

2012

## UA32/4/4 The Coalition Zine!, Issue 1

WKU Coalition for Gender & Racial Equality

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# TELL US YOUR STORY

*What You Can't Say to Another Woman*  
by Brittany Cheak

She says she wants to look like models in the magazine— with ribs I could play like xylophones and hips that break the skin.

I want to tell her that I like her curves; I like how hip slides into thigh and down to calves that don't fit most boots. And I want her to know that I like her round, want to cup her flesh and mold my fingers around pieces of her, then press my face to her warm belly and feel the life that radiates from the warm drum.

To submit a creative piece for the Zine's back page, to become involved with the Coalition, or to submit your story or grassroots project, please email [wkucolalition@gmail.com](mailto:wkucolalition@gmail.com) or call us at (270) 745-6995.

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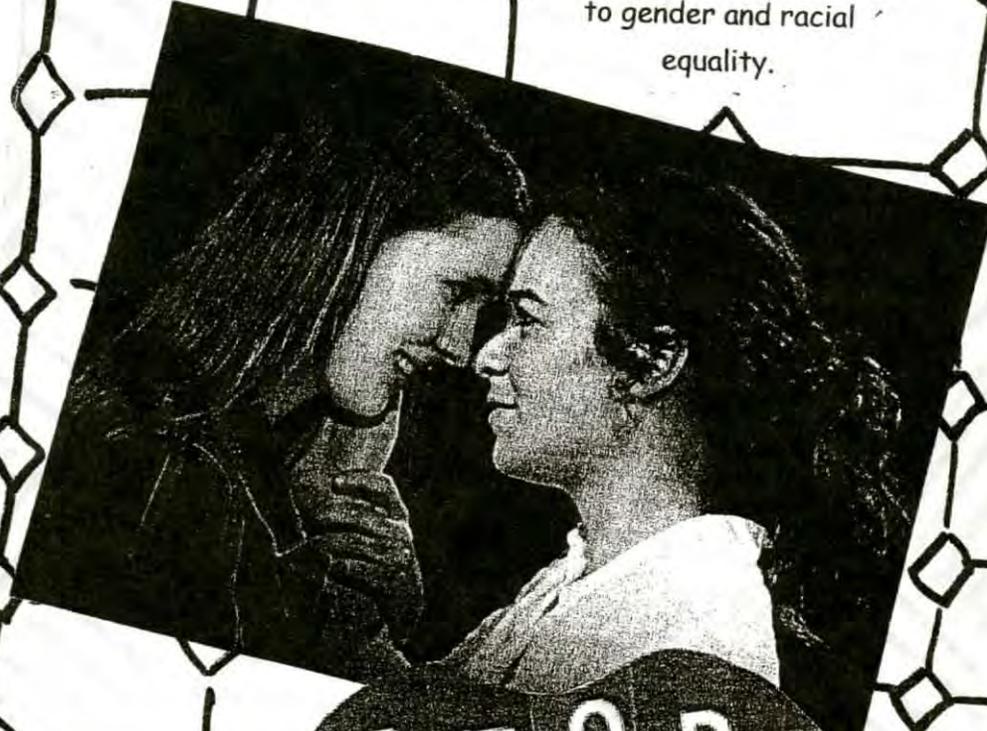
**Coalition for Gender and Racial Equality Now and After Graduation**

Western Kentucky University



Issue  
The Official Newsletter for the Coalition for Gender and Racial Equality Now and After Graduation

Raising awareness about and providing opportunities for direct action relating to gender and racial equality.



# Campus

## Cover Story: STOP, KISS

WKU had the privilege to welcome to its stage *Stop, Kiss*, a play written by Diana Son. The play, littered with witty dialogue and laughs, tells the tale of two women becoming who they want to be in *The City That Never Sleeps* and coming to terms with wanting each other. Not only is this an unorthodox story of love and identity, it shows the flip-side of love: hate, in the form of a gay-bashing that nearly costs one of the girls their life! Through the use of flashbacks, their lives were intimately shared with the audience. I was especially fond of the quirky third-grade teacher Sara, played by Holly Berger, who stated, "the role has so much depth and vibrancy...and it took time to develop the role and its relationships." I'd say since the role required taking off her shirt in front of the audience! Kudos for bravery! Also, a quick word for the tech crew: the scene changes were efficient and fantastic, the best I have seen of any college production of this style. With all the praise, comes one simple word of caution: the play, if you haven't guessed, centers on finding love in a somewhat forbidden place, so don't go without an open mind! All, in all, I'm so glad that I stop, watched! -jb

Don't forget to sign up for the (free) Coalition Conference set to take place on April 28<sup>th</sup>! Victor Lewis will be speaking, and there will be workshops for interview skills and story-telling.

### Here is how to register:

Email [wkucoalition@gmail.com](mailto:wkucoalition@gmail.com), call Gender and Women Studies at 270-745-6995, or Sign at the door of GRH on the day of the Conference!  
One more thing: not only is this free to WKU students, **YOUR LUNCH IS INCLUDED!!**



# respect the mad...

# NEWS

During the week of April 16<sup>th</sup>, you may have been walking to class and noticed the Colonnades covered in red and black table cloths to spell out "LIFE" and sporting small, wooden crosses. This display was made up by the campus Right to Life group, which supports life in all stages, from conception to natural death. While many students stopped by the booth to inquire about the display, many other students were outraged at the active distrust of choice. Through misleading information, like the connection between abortion and breast cancer, the Right to Life campaign has gotten off to a great start at the end of the semester. Props for bravery. Can't wait to see what they have in store for our reproductive rights next semester. - hh

The weekend of April 14, 2012 texts were sent out concerning robbery on campus and shooting at the Lava Lounge. We were quickly told that the suspects were black males. When I returned to campus, I got on my computer, but more specifically my twitter account, only to see that the few messages from the Campus had caused an uproar that seemed a bit like racial backlash. Many students responded with the idea that blacks were synonymous with the "ghetto" and claimed that western was turning ghetto or that PFT was "ghetto." But newsflash both shootings and robberies happen everywhere! Also the origin of the ghetto began in the Holocaust with Jews and since has been a symbol of systemic oppression of social minorities. The fact that the students were African-American seemed to pose a larger problem. The campus let it be known that a black student - more specifically a black male student - is to be feared, when white males have as equally, if not more of a violent history with sexual assaults as well as serial killers and "white collar crimes." Our society helps perpetuate these biases we have about certain people. Our job is to nip these biases in the bud, or they will turn to stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination. As I said in the last Zine, neither Trayvon Martin nor any black male should be feared. Do not hold the few criminals of a race as a representative for the entire race. Be wary but not racist. -lr

#JoinTheCoalition