OUT OF THE BASEMENT

FEATURES
October 2010
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Volume 10, Issue 1

Cover Art by Marlene Edelstein ‘11
Get to Know Your GSCAs: 2010-2011
Kendall Bills ‘13

Can you match the GSCAs to their real-life superpowers?

1. Nimo Ali
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A. Able to watch an entire season of Battlestar Galactica and get all Organic Chemistry homework done in one week
B. Capable of cooking delicious and nutritious vegan chili in only a half-hour
C. Cooks chili (supposedly delicious and nutritious) in 15-minutes
D. Endless punt-ification
E. Able to find amazing bargains in a single bound
F. Has an incredibly detailed early childhood memory
G. Is able to sleep wherever, whenever
H. Knows exactly what Sara Cantor wants
I. Navigates time zone travel with ease
J. Never gets tired of pizza rolls
K. Recalls show tunes with immense accuracy, even out of context
L. Takes an extraordinary amount of time to make a decision
M. Can make delicious food out of any and all mystery ingredients
**Updates from Former Staff**

Patty Dana ’11

It's always hard to walk into the GSC and not see all of the same faces. I put out a call to the former staff members to see how they're doing and what they are up to these days. This is what I've heard:

**Danica:** I am now a resident director at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA (20 miles from DC). I supervise 2 upperclass buildings and the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, a semester program that focuses on the "aid in the recovery of endangered species and habitats." I also have attended safe zone training and am a Sexual Assault Advocate. I love being back in the land of sweet tea and I love Virginia!

**Allie ’10:** I definitely want to write a review of "Eyes of Desire" (1 and 2) which are GLBT deaf readers. Both are pretty great so far. I might also write a review of "Prodigal Sons" -- a documentary about a trans woman who goes home to MT for her high school reunion and explores her strained relationship with her adopted brother who has a mental disability. IT WAS GRIPPING. And emotional.

**Becky ’10:** Right now I am working for an ex-offender re-entry mentoring program in Boulder, CO. I love it out here and am a total hazard on the road because I am still so awestruck by the mountains. Also, I just started a tumblr about sex toys: http://topdresserdrawer.tumblr.com/

**Stephen ’10:** I've currently found myself back in my home town of Columbus, OH at the Ohio State University College of Medicine. As a baby doctor I find myself volunteering in the community as a diabetes screener, a mentor in a kids program, a worker in an alcohol and drug addiction clinic, an HIV test counselor, and assistant in a free clinic. I'm trying to help organize and plan a GLBT 101 session for the med classes with the GLBT Issues in Medicine Group here

**Susan ’10:** I'm in the insurance world right now (boooooooring) but I'm going to be speaking at my little sister's Gay-Straight Alliance soon about feeling and being empowered and how to be effective advocates of/for the community. Pretty exciting! (Well, to me, anyway.)
We at the GSC are excited to welcome Alicia Morrell, the new Hall Director for Watson and the East Side Houses whose collateral assignment is working with the GSC. I sat down with Alicia over lunch to ask her a few questions about herself…

Asking Alicia where she is from is a much more complicated question that you might expect. As a child, she relocated quite a bit, and has called Colorado, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Samoa, Arizona and Indiana home. All of this moving around seems to have given Alicia an abiding love of travel, and she still proclaims that “there are many more places left on my list to live.” The opportunity to work at Carleton was exciting for Alicia because she wanted to get back to the Midwest and work at a small liberal arts institution. Plus, she admits, “I knew Minneapolis has a great music scene. I already have tickets to two concerts this fall!” In particular, she is excited to work with the GSC because she “gets to work with engaged, fun and funny students… I always look forward to spending time there.”

In her professional career, she has worked as a Hall Director at the University of the Pacific (where she also received her Masters), as Coordinator of Student Activities at University of California at San Diego, and Coordinator of Diversity Education at University of Utah. Her abiding interest in diversity education and intercultural communications started in grad school, where she performed thesis research on the developmental model on intercultural sensitivity which has informed her work in all the various positions she has held.

While Alicia has consistently maintained interest in the theoretical framework of the developmental model for intercultural sensitivity, she considers it a personal challenge to “be knowledgeable about current trends, but always to temper that with the desire to be an approachable individual.” In the end, she just wants to “provoke productive, challenging and engaging discussions on any level.”

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**Alicia Morrell’s Top 5**

*Top 5 Best Concerts:* Radiohead; The Roots; BB King; any of the shows at Coachella 2010; Hanson

*Top 5 Movies:* Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind; The Fall; Empire Records; The Big Lebowski; Dogville

*Top 5 Top 5 Lists:* Top 5 types of Cheese on a Grilled Cheese; Top 5 Cookies; Top 5 Types of Yarn; Top 5 Elastic Waist Pants; Top 5 Ways To Wear A Side Ponytail

*Top 5 of Carleton:* All the green spaces; the fog; Watson and the East Side Houses; WA House, Q & A House, WHOA House and The Film Floor; The GSC!
**Queerly Speaking, A Beginner’s Glossary**

Whether you’re new to Carleton or not, Beth Budnick ’11 offers some words of wisdom.

**100-Footer (n.):** Someone who looks a certain identity from a distance of 100 feet away. Example: “Is it just me, or is that guitar-wielding Tracy-Chapman look-alike an 100-footer or what?”

**Barsexual (adj.):** See: Katy Perry, “I Kissed a Girl.”

**Bi-cycle (noun):** A bike for whom love knows no gender.

**Carhott (adj.):** Queer lady rocking a pair of Carharts (those cargo canvas pants).

**Gaycation (n.):** Getting away with your LGBTQ buddies. See also: “Rainbow Retreat.”

**Gaytriarch (n.):** Leader of the tribe.

**Gayssip (n.):** When word gets around faster than you do.

**Goodbye Blue Mongay’s (n.):** Where the gays get their caffeine on.

**Heteroflexible (n.):** Sexual identity somewhere between “hetero” and “bisexual.”

**Homo-made (adj.):** Where the best cookies come from.

**Santa Closet (n.):** A gay Santa Claus (still putting up the act Mrs. Claus though).

**Queery (n.):** A particularly gay question.

**U-Haul (n.):** The classic answer to the age-old question: What does a lesbian bring to a second date?

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
What should I know about hooking up and dating at Carleton?

In my experience, the hookup scene at Carleton is very alcohol heavy. Of course, there is nothing wrong with having a few drinks with friends before going out to the Sayles dance. Alcohol suppresses inhibitions, which can be a good thing if you're a shy person trying to meet new people. However, in sexual scenarios, especially with people we don't know very well, some inhibition provides a healthy awareness of our own and our partners' comfort levels. Without that awareness, one might get four years of awkward averted eyes while passing on the sidewalk or, more seriously, one might not be able to ensure that one has gotten consent from a partner. – Kate W. ‘11

When I first came to Carleton I heard that there existed only the two extremes: one night hook ups and married couples. Definitely NOT the case. You learn to navigate your own relationships and find what works for you. – Anonymous

Navigate hookups healthily, with consideration of the other person involved and your own well being. Don't jump from person to person haphazardly, assuming everyone you're attracted to is attracted to you, nor should you "hook up" with just anyone who seems to be interested in you. It's a personal choice to decide to look for a hook up, and a two person decision to hook up. – Alsa B. ‘12

How do I give and ask for consent (without making it awkward...)?

A lot of people worry that asking for consent will "kill the mood" or "spoil the magic" or something like that. To these folks I say get creative! Asking for consent really is sexy and if done in the right way can actually spice up the experience or just really improve it. – Anonymous

I always really appreciate my partner asking me how I feel or whether I like something. It makes me feel like I have control and makes me certain that my partner cares about me and wants to make me happy. – Anonymous

Few of us are Don Juan. That's okay. There are always going to be moments of uncertainty to smooth over. If you're not sure, it's always better to ask than it is to assume. Just keep in mind that the difference between an awkward atmosphere and an enjoyable, playful one is humor, self-confidence, and respect for one's partner. – Kate W. ‘11

I find different things helpful at different times: sometimes, openly acknowledging the awkwardness can help to break the tension. Knowing that you both find verbal communication during sex a little awkward turns the awkwardness into something that you're sharing, instead of a judgment on the person asking. I also like to turn the times I ask for consent into opportunities to impress my partner with my wit. My favorite line that I've used is "How attached are you to the idea of shirts right now?" – Sara C. ‘11

Consent really can be sexy! Ask in a breathy voice. It honestly turns me on so much to hear what my partner wants to do to me or what he/she wants me to do to him/her before it actually happens. – Anonymous

Before non-verbal communication can be used in a sexual situation, you must be sure that the other person understands your non-verbal communication. That is the safest way. – Alsa B. ‘12
How do I know what I want to consent to?

Having some idea of what interests you and what makes you uncomfortable can help you decide when and how to say yes. If you know you’re going to be drinking on a given night, it can be very beneficial to think through what you want and what’s okay with you before you begin drinking so that you’re better able to navigate your evening. – Kendall B. ’13

The bottom line is, if the hookup couldn’t or wouldn’t happen when you are both sober, it probably shouldn’t happen when you’re not. – Kate W. ’11

Consent is not a static thing. You don’t have to make a list of acts you want to consent to and others you don’t: it’s way more spontaneous, enjoyable and fulfilling (at least for me) to make my decisions on what I’m consenting to/asking for consent based on how I’m feeling in the moment. I ask myself how comfortable I feel with the idea of a particular act, and let that be my guide: if it makes me feel nervous or unsafe, I hold off until I’m feeling totally psyched about it. – Sara C. ’11

Try things on your own! Play out your own fantasies while alone! Also, try making a yes/no/maybe chart of sexual activities with your partner. – Anonymous

I’d say spend time with yourself before the event of consent and decide what you’re really comfortable with for you, not for telling stories to your friends, nor for the sake of what people have told you. – Alsa B. ’12

Just because you’ve done something once (or a lot) doesn’t mean you’ll want it again, or on a particular night, or in a particular circumstance. That’s okay. Give yourself the freedom to ask for what you want when you want it, not just because you feel like you should. What feels right? What feels right now? What would need to change before you would feel more comfortable? The time? The place? All of these are valid questions when thinking about consent. – Patty D. ’11

Are men always the bad guys?

Men can be affected by sexual misconduct as well! But there seems to be a cultural expectation that men won’t report if something troubling happened. Some of the best ways to foster knowledge about sexual violence prevention is in sex-ed! – Michael M. ’12

As a man, you will personally be offended when a woman is uncomfortable being alone in a room with you. As a man, you will be offended when you are assumed responsible of sexual misconduct. As a man, you will be frustrated when you realize that, by virtue of your gender, you are seen as a sexual danger. Please understand that the conversation doesn’t have to stop there. You can help prevent sexual violence. Spread the word that sexual misconduct (including both behavior and language that promotes an atmosphere of sexual misconduct) is not to take place here, that it should be stopped everywhere. Educate yourself and those around you about sexual misconduct and how to prevent it. Promote a survivor-safe atmosphere. As a man, as a woman, as a person, you have the power to prevent sexual misconduct. Don’t feel trapped because the question is always, "what did he do?" Use that understanding you have, as a "he" who wants to stop "things" from being "done" to ask "how can I help you?" – Alsa B. ’12

What are my resources if I believe I may have acted without consent?

If you believe you may have acted without consent, there are two confidential resources on campus who you can contact for support: the chaplain and the counselors at The Wellness Center. Both of these are invaluable resources for all community members who may be struggling with the impact of sexual violence. – Kendall B. ’13

It’s really important to think about the ways your actions may have been interpreted and to take ownership. It’s also crucial that in this process you take care of yourself. Not all of the resources on campus are confidential, so you might want to think about who you really are comfortable talking to about your experience. – Anonymous

If you have experienced sexual harassment, sexual assault or inappropriate behavior...
You can talk with us.
go.carleton.edu/sexual_misconduct
HRC Corporate Quality Index

Kristy Spiak ‘12

Each year, the Human Rights Campaign evaluates large, private-sector businesses based on their policies and practices in regards to LGBT employees, consumers, and investors. The evaluations, which are released in the foundation’s Corporate Equality Index Report each fall, are based on a 100-point scale. The scale is divided into five categories including: equal employment opportunity, employment benefits, organizational LGBT competency, public commitment, and responsible citizenship. This year, a record 305 major US businesses earned the top rating of 100 (up from 260 companies last year). Below is a shortened list of what the Advocate has called “The Best Companies of the US” and a few of their highlight achievements.

American Airlines: American Airlines flaunts its Rainbow Team, the first LGBT sales staff in the sky. American also sponsors flights to and from national gay events like Pride festivals and HRC galas.

Anheuser-Busch: The Family Policy Network has called Anheuser-Busch "the most aggressively pro-homosexual beer company in the world" because it sponsors gay pride festivals. They also launched a Bud Light ad campaign in 1999 depicting two men holding hands.

Bank of America: Bank of America is also the home of the Human Rights Campaign and Rainbow Card credit cards.

Cisco: Cisco compensates employees for taxes and costs they pay on health care benefits for their same-sex partners.

Hyatt: A longtime leader in diversity training and LGBT outreach, Hyatt has hosted several events for the Human Rights Campaign and the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. Those who are boycotting Doug Manchester’s Hyatt in San Diego should note that the antigay Prop. 8 donor is a franchise owner and is currently negotiating to give up controlling interest in that hotel. Protesters at that location have noted Hyatt’s support of the gay community as a whole.

Intel: Every year, IGLOBE (Intel Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, or Transgender Employees) teams up with Intel Involved to adopt a family to support LGBT or AIDS-affected individuals during the holidays.

Miller/Coors: Miller/Coors has worked on Capitol Hill in support of the Matthew Shepard hate-crimes bill and the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Progressive Insurance: Progressive Insurance launched a series of ad campaigns (including last year’s Web-centric Faces of Pride campaign) directed at gay consumers.

Toyota: Toyota supports the Human Rights Campaign, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the Point Foundation, AIDS Walk Los Angeles, the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and Life Works, which provides mentoring for LGBT youths. Since 2007, Toyota has had a transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination policy and transition coverage in place.

Wells Fargo: Wells Fargo financial advisers participate in custom training to provide them with the necessary skills to help LGBT clients with financial planning.
In The News: New Zealand Fashion Week

Jean Rhodes ’12

This year New Zealand Fashion Week comes amid a slew of international moves to more strictly regulate who can walk the runway and debates about what images are so photo-shopped that they could be branded as “unreal”. As a result our wee nation at the bottom of the world has gotten involved in this larger discussion and has been reflecting on our own fashion industry and the effect it has on our population.

This year in particular, after radical Australian action on this issue in July, Kiwis have been talking in-depth about a range of strong new measures. They include only letting models with a BMI of 18+ appear in shows, setting an age limit of 16+ for participating models, and regulating photo-shopped images. Unsurprisingly there has been a wide variety of responses to all these suggestions.

Some welcome such change, believing it will alleviate pressure on Kiwis to live up to unrealistic expectations about their appearance as well as keep more from developing unhealthy eating and lifestyle choices. Catrina Sayers Wickstead, editor of Next magazine, has been one of the first to openly endorse these proposals calling them “fantastic”. Next aims to give confidence to real women and to hold up role models, not super models, as examples for their readers. Other organizations, like Eating Difficulties Education Network (EDEN) have also shown their support for these proposals. EDEN manager, Theresa Peters, hopes they will help the public form more realistic body expectations and reduce the prevalence of eating disorders.

Others, however, decry these suggestions as discrimination against slim members of the populace and claim they may normalize obesity. One leading local photographer, Monty Adams, called these propositions “crap,” particularly the idea of restricting photo-shop use and putting disclaimers below doctored images. "Models are young, they're slim, they're tall. Not everyone is like that. It's unrealistic from the word go. It's got nothing to do with Photoshop." Professor of Arts and Aesthetics at Canterbury University, Denis Dutton calls these recommendations “infantile” and instead suggested that perhaps “every woman who uses makeup ought to have a warning tattooed on her neck.”

Ultimately the government has decided not to get involved in regulating images or which models will hit the catwalk this season. However, Women’s Affairs Minister, Pansy Wong, has been encouraging the industry to promote positive body image saying “New Zealand women come in all shapes and sizes, and we should be celebrating that diversity, rather than promoting unrealistic expectations about body shape.”

Though for now things continue as usual in the New Zealand fashion world such debates will most certainly continue. So long as we’re talking about these issues that to me is at least one positive change already in motion.
The idea of National Coming Out Day started after 500,000 people participated in the March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights on October 11, 1987. Rob Eichenberg and Jean O’Leary, two LBGT activists and founders of queer organizations, conceived of a celebration on the anniversary of the momentous 1987 march. October 11 became the designated day, one in which all sexual orientations would be celebrated. The classic “kicking down the closet door” picture has been associated ever since.

At Carleton, we celebrate an entire week dedicated to coming out and LGBTQ awareness. The reason this is celebrated over a week is twofold. One, we have so many programs, events, and workshops for everyone to attend—we can’t fit them all in one day! As well, we also recognize the process involved in the choice of coming out—people who come out once continue to have to come out to new people they meet, in new situations, and in both new and familiar places.

For information on coming out, or to support someone who is coming out, check out the resources at http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/gsc/students

**Tuesday, October 5**
Hidden Voices
The Lives of LGBT Muslims
Presented by Faisal Alam
Leighton 304, 5:00pm

**Thursday, October 7**
Fish Out of Water:
A Film about the Bible
And Interpretation
LDC 104, 7:30pm

**Monday, October 11**
National Coming Out Day
PARTY! Celebrate & Share Your Story (w/cake)
The Cave, 7:30pm

**Tuesday, October 12**
Staff & Faculty Panel
Thoughts on Coming Out/Being Out
Sayles-Hill 251, 12:00pm

**Thursday, October 14**
Queering the Clergy
Presented by Rabbi Melissa Simon
Hill Lounge, 7:30pm

**Tuesday, October 19**
Big Freedia, Queen Diva
Bounce Music from New Orleans
The Cave, 9:00pm
**Queer News—Roundup!**

Manny Silvestre ‘11

**DADT**

A U.S. district court judge, Virginia Phillips, ruled the Don’t Ask Don’t Tell policy unconstitutional on September 9th. While this is a step in the right direction, the Senate failed to gather the 60 votes needed to repeal the 17 year old policy. The filibuster likely means we will have to wait until after November elections before further action is taken by Congress.

**Adoption Ban ruled Unconstitutional**

A Miami appeals court upheld a lower court ruling that found the Florida ban on adoption by gay people to be unconstitutional. The decision was unanimous, as the judges argued that there was no reason to assume that gay parents would be inferior to heterosexual parents. The decision will likely be appealed to Florida’s highest court.

**Five Star Rating ★★★★★**

Over the summer the website campuspride.org, a nonprofit seeking to create safer communities for LGBT students, gave Carleton a five star rating in LGBT friendliness. Of the 230 schools rated, only 19 received this rating.

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**Faisal Alam—Hidden Voices**

Nimo Ali ’11

On October 5th, Faisal Alam came to give a presentation to Carleton students called “Hidden Voices: The Lives of LGBT Muslims.” His presentation sought to underscore that for many, religion and sexual identity can be an intersection that leads to deep struggle and challenges throughout their lives. Alam often spoke from personal experiences: he is a queer-identified Muslim activist, and it became his calling to organize, support, and empower LGBTIQ Muslims who are struggling with reconciling their faith and sexual identity.

Faisal organized the first-ever gathering of LGBT Muslims at the age of 19 and founded Al-Fatiha, an organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, transgender, and questioning Muslims and their allies. Combining the Muslim teachings of justice and tolerance, Al-Fatiha strives to eradicate homophobia and islamophobia through education.

Here at Carleton, many still seek to reconcile their faith and sexual identity. Last year at the Rainbow Retreat, one of the overarching themes was the challenge of reconciling faith and sexual identity. In his presentation, “Hidden Voices,” Faisal addressed these struggles from his own perspective and in a historical context. He spoke to the diversity within Islam and the legacy of colonialism and homophobia within the Muslim world. He also drew potent parallels between homophobia and islamophobia and their shared root in ignorance.

While on this fairly liberal campus, homophobia and islamophobia might not be first on our minds, these issues are still dominant narratives in the world beyond the Carleton Bubble. While some of you might think of these issues often, they are rarely discussed together. It is incumbent upon us (regardless of our identity/identities) to always work to educate ourselves and meet the challenges of complex struggles, regardless of whether or not they are our own.
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.

Upcoming Events
National Coming Out Week!
October
11th: National Coming Out Day Party! Eat cake and hear, share, or read a story about coming out—as anything! 7:30 PM, The Cave
12th: Faculty/staff lunch panel! Come hear faculty and staff speak about their experiences coming out/being out at Carleton. Common time, Sayles 251
14th: Faith and sexuality! Come hear Rabbi Melissa Simon talk about her experiences reconciling faith and sexuality. 7:30 PM, Hill Lounge
19th: Big Freedia! Listen to bounce music from New Orleans—Big Freedia’s work features explicitly gay and cross-dressing musicians and themes. Time TBD, The Cave
21st: Can I Kiss You? Come listen to Mike Domitrz’s engaging presentation on consent and healthy relationships. 8 PM, Concert

Student Org Meetings:
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
Gender Discussion Group (GDG): contact althausb for more info
Men Talking about Masculinities (MTAM): contact silvestm for more info

Mark Your Calendars!