Calling All Creative Minds: Tea Time Theme Contest

Make your Tea Time vision a reality! We’ve done Jersey Shore, Queercenara, Gay-oween and Flannel Friday. Email budnickb with themes.

Gender & Sexuality Center
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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 billsk. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

OUT OF THE BASEMENT

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Sex-Positivity Discussion Group: Mondays, Willis 204 7:30pm
Carleton In and Out (CIAO): Odd Tuesdays, Leighton 330 7:30pm
Sexuality and Gender Activism (SaGA): Wednesdays, GSC 8:00pm
Collective for Women's Issues (CWI): Thursdays, WA (Berg House), 8:00pm

Upcoming Events

Winter Wonderland 2011!

December
1st World AIDS Day

January
7th-9th The Rainbow Retreat, Camp Pepin, WI

February
12th Vagina Monologues, 7:30 PM, The Chapel

And don’t forget about ongoing events at the GSC like LGBT Tea time, and meetings student orgs like CIAO, CWI, GDG, the Sex Positivity Group, SaGA and Men Talking About Masculinities!

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Alicia’s Craft Corner!

Thanksgiving Recipes

Volume 10, Issue 2

Cover art by Michael McClellan ’13
Staff Picks: Winter Break Reading!

Sarah Berlin’s Pick: Whipping Girl by Julia Serano
“If you want to learn more about trans issues, feminism, or misogyny, you should absolutely read this book. This combination of personal experience, political manifesto, and trans, feminist, and queer theorizing is both informative and gripping. One of things that stuck with me long after reading this book is Serano’s description of cissexual privilege and all the things that people who are not trans take for granted. If ‘Whipping Girl’ provided me with a vocabulary for talking about these issues and presenting them in ways that make sense and can encourage other people to rethink their roles and actions.”

Beth Budnick’s Pick: Sexual Fluidity by Lisa Diamond
“Cause it finally describes what I feel like I’ve seen in other women/felt in myself but never known how to articulate: Lisa Diamond puts it into words and uses sexy psychological studies to tell me that I’m not actually crazy but instead just feeling something that’s not so weird!”

Kendall Bills’ Pick: Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power & A World Without Rape edited by Jaclyn Friedman and Jessica Valenti
“This book isn’t just the usual reaction to rape and rape-culture—instead, it forces us to question our notions of sexual violence, and to recognize and respect female sexual power. By putting the emphasis on pleasure, consent, and healing, this book empowers women while respecting their journeys towards healthy sexuality.”

Manny Silvestre’s Pick: Dykes to Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel...
“Started in 1983, this comic strip details the lives of a few queer women and men and their everyday lives. Its refreshing reading a comic where queer characters are the norm and not just the token characters. Oh and its hilarious.”

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THE FUN & GAMES PAGE

Top Five Ways to Come Out Over Winter Break.

1. Mom/Dad this turkey is fantastic, also I’m gay.
2. I like mashed potatoes...and girls.
3. Can I get the new Indigo Girls CD for Hanukkah?
4. All I want for Christmas is Project Runway Season 4
5. I’m thinking of being a Woman and Gender Studies and Geo double major.

compiled by Manny Silvestre ’11

Have you been paying attention?

Find the GSC’s fall events in the word search

Kristy Spiak ’12

we invite you to participate in Carleton’s queer peers confidential, student-mentoring program.

Want to talk about your identity or learn more about finding community here on campus?

contact budnickb for more info
ALICIA’S CRAFTS CORNER! Alicia Morrell, GSC Advisor

You know what’s great about elementary school? Cartons of chocolate milk and recess. You know what else is great about those olden days? Cheesy holiday crafts such as the hand turkey. Seriously, though... the hand turkey is the quintessential November craft in my opinion, and for the most part, it’s a highly accessible craft. Not artsy? Whatever. Can’t draw? You CAN trace. While I have a lot of love for the turkey, I wanted to do something a bit more... queer. Enter the rainbow hand wreath. According to the internets, the circular shape of the wreath is seen as a common symbol of eternity... So by adding a rainbow to my wreath it is clearly queer FOREVER.

Construction of this wreath is easy: all you need is a hand (not necessarily yours), a pencil, and 2 sheets each of rainbow colored construction papers. Trace your hand onto one of the papers twice and cut them out, use one of those cutouts to make the rest. You want 4 hands of each color. Arrange the hands in any wreath-like configuration that makes you happy and glue stick into place accordingly. Done and done.

A Rainbow (Retreat) on the Horizon
Beth Budnick ’11

First week winter term is a couple of things: exciting, icy, and above all, cold – like, really, really, holy-shit-why-do-I-go-here cold. But fear not!

First week also means first weekend, which, for readers of Out of the Basement, means INTO THE WOODS. No, no, all you musical theater dorks (I know you’re there), we’re not Gleeing out and throwing a GSC Musical. I mean the Rainbow Retreat.

If you’re already signed up, get excited. Start your countdown calendar. Go shopping for rainbow suspenders. Get your talent for the No-Talent Talent Show primed. If you aren’t, email budnickb, silvestm or mcclellm for more info and see about being added to the waitlist.

If you can’t make it out to Camp Pepin with us, after the Rainbow Retreat, we’ll also have having a series of brown-bag discussions during Common Time about topics from the retreat and bring the “gay camp” feel back to little old Northfield.
Halloween 2010: A Retrospective
Compiled by Sara Cantor '11

Kristina Taketomo '11, dressed as the Bill from the School House Rock video, poses with Stevie P—the Pillsbury doughboy.

In the running for best group costume: the Teletubbies!
Top row, from left to right: Kristy Spiak '12 dressed as Mika from his “Blame it on the Girls” video; GSCA Kendall Bills '13 and her roommate, friend of the GSC Caitlin Wood '13, dressed as each other; Hannah Button-Harrison '12 defied gravity with her hairstyle based on La Roux.

Mitch Campbell '14 looked great as Robin.
Kristina Taketomo '11 changed costumes halfway through the night. New costume: “unpacking the backpack of white privilege.”

Below: Dean of Students Hud- lin Wagner went all-out as the Queen of Hearts.

Can Culture Be Reciprocated?
Reflections on Big Freedia
Nimo Ali ’11

The idea of cultural reciprocation was introduced during the Big Freedia event and programs earlier this month as a way of engaging with Bounce dancing, a dance that accompanies Bounce Music, an energetic type of hip-hop music that originated in New Orleans. During her visit, she and colleague, Altercation, presented a lecture on the intersection of Bounce and identity and taught a dance class, breaking down the basics of bounce dancing.

In the lecture, Freedia and Altercation spoke about the idea of cultural reciprocity. Cultural reciprocity defined as an exchange of goods, labor, or in this case knowledge, reciprocity that was framed in terms of ethics and morality. The way it is understood in anthropology, reciprocity is an informal system of exchange, but has little to do with ethics or morality but as an economic system. During the lecture, Big Freedia asked students many questions about our personal experience with race and class, and cultural reciprocity was introduced as a way for Carleton students to give back to something for mining this information from a specific community. The responses from the students were varied, ideas ranged from buying merchandise to writing academic articles voicing the opinions and history if the Bounce community. Within this conversation of reciprocity, Big Freedia and Altercation stressed the importance of understanding the value of the dance and its sacred nature. Altercation spoke of bounce dancing’s long history and roots in West African dance, notably its stark similarities to Mapouka, a traditional dance from the Ivory Coast that is used in religious ceremonies. Both dances employ rigorous shaking of a one’s buttocks sideways, facing away from the audience, and can be very sexually suggestive. Altercation, the dance instructor during the class at Carleton, explained that it’s supposed to be sexually seductive and inviting and used as something of a siren’s call. She did stress that when people are in this dance position, they are very vulnerable, due to this; there are rules of engagement. One person can dance behind another person at a time and acute attention is paid to body language.

Having “mined” this information on a culturally significant and valued dance and bounce music, I wonder how as Carleton students we can really engage in a fair exchange. Many students and some professors, notably Professor Harry Williams, were present at the Big Freedia concert and enjoyed the show. Yet, I wonder what has stayed with us? Was that concert and lecture just another part of our liberal arts education that we will look back on as being “so cool”? Part of having lecturers come and speak at Carleton reinforces the idea that we not only merit their knowledge but deserve it. Are we not the cream of the crop? Yet so often our attendance at these events is marked by chronic tardiness and impertinent questions. I, myself, am a perpetrator of this kind of behavior but I seek to not only remedy this but really try to reflect on my privilege as a Carleton student and I believe, responsibility to the communities and institutions that I am gaining (or mining) information from, and I challenge as Big Freedia did for us all to reflect and give back.

Kenzie Campbell ‘14 looked great as Robin.

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Let me start by saying that I love Dan Savage. His informative, sex-positive, queer-friendly column was my introduction to the whole notion that sex isn’t something to be ashamed of. I also am deeply appreciative of his response to the recent youth suicides in the queer community. For those of you who haven’t yet heard about the project, it’s called “It Gets Better.” Hundreds of people—from celebrities to average Joan/anne types—have recorded messages to queer youth, reminding them that suicide is never an option, and that things will improve in time.

I love this message. I love the intent behind this message. But, like almost all efforts, I worry about how it will be interpreted.

Firstly, I want to recognize and acknowledge that many of the stories speak to a kind of class mobility and social mobility that may be a part of some people’s experience, but is certainly not common to all. The most-watched “It Gets Better” video features two white men discussing meeting at a queer bar, coming out to families that accepted them, and adopting a son together. While all of this is beautiful and joyful, I think it’s also important to recognize that it is indicative of a certain amount of privilege that many people will never experience.

The second issue of interpretation that concerns me is that many may perceive the “It Gets Better” project being the response to the recent suicides in the queer community. Rather than feeling obliged to think about what allows our society to remain heteronormative, homophobic, transphobic, misogynistic, racist, classist, and all those other awful words, people may be able to turn a blind eye to their own role in oppression.

To sum up— it may get better, but for who? And why? And what can each of us do to ensure that it does indeed get better, for all members of our community?

These questions may seem daunting, but I think that pondering them is the best way I can personally honor and remember the recent losses we have all experienced.

I’ll admit it. Thanksgiving isn’t my favorite holiday. So, I’ve been applying all my creative energy towards making it more exciting. How does one spice up this American institution? Answer: replace a few letters in the name, buy or construct a few new decorations, and take some liberties with the traditional menu. I definitely think some foods are a must. I’m quite conservative when it comes to turkey, mashed potatoes, and stuffing. But why not play around with the sides? Below are recipes sure to impress cousins, grandparents, and family pets. The GayFlower Galley Gala is now!

**Fish out of Water (Appetizer)**

Remember learning that the American Indians taught the Pilgrims how to fertilize with dead fish? This recipe pays homage to this cross-cultural interaction. Capture 4 cups of rainbow goldfish and lock them away in an opaque glass jar with along with a healthy fistful of sage, a few sprigs of thyme, and a kiss of marjoram. Set the jar on a sunlit shelf and allow two weeks for infusion. Serve on a bed of Oreos crumbles (dirt) with an artistic scattering of baby corn on top. History is delicious.

**LesbiYams (Side Dish)**

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Peel and cube 10 yams. Cozy the cubes in a shallow baking pan and garnish with a whisper of cinnamon. Place in the oven for 40 minutes. While this is in the oven do two things: (1) generously fill a pastry bag with marshmallow fluff (2) affix holiday-appropriate pilgrim buckles to the tops of your Birkenstocks. Remove the dish from the oven and decorate (with a very steady hand) the top of the dish with two interlocking female symbols. Place dish back in the oven and bake until bronzed.

**Cranberry Sass (Side Dish / Dessert Sauce)**

These are berries with a bite. Stew 4 cups of cranberries with 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup of water, and the zests of a Meyer lemon and tangelo over a medium-low flame. Excite the mixture from time to time with a sterling silver slotted spoon. Continue to heat with occasional gentle agitations until the berries burst and hiss. Bring your lips two inches from the lip of the pot and firmly ask them to “simmer down (now).” Turn the heat to low. Let the mixture reduce and thicken until you achieve your desired consistency. Serve as is as a dinner accompaniment or with white cake and whipped cream as a dessert.

**What to Drink??**

The Cosmopolitan was the “gay cocktail” of the 1990’s. What was the “gay cocktail” in colonial America? While I can’t speak from experience, I’m going to put all my trinkets on the Apple Cider-tini. Collect a bushel of apples from your local orchard. Ask your burliest friend and/or crush to press out all the juice that they will give. Ladle this into an oak barrel. Add 1lb of sugar for every gallon of liquid. Let the mixture ferment in a cool, dark, dry, secret place for at least a couple of months. To make the ‘tini, fill a tankard with one part cider to 1.5 parts vodka. Christen the drink with a freckling of autumnal spices and garnish with a cinnaWOMYN stir stick.

*Also the theme of 9th week’s LGBT Tea time.*
In the News

Jean Rhodes ’12 and Marlene Edelstein ’11

Don’t Ask Don’t Tell
A recent survey finds that “most U.S. troops and their families don’t care whether gay’s are allowed to serve openly and think the policy of "don’t ask, don’t tell" could be done away with.” The survey is a part of a yearlong study ordered by Defense Secretary Robert Gates into the matter. The Pentagon sent 400,000 surveys to troops and another 150,000 to family members on the military’s policy toward gays. Officials said that with the survey results complete, the working group is analyzing the results and working on a plan to overturn the policy should Congress repeal the law. The Pentagon is declining to discuss the findings until after Dec. 1 when it rolls out its own plan for repeal.  

What about trans people? see Seth’s article on p. 7

It Gets Better
The It Gets Better Project, started by writer Dan Savage in September of 2010 to create a unique venue for supporters everywhere to tell LGBT Youth that — it gets better, has turned into a cultural phenomenon. An incredibly diverse array of people from politicians like Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and Laura Bush to celebrities like Ke$ha, Tim Gunn, Kathy Griffin and Perez Hilton have posted videos sharing their stories and voicing their support to bullied LGBT youth. Most recently, pop singer Katy Perry dedicated her new song “Firework” to the It Gets Better Project, because “everyone has the spark to be a FIRE- WORK.”  

While the It Gets Better Project has attracted significant support, there are some who are worried that the campaign is too passive. Some critics argue that while the message is important, it does not do enough to substantively change the hostile environment around the country that many LGBT youth face daily. The Make It Better Project was formed in order to provide youth with the tools to make their communities safe from bullying and harassment.

If someone doesn’t support the repeal of DADT, I doubt that they will be swayed by any arguments I make in favor of transgender people serving in the US Armed Forces. However, even highly active members of the LGBT community don’t know about the regulations prohibiting gender-variant people from enlistment. I...