

2000–01 Clippings

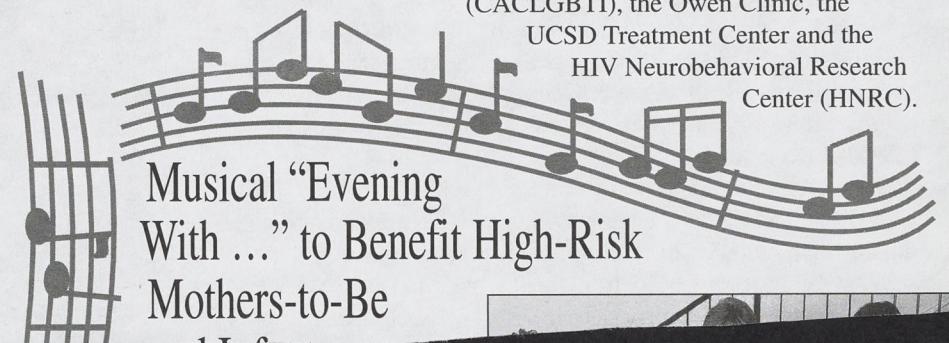
Community CONNECTIONS

“UCSD Pride” Joins LGBT Parade

Students, staff and faculty from UCSD and UCSD Healthcare participated in the 26th Annual San Diego Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Parade on July 22. Chris Mathews, M.D. (pictured in car), Director of Owen Clinic and UCSD Healthcare Physician of the Year, led the UCSD contingent, along with Rachel York Williams (pictured in the front seat), sitting in for her father, Herbert York, Ph.D., UCSD Chancellor Emeritus and Chair of the Diversity Council who was unable to appear due to a back injury. Other parade participants are shown walking along the “Rainbow Mile” from University Avenue at Normal Street to Sixth Avenue and gathered by the UCSD Healthcare/Schaefer Ambulance Pediatric Transport.



UCSD and UCSD Healthcare contingents represented in the parade included the Umbrella Group, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Association (LGBTA), the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Issues (CACLGBTI), the Owen Clinic, the UCSD Treatment Center and the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center (HNRC).





Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Office
9500 Gilman Dr. 0023
La Jolla, California, 92093-0023

October 13, 2000

Vincent Gragnani
Editor in Chief
The UCSD Guardian
Mail Code 0316

Dear Vincent,

I want to applaud The Guardian's efforts to report on the National Coming Out Day event held on October 11, 2000 in Price Center Plaza. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Office (LGBTRO) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Association (LGBTA) are constantly striving to promote awareness through education and visibility. Your prominent coverage aids us in this regard.

As you are aware, there were inaccuracies and omissions in the story that require **immediate** clarification to your readers:

- Your reporter attributes comments made by the guest speaker, M.E. Stephens, to Christine Kehoe who, in fact, was not present at the event.
- I am not the "...residential office program coordinator for the LGBT Resource Center...". I am the Program Coordinator for the LGBT Resource Office. LGBTRO was on-hand to increase visibility, disseminate information, and provide support. The LGBTA is an undergraduate student organization with its own mission independent of this office.
- There was no mention of representation by The Women's Center at the tables supplying literature.
- The message of the speaker from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) was not reported.

I look forward to seeing The Guardian's correction of the above information in the next issue of the paper. I hope that The Guardian continues to feature stories that underscore the campus' commitment to diversity. Please extend my invitation to your staff to use the LGBTRO as a resource for information relating to the LGBT community. Please call me at extension 23493 if you have any questions or require clarification. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive ink that reads "Angela L. Barrett".

Angela L. Barrett
Program Coordinator,
UCSD Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Office

Dancing Delicious Movement and Poetic Performance

Sushi Performance and Visual Art is San Diego's most vibrant performance venue

By LINDSAY SWORSKI

Hiatus Editor

I've written about this place a few times before, but if you are new to the school, or are one of the numerous people who rarely reads the *Guardian*, you may have missed my message. Go to Sushi Performance and Visual Art. Look at the bottom of this article to find the address and drive there immediately. Do not pass go, do not collect \$200.

What I mean to say is that Sushi Performance and Visual Art is one of the coolest places in San Diego, in the United States, maybe in the world. My enthusiasm may not be rational, but it is very heartfelt.

There are times when you go see a performance that makes you feel so much, makes you think about life, takes you out of your life, makes you laugh and scream and wake up. There are times when you go see a show and say to yourself, "Wow ... wow."

Sushi is home to that type of show. Once I was so affected by a Sushi performance involving an intense poet and crazy drums that I forgot how to speak and had to go run around the block. I'm serious. A great performance is like heroin that makes you healthy.

To clarify, Sushi Performance and Visual Art has nothing to do with food, except when it hosts potlucks or snacks before performances. Sushi has everything to do with anything that is cutting-edge, anything that can loosely be titled performance art or dance, multimedia or improvisational play. It features the very best of international and local artists in its small,

intimate space with a beautiful skylight and hardwood floors. Many times the seats are so full you have to sit on the floor. This is welcomed.

Last weekend's performance started with a loosely structured improvisation by Lower Left, an amazing group of four women who are artists-in-residence at Sushi. The performance, titled "Available

What I mean to say is that Sushi Performance and Visual Art is one of the coolest places in San Diego, in the United States, maybe in the world. My enthusiasm may not be rational, but it is very heartfelt.

Space," is an ongoing project in which Lower Left and guest artists utilize movement, text and whatever else the performers can get their hands on in the moment. There is nothing like watching on-the-spot creativity on stage, especially when it is done so skillfully as to seem like the dancers practiced for weeks. And they're funny as hell, too.

After Lower Left's performance, choreographer Wally Cardona performed three of his works with dancer Kathryn Sanders.

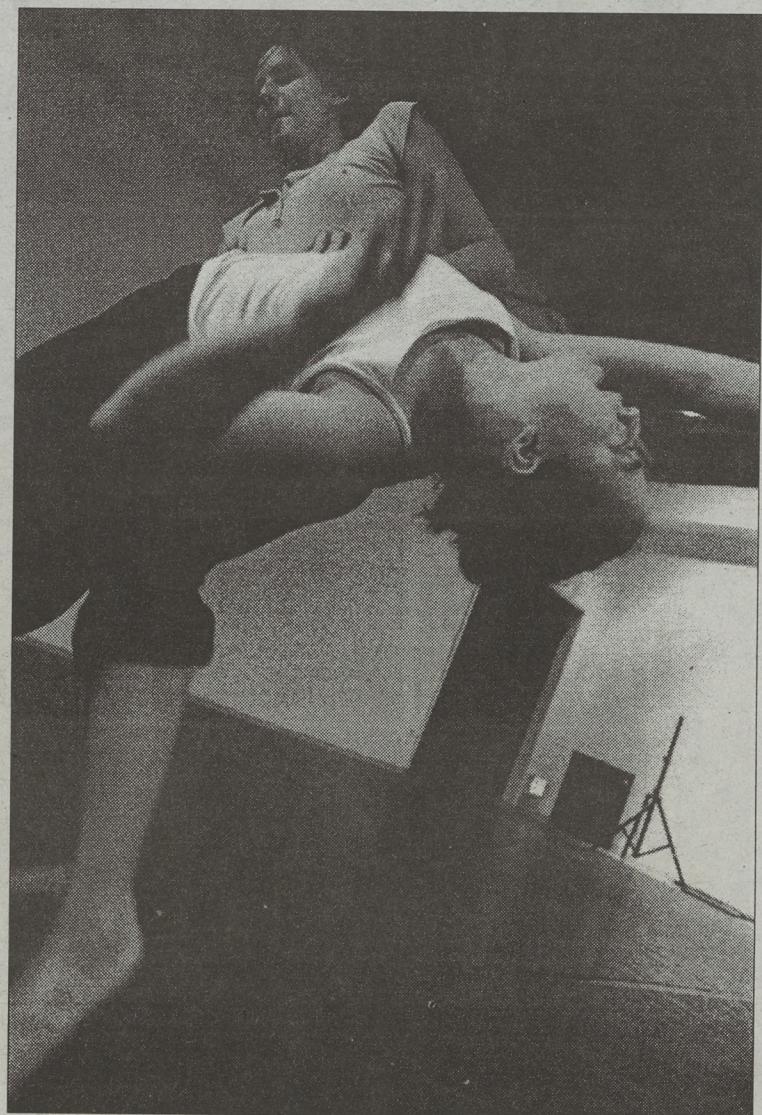
I was bored after the first piece, so I ended up leaving the building, walking around and meeting some

really cool people who were playing guitar and sleeping on the street. I sang the blues and old '60s tunes with them for a while and only returned to Sushi in time to catch the end of Cardona's final piece. He's received a lot of great reviews, and a lot of people whom I talked to really like his performances, so the night was a success for everyone, despite my journalistic flakiness.

Plus, Sushi opened up an audience and artist discussion after the performance, so I stuck around and got to learn a lot about Cardona's personal life, and his work behind the scenes and off the stage. They do this often after performances at Sushi and it is a great way to learn what process led up to the final product and get to know a more mundane and human side of the untouchable performers that you see on stage. It is also very educational for anyone who is interested in doing her/his own work and wants to know how the big people do it.

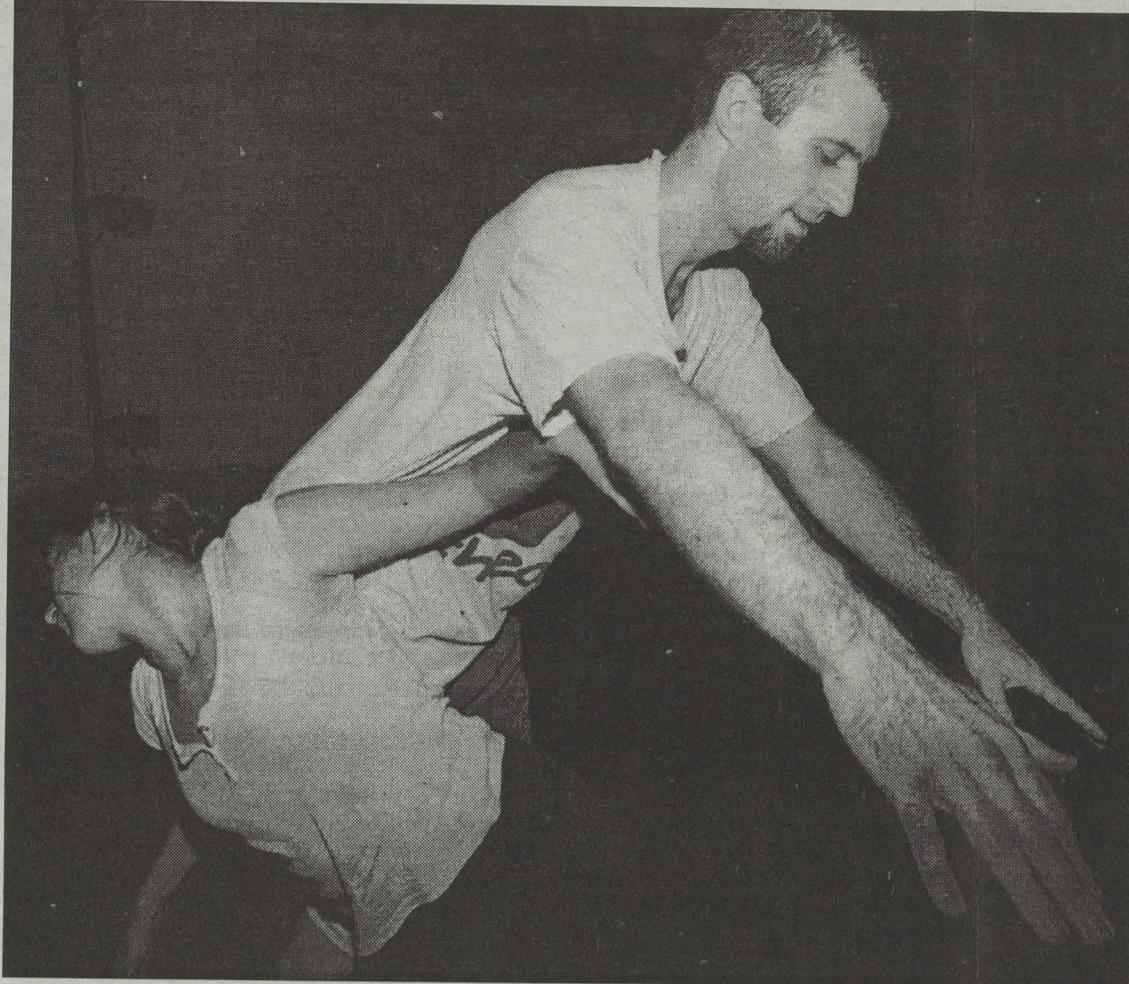
So Sushi is home to both classes and performances throughout the week. The members of Lower Left, who have been working for years with groundbreaking post-modern movement, are offering classes at Sushi for the coming months. This is a very special occasion, and everyone interested in communicating through dance should come.

There is a unique technique class with Jane Blount on Mondays from 9:30 a.m. to noon that includes qi gong, release work and complex phrases. On Friday morn-



David Pilz/Guardian

Contact: Amber Largent supports Margaret Paek as the two duet in a contact improvisation. This dance form is taught to beginners by Paek every Monday night from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Sushi. This is one of the many classes offered by local company Lower Left.



Together: Unlike the majority of traditional dance repertoire, contact improvisation teaches dancers how to share weight and space with other dancers. Here Andrew Wass and Amber Largent use their partnering skills spontaneously during their improvisation.

Movement:

Current dance is so much more than pointed toes

Continued from page 12

ings at the same time, Nina Martin is leading a class focusing on articulating the solo body using ballet, improvisation and Hamilton Floor Barre. Margaret Paek, on Monday evenings from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., is teaching beginning contact improvisation, a wonderful way of dancing with other people. This class ends in an open-ended dance jam where anything is possible.

To find out more about Lower Left and all of the other classes that this collective is offering, e-mail mreich@sciti.com, call Sushi at (619) 235-8466, or check out their Web site at <http://www.lowerleft.itgo.com>.

Performancewise, Sushi is expecting some great entertainment. This weekend Sushi is hosting a really interesting project called Insite2000. It consists of a series of site-specific projects commissioned for San Diego and Tijuana. An opening party will be held at Sushi on Oct. 13 with music, food, a hosted bar and "performance interventions." However, the actual art is on display throughout San Diego and Tijuana, so there are organized tours to the project sites on Saturday and Sunday.

For more information on this event, go to <http://www.insite2000.org>, or call (619) 544-1482 in San Diego, or 6-684-0095 in Tijuana.

On Nov. 12, Sushi is hosting a benefit for the Homeless Actors' and Writers' Coalition with music and performances.

On Nov. 17 to Nov. 19, Sushi is hosting "Shut Up and Love Me," a performance art work by the infa-

They will explore the paradoxes of life as the "other sex," creative carnivalesque aesthetics, and physical partner work as well as poignant monologues.

mous Karen Finley. She got her National Endowment for the Arts grant rescinded due to decency charges, and this performance promises to push the envelope into even more taboo and indulgent places.

From Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 and Dec. 8 to Dec. 10, we will get to see "Horns, Wings and More Tales" and an outdoor work titled "Moving Violations" by members of the aforementioned group, Lower Left. They will explore the paradoxes of

life as the "other sex," creative carnivalesque aesthetics, and physical partner work as well as poignant monologues.

Of all of the upcoming performances just mentioned, one involves flying performers suspended from the ceiling, two involve total nudity and all three will explore pertinent political and highly personal issues in very unique ways.

So there are plenty of things to see, to do, to try. Just go there. The prices are very reasonable, though they vary from performance to performance; everywhere from \$5 to \$25 for special events. Sushi also offers a great volunteer program for those with a limited budget. There are flexible tasks and times that allow everyone to contribute in some way to receive tickets. Of course, you have to do the volunteering before you get the ticket so if you want to plan ahead, call (619) 235-8466 to lend some time. Sushi is a fairly small nonprofit organization, so there is always some work to be done.

To get to Sushi from UCSD, take Interstate 5 south and exit on 10th Avenue. Go straight and make a left on J Street, and then a right on Eleventh Avenue. The address is 320 Eleventh Ave. and the phone number is (619) 235-8466, or check out <http://www.sushiart.org>.

Have fun.

Clubs:

Dance away to techno, trance or gothic industrial

Continued from page 11

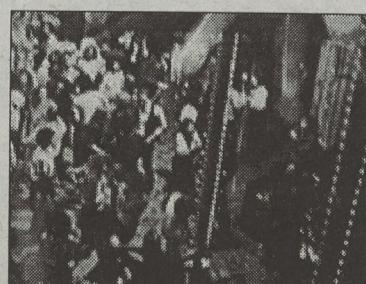
The Congregation: For those who dream to drum 'n' bass. Experimental drum 'n' bass also popular. Monthly. Call (619) 232-3525 for more information.

The Clockwork Sessions: Mid-tempo breakbeats, drum 'n' bass and house — spun Fridays at the Turquoise Room (Aztec Bowl). 4356 30th St., North Park. Call (619) 220-4944 for more information.

Esophobia: Trance, breakbeat, experimental and house — spun by DJs Huggie, Phil Aye and Guido. Sundays at Club Elements, 1255 University Ave., Hillcrest. Call (619) 296-8160 for more information.

hop by DJ Bob1. Saturdays at Plan B, 945 Garnet Ave., Pacific Beach. Must be at least 21. Call (858) 483-9920 for more information.

Gasoline: DJs Clay Dunsmore, Jon-E-Thin and Rite One spin trance and European hard house with the occasional international guest DJ every Thursday. 2028 Hancock St., Mission Hills. Call (619) 687-5779 for more information.



Live Wire: Great place to hear rare groove and hip hop spun by DJ Rastar every Wednesday. 2013 El Cajon Blvd., University Heights. Call (619) 291-7450 for more information.

Discotec 2000: Interesting mix of acid funk, rare groove and hip

information.



photos courtesy of hem.passagen.se

Luminal: Industrial and gothic by DJs Tom King and Brendan Cahill. Tuesdays at Kickers, 308 University Ave., Hillcrest. Call (619) 491-0400 for more information.

Nightfall: Bring out the leather whip as DJ Rob spins gothic, fetish, EBM and industrial. Sundays at the Brass Rail, 3796 5th Ave., Hillcrest. Must be at least 21. Call (619) 298-2233 for more information.

See CLUBS, Page 16

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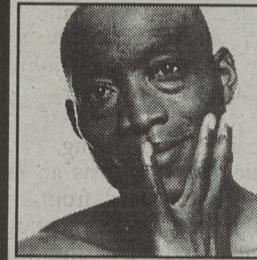
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Nov. 11 • Saturday

Students \$18 • Faculty/Staff \$22 • G.A. \$25



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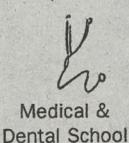
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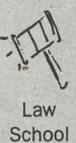
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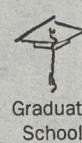
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Clubs:

Salsa, gothic, reggae and funk in San Diego

Continued from page 15

Project Cathedral: You have to go just for the setting. The Wormhole Effect, Sonic Wallpaper perform the fourth Sunday of every month at St. Paul's Cathedral 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., 5th Ave., Hillcrest. Call (619) 220-4944 for more information.

RAM: DJs Saint, Robo, Slinga and Peacemaker spin jungle and hip hop the first and third Wednesday of every month at Club Elements, 1255 University Ave., Hillcrest. Call (619) 296-8160 for more information.

Go-Go Fridays: DJ Derek spins tribal and house on Fridays at Rich's, 1051 University Ave., Hillcrest. Call (619) 497-4588 for more information.

Sabbat: Don't forget your eyeshadow as DJs Adam Atom, Joe Forester and Cybian spin gothic, electronic, darkwave, industrial and fetish at Shooterz every Saturday. 3815 30th St., San Diego. Call (619) 574-0744 for more information.

Club Salsa: Do the "forbidden

dance" every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Sevilla, 555 4th Ave., San Diego. Call (619) 231-5979 for more information.

Studio 64: House, funk, progressive and various other dance favorites spun by DJs Jon Bishop, Joey Jimenez, Demon and Circa every Friday at Club Montage, 2028 Hancock St., Mission Hills. Call (619) 973-9269 for more information.

Steez: Designated Hittaz, ATT Crew, Four Corners and Tribe of Kings spin roots, reggae, hip hop and groove every Saturday at the Rhythm Lounge, 3048 Midway Dr., San Diego (Sports Arena area). Call (619) 224-4835 for more information.

Wired Cafe: DJs Isis and Diabolik spin downtempo and drum 'n' bass every Wednesday at Just'a Cuppa Coffee. It's the open mike poetry that captures the crowd, though. 3823 30th St., North Park. Call (619) 544-9890 for more information.

— compiled by Dave Lee,
Hiatus Editor

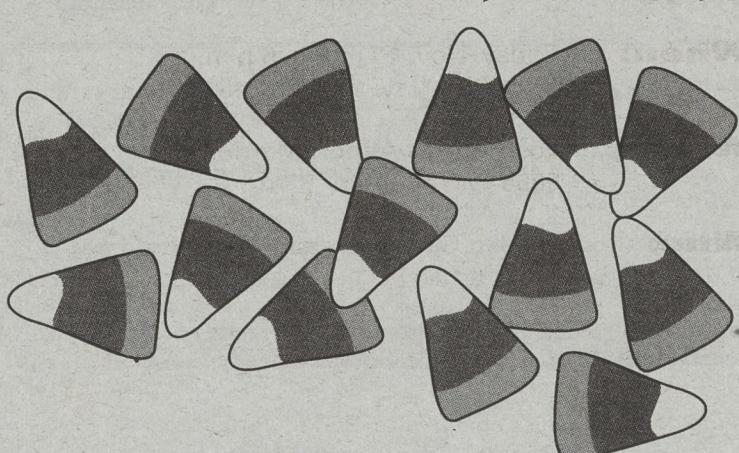
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Features

in profiles our local
the UCSD Police
and its officers

Opinion

Why should Al Gore be elected? The pros and cons of making the vice president our next president *See page 4*



Sports

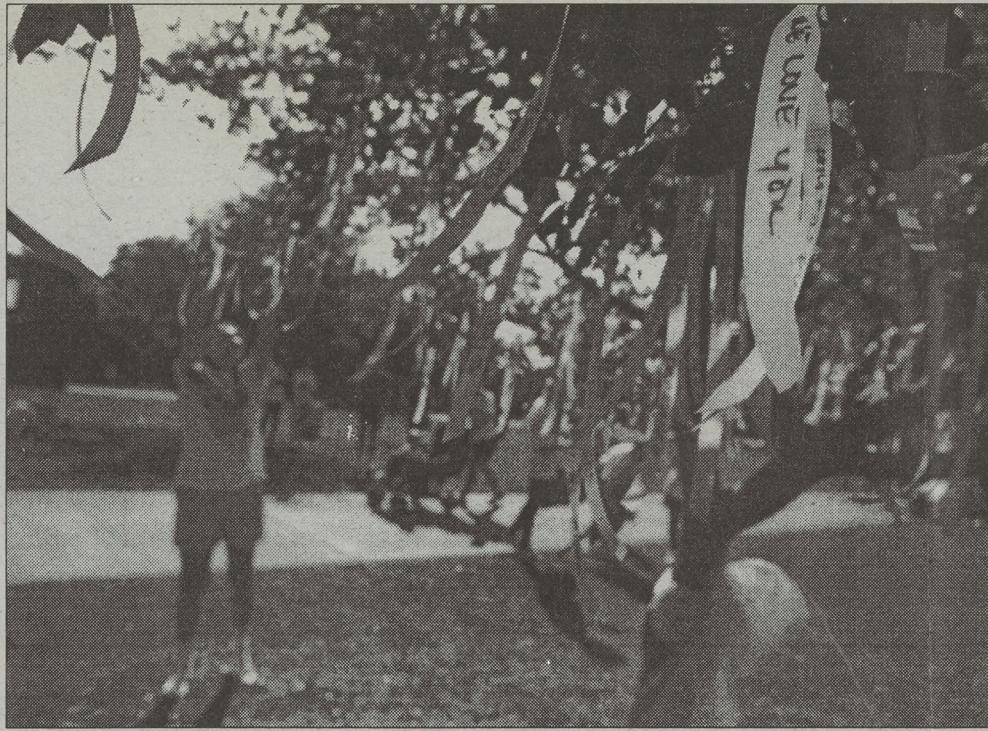
Cross country squad heads to the CCAA championships and comes back with a third and a fourth
See page 28

THE U C S D GUARDIAN

Monday
October 23, 2000

www.ucsdguardian.org

VOLUME 101, ISSUE 10



David Pilz/Guardian

Tying One On: A Breast Cancer Walk participant ties a ribbon onto the "Tree of courage." Family and friends of victims and survivors tied ribbons in recognition of their loved ones' struggle with the disease.

11,000 People Walk to Raise Money for Breast Cancer

The Women's Center and Muir college also get involved

By JESSICA KRUSKAMP

Staff Writer

Eleven thousand people participated early Sunday morning in the American Cancer Society's third annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer fund-raiser in Balboa Park.

The annual walk exceeded organizers' expectations of 8,000 participants and \$300,000, the final statistics read 11,000 walkers raising \$600,000.

The money will be used for breast cancer research, public education and patient programs. Most of it will be used locally, according to the American Cancer Society.

UCSD and the UCSD Women's Center have participated in the walk for the past three years and have organized programs to get students involved.

The walk was sponsored by NBC Channel 7/39, SAIC, San Diego Gas and Electric,

Metabolife, and Sempra Energy Company. It included teams from some of the county's other corporations, schools and health institutions, as well as private individuals who wanted to raise money for breast cancer research.

The walk, scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m., started with a welcome speech from NBC 7/39's Susan Taylor, who outlined the day's events.

Other speakers included local doctors, cancer survivors, sponsors, patients and politicians who were there in support of the American Cancer Society.

"This is our call to action and a reminder that there is hope in the progression of the cure," said California American Cancer Society Board of Directors President Maria Reyes-Mason. "I know, as we all do, that everyone here cares about this and there are more out

Student Life Committee Faces Criticism

Students demand structural changes at last Monday's meeting

By VINCENT GRAGNANI

Senior Staff Writer

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Joseph Watson commissioned a committee last May to discuss a proposed \$75 per quarter fee referendum intended to improve student life at UCSD.

At last Monday's meeting of the Student Life Fee Referendum, dozens of students criticized the fact that there was no established procedure for voting, that the chairs of the committee were voting members and not selected by the committee members, and that the specifics of the fee referendum had already been planned out by the administration.

Even though the committee did not get to its agenda items at the meeting, Watson and students are confident the committee will go forward in a productive manner.

The proposed fee increase, which is scheduled to be put to a vote during winter quarter 2001, would increase graduate and undergraduate quarterly fees by \$75 per student.

The fee increase would fund an expansion of the Price Center, a commuter center, offices for student organizations, support for Division II athletics, lounge furnishings and computers at each college, additional seating at the Grove Cafe, meeting rooms for student organizations and other campus improvements.

In addition, the fee increase would provide additional funding for the A.S. Council, the Graduate Student Association, the Women's Center, sports clubs, university events, the programming council, individual colleges, the Cross Cultural Center, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Office.

According to the committee's mission statement, its purpose is to solicit input, eval-

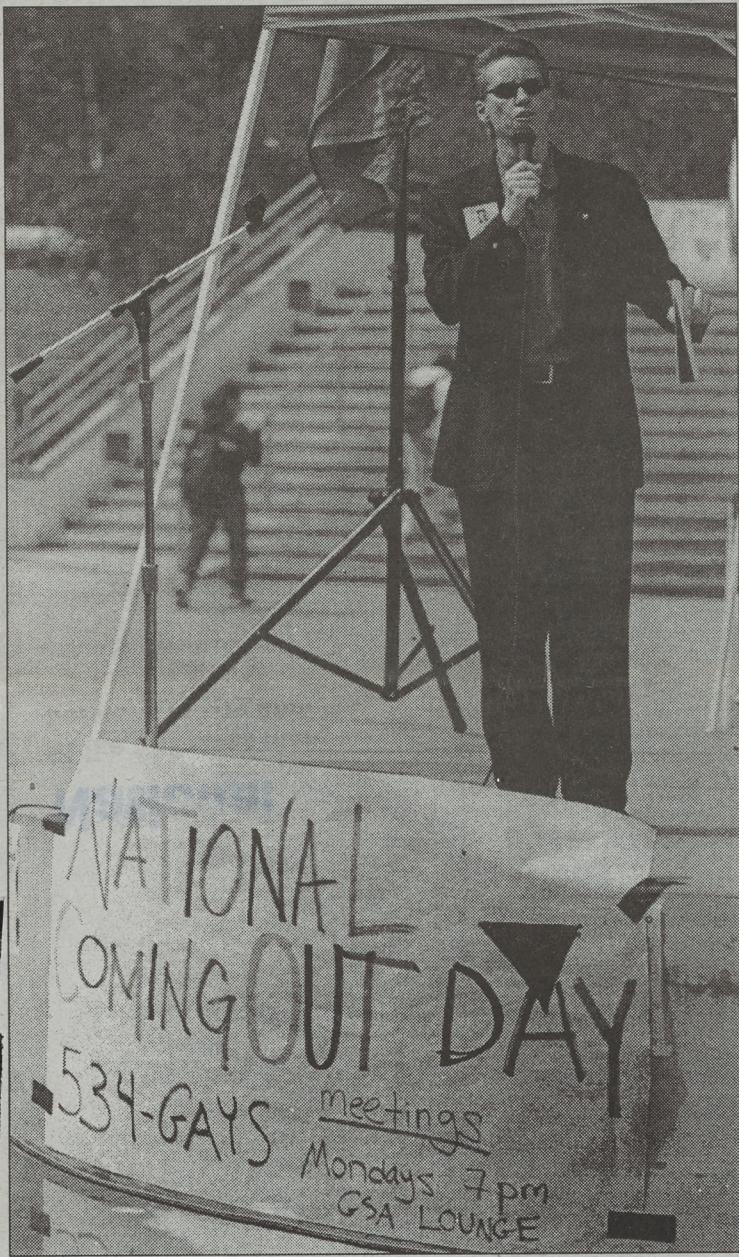
THE U C S D GUARDIAN

Thursday
October 12, 2000

www.ucsguardian.org

VOLUME 101, ISSUE 7

LGBTa Sponsors Coming Out Rally



Leo der Stepanians/Guardian

Coming Out Rally: M.E. Stephens, a local attorney spoke at the Coming Out event. There was an open mic at the event and anyone who wished to speak was welcomed.

UCSD welcomes Christine Kehoe to its local gay and lesbian Event

By JESSICA KRUSKAMP

Contributing News Writer

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Association hosted a National Coming Out Day rally Wednesday in the Price Center Plaza, which included an open mic forum, music and the participation of community leaders.

As lunchtime business began, the rally did as well, with a welcome from LGBTa principal member Erin Harrell.

Harrell spoke of her experiences and, as more gathered around the steps of the plaza, she spoke of the significance of National Coming Out Day.

"This is more gratifying," Harrell said, "as the days go on."

Harrell then introduced San Diego City Councilwoman, activist and lawyer Christine Kehoe.

An active member of the community and an openly gay political official, Kehoe spoke of how pleased she was to be at UCSD, and how acceptance is needed in order to make the world change. She cited the two-year anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard, a young man murdered because of his sexual preference, as evidence that changes need to be made.

"We have to live our lives openly, and we have to be open about who we are and who we love," Kehoe said. "It is cool to be queer, and you are the ones who have got to make that change, if that is what you wish to see."

Speakers advocated voting and told the audience that the only way to get what one wants is to vote.

During his turn at the micro-

phone, UCSD student Mikey Kaufmann shared his past National Coming Out Day Rally experience. He drew correlations between the event and the campus community at large.

"This event is not just an LGBT event," Kaufmann said, "it is for everyone."

He said it was empowering for him to be on stage and to have everyone in the Price Center listening to his words.

The rally, which took about three weeks to plan, included information tables positioned around the stage with fliers and brochures for distribution.

Angela Barrett, residential office program coordinator for the LGBT Resource Center, was stationed at a table. She was pleased with the event.

"This is a national event where we try to have something on every UC and college campus," Barrett said, "but it is really about achieving awareness here at UCSD."

Harrell agreed.

"The awareness is the important issue, and we do this to make the change here. You can't see it as much as it helps, but there are those who are silent and listening to [the rally] and it makes a difference to them."

Every year the support grows from the community.

Harrell considered the day successful and used those at the microphone and those gathered in the plaza as proof.

"Here in Price Center, everyone is watching and listening," Harrell said.

THE UCSD GUARDIAN

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2001

LGBT Resource Office



Birthday Fiesta

The LGBT Resource Office is having a party
to celebrate their 2nd anniversary!

Wednesday, November 14

4:30-7:00pm

International Center

Hors d' oeuvres • Prizes • Mariachis

Absolutely FREE!

Call 858.822.3493 or email rainbow@ucsd.edu
to reserve your place in LGBT history!

Wednesday, Nov. 14

Event: LGBT Resource Office anniversary

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Office will celebrate its second anniversary at UCSD with a Birthday Fiesta from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the International Center. Plans for the new LGBT Resource Office will be unveiled. The event is free, but attendees are asked to R.S.V.P. by calling (858) 822-3493 or e-mailing rainbow@ucsd.edu.

UCSD Rally to Celebrate National Coming Out Day

By Bixi B. Craig



The annual open mic event at the open-air arena of the Price Center at UCSD drew a large crowd of participants and spectators to the rainbow colored podium. Sponsored by the LGBT

Resource Office at UCSD, the event featured an unusually diverse body of spontaneous speakers to share their agendas and messages. Emceed by the staff and volunteers of the organization, the Coming Out panel featured speakers to share their personal tales as well as allies addressing various issues of outing in the college community. "Last year I spoke from up here telling you that I am proud to identify as a lesbian and I am single. This year my message is, I am a proud lesbian and taken." The statement was followed by a Spanish declaration of love she directed publicly to her lover, and a cheering response when she handed over a bouquet of pink flowers. A male student shared the accounts of intolerance and physical violence he has suffered since he made visible his sexuality, closing with a connotation that the gains of outing doubtlessly succeed the pains. Other contributions included a story of an African-American lesbian who highlighted the problematic double-standard imposed within the African-American community. According to her, being female and gay is looked at as cheating on the community's collective identity. She challenged the patriarchal attitudes straight men entertain in the black population. A long-time volunteer and activist, Michael Kaufmann expressed his pride of being out of the closet, "I am queer. I am not trying to blend in, but create awareness that we are here."

A thought-provoking forum, the rally stirred up general interest, which is evidenced in the rising inquiry for information regarding resources and upcoming events. The LGBT Resource Office at UCSD is a diverse, open and public space for all members of the University community to explore issues relating to sexual and gender identities, practices and politics. It develops student leadership, builds workplace equity, promotes academic research, and provides resources. The office challenges existing definitions of variant genders and sexualities by engaging in community building on- and off-campus. This office sustains and develops visibility, sense of community, and knowledge of diverse queer people (Adopted October 7, 2001). In accordance with the University's policies on nondiscrimination and equal opportunity, the LGBT Resource Office is committed to promoting diversity and equity in its programs and services. The office respects and encourages the participation of all individuals. The UCSD address is 9500 Gilman Drive #0023, La Jolla, CA 92093-0023. Contact 858-822-3493 — 858-822-3494 (fax) — rainbow@ucsd.edu.



Key Community Activist Vanished

Mandy Schultz, a San Diego resident with a rich history of proactive social engagement for the GLBT community, has been missing since Thursday, September 20. Despite extensive efforts to locate the influen-

~ Intellectual Exchange ~

white liberal color-blind mentality, which tends to erase or discredit the unique experiences of people of color in its determination not to see race or ethnic identity as a source of difference among people. In these spaces, people of color can feel whitewashed or discredited, and would be isolated from forming alliances with other people of color when living in a separatist bubble in the country. Yet after my research, I've learned that the degree of isolation, separation, and white liberal color-blindness varies and fluctuates within each community according to its size, sense of place, constitution, location, and value system. Some are actually a wonderful place for single low-income mothers of any race to acquire steady enjoyable employment, free childcare, and community without having to leave home or rely on marriage to spend more time with their children. Although all are different, most communities promote values of anti-racism, feminism, queer positivity (celebration rather than tolerance or repressing homophobia), holistic health, vegetarianism, and communal anti-capitalist living.

Of all the communities I interviewed, my favorite was Twin Oaks in Virginia because of its progressiveness, diversity, large size, anti-sexism, and employment options. Twin Oaks was formed in 1967, on a former tobacco farm in Louisa, Virginia. Its primary goals then were to "exorcise competition and sexism." Its listed goal today is to "realize a more pure and unfettered unity of spirit," entailing the elimination of "attitudes and results of sexism, racism, ageism, and competitiveness." It defines itself as an "ecovillage," with 80-100 straight and queer men, women, and children living on 456 acres of farm and forestland in 7 group houses. Children live with their parents, but there is also a communal childcare system run by the members. Back to tribal living, where it takes a whole village to raise a child! Members are required to donate their major private possessions, such as cars and bicycles, to the community. Currently, there are 15 community cars, and members will often take off to go clubbing or spend a weekend in the city. There are African-American, Indian-American, and Hispanic members in the community, although not many. Politically, it is run by a set of three planners, which rotates every 18 months, and every member is required to serve as a planner if living there long-term. This guarantees that people of color, transgendered people, queer people, and women will have equal access to positions of power within the community as do straight white men. Members who choose to work within the community participate in an equal labor-credit system where they work 45 hours a week and make \$60 per month of personal allowance. The community is so rich within, however, that no one needs much personal money. Members perform a variety of jobs to encourage equality and personal growth, such as hammock-making, tofu-making, construction, maintenance, farming, cooking, cleaning, and childcare. Many visitors, reporters, and customers visit the community during the day, when the space is far from isolated, so toplessness is allowed only after 9pm. The

work ethic consists according to member Valerie, "opening work areas to women and men that are not easily accessible to them outside of community because of lingering prejudices about what women's work or men's work should be." There is a strong drive to equalize or erase constrictive gender roles, and members are encouraged to use the pronoun co/cos to replace he/her/his/hers. However, sometimes this can provide an easy way out for members living with a transgendered member, who has undergone major transformations and/or surgery to become a "she" and not a "co"!

Queerness functions within Twin Oaks as a signifier for gender liberation and the erasure of gender boundaries between people. Thus, the most popular queer ideal there is that one falls in love with the person, and that the sex or gender of that person shouldn't matter...but not everyone is bi, so peoples' preferences should be respected. Due to its strong orientation around liberal feminism, Twin Oaks contains more queer women than queer men. However, there are communities for men out there, such as the Radical Faeries communities and festivals where gay men dress up in outrageous drag and dance to tribal drums way out in the woods! Twin Oaks' slogan on the QIC network is "we're here, we're queer, we're income sharing!" Even though not all members are of the queer persuasion, they are not afraid to advertise themselves as a queer community. Twin Oaks also hosts many QIC gatherings, although it does not generally advertise this to its business clientele. The majority of its members come from cities and suburbs, are middle-class, college-educated, and average around 42 years old. One lesbian I interviewed, Valerie, may have been rendered invisible in gay urban culture because she chooses not to identify with either the mainstream gay movement in urban meccas or with the small-town rural queer culture (um, lack of?). Instead, she identifies with the "alternative culture," meaning "people who want to change the world...in terms of ecology, economic justice, non-oppressive living, relationships...rural and urban...gay and straight." QIC living gives her the freedom of being out and queer without having her sexuality become the crux and focus of her personal identity. Bobbi, however, is having some issues as a transgendered member or, as she chooses to identify as,



**University of California
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**Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender
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*Enhancing Connection and Community
among LGBT faculty, staff, students, and
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a "woman with a birth defect." She seems content living at Twin Oaks, claiming "most everyone here is at least tolerant of my 'difference,' as they are with just about any deviation from the norm...most members are by definition 'different' in some way from mainstream society." Her ambivalent tone suggests that the community is good at embracing fluid, blurry, and queer sexualities as well as androgynous gender roles. However, it is still struggling with the transgendered issue because it is based on a strong sense of gender identification and the desire to adopt the gender roles Twin Oaks is trying to dissolve. Many members choose to identify as fluid, rather than strictly lesbian or gay, masculine or feminine, butch or femme. While this is great for people like me who also identify as fluid or androgynous and neither butch nor femme, it also serves to create a new unspoken hierarchy of genders and sexual preferences. Ironically, through the *erasure* of sex and gender norms, rather than the *diversification* of those norms to create a series of equally valid and enlightened choices or options of identification, a certain unspoken norm which expresses itself as the essentialized *absence* of gendered norms, becomes valorized at the top of a hierarchical pyramid of sex and gender acts. In other words, bisexual and fuzzy women in jeans and bi men that love domesticity are cooler than most. For example, Bobbi's desire to fit in as a woman by shaving her legs, using cosmetics, and wearing heels may be secretly looked down upon by members of the community. Strict butch or femme coupling and identities may also not be as celebrated as androgynous identities among women and men, although it is accepted and respected.

While Twin Oaks still has its kinks to work out (or kinkiness to work in and accept), it remains a positive queer rural space for members who are not too attached to gender identification. There are many communities out there, and they are all different! The Radical Faeries community (but where are all the radical female faery gatherings?), Abundant Dawn (a smaller queer-positive intentional community similar to Twin Oaks), and a series of housing cooperatives in the cities such as Zami Co-op in Santa Cruz (named after the African-American, lesbian-feminist-activist writer Audre Lorde) and Lothlorian Co-op in Madison, Wisconsin (the queer zone of co-ops, although all there qualify within the MCC system). My old home in Madison, Martha's Co-op, identified itself as a children-friendly, family-oriented, and organic vegetarian/vegan co-op rather than a specifically queer community. However, about 30% of the members were queer, either strictly lesbian/gay or bi. It also gave me the opportunity to join a queer forum (gathering of queer members within the co-op system), attend non-sexist body-painting parties, circus gatherings run by a housemate, and even drag parties where both straight and queer guests arrived dressed as the opposite gender. And, because it is so affordable to live and eat there, one can work less and play more. Or, work more and save money to travel since the average time one spends cooking, cleaning, and housekeeping is reduced by the group work-job system. There was also a "free store" within the house, where members gave away all their unwanted clothes and possessions thus allowing me to live cheaply yet richly. It wasn't all wonderful, there were personal conflicts and disagreements that often stemmed from the clash between the family values and queer-feminist-activist values we were trying to combine (like when we served stuffed condoms at dinner, mixed in with the rice paper rolls, to break the taboo and promote the use of condoms). Yet living with so many different, unique, and quirky people expanded the realm of possibilities avail-

able to me in creating my own sense of identity. And where else would you run down to the kitchen to grab a bagel before class and find a two year old who had decided to cover herself in Crisco? If committing to a cooperative living environment is too much, or just not your thing, but you still want to get out of the city for a while, it is also possible to travel around the world working on organic farms with young and progressive thinkers through the WWOOF system (Willing Workers of Organic Farms) where you can earn free room and board. If urban life and private apartment spaces, clubbing, and bar-hopping suit you, that's great! But if you need a break or ever feel trapped or confined in conforming to the gay and lesbian urban norms, here are some alternative options you may want to explore! □

GRETA'S Curious Pick

for Queerific Holidays



Queer Studies: A Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Anthology, edited by Brett Beemyn and Mickey Eliason.

Two professors at NYU got fed up with all the pretentious and predominantly white essays on queer culture, and put together this anthology! The compilation reflects the racial and sexual diversity of the queer population in a less esoteric style that is more accessible to the intelligent reader outside of academia...Gramsci's organic intellectual! Writers address the butch identity ("GI Joes in Barbie Land"), the psychiatric confusion behind the linking of gender to sexuality, bisexuality and its stigmatization by lesbian feminist movements, and the S/M dyke community. They also address the whitewashing of the stereotypically coded lesbian identity, and how this can erase specifically Asian and African-American styles of expressing queerness. Other essays address the questions: Is MTV queer or just passing? Is Coming Out at Work a Rational Choice? And, how have the Jewish and Gay identity been linked together in history? I highly recommend reading this text as a way to explore, yet get beyond one's own personal identity and into the politics of a highly diverse queer community. □

LGBT to get new building

Resource center expected to provide more services

By EVAN McLAUGHLIN

Staff Writer

The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Office unveiled plans for its new resource center Nov. 14 at the office's second anniversary celebration.

The new center will be in a more conspicuous location and will also have three times as much space as the current office.

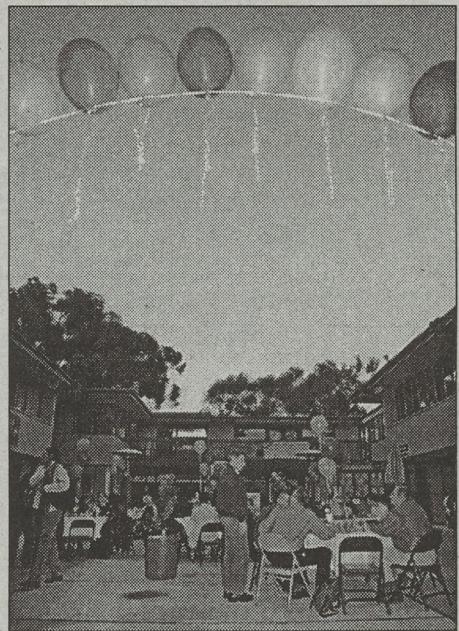
LGBTRO Director Shaun Travers said the existing LGBTRO, located adjacent to the Bursar's Office, has shortcomings that will be remedied with the move to the new facility, which will be near the Gilman Parking Structure.

"Just by virtue of having more space, we will be able to serve more of the community," Travers said.

Plans for the new office include a kitchen, full library, outdoor deck and a reception area. Travers, the only full-time staff member at the office, hopes that the new center will be used for group events and that people will take advantage of the material available at the center dealing with gender and sexuality issues.

"It bodes well for us to be a continued strong presence in the campus community and to be a valued part of diversity here at UCSD," Travers said. "We are excited because this project will allow us to extend our offerings to the community."

While the project was financed by funds allocated by the UCSD general campus fund, the LGBTRO does not have sufficient funds to furnish the new facility. The office is accepting contributions to help fund the project.



Sam Scufos/Guardian

Celebration: The LGBT Resource Center celebrated its second birthday on Nov. 14.