

# The Monthly Rag

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

Block VI, 2012

## Emily Spiegel, Class of 2015

We have plenty of things to talk about on this campus: politics, sex, sustainability to name a few. We talk a lot about transparency – openly communicating about where funding goes or what administrative initiatives are in place. Why don't we have that same commitment to transparency with mental health issues at CC? We're just beginning to scratch the surface: CCSGA designed and released a Mental Health Survey with plans to discuss and utilize results with administration, The Asclepian published a great feature in their last newsletter, Student SPILL is breaking out as a new initiative, and GROW is sponsoring activities and awareness for National Eating Disorder Week (February 26 – March 3). By frankly and actively bringing up mental health issues, we are working to address the stigma of depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and more. A study presented at the American Psychological Association in 2011 found that the number of college students on psychiatric medicines increased more than 10 percentage points over the last 10 years\*. Those of us with mental health concerns do exist – we're a happy campus, but that does not mean that everyone is always happy. So let's talk about it.

*\*Info from [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)*

## 2012 Theme: CONNECTING GIRLS, INSPIRING FUTURES

If every International Women's Day event held in 2012 includes girls in some way, then thousands of minds will be inspired globally.

Each year around the world, International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. Thousands of events occur not just on this day but throughout March to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Organisations, governments, charities and women's groups around the world choose different themes each year that reflect global and local gender issues.

Join Advocates for Choice, Students for Global Health, and FemCo on March 8th, 7:30pm in Cornerstone for a screening of *No Women, No Cry*.

[www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)

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<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/184108941605072/>



The all-male panel testifying against Obama's proposed birth control benefit on Capitol Hill. Ranking committee member Elijah Cummings (D-MD) asked the chairman to include a female witness (Sandra Fluke). His request was denied.

## Dan Savage, gay rights activist and sex columnist on gay jokes by straight allies...

"I can't count the number of times I've defended figures like Howard Stern and Bill Maher – straight entertainers who 1. fully support gay rights but 2. sometimes tell jokes that sensitivos consider homophobic. These guys are *on our side* and they're *good for our side*. Yeah, sometimes the tell jokes or do bits that are rooted in what is clearly their own personal discomfort with/fear of gay sex, particularly that man-on-man buttsex they never tire of hearing about, obsessing about, joking about, etc. But you know what? There are a lot of people out there who oppose gay rights because they're uncomfortable with gay sex and a lot of these folks – and lots of them are the kinds of guys who listen to Stern – are convinced that their own personal discomfort with gay sex requires them to oppose gay rights. What the Sterns and Mahers demonstrate is that you can be a little uncomfortable with gay sex – you can even have sense of humor about your discomfort, you can even tell the occasional joke about it – *and still support the full civil equality of LGBT people.*"

Submitted by Natalie Dupille

Source: *Savage Love*, *The Seattle Stranger Slog*, February 9, 2012

## Teens Post 'Am I Pretty or Ugly?' Videos on YouTube

By CANDACE SMITH

Naomi Gibson, who lives just outside Denver, always makes a point to tell her 13-year-old daughter, Faye, that she's beautiful. So when she started getting calls from media asking to interview Faye about a video she had posted, she couldn't believe her ears. "I was floored," Gibson said. The video was called "Am I Pretty or Ugly?" and asked anyone who watched the YouTube video to comment on her attractiveness. Faye says that she has long been a victim of bullying. A day does not pass when someone at school does not call her ugly, she said. "I get called a lot of names, get talked about behind my back," she said. The psyche of a teenage girl is understandably muddled. Faye said she goes to the web to get opinions from those who don't know her. "Deep down inside, all girls know that other people's opinions don't matter, but we still go to other people for help because we don't believe what people say," she told ABC News. What she received were mixed reactions. Though some comments were innocuous enough, others spewed hateful messages toward the young teenager. One read, "FAYE! Stop asking for this attention. It makes you look so pathetic and dumb."

Faye's case is not unique. Similar videos have been posted in recent months, all asking often unknown users to comment on whether or not a teen is ugly. Some have accrued thousands of hits, with one video, posted by user sgal01 getting 3,622,844 views. Comments are mixed, with some good Samaritans imploring the teens to know their self-worth, as more disparaging commenters hurled insults, some even taking a sexual, predatory tone. But while posting videos like this may be a recent phenomenon, experts say that teens' desire for approval is nothing new. Dr. Joshua Klapow, Ph.D., a clinical psychologist at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, says that teens have always had a fervent desire to be accepted. "This is just an extreme version of something that's very normal," Klapow said, adding, "Another piece that's normal is impulsivity. Give them a medium that is so easily accessible and so potent, you get the problem we're seeing." Dr. Alan Kazdin, Ph.D., a professor of psychology and child psychiatry at Yale, agrees. "There's a part of it that's unfortunate, but there's a part of it that's natural. Technology has made it so that it's not new in principle but new in practice," he said. Experts say that part of the appeal of asking viewers open questions comes from the immediate reward the teens get. Rather than sitting down and having a conversation, teenagers can post something on the internet and immediately experience the thrill associated with seeing a response, whether positive or negative. But the negative comments can have deleterious effects. "They have no safe place now," Kazdin said. "As long as they're electronically connected, they become vulnerable."

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