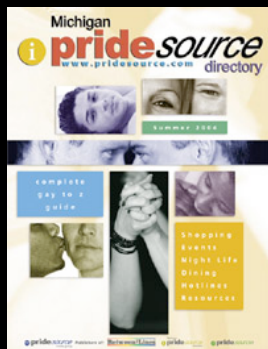


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WSU's GBLT group to deal with racism By Imani Williams

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DETROIT - Wayne State University GBLT Union President Elizabeth Aulette-Root has put her pen into action. A WSU senior, Aulette-Root, who is majoring in Africana Studies with a co-major in International Studies, is a community activist very concerned with issues surrounding gay youth. As GBLT President she was charged with providing a budget for programming and events to be put on by the student union. She met with group members, got their input and decided to tackle the racism that she feels pervades the community at large and often crosses over onto Wayne's campus.

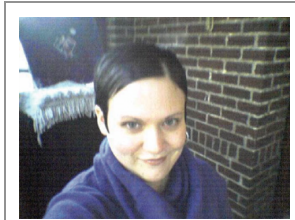
"I think racism is an extremely important and un-addressed topic in today's world. I also think the gay community has been ignorant about the racism within for too long. Oppression can happen within groups that are already marginalized," said Aulette-Root. "The rainbow symbolism of the gay community, including all different kinds of people can sometimes be used to gloss over the existence of ignorance and oppression within it," she added.

She and her co-planners hope to reach people of color and anti-racist supporters in the community but they would also like to have a true dialogue with people who are uniformed and or unaware of the existence of and the fight against racism. "It is important as an activist for any kind of social justice that you be informed about all kinds of oppression," said Aulette-Root.

She hopes that folks will leave the conference with a head full of ideas and a page full of notes and contacts for further action and solution. At the very least she hopes some knowledge of the existence of racism and the links between different kinds of hatred will be learned.

The Anti-Racism conference is free and takes place Fri. March 5 from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at WSU Student Union. For more information contact Liz Aulette-Root or Imani Williams at 313-220-3227.

Imani Williams is a contributing writer at BTL and can be reached at ImaniWilliams@aol.com.



Elizabeth Aulette-Root is a senior and the President of Wayne State University's LGBT Union

