Interested in Working for the GSC?

There is still time to apply! Check out the application online at the GSC website. Due April 10th.

A Look Ahead...

April 10 - Drag Panel and Show: Professional kings and queens from the cities are ready to rock your world.
April 14 - Being Bi: A Conversation
April 15 - Trans Panel
April 16 - Cave Night Cabaret: share your own pride
April 17 - Q&A Potluck
April 20 - Community Forum: Northfield gets together (PFLAG, St. Olaf, Carleton, and other community groups)
April 22 - Coyote Grace gig and Drag release party (Coyote Grace is the amazing bluegrass/Americana duo featured during Pride 2008 and they’re coming back! Not to be missed.)
April 24 - Pride Banquet: Carleton’s finest, dressed to the nines and enjoying catered dinner and special guests
May 7 - Speakout on the Bald Spot.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>5 Sunday</td>
<td>6 Monday Jon Ginoli The Cave @ 8pm A performance and talk with the guitarist and most well-known member of the pioneering queer punk rock group of the early 90s, Pansy Division.</td>
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<td>7 Tuesday</td>
<td>8 Wednesday Ally Dinner WOAH House @ 5:45pm Come eat and discuss what it means to be an ally during PRIDE and every other month of the year. Everyone is welcome.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>13 Being Bi: A Conversation 12pm Sayles 252 Come talk about bisexuality, and all it means and can mean.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>15 Trans Panel 8:30pm Nourse Lounge Come hear stories from some students, ask questions and have a discussion.</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>20 Community Forum UCC Fellowship Room 6pm Potluck 6:45pm Panel Come eat and discuss PRIDE with PFLAG, LGBTQIA St. Olaf, and other community members and groups. Bring food!</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22 “Drag” Release Party featuring Coyote Grace The Cave @ 7:30pm Student publication release party! Amazing bluegrass/Americana duo! A winning combination!</td>
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How do we create this space? After having numerous conversations about the issue of sexual violence at Carleton, these are some of the tips I’ve come up with. Obviously, none of these suggestions works in all situations or for all people, but they’re a start to a conversation (hopefully, one of many):

- Keep in mind that one in four college age women have experienced sexual violence. When you walk into any space, whether it’s a classroom, a lounge or a party, there are likely individuals, both men and women, who have experienced sexual violence in some form.
- Confront individuals who are making comments that don’t fit into your vision of a supportive community. This applies to a classroom environment as well. Just because comments are said under the veil of academia doesn’t mean they’re OK. Professors are not exempt from this. All faculty and staff go through training about the sexual misconduct policy and should be able to respond to the needs of our community.
- Sometimes people just want to talk. Your job is to listen and be nonjudgmental. Don’t ask questions that may make your friend feel like you are trying to blame them for what happened. Let them know the resources available and offer to go with them. Make yourself available as it makes sense to you. Be honest and find support for yourself as well.
- Having experienced sexual violence doesn’t define a person. It’s just one characteristic. Individuals respond to experiences differently at different times in their lives and all of these responses are valid.

No matter how much we want to live in a community where sexual violence does not exist, it’s just not going to happen until we fully dedicate ourselves to the idea and until we are willing to act on our beliefs. We have to start living like we’re part of a community that is truly aware of sexual violence. Catch yourself before you say something you’re uncomfortable with. Confront your friends when they sexually objectify individuals or make comments or actions you don’t agree with. If they’re not still your friends after this confrontation, then they probably weren’t from the beginning. Take a deep breath and walk home in the dark. The sooner we start living the lives we want, the sooner our community will really take shape, flourish, and change.

Speakout!

Keep your eyes out for information about the Speakout, happening May 7th on the Bald Spot. This is a great opportunity to gather together as a community to focus on issues of sexual violence and support survivors. There will also be opportunities to read and write pieces.
(Re)centering the Survivor

By Christi Conkling '09

When we talk about sexual violence we often do so in a fairly withdrawn way. We beat around the bush and speak in hypothetical terms, rather converse honestly about what the existence and persistence of sexual violence means for our communities. As a graduating senior, I am certainly well aware that my community at Carleton is probably going to be the most inclusive and comfortable space I’ll ever know, but I think we can make it better.

One of the ideas we’ve been throwing around at the GSC is the concept of (re)centering the survivor. This means creating and nurturing a community where the experiences of survivors are acknowledged and recognized, rather than a community of silence, where sexual violence is permitted to permeate our culture. This community would be one where sexual violence was not excused as an issue of immaturity, lack of exposure or social skills on the part of one, solitary individual. Where equal gender dynamics would exist in activism and representation, where women’s opinions and experiences would be just as powerful and effective as men’s. This would be a community where women and men who have experienced sexual violence could trust that their experiences would be taken seriously and where they would be respected as survivors.

As it is, we are forced to scramble to erase the word rape off a blackboard, left over from a Classics class, before holding a panel discussion about Carleton’s sexual violence policy in the same room. We continue to hear comments like “that test totally raped me” around midterms (though far less than we used to). We’re told to go talk to a professional at the Wellness Center when really all we want and need is to talk with a close friend and feel the unwavering support of our peers, people who are part of our community, rather than those who stand at the periphery. We never consider the possibility that we all have the potential to act, and may have already acted, in sexually violent ways. In order to create a community that we want to live in, where we are all comfortable, we’re going to have to change these things.
While Pride month is typically celebrated in June, here at Carleton we do it in April so it falls during the school year. It is important to reflect, every year, on why we do PRIDE here at Carleton and consider its significance to the community. The LGBT community has less visibility, because we are not tied by a common culture or a consistently shared history. Pride gives us a space and time to come together and celebrate the ways in which our identities regarding sexual orientation and gender intersect. During Pride, the LGBT community becomes visible to itself and to the Carleton community at large.

Plastering the campus in rainbows and converting Sayles into a venue for Drag are powerful parts of Pride because these expressions are privileges that we rarely enjoy. The LGBT community is a relatively new idea, and a space that is not always safe. By celebrating Pride each year, we recognize the history and the work it took to create this environment at Carleton. We not only recognize where we have come, but where we are going and the work that is still ahead of us. This is a time to talk about what it means to be a part of this community and what kinds of spaces we are still striving for.

And finally, Pride is about fun! While discussions and meaningful reflection are important, there is something about a bunch of queer people playing some ball on the Q&A house lawn that fills our hearts with joy. Meeting people, eating cake, and coming together for a fabulous dinner in the Great Hall are just as important as the other aspects of Pride. So get your rainbow arm bands, shirts, shoelaces out because it’s April once again and it is time to come together and celebrate!

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**Why Pride?**

By Laura Stone ’10 and Stephen Gee ‘10

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**Also... Some Great News!**

On Friday, April 3rd, the Iowa Supreme Court found a state law that limits marriage to a man and a woman unconstitutional. The decision was unanimous and same-sex couples should be able to marry in Iowa by the end of the month. (Source: Nytimes.com)

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**What is the Minnesota Homeless and Runaway Youth Act?**

The Minnesota Homeless and Runaway Youth Act allocates 8 million dollars to:

1. Fund necessary services for runaway and homeless youth
2. Develop new capacity to serve youth statewide.
3. Provide a comprehensive evaluation of how we effectively serve youth

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**More Information about Avenues For The Homeless**

The mission of Avenues for Homeless Youth is to provide emergency shelter, short term housing and support services for homeless youth in a safe and nurturing environment. Through such service, Avenues seeks to help youth achieve their personal goals and find a positive transition into young adulthood.

You can find out more about the organization online at Avenueforthehomeless.org.
LGBT Youth Homelessness

By Ruth Aufderheide ’10 and Jane Sturges ’10

“DID YOU KNOW? Between 20 and 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBT.” Maybe you saw one of these posters around campus last term. They started as the result of a class assignment in our Comparative Social Movements class. Our assignment was to take a topic—in our case LGBT issues—and from this create some sort of “social movement” on campus. For our group, this became a movement around homelessness among LGBT youth.

The two main events we coordinated were a letter writing campaign to Minnesota Senators and Representatives in support of the Minnesota Homeless and Runaway Youth Act that is fighting for funding in the battleground of budget cuts, and a volunteer day in the Twin Cities. We ultimately amassed more than 100 letters and postcards, and on Saturday of eight weekend we took a small group of students up to a Minneapolis shelter and transitional home, Avenues for Homeless Youth, to help clean and organize a closet where they kept their donated clothing. Though Avenues for Homeless Youth is not exclusively a LGBT shelter, they run a program called the LGBT Host Home Program. Through this program they recruit, screen, and train volunteers from the community who open their homes up to LGBT youth needing a stable home for a few months up to a couple years.

Organizing all this was, predictably, challenging. We had about 6-7 weeks to come up with this idea, plan it, and promote it. Though at Carleton this is most of a term, in the real world, it’s approximately a microsecond, and a few of our contacts in the groups we dealt with said so. Regardless, we were able to find supportive groups and volunteers who gave us ideas and opportunities to help. Along the way, the ways in which the current support system often fails LGBT youth became blatantly obvious. Because of this failure, LGBT youth experience homelessness, depression, suicide, drug addiction, sexual assault, and abuse at disproportionately high rates.

As we began to navigate the dense and diverse group of LGBT and homelessness organizations and shelters that already exist in Minnesota it became obvious how few organizations manage to cover the gap between these issues. Generally, we found organizations either working for LGBT issues, combating homelessness, or shelters struggling to combine both objectives in an effective and efficient way. For example, when we contacted the Minnesota chapter of The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force we were essentially told that they don’t deal with those issues and referred us to some local

Beyond the Button

By Marlene Edelstein ’11

Most Carleton students want campus to be an open, accepting and safe place for the LGBT community. Yet, it is undeniable that members of the student body are still made to feel uncomfortable because of their sexual orientation or gender.

I have come to believe that this problem partially stems from an assumption, made by those of us who do not identify as LGBT, that passive acceptance is enough and an active engagement in these issues is redundant. Much of the time, we assume that our job is done if we don’t think we are acting in a homophobic, bi-phobic or transphobic way. However, when we do not engage actively with LGBT issues, we miss a chance to look at ourselves with a critical eye and reflect upon the ways in which we may unintentionally contribute to an environment where members of the LGBT community do not feel comfortable. When this mentality of passive acceptance pervades, we fail to realize that confronting and reflecting on one’s privilege is a process of continuous examination. Additionally, passive acceptance does not seem to be working. As the Campus Climate Survey demonstrated, members of the Carleton community continue to feel marginalized because of their sexual orientation and/or gender.

It is time for a different approach— one where those of us who do not identify as LGBT actively proclaim our support for the LGBT community here at Carleton. PRIDE, a time dedicated to celebrating and reflecting on the LGBT community, is the perfect time to start. Let’s demonstrate that we care about these issues by attending a Pride event and identifying ourselves as supportive with our sheer physical presence. Let’s make a commitment to be actively engaged. Come discuss what it means to be an ally over dinner this Wednesday, April 8th. Attend the Drag Panel on Friday, April 10th to hear drag performers discuss gender expression and what drag means to them. Celebrate these performers by cheering at the Drag Show later that night. Demonstrate the importance of community by signing up for the Pride banquet and honoring the seniors who have worked so hard to foster this community.

If we can take the time to reflect on our privilege while actively celebrating and valuing the contribution that the LGBT community has made to this campus, we will be able to make this campus a more inclusive and comfortable place for all.
DRAG SHOW ETIQUETTE

By Dominic Vendell ’09

Attending a drag show is a totally exciting and fun experience that is not always replicated in everyday life. While drag is definitely connected to a whole range of gendered practices and performances that we can connect with, a drag show is also a space and a time to celebrate the transgressive and the shocking. But to make this possible for spectators and performers, and, more importantly, for these groups to come together and have a fabulous time, it’s necessary to respect some ground rules. As you get pumped for the Drag Show sponsored by the GSC for Friday, April 10, keep these things in mind:

♦ You’re watching a performance. Show your appreciation for the creativity and hard work of the drag performers by giving them the space and the spotlight.

♦ At the same time, show the love by walking up to the stage, interacting with the performers, and chipping in some money with which they pay the bills.

♦ Dance in place, sing in place, shake yr ass in place. But don’t get up on the stage or interrupt the performance. It’s gotta stay a show, not a dance.

♦ Think about the relationship between your identities and the performers’ when making comments and reacting to what you see. Sometimes excitement and surprise can turn into or be perceived as disrespect or, worse, mockery.

♦ Create a supportive space with the attendees around you—really get in there and encourage your friends and acquaintances. It’s less fun for everyone when a group stands aside or in the back out of discomfort.

♦ These ground rules will be easier to follow if you honor your own boundaries. Don’t do anything that you’re not ready for or force yourself into a scary situation.

All of this is mostly to say that a drag show is both something to watch and to be part of. Something different from you but also the same. Walking this fine line, playing with your comfort level is part of the fun of drag.

From the GSC LIBRARY...

By Beth Budnick ’11

Sure, Gender Outlaw is a nonfiction book on gender, which for some could at first sound like a dry read, but this book, penned by MTF transsexual Kate Bornstein, is anything but. From the subtitle alone (“On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us”) Bornstein dazzled me with her simultaneous wit, smarts, and creativity. The book reads like a one-woman zine, with every page is a collage of fonts, text alignments (centered! right-aligned!) all smothered in a healthy dose of humor. There are personal anecdotes, quotes, definitions, and basic how-to’s here and much more, in addition to photos of Bornstein from childhood through the present to accompany her journey from "straight man" to "lesbian transsexual."

But perhaps what stood out to me most was Bornstein’s frankness and ability to masterfully deal with multiple topics. Readers get details on MTF sex-change operations (the “nuts and bolts” as it were—on which she states, “I bolted from mine, that’s for sure”), as well as more nuanced analyses on gender. For example, Bornstein examines desire as stubbornly gender-based for heterosexual, bisexual and homosexual folks. According to Bornstein, if bisexuals identify as desiring “men and women,” they still are citing attraction along gendered (“men and women”) lines. Although I found some of this analysis a tiny bit dated (I read the GSC’s 1994 edition) and pre-“queer”/“boi”/androgyny, much of the criticism felt valid and relevant. This fun and fast-moving book manages to be un-preachy and fun, while still communicating important ideas (“radical,” even, according to the front-flap reviewers) and posing relevant challenges to readers gay, straight, queer, bi and trans alike.

Get Ready for DRAG!

DRAG is a publication of articles, stories, poems and photos by Carleton students and alums about gender and gender expression. Make sure you pick up a copy at the release party on April 22nd!