LOUIS CROMPTON SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Written by Annie Pigaga

In 1970, Louis Crompton began teaching one of the first courses in the country on homosexuality at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Along with this course, he developed one of the earliest courses to analyze gay and lesbian literature. Dr. Crompton was an advisor to the first gay student group at UNL. Dr. Crompton passed away on July 11, 2009. He is survived by his loving husband Dr. Luis Día Perdomo, who was also a former UNL faculty member who facilitated the Gay Men’s Discussion Group.

In honor of Professor Emeritus Louis Crompton's great works and strides for gay rights, Ryan Fette and Fred Schneider, with the help of Pat Tetreault and the University of Nebraska Foundation, initiated the Louis Crompton Scholarship in December of 2008. The scholarship is now permanently endowed thank to many generous donors.

The scholarship is awarded each year to a student who is a member of the Queer Ally Coalition, is a volunteer at the LGBTQA Resource Center, and/or has a minor in LGBTQA/Sexuality studies. The scholarship is worth $500, $250 each semester. Preference will be given to students who demonstrate financial need.

This year, applications for the scholarship are due Monday, April 2nd. The application can be found on the LGBTQA page at http://involved.unl.edu/lgbtqa-scholarship-and-awards.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY NOMINATIONS

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding efforts to create an inclusive, respectful, and safe climate for members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. These efforts may be by an individual, an organization or department within the institution. The award recipient must demonstrate a sustained and tangible impact on the campus community.

The applications can be found at http://www.unl.edu/cglbtc/award.shtml. Note that there are two awards: one to nominate a student and one to nominate a faculty or staff member. Applications are due March 1, 2012. The award ceremony will be held in the Nebraska Union on April 10, 2012, 3:30—5 pm.

Annie Pigaga
Library Coordinator
The summer of 2008 was an interesting one indeed. This is the summer I went to camp in Massachusetts. This is the summer that everything changed. This is the summer that I met Raevin.

Raevin was the troublemaker of the camp. She was the coolest, most threatening person I had met. I was both terrified and fascinated by her. She was mixed (black and white) and was from Rhode Island. She had gages in her ears. I don’t mean regular gages. I mean like gages the size of your pinky. She had one of the funniest laughs. It sounded like the hyenas in “The Lion King”. She also wore a black lip ring. She walked with her toes pointed outward with a little hop whenever she was in a hurry.

Raevin and I had a weird relationship. I would say “Hi” or “Hey” or “What’s up Raevin” because I didn’t want to ignore her and give her a reason to dislike me. Remember, I was afraid of her. She would normally reply with a “Hey” or a “Nothing much” or a “What’s up? You a lesbo yet?” and I would just awkwardly laugh and walk away.

One day, Raevin “borrowed” my iPod from my pocket and I went to her room to get it back. Raevin had a single room, which was unusual at the camp, but I understood why. Her room was full of posters, clothes, and jewelry. Her stuff was all over the floor and bed and it smelled like Axe Body Spray. It was a very intimidating sight.

She screamed when I came in her room. It was more of a playful scream. She started to giggle and grabbed my iPod off her desk. She told me she was just borrowing it and she thought she would have it back before I noticed. I reached for my iPod and she pinched my boob and laughed. She then asked if I was a lesbo again. I ignored her and quickly snatched my iPod and started walking out of her room and down the cabin stairs. She chased me, pinned me against the wall, and kissed me. I started to kiss her back.

I didn’t know what was happening. I didn’t know whether I really liked girls or just Raevin. All I knew was that it felt good. It was better than any other kiss I had. I didn’t feel any disgust or anger. The kiss felt...right. It felt more normal than when I kissed a guy. With a guy it felt like a job...like I had to do it, not because I wanted to. With Raevin, I felt genuine pleasure. I felt my heart racing and butterflies in my stomach. I had kissed a girl and I really liked it. Ironically, “I Kissed A Girl” by Katy Perry had just come out that summer.

After the kiss, I just acted like nothing happened and went to my dorm. I had to tell someone. I had to talk to my best friend, Carlie. I rushed upstairs to her room and blurted out, “I kissed Raevin.”

Carlie is Chinese and has long black hair. Her hair has a musky smell that is smooth and strong at the same time. I loved that smell... She has a big smile and little boobs. She is darker than most Asians I know. She is also very compassionate and caring and this makes her one of the best friends I've ever had.

She looked at me with her dark brown eyes and sighed. She gave me a hug. I could smell the musky scent in her hair. It comforted me. She released me and said, “Everyone has kissed Raevin. I did last summer. Did you like it?”

“Yeah, I think so. I don’t know what... It just felt right.”

The summer of 2008 was an interesting one indeed. This is the summer I went to camp in Massachusetts. This is the summer that everything changed. This is the summer that I met Raevin.

I sat down on her bed.

Carlie sat down next to me. “Heather, I’m bisexual,” she almost whispered. “I didn’t tell you before because I didn’t know what you would think.” Someone had told me she was bi earlier that year, but I didn’t really care. Honestly, I didn’t really know what it meant to be bisexual before. “A Shot with Tila Tequila” came on air. I never told her I knew she was bi before she told me. It felt good that she could trust me enough to tell me. I didn’t want to ruin the moment.

I put my arm around her. “I think you’re my best friend and I still love you.” It was now time to go to dinner because our camp counselors were calling us. I decided to forget about the Raevin thing until the next day, but Raevin had other plans.

After dinner, the evening activity was “Movie Night”. They were showing “The Incredibles” for lower camp and “Wedding Crashers” for upper camp. Since we were on a college campus, the movies were shown in lecture styled classroom with more than a hundred seats. I sat down towards the front because the doors were in the back, therefore the front was the place to be.

Soon, all of my friends started to gather around me taking their seats. Raevin sat on the floor in front of me. When the movie started and the lights went out, Rae dragged me to the floor. She begged me to kiss her neck. I refused. I didn’t want to show everyone what we did. I wanted to keep things private. Plus, I wasn’t sure about this whole kissing girls thing yet.

That night I dreamed about her. I dreamed of her kissing me. I dreamed of doing more with her than kissing. I woke up and I was convinced I was going out of my mind. Raevin was making me go crazy and I liked it. I wanted more.

This is when I made my mistake. I started chasing her instead of her chasing me. She liked the challenge and once the challenge was gone, she no longer wanted me. She didn’t tell me this. She showed me. She showed me by getting with her ex-girlfriend and making out with her in front of my face. It hurt, but I didn’t show it to her. I cried, but not until I was in my bed at night.

Raevin probably didn’t know it at the time, but she taught me a valuable lesson. Sometimes, you have to let people come to you. She also taught me how to tell if someone is just looking for the fun of the chase or if they want something more. I thank Raevin because without her taking my heart and crushing it in two days, I wouldn’t be the strong, young lesbian I am today.
CURRENT EVENT: WHITE HOUSE LGBT CONFERENCE ON HEALTH AND VICTORIES FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Article by Henry Cabrera

Several students and staff of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be attending the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC) at Iowa State University the weekend of February 10-12. MBLGTACC was first held at Iowa State University in 1993 and has been held in several states across the Midwest including Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and more. Likewise, the White House has announced that it will hold a series of LGBTQ conferences throughout the United States so that the public stays informed on efforts to better health, justice and equality for LGBTQ Americans. The inaugural event will take place on February 16 in Philadelphia where the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Kathleen Sebelius, will address issues affecting the health and well-being of LGBTQ Americans.

This initiative is a collaboration between the White House Office of Public Engagement as well as other departments and agencies. Events will take place from February through June 2012 and will also address issues of safe schools, homelessness, safe communities, HIV/AIDS prevention, among others. More details will be released by the White House as the initiative becomes more developed. This is indicative of the Obama Administration’s commitment to equality for all Americans, including LGBTQ people. Under this administration, ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell’ was repealed last September and President Obama also announced last year that he will no longer defend the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) in federal court and that he supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). ENDA would include sexual orientation and gender expression and identity as protected statuses against discrimination in the workplace. The Matthew Shepard Act, which includes gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, and disability in the federal hate crime law was signed into law in 2009. The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act, which is the largest federal program to provide funding and medical care for HIV/AIDS to heavily impacted states and areas was also passed in 2009. These are only a few changes to policies affecting LGBTQ people every day that have occurred within the last four years. It is in the best interest of LGBTQ constituents to reelect President Obama, as his administration has done so much to guarantee equality—which is an ongoing process for our community.

BOOK REVIEW: TIES THAT BIND

Article by Tony Moran

Ties that Bind was a powerful and inflammatory book written by Sarah Schulman, award-winning novelist, playwright, professor and activist. In it, she discusses how instead of focusing on the origin of homosexuality, we ought to seek out and confront the source of homophobia itself. Schulman displays homophobia as a behavioral pathology that originates in the family sphere.

Simple behaviors indicate and propagate familial homophobia—indicating your partner should not come to Thanksgiving dinner, or blatantly pretending that your partner is just a roommate, to ‘protect the children’, or similar. Schulman makes the case that in these situations, third-parties ought to intervene; if your partner is excluded, your sister or brother should protest to such outrageousness. These situations are common in the LGBT community, though often the LGBT person either succumbs to the mistreatment to preserve family bonds, or else disconnects from the family entirely. True to her fiery activist nature, Schulman cries out that LGBT people and their allies must stand up to this abuse, and demand that their place in the family—and reflexively in society—be acknowledged and respected.

Ties That Bind is a powerful and logical statement that injects one with intense vigor, and will certainly be of great interest to the bold and of great utility to the meek.

Henry Cabrera
Queerette
QUEERTEER CORNER

Article by Stacey Cleveland

January was a busy month for our staff and volunteers! Aside from getting back into the swing of school, over 15 of our treasured volunteers staffed publicity booths and fundraisers for the Midwest BLGTA College Conference. I am pleased to announce that we were able to raise $478 at the “Fieldtrip” Drag Show at the Q and $332 at the Noodles & Company benefit night. With the generous donations from the Committee on GLBT Concerns, PFLAG-Cornhusker, and the Pepsi Diversity Committee, we now have enough money to send all 32 students to the conference!

When you have a few spare moments, swing by the LGBTQA Resource Center and meet our new staff members:

Scott
Tony
and Annie!

Stacey Cleveland
Graduate Assistant

UPCOMING EVENTS

For a complete calendar of events, please visit http://involved.unl.edu/lgbtqa-events-calendar. Thank you to our Communication Coordinator, C. Balta, for doing such a great job with our publicity.

Let Us Eat Cake...creating awareness about marriage equity

Tuesday, February 14th
Union Square in Nebraska Union
11am-2pm

Join us in Union Square in the Nebraska Union, by Runza, on this day of 'love' for some cake. With tasty German Chocolate, Red Velvet and Carrot Cake, we will bring attention to marriage inequality for same- and other- sex couples. Staff and volunteers of the LGBTQA Resource Center will provide information on the inequities that continue to exist in our country, as well as information about how other countries treat LGBTQ

Brown Bag Discussion Groups

Feb. 27, Mar. 26, Apr. 26, 12pm-1pm

Join us in the LGBTQA Resource Center for a drop in discussion on the following Mondays.

Feb 27: "That’s so gay: Recognizing and dealing with subtle forms of discrimination"
March 26: Movie (possibly Decoding Alan Turing) and discussion
April 26: Celebrating and moving forward.

You may be wondering, ‘why is it called a brown bag?’ Brown bag is a BYOL, or Bring Your Own Lunch type of get together. For