

GSA Newsarama
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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

Madison-Area Middle School Advisors Meet Up to Share Best Practices

Madison’s middle schools are on the cutting edge of the gay-straight alliance movement, and this past weekend a group of advisors gathered to talk about their experiences, their struggles and successes, and to share ideas. The gathering was attended by teachers, counselors, nurses, and a vice-principal. GSA for Safe Schools staff and employees of the Madison Metropolitan School District were on hand to facilitate the discussion and provide learning materials. To learn more about the great work that is being done to combat anti-LGBT bullying in our middle schools, read the article “This Is Why We Need A GSA” at <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/magazine/features.jsp?p=0&is=40&ar=778>.

Headlines

1. GSA for Safe Schools Spring Conference Less Than One Month Away

On Friday, March 2nd, students and advisors from all over the state are invited to attend our spring conference in Madison. The conference is an opportunity for high school and middle school students to meet one another and share their experiences while attending various workshops throughout the day. To learn more about the conference or to download registration materials, visit our website at www.gsaforsafeschools.org and click on the “events” tab.

2. GSA for Safe Schools Scholarship Applications Still Available

GSA for Safe Schools awards four scholarships of \$500 every year to students who have worked to improve their schools and communities for LGBTQ people and their allies. Applications are now available to download through our website, www.gsaforsafeschools.org. All applications must be received by March 15th and will be kept confidential. The scholarship recipients will be announced in April and will be awarded at our Celebration of Leadership at the Monona Terrace on May 19th!

Related Readings: Scholarships and Opportunities

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GSA for Safe Schools, and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of said organization.

3. 2007 PFLAG Scholarships – LAST WEEK TO APPLY

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). Applications must be postmarked by February 14th. 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>

4. Tony Milan Scholarships Available for LGBT Youth of Color

The Tony Milan Scholarship Fund was established in 2006 by the House of Manolo Blahnik to support the educational success of LGBT members of the ballroom community (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ball_culture). The Tony Milan Scholarship Fund is granted to LGBT individuals of color who participate in Balls and are enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning and/or individuals who are graduating seniors who have been accepted to an accredited institution of higher learning. Applications are due by March 15th, and to receive information on applications and guidelines please email info@houseofblahnik.com.

5. 2007 LEAGUE Foundation Scholarships Still Available

The LEAGUE Foundation has been helping LGBT-identified students attend institutions of higher learning since 1996. In fact, last year one of the scholarships was awarded to a student from Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. LEAGUE will be accepting applications until April 27th, 2007. To learn more about the scholarships that are available through LEAGUE or to download an application please visit: <http://www.league-att.org/foundation/>

6. Colin Higgins Foundation Seeking Nominations for Youth Courage Awards

Every year the Colin Higgins Foundation recognizes LGBTQ youths who have shown courage in the face of adversity and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. The grants are \$10,000 and deadline for nomination is Friday, March 2nd. Self-nominations are not permitted, so if you know someone who has worked to create social change for LGBTQ folks, go to www.colinhiggins.org/courageawards/nomin_mat.cfm to fill out an online nomination form. In addition to the \$10,000 grant, all honorees will receive an all-expense paid trip to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference in the fall.

7. "democracy it is!" on Wisconsin Public Television – Open Casting Call

In March, Wisconsin Public Television will be holding open auditions for youths to host an educational program called "democracy it is!" They are looking for students from the ages of 16 to 18 to fill four camera roles, introducing the various segments and stories on the program. The host sequences will be shot over a two-day period in June. If you are interested, you can send your resume and a recent dated picture to:

Mathilde Andrejko
Production Assistant
Wisconsin Public Television
821 University Ave.
Madison, WI 53706

You can also email your materials to andrejko@wpt.org. Demo tapes and DVDs are welcome.

8. Triangle Foundation Announces National Summer Camp for LGBT Youth

The Triangle Foundation, along with PFLAG and other supporting organizations, have announced that this year's "Camping.OUT" will take place in from August 14th through the 19th. The camp is open lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allied youth (aged 13 – 17) from all across the United States. Camping.OUT will include opportunities to develop your leadership and activism skills, as well as all the other fun things that summer camp is supposed to have. If you register before March 1st, the fee is \$475, but the Triangle Foundation will do everything they can to make sure that any students who wants to come, can. For more information, or to view photos from last year's Camping.OUT, visit www.campingout.org.

9. “Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhythm” to Air on PBS on February 20th

“Beyond Beats and Rhythm” was a 2006 Sundance selection that looks at the representations of manhood, sexism and homophobia in Hip-Hop Culture. Directed by Byron Hurt, a long-time gender violence prevention educator, the film will air on PBS on February 20th. You can read more about the film here <http://www.itvs.org/outreach/hiphop/>, and visit www.pbs.org to find local show times.

10. Paid Mass Media Internships Available Through Emma Bowen Foundation

The Emma L. Bowen Foundation is seeking high school juniors and seniors and college freshman who have an interest in mass media for paid summer internships in radio, cable or television in various cities through the U.S. In order to be eligible students must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher and either plan to or currently attend a four-year university. The application deadline is February 16th, and internships are available in the Madison and Green Bay areas. For more information on the program or to download an applications, please visit www.emmabowenfoundation.com.

11. “Think Globally, Act Locally” – Enter the 2007 Flash Movie Contest

Every year, Citizens for Global Solutions holds a contest to see who can make the best flash video that “can inspire, amuse and activate people out there who believe a better world is possible”. This year the theme of the contest is “Think Globally, Act Locally”. The top movies will be posted online for the public to vote on, and the grand prize is \$2,000. So, if you’re a budding artist with some computer skills and some great ideas, give it a try. You can read more about the contest and view some of the past flash videos at: <http://advocacy.globalsolutions.org/site/PageServer?pagename=advocacy>

Related Readings: News

12. New York Times – Push Back at Bullying

The New York Times recently featured a wonderful article about the prevalence of bullying in our schools and the growing need for anti-bullying

programs. The article focuses on a couple of programs that have been particularly successful, with testimonies from students who have been bullied as well as the bullies themselves. You can read the full story by following this link (this article has been archived, so you may need to register with the New York Times online to view it):

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/28/nyregion/nyregionspecial2/28rbully.html?pagewanted=1&r=1&ref=education>

13. San Jose Mercury News – Uproar Over Ban on Gays’ Blood

The San Jose Mercury News recently gave another update on the story surrounding Ronnie Childers, the high school student who was turned away from giving blood because of his sexual orientation. This story has reawakened an ongoing debate between the FDA and the Red Cross. The American Red Cross is asking the FDA to review its guidelines, since high school students account for 8% of the blood donated, and the methods for detecting the HIV and other viruses in blood samples has greatly advanced in the past decades. To read more about this story, click below:

<http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/p/eninsula/16517012.htm>

14. Bay Area Reporter – Queer Youth Out in the World, But Not To Doctors

According to a study that surveyed almost 200 LGBT-identified youth from California, approximately 70% of queer youth are not out to their doctors, despite being out to many other people in their lives. An interesting thing to note is that more than half of the youth stated they would like to be out to their doctors, and “all the doctors need to do is ask.” Read more about the findings here: <http://www.ebar.com/news/article.php?sec=news&article=1505%20>

15. National Gay and Lesbian Task Force – An Epidemic of Homelessness

According to a report recently released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, between twenty and forty percent of the homeless youth living in the United States identify as LGBT. The report details the unique challenges faced by queer youth who have either left home or been thrown out, giving specific stats for various U.S. cities. You can download the full report here:

http://www.thetaskforce.org/reports_and_research/homeless_youth

16. Women's Educational Media – New Film Will Discuss Homophobia and Gender Roles Among Youth

Women's Educational Media is currently putting together their latest film for the "Respect for All" Project. The working title is Straightlaced – Tied Up By Gender Roles and will feature teenagers discussing homophobia and gender expectations in society. The film is expected to be released in late 2007, and you can read more about it at: <http://www.womedia.org/straightlaced.htm>

17. LA Times – Majority of Freshman View Gay Marriage As OK

A recent study given to over 250,000 first-year college students representing almost 400 universities finds that 61% of those asked think same-sex couples should have the right to marry. This is up 3.3% from 2005, indicating a growing acceptance of LGBT equality in the eyes of many of America's young people. You can read the full story at the LA Times online here:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/politics/cal/la-me-freshmen19jan19,1,5782397.story?coll=la-news-politics-california&ctrack=1&cset=true>
