Highlighted Programs for Spring

Safe Zone Workshop
- Monday, February 13, 2012
  5:30PM to 8:00PM LGBT Resource Center
- Tuesday, March 20, 2012
  5:30PM to 8:00PM LGBT Resource Center
- Thursday, April 19, 2012
  5:30PM to 8:00PM LGBT Resource Center

Train the Trainer Workshop
Friday, January 13, 2012 @ 10am BTSU 316

Campus LGBT Organizations

Hue
1002 Business Admin Building Sun 5 pm

Vision
107 Hanna Hall Tues 9 pm

Focus
BTSU Wed 7 pm

I.T.E.R.S.E.C.T.I.O.N.S.
LGBT Resource Center Thurs 5:30 pm

Women Who Love Women
363 Education Building Thurs 8:30 pm

T.A.G.
LGBT Resource Center Fri 4:30 pm

Queer Ruralism

Industrialization in the United States during the last century created a national social narrative of evolving one’s personal self through relocation from the “farm” (rural) to the city (urban). Relocating oneself from the rural to the urban also relocates one’s presumed access to greater possibility of increasing personal economic class privilege. The binary journey linking self-betterment to self-urbanization through rural to urban migration has only been magnified in the social history and identity narrative of queer Americans.

Queer scholars like Judith Halberstam in A Queer Time and Place identify this process as “metronormativity” and further suggest that the actual physical migration of a queer person from rural to urban parallels the “psychological journey from closet case to out and proud.” Layered into the assumptions of this dichotomous trajectory are the typical stereotypes equating rurality to backwardness or social stagnancy. As Halberstam illustrated, these stereotypes are profoundly magnified in the current socially encouraged trajectory for queer Americans.

Urbanization as the acceptable normative queer American social experience results in an invisibility of non-urban queer Americans. Queer metronormativity also increases the assumptive associations between safety/caming out linked to the city and hate crimes/being closeted linked with rurality. Possibly similar to the social narrative of many other American minorities struggling for power and visibility, rurality has become something queer Americans leave behind for the presumed safer and more diverse haven of city life. Scott Herring in Another Country: Queer Anti-Urbanism and Mary Gray in Out in the Country: Youth, Media and Queer Visibility in Rural America further analyze the urbanization of this queer social narrative through examinations of films, art, media and other expressions of rural queer Americans throughout the last century.

Citing countless resources and examples, Herring addresses the complexity of the intersection of rurality and queerness through providing robust support for a long history of rich rural queer visibility. Herring aptly surmises that such queer rurality complicates “geophobic claims that ruralized spaces are always and only hotbeds of hostility, cultural and socioeconomic poverty, religious fundamentalism, homophobia, racism, urbanobia, and social conservatism, their works question knee-jerk assumptions that the “rural” is a hate filled space for queers as they archive the complex desires that contribute to any non-metropolitan identification.”

MBLGTACC 2012: The Butterfly Effect

MBLGTACC (The Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference) was created in 1991 by students from Iowa State University and Drake University at a conference in Des Moines. It has been held all over the Midwest Region since then, and serves as a way for LGBTQIA students to network and learn about the community in a safe environment. It will take place February 10-12th, 2012 at Iowa State this year.

The 2012 MBLGTACC, accepts the responsibility and privilege of enhancing grassroots LGBTQIA activism with a focus on social justice empowerment and action. It is the goal to provide an environment that allows for dreams and imagination to be reignited.

With a variety of individual perspectives and needs, the mission is to provide an environment that allows LGBTQIA students to engage with their dreams, develop their skills, and find the pride to follow their dreams into action. Thus, our proposed theme: The Butterfly Effect. A butterfly can flap its wings and cause a ripple effect of enormous proportions around the world. With this in mind, it is easy to see how passion and dreams can lead to actions which can have an unimaginable impact. Our mission: imagine and live the unimaginable.

There will be applications available at the Resource Center, 316 B Math/Science Building. If you are interested, please fill one out to your best ability and also the medical form!!! All applications are due via email (To Vision secretary at skbarna@falcon.bgsu.edu) or PREFERABLY hard copy in the LGBT RESOURCE CENTER or VISION OFFICE by 5PM FRIDAY DECEMBER 9TH!
December 1st: World’s AIDS Day

World AIDS Day, observed December 1 each year, is dedicated to raising awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection. It is common to hold memorials to honor persons who have died from HIV/AIDS on this day. Government and health officials also observe the event, often with speeches or forums on the AIDS topics. Since 1985, the President of the United States has made an official proclamation on World AIDS Day. Governments of other nations have followed suit and issued similar announcements.

World AIDS Day was first conceived in August 1987 by James W. Bunn and Thomas Netter, two public information officers for the Global Program on AIDS at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. Bunn and Netter took their idea to Dr. Jonathan Mann, Director of the Global Program on AIDS (now known as UNAIDS). Dr. Mann liked the concept, approved it, and agreed with the recommendation that the first observance of World AIDS Day should be 1 December, 1988.

AIDS has killed more than 25 million people between 1981 and 2007, and an estimated 33.2 million people worldwide live with HIV as of 2007, making it one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history. Despite recent improved access to antiretroviral treatment and care in many regions of the world, the AIDS epidemic claimed an estimated 2 million lives in 2007, of which 270,000 were children.

http://www.worldaidsday.org/