

Metro

San Diego From Hillcrest to North County

Andrew Sullivan: Crusading For The Brass Ring



By Tony Zampella
For Update

Dear Ann Landers:

Last year, I married the woman of my dreams... Our marriage, blessed by a minister, is not legal in the United States — you see, Ann, I am also a woman.

My wife and I are hardworking professionals who pay our taxes and vote regularly. However, we are not accorded all the civil rights that most Americans assume to be their privilege...

We are not seeking "special rights." We simply want the same rights every other American couple has... A supportive word from you would give us broader acceptance and might possibly help us with a few legislators. How about it Ann?

—A Loving Wife.

Dear Loving Wife:

I believe same-sex couples should be entitled to legal rights that married couples enjoy... I also believe that same-sex couples should be free from discrimination in housing and employment and should have the right to legal protections against harassment. But my friend, that is as far as I want to go. I define marriage as a union between a man and a woman...

I would like to remind you that I have been supportive of your movement for many years, have withstood a great

deal of criticism in the process and have risked the wrath of some editors and publishers... however [same-sex marriage] flies in the face of cultural and traditional family life as we have known it for centuries. And that's where I must draw the line. Sorry.

—Ann Landers

SAN DIEGO — Andrew Sullivan, author of *Virtually Normal: An Argument About Homosexuality*, has three words for Ann Landers: "separate but equal."

"It's Jim Crowe all over again: you can have the water but at a different fountain; you can ride the bus but a different place in it. It wasn't acceptable then; it isn't acceptable now."

Sullivan's newest addition — *Same-Sex Marriage: pro*

and con reader — is perhaps the contribution to the same-sex marriage discourse. It includes commentary for and against same-sex marriage: from William Bennett to William Safire, Ann Landers to Camille Paglia and Plato to the National Conferences of Bishops, to name a few.

Sullivan appeared in San Diego at three events last Friday, to discuss this new book: a reading at UCSD, a fundraiser for Victory Fund, and at a book-signing at Obelisk Books.

Sullivan's Challenge

A less confident or secure theorist might publish only those commentaries which compliment or enhance their argument. Sullivan — a graduate of Ox-

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Here Comes The Brides



Leslie Pirritano and Chris Pedraza, both of San Diego, were recently united in Holy Union at Balboa Park. Approximately 50 family members attended the ceremony. A reception was held at Club Bombay, immediately following. The couple is making their new home in San Jose, Ca.

Photo — Stan Lawrence

Cross-Dressing Killer On His Way Back To Prison

By Neal Putnam
For Update

SAN DIEGO — David Anderson is on his way back to prison after the convicted killer of a Gay man pleaded guilty Thursday to three robberies, requested immediate sentencing, and got 91-years-to-life.

Since Anderson, 36, was a third strike defendant due to his 1981 murder and robbery convictions, his sentence for three hold-ups last week was tripled last Thursday by San Diego Municipal Court Judge Alvin Green, Jr.

The 91-year, eight month term was ordered to run consecutively to the 22-years-to-life Anderson was already serving when he escaped April 10 from the AIDS unit at Vacaville State Prison. He was arrested May 3 after 23 days as a fugitive. His current cases here were resolved just six days after his arrest.

"He needs to get back to prison to get his AIDS medications," said Deputy District Attorney Jeff Dusek.

"He wanted to go back to prison. He has some health problems," said his attorney, Hodge Crabtree.

"He'll probably get a lot better medical treatment there than at county jail."

"He wanted one last fling and he got it," said Crabtree about Anderson's escape.

Anderson, who is Gay and has been in custody since 1980, is believed to have been infected with HIV while in prison. He looked thin, tired, and was unshaven in court. His two court appearances were under heavy security. He was handcuffed to his chair while pleading guilty.

"He made a decision not to go out in

a blaze of glory. He surrendered very quietly," said Crabtree, referring to Anderson's arrest minutes after stealing \$1,000 from Rudford's Restaurant in North Park. He was carrying a sawed-off shotgun and held up Opti-World Express in Hillcrest days earlier.

His attorney said Anderson "was a very, very pleasant person to deal with." Crabtree said Anderson thought it would be a waste of time to fight local charges. Crabtree said since Anderson made it clear he wanted to plead guilty, he agreed to help him do that.

"He's articulate. He really knows what is going on. Anderson seemed very bright," said Crabtree.

Why Anderson returned to Hillcrest 17 years after picking up James "Jeremiah" Willis, 21, in Balboa Park and then killing him is not known. He was a crossdresser on occasion and police said he was wearing make-up at the Rudford's hold-up. Perhaps he wanted to see the area for the last time, knowing he would not be paroled anyway and would die in prison. He had a record of disciplinary problems at Vacaville.

"I know I'll eventually be caught," Anderson wrote prison officials while on the loose. "No puzzle there. But for now, I've laughed and smiled so much."

San Diego Police posted notices about Anderson's escape at the Gay Center for Social Services following the Opti-World hold-up, as the red-haired robber bore a resemblance to Anderson. The employee saw a bandage under his eye. Anderson has two tiny tear drop tattoos under one eye and criminals with vis-

See CROSS-DRESSER, Page A-12

KILLER

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Many who knew Cunanan say one of his closest friends was Jeffrey Trail, who was a lieutenant in the Navy and stationed in Coronado. It was in San Diego the two became close. Cunanan would often "set-up" dates for Trail with men he thought Trail would find attractive. Cunanan and Trail even volunteered together for the now-defunct Project Lifeguard, a program that taught safer-sex classes to Gay men.

However, when Trail left the Navy, he moved to Sacramento, where he began training as a California Highway Patrolman. After completing only two months of the training, Trail made a bizarre career move, leaving California and moving to Minneapolis to sell propane.

While Cunanan and Trail were close friends, Cunanan and Madson, 33, used to be lovers.

Madson met Cunanan while the two were on a trip to San Francisco. At the time Madson, an architect, was making plans for a national AIDS memorial. During Madson and Cunanan's relationship, Cunanan introduced him to Lincoln Aston, a wealthy architect in San Diego.

In 1995, Aston was beaten to death by a man named Kevin Lyle Bond. Aston took Bond and a prostitute named Adam home from The Caliph, a popular Gay bar in Hillcrest. Once in Aston's home, Bond killed Aston.

While Madson and Trail have been positively linked together, some mystery remained surrounding a connection between Cunanan and who police say is his third victim, millionaire Chicago developer Lee Miglin.

While Miglin's family vehemently denies any connection between Cunanan and Miglin, a connection has been made in San Diego.

Bruce Kerschner, owner of Obelisk, The Bookstore, was a friend of Cunanan's and was quoted by a Minneapolis daily newspaper as saying Cunanan and Duke Miglin, the developer's son, were close friends. Although quoted by the Midwest paper, Kerschner has since denied making the connection.

There has yet to be any established connection between Cunanan and (who police say) is his fourth victim, cemetery caretaker William Reese. Reese's body was discovered in the basement of the historic cemetery's main building by his wife, who found her husband when he was late getting home for dinner.

Family Ties

Who Andrew Cunanan is, or was, also remains a mystery. To different friends he would tell different stories. To most Cunanan was Andrew DeSilva, a man whose parents were wealthy enough to support him.

In truth, his father, Modesto Cunanan fled the United States for the Philippines nine years ago after embezzling \$106,000 and leaving his family destitute, with only \$3,000 from the sale of their family home in Rancho Bernardo.

Modesto Cunanan had served in the Navy from 1953 to 1972 and then began working as a stockbroker. In 1988 a warrant was issued for his arrest and, according to his wife, Maryann Cunanan, Modesto "left the country because he was a fugitive from justice."

According to published reports, it was unclear whether authorities were able to locate Modesto Cunanan overseas or tried to pursue him. According to court records, Andrew went to live with his father in 1988 but returned to the United States a month later because of "squalid conditions."

In a 1996 court document, Maryann Cunanan said her only income was the \$200 a month she got from babysitting.

The last person to hear from Modesto Cunanan was Andrew, who received a letter from him in 1994. Andrew had since been supporting himself by dating and living with rich, older Gay men.

In published reports Maryann Cunanan classified her son as a "high class homosexual prostitute."

A Chameleon

Cunanan surrounded himself with expensive dinners and parties, for which he would pick up the tab with cash or credit cards provided him by his benefactors, one of whom seems to be Norman Blachford, a La Jolla resident with whom Cunanan lived and was intimate for a time.

Blachford purchased the home he and Cunanan lived in from Lincoln Aston prior to Aston's murder.

Both Blachford and Cunanan were members of Gama Mu, a private international social club of some 650 members, most of whom are wealthy Gay men.

Cunanan often took his cue from his friends when describing himself. To some he was a businessman who manufactured sound-abatement materials for movie studios. Blachford's former company made such materials for automakers.

To others, Cunanan said he was an aspiring actor, who landed bit roles in

movies and commercials. Duke Miglin, the slain Lee Miglin's son, is an actor who has a small role in the upcoming Harrison Ford film *Air Force One*.

To still others, Cunanan was the well-spoken representative of a wealthy businessman who belonged to an international social organization for Gay men.

Running Scared

While Cunanan's identity remains a mystery, so do his whereabouts, which has some friends and acquaintances worried and scattering like flies.

Blachford, for example, is believed to now be in Europe, with longtime friend Peter Cooper. Cooper was formerly employed by Project Lifeguard. It's believed Cooper convinced Cunanan to volunteer with the organization. Prior to working at the AIDS prevention organization, Cooper was a real estate agent, which is how he became acquainted with Aston and Blachford.

Cunanan's San Diego roommate, Eric Greenman, who is a waiter at Mixx, one of the restaurants Cunanan was known to frequent, has disappeared. Friends of Greenman will only say "He's gone into hiding." While Greenman has family in Seattle, no news agencies have been able to contact him. It's believed Greenman is in Oregon.

"If he doesn't want to be found," one fellow waiter said, "he won't be."

Some friends of Cunanan's have asked police if they could leave the area. Some others have set up check-in circles, to call each other regularly. Some have been advised to leave the area and some others are staying with friends, not wanting to be home, fearing Cunanan may try to contact them.

The Media Hype

As San Diego's Gay community

buzzed with the news all week, reporters from across the country descended upon Hillcrest, flooding *Update's* offices with phone calls, television cameras and other newspaper reporters, including *Time Magazine*.

Tabloid television crews also covered the story, including "Inside Edition."

As more and more reporters flooded the area, fewer and fewer people were willing to talk. Although many people knew Andrew DeSilva, few people, it seemed, knew Andrew Cunanan, a fact Cunanan himself alluded to recently.

Foreshadow?

At his going away dinner party at California Cuisine, Cunanan reportedly said "This is a very bittersweet time for me." The waiter who served the meal said Cunanan was excited to embark on his new life but would be sad to leave his friends behind. "Then," the waiter continued, "he leaned back, put his hands behind his head and said, 'Everyone has their own version of what they think I am.'

"Nobody really knows the truth."

Briefs

Tijuana Pride

Advertisers are currently being sought for the official 1997 souvenir program for the third annual Tijuana Pride Parade which will take place on June 14.

Featuring honored individuals, places of interest, maps and weekend highlights, the souvenir program deadline is June 4 and proves that in business there are no international borders.

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SULLIVAN

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ford University, possessing a Harvard Ph.D. in political science — is either real naive or justifiably confident; he spotlights the opposition in *his* book!

But isn't confidence what you have before you understand your challenge?

For Sullivan, the ultimate challenge — his brass ring — is marriage. Not Gay marriage but marriage for Gays and Lesbians — the same institutions with the same privileges. He exudes the same confidence today as possessed in 1989 when, as associated editor at the *New Republic*, he galvanized this issue by publishing the landmark cover-story that made a conservative case for same-sex marriage.

In 1991, at age 28, Sullivan assumed the editorship of the national magazine as its youngest editor and the first openly Gay editor of a national magazine. As a national spokesperson on this issue, he has testified before Congress in 1996, and appeared on numerous television shows, including *Crossfire*, *Face the Nation*, *Meet the Press*, *Charlie Rose* and

Nightline.

Sullivan resigned as editor of the *New Republic* last year to deal with his own HIV status and to "devote myself to a more active engagement of the marriage issue. I couldn't do that while I was editing a general interest magazine; there weren't enough hours in the day!"

Sullivan's argument is a moral imperative: "Marriage is the central issue with regards to homosexuality.

"What is the most relevant and powerful, legal and political institution with regard to the emotional and sexual attraction of one person to another of the same gender? There's no competitor to marriage. Even if this [issue] is a disaster, we should still support it."

And to those who say wait, Sullivan quickly reminds us that that book has already been written, titled: *Why we can not wait* by Martin Luther King Jr.

"Some people have constructed an argument — and I include them in the book — that this is morally wrong and not a denial of civil rights.

"And then there are those who simply say that they are uncomfortable and 'I can't deal with it but I don't want to

be hostile."

Sullivan includes Landers in this latter category; however, he concedes that even some older Gays and Lesbians have grown to believe that "marriage is not theirs to have."

But he points with pride to recent studies, indicating support for same-sex marriage at around 70 to 75 percent for college students — the next generation of Americans.

Sullivan admits that in 1989 when he first addressed this issue, it was lonely and he never believed that it would move so far, so fast: "No one could have predicted the 1993 decision in Hawaii; that in 1997, we would be contemplating legal marriage rights in America for two men or two women."

Thanks to Ralph Reed

And who does Sullivan credit with aiding our community most: Ralph Reed, former executive director of the Christian Coalition. He says that Gays and Lesbians are the beneficiaries of the discourse on same-sex marriage as a result of Reed introducing DoMA last year:

"It was phenomenal. We couldn't

have done that without the help of the Religious Right. They played right into our hands."

He concludes that ENDA received more votes in the GOP-led Senate than ever before; that Hawaii just passed an extensive benefits package as a compromise to this issue; that we now have a national conversation about Gays and Lesbians in loving relationships; and, that have we now have an equal voice in legitimizing this national debate.

Furthermore, Sullivan points out that every time same-sex marriage is discussed, it moves forward. He further concludes that until this issue came along, the "Gay rights movement was adrift," vacillating from battle to battle, attempting to either secure rights or fend off attacks.

"What I have been trying to do ... is say: 'No! — get a compass; here's the North Star. You can try other things but you've got to have a destination and you've got to understand why that is your destination and set sail.'"

Sullivan is fully committed to his destination: resolution of the same-sex marriage issue.

"It is clear that if we want it, a future of far greater possibilities exists for every Gay and Lesbian kid in the country — a choice to be married or unmarried. We're fighting for the *choice* — some people say 'they reject marriage.'

"Well," Sullivan emphatically asserts, "you can not reject something that has never been offered you."

Sullivan has toured the country during the last month, engaging America in this incredible debate, which he describes as a crusade: "This is not just a book, it's a movement. It's not just a book tour, it's a political tour! A change of historic proportion is occurring right now and I feel privileged to be a part of it."

Andrew Sullivan returns to Washington D. C. where he lives and is writing his next book on friendship.

American Indian Culture Days Returns To SD

SAN DIEGO — The Indian Human Resource Center, in conjunction with the City of San Diego Special Promotions Program, invites the public to attend the San Diego American Indian Cultural Arts Days (AICD) on Saturday and Sunday May 17 to 18 from 10:00 a.m. to dusk on both days in Balboa Park at the corner of Park and Presidents Way.

A highlight of the weekend will be the Intertribal Dancers of Los Angeles County.

A group of 15, this group has all over the country and will perform a Pueblo Eagle Dance, an Apache Crown Dance Suite and a segment dedicated to Plains Indian culture which will include a competitive Lance & Shield Dance, "Fancy Dances," Southern Plains omen's Dance, Traditional Intertribal Dancers, War Dance and Friendship Round Dances with audience participation.

AICD also offers over 50 varied artisan booths featuring high quality American Indian jewelry, pottery, paintings, beadwork, books, Kachina dolls, sand paintings, sculpture and many other arts and crafts from American Indian nations from throughout the U.S., Canada and the Americas as well as several food booths featuring the best in American Indian food: frybread, Indian tacos, tamales, green Chile stew and more.

Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, call (619) 281-5964.



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San Diego Prepares For Pride, July 25-27

SAN DIEGO — The organizers of San Diego's Lesbian and Gay Pride recently released the first details of this year's Pride events, a weekend expected to be their biggest yet.

In keeping with this year's official Pride theme, "Share the Vision: Equality Through Visibility," the weekend will begin with a unifying "Spirit of Stonewall Rally" to be held from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. on Friday, July 25 outside the Lesbian and Gay Men's Center (3916 Normal St.) Internationally-acclaimed comic Elvira Kurt will emcee the event, which will showcase speakers from prominent Gay and Lesbian organizations such as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The Pride Parade through Hillcrest will take place the following day and kicks off at University and Normal St. According to Pride's new executive director, Mandy Schultz, dozens of parade applications have already been received for a line-up that includes over 200 contingents and floats. Newcomers to the parade include the Federal Aviators Association and a first-time contemporary jazz float by national recording artist Rob Shinn.

The two-day festival will have an expanded CyberSpot, which will give everyone the opportunity to "surf the net" with extra telephone lines and computer monitors provided by Pacific Bell and the Rainbow Mall. A towering main stage will serve as the venue for entertainment, while dance floors, exhibitors and

vendors add to the carnival atmosphere.

Also, Pride's new official party promoter, Powerhouse Productions, is offering three different harbor cruises on the evening of July 25. A "Circuit Daze" dance party at the Cruise Ship Terminal is planned at 10:00 p.m. to sunrise on July 26. On July 27, a "Zoo Party" will be held from 4:00 to 11:00 p.m. in the Zoofari and Raintree Grove areas.

"I have 100 percent confidence in Powerhouse for producing first-rate, organized events," says Schultz, who maintains that unlike last year's parties arranged by a different promoter, "tickets won't be oversold."

For more information or volunteer opportunities, call the Pride office at (619) 297-7683 or via e-mail at SDPride@msn.com.

CROSS-DRESSER

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ible tattoos often place band-aids over them to deter identification.

Despite the long sentence Anderson now has, he may be prosecuted in Los Angeles for eight robberies as well as a kidnapping of a newspaper carrier whose truck he took after he left him tied up in a San Francisco motel room.

"There are other counties who want him. It's almost like getting blood out of a turnip. It's almost nonsensical to beat a dead horse," said Crabtree.

Anderson was only 19 years old when he and his wife, Linda Anderson, then 24, were arrested in July, 1980, for the murder of Willis, 21, of Hillcrest, who was beaten to death with a metal pipe in an El Cajon motel room. After meeting David Anderson in Balboa Park, Willis agreed to go with him there after introducing him to a friend who later identified David Anderson as the last person seen with him.

Linda Anderson hid inside a closet intending to steal Willis' wallet while her husband had sex with the man, as the couple had done before. Willis caught on and the couple killed him during a violent struggle.

A jury deadlocked 11-1 for first-degree murder, so David Anderson pleaded guilty in 1981 to second-degree murder, conspiracy, robbery of a 67-year-old man, and stealing a car from a teacher who left his keys in his shoe at an orgy the Andersons attended.

Ironically, Linda Anderson, now 40 and still in prison, was convicted of first-degree murder in a separate trial and was sentenced to three years more than David.

She had written a detailed confession to police, something David did not do.

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PUBLIC SEX

Continued From Page A-1

MaCarthy. "The whole issue was discussed at that point in time and the community's desire was to enforce 647As." This meeting took place on February 28, 1997.

"That's what I told Mr. Kerman," said Dawson.

Kerman's telephone calls to community members provoked Karen Marshall, executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center, and Gay activist Tony Valenzuela to call the City Attorney's office.

Marshall told *Update* she had called the City Attorney's office to express her disapproval of the policy.

Valenzuela is working on this same issue for *Gay and Lesbian Times*. He says his piece is a six-part series on policing public sex. Valenzuela initially agreed to be interviewed for this story, but changed his mind after a conversation with his editor.

In an effort to initiate dia-

logue, the City Attorney's office contacted *Update* to discuss a meeting of community leaders.

That meeting will take place next week. Casey Gwinn, the San Diego City Attorney, will be present.

For his part, Kerman contacted *Update* as this issue was going to press to clarify his position. He said he had recently spoken to Dawson, who said she felt as if she was being made to look an oger.

Kerman said he has "worked very closely with [Joan Dawson] on this and I probably have a better understanding of her than anyone else. She is very willing to listen."

Briefs

AIDS Ride Car Wash

AIDS Ride Bicyclists Karl Kline and Billy Lucas are sponsoring a car wash this Saturday, May 17 at the lot adjacent to Rich's beginning at 10:00 a.m. Proceeds benefit the California AIDS Ride 2 which starts on June 1.

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LEVENTHAL'S VETOES MOTIVATED BY 'SPECIAL INTERESTS'

Editor:

The ideal of the Associated Student (A.S.) president is that he serves as the chief executive officer of the undergraduate population. He listens and respects student opinions and acts upon their interests. But, most of all, he represents the interest of students to the campus, state and nation.

This year's new A.S. president, Joe Leventhal, however, has ripped these ideals into bits and pieces. With a mere 48 percent (1,384 students) electing him to his post, Leventhal has already displayed immense disrespect for democracy and complete hypocrisy during his first few weeks of budget proceedings.

In the past three weeks, the A.S. Finance Committee has deliberated for over 24 hours on Leventhal's Executive Budget proposal, and throughout these deliberations, the committee amended his budget to become more representative of student interests, not special interests.

The committee amended the budget to support the Academic Success Program (A.S.P.). This program was on the A.S. election ballot and received 69 percent (1,852 students) approval, but lacked in voter turnout. In addition, over 2,300 students signed a petition in support of placing ASP on the ballot.

The committee realized that with a sound proposal and the overwhelming student assessment and support, Leventhal and the A.S. Council should support A.S.P. Even when this issue was brought to A.S. Council for final approval, over 60 percent of council moved to pass

A.S.P.

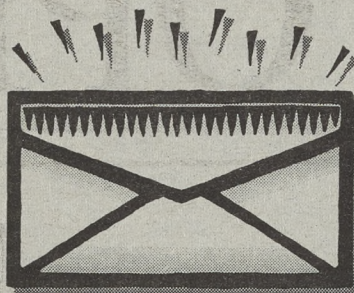
With the hours of deliberations, Leventhal should have respected the democratic votes taken by the student body (69 percent), the A.S. Finance Committee (63 percent) and the A.S. Council (62 percent). But because A.S.P. is not in his personal agenda, Leventhal vetoed it.

Leventhal claimed that there was insufficient information, no accountability, no track record and too much money to allocate for one service. He stealthily forgets to mention his own special interests in his executive budget. Leventhal proposed creating a marketing director with a student staff and supplies — budgeting a total of over \$60,000! Basically, the director would oversee and coordinate the publicity of the A.S. Council by making A.S. more known around campus and the community.

Little information was distributed and no accountability was established — other than it being Leventhal's project. This is also a risky new step for the A.S. Council to take since there is no track record or practice of this program, yet none of this is questioned by Leventhal.

A.S.P., on the other hand, compiled a sound budget proposal including the mission statement, budget narrative, policies and procedures and a draft charter to ensure accountability to the A.S. Furthermore, the marketing director was not democratically assessed from the student body like the A.S.P. Thus, Leventhal's marketing director exposes the hypocrisy behind his veto.

Leventhal's attack on A.S.P. is



Letters to the Editor

The Guardian welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must be no longer than three pages, typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters must also contain a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Letters may be dropped off at the Guardian office on the second floor of the Old Student Center. Send all letters to:

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purely undemocratic and hypocritical. Last time I checked, this association was named the ASUCSD (Associated Students at UCSD), not JUCSD (Joe's UCSD). This veto is a complete slap in the face to the A.S. Council, A.S.P., but more importantly to the UCSD student community.

Alex T. Tom
ASP Member

Homosexuality is a 'Lifestyle Choice'

Editor:

I would like to go on record and voice my opposition to the pro-

posed LGBT Resource Center. In this letter, I use the word "homosexuality" as also including bisexuality and transgenderism.

My first objection is that the proposed center is not necessarily because homosexuality is a choice. It is always possible for one to alter their lifestyle. Neither the fact that one may not wish to do so nor how difficult the alteration would be voids this possibility. Having an LGBT Resource Center for gays would make just as much sense as having a "Star Trek" Resource Center for Trekkies.

The Women's Center and Cross-Cultural Center are primarily for people who are female and/or closely related to another culture, neither of which is due to the respective person's choices. But being gay is a choice; it's not an unalterable fact.

No resource center should exist in order to help people promote the lifestyles that they have freely chosen. A student club, such as the current LGBTTA, would be a much more appropriate organization.

My second objection is based on the finding I disagree with homosexuality for both personal and religious reasons. Would it then be right to require me to pay for an institution that forwards it? I should not be forced to promote, through tuition and related fees, lifestyles that I consider immoral.

My third objection is a reaction to part of the article on the LGBT Resource Center in the May 14 *Guardian*. The fact that all other

UC campuses have such centers is not an argument in favor of UCSD beginning its own. Need I point out the fallacy of doing something because "everybody's doing it?" Having an LGBT Resource Center is a bad idea.

Dana Zurek

McCurry Statement not a Gender Issue

Editor:

I was disturbed after reading the article "When the First Lady Speaks, We Should Listen" by Jessyca Wallace in the Mon., May 11 issue of the *Guardian* regarding the incident when Hillary Clinton publicly stated that the future of Israel would include a separate "functioning modern [Palestinian] state".

In her commentary, Wallace twisted the incident into a women's issue. Regardless of Hillary Clinton's gender, her statement contradicted U.S. policy. Male or female, White House spokesman Mike McCurry would have expressed the policy maker's rejection of the contradictory remark to reporters.

I am not saying that Hillary Clinton should not have expressed her opinion, as I think every opinion should be heard. I am only saying that the response to her opinion had nothing to do with the fact that she was female and that by twisting the incident into one that is, as Wallace stated, "denigrating to all women" disturbingly avoids the

See **LETTERS**, Page 6

LETTERS: Students don't think before they speak

Continued from page 5
main issue.

What is important in this incident is the future of Israel and the peace process. When Wallace, at the end of her article, addressed this central issue she commented that "if the Jews and the Israelis deserve a homeland, so do the Palestinians," and "it is disheartening" that Jews "cannot extend to the Palestinians the courtesy of giving them their own land."

Was she forgetting the UN Partition Plan of 1947 which suggested that the land be split in two before Israel ever existed as a state? The act was accepted by Jews but rejected by Palestinians. When offered a separate state, the Palestinians did not want it.

I, too, desire peace and wish to discover the perfect solution, but is a separate state the perfect solution? Will both sides accept it? Will it end the animosity or will the fighting and hatred continue across the state border?

Hillary Clinton's solution is not necessarily the most ideal solution, despite the fact that she may be, as Wallace states, "ideally the most important and influential woman in this country and, more-or-less the world." Whether or not one agrees with Hillary Clinton, like every person, she should be heard, but we do not necessarily have to "listen" merely because she is the first lady.

Name withheld upon request

Arena Lacks Campus-wide Appeal

Editor:

There are some problems with *Guardian* Features' Arena that I would like to address.

There are five spaces in the Arena section. One might assume that this is because there are five colleges and that Arena is supposed to give views from each of them, but that assumption is obviously wrong since I don't think I've ever seen all five colleges represented in one Arena.

I can't even remember the last time I saw a Muir student represented. In fact, the Arena in the Mon., May 11, issue of the *Guardian* had representatives from only two colleges, Revelle and Warren.

Can't you choose between the opinions from students? The lack of coherent thought in most responses is comical. Take Siobhan Kelley, who must have thought she was asked a different question than "How effective are self-defense lessons?" when she answered that "it is important, especially for women, to be able to defend themselves. If someone is attacking you, you should be able to kick their ass."

I'm glad you think all people who are attacked should be able to kick their attacker's ass, but I don't see how this answers the question asked in any way. Did this get slipped in by accident?

My personal favorite from that Arena is Mr. Jonathan Pena's response, a perfect example of a typical UCSD student. "For me, boxing and karate work. If I need to defend myself, I'm going to knock some fool out real easily."

What the?!? Nice try on answering the question, Jon. You stayed on track for one sentence. I guess you could say self-defense "works." But what was that last part about knocking some fool out "real easily"?

The impression that I get from this response is that UCSD is populated by grimacing macho thugs eager to knock out any "fool" who messes with them, and who answer questions by bragging about how tough they are. I don't know about you, but this is not the impression I have of UCSD students and I hope it isn't the impression other people get of UCSD either. (Kudos to the other three "Arena" people for responding that self-defense classes aren't very effective at protecting you in a fight. I've never been to a martial arts class that claims it is anything but a last resort.)

The questions in Arena are also always so biased and meaningless. That same Monday's Arena question was really more of a statement about what the interviewer wanted people to say than a question. Instead of asking, "How effective are self-defense lessons?" why not try something that will make people have to think before answering?

At least re-phrase the question so that the effectiveness of self-defense isn't emphasized. Why not ask a question that lets people talk about the physical and mental benefits that martial arts can give?

It doesn't even delve into the issues of how long it takes to become even slightly proficient at self-defense, or the chance that a person attacking you is armed or twice as big as you. For the question to be even mildly meaningful

, it would have to be something like, "How effective would a person your size be with 3 years of self-defense training at defending yourself against an unarmed opponent of your weight who attacks you with warning?"

This question actually sets some bounds on what is being asked, but it is also almost totally pointless. How often do unarmed people attack other people? How often are the attackers and attacked of the same size or number? Even if it is moot, this question is still better than the original, and that shows how dumb the first question is.

If meaningless answers are your purpose, fine, but I would assume you would want to try and give other people insight into student opinions on real issues. Why not ask a question where you might actually get differing opinions? There are lots of hot, on-campus issues.

Take the new division II decision (should there be scholarships?) or maybe Pete Wilson's temporary support of student fees. On a global scale, a lot of people feel that Palestinians are being treated badly by Israel. I'm sure you would get lots of very heated responses to a question like that (especially if you asked, "How badly are the Palestinians being treated by Israel" — do you see what I mean about biased questions?) India tested a nuke, that always gets strong opinions from people. Or maybe you should just ask, "How effective do you feel Arena is at conveying student opinion?" or "How much do you like Arena and why?"

Aaron Brady

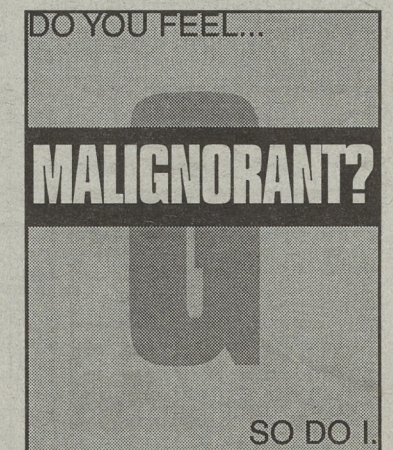
BAJA: Proposed change will be negative

Continued from page 4

change in our legal drinking age to 18 be just as natural?

In a country where one can be put to death by the government, where one can fight a war and die for one's country, where one is considered responsible for oneself and one's own actions in the eyes of the government — all at the age of 18, is it not natural that one should also be allowed to drink a can of beer?

This would eliminate any problems in our neighboring country. Responsible adults would not have the need to trek down past San Ysidro to go dancing and meet some girls or guys. There would be no horror stories of run-ins with crooked Policia. There would be no need for Americans to go south of the border except to legitimately enjoy the culture of Mexico, which is what seems to be the aim of the misled civic leaders in Rosarito Beach.



COMMENTARY: Although the LGBTA attempted a clear statement about the way society views gays and lesbians through its "Wear Jeans if You're Gay" day, the message was moot as many people unwittingly wore jeans

'WEAR JEANS IF YOU'RE GAY DAY' DEFEATS ITS PURPOSE

By Mark Smith
Staff Writer

It came to my attention rather abruptly last Thursday that I was gay. Apparently, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transsexual Association (LGBTA) — which seems to be adding letters to its acronym at an alarmingly fast rate — had deemed last Thursday "Wear Jeans if You're Gay" day.

Well, it just so happens that on Thursday I woke up early for work, showered, threw on some jeans and ripped out the door, unaware that I was taking a huge leap out of my personal closet.

Now this was a cheap trick. What a terribly planned and ill-thought out scheme last Thursday's "awareness" day was. This "holiday" was not only illogical, but it was also counterproductive in that it showed the student body that the LGBTA has destroyed exactly what homosexuals have been trying to advocate for decades — consideration for other's values and beliefs.

Now that I've got everybody's attention, some of you are thinking to yourselves, "This guy is homophobic and is going to sit here and rip on homosexuals for the next 600 words. Furthermore, he is going to get a very strongly worded letter telling him exactly what I think of him!" Others of you are thinking, "Yeah, that's right, you tell those gays exactly how stupid they are!"

Well, you're both stupid. I am not anti-gay, nor am I homophobic — which, I would like to point out as an aside, are not synonymous. I am, however against hypocritical "holidays," and, in particular, I am against last Thursday's "Wear Jeans if You're Gay" day.

How exactly was this hypocritical? The idea behind this day was that people wearing jeans were making a statement that they were either themselves homosexuals or supportive of homosexuality. Through this public display of support, the students of UCSD could see how many people were in sup-

The idea behind this day was that people wearing jeans were making a statement that they were either themselves homosexuals or supportive of homosexuality.

port of homosexuality and would be made more aware of the existence of homosexuals on campus.

The result of this holiday, however, was not one of gay awareness, nor a mass-closet exodus. What it did accomplish, though, was the forcing of people who did not necessarily support homosexuality and were not gay to proclaim their support.

In an arena as touchy and filled with emotion as homosexuality, the LGBTA must consider that the people who wore jeans accidentally

might be embarrassed when they found out what their jeans were saying. In other words, the LGBTA did not consider other people's values and beliefs when it tricked people into mock support for its cause — a cause of consideration and acceptance of alternate values and beliefs. Therein lies the glaring hypocrisy.

There are two distinct disjoint possibilities. Either the founders of this blessed holiday did not consider the fact that people were going to wear jeans regardless of their support of homosexuality, or they did.

Let's consider the first possibility. What the creators of this holiday did not consider is that people were going to wear jeans without knowing what they were saying. Jeans are extremely common and are often worn without a second thought. If this case is true, the creators of the "Wear Jeans if You're Gay" day are simply stupid.

I am going to assume that the people who thought of this day are

at least semi-intelligent and will dismiss that possibility. Surely, they knew people were going to unknowingly wear jeans.

The second possibility states that the founders of this holiday did consider that people would wear jeans without knowing about the meaning of such an action. In this case, the LGBTA knowingly forced people to declare their homosexuality or support thereof, regardless of their values and beliefs. If this case is true, the creators of the "Wear Jeans if You're Gay" day are hypocrites.

For the sake of the homosexual movement I hope that the first case is the one that is true. Regardless, in response to this unsolicited trick, I am deeming today the "breathe if you didn't mean to wear jeans last thursday" day.

So, there you have it. Now you all have an avenue through which to declare your support for my article. Don't like it? Hold your breath.

Mark can be reached at masmith@ucsd.edu

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OPPORTUNITY

PROTEST: Dynes to speak again on Thursday

Continued from page 2
hundreds behind you and UCSD would go down in history as saying no to racism."

Ubilla later asked Dynes if Gingrich is aware of the response to his invitation to speak.

In reply, Dynes said that although he has not spoken to Gingrich, he would be "surprised" if Gingrich did not know about the reaction.

Protesters warned Dynes that some people will make the commencement unpleasant by protesting Gingrich's presence.

"I hope that's not the case," Dynes said. "I hope they will treat him with the same respect as the President last year."

Warren College Writing Program senior learning skills counselor Robert McDonnell has been on

strike outside the administrator's complex for several weeks to protest Dynes' invitation of Gingrich.

According to McDonnell, Dynes' invitation is a business deal to make UCSD look impressive.

"You're not a CEO; you're a chancellor, and I suggest you act like one," McDonnell said.

Revelle sophomore Jennifer Quinonez-Skinner tearfully said she was discouraged by Dynes' invitation.

"I'm on academic probation; I cut class because I'm standing up for my people," Quinonez-Skinner said. "I'm not going to study in the library and hope to be a doctor or lawyer because it's not going to change the bigger power structure."

"I'm pouring out my heart to you, but I'm insulted and hurt that you're not addressing my feelings," she continued.

Warren senior Rochelle Lakey, an AASU member, asked that Gingrich be uninited.

"As a computer-science major, I busted my tail for five years," Lakey said. "I want La Jolla to recognize me as a graduate of this community. As soon as Newt Gingrich opens his mouth, I will leave. Doesn't it bother you that I won't be at my own graduation? Newt Gingrich is someone who feels that I don't exist."

Dynes said he understood the concerns of the demonstrators, and he would be meeting with them on Thursday.

Romo said there should be student referendum to vote on the all-campus commencement.

In response, Dynes said, "I'm thinking about it."

As Dynes left to attend a 3 o'clock meeting, a demonstrator said, "You just insulted our entire student population, especially people of color."

"Watch your back," another protester added.

Senior Staff Writer Grace Jang contributed to this article.

CULTURE: Harris' commentary draws criticism

Continued from page 1
other possible," Harris said.

Harris said that by disregarding the tenets of aestheticism and falling victim to corporate marketing strategies, gay men have failed to maintain their status as a separate, salient political entity.

According to Harris, mass culture's "purification," or desexualization, of distinctly gay commodities, including "diva worship,

men's underwear, pornography and AIDS kitsch," served to incorporate explicitly gay phenomena into mass culture, resulting in gay men losing their visibility as a subculture, or "ethnicity" as he labeled it.

Many students said they interpreted the word "gay" within the context of the lecture's title, "The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture," as the blanket synonym for queer, expecting a broad discourse inclusive of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered individuals.

Other students, including Muir senior Katrin Kleim, denounced

Harris for excluding women or people of color from what she labeled his largely esoteric discussion of gay culture, "as if nobody contributed to gay culture except for upper-middle class white men."

Several incensed students called for a more balanced forum which would give voice to both sides of the topic.

Marshall junior Jih-Fei Chang said that "bringing on such a reactionary speaker without inviting an opponent to that position was antithetical to the purpose of the forum: to promote a thorough understanding of the issue."



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COMMENTARY: Although conservatives have made the term "liberal" a derogatory one, it is really they who should be ashamed of their own label. Conservatives are responsible for some of the most irrational, short-sighted policies today.

CONSERVATIVES CREATE MORE PROBLEMS THAN SOLUTIONS

By Simone Santini
Contributing Opinion Writer

Once again, I saw a debate in which a conservative accused his opponent of being "liberal," shouting the word as if it were an insult. I have to credit the conservatives with having hammered this in enough to make it work — in the last few years, for some reason, people have become defensive when anybody labels them as liberals.

Conservatives have succeeded in transforming the expression "liberal" into an insult. Well, let me set the record straight. I am a liberal, and not only am I proud of it, I think that "conservative" should be considered a four-letter word (although, for lexical correctness, not literally so).

I will skip the obvious historical reasons — progressive people were in favor of universal suffrage, the Civil Rights Bill, desegregation and the minimum wage. Conservatives were against all these things. If they had always had their way, women would not have the right to vote, "Negro" people would still be required to sit at the back of the bus and drink from separate drinking fountains, and 10-year-old kids would work for \$2 per hour. I fail to see how this goes to their merit.

Conservatives managed to create the closest approximation of a Soviet regime this country ever saw (in the form of McCarthy's Committee for Anti-American Activities). They managed to elect Richard Nixon (McCarthy's closest collaborator) to the White House — the same Nixon who used illegal, undercover operations to spy and demolish inconvenient opponents with well-orchestrated scandals.

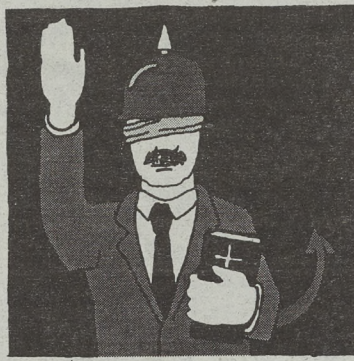
Conservatives excel in this practice and still, even after Watergate, a sizable fraction of the American public believes in them. On the other hand, they made a hero out of Ronald Reagan, who sold weapons to enemies of the United States and used the money to finance terrorism. Quite astonishing, if you come to think of it.

Conservatives propose laughable economic theories that might have worked in rural Massachusetts 200 years ago, but are certainly not adequate for one of the most complex societies on the planet. Unfortunately, they tried to implement these theories in the Reagan years, and we are still paying the social consequences of that experiment.

Ruthless economic doctrines and the axiom that the government should butt out of corporate businesses led to millions of people working for the minimum wage with no benefits, and to 15 percent of the people in the west living below the poverty level.

In no other civilized country is life so uncertain. In no other industrialized country can a family be financially wiped out by a major illness. I admire (and pity at the same time) the people who are strong (or foolish?) enough to start a family in this situation we call American. We owe all this to conservative doctrines.

Conservatives have a very skewed sense of morality, which they derive from the Bible. For some reason, it is immoral to show a naked breast, but it is fine to have homeless children (as long as we get tax cuts for the wealthy). It is immoral to say the "F" word on



Conservatives champion "family values" but, at the same time, promote an economic and value system that force parents to work 12-hours-a-day without vacations and to be constantly under stress — making it impossible to have a family life of any reasonable quality.

TV, but it is fine to have underfunded schools in the inner cities.

Their sense of morality, unfortunately, tells them nothing about contempt for violence. I think Jack Nicholson once said "In this country, if you kiss a breast, the film is rated X, if you lop it off, it is rated R." It seems that if, instead of a breast, you chop off a head, the film might make it to PG-13.

The religious views of most conservatives are fundamentalist.

Although I am an agnostic, I used to go to church when I was young, and the basketball court of the priest was my favorite hangout. Nothing could be farther from the intolerant, fanatic morality preached by conservatives than the education to human understanding and compassion I received in those afternoons. The Catholic Church has always condemned homosexuality, but I am pretty sure that, had I dared to say that homosexuals will go to hell, the good priest would have beaten me silly (metaphorically, of course).

I can't see any of these compassionate, moral views in the intolerant, conservative religious doctrines. While adherence to the Christian theological system is ultimately a matter of personal choice, the endorsement of fundamentalist moral views by a large fraction of the population is a serious social problem.

Conservatives champion "family values" but, at the same time, promote an economic and value system that force parents to work 12-hours-a-day without vacations and to be constantly under stress, — making it impossible to have a family life of any reasonable quality. If the parents want to send their children to college, the workload and the stress are even greater. I can't think of anything that contributes more to the breakdown of the American family and society.

Conservatives promote an educational system whose purpose seems to be to throw the weaker and more troubled kids out of schools — precisely the students who would need the guidance school provides. This is a perfect

system to manufacture criminals and to widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in the future generations. This is a recipe for social disaster.

Conservatives seem very bothered by any form of public spending that goes toward supporting the scores of unfortunates that are the inevitable result of their policies. At the same time, they welcome any increase in military spending. A lot of this money goes into developing "intelligent" weapons that — by admission of the military themselves — proved not much better than cheaper traditional weapons. All that money was wasted.

In the present post-Cold War situation, it is also hard to visualize any tactical or strategic need for such high-tech weapons. Considering that Congress adamantly refuses to place U.S. troops under U.N. command for peacekeeping operations, I can only suppose that all the new weapons will be used in case Canada attacks. Watch out, Canadians, we are ready!

In short, I can't remember a single instance in which conservatives took on a relevant issue, analyzed it systematically and proposed and endorsed rational solutions, debating in public their short-term and long-term impacts. They seem to lack any form of vision, and any capacity to consider the impact of their doctrine on a complex society.

On the other hand, they are very good at exploiting society's fears and anger to gather votes. I guess I could tell this to conservatives when they call me "liberal," trying to make me feel guilty about it. Instead, I will just sit back and smile wickedly at them.



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'CHOOSING' TO DENY ONE'S SEXUALITY IS UNHEALTHY

Editor:

This letter is a response to Dana Zurek's letter in opposition to the proposed LGBT Resource Center ("Homosexuality is a 'Lifestyle Choice,'" May 21, *Guardian*). I am a transgendered person and a member of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues (CACLBGTI), whose function is to draft a proposal for the Center.

Zurek states that it is always possible to alter one's lifestyle, no matter how "difficult the alteration" would be. I agree. However, where Zurek uses the word "homosexual" to refer to someone who "lives a homosexual lifestyle," I use the word "LGBT" to refer to a person for whom not living in such a way as to honor the true self would be extremely "difficult," whether or not they are actually living an LGBT "lifestyle."

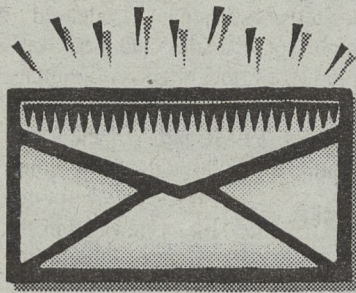
My disagreement with Zurek centers around the question of whether LGBT people ought to be able to create a center which facilitates an LGBT lifestyle.

I would like readers to consider

what kind of "difficulty" is involved in choosing to deny oneself a path which makes one's identity unidentifiable to oneself. Since I doubt Zurek has any idea what it is like to live with gender dysphoria, let me illustrate with my own story.

Gender dysphoria is a feeling of extreme cognitive dissonance involving one's societally assigned gender role. I myself was expected to be a woman. So profound was my disturbance around my gender in my teenage years that I was told I was schizophrenic. Suicidal on a daily basis, I nevertheless had within me the will to survive. For the first decade of my adult life, therefore, I took "functioning" as my main mission. I had learned the hard way that I had to present some coherent, gendered persona to the world in order to escape commitment.

Just over a year ago, I had by all external standards become a complete success. People told me that I was a very attractive woman. I was engaged to be married to a medical student who is also a wonderful,



Letters to the Editor

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gentle man. I was enrolled in a Ph.D. program in philosophy, a discipline I love. However, inside, I still felt broken, completely lacking a personal identity. I tried to allevi-

ate the dishonesty I felt about "being a fraud" by telling those I was close to that I "didn't have a conscience." I didn't know how else to express it.

When I came out as transgendered butch (ask me more), it was like being struck by lightning. For the first time, I feel normal and whole. I have a self. What's more, I no longer expend vast amounts of energy perpetuating a lie just for the sake of making others comfortable.

So, do I have a choice about my lifestyle? Yes. I am choosing to live my life as genuinely as I can. Do I need help? Yes. As a member of a tiny and invisible minority, I need the social and cultural affirmation that other people get merely by talking to classmates, reading mainstream magazines and watching television. I need to bond with those who can understand me and I need to read books so that I can reflect on the meaning of my life. Just like you, I need to see myself reflected in other people just to stay sane.

I hope I've convinced you that, contrary to what Zurek says, one's

LGBT status is a bit more central to one's being — and one's well being — than a passion for "Star Trek."

Eric Peterson

Personal Prejudices Destroy Opportunity

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to Dana Zurek's arguments against having an LGBT Resource Center ("Homosexuality is a 'Lifestyle Choice,'" May 21, *Guardian*). Dana has three main oppositions to the Resource Center, and I'd like to address each one.

First, Dana claims that "the proposed center is not necessary because homosexuality is a choice." This is under debate by both homosexuals and heterosexuals alike, but what I say is supported in a large part by the homosexual community. Dana goes on to state that it is always possible to alter one's lifestyle. This latter statement is absolutely true — one can always alter one's lifestyle. However, I would like to differentiate between homosexuality and a homosexual lifestyle.

Having instincts and drives is not a choice, it's part of being human. Acting on these instincts is a choice. I cannot choose whether to be hungry, but I can choose to eat. I can't choose to be sexually attracted to someone, but I can choose to have sex with them. Does Dana claim that his or her attraction to the opposite sex is a choice? Hardly. Being gay is not a choice. Why would someone choose a life of pain and rejection by society? Why are homosexual teenagers three times more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual counterparts?

Gay men and women can choose to ignore their instincts and live their lives forcing themselves to think of themselves as "straight," but at great cost to their own psychological health and self-esteem. This is precisely why we need a resource center. Gay and straight people alike need to recognize that heterosexuality is not the only valid and healthy sexual orientation.

Dana's second point is that students should not have to pay for this center because having a center is against his or her personal and religious views. Having a Women's Center is against many religious and cultural beliefs that women should be subservient and personal beliefs that say women should be home, barefoot and pregnant. On that point, many cultures and religion also reject outside cultures, especially ones that do not follow their own personal belief system.

However, we as a university, are dedicated to diversity and multiculturalism, not ethnocentrism and sexual chauvinism. As students of a university, we should not let our own personal prejudices destroy this setting of diversity. Thus, the fact that Dana has a religious and personal belief to reject homosexuality is not valid.

Dana's third opposition points out that the fact that other UC campuses have a LGBT Resource Center is not a valid argument for having one. I completely agree that tradition is not inherently right, but at the same time, we cannot bury our heads in the sand and ignore the progress of society just because it does not follow our traditional values.

Andrew Moran

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CONSERVATIVES CREATE MORE PROBLEMS THAN SOLUTIONS

By Simone Santini
Contributing Opinion Writer

Once again, I saw a debate in which a conservative accused his opponent of being "liberal," shouting the word as if it were an insult. I have to credit the conservatives with having hammered this in enough to make it work — in the last few years, for some reason, people have become defensive when anybody labels them as liberals.

Conservatives have succeeded in transforming the expression "liberal" into an insult. Well, let me set the record straight. I am a liberal, and not only am I proud of it, I think that "conservative" should be considered a four-letter word (although, for lexical correctness, not literally so).

I will skip the obvious historical reasons — progressive people were in favor of universal suffrage, the Civil Rights Bill, desegregation and the minimum wage. Conservatives were against all these things. If they had always had their way, women would not have the right to vote, "Negro" people would still be required to sit at the back of the bus and drink from separate drinking fountains, and 10-year-old kids would work for \$2 per hour. I fail to see how this goes to their merit.

Conservatives managed to create the closest approximation of a Soviet regime this country ever saw (in the form of McCarthy's Committee for Anti-American Activities). They managed to elect Richard Nixon (McCarthy's closest collaborator) to the White House — the same Nixon who used illegal, undercover operations to spy and demolish inconvenient opponents with well-orchestrated scandals.

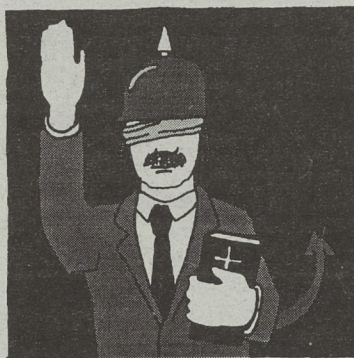
Conservatives excel in this practice and still, even after Watergate, a sizable fraction of the American public believes in them. On the other hand, they made a hero out of Ronald Reagan, who sold weapons to enemies of the United States and used the money to finance terrorism. Quite astonishing, if you come to think of it.

Conservatives propose laughable economic theories that might have worked in rural Massachusetts 200 years ago, but are certainly not adequate for one of the most complex societies on the planet. Unfortunately, they tried to implement these theories in the Reagan years, and we are still paying the social consequences of that experiment.

Ruthless economic doctrines and the axiom that the government should butt out of corporate businesses led to millions of people working for the minimum wage with no benefits, and to 15 percent of the people in the west living below the poverty level.

In no other civilized country is life so uncertain. In no other industrialized country can a family be financially wiped out by a major illness. I admire (and pity at the same time) the people who are strong (or foolish?) enough to start a family in this situation we call American. We owe all this to conservative doctrines.

Conservatives have a very skewed sense of morality, which they derive from the Bible. For some reason, it is immoral to show a naked breast, but it is fine to have homeless children (as long as we get tax cuts for the wealthy). It is immoral to say the "F" word on



Conservatives champion "family values" but, at the same time, promote an economic and value system that force parents to work 12-hours-a-day without vacations and to be constantly under stress — making it impossible to have a family life of any reasonable quality.

TV, but it is fine to have underfunded schools in the inner cities.

Their sense of morality, unfortunately, tells them nothing about contempt for violence. I think Jack Nicholson once said "In this country, if you kiss a breast, the film is rated X, if you lop it off, it is rated R." It seems that if, instead of a breast, you chop off a head, the film might make it to PG-13.

The religious views of most conservatives are fundamentalist.

Although I am an agnostic, I used to go to church when I was young, and the basketball court of the priest was my favorite hangout. Nothing could be farther from the intolerant, fanatic morality preached by conservatives than the education to human understanding and compassion I received in those afternoons. The Catholic Church has always condemned homosexuality, but I am pretty sure that, had I dared to say that homosexuals will go to hell, the good priest would have beaten me silly (metaphorically, of course).

I can't see any of these compassionate, moral views in the intolerant, conservative religious doctrines. While adherence to the Christian theological system is ultimately a matter of personal choice, the endorsement of fundamentalist moral views by a large fraction of the population is a serious social problem.

Conservatives champion "family values" but, at the same time, promote an economic and value system that force parents to work 12-hours-a-day without vacations and to be constantly under stress, — making it impossible to have a family life of any reasonable quality. If the parents want to send their children to college, the workload and the stress are even greater. I can't think of anything that contributes more to the breakdown of the American family and society.

Conservatives promote an educational system whose purpose seems to be to throw the weaker and more troubled kids out of schools — precisely the students who would need the guidance school provides. This is a perfect

system to manufacture criminals and to widen the gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in the future generations. This is a recipe for social disaster.

Conservatives seem very bothered by any form of public spending that goes toward supporting the scores of unfortunates that are the inevitable result of their policies. At the same time, they welcome any increase in military spending. A lot of this money goes into developing "intelligent" weapons that — by admission of the military themselves — proved not much better than cheaper traditional weapons. All that money was wasted.

In the present post-Cold War situation, it is also hard to visualize any tactical or strategic need for such high-tech weapons. Considering that Congress adamantly refuses to place U.S. troops under U.N. command for peacekeeping operations, I can only suppose that all the new weapons will be used in case Canada attacks. Watch out, Canadians, we are ready!

In short, I can't remember a single instance in which conservatives took on a relevant issue, analyzed it systematically and proposed and endorsed rational solutions, debating in public their short-term and long-term impacts. They seem to lack any form of vision, and any capacity to consider the impact of their doctrine on a complex society.

On the other hand, they are very good at exploiting society's fears and anger to gather votes. I guess I could tell this to conservatives when they call me "liberal," trying to make me feel guilty about it. Instead, I will just sit back and smile wickedly at them.



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'CHOOSING' TO DENY ONE'S SEXUALITY IS UNHEALTHY

Editor:

This letter is a response to Dana Zurek's letter in opposition to the proposed LGBT Resource Center ("Homosexuality is a 'Lifestyle Choice,'" May 21, *Guardian*). I am a transgendered person and a member of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues (CACLGBTI), whose function is to draft a proposal for the Center.

Zurek states that it is always possible to alter one's lifestyle, no matter how "difficult the alteration" would be. I agree. However, where Zurek uses the word "homosexual" to refer to someone who "lives a homosexual lifestyle," I use the word "LGBT" to refer to a person for whom not living in such a way as to honor the true self would be extremely "difficult," whether or not they are actually living an LGBT "lifestyle."

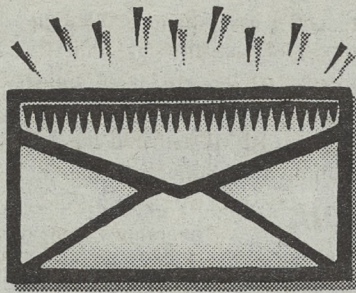
My disagreement with Zurek centers around the question of whether LGBT people ought to be able to create a center which facilitates an LGBT lifestyle.

I would like readers to consider

what kind of "difficulty" is involved in choosing to deny oneself a path which makes one's identity unidentifiable to oneself. Since I doubt Zurek has any idea what it is like to live with gender dysphoria, let me illustrate with my own story.

Gender dysphoria is a feeling of extreme cognitive dissonance involving one's societally assigned gender role. I myself was expected to be a woman. So profound was my disturbance around my gender in my teenage years that I was told I was schizophrenic. Suicidal on a daily basis, I nevertheless had within me the will to survive. For the first decade of my adult life, therefore, I took "functioning" as my main mission. I had learned the hard way that I had to present some coherent, gendered persona to the world in order to escape commitment.

Just over a year ago, I had by all external standards become a complete success. People told me that I was a very attractive woman. I was engaged to be married to a medical student who is also a wonderful,



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gentle man. I was enrolled in a Ph.D. program in philosophy, a discipline I love. However, inside, I still felt broken, completely lacking a personal identity. I tried to allevi-

ate the dishonesty I felt about "being a fraud" by telling those I was close to that I "didn't have a conscience." I didn't know how else to express it.

When I came out as transgendered butch (ask me more), it was like being struck by lightning. For the first time, I feel normal and whole. I have a self. What's more, I no longer expend vast amounts of energy perpetuating a lie just for the sake of making others comfortable.

So, do I have a choice about my lifestyle? Yes. I am choosing to live my life as genuinely as I can. Do I need help? Yes. As a member of a tiny and invisible minority, I need the social and cultural affirmation that other people get merely by talking to classmates, reading mainstream magazines and watching television. I need to bond with those who can understand me and I need to read books so that I can reflect on the meaning of my life. Just like you, I need to see myself reflected in other people just to stay sane.

I hope I've convinced you that, contrary to what Zurek says, one's

LGBT status is a bit more central to one's being — and one's well being — than a passion for "Star Trek."

Eric Peterson

Personal Prejudices Destroy Opportunity

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to Dana Zurek's arguments against having an LGBT Resource Center ("Homosexuality is a 'Lifestyle Choice,'" May 21, *Guardian*). Dana has three main oppositions to the Resource Center, and I'd like to address each one.

First, Dana claims that "the proposed center is not necessary because homosexuality is a choice." This is under debate by both homosexuals and heterosexuals alike, but what I say is supported in a large part by the homosexual community. Dana goes on to state that it is always possible to alter one's lifestyle. This latter statement is absolutely true — one can always alter one's lifestyle. However, I would like to differentiate between homosexuality and a homosexual lifestyle.

Having instincts and drives is not a choice, it's part of being human. Acting on these instincts is a choice. I cannot choose whether to be hungry, but I can choose to eat. I can't choose to be sexually attracted to someone, but I can choose to have sex with them. Does Dana claim that his or her attraction to the opposite sex is a choice? Hardly. Being gay is not a choice. Why would someone choose a life of pain and rejection by society? Why are homosexual teenagers three times more likely to commit suicide than their heterosexual counterparts?

Gay men and women can choose to ignore their instincts and live their lives forcing themselves to think of themselves as "straight," but at great cost to their own psychological health and self-esteem. This is precisely why we need a resource center. Gay and straight people alike need to recognize that heterosexuality is not the only valid and healthy sexual orientation.

Dana's second point is that students should not have to pay for this center because having a center is against his or her personal and religious views. Having a Women's Center is against many religious and cultural beliefs that women should be subservient and personal beliefs that say women should be home, barefoot and pregnant. On that point, many cultures and religion also reject outside cultures, especially ones that do not follow their own personal belief system.

However, we as a university, are dedicated to diversity and multiculturalism, not ethnocentrism and sexual chauvinism. As students of a university, we should not let our own personal prejudices destroy this setting of diversity. Thus, the fact that Dana has a religious and personal belief to reject homosexuality is not valid.

Dana's third opposition points out that the fact that other UC campuses have a LGBT Resource Center is not a valid argument for having one. I completely agree that tradition is not inherently right, but at the same time, we cannot bury our heads in the sand and ignore the progress of society just because it does not follow our traditional values.

Andrew Moran

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PROTEST: Dynes to speak again on Thursday

Continued from page 2

hundreds behind you and UCSD would go down in history as saying no to racism."

Ubilla later asked Dynes if Gingrich is aware of the response to his invitation to speak.

In reply, Dynes said that although he has not spoken to Gingrich, he would be "surprised" if Gingrich did not know about the reaction.

Protesters warned Dynes that some people will make the commencement unpleasant by protesting Gingrich's presence.

"I hope that's not the case," Dynes said. "I hope they will treat him with the same respect as the President last year."

Warren College Writing Program senior learning skills counselor Robert McDonell has been on

strike outside the administrator's complex for several weeks to protest Dynes' invitation of Gingrich.

According to McDonell, Dynes' invitation is a business deal to make UCSD look impressive.

"You're not a CEO; you're a chancellor, and I suggest you act like one," McDonell said.

Revelle sophomore Jennifer Quinonez-Skinner tearfully said she was discouraged by Dynes' invitation.

"I'm on academic probation; I cut class because I'm standing up for my people," Quinonez-Skinner said. "I'm not going to study in the library and hope to be a doctor or lawyer because it's not going to change the bigger power structure."

"I'm pouring out my heart to you, but I'm insulted and hurt that you're not addressing my feelings," she continued.

Warren senior Rochelle Lakey, an AASU member, asked that Gingrich be uninvited.

"As a computer-science major, I busted my tail for five years," Lakey said. "I want La Jolla to recognize me as a graduate of this community. As soon as Newt Gingrich opens his mouth, I will leave. Doesn't it bother you that I won't be at my own graduation? Newt Gingrich is someone who feels that I don't exist."

Dynes said he understood the concerns of the demonstrators, and he would be meeting with them on Thursday.

Romo said there should be student referendum to vote on the all-campus commencement.

In response, Dynes said, "I'm thinking about it."

As Dynes left to attend a 3 o'clock meeting, a demonstrator said, "You just insulted our entire student population, especially people of color."

"Watch your back," another protester added.

Senior Staff Writer Grace Jang contributed to this article.

CULTURE: Harris' commentary draws criticism

Continued from page 1

other possible," Harris said.

Harris said that by disregarding the tenets of aestheticism and falling victim to corporate marketing strategies, gay men have failed to maintain their status as a separate, salient political entity.

According to Harris, mass culture's "purification," or desexualization, of distinctly gay commodities, including "diva worship,

men's underwear, pornography and AIDS kitsch," served to incorporate explicitly gay phenomena into mass culture, resulting in gay men losing their visibility as a subculture, or "ethnicity" as he labeled it.

Many students said they interpreted the word "gay" within the context of the lecture's title, "The Rise and Fall of Gay Culture," as the blanket synonym for queer, expecting a broad discourse inclusive of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered individuals.

Other students, including Muir senior Katrin Kleim, denounced

Harris for excluding women or people of color from what she labeled his largely esoteric discussion of gay culture, "as if nobody contributed to gay culture except for upper-middle class white men."

Several incensed students called for a more balanced forum which would give voice to both sides of the topic.

Marshall junior Jih-Fei Chang said that "bringing on such a reactionary speaker without inviting an opponent to that position was antithetical to the purpose of the forum: to promote a thorough understanding of the issue."

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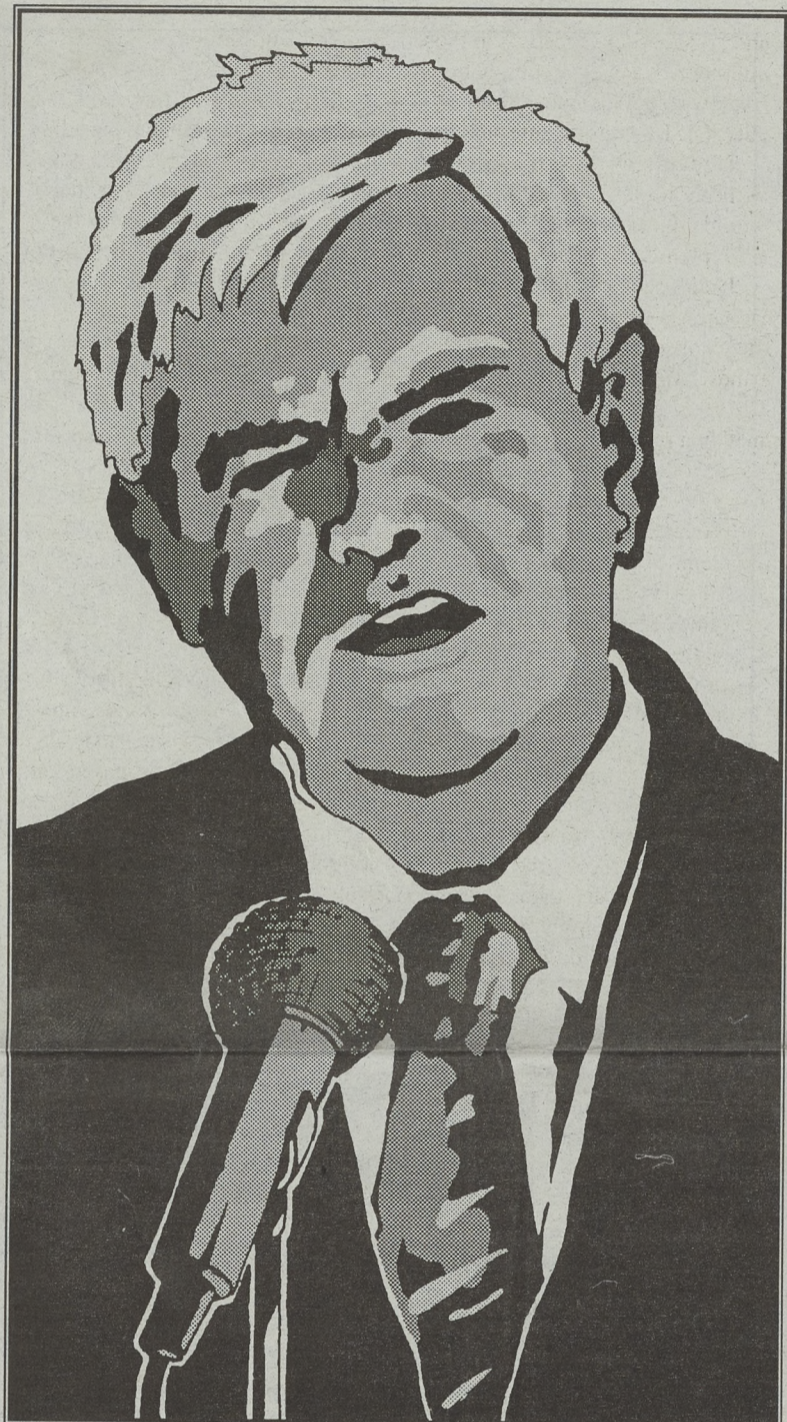
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OPINION

GUARDIAN READERS' FORUM



Brendan Cahill/Guardian

Gingrich's invitation to speak at this year's commencement is not, as Chancellor Dynes claims, about free speech — but merely an opportunity for the Speaker to promote his own agenda

By Susan Davis and Dan Schiller

Chancellor Dynes has linked his invitation to Rep. Newt Gingrich to speak at this year's UCSD commencement to the issue of free speech, asserting that the fairness and principles of open discussion are at stake. Gingrich's appearance, goes the argument, will demonstrate that UCSD remains "open to the expression of all points of view." We dispute this supposed linkage, and as communication scholars, we would like to speak to the free speech issues that it raises.

Gingrich is one of the most visible and audible people in American political life. He enjoys routine access to commercial print and broadcast news media, as well as to C-SPAN. He meets with editors and summons journalists to news conferences on a regular basis. Indeed, as we understand it, he himself demanded this forum at UCSD.

Thus, the issue raised by the commencement is not about making available a venue for expression of dissident or controversial views. Since Gingrich has no lack of outlets for his thoughts, the true question is: Why does he wish to speak at UCSD — and why now?

There are several reasons. First, this is clearly a showcase for Gingrich's presidential ambitions — in order to gain parity with Bill Clinton, Gingrich needs to look "presidential." Granting him this opportunity has nothing to do with open discussion and free speech, and nothing to do with "fairness" in any ordinary sense. At best, "fairness" here may be a matter of placating powerful conservative interest groups.

More importantly, the Gingrich address is an attempt to turn the ineffectual Clinton "Dialogue on Race" on its head, in order to position Gingrich as a torchbearer for the GOP's national anti-affirmative action program. This campaign is about continuing to slash away at social programs and federal supports for racial and gender equity — but it is also about mobilizing divisive attitudes as part of presidential

and congressional politics.

In the context of this campaign's effects in California, Gingrich's commencement speech is a victory speech. It is an aggressive political tactic, aimed at celebrating policies that are crippling affordable public education, equal access and, for these reasons, also freedom of inquiry at the University of California. It offers encouragement to other such efforts around the country; for example, Governor George Pataki's efforts to demolish open admissions at the City University of New York.

To justify this by reference to Gingrich's alleged concern for research is disingenuous at best, and at worst an evasion of the current crisis at UCSD.

Gingrich himself has shown utter contempt for free and critical inquiry as, for example, in his censorship of public historical scholarship at the Smithsonian, his attacks on the National Endowment for the Arts and in his support for the repeal of the Fairness Doctrine in broadcasting.

His sense of the values that should animate college instruction is directly evident in his use of his office to promote a video course, "Renewing American Civilization," designed to recruit support for the goals of his party's "Contract with America" program.

We think it is time for a serious and critical public discussion of the connections between the rapid rise of tuition, the assault on affirmative action and the vision of education pushed by Gingrich. We wonder where in the increasingly elite and corporately guided university there is room for working and poor people, for research and teaching that are not directed toward private profit-making?

Rather than giving Gingrich's campaign media exposure under the guise of "the airing of controversy," UCSD could do something much more constructive by initiating a wide-ranging and open discussion of these issues.

The authors are professors of Communications at UCSD.

AND THE DEBATE GOES ON

UCSD should view Gingrich's presence at the commencement as an honor and a rare opportunity to experience, first-hand, a different point of view

By Wayne Liu and Brian Mullen

We from the College Republicans realize that many of UCSD's students and professors detest the fact that the Speaker of the House will be delivering the commencement address. Gingrich-haters have called him "racist" and, in the illustrious words of the guy camped outside the administration building, "the closest thing we have to a fascist."

We find it interesting that Newt Gingrich and other conservatives are called fascist and racist because they do not have similar views as liberals do about issues such as affirmative action. Where is the acceptance of the other points of view?

Since day one of freshman year, we have heard that democracy functions best when a diverse set of viewpoints can be expressed. In last year's address, President Clinton, a liberal Democrat, spoke

about diversity to the graduating student body.

We respected Clinton's presence, knew he would increase the recognition of UCSD on a national level, and sat in silence while he delivered his speech. None of the members of the College Republicans agreed with him, but we never disrespected him by causing trouble or lambasting him in the *Guardian*.

Keep in mind that, according to the Constitution, the Speaker of the House is third in line for the presidency. The Speakership is the third most powerful position in the country. UCSD should be honored to receive such a prominent political figure, just a year after the president visited. For good reason, UCSD's student body and faculty should be ecstatic that top lawmakers consider this institution worthy enough to travel across the country for and speak to the graduating seniors.

We must also address the issue that the students never voted for Gingrich as commencement speaker. This is true. However, we do not recall casting a ballot for Clinton. Protesters argue that a vote was not in order because he represented the viewpoints of most of UCSD's student body. Our conviction is that this is not necessarily true.

We are sure that Gingrich's views are not shared by UCSD's militant left-wing activists and by most of the professors here, but we cannot say that the majority of the student body actually cares about politics one way or another. This is apparent when one counts the number of people belonging to political organizations on campus — the number does not even approach a majority of the student body.

Nevertheless, even if Gingrich has different points of view about diversity, UCSD has taught its stu-

dents to be open-minded and respect alternative points of view. Indeed, we must also consider the possibility that Gingrich will not mention the subject of diversity at all and instead concentrate on the development of science and technology. Even you ardent Gingrich-haters may learn and agree with some of his remarks.

Still, to call Gingrich an extremist does him a great injustice. He is much more moderate than many believe him to be. The speaker is an animal enthusiast, and he openly advocates animal rights. In addition, Gingrich cannot be labeled anti-gay. Even though he does not approve of his lesbian sister's lifestyle, he never stopped loving her. Clearly, Gingrich is not riding on the extreme right wing on the political spectrum.

We at the College Republicans urge those of you who disdain the

Speaker of the House to keep an open mind about the commencement address. To be certain, we conservatives have dealt with left-wing viewpoints from professors and protesters throughout our tenure here at UCSD. We have sat in the classroom while professors have used their courses to advance their own political ideology and agenda, while making a mockery of conservative values (i.e., those of the professors in the political science, communication, history, third world studies, literature, D.O.C. departments, etc.)

If we can tolerate these alternative points of view every day for four years, we hope that all of you who disagree with Gingrich can return the favor and help make the graduation ceremony an enjoyable experience for everyone.

The authors are members of the College Republicans.

HETEROSEXUALITY MAY NOT BE THE WISEST CHOICE

Editor:

Thank you for publishing the letter titled "Homosexuality is a 'Lifestyle Choice'" by Dana Zurek (May 21).

I thank you, because printing such ideas from a presumably smart, young, modern UCSD student has set me to thinking of the logic behind his statements, especially surrounding the "choice" aspect of sexuality. I tend to agree, that if sexuality is a choice, there should probably be no special rights or concessions made for it.

I can't help wondering about a few other things that this line of thinking brings up. What about the rights that heterosexuals are afforded in their choice? Student fees will pay for employees' health coverage of spouses and offspring. What about the tax incentives for marrying someone of the opposite sex? What about inheritance laws and alimony?

I also wonder why, given a choice, wouldn't there be more homosexuals? The homosexuals I know are mostly a fun and colorful bunch, creating wild arrays of art and literature and fashion and any other style or creation you can imagine. I have noticed that homosexual lifestyles seem to involve a great level of ambition and aesthetic goals. LGBT people are often quite successful, in great physical shape, have a healthy family life and choose helping careers or volunteerism to compensate for some of the oppression they may feel. Why wouldn't more people want to be like that?

Why do people overwhelmingly choose heterosexuality with its fierce competition for affections, the seemingly insurmountable differences in the psychic make-up of males and females, the unwanted pregnancies and the looming, hopeless divorce rate, among other daunting travails? I must wonder if the letter writer is on to something when he writes. (Need I point out the fallacy of doing something because everybody is doing it?)

This sexuality choice needs to be spelled out clearly to a child growing up. Studies have shown that homosexuals have their first sexual adventure at an earlier age than their heterosexual counterparts and (look it up, this is true) that gay males have larger penises. Isn't this something that children should be told, along with the birds and bees? Guys? Help me out on this one.

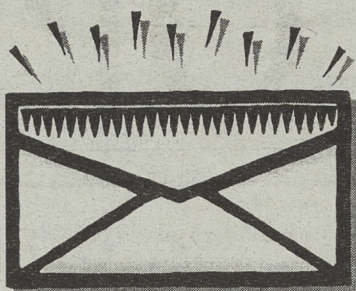
Mr. Zurek is on to something here, something that no resource center is going to address. What we really need is a whole new curriculum to teach and properly correct this oversight of private and public education. We must tell the world's children — trekkies or not — that they have a choice and that heterosexuality may not be the wisest one.

Paul Stravinsky

Arena Questions Not To Be Taken Seriously

Editor:

I would like to address the concerns voiced by Aaron Brady here



Letters to the Editor

The Guardian welcomes letters from its readers. All letters must be no longer than three pages, typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters must also contain a phone number. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Letters may be dropped off at the Guardian office on the second floor of the Old Student Center. Send all letters to:

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last week, particularly those regarding my comments in the Arena column. Brady articulates at length his objection to the fact that not all five colleges are consistently and equally represented in Arena.

May I suggest that UCSD's problems of representation are more likely to be found in the racial make-up of the student body than in the back pages of the Guardian (I am referring here to the under-representation of minorities, a problem made worse by the repeal of affirmative action policies).

Second, I would like to address

Brady's concerns about my comments. What I said in Arena is true — if someone is attacking you, you should be able to kick their ass! What's wrong with that? I'm not saying I have a burning desire to immediately begin pounding the hell out of innocent people (anyway, I'm a total wimp. Mickey Mouse could probably whip my butt).

What I am getting at here is that I think maybe Brady is taking things a little too seriously. Really, aren't there more important things to worry about? Global warming? AIDS? Nuclear tests in India? I'm not really losing any sleep over off-hand comments in Arena.

Let me explain my feelings about "ask Joe Q. Public" questions in newspapers. Someone asks you a silly question. You give them a silly answer. A nice young Canadian takes your picture and you're on your way! I certainly never imagined innocent comments would cause anyone such grief and woe! I guess that's because I've never taken these types of columns seriously. In addition to the high quality graphic design, this "look how silly your fellow students are" feature is one of the best things about the Guardian!

Finally, I would like to say to Aaron, if my comments offended or upset you in any way, I really am very sorry. But I would like to suggest, in the most non-aggressive, friendly, inoffensive let's-have-a-beer-and-forget-about-it kind of way ... that you chill out.

Siobhan Kelley

Admissions Process Still In Question

Editor:

We appreciate the explanation of UCSD admissions policies outlined in last Thursday's Guardian ("Officials Discuss Admit Process," May 21). However, several disturbing questions still remain unanswered.

Because AP classes are factored into the academic index, to what extent do students from wealthy high school districts receive unfair preferences? Statistics show that very few African-American and Chicano students take AP courses (e.g. Chemistry: 1 percent African American, 4 percent Latino vs. 54 percent Asian, 40 percent Caucasian; Biology: 1 percent African American, 6 percent Latino vs. 47 percent Asian, 45 percent Caucasian) because underfunded high schools either do not offer such courses or do not have counselors who direct students into such courses.

If S.A.T. scores are overemphasized, to what extent are under-represented groups at a disadvantage? Recent research shows that S.A.T. exams are not reliable predictors of academic success for Chicano/a and African-American students.

The UC system is presently considering proposals that would place less weight on standardized tests or automatically accept the top 4 percent of all California high schools. In our opinion, the "4 percent solution" ought to be seriously

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FRIENDS: Writer salutes nearest and dearest

Continued from page 4

friend. When you think everyone's out to get you, she assures they're not; when you're positive nobody cares what you think or feel, she reminds you that they might.

She's wise beyond her years and never opens her mouth unless she knows what she's about to say is the gospel truth — or at least it should be. She has the patience of a saint and the soul of an angel.

She never forgets your birthday and can't wait to hear how it went. She'll listen to every gory detail, and give you that look of pity that you need so badly. This selfless friend is possibly the hardest to come by, and certainly one of the most cherished.

Thank you, to my free psychologist, for always caring about what's going on, for always having a solution when I need one and for not giving me the answers when you know I can figure them out for myself. You truly are a wonder.

Let's not forget the least-likely

friend. The one who jumps feet first into your life, fills the holes you didn't think could be filled and then doesn't want any credit for being the answer to your prayers. He's brilliant and amazing and challenges you in so many ways.

He's the newest friend but you feel like you've known him much, much longer. He comes along at precisely the right moment, and does exactly what you wanted without ever being told. He's inspiring and beloved; he makes you feel important because he really cares and finds time for you when there probably shouldn't be any.

You don't want to, but you trust the least-likely friend immediately because he is so honest and straight-forward and you respect him so much. The least-likely is the one who makes you want to be a better person, because he shows you by example how rewarding the experience can be.

Thank you, to my least-likely friend, because I can never find enough wonderful things to say about you (and I'll tell you all of them any day you ask); because you've left an indelible mark of spirit in me (almost single-handedly renewing my faith that there

are still good people out there whom I haven't met); because you simply impress me.

Last, yet certainly not least, there's the roommate. Almost everyone's got one and most of us don't like him or her, but I do. After living together long enough, you feel like an old, married couple — you gripe about each other's bad habits and call each other a pain-in-the-ass but you know when the chips are down, and everyone else is busy, she'll be there, in the freshly cleaned kitchen.

She'll tell you the truth, even if you don't want to hear it, because she knows that's exactly what you need. She reminds you when you're being a bitch. She also teases you incessantly about how wrong all the men in your life are, but it's probably because she's right and she's just "getting your back."

She does good stuff, too. I mean, who else is gonna make you go Rollerblade when you're tired and the sun's not shining? Who else is gonna teach you how to eat right and make you feel moderately guilty when you don't? Who else is gonna lend you her clothes when yours have gotten too big? The roommate.

The roommate provides an almost-unconditional-understanding-of-devotion that you sometimes take advantage of; but you never forget, even for one minute, that you really do appreciate her.

Thank you, to my roommate, because I really do know that you are so much more than the other half of my rent check. I'll never stop loving you, even when I've got my bitch-face on at the end of the day.

Sappy enough? I hope so. I hope everyone reading this understands how truly wonderful these friends of mine are, that these friends know beyond the shadow of a doubt who they are and that they believe every word I've said. These are the people who deserve a tribute, and this is the best way I know how — aside from trying to be as incredible a friend to each of these people as they are to me. I am truly lucky.

I'd like to extend a thank you to my other close friends in random order: Guardian staffers Megan, Tabitha, Jessica, Jonah F., Walt, Kari and Ann; Chris, Scott and Gary; Randy, Anna, Tommy, Joe, Tony, Karim, Philly Joe, Terry S. and, of course, Dora. Don't forget to e-mail me at jessyca_wallace@hotmail.com

LETTERS: Bias of AP courses skews admissions

Continued from page 5

considered. Maybe then UCSD will attain the kind of real diversity it claims to believe in.

Prof. Jorge Mariscal
UCSD Chicano/Latino Concilio
Department of Literature

Dynes Irresponsible in Newt Invitation

Editor:

Apparently, choosing a commencement speaker without student input is wrong — whether he is Clinton or Gingrich. But the way Chancellor Dynes tried to cover up his mistake just disgusts people. Gingrich has long been attacking public education and, certainly, he may be an active and effective advocate for private research universities like Harvard and Stanford, but never for any UC or other public university.

Dynes said "one of the university's most important functions is to serve as a forum for intellectual debates, airing of controversy and the discussion of dissident ideas."

Graduation is not a day for debates! The commencement speech is not to be a "discussion of dissident ideas." Gingrich is welcome to come to UC at any day, any time, for a town hall debate or speech, but not on graduation as our commencement speaker.

While the chancellor claimed that Gingrich should have freedom of speech, the students, who studied so hard for four years and paid huge tuition fees, did not even have the freedom or chance to raise their voices to indicate who we want as our commencement speaker.

Who's graduating? Is the chancellor graduating? Is the administration graduating? No — students are graduating. And we are the people who have to pay \$100,000 for this speaker. The chancellor had from Friday until Monday to decide whom to choose and he didn't ask the students for their opinion — he just e-mailed all of us a few days later.

The process by which Chancellor Dynes chose the commencement speaker is wrong — it is the indisputable truth, and he is trying to cover it up. This is the reason the staff was on strike — to reveal the truth to the public. Many faculty members risk their careers and promotions to tell the chancellor to his face that he is wrong. This is why students are missing their classes to protest, sit in, rally and go to a forum for which Dynes did not even show up. Newt Gingrich should be uninvited, or at least the graduating seniors should vote on this decision.

Gordon Chang

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