same-sex couples, to create civil unions, to create a new system. Whatever
the Legislature’s options are to expand the definition of marriage to
same-sex couples, to create civil unions, or to create a new system. Whatever
option they choose, couples will be afforded all of the rights and benefits so
long denied.

Although the ruling was 4-3, the Court
unanimously agreed that same-sex cou-
uples are legally entitled to these rights. The minority opinion’s dissent was
linked to the possibility of calling these
unions anything but marriage; they want-
ed to change the definition of marriage
through the judicial system, instead of
leaving it up to the legislature.

Any way that you look at it, the queer
community of New Jersey has won this
battle. Although we will continue to fight
for the title of marriage and the social
benefits that it allows, we will have the
legal rights that are at the very core of
this battle for equality.

Although this is a time for further strate-
gy and planning, this is also a time of
celebration. We are equal. Our relation-
ships are just as deep, complex and
important as heterosexual relationships,
and the New Jersey government has
clearly recognized that. And so I con-
gratulate and thank everyone at Ramapo
who has helped in this battle, and I
remind everyone that, no matter how
bleak things sometimes seem for the
queer community, we are winning. And
the fact that we are equal to our hetero-
sexual neighbors will someday be recog-
nized not only in New Jersey, but across
the nation.

Breast Cancer Awareness in
Washington
By Sarah Costello, Program Coordinator

On Wednesday, September 20, 2006 a
momentous event took place in
Washington DC. The American Cancer
Society's legislative action group, ACS
CAN, sent hundreds of volunteers to
Washington DC to advocate for more
funding for cancer research and better
treatment options. These ambassadors
represented all 50 states and each of the
435 Congressional districts. I was fortunate to be selected as one of the
representatives from New Jersey's
District 7.

One of the main reasons I chose this legis-
slative ambassadorship is because of the
fact that I had the ability to work on the
Breast and Cervical Cancer Early
Detection Program (BCCEDP). This pro-
gram is a federally funded effort at get-
ting low cost or no cost mammograms
and PAP tests for underprivileged
women. The BCCEDP has been amaz-
ingly effective, especially for women in
the inner cities. This year, for the first
time, the government had proposed cut-
ting the funding for this program. I was
strongly opposed to this cut - in fact, I
was hoping for an increase in funding -
and as the daughter of a woman who has
survived both breast and cervical cancer,
I knew I had to do something to help in
the fight.

While in Washington, I met with
Representative Mike Ferguson, as well as
Senators Lautenberg and Menendez,
all of whom signed a pledge to support
the BCCEDP, along with other cancer-
related initiatives. For more information
regarding the legislative efforts, check
out www.celebrationonthehill.org.

Overall, my experience in Washington
was amazing. There was a candlelit cere-
mony around the reflecting pool to honor
survivors and those who have lost the
battle. There were also 5,000 banners
containing millions of signatures from
people who had attended Relay for Life
events around the country. In the end, I
was completely empowered by my expe-
rience in Washington. This event has
truly renewed my passion for fighting
cancer and I hope to see results in the
very near future.
Latino Heritage Month Events

Enrique Morones, Founder of Border Angels
"Border Angels, Border Realities and the Truth About Our Migrant Community."
Wednesday, November 1
1:00 pm Trustees Pavilion
Enrique is President and Founder of Border Angels, an all-volunteer group he established in 1986 which places food, water and other provisions in the desert on the border areas to help save migrant lives. He was the creator of the National March for Migrants. He led 11 vehicles and thousands of people across the country from San Diego to Washington DC and back.

Celebremeñors el Dia del los Muertos
An invitation to celebrate the Day of the Dead
Thursday, November 2
10:00 am - 4:00 pm Student Center, Second Floor
We invite you to participate in a more than 500 year old Aztec tradition of creating altars commemorating our beloved departed ones. Participants may listen to the history talk by Spanish professor Paula Straile-Costa at 10:00 am, include their own personal items and photos in the altar or just help with the altar installation and have some creative input. Personal items will be watched over during the day and can be retrieved at 4:00 pm.

Andrew Kennedy, Comedian
Wednesday, November 8
9:00 pm Friends Hall (SC 219)
Andrew Kennedy is half Colombian, half-British and fully bilingual. Growing up around the world, he has insight into people and culture. His uncanny ability to imitate people, create characters and interpret life makes for a performer who is both talented and exciting.

El Museo del Barrio
Saturday, November 11
Departing from The Circle
Sign up at Roadrunner Central
This day will include a trip to El Museo del Barrio, a museum founded in 1969 by a group of Puerto Rican educators, artists, parents and community activists in East Harlem’s Spanish-speaking El Barrio, a tour of East Harlem, and dinner. Don’t miss this great day!

Dancing with the Stars!
Tuesday, November 14
9:30pm J. Lee’s
Latin Dance Class taught by members of the Ramapo College Faculty!

Movie: “My American Girls: A Dominican Story”
Thursday, November 16
7:00 pm SC 138
In vivid detail, this film captures the joys and struggles over a year in the lives of the Ortiz family, first generation immigrants from the Dominican Republic. The film also captures rewards and costs of pursuing the American dream and the contradictions of contemporary immigrant life.

"La Cultura Ecológica en una Región Amazónica de Perú"
Tuesday, November 17
9:45 am - 11:15 am B 217
Presented in Spanish! Dr. Eric Weiner will give a slide presentation about his experiences conducting research and living in Amazonian villages, and Dr. Paula Straile-Costa will moderate a follow-up discussion that will center on language, culture and working as a professional in rural areas of Latin American.

Café Con Leche
Tuesday, November 21
12:00 - 2:00pm J. Lee's
Coffee, poetry and live music by Latino artists

Immigration Conference
Tuesday, November 28
10:00 am - 6:00pm Friends Hall (SC 219)
This one-day conference will focus on historical, academic, and activist perspectives on immigration. If you would like to be involved as a participant, panel member, or committee member, contact Mandy Restivo at mrestivo@ramapo.edu.

Women's Center Events

The Rocky Horror Picture Show
Saturday, November 4
Departs from The Circle at 10:30 pm
Sign up at Roadrunner Central - $5.00
Presented by Ramapo Pride

Words of Choice
Thursday, November 9
7:00 pm Trustees Pavilion
$5.00 Entrance Fee for Off Campus Guests
Dynamic Pro-Choice theater! A woman's right to choose soars in a tapestry of 14 powerful 'shorts' -- serious and comic, performed by an ensemble of actors, who weave together the words of many writers. Fascinating stories in Words of Choice: A woman's birthday toast to Roe v. Wade. A father's feelings after his daughter is raped. A teen's search for the phone number of a one-night stand. The humorous invention of the fictional 'morning after' taco.
Sponsored by the Women's Center, Feminists United, and The Social Responsibilities Council of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood

Feminist Book Swap
Tuesday, November 14
9:30pm Fishbowl
Bring feminist books to swap with others!
Sponsored by the Women's Center and Feminists United
**World AIDS Day Events**
Co-sponsored by the Women’s Center, Ramapo Pride, Feminists United, Various Visual Artists, RamaShows

**AIDS Quilt**
November 30 and December 1
9:00 am - 10:00 pm Friends Hall (SC 219)
Experience this visual tribute to those lost to HIV/AIDS. If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Mandy Restivo at mrestivo@ramapo.edu or x7136

**Feminist Art Show**
Thursday, November 30
9:00 am - 10:00 pm Friends Hall (SC 219)
Come view works of art that explore feminist issues.
Sponsored by Feminists United

**Doin’ Time in the Homo No Mo Halfway House**
Performed by Peterson Toscano
Thursday, November 30
7:00pm Friends Hall (SC 219)
Through five characters, Peterson takes you on a tour of the Homo No Mo Halfway House, a Christian residential 12-Step program that attempts to save men from the "evil snares of homosexuality" through bizarre rules, a masculine resuscitation regime, and brain-numbing reconditioning. Based on Toscano's real life experience floundering in various ex-gay ministries, he weaves together humor, program jargon and outrageous eye witness accounts to form a piece that is hilarious, poignant and inspirational.
Cosponsored by Ramapo Pride and the Women's Center

**What is World AIDS Day?**
Approximately forty million people are living with HIV throughout the world - and that number increases in every region every day. There are approximately forty thousand new HIV infections per year in the United States alone. The number of people in the United States that may not know they are HIV positive is approximately three hundred thousand.

World AIDS Day, December 1, is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV and AIDS. This year, it's up to you, me, and us to stop the spread of HIV and end prejudice.

This starts by taking action.

*Wear a red ribbon
*Talk to people
*Attend events

For more information, visit www.worldaidsday.org

**Doctors Without Borders/ Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)**
Thursday, November 30
Time TBA, Friends Hall (SC 219)
Doctors Without Borders/ Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) is an independent international medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural or man-made disasters, or exclusion from healthcare in more than 70 countries. They will speak about working to combat HIV/AIDS in Latin American countries

**Day Without Art**
Friday, December 1
All day on Ramapo's campus
Day Without Art is an event in conjunction with AIDS Awareness Day, in recognition of the lives lost within the art community. Throughout the day, works of art are covered in black cloth. The meaning for this is two fold: to reflect on the destructiveness of the disease, and to recognize the importance of aesthetics in our lives.
Sponsored by Various Visual Artists

**Special Meetings**

**Men Against Violence Meetings**
Every other Monday - 11/6, 11/20, 12/4
9:00 pm SC217
This discussion group creates a safe space for men to talk about masculinity and the prevention of violence against women. All men welcome!

**Queer Peer Services Peer Support Group**
Every Monday
9:30 pm Women’s Center (C 220)
This peer support group creates a safe space for members of the LGBTIQ community to talk about issues faced on campus pertaining to sexuality, relationships, and dealing with homophobia and related issues. All LGBTIQQ* people and their allies are welcome!

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, Intersexed, Questioning, Queer
Misogyny in the Media

Why Aren't We Shocked?
By Bob Herbert for the New York Times

“Who needs a brain when you have these?”

- message on an Abercrombie & Fitch T-shirt for young women.

In the recent shootings at an Amish schoolhouse in rural Pennsylvania and a large public high school in Colorado, the killers went out of their way to separate the girls from the boys, and then deliberately attacked only the girls.

Ten girls were shot and five killed at the Amish school. One girl was killed and a number of others were molested in the Colorado attack.

In the widespread coverage that followed these crime, very little was made of the fact that only girls were targeted. Imagine a gunman had gone into a school, separated the kids up on the basis of race or religion, and then shot only the black kids. Or only the white kids. Or only the Jews.

There would have been thunderous outrage. The country would have first recoiled in horror, and then mobilized in rage. The country would have first

There were just girls, and we have become so accustomed to living in a society saturated with misogyny that violence against females is more or less to be expected. Stories about the rape, murder and mutilation of women and girls are staples of the news, as familiar to us as weather forecasts. The startling aspect of the Pennsylvania attacks was that this terrible thing happened at a school in Amish country, not that it happened to girls.

The disrespectful, degrading, contemptuous treatment of women is so pervasive and so mainstream that it has just about lost its ability to shock. Guys at sporting events and other public venues have shown no qualms about raising an insistent chant to nearby women to show their breasts. An ad for a major long-distance telephone carrier shows three apparently naked women holding a billing statement from a competitor. The next asks, “When was the last time you got screwed?”

An ad for Clinique moisturizing lotion shows a women's face with the lotion spattered across it to simulate the climactic shot of a porn video.

We have a problem. Staggering amounts of violence are unleashed on women every day, and there is no escaping the fact that in the most sensational stories, large segments of the population are titillated by that violence. We've been watching the sexualized image of the murdered 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey for 10 years. JonBenet is dead. Her mother is dead. And we're still watching the video of the poor child prancing in lipstick and high heels.

What have we learned since then? That there's big money to be made from thongs, spandex tops and sexy makeovers for little girls. In a misogynistic culture, it's never too early to drill into the minds of girls that what really matters is their appearance and their ability to please men sexually.

A girl or woman is sexually assaulted every couple of minutes or so in the U.S. The number of seriously battered wives and girlfriends is far beyond the ability of any agency to count. We're all implicated in this carnage because the relentless violence against women and girls is linked at its core to wider society's casual willingness to dehumanize women and girls, to see them first and foremost as sexual vessels - objects - and never, ever, as the equals of men.

“Once you dehumanize somebody, everything is possible,” said Taina Bien-Aime, executive director of the women's advocacy group Equality Now.

That was never clearer than in some of the extreme forms of pornography that have spread like nuclear waste across mainstream America. Forget the embarrassed, inhibited raincoat crowd of the old days. Now Mr. Solid Citizen can come home, log onto this $7 billion mega-industry and get his kicks watching real women being beaten and sexual assaulted on Web sites with names like “Ravished Bride” and “Rough Sex - Where Whores Get Owned.”

Then, of course, there's gangsta rap, and the video games where players themselves get to maul and molest women, the rice of pimp culture (the Academy Award-winning song this year was “It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp”), and on and on.

You're deluded if you think this is all about fun and games. It's all part of a devastating continuum of misogyny that at its farthest extreme touches down in places like the one-room Amish schoolhouse and normally quiet Nickel Mines, Pa.

Western Misogynist Influence in India
By Kate Brown, Program Coordinator

I have to take you back about eight months to talk about my first piece of gendered media. I am walking in the streets of Bangalore, immersed in a different culture, and I look up. "Oh, I can't get away from it!" I say to myself because I keep forgetting that every culture is infused somehow with another and that the pervasive Western mentality is alive and well on these streets too. There is no escaping it. A large billboard is set above the store it is advertising. There is a woman dressed in tight jeans and a crocheted sweater that only manages to cover her breasts. There is a metaphorical line that is drawn at the bottom of the billboard. Above this line, there is the woman, symbolizing the sexualization/objectification of women. If you shift your eyes beneath the line, you see women in saris and burqas. Some are in jeans, but most of them are conservatively dressed. Media has the power to make cultures collide, to manufacture an idea one culture will have about another!
That billboard is the reason why there are gyms in Bangalore now; it is the reason why men think women from the West are "easy". This billboard was not only suggesting that women should dress this way, it was saying that "If you are rich enough, you will dress this way." Class definitely plays a large role in advertising.

The woman on the billboard was wearing Western clothing. And who is really, really rich? People from the West! The woman is also pale-skinned. Who is rich, successful, and pale? People from the West! So if you are rich and successful you will dress like this woman because she is the "New Indian Woman" as the companies would like you to believe. If you are rich and successful and dark skinned, do not worry because at least you can wear these clothes and people will forgive you for having dark skin.

During my time in India I saw that billboard a lot because it is on a popular road in Bangalore. Now I am amused by my naïveté because I had the impression that if I was in India, there would be no such media. The picture of that seductive, scantily clad, thin woman represents the onslaught of Indian culture at the hands of Western media.

Gendered Media Watch
By Christopher Jeune, Office Manager

One of the most if not the most influential part of peoples' everyday lives is the media. A person cannot go a day without avoiding some sort of media, be it an advertisement, a television program, the Internet, or some other form. One would think that since the media is such a prominent part of peoples' lives, it would not have any negative images or messages as a part of it. This, however, is not the case. The media of today's world is rampant with images that marginalize gender and sexuality. Most of these images have to do with the degradation of women. It is not very hard to find these images. All one has to do is simply turn on a television or open a magazine. All of my examples come from one magazine, GQ (Gentlemen's Quarterly). One would think that all of these horrible ads would cause some sort of change, but advertisement executives seem to know one thing and one thing only: sex sells. While this may be true, and some people say we cannot blame these people for that very reason, I feel that this causes one to examine our society at large instead.

Example 1

![Image](410x485 to 513x554)

After only five turns of the page I came across the first ad that had something to do with sexuality and gender. It is a double page spread for Gucci. In it a women is lying on her back. She has a large pair of sunglasses on and no expression on her face. A person (presumably a man due to the shoes shown) is standing with one foot on either side of her. One must assume that she is staring directly into the crotch of the person straddling her.

What could this ad be implying? Many things. The clearest thing that this ad shows is that the man (presumably) has power over the woman. This implies that the man is controlling the woman, that he is the dominant and powerful sex. However, this advertisement has many things hidden in it as well. The ad suggests that he may be about to rape this woman. Another thing that is going on in this ad is that dark sunglasses cover the woman's eyes. This makes sense, since it is an ad for sunglasses. But if one thinks a little harder about this, they can see that it may be saying something about gender. The woman's eyes are covered, so we lose something of her. It is covering up something that makes her a person, it is dehumanizing her.

Another part of this ad is the fact that she has no expression on her face. One would think that if a man had just attacked a woman, she would be screaming. However, this woman is silent. This says many things. One interpretation could be that this ad is saying that women do not have a voice. This harkens back to the most powerful theme of the ad: men are the superior and dominant gender. Another idea is that this ad is saying that women “should just sit back and take it.” In other words, even though this woman has just been attacked, and could possibly be raped, she should not complain and just let it happen. This says much about males as well. The ad says that rape is just part of who a male is, and women should just accept it as normal. Along these lines, the woman is stroking the man's leg in a sexual manner. This could be saying that women in fact like rape, and that they get pleasure out of it. This is a horribly incorrect stereotype of women. This is one of the most disgusting thoughts about rape in my opinion, and one that should certainly not be part of something that people will see everyday when they open a magazine.

Example 2

This ad, for Isaia, is another double page spread. The advertisement shows a woman being pushed up against a wall by a man. Another man is standing to the side. The man is holding the face of the women, and one can assume that he is trying to kiss her. Her face again has no real expression on it, and her eyes are closed. The two other men do not seem to be expressing any emotion either.

This ad, like the previous one, clearly implies men's power over women. Also, it implies that a sexual assault is about to occur. Again, the woman's eyes are shut and she has no expression on her face, showing that she is powerless against this attack, and even suggesting that she should like it. What this ad has is that the other did not, however, is the addition of a third party. This can be interpreted in many different ways. It could be the attacker’s friend, keeping a look out. He could also be waiting his turn with the woman. What is very disturbing about him is that he has no expression on his face whatsoever. He is completely indifferent to the whole situation. I would argue that he is symbolic of a stereotype of the male gender. He is showing that he simply does not care about the atrocity that is about to occur. This is a stigma that many men have; simply because they are male they do not care about women and what happens to them. In particular, they do not care if women are raped.
However, this is not the truth. There are countless men's organizations that work to stop rape and domestic violence against women. Ramapo College has its own Men's Outreach Coordinator whose job it is to make men on campus aware of what rape and sexual assault is, and how they can help to prevent it. Another way to interpret this gentleman is representative of society as a whole. Society turns its cheek to sexual assault. It is a kind of a taboo that should not be talked about. No one likes to think about rape and sexual assault, but they need to be dealt with in order to protect people.

HPV

Human Papillomavirus Affects Millions of Americans
By Karen Rivera for the Ramapo News

The Human Papillomavirus, or HPV, is currently affecting about 20 million people in the United States. Because it is a virus, there is no cure.

Ramapo College is currently advocating awareness for the sexually transmitted viruses through Student Health Services and the Women's Center.

Out of the 100 strains, only 40 affect the genital area in both men and women. Of those, only 10 are considered to be high-risk, which may cause cervical cancer in women, according to Coordinator of the Student Health Services and Nurse Practitioner Debra Lukacsko.

“Four [of the ten] high-risk viruses have been shown to have a definite cause and effect on the cells in the cervix,” said Lukacsko.

HPV's 40 sexually transmitted strains may also lead to genital warts on both men and women, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Unfortunately, what makes it more difficult to contain than other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is the fact that it can be transferred from more than just bodily fluids, according to Lukacsko.

“What makes it more prevalent is it also can be through skin-to-skin contact,” said Lukacsko.

Men can develop the disease, and they are carriers. There are no tests to detect in a male other than diagnosis through the appearance of genital warts and only through evaluation, said Lukacsko.

According to the CDC, genital warts do not lead to cancer. They are treatable, but often need to be removed.

Areas that are at risk for transmission include the anus, cervix, vulva, and skin areas surrounding the genitals.

Sexually active females should get a Pap test yearly.

If HPV is discovered through the Pap, further examination is done to determine whether it is a high-risk strain, according to Lukacsko.

Most women will have low-risk HPV, said Lukacsko, but 10 to 20 percent will be diagnosed with a high-risk version.

But there is help, despite all the staggering statistics seeming to prove otherwise.

A vaccine has been developed to help fight the four high-risk strains, and the CDC and Lukacsko are both for it.

“It is a breakthrough, because it is the first vaccine that can prevent cancer,” said Lukacsko. “Women of any age are strongly encouraged to go out and get it.”

Currently, Student Health Services is trying to educate and help out to stop HPV from spreading by holding Women's Clinics on Wednesdays. A licensed gynecologist and nurse practitioner are available on campus and will do all tests to help diagnose and inform women and men.

“We also talk to [students].” she said “We reinforce the need for the use of condoms and monogamous relationships.”

However, women should not feel upset, said Lukacsko. “A young woman shouldn't feel like it's the end of the world,” she said. “But it's still an STD, and we do advise for precautions.”

For further information, please visit www.cdc.gov and www.tell-someone.hpv.com