

What's going on at the SA

February 2011

Volume 1, Issue 3

Get to know your LifeWorks Centres

LifeWorks is not a room or a service. Rather, it's a group of services housed in one centre. Located at both St. James and Casa Loma, the goal of LifeWorks is to support and power underrepresented students while providing them an environment to discuss social issues.



Left: LifeWorks at Casa Loma. Right: Part of LifeWorks at St. James.

Food Bank

The Student Association has an emergency food bank that provides enough food for three days. Referrals to food banks outside the Student Association are also available. While only full-time students are members of the Student Association, the food bank is an exception. "Any student, from part-time to full-time, can access the food bank," said Andrei Ilicea, food bank coordinator at Casa Loma. "As long as they're a stu-

dent, I will serve anybody." To access the food bank, students register with Ilicea, who then provides them with items from all five food groups. Occasionally, toiletries are also available. "Throughout the year, I take donations," Ilicea said. Twice a year, the food bank holds a food drive, where students can donate non-perishable items and cash. All proceeds go to the food bank.

Legal Counsel

If you're in need of legal counsel, the Student Association has a lawyer available to help. William Reid can assist you in matters of family law (for example, divorce or separation), civil matters (this can include debts owed to or by students, personal injury cases, employment law, and landlord and tenant law), criminal law (this can include criminal charges, provincial offences, and obtaining pardons), administrative law (which can include dealing

with the government and the education system), estate law (this can include administration of an estate, power of attorney, and drafting a will), and corporate law (this can include registering a business, if funding can be obtained, licensing, and help with intellectual property), as well as making notarized copies of documents, and obtaining free second opinion advice from another lawyer. Everything discussed with William is confidential.

What's going on at the SA

Get to know your LifeWorks Centres cont'd

LGBTQ Centre

The LGBTQ Centre offers safe space for people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, intersex, two spirited, queer, questioning, as an ally, and other identities to meet and connect.

"Some people come in with their friends," said Juju, LGBTQ Centre support staff. "We don't question your identity. You can come here and hang out." A weekly newsletter is sent out every Friday, letting subscribers

know what's happening in the college and the community.

The LGBTQ Centre also provides resources about sexuality and has queer magazines and a queer lending library available for perusal.

Monthly meetings are held, where students decide what they would like to see in the centre and plan events.

Past events have included trips to the theatre and Wonderland for Gay Day.

Academic advocacy

If you think you've been unfairly graded, you have options available to you.

"The first place you should go is the academic advocacy department in the Student Association," said Daniel MacDonald, vice president of St. James and academic issues.

"The first step in the process is to contact your professor," he said.

"You have up to 10 days after you've received your mark . . . to contact your

professor and let them know you'd like to [dispute the mark]."

Most times, meeting with your professor will bring a resolution to your disputed grade. If it doesn't, after other steps, an academic appeal hearing may be scheduled.

The most important step is making sure to file in time. "If you miss those 10 days, there's nothing we can do for you, unfortunately," he said.

Centre for Women and Trans People

The Centre for Women and Trans People is a safe space for women-identified students to socialize.

Past events have included a poetry slam, workshops on parenting, breast health, sexual assault identification kits and an introduction to trans issues, movie nights, and clothing swaps.

"At St. James, we were able to help students obtain textbooks by trading with other students," said Claudia Caine, constituency centre

coordinator.

Emergency funds for groceries and pharmaceuticals is available for students in need.

Resources, referrals and peer-to-peer support is available within the centre, as well as social events, feminine hygiene products and a lending library.

The centre is also a safe space for women to breast feed.

Caine calls the centre "a space to escape to."

What else is available?

The Campaigns team is also housed in LifeWorks.

Campaigns raises social issues students may not be aware of, such as poverty, the fight for indigenous rights, and sustainability issues. Group trips are also planned, from cultural outings to a morning volunteering in the community. LifeWorks also hosts a tax clinic in the spring. Students can have their taxes prepared for free. As well, interested students can

volunteer to prepare taxes. They will be trained by the Canadian Revenue Agency. The centres differ slightly at each campus. Currently, St. James is the only campus to also have meeting rooms for aboriginal, ASL and international student constituents.

And at Casa Loma, students are welcome to drop by in the morning for circle time, where they can talk about what's on their mind and what they're thankful for.

What's going on at the SA in February

Do you want to **RUN GBC**? The spring elections are gearing up! Contact Adam at alawrenc@georgebrown.ca for a list of positions and a nomination package.

Are you interested in helping students prepare their **tax returns**? Drop by LifeWorks for more information. Training is provided.

Are you **hosting** an event in the student centre, student lounge, quiet lounge or board room? Make sure it's available! Contact Najib at (416) 415-5000 ext. 6392 for bookings.

Do you want to go to **Montreal** with the SA during intersession week? Passes are selling out! Visit one of our offices for more information.

Have you gotten your TTC **Metropass** for February? Make sure you get one before they sell out! Debit and credit accepted only.

The **Centre for Women and Trans People** held their elections recently. Drop by to find out the results!

What's going on at the SA in February

Important Student Association dates:

Through February: to celebrate Black History Month, Campaigns is organizing a film festival. Check back for dates, times, locations, and films.

February 1: Black History Month launch. Student lounge, noon - 2 p.m.

February 3: Deadline to opt out of health benefits.

February 3: Taste of the Caribbean. Casa Loma student lounge, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

February 7: Nomination period for SA elections begins.

February 10: Deadline for family enrollment.

February 10: Taste of the Caribbean and Beyond. St. James student centre, 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

February 11: White Ts and shades jam. La Dolce Vita, 2 p.m. - 10 p.m. T-shirt and markers provided.

February 14: The LGBTQ Centre will be recognizing Pink Triangle Day, held on February 12.

February 17: Nomination period for SA elections ends.

February 17: Comedy night. St. James student lounge. Bar opens at 2 p.m., show begins at 5:30 p.m.

February 18: Tropical punch fete. St. James student lounge. 7 p.m. - midnight. Students \$5, guests \$8.

February 21: Family Day; the Student Association and George Brown College will be closed.

February 24: All candidates meeting for SA elections.

February 25: Campaign preparations period begins; all materials must be approved by March 4 at noon.

February 26: Buses leave for Montreal trip; return March 1.

Shout outs to and from the SA

The SRC team - you guys have done a GREAT job. I know it can get tough sometimes, but that challenges are what will make the victory that much sweeter!!!

To everyone who attends circle time in the mornings. It's nice to know how you're doing!

Yaw Okyere - your posters are always amazing!!!

To Tina, for helping me to continually question and challenge my privilege.

To Maria, for always having the SA's best interests at heart.