GSA Newsarama
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This newsletter is created by Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools to keep students, school professionals 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

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GSA for Safe Schools Walk/Run/Eat a Smash Hit!

This past Saturday, GSA for Safe Schools held its first walk/run event since 2004. The weather was beautiful, the runners and walkers were psyched, and the food was amazing.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Walk/Run/Eat, and thanks to everyone who helped spread the word about it. There were almost 250 people walking, running and eating with us on Saturday morning. In other words, it was a huge success!

A special thanks goes out to the students and clubs that hit the pavement and raised pledges for GSA for Safe Schools: Oregon, Milton, De Forest, Stevens Point, and Madison Memorial. YOU ROCK!

To see pictures from the Walk/Run/Eat (and the race results!) check out our website at www.GSAforSafeSchools.org.

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Headlines

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1. Youth Leadership Conference Next Thursday in Madison

You've probably been wondering when you'll get more info about the October 25th Youth Leadership Conference (sometimes called the Social Justice Conference). It's true -- we haven't been able to provide you with a whole lot of details up until now. We do have flyers ready, but we're having difficulties getting them to send out by email (gah! technology!)

But the good news is that since it is on October 25th (a day most of you have off from school due to the state teachers' convention) the registration information is light, and you won't have to go chasing down signatures. Really, you just get to show up and join us for a day of learning about a broader range of social justice issues beyond LGBT issues and figuring out steps you can take to be everyday leaders and allies to a wide range of communities.

In lieu of a flyer, we wanted to make sure you had accurate information so that you could plan your first of two days off:

When: 9 am - 3 pm, October 25th (a Thursday!)

Where: Madison East High School (2222 East Washington St)

What: Youth Leadership Conference

How much: It's free!

Will I be fed: Yes!

Will there be workshops on using spoken word, art, and media to create social justice messages, the experience of recent immigrants to our state, gun violence, the unfair impact of the juvenile justice system on youth of color, how to be allies to students with disabilities, organizing a campaign or big event, and how to challenge narrow expectations of gender: Yes!

Will there be cool entertainment, including dance teams, DJs, and other urban art performers: Yes!

Will this be the usual big warm fuzzy super gay conference we expect in the fall: probably not -- we expect students from all types of experiences and backgrounds. While it might not have the same vibe as our usual conferences, we're excited for the opportunity to connect with a broader audience and have the chance to more fully explore other issues of discrimination and violence young people in Wisconsin encounter. Here's your chance to learn more about being an ally to a broader youth community. Which is AWESOME!

Will Isabel Medina (Madison West High School and GSA Rock Star) be on hand to help deliver the conference key note: Heck yeah!

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2. Madison Gay Hockey Association Concessions: Make Money for Your GSA

The new season of the Madison Gay Hockey Association (MGHA) has begun, and MGHA is looking for GSAs and student clubs to run the concessions table at their games. Your GSA would be responsible for providing the food and the equipment (cups, napkins, something to heat water if you want to provide hot chocolate), but you get to keep all the money you make. Last year, Verona High School's GSA ran concessions for most of the games and it was really successful.

There are 18 games total, and the season goes until the end of February. Most games start at 6:40, so your group would need to get there around 6PM. All the games are on Sunday nights, and last about 3 hours.

So, if you and your GSA want to make some money AND watch Brian J. showing off on the ice (this is his first season playing!), call Tim at 608.661.4141 or email him at timm@gsaforsafeschools.org to get on the schedule. Once you're scheduled for a game, Tim will discuss the details with you (where to go, what to bring, what NOT to bring, etc.).

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Related Readings: Resources and Opportunities

GSA Newsarama is a publication of GSA for Safe Schools (GSAFE). Events, resources, and news items listed under the "Related Readings" sections of GSA Newsarama are not sponsored by GSAFE and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of GSAFE.
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3. Young Queer Sports Club – Are You Game?

Speaking of sports, have you heard about the new club in Madison?

Young Queer Sports Club (YQSC) was created by Miles Walser and Isabel Medina (two really, really cool Madison West seniors) and seeks to provide all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (queer) youth with a safe and accepting place to explore their athleticism through group-oriented sports and activities. YQSC's goal is to have a 10-12 week indoor soccer program this winter. No experience is necessary, but willingness to participate is essential.

If you're interested, e-mail youngqueersportsclub@yahoo.com with your full name, address, e-mail, and the best phone number to reach you.

Check out our MySpace page at www.myspace.com/yqsc and make sure you join our Facebook group, "young queer sports club".

YQSC will be running the concessions stand at the first game of the Madison Gay Hockey Association this Sunday night, so if you want to chat with Miles and Isabel, come to the Madison Ice Arena (725 Forward Dr.) between 8PM and 10PM.

HEY ADULTS: YQSC is looking for adult volunteers, as well!

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4. Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat

The 6th Annual "Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat" Food Drive is underway. Brought to you by Girl Neighborhood Power of Dane County, this campaign encourages youth groups to explore different ways to sponsor a food drive in their area.

Food pantries throughout Wisconsin are experiencing huge increases in families' needs. As gas and other essentials have gotten more expensive, families with limited budgets are having a hard time making ends meet. As it gets colder, the need for food in our pantries will increase even more.

Consider sponsoring a food barrel at your school. More information on how to help out with this worthy cause can be found at www.ywcamadison.org. This is SO easy to do!

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5. Judy Shepard Coming to UW-Parkside

Matthew Shepard was a student at the University of Wyoming in the city of Laramie. He was an openly gay student who was beaten, tortured and left hanging on a fence to die in the freezing October cold nine years ago. Matthew Shepard's mom, Judy Shepard, will be coming to the University of Wisconsin-Parkside campus to talk about the murder of her son and steps you can take to help reduce hate in your community.

When: Oct. 22nd, Main Place 7:00pm
Where: University of Wisconsin-Parkside
900 Wood Rd
Kenosha WI 53141

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6. Project Q Presents Homocoming: A Queer Halloween Homecoming

Back from the grave by popular demand, Homocoming will take place on Friday, October 26th at the Miramar Theatre in Milwaukee (N. 2844 Oakland Ave).

Ticket prices: the first 1/2 hour it's FREE; the second 1/2 hour it's $5; then it's $10. Get there early! See performances & enjoy the costumes, food, music, fun & more. For more information about Homocoming contact Warren at 414.292.3074 or warren@projectq.org.

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7. Q.2.Go October in Whitefish Bay

Q.2.Go brings Project Q into your communities! The next Q.2.Go will be taking place at Bruegger's Bagels on Saturday, October 27th in Whitefish Bay, at 601 E. Silver Spring Dr. from 5:30PM to 7:30PM. For more information about Q.2.Go, or to host one in your town, contact Project Q at 414.223.3220 x115 or email projectq@projectq.org.

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8. The Hear Me Project: 2007 Story Writing Contest

HEAR ME, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting positive health among youth and youth at-risk. The HEAR ME Project is a story-writing competition for youth ages 14 through 22 on HIV and other important issues. Celebrities act as final round judges, and include filmmakers, authors, actors, playwrights, and scientists.

The Hear Me Project is looking for stories that are…

…up to 5 pages typed or handwritten legibly,
…about personal vulnerability to HIV/AIDS (your story can be either fiction or non-fiction; the characters in the story must be impacted by HIV/AIDS),
…original and have never been published.

The contest began on September 1st, 2007. Entries must be submitted online at www.hearmeproject.org or by mail to the following address: The HEAR ME Project, 375 Greenwich Street, 8th floor, New York, NY 10013. To be eligible, entries must be postmarked by December 1st, 2007. All components of the entry, including the entry form and essay, must be mailed in the same envelope, or submitted online at www.hearmeproject.org.

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9. Gay-Friendly College Admission Fairs this Fall and Spring

Are you thinking about going to college, but not sure how to pick one that is friendly and welcoming to LGBT people and their allies?

Campus Pride just announced dates for two national college admission fairs this Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 specifically designed for out lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students to find LGBT-friendly colleges and universities.

The Fall 2007 fair will be on Saturday, December 1st hosted on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. The Spring 2008 fair will be on Friday, April 11th hosted on the campus of the University of California, San Diego. Free and open to the public, the fairs allow any student and their family the opportunity to interact with colleges and universities that value LGBT and allies. Registration is open to any college or university across the United States. Each fair will also feature expert advice about LGBT-friendly colleges, scholarship resources and even effective tips for campus visits.

The fairs are being held in coordination with the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index (www.campusclimateindex.org), the only online resource of its kind that assists colleges and universities in learning ways to improve their LGBT campus life.

To learn more details about the upcoming Campus Pride College Admission Fairs or how to register your campus before the 30 day prior deadline, please visit Campus Pride (www.campuspride.org) or contact the organization at info@campuspride.org or 704-277-6710.

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Related Readings: News and Publications

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10. The Sacramento Bee: Royal Yes to Diversity at Davis Senior High

Another story about a same-sex couple being elected to their homecoming court has made the news. The couple, both given the title of "Prince", was met with cheers and applause when their nomination was announced. For the full story, follow this link: http://tinyurl.com/ywvh6q

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11. Santa Cruz Sentinel Opinion Editorial: Queer History Month a Chance to Put an End to Homophobia

Dieter Schmidtmeier, a 14-year-old student at Aptos High School in California, recently submitted an opinion editorial (op-ed) to the Santa Cruz Sentinel about the significance of Queer History Month. Check it out here: http://tinyurl.com/387aky

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12. New York Times: Aging and Gay, and Facing Prejudice in Twilight

LGBT people can face prejudice and discrimination anywhere: in school, at work, on the street. But what about the aging LGBT population? The New York Times takes a poignant look at the experiences of LGBT folks in assisted living and nursing homes: http://tinyurl.com/3dly83

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