

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS :: DEC. 4 - 10, 2005

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LGBT RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

1. Café Q

Party like it's almost 2006. Join your friends for the final Café Q of the semester on Thursday, Dec. 8 at 7 pm. As always, quirky lighting, coffee blends, and fabulous giveaways will be on-hand.

Questions? Contact:

Andy Augeri, 443.3983, ajaugeri@syr.edu

2. Meeting: Planet Orange

If you signed up to attend the trip to "Rent," please meet at the LGBT Resource Center on Monday, Dec. 5 at 6:45 pm to drive to the Carousel Mall. Note: There will be no regular Planet Orange meeting in lieu of this event.

Questions? Contact:

Amit Taneja, 443.3983, ataneja@syr.edu

LGBT CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

3. Meeting: Open Doors

On Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 pm, Open Doors holds its weekly meeting. All SU/SUNY-ESF graduate students are welcome.

Questions? Contact:

John David Molesky, jdmolesk@syr.edu

4. Meeting: Pride Union

On Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 9 pm, Pride Union holds its weekly meeting. All SU/SUNY-ESF undergraduate students are welcome.

Questions? Contact:

Jennifer Spinner, spinout39@aol.com

5. Outrage

There will be no Outrage meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6. Outrage will reconvene early next semester.

Questions? Contact:

Brian Stout, outragesyracuse@yahoo.com

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY NEWS

6. "Narratives of Power" Reading

Professor Minnie Bruce Pratt and the students of WRT 422 cordially invite you to a public reading of their creative nonfiction, "Narratives of Power," chosen from their fall 2005 work.

The event will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 5:45 pm in Newhouse, room 464. Light refreshments will be served. The event will end promptly at 6:30 pm.

7. An Open Forum and Call for Signatures

Come to an open forum on Democracy, Diversity, and Free Speech on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 6 pm in Hall of Languages, room 500. The community, university wide and beyond, is encouraged to attend an open discussion on the recent HillTV controversy, with a focus on the question of free speech within a context of creating a democratic culture within a diverse society.

The organizers of this event also invite anyone to sign the letter below, which will appear in the *Daily Orange* and other publications early this week. Please send your signatures to jkdodd@syr.edu.

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Letter/Statement in Support of Chancellor Cantor

We feel strongly that the larger issue underlying the Hill TV controversy is the creation of a campus that is truly diverse and multicultural. Creating such a campus requires making changes in our practices, policies and institutional culture.

One such change is the need to reconsider the absolutist claims for free speech and to weigh these claims in relation to the actual effect of "hate speech" on women, people of color, LGBT and disabled communities, and other people who have been historically silenced in our society. A cursory examination of the HillTV material shows that the content was not put forward as part of any exploration of controversial ideas, even as

satire. Rather, the programs were an unabashed repetition of discredited, vicious, dehumanizing stereotypes.

Hate speech, in fact, limits free speech by creating a climate of explicit and implicit threats, which serve to intimidate targeted groups. For example, where date rape is the subject of humor, and date rape victims are publicly blamed and made fun of, why would such a victim come forward to press charges in such an atmosphere?

If we are to create a truly open and democratic campus, then we must have actions that affirmatively address the silences that are imposed by the verbal blows of hate speech.

Thus, the question raised by the content of HillTV is not so much a question of "free speech" as it is a question of the continued silencing, marginalization and disenfranchisement of groups who have already experienced histories of oppression.

A community that is not responsive to the claims of communities that have been discriminated against historically, and that continue to suffer those oppressions in the present, is not a democratic one.

Any just action in the HillTV case, therefore, must consider and balance claims to free speech within the context of the actual history of oppression and inequality.

We support the taskforces that Chancellor Cantor has appointed to further explore and resolve these issues.

We believe Chancellor Cantor to be a strong leader committed to the deepest principles of a multicultural democracy. We further believe that it is because Nancy Cantor provides strong female leadership and a progressive vision that she was targeted for ridicule by HillTV in one of its farcical episodes.

We applaud her decisive action and clear and courageous stand against racism, sexism, heterosexism, ability-ism, and all forms of discrimination.

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Questions? Contact:

Margaret Himley, mrhimley@syr.edu

8. Daily Orange Staff Needed

The *Daily Orange* is now recruiting staff for spring semester. There are about 30 paid editor positions available, including: News Editor, Opinion Editor, Feature Editor, Sports Editor, Art Director, 315 Editor, Presentation Director, Photo Editor, Copy Editor, Asst. News Editors, Asst. Feature Editors, Asst. Sports Editors, Asst. 315 Editor, 315 Art Director, Asst. Photo Editors, Asst. Copy Editors and Design Editors. All applications are due Dec. 4, 2005.

Applications should include a résumé and cover letter explaining why you want to work at the *D.O.* Samples of your work are also helpful. Submit applications to dailyorange@gmail.com or stop by the offices at 744 Ostrom Avenue.

Every position is open to absolutely everybody on campus. And if you're looking for another way of getting involved without the intense time commitment: we're always looking for illustrators, writers, and photographers.

Questions? Contact:

Jared Novack, 314.368.0228, jnovack@syr.edu

9. Help Needed: Single Stall Bathroom Directory

Help the LGBT Resource Center and Boundaries in Syracuse class establish a Single Stall Bathroom Directory by surveying buildings' bathrooms to ensure a complete assessment. Record your findings by completing the worksheet at the website: <http://assessment.syr.edu/x051014/BoundariesCensus.php>.

Please remember to:

- Sign up for a building by checking out the Bathroom Survey list posted at the LGBT Resource Center, outside the living room.
- Bring a friend of the opposite gender so that he/she can enter bathrooms you cannot.
- Only submit data for single stall bathrooms.
- Submit your findings to the website. After you submit one single stall bathroom you will be given the option to submit another.
- Still go to the website, even if you find that your building does not have any single stall bathrooms. Select the building name and select 0 single stall bathrooms and submit the form so that we know that building has been surveyed.

Questions? Contact:

Rebecca White, rwwhite@syr.edu

REGIONAL NEWS

10. Holiday Dinner and Dance

SAGE holds its holiday dinner and dance on Sunday, Dec. 11 at the First Presbyterian Church Parish House at 620 West Genesee Street. The event begins at 4:30 pm with mingling time followed by a potluck supper and dance with DJ Denise Dwyer. Bring a dish to pass if you are able.

11. Calling All Holiday Angels

AIDS Community Resources, which serves people in nine counties of the Central, Mohawk Valley, and Northern New York areas, is in need of individuals, families, and groups willing to sponsor individuals or families for the holidays. The needs are basic (clothing, winter clothing, blankets, gas cards, or personal care items).

Currently, ACR is short 60 holiday angels. If you have the means and would like to help a needy family or individual living with HIV/AIDS, please contact Wil Murtaugh.

Questions? Contact:

Wil Murtaugh, 475.2430, events@aidscommunityresources.com

12. Survivors' Art: The Art of Caring

The Art of Caring is an exhibit of images by survivors of domestic and sexual violence presented at the Delavan Art Gallery located at 501 West Fayette Street from Dec. 1-24. On Saturday, Dec. 10 from noon-1 pm, the gallery will host an artist in attendance forum with art therapist Meredith Snow.

Questions? Contact:

Crystal LaPoint, 425.0818, clapoint@verahouse.org

13. Town Hall Meeting: Securing Legislation to Protect Transgender New Yorkers

Come to a town hall meeting at the First Unitarian Universalist Society Church (250 Waring Road) on Monday, Dec. 12 from 6:30-8:30pm. The session will focus on securing legislation to protect transgender New Yorkers. Coordinated by the New York State GENDA Coalition and the Rainbow Alliance of Central New York, participants will:

- Learn effective community outreach strategies,
- Learn how to lobby your local and state legislators,
- Discuss why legislation to protect transgender and gender variant New Yorkers is good for everyone.

This is the second in a series of meetings around the state advocating for transgender inclusive laws, including GENDA, the "Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act" (A. 7438/ S. 4794), which is currently pending in the New York State Legislature.

Refreshments and soft drinks will be served. Please RSVP to the Syracuse University LGBT Resource Center.

Questions? Contact:

LGBT Resource Center, 443.3983, lgbt@syr.edu

NATIONAL NEWS

14. Transgender Identity Development Study

Your help is needed for the first national study of the wide range of transgender identities (including transsexuals, cross-dressers, genderqueers, and other gender-diverse people). To complete the survey, to go: <https://web.survey.psu.edu/transgender>.

The survey is anonymous. No personal identifying information is asked, and all responses are submitted to a secure server where any computer identification is deleted from the submissions.

The research is being conducted by Dr. Sue Rankin of Penn State University and Dr. Brett Genny Beemyn of Ohio State University, and has been approved by the Institutional Review Boards of both colleges.

Questions? Contact:

Dr. Brett Genny Beemyn, beemyn.1@osu.edu, osuglbt (AIM)

15. Gay couple wins S. Africa ruling

(CNN) – South Africa's Constitutional Court has ruled the country's marriage laws unfairly discriminate against same-sex unions.

In the 9-1 ruling issued Thursday, Dec. 1, the court – the country's highest – referred the issue to South Africa's parliament, giving lawmakers one year to amend the country's marriage act.

Marie Fourie and Cecelia Bonthuys of Pretoria were plaintiffs in the first of two cases on the issue, which were merged.

Fourie and Bonthuys claimed "the law excludes them from publicly celebrating their love and commitment to each other in marriage," said a court statement.

"They contend that the exclusion comes from the common law definition, which states that marriage in South Africa is a union of one man and one woman, to the exclusion, while it lasts, of all others."

The second case before the court referred to the Gay and Lesbian Equality Project's challenge to the country's marriage act.

The challenged section says marriage officers must ask of the parties whether they take their partner as their lawful wife or husband. That reference, the Equality Project contends, is unconstitutional because it excludes same-sex couples, the statement said.

Possible solutions, the court suggested, include following the Equality Project's proposal and have the Marriage Act say that marriage officers would ask parties if they would take their partner as their lawful wife, husband or spouse.

The organization, along with 18 other gay-rights groups in South Africa, filed the suit against the Minister of Home Affairs.

"We have been waiting 300 years, what's another year?" said Davie Nell, of the group OUT-LGBT Well Being, one of the plaintiffs.

"The matter touched on deep public and private sensibilities," the Court statement said. "Parliament was well-suited to finding the best ways of ensuring that same-sex couples are brought in from the legal cold."

A conservative group of medical doctors called Doctors for Life International condemned the ruling. It had submitted a brief to the court against the same-sex marriage position. The group said in a statement it "implores Parliament to allow empirical science to lead it in this decision for the benefit of all South Africans.

South Africa's post-apartheid constitution bans discrimination against gays and lesbians. The constitutional protection is a rarity on a continent where homosexuality is largely a taboo topic.

Anti-gay sentiment, however, is becoming increasingly popular in Africa, especially in more conservative religious groups. Henry Orambi, Archbishop of the Anglican Church

of Uganda, recently told worshippers that society has "walked down the slippery road of immorality."

"As if woman-to-man is not enough, we have gone man-to-man and woman-to-woman," he said. "Now where are we going to end up?"

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TO SUBMIT A NEWS OR CALENDAR ITEM

Send articles, messages, or links to the *Weekly Announcements* editor at jmtifone@syr.edu. Please include in the subject line "Weekly Announcement." All submissions must be received by Friday at 11 am to be included in the following week's edition and are subject to review by our editor.

CORRECTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS

The LGBT Resource Center strives to report all news items fairly and accurately. If you find an error, please write to the *Weekly Announcements* editor at jmtifone@syr.edu and we'll correct any inaccuracies.

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