UCSD LGBT Resource Center Rainbow Newsletter Volume #27 - Issue #7

Panocha Healing

March 6, 2008 @ 5 pm

LGBT Resource Center Conference Room

COOCHIE, CUNT, VAGINA PANOCHA, PUSSY. What do you call yours? What do these words invoke? Many of our ancestors have given us a distorted perception of our panochas. Join intern, Brianna Marquez, for an exploration into how older generations, with an emphasis on queer womyn of color, have negatively influenced the existence and our perceptions of our panochas. This will be a panocha healing that educates us on our panocha wisdom and how we can move forward from misinformation to create a healthy relationship with our panochas.

LGBT Black History Gala

The LGBT Resource Center cordially invites you to the LGBT Black History Gala on Friday, February 29, 2008, 5PM at the LGBT Resource Center. Come and enjoy a celebration of Black/African American History with a twist- let's share the stories of our UCSD LGBTQ community and of the larger his/herstories of queer African Americans and people of color. This evening is the main social event of Black History Month at the LGBT Resource Center, and will honor LGBT African Americans in the U.S. and members of our UCSD LGBT community past and present. We work to build solidarity at UCSD through our personal stories, families and communities. Get down with us next Friday for fantastic, satisfying food and progressive conversation in a funky ambiance!

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For more information, please contact Jan Estrellado (jeestrellado@ucsd.edu). Coming Out Group

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Want your design printed on over 400 tshirts? Day of Silence Committee is holding a T-shirt de¬sign contest for this year's Day of Silence! Here are the contest guidelines:

- Must be on a black t-shirt
- One or two additional colors (preferably red and white)
- Design must be in the middle of the shirt
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Submit your piece via e-mail in .doc format to <u>KickedOutAnthology@gmail.com</u> Please include a short biography and contact information with your submission.

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In Our Library

I Dream a World



Maya Angelou wrote the introduction to this volume of eloquent photographs of black women who struggled to effect change in a world that was often hostile to them.

Thursday February 28th, 2008 - Vol. 27, Issue 8

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# Finals Study Breaks at the Campus Community Centers!

That's right folks, for your study pleasure the Campus Community Centers have combined forces to provide a space for students to have late-night studying in preparation for finals. On each night starting Sunday, March 16 through the morning of Wednesday, March 19, 2008 one of the community centers will be open until the late hours. There will be study space, free food, study group rooms, and plenty of coffee! The schedule is as follows: -all Sunday night / Monday morning go to the LGBT Resource Center. -Monday night / Tuesday morning until 2AM go to the Cross-Cultural Center . -all Tuesday night / Wednesday morning go to

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#### Queer by Nature

Come to the Queer by Nature hike this Sunday! We will hike to the summit of Cowles Mountain, which is the highest point in the city of San Diego with a 360 degree view of the county. Carpools leave at 10:30am from the Sun God parking lot, next to the Faculty Lounge. Contact Birdie if you have any questions: r1lee@ucsd.edu, 510-334-3639.:)

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UCSD LGBT Resource Center Rainbow Newsletter Thursday March 6th, 2008 - Vol. 27, Issue 9

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-----LGBTRC News-----

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4. Dialogues in Sexuality Studies - NEW DATE!

Featuring: Mattheus E. Stephens, Esq., Partner, Stock Stephens, LLP and Lecturer of Critical Gender Studies, UC San Diego

"Law and Sex: Strange Bedfellows"

and Elizabeth Steeby, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Literature, UC San Diego

"The Old Ball and Chain: Redefining the Carceral and the Conjugal in Chain Gang Buddy Flicks and Southern Prison Presses"

Tuesday, April 1, 4:30-6:30 LGBT Resource Center

Dialogues in Sexuality Studies brings together UCSD faculty members and graduate students from across campus interested in the growing interdisciplinary field of Sexuality Studies. The two presentations will be followed by open discussion over an informal buffet dinner.

-----Campus Community-----

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8. International Women's Day Events
In celebration of International Women's Day, the Women's Center will be holding an event called Women Speak: The Many Voices of Working Women of Color in Conversation at UCSD Women's Center on Friday March 7 from noon-2pm. Be sure to attend!

-----Announcements-----

9. Volunteers Needed for Visual Arts Open Studios Event >From UCSD Visual Arts... The UCSD Visual Arts MFA program is holding an exciting event called OPEN STUDIOS during the first week of April. The public from UCSD and beyond is invited to come see what they have been working on as artists in the UCSD community. Any undergrads (or grads of course) who would want to volunteer to help things go smoothly on the day of, please get in touch with grad student, Kate Hoffman at:

wearsk8@hotmail.com This is a great way to get involved with the UCSD grad

student art community and it will be a VERY fun day the first week of April. We in the Visual Arts facility have a good number of LGBT grad students and would love to get more connected with other LGBT artists in our community.

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10. Staff@Work Survey

Chancellor Fox has announced that the Staff@Work survey will be sent out soon. Please remember that the LGBT community is now included as a demographic for the Staff@Work 2008 Survey. We encourage everyone to complete the demographics, as the data really helps us to get a snapshot of our communities' perspective.

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11. Development in Gardening Fundraiser

Development in Gardening (DIG) is an organization currently working in Africa that strives to improve the physical and emotional health of HIV-affected individuals by teaching them how to take an active role in their treatment and care. DIG's community gardens, located in crowded and impoverished urban areas, give people living with HIV/AIDS an opportunity to grow nutritious and affordable food, despite their extremely limited resources. Attend DIG's fundraiser to learn about urban gardens and how you can help them continue to grow in Africa.

Hawthornes Restaurant, 2895 University Avenue, San Diego, CA

WHERE: 92104

www.hawthornssd.com

WHEN: Saturday, March 15th from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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13. Rosalio Munoz to appear at UCSD

Rosalio Munoz was a draft resister during the U.S. war in Viet Nam and key organizer of the National Chicano Moratorium Committee that turned out 25,000 people on August 29, 1970 to protest the war. She will be speaking at the Committee for World Democracy (CWD) Film Series for a showing of "Chicano!"

Details:

Friday, March 14 @ 7:00pm in Student Services Center--Multi-Purpose Room UCSD Student Services Center is located at the corner of Rupertus Way and Myers Drive, just south of the Price Center expansion, across from the Chancellor's Complex (map).

Sponsored by Third World Studies and ASUCSD For more information call (858) 534-4873, or write to  $\underline{\text{cwd@ucsd.edu}}$ 

14. Out UCSD Professor to be Honored

Our own out theatre professor, Marianne McDonald, will be honored at the National Women's History Month festivities. She, along with architect Judith Munk, will be inducted into the San Diego Women's Hall of Fame at 5 PM in UCSD's Price Center Ballroom on March 29th. Professor McDonald is the author of 24 books and has had a tremendous influence in San Diego theatres. Be sure to attend this event on campus!

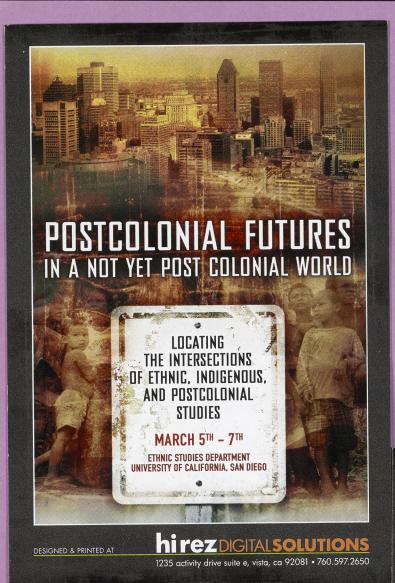
15. Southern California LGBT UC Alumni Reception

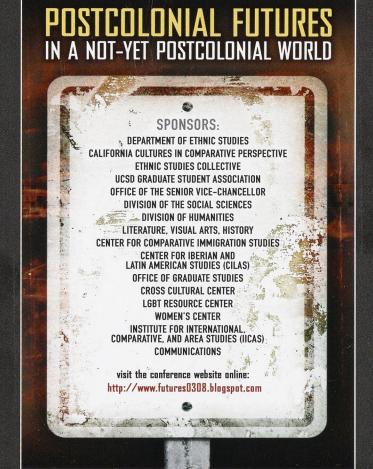
The Southern California LGBT UC Alumni Receptio will take place May 8, 2008, 6 pm - 8 pm at the Pacific Design Center 700 N. San Vicente Blvd. West Hollywood, California 90069

Space is limited to the first 200 RSVP's. For more information on the alumni receptions visit <a href="https://www.ucalumni.net">www.ucalumni.net</a>. These events are hosted by the Alumni Associations of the University of California and the UC Office of the President.

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# Postcard from Singapore from Mary Kong, a former LGBTRC 2006-2007 Intern!

On the world's largest observation wheel, a moving experience awaits me at every turn.

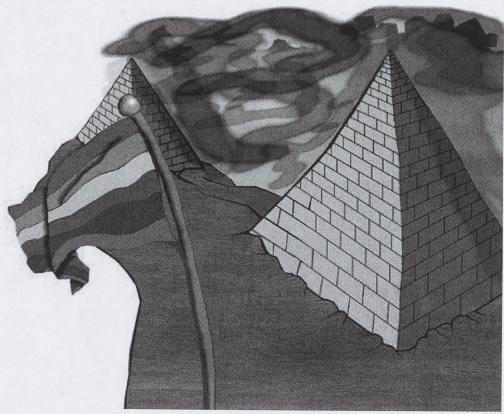
Singapore

visitsingapore.com

My City. My Life. BY AIRMAIL Singapore Flyer by Tan Tuan Lin Singapore Flyer, the world's larges to be evation wheel will offer visitors breathtaking 360° panoramic views of high portugation at the March 2008. հոլիոլիոլիոյիկիկ Dear Shaun, Jan, Anthony, and the 25,007,2007 PM Project Postcard Overseas postage paid by Singapore UCSO LEGIRO From! hope that this postcard finds Jourism Board you all and the rest of the comm-9500 61 man Dr. #0023 unity well, especially due to The recent fires that have been happy La Jolla, CAlifornia 92093 ening in the San Dugo County Being in southeast Asta has obened united States of America mentapoto a lot of issues that are happening in the LEBT commu-I end I have to make a nity here- Not to mention within The intersections of identity. I cons oisclaimer the terns wheel tantly find myself questioning my I mean observation wheel sanity and craving time and isn't even moving" yet discuss my triggers @ start meet they don't even have the space where I use to be able to cages where people can in Briesday on Bally 17 even more stand! Best wishes and exiting/makes me excited that heads of suck on each Superpose Board Superpose Resort Colorine quality THE RETREMT DUCK Superpose Relative Carta at OUCK SHIPPO @ Orchard (In white the action of the Carta at OUCK SHIPPO @ Orchard (In white the Carta at OU of your journey UNIQUELY Constitution of the state of th of the distinguished the property of the details.

## A Country in the Closet

By David Harvey Staff Writer Monday, Feb. 25, 2008



(Jason Chiem/Guardian)

Abdul, a University of California student studying abroad at the American University in Cairo, met Amir at a local club. The relationship was friendly and nothing more, until Amir called late one night asking if he could come over. The two have now been dating for three weeks, and in that short time Abdul has discovered Amir's curiosity about gay life outside of Egypt.

Currently, Amir plays bass for a small local band. His shows often run into the early hours of the morning. Lately, after his shows, he makes a phone call and visits his new love interest. Amir is not his real name because as an Egyptian, his lifestyle was, and continues to be, prosecutable.

"He's really shy and curious," said Abdul, describing how Amir looked through his belongings, books and pornography. "I don't think he's looked at porn before," Abdul said with a smile and a laugh. "He was mesmerized by the videos."

Amir also questioned Abdul about his straight roommate.

"He thought it was so strange to have straight friends who didn't judge," Abdul

said.

Abdul believes that none of Amir's family or friends suspect Amir is gay. The risk of being thrown in jail, and of being ostracized from everything he knows, is a risk Amir will probably never take.

"I haven't asked if anyone knows," Abdul said. "I don't think anyone knows. I don't think anyone will ever know."

During one of their first dates, while watching a televised soccer match, they managed to sneak a hug after a goal was scored. Abdul explained that culturally, since men are so close, it is easy to hide such interactions.

"When we walk across the street and he grabs my hand, I don't know if it's a boyfriend thing, or just natural," he said. People in the streets wouldn't judge such an action as inappropriate. Nevertheless, Adbul said Amir is "very aware of how people notice him."

On Feb.14, Amnesty International released a statement that four men were arrested in Cairo for being suspected of having HIV. This recent arrest, according to the statement, brings the total of suspected HIV-positive gay men currently in custody to 12. Of the men previously detained, four have received one-year prison sentences under a vague and broadly interpreted Egyptian law on morality and sexual conduct.

Cairo has a history of persecuting homosexuality. In a 2004 report, Amnesty International claimed to have the names of 179 suspected gay men who were arrested, beaten and tortured under the reach of debauchery laws since 2001. The report speculated that Amnesty International's figures paled in comparison to the actual numbers of harassed individuals; many harassed, suspected gay men are never brought to trial or even charged.

The most public and internationally recognized crackdown in Cairo was in 2001, with the arrest and trial of several men, known now as the Cairo 52. The police raided a Nile River disco, the Queen Boat, and the local papers subsequently listed the names and personal information of all the men alongside labels such as "Satan-worshippers" and "sexual perverts."

Despite the growing fear among Egyptian gays of the continued threat of violence, Abdul was not worried about coming to study in Egypt. A gay friend of his had studied in Cairo before, and assured Abdul that there was a large community there. Abdul encounters far more unwanted sexual passes than prejudiced harassment.

"I was surprised how many people grab their crotch and smile at me," Abdul said. "They have little signals: whistles and kissy lips. One time I did it back and had to run away."

It was a come-on he wasn't in the mood for deflecting, he said.

In addition to the presence of gay culture on Cairo's streets, the online community continues to flourish. Many Web sites, such as Gayegypt.com, are hosted abroad in places like the UK, but nevertheless serve a vital role in sustaining the underground network of gay life in Egypt.

"It's all online now, and the sites are all in Arabic," said Abdul.

Even online, Abdul notices differences from American gay culture.

"[Gay men in Egypt] always say they're tops because the punishment for the top is less than the bottom; they're less of a man in that sense," he said.

Abdul said that, because of the aggressive nature of men in Egypt, most gay men in Cairo find it hard to accept the idea of a loving, mutual relationship between two male adults.

Still, Abdul wants to try. Since he finds most men here are interested in only sexual relationships, he is reluctant to enter a sexual relationship with Amir in the hope that they will form a more tangible connection. Up to this point, they have been keeping things as casual as they can under the necessary veil of secrecy.

During a brief phone call with Amir, as he prepared for work, Abdul whispered softly in Arabic. He missed Amir, he said, and wanted to see him later. Certain that Amir looks toward a future where he lives a life of secrecy, married to a woman, raising children and likely expressing his hidden desires in online chat rooms, Abdul is eager to show him a life where people can be open, even if it's only with each other — away from oppression, stereotypes and judgment for one's sexuality.

"Sexuality," said Abdul, "is just who you have sex with. It doesn't define who you are."

Readers can contact David Harvey at <a href="mailto:dharvey@ucsd.edu">dharvey@ucsd.edu</a>.

One person has commented on this article.	
1. Untitled  Guest User, Unregistered	quote
well written. this article really makes you think about what people oftentimes take for granted.	here
Posted 2008-02-25 20:18:41	IP
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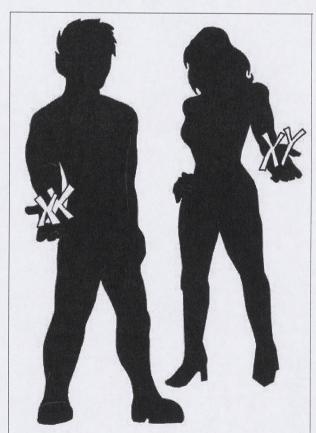
## **Blurring the Gender Line**

UCSD takes initiative to create a friendlier climate for those on campus who break the boundaries between male and female.

By Serena Renner Associate Focus Editor Sunday, Mar. 2, 2008

The life of Marie Villalobos is not that different from any other UCSD student. She is studying biology and psychology, likes to cook, enjoys the outdoors and records folk music with a band when she finds the time. But life hasn't always been easy. Villalobos' identification cards, school records and trips home serve as testaments to her complicated past. Although she has always identified as Marie, she spent most of her life as Martin.

Villalobos is part of UCSD's small group of transgendered students. Although the term transgender refers to a broad spectrum of individuals whose internal gender identity deviates from the physical sex with which they were born, efforts to overcome being at odds with one's biological sex can range from cross dressing to sexual reassignment surgery. However, in all cases, transgendered individuals are a little-understood minority whom the campus has recently taken initiatives to better address and accept.



Beginning her physical transition years ago, Villalobos now lives her college life as a woman. But when she goes home for the weekend, she is forced back into men's clothes, becoming Martin once again, to satisfy her family's preferences.

Villalobos said she receives looks on the train and hears the question, "Is that a boy or a girl?" — comments that sting deeply.

"It just brings your whole world down when somebody [does not recognize your gender identity]," Villalobos said. "Because you're thinking 'I thought I looked good. I thought I was projecting a good image' but somebody saw through it. In the end, you just want to be accepted in society."

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(Christina Aushana/Guardian)

passing as one's internal gender sometimes attracts stares, harassment or

discrimination.

But, according to Smith, people's judgments are based on unusual gender expression.

"That could mean a straight guy dressing up as a girl on Halloween who faces discrimination for it," she said. "For being 'too butch,' 'too fem' or for 'looking gay.' It's a kind of oppositional sexism where you have to fit into one of two camps, masculine or feminine, and any deviation from either camp will result in discrimination. The reason why [transgendered people] experience it so much is because we have a very compelling reason to break these rules."

Although Smith occasionally encounters problems in public, especially when presenting a male driver license when trying to enter a bar, the atmosphere at UCSD, in contrast, is pretty transgender-friendly, she said.

Smith cited the sensitive treatment by campus administrators, progressive policies and the empowerment of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Center as examples of UCSD's liberal nature. The new resource center is the largest on any public campus in the nation, she said.

The opening of the center was a major turning point in getting things done for the LGBT community, said Francesco Carusi, former co-chair of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Issues. Since a space was first allocated to the LGBT community in 1999, the campus has come a long way, Carusi said.

One of the center's most recent initiatives, pioneered by LGBT Resource Center Director Shaun Travers, has been to change Student Health Service's policies to insure transgendered care.

As of Fall 2007, up to \$25,000 in any given year is covered by the Student Health Insurance Plan for hormone replacement therapy or sexual reassignment surgery — procedures that nearly all other student and employee insurance policies across the country exclude, according to www.tgender.net, a transgender information Web site.

UCSD is the only University of California campus and possibly the nation's only university that offers such health care options, LGBT Resource Center Assistant Director of Education Jan Estrellado said.

While UCSD does not currently have any affiliated surgeons at this time, students who meet the standards for care can receive a referral from Student Health for off-site surgery or treatment from endocrinologists in the campus network, according to Insurance Coordinator for Student Health Services Jessica Morris.

Eligibility for sexual reassignment surgery is outlined by the Harry Benjamin Standards of Care, which strictly defines the effective treatment for gender identity disorder, including counseling along with medical and surgical care.

Some, however, question the medical necessity of sexual reassignment surgery, which has been labeled "experimental" and "cosmetic" by some insurance providers and media sources .

"I understand that [being transgendered] is not a choice," Revelle College senior Hannah Basset said. "But I'm not sure [hormone treatment or sexual reassignment surgery] are medical needs either."

Villalobos said that while she understands how surgery can seem superficial, living comfortably as one's identified gender is dependent upon the perception and treatment by society.

"People around us are mirrors," she said. "They call us 'he' or 'she' and that tells us who we are. You may feel more like a female or male on the inside, but how you are treated by others is determined almost solely by your appearance on the outside. This is a cause of discomfort when how you feel doesn't match up with how you look."

Other efforts of the LGBT Resource Center and the CACGISOI have focused on opening more single-stall gender-neutral restrooms, providing housing options for members of the LGBT community and spreading awareness about transgender-related issues.

Unisex restrooms are significant because they provide harassment-free access for gender nonconformists along with families and people with disabilities, Estrellado said.

The LGBT Resource Center is also working with Housing and Dining Services, resident deans, resident advisers and house advisers to provide safe and supportive housing options for the LGBT community, which Villalobos, who spent her freshman year in boys' dorms acting like a male, said are important.

Three years ago, Mesa Housing on Regents Road started opening up same-household married-student housing to LGBT couples who could not legally marry, Carusi said.

John Muir College also has co-ed apartments that are more conducive to the transgendered population.

Additionally, the CACGISOI has recommended innovative housing options like that of other UC campuses that offer LGBT-themed floors or buildings aimed to promote understanding of gender-identity and sexual-orientation issues. The goal is to create LGBT communities in each of the six colleges, the 2006-07 CACGISOI

annual report said.

While UCSD is ahead of other campuses and the general public in many ways, there is still room for improvement in educating students on campus who tend to be less sensitive to transgender issues than administration, staff and faculty, Villalobos said.

The LGBT Resource Center has a Speakers Bureau made up of an LGBT panel that reaches out to student organizations, campus departments, classes, residence halls and high school conferences to raise awareness.

But much work still needs to be done to fight campus ignorance and give transgendered people a voice, according to Smith.

"It's just not an experience that anyone can fathom unless they're going through it," Smith said. "The trans community is very small and many of us don't feel as free to be out as other communities do. That in part reduces our voice and our visibility, so we really need allies as much as any group to help achieve equality."

Readers can contact Serena Renner at srenner@ucsd.edu.

#### One person has commented on this article.

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quote

'Some, however, question the medical necessity of sexual reassignment surgery, which has been labeled "experimental" and "cosmetic" by some insurance providers and media sources.'

Oh gimme a break! More than 100,000 people in North America have had their surgery over the last 50+ years. It is NOT experimental. And the Benjamin Standards, put out by an international group of gender experts, says the following:

"Sex Reassignment is Effective and Medically Indicated in Severe GID. In persons diagnosed with transsexualism or profound GID, sex reassignment surgery, along with hormone therapy and real-life experience, is a treatment that has proven to be effective. Such a therapeutic regimen, when prescribed or recommended by qualified practitioners, is medically indicated and medically necessary. Sex reassignment is not "experimental," "investigational," "elective," "cosmetic," or optional in any meaningful sense. It constitutes very effective and appropriate treatment for transsexualism or profound GID."

Case closed!



MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2008

# Plurking the Gender Line

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Associate Focus Editor

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See TRANSGENDER, page 8

### Committee Recommends LGBT Housing Options

#### ▶ TRANSGENDER, from page 6

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UCSD LGBT Resource Center Rainbow Newsletter Thursday March 13th, 2008 - Vol. 27, Issue 10

1. Apply to be a 2008-2009 LGBT RC Intern!

Applications Due: April 7th, 2008

The LGBT Resource Center is now hiring energetic and committed student interns for the 2008-2009 year. Applications may be downloaded at: <a href="http://lgbt.ucsd.edu">http://lgbt.ucsd.edu</a>

Specific internship areas are:

- -Graphics and Web Design intern
- -Anti-Racism Intern
- -Resource and Events Planning Intern
- -Youth and Senior Intern
- -Library and Special Collections Intern
- -Speakers Bureau Intern
- -Arts and Culture Intern
- -Rainbow Newsletter Intern

An info session will take place Thursday, April 3, 4pm-5pm, (LGBTRC) For more information, please contact Jan Estrellado (jeestrellado@ucsd.edu).

2. Coming Out Group

Meeting time to be determined by participants.

The Coming Out Group is a place to meet and gain support while discussing your sexual and/or gender identities in a confidential setting. This group is for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, straight or questioning folks who are coming out and who may already be out. Topics are determined by group participants, and can include coming out to yourself, coming out to family, coming out to friends, coming out and the work place, and coming out at school. If you are interested in joining this group, please e-mail Jan (jeestrellado@ucsd.edu).

3. Dialogues in Sexuality Studies - NEW DATE!

Tuesday, April 1, 4:30-6:30

LGBT Resource Center

"Law and Sex: Strange Bedfellows"

Featuring: Mattheus E. Stephens, Esq., Partner, Stock Stephens, LLP and Lecturer of Critical Gender Studies and Elizabeth Steeby, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Literature, UC San Diego

"The Old Ball and Chain: Redefining the Carceral and the Conjugal in Chain Gang Buddy Flicks and Southern Prison Presses": Dialogues in Sexuality Studies brings together UCSD faculty members and graduate students from across campus interested in the growing interdisciplinary field of Sexuality Studies. The two presentations will be followed by open discussion over an informal buffet dinner.