Queer Query
Volume 1 Issue 1
January 19, 2005

Special Events

Wednesday January 19
LGBTQA Resource Center Grand Opening, 11-2, 404 Saddlemire
Vision Welcome Back Dance, 9pm, 101 O’Hoarn
Tuesday January 25
Vision General Meeting, 9pm 107 Hanna Hall
Women’s Center Friday January 28
Toledo’s SSS Conference, 9pm 107 Hanna Hall

Every Month

Every Tuesday
Vision General Meeting, 9pm, 107 Hanna Hall

Every Thursday
Vision Thursday Night Support Group, 9pm, 107 Hanna Hall
Women’s Center

Resource Center Program, 7pm, February 18-20 MBLGTAC Conference

Every Tuesday

Lavender Women, 11am, Grounds for Thought

Women’s Center

February 3
LGBTQA Resource Center

February 28

TOLEDO’S SSS CONFERENCE

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 to 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)

Letter From the Resource Center

Howdy,

First off, 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 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 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 Pettem, Lena Ellis-Boatman, Joly Aufenthie, Daniel Hanley, Dr. Whipple, Dr. Consolvo, BGSU Facilites (Jim, Tim, and Keith), RCC (Dr. King), ITS (Mike Good), members of VISION, my wonderful interns/volunteers, Residential Life (Ms. Newmon), 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 Resource Center. Joly the two collages are an amazing attribute to The LGBTQA 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 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 intensive and educational programs created by the LGBTQA Resource Center’s six interns.

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

Nicky P. Damiania

GPAC Disappointed: Makeup Can Be Required of Women

Gender Public Advocacy Coalition
January 4, 2005
WASHINGTON “The Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GPAC) 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. It’s a retracing of the outdated standard of feminine attractiveness. These judges need to wake up and smell the coffee.’ (cont. page 2)

Out @ BGSU?
Call 22081 for more information
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 done 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.