Come to the GSRC!

The Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC), located on the second floor of the Hunt Union, provides a safe space for people of all genders, sexualities, and creeds to relax in. Open five days a week, the center has a TV, fridge, a mini library, and periodicals section full of information on the LGBTQ community. The center offers information on LGBTQ issues, women’s issues, and information about sex. Come hang out, get some homework done, get some of those questions answered, or just come in to talk.

We’re here for you!

The GSRC also sponsors numerous activities on campus like Action Hero and Safe Space. Check out upcoming events in the GSRC NEWS AND EVENTS section on page 2.

Gender Neutral Housing on Campus

By: Rachael DelSignore

Dir. of Res. Life, Michele Luettgger, is working on a new pilot program for Gender Neutral Housing here at SUNY Oneonta. She has worked tirelessly with her committee to get this program on the campus. After three and a half years of hard work, the President Cabinet has approved of the plan. The plan will start in fall of 2012. However, this fall is going to be a test run. The hall that is going to be used to test this program is Higgins Hall. The doubles will be same gender, but the singles can be any gender on two floors of Higgins. They eventually hope to get the doubles gender neutral, but only baby steps can be taken at this point since the plan isn’t absolute yet.

Gender Neutral Housing is a program in which rooms are set aside so students of any sex or gender can stay in them. Anybody who is gay, straight, transgender, questioning, or an ally can reside in these rooms. Ms. Luettgger has been working on this for a few years, and after collecting data from students, she found that this would be a great option for many.

As previously stated, nothing is absolute. What is currently being worked on are things such as: applications and how one could apply to be in gender neutral housing, if it is going to be run via credit hour, certain policies, and how it is going to be incorporated into the residential housing application.

However, RA's are now being trained to handle some complications that may arise with this new program. The program is well underway and looks like it will be extremely successful. If you have any questions you may contact Michele Luettgger at luettgme@oneonta.edu.
AIDS

What is AIDS?
AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is the final stage in HIV. This syndrome causes severe damage to the immune system. The cells that are attacked are the T-cells of the immune system, which are also called “helper cells.” This leaves the body vulnerable to other infections and illnesses.

What are the symptoms?
Normally, people infected with HIV do not show symptoms for the first ten days. Sometimes, a person infected with HIV will show no symptoms until AIDS develops or stay symptom free for several years. Inevitably, people infected with the HIV virus will, eventually, develop AIDS. Symptoms are usually the development of infection that a person without AIDS wouldn’t have. Other symptoms include: chills, fever, sweats, swollen lymph glands, weakness, and weight loss.

How is it spread?
AIDS and HIV are spread in a variety of ways. It is found in saliva, tears, blood, vaginal fluid, semen, and pre-ejaculatory fluids. It can be spread through sexual intercourse (vaginal, anal, and oral sex), an infected needle, blood, and from mother to child.

How can you prevent HIV/AIDS?
One way is simple: abstinence. As difficult as that may sound, it is one fool-proof way of spreading and obtaining AIDS from sexual contact. If this option isn’t suitable, then have safe sex, use a condom. Condoms prevent the semen from entering your partner; therefore, preventing infection. One of the most important things to do is ask your partner if they have been tested. You never know until you ask. It is in your best interest to know and better for your health and your partners’. Avoid the use of drugs: HIV can be spread through needles that are used to take these drugs. Lastly, avoid contact with blood. If you feel that you may have HIV/AIDS, get tested to help stop the spread.