

**GSA Newsarama**  
**December 29, 2006**  
**Volume 5, Issue 5**

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This newsletter is created by Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools to keep students, advisors and other community members up-to-date on the issues, events and news items that may be of interest to those working within Wisconsin schools, communities, gay-straight alliances and similar clubs. If you are no longer interested in receiving this update, simply reply to this email requesting that your name be removed from the list. Please include your current school, or previous school if you have graduated or are no longer in school.

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Feature

“Why I joined SAGA” on display at Mount Horeb High School

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Feature

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This week I had the pleasure of paying a visit to Mount Horeb high school to chat with the students of SAGA, the Straight And Gay Alliance. The group’s president, Teddi, proudly showed me the display board that the group has put together in one of the school’s common areas. It features numerous photos of the students of SAGA surrounded by a big rainbow border. In addition to the

photos, members of group were asked to write down answers to the question "Why did you decide to join SAGA?" on note cards. Their answers were then typed up and artfully tacked among the pictures (all quotes were left anonymous). This is a really simple and effective way to educate the other students and teachers in your high school about gay-straight alliances, and the students said they've gotten really great feedback about it. Way to go, Mount Horeb!

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## Headlines

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### 1. Wisconsin State Dept. of Health and Family Services Survey

In case you haven't taken a moment to fill out this survey yet (or if you're receiving GSA Newsarama for the first time) The Department of Health and Family Services and the State Department of Public Instruction still want to hear from youth about their experiences in learning about making healthy sexual choices. The survey focuses on three main areas:

- i. How adults influence your sexual health choices
- ii. What topics are important to influence your choices
- iii. What methods/strategies of delivering the message work best

This survey is being endorsed by GSA for Safe Schools and Diverse and Resilient and will help in the development of sexual health education in Wisconsin schools and training for teachers and parents. Please take 10 minutes to fill out the survey and email us with any suggestions or feedback you may have. The survey may be taken by following the link below:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=561732755585](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=561732755585)

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### 2. 2007 PFLAG Scholarships – Applications available online

For the fourth year, PFLAG is offering two levels of scholarships to students graduating in 2007 who have demonstrated an interest in serving the LGBT community. There are seven \$2,500 scholarships available, and three \$1,000 scholarships. In order to qualify, a student must have applied to an accredited higher education institution in pursuit of a bachelor's degree (this includes students pursuing an associate's degree with the intent of transferring credits towards a bachelor's degree). For more information on the scholarships, a profile of past recipients, sample cover letters or to download an application, please visit:

<http://www.pflag.org/Scholarships.122.0.html>

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### 3. Laramie Project coming soon to Stevens Point – save the date!

Much to the delight of the SPASH GSA, students in Stevens Point have been given the “a-okay” to perform the Laramie Project this spring. The dates have been set for March 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and April 1st (weekend!). We will keep everyone updated with more information as it becomes available.

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### 4. Sauk Prairie Librarian published on Voice of Youth Advocates website

Lynn Evarts, one of the fantastic librarians on staff at Sauk Prairie high school, recently had an article featured on the Voice of Youth Advocates website. Ms. Evarts wrote a wonderful piece about the impact a librarian can have in reaching out to isolated students, whether they be self-isolated or isolated by their peers. Ms. Evarts is yet another reminder that librarians are often on the forefront of social justice in our schools. To read her article, copy and paste this link into your web browser:

[http://pdfs.voya.com/VO/YA2/VOYA200612how\\_can\\_we\\_help.pdf](http://pdfs.voya.com/VO/YA2/VOYA200612how_can_we_help.pdf)

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### 5. Resources for No Name-Calling Week now available to download

National No Name-Calling Week is being celebrated from January 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 26<sup>th</sup> this coming year, and numerous resources for advisors, teachers and students have now been posted online for free downloading! For more information about No Name-Calling Week or ideas on different projects, you can visit:

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/home.html>

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### 6. Submissions wanted for Beyond Masculinity

Beyond Masculinity, a website that collects essays by queer men on gender and politics, is looking for political or personal essays on one of four topics: i. intersections of identity; ii. feminism/gender/politics; iii. bodies, desires and pleasure; iv. queer male communities. The anthology will only be available online and will be free and completely open to the public. They are not accepting academic papers, fiction or poetry at this time. For more information, visit their website at: [www.beyondmasculinity.com](http://www.beyondmasculinity.com).

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## Related Readings

GSA Newsarama is a publication of GSA for Safe Schools (GSASS). Events, resources, and news items listed under "Related Readings" are not sponsored or written by GSASS, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of GSASS.

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### 7. "All My Children" adds transgender character

The popular ABC soap opera "All My Children" will be adding a new character to the plotline: Zarf (played by Jeffrey Carlson) is a transgender female who will have a continuing storyline. This is the first time a broadcast television series, daytime or otherwise, has featured a transgender coming out story. "All My Children" was also the first daytime drama to feature a regular lesbian character and in 2003 they made daytime TV history by airing the first kiss between two women in a loving relationship. You can read about this and more at GLAAD's website by following this link:

[http://glaad.org/media/release\\_detail.php?id=3937](http://glaad.org/media/release_detail.php?id=3937)

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### 8. New Jersey sanctions civil unions AND becomes more trans-inclusive

In the struggle for LGBT equality, two giant leaps were made by the Garden State this week. Yesterday, Governor Jon Corzine signed a bill into law that will create civil unions for same-sex couples in New Jersey beginning February 19<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the New Jersey senate passed legislation that would add gender identity and expression to the state's anti-discrimination laws. To read more about these changes, check out:

<http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/12/122106unions.htm> AND  
<http://www.granj.org/>

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### 9. United Nations discusses gender identity/expression

On behalf of the 54 nations' delegations, Norway addressed the United Nations last week in a statement that highlighted the human rights concerns relating to sexual orientation and gender identity. Norway, which is one of many countries in the European Union offering civil unions to same-sex couples, encouraged the United Nations Human Rights Council to continue addressing LGBT issues in their sessions. For more information, please read:

[http://ilga.org/news\\_results.asp?LanguageID=1&FileID=945&FileCategory=44&ZoneID=7](http://ilga.org/news_results.asp?LanguageID=1&FileID=945&FileCategory=44&ZoneID=7)

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#### 10. Chicago lifts restrictions on drag performers

The city of Chicago, Illinois is removing drag performers from its list of “adult entertainers.” Until now, bars that featured drag kings and queens had to acquire special permits from the city and there were restrictions on how far the performances had to stay from churches, parks and residences. Last week, however, Ald. Tom Tunney of the 44<sup>th</sup> District said that he would lift such restrictions for drag performers and establishments. For more information, check out the article in the Chicago Tribune at:

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/stage/chi-0612090184dec09,1,6087938.story?coll=chi-ent\\_theater-hed](http://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/stage/chi-0612090184dec09,1,6087938.story?coll=chi-ent_theater-hed)

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#### 11. Proposed bills in Utah could threaten gay-straight alliances

Two Republican state legislators in Utah are once again planning to introduce bills that would outlaw GSAs. They have already attempted to pass very similar legislation, which was rejected in the last session. For more details, read: <http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/12/121206school.htm>

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#### 12. NCTE’s “52 Things” list coming to an end

The National Center for Transgender Equality has been posting a new idea for action every week that you can do on a local level to make your club, community or organization more trans-inclusive. Next week they will post idea #52 to close out 2006. The list is full of great ideas, some large some small, and you can check it out at: <http://www.nctequality.org/52things.asp>

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#### 13. Phoenix, AZ adds gender identity/expression to employee policies

Phoenix, Arizona has followed in the footsteps of Tempe and Tucson by adding gender identity and expression to their employee non-discrimination policy. Workers in Phoenix have been protected on the basis of sexual orientation since 1992, but the policies were recently updated to be more

inclusive. To read more about the recent LGBT equality victories in Arizona,  
check out: <http://www.ahrf.org/>

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