



The Gender and Sexuality Center NEWSLETTER

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• **Where Did You Spend V-Day?**

• By Leahruth Jemilo '08

Where did you spend your Valentine's Day?

On February 14th hundreds of Carleton students filed into the concert hall for the 2006 staged reading of *The Vagina Monologues*. The play, originally written, produced and performed by Eve Ensler, is empowering and emotional.

When audience members stepped into the concert hall they saw a stage covered with blankets and pillows of varying shades of pink and red. Also, the front of the stage was lined with twenty four red votive candles. This setting provided for a comfortable and cozy atmosphere. (Vaginas can only talk in such settings).



At 7:30 pm the cast of thirty two female students walked onto stage; each one with a different story to tell the audience. I have often-times compared this production to a roller coaster ride for your emotions. One minute

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Where Did You Spend V-Day?

You Are Beautiful

Goodbye Leah

Student Orgs. Update

In the News

SWIP Conference

Pride is Coming!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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• **You Are Beautiful**

• By Katie Paul '08

You may have noticed the posters around campus of our very own Carleton students proudly stripping down to their skivvies to pose, prove how much they love themselves, and promote a healthy body image. As the Collective for Women's Issues has worked on the "You Are Beautiful" campaign, I have been amazed at how many Carleton students are not ashamed to show off their amazing and unique bodies. Especially the women!

One would expect most women to be reluctant to participate in a project such as this, but many seemed proud when in their undergarments, demonstrating the power behind this idea. Every body has curves,

**Every body has curves,
moles, scars, birthmarks,
or what have you that
make them each beautiful
and unique.**

moles, scars, birthmarks, or what have you that make them each beautiful and unique. The message is simple: if only thin bodies were beautiful then why are we made in so many different shapes and sizes? In examining the posters I am astounded by the beauty I can find in each person.

The idea was inspired in part by the Dove Campaign for Real Beauty, but at CWI we noticed some fundamental problems with the Dove campaign. First, although all the women in the ads are beautiful and healthy, and racially diverse, they are still probably

not any bigger than a size 10. While this is a massive improvement, it does not go far enough, does not incorporate enough sizes and shapes to make it all inclusive, does not make anyone looking at the ad feel

Continued on page 2

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• The GSC offers resources and support on women's, men's, and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. We work with
• other campus organizations and offices to strengthen and sustain an inclusive campus community that promotes gender equality
• and awareness and welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities by providing support, educational resources
• and advocacy.

V-Day cont.

you're laughing hysterically with Jane Larson as she performs "My Angry Vagina," a monologue that describes how the world finds ways to torture vaginas with things such as tampons, thongs, and visits to the gynecologist, and the next minute you are fighting back tears as Sara Lopez reads, "My Vagina Was My Village," a monologue addressing the issue of female genital cutting.

Because vagina stories come in all flavors: happy, sad, serious, funny, etc, it is important to convey all of those feelings through the performance. By carefully ordering the show so that serious and funny monologues alternate with one another the audience is never left feeling too happy or too sad for an extended period of time.

The monologues serve to inspire, empower, and create dialogue and discussion. As Carrie DeBacker said, "They're all about embracing what it means to be female."

The monologues are a great experience for everyone involved; from the cast to the crew to the audience, every person who sees the monologues feels that they are part of something larger than just Carleton's performance. Everyone involved is contributing to the international movement known as

V-Day, an initiative started by Eve Ensler to combat violence against women worldwide.

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To further assist in the V-Day movement all of the proceeds from Vagina Monologues go to The HOPE Center. The HOPE Center aids Rice County victims and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. The HOPE Center is always extremely grateful to receive donations; they run on a tight budget and the more funds available to them, the more women they are able to help.

The Vagina Monologues brings women together, provides them with an environment that is comfortable and conducive to sharing their deepest "vagina secrets," and, most importantly, the Vagina Monologues empower women to love and appreciate their minds, bodies, personalities, thoughts, feelings, beliefs, etc.

This year's production was phenomenal, if I may say so myself (a biased director?). Congratulations to everyone who made this a possibility and if you missed the show this year, spice up your Valentine's Day next year and come see The Vagina Monologues 2007!

Leahruth Jemilo is a Center Associate

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Goodbye Leah

• By Rachel Vallens '06

If you've ever been to SaGA, visited Q&A house, attended a Coming Out panel, been to CWI, or spent any time in the GSC, then you know Leah Entenmann. Leah has been a part of almost everything the GSC does, and we will sorely miss her in the spring after she graduates early at the end of this term.

Leah has been a Center Associate at the GSC for three years now, as well as leading SaGA for four years. She has been a driving force in LGBT activism and especially trans issues awareness and activism. Leah, along with fellow senior Nora Presson, revitalized SaGA in their freshman and sophomore years at Carleton, making it into a vibrant and welcoming home for LGBT activism.

Leah was also committed to broadening the GSC's mission beyond gender and sexual orientation and to forging connections between groups to address intersections in identity. In her own words: "CAs must work for the rights of all people; it must not end at orientation, sex, and gender identity. We must strive to understand other aspects of identity and advocate for all who suffer oppression for their race, class, religion, nationality, or any other part of who they are."

We have all benefited greatly from Leah's dedication and openness in her time here at Carleton, and we will miss her next term. Best wishes, Leah. Wherever you go in the future, we know you will be a success.

Rachel Vallens is a Center Associate

MTVU + THE POINT FOUNDATION

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ONE \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP



To celebrate and empower LGBT students and activists, mtvu has teamed up with The Point Foundation to offer one \$10,000 scholarship. Both LGBT and straight students are welcome to apply. Make sure to demonstrate leadership, scholastic achievement, participation in extracurricular activities, involvement in the LGBT community and financial or emotional need.

For more information and to apply visit:
http://www.mtvu.com/on_mtvu/activism/point_foundation_scholarship/

Student Organizations Information

The Collective for Women's Issues

Thursdays at 9pm in the GSC

CWI will take part in the Hurricane Katrina symposium first week of Spring term. CWI will also be organizing Take Back the Night at the end of April with St. Olaf and the Northfield community.

More info, contact Alisa at *sancheza*.

Sexuality and Gender Activism

Wednesdays at 8:30pm in the GSC

SaGA will continue to work on Trans and gender-blind housing this term. SaGA will also be hosting the queer variety show that will take place in April as part of Pride Month.

More info, contact Leah at *entenmal*.

Carleton In and Out

Even numbered week Tuesdays at 8pm in the GSC

Keep your eye out for exciting CIAO discussion topics and events throughout the term! More info, contact Dan at *lewda*.

Carls for Choice

Thursdays at 8pm in the GSC

Carls for Choice will be focusing on International Reproductive Rights next term.

More info, contact Casey at *hogleca*.

Black Queer Alliance

BQA is planning a discussion with SaGA about the intersections between race, class and sexuality as part of Pride Month. More info, contact Anjelica at *johnsoan*.

Queers and Allies House

Prentice House, across from the townhouses

Q&A House will continue to show season three of The L-Word every Sunday at 9pm. Q&A will also be hosting a potluck during Pride Month.

More info, contact Leah at *entenmal*.

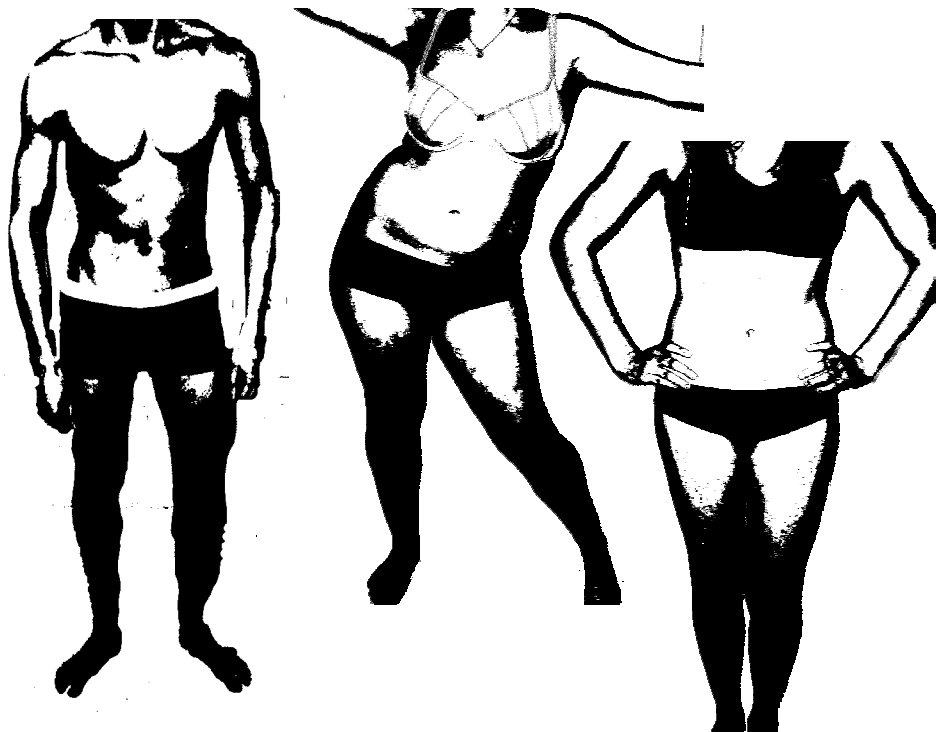
You Are Beautiful cont.

like they are beautiful too. Also, these Dove ads, which were supposed to support normal sized bodies and to encourage healthy feelings about each person's unique body, were selling a skin firming cream!

There is still a basic message, even behind the most well meaning ads (which, by the way, *are* a great start for the industry of beauty products) that no matter how much we love our normal bodies, no matter how proud we are of ourselves, there is still something that can be changed, cleaned up, perfected.

We decided to create a similar campaign, not designed to sell a skin firming cream or anything except the idea that we are perfect the way we are. The only change that can or ever should be made is in our heads and hopefully, here at Carleton, we have started to make a small step towards that fundamental and incredibly important change.

Images from the You Are Beautiful Campaign



Katie Paul is a Center Associate

Gay couples seek marriage licenses in equality campaign

Gay couples across the United States asked for marriage licenses at their city and town halls February 14th as part of an annual marriage equality campaign sponsored by the Metropolitan Community Church, the nation's largest predominantly gay Christian church. Cindi Love, executive director of the national church, said she expected more than 1,000 couples from 237 churches in 47 states to participate. In Connecticut, this is the first Valentine's Day that gay couples are eligible for civil unions, which give them the same state-level rights, though not federal rights, as heterosexual married couples. Many say that's not good enough. "Civil unions still demean gay couples by saying our love is not equal or on par with the love of straight couples, and we find that demeans our relationships and ourselves as human beings," said Frank O'Gorman, director of the Hartford-based group People of Faith. Connecticut's legislature was the first in the nation to legalize civil unions without court pressure. Following lawsuits, Massachusetts allowed same-sex marriage, and Vermont has civil unions. A Connecticut judge is scheduled to hear arguments in March in a lawsuit brought by eight gay couples who claim the state's marriage laws are unconstitutional because they treat gay and heterosexual couples differently. Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, a group involved in the case, used a similar argument to win marriage equality in Massachusetts. (AP)

South Dakota House Approves Bill That Would Ban Abortion

The South Dakota House on Friday voted 50-18 to approve an amended version of a bill that would ban all abortions in the state except to save a pregnant woman's life and sent the bill to Gov. Mike Rounds (R), who has indicated support for the measure, the AP/San Diego Union-Tribune reports. While the bill would not punish a woman who underwent an abortion, it would make it a felony to perform one. Physicians convicted of performing the procedure would face a minimum of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Physicians who save the life of a woman by performing an abortion would not be charged with a crime as long as they make "reasonable medical efforts" to "preserve both the life of the mother and the life of her unborn child." Under changes made by the state Senate Affairs Committee, the bill states that "a pregnant mother and her unborn child each possess a natural and inalienable right to life" and due process under the South Dakota Constitution. The state Senate on Wednesday approved the measure. (KaiserNetwork.org)

France's highest court grants equal parental authority to gay couples

France's top court on Friday granted gay couples joint parental rights, where previously only the biological parent had authority. "The civil code is not opposed to a mother, as sole holder of the parental authority, delegating all or part of the duties to the woman with whom she lives in a stable and continuous union," the Cour de Cassation court wrote in its ruling. The decision of the court, which interprets French law but does not hear trials, also applies to gay male couples when one partner is a biological father. Previously, French law granted parental responsibility to someone other than a biological parent only in unusual cases and did not cover gay couples in that regard. The legal win is the latest victory for French gays and lesbians, who are allowed civil unions but are still fighting for marriage and adoption rights. (Advocate.com)

Rally planned for transgender woman arrested at Grand Central Station

Outraged after a 70-year-old transgender woman was arrested by Metropolitan Transportation Authority police for using a Grand Central Station women's bathroom, New York transgender activists and allies are staging a rally on her behalf. Prior to her arrest on January 12 for disorderly conduct, Helena Stone, who works in an office in Grand Central, had been repeatedly subjected to "name-calling and physical intimidation" by MTA police, said Irene Tung, a coordinator for Make the Road by Walking, a New York City-based social justice community organization. "A few members of the police force have it in for [Stone]," Tung said. Stone has been jailed twice before by Grand Central MTA police, with both incidents stemming from antitransgender harassment by officers, said Michael Silverman, executive director and general counsel of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund, which along with Make the Road, is assisting Stone. "There seems to be a vendetta situation with the police," Silverman told Advocate.com.

Women In Zimbabwe Protest Economic Hardships

Nearly 200 Zimbabwean women were arrested following their participation in a march against President Mugabe, economic crises in the country and human rights violations. Led by Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA), activists marched through the city of Bulawayo on Valentine's Day in protest of the hardships faced by women and children. The "bread and roses" protest drew attention to food shortages with protestors handing out roses as a call for peace in Zimbabwe. The country has the world's highest rate of inflation, currently 613 percent, as well as nearly 70 percent unemployment and recurring shortages of food and other basic necessities. WOZA has held a Valentine's Day march for the past three years, despite the country's ban on public demonstrations without police permission. (feminist.org)

Report: Military's gay ban has cost hundreds of millions

Almost doubling the estimate of a 2005 government study, a commission of military experts announced Tuesday that implementing "don't ask, don't tell" cost American taxpayers \$363.8 million in the policy's first 10 years. The dollar amount, part of a report released through the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is a 91% increase over a February 2005 approximation by the federal Government Accountability Office. Titled "Financial Analysis of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,'" the CSSMM report studied the myriad costs involved in barring and removing openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual service members from the military. (Advocate.com)



In The News cont.

Idaho senate to vote on same-sex marriage ban

A proposal to constitutionally ban same-sex marriage was being considered by the Idaho state senate on Wednesday. The proposal has already been approved by the Idaho house of representatives and by a senate committee. Now it's before the full senate for a vote. Similar proposals to ban same-sex marriage have failed in each of the last two years in the Idaho senate. Last year a proposed ban fell three votes short of the two-thirds majority it needed to pass. Idaho is one of about 10 states this year considering constitutional amendments to ban same-sex marriage. According to the gay rights group Lambda Legal, 18 states have already amended their constitutions to deprive gay couples of marriage equality. (Advocate.com)

Australia Moves Closer To Allowing Mifepristone Access

The Australian Senate passed a measure this week that will increase women's access to mifepristone. The bill takes the regulation of mifepristone (also known as RU-486) away from the Minister of Health, giving regulatory power to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, a non-elected government agency. While under the oversight of the Minister of Health, currently abortion-opponent Tony Abbott, the drug was effectively banned. The House of Representatives has not yet voted on the measure, though it is expected to vote next week, and the measure is considered likely to pass, reports *AFP*. (feminist.org)

Polish Woman Denied Abortion Takes Case to European Court

A Polish woman who suffered severe health consequences after being denied an abortion is taking her case before the European Court of Human Rights. Alicja Tysiac sought an abortion after three ophthalmologists predicted that carrying her child to term would likely further damage her failing eyesight. But the same three specialists, as well as a gynecologist, refused to authorize an abortion. When she gave birth, Tysiac's eye condition worsened dramatically as a result of retinal hemorrhage. Tysiac, a single mother to her three children, can now see no more than 12 feet in front of her. Under the Catholic Church-sponsored Anti-Abortion Act of 1993, abortion in Poland is restricted to circumstances of rape or incest, severe birth defects evident in the fetus, or threat to the mother's life. However, the lack of specific medical criteria for making these determinations causes doctors to be reluctant to grant abortion certificates, according to the Polish Federation for Women and Family Planning. The Federation estimates that only 150-200 abortions are performed legally each year, compared to 180,000 annually before 1993. Many doctors surveyed by the Federation refuse to perform an abortion even with certification that the woman was raped. Because of these obstacles, some women who qualify for a legal abortion in Poland often choose to have the procedure done illegally at a private clinic or leave the country to find abortion services. (feminist.org)

States Legislate Emergency Contraception in the Face of FDA Delay

As the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) continues to stall approval of over-the-counter access for Plan B, a form of emergency contraception (EC), states across the country have begun to legislate the issue for themselves. The Washington Post ran a piece today examining the trend, which includes 60 bills nationwide that aim to affect women's access to EC. Nine states currently allow pharmacy access to the medication without a prescription, and states such as Illinois require pharmacies to stock the drug or provide referrals. Furthermore, some states have legislated to require hospitals to provide EC as an option to sexual assault survivors. Vivion Maisenbacher of Barr Laboratories (the maker of Plan B) told the Post, "I think it's a tide that can't be stopped... I think we'll see a state or two each year joining the ranks, and will soon have a majority of women having access through pharmacies." Other states, however, are attempting to legally protect pharmacists' right to refuse to dispense the medication, or in the case of New Hampshire, requiring parental notification. Some anti-choice activists and politicians falsely claim that EC, essentially a high dosage of traditional birth control pills, can induce early abortions. In fact, EC is safer than aspirin, meets all of the FDA's requirements for over-the-counter status, and is up to 95 percent effective if used within the first 24 hours after unprotected sex, birth control failure, or sexual assault. (feminist.org)

Massachusetts court delays ruling on out-of-state same-sex marriages

The state's highest court has waived a self-imposed deadline for ruling on whether same-sex couples from other states can marry in Massachusetts. The supreme judicial court in Boston heard arguments on October 6, 2004, about a 1913 state law that says out-of-state couples cannot get married in Massachusetts if their home states do not recognize such unions. Last Thursday the court notified lawyers that it would not issue a decision within the 130-day window, according to the court's Web site. Eight gay couples from surrounding states, all of whom were denied marriage licenses in Massachusetts, are challenging the 1913 law. If the court strikes it down, same-sex couples from across the country could wed in Massachusetts and potentially demand marriage rights at home. (AP)

Massachusetts Wal-Marts Must Stock Emergency Contraception

Tuesday, the Massachusetts Board of Pharmacy unanimously decided to require Wal-Marts in the state to stock emergency contraception (EC), making it the second state where women can fill EC prescriptions at the retail giant. Illinois already had a state law requiring pharmacies that stock any form of contraception to also stock EC. Wal-Mart spokesperson Dan Fogelman said that the retailer would review its stance on EC on a national basis as well, telling the *Boston Globe* that "We are actively thinking through this issue." The decision came mere weeks after three women sued Wal-Mart for violating state policies that pharmacies stock all "commonly prescribed medications." (feminist.org)

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Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy Conference Comes to Carleton this Spring

• By Alisa Sanchez '06
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This spring, May 5-7, Carleton is hosting the Midwest Society for Women in Philosophy Conference. The Midwest SWIP is far from your stereotypically stuffy philosophy conference. SWIP values philosophy for how it informs our everyday life, so that a lot of what SWIP does is interdisciplinary and goes outside the traditional idea of what is philosophy. It encourages “troubling the discipline of philosophy and the theory/practice distinction,” and emphasizes examination of the intersection of race, class, gender and sexuality.

I attended the SWIP conference hosted at Illinois State in early November with María Lugones, a visiting professor to Carleton’s philosophy department this fall. I was amazed and so grateful to find a mature research group devoted to serious philosophical inquiry on intersection issues. I find in SWIP a feminism that speaks to me, a feminism conceived broadly that demands critical

analysis of race, class, gender, and sexuality and sees the abstract in the tangible and the tangible in the abstract. This kind of feminist, interdisciplinary approach is insisted upon at SWIP. I’m thrilled that the greater Carleton community will have the opportunity to experience SWIP in the spring.

The program for the SWIP conference is forthcoming. There will be a Women of Color Caucus, which is a lively Women of Color thinking and discussion space. All of the Carleton campus, whether tied to philosophy or not, will find the SWIP sessions fascinating and provoking. Mark your calendars now for Midwest SWIP!

For more information, check out the website: <http://www.pauhtun.org/swip.cfp.S06.html>

Alisa Sanchez is a Center Associate

Live in Q&A or WA House!

Applications are now available to live in Queers & Allies and Women’s Awareness houses next year.

Queers & Allies House

To apply, visit http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/gsc/signup/q_a_house/ or stop by the GSC to pick up a paper application.

Questions about Q&A house? Talk to current house manager Leah at entenmal.

Women’s Awareness House

To apply, visit http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/gsc/signup/wa_house/ or stop by the GSC to pick up a paper application.

Questions about WA house? Talk to current house manager Rachel at vallenr.



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Pride is Coming Up!

• By Erika Lewis '08

Students are going to see quite a few brightly colored Pride posters and signs decorating the campus when they return from spring break. But what exactly is "Pride" and why do we have a whole month to celebrate it at Carleton? At Carleton, as well as around the world, Pride events celebrate the fact that people should be proud of who they are, that sexual diversity is ultimately a good thing and that a person's sexual orientation and gender identity is inherent. Traditionally, many cities across the country host pride celebrations in June to commemorate the Stonewall riots. A pivotal moment for the gay rights movement, the 1969 riots at a New York gay bar called the Stonewall Inn marked one of the first times in history that a large group of LGBT people resisted arrest.

Carleton likes to celebrate Pride Month earlier than the rest of the country, especially since June means finals, graduation and summer break to most Carls. As the days get warmer and sunnier this spring, forget your long months of winter hibernation and come out to the Pride events taking place throughout April.

Pride Sneak Preview

Parties, Performances and Social Events

Friday, April 7 - Queers and Allies House will also be hosting a community potluck open to the entire campus.

Friday, April 21 - the GSC will sponsor the annual Pride Banquet in Great Hall, another campus-wide event.

Stay tuned for more information about the following events:

- Pride Month Variety and Fashion Show at the Cave
- AIDS benefit performance.
- Pride Dance
- Screening: "Do I Look Fat?" a documentary about body image and gay men

Activism and Conferences

Thursday, April 27 - OutFront Minnesota Lobby Day

Saturday, April 29 - Rainbow Families Conference

Discussions and Talks

Tuesday, March 28 - United in Anger: a history of ACT UP, talk by Jim Hubbard.

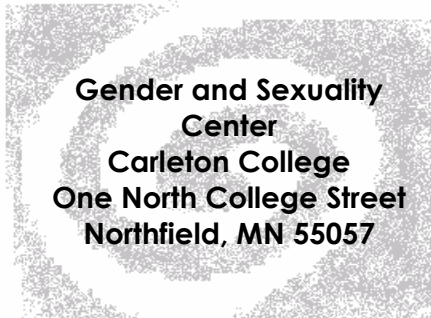
Tuesday, April 4 - Talk for LGBT students (especially seniors) thinking about careers post-graduation

Wednesday, April 12 - Women's and Gender Studies department is hosting a trip to see activist Angela Davis speak at Gustavus Adolphus College.

Monday, April 17 - Dr. Glenda Russell, a psychologist and a senior research associate at the Institute for Gay and Lesbian Strategic Studies, will speak at Carleton.

Stay tuned for information about a discussion of the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality, hosted by the Black Queer Alliance (BQA) and Sexuality and Gender Activism (SaGA).





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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: vallensr@carleton.edu. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and space.

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THE GENDER & SEXUALITY CENTER

apply to be a center associate

Apply at <http://apps.carleton.edu/campus/gsc/> or pick up an application in the GSC
Call x5222 for more information