Holding Hands in Israel
By C.J. Griffiths ’06

I can’t decide which was more surreal – standing in the room where the Last Supper took place, or passing through a West Bank checkpoint in a minibus at sixty miles per hour. It was only one week that I spent in Israel this summer, but those seven days contained more thrills than I’ve had in months.

The point of the trip was to give fourteen student body presidents from across the country the chance to experience – and be overwhelmed by – Israel and all the complexities that surround it. Without a doubt, that’s what happened. We heard from politicians, journalists, economists, students, children, and average people off the street.

We had the opportunity to wander the streets of Jerusalem, stay in a kibbutz in the Golan Heights, and tour a military base on the Syrian border. Being in the region a week before the Gaza withdrawal began only made things that much more interesting.

However, amidst all of the conversations and learning, I had a number of thoughts regarding gender and sexuality while on the trip – experiences that took place in much more subtle ways than the official itinerary.

There had been an off-hand remark by the trip leader about the tendency of Middle Eastern men to be more affectionate towards each other, but I had taken little note of that as we entered the country. There was far too much else saturating all my senses.

Continued on page 3

Staying Safe, Staying Strong
By Leahruth Jemilo

“No!” We all yell as we take a step forward and punch our fists strongly out into the air. This is women’s self defense. Every Tuesday night, along with 25 other female students from Carleton, I make my way to West Gym for a PE class that is about more than just staying active; Women’s Self Defense. The instructor has a fourth level black belt and has been teaching women’s self defense classes for over 30 years.

What makes this class so unique is the fact that it not only provides us with physical moves that we can use to protect ourselves, but also with knowledge of how to be ‘street smart’ in a world that is not always safe. After the first class I was able to demonstrate a handful of different movements that my body could make that are both easy and also powerful personal defenses. During the second class we split up into partners and practiced the moves we had learned so far, gently, on our partners. It was amazing to see how a certain stance or a particular position of the hand/arm/leg/etc. can make all the difference in who has control of a situation, regardless of which partner was bigger or stronger. I am convinced that this course would be a great one for any female student at Carleton; I already feel more confident as to what I would do if I were in a potentially harmful situation with another person. At the third class the instructor mentioned that we might be starting to feel comfortable with certain moves over others, and already I can tell which ones I would use if I needed to. Another interesting aspect of the class is the personal stories that the instructor shares with us. These stories come from students that have been in other classes that she has taught: some are frightening, some are dangerous, but all are empowering. Each story makes me want to work even harder in the class, not because I am scared of what might happen to me, but because I want to have the assurance of knowing that I am always prepared. Our instructor is extremely encouraging of all of her students and our different ability levels, although everyone would agree that the defense moves taught are all relatively easy. It’s all about certain positions of your body that enhance your strength in a situation; they don’t take a lot of effort to do, they just take time and discipline to get it right. I can’t wait to see how much I learn in the next 6 weeks! Before I go; sign up for the class and tell your girlfriends; the rewards from this course are immeasurable.

Leahruth Jemilo is a Center Associate
Trans/Gender...can mean a lot of things.

What does it mean to you?

The Gender and Sexuality Center will be offering a trans/gender support and discussion group that’s available to anyone questioning their gender at any end of the spectrum. Topics could include but are not limited to housing issues, coming out, dating, friends and family, community, transitioning, hormones, passing, not passing, definitions, labels, and anything the group wishes to discuss. Please keep in mind that you need not identify with any particular gender - boy, girl, transgender, etc. - to be a part of this group, and need only wish to discuss gender in a safe and personal way.

The trans/gender support and discussion group will meet regularly at a confidential time and location. Please email LGBT advisor Kaaren Williamsen-Garvey at kwilliam@acs.carleton.edu for details.
Men and Affection in Israel cont.

The affection surprised me, however. It became most prominent the night we stayed in a kibbutz in the Golan Heights, near the borders of Syria and Lebanon. The fourteen of us had taken over the only bar on the premises, and I got into a conversation with three soldiers who were stationed at a nearby base. Shifting their assault weapons out of the way, they thought nothing of putting their arms around me while we talked, and holding the hand of the person they were addressing. As friends passed, there would be a loud exchange of hugs and kisses, and I got some of my own when it was time to depart.

Paying closer attention through the rest of the trip, I saw that this was not an isolated occurrence, as the men in Israel seemed to be very comfortable with one another — engaging in affection in many of the same ways that women do in the United States. It was easy to see this as the different emphases that the two countries place on masculinity, and what interaction is allowed between members of the same gender.

As the only out queer person on the trip, I also couldn’t help looking for signs of an LGBT population, or even different standards of acceptance. For the most part, it seemed to mirror the United States: the gay clubs were located in the places of highest LGBT concentration – the bigger cities (Tel Aviv and Jerusalem). These are also the places where, under the fair amount of autonomy granted to them by the state, regulations and laws are more liberal and relaxed towards the queer populations (the military, incidentally, has no ban on openly queer service members, and they’re not ashamed to admit it). I kept my eye out, spotting the occasional rainbow flag from an apartment window, or a sticker on a car.

The rural areas were much like one might expect – ultra Orthodox Judaism is not approving of alternative sexual orientations, and I saw no hint of any when we traveled through these areas.

Over time it will be interesting to see how the rights of LGBT people change over time in Israel, compared to the United States — and if you’re in the area, stop by Jerusalem to celebrate World Pride next summer.
In The News

Report Shatters Myths About U.S. Women's Equality
The World Economic Forum, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization based in Switzerland, ranks the U.S. a low 17 out of 58 countries surveyed in measuring the global gender gap. Both developed and developing countries were included in the survey, showing that the state of gender equity in the world is meager at best. "Women’s Empowerment: Measuring the Global Gender Gap" judged each country based on five criteria, with Sweden ranking No. 1 and Egypt coming in last place. The criteria included measures of health and well-being, economic participation, economic opportunity, political empowerment and educational attainment. The U.S. was ranked 19th in economic participation for women and in political empowerment, but earned the low rank of 46th for economic opportunity and 42nd for health and well-being. Other countries that outrank the U.S. on the overall score include: Norway, Iceland, Denmark, Finland, New Zealand, Canada, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Latvia, France, Netherlands and Ireland. (now.org)

Money For Louisiana Victim’s of Domestic Violence
The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence is accepting donations for battered victims from Louisiana’s hardest hit parishes. The coalition has assured us that all donations will go directly to the victims of domestic violence affected by the hurricane and will not be used for administrative or any other purposes. Money will go toward the relocation of victims, basic needs like baby formula, diapers, food, and clothing, deposits for housing and utility bills, car repair, gas, public transportation, medicine and other basic life sustaining needs. To donate, visit their website (www.lcadvhrf.org), contribute to the LCADV Domestic Violence Hurricane Relief Fund, account 0020085338 at AmSouth Bank, or mail a check to: LCADV

Concerns over Women’s Rights in Iraqi Constitution
Azhar al-Sheikhly, Iraq’s Minister of State for Women's Affairs, expressed concerns on Tuesday about women's rights under the draft Iraqi constitution in a discussion on human rights and the constitution sponsored by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and the Iraqi Women's Caucus. Of major concern for women is the language that makes Islamic law “a primary source of legislation” and the provision that requires that no law may be in conflict with the “universal provisions” of the religion. (feminist.org)

Roberts Confirmed as Chief Justice 78 to 22
John Roberts was confirmed September 29, 2005 as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court today by a vote of 78 to 22 in the US Senate. Roberts was opposed by leading civil rights, women’s rights, civil liberties, disability rights, labor, separation of church and state, and lesbian and gay rights groups, including the Feminist Majority. (feminist.org)

Pennsylvania court affirms rights of lesbian mother
In a groundbreaking ruling in support of the rights of gay and lesbian parents, a court in Pennsylvania on Tuesday said the lesbian partner of the biological parent of twins should have primary custody of the children. The decision, by the superior court, upheld a lower court ruling that Patricia Jones would provide a better home than her ex-partner, Ellen Boring, even though Boring is the biological mother of the twins. (advocate.com)

House Unexpectedly Passes Gay and Gender Hate Crimes Amendment
The House of Representatives last week voted 223-199 in favor of an amendment from Representative John Conyers (D-MI) that adds actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and disability to federal hate crime laws. (feminist.org)

Women at Top Universities Passing Over Careers For Families
Many women at the nation's most elite colleges say they have already decided that they will put aside their careers in favor of raising children. While the changing attitudes are difficult to quantify, the shift emerges repeatedly in interviews with Ivy League students, including 138 freshman and senior females at Yale who replied to e-mail questions sent to members of two residential colleges over the last school year. The interviews found that 85 of the students, or roughly 60 percent, said that when they had children, they planned to cut back on work or stop working entirely. About half of those women said they planned to work part time, and about half wanted to stop work for at least a few years. According to a 2000 survey of Yale alumni from the classes of 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1994, conducted by the Yale Office of Institutional Research, more men from each of those classes than women said that work was their primary activity - a gap that was small among alumni in their 20's but widened as women moved into their prime child-rearing years. Among the alumni surveyed who had reached their 40's, only 56 percent of the women still worked, compared with 90 percent of the men. (www.nytimes.com)
Harriet Miers Nominated to Fill Justice O’Connor’s Supreme Court Seat
President Bush today nominated White House Counsel Harriet Miers to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court left by Sandra Day O’Connor. Miers has been a trailblazer in some respects for women in Texas, as the first woman to lead a major Texas law firm, the first woman president of the Dallas Bar Association, and the first woman president of the Texas Bar Association. However, Miers has no real paper trail on fundamental constitutional questions. What we do know is that she sponsored an unsuccessful resolution that sought to change the American Bar Association’s position supporting abortion rights. “Today, with so much at stake, with the O’Connor seat as the balancing vote on numerous 5-4 decisions, the public, especially women, deserves to know much more about Harriet Miers,” said Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority. “This time, the Senate must not only ask tough questions, but if there are no answers, Senators must not confirm her to a lifetime appointment. The rights of women, civil rights, and the constitutional direction of this country are at stake.” (feminist.org)

Belgian researchers say HIV has become weaker
Researchers in Belgium report that HIV may have become weaker since the late 1980s and may spread less rapidly in the body than the virus did 15 years ago, AIDSmap.com reports. The researchers say their findings are the first to suggest that HIV may weaken over time. If the data holds true and HIV continues to weaken, it could evolve within the next 50 to 60 years to a point where it no longer causes deaths in humans, the researchers theorize. (advocate.com)

Celebrate National Coming Out Week!

Common Time Coming Out!
Announce your identities! Get ’em out there! Are you queer? Are you a closet Christian? Are you tired of people assuming you’re white?
Tell Sayles on Tuesday, October 11th during common time! And show up to support others who are coming out!

QUEER JEW PANEL: IDENTITY INTERSECTIONS
Join others interested in the intersections between queer life and Jewish life in the Nourse lounge on Thursday, October 13 at 7pm. Dinner will be provided!

Are you Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgendered?
Thinking about Coming Out at Carleton?
Join the Coming Out Support and Discussion Group, sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Center.
For more information, email griffitc, or contact Kaaren Williamsen-Garvey at kwilliam@acs.carleton.edu or x7179.

“I don’t mind straight people as long as they act gay in public.”
—t-shirt worn by Dennis Rodman
Meet the Staff of the Gender and Sexuality Center!

**C.J. (Christopher Jack) Griffiths**

C.J. is a senior Political Science major from Bainbridge Island, Washington. In the center, he does anything and everything LGBT, with an extreme emphasis on advocacy and education. He’s a member of Carleton In and Out (CIAO), and Sexuality and Gender Activism (SaGA). Outside of the center he can’t exactly remember what he does besides social and swing dancing and, of course, be president of CSA. If he had to pick a favorite movie, it would be something with his true love Eddie Izzard in it, and his favorite book is anything by Dave Barry. If he were a water-bound creature, he’d be a really cute sea otter.

**Em Harris**

Em is a sophomore, expected biology and studio art major from State College, Pennsylvania. In the Center, she works on issues of women’s health, transgender issues, and sex education advocacy. In the winter, Em will be leaving us for an exciting off-campus trip to Australia. When she’s outside the Center, her favorite books are *Skinny Legs and All, The Monkey Wrench Gang,* and *A Tale of Two Cities,* and her favorite movies are *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade, 10 Things I Hate About You,* and *Bound.* If Em lived in the sea, she’d be a manta ray.

**Leahruth Jemilo**

Leahruth Wayne Jemilo is a sophomore, intended IR/Chinese language major. She’s from Chicago—actually Chicago, not a surrounding suburb. At the Center, she works on women’s issues, and is also interested in bringing different student organizations together around the issue of violence against women. Leahruth will also be leaving campus in the spring. Her favorite books are *Rebecca* by Daphne DuMaurier and *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery. Her favorite movie is *My Best Friend’s Wedding.* If Leahruth was a water-bound creature, she’d definitely be a mermaid.

**Leah Entenmann**

Leah is a senior history major from Northfield who, according to an online quiz is Tenderheart Bear. Ah. At the GSC, Leah enjoys working on library maintenance, the newsletter, event planning, gender, multicultural issues, panels, and activism. Outside of the office, she lives in Queers and Allies House, serves as SAGA’s Caesar, has been key in Darfur activism on campus, and goes to folk singing whenever she can. She enjoys Latin America, East Africa, peace and conflict studies, literature, traveling, activism, relaxation, and coffee. Leah spent the summer in Africa getting some hands-on experience with her favorite area: peace and conflict studies. As a townie, she has a love-hate relationship with Northfield, but her favorite things about the town are her house in the country and Goodbye Blue Monday. Her favorite book is *100 Years of Solitude,* and her favorite movies are *Singin’ in the Rain* and *Harold and Maude.* She wishes to inform the readership that she is a Ravenclaw by sorting, but a Gryffindor at heart.

**Erika Lewis**

Erika is a senior English major, who will actually be on campus most of this year! We’re excited. In the GSC she focuses on making event posters, working on website stuff, writing and editing for the newsletter, and watering the plants (the most important job, really). Her copious free time is consumed with playing rugby for the Carleton Women’s Rugby team, reading, running in the arb, hiking, discovering new kinds of music, and writing poetry. She is also involved in writing for the Carletonian and DJing at KRLX. Her favorite movies are *American Beauty* and *Harold and Maude,* and though she had difficulty choosing a favorite book, she settled on *The Dharma Bums* by Jack Kerouac. Erika didn’t pick a sea creature for herself, but we think she’d be a hammerhead shark.

**Cindy Lys**

Cindy L. Lys is a junior English major who might get a French certificate and might be an Educational Studies concentrator. She’s also from Chicago. In the center, Cindy focuses on identity intersections, working in the library, and eating the banana Laffy Taffys. Her favorite book is *The Phantom of the Opera,* and her favorite movies are *Gladiator* and *Chocolat.* If Cindy were a water-bound creature, she’d be a mermaid with royal purple scales.

**Julie Nicol**

Julie is a junior Biology major and Women’s and Gender Studies concentrator who transferred here last year from Bates College. She’s originally from Seattle. In the Center, she works on sexual violence prevention and other fun things like that. Her favorite book is *Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov, and her favorite movie is *Straight to Hell,* which features The Pogues, Joe Strummer, Courtney Love, and Elvis Costello. Julie will also be leaving for winter term. Julie’s inner water-bound creature is the Loch Ness Monster.

**Katie Paul**

Katie is a sophomore from Norman, Oklahoma who is thinking about becoming an International Relations major. In the Center, she works on women’s issues, sexual violence prevention, feminism, and bringing in great speakers. Katie won’t be on campus in the spring. Her favorite books are *Cat’s Cradle,* *Love in the Time of Cholera,* and *The Catcher in the Rye,* and her favorite movies are *Beauty and the Beast* and *Ghost World.* If she were a water-bound creature, she’d be an otter, because they can crack things on their chest.
Dana Reinoos
Dana is a senior English major with a Women’s and Gender Studies concentration from Milwaukee. In the Center, she focuses on women’s issues, feminism, and body/size positivity. Dana’s favorite books are *A Million Little Pieces* and *The Sun Also Rises*. Her favorite movies are *The Royal Tenenbaums* and *Anchorman*, but she is constantly watching more movies. If Dana were a water-bound creature, she’d be an angler fish, because she’s crafty like that.

Alisa Sanchez
Alisa is a senior Philosophy major from Whittier, California. In her work at the Center, she is interested in sexual and domestic violence prevention (especially in the LGBT community), and the intersection of multicultural and LGTBA issues. When she’s not working, she enjoys reading books with unusual titles, tending plants, being part of CWI, playing women’s ice hockey, living in Casa del Sol, and volunteering for the HOPE Center. She loves Mexico; her favorite movies are *Good-bye Lenin* and *The Usual Suspects*, and her favorite book is *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. In her opinion, the best thing about Northfield is the smell of Malt-O’-Meal. If she were an underwater creature, the editorial staff have decided that she’d be a starfish.

James Sanna
James is a junior History major, with a concentration in Medieval and Renaissance Studies. He’s from Concord, Massachusetts, which is right outside Boston. In the Center, he focuses on men’s issues, identity intersections, social events, GSC/Chapel events, National Coming Out Week, and queer visibility. His favorite book is *The Iliad*, and his favorite movies are *The Lion in Winter*, *The Twelve Chairs*, and *Fists of Legend*. If James were a water-bound creature, he’d be a dolphin, because life’s just that much more interesting when you’re an intelligent, social, predatory mammal that can do tricks.

Rachel Vallens
Rachel is a senior Cognitive Studies major with a concentration in Women’s and Gender Studies. She’s from Tigard, Oregon. In the center, she focuses on feminism, reproductive rights, body image, coming out, Ally involvement, and violence prevention. She’s the leader of Breaking Ground and Girl Scouts, and she’s a member of CWI, SaGA, CAASHA, and SOPE. She’s also the house manager at WA House. Outside of the center, Rachel likes working with kids, environmentalism, writing, most things having to do with language, reading, knitting and being crafty. Her favorite movie varies by the week, though she currently rather enjoys watching West Wing episodes. Her favorite book is *The Fire Rose* by Mercedes Lackey. If Rachel lived in the sea, she would be a walrus. Mostly because she thinks somebody should be, because they have cool tusks.

Derek Zimmerman
Derek is a junior English major from Lincoln, NE. He works on outreach, gay men’s stuff, and the budget at the Center. His favorite book is *Middlemarch* by George Eliot, and his favorite movies are Charlie Kaufman ones, especially *Eternal Sunshine* and *Being John Malkovich*. If Derek was a water-bound creature, he’d be a stonefish. They sit around on the ocean floor all day until something touches them, then they shoot poisonous barbs at it and eat it. It’s like him—sedentary, yet dangerous.

Kristen Askeland
Kristen is the secretary for multicultural affairs. She’s worked for Carleton for 14 years, the first ten of which were with food service and the rest have been in basement Scoville. She’s lived in Northfield for 16 years, and one of her favorite things about it are the train whistle. She’s married and has two daughters, who are 8 and 12 years old. Her latest favorite book is *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls, and her favorite movie is *What’s Eating Gilbert Grape?* Kristen would be a walleye if she lived in the water.

Ariela M. Canizal
Ariela is the hall director for the Goodhue and Evans. She’s from Los Angeles originally, and she graduated from Marymount Manhattan College in 2002 with a major in Communication Arts. Since she’s lived in huge cities, her favorite things about Northfield are the small town experience and the safe feeling. In the center, she’s working on learning the different resources that are available for the students. Outside of the center, she’s working with Hudlin Wagner on a documentary about the Women of Color retreat. It will be done soon, so be sure to check it out. She loves watching, going to, or making movies, and her favorite is *The Breakfast Club*. Her favorite book is *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya. The editorial staff have decided that Ariela would be a platypus if she were an creature that lived in the water.

Kaaren Williamsen-Garvey
Kaaren is the head of the center. She graduated from Gustavus Adolphus in 1995 with a major in Philosophy. She’s originally from Annapolis, Maryland, but now her home is in Northfield. Within the center, she’s involved in everything, but she takes particular interest in individual support and creating a supportive campus environment. Outside of the center she’s been working hard on starting the Just Food Co-op; doing volunteer outreach, marketing, and member recruitment. Talk to her if you want to become a member (it’s only $25 for a year!). At home with her partner, two dogs, and cat, Kaaren likes gardening and tennis. Her favorite movie is *The Sound of Music*. Kaaren likes to people to know that she is an Aquarius, but we think you should know that if she were a water creature, she would be a water snake.
National Coming Out Week

Abigail Garner speaks on her new book, Families Like Mine
Mon. Oct. 10, 7pm, Library Athenaeum, reception to follow

National Coming Out Day
Come out during common time! Announce your identities and support others
Tues. Oct. 11, 12pm-1pm, Sayles

Queer Social Hour
Tues. Oct. 11, 7:30pm, Q&A House

Queer Jew Panel
Dinner provided
Thurs. Oct. 13, 7pm, Nourse Lounge

Coming Out Party and Dance
Sat. Oct. 15, 10pm-1am, Evans Dining Hall

Women’s Week

Movie Night
Come see a fun and thought-provoking movie and then discuss the issues raised.
Mon. Oct. 24, 8pm, WA House

Rape Survivor Talk
Patricia Weaver-Francesco, author of Telling, a Memoir of Rape and Recovery, speaks on the book and her experience. Panel of Rice County sexual violence response team to follow.
Tues. Oct. 25, 7pm, Great Hall

Women and Depression Forum
Wed. Oct. 26, 7pm, GSC

Lunch Discussion: Feminist Identities
Thurs. Oct. 27, 12pm, Hill Lounge

Guerilla Girls: Feminist Are Funny
Fri. Oct. 28, 7pm, The Cave