

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS :: SEPT. 18 – 24, 2005

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LGBT RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

1. Planet Orange Meeting

Join Adrea Jaehnig and Amit Taneja for Planet Orange as they host a talk on coming out issues. The group meets on Monday, Sept. 19 from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the LGBT Resource Center.

LGBT CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS

2. OUTRAGE Meeting

OUTRAGE, a political action group advocating for LGBT equality and gender expression rights, holds its first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 7 pm in Hall of Languages 500.

Questions? Contact:

Brian Stout, outragesyracuse@yahoo.com

3. Open Doors Meeting

On Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 7:30 pm, Open Doors will hold a social meeting at the Inn Complete on South Campus. For directions, see <http://students.syr.edu/inncomplete>. If you need a ride, please email John David Molesky so that arrangements can be made.

Questions? Contact:

John David Molesky, jdmolesk@syr.edu

4. Pride Union Meeting

Pride Union holds a social meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 21 at 9 pm at the LGBT Resource Center. All SU/SUNY-ESF undergraduate students are welcome.

Questions? Contact:

Jennifer Spinner, spinout39@aol.com

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY NEWS

5. Teach for America

Teach For America (TFA) (www.teachforamerica.org) will be on campus on Oct. 5 and 6 to recruit the next generation of education leaders. Attend a one-on-one session by scheduling an appointment with Brian Chu (01) and learn how you can:

- Use your leadership skills to make an immediate impact on children growing up in low-income communities,
- Gain the insight to effect meaningful long-term change, and
- Position yourself for success in any field.

TFA is seeking all majors and no previous education experience or coursework is necessary. Benefits include full first-year teacher salary and benefits, financial aid, plus a \$9,450 AmeriCorps education award (if eligible), as well as student loan forbearance and interest payments for two years.

Chu will also be at the Fall Career Fair at the Carrier Dome on Oct. 6 from 1:30 pm – 6 pm. There are also a few Teach For America events that students are encouraged to attend, including:

October 10 at 7 pm -- Drop In Dinner (Location TBA)

October 18 at 7 pm -- Information Session (Hendricks Chapel, Noble Room)

October 24 at 7 pm -- Teach For America Alumni Panel (Hall of Languages 500)

Anyone interested in these events should contact Edna Novak at Edna.Novak@teachforamerica.org or call 800-832-1230 ext. 257.

Questions? Contact:

Brian Chu (01), bmchu1@hotmail.com

6. Light the Night Walk

Gather a team of your family, friends, co-workers, and others from Syracuse University for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Light the Night Walk on Thursday, Sept. 29. Show your Orange pride by creating a new team or joining the SU team!

Light the Night is a fund-raising walk to benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Each participant raises funds used to support research to fight these blood cancers. At the walk, each participant carries an illuminated balloon -- red for friends, family, and supporters and white for cancer patients and survivors. The walk is non-competitive

and less than two miles. A \$5 registration fee includes a SU Light the Night T-shirt and button, transportation, and pizza following the walk.

More information, including a "SU Light the Night In Memoriam Page" is available at: <http://orientation.syr.edu/lightthenight>. Feel free to submit a picture and message for someone you would like the team to remember.

Additionally, the Syracuse University Bookstore will host a Silent Auction until Wednesday, Sept. 28 to raise money for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. If you would like to donate an item, please contact Ronna Schindler at rjschind@syr.edu or go to the SU Bookstore and donate an item or bid on any of the following items:

1. Autographed SU Men's Basketball Team basketball by Jim Boeheim
2. 19" Dell Flat Panel Monitor
3. iPod Shuffle
4. Big East Championship T-shirt and cap autographed by Hakim Warrick
5. \$100 Bookstore Gift Card
6. Passes for 4 rounds of golf and the rental of 2 golf carts at Drumlins Country Club

Questions? Contact:

Mariana Lebron, mjleborn@syr.edu, 443-1012

7. Whitewater Rafting on the Black River

Syracuse University Recreation Services offers you the trip of a lifetime! Come whitewater rafting and come home with stories you'll be telling for years!

When:

Saturday, Sept. 24

Sunday, Sept. 25 (the *Weekly Announcements* editor will be a chaperone on this trip!)

Deadline:

Wednesday, Sept. 21

Price:

\$25 (SU undergraduate students)

\$64 (All other ID card holders)

Space:

Limited to the first 80 people who sign up per trip date

Time:

Bus leaves SU's College Place promptly at 9:00 a.m. and returns around 6:30 p.m.

What's Included?

Round trip transportation from SU's College Place (near the bus stop) to Watertown, all rafting equipment, safety equipment (helmet and flotation Device), training, wet suits if

needed, guided trips (one guide in every boat), three to four hours on the water (depending on water level), rest stop on the water with snacks and drinks, and a barbecue after the trip.

What to Bring:

- Your SU ID card
- A positive, fun attitude (You will paddle and get wet)
- A willingness to listen to your guide
- A change of clothes (including shoes) for after the river trip
- A windbreaker or fleece for the river
- Water booties, Texas, aqua socks or an old pair of sneakers
- Any medication you would normally take throughout the day (e.g. Asthma Inhaler)
- Money (if you would like to buy pictures of your trip or tip your River Guide)

What to leave home:

- Anything you don't want to lose (jewelry, cell phone, etc.)
- Anything cotton

To Sign Up:

Come to 241 Archbold or call Recreation Services at 443-4386 (4FUN) for more info.

Questions? Contact:

Scott Catucci, sacatucc@syr.edu, 443-4386

8. Inclusion Techniques: Making Academic Spaces Engaging for LGBTQA Students

The goal of this workshop, which is open to all faculty members on Wednesday, Oct. 5 from 10 am – 11:30 am, is to help attendees make their classrooms inviting and comfortable for LGBTQA students.

The session begins with a self-assessment of attendees' own attitudes and behavior toward LGBTQA persons. After the self-assessment, important terminology will be defined, followed by examples, based on student anecdotes, of interactions, behaviors, and practices that make the classroom climate uncomfortable for LGBTQA students. Techniques for mitigating these effects will be discussed, and a student panel will offer insights from an LGBT perspective.

Participants will discuss techniques that allow them to teach "inclusively" and share ideas about how to foster an environment rich in learning potential for all students.

Questions? Contact:

Bron Adam, rsvp@syr.edu, 443-5413

REGIONAL NEWS

9. Lecture: Big Macs and Baguettes

Planned Parenthood is proud to bring Barbara Huberman to the Everson Museum of Art on Tuesday, Sept. 20 to present a lecture entitled "Big Macs and Baguettes: What Americans and Europeans Think About Sex." A reception at 5 pm will precede the event, which begins at 6 pm.

Huberman's presentation will focus on comparing the cultural differences between Americans and Europeans in their attitudes toward sexuality. Tickets are free for students and \$25 for the general public.

10. ImageOut: Rochester's Lesbian & Gay Film and Video Festival

This year's Rochester's Lesbian & Gay Film and Video Festival will run from Oct. 7 - 16.

This year will again feature the "Youth Project Film Series," with certain films selected specifically for their appeal to LGBT youth and their friends and supporters. The Festival's organizers will offer free tickets to anyone under the age of 21. These films are usually screened in the early evening (5:30 pm) and there are often opportunities for discussion and interaction afterwards.

This year, Festival organizers are also hosting a pre-Festival youth event at the GAGV Youth Center located on 875 East Main Street. This event will take place on Sunday, Sept. 25 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Several film shorts will be shown, food and prizes will be offered, and tickets will be available for the Festival's youth films.

Any requests for free tickets should be made by October 5.

Questions? Contact:

ImageOut Office, lotickets@rochester.rr.com, 585-271-2640

NATIONAL NEWS

11. Vatican to Check U.S. Seminaries on Gay Presence

(From NYT) Investigators appointed by the Vatican have been instructed to review each of the 229 Roman Catholic seminaries in the United States for "evidence of homosexuality" and for faculty members who dissent from church teaching, according to a document prepared to guide the process.

The Vatican document, given to The New York Times yesterday by a priest, surfaces as Catholics await a Vatican ruling on whether homosexuals should be barred from the priesthood.

In a possible indication of the ruling's contents, the American archbishop who is supervising the seminary review said last week that "anyone who has engaged in

homosexual activity or has strong homosexual inclinations," should not be admitted to a seminary.

Edwin O'Brien, archbishop for the United States military, told The National Catholic Register that the restriction should apply even to those who have not been sexually active for a decade or more.

American seminaries are under Vatican review as a result of the sexual abuse scandal that swept the priesthood in 2002. Church officials in the United States and Rome agreed that they wanted to take a closer look at how seminary candidates were screened for admission, and whether they were being prepared for lives of chastity and celibacy.

The issue of gay seminarians and priests has been in the spotlight because a study commissioned by the church found last year that about 80 percent of the young people victimized by priests were boys.

Experts in human sexuality have cautioned that homosexuality and attraction to children are different, and that a disproportionate percentage of boys may have been abused because priests were more likely to have access to male targets - like altar boys or junior seminarians - than to girls.

But some church officials in the United States and in Rome, including some bishops and many conservatives, attributed the abuse to gay priests and called for an overhaul of the seminaries. Expectation for such a move rose this year with the election of Pope Benedict XVI, who has spoken of the need to "purify" the church.

It is unknown how many Catholic priests are gay. Estimates range widely, from 10 percent to 60 percent.

The catechism of the Catholic Church says people with "deep-seated" homosexual tendencies must live in chastity because "homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered."

The Rev. Donald B. Cozzens, a former seminary rector who set off a controversy five years ago when he published a book asserting that "the priesthood is or is becoming a gay profession," said in an interview yesterday that many in the church had come to accept his observation.

But he said he was concerned that the seminary review would lead the church to ask celibate faculty members and seminarians to withdraw.

"That would be a major mistake from my perspective," said Father Cozzens, who teaches in the religious studies department at John Carroll University in Cleveland. "First, I think it's unfair if not unjust for committed gay seminarians and faculty who are leading chaste lives. And secondly, I don't know how you can really enforce that."

The Rev. Thomas J. Reese, a sociologist who resigned in May as editor of the Jesuit magazine *America* under pressure from the Vatican, said that with the shortage of priests, the church can hardly afford to dismiss gay seminarians.

"You could have somebody who's been in the seminary for five or six years and is planning to be ordained and the rector knows they're a homosexual," said Father Reese, now a visiting scholar at Santa Clara University in California. "What are they going to do, throw them out?"

"It's much healthier if a seminarian can talk about their sexuality with a spiritual director, but this kind of policy is going to force it all underground."

Archbishop O'Brien, who is supervising the seminary review, did not respond to requests for interviews made to his office in Washington. In an interview with *The Associated Press*, he said the Vatican document was being reviewed by the pope and could be released this year.

The seminary review, called an apostolic visitation, will send teams appointed by the Vatican to the 229 seminaries, which have more than 4,500 students. The last such review began about 25 years ago and took six years to complete.

At each seminary, the visitors are to conduct confidential interviews with every faculty member and seminarian, as well as everyone who graduated in the last three years.

A 12-page document with instructions for the review is now being distributed to seminarians and faculty members. It asks whether the doctrine on the priesthood presented by the seminary is "solidly based on the church's Magisterium," or teaching, and whether teachers and seminarians "accept this teaching." Among the other questions are these:

- "Is there a clear process for removing from the seminary faculty members who dissent from the authoritative teaching of the church or whose conduct does not provide good example to future priests?"
- "Is the seminary free from the influences of New Age and eclectic spirituality?"
- "Do the seminarians or faculty members have concerns about the moral life of those living in the institution? (This question must be answered)."
- "Is there evidence of homosexuality in the seminary? (This question must be answered)."

The questionnaire also asks whether faculty members "watch out for signs of particular friendships."

The Rev. Thomas Baima, provost of the largest seminary in the United States, St. Mary of the Lake, in Chicago, where the Vatican is sending nine interviewers, said such questions were no surprise.

"The reason we're having an apostolic visitation now is precisely in the aftermath of the clerical sexual-abuse scandal," Father Baima said. "Issues about screening our candidates, about formation for celibacy, about how we teach moral theology are going to get more attention than how we teach church history."

But one gay priest, who said he would not give his name because he has been told by his order not to speak out, said the seminary review would demoralize gay priests.

"It says to gay priests, many of whom are hard-working, faithful men who live their promises of celibacy with integrity, that you should never have been ordained," he said.

12. Federal Hate Crime Law

On Wednesday, Sept. 14 a majority of members of the United States House of Representatives voted by a vote of 223-199, including 30 Republicans, to pass a federal hate crime law that would include all lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. The provisions of HR2662, the first ever piece of major trans-inclusive legislation was attached as an amendment to the Child Safety Act.

According to NCTE Executive Director, Mara Keisling, "At least one chamber of Congress has finally made a statement that it not acceptable to hurt or kill transgender people because of who we are. This is a pivotal vote for transgender people who have been working diligently for years to educate Congress about transgender people and our lives."

Passage of the underlying bill (HR3132) The Child Safety Act is expected momentarily.

13. Jury Returns Two Murder Convictions in Araujo Case

A California jury on Monday answered a prosecutor's call for accountability in the death of Gwen Araujo and handed down murder convictions for Michael Magidson and Jose Merel. The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC) called the verdicts a sign of progress in the gender-rights movement.

"We're very happy with the two murder verdicts and are hopeful that the third verdict will come swiftly. Compared to too many other transgender murder cases, this jury clearly stated that Gwen's life was just as valued as any other human being's," said Julie Dorf, founder of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. "They delivered murder verdicts as opposed to manslaughter or any other lesser verdict. I believe that other district attorneys around the country will take notice of this case."

After three months of testimony, the four-woman, eight-man jury took seven days of deliberations to find Michael Magidson and Jose Merel guilty of second degree murder in the October 2002 death of Gwen Araujo. They face mandatory sentences of 15

years to life. The third defendant, Jason Cazares, was free to go on \$1 million bail after jurors deadlocked on his conviction. Prosecutors have not yet indicated if they will retry him.

Seventeen-year-old Gwen Araujo was beaten, bound, and strangled by a group of four men who learned that she was biologically male. The Latina American was later dumped into a shallow grave.

"These verdicts are definitely a sign of progress and we welcome them. But the fact that the jury did not see this for the hate crime it obviously was, plus the release of one of her murderers, means we still have a lot of work ahead of us," said Riki Wilchins, Executive Director of GenderPAC. "The public must realize the price many American pay for not meeting traditional masculine and feminine standards. Until they do so, teenagers like Gwen, especially those of color, will continue to be at risk."

According to GenderPAC, at least nine teens of color have been murdered since 2001 in attacks based on their gender expression or identity, including Native American Fred Martinez (17), and African Americans Brandie Coleman (18), Ukea Davis (18), Nireah Johnson (17), Stephanie Thomas (19), Nikki Nicholson (19), Sakia Gunn (15), and James Richardson (17).

"A retrial of Cazares and strong sentencing of Merel and Magidson are necessary next steps in further establishing the seriousness of this crime," said Wilchins.

CORRECTIONS

14. Resource Center on AIM

The LGBT Resource Center's AOL Instant Messenger screen name was incorrectly reported in last week's issue of *Weekly Announcements*. It is **sulgbtcenter**. The editor regrets this mistake.

During business hours (8:30 am – 5:00 pm), a staff member is reachable to answer questions and provide information at the above screen name. Be sure to add sulgbtcenter to your buddy list and check the profile daily, as there are always new events added.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Sept. 19

Planet Orange

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

LGBT Resource Center

Join Adrea Jaehnig and Amit Taneja as they host a discussion on coming out issues.

Tuesday, Sept. 20

OUTRAGE

7:00 pm

Hall of Languages 500

Undergraduate and graduate students are welcome to this inaugural meeting.

Wednesday, Sept. 21

Open Doors

7:30 pm

Inn Complete, South Campus

Meet fellow graduate students for a social event at the graduate student inn.

Pride Union

9:00 pm

LGBT Resource Center

Meet with fellow undergraduate students for this week's social meeting.

Thursday, Sept. 15

Café Q

7:00 - 10:00 pm

LGBT Resource Center

Come to Café Q for the usual assortment of great coffee, friends, and quirky prizes.

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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 *Weekly Announcements* editor at jmtifone@syr.edu and we'll correct any inaccuracies.

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