

# The Monthly Rag

Brought to you by the Feminist and Gender Studies Student Advisory Council

Block IX, 2012

## Carmen Rodi, Sociology Major & FGS minor, Class of 2013

Having trouble thinking of a gift for a family member or friend? This holiday season, think about giving back to Colorado non-profits that serve the community in Colorado Springs. Consider a donation in their name to a cause they support.

Indy Give is a campaign occurring throughout the month to get young people involved in making donations to local charity. When you make a donation at [indygive.com](http://indygive.com), you can receive rewards, like gift cards, from local businesses.

Below are a couple feminist non-profits based locally in Colorado Springs, which you can support financially through Indy Give or through in-kind donations or volunteering:

**Inside Out/Youth:** Inside Out/Youth provides a safe center for youth that

works to "educate, empower and advocate on behalf of LGBTIQ youth." They also provide support such as sexual health education, suicide-prevention workshops, and career and financial skills building.

**How to Support >>** Visit [insideoutys.org](http://insideoutys.org) for a volunteer application, or e-mail [shawna@insideoutys.org](mailto:shawna@insideoutys.org) for internship opportunities.

**Tessa:** The mission of TESSA is "to help women and their children achieve safety and well-being while challenging communities to end sexual and family violence." According to TESSA, "El Paso County is home to the most incidents of domestic violence in the state, and the rate of sexual assault is three times higher than the national average."

**How to support >>** Donate your old cell phone, full-size and unused deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, toothpaste, and other personal care items, as well as baby supplies.

**Women's Resource Agency:** Their mission is to make a "meaningful difference in the lives of women and girls in our community through effective programs and outreach that inspires and facilitates true self-empowerment."

**How to support >>** Donations of office supplies and beauty products; gently used women's career clothing, shoes and accessories, designer and name brand handbags, shoes, cocktail dresses, and special occasion dresses for our new social enterprise.

To volunteer, call the Volunteer Coordinator at 719-471-3170.

## Savannah Johnson, Soc Major, Class of 2015: THE RED TENT

Last block, I conducted a survey on campus that revealed a highly alarming and extremely unfortunate lack of sexual autonomy at CC. More broadly termed "agency", sexual autonomy is a person's sexual ownership -- a recognition of the human right to sexual pleasure, and the exertion of this right during sexual experiences. Due to the fact that 1 in 151 CC women report routinely experiencing at least one orgasm in every hook up, and 88 in 151 report routinely never orgasming during a hook up, it appears we need to develop our sexual autonomies outside of hook ups before we try to bolster the morsel of existing autonomy within hook up culture (and don't worry, we're working on the latter, too. Stay tuned...)

FemCo's annual Red Tent in **Perkins Lounge during third week** could not come at a more perfect time. One of the purposes of the event is to reduce stigma surrounding menstruation via casual discussions with CC professors, staff, and students. *What does this have to do with sexual autonomy, you may ask?* Well, confidence and comfortability with being a woman (or a lover of women), including all womanhood, entails discovering how we can start enhancing and promoting our entitlement to sexual pleasure (sadly, women question their own entitlement more regularly than men question it).

Sick of things like "blow job week", especially when your menstruation-induced hormones are raging, but are too grossed out to have sex? **Discuss sex on your period and how to communicate with your partner during the time of the month with CC Alum Caitlin DeWolf on Monday the 10th at 7pm.**

Ever wonder why a drug for conception-prevention is marketed as a hygiene product? Come talk about media's role in perception of menstruation with LGBTQ coordinator Beth Kancillia, **Tuesday the 11th, at 7pm.**

Always wanted to give sex toys a whirl but are too shy to go to a sex shop? Come learn about all-things-toys with Shanna Katz at the sex toy party on **Wednesday the 12th in Loomis Lounge!**

Embrace your period, your sexual rights, and potential agency December 10-13th, at the Red Tent. Who knows, it could be the most sexually and stigmatically liberating experience you've had. It was for me last year. *Search RED TENT on facebook to find the event page.*

## YOU'RE INVITED



## TO A SEX TOY PARTY!

**When:** Wednesday, Dec 12th, 7:00pm

**Where:** Loomis Lounge

**What?** Time to go back to the basics on modern sex toys. We'll go over what are they, how they work, and some basic demos as well as cover how to choose, use and love 'em. Also included will be conversation on the materials that are used (including what is dangerous and what isn't), care and upkeep of toys, where to get them, what toys are best used for what purposes and more. Goodies will be raffled off and free lube samples provided for all attendees.

*Presented by board certified sexologist and sexuality educator Shanna Katz, M.Ed.*

## Rosie Nelson, History and FGS Double Major, Class of 2014

Trans identified individuals face many difficulties in their day to day lives. From changing legal documents and identification cards (which is incredibly difficult and sometimes altogether impossible), to simply 'passing' in day to day life. The fear faced by those in the difficult transition is ever present - will I be discovered? Will they know? Can they see me as the person that I feel that I am? One third of transgender youths have attempted suicide. An estimated two thirds of urban trans women have engaged in sex work. 19% of American trans individuals have been refused a home or an apartment.

The statistics could continue. Living life as a trans individual is an incredibly difficult path to take, which we as a nation do not often recognize. There is little focus on trans issues in the mainstream media. Colorado College has only recently started discussing how we should fix our broken systems to be more inclusive to trans individuals.

One of the many constant issues that trans individuals face is bathroom usage. Pre-transition, post-transition and during a transition, which bathroom should one use? There is a constant fear of being unmasked. 'Did you walk into the wrong room?' 'Hey you shouldn't be in here!' The possibilities are endless. A bathroom is an easy place for violence to happen in a way that's shielded from the public eye. A bathroom can be an easy place for an offhand comment to knockdown the confidence someone has built in their newly formed body. For some, a bathroom is a dangerous threat.

There have been many cases of trans identified individuals avoiding public bathrooms altogether, thus ruining their kidneys and bladders and causing inevitable physical damage as they avoid the painfully awkward bathroom choices. Gender neutral bathrooms are the progressive option that is acknowledged and encouraged as the best way for people to use the facilities in a non-threatening,

low stakes way. The androgyny of someone's appearance would not be questioned in a gender neutral bathroom. Anyone may use it, as long as one is human. Gender is invisible.

The majority has to learn to protect the minority if we wish to continue in this age of social justice; let us make the basics easier for everyone, and shy away from our binary systems.



Do you have a question, want more info or resources, don't understand something, or want to contribute to our publication? Contact Editor-in-Chief Tess: [Theresa.Gattuso@ColoradoCollege.edu](mailto:Theresa.Gattuso@ColoradoCollege.edu)