

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS :: MARCH 26-APRIL 1, 2006

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### LGBT RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

#### 1. 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](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](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](mailto:jmtifone@syr.edu)

## **2. Love, Life and Law: Topics on the Lives of LGBT People and the Law**

The LGBT Resource Center will sponsor "Love, Life, & Law: Topics on the Lives of LGBT People & the Law" on Tuesday, March 28 from 5:30-7:00 pm in 201 College of Law.

Charles M. Sprock, Jr, adjunct professor in the School of Law, and law students in his class "Planning for Nontraditional Families," will answer questions that have been posed by the members of the LGBT Community who seek to use the current law to protect themselves and their families.

Questions? Contact:

The LGBT Resource Center, 443.3983, [lgbt@syr.edu](mailto:lgbt@syr.edu)

## **3. Meeting: Fusion**

The next meeting for Fusion will be held on Thursday, March 30 from 6-8 pm at the LGBT Resource Center, and we will be enjoying some Indian food!

This event is free and open to LGBT students, faculty, and staff of color to gather and celebrate the diversity within the LGBT community. In order to assist the planners in ordering the right amount of food, please RSVP to Amit Taneja ([ataneja@syr.edu](mailto:ataneja@syr.edu)) by noon on Wednesday, March 29.

Come as you are, and feel free to tell a friend!

Questions? Contact:

Tanya Bowen, 443.4715, [tsbowen@syr.edu](mailto:tsbowen@syr.edu)

Amit Taneja, 443.3092, [ataneja@syr.edu](mailto:ataneja@syr.edu)

#### **4. 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](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](mailto:lgbt@syr.edu)

#### **5. Lecture: Helen Zia**

Helen Zia, award-winning journalist and scholar who has covered Asian American communities and social and political movements for decades, is coming to Syracuse University on Friday, April 7. Zia is the author of Asian American Dreams: The Emergence of an American People, a finalist for the prestigious Kiriya Pacific Rim Book Prize. A second generation Chinese American, Zia has been outspoken on issues ranging from civil rights and peace to women's rights and countering hate

violence and homophobia. More on Helen Zia may be found at: [www.speakoutnow.org/People/HelenZia.html](http://www.speakoutnow.org/People/HelenZia.html).

Zia will be the keynote speaker at the Syracuse University's Asian Pacific-Islander Heritage Month kick-off on Friday, April 7 at 4 pm in Schine 304.

Faculty, staff, students, and community members are invited to a luncheon with Zia to be held at the LGBT Resource Center on Friday, April 7 from 11:30 am-1 pm. RSVPs are strongly encouraged to [lgbt@syr.edu](mailto:lgbt@syr.edu) by Wednesday, April 5. Vegetarian options will be available. Please indicate when you RSVP if you have any dietary restrictions.

This program is sponsored by a Student Affairs & Academic Affairs Kaleidoscope Grant, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Kappa Phi Lambda, Delta Lambda Phi, and LGBT Resource Center.

Questions? Contact:

Adrea Jaehnig, 443.3983, [aljaehni@syr.edu](mailto:aljaehni@syr.edu)

## **6. Café Q**

Join your hosts Lauren and Jay for another fun night of Café Q on Thursday, March 30 at 8 pm. As always, expect great games, fun prizes, and the best blends of coffee this side of Ostrom Avenue.

Questions? Contact:

Lauren Adamski, 443.3983, [lbadamsk@syr.edu](mailto:lbadamsk@syr.edu)

Jay Tifone, 443.3983, [jmtifone@syr.edu](mailto:jmtifone@syr.edu)

## **7. Cancelled: Planet Orange**

There will be no Planet Orange meeting this week. Instead, please attend the Melissa Ferrick concert and Greg Walloch comedy performance.

Questions? Contact:

Adrea Jaehnig, 443.3983, [aljaehni@syr.edu](mailto:aljaehni@syr.edu)

Amit Taneja, 443.3983, [ataneja@syr.edu](mailto:ataneja@syr.edu)

## **LGBT CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS**

### **8. Meeting: Outrage**

Outrage meets Tuesday, March 28 at 9:15 pm at the LGBT Resource Center. They will be planning the Writing on the Wall Speakout/Discussion and finalizing plans for the empowering minds movement workshop on Friday. This will also be the last meeting before next year's budget is due, so come with ideas, suggestions, comments, etc.

Outrage is planning and will be presenting two fun and collaborative workshops to Syracuse City School students this Friday called "Labels are for Jars: Being an Ally to LGBT People in School and Society." Both workshops will be held in Schine on Friday from 12:30-3pm. Outrage needs your help to make these a success! Please email Brian at [brstout@syr.edu](mailto:brstout@syr.edu) if you or your organization can help with or participate in this great opportunity, but can't make Tuesday's meeting.

Questions? Contact:  
Brian Stout, [brstout@syr.edu](mailto:brstout@syr.edu)

### **9. Seventh Annual Reel Queer Film Festival**

Open Doors brings you four nights of queer cinema for free. This event is open to the public and all screenings will be held in Grant Auditorium in the College of Law. Free parking will be available on all dates at the University Place lot. Visit [reelqueer.com](http://reelqueer.com) for more information, full program and latest schedule of screenings.

The schedule of films is below:

Friday, March 31, 2006

7:00 pm

UNVEILED (2005)

Fariba, persecuted in Iran because of her love for another woman, assumes the identity of a man to gain temporary asylum in Germany. She takes an illegal factory job where fellow worker Anne takes an interest in the strange foreigner. As the two become close, Anne begins to suspect Fariba's true identity – and both women face danger when authorities tell Fariba she must return to Iran.

*German and Persian with English subtitles*

9:00 pm

GAY SEX IN THE 70s (2005)

GAY SEX IN THE 70s pays a steamy visit to the sexually charged period post-Stonewall, pre-AIDS (1969-1981) when gay men experienced an unprecedented sexual freedom. Hailed by critics and audiences alike, GAY SEX IN THE 70s director Joseph Lovett focuses his story on New York City between 1969 and 1981, using remarkable present-day interviews and stunning archival footage to take viewers back to days just after Stonewall. Lovett takes us back to the piers, the trucks, the Central Park rambles, the back rooms, and the baths. It was a time where repression and fear were replaced by a sexual explosion, where shame became joy.

Saturday, April 1, 2006

7:00 pm

FORMULA 17 (2004)

FORMULA 17, the runaway smash hit comedy from Taiwan. Directed by DJ Chen, FORMULA 17 is revolutionary in its honest, touching, and hilarious depiction of Taiwanese gay teen life. FORMULA 17 chronicles the life of Tien, an innocent 17-year old boy who goes to the big city for a summer of love and adventure. On his very first night in Taipei, he locks eyes with the irresistible and irredeemable Bai, rumored to be the biggest playboy known to mankind. Will the two boys meet and fall in love?

*Cantonese and Mandarin with English subtitles*

9:00 pm

SAVING FACE (2005)

When 48-year-old widow Hwei-Lan Gao informs her less-than understanding father she's pregnant, he banishes her from Flushing until she remarries or proves immaculate

Conception. With nowhere else to go, Hwei-Lan moves in with her grown daughter, Wil, a Manhattan doctor who doesn't want a roommate, especially since she's met Viv, her sexy young lover. So Wil does what any dutiful child with an expectant, unmarried mother on her hands would do: she proceeds to set Hewi-Lan up with every eligible bachelor in town.

*Mandarin and English with English subtitles*

Friday, April 7, 2006

7:00 pm

HOTEL GONDOLIN (2005)

The Gondolin Hotel is the home of 30 transvestites and one transsexual who work as prostitutes as the unique alternative to survive in a society that excludes them. This film focuses on the importance of freedom of gender identity, the everyday life of the transvestites in the Hotel, street prostitution, and the rising difficulties with the neighbors and the local authorities.

*Spanish with English subtitles*

8:00 pm

CAUSE OF DEATH: HOMOPHOBIA (2003)

During the last twenty years over 50 gay men were murdered in Israel. These were isolated incidents and in most cases the murderer was caught and convicted. This documentary studies some of these murder cases and investigates the social and psychological circumstances surrounding them.

*Hebrew with English subtitles*

9:00 pm

LOGGERHEADS (2005)

In the small town of Eden, a minister's wife must confront her conservative husband, who has enforced a harsh estrangement from their adopted son since they've learned that he's gay. Listless and disappointed in life, Grace makes a last ditch decision to search for the son she was pressured into giving up for adoption as a teenager. Mark, a longtime drifter who is strangely fascinated with loggerhead sea turtles, crosses paths with George, a fixture of his quiet beach community who for a time provides Mark the support and companionship he's been starved of. Their stories interweave to create a portrait of familial detachment and longing that is at once universal, and steeped in the keenly observed looks and rhythms of three distinctive settings across North Carolina.

Saturday, April 8, 2006

7:00 pm

BEAR CUB (2004)

An amusing and touching film about reinterpreting the idea of "family," BEAR CUB tells the engaging story of Pedro, an attractive gay dentist living an active single life in Madrid. He offers to take care of his adorable 9-year-old nephew Bernardo for two weeks while the child's mother travels abroad with her latest "hippie" boyfriend. When Mom suddenly becomes detained in India, however, Pedro must become the boy's caretaker. And to further complicate matters, the boy's grandmother begins a custody battle for the child.

*Spanish with English subtitles*

9:00 pm

### MYSTERIOUS SKIN (2005)

At age eight, Neil McCormick and Brian Lackey both played on the same youth baseball team in their small Kansas hometown. Now, ten years later, the two eighteen-year-old boys could not be any more different. Neil is a cold but charismatic teenage hustler, while Brian is a nervous introvert obsessed with the idea that he has been abducted by a UFO. As these two parallel lives inevitably intersect, both boys begin to discover a shared past shrouded in mystery. MYSTERIOUS SKIN takes the viewer on an illuminating, deeply affecting journey into the delicate reaches of self discovery.

Questions? Contact:

John David Molesky, [john@molesky.net](mailto:john@molesky.net)

### **10. Help Needed: ReelQueer Film Festival**

The Seventh Annual Reel Queer Film Festival is fast approaching. Posters need to be hung on campus Sunday and Monday of this week, and the more people that can help, the easier this task will be. If you can help, please email John David Molesky and let him know what days/times work best for you.

Posters will also be available at the LGBT Resource Center by Monday afternoon if you'd like to stop by and grab some. This is a very important part of getting the word out, so the more people that can help the better—even if you can only poster a building or two.

John David is also looking for people that would be willing to help out at the festival. It doesn't matter if you can only help one night or all four, every little bit counts. Please email him and let him know!

Questions? Contact:

John David Molesky, [john@molesky.net](mailto:john@molesky.net)

### **11. Concert: Melissa Ferrick**

Singer-songwriter Melissa Ferrick ([www.melissaferrick.com/](http://www.melissaferrick.com/)) performs her powerful lyrics in the Schine Underground on Tuesday, March 28 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are \$3 with SUID/\$5 without SUID and are available at the Schine Box Office. This program is sponsored by Pride Union and U. Encounter.

Questions? Contact:

Jen Spinner, [jaspinne@syr.edu](mailto:jaspinne@syr.edu)

## **SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY NEWS**

### **12. Writing on the Wall**

Writing on the Wall (WOW) is a program that is designed to confront oppression and the barriers that exist and limit communication between various groups of people. One hundred and thirty bricks will be painted with words and symbols of oppression by students, faculty and staff. A 5x20ft. wall will then be created on the quad for all to view. By seeing all of the painted bricks that represent acts of inhumanity in the form of a wall

we more easily recognize and understand the atrocities together are what create barriers that separate us. By building the wall on the SU campus we have a physical record that must be acknowledged and which all members of the community must face in order to begin building alliances and initiating change. WOW puts prejudice out in the open and when viewing the wall students will see words that they use everyday without understanding the hurt they can cause. The goal is that WOW will allow students to reflect on what they see and compare the hate that they have encountered to the hate others encounter and choose to initiate change.

The program inadvertently brings students of all walks of life together. Everyone has been oppressed in some form in their life and because of this we all share a common bond and issues we need to address. Each brick represents a moment in an individual's experience or in our collective history of an act of discrimination, an outrage, a crime or an act of inhumanity. Students will be able to engage in dialogue about the words and symbols that are painted on the bricks. When the students come to the WOW ceremony they will be able to see and also listen to oppression that their peers have faced. Students, when viewing the wall, may engage in dialogue with each other about their likes and differences. Students must have an open mind and want to be initiators of change. Together, if the students listen to the hate that they face and potentially share, change can occur.

The overall goal of WOW is to raise consciousness about oppression that is occurring around us. We can not end oppression without understanding it, simply stated by Dr. Martin King, "To fight hate, we have to know hate." Syracuse University students are our future leaders and leadership is about relationships with people of all races, ethnicities and backgrounds, thus leaders must step up and make progress towards breaking barriers and ending hate. WOW will give students the opportunity to "see" hate and understand how it feels to live in a world filled with hate. WOW aims to make the problem real and to show students how hurtful words and actions of hate can be. After the ceremony, the wall will be destroyed and students will be able to take a piece of the broken wall with them, to remind them they are the components of change and that discrimination and hate do not have to happen.

The Ceremony:

Where: Hendrick's Chapel and Quad to tear down the wall

What: Thirty minute presentation by Dr. James K. Duah-Agyeman, Ph.D., Director, Student Support & Diversity Education/Multicultural Affairs, about recognizing the oppressions we face and how we can work together to initiate change and celebrate diversity. After the presentation, we will go to the Quad and together tear down the wall. Students will be able to take a piece of the wall home with them. A discussion will be led by Outrage in Schine 228B following the ceremony.

In addition, students may paint a brick with a word or symbol of oppression:

March 27: 10am-1pm, Schine Atrium

March 29: 7-10pm, Schine Underground

Questions? Contact:

Darya Rotblat, 443.5489, [darotbla@syr.edu](mailto:darotbla@syr.edu)

### **13. Adventures in Illegal Art: Creative Media Resistance and Negativland**

On Friday, March 31 at 7 pm in Shemin Auditorium, Mark Hosler, founding member of Negativland, presents a 90-minute film and storytelling presentation. Followed with a question and answer session, Hosler guarantees no lawyers were harmed in the making of this event!

Pranks, media hoaxes, media literacy, the art of collage, creative activism in a media saturated multi-national world, file sharing, intellectual property issues, evolving notions of art and ownership and law in a digital age, artistic and funny critiques of mass media and culture, so-called "culture jamming" (a term coined by Negativland way back in 1984)...even if you've never heard of Negativland, if you are interested in any of these issues you're sure to find this funny and inspiring presentation worth your time and attention.

Is Negativland a "band"? Media hoaxers? Activists? Musicians? Filmmakers? Culture jammers? An inspiration for the unwashed many? A nuisance for the corporate few? Decide for yourself in this presentation that uses films and stories to illustrate the many creative projects, hoaxes, pranks and "culture jamming" that Negativland has been doing since 1980.

Most famous for getting sued for their "U2" single, Negativland have had 25 years of fun being a thorn in the side of the corporate media and entertainment biz. They've released a gazillion CDs, do occasional tours, make little movies, and were the subject of San Francisco filmmaker Craig Baldwin's 1995 feature film "SONIC OUTLAWS."

Negativland isn't just some group of merry pranksters; its art is about tearing apart and reassembling found images to create new ones, in an attempt to make social, political and artistic statements.

This event is sponsored by Syracuse University College of Arts and Sciences, the Convergence Center, the English Department, the Transmedia Department, the Communication and Rhetorical Studies Department, the Central New York Programming Group and the Experimental Television Center's Presentation Funds Program (supported by New York State Council on the Arts).

Questions? Contact:

Roger Hallas, 443.9468, [rhallas@syr.edu](mailto:rhallas@syr.edu)

### **14. Workshop: Trans/Gender and Women's Studies**

There is still space available for Minnie Bruce Pratt's Workshop entitled: "Trans/Gender and Women's Studies" on Wednesday, March 29 from 5:30-8:30 pm at the WSP Conference Room in 208 Bowne Hall. Dinner will be provided.

This informal session on "Trans/gender and Women's Studies" is designed to be an introduction to transgender issues as well as the beginning of a lively conversation about connections between women's studies, women's liberation, and the contemporary transgender movement.

The event will begin with a buffet supper with ice-breaker discussion on transgender led by Minnie Bruce, followed by her brief talk on conceptual approaches to transgender,

and the development of contemporary U.S. transgender theory. Most of the time will be used for discussion and any questions raised by the pre-session readings.

Texts: You'll be sent the short readings (given below) when you sign up for the workshop. Please read them before our evening together, preferably in the order listed.

Almost of all these writings by transgender activists and allies date from the 1990s, the early phase of contemporary transgender organizing in the U.S. Workshop participants will get a bibliography of more recent and detailed scholarly work on transgender.

Leslie Feinberg. "We Are All Works in Progress." *Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue*. Boston: Beacon, 1998. 1-13

Kate Bornstein. "Naming All the Parts." *Gender Outlaw*. New York: Routledge, 1994. 21-39.

Anne Fausto-Sterling. "The Five Sexes: Why Male and Female Are Not Enough." *The Sciences*, March/April 1993. 20-24.

Leslie Feinberg. "Sisterhood: Make It Real!" *Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to RuPaul*. Boston: Beacon, 1996. 109-119.

Emi Koyama. "The Transfeminist Manifesto." *Transfeminism: A Collection*. Portland: The Feminist Conspiracy Press, 2001.

Minnie Bruce Pratt. "Sunglasses." 1995. *S/HE*. Los Angeles: Alyson, 2005.

Questions? Contact:

Susann DeMocker-Shedd, [sademock@syr.edu](mailto:sademock@syr.edu)

### **15. 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:

- 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.

## REGIONAL NEWS

### **16. Big Gay Weekend**

Colgate University invites you to its First Annual BIG GAY WEEKEND. It is an event that is for anyone interested in LGBTQ issues. This weekend is an opportunity for students from Colleges and Universities across the Upstate Region to come together, connect, network, and have fun. For it to be a success, Colgate needs the support of students from a lot of different schools. A quick schedule rundown:

Friday April 14:

4-7 pm - Arrival and Check In

7 pm - Homo No-Mo Halfway House Performance By Peter Toscano

8 pm - Free Showing of Brokeback Mountain

8 pm - LGBTQ Open Mic Night

9:30 pm - Opening Reception and Maroon Party (Colgate's very own Circuit Party)

Saturday April 15th-

10 am-4 pm - Workshops

-A talk given by representatives from Career Services about life after College

-An opportunity for LGBTQ leaders from different schools to discuss what has worked on their campus

-A speaker who will discuss what is involved with being out and on a sports team in college

-The President of the Log Cabin Republicans will discuss the future of LGBTQ politics in America

-A panel discussion by a number of psychiatrists and psychologists concerning the coming out process

-An opportunity for younger students to build a network between schools for the future

-Many, many more

11:30 am-12:45 pm - Free BBQ Lunch

4 pm - Keynote Address by B.D. Wong (He is an out gay actor who has starred in Law and Order SVU, Father of the Bride, The Band Played On, etc. He is also a great speaker and very involved with advocacy. He will be discussing his own life and what it has meant for him to identify with multiple minority groups)

8 pm - Improv Performance by Charred Goosebeak (The guys who made Super Troopers)

8 pm - Free Showing of Brokeback Mountain

10 pm - Drag Ball (Imagine all of the hottest people, all in one place, and all taking their tail feathers in DRAG)

Housing . Just show up and be assigned a place to stay, if you need one. This means that it is FREE and you do not have to worry about setting it up for yourself.

This weekend is free for all of those who want to participate. Colgate and private donors are covering all expenses. You can also stay up to date with events that are added on the website at [www.colgate.edu/lgbtq](http://www.colgate.edu/lgbtq).

Questions? Contact:

Will Birnie, [wbirnie@mail.colgate.edu](mailto:wbirnie@mail.colgate.edu)

### **17. 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](mailto:ebullard@prideagenda.org).

### **18. 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](mailto:frasere@cortland.edu)

### **19. 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

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **20. Red Cross Recommends Lift to Gay Blood Donation Ban**

Washington, DC - After more than a decade of banning blood donation from men who have sex with other men, the American Red Cross has announced they support legalizing donations from gay men provided they've gone at least a year without gay sex.

As reported Friday by the Associated Press, the Red Cross' new position has prompted the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to consider a risk assessment that would take three to six months, and may lead to a reversal of the 16-year-old ban.

That ban prevents any man who has had sex with another man since 1977 from ever donating blood. With support from the Red Cross, the ban was reaffirmed in 2000.

A spokesman for the Red Cross said they made the decision to recommend a lift to the ban since last summer, though this is the first time an official statement has been made. The recommendation was made at an FDA workshop on whether better HIV tests made the ban unnecessary.

Based in Washington D.C., the non-profit Red Cross is responsible for collecting roughly 45-percent of the nation's blood supply, according to AP. A spokesman for the Red Cross called the ban "unfair and discriminatory" in a statement on the American Association of Blood Banks Web site.

"It does not appear rational to treat gay sex differently from straight sex," the statement continued, noting that in some cases, the ban led to the cancellation of blood drives.

Gay rights activists have been protesting the ban for years, with much of the anger directed at the Red Cross, which according to published reports made \$2.1 billion in sales of blood and blood products in 2004.

"Having sex with a man does not put you at high risk," John Givner, director of the HIV project at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, a New York-based gay rights group, told the AP in a telephone interview in 2005. "Having unprotected anal or vaginal sex does."

The ban was first imposed based on early FDA evidence that suggested one or more units of HIV-positive blood a year could go undetected through testing and infect recipients. Dr. Louis Katz, a member of the agency's Blood Products Advisory Committee, said recent changes in blood handling and testing may have reduced risks.

### **21. Internship: National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resource Centers in Higher Education Summer Program**

The National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resources in Higher Education Summer Internship Program offers opportunities for pre-professionals to work in the field of LGBT student affairs. Current Consortium members provide developmental opportunities in the interest of expanding the breadth and depth to which the Consortium's goals are implemented nationwide. Specific institutions compensation varies, however all Consortium Interns will receive registration for the 2006 NGLTF Creating Change Conference and the opportunity to present their research/project.

For more information about the Consortium Intern program, visit the Consortium Intern website at <http://www.lgbtcampus.org/memberservices/internships.html>.

Full-time, 5-8 week positions are still available at two Consortium Institutions. Each has a flexible start and end time between May/June and August 2006. Duties and compensations vary. Deadline to apply: April 20, 2006

University of Oregon: <http://lgbt.uoregon.edu/>

Supervisor: Chicora Martin

Internship Duties: Up to two internships are available. Interested students should submit a project proposal.

Compensation: All interns are eligible to receive free on-campus housing and board from mid June- mid August.

Deadline: April 20

Intern Start/End Date: Start date is negotiable, but must end early in August.

\*Special arrangements can be made for housing in May.

University of California, Los Angeles: <http://www.saonet.ucla.edu/lgbt/index.html>

Supervisor: Dr Ronni Sanlo

Internship Duties: One internship is available. Interested students should submit a project proposal.

Compensation: All interns are eligible to receive free on-campus housing from mid June- mid August.\* Endowed living stipend is available for female a/or woman-identified individuals.

Application Deadline: April 20

Intern Start/End Date: Negotiable.

\*Special arrangements can be made for housing in May.

Qualifications:

Currently enrolled graduate student within a student affairs graduate program or a student applying to enter a student affairs graduate program in Fall 2006.

Application:

Deadline is April 20. In addition to a Consortium Internship Program Application/Project Proposal, (available at <http://www.lgbtcampus.org/memberservices/internships.html>) please provide a Resume and Cover Letter indicating which intern position you are applying for.

For more information about the Consortium Intern program, visit the Consortium Intern website at <http://www.lgbtcampus.org/memberservices/internships.html>.

## **22. New Security Clearance Rules Affect Gays**

(AP) The Bush administration last year rewrote the rules for allowing gay men and lesbians to receive national-security clearances, drawing complaints from civil rights activists.

The Bush administration said security clearances cannot be denied "solely on the basis of the sexual orientation of the individual." But it removed language saying sexual orientation "may not be used as a basis for or a disqualifying factor in determining a person's eligibility for a security clearance."

The White House sought to play down the changes, approved by President Bush in December, as an effort to ensure the security clearance rules are consistent with a 1995 executive order about access to classified information.

"The minor language change did not and was not intended to alter the way sexual orientation is treated," National Security Council spokesman Frederick L. Jones II said this week. "The U.S. government policy has not changed in any way." He said government lawyers made the changes for clarity.

Gay rights activists expressed concern that the new guidelines could lead to a chipping away of safeguards obtained in the 1990s for gays seeking security-related government jobs.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said Bush's rules could "open the door for broader interpretation" of rules granting security clearances for national security-related jobs.

Gay advocacy groups recently found the change in an 18-page document distributed by national security adviser Stephen J. Hadley on Dec. 29, without public notice.

Several million civilian and military personnel who work for the U.S. government and its contractors must go through extensive reviews to determine if they have exhibited behavior that could compromise national security or make them susceptible to blackmail. Areas of concern include drug and alcohol use, criminal activity, financial debt, foreign contacts and sexual behavior. Officials at several national security agencies were not aware of the new rules or any impact.

Rules approved by President Bill Clinton in 1997 said that sexual behavior may be a security concern if it involves a criminal offense, suggests an emotional disorder, could subject someone to coercion or shows a lack of judgment.

The regulation stated that sexual orientation "may not be used as a basis for or a disqualifying factor in determining a person's eligibility for a security clearance."

Bush removed that categorical protection, saying instead that security clearances cannot be denied "solely on the basis of the sexual orientation of the individual."

The new rules say behavior that is "strictly private, consensual and discreet" could "mitigate security concerns."

Jones said the new language was meant to ensure that the U.S. security clearance guidelines are consistent with Clinton's executive order. He said the order makes clear that the U.S. government does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation when granting access to classified information.

Steve Ralls, spokesman for the Washington-based Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, said his organization is still sorting out what the administration intended so that lawyers can provide guidance to gay personnel on how to answer questions during government background checks.

"It looks as if lesbian and gay service members especially may face some additional roadblocks to obtaining their security clearances," said Ralls, whose group advocates on behalf of gays in the military.

He said his organization has been getting calls from service members who do not understand the changes. "In the law, subtlety can have even unintended, major consequences," he said.

### **23. 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](http://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](mailto:scholarships@lgbtheart.org)

#### **24. 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](http://www.nujlsonline.org).

Questions? Contact:  
Daniel Heller, 800.50.NUJLS, [conference@nujls2006.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jmtifone@syr.edu) and we'll correct any inaccuracies.

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