

Queer Query

BGSU's LGBTQA-Q Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1

January 19, 2005

Special Events

Wednesday
January 19
LGBTQA-Q Resource
Center Grand
Opening,
11-2, 404 Saddlemere
Saturday
January 22
Vision Welcome
Back Dance, 9pm
101 Olscamp
Tuesday January
25
Vision General
Meeting, Panel
Training, 9pm 107
Hanna Hall,
Women's Center
Friday January
28
Toledo's SSS
Conference
Tuesday
February 1
Vision General
Meeting GLBT
Workshop, 9pm 107
Hanna Hall,
Women's Center
Thursday
February 3
Resource Center
Program, 7pm
February 18-20
MBLGTAC
Conference

Every Month

Every Tuesday
Vision General
Meeting, 9pm, 107
Hanna Hall,
Women's Center
Every Thursday
Vision Thursday night
support group,
9pm, 107 Hanna Hall,
Women's Center,
1st Saturday of
the month
Bowling Green
Lavender Women,
planning meeting
11am, Grounds for
Thought
3rd Sunday of the
Month
Transgender Support
Group, 3-5, Toledo
Area Pride Center

Confidential
Support Group
Every Wednesday

Out @ BGSU?

Call 2.2081 for
more information

Letter From the Resource Center

Howdy,

First off, since this is the very first issue of *Queer Query*. We have come along way since the beginning of my arrival. Imagine a room with fourteen plain white ugly walls, 2 cherry wood desks, 7 trash dispensers, a chair with the BGSU Seal, and a whole pile of junk. From that, I now proudly present to the BGSU campus at large The LGBTQA-Q Resource Center. We are fully functional office and are ready to carry BGSU to the next level.

I would like to take a moment and thank everyone who made The LGBTQA-Q Resource Center possible. Without all of you none of this would be possible, not forgetting the people who worked so hard to make this wonderful Grand Opening a success – Kathleen Pettmen, Lena Ellis-Boatman, Joey Aufenthie, Daniel Hanley, Dr. Whipple, Dr. Consolvo, BGSU Facilities (Jim, Tim, and Keith), RCC (Dr. King), ITS (Mike Good), members of VISION, my wonderful interns/volunteers, Residential Life (Ms. Newmen), Greek Affairs (Dr. Binder), members of the LGBT Advisory Board, and many more, but especially to the staff of the CMAI office, who supported and welcomed me with open arms and love. With all of their help and inspiration, this office would truly not have existed.

Also, thank you very much Lena for creating the fabulous painting using all the colors of the rainbow, making your creation the symbol for the LGBTQA-Q Resource Center. Joey the two collages are an amazing attribute to The LGBTQA-Q Resource Center.

This semester will be loads of fun. There has already been some awesome stuff being planned. I can't wait to see all the surprises that Vision has in store much less wait to share all the ideas the LGBTQA-Q Resource Center has for the BGSU campus. There are many exciting events planned for Rainbow Days (March 28th through April 2nd), as well as events/programs throughout the semester. These include the Safe Space Presentations as well as interactive and educational programs created by the LGBTQA-Q Resource Center's six interns.

I would love to have all of you participate in future events of the LGBTQA-Q Resource Center. I hope you all have a wonderful new semester.

Nicky P. Damania

GPAC Disappointed: Makeup Can Be Required of Women

Gender Public Advocacy Coalition
January 4, 2005

WASHINGTON *The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GenderPAC) today denounced a decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals holding that a female employee fired for refusing to wear makeup cannot sue her employer for sex discrimination.

Said GenderPAC Executive Director, Riki Wilchins, 'This ruling would be right at home in the 19th century. Women long ago won the right to be judged on the quality of their work, not whether they conform to some outdated standard of feminine attractiveness. These judges need to wake up and smell the coffee.' (cont. page 2)

Let's Reach Up Together

Julian High, HRC's director of diversity, and Donna Payne, HRC's senior constituency organizer Friday, Jan. 14, 2005

"It was 1958, and Martin Luther King Jr. lay in a hospital room recovering from a near-fatal stabbing. Just three years earlier, the Montgomery bus boycott was sparked. It would not be until 1964 that federal law protected African Americans from workplace discrimination. The Voting Rights Act would not become law for another seven years.

In that moment of great activity for civil rights, *The New York Times* reported that Dr. King's aorta was so badly wounded he would have died had he merely sneezed. Upon hearing the news, a ninth-grade girl wrote to Dr. King, saying, 'While it should not matter, I would like to mention that I'm a white girl. I read in the newspaper of your misfortune and of your suffering. And I read that if you had sneezed, you would have died. And I'm simply writing you to say that I'm so happy you didn't sneeze.'

The audience applauded as Dr. King told that story years later, on April 3, 1968, in a speech in Memphis, Tenn. The next day he would be assassinated. We remember that day, the way our families cried as the bulletin announcing his murder flashed across the screen.

On Saturday, Dr. King would have turned 76. While we'll never forget the day of his death, the hate that fueled it and the hate that still lives on in this nation, it sometimes seems that he's still with us.

Dr. King served as a human bridge across so many communities. He reached that teenage girl who wrote him that letter. He reached our families who ached at his loss. He reached all of us who read his words and try our best to live on following his shining example. (cont. page 2)

MLK cont.

He still reaches us today. As we work at the Human Rights Campaign advocating for equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans, his enormous impact on our country is a part of everything we do.

People know the meaning of a "movement" because of him. They — or their parents and teachers and pastors — saw it and lived it. And as we work to secure equality under the law regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity, it's because of the great strides made before us that we are able to engage a national discussion about the protections we're denied.

Dr. King also translated faith into action in a way that's rarely seen from such a national perspective. His faith was one of healing, of coming together, of community itself. It's a faith that some of the hardest working activists in this nation share, including many of our GLBT brothers and sisters.

Clearly, there are differences between the struggles of Dr. King and our mothers and fathers and the struggles that we face as GLBT Americans. But let's not forget the African-American civil rights leaders and activists who were themselves GLBT Americans. The fight for freedom and equality is one that we all carry with us — regardless of our race and regardless of our sexual orientation or gender identity.

Too often, when people think of the GLBT movement they do not see the faces of people of color. But GLBT African Americans were embedded in the history of the civil rights movement and GLBT African Americans are also present in the GLBT civil rights movement. We all carry a piece of the history.

GPAC cont.

The employer, Harrah's Resorts, had implemented a new "Personal Best" policy that required it's female employees to wear their hair "teased, curled or styled," and wear "foundation/concealer and/or face powder, as well as blush and mascara," nail polish, and lipstick.

Darlene Jespersen – an exemplary employee for two decades – was fired when she objected that the new standards "forced her to be feminine" and made her feel "dolled up" like a sex object.

The 2-1 decision rejected Jespersen's suit, countering that she had not shown that feminine standards were significantly more burdensome than those imposed on men. The Court held that sex stereotyping rulings – such as the landmark Supreme Court case decision Hopkins v. Price Waterhouse – did not specifically address the issue of sex-differentiated grooming standards.

Male bartenders at Harrahs' were only required to wear their hair above the collar and keep their nails clean and neatly trimmed.

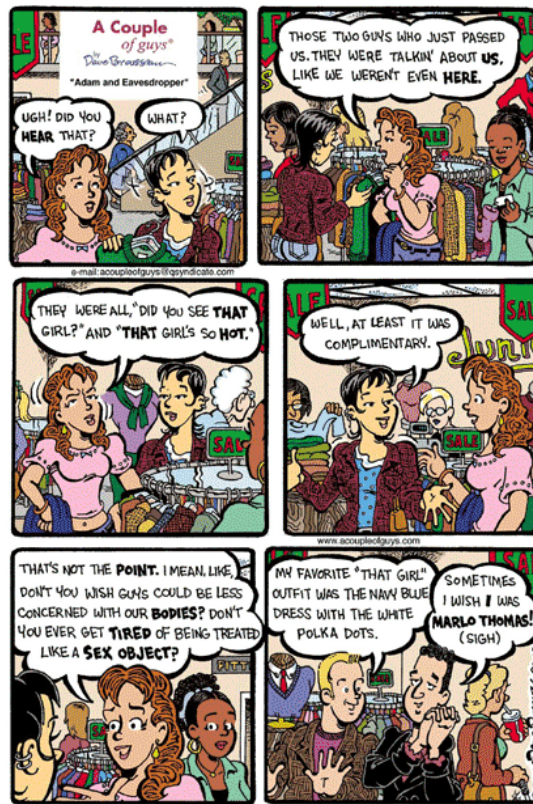
Said the lone dissenting judge, 'Sex-differentiated appearance standards stemming from stereotypes that women...fulfill a different role in the workplace...systematically impose a burden on women, converting such stereotypes into stubborn reality.'" (www.gpag.org)

Queer Query wants you!

The Queer Query is looking for talented individuals who are interested in writing articles about events that happen at BGSU. If you are interested please contact the Queer Query staff in the Resource Center

Adam and Eavesdropper

A Couple of Guys By Dave Brousseau



Ask Flamey and Flambo

I have a problem, not a very huge one, but a problem none the less, I've been single for a very long time, and I feel like I'm getting to the point where I need to find a partner because I'm not young anymore. I search around campus and none of the men appeal to me. Finally, I was on Gay.com and met a beautiful man who doesn't want to jump in bed right away(not sure how he feels, and I'm not sure if I should tell him how I feel.

Old and Lonely

Dear Old and Lonely,
I talked it over with Flambo for a little while and we were both pretty sure that communication is good for everyone. It's good to get your feels out in the open, even if this guy doesn't return the feelings, at least you would know and at least you don't have to keep it bottled inside anymore. To maintain the friendship tell him that regardless of how he feels you would still love to be friends...that way he doesn't feel like it's love or nothing.

On the being old part, don't worry so much about it. Everyone comes to find partners at every age under the rainbow.

Flamey

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