BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE LGBTQI + RESOURCE ROOM

VOL. 6 NO.2



SPRING 24

"Your silence will not protect you." - Audre Lorde

SPECIAL 5-YEAR ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

CULTURE WARS IN THE TOILET

By Edwin Roman, Rainbow Alliance Advisor

During the third Democratic debate in December of 2015, Hillary Clinton was delayed returning to the stage after using the toilet. She had exactly one minute and 45 seconds to walk out of the gymnasium at St. Anselm College to the women's restroom. The men's room was significantly closer to the debate stage. Of course, there was a misogynistic backlash, but it illustrated how the built environment can reflect who has social clout. When Sandra Day O'Connor joined the Supreme Court in 1981, unlike her

male colleagues, who had their own toilets, she had to walk down a long hallway and use a public one. Similarly, it wasn't until 1992 that there were women's toilets near the Senate floor and the House of Representatives finally got one near the House chamber in 2011. While the need for toilets is universal. their availability is not. Even though the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed over thirty years ago, people with disabilities still wrestle with supposedly ADA-compliant facilities where toilet doors open inward or are not wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair.

Modern culture wars and issues of equality often begin in the toilet with

regards to who gets to use them. According to sociologist Sheila Cavanagh, author of *Queering Bathrooms: Gender, Sexuality, and the Hygienic Imagination*, public restrooms were initially available only to men as women weren't expected to be outside the home long enough to use them. Cavanagh notes that the first recorded gender-separate bathrooms were chamber boxes set up at a Parisian ball in 1739. Indoor plumbing and the industrial revolution saw more women venturing outside of the home and into the workplace. Massachusetts, in 1887, became the first state to enact a statute requiring separate restrooms for men and women. By 1920, over 40 states had adopted similar legislation requiring that public restrooms be separated by sex. The justifications for these laws requiring gender-sep-

arate restrooms were not based on anatomical differences. Instead, they were implemented to foster a moral ideology that dictated the appropriate role and place for women in society.

Between 1877 and the mid-1960s, the racial caste system known as Jim Crow primarily operated in southern states. Under Jim Crow, African Americans were relegated to second class citizens. According to the Jim Crow Muse-

um, these laws "represented the legitimization of anti-black racism" and that "many Christian ministers and theologians taught that white people were the chosen people, Black people were cursed to be servants, and God supported racial segregation." These profoundly uniust laws also included unequal restrooms available to "whites" and "coloreds." African Americans traveling through the South during the Jim Crow era had to judiciously plan where and when they might be able to stop to relieve themselves

Modern culture wars and issues of equality often begin in the toilet with regards to who gets to use them.

North Carolina, in 2016, became the first state to pass a bill barring transgender people from using

bathrooms consistent with their gender identity. Recently, Idaho, Iowa, and Arkansas have passed their own bathroom bills. These laws are often justified under the facade of protection for women and children from sexual assault. However, a 2018 study from the Williams Institute at UCLA School of Law (https://rb.gy/ozou9), the first of its kind to investigate the relationship between nondiscrimination laws in public accommodations and reports of crime in public toilets, showed that there is no evidence that letting transgender people use public facilities that align with their gender identity increases safety risks. According to a 2015 survey by the National Center for Transgender Equality

Continued on the next page.

almost 60 percent of transgender Americans have avoided using public toilets for fear of confrontation, conveying they have been harassed and assaulted. Eighteen states already protect transgender people's right to use the toilet, and none have seen a rise in incidents of people attacking anyone or of people pretending to be transgender in order to get access to restrooms. Similarly, law enforcement officials and sexual assault advocates in states and cities that already have trans-inclusive policies in place have frequently conveyed that the claim that these policies cause safety problems is irrational and completely false.

Fighting for equal access to toilets according to one's gender identity is a key issue because it clearly manifests into other issues such as employment or using public places without experiencing harassment or discrimination.

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In the News...

HATE WATCH

Oklahoma bill would ban state agencies from celebrating Pride Month

NBC News reports that a bill introduced on February 5, 2024 in the Oklahoma Legislature would bar state agencies from celebrating LGBTQ Pride Month or displaying rainbow Pride flags on state property at any time of year. Oklahoma's "Patriotism Not Pride Act," introduced by Republican state Rep. Kevin West, would prohibit state agencies from using public funds to "develop, organize, administer, engage in, promote, or endorse any activity, including any event, initiative, official communication, social media post, educational program, or public campaign, that aims to promote or recognize Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Intersex Pride Month or any event with a similar theme."

Read more at: https://rb.gy/xgd103

Uganda court hears suit filed in opposition to anti-LGBTQ law

Aljazeera reports that the Constitutional Court of Uganda has begun hearing the first challenge to an anti-gay law that has triggered criticism from the United Nations and led to United States visa restrictions on government officials. Uganda adopted one of the world's harshest laws against homosexuality in May of 2023. The legislation contains provisions making "aggravated homosexuality" a capital crime and imposes penalties for consensual same-sex relations of up to life in prison.

Read more at: https://rb.gy/af3x26

THE ARTS

Rustin

Netflix recently released a film about Bayard Rustin produced by Barack and Michelle Obama. *Rustin* is the true story of a man who played a key role in civil rights history, but whose contribution has often been overlooked. Rustin was a key figure in the civil rights movement who organized the March on Washington in 1963, where Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his I Have A Dream speech. And while the speech has gone down in history, Rustin has not. The reason largely stems from the fact that he was openly and unapologetically gay, which was a controversial stance at that time and sometimes resulted in him being beaten and arrested. The march is credited with encouraging the government to do more on civil rights and led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights act of 1965. Coleman Domingo who plays Bayard Rustin, and is gay, received near-unanimous praise for his performance and was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor.

An excellent companion to *Rustin* is the 2003 documentary *Brother Outsider*.

LOOKING BACK ON FIVE YEARS

FROM THE DESK OF DR. EMALINDA MCSPADDEN

2020

LGBTQI+ RESOURCE ROOM

2019-2020

PRIDE AND PERSEVERANCE IN A PANDEMIC





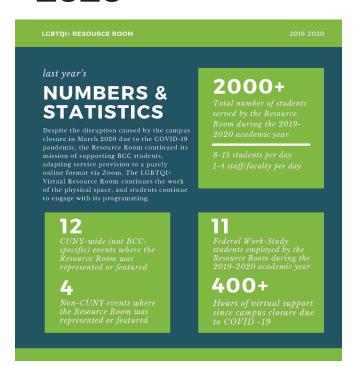
"Every time I got out of class, I went to the Resource Room. I never left that place. It felt safe, I wasn't alone, I felt supported there. I'm really sad not to have the Resource Room to go to anymore... it's not quite the same, but I really do like the Virtual Room. I was missing the people that I saw in the physical room, and it's nice to be with them again... it helps me feel a little more okay."

When campus closed, it impacted every single member of the BCC community. For many of our LGBTQI+ students, the impact of campus closure stretched beyond not being able to attend classes in person. To them, it meant losing a home away from home, a safe space where they could be themselves, and in-person contact with a network of friends that had quickly become their new chosen family. Many lost not only the feeling of safety to be themselves openly, but a sense of feeling accepted by and belonging to a thriving and active queer student community. In a time when COVID-19 had taken away so much of our country's sense of normalcy, our queer students lost so much more.

Their anxieties and concerns became all the more complicated as the Black Lives Matter movement reached a crescendo during the early summer months, once again emphasizing a particular solitude for many of our queer students of color who yearned for one another's support and solidarity. When Pride month came, they experienced a renewed sadness around yet another meaningful moment stripped away by the pandemic, just as Lavender Graduation had recently been.

Nevertheless, our students are resilient, brave, and tenacious, so they found a way. During quarantine, many have met faithfully in a new virtual format. They created a new student club and meet regularly. They continue to lift each other up, regardless of their adversities. They now continue to face down their fears hand in hand, albeit virtually, and look to the future with hope, feeling a little less alone and a little more okay.

2020



2023



2021



56% increase in drop-in visits and event attendance took





ABOUT THE PROGRAM

According to the Human Rights Campaign, TGNB (transgender and gender non-binary) people are becoming more visible, yet they still face severe discrimination, stigma, and systemic inequality. The TransSending Program, made possible by funding from the CUNY LGBTQIA+ Consortium, will support students in whatever career path to which they aspire, giving them internship experience along with mentorship and support. The program's training is designed to create higher levels of confidence in knowing both their rights in the workplace and their abilities to enact them. The TransSending Project includes a training component for student participants in the program. This training is designed to introduce students to the following:

- Important skills and information relevant to TGNB employment in various workspaces
- Legal rights and protections for TGNB employees
- Skills for navigating interpersonal difficulties in workplace environments
- Self-care practices for professional success

Trainings will be intensive virtual sessions that will take place over 3 days at the beginning of the spring semester, and will be conducted by qualified staff, faculty, and guests from relevant agencies.

The program offers a stipend: half will be paid upon completion of a 20-hour training, and the remaining amount will be paid at the end of the semester, when the students will submit presentations about their semester with the program at a campus-wide symposium event.

HOW TO APPLY

Students may apply at: https://rb.gy/ddd9r7

The deadline to apply is Monday, January 3, 2022.

OUESTIONS?

Dr. Emalinda McSpadden: emalinda.mcspadden@bcc.cuny.edu Mr. Edwin Roman: edwin.roman@bcc.cuny.edu

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE LGBTQI+ RESOURCE ROOM

http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/campus-life/student-life/campus-diversity/lgbtqi-resource-room/



THE CELLULOID CLOSET

The Celluloid Closet is a 1995 American documentary film based on Vito Russo's 1981 book The Celluloid Closet is a 1995 American documentary film based on Vito Russo's 1981 book The Celluloid Closet: Homosexuality in the Movies. The film explores how Hollywood films, had portrayed LGBTQ characters in film up to 1995. A conversation on the importance of representation in media.

PRAYERS FOR BORRY

PRAYERS FOR BOBBY
June 23, 2021 1500 - 730 p.m.

Starring Sigourney Weaver, Prayers for Bobby tells the true story of devout Christian Mary Griffith who fights to
"cure" her gay son, Bobby, Although her ties to please his morther, Bobby cannot change and his depression leads
to suicide. Mary questions her faith and searches for confort, but after the church is unable to help her cope with
Bobby's death, she seeks to understand her opinions on homosexuality for herself. Eventually, Mary becomes an
advocate for gay rights. Discussion to follow with Reverend James Sheehan, Chaplain of Bronx Community College.

ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER

ALL ABOUT MY MOTHER June 25, 2021 15:00 - 7:30 p.m.

All About My Mother is a 1999 drama written and directed by Pedro Almodóvar and felis the story of a nurse named Manuela who loses the teenage son she raised on her own. Grieving, she sets out to search for her son's long-lost father in Barcelona, where she reawakens into a new maternal role, at the head of a surrogate family that includes a pregnant, HIV-positive nun, an illustrious star of the stage, and a transgender sex worker. Discussion to follow with Professor Alicia Bralove of the Bronx Community College Department of World Languages and Cultures.

This event is only open to CUNY students, faculty and staff. When signing up you MUST use your CUNY e-mail address. Sign up at https://forms.gle/V2usrS3bujKRGfSLA

" People will never fight for your freedom if you have not given evidence that you are prepared to fight for it yourself." - Bayard Rustin

THE BCC LGBTQI+ RESOURCE ROOM PRESENTS



SPRING 2019 TRAINING

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019 | 12:00 - 2:00 P.M. **ROSCOE BROWN STUDENT CENTER ROOM 211**

Come to a day of training to become an ally to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual or Questioning Students.

> **SIGN UP ONLINE AT:** https://goo.gl/3x59M3

Or check social media or the BCC Broadcast for the direct link

Have additional questions? Contact the LGBTQI+ Resource Room at X5300











Lavender Graduation is an annual ceremony conducted on numerous campuses across the United States to honor LGBTOI+ students and to acknowledge their achievements and contributions to the University.

Students who would like to be featured in the pre-recorded Virtual Lavender Graduation ceremony should visit the link below and complete the form by

WENEDSAY, MAY 24, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. https://forms.gle/HhtyogFMKz8xadre9

OUESTIONS?







THE BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE LGBTOI+ RESOURCE ROOM



WHAT IS GAYPRIL?

Every year college campuses across the country celebrate a month of LGBTQI+ Pride in April, which is celebrated in June around the world. GAYpril is an opportunity for LGBTQ+ students to enjoy visibility and support while promoting awareness about issues surrounding the diverse intersectionality of LGBTQI+ identity.

#SayGay #GAYpril

FOSTERING ACTIVISM April 7, 2022 | 12 - 2 p.m. | On Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87098986678 | Meeting ID: 870 9898 6678

Activism is a commitment to fostering equitable and democratic communities where everyone flourishes. Being an activist means getting involved and taking actions toward social justice. Social media and activism are indeed connected, especially since the 2010 Arab Spring demonstrations and since 2013, when the Black Lives Matter hashtag was used for the first time. However, activism is more than just posting on social media. Robt Seda-Schreiber, Chief Activist of The Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice along with Board Member and poet/Activist Michelle Elizabeth Brown will speak with students on how to foster activism for causes they believe in. ASAP Approved Workshop.

TGNB INDIVIDUAL & EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS April 12, 2022 | 12:30 - 2 p.m. | On Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2978780329

On June 15, 2020, the landmark Supreme Court case Bostock v. Clayton County, clarified that federal law prohibits anti-transgender discrimination in employment. This decision was built on many victories in recent years, wherein courts and federal agencies had increasingly taken the view that job discrimination against transgender people is prohibited by existing laws against sex discrimination. This session will explore the rights of TGNB individuals in the workplace.

THE POETRY, PROSE, AND ACTIVISM OF SIMPLY ROB April 14, 2022 | 4 - 6 p.m. | On Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81782084870 | Meeting ID: 817 8208 4870

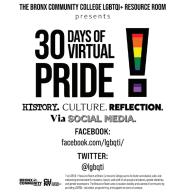
Activism is a commitment to fostering equitable and democratic communities where everyone flourishes. Being an activist means getting involved and taking actions toward social justice. Art has always had a connection with activist movements. Often, art is created to spread information and awareness. ASAP approved workshop. Bronx-based spoken-word artist Rob Vassilarakis (Simply Rob) was disowned by his family at the age of 17 for being gay and blazed his own path of creativity and activism. His life experiences led him to work with at risk youth focusing on issues of sexual identity and HIV / AIDS education and prevention. Vassilarakis is also a founding member of El Grito de Poetas, an all-Latino poetry collective. Vassilarakis will be performing poetry and discussing his life and professional experiences as an activist and educator. ASAP Approved Workshop.

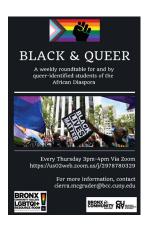
TGNB MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS April 29, 2022 | 12:30-2 pm | On Zoom https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2978780329

TGNB students and young professionals face higher levels of psychoemotional stress and discomfort due to numerous factors in their lived experience. This event will bring together mental health professionals with experience in working with TGNB individuals, discussing the specific needs and concerns that arise when serving this population.



Funding for these events was made possible by the CUNY LGBTQI+ Consortium.











"History isn't something you look back at and say it was inevitable. It happens because people make decisions that are sometimes very impulsive and of the moment, but those moments are cumulative realities." — Marsha P. Johnson

CONGRATULATIONS ON 5 YEARS!

Kudos to all the students, faculty and staff involved with the success of our BCC LGBTQI+ Resource Room. **THANK YOU FOR IMPROVING LIVES AND LENSES.**

Dr. Manny Lopez
Interim Vice President for Student Success

Happy 5th Birthday!
Thank you for your tireless devotion to our Rainbow Broncos.

YOU MAKE BCC BETTER!!!!

Dr. Alicia Bralove Ramírez
Professor, Department of World Languages and Cultures
Co-Chair BCC Honors Program

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A PLACE MAKES!

Happy fifth anniversary to the LGBTQI+ Resource Room!
All the best,

Dr. Tamar Rothenberg
Professor and Chair, Department of History

On behalf of the HPER Department, **CONGRATULATIONS ON FOSTERING AN ENVIRONMENT OF INCLUSIVITY**, providing our BCC community voice and choice.

Much blessings and success!

Kelvin Cooper

Chair and Professor, Department of Health, Physical Education & Recreation

I am really proud of the BCC family for creating the **WARM, INCLUSIVE, AND AWESOME SPACE** in the Roscoe Brown building. This space shows the best of what BCC can be! **Dr. Seth Offenbach**

Associate Professor, Department of History

Congratulations on 5 years of supporting, **CELEBRATING**, **AND ADVOCATING FOR AND WITH OUR LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS** through the LGBTQI+ Resource Room! **Dr. Teresa A. Fisher (she/her) Professor, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences**

THE LGBTI+ RESOURCE ROOM HAS AND WILL EDUCATE OUR CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY CONSTITUENCIES ON LGBT ISSUES THROUGH PROGRAMMING

about sexual orientation and gender identity/expression, advocacy, leadership, and visibility. You continued advocacy will help improve the campus climate for LGBTI+ staff, faculty, and students. Well done, Emily and Edwin, well done, indeed.

Dr. LaRoi M. Lawton
Assistant Professor, Department of the Library





LGRTOI+ RESOURCE ROOM

2155 University Avenue Roscoe Brown Student Center [BC] 312 718.289.5300

Dr. Milton Santiago

Interim President

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Interim Vice President for Student Success

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Interim Assistant Vice President Student Affairs

Dr. Alexander Ott

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for Curriculum Matters and Faculty Development

Dr. Emalinda McSpadden

Coordinator Social Sciences

Edwin Roman

Rainbow Alliance Advisor Loud! Editor and Designer Transfer Services

A special thanks to Dr. Alicia Bralove for her assistance with proofreading!

ADVISORY BOARD

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MISSION

The LGBTQI + Resource Room at Bronx Community College works to foster an inclusive, safe, and welcoming environment for students. faculty, and staff of all sexual orientations. gender identities, and gender expressions. The LGBTQI + Resource Room aims to sustain visibility and a sense of community by providing education, programming, and support services on campus.

WEEKLY

THE LGBTQI+ RESOURCE ROOM, LOCATED IN THE ROSCOE BROWN STUDENT CENTER IN ROOM 312, IS OPEN MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY 12-5PM, AND FRIDAY 1-4PM.

WEDNESDAYS

LGBTQI+ Support Group | 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Share. Express. Support. Let's come together to express thoughts, hopes, and feelings with other like-minded people. Meets virtually through Zoom. To gain access please email LGBTQI@bcc.cuny.edu or Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu.

THURSDAYS

Rainbow Alliance Club | 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

The Rainbow Alliance, the oldest LGBTOI+ club on campus, provides extracurricular cultural activities that address the needs of LGBTQI+ students as well as the greater campus community. This group meets in person in the Roscoe Brown Student Center Room 312. Please e-mail edwin.roman@bcc.cuny.edu.

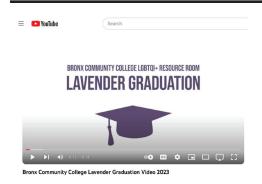
Queer Lit Book Club | 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Provides an opportunity for students to read and discuss gueer literature of various genres and examine the ways in which this literature has inspired students' own creative works.

Please email LGBTQI@bcc.cuny.edu or Emalinda.McSpadden@bcc.cuny.edu.

Black and Oueer

Black & Queer is an events based group for and by queer-identifying BCC students of the African Diaspora. Topics and events typically focus on the intersectionalities of Blackness, queerness, and a host of others experienced by students at BCC. Please email LGBTQI@bcc.cuny.edu.



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT

LAVENDER GRADUATION **VIDEOS**

ΔΤ

https://rb.gy/gq9800

We are looking for STUDENT writing for the next issue of Loud! If you are interested in submitting an article please send an e-mail to edwin.roman@bcc.cuny.edu.