Darfur Women
By Leah Entenmann

Violent conflict can become a highly gendered phenomenon. The current situation in Darfur, a region in the West of Sudan, is a prime example. Human Rights Watch, a renowned advocacy organization, has recently published a briefing paper on the topic. In the Darfur conflict, which the United States Congress has classified as genocide, men are killed and women are raped and forcibly displaced from their villages by militia attacks.

The conflict began as government retaliation against rebels in Darfur. The Khartoum government is backing the Janjaweed, an armed militia group in Darfur, granting them impunity in their efforts to purge rebels from Darfur. The Janjaweed has taken the opportunity to terrorize, rape, mutilate and massacre their fellow Darfur natives.

The Janjaweed is comprised of members of nomadic Arab tribes; targeted peoples include the Fur, Zaghawa, and Masalit tribes. Descriptions of the conflict as being between Arabs and black Africans are misleading, because all ethnic groups involved in the conflict are equally indigenous and black. All are Muslim, and most speak Arabic as either a first or second language. Some critics of the international response, including Professor Eric Reeves of Smith College, who visited Carleton last term, have said that because these people are black, Muslim, and African, the international community is overlooking their plight.

An estimated 338,000 people have been killed or died of and the starvation and disease associated with the Janjaweed’s attacks on farming villages. Médecins sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) described “catastrophic mortality rates” in a February press release. There are an estimated 2.5 million displaced persons, refugees both in other countries and in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps within Darfur’s borders.

Amnesty International says that “in some attacks on villages, people have been treated differently according to their gender: men were taken away and then executed by the Janjawid, while women were shot when trying to escape from the village.” The vast majority of people who make it to IDP and refugee camps are women and children. Women and girls are targeted for sexual violence by the Janjaweed, both in their own villages and in IDP camps and refugee

Condoms, Abstinence, and Teen Pregnancy
By Rachel Vallens

What if all you knew about condoms was their failure rate? What if you had to get your parents’ consent in order to obtain birth control? Abstinence only sex education programs and state laws limiting teens’ access to contraceptive services have been on the rise lately. The intent of all these programs is to prevent unintended teen pregnancy and lower the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Recent research shows that these programs aren’t working as well as promised and, in fact, lead to higher rates of unsafe sex among teens.

A study by the Journal of the American Medical Association found that one in five teens would practice unsafe sex if they had to notify their parents in order to get birth control. Of teens who use publicly funded family planning clinics to obtain contraception and other sexual health services, 70% of those whose parents were unaware would stop coming to the clinic if they had to tell their parents about it, and a quarter would continue to have sex without contraception. Though many of them would no longer have access to contraception, almost all teens said they would continue to have sex.

Requiring parental consent doesn’t decrease teen birthrates. In an Illinois county where parental consent is required for access to state-funded family planning services, teen birthrates have increased, while surrounding counties without parental consent requirements have shown a decrease in teen birthrates over the same time period, according to the Alan Guttmacher Institute. “Mandating parental involvement for contracep-

Continued on page 7
Pride Banquet
By Naja Shabazz

Last year I worked at Reunion over the summer with the classes of ’29, ’34, and ’39, which means that I had a lot of running around and also a lot of downtime while they were engaged in various activities. During my strolls across the campus, I learned that it was also the Out After Carleton meeting and I asked a couple of alums that I saw about queer life on campus before the GSC began 4 years ago. One of the stories I heard was about an out gay man’s art comps project being defaced. I was shocked that this would happen at Carleton, but it also gave me a good indication of what the queer climate must have been like. I thought that would be the end of my story—little did I know that this man would creep into my life again. I later learned that he would be coming to be the keynote speaker at the Pride Banquet; his name is Matt Brooks and he’s from the class of 1990. It was very cool to have a seemingly random anecdote come full-circle that way for me. As a host, I decided to jump at the opportunity of being able to introduce him. He is a highly decorated individual in the healthcare field today. I, personally, am excited to hear what he has to say because Carleton’s current environment would—thankfully—never be tolerable of community. Once remarking that he believed there were no gay people in his district, he has often been ignored by the LGBT community in their lobbying efforts.

While no significant strides were made, and Neuville insisted he supports the amendment, he did make a number of concessions, and presented himself in a more positive light than in previous interactions. His personal preference is that the amendment give the right of defining marriage to the legislature, which in his own words, would allow changes to be made in the future, whereas a more strict amendment would not.

We also met with State Representative Ray Cox, who despite being a member of the Republican party, has voted against the amendment both times it has come for a floor vote. Thanking him for his vote, we had a brief discussion with him on his views regarding the future of the amendment, as well as the repercussions it could have.

OutFront Minnesota reports that over 5,500 people attended Lobby Day this year—surpassing the previous year by more than 1,500, and securing it as the largest LGBT event in the Twin Cities besides Pride each June.

The constitutional amendment is making its way to the voters, which is the next step if the Senate approves it and the Governor signs it — to find out ways to help stop the writing of discrimination into the constitution, contact the Gender and Sexuality Center.

C.J. Griffiths ’06 is a Center Associate
Student Organizations Update

AIDS and HIV Awareness (AHA)
AHA will sponsor this term’s anonymous HIV/STI testing trip on Friday, May 6th – for more information about these trips, contact goldhura or stroomet. The group’s biggest event this term will be fundraising for the AIDS walk on Sunday, May 15th, from 11-4 pm. The group will sponsor a bus for this event and invites everyone to come out and strut their stuff. Students also can help raise money for the walk by participating in bake sales and skip-a-meal programs. For more information about the walk, contact goldhura. Also look out for the new STOP AIDS and STOP SIDA stickers that the group ordered from Sweden.

Breaking Ground
Breaking Ground is now accepting submissions for our 2005 volume! We are looking for essays, stories, poems, and visual art on the topics of gender, sex, sexuality, race, and class. We welcome anonymous submissions. Submissions can be e-mailed to vallensr or put in mailbox #172.

Campus Advocates Against Sexual Harassment and Assault (CAASHA)
Advocates are an autonomous group whose purpose is to provide support to survivors and perpetrators (women and men) of sexual harassment and assault. All advocates have received training in counseling skills, issues of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and Carleton policy. We are available 24 hours a day. We offer non-judgmental listening, support, information on resources, and a survivor-centered approach. Contact David (sterlida) for more info.

Carleton In and Out (CIAO)
CIAO is a welcoming, queer-centered group open to Carleton’s LGBTA and questioning community. We meet every other week to hang out, eat, and discuss all kinds of queer-themed topics. CIAO works to make meetings open, safe, confidential, and welcoming to all. For more information about meetings, contact James (sannaj) for more information.

Women’s Awareness (WA) House
WA House is continuing our usual activities - movie nights on Mondays of even weeks after the end of Pride Month, tea time Friday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30, L-Word get-togethers Sunday nights at 10:30, and, as always, we have plans for new and exciting things. If you have questions about future WA House activities, or want to join our mailing list, contact Lauren (bendittl).

Collective for Women’s Issues (CWI)
CWI baked a rainbow cake on April 15 in honor of Pride Month. They are also planning to install a suggestion box as a place for the Carleton community to let the group know about what women’s issues need to be addressed. They will also continue to sponsor Daisy Days throughout the term. Contact Emily (schultze) or Katie (oconneka) for more information.

Men of Color at Carleton (MOCC)
MOCC started off the term by electing new officers. They are planning to continue their Barbershop Monday’s, but will expand this event into a community outreach program. They will also help the Multicultural Affairs Office plan and fund various campus events. MOCC plans to hold a discussion with COWOC later this term. Stay tuned for other MOCC sponsored events and outings! Contact Love (ananilo) for more information.

Sexuality and Gender Activism (SaGA)
SaGA kicked off the term with a Pride Month event. Fight for Your Rights Night, held in Sayles, was a boisterous affair with information on marriage, discrimination and hate crimes legislation in the U.S.--and, of course, a button maker. What will you see next from SaGA? You’ll have to wait to see! Come help shape our agenda this term on Wednesdays at 8:30 in the GSC. Contact Leah (entenmal) for more information.

Queers and Allies (Q&A) House
Queer and Allies house is hosting queer social hours every odd-week Tuesday night, at 8:30 pm until the end of the term. The event is a fun informal meeting place to just hang out and chat and is welcoming to everyone. The house is also sponsoring a reception after the Pride Banquet on Friday, April 22. For more information about these events, contact Ellen (klemmee) or stop by Prentice House.

Coalition of Women of Color (COWOC)
Mark your calendars for COWOC week after mid-term break! The group will be sponsoring visits from an auto mechanic, a Beauty Shop outing and a final dinner. The group also plans to sponsor Ines Talamanetz, a visiting religion professor to give a speech. All COWOC events are open to all students. Contact Maya (warrenm) for more information.

Black Queer Alliance (BQA)
BQA is becoming active again on campus! Look for postings in upcoming GSC Newsletters, the Spectrum and the NNB about trips to the cities, movie and discussion nights, and other campus-wide events sponsored by the members of BQA. Meetings will be on Mondays at 9pm, location TBA. Contact Elliot (jamese) for more info.

Teens and Birth Control continued from page 1

tion could backfire, driving young people to have unprotected sex and putting their health and lives at increased risk,” said Rachel Jones, Ph.D., of the Alan Guttmacher Institute.

Forming a stark contrast, recent studies have also shown that teens with positive attitudes toward contraception are more likely to use it and to practice safe sex than teens that are ambivalent or have negative attitudes, the Alan Guttmacher Institute reports. A positive discussion of condoms and other forms of pregnancy and STI prevention is more effective than programs focusing solely on their negative aspects. It is teens’ attitudes toward contraception, more than anything else, that lead to effective contraceptive use.

More information can be found on the Alan Guttmacher Institute website at www.agi-usa.org

Rachel Vallens ’06 is a Center Associate
Lawmaker Reintroduces Antimarriage Amendment in U.S. House

Rep. Dan Lungren (R-Calif.), a member of the House Judiciary Committee, on Thursday reintroduced the discriminatory Federal Marriage Amendment, now renamed the "Defense of Marriage Amendment." The bill is designed to punish same-sex couples, gay parents, and their children by stripping the federal government and each individual state from offering marriage equality--and the attending protections and responsibilities--to all its citizens. Lungren's bill includes language that would not only invalidate thousands of existing legal same-sex marriages in Massachusetts but would likely inhibit states from offering and could possibly overturn civil unions or domestic-partnership recognition for gay and lesbian taxpayers. (Advocate.com)

In The News

Comedian uses stars, laughs to teach men about violence

James Bond teaches men how to mix martinis and seduce mysterious women, Rocky Balboa shows them how to be tough and Austin Powers offers instruction on being groovy, baby. But comedian Ben Atherton-Zeman thinks these notoriously womanizing characters should help teach respect for the opposite sex, too. So Atherton-Zeman speaks up on behalf of these cad-like characters in his ironic stand-up routine called "Voices of Men." Between public service messages about domestic violence and rape, Atherton-Zeman plays a repentant Rocky who comes to understand why Adrian dumped him: She kept saying no and he didn't listen. He didn't listen to her when she said she didn't want to come up to his room, and he tried to stop her when she tried to leave. "I don't blame her for leaving me," said the repentant Atherton-Zeman a.k.a. Rocky in a thick New Jersey accent. "I guess I cared more about scoring than respecting her." (Greeley Tribune)

Equal benefits law struck down in New York

A New York state appeals court on Tuesday struck down a law barring the city of New York from doing business with companies that provide benefits for employees' spouses but not for their gay partners. The state supreme court's appellate division in a 5-0 ruling declared the equal benefits law illegal because it "expressly excludes a class of potential bidders for a reason unrelated to the quality or price of the goods or services they offer." The judges also said the law "intrudes" on a federal law providing for the administration of uniform national employee benefit plans. (Advocate.com)

Senate Votes To Restore Funding to International Family Planning Groups That Provide, Counsel on Abortion

The U.S. Senate on Tuesday approved 52-46 an amendment to a $34 billion Foreign Affairs Authorization Act that would lift restrictions on aid to international family planning groups that provide abortion counseling or services. President Bush in September 2003 issued an executive order that prevents the State Department from giving family planning grants to international groups that provide abortion-related counseling, effectively extending the so-called "Mexico City" policy. The policy -- which was originally implemented by President Reagan at a population conference in Mexico City in 1984, removed by President Clinton and reinstated by President Bush during the first days of his presidency -- previously applied only to USAID. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), who sponsored the amendment with Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine), said, "The Bush administration has imposed a political ideology on the world. We cannot allow this undemocratic policy to deny women and their children health care and ultimately sentence them to die." Murray added that unplanned pregnancies often have a disastrous effect on women in developing countries, where pregnancy-related complications are one of the leading causes of death for women. (KaiserNetowrk.org)

Submit to Breaking Ground!

We are looking for essays, stories, poems, and visual art on the topics of gender, sex, sexuality, race, and class. We welcome anonymous submissions. Submit to box 172 or by email to vallensr.

Judge Cites Ohio Gay Marriage Ban in Disallowing Unmarried People from Filing Domestic Violence Charges

A judge has ruled that Ohio's new constitutional ban on same-sex marriage prohibits unmarried people from being able to file domestic violence charges, a decision that has prompted an immediate appeal by prosecutors. Judges and others across the country have been waiting for a ruling on how Ohio's ban on same-sex marriage, among the nation's broadest, would affect the state's 25-year-old domestic violence law, which previously wasn't limited to married people. (Advocate.com)

Lawmaker Reintroduces Antimarriage Amendment in U.S. House

In the News continued on page 5
Democratic Senators To Block Vote on FDA Commissioner Nomination Over Agency's Delayed Decision on Emergency Contraception

Democratic Sens. Patty Murray (Wash.) and Hillary Rodham Clinton (N.Y.) on Wednesday said they plan to block a full Senate vote on FDA Acting Commissioner Lester Crawford's nomination to head the agency because of FDA's delay in issuing a decision about whether to approve Barr Laboratories' application to allow the emergency contraceptive Plan B to be sold without a doctor's prescription. FDA in January -- when it was expected to rule on a revised version of Barr's application, which would allow EC to be sold without a doctor's prescription to women ages 16 and younger -- announced that the decision would be delayed. On March 17, Crawford in a confirmation hearing told the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions that FDA would approve the application "within weeks." The agency in May 2004 issued a "not approvable" letter in response to Barr's original application, which would have allowed Plan B to be sold to any woman without a doctor's prescription. The agency based its recommendation on a decision made by Steven Galson, acting director of the FDA Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. However, his decision contradicted the recommendations of two agency advisory panels and cited inadequate data on the use of the pills among girls ages 16 and younger. (KaiserNetwork.org)

Maine State Senate Passes Trans Inclusive Amendment to the Human Rights Act

Yesterday, March 28, 2005, the Maine State Senate passed a bill that would amend the Maine Human Rights Act by making it illegal to discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity and in employment, housing, credit, public accommodations and education. The existing law prohibits discrimination based on race, color, sex, disability, religion, ancestry and national origin. The bill passed by a vote of 25-10 and now moves to the House of Representatives for consideration where it is expected to be considered this week. The bill defines sexual orientation as "actual or perceived heterosexuality, bisexuality, or homosexuality, or gender identity and expression." (Advocate.com)

California Marriage Ruling Spurs Opponents to Push for Constitutional Amendment

A California judge has opened the way for the nation's most populous state to follow Massachusetts in allowing same-sex couples to tie the knot, but both sides in the same-sex marriage debate predict a vigorous court fight first. San Francisco County superior court judge Richard Kramer ruled Monday that while withholding marriage licenses from gay and lesbian couples has been the status quo, it constitutes discrimination the state can no longer justify. "The state's protracted denial of equal protection cannot be justified simply because such constitutional violation has become traditional," Kramer wrote. "Simply put, same-sex marriage cannot be prohibited solely because California has always done so before." (Advocate.com)

Clerics Fighting a Gay Festival for Jerusalem

International gay leaders are planning a 10-day WorldPride festival and parade in Jerusalem in August, saying they want to make a statement about tolerance and diversity in the Holy City, home to three great religious traditions. Now major leaders of the three faiths - Christianity, Judaism and Islam - are making a rare show of unity to try to stop the festival. They say the event would desecrate the city and convey the erroneous impression that homosexuality is acceptable. Abdel Aziz Bukhari, a Sufi sheik, added: "We can't permit anybody to come and make the Holy City dirty. This is very ugly and very nasty to have these people come to Jerusalem." Israeli authorities have not indicated what action, if any, they might take to limit the events. Banning the festival would seem unlikely, though the government could withhold the required permits for specific events, like a parade. (NYTimes.com)

U.S. Is Asked to Close Site on Sex Issues

Advocacy groups are calling on the federal government to take down a new Web site offering information on sex issues because the groups say it presents biased and inaccurate advice to parents on how to talk to their children about sex and emphasizes abstinence. The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, which also provides sex education materials, sent a letter to Michael O. Leavitt, the secretary of health and human services, supported by liberal advocacy groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union, the Human Rights Campaign and Planned Parenthood. "They've always opposed us on the issue of abstinence; that's fine," said a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services, Bill Pierced. "One thing we do know about abstinence is that if you practice it, you will not have an unintended pregnancy or risk catching a sexually transmitted disease." Mr. Leavitt said in a statement announcing the site last month that it was designed for parents who are embarrassed about talking with their children about sex. "Parents have a tremendous amount of influence on their children and we want them to talk with their teens about abstinence so that they can stay safe and healthy," he said. The Human Rights Campaign said it was also concerned about sections of the Web site that focused on sexual orientation. (NYTimes.com)

The website in question is www.forparents.gov.
I knew that I was in for six weeks of surprises as I sat on the front lawn and watched my new housemates slowly unload their luggage in September’s lingering heat. The day before, I had traveled from Utah to Woods Hole, Massachusetts to start my term at the Sea Education Association. For six weeks we would be living in houses on their small campus while attending preliminary Oceanography, Nautical Science and Maritime studies classes before we would try our newly acquired seamanship on two 135-foot sailing ships. I didn’t really know what to expect from my experiences at Woods Hole since I had mostly been anticipating the latter half of the program, but an off-campus program was an off-campus program nonetheless, and I was excited to burst the Carleton bubble and meet new people.

As the first week at Woods Hole rolled by and I began to get to know my housemates, I realized what a motley bunch we were. One of the people whom I was always remember was Catherine, a biology major from Texas, who was a staunch Republican and an evangelical Christian - the kind of person that Carleton students had been taught to look upon with utter suspicion and contempt. As the weeks wore on though, I found that I was beginning to become friends with her, to my liberal-hearted disbelief.

After-dinner conversations at our house would begin innocently enough, with someone commenting on what the Presidential candidates has said on the news, or what people were thinking about the upcoming election. Soon though, our off-handed musings would evolve into heated conversations, which would escalate into full-fledged debates that would last long into the night after most people had turned off their lights and gone to bed. We must have discussed every controversial subject in the book - sex education, abortion issues, the death penalty, doctor-assisted suicides, the Pledge of Allegiance, gay rights. I soon discovered that Catherine, besides being a staunch Creationist, could justify her arguments with pretty much every Bible verse that one could possibly memorize in his or her twenty-one years of life.

I had never had a theoretical, political or moral debate with a Creationist, or an extremely evangelical Christian for that matter; in fact, in most moral discussions with my peers, I ended up being either the preacher or the choir. The more and more Catherine and I talked, the more and more I realized that we couldn’t disagree more in terms of moral and theoretical viewpoints. We would often argue ourselves in circles – neither one of us could back down and agree with something so extremely contradictory to the fundamental ideas that had shaped our own sense of morality. But amazingly enough, I think we maintained a kind of mutual respect that kept us from tearing at each other’s throats, a respect that allowed us to continue these debates out of an indescribable curiosity to know what it’s like on the other side of the fence. Debates aside, we were also actually beginning to become friends - there would be times when, after a long afternoon of swimming at the beach, we’d run home and wake our napping housemates with our laughter.

While I did come out to some of my housemates at different points in the program, I never did come out to Catherine. I guess I was too afraid to maim the tenuous friendship that we had formed. But was it even a friendship? We shared a similar sense of humor and taste in music, along with affinities for Hawaiian pizza and Cherry Garcia ice cream, but our outlooks on life were so fundamentally different that I began to question my own values. I hated to lose a friend, yet at the same time it was uncomfortable to maintain a false friendship. I wanted to be truthful to her, yet at the same time I was frightened by the fact that she thought my sexuality was essentially wrong and sinful.

We had signed up to be on different ships, so after six weeks in Woods Hole, we both had to depart for different coasts. As we said goodbye to each other on moving out day, I realized that our friendship, as I wanted to call it, had taught me some important lessons. It is easy to get into the trap of lumping everyone who disagrees with you, especially politically and religiously, into one evil category - they become members of a vague and faceless opposition, and our impressions of them become based on their caricatures. This is not to say that Catherine made me agree with a staunchly conservative, pro-life, pro-war, anti-gay-marriage, Creationist viewpoint; rather, she had challenged me to make sense of and solidify my own viewpoints enough so that I could sum them up into words. If there is one thing that I regret about those six weeks, it is not coming out to Catherine. Although I doubt that she would give up her moral stances on gay marriage, or gay adoption, or queer people in general, I think she would have had to think twice about many of these issues. Perhaps I would have put a face on the “opposition.” Maybe someday after college, when I’m traveling through Texas, I’ll give her a call. And we’ll meet for coffee or tea or something and we’ll talk.

Erika Lewis ’06 is a Center Associate
Darfur Women continued from page 1

camps near the Chad-Sudan border. Collecting water and firewood is traditionally women’s work, and men hesitate to leave the camps for fear of being killed. When women venture away from their camps they become targets for the Janjaweed. Human Rights Watch reports that “between October 2004 and mid-February 2005, Médecins sans Frontières teams in West and South Darfur treated almost 500 women and girls who had been raped.” Women and girls of Darfur have also been the victims of gang rape, abduction, and sexual slavery.

This reflects a broader pattern in violent conflict. Several international laws designate rape and sexual violence as war crimes or crimes against humanity, including the 1949 Geneva Conventions, the 1948 Genocide Convention, the 1984 Torture Convention, and the Nuremberg Charter.


Response to Judith Butler Quote
By Ryan Imhoff

In the March 2005 GSC Newsletter, an article on the Drag Ball quotes Judith Butler as saying, “There is no gender identity behind the expressions of gender…” I firmly believe each individual has the right to define one’s own gender as inside or outside the binary of male and female, as stable or unstable, as everything or nothing. Butler’s quote diminishes the reality of transgender people, overlooks that enacting feminism has taken effort, and denies the struggle of every individual to be respected regardless of gender. The Butler quote finished the article. By doing so, there was no space to discuss the imposition of her words on the lives and experiences of others. I doubt the author accepts Butler’s conviction that gender identity is a performance if the author has a distinct idea of what her gender identity is not.

Are you interested in the intersections between queer identity and religion? Come join the LGBT Spirituality discussion group for a field trip to the Metropolitan Community Church

Sunday, April 24

Call the GSC at x5222 for more information.

Yet Another Staff Bio…

Erika Lewis has recently returned from two terms off campus. She spent the fall doing a SEA semester in San Diego, and spent the winter in London on the Carleton English/Psychology program. Erika is a junior English major in her second year of work at the Gender and Sexuality Center. In the GSC she focuses on making event posters, working on website stuff, writing and editing for the newsletter, and watering the plants (the most important job, really). Her copious free time is consumed with playing rugby for the Carleton Women’s Rugby team, reading, running in the arb, hiking, discovering new kinds of music, and writing poetry. She is also involved in writing for the Carletonian and DJing at KRLX. Her favorite movies are American Beauty and Harold and Maude, and though she had difficulty choosing a favorite book, she settled on The Dharma Bums by Jack Kerouac. Though an online quiz told her that her Care Bear is actually Cheer Bear, she has opted to align herself with Funshine Bear for the purposes of this short bio.

Come shake your groove thing at the Pride Month Dance!

Friday, April 22, 10 pm, Evans Dining Hall.
Be there.
Come for good food and good company, with a lecture by Matthew Brooks ’90.
April 22, 5:30 pm, Great Hall.
RSVP x7180,
http://webapps.acs.carleton.edu/campus/gsc,
or in the GSC