

Lesbian
Gay
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Transgender

E D U C A T I O N
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S E R V I C E S

Out Words

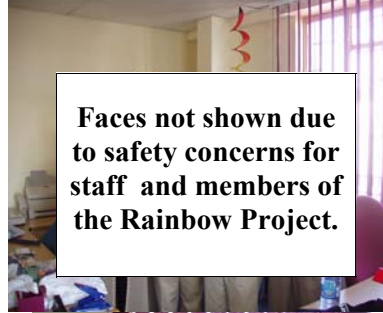
Global Perspectives on Sexuality

4 December, Thursday
What an incredible few days! We journeyed to the far north to participate in events commemorating World AIDS Day, to a town on the border with Angola. The HIV/AIDS prevalence rate in this region is estimated at 40% or more...

And so begins a journal entry from Lis Maurer's trip with a delegation to Namibia, in Southern Africa, to study HIV/AIDS, sexual health, and human rights in a global context. As a part of the local Planned Parenthood's Global Partner Project, Lis spent a winter vacation (actually summer, in the southern hemisphere) traveling in Africa and learning from amazing grass roots activists, young people, and government officials about the multiple layers of socio-political issues facing a newly developing country as they fight for their survival against the ravages of AIDS, poverty, unemployment and challenges to their basic human rights.

A major highlight was meeting with staff and a volunteer from The Rainbow Project, Namibia's only LGBT advocacy organization. Stories included themes that are familiar to many LGBT people here at home but carried a chilling reminder about the very serious risks facing sexual minorities in many global communities.

AIDS awareness was one of the central themes of the visit and successes highlighted included a national media campaign aimed at raising awareness and addressing discrimination against people infected with



Top to Bottom: Delegation members (including two Ithaca College graduates!) at a meeting with The Rainbow Project; Lis presenting "Ithaca Pride" t-shirt from student group Created Equal to a Namibian colleague.

Neither of these photos will appear on the web version of this newsletter because of safety concerns of the Rainbow Project staff and members.

HIV. Additionally, the diverse and multicultural peoples of Namibia require the commitment of and action by the Ministry of Health to create AIDS education materials in a number of different languages. These public health messages are everywhere: on billboards, on television, in periodicals, on t-shirts worn by people on the street, and printed on bags at local grocery stores. Yet, despite all of their good work, not a single public figure or well known personality in Namibia has come forward publicly to share that they are HIV positive.

The journal entry continues: *Water is not always available, and access to other needed services and opportunities is quite limited. Again, it was telling to observe first-hand ways that poverty, access to information, education, and medical services impacts*

entire villages. Our delegation helped distribute World AIDS Day t-shirts to local residents, participated in an awareness raising march to the border post, and then were invited guests for a full day of speeches, performances, and activities commemorating the day. It was an incredible experience to observe World AIDS Day here! Still to come are meetings to learn even more. It is certainly an incredible journey we are on!

See more journal entries by the delegation on the trip blog at http://sextalk.org/global_namibia_letters.shtml and watch for presentations coming this spring that will bring the knowledge accumulated during this incredible "summer vacation" to campus.

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2nd Annual LGBT Health Awareness



When you're sick, it's reasonable to want a competent, caring professional to offer sound medical advice, resources, and support. For LGBT people this may prove challenging.

Although there has been major headway within the medical profession regarding recognition of the unique needs of LGBT people, there is still more to learn. Everything from changing intake forms (to include same-sex partners) to tweaking language (to avoid assumptions of heterosexuality) can help an LGBT client feel more welcome and safe in a medical facility.

A national effort spearheaded by the National Coalition for LGBT Health (with cooperation from many major health organizations across the country) is aimed at making health care

services better for LGBT people.

The second annual LGBT Health Awareness Week will be held from March 14th to the 20th this year. The National Coalition for LGBT Health focuses its work on three goals:

- To raise public awareness of the unique health concerns and health disparities among the LGBT communities.
- To educate medical and health care professionals in the area of cultural competency with regard to LGBT health.
- To educate the LGBT communities about the health issues that affect our lives in significant ways.

To learn more about The National Coalition for LGBT Health check out their website at www.lgbthealth.net.

Successes from Fall 2003



In Fall 2003 nearly 500 students, staff, and faculty participated in professional development trainings and classroom presentations on LGBT issues provided by the LGBT Coordinator.

LGBT Center-sponsored events designed to increase campus-wide awareness and education about a wide variety of LGBT issues drew an additional 500 members of the campus community.

Events included:

- LGBT Resource Room Open House & Social
- Featured speakers Wayne Pawlowski and Bill Goodman
- LGBT film series **“Out of the Closet and Onto the Screen”** including screenings of films about LGBT Native American people, Latino/a people, and people who have disabilities with discussions led by the Coordinator and invited faculty experts
- First-ever campus-wide Facilitated Discussion sponsored by the LGBT Center, on the topic of Same-Sex Marriage
- Filmmaker Su Friedrich's campus visit, in collaboration with Cinema & Photography

The Center was also featured in a variety of publications, by television and radio stations both here and abroad, and on the internet.



Bi Awareness in April



On **April 1st** we are fortunate to have nationally known author and activist **Robyn Ochs** on campus for two events.

Robyn Ochs, Ed.M., co-founded the Boston Bisexual Women's Network in 1983 and the Bisexual Resource

Center in 1985.

She has taught at MIT and Tufts University, and is the editor of the Bisexual Resource Guide (4th edition 2001) and the International Directory of Bisexual Groups (11 editions, 1987-94). Her writings have been published in several anthologies, including *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexuals Speak Out*; *Bisexuality: A Reader and Sourcebook*; *Closer to Home: Bisexuality & Feminism*; *Homophobia: How We All Pay the Price*; *Bisexuality: Identity and Politics of an Invisible Minority*; *Women: Images and Realities: A Multicultural Anthology*; and *Readings for Diversity and Social Justice*.

Please join us for one or both events with Robyn!

April 1st, 12:15 -1:15 pm, LGBT Resource Room

“Choosing to Label”

April 1st, 7:30 - 9 pm, Clark Lounge

“Bisexuality-Myths & Realities”

Save the date!

We will be celebrating the successes of our LGBT and allied seniors in our Second Annual Rainbow Reception for graduates!

On **Friday, April 30th** we will gather with friends and family and honor our seniors' achievements.



Upcoming Events



Out of the Closet and Onto the Screen:

Intersections of Sexuality and Culture in Film

Black History Month

February 9, 7 pm, Textor 103

“Brother Outsider – The Life of Bayard Rustin”

Rustin formulated many of the strategies that propelled the civil rights movement, and organized the 1963 March on Washington, D.C., that culminated in Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. He was also openly gay and as a result he was frequently shunned by the very civil rights movement he had helped create.

Women's History Month

March 1, 7 pm, Textor 103

“Hand on the Pulse”

Traces Joan Nestle's life—having a lesbian archives in her home for 25 years, participating in the Black civil rights movement as a freedom rider, and helping to forge a new lesbian and gay consciousness through grass roots organizing. Now in her 60's, Joan continues to celebrate the body as an elder and as a woman with cancer.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month—double feature!

April 15, 7 pm, Textor 103

“Sambal Belacan”

Three Singaporean women who emigrated to live openly as lesbians share their feelings of exclusion both from their families and culture of origin and the United States.

and

“Fated to be Queer”

Four Filipino men illuminate some issues and concerns as gay people of color in San Francisco. They share personal perspectives on family, cultural heritage and racial stereotyping.

And there's even more!

February 4, Clark Lounge, 7 pm

You & Your Future: For LGBT and Allied Students

Career workshop with Louie Larson, Assistant Director of Career Services at SUNY Cortland. Louie will bring his expertise and unique style to this important topic, and welcomes your questions.

February 26, Park Auditorium, 7 pm

Michelle Parkerson

Writer, filmmaker, university lecturer and performance artist, will screen & discuss her film *A Litany For Survival: The Life & Work of Audre Lorde*.

March 18 (time and location TBA)

Trembling Before G-d film screening

Chronicles the personal stories of Hasidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian—including the world's first openly gay Orthodox rabbi; closeted, married Hasidic gays and lesbians; and two Orthodox lesbian high-school sweethearts.

March 24, 7 pm (location TBA)

Global Partners presentation—come meet the delegation to Namibia, and the visiting exchange delegation of Namibians while they visit Ithaca.

March 25 (time and location TBA)

The Celluloid Closet of Yiddish Film: Lesbian & Gay Subtext from a Cinema of Diaspora, a lecture with video clips by Eve Sicular.

April 21—Day of Silence observance - www.dayofsilence.org

April 29, Klingenstein Lounge, 7 pm

Global Perspectives on Sexual Minorities: Lessons Learned in Southern Africa

Also upcoming:

February 22-26 —AIDS Working Group display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on campus.

April 7— Ithaca College Gerontology Institute workshop *Meeting the Needs of LGBT Elders* (registration required, contact ICGI).

Awards & Recognition!



Remember all those Quit Kits?

The LGBT student smoking cessation/prevention initiative, designed to address disproportionate rates of smoking in sexual minority students at Ithaca College, was selected as a winner in

the 10th annual National Health Information Awards.

All of the Quit Kits were distributed, but some pamphlets on the topic are still available in the LGBT Resource Room.

Please stop by to pick up LGBT specific smoking cessation information!

2003 was also exciting for Center coordinator Lis Maurer who was honored as a recipient of the 2003 Presidential Citation for Outstanding Achievement from the University of Delaware. Lis' efforts with the Ithaca College LGBT Center were highlighted in the ceremony and program materials.

As a graduate of the University of Delaware at a time when there were no on-campus services for sexual minority students, this was a particularly exciting honor.



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ITHACA

Lisa Maurer
Coordinator

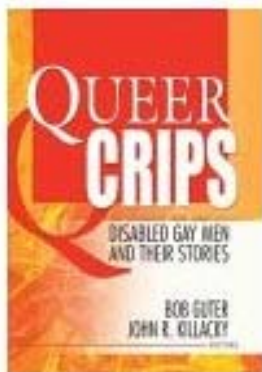
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Check out the full-color version of this
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AWARD WINNING
website!

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Book Notes

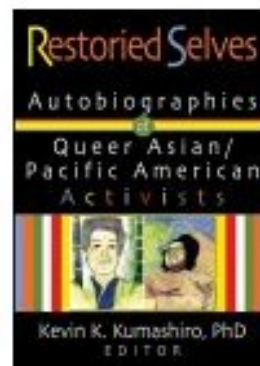


Queer Crips: Disabled Gay Men and Their Stories

by Bob Guter (Editor),
John R. Killacky (Editor),
Paul R. Du Noyer

An exceptional volume of first person narratives from strikingly diverse perspectives.

Includes a wide variety of works, including essays, poetry, interviews and performance pieces. Co-edited by Bob Guter, creator and editor of the webzine BENT: A Journal of Crip(gay) Voices.



**Restoried Selves:
Autobiographies of
Queer Asian-Pacific-
American Activists**
by Kevin K.
Kumashiro (Editor)

Twenty activists share their stories of shattering stereotypes, addressing cultural expectations and family values, and working toward social change. The Haworth Press calls this book “an essential read for academics and researchers working in Asian American studies, ethnic studies, gender studies, and queer studies, and for LGBTQ youth and their parents, teachers, and social service providers.”