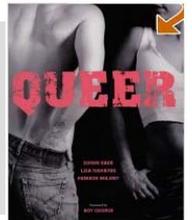


Cunt, By Inga Muscio

An ancient title of respect for women, the word "cunt" long ago veered off this noble path. Muscio traces the road from honor to expletive, giving women the motivation and tools to claim "cunt" as a positive and powerful force in their lives. With humor and candor, she shares her own history as she explores the cultural forces that influence women's relationships with their bodies.

Queer, By Simon Gage, Lisa Richards and Howard Wilmot

Reminiscent of Cosmo or Glamour, Queer is packed full of over 200 color photographs and covers a wide range of GLBT topics ranging from A-Gays to Zimbabwe and absolutely everything in between. The short articles are perfect for browsing and are highly entertaining.

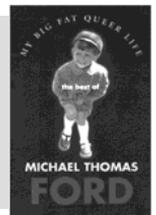


Slut!, By Leora Tanenbaum

Girls may be called "sluts" for any number of reasons, including being outsiders, early developers, victims of raps, targets of others' revenge. Often the label has nothing to do with sex-the girls simply do not fit in. An important account of the lives of these young women, Slut! Weaves together powerful oral histories of girls and women who finally overcame their sexual labels with a cogent analysis of the underlying problem or sexual stereotyping.

My Big Fat Queer Life: the Best of Michael Thomas Ford, By Michael Thomas Ford

Described as "cranky, bemused and extremely funny," this book is a collection of Michael Thomas Ford's best writing along with seven new essays. Whether he's skewing gay culture, American culture, or even himself, Michael Thomas Ford will have you laughing until it hurts.



The Vagina Monologues are coming....

Wednesday, January 9—Student interest meeting,
Sayles 251, 8pm

Sunday, January 13—Auditions from 6-10pm
(sign-up in the GSC)

Monday, January 14—Auditions from 6-8pm
(sign-up in the GSC)

Saturday February 9
The Vagina Monologues,
Chapel, 7:30pm

Are you ready to get involved?

Gender & Sexuality Center

1 North College Street
Northfield MN 55057

<http://webapps/carleton/campus/edu/gsc>

Mark Your Calendars!

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY EVENTS

GSC Staff

Kaaren Williamsen-Garvey,
GSC Director
Kristen Askeland, OIL Secretary
Danica Lance, GSC Advisor

Center Associates

Christi Conkling, Jedda Foreman, Em
Harris, Mal Hoffman, Leahruth Jemilo,
Angelica Johnson, Sarah King,
Michael Lane, Elizabeth Nguyen,
Katie Paul, Justin Smith, Dominic
Vendell.

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: conklinc@carleton.edu. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

*Newsletter Team: Christi Conkling and
Leahruth Jemilo*

Vagina Monologues Info Meeting—Jan. 9
in Sayles 251, 8pm

Rainbow Retreat—Jan. 11-13, Sign-up in
the GSC

Vagina Monologues Auditions—Jan. 13-
14, by appointment

Staceyann Chin—Jan. 25 in Arena Theater,
7:30pm; dessert with Staceyann in
WA House, 9pm

Boxes and Walls—Jan. 25-26 in the LDC

Pink Party—Feb. 2 in Great Hall during
Midwinter Ball

The Vagina Monologues—Feb. 9 in the
Chapel, 7:30pm