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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The Fight for LGBT Rights
By C.J. Griffiths ’06

It may not be reported in mainstream news sources, but LGBT rights are still very much at the forefront of current events in the United States, suggesting that progress as well as backlash is far from over for these communities. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia illustrated this clearly when in a recent speech he made the following statement: “It’s absolutely clear that nobody ever thought when the Bill of Rights was adopted that it gave a right to homosexual conduct. Homosexual conduct was criminal for 200 years in every state,” he said. “Easy question.”

"Gay and lesbian people in our country are fighting a mean-spirited movement to harm them and to discriminate against them.”
- Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI)

Only a few weeks ago, U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) announced his support for full marriage equality, joining Senators Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), and Lincoln Chafee (R-RI).

Reflecting on Pride
By Dominic Vendell ’09

With the explosion of the Stonewall Riots in 1969 and the consequent organization of anniversary rallies and marches, the notion of “gay pride” lodged itself in the minds of many LGBTA people. Rather than apologizing for their sexual orientation or gender expression, people began to celebrate and explore these identities with growing confidence. To be explicitly proud of sexuality and gender was new and revolutionary. Today pride celebrations continue to be held throughout the world, including at Carleton.

As Pride approached this year, I was less excited than I had expected, perhaps because I had already developed a sense of pride in my identity, and I was apprehensive that Pride would be a rehash of what I had already experienced. However, upon reviewing the list of planned activities, I realized that Pride was no longer just a simple expression of affirmation.

At Carleton, events such as a discussion about racism, class, and privilege in the queer community, a talk on the history of Act Up (a direct action AIDS awareness group), and the Queers and Careers panel outlined a more inclusive and nuanced campaign. In short, this year’s Pride has not been confined to pride; we are examining our past actions; critiquing the communities, discourses, and institutions that we have formed for the present; and searching for methods to improve the future.

Continued on page 3
LGBT Rights cont.

Feingold directed his statements to Wisconsin voters as they face a constitutional ban on the ballot in November: “I will be voting against the harsh amendment that’s been proposed in Wisconsin, and I thought it was an appropriate occasion to indicate my feeling that if two people care enough about each other to get married, that it probably is a positive thing for society...Gay and lesbian people in our country are fighting a mean-spirited movement to harm them and to discriminate against them. I stand with them against that movement, and I’m proud to stand with them.” As Feingold prepares for an expected Presidential run in 2008, this issue will undoubtedly surface again.

Constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage are on ballots in at least two states, expected in several more (potentially Minnesota), and may have a substantial impact on party politics and voter turnout this fall. Coupled with impending harmful immigration policies, the legislative outlook for LGBT Americans may not seem positive at first glance.

Yet there are signs that the permanence of these issues is contributing to an eventual shift in favor of minority populations. For example, nationwide polling indicates that opposition to full marriage equality for same-sex couples has dropped from a staggering sixty-three percent down to fifty-one in less than two years, a strong majority support civil unions, and well over eighty percent support anti-discrimination laws.

That doesn’t make the work any easier, or success any quicker, but it does show that in a short time there has been significant change — it’s hard to enact discriminatory laws when you can’t even guarantee a majority of the population is going to stand behind you.

This shift in public support comes about because of the work that individuals do — work that Carleton students have opportunities to do all the time. Outfront Minnesota’s annual Lobby Day is just one example of this work. Falling on April 27, it’s a chance for equality-minded people in the state to descend on St. Paul for meetings with their Senators and Representatives to encourage them to oppose discriminatory legislation. Each year the event is a wild success, with ever-increasing numbers of people rallying for equality.

Again this year the Gender and Sexuality Center will be sponsoring vans to attend this event, so any interested students should drop by Ground Scoville to sign up!

**Syphilis cases increase by nearly 200%**

Sexual partners need to be tested and treated

Infectious syphilis cases have nearly tripled among gay and bisexual men in Minnesota with 99 cases in 2005 compared to 34 cases in 2004, according to new preliminary data released by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

Health officials noted that very few sexual partners are being referred for testing and treatment from persons infected with syphilis. Unless these partners get tested and treated, the high rates of syphilis among gay and bisexual men will continue. Clients may choose to notify their sexual partners themselves or to request assistance from the MDH.

A simple blood test is used to diagnose syphilis and it can be cured with antibiotics. If left untreated, syphilis can lead to blindness, brain damage, heart problems and even death and it can also increase the chances of someone being infected with HIV.

Syphilis is spread by unprotected anal, oral and vaginal sex. Testing is available at one’s own medical provider or at the Red Door Clinic, 525 Portland Avenue South, Minneapolis, (612) 348-6363 or the Room 111 Clinic, 555 Cedar Street, St. Paul (651) 266-1352. More information online from the MDH at: www.health.state.mn.us
The Sexual Politics of Meat

By Dana Reinoos '06

How does someone, or something, become a piece of meat? This is the question that Carol J. Adams asks in her seminal work The Sexual Politics of Meat, and one that she will bring to campus on May 2.

There seems to be a disturbing trend in the media toward connecting meat and female sexuality. Remember those Carl’s Jr. ads with Paris Hilton eating a burger in a swimsuit while washing a car? They caused a stir in the popular media, but those ads are only the most extreme of what Carol Adams has seen going on in American culture for years.

In her book, Adams details countless occurrences of animals (often chickens, for some reason) in ads looking like women, given female features, and described as having great legs or breasts. We’ve all seen ads like this, and probably haven’t given them a second thought, but Adams’ work makes the connection between these kinds of ads, sexism, and the American culture of meat.

This kind of analysis may seem out there, but Adams connects the objectification of animals to that of women and gays in a way that should at least make you stop and think. Even if you’re not a vegetarian, or not a feminist, you are invited and urged to come see Carol Adams speak on The Sexual Politics of Meat on May 2.

Pride Reflection cont.

Take the White Privilege and Racism in the Queer Community discussion as an example: this discussion developed out of concerns regarding the exclusivity of the queer community both at and outside Carleton, as well as the need to address identities that intersect with gender and sexuality. The conversation was fruitful, exposing the tendency of LGBTA students and institutions at Carleton to ignore identities outside of gender and sexuality and producing possible solutions to correct this problem.

After sharing with the students at the discussion, I better understood how I could, even as a marginalized person, be oppressing others and how I could change such behavior both in everyday actions and through Carleton LGBTA programming.

Events like this one move well beyond the simple impetus that inspired the original pride rallies and marches. As a multiplicity of communities that are not necessarily restricted to gender and sexuality, we are learning to refine and elaborate our notions of identity and to make the LGBTA movement more accessible to a variety of people, and recognize where we have been and where we are going.

As a multiplicity of communities that are not necessarily restricted to gender and sexuality, we are learning to refine and elaborate our notions of identity and to make the LGBTA movement more accessible to a variety of people.

This education is absolutely necessary if the worldwide LGBT movement is to be beneficial to as many people as possible and create lasting change in how people view gender and sexuality. We must remember that gender and sexuality are not insulated and that pride in only these identities is ultimately oppressive.

So my experience with Pride has been more worthwhile than what I had expected in late March. Along with a sense of what Pride has meant for LGBT people over the past few decades, I have gained a better understanding of what Pride can encompass in the future. In addition, it comforts me that Pride can involve multiple communities that intersect with LGBT communities.

After all, a sense of pride should pervade all of the identities that we hold and share, not just those of gender and sexuality.
Two Indictments in Duke Rape Case

Two sophomore members of the Duke University lacrosse team were arrested on charges of rape, sexual assault and kidnapping. A grand jury indicted Reade Seglmann and Collin Finherty yesterday, but the indictments were sealed and their identities were not known until this morning, when they appeared before a magistrate. District Attorney Mike Nifong has said there may be a third indictment coming in relation to the alleged sexual assault of a woman hired to perform as an exotic dancer at a team party, but would not discuss evidence, according to the New York Times. The arrests were made, in part, on the basis of the alleged victim’s identification of the two men, reports the Associated Press. (feminist.org)

Colorado Governor Vetoes Emergency Contraception Bill

Bill Owens, the Republican Governor of Colorado, has vetoed State House Bill 1212, which would have allowed pharmacists to dispense emergency contraception (EC) without a doctor's prescription. State Senator Jennifer Veiga (D) said to the Denver Post that “this is the second year in a row that the governor has turned his back on women’s health,” referring to Owens’ veto of a bill that would have obligated hospitals to give referrals for EC to all rape victims. Kathryn Wittneben of NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado said, “It is not enough for the governor to give lip service to wanting to reduce abortion … [EC] is one of the safest and most effective ways to help women prevent unintended pregnancy” reports the Associated Press (AP). According to the AP, Alaska, California, Hawaii, Maine, and New Mexico currently have laws that provide access to EC without prescription. EC is safer than aspirin, meets all of the FDA’s requirements for over-the-counter status, and is up to 95 percent effective if used within the first 24 hours after unprotected sex, birth control failure, or sexual assault. (feminist.org)

20% Of South African Gay Students Raped

A study of LGBT teens in South Africa’s KwaZulu-Natal province has sent shockwaves throughout the country. Focusing on young people in the municipalities of Pietermaritzburg and Durban researchers found that 20 percent of gay and bisexual teenage males and 19% of lesbian and bisexual female teens had been raped or sexually assaulted. They also found that one third of all LGBT students had been physically assaulted at school because of their sexuality. The study was conducted for Out LGBT Well-being and the Durban Lesbian and Gay Health and Community and Health Center. The researchers found that black and Indian students were more likely to be victimized because of their sexuality than were white students. "More alarming is the victimization by teachers and principals," said Pietermaritzburg Gay & Lesbian Network convener Anthony Waldhausen. "The network will go out of its way to protect the gay and lesbian community and is looking at ways to provide hope for the many that are victimized." The study found that homophobia was so severe in the province that many students refused health care because they did not trust medical staff. The researchers noted that this often had the added concern that HIV transmission to the victims was not determined. The situation in the province is so severe the researchers said in their report that all people should be judged on their merit, not their status.” The policy change makes Harvard the 53rd college or university to include gender identity in its nondiscrimination policy, according to the Transgender Law and Policy Institute. (insidehighered.com)

Pentagon Releases Documents Acknowledging Surveillance of Gay Groups

The Department of Defense (DoD) has released documentation confirming government surveillance of groups opposed to the military’s "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law banning openly lesbian, gay and bisexual service members. The government's TALON reports were released in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request filed by Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) in January. The release of the documents follows media reports indicating government surveillance of civilian groups at several universities across the country. The Department of Defense acknowledged that it had 'inappropriately' collected information on protestors in a letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee, according to a February report by United Press International. "The Department of Defense has now confirmed the existence of a surveillance program monitoring LGBT groups," said C. Dixon Osburn, executive director of SLDN. "Pentagon leaders have also acknowledged inappropriately collecting some of the information in the TALON database. That information should be destroyed and no similar surveillance should be authorized in the future. Free expression is not a threat to our national security." (gaywork.com)
Kentucky Gov. Gives Green Light to Discrimination on Self-Proclaimed 'Diversity Day'

Kentucky's Republican Governor Ernie Fletcher issued an executive order repealing anti-discrimination protections against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) state employees as he celebrated "Diversity Day" in the state. "The Governor's hypocrisy is outrageous and un-American," said Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese. "No one should be fired from their job simply because of who they are. Governor Fletcher's backwards step does nothing whatsoever to move diversity forward and puts hard-working, tax-paying citizens at risk." Ironically, Gov. Fletcher's order came on the same day he declared "Diversity Day." "There is no better example of adding insult to injury," said Solmonese. "On a day when the state was supposed to celebrating diversity, Gov. Fletcher was removing an entire group of Kentuckians out of the law." Already in Kentucky, Jefferson County and the cities of Louisville and Covington prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Nationwide, at least 292 local jurisdictions have laws or policies prohibiting discrimination in public employment based on sexual orientation and 80 of these includes protections for transgender people. At least 2,546 private employers - including giants like Ford, Microsoft and AT&T - have policies prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, with 218 of these including protections for transgender employees. "This order moves Kentucky in the opposite direction of the rest of the country," said Solmonese. "Everyday more and more businesses, colleges and universities, and state and local governments are protecting their GLBT employees." (hrc.org)

Female Forklifter Takes Her Case to High Court

If an employee complains about sexual harassment and his or her superiors then don't invite the employee to lunch, can that be considered a form of employer retaliation? What if the employee can't get a job recommendation after making the complaint, or is transferred to a less desirable job with similar pay and benefits? What if the employee is not promoted after making the complaint? What if he or she is docked pay or demoted? Or what if the employee is fired? These were the questions considered by the Supreme Court Monday in a hearing involving Sheila White and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway Co., a rail delivery company based in Fort Worth, Texas. The outcome will help refine the legal standard of retaliation used in employment discrimination cases under the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In 1997 Sheila White took a job as the only female forklift operator at a Burlington Northern train yard in Memphis, Tenn. A few months after she was hired, she accused her foreman of sexual discrimination and harassment, saying he treated her differently from male colleagues and spoke inappropriately to her. After investigating the complaint, the company suspended the foreman for 10 days and transferred White to a position as a track laborer; a job with equal pay and benefits but more strenuous labor requirements. (women's e-news)

United States is no help to Iraqi women

A new poll of leaders of Iraqi women's-rights groups finds that women were treated better and their civil rights were more secure under deposed President Saddam Hussein than under the faltering and increasingly sectarian U.S.-installed government. This is doubly troubling. It's troubling first because the Bush administration used the issue of women to justify its now widely criticized invasion of Iraq in part by promising to improve the situation of women. It's troubling second because the administration has issued news releases, held public meetings and tried to gain media attention (as well as U.S. public support) for all the "good" it's supposedly doing the women of Iraq via this invasion. The poll was released last week by the Integrated Regional Information Networks, a U.N. news agency covering sub-Saharan Africa, eight countries in central Asia, and Iraq. (seattlepi.com)

One in Four Married Syrian Women Has Been Abused

Syria has broached a sensitive subject with the release of a report by the General Union of Women (GUW), a government-run organization, which found that nearly one married woman in four had been beaten. According to the New York Times, 1,900 women and men were surveyed, with families divided by sex for the interviews. Reuters reports that, according to the study, brothers, fathers, and husbands account for more than 70 percent of abusers and the most common victims of abuse are married women. The report, which is the first of its kind, is mean to coincide with a study of Syria by the United National Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), according to the Times. (feminist.org)

In The News cont.

What do you think of the new Gender and Sexuality Center Newsletter title?

Love it?

Hate it?

Got a better idea?

E-mail vallensr.

E-mail vallensr.
Everyone at Carleton, regardless of what publication they read or what activities they do, knows who the Gaytriarch is. His infamous Clap articles attempting to spur the outing of closeted men have caused widespread debate, but also discomfort - especially within the LGBTQ+ community. His poster campaign of mildly homoerotic images with predicted reactions on them created even more controversy, as most general campus publications were flooded with reactions from concerned folks at Carleton.

I was surprised, then, when the Gaytriarch e-mailed me a few weeks ago. Citing some of the opinions I’ve expressed, both in the Carl and through my work at the GSC, he told me that he felt I would be qualified to take over the position. I was flattered to be approached, and have since considered the offer. Of course, by writing this article, I may have ruined my chances at getting the current Gaytriarch to hand me the reins and the e-mail address he’s been working from, but I’m not entirely sure if I mind so much.

Let me explain. I’ve mentioned this to some of my friends, and told them I was considering taking over the name. The reaction has been fairly uniform: they laugh derisively and ask me, “Why ever would you want to become the new Gaytriarch?”

That was a good question to ask. Many people pointed out to me that they didn’t feel the Gaytriarch was taken seriously; that the very idea, the very name of “Gaytriarch” was offensive; and that they didn’t feel the Gaytriarch was taken seriously; that the position. I was flattered to be approached, and have since considered the offer. Of course, by writing this article, I may have ruined my chances at getting the current Gaytriarch to hand me the reins and the e-mail address he’s been working from, but I’m not entirely sure if I mind so much.

Let me explain. I’ve mentioned this to some of my friends, and told them I was considering taking over the name. The reaction has been fairly uniform: they laugh derisively and ask me, “Why ever would you want to become the new Gaytriarch?”

But I also believe that the Gaytriarch has been an important force in pointing out a great many problems with the sexual culture at Carleton. From the ‘highly scientific’ studies I’ve performed, I’ve determined that there does seem to be a significant number of men attracted to men who don’t act on their feelings. Okay, so my studies weren’t that scientific: I just flirted shamelessly with a bunch of straight guys and found myself in a number of bizarre, sexually tense situations. (Note: Actually, I’ve found a good many psychological studies that support my hypothesis. If you want me to show them to you, just e-mail me or come visit me in the GSC.)

As well, I feel that there are some things in campus culture that are somewhat homophobic, and it’s a challenge for those of us that care about these things to discover what they are and try to change them.

So while I agree with his message, I’ve found the Gaytriarch’s delivery to be less than optimal. He’s some sort of savant at putting people’s backs up and making them ready to argue with him, and I feel that he has the facts wrong in some of the assertions that he’s been making. And I simply can’t ignore the symbolic hypocrisy of encouraging people to come out and maintaining your own anonymity.

But maybe, if the Gaytriarch will allow it, I’ll take his name, his notoriety, and his super sweet Hotmail account, and continue to work on the problems he’s been raging against. If he gives it to somebody else, I won’t be bitter or anything, and I’ll hope that the new Secret King of Gay-town is as good at getting people’s attention as the old one. But watch your Clap – I might just out myself as the new Gaytriarch.

Spring break brought several new additions to the GSC Library. Our new films include Saving Face, a feature film about a Chinese-American lesbian and her traditionalist mother, who are reluctant to go public with secret loves that clash against cultural expectations, and Do I Look Fat?: Gay Men, Body Image and Eating Disorders, a documentary about the culture of body obsession that absorbs so many gay men.

Our new books include several titles in the “Transgender/Intersex” and “Multicultural/Multiple Identities” sections of the library. Covering The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights explores civil rights law, identity and culture in the present day United States. Longing to Tell: Black Women Talk About Sexuality and Intimacy is a collection of stories that addresses the question of how “the history of race, class, and gender inequality in this country affected the way that black women talk about their sexual lives.” Other new titles in this section include Colonize This!: Young Women of Color on Today’s Feminism, Jumping the Broom: A Black Perspective on Same-Gender Marriage, and Feminism is for EVERYBODY: Passionate Politics.

Intersex and Identity: The Contested Self draws from life history interviews with adults who as children underwent medical treatment for ambiguous sex to show how medical intervention can cause more problems than it remedies. Finding the Real Me: True Tales of Sex and Gender Diversity is a collection “of real life stories told by a wide range of sex and gender diverse people.”

Find these titles and more at the GSC Library! Come by any time to browse or check out books.
CARLETON TO HOST MIDWEST SOCIETY FOR WOMEN IN PHILOSOPHY CONFERENCE MAY 5-7

By Alisa Sanchez ’06

Check out the fabulous program for the Midwest SWIP conference coming to Carleton! SWIP is “an interdisciplinary conference with a particular emphasis on troubling the discipline of philosophy and the theory/practice distinction,” that challenges us to consider intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. How fortunate that SWIP is coming to you! Come to what interests you and learn something new, while engaging with amazing, bright, active scholars. You can attend any session or caucus without attending the others.

All sessions meet either in Boliou 104 (the Art building) or in the lounge at the Gender and Sexuality Center on the first floor of Scoville.

Friday 5 May, 2006

6:00 – 7:15 p.m. in Boliou 104
Meet and greet. Snacks available.

7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in Boliou 104
Screening and discussion of Azadeh Saljooghi’s “Partial Stories of ‘Displacement’: An Experimental Art Documentary”

Saturday 6 May, 2006

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Breakfast gatherings
8:00 – 9:00 Lesbian Caucus in the lounge at the Gender and Sexuality Center in the Scoville building
8:00 – 9:00 Not-presently-lesbian-identified conversation in Boliou 104

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Parallel morning sessions

A. Women of Color Caucus in the lounge at the Gender and Sexuality Center (for women of color only)

Shireen Roshanravan, “Re-membering Community-of-Place: Model Minority, Colonial Mimicry and Gender Violence”

Kristie Dotson, “Testimonial Smothering: A Problem in Testimony”

Azadeh Saljooghi, “Partial Stories of ‘Displacement’: An Experimental Art Documentary”

B. Concurrent sessions in Boliou 104
9:00 – 10:00 Tabor Fisher, “Platonic Love and Resistance”
10:00 – 11:00 Rochelle Green, “Feminist Conceptions of Subjectivity and the Role of Hope”
11:00 – 12:00 Amy Story, “Alterity, Representation, and Literature: Ethics and Art in the Work of Emmanuel Levinas and Simone de Beauvoir”
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch (a list of suggested lunch spots will be made available at the meeting)

1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Afternoon sessions in Boliou 104
3:30 – 4:30 Crista Lebens, “Is It Unethical to Teach the Abortion Issue?”
4:30 – 6:00 Business meeting (snacks available) in Boliou 104
7:30 p.m. SWIP Party at Headley House

Sunday 7 May, 2006

9:30 – 12:30 p.m. Morning sessions in Boliou 104
10:30 – 11:30 Cathryn Bailey, “Revisiting the ‘Dreaded Comparison’: Racism and Feminist Ethical Vegetarianism”
11:30 – 12:30 Sarah Hoagland, “Epistemic Shifts and Resistant Negotiation”
**Calendar of Events**

**Pride Banquet**  
*April 21, 5:30pm, Great Hall.*  
Celebrate Pride 2006 with the Carleton community

**JustFair Lobby Day**  
*April 27, MN Capitol.*  
Sponsored by OutFront Minnesota. Sign up in the GSC.

**MN AIDS Project Benefit**  
*April 27, 9pm, The Cave.*  
Acoustic covers and original music by Mal Hoffman ’08 and Melissa Schwartau ’08.

**Take Back the Night**  
*April 28, 7pm.*  
Celebrate the strength of all those who fight against sexual violence.

**Pride Masquerade Ball**  
*April 28, 10pm, Mai Fete.*  
Rain location: Sayles-Hill.

**Malcolm Himschoot Sermon:**  
*Still Wondering, Still Witnessing*  
*April 30, UCC Church.*

**Carol Adams talk on Eco-Feminism**  
*May 2.*  
Details TBA.

**Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy Conference**  
*May 5-7.*  
See schedule on pg. 7 for details.