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**GENDER AND SEXUALITY CENTER
BASEMENT SCOVILLE**

OUT OF THE BASEMENT



FEATURES

FEBRUARY 2009

"NICE GUYS"

GARADSILL—ALSO FOR
MEN

E. PATRICK JOHNSON

V-DAY IS APPROACHING

ABOUT FACE

FYs FROM NORM AND
SCOTT

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 3

Cover Art by Allie Schwartz '10

THE “NICE GUY” AND THE “MEN’S MOVEMENT”

By Sam Ritter ‘10

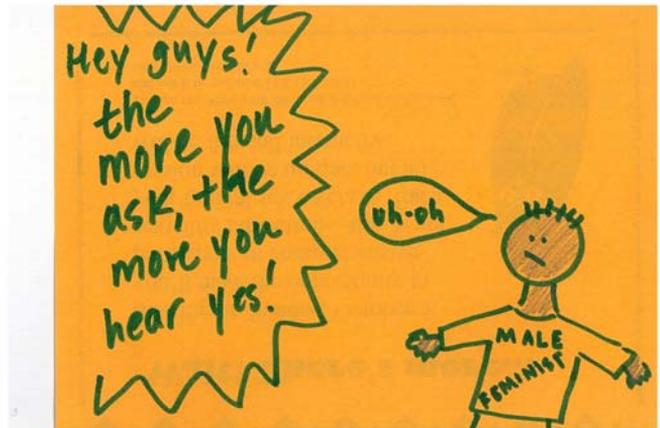
Across the country, it seems, momentum is growing for some sort of “Men’s Movement.” This movement, at least according to its proponents, aims to take insights, modes of inquiry, and ways of knowing drawn from feminist scholarship and use them to organize men around issues of gender, sexuality, and sexual violence prevention. And while groups of men are certainly popping up at campuses and community centers around the country (including here at Carleton), there is undoubtedly skepticism from many women about the legitimacy and efficacy of these groups.

One form of this critique has been the criticism of the so-called “nice guy.” While this term isn’t particularly specific, in one incarnation, it refers to men who consider themselves “nice” and “conscientious,” and therefore feel entitled to have sex with women. Perhaps, this attitude is best summed up in the phrase that’s been tossed around: “The more you ask, the more you hear yes!”

Certainly, this attitude is harmful to the very values that these men profess to hold. It implies that, at best, these men are thoughtless, and, at worst, that their “feminism” is a sham. Furthermore, it plays out the idea that men who want to have sex with women cannot have non-sexual relationships with women. Every “move” that a man makes, this attitude says, is ultimately about having intercourse.

The question then, becomes: can men who have sexual relationships with women ever step away from the “nice guy” persona? From their own perspective, how can they be sure that their actions aren’t some sort of sham, especially when they meet sexual partners through involvement with the men’s movement? For many men, I think, the thought that they are so conditioned to pursue intercourse that they can dupe themselves into acting as a “feminist” can be very scary—indeed, I think that it keeps some away from the movement all together. How then, can men think about their own lives and their own sexuality in a way that is both affirming and values women as more than sexual objects?

In her assessment of the process through which women can remove themselves from patriarchy by



Cartoon by Beth Budnick ‘11

stepping from its ubiquity into a “nothingness” that will become their own creative space, the radical feminist separatist theologian Mary Daly, in her book *Beyond God the Father* offers the following assessment the place of men within the women’s movement:

“Despite the many avenues of nonauthentic response to the threat of women’s power of absence, some men do accept the invitation to confront the experience of nothingness that offers itself when ‘the Other’ cases to be ‘the Other’ and stands back to say ‘I am.’ In so doing, men begin to liberate themselves toward wholeness, toward androgynous being. This new participation in the power of being becomes possible for men when women move into the new space.” Its essential message, I think, is captured in the last line of a poster put out by *Crime Think*

“For every girl to takes a step toward her liberation, there is a boy who finds the way to freedom a little easier.”

Perhaps, it is through an acceptance of women’s rejection of patriarchy—and therefore rejecting their own “need” for women in order to construct their identity—that men who want to have sex with women can find the resources to escape their own anxieties about the “nice guy.” For, if identity and conceptions of self don’t revolve around positing women as an “Other”—however privileged that Other may be, men, I think will be free to think of themselves as beings whose desires and sexuality have worth. As the blog *Feministe* makes clear, the “nice guy” phenomenon “ultimately boils down to the fact that Nice Guys don’t like themselves.”

Obviously, rejecting Otherness in favor of an actualized self is not an easily achieved goal. Perhaps, it is even impossible. However, in striving to create a self-identity free from a reliance on society’s insistence that men must be the opposite of women, and in being honest when you falter, men, I think, can take great steps away from their own inauthenticity in the eyes of themselves and others, and begin to see themselves as important and affirmed members of a global striving for equality and justice.



What's that on new sign on the wall in Boliou? No, it's not art, but progress. Boliou now features gender-neutral bathrooms, a recent change as of this term. Thanks to Kelly Connole (Assistant Professor of Art) for the picture.

HEALTH ALERT: WHY MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN SHOULD THINK ABOUT GETTING GARDASIL

By Stephen Gee '10

Most of us at this point have already seen the commercials for the HPV vaccine Gardasil with its catchy O-N-E-L-E-S-S campaign. In fact, I know the rhyme was circulating in my head for weeks after I first saw it. If you know what I'm talking about, then you probably also noticed the advertisements being peopled entirely by women. This is because until recently the Gardasil vaccine had only been approved for women. On October 16, 2009, however, the FDA approved the vaccine for use on men and boys from ages 9-26.

Gardasil is a vaccine providing protection against four major strains of Human Papillomavirus (6, 11, 16, and 18). Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted disease, with over 6 million new cases occurring in the United States alone in 2000. HPV has been linked extensively to cervical cancer, genital warts, and other uro-genital cancers. These four strains in the Gardasil vaccine are the highest risk with 6 and 11 causing most cases of genital warts and 16 and 18 causing the majority of cancers. Currently the FDA is approving the Gardasil vaccine in boys as prevention ostensibly for "genital warts", but what is more pertinent and certainly more dangerous than genital warts is the risk of anal cancer.

Anal cancer is certainly not one of the most predominate cancers in the United States, but men who have sex with men are at a much greater risk for the disease and especially for the cases of anal cancer caused by HPV. In one study looking at anal cancer in patients, every single gay male patient tested had a cancer that was linked to an HPV infection. Moreover, up to 84 percent of cases of anal cancer are caused by strain 16, one of the four strains of HPV protected against by Gardasil. Now, anal cancer has a prevalence of only half that of cervical cancer, which Gardasil was originally created to protect against, but the preventative and screening measures for cervical cancer are far more institutionalized and widespread. Cervical pap smears, the first line of defense in testing for cervical cancer, are much more common and usually less expensive than their counterpart anal pap smears. This makes it ever more important to protect oneself against HPV infection. And while I stress the importance of safe sex and condom use every time, it is important to know that HPV can spread even with the use of condom, just by skin to skin contact.

FDA approval of the vaccine does not mean that it has become widely available. It has only received a "permissive recommendation" by the FDA Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. This means that doctors have not been told to make the vaccine routine and are not required to offer it to their patients when requested (but they should refer them to another doctor in an instance where they will not administer it). This means that you have to request to get this vaccine. Gardasil offers an important opportunity for men who have sex with men to guard themselves against the predominate cause of anal cancer and I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity!

For any questions or concerns: email gees



Gardasil: Not just for women, although you wouldn't know it from the commercials.

LGB-SWEET-TEA-TIME:

CONVO WITH E. PATRICK JOHNSON

HEADED YOUR WAY FEB. 5 By Beth Budnick '11

I have a friend—a gay lady hailing from below the Mason-Dixon Line—who, whenever the topic of being queer at home comes up, responds simply: “It’s off-limits. It’s the *South*, after all.”

Off-limits for some, perhaps, but not for all. E. Patrick Johnson is one of the brave who dares to go Down There – to the South, that is. In his scheduled Convo presentation, entitled “The title of his presentation is “In Search of My Roots/Routes,” Johnson will describe his process of researching black gay men of the South for his book, *Sweet Tea*. The book, published in 2008, illustrates the lives of more than 70 black gay Southern men. Voices in the book run the gamut from hairdressers to churchgoers to lawyers to the unemployed, but above all, they speak to common theme of negotiating one’s identity.

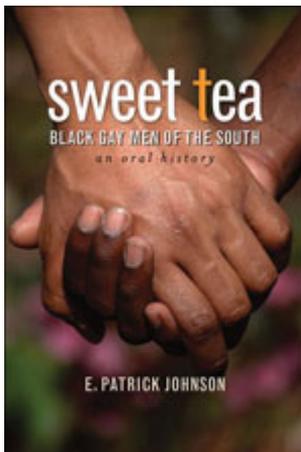
According to Johnson in the book’s introduction, these personal histories “call into question the construction of the South as inhospitable to African American gay men” and the stories “account for the ways that black gay men negotiate their sexual and racial identity with their southern cultural and religious identity.”

Johnson thus complicates our views (even my Southern friend’s views) of the South, and



challenges us to see the social institutions often unilaterally classified as antigay as more complex than they appear. In particular, he finds that the men of his oral histories use institutions such as the church to legitimate themselves as members of both southern and black cultures.

Currently, Johnson is turning this landmark, 500 page book into a one-man show entitled “Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Stories.” In addition to the stories he tells in his book or performs in his show, Johnson’s own story is one worth sharing. He co-authored *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology* with Mae G. Henderson, which was published in 2005. (The cover art In 2003, he authored *Appropriating Blackness: Performance and the Politics of Authenticity* published in 2003. This convo is one not to be missed, particularly given the general lack of representations of queerness not confined to white folks or Some Huge Gay Urban Center (pick one: New York or San Fran?). And if you want even *more* sweet tea, come check out Johnson’s book *Sweet Tea* from the GSC Library.



GIVE ME A... V!

V-DAY 2010 IS APPROACHING!

By Becky Canary-King '10

The Vagina Monologues is a showcase of a few individual women's stories about their bodies, as compiled by Eve Ensler. But V-day is about women. It's about anyone who identifies as a woman. V-day is about the women on this campus who are brave enough to stand up in the middle of a chapel and say "vagina". It's about supporting the women in our local community who endure domestic and sexual violence. It's about the 1 in 3 women globally who survive violence. And this year, it's about women in the Congo.

The Spotlight Campaign this year is again on women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Although the war in the DRC is formally over, women are still under the constant threat of violence. The violence is coming from multiple sources; all armed groups in the conflict have committed acts of sexual violence and even UN personnel have been implicated in perpetuating the violence. The extent of this violence is hard to estimate, but in one province alone, local health centers report that an average of 40 women are raped every day.

Gender-based violence is being used as a tactic of war and women are suffering from sexual slavery, forced prostitution, kidnapping and rape. Even when the war is over, women must endure this violence long-term. Survivors of sexual violence suffer severe psychological and physical health consequences, but they face barriers for justice in stigmatizing and under-capacitated court systems, and STIs and HIV remain untreated with the absence of a solid health infrastructure in the DRC.

But women are still supporting each other. Part of the profits from the Vagina Monologues performance will go to the City of Joy. This facility located in Bukavu, will support and train women to be community activists. Just down the road from the Panzi hospital, City of Joy will be a place of community healing through group therapy, storytelling, dance, theater, sex education and economic empowerment. Women can turn their pain into power and reclaim their communities.

Sexual violence is an issue globally, and occurs within our own community. The Hope Center provides direct support to victims of violence, collaborative support to other organizations that serve victims, and educational support for all of Rice County. Their mission is to create zero tolerance for sexual and domestic violence through **H**ealing, **O**utreach, **P**revention and **E**ducation; a majority of the profits from the Vagina Monologues will go to support them.

V-day's mission is to prevent sexual violence against women, and we can all reclaim our bodies as sites of empowerment. All of the V-day events are for us to come together as a community to really interrogate how we can prevent sexual violence and empower all bodies. It's about the women in the Congo, it's about our whole community. It's about you.



ABOUT FACE, CHICAGO'S QUEER THEATER, WANTS YOUR VOICE

By Patty Dana '11

Last term I was on the Urban Studies program with the Associated Colleges of the Midwest in Chicago. The program itself had many components, but my favorite part of the semester was working as an intern for the Education Programs Director at About Face Theatre. About Face strives to advance the national dialogue on gender and sexuality by producing innovative, thought-provoking, and challenging plays to Chicago audiences. I highly recommend going to see a show if you are ever in the area.

Every two years, About Face Youth Theatre creates a new production from the personal experiences of ensemble members and their peers. The last show, FAST FORWARD, addressed the sex education crisis in America, HIV/AIDS prevention, and homophobia. Currently they are working on QUEERTOPIA: The Anti-Violence Project. In an effort to collect and explore as many different stories of violence and hate as well as love and ally-ship, About Face Youth Theatre is asking for people of all ages and all experiences to contribute to QUEERTOPIA. You can read their call for stories (and queer and allied musicians) below:

TELL US YOUR STORY. WE'RE LISTENING.

As part of **QUEERTOPIA: The Anti-Violence Project**, About Face Youth Theatre is transforming into a national story-collecting center. That's right: we are collecting stories from everyone across this country, around the world! The young. The old. The urban. The rural. The soft. The dramatic.

Stories of VIOLENCE.

Stories of LOVE.

Tell us about a time you witnessed (or were a part of) an act of violence (whether verbal or physical) or love (whether friendship, spiritual or true) towards an LGBTQA-identified person(s). Enter it in the text-box below, or email it to queertopia@aboutfacetheatre.com. If you feel comfortable, let us know your name, where you're from and your age or generation. If you wish to remain anonymous, don't include any of that!

STORIES will be used for the following queer purposes:

1. With your permission, stories will be shared with queer and allied musicians and bands to create original songs based on your story and biography
 2. Stories will also be used to create the script for our new performance: **QUEERTOPIA**, premiering summer 2010
 3. Stories will be collected, published and hand-delivered to legislators, activists, the mayor and anyone else who might be able to help LGBTQ people gain equal civil rights and change school climates into accepting places for LGBTQ young people.
- It's about time we took things into our own hands. We hope to collect as many stories as possible in order to gain a clear picture of what is happening to LGBTQ people in our time and we hope to collect enough story data to determine how our educational system and laws should change. Your story can change our city, our country, our world.

CALL FOR QUEER AND ALLIED MUSICIANS:

Interested in composing for About Face Youth Theatre? We are seeking musicians to create songs based on the true stories of the About Face Youth Theatre ensemble. Songs will be played or performed inside the new mainstage About Face Youth Theatre production, **QUEERTOPIA**.

Sounds pretty incredible, right? Well, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. I'd be happy to talk to you more about the work that they do with (and for) young people around Chicago or about the other programs and productions they have created. I could fill a whole newsletter with stories from Chicago. I'm really happy to be back at Carleton, but I loved every minute at About Face.

About Face Theatre will also be producing E. Patrick Johnson's "Sweet Tea" between April 29 and May 23. For more information about E. Patrick Johnson, turn to page 6.

IN THE NEWS

By Mike Stevens '10

Uganda: Anti-Queer (and Ally) Bill on the Horizon



In Uganda, where LGBTQ people already face social discrimination and prison sentences for up to 14 years, a bill that would magnify the existing discrimination awaits a second reading in February. The Uganda Anti-Homosexuality Bill mandates the death penalty for sexual active queer people with HIV as well as perpetrators of same-sex rape. Any homosexual activity, however, could land someone in prison for life. Even family and friends who fail to report an LGBTQ person could find themselves incarcerated for seven years.

Activist David Cato, a victim of multiple beatings who was fired from a teaching job due to his sexual orientation, links the bill to a 2009 conference attended by U.S. evangelicals, who described homosexuality as a treatable sin. Many Ugandans in favor of steeper penalties for homosexuality, like ethics minister James Nsaba Buturo, believe the final bill will drop the death penalty provision. However, activists fear any version of the bill will exacerbate the spread of HIV/AIDS through forcing people into silence and could be used as a tool to blackmail government critics.

http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/2009/12/09/2009-12-09_while_us_debates_gay_marriage_uganda_considers_death_penalty_for_homosexuals.html

Lilith Fair Hits the Stage Again: A Special Report from Beth Budnick '11

When I was high school, getting my feminist activism on grrrrl-style, there were many aspects of the fabled Sisterhood I thought were gone forever-- bra-burning, hand-mirrors for that fabled vulva-gazing, and women-fronted music festivals. While the former two feminist activities haven't quite made a comeback (if they ever existed in the first place-- bra-burning, I'm lookin' at you), I was wrong about the last: women-fronted music festivals -- or the epic Lilith Fair women's music festival, which ran originally from 1997 to 1999 -- is making a comeback this summer. Lilith Fair is the brainchild of sexy songstress Sarah McLachlan, who has worked her magic and compiled an amazing group of female singers and musicians together for this summer's tour, which is going to nearly every big city in the U.S. (although dates have yet to be posted). The line-up ranges the gamut from lesbian staples the Indigo Girls, Gossip and Tegan & Sara, pop darlings Ke\$ha (yes seriously, The Tik-Tok Girl will be at Lilith Fair), Sara Barielles and Sheryl Crow, icons Erykah Badu and Norah Jones, R&B goddesses Mary J. Blige and Jill Scott, and folkies like Frazey Ford (of the Be Good Tanyas) and Brandi Carlile. Whew. More info is available at lilithfair.com.

New Wiki in Honor of Philadelphia AIDS Victims

In Philadelphia, veteran activist and educator Chris Bartlett has committed to creating a wiki documenting the lives and contributions of the 4600 gay and queer men from the city who have died of AIDS. In the words of Bartlett: "Imagine who was lost. All the writers, activists, politicians, hustlers, journalists, bartenders, friends, family, boyfriends...A generation of thinkers and fighters and lovers, all gone to HIV/AIDS. I don't want us to lose their efforts and contributions." Bartlett hosts each biography on <http://gayhistory.wikispaces.com>. While he has conducted much of the original research himself, he envisions the project as a community effort: friends and family can contribute reflections and memories to commemorate their loved ones.

http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/2629761/philadelphia_activist_creates_a_wiki.html

Houston Becomes Largest U.S. City to Elect an Out Mayor!

During Carleton's winter break, Houston became the largest city in the United States to ever elect an openly gay mayor. Annise Parker was sworn in on January 4th, her partner Kathy Hubbard's hand on the Bible. During her inaugural address, she took a moment to speak to "my community, to those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered.... I feel your excitement and your joy, your apprehension and your longing for acceptance. I will gladly carry you forward. But today is simply one step toward a tomorrow of greater justice. And when the time comes, I will just as gladly pass the torch to the next in waiting, and I will cheer for them as you do me."

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/metropolitan/6797980.html>



Prop 8 Challenge Continues

We're nearing the end of week two of *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, the federal case challenging Proposition 8. Some may have heard that a request to have the case broadcast live was overruled; what many may not know about, however, is the unusual legal pair arguing on behalf of the same-gender couples: Theodore B. Olson, George W. Bush's former solicitor general, and David Boies, a notable Democratic trial lawyer; these two previously squared off in *Bush v. Gore*. Drawing comparisons to 1967's *Loving v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court ruling invalidating prohibitions against interracial marriage, Olson argues, "Separate is not equal. Civil unions and domestic partnerships are not the same as marriage." Many anticipate that whatever side loses in San Francisco will appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court, and from there the fight for gender-neutral marriage will continue to the Supreme Court in a case that could decide the constitutionality of marriage bans across the country.

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2010/01/18/100118fa_fact_talbot#ixzz0dvHJbp7R

FYIS from Norm & Scott

By Christina Gehring '10

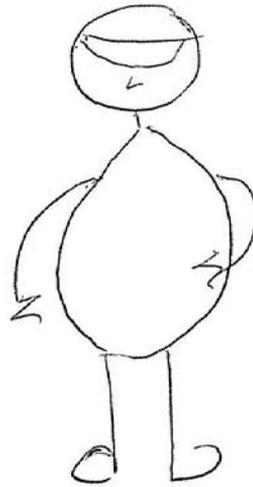
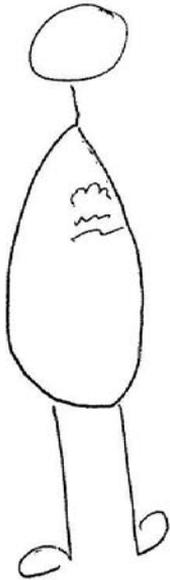


9/11 works
here



We do have a
vegetarian sausage,
which has no meat

Norm + Scott own Camp Pepin,
the setting for the Rainbow
Retreat. They were charmingly
long-winded, and the quotes here
are just a few gems. (thanks to
Kristy Spiak + Danica Lance for help
with collecting quotes)



Dessert is forthcoming
We will put it out mid
meal. You'll know
when it's ready when
you see us putting it
out mid meal.

We have soymilk
as well, for those
who... we have
that option too.

GENDER & SEXUALITY CENTER
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FEBRUARY 14TH IS V-DAY! EVENTS:

GSC Staff

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

Center Associates

Sarah Berlin, Beth Budnick, Beck Canary-King,
Susan Chambers, Patty Dana, Marlene
Edelstein, Stephen Gee, Christina Gehring,
Kate Richey, Sam Ritter, Allie Schwartz, Mike
Stevens, and Laura Stone

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. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

- Thursday, Feb 4** **Congo Teach in.** Learn about this year's Spotlight campaign. 7-8pm LDC 104
- Friday, Feb 5** **V-Night at the Cave**
- Tuesday, Feb 9** **Vagina Monologues Forum**
5-6pm LDC 104
- Thursday, Feb 11** **No! The Rape Documentary** Film Screening
7:30pm Leighton 305
- Saturday, Feb 13** **Vagina Monologues Performance!**
8pm the Chapel

Student Org Meetings:

Carleton In and Out (CIAO): Mondays, Sayles 252 8:30pm
Gender Discussion Group: Tuesdays, contact lstone for location
Sexuality and Gender Activism (SaGA): Wednesdays, GSC 8pm
Collective for Women's Issues (CWI): Thursdays, WA (Berg House), 9:30pm