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 a 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.

Kate Bornstein: the Lady Who Rocks the Gender Boat

By: Rachael DelSignore

“I’ve done a lot of things in the world where people laugh at me…where I want to kill myself….But I found lots of reasons to go on living”

-Bornstein’s “It Gets Better” video

SUNY Oneonta had the privilege of having the fabulous Kate Bornstein as a guest in the Hunt Union Waterfront on March 28th. Being an audience member of her presentation, I got to witness firsthand her ideas and zany, unique humor. In PG terms, she used colorful language that had the audience roaring with laughter. She started on a personal note—jokingly claiming that she always had a dream of being Miss America, but “they never really allowed dykes and trans in there.” She got very personal, revealing that she was severely suicidal six times in her life. This inspired her to write novels about gender issues.

Bornstein is a male to female transsexual from New Jersey. She has written six books, with a seventh on the way. She presented three main components that “make our life worth living”: identity, desire, and power. Then she presented factors that cause us to “mess around” with these factors; these include race, gender, sexuality, looks, age, class etc. Her main point was to find something, anything, to make your life worth living and makes you happy. She even offered to serve our time in Hell! Want to learn more about her gender theory? Read her books!

This presentation was well worth the two hours, and those who missed it really did miss out on not only an extraordinary speaker, but one hell of a time.

katebornstein.typepad.com twitter.com/#!/katebornstein
DID YOU KNOW...?
According to a national poll, 80% of Catholics do not think it is their place to judge a same-sex couple’s love or commitment to one another.

Source: www.dosomething.org

Meet Dr. Mette Harder
By: Rachael DelSignore

I got the chance to speak with Dr. Mette Harder, Professor of History here at SUNY Oneonta. Learning that she did a study on paternal roles during the French Revolution, I was intrigued as to what she thought about today’s LGBT and gender issues. I asked here a few questions, and those questions turned into a deep discussion of our society and how we perceive the LGBT community and gender roles. But more importantly, we discussed what to do about it. Although gender studies is not her field, she had an interesting theory as to how we can combat the homophobia and prejudice that is so prevalent in our society:

How have masculine roles changed over time?
Well I teach a class about male roles and paternalism, and we emphasize the change in male fashion. An example would be ballet and high heels were considered very masculine things.

What do you believe is the most prevalent gender issue in our society?
I feel that women are constantly asked to put their career aside. There are these expectations of women to have a career but start a family as well. It is very hard to do both. These expectations often get in the way of women starting families. Therefore, they are put in a very difficult position and sacrifice their careers.

How do you think that issue could be resolved?
Encourage each other to pursue careers.

Have you ever faced gender or sexuality discrimination?
No. But I do feel that it is hard to work in a University as a young woman. I feel that you are not as respected as much in the classroom and you have to work harder to get that respect.

Well, have you ever witnessed discrimination?
I have heard anti-gay slurs and remarks from my students.

What advice do you have to deal with these situations?
Honestly, I believe all we have to do is talk about it-educate. Make it a discussion rather than a correction. Just communicate-I believe that is the key.