LGBTQ project “It Gets Better” inspires change

By Kasey Overgaard
Staff Reporter

It started with one YouTube video four years ago. Partners Dan Savage and Terry Miller had uploaded a video of themselves speaking to a CMU freshman and asking transgenders and individuals sending the message that "it gets better." The video is part of the It Gets Better project. The project’s mission is to raise awareness throughout the world that it gets better, and to create and inspire the changes needed to make it better for them,” itgetsbetter.org.

For many LGBT youth who are tormented and bullied, it can be hard to imagine their futures getting better. Teens and kids, especially, may not know who to turn to when times get rough. The It Gets Better project aims to provide support to these individuals, to show them the levels of happiness, potential and positivity their lives can reach, if they can just get through their teen years.

Dan and Terry's video in September 2010 was intended to reach young people facing harassment in response to student suicides and bullying that have been bullied in school. They talked about their own personal lives, their friendships and later high school. In the video Miller said things "instantly" got better the day he left high school. After the video was released, President Barack Obama himself shared a message of support for struggling LGBT youth through the It Gets Better Project. In the video the President ends with saying, "As a nation we’re founded on the belief that all of us are equal and deserve the freedom to pursue their own version of happiness...but most of all to be true to ourselves..." - Barack Obama

President of the U.S.

Broadway community and more. There have been more than 50,000 user-created videos viewed more than 50 million times. To the representations of the It Gets Better Project,

“Down to Earth”

New sustainability e-newsletter arrives on campus this week

Brittany Maule
Features Editor

Students for Sustainability (SFS) is reaching out again to help educate UW-La Crosse about the great things going on in our campus and local community, but this time the message is coming straight to your inbox. Developers at SFS have put together a new e-newsletter called Sustainability Now, that students will be able to view in a PDF format. This newsletter will contain articles and highlights about sustainable activities, classes, local businesses, and even student research. Sustainability Now was made possible by multiple contributors including those from Health and Wellness, the Environmental Studies minor, the Recreation Management Department, many others, and of course the dedicated students in SFS.

The inspiration for this newsletter came about originally as a way for our university to obtain more points in the new STARS program put forth by the Association for Sustainability Tracking and Reporting System, and is a new internal reporting system that UW-L joined part of in 2010. Other universities like UW-Stevens Point and UW-Madison have already been recognized for several years, and achieved high ratings. Through this system, UW-L, and other higher education institutions are given a rating (bronze, silver, gold, etc.) based on how many points they award us in each category. Not only will publishing Sustainability Now help promote awareness of sustainability initiatives on campus, it also helps our university gain more points in the STARS program!

Hey UW-L! Which 90s TV show would you bring back?

By Emily Maximian
Staff Reporter

Full House because it was adorable. Also, near the end of the episode they would start playing the Little Feat music because there was always some kind of lesson learned and was just great. -Sara Helffer

Regrets because I want my kids to watch it since I did! -Samantha McKenzie

Fresh Prince of Bel Air because it was the most authentic and humorous and most progressive of the 90s. It was my favorite show. -Jamie Rinning

Boy Meets World because it deals with real stuff and it’s not petty drama. It’s humorous and sad and everything a teenager goes through. It’s just better that show. -Shelby Borstma

Buy Meets World because it had heart but it also had comedy. It was realistic. -Becky Schwartz

Spring fashion to look for in 2015

By Ellie Brown
Staff Reporter

Now that the weather has finally started to warm up, many students will cycle out their winter jackets, parkas and boots for more spring appropriate options. The air warms up, students are generally, bound to wear less clothes. As the incoming warmer weather prompts many people to shop for summer clothes at department stores, secondhand clothing stores and wherever else they go for their shopping needs. When buying new clothing, there are definitely some things to consider.

High waisted denim shorts, Birkenstocks, crop tops and Spreys are some of the popular choices on campus as well as athletic shorts, khaki shorts and “Bro-tanks.” All of these clothing options can be mixed and matched with each other or paired with items already in your closet! Some essential spring colors are floral patterns, white, light blue and pink, which highlight the return of color back into nature. Most of these brands, colors and styles will be available at most places. The best tip when buying new clothes is always fun, try looking through your clothes from years ago and see what you can still wear, it could be a great project to remake them into something stylish now.

Even though spring has officially begun, don’t ditch the clothing yet! Insulated rain boots, thick sided tennis shoes and light jackets are still important during the spring season. Wisconsin weather, as most of its inhabitants know, is highly unpredictable and weather is never consistent. You could start the day wearing a jacket and thick sided boots and end in flip flops and shorts. Looking for specific outfit ideas? For a more modest look, pair a light colored skirt with a fun, patterned top. If the temperature dips a bit low, add tights or leggings and close toe flat or heel. For a more adventurous style, try suspenders with a short skirt and underneath and pair them with funky sunglasses and chunky boots. Not edgy enough? Try jeans with a more fitted shirt or even washed out denim. A great look for class is an oversized cardigan with a flowered shirt or dress underneath. This look is great as an article of clothing, but it keeps you cozy during chilly mornings.

If skirts and dresses aren’t your thing, try pairing striped or block printed tank tops and colored shorts. This outfit looks great with either running shoes or sandals, depending on the weather or the temperature.

Want to have a more professional, yet casual look? Khaki pants paired with high waisted denim shirts, Premiunstocks, crop tops, and Spreys are some of the popular choices on campus as well as athletic shorts, khaki shorts, and “Bro-tanks.”

A simple white t-shirt or light blazer will pull this look off.

Ultimately, it’s up to the individual to decide what he or she is comfortable in. Whether it’s as simple as shorts and sandals or flowing maxi dress with gold accented wedges, all are great options. But no matter how you dress, your clothes look, blue toes in 40 degree weather will not accent your personality, so wear weather appropriate clothing. The most important thing in the spring fashion season, though, is simple. Be comfortable and wear whatever makes you feel the best.