



**-GSC-**

GENDER AND SEXUALITY CENTER  
BASEMENT SCOVILLE

# OUT OF THE BASEMENT

## FEATURES

*NOVEMBER 2008*

MEET THE GSC—ANSWERS

FINE BI ME

THE RAINBOW RETREAT

ASK CHARLOTTE

PROPOSITION 8

DRAG SHOW REVIEW

JESSICA VALENTI

SVP CONFERENCE

OWL REFLECTION

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2



Cover Art by Lawrence Dykeman 09'

# THE ANSWERS ARE HERE...



**Kaaren Williamsen**  
Director of the GSC,  
LGBT Advisor



**Christi Conkling '09**  
Geology, Ed. Studies



**Justin Smith '09**  
English, Women's and  
Gender Studies



**Marlene Edelstein '11**  
Undecided



**Elizabeth Nguyen '09**  
African/African  
American Studies



**Sarah King '09**  
History



**Juliet Dana '09**  
American Studies



**Stephen Gee '10**  
Biology

I won the state 4-H Dairy Judging  
Competition!

I own the entire Matrix series, on VCDs!

I went to Space Camp thrice!

My biggest role in a high school play was  
being run over by a cart

I worked in a maternity store

I have been bitten by a bat!

I hated my goldfish when I was little, and I  
would try to kill them by not feeding them,  
but they never died! What I didn't know  
was that my mom thought I'd be  
heartbroken if I killed my fish, so for years  
she made late-night runs to the pet store to  
replace the fish I thought were disgusting.

I have been hit in the head by a metal  
swing, got my fingers caught in door  
hinges, and broken two toes on a  
trampoline

After weeks of suspense and multiple people commenting on how completely unfair it was that we didn't include this in the first newsletter, here are the answers to 'Meet the GSC Matching Game' from last issue. Try to contain your excitement; we know it might be difficult. And yes, the ones that spanned to the next page were a little unfair, but wasn't it so much more exciting that way? Also, by some oversight Danica's secret was forgotten last week. Her dark revelation is that she enjoys the Nickelodeon show *iCarly*. We're all a little embarrassed for her. Enjoy!

I have to stop myself from taking a lint roller wherever I go.

I arrange flowers to calm myself down

I was Jo March from *Little Women* for Halloween when I was in third grade AND at age 7, I retrieved a cinnamon Tic Tac from my 3 year old cousin's burning nose using a baby nasal aspirator. (2 for 1)

I had double hernia when I was six months old!

Unavailable for comment

As a child I killed all of my pet goldfish because I thought they were under nourished.

The highlight of my term has been finding \_\_\_\_\_

**Temara Holt '09**  
Women's and Gender Studies



**Sam Ritter '10**  
History, Religion



**Laura Stone '10**  
Cognitive Science



**Lawrence Dykeman '09**  
Japanese  
Q&A House Manager



**Jini Rao '09**  
Economics



**Charlotte Goodrich '09**  
Sociology/Anthropology



**Dominic Vendell '09**  
History



---

# FINE BI ME

Beth Budnick, '11

I am obsessed with Tila Tequila and Lindsay Lohan.

No, it's not their impeccable moral standards or love for leggings that keep me watching every LiLo tabloid or glued to the TV for every craptastic episode of "A Shot At Love With Tila Tequila." Or the cocaine sagas (Ms. Lohan), or those Trollz-y Maxim photos or millions of Myspace friends (Tila). These women share something besides sky-high reputations: their BISEXUALITY.

Yep, both of these high-profile women are high-profile *bisexual* women. And, while Tila's brand of bi often seems like a publicity stunt (as did Lindsay's, at first), these women have put bisexuality out there (pun intended) in a big way.

And the results have shown. Tila's show was originally marketed as a "is she gay or is she straight?" ploy, and the "Lindsay Lohan is a Lezbo!" headlines have been rampant since Day 1 of her (Samantha) Ronson Romance. And maybe Lindsay is. But there are also the accompanying headlines—"Will Lindsay Go Back to Being Straight After Sam?"—in the same publications. We live in a gay/straight world, as these big-name bis have evidenced.

Bisexuality, by its very nature, is elusive. Barring a few unique situations, one is often partnered with a male-bodied person or a female-bodied person. If you're a woman and you're with a guy, you're—duh!—straight. If you're with a woman, you're a big honking lesbian—grab your rainbow flag, womyn, you're going to West Hollywood! And vice-versa for bisexual men. And unless we go around sporting some sort of bidentifiers, it's probably going to stick like this for a while (unless you go to a teensy tiny college—but, besides *that...*). And if you *are* known to be bi, well you darn well better be doing some neat-and-tidy 50/50 attraction thing, right? Or that you'll "do anyone" or are just super easy or "just experimenting" or are a straight girl (or guy) who has had too much to drink or are really a gay gal (or guy) making a winding path down Highway to Homo (I hear it's nicely decorated).

It's not that simple, nor should it be. From where I'm standing, sexuality's one big fluid spectrum of attractions, and some of us folks are floating in the gray area of the rainbow (hard visual, but work with me). It's not that Lindsay might be "gay" one day and "straight" the next, Big Heteronormative Media! It's that she might be *bisexual*.

Personally, I've fluctuated with the best of 'em—but with bisexuality, this fluidity really is the crux of identification. In high school I insisted I was "heteroflexible"—I'd picked up the term from MySpace (classy, right?). Once I got to Carleton, I started going with "bisexual," and now I jokingly refer to myself as "homoflexible." Sometimes it's "queer," sometimes it's "pan" (love those cooking

---

appliances—just kidding)... but still, I come back to that idea of sexuality not being a coin to flip, or a 50/50 percentage, or a true-or-false answer.

And sure, it can be confusing (feeling like the straightest at a gay bar, or the gayest at straight bar?), full of uncertainty (if I want to, will I be able to get married in any state, or is it Massachusetts-bound for me?). And we bi folks often don't know who else is likewise identified like us, barring an article this one, and might feel a little (b)isolated.

But I say, embrace the spectrum, screw the sexuality binary and love whomever the hell you want. It's a crazy world out there, and if we—and Lindsay and Ani and Elton and (and Robyn Ochs, whoohoo!) and every other fierce bisexual—can keep on blurring those lines, then we should just go and rock right on. We kiss girls and like it, we kiss boys and like it, and we kiss genderqueer folks and like it still. That's may be a whole lot of liking, but that's just fine bi me (cymbals crash).

---

# RAINBOW RETREAT '09!



The rainbow retreat is coming winter term! Second weekend of next term, the LGBTQA community retreat at Camp Pepin in Wisconsin will occur, and it's a great opportunity to connect to people that you might not meet otherwise and learn things about queerness during a time set aside to learn things about queerness. It comes up quickly winter term, so this is a heads-up of what goes down at the Rainbow Retreat. Some examples:

- Bonding, sharing, learning, growing, et al.
- Snowshoeing and other winter activities (with other queers (or allies to queers))
- Fun, non-threatening, accessible talent show full of fun people!
- Gift bags full of useful and rainbow goodies
- People tell you great things about yourself, and write you nice notes, and value your existence (which doesn't always happen)

But seriously. The rainbow retreat is a really great opportunity to meet people and learn about yourself. Not only is it a place that establishes and builds community, but it provides a space where you can reflect and think about all of these types of issues. You should go! If you're interested, contact kwilliam.

---

# ASK CHARLOTTE

Charlotte Goodrich, '09 is here to answer any of your sexual health or sexuality questions. If you have a question you'd like to see anonymously answered, email [goodricc](mailto:goodricc). Or, drop a question in her mailbox (1288), if you would prefer total anonymity.

**Q. I've heard people identify themselves as "pansexual." What does that mean?**

A. Pansexuality is a sexual orientation characterized by the potential for attraction to people regardless of their gender identity or biological sex. Those who identify as pansexual are potentially attracted to people who may not fit the gender binary of male/female. Some pansexuals see themselves as "gender-blind." The terms "pansexual" and "bisexual" are often confused, though they are not mutually exclusive. Pansexuality is inclusive of bisexuality but also includes attractions to other genders and sexes.



**Q. Where can I get low-cost birth control in Northfield?**

A. There a number of ways to obtain low-cost birth control while at Carleton. First, the **Wellness Center** offers two different types of birth control pills, for \$11 per month. They also offer the Nuvaring for \$32 per month. Set up an appointment to discuss your options. Next, **Planned Parenthood**, with locations in Apple Valley and Burnsville, offers a variety of birth control pill and patch options which range in price, from \$15-\$50 a month according to their income guidelines. The **Rice Country Family Planning** program also offers low-cost birth control. Call the Wellness Center (x4080) for more details. Finally, you can visit the **Women's Health Center at Northfield Hospital** (507-646-1478) or the **Allina Medical Clinic** (507-663-9000) in Northfield for annual exams, pap smears, and birth control.

---

# PROPOSITION 8

Christi Conkling, '09

On November 4, our nation voted for change and elected Barack Obama president. With this step forward also came steps backwards in California, Arizona, Arkansas and Florida. Though these were all important ballots concerning gay rights, the outcome of California's Prop 8 came as a shock. With 96% of precincts reporting their results, it looks like the Proposition was supported at just under 52%. With an outcome so close, many are left wondering how this could have happened in what some consider to be one of the most liberal states in the union.

By amending the California Constitution, Prop 8 has legally defined marriage recognizable by the state as between a man and a woman. This amendment denies fundamental human rights not only to a large population of Californians - including over 18,000 queer couples whose marital statuses can be legally challenged by proponents of Prop 8 - but it also sets precedent for more states to make similar constitutional amendments, just as Arizona and Florida did during this election. It also set spending records for ballot movements with frantic commercials and publicity on both sides. The Yes on Prop 8 campaign played into parents' desires to "protect" their children and families. Protectmarriage.com writes that "[Prop 8] protects our children from being taught in public schools that 'same-sex marriage' is the same as traditional marriage, and prevents other consequences to Californians who will be forced to not just be tolerant of gay lifestyles, but face mandatory compliance regardless of their personal beliefs." Additionally, they use California's domestic partnership laws to argue that same sex couples have everything they could want from marriage without actually needing the legal distinction. On the other side of the ballot, the No on Prop 8 campaign argues that Prop 8 discriminates, does not involve education at all (meaning children would both not necessarily learn about gay marriage in school and would have the option of not participating in such lessons were they to occur) and would not require churches or religious groups to perform marriages for same sex couples. Unfortunately, this message wasn't received by all Californians, and Prop 8 passed.

In light of the vote, thousands have organized all over California and the rest of the country. Protestors have taken to the streets and are organizing grassroots efforts to fight for equality and there are already three lawsuits against the passage of the ballot. To show support you can sign the National Gay and Lesbian Action Task Force's online petition. There were protests in many major cities on Saturday, November 15, evidencing national opposition the anti-queer, highly discriminatory measures that many in the country voted for on November 4. These national efforts, as well as smaller ones, have led some to suggest that this response is going to be a civil rights struggle for the relatively young and extremely marginalized GLBT movement. If there is a culture of change that we can believe in, our work is far from finished, as the President-elect said at his acceptance speech on November 4.

---

# THE DOS AND DON'TS OF DRAG: THE SECOND ANNUAL DRAG SHOW A REVIEW

The second annual drag show kicking off National Coming Out Week was another success – from the huge turnout from the Carleton student body to the wonderful performances from the queens from the gay 90s, it was a successful night. And even though it was really great to see how excited most people on campus got for the show, there are some dos and don'ts that should probably be kept in mind for future drag shows:

- Tipping is necessary – especially if you're up front. If you're going to enjoy the performers from the "good seats," you should probably have some ones.
- The show isn't for you. Forcing yourself on stage and taking your shirt off actually isn't funny, and it actually is extremely disrespectful to the professionals who are on stage. It's awesome if the performers bring you on stage, and it's really great for everyone when everyone's having fun, but you shouldn't take up space on their stage unless they want you to.
- Moreover, be mindful of the performers and where they're walking. It's not easy to wear those heels, so try to stay out of their way as much as possible.
- Dancing is great! You can do it. If the music is fun and the queens are rocking, you can move!

So in short – keep coming. But be a little more conscious of the performers: it's a lot of work for them to come down here, and even though we all have a good time, it can only be a great experience for everyone if we respect each other. So let's do that a little bit better next time.



Nina Diangelo (left) and Monica West

---

# JESSICA VALENTI OF FEMINISTING.COM — COMING SOON TO THE GSC LIBRARY

Sam Ritter, '10

Jessica Valenti is the popular executive editor of *feministing.com*—an online community for feminists and their allies. A 30-year old writer from New York who teaches at Rutgers University, she is the author of two books currently in print: *Full Frontal Feminism: A Young Woman's Guide to Why Feminism Matters* and *He's a Stud, She's a Slut...and 49 Other Double Standards Every Woman Should Know*.

Recently, Valenti has turned to publishing about the relationship between rape culture and female sexuality. *Ms.* magazine recently called her forthcoming book *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape*, an anthology of essays Valenti co-edited with Jaclyn Friedman, a work “that moves the concept of consent and positive female sexuality to a new level.” Contributors to this anthology, explains the review, “ask why our society doesn't teach its girls how to find pleasure, why women don't define for themselves the meaning of virginity and why those who are assaulted by friends and acquaintances often refuse to label their experience as rape, thus removing most of the responsibility from the man.”

This book, coming soon to the GSC library (it is ready to be published in December), should help everyone here in the center understand the reasons why sexual violence prevention must go beyond simply “no means no” and into an understanding about the ways in which even the most well-meaning anti-rape presentations can reinforce damaging gender norms. By exploring the connections between women's sexuality, social expectations of gender, and rape culture, Valenti and Friedman undoubtedly hope to demonstrate that rape will not end until society legitimizes female sexual expression.

In another book coming out later this year, *The Purity Myth: How America's Obsession with Virginity is Hurting Women*, Valenti explores the ways in which women's “worth” is assessed purely based on their sexuality. Hymen-reconstruction, she says, is the most common form of plastic surgery in the United States. However, she moves beyond simply exposing this myth; according to Amazon.com, she “offers solutions that pave the way for a future without a damaging emphasis on virginity, including a call to rethink male sexuality and reframing the idea of ‘losing it.’”

In the GSC library, this book will help our community understand the damaging ways that society defines the parameters of sexuality—both women's and men's. Hopefully, Valenti can provide some concrete strategies that we all can follow to change some social pressures around female sexuality.

Keep an eye out for Valenti's new books, *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape*, and *The Purity Myth: How America's Obsession with Virginity is Hurting Women*, coming soon to the GSC library.

---

# SVP TALK IN ORLANDO

Marlene Edelstein '11, Jill Charles '10, Lizzie Egbert '09,  
Irene Koplinka-Loehr '10, and Drew Chambers '10

This past week, six Carleton students and four staff members attended the Safe Society Zone's Sexual Violence In Our Schools Conference in Orlando, Florida. We began our trip on Cocoa Beach, where we all got sunburned. More seriously, the conference was a two-day event with keynote speakers and many breakout sessions about different aspects of Sexual Violence Prevention. Workshop topics ranged from concrete skill-building workshops to theoretical discussions of how to make change and contextualize sexual violence to personal stories of survivors and their families.

We got a great sense of what other campuses and organizations are doing well—and also the struggles that they were having in conveying this type of information. The most common challenges that we saw were: 1) *heteronormativity*—many of the presentations we saw made no attempt to include less “mainstream” sexual violence; 2) *lack of sex positivity*—many of the presentation presented sex and fantasy as a problem that needed to be dealt with rather than differentiating between healthy and unhealthy sexual behavior.

Some of the sessions we appreciated the most looked at sexual violence from a perspective we hadn't necessarily thought about before. Lizzie's favorite was about male survivors of sexual abuse; Jill's was about heterosexist norms and how these norms contribute to a culture of sexual violence. Drew found the stories of two college students from Central Michigan University who walked from Miami to Boston to raise awareness about sexual violence prevention inspiring; Irene enjoyed the seminar that was a black feminist's analysis of Mike Tyson's rape of Desiree Washing. Marlene liked a presentation by Erin Weed, founder of “Girls Fight Back!”, because of Weed's practical approach to sexual violence prevention. Sam enjoyed listening to John Foubert, the founder of 1in4, an all-male sexual violence prevention, speak about some new research he had conducted on the effectiveness of the program.

Besides working to establish new eateries and some ocean-front real estate (or a giant Carleton wave pool), we hope to bring back not only ideas but programs to campus. First and foremost, Irene and Marlene want to start a discussion group for women who want to talk about femininity. Lizzie is hoping to implement programs for male survivors of sexual assault. Sam is excited to get 1in4 presenting in the near future. Drew wants to open up conversations addressing heteronormative expectations in relationships. Overall, we want to have continued discussions about the effect of sexual assault on our campus and explore the ways in which we all contribute to a culture of sexual violence.

---

# OUR WHOLE LIVES WORKSHOP



## A REFLECTION



Hannah Ebner, '09

When I would tell people that I was taking a Sex-Ed workshop for adults, I felt a mixture of pride, excitement and discomfort. One part of me thought, “I’ve watched all six seasons of *Sex and the City*, I don’t need to take sex-ed!” but the humbler voice in my head acknowledged how little I’d really *explored* the very diverse range of topics relating to adult sexuality. I’d learned in previous health classes about reproductive health and abstinence, but I hadn’t discussed gender, sexual identity, hooking-up, masturbation or how to make a dental dam. I’d spent an enormous amount of time talking with friends about the weighty and varied emotional aspects of relationships, but a good deal *less* time talking about the physical stuff. So, I took Sex-Ed.

The OWL (Our Whole Lives) workshop operates on the assumption that everyone is sexual in some capacity. How awesome to get together with people and discuss such universal experiences and issues! We’ve had some great discussions about *how* people learn about sexuality—from family, from friends, and from media and society. I didn’t get a lot of information from my family (I can talk to my parents about everything, but when it comes to sex they get really awkward), everyone gets loads of messages from media (but who knows what to make of it) and my friends and I, like I said, are better at talking about emotions. OWL has been a big sigh of relief—to be in a group of non-judgmental, progressive, open-minded people talking about things that make lots of people uncomfortable is a great way to learn, from an educational standpoint, about sexuality. The way that it was taught through discussion and generating possible answers to big questions from within the group helped us explore and learn in a way that built on the thinking we’d all done about sexuality before. I’ve learned a lot about myself and my opinions during those discussions.

In our last class we watched a clip from *L-Word* and discussed as a group some of the issues the couple might face in thinking about having a child. During discussion, I learned a lot from listening to people’s ideas and had one of those perspective-widening moments (something that happened a lot during OWL) when I felt my capacity to think about human experiences expand a little bit. Big thanks to Marlene and Kelly for being great facilitators, and to all the others who I didn’t have, too—as much as I love *Sex and the City*, I have to say that OWL, my facilitators, and the other students in my group taught me more - and in a more open-minded way - about sexuality than I ever learned from Carrie or Samantha.

**GENDER & SEXUALITY CENTER**  
1 North College Street  
Northfield MN 55057  
<http://webapps/carleton/campus/edu/gsc>

---

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

## **GSC Staff**

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

## **Center Associates**

Christi Conkling, Juliet Dana,  
Lawrence Dykeman, Marlene Edelstein,  
Stephen Gee, Charlotte Goodrich, Temara  
Holt, Sarah King, Elizabeth Nguyen, Jini Rao,  
Sam Ritter, Justin Smith, Laura Stone and  
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: [gees](mailto:gees). We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

## LOOKING FORWARD: WINTER TERM EVENTS

### **JANUARY:**

8th: Vagina Monologues Meeting

8:00 pm Location TBA

9th: Mike Domitrz presents "Can I Kiss You?"

7:30 pm Concert Hall

11th-12th: Vagina Monologues Auditions

Sunday: 1:00-5:00 pm

Monday: 6:00-8:00 pm

13th: Women In Academia Panel

Noon, LDC 104

16-18: Rainbow Retreat!

28th-Feb 1st: National LGBT Task Force

Creating Change Conference in Denver

### **FEBRUARY:**

14th: Vagina Monologues

7:30 pm Chapel

20-22: OWL Trainer Training