

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS :: MARCH 12-18, 2006

EDITOR'S NOTE

All Weekly Announcements' submissions for the week March 19-25 should be sent to Adrea Jaehnig at aljaehni@syr.edu.

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LGBT RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

1. **Save the Date: Rainbow Banquet**

The Fourth Annual Rainbow Banquet returns to the Sheraton Syracuse University Hotel Regency Ballroom on Thursday, April 20 at 5:30 pm.

We cordially invite you to be a part of this magical evening, featuring recognition of our 2006 graduates; presentation of the Foundation Awards for Outstanding Service to the LGBT Community; the Queer Year in Review Slide Show; food, friends, and fun!

Kate Bornstein, a celebrated pioneer for the LGBTQI community, transsexual author and performance artist, will be the keynote speaker. Bornstein offers a pivotal critique of the gender binary that has become a staple in the study of Gender and Sexuality. Tenderly intimate and unapologetically edgy, she is a radical role model, affectionate best friend, and guiding mentor all in one kind and spirited package. Pride Union and the LGBT Resource Center received a UEncounter Grant from the Division of Student Affairs to bring Kate Bornstein to campus. More on Kate may be found at http://www.tootallblondes.com/KatePages/kate_bornstein.htm.

Individual tickets for the Rainbow Banquet will cost \$30. We invite departments to purchase a table for \$300 or a half-table for \$150. Full tables seat 10. A formal invitation will arrive after Spring Break. Departments are encouraged to donate a table, or seats from the table, to allow students and community members to attend at no cost or reduced rate. If you are interested in donating seats at your table to students or

community members, please specify when returning the reply card. We will fill all donated seats.

We hope that you will join us at this special evening of community and celebration. Please look for the forthcoming invitation. We hope to see you at the 2006 Rainbow Banquet!

Questions? Contact:

The LGBT Resource Center, 443.3983, lgbt@syr.edu

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY NEWS

2. Greg Walloch Comedy Show

Come out for the hilarious stand-up routine of comedian Greg Walloch on Wednesday, March 29 at 8 pm in Shemin Auditorium (Shaffer Art Building).

Greg is a nationally renowned comedian and an accomplished speaker and activist around LGBT and disability issues. His comedy performance will further our understanding of the intersection of identities, and explore through humor what society assumes is normal, desired, and acceptable.

Greg co-produced and starred in the film "F*** the Disabled" with SU alum Jerry Stiller, and wrote his acclaimed one man show "White Disabled Talent." Greg is also a commissioned playwright, with writings featured in the books "Queer Crips" and "Disability and Contemporary Performance: Bodies on Edge."

A sign language interpreter and C.A.R.T. service will be available during his performance. Shemin Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. This event is free and open to the public, though tickets from the Schine Box Office are required. Paid parking is available in the Comstock Lot (http://parking.syr.edu/parking/display.cfm?content_ID=%23%29%29%2F%29%0A).

For those with a handicap tag or permit, free parking is available in the Q4 lot (http://parking.syr.edu/parking/display.cfm?content_ID=%23%29%29%27%29%0A).

For a campus map, please see: <http://parking.syr.edu/Parking/uploads/NorthMap2005.pdf>.

This program is cosponsored by:

- The Division of Student Affairs' Diversity Programming Grant,
- LGBT Resource Center;
- Team Against Bias;
- UU Comedy;
- Office of Greek Life and Experiential Learning;
- Office of Disability Services;
- Center on Human Policy, Law, and Disability Studies;
- Beyond Compliance Coordinating Committee;
- Residence Hall Association;
- Pride Union;
- School of Social Work;
- Zamboni Revolution;

- Penguins Without Pants;
- disAbility Law Society;
- Outrage;
- OutLaw; and
- Open Doors.

Questions? Contact:

Jay Tifone, 443.1529, jmtifone@syr.edu

3. Otto Joins SU's "Race for the Cure" Team

Syracuse University students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and family members are invited to join Otto in supporting the University's 2006 Susan G. Komen CNY Race for the Cure team. This year's race to fight breast cancer will be held on May 13 at the New York State Fairgrounds. The SU team will be led by Otto, who is featured on the SU Team Shirt. The shirt, which was designed by Emily Davenport, a senior in SU's College of Visual and Performing Arts, will be available for sale in the SU Bookstore beginning in March.

Proceeds from the race and the sale of the SU Team Shirt will benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation CNY Affiliate, which has awarded more than \$1.8 million dollars to non-profit, breast health-care organizations in Central New York. Proceeds also support the national Komen Foundation Award and Research Grant program, which funds groundbreaking breast cancer research, meritorious awards, and scientific and educational conferences around the world.

There are lots of ways to join the fun and help support breast cancer research, education, and outreach activities:

- Join the SU team and run or walk the race. Those who join the SU team by March 19 will be automatically registered in a drawing for a pair of tickets to the Billy Joel concert, March 25 at the Carrier Dome. Joining the team can be done on the Web at <http://suraceforthecure.syr.edu>.
- Donate to Otto or to another SU Race for the Cure team member. Those donating \$10 to Otto will be registered in a drawing for a basketball autographed by the SU men's basketball team. Contributions can be made on the Web at <http://suraceforthecure.syr.edu>.
- Sleep for the Cure. A Sleep-In For the Cure participant is a person who supports the cause, but is unable to participate the day of the event. Participants will receive a sleep shirt in the mail. Information is available on the Web at <http://komencny.org/komen/race06sleepin.htm>. You can join the SU team as a Sleep for the Cure participant.

In addition, SU students and staff, and volunteers from the CNY Komen Foundation will be at a table in the Schine Student Center Atrium from 10 am-4 pm on Thursday, March 9 to provide information about the Race for the Cure and to collect used cell phones and PDAs for recycling. Proceeds from the recycled equipment will benefit the Komen Foundation.

4. Applications Available: University Judicial Board

The University Judicial Board/Peer Education Team would like to extend an offer to apply for a position as a member of the University Judicial Board/Peer Education Team for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Applications are available in 310 Steele Hall, or by contacting Patrick McPeak at plmcpeak@syr.edu. Completed applications should be returned to 310 Steel Hall by Friday, March 24.

Questions? Contact:

Patrick McPeak, plmcpeak@syr.edu

REGIONAL NEWS

5. Pride Agenda Marriage Equality Training in Syracuse

Pride Agenda offers a great way to get involved in the fight for marriage equality in New York State by attending upcoming "Marriage Ambassador" trainings.

The trainings are a collaborative effort of Empire State Pride Agenda, ACLU, Lambda Legal, GLAAD and Syracuse University student organizations OutLaw, Outrage, and Pride Union. The trainings consist of a comprehensive, up to the minute legal and political update, media training and skills building workshops.

They are designed to build community and keep the conversation around marriage equality going. As early as this summer the Court could hand down a ruling and we need to be prepared to swing into action. We are looking for people who are interested in making a difference right in their own community by meeting with their elected officials, writing letters to the editor of their local paper, throwing house parties, talking to church and community groups, or who will simply rally when the time comes. There are many ways you can help win marriage in New York State and attending a training is the first step.

The sessions are:

Friday, April 7 from 5:30-8:30 pm at the Genesee Grande Hotel

Saturday, April 8 from 9am-5:30 pm at Syracuse University

These trainings are for:

- Straight Allies
- Community Members
- Parents and Family Members
- Friends
- LGBTQ People
- Students, Faculty, or Staff
- Anyone who wants to make a difference

Please attend both sessions. Hotel information is available upon request. Conference organizers will supply snacks and refreshments on Friday evening and a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday. A packet of materials will also be provided.

The trainings are free of charge but you must register in advance.

To register please contact Elisabeth Bullard at 212.627.0305 ext.105 or at ebullard@prideagenda.org.

6. Contributors Needed: Women's Conference

Students and faculty members at SUNY Cortland are sponsoring a women's issues conference on Saturday, April 8, 2006. Prof. Elizabeth Fraser, one of the conference organizers, is looking for help from SU/SUNY-ESF students, staff, and faculty interested in brainstorming, organizing, or presenting a workshop on the experiences of women who are classified as butch or androgynous. The purpose of this workshop is to raise awareness of these women's issues.

Questions? Contact:

Elizabeth Fraser, 607.753.2992, frasere@cortland.edu

7. Group for Lesbian Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Assault

The Vera House is offering a FREE group for lesbian survivors of sexual abuse and assault. Meetings will begin in March 2006 at a confidential location. Call for date, time, location, and to learn more about the group.

Questions? Contact:

Amber Hager, 425-0818 x110

Crystal Collette, 425-0818 x235

8. Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Chorus Rehearsals

The Syracuse Gay and Lesbian Chorus began rehearsals on Monday, Feb. 27 for the upcoming Pride Concert in June. Rehearsals are held each Monday at Plymouth Congregational Church (232 Onondaga Street).

From Monday, Feb. 27-March 20, rehearsals will be held from 7-8:15 pm and then from April 3-the month of May rehearsals will be held from 7-9:15 pm. New members are welcome on Monday, Feb. 27, March 6 and March 13. Membership is \$40/season with scholarships readily available.

Questions? Contact:

The Chorus Line, 476.4329

NATIONAL NEWS

9. Scholarship for LGBT Health Professions Students Announced

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health, Education and Research Trust, Inc. (LGBT HEART) is pleased to announce that it has begun accepting applications for the 2006 LGBT HEART Scholarship Fund for the Graduate Health Professions. This dedicated scholarship, now in its second year, is for LGBT-identified students in the graduate-level health professions.

The LGBT HEART Scholarship Fund for the Graduate Health Professions provides supplemental funding for students who have a demonstrated ability in and commitment

to affecting change in the LGBT communities through their commitment to working and being educated in the health professions. The program is supported through funds raised by LGBT HEART.

Two students - committed to affecting change in the LGBT community through their education and work in the health professions - will be selected for the scholarships (\$2,000 minimum each), and shall be known as LGBT HEART Scholars. The scholarships are for the academic year beginning September 2006.

This will be the second class of LGBT HEART Scholars, having selected Julie Anne Baker and Brian Hurley as its inaugural recipients in 2005.

"The core of our mission is to advance the health of the LGBT community, and we see no greater way to honor our mission than through that of our future LGBT HEART Scholars," said Manuel Hernandez, MD, President, LGBT HEART.

The 2006 scholarships are open to all LGBT-identified students enrolled in a graduate degree seeking program in the health professions at an accredited college or university in the United States. Students who apply must be US citizens, demonstrate satisfactory academic progress and financial need, and have exhibited leadership traits and have performed community service in the LGBT community.

For application and additional information about the LGBT HEART Scholarship Program for the Graduate Health Professions, visit www.lgbtheart.org.

Send completed applications by June 2, 2006 to:

LGBT HEART, Inc.
LGBT HEART Scholarship Program for the Graduate Health Professions
51 N. 3rd Street, Ste. 331
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Questions? Contact:
scholarships@lgbtheart.org

10. She's the Homecoming King

(AP) Frederick, Maryland – Hood College is reviewing its homecoming rules after a woman was crowned king, a college official said.

Jennifer Jones, the 21-year-old senior who beat out three men for the honor, said the crowning was a positive step for the private liberal arts college.

"It is cool that Hood allows people to be themselves," Jones told The Frederick News-Post. "If people didn't want me to be king, they wouldn't have nominated me and voted for me."

Jones, of Newark, Delaware, received 64 of 169 votes cast for king last month.

More than two weeks after Jones was crowned, criticism and praise were still rippling through the 2,100-student campus in western Maryland.

"She is not a man," said Singleton Newman, a 22-year-old senior who was nominated for queen. "It is a gender issue, and she is a woman."

Santo Provenzano, 21, who competed for king, said Jones' selection made the event seem like a joke. "It discourages guys from wanting to take part in the future," he said.

Donald Miller, Hood's student activities director, said all homecoming events will be reviewed and possibly changed. "We will look at what students want Hood's homecoming to be," he said.

It was only the second annual homecoming for the school. Men started attending Hood in 1971 but the school didn't become fully coeducational until 2003 when men were permitted to live on campus for the first time.

Jones tried to run for homecoming prince last year, but a student committee wouldn't let her on the ballot even though she had gathered the required number of signatures on nominating petitions.

Miller said a rule change this year abolished the petitions and required that candidates be nominated by student ballots.

11. Editorial: Now Repeal the Ban

(Washington Post) The Supreme Court's unanimous decision yesterday upholding the Solomon Amendment is no surprise. It offers the correct answer to the legal question the case posed: Can the government deny federal money to universities that, in protest of the military's discrimination against homosexual service members, bar military recruiters from campus or grant them access on terms less welcoming than those given to other employers? As the court ruled, the universities don't have a right to that money. But the Pentagon's legal win should not obscure the indefensible nature of the policy that underlies the dispute. The gay ban still needs to be repealed.

The Solomon Amendment, named for the late representative Gerald B.H. Solomon (R-N.Y.), is bad policy, but it's not unconstitutional. The threat to withhold federal money leaves law schools with an uncomfortable choice between forsaking federal support and violating their own anti-discrimination policies. But the First Amendment does not prohibit the government from attaching conditions to its largess. Universities remain free to oppose U.S. policy as vocally as they like. They just can't frustrate military recruiting efforts while accepting federal dollars. As Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. put it for the court, "Compelling a law school that sends e-mails for other recruiters to send one for a military recruiter is simply not the same as forcing a student to pledge allegiance to the flag . . . or forcing a Jehovah's Witness to display a particular motto on his license plate" -- forms of compelled speech the court has struck down. It "trivializes the freedom protected in [those cases] to suggest that it is."

It also trivializes the plight of gays in the military to focus on the ancillary consequences of the gay ban for American law schools. Universities are not the primary victim here. The real problem, which this litigation has tended to obscure, is that the military, even while fighting two wars, continues to root out Americans who wish to help by maintaining a policy that bars anyone who is openly gay. It robs itself of much-needed

talent by way of their humiliation and exposure while forcing those in uniform to hide who they are.

This would be distasteful even if their presence in the military posed some real problem. But there's no evidence of that. A combination of bigotry and inertia keeps the gay ban in place. Now that the military has proved it can constitutionally exempt itself from university nondiscrimination rules, Congress should decide whether it really wants a military that requires such an exemption.

12. Opinion: "Brokeback Mountain"

Sometimes you win by losing, and nothing has proved what a powerful, taboo-breaking, necessary film "Brokeback Mountain" was more than its loss Sunday night to "Crash" in the Oscar best picture category.

Despite all the magazine covers it graced, despite all the red-state theaters it made good money in, despite (or maybe because of) all the jokes late-night talk show hosts made about it, you could not take the pulse of the industry without realizing that this film made a number of people distinctly uncomfortable.

More than any other of the nominated films, "Brokeback Mountain" was the one people told me they really didn't feel like seeing, didn't really get, didn't understand the fuss over. Did I really like it, they wanted to know. Yes, I really did.

In the privacy of the voting booth, as many political candidates who've led in polls only to lose elections have found out, people are free to act out the unspoken fears and unconscious prejudices that they would never breathe to another soul, or, likely, acknowledge to themselves. And at least this year, that acting out doomed "Brokeback Mountain."

For Hollywood, as a whole laundry list of people announced from the podium Sunday night and a lengthy montage of clips tried to emphasize, is a liberal place, a place that prides itself on its progressive agenda. If this were a year when voters had no other palatable options, they might have taken a deep breath and voted for "Brokeback." This year, however, "Crash" was poised to be the spoiler.

I do not for one minute question the sincerity and integrity of the people who made "Crash," and I do not question their commitment to wanting a more equal society. But I do question the film they've made. It may be true, as producer Cathy Schulman said in accepting the Oscar for best picture, that this was "one of the most breathtaking and stunning maverick years in American history," but "Crash" is not an example of that.

I don't care how much trouble "Crash" had getting financing or getting people on board; the reality of this film, the reason it won the best picture Oscar, is that it is, at its core, a standard Hollywood movie, as manipulative and unrealistic as the day is long. And something more.

For "Crash's" biggest asset is its ability to give people a carload of those standard Hollywood satisfactions, but make them think they are seeing something groundbreaking and daring. It is, in some ways, a feel-good film about racism, a film you could see and feel like a better person, a film that could make you believe that you had

done your moral duty and examined your soul, when in fact you were just getting your buttons pushed and your preconceptions reconfirmed.

So for people who were discomfited by “Brokeback Mountain” but wanted to be able to look at themselves in the mirror and feel as if they were good, productive liberals, “Crash” provided the perfect safe harbor. They could vote for it in good conscience, vote for it and feel they had made a progressive move, vote for it and not feel that there was any stain on their liberal credentials for shunning what “Brokeback” had to offer. And that’s exactly what they did.

“Brokeback,” it is worth noting, was in some ways the tamest of the discomforting films available to Oscar voters in various categories. Steven Spielberg’s “Munich”; the Palestinian territories’ “Paradise Now,” one of the best foreign language nominees; and the documentary nominee “Darwin’s Nightmare” offered scenarios that truly shook up people’s normal ways of seeing the world. None of them won a thing.

Hollywood, of course, is under no obligation to be a progressive force in the world. It is in the business of entertainment, in the business of making the most dollars it can. Yes, on Oscar night it likes to pat itself on the back for the good it does in the world, but as Sunday night’s ceremony proved, it is easier to congratulate yourself for a job well done in the past than to actually do that job in the present.

13. Queer Jewish Student Conference 2006

The National Union of Jewish Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, and Questioning Students is proud to announce that the 9th Annual NUJLS Conference taking place at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut March 31-April 2.

NUJLS (pronounced NOO-jles) is a group of college students, alumni, and other young people from across North America and around the world who, since 1998, have held an annual conference on issues negotiated by Jewish LGBTIQQ communities. These conferences have been held across the continent as a forum for discussion and networking.

NUJLS welcomes all LGBTIQQ Jews and their allies to join us in a weekend of celebration and learning. This is a conference that has changed lives forever and has built countless life-long friendships. The conference registration fee is \$80, but scholarships are readily available. Additionally, NUJLS is pleased to offer travel subsidies to those in need and housing for all conference attendees.

Instant online conference registration is available at the website: www.nujlsonline.org.

Questions? Contact:

Daniel Heller, 800.50.NUJLS, conference@nujls2006.org

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TO SUBMIT A NEWS 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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