Avant Garde Classics
Wexner Film/Video Theater
Wednesday, February 19, 7:30 pm

The Wexner Center asked us to add this to our schedule. It never occurred to me or the committee to screen the films before we put it on our calendar, and we lived to regret it. Apparently, one of the films had a gang rape scene. Had we known this, we certainly would not have agreed to put it on our calendar. We only found out because Pam Allen, an instructor in the German Department, wrote a scathing and well deserved Letter to the Editor which was printed in the Lantern. I would STRONGLY recommend that the committee screen any films suggested by other groups or organizations to be added to our events.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Community Resource Fair and Reception
Ohio Union Main Lounge
Thursday, February 20, 4-6

This was generally disappointing. We had a very poor community group turnout and complaints were received from groups that were not asked to attend. I would suggest that the committee brainstorm a list of community organizations. Whether to have this event again is questionable considering the cost and the relative turnout. It cost over $400 and drew 77 people, which comes out to $5.19 per person. David Mucci, Director of the Union, was extremely supportive of this event and the week in general and should be looked to for future support.

Ron Vawter
Wexner Performance Space
February 20-22, 8 pm

This was a Wexner event that we added to our schedule. None of the committee members attended. All three nights were sold out, and I heard that the performance was outstanding.
Film Festival
200 Campbell Hall
Friday, February 21, 8 pm

Aside from many technical difficulties, this was a very successful event. It drew 70 people, many of whom were people of color. We were hoping to draw a diverse audience and chose the films accordingly. Three of the movies were well received: 'Susana,' 'Cut Sleeve,' and 'Flesh and Paper.' Viewers were not terribly enthusiastic about 'Merida Proscrita.' When showing movies or videos in the future, we must make sure that the person assigned to run the projectors really knows what s/he is doing. We had a projectionist from CTE donated for this program, and the technical difficulties were due to her lack of knowledge about the Campbell Hall facilities and her inability to thread a projector! (My girlfriend came to the rescue and ended up handling a good bit of the technical end of the program.) In spite of the problems, CTE was very supportive of the program, and certainly had they known this projectionist was incompetent, they would not have sent her.

'Stop the Church'
Ohio Union Memorial Room
Saturday, February 22, 8 pm

This video drew more people than anyone had anticipated, over 130. The room was packed, and we ended up having two showings.

'Henry and June'
Ohio Union Memorial Room
Saturday, February 22, 9 pm

A sizeable crowd showed up to view this film, about 75 people. The comments afterwards were mixed, however, as it did not portray bisexual people in as positive a light as some had hoped. I would suggest trying to find a more positive, realistic portrayal, if one can be found.

Bi Brunch at David's on Main
Sunday, February 23, 11:30-3 pm

A great turnout, 25 people, and a very enjoyable time for all. A great event for the newly formed BAMBI.
Spirituality Forum  
Ohio Union Memorial Room  
Sunday, February 23, 2-4 pm

About 25 people attended this forum which was facilitated by Diana Vezmar-Bailey. It was rather heavy on Protestantism, however. I would certainly want to see us do this again, but I would have us try very hard to get representation from other religious communities, as well as people who have developed their own sense of spirituality. Perhaps a panel rather than a facilitated discussion might work.

Gay Bashing, Self Esteem and Universities  
Frank W. Hale Black Cultural Center  
Monday, February 24, 2-4 pm

This was a program put together by Affirmative Action. We had no involvement in its creation, but we were happy to have it on our calendar. It was one of the only programs truly geared towards straight people. We might want to consider having more such programs. It drew 41 people, mostly from Counseling Psych.

Tough to Talk About Taboos: Bringing Male Rape Out of the Closet  
Ohio Union Buckeye A  
Monday, February 24, 4-5:30 pm

This program drew 11 men and 2 women. Apparently Dr. Fradkin didn't know much about the subject matter, and Mike Scarce, the co-facilitator, had to provide information one would have expected Dr. Fradkin to know. Also, we must address the issue of gender exclusivity in workshops such as this and the Lesbian Battering program. When the two women came into the Male Rape workshop, it clearly changed the dynamics, as one would expect. However, each had very valid reasons for being there. Having it open, I believe, is fully acceptable, but I think it needs to be stated explicitly, one way or another.
Tough to Talk About Taboos: Lesbians Who Batter Lesbians
Ohio Union Buckeye B
Monday, February 24, 4-5:30 pm

Nineteen women attended this program. I heard very few positive comments about the program, most of the criticism centering around the co-facilitors and the process. (As of April 20, I am still hearing complaints specifically about Linda Morrison.) Much was said about the lack of knowledge or the presentation of information as if it were out of a textbook, and complaints were made about the use of time, i.e., that it took a majority of the hour and a half to define what battering was, rather than spending the time talking about the experiences, emotions and politics surrounding battering. I would like to see this program repeated, but with a different facilitator.

Doug Case
Ohio Union Conference Theater
Monday, February 24, 8 p.m.

Student activists generally were not crazy about Doug Case, referring to his conservatism and mainstream stance. However, his presence has had an effect. I was told that at least two sororities would have GLB panels, and that a couple of Greek members were thinking about coming out. Not a terribly personable person, his speech was informative and had an impact. I was disappointed with the turnout (32 women, 57 men, many Greeks), and I was especially disappointed that Greek Affairs did not make it a point-earning event for the fraternities and sororities. David Strauss, however, was wonderful during the planning and hosting of Doug Case, as well as providing major financial support. We are quite indebted to him.

Bisexuality: Both/And in an Either/Or World
Ohio Union Memorial Room
Tuesday, February 25, 11:30-1 pm

The facilitators did a great deal of researching for this workshop. It was clear that they cared about doing it well. It was informative, but it also seemed a bit dry, as if too much was from books rather than from their own experiences. About 20 people attended.

Eroticizing Safe Sex, Woman-to-Woman and Man-to-Man
Buckeye Suites A & B
Tuesday, February 25, 4-5:30

These workshops were sponsored by the AIDS Education Committee at CCS. They apparently went well, although no committee members attended either one. 18 women attended the Woman-to-Woman workshop, and we didn't get a number on how many men attended the Man-to-Man workshop.
Sex Cross-Talk  
Ohio Union Gray Suite H  
Tuesday, February 25, 6-7:30

After a moderator crisis earlier in the day, the program went relatively well. We need to think more about moderator/panel chemistry, however, because we had one overpowering moderator (the one who had the crisis) who had her own agenda and sometimes was not responsive to the crowd and frequently not responsive to the other moderators. The program was alternately funny, serious and tense at times. It drew 35 women and 25 men, quite a good crowd. I would say it was very successful and should definitely be done again.

Michelle Parkerson  
Wexner Film/Video Theater  
Tuesday, February 25, 8 p.m.

This was one of our greater successes of the week. Wexner was packed, and the audience was very diverse. Michelle Parkerson's presentation was terrific, and the movies she chose to screen were splendid. I was extremely pleased with this program. I was especially glad we had the reception for Michelle because she made herself very accessible, making a point to talk to as many people as possible. She was so affirming of people's ideas and comments. Wexner's co-sponsorship was quite valuable; the film/video theater is a great forum and put a very nice polish on the event. Bill Horrigan, Wexner's film curator, was extremely helpful and supportive.

Gay and Lesbian Bagel Brunch  
Bricker Board Room (Room 200)  
Wednesday, February 26, 11:30-1

This was a very enjoyable and yummy event. We actually did quite well in estimating how much people would eat and how many people would attend (approximately 25). We had too much of a few things, but Jeff and I were happy to take leftovers home. It was a pleasant atmosphere, and Jeff was a simply fabulous host (in his lovely apron). Definitely a repeat event.

Workshop on Anti-Gay and Anti-Lesbian Violence  
Gray Suite H  
Wednesday, February 26, 2-4 p.m.

Amber Ault and Gloria McCauley (with baby Caelen) did a wonderful job presenting issues of violence in the gay and lesbian communities. I was somewhat disappointed with the turnout, a dozen people, but the program was interesting and important, and worthy of being repeated throughout the academic year.
Research Rap Roundtable
Ohio Union Board Room
Wednesday, February 26, 4-6 p.m.

No one from the committee attended, but we heard that it went well. I stopped in before it began, and the turnout was already good. Freddie Obligacion, a graduate student in sociology, moderated.

Holly Hughes Reception
Wexner Center Performance Space Lobby
Thursday, February 27, after opening night performance

Hmm... what to say? Well, as most people who will read this report know, we had quite a time with the Wexner Center over this reception. We wanted to pull out of both this and the Ron Vawter reception, and we agreed to go ahead with this one out of guilt and being raked over the coals for 'acting badly.' Mark Tappan and Carla Peterson were not pleased that we said we didn't want to do the receptions, that we didn't have the money we thought we'd have. I believe they thought we were working with a programming office's budget and staff, not an event funded purely through donations and put together by volunteers. In the end, I would not recommend doing another reception such as this. Carolyn's has an exclusive contract with the Wexner, so we had to pay a fortune for a tasteful little spread...$318, $150 of which was still on the table when everyone had left. That made me cry, especially after the tumult of my reception encounters with the Wexner. I would suggest that we work with the Wexner, Carla Peterson in particular, to bring people here during Awareness Week and throughout the school year, help the Wexner with publicity in the appropriate communities. In spite of everything, the reception went well, and Holly made herself available to the crowd and was very pleasant.

Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Legal Issues Brownbag
Law School, Room 208
Thursday, February 27, 12-1 p.m.

I tried to find a location other than the law school so that more people would attend. (Many people talk about the Law Building as if it's in another country.) I couldn't find another room, but the turnout was good nevertheless, about 30 people. The topic has a continual attraction and is always good for Awareness Week as well as other times during the year. This is really a service to the community because every time we do this workshop, more gay, lesbian & bisexual people find out how to protect themselves. (Of course, no prejudice on the part of the second-year law student.) Rhonda Rivera is happy to participate in programs like these and is always a draw. Having Ruth Beshears, a recent graduate who has just begun private practice, was great, too.
Diversity Forum
Ohio Union Memorial Room
Thursday, February 27, 4-6 p.m.

Because of Awareness Week burnout, I believe, this event did not get the draw it deserved. About 14 people showed up for this workshop which was co-facilitated by two straight people, Stephen Jones and Marylee Dunn. Stephen reported that it went well and that many interested subjects were discussed. This kind of program is high priority, and I think we should have it earlier in the Week and at various times during the year.

Jewelle Gomez
Ohio Union Conference Theater
Thursday, February 27, 8 p.m.

I had the special pleasure of being Jewelle's host and getting to talk with her throughout the day. Most people I spoke with about her presentation enjoyed it and responded well to her message. I was disappointed at the turnout, particularly among faculty, and I was equally disappointed by the lack of questions at the end of her presentation. Perhaps this really does point up the problem with too heavily loading the Week. However, Jewelle interacted with many people during the reception, and people were happy to talk with her. If we have another author, we need to make sure that we have her/his books available for sale and signing. We very quickly ran out of Jewelle's book. Perhaps we can arrange with Fan the Flames to have books here, and maybe we can even make some money from a book arrangement.

Su Friedrich
Wexner Film/Video Theater
Friday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.

No one I know of went to this presentation. I think we were all so burnt out by this point, and this was Wexner's event.

Additional Program Comments

I believe we should still have receptions after each major speaker. In each case, people responded well and the speakers were great (for the most part) at interacting with the crowd. It was clear that both Michelle and Jewelle enjoyed that very much, as did their audiences. In addition, I think it is a courtesy and good hosting to do this. It doesn't have to be quite the spread we've had; perhaps just punch, coffee and cheese and crackers would do.