1998 GLBSS Fall Quarter Review

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- 10/20 Brunch with Vice President Williams
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- 10/14 Wellness Diversity (Student Wellness Center)
- 10/27 Information Rally Afrikan Student Union
- 11/20 Operation Fill up (Student Activities)
- 11/20 Wing the Wolverines (Student Activities)

+Sept. 23—The first Annual Bizarre Bazaar

Projected plans
- stecker lounge
- 9-11pm
- Bitches’ Brew, comic, poet, H.I.S. Kings, Ohio Self Defense
- table of refreshments
- table provided for clubs, some community services and office affiliates
- face painting, balloon animals, advice lady, fortunes, SGSS temporary tattoos

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Actual event

This event turned out to be very successful. Approximately 250 students, faculty, and staff members were in attendance. Attendees enjoyed entertainment that included poetry reading, a comic, a juggler, board breaking demonstrations, H.I.S. Kings, face painting, fortune telling, and SGSS tattoos. This event met several goals/objectives. First it provided a safe supportive environment for all students, faculty, and staff to interact, network, socialize and have fun. It also allowed for education. We provided a table with information about our office and student organizations associated with our office to allow people to find ways to get involved. The Bizarre Bazaar also created positive visibility for SGSS by being part of the Welcome Week activities.

Sept. 23rd—first B-Gala meeting of the quarter. Attendance was about 80 people.
Oct. 1st—6:30-8:30 in Gray A—**Queer Grad Meeting**—offering pizza by S’barros

There were about 10 people in attendance at this initial meeting. At the first meeting the group brainstormed ideas for the purpose of the group. Due to the busy schedules of graduate students, the group decided to focus on being a social group. Meetings were held every other Thursday at 6:30pm in various locations and will continue to do so next quarter. The group is sponsoring the Brown Bag lunch series during awareness week, with various members from different departments holding a discussion about a particular topic.

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There were approximately 15-20 people in attendance. Janis Hoffman and myself co-facilitated the viewing of the Color of Fear and then lead discussion. What was interesting was being able to introduce the component of sexual orientation. While an examination of sexual identity exist within the film—it is often skipped over in the recanting discussions. Both Janis and I felt that I was able to add to the discussion and push folks to critically think, in ways about subjects, they had not, in prior viewing. My participation also allowed me to put a face, if you will on GLBSS, opening up, even if by default, any lines of approachable communications.

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- Watermelon Woman
- Hollow Reed
- Late Bloomers
- French Twist
- Faces in the Mirror
- Threesome
- Out There 1&2
- Bound
- Our Sons

**Actual Event**

This event was only moderately attended. There are two reasons for low attendance. B-GALA simultaneously scheduled a movie night every other Thursday night at someone’s house. This drew people away from the GLBSS movie night. Secondly, the location in Campbell hall was somewhat too formal for this type of event. Students wanted a more relaxing environment for this type of activity. To remedy these issues we have taken the following steps for next quarter. First we are working with the students to have them coordinate the movie nights, both in the selection of the movies and having one movie night location. We have also collaborated with Residence Life to show movies in different residence hall lounges each week. This will serve two purposes.

First, it will be a more casual atmosphere and secondly it will draw in students who live in the residence hall. This has the potential to increase interactions between GLBT students and straight students and in turn raise awareness and education.

October 3—**B-GALA Retreat**
We utilized a farmhouse off campus owned by residence life to provide an atmosphere for completing many activities. It was an opportunity for teambuilding among members of the B-GALA council. The mission and vision of B-GALA for the coming year was discussed and from there specific programming plans were made.

**Oct 6-- **Resource Fair

**Projected plans**
- main lounge of the O. Union
- 4-6pm
- door prizes donated by various organizations
- colorful plastic table cloths
- fun nametags
- global music (secured)
- Rebecca did a fantastic job!!

**Actual event**

Approximately 15-20 vendors attended. Both vendors and student turnout was low. One of the major factors I believe responsible, is simply that students are resource fair-ed out. They have had to attend several before this one and burnout is high. The second is a lack of interest by the glbt business community. For several reasons I believe that glbt business do not see students as viable monetary resources. I believe that we have to get them to understand that while students may not have a lot to spend now—the chances are that they will in the relatively near future. I also believe that business owners must be convinced, that our community leaders, movers and shakers reside here and positive relations are best set early. Our biggest task however is going to be getting the students, even glbti students to realize the fair is ‘worth’ their time.

**Revamp Proposal for 1999**

First of all we will have all of 1999 Fall Quarter plans finalized by the end of 1998-99 Spring Quarter. This will allow us more time to actually promote the event. Residence Life has also committed to working with us on a Welcome Week project. The plans right now include an event that we are tentatively calling A Taste of the Rainbow. We would invite gay and gay-friendly restaurants to offer ‘taste’ of their creations and in amongst their kiosk we would also invite glbt resource providers to set up info booths. Since food always works—we think we may be on to something. Ron, Sheri and I have been brainstorming—see attachment.

**Oct 9— Coming Out Celebration and Rally**

**Projected plans**
- start at 11am with B-GALA’s raising of the flag at the Union
- march over to Bricker where the rally will be kicked of with community spokes persons within and a few from outside the university
- President Kirwan to make an address
- group lunch on the Oval

**Actual event**

This event marked the beginning of yet another annual event. The 150 people in attendance created a visible presence on campus for National Coming Out Day. After marching
through campus from the Ohio Union, a gay pride flag was raised at Bricker Hall. President Kirwan spoke about his commitment to diversity and equality for all students. Several other campus and community leaders spoke as well. Following the rally, attendees were supplied with free pizza donated by Donato’s pizza.

*See attachments for further information about the success of this event

**Dragdom Archies Alley, Drake Union**

Lead by Columbus’ entertainers H.I.S. Kings and Lustivialous De la Virgion. One of the most favored programs put on by GLBSS. An early Halloween-type event, participants dress up however they would like and lip-synch their favorite tunes.

**Actual event**

This turned out to be a fun filled night of entertainment. 250 people attended. Many students performed at the event, played pool, and socialized. Again this event provided a social environment for interaction and fun.

**Oct. 7—Diversity revisited—4:30-7:30**

Monroe France and I were the only attendees to this meeting. We have built up a base of five, but are still struggling. Monroe is doing a practicum winter quarter. His focus will be trying to address this hurdle.

**Oct 10th—Sunday brunch**

This did not go quite as planned. We had hoped to have this be an inter-generational meal. We underestimated the depth of concern by several gIbt faculty and staff in regard to discretion and how they identify. We got bogged down in trying to figure out what to do. The end result actually turned out fine. A group of 17-20 diners met and had brunch. There were members from faculty, staff and student groups.

**Oct. 13th—Mathew Sheppard Discussion**

Upon the death of the Wyoming Student many students were distraught. GLBSS organized a discussion to allow students to communicate their fears and sorrow around the event. From there the group generated a list of actions that can be taken on this campus. About 100 people attended. We built our volunteer base from this event, as several gIbt allies came out in support of efforts to offset the tragedy. We then encouraged all folks to go downtown for Stonewall and BRAVO’s candlelight vigil.

**October 13th—Speakers Bureau training**

This was a training for volunteers who go out and speak to classes and residence halls about their experience as a GLBT individual. Fifteen students attended the training. This quarter there were 8 speaking engagements including in the residence halls, sociology classes, theater classes, and child and family science. This year the number of requests for speakers bureau panels has significantly increased. Last year we had approximately eight all year.

**Nov. 4th—Oberlin Queer Take Back the Night**
Students from the OSU B-GALA group carpooled to Oberlin and participated in Their march. They then participated in a question and answer session about the formation and continuation of the B-GALA organization. They also participated in a like event for the OSU queer group at the Newark branch.

Nov 11th-14th—NGLTF Creating Change Conference
Projected plans
- Have a bus
- Rooms
- Meals
- Ohio college Coalition

Actual event
It was decided for this year the time frame was to short to organize a group of people from all over Ohio to take a bus the conference. It is something that will be worked on for the future. However, at the conference Debbie Bazarsky organized those who were attending from Ohio. Contact names, addresses, and phone numbers were taken to increase communication amongst Ohio groups. This will be a catalyst for distributing information about events happening in various parts of the state.

GLBSS took five students to the conference. A variety of workshops were attended including topics that focused on transgender issues, race and class issues, campus organizing, and political activism to name just a few. It was a valuable experience for all who attended. It was also refreshing to see the renewed, and in some cases new, commitment and enthusiasm that was ignited in the students who attended. They came back with a new and excited perspective. This conference allowed for leadership development and education of some of the members of the constituency we serve.

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We had a meeting with Ron K. from Residence Life to discuss ways in which we can collaborate. *See attachment.

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- Social
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The planning committee for awareness week began weekly meeting on October 20, 1998. The process has been very successful in creating a diverse and plentiful calendar of events for this year’s awareness week. *See attachment for listing of events
OVERALL

I feel that we actually had a great quarter, given that we came in running. We definitely are committed to a 6 months projected plan. I am strongly convinced that 6-month projections will allow us to promote this program in a way that will reflect rapid growth. Our volunteer base is steady at 43 and the majority of those folks are participating in GLBTIA. We have high hopes for a re-emergence of the Alumni group and are sure to have that implemented by mid-winter quarter. One area that needs serious attention is evaluation. That component just wasn’t present with our events and we will address that immediately. I feel that we did a fair job with time management, but it is also an area that we need to attend to, especially with regard to projected person power and hours. We are more visible; there is no questioning that. It is evident in the amount of press that we have received and in the ‘drop-ins’ to the office, which by the way we will be recording at the start of Winter Quarter. We are still working on the ‘hows’ of our newsletter, but are confident that after our volunteer meeting that dilemma will be solved. We are looking forward to next quarter and can only pray that it will run as well.

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Sheri Atkinson, graduate assistant
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Projected plans

- third floor in the Ohio union — stecker lounge (secured)
- 9-11pm
- band, performers, poets, dancers, drum core (so far - the band, kings, poet/comic, one dancer)
- table of refreshments
- tables provided for clubs, some community services and office affiliates to showcase what they do. Also think it will provide a great opportunity for the various clubs to sign up new members (I wanted to send out a standard invite — who shall we?)

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**Dragdom** Archies Alley, Drake Union

- such a good reception with the Kings, and addressing the questions of gendered identities—it is sure to draw big crowds

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Prepared by Sile P. Singleton, coordinator
Sheri Atkinson, graduate assistant
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If for no other reason than financial we are extremely please with our position at the end of this quarter. Our services, outreach, and fundraising have tripled since this time last year. Programmatically, we have facilitated seventy-five percent more speakers bureaus and Buckeye Ally Safe Space programs. We expanded Awareness Week by one week and while the final compilation of the evaluation forms is not complete, preliminary results suggest a complete success. We are also in the process of finalizing our proposal for a Residence life safe space training initiative. We have just launched our GLBTI People of Color social group and have scheduled the first Rainbow Alumni gathering for this year. All of these factors have been instrumental in helping us achieve one of this year’s goals of increasing our level of visibility.

We believe our progress directly reflects each of the SGSS objectives. The increase in programming has lead to an increase in student participation, which has helped to foster more positive environments for our constituents. This in turn allows students to feel more connected to the university. Studies report that when students feel more connected with their university they are less likely to leave, thus meeting the SGSS objective of student retention.

With the growth of our services it has become necessary to further cultivate student leaders in order to accomplish all our goals. We have turned to several students and asked for their participation as committee chairs and program facilitators. This expanded involvement has allowed students to develop problem-solving skills through participation in these growth-enhancing activities.

Students have reported feeling proud of the community in which they live. This process has initiated has increased the number of students who feel comfortable enough to examine their sexuality. Each week in the undergraduate group there are new smiling faces. This along with our increased visibility on campus has allowed us to make more students aware of the support services offered by our office as well as other student affairs resources. Thereby directly confronting the issue of isolation.

Over the next six months our commitment to student retention, development, and wellness will continue to maintain our progress. In the months of April and May, we will be offering five sessions of GLBTI specific self-defense classes. On May 17th we shall hold our first Rainbow Graduation and Spring Fling. The estimated cost of this event is $2,000. As the enclosed attachments show the money we saved during awareness week will more than cover the cost of this function. Also, we earned $2,000 that is earmarked for next year’s awareness week. We are donating $300 to the Theater department to offset the cost of Tony Kushner’s performance in May. We will also be sponsoring with a donation of $300, the Feminist Majority and B-GALA’s trip to the Lesbian Rights Summit Conference. We have $9409 left in our budget, short of any surprises we are well positioned for the rest of the year.

Prepared by Sile P. Singleton and Sheri Atkinson