

**APPENDIX I: SIGNED PETITIONS TO ESTABLISH A UCSD LGBT
RESOURCE CENTER**

Petitions follow.

May 1998

PETITION TO ESTABLISH A UCSD LGBT RESOURCE CENTER

ATTENTION: UCSD CHANCELLOR ROBERT DYNES

We are concerned that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender members of the UCSD community have unique needs. While we acknowledge that the Chancellor's Office has been supportive toward LGBT issues, we also know that currently University facilities and programs are insufficient to serve these needs completely. We request that the University of California, San Diego establish a professionally staffed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Resource Center to support LGBT students, faculty and staff, to be located in the University Center area of campus at the earliest opportunity. This will bring UCSD in line with its sister campuses and help meet the University's commitment to diversity. This recommendation is entirely consistent with the UCSD Diversity Commission report and it is supported by the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on LGBT issues, the LGBT (student) organizations and many other members of the UCSD community. Thank you for your attention to this petition.

Name	Signature & Date	Address/Mail Code	Indicate Affiliation: e.g. student, staff, faculty, community
<u>TZALY TEEL</u>	<u>Tzaly Teel</u> 5/15/98	<u>735 S. VULCAN ENCINITAS, CA 92024</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Carey Lu</u>	<u>Carey Lu</u> 5/15/98	<u>907 Tunney</u>	<u>community</u>
<u>Ryan W. Enslow</u>	<u>Ryan W. Enslow</u> 5/15/98	<u>5406 Via Papal 9249 Via Marin</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>Anthony Barrett</u>	<u>Anthony Barrett</u> 5-15-98	<u>La Jolla, CA 92097</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>James Miller</u>	<u>James Miller</u>	<u>4475 Bona St San Diego, CA 92109</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>Carla Braunstein</u>	<u>Carla Braunstein</u>	<u>4573 cbraunst@ucsd.edu</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Kari Sivertson</u>	<u>Kari Sivertson</u>	<u>karisiv@juno.com</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>PAUL STRAVINSKY</u>	<u>Paul Stravinsky</u> 5/15/98	<u>1601 1/2 P St Dr. 92009</u>	<u>Staff</u>
<u>Lev Libet</u>	<u>Lev Libet</u>	<u>llibet@ucsd.edu</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Hillel Roz</u>	<u>Hillel Roz</u> 5/15	<u>1202</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Alyson Osborne</u>	<u>Alyson Osborne</u> 5/16	<u>aosborne@ucsd.edu</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>Nathan Rubin</u>	<u>Nathan Rubin</u>	<u>likebutter@adcom</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>Roger Perez</u>	<u>Roger Perez</u> 5/17	<u>4034 Florida SD 9204</u>	<u>grad.</u>
<u>Pedro Orozco</u>	<u>Pedro Orozco</u>	<u>perozco@cybermed.ucsd</u>	
<u>Brett Young</u>	<u>Brett Young</u> 5/17	<u>byoung@ucsd.edu</u>	<u>Student</u>

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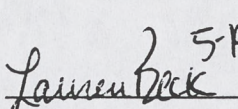
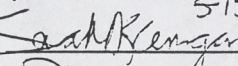
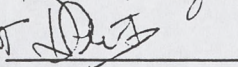
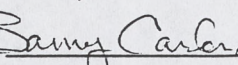
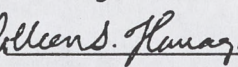
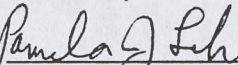
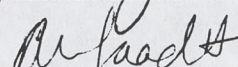
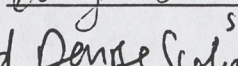
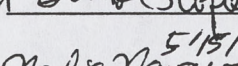
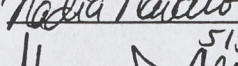
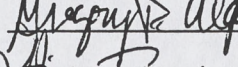
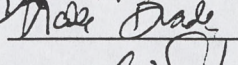
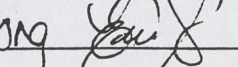
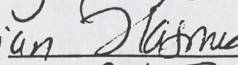
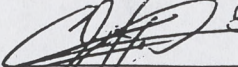
Name	Signature & Date	Address/Mail Code	Indicate Affiliation: e.g. student, staff, faculty, community
Mike Zabracki	Michael Zabracki 5/15	0112	student/faculty/community
Noelle Bahmiller	Noelle Bahmiller 5/15/98	0008	staff
Glenn Federe	Glenn Federe 5/15/98	0519	student/staff
Jessica Neagle	Jessica Neagle 5/15/98	7810	student
Jennifer Snyder	Jennifer Snyder 5/15/98	2011 Chalusamy San Diego CA 92109	student
Kim Johnson	Kim Johnson 5/15/98	3974 W. Wadswell #340 SD CA 92122	Student
Amy Groom	Amy Groom 5/15	2051 Coast Blvd. Del Mar, CA 92014	student
John McKeever	John McKeever	0903	STAFF
Heather Baumhauer	Heather Baumhauer	9505 Gold Coast Dr. #116 San Diego 92126	student
MISHAUNO WOODSON	Mishauno Woodson 5/15/98	P.O. BOX 10713 SAN DIEGO CA 92176	student
Jean Hawes	Jean Hawes	9500 - 0118	staff
Janna Hauden	Janna Hauden 5/15	4008 Camino Calma San Diego, CA 92122	Student
Efy Tal	Efy Tal	3980 LaJolla	student
Seth Koert	Seth Koert 5/15	4337 5th St #926478 UCSD	student
Lizette Rha	Lizette Rha	UCSD	student

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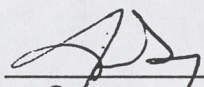
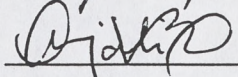
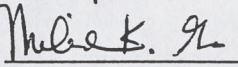
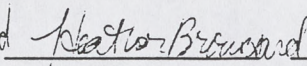
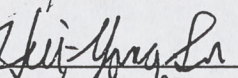
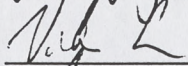
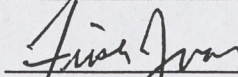
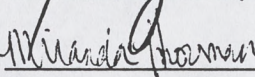
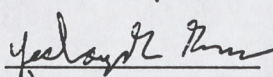
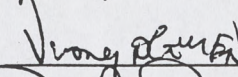
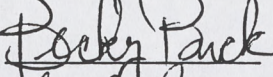
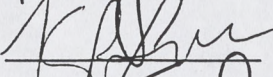
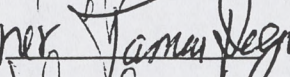
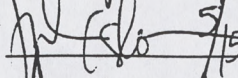
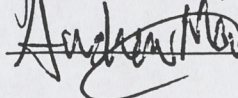
Name	Signature & Date	Address/Mail Code	Indicate Affiliation: e.g. student, staff, faculty, community
Lauren R. Beck	 5/5/98	9450 Gilman Dr. #2030 La Jolla CA 92092	student
Sarah K Lemay	 5/5/98	9450 Gilman Dr. #2215 La Jolla CA 92092	student
DAPHNE PLEASANT		UCSD EXPANSION 9500 Gilman 0196	STAFF
BARNES, CAROLINA	 5/15/98	1009 ESSEX ST #15 SD 92183	STAFF
Colleen Flanagan		8451 Via Mallorca #35 La Jolla 92037	student
Pamela Lehr		5181 Gardner Ave. San Diego, CA 92110	student
Alham Saadot		7031 Camino blonda S.D. Ca. 92112	student
Denise Scofield	 5-15-98	6451 Trina Catalinas #1169 Tucson, Az 85718	student
Nadia Navarro	 5/15/98	8929 Lankford Pl. #24 San Diego, CA 92122	student
Gregory Alger	 5/5/98	9450 Gilman Dr. #92010 La Jolla, CA 92092	Student
Nicole BRANEY		3541 White Pl. SD, CA 92129	Student
Eric Srangsiwong		# 927631	Student
Hasmita Mirassian		#920515	
Clifford Lee		#920301	Student
Rob Schmid		92014	Student

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Name	Signature & Date	Address/Mail Code	Indicate Affiliation: e.g. student, staff, faculty, community
Anna Ong	 5/15/98	MC0410	grad stud.
Anjali Bal		924478 924479	student
Melinda Go		924477	student
Heather Brussard			student
Zhiyong Su		hsu@ucsd.edu	student
Victor Lee		vrlee@ucsd	student
Frisley Jarez		fjarez@ucsd	student
Miranda Thorman		mthorman@ucsd.edu	student
Yeshayah Goldberg		igoldfar@ucsd.edu	student
Vuong Nguyen		VN Nguyen@ucsd.edu	student
Becky Buck		rebuck@ucsd.edu	student
Karen Lunde		klunde@biomail.ucsd.edu	grad student
Tamara Deigner		tdeigner@ucsd.edu	student
JULIE ESCALONA	 5/15	jescalona@rolan.sdsu.edu	stu.
Andrew Moran		gvm@ucsd.edu	Student

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Name	Signature & Date	Address/Mail Code	Indicate Affiliation: e.g. student, staff, faculty, community
<u>Ben SMITH</u>	^{15 May 98} <u>Benjamin A. Smith</u>	<u>UCSD 925538</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Barry Smith</u>	<u>Barry R. Smith</u>	<u>UCSD 925389</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>Karin Peherty</u>	<u>Karin Peherty</u>	<u>UCSD 925565</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Janifer Mardok</u>	<u>Janifer Mardok</u>	<u>4050 3rd Ave SD</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>Liz Carlton</u>	<u>Liz Carlton</u>	<u>4050 3rd Ave SD</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>Steve Young</u>	<u>Steve Young</u>	<u>9450 Gilman Dr</u>	<u>" "</u>
<u>Rachel [unclear]</u>	<u>Rachel [unclear]</u>	<u>9450 Gilman Dr 921784</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>Chris Backey</u>	<u>Chris Backey</u>	<u>9450 Gilman Dr</u>	<u>Student</u>
<u>Ross Graber</u>	<u>Ross Graber</u>	<u>3161 Weale Street La Jolla 92037</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Janet Hansen</u>	<u>Janet Hansen</u>		<u>Student</u>
<u>Dana Lander</u>	<u>Dana Lander</u>	<u>9450 Gilman Dr.</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Sara Sandstrom</u>	<u>Sara Sandstrom</u>	<u>926274</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Valerie Newmark</u>	<u>Valerie Newmark</u>	<u>926008</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Ho Dvany</u>	<u>Ho Dvany</u>	<u>926600</u>	<u>student</u>
<u>Guy Berger</u>	<u>Guy Berger</u>	<u>926455</u>	<u>Student</u>

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<u>PIERRE ZEVALLOS</u>	<u>Rene Zevallos</u> 5/12/98	P.O. Box 124626 S.D. CA 92112	<u>LGBT A Student</u>
<u>Karen Oberg</u>	<u>Karen Oberg</u> 5/12/98	8929 Lombard Pl. #124 S. D. CA 92122	<u>LGBT A Principal Member</u>
<u>Paul Harris</u>	<u>Paul A. Harris</u> 5/12/98	0175R	<u>STAFF</u>
<u>Sally Picciotto</u>	<u>Sally Picciotto</u> 5/12/98	0112	<u>grad student</u>
<u>Anne Ecker</u>	<u>Anne Ecker</u> 5/12/98	4201 Lath Ave #304 SD CA 92103	<u>Undergrad</u>
<u>Lucie P. Cartledge</u>	<u>Lucie P. Cartledge</u> 12 May 98	4053 E 28th Ave #28 SD, CA 92103	<u>STAFF</u>
<u>Greta Goforth</u>	<u>Greta Goforth</u> 5-12-98	304 Village Run West Encinitas CA 92024	<u>Student/Community</u>
<u>KATIE LANE</u>	<u>Katie Lane</u> 5-12-98	9450 Gilman Dr. #926181 La Jolla, CA 92092	<u>Student/Staff</u>
<u>ERIC PETERSON</u>	<u>Eric Peterson</u> 12 May 98	4043 15th Ave #CS SD CA 92103	<u>grad student</u>
<u>danielle Mire</u>	<u>danielle Mire</u> 12 May 98	11814 Moreno Ave Lakeside CA 92040	<u>student</u>
<u>DAVID KIM</u>	<u>David Kim</u> 5-12-98		<u>STUDENT</u>
<u>John Maze</u>	<u>John Maze</u> 5-12-98	0077B-18	<u>Student.</u>
<u>Jih-Fei CHENG</u>	<u>Jih-Fei Cheng</u> 5-12-98	6262 Beechwell Way #224 San Diego, CA 92117	<u>student, LGBT A</u>
<u>Vanessa Terán</u>	<u>Vanessa Terán</u> 5/12/98	9450 Gilman #92175 La Jolla, CA 92092	<u>student</u>

Principal Member
Peer Counselor

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Name	Signature & Date	Address/Mail Code	Indicate Affiliation: e.g. student, staff, faculty, community
Crystal Walker	Crystal Walker 5/16	7374 Princeton Ave La Mesa CA	student
Rochelle Hogan	Rochelle Hogan 5/16	9321 Brehm St La Mesa, CA 92042	student
Gina Wubbenrost	Gina Wubbenrost 5/16	578 Elm Ave Chula Vista, CA 91910	student
Keri Prohitz	Keri Prohitz 5/16	9450 b. f. way 92048 La Jolla 92032	student
Andreas Fisher	Andreas Fisher 5/16	2237 Frank OB CA 92107	community
Robert Nguyen	Robert Nguyen 5/16	1601 S. Douglas Santa Ana, CA 92704	alumnus
Cara Merchi	Cara Merchi 5/16	231 Vine Hill Dr. Napier CA	student
Douglas Gray	Douglas Gray 5/16	3711 32nd St #4 SD CA 92104	staff
Alex Burners	Alex Burners 5/16	1039 San Hill + Encinitas 92024	community
STEVE TRIM	Steve Trim 5/16	3775 Hughes Ave #10 Los Angeles, CA 90034	alumnus
Mark Brown	Mark Brown 5/16	3775 Hughes Ave #10 LA 90034	alumnus
Ben Koskovich	Ben Koskovich 5/16	5635 Arroyo Dr # 291 La Mesa 91942	community
Johanna Pope	Johanna Pope 5/16	10831 Ran. Scepter San Diego, CA 92071	community
DAN HOANG	Dan Hoang 5/16	1215 Cleveland Ave SD CA 92103	student
PJ RAVAL	PJ Raval 5/16/98	125 Archer Dr 17 SD 92103	staff/community

APPENDIX J: *THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE ARTICLE*

(Page A-1)

UCSD drives toward diversity | Chancellor Dynes scripts action plan

Jeff Ristine
STAFF WRITER

02-Jun-1998 Tuesday

Moving the issue of campus diversity to center stage, UC San Diego chancellor Robert Dynes yesterday said he wants his university to offer admission to at least a handful of seniors from every high school in San Diego and Imperial counties.

The proposal, similar to one under review by University of California regents for all eight general campuses, could make the top 4 percent of graduating seniors from each school eligible for UCSD's freshman class, as long as they complete the right courses in high school.

If implemented, UCSD, generally regarded as one of the most competitive campuses in an already competitive system, would become within reach of hundreds of students from poor inner-city and rural schools.

"I believe that students who perform at such a high level in their high schools, often despite inadequate educational resources, have demonstrated that they belong here at UCSD," Dynes said as he outlined a 10-point action plan for diversity.

As part of that plan, Dynes pledged to triple the amount of scholarship money awarded by UCSD and to consider establishing a campus center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students.

And he picked an unlikely figure as "chief diversity officer" to lead the effort, shape policy and ensure that the university's goals are implemented.

"I thought about this a lot, and I believe that I cannot find anyone more committed to this goal than me," Dynes said, announcing he would fill the role himself.

The 10-minute speech was the first time Dynes, in nearly two years as chief of UCSD, has addressed the campus on a single topic. A few hundred faculty members, students and staff members attended.

"As a university committed to diversity, we can be a force away from polarization and strife that's going on and toward mutual respect and an understanding of the strength that comes from diversity," he said.

"What works, we will nurture. What doesn't work, we will change."

Dynes assembled all eight of UCSD's vice chancellors as a backdrop for his speech as a reminder that the diversity program will encompass the entire campus, including the hiring of faculty and staff and admissions to the graduate and medical schools.

In recent months, the issue of diversity has preoccupied UCSD, which is preparing for fall admissions and the first full year of a ban on practices known to supporters as affirmative action and to critics as racial preferences.

A Commission on Diversity, formed by Dynes last year, provided the springboard for some of his recommendations.

A profile of the fall freshman class at UCSD indicates about 10.6 percent will come from historically underrepresented minority groups: African-Americans, Hispanics and American Indians. That compares with 13.9 percent last fall, when UCSD was allowed to consider race as a factor in some admissions.

The "top 4 percent" proposal, which could be considered by the Board of Regents as early as July, would have only a minimal effect on racial and ethnic diversity in the UC system, supporters say. Dynes said it would still give students from throughout San Diego and Imperial counties a chance to "soar."

It's unknown whether it would be possible for UCSD to implement the plan if it is rejected by the Regents at the systemwide level. Several regents last month said they were concerned such an approach to admissions would dilute the "quality" of the student body, even though all those students currently eligible for the UC system would remain so under the proposal.

Dynes said he and Joseph Watson, the vice chancellor for student affairs, are "committed to working with the admissions committee" on the two-county version of the plan.

In yesterday's address at UCSD's Institute of the Americas, Dynes said the university will try to increase its current scholarship base threefold, to \$1 million, by 2002.

Dynes said he will form a diversity council with faculty, staff and student representatives to oversee and assess diversity activities.

The proposed center for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students would provide the type of meeting ground offered through an existing Cross-Cultural Center and Women's

Center. (Emphasis added in this Proposal.)

Dynes said he would ask the diversity council to study the proposed center, which had been recommended to him by his diversity commission, as one of their first orders of business.

Students posing questions to Dynes after the address seemed unimpressed, with some telling him the "action plan" seemed short on action and retention of minority students.

However, sociology professor Hugh Mehan said the notion of working with high schools to better prepare students for UCSD, and then trying to provide them with the economic resources to attend, is "terrific."

**APPENDIX K: *UCSD GUARDIAN* ARTICLE WITH RESPONDING
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Articles follow.

Responding To Letters to the Editor

UCSD Guardian, Thursday May 21, 1998

"Homosexuality is a 'Lifestyle Choice'"

Editor:

I would like to go on record and voice my opposition to the proposed LGBT Resource Center. In the letter, I use the word "homosexuality" as also including bisexuality and transgenderism.

My first objection is that the proposed center is not necessarily (sic) 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 alterations would be devoid this possibility. Having an LGBT Resource Center for gays would make just as much sense as having a "Star Trek" Resource Center of 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 lifestyle that they have freely chosen. A student club, such as the current LGBTA, 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, lifestyle 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

UCSD Guardian, Thursday May 28, 1998
"Heterosexuality May Not Be the Wisest Choice"

Dear Editor:

Thank you for publishing the letter you titled "Homosexuality is a Lifestyle Choice" by Dana Zurek.

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, like, what about the rights that heterosexuals are afforded in their choice? His 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 homosexual lifestyles seem to involve a great level of ambition and aesthetic goals. GLBT 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 it's 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 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

UCSD Guardian, Tuesday, May 26, 1998

"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, 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 alleviate 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

UCSD Guardian, Tuesday, May 26, 1998

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
