



**LGBT CAMPUS
HISTORICAL
COLLECTION**

**2001-2002 General
2002-2003 General
2003-2004 General
2004-2005 General**

XXIII



**LGBT CAMPUS HISTORICAL
COLLECTION AND PROJECT**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO



**LGBT Resource Center
Historical Collection**

2001-2002

Out on Campus

Queer Issues and Queer Identities at **UCSD**

By Nick van Borst / Nightcap

Nestled among shady trees on the corner of Gilman Drive and Myers Road, the **Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Office (LGBTRO)** is pleasantly secluded from the bustle of the nearby University Center. Lit by picture windows, with couches, a computer terminal, and shelves stacked with books on queer issues, art, and culture, the atmosphere is inviting, cozy rather than cramped. The student workers are friendly and welcoming; they appear to be good friends without seeming cliquy. The desk of the office's director, **Shaun Travers**, sits directly in front of the main entrance and is the first thing to greet visitors, while Travers himself is animated, witty, welcoming, and intelligent. Students approaching the office for the first time must undoubtedly feel they are entering an environment where the main concern is not so much their sexuality as their happiness. This amiable and social atmosphere might even give one the mistaken impression that no serious work gets done here. In reality, the office organizes and facilitates numerous campus activities each year, provides outreach for faculty and staff, and publishes a weekly newsletter. Many corporate offices would undoubtedly benefit from observing the LGBTRO's ability to balance a congenial environment with serious administrative activities.

UCSD administration founded the office in 1999, at the behest of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee for LGBT Affairs. UCSD was actually the last UC campus to have a dedicated office, and the LGBTRO has had a somewhat rocky history since its founding. Travers, the first permanent staff member, was hired in May 2001. In August of 2000, the office was kept open for a month by a student worker, after the official office intern resigned. More important than these rocks in the road is the fact that the UC administration accepts the need for an official office of LGBT affairs; unlike the Cross-Cultural Center and the Women's Center, LGBTRO funds come directly from the Chancellor's Office. Before the office opened, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Association (LGBTGA), a student organization funded through AS, had a long history and a large student membership. What needs of the UCSD queer community were not being met by this organization? And are they being met now?

Fundamentally, the LGBTRO addresses a number



(Nightcap Photo / Tom Neeley)

Coming out is still difficult, stereotypes still prevail, queers are still ostracized in the workplace, and, despite recent headway in the area of "official recognition," being queer is as much a social problem today as it was when the LGBTGA was founded thirty years ago.

of concerns within the LGBT community that extend beyond the scope of the LGBTGA, an organization which functions principally as a peer support and social group for students. The resource office, on the other hand, is intended to serve the needs of all queer individuals at UCSD, including faculty and staff, and to provide a more direct access between the queer community and the UC administration. Along with the LGBTGA, and Queer People of Color (QPOC), another student organization, Traver's office organizes and funds numerous LGBT-related events at UCSD each year. It also provides references for queer individuals who seek support, com-

munity, or counseling outside the UCSD community. Quite a full load for an office consisting of one director and a staff of student workers.

This portfolio itself does not explain the numerous issues underlying and involving the queer community at UCSD, nor does it explain why an ongoing need for these services exists. The presence of the office proves how real that need is, a point that the Chancellor and his administration clearly accept. Anyone wanting further proof need only listen to some of the stories told at events like Warren College's "Culture with a Q" last February, where panels of queer students shared their experiences and answered questions or note the near absence of visible queer couples on campus, when queers are known to make up approximately one tenth of the total population. Queer faculty, staff, and students possess a very real presence on this campus, and the issues of the queer community are just as much issues of the UCSD community as a whole. And the fact remains that providing access to counseling services, peer support groups, and sometimes even law enforcement agencies, as well as ongoing attempts to educate society about the pres-

(Continued on p. 10)

(Continued from p. 7)

ence and diversity of queer individuals remain central and defining features of what the "queer community" does. Coming out is still difficult, stereotypes still prevail, queers are still ostracized in the workplace, and, despite recent headway in the area of "official recognition," being queer is as much a social problem today as it was when the LGBTA was founded thirty years ago.

Many queer individuals report feeling ostracized and excluded at UCSD. As mentioned before, queer couples are a rare sight on campus, as are transgendered individuals. A queer staff member, Greg (an alias, respecting his request for anonymity), says he feels uncomfortable being open about his sexuality at his workplace, despite official UC regulations prohibiting discrimination based on sexuality. "I just get the feeling that it wouldn't be appreciated if I were openly gay at work," he said. When working in the private sector, Greg was completely open with his co-workers, and would bring other men to company Christmas parties. He reports feeling distanced from his co-workers at UCSD. "There's a limit to how close you can get to someone when you're not open about your sexuality," Greg said.

While UCSD provides funds for the maintenance of a faculty and staff organization for queers, called the Umbrella Group, Greg's attempts to contact members

have met with little success. The organization appears to have fallen into a period of inactivity. The question arises whether it is sufficient for the administration to merely provide funds for the staff itself to organize a group, or whether they need to take a more proactive role.

The words "climate" and "visibility" receive a lot of airtime in discussions about "main stream" acceptance of queer individuals. While not totally synonymous, the terms refer to two mutually related concepts: the general attitude and behavior among a group towards queer individuals, and the pres-

"People would walk by, staring straight ahead. I could feel them not looking at me. It's like they were afraid of being associated with 'gayness.'"

ence of visible queers within that group — a group's attitude directly affects how comfortable queers will be making their presence known.

One of the co-authors of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee's (CAC) 1997 "climate report" on LGBT affairs wrote, "I don't see UCSD as a very gay-friendly

place." Many students share this opinion, and attribute it to the presence of homophobic speech and a tendency among straight students to avoid being associated with queer stereotypes and individuals.

Kelsey Papst, a student worker at the LGBTRO, discussed her experiences tabling for the LGBTA during welcome week. "People would walk by, staring straight ahead. I could feel them not looking at me. It's like they were afraid of being associated with 'gayness.'" Other students said they would not feel comfortable expressing affection in public, and cited the lack of visible couples as an indication of an underlying fear of recognition among queer students.

While overt acts of homophobic behavior, "gay-bashing," are relatively rare at UCSD, they do occur. In the 1997 report, the CAC reported that "Die Faggots" had been written in the bathroom next to the LGBTA's office in the Student Center. **Mikey Kauffman**, a member of the LGBTA and the student who kept the LGBTRO open during the summer of 2000, reports that the organization still continues to receive prank phone calls on a regular basis. He also cited one incident where he was nearly hit by a car that sped by him with the windows down, while an occupant shouted "faggot!"

"The campus is relatively safe," Kauffman said, "but neither open nor inclusive. People are aware of the

(Continued on p. 12)

Health Care and Social Issues

The Health Care and Social Issues Program offers an interdisciplinary minor that strives to broaden students' academic and experiential undergraduate education as well as promote a rational humanistic approach to health care questions and problems. Students are able to examine questions related to health care from the perspective of several disciplines that include Anthropology, Contemporary Issues, Economics, Ethnic Studies, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, Urban Studies & Planning, and Science, Technology & Public Affairs. The minor requires seven courses, of which at least five must be upper division. Check the program website listed below for specific requirements.

SPRING 2002 COURSES

ANGN 128 – Anthropology of Medicine	L. Ross	Th 2:20–3:40pm
CONT 40 – The AIDS Epidemic	(TBA)	M/W/F 12:20–1:10pm
CONT 136 – Anthropology of Medicine (cross-listed with ANGN 128)	L. Ross	T/Th 2:20–3:40pm
ECON 138B – Economics of Health	J. Shelton	M/W/F 11:15–12:05pm
PHIL 147 – Philosophy of Biology	J. Odenbaugh	M/W/F 12:20–1:10pm
PSYC 1 – Psychology	V. Ferreira	M/W/F 3:35–4:25pm
PSYC 60 – Statistics	B. Clementz	T/Th 9:35–10:55pm
PSYC 104 – Introduction to Social Psychology	N. Christenfeld	T/Th 2:20–3:40pm
PSYC 124 – Clinical Psychology	S. Brown	T/Th 9:35–10:55pm
PSYC 163 – Abnormal Psychology	J. Wixted	T/Th 12:45–2:05pm
PSYC 168 – Psychological Disorders of Childhood	V. Stretch	T/Th 2:20–3:40pm
PSYC 172 – Psychology of Human Sexuality	M. Becker	M 5:45–8:15pm
SOCB 113 – Sociology of the AIDS Epidemic	K. Grove	T/Th 9:35–10:55pm
USP 145 – Aging: Social & Health Policy Issues	B. Brody	T/Th 12:45–2:05pm

Barbara Sanchez, Program Coordinator

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(858) 534-1704**

**Website:
<http://warren.ucsd.edu/health>**

(Continued from p. 10)

politics around gay bashing. Someone's not going to hurt me, they're not going to openly bash me, but they will make me very uncomfortable."

Despite these observations, some queer students do feel comfortable on-campus. Kim Morino, a long-standing member of Queer People of Color, says that she is completely open with her girlfriend. "When you are openly gay," Morino claims, "you realize nobody cares — they're so involved in themselves." However, while she sees UCSD as a fairly comfortable place to be queer, she feels that San Diego itself is a very conservative city.

Judith Halberstam, professor in the Department of Literature and the Critical Gender Studies department, finds the whole question of visibility problematic. "Visibility is one of those crazy words like safety," she said, "I never know what it means. You're either visible and unsafe or invisible and safe." She also finds San Diego a very homophobic and conservative environment. "Since I've been here," Professor Halberstam told me, "I've been called everything from bull dyke to butch cunt." She also pointed out that the question of visibility is moot for some queers, who cannot conceal their identities, who, as she put it, "choose not to model their appearance on a heteronormative place."

This word, heteronormativity, underscores the questions of climate and visibility. Specifically, it refers to groups that define "normal" in terms of heterosexual behavior and stereotyped gender identity. If heterosexuality were not viewed as the norm, the whole question of visibility, of the public presence of transgendered and queer individuals or couples, would be moot; it is only because they are seen as "different" that they are "seen" at all. And if any question remains as to whether UCSD itself is a heteronormative place, have a look at the Fall 2001 issue of *The Koala*, the one with the "opinion piece" about how "dykes" remove able-bodied females from the dating pool.

In addition to questions of visibility, promoting awareness of diversity also figures prominently on the agenda of the LGBTRO and other queer organizations. Dispelling stereotypes has long been a goal of many queer individuals, yet many people continue to think of queers as a predominantly white group. Queer People of Color was founded to create a place both for individuals to discuss the problems of being an ethnic "minority" and a queer-identified individual and to organize efforts to educate the larger community about the existence of queers of color. Kim Morino, who helps organize many of the groups' activities, spoke to me of the specific issues that arise being queer-identified person of color. "People often feel like they have to choose. You can either be queer or a chicano or chicana, or pinoy or pinay, but not both."

She refers to being both queer and colored in American society as being a "double minority." "You have two strikes against you instead of just one," Morino said. Queer and colored individuals face problems both

of appearing invisible to a society that identifies "queerness" as something "white," and being marginalized and excluded within distinct queer, ethnic and religious communities.

Morino and QPOC organize a conference every May to promote awareness about the existence of queers and queers of color. The conference is targeted at high school and college students, and this year's focus will be promoting youth activism. Morino herself speaks on the panels organized periodically by the LGBTRO, like February's "Culture with a Q," and the group sets up tables at student orientations. One of Morino's present goals is seeking mention in the University's admission packet.

LGBTRO student worker Papst addressed other questions of diversity within the queer community. Papst claims she had a difficult time during her own coming out process because she felt like she had to decide between gay and straight identities. She now identifies as bisexual, but not without criticism. "When I go to Hillcrest, my friends all call me 'that bi girl,'" Papst reports.

She considers herself something of a "bisexual activist," working in her personal life to promote awareness that "gay" male or female and "straight" male or female are not the only possible sexual identities, either. In this way, she identifies with transgendered individuals, whom she feels are frequently disregarded and silenced by both the queer and straight communities. "People don't talk about them," she said, "people don't see that they are there."

Education about the presence, the diversity, the complexity, and the experiences of the queer community, remains one of the main goals of that community as a whole and of queer organizations and individuals at UCSD. One recommendation made in each of the CAC's three semi-annual reports on the state of LGBT affairs was that the administration found a Queer Studies department. When I asked Professor Halberstam her feelings on this, she replied, "We don't want one."

"Critical Gender Studies has been a good place for queer studies," Professor Halberstam said. "The CAC

is mostly a staff group and not in touch with the academic structure. Queer studies is not about institutionalization."

For Professor Halberstam, the issues of diversity, visibility, and education all intersect in a very real way. "Visibility is making queer studies a part of the other things going on on-campus — making it central to Border Studies, to Computer Arts. We need to make required classes on gender and sexuality, so it's not just a group of the same core students."

One of the main problems facing the queer community today, to Halberstam and to many of the other individuals interviewed for this piece, is the treatment of queers as a minority group, with particular needs that separate them from "mainstream" society. Halberstam calls this the "pathology model" of queer identity. "There's no reason," she said, "why LGBT people need more counseling than anybody else."

Morino also felt strongly about the question of minority treatment of both queer and colored individuals. "Look at the Cross-Cultural Center," Morino said, "this is what the administration is willing to give to 'minorities.'"

The question of queer individuals constituting a minority obscures the real issue — queers constitute roughly the same percentage of the population of the United States as middle-aged white males. Ultimately, it is not a question of numbers and minorities so much as one of money and power, of social norms and individual exclusion.

The "queer community" is not a group of individuals that share a single lifestyle that differs from the normal behavior of the "mainstream." Rather, it is composed of a very diverse body of people united by their exclusion from a heteronormative society. The ultimate goal of this community is not "special treatment" on account of their "differences," but the acceptance of these "differences" as part of a broad spectrum of sexual and gender identities, of which heteronormative behavior forms only a small part.

nc

(Continued from p. 11)

Ah, my Beloved, fill the cup that clears
Today of past Regrets and Fears—
tomorrow?—Why, Tomorrow I may be
Myself with Yesterday's Sev'n Thousand Years.

To some, Khayyam's words may sound hedonistic, but when in trying times, I like to remind myself that by banishing opinions to which the greatest disturbances of the spirit are due and appreciating the simplest delights, can result in the greatest pleasures.

And so,

Ah, fill the Cup:—what boots it to repeat

How Time is slipping underneath our Feet:
Un-born tomorrow, and dead yesterday,
Why fret about them if Today be sweet!

nc

آن قصر که جشید در او جام گرفت
آه بویچه کرد و روز و بزم آرام گرفت
بهرام که گور میگردنی همه عمر
دیدم که چلو ز گور بهرام گرفت



A.S. works with LGBTA for Safe Zone Council seeks way to make gay students more comfortable

By **DANIEL WATTS**
Contributing Writer

The A.S. Council is joining with UCSD's alternative lifestyle organizations to create a program to make students leading alternative lifestyles feel more comfortable on campus.

A.S. President Jeff Dodge, in conjunction with Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Office Director Sean Travers and Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Association principal member Brian Latham, proposed bringing the "Safe Zone" program to campus. The program, which would draw upon \$4,000 of A.S. Council funds, originated at Texas A&M, where Travers previously worked.

Latham was a resident advisor last year. He said that his job made him realize the need for such a program.

"I know there's a demand for it on campus," he said.

There are two ways in which Safe Zone might work.

In one scenario, departments would provide sensitivity training for their faculty. The training is designed to increase staff

See **LGBT**, Page 2

LGBT:

Program might use allies idea

Continued from page 1

awareness of alternative lifestyles and needs specific to those who lead them. Staff members who participate and pledge to become aware of LGBTA issues would place identifying marks, such as stickers, on their office or classroom doors, stating that the room inside is a "Safe Zone" for LGBT students.

Another option is a more individual-oriented approach, dubbed the "Allies" program. Here, individuals would decide on their own to undergo training. The trainee could then opt to identify his personal space by use of a marker as a separate "Safe Zone."

Latham thinks such a program would get a lot of support.

"We've had a lot of interested heterosexual allies approach us looking for an outlet to show their support for the LGBT," he said.

UC Santa Cruz has a program that resembles the proposed Allies program. Students sympathetic to LGBT issues attach pink triangles bearing the word "Ally" to their dorm or apartment doors.

"The staff here has had sensitivity training on different topics," said UCSC sophomore Nicole Chiodo. "But with students involved, I think it probably gives [LGBT students] an even better feeling because it lets them know that they have a safe place among peers."

A program similar to Safe Zone

See **SAFE**, Page 8

Safe:

LGBTA works with A.S. Council on program

Continued from page 2

existed at UCSD a few years ago, according to Dodge, but it was inconsistent across campus. Since the program did not exist on a universitywide level before, this time the A.S. Council has stepped in to help bridge the gap between the LGBTA and the campus community.

"We feel like there's a necessity to bring LGBT issues to the forefront of the university discussions," Dodge said. "We as an A.S. feel it's important to construct a program that emphasizes all levels of each LGBT issue and work to create awareness on the campus."

As a student organization, LGBTA will work with the A.S. Council in the program.

"Right now, we're working as an advisor to A.S.," Latham said. "Later, we'll be involved in recruiting members to be involved in the Safe Zone program."

Drag kings



Lyon Liew/*Guardian*

In step: Performers imitate the Backstreet Boys during the "Divas in Denial" variety show, held Feb. 8 in the Price Center.

features

KINGS, QUEENS &

Divas

BY *Claire J. Vannette*,
FEATURES EDITOR

The
LGBTQA
drag
show
turns
gender
on its
ear

It's 6:45 on Friday night, and in the Price Center Theater, a guy in a cheerleader's uniform is adjusting his brassiere.

He looks downstage at one of his similarly attired friends and asks gravely, "Are my boobs bigger than yours, Todd?"

A girl in boxy, mannish clothes leers, "Yeah, I want to go out with *Todd* — he has better tits." She laughs, and adds, "Sorry, I'm being a heterosexual male."

Divas in Denial, the UCSD Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Association's seventh-annual drag show, wouldn't start until 8 p.m., but the gender-bending was already well under way.

Drag, cross-dressing, transvestism — under any name, the practice of wearing the clothes of the opposite sex and often attempting to "pass" as a gender not your own — is nothing new; remember that only men were allowed to perform on stage in ancient Greek theater and in Shakespearian England.

The LGBT community has been identifying through drag for quite a while, too — so much so that LGBTQA principal member Brian Latham considers the event "like [the LGBTQA's] culture night, our spirit night."

He explained, "This is where the community comes together; we share a part of our culture with each other and the rest of the community. We get to run around and celebrate and do the kind of stuff that people weren't able to do even 10 years ago."

Jennifer Hartman, a go-go dancer at the San Diego bar The Flame, was asked to dance to Pink's "Get This Party Started" in the show. She explained drag in terms of theater.

"I think that everyone has their own method of expressing themselves, and whether you're an artist or a drag king or whatever you are ... the whole thing is the theatrics of it all," she said. "It's whoever you want to be at the

See **DRAG**, Page 10

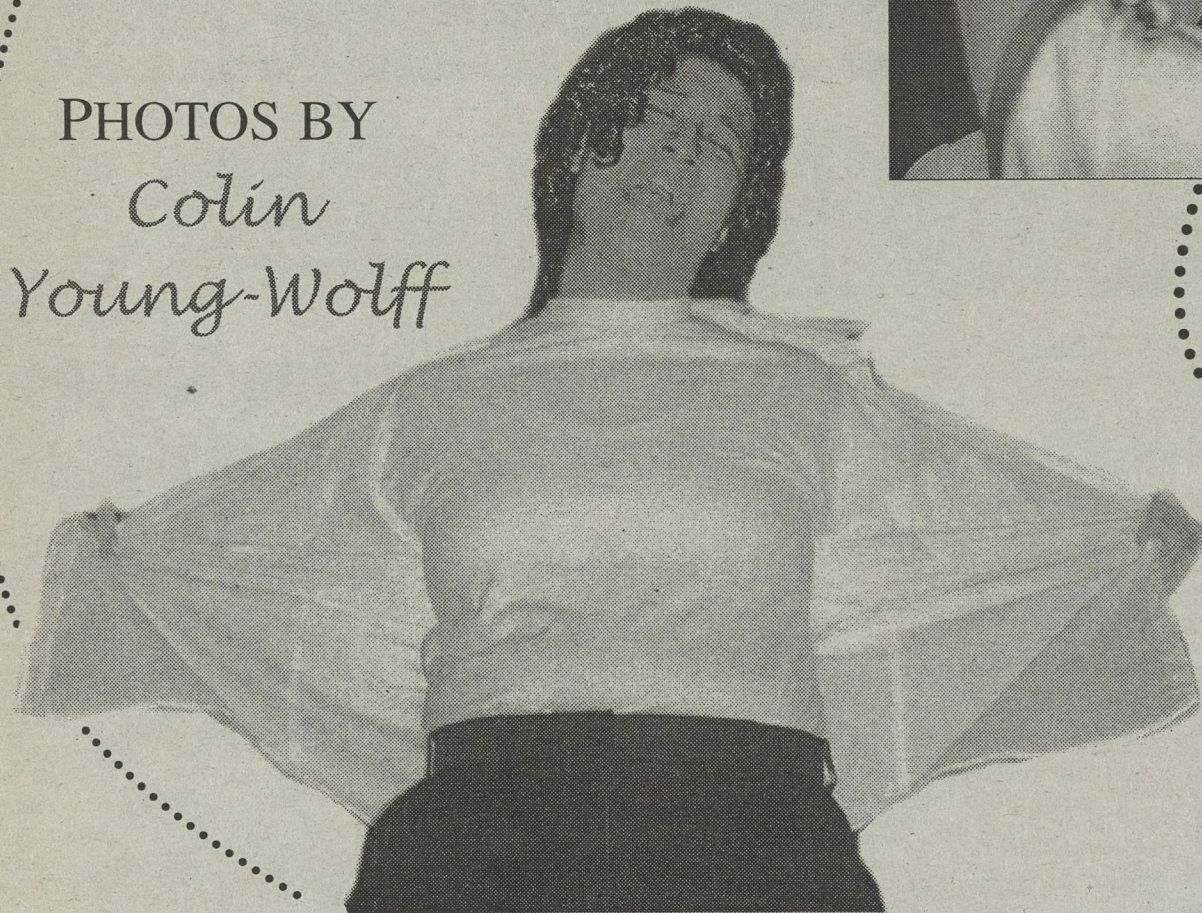


School spirit: One of the UCSD "Queerleaders," an LGBTQA member and participant in the "Bring It On" sketch, prepares for the show.

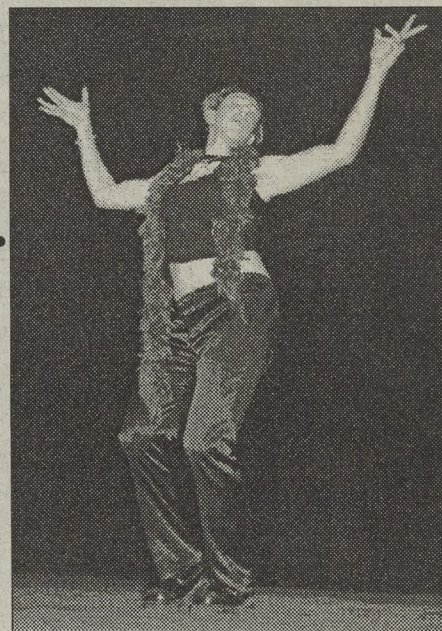


Expert help: Revelle sophomore Sean LaPerruque gets some makeup assistance from another LGBTQA member.

PHOTOS BY
*Colin
Young-Wolff*



Dancing king: Participant Kim Marino portrays the King of Pop — in drag king style — lip syncing and dancing to Michael Jackson's "Billie Jean."



Homage: Under the stage name Harmony, Mikey Kaufman of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Office performs Sarah McLachlan's "Sweet Surrender."

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Drag:
 Participation in show is
 'performance art' for some
 Continued from page 9

moment."
 In the men's room, with 30 minutes to showtime, participant Mikey Kaufman applied eyeshadow to Revelle sophomore Sean LaPerruque in the men's room adjacent to the makeshift backstage dressing room. Kaufman explained that his involvement with "Divas in Denial" is about more than women's clothing.

"I got started the first year I came out, and I knew it was something that I've always wanted to do: do drag, perform, be in front of an audience, gender-bend, what have you," Kaufman said.

And how did he choose to lip sync "Sweet Surrender" and "Ice Cream," songs by Lilith Fair founder Sarah McLachlan?

"Sarah McLachlan is my goddess, and this is the second year I'm doing her, so it's not so much drag for me as it is performance art," he said.

LaPerruque weighed in on the drag experience as well: "It's very interesting to feel what a girl feels like, and all the crap that —"

See **GENDER**, Page 12

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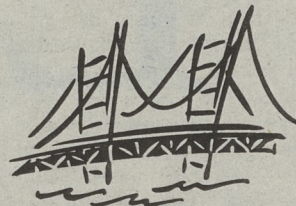
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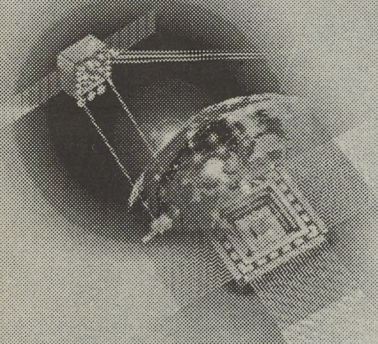
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■ **UCSD, from page 14**

ognized it as a priority for them.
 "We were upset, because a lot of times at this school diversity is not really focused on and for us it's important," said Donnell, one of the RA's who coordinated the program. "We were looking forward to that part of our training and we felt that it was important, because it's something that our campus needs to be more supportive of."

A large crowd of students turned out to actively participate in the event, which lasted for three hours. The lines at the information tables were long at times, with people waiting for their turn to learn about the issues faced by the GLBT community.

"The way we all saw it was if one person got something out of this, it was all worth it. So when so many people showed up, it was really gratifying," added Juan, another member of the planning committee.

Even students who did not come out to take part in the events couldn't escape the speakers. M.E. Stevens, who talked about gays and the law, took her turn at the microphone to call out to the students in the dorms and remind them that there was a gay presence at UCSD.

"We have 1,400 students living here and not one of them got away from the fact that this was happening," Josh, one of the residential advisors



who helped promote the event, added. "At the very least, all of the residents know that the RA's are a resource for information and the community is a lot more accepting than they thought before. I think we broke some ground today."

The event was student run. All of the RAs on campus promoted the event and worked at the educational tables to make sure that their residents knew it was supported by the entire staff. "I am really impressed that they took on a topic that they anticipated could have raised some eyebrows, or for some reason addressed something that was seen as a cultural taboo," Lisa Root, an assistant resident dean at UCSD's Warren College told the *Times*. "They really have taken so much into consideration in promoting the lifestyle and the culture, along with education about stereotypes and hate crimes."

According to the Ras, this was the first event of its kind to be held at Warren College. The students worked in conjunction with the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Resource Office, which provided them with the GLBT panel and information at the tables during the event. ■

■ **FELDMAN, from page 16**

years within the Democratic Party as an active supporter and fundraiser for local and statewide campaigns and initiatives, will give him a unique and effective background for political office.

Not everyone agrees.
 "We started this campaign last year as a grassroots effort," Feldman said. "I went out door-to-door and walked the streets and visited businesses in West Hollywood collecting signatures to get my name on the ballot. It's an old-fashioned campaign — we have a very large field organization and they're out every day. But to be totally honest, I've approached a large number of larger organizations, and I think because Henry Waxman has been good on a lot of gay and lesbian issues, there's a lot of reticence about getting behind somebody else — even a gay person — even though that would promote progress for the community.... The message I'm providing is that I'm certainly going to be as good as Henry Waxman on all of our issues and there is an added plus that I'm actually gay."

Although California has never elected an openly gay person to a national level, there have been a number of openly gay women elected to state and local office. For some reason, elected gay men are still not as common. "I'm not sure why that's the case, to be honest," said Feldman. "I

haven't reached a conclusion about it.... I also don't know if you can generalize from our experience here in California, where we have had just four women and no men elected at the state level, to the rest of the country. At the congressional level right now, there are three men and one woman.

"California has never elected an openly gay person to federal office, and I think it's time that we do. That message is starting to get through to people, but frankly, all of my support has had to come one person at a time. For instance, we have a great event coming up on Feb. 16 that's organized by a group of high profile lesbians in the community ... and Women on a Roll have endorsed me and are supporting the event, but the political organizations are taking more time, being more cautious."

If this campaign is unsuccessful, Feldman plans to keep building support in order to run again. "I'm committed to public service," he maintains. "I'm in it for the long run." ■

Look for the **new** issue of the
GAY & LESBIAN TIMES
 every **Thursday evening!**

Local attorney vows to fight hate crime, corruption as DA

Aguirre sole Democrat in district attorney's race

by Pat Sherman
Editor

Of three candidates vying to replace Republican incumbent Paul Pfingst in the San Diego County District Attorney's office, two candidates, Deputy District Attorney Mark Pettine and Superior Court Judge Bonnie Dumanis, are also Republican. The sole Democrat vying for the top notch spot in San Diego County law enforcement is local attorney Mike Aguirre. Though it is a nonpartisan race, across the board almost the entire lineup of current San Diego County public officials is Republican.



San Diego County District Attorney candidate Mike Aguirre

Though Aguirre is running against Pettine and Dumanis — an open lesbian — the husband and father with a record of support for the GLBT community maintains that, regardless of who wins, the three candidates are united in their goal of ridding the DA's office of Pfingst's corrupting influence.

In a historical first for any San Diego County district attorney, Pfingst received a vote of "no confidence" from 68 percent of those employed in the DA's office.

The former head of the office's Economic Fraud Unit, Peter Longanbach, recently plead guilty to using county secretaries to work on his personal real estate business during office hours. Though Pfingst was alerted to the situation several years before it was uncovered, he failed

see AGUIRRE, page 19 ■

Court to review second-parent adoptions case

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The California Supreme Court agreed to review a lower court's ruling that said same-sex couples cannot lawfully adopt children.

All seven justices of the high court agreed in their private weekly conference to review a San Diego appellate court's October ruling that said the law does not authorize such adoptions, of which there have been thousands.

So-called second-parent adoptions are those in which a biological parent's unmarried partner gains parental rights.

The 2-1 ruling Oct. 25 by the 4th District Court of Appeal in San Diego found no legal authority for second-parent adoptions that allow unmarried partners to legally gain equal status as parents. The American Civil Liberties Union has denounced the court's October decision, claiming it jeopardizes the financial and emotional well-being of children who have been adopted in California via the procedure. Gay-rights organizations had estimated the ruling could affect 10,000 to 20,000 adoptions over the past 15 years.

"We are all gratified and relieved that the court is going to review this decision," said Jennifer Pizer, of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund.

After the initial ruling, some California lawmakers said they would change the law, but no such legislation has been introduced.

If a parent is no longer a lawful guardian, the child may not inherit from the parent. Also, the child may not be able to get health care under the parent's insurance plan and the parent may also be barred from consenting for the child's medical care.

The case involves lesbian couple Annette Friskopp and Sharon Silverstein of San Diego. Silverstein had a son through artificial insemination in 1996 and Friskopp won approval from a county judge for a second-parent adoption.

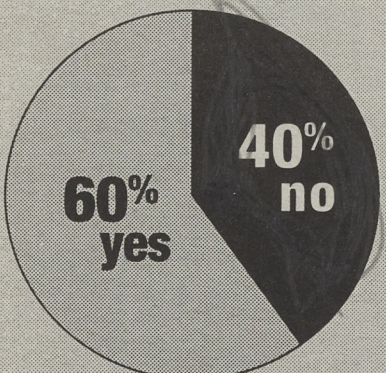
Silverstein gave birth to another child in 1999 and Friskopp petitioned for adoption. But the pair split up and Silverstein sought to withdraw her consent for the adoption as it was pending.

A trial judge said Silverstein had waited too long to withdraw the adoption consent. But an appeals court said there was no law that even allowed the adoption.

The Supreme Court did not indicate when it would hear the case. ■

READER POLL

■ Do you support the right of those who do not believe HIV causes AIDS to stand in front of The Center protesting, on the day people come to get tested for HIV?



Next week's question:

Are you registered to vote in the March 5 Primary Election?

To respond, call (619) 299-6397, ext. 103
YES/NO

GLANCE TO THE PAST

■ Ten years ago, on Feb. 8, 1992, the "Heart Strings" AIDS national fundraiser debuted in San Diego. Hosted by national spokesperson Christopher Reeve, the musical stage production set a goal of raising \$5 million dollars to be split between local AIDS organizations in various host cities. The one-night only San Diego performance took place at Symphony Hall and featured a performance by singer Thelma Houston and a display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt.

UCSD campus gets a lesson in GLBT 'Culture with a Q'

By Travis D. Bone
Reporter

An event titled "Culture with a Q" took center stage at UCSD's Warren College last Saturday, Feb. 2, when students turned out in force to learn more about the GLBT community. The program, which took place in the middle of the residence life complex, drew a crowd of gay and straight students who came out to listen to members of UCSD's GLBT community participate in a question and answer panel, and to hear local attorney and gay rights activist, M.E. Stevens, offer her usual rousing speech.

"About three months ago the (residential advisors) who coordinated this came to me and asked me, 'What resources can you give us,'" Shaun Travers, the director of the LGBT Resource Office at UCSD told the *Gay and Lesbian Times*. "I gave them just about every brochure on my rack and talked to them about ways that they could make the event educational. For example, as you go around the tables, you get (different) beads at (each) of the tables and you learn some things."

Tables at the event had information on hate crimes, gay and lesbian history, coming out, laws related to the GLBT community, stereotypes, and resources that were available to students on campus. The beads that Travers referred to were collected at various tables so that once students had visited all of the tables, they would have the makings of a



Members of UCSD's LGBT Resource Center

rainbow key chain — which was also their ticket for a free BBQ lunch held at the event.

"I think there is just an ignorance about it or they know it just from television or the stereotypes," said Ket, a residential advisor who helped plan the event. "When we did skits at orientation about campus issues, whenever we did ones on gays and lesbians, there would be some giggling. There was some ignorance about it and it was a taboo subject, so we chose to take a proactive approach to helping them learn about it."

Residential Advisors from Warren College at UCSD, who took a very active role in planning the event, are trained in a wide variety of diversity issues before the school year starts. This fall, their training with the LGBT Resource Center fell on Sept. 11, and as a result, that part of their training was temporarily postponed, but the residence life staff still rec-

see UCSD, page 18 ■

other members of the spoken-word troupe Sister Spit write and perform pieces on subversive sex practices in San Francisco's dyke subculture. Sister Spit performer Shar Rednour has teamed up with her partner with S.I.R. productions to make all-dyke porn, depicting scenes of butch-femme desire involving strap-ons and other toys.

These scenes of blatant desire and sex would have been rejected by principles of 70's second-wave feminism for many reasons: beliefs that butch/femme dykes are continuing the oppressive heterosexual paradigm, pornography contributes to violence against women, the vaginal orgasm is a myth used to support compulsory heterosexuality, making the lesbian use of dildos unacceptable, and the list goes on...

Citing cultural production as the mainstay of the third wave is not to say that the movement has taken place entirely outside of academic institutions. The interesting thing about this sex-positive position of the third wave is its adoption by intellectuals. Academics are writing about porn, lecturing on porn, even producing porn. Performance artist Annie Sprinkle, self-proclaimed "post-porn modernist/pleasure activist" speaks regularly at academic conferences and is probably included in more performance studies courses than Ibsen.

While the examples I've given may seem specific to more urban cultures and to the confines of the Ivory Tower of academia, there are many local examples I could give to cite the adoption of sex-positive ideals into our cultural life. Consider the occasional raunchiness of the drag king shows, dyke punk band Ladwig's adapting of "My Sharona" to "My Vagina" and the emergence of events such as the recent VaginaFest. So these ideas of the sex-positive certainly haven't evaded our cultural life, but what about our politics? It is my contention that our queer community has an inconsistent stance on the third wave, simultaneously embracing certain radical cultural practices while rejecting the politics that follow them. How do we pinpoint the locations of entrance, acceptance and rejection of certain discourses and notions of radical cultures?

Selective Perversions: Narratives of Repression and Liberation

It seems that in postmodern theory one is supposed to understand everything as discourse: history, gender, race, sexuality, narratives of personal experience, literature, art. For instance, Foucault writes in *The History of Sexuality* that instead of passively accepting the age-old idea that Victorians were universally sexually repressed, academics must look at the various discourses in which ideas of sexuality could present themselves, whether it be medical, governmental, or judicial. Further, all ideas of repressed or liberated sexualities are irrelevant. Sexuality has always and will always be discussed, but it leaks out into different discourses which allow it to be regulated in different ways.

While sometimes confounding, this does account for the inconsistencies in our liberations and repressions, especially in our local community. Why do we celebrate drag kings but shun transgendered dykes? Why does your girlfriend want to be spanked but thinks the idea of play piercing to be grotesquely extreme? Perhaps because the boundary between the acceptable and the radical isn't the virtual chasm that we construct it to be through our rhetoric, but rather a fragile and wavering thin line. This rhetoric, or discourse, is really the only structure that keeps sex toys on one side of the line and non-monogamy on the other.

This sort of architectural metaphor reminds me of Gayle

Rubin's ground-breaking essay, "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality." By delineating in quasi-mathematical charts the boundaries of which sexual practices are considered normal and moral and which are radical and immoral, Rubin proved that these boundaries are constructed rather than natural. Synthetic, rather than innate. And most importantly, intensely political.

The sexual is political. Not in an innate sense, but because political views will always arise around sexual practices. These views are shrouded in the rhetoric of the "moral," although there is really no actual, essential grounding for the belief that sex is connected to morality. For instance, why are STD's often made to seem more of a moral, rather than health concern?

The queer community often attempts to eschew these prejudices much in the way we try to reject identity politics, by de-politicizing them. "I'm not butch, I'm just being who I am" or "I don't think of myself as queer, I just fall in love with the person, not the gender." Sound familiar? It should, because this way of reasoning has become so common in our community that it's seen as a natural response rather than a rhetoric that evades all politics and meaning. This is the reasoning that says, "I'm not political, I'm a lesbian because I love women," avoiding the fact that queerness will always be political, whether you like it or not.

A Call for Change: Recognizing Discourse, Making Politics Visible

I spent a week in San Francisco during Pride last year. I was there for an academic film conference, and was particularly interested in a panel on pornography. Transgender photographer Del LaGrace Volcano spoke about making tranny porn, and showed clips from his projects. Annie Sprinkle was on the panel, tracing her history from porn star to "post-porn modernist," also showing footage of videos she had edited to comment on the power of pornography and its political potential. It didn't seem strange to the audience to be watching porn together in the posh halls of the conference building, but rather a given fact of the effects of third wave feminism on academia.

The panel did however provoke quite a bit of discussion on the topic of queer pornography, its uses and its future. While Del talked about his aspirations of making dyke porn, others argued that it had already been done with the aforementioned S.I.R. production of *Hard Love* and *How to Fuck in High Heels*. This argument escalated to the point that I found myself whisked off in a car with Del, a handsome intellectual butch named Al who was my date, an intersex activist, and a self-proclaimed "orthodox Jew transvag" to the home of the late pro-sex dyke activist Kris Kovick for all of us to partake of the dyke porn and settle the argument.

While no one ever did come to an agreement, it seems that these discussions are exactly what our community is lacking. To avoid the dangerous cycle of oppressive politics disguising themselves in discourse, there must be an awareness of this discourse. For instance, a drag king saying "I don't want to be a man and I'm not butch, I just like entertaining people," can no longer be taken naturally as the absolute and overall sentiments of the community; like scoffing at ideas of radical sex such as S/M, refusing to speak openly about fetishes and non-monogamy or shunning those who do, and only adopting cultural rather than political elements of the sex-positive third wave. These statements must be recognized as discourse, as ingraining the fears of our community and denying the erotic and sexual politics that these statements are attempting to eschew.

Queeries from the UCSD LGBT Resource Office

By Valerie Burns, LGBTRO student intern



These Divas Weren't in Denial!

The Drag Show "Divas in Denial", held on February 8th, was a huge success. It was close to 2 hours of great drag entertainment, containing performances from UCSD students as well as the San Diego Drag Kings. The UCSD student highlight performances were very competitive with those of the professional kings. The office favorites were both done by the Resource Office's own student interns: Kimberly Merino and Harmony (Mikey Kaufman). Kimberly Merino did "Billie Jean" in full gloved-one attire and Harmony returned this year with more Sarah Maclachlan hits including "Ice Cream" and a disco version of "Sweet Surrender." The LGBTA boys pleased the crowd with electrifying performances from *Bring it On* as well as a Disney medley. The "Backstreet Boys" returned this year from a one-year sabbatical, doing a medley of boy band hits including NKOTB's "The Right Stuff." Over 200 rowdy patrons packed the house to cheer and jeer the performers. One of the most memorable performances was when San Diego Drag King Tommy Salami sang a rousing version of Tenacious D's "Fuck Her Gently." This was the 7th annual UCSD Drag Show and as always was a huge success. Join us next year for Drag Show 2003!

Gaily Forward to "Queer All Directions"

The UCSD LGBT Resource Office will be sending over 30 people to this year's UCLGBTIA conference held at UCB February 22-24. Look in the next issue of *The Lavender* to hear how the conference was. For those interested, every year the conference is host to 2 days of workshops and speakers and is open to all, students or not. The UCSD LGBT Resource Office is looking

forward to 2004 when UCSD will be host to this huge historic queer conference.

Angry Queers Make Presence Known on Valentine's Day

On Valentine's Day the UCSD LGBT Resource Office headed a same sex marriage action on library walk at UCSD. The effort stressed the covert inequality and discrimination that queer students, faculty, and staff face on February 14th. Information was provided on the current same-sex marriage situation in California, the US, and the world.

Gender Queeries?

Queering Gender is a new workshop/discussion that the Resource Office hosts Monday nights at 8pm. It is led by Resource Office student assistant Mikey Kaufman. These informal meetings contain discussions of gender, the sex-gender matrix, the male/female dichotomy, and transgender identities. These meetings are open to all. Directions to the Resource Office can be found at our website, <http://lgbtro.ucsd.edu>.

Movin' on Up! -to the east Side!

Sorry folks but the Resource Office won't be moving until March 7th or March 8th. The date has been pushed back to accommodate our busy schedules. Count down to more space!

Burned Out by Tainted Love? Another LGBTA Dance!

February 15th was the date of the first dance of the quarter. "Tainted Love," the title of the queer dance, was a terrific success as expected. The next LGBTA dance will be March 9th, a Saturday. Free refreshments! Come and dance to music spun by DJ Trae! The dances are held at Porter's Pub at UCSD's Old Student Center. They run from 9pm to 1am. Hope to see ya there!



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Resource Office**
*Enhancing Connection and Community
among LGBT faculty, staff, students, and
our allies at UCSD*

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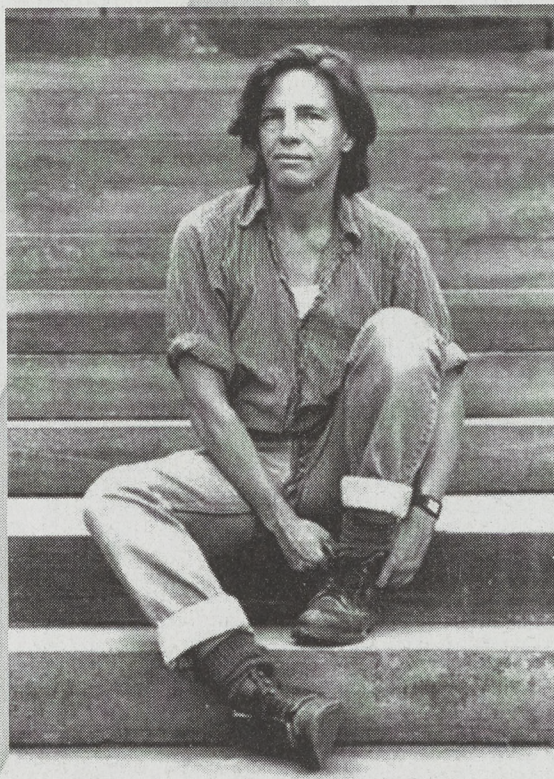
rad if you would come and read here, you could be the feature!" And I'm thinking Oh God, well ok. And it just turned to be this great thing, it was when Sister Spit was doing open mikes at the Coco Club, it was just crowded with girls, and I hadn't done an open mike in years. I recognized the scene, but it was an all girl scene, which I had never seen before. Michelle had turned all these people on to my work and it was just kind of this *connecting*. When I came to New York in the 70's, the poetry scene was totally different, it was Ginsberg and them, they were all my age now, and they were all fags but I was still hanging out with a bunch of straight boys, mostly it was a guy's scene. The thing that was so cool when I met Michelle was that I met that crowd of girls that I wanted now, twenty years younger than me, but we met and it was like my work got heard. And Michelle is so great, I felt like I had met my generation at last. Only there's the age gap, and you can't throw that away because it's real, the age difference is real, but I just feel like what they're doing aesthetically this generation of women is so cool, it's so hot.

GS: How do you think about the unconventional structuring of your novels, for instance *Cool for You*, which is structured into these little short narratives that sort of have a life of their own?

EM: Right, well part of it is just the way I write, I have a poet's attention span. I operate out of a lot of trust, I have a thought and then I finish it and then the next thought comes, and I try not to get in there and think "well, that doesn't follow that" because it *does*, it just *did*. It's about associations, even if I can't see the connection now, it's coming. It's beautiful; I think about weaving with all these different colors, I think "Ok, a little more red now."

GS: Yesterday at the reading [at UCSD] you said that you are opposed to narrative, do you mean that there's another force that moves a novel other than what is traditionally thought of as narrative?

EM: Yeah, I think there are other narratives. When people look at narratives, I mean the classic beginning, middle and end of a story, I know I'm not the first person to suggest that...it's kind of like the narrative of the male orgasm perhaps. You know what I mean? Perhaps if the writer were female, or perhaps that isn't the only way a man could have sex, that "I know where I'm going, I know where I'm going, I'm getting there" kind of thing, that there are more ways to get there, and maybe there are many orgasms in a book. Think about if



you're writing about a kid sitting somewhere, I mean wouldn't the kid just sit there and look at their foot for a long time? Like when experimental film started, it was okay to just show a record turning, or focus on a tree for a long time. And people who don't like experimental film are like "Okay, okay I see the tree" but no, if you can't stand that, you *don't* see the tree. And there's the right to do that in fiction.

GS: It's strange how that Aristotelian "male orgasm" strand of Realism has become such an oppressive regime in literature and theatre...

EM: Right, as if there were one reality. You can be entirely experimental and perhaps be a greater realist. I mean what's so real about that conventional novel, it's the most artificial thing in the world.

GS: Are you interested in representing your reality?

EM: Oh sure, I feel like I've always written from a place where I felt was endangered. The thing I said yesterday about being my own biographer, my own "Boswell," meant that there was such a sense of being a female, the obvious identity things of being gay, being an artist from a working-class family. I mean

I was the first person in my family to go to college you know, I should have been a school teacher. That's the weird thing about thinking about taking this job [at UCSD]. Why am I suddenly being the good girl at 52? Or the good boy, or whatever...

GS: Can you describe your experiences coming to New York in the 70's and working at St. Mark's Church? What was going on at the time?

EM: Patti Smith was working there when I first got to New York, and you know, Jim Carroll, Robert Lowell, Yoko Ono, people who were really well known were still performing there, Williams Burroughs. It was a real poetry rock kind of moment when I first came to town. You know, I went to graduate school in Queens for like two months, but what was the point? I as commuting out to the boroughs, and here was the East Village with cheap rent and everyone was in a

band, punk rock, there was a whole kind of like poetry-music fusion going on at the moment that made it seem like, why would a poet want to be in the academy when you were out here?

GS: Did you feel that there was an interweaving of performance and literature going on?

EM: Well, there was sharing spaces, there were no performance spaces in the 70's, just The Kitchen and St. Mark's Church. It was Spalding Gray, Mabou Mines, Stuart Sherman, Laurie Anderson, they were all just doing little performances around. Performance, dance, writing, they were all very blended at the time. Part of it was real estate, there were cheap apartments, cheap lofts, people were neighbors and had parties, and everybody went. In the 80's it seemed like everything changed. It had nothing to do with money. There was this guy, you probably know about these people, who was living outside for a year and then tied himself to that woman for a year...And so he would announce appearances...And all these people came, it was very old avant-garde, I was a kid then and they had been doing this stuff for twenty years, everybody would just sort of show up and bring a bottle of wine, take a picture...and that was it, it was like this ritual. Or, going through Soho and seeing Stuart Sherman performing on a street corner. Not for money. Or ten people would show up at someone's apartment to watch someone crawl across the floor very slowly. It was like, we are initiates to a certain reality, and we are witnessing it and maybe someone would take a picture or document it, but that would be it. And suddenly in the 80's everyone was doing HBO shows.

GS: How did your decision to run for President come about?

EM: Bush gave that speech about the politically correct in 1990, about the real danger to freedom of speech is the minorities, homosexuals, women, just people who are complaining too much. And the New York Times said that was the beginning of the 1992 campaign trail, that freedom of speech would really be an issue in this campaign and when I read that I thought I'm 40 years old, I'm sure I can run. So I went to the New York Board of Elections, and I just started running. It was just this ludicrous thing, I was on MTV, it was really wild. But I really felt that as a poet, I attacked the idea of distributing poetry differently. My point was that, if you added up all the people in America who were working class, under \$25,000 a year, who were female, who were queer, who were artists, if all of us put our votes together, you know I could be elected. And so, I'm your representative. There's nobody running who needs health-care, I need it, I don't have it! I will get it for you. So logically, it made so much sense and it was really kind of fun.

Tattoo: A Unique Reclamation of Power and Identity

By Lauren Freiser

They come in all shapes and sizes. Some are full of color, while others make a much more profound statement in simply black and white. They can be found strategically wrapped around biceps, twisting and turning up thighs, stretched dramatically up and down arms, placed ever-so precisely on the nape of one's neck, or subtly hidden on the small of one's back. Permanent? Yes, for the most part. Painful? Well, a rapidly pulsating needle aimed directly at one's flesh is bound to hurt a little,



but I guess thresholds for pain fluctuate from one person to the next. What might I be describing? Well, tattoos of course. So many of us have them, while a vast majority of us do not. Some of us love them, perceiving tattoos as a beautiful, powerful and amazing expression of art, while others find them overwhelming and disconcerting, labeling tattoos as disgusting, distasteful, classless, horrifying creations that should be done away with for good. Now, while my personal opinion on the subject of tattooing most certainly falls upon the former, I find myself intrigued and perplexed at individuals within society who are adamantly opposed to tattoos, and who choose to discriminate, deni-



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new indicator

Published at UCSD
By the n.i. collective

April 2002
36th Year of Publication

New Wave: So much for diversity

Its time for AS elections once again. Among the various slates that are running, one of the slates calling itself the "New Wave" has raised many students' concerns with their extreme and often racist statements. New Wave has been careful to avoid discussion of the fact that they are primarily members of the Conservative Union, formed earlier this year because the College Republicans were "too liberal." These are the same students who accused the current A.S. of being "un-American" for passing a resolution to support "Our Nations Leaders," in which they refused to mention George W. Bush by name. New Wave's rhetoric is frighteningly reminiscent of the HUAC's (House Un-American Activities Commission) oppressive Red Scare tactics of the 1950's.

Although New Wave has told student organizations with whom they have spoken that its members' politics will not affect how they will run A.S. if elected, their platform suggests otherwise. For example, one of their main goals is to start a "Camp Matthews: Our Legacy" initiative. This legislation would fund a new "AS Camp Matthews Commission" and "Camp Matthews Awareness Program," to increase awareness and education of

the history of UCSD as the former USMC Camp Matthews. While discussing UCSD history is important, it is significant that New Wave would choose to highlight UCSD's military history and not the fact that UCSD is built on Native American land that was destroyed by the installation of Camp Matthews.

What are New Wave's stances on diversity? They propose that AS organize, fund, and host a "Respect Summit," to increase tolerance, understanding, and compassion on campus. Unfortunately, New Wave fails to explain exactly what "tolerance" means. Its members have publicly stated that they want increased tolerance for Republican viewpoints, but have consistently spoken out against other aspects of diversity. Cristina Conde, New Wave candidate for Commissioner of Diversity Affairs, when speaking with a student about what she would do in office, said that she would try to ignore the LGBT Alliance program and the LGBTTA because homosexuality is against her religious beliefs. Daniel Watts, a slate member, has written more than one article denying the existence of racism at UCSD. In one, he wrote, "Racism ... is not a factor in UC admission policy." In another article about a racial profiling

panel, Watts began with the statement that he would not have stayed to listen to the panel if it had not been required for a G.E. class. Later in the same article, he suggested that the L.A. Watts riots were simply an "irrational mob reaction to law enforcement" rather than a fight against racist oppression. Ryan Darby from New Wave, in an article arguing against giving in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for years, wrote that we should "reserve American jobs for Americans." This would lead one to believe that he thinks international students should not attend American universities — and that New Wave has an extraordinarily narrow view of what constitutes diversity.

It is possible that voting in student elections is more important than voting for the President (especially when it doesn't seem to matter who wins anyway). It is important to take your vote seriously and to be critical of where the candidates come from. If 80% of the student body doesn't vote, groups like the New Wave slate are much more likely to win important seats on A.S. If this concerns you, don't forget to vote this week at <http://studentlink.ucsd.edu>.

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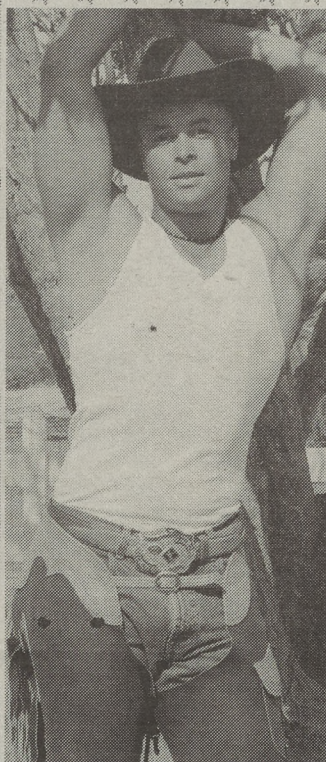
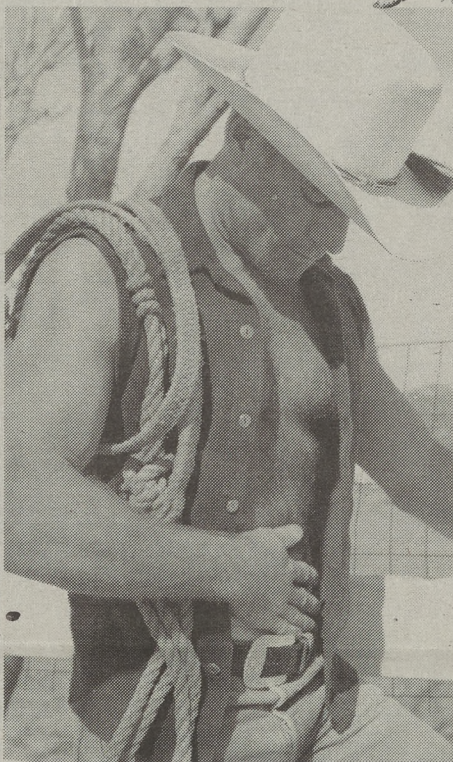
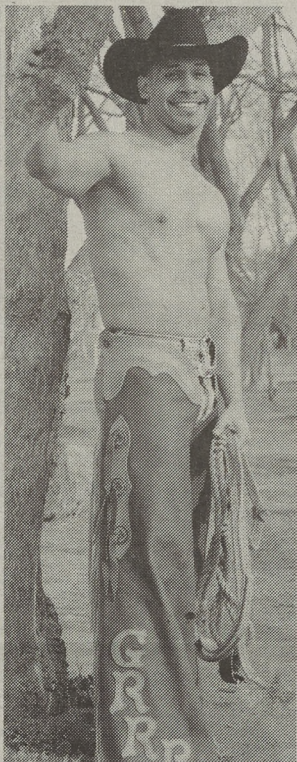
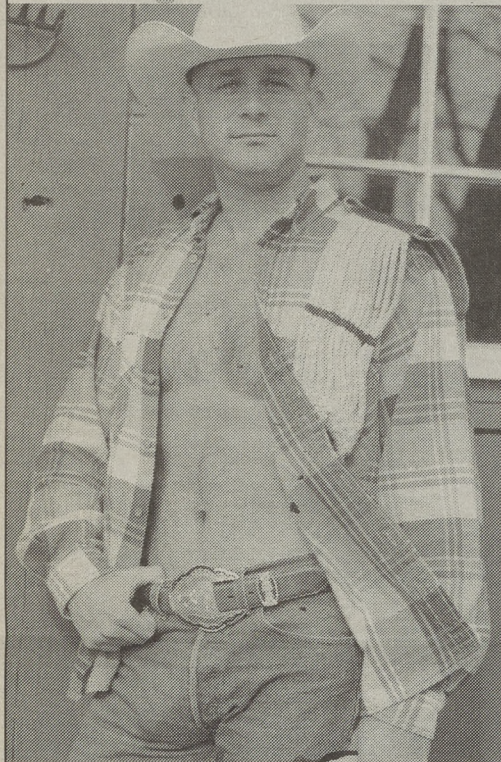
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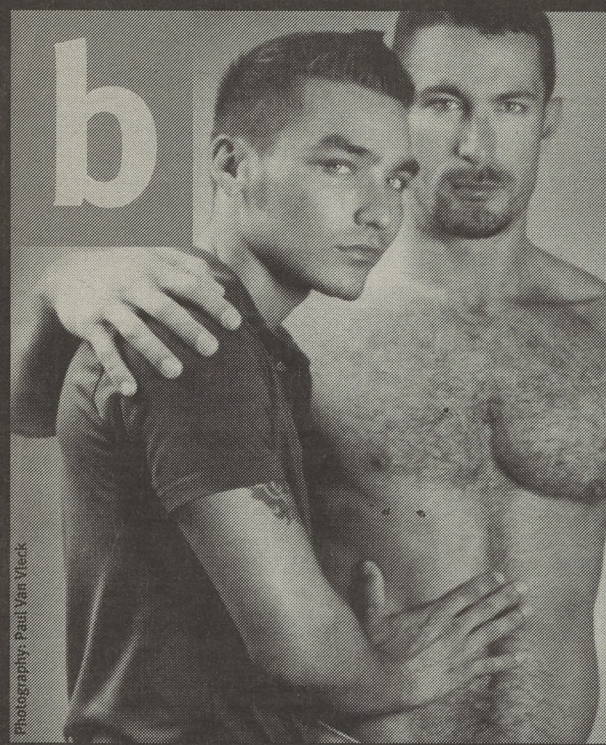
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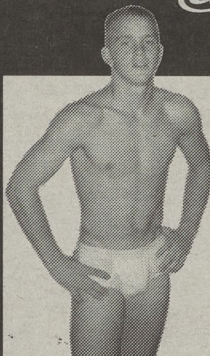
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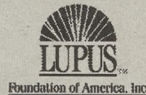


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Saturday, May 18 | 3-7P

SoCal Leather Daddy + Boy Contest

Featuring Ms. World Leather 2001 Annie Ramano-Blas & International Mr. Drummer 1993 Graylin Thornton Join us as we celebrate the club's 2nd year anniversary + help us raise money for the Lupus Foundation.



Fri, May 17 | 7-10p

Meet + Greet

boyFest begins with the annual meet + greet! Join us on the Bourbon Street patio to meet the contestants + judges.

Sat, May 18 | 8p-12a

Boyspace Play Party + Art Show

San Diego Boys of Leather special event. Club memberships needed. Available at Ringold Alley or at contest prior to party \$25 donation requested.

Sun, May 19 | 10.30a-1.30p

Victory Brunch!

Celebrate with the winners + judges. Just \$8-a-plate. Includes made-to-order scrambles, meats, breads, salads, fruits, coffee bar + more!

*All "Boys" must be over 21 to participate

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City Council approves plans for North Park Theatre renovation



Toni Atkins' plans to restore the North Park Theatre were passed unanimously by the city council.

SAN DIEGO — After sitting vacant for almost two decades, the long-abandoned North Park Theatre moved one step closer to reopening its doors for live theater April 23, after a unanimous passage at city council. On motions made by Third District City Council-member Toni Atkins, the Council approved a development agreement with Bud Fischer to renovate the historic North Park Theatre, a landmark

structure built in 1929.

Both Fischer and representatives of the San Diego Comic Opera testified that they are working toward an agreement which will make the North Park Theatre the permanent home of the Comic Opera.

"I can't think of any single project in North Park that has more good will behind it than this one," Atkins said. "It's one of the reasons why the North Park Theatre is one of my top 10 goals for Council District Three. It's an important community asset that the residents of

my district have asked me to fight to save."

Fischer and the performing arts community are contributing \$2.6 million to the renovation's estimated \$5.9 million cost.

Renovations will include remodeling the theatre to accommodate 800 seats, a new theatre entrance and marquee, and interior improvements such as air conditioning, heating and lighting. ■

■ STUDENTS, from page 14

students to use for writing papers, accessing the Internet or checking e-mail. The office also boasts a fully functional research library, and since opening last month, it has become a popular place for students to hang out and study.

"I have seen so much more traffic here than I ever saw in the old space," said Travers. "We opened up the week before finals week and the place was filled with people studying. They were in the common area, in the library or on the computers writing."

Mikey Kaufman — a senior who will graduate in June — reflected on his career at UCSD, noting how far the GLBT student body had come in just a few short years.

"When I came out my sophomore year, the resource office was put together and opened up, so it was perfect timing," Kaufman recalled. "I wanted to get really involved and I volunteered that whole first year. It was really intense because there was so much to do and so much going on."

When the resource center opened, it was staffed with a part-time intern and student volunteers who were only keeping it open about 20 hours a week.

"It wasn't like a fully functioning center," Kaufman added. "Now we have a full time director, Shawn, who is the most amazing activist that I have ever seen. He was the main person who made this center go from two rooms — a closet — to a fully functional resource center.

I never thought I would see something like this before I graduated."

Meanwhile, at SDSU, GLBT students face greater challenges. Currently there is no GLBT resource office on campus, nor a multicultural center to offer support services for GLBT students.

Ben Cartwright, the president of SDSU's LGBT Student Union explained that there currently isn't any funding available for a resource center on campus.

"The University provides absolutely no funding for any LGBT programs or services other than the small student organization budget we get," Cartwright said, explaining the financial situation. "That's only about \$1,500 a year and we're expected to provide all of the services that a traditional resource center would provide."

Currently, because there are only 30 spaces available for over 300 campus-recognized organizations, the student organization must reapply each year just to have office space on campus.

"We've moved four times in the past four years," Cartwright said, "which makes it hard to establish a permanent resource presence when you spend half of the year moving into your space."

Last week, in an effort to raise funds for an on-campus resource center, members of SDSU's LGBTSU held a fundraiser at Bourbon Street that raised \$300 to help with the costs of running their resource center. As part of the weeklong activities, the organization put on a BBQ open to the entire campus, hosted two movie nights and participated in the National Day of Silence. ■

Gay man's prostitution charge dropped after passing polygraph test

Results call into question validity of arrest report

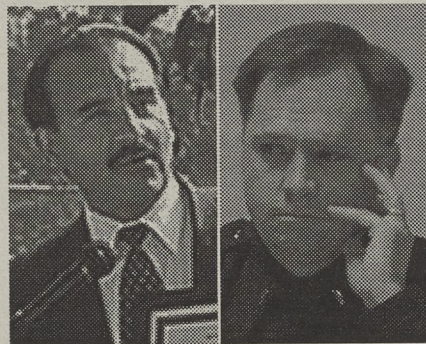
by Travis D. Bone
Reporter

Last December, the *Gay and Lesbian Times* reported the results of vice enforcement in Balboa Park, in which 23 individuals were arrested in a three-month operation targeting public sex acts and lewd conduct. In response, the *Times* received complaints from the community alleging that officers used underhanded tactics and unfairly targeted the gay community.

Despite the number of complaints, no one was willing to come forward and speak out about their experience or challenge the charges brought forth by the SDPD's vice department

However, one month later, public defender Laura Arnold contacted the *Times* regarding her client, who had been arrested during the three-month operation and was willing to go to trial to refute the charges against him — penal code 647(b), soliciting or agreeing to engage in prostitution. Though not a sex crime requiring one to register as a sex offender (as in the case of indecent exposure), the charge appears as a heavy blemish on their record.

Arnold told the *Times* that her client,



SDPD Chief of Police, David Bejarano (left) and Lieutenant Bob Kanaski, head of SDPD vice operations

who chose to remain anonymous and goes by the name John for the purposes of this article, was offered a charge of disturbing the peace as part of a plea bargain.

"That's the standard offer," Arnold explained. "Most guys who find themselves in this situation will jump on that

see **POLYGRAPH**, page 19 ■

Gay union members, supporters launch 'Pride At Work'

Kehoe to moderate labor union hearing, April 27

by Amber L. Cyphers
Assistant Editor

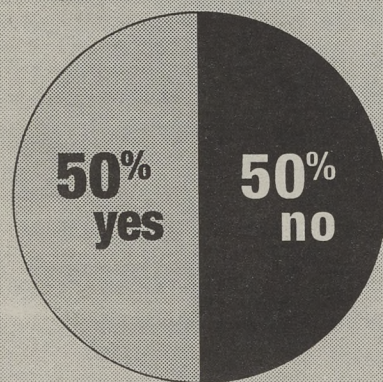
GLBT union members and supporters have announced the formation of a San Diego area "Pride at Work" chapter to mobilize mutual support between the labor movement and the GLBT communities in organizing for social, racial and economic justice. Pride at Work is a national organization affiliated with the AFL-CIO. Brian Polejes, a member of the predominantly gay and lesbian San Diego Democratic Club and vice president of the San Diego County chapter of SEIU Local 535, is one of several people organizing the local chapter. He noted the strong political bond that often exists between gay rights groups and labor, noting labor's integral role in establishing domestic partner benefits in many companies. The local AFL-CIO chapter also played a key role in the county's decision last year to grant domestic partner benefits to its employees.

"Pride at Work builds bridges between the LGBT community and the labor community," explained Polejes, "and these are two of the most potent forces for progressive social change here in San Diego right now. If you look at elections over the last couple of years, you see the strength that those two groups, in coalition with other progressive groups have had — for example, the upset in the election of councilmember Donna Frye and the primary victory for Vince Hall. Basically, these two groups coming together are part of the dynamic changes that are happening here in San Diego, as we become a more diverse and progressive city. The goal of this Pride at Work chapter is to raise the consciousness of labor issues in the LGBT community and of LGBT issues in the labor community.... Labor as a whole, the AFL-CIO as a whole and

see **GAY UNION**, page 20 ■

READER POLL

■ Heterosexual adult males are typically not placed in compromising situations with young girls under their charge. Should gay men serving in the capacity of mentors and coaches be permitted in locker rooms where boys or young men are changing or taking showers?



Next week's question:

Do you think declaring a state of housing emergency in San Diego will adequately address the problem and help to slow the skyrocketing cost of homes and rent?

To respond, call (619) 299-6397, ext. 103
YES/NO

GLANCE TO THE PAST

■ Ten years ago, representatives from United for AIDS Action, a coalition of over 60 AIDS activists, met with then Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton to discuss the steps a president must take to combat AIDS. The hour-long meeting, the first between AIDS advocates and a presidential candidate, was held at Clinton's campaign headquarters in New York.

GLBT student organizations struggle to continue support services



Students celebrate the opening of UCSD's LGBT Resource Office, in its temporary location

by Travis D. Bone
Reporter

San Diego's two state-funded universities have seen dramatic changes over the past few years — from UCSD's expansion to include a sixth college to SDSU's new science building, parking structures and plans for a trolley station on campus. Despite the increased funding for major campus construction, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender groups on campus still face challenges when it comes to building their GLBT student support services.

Early this year, UCSD's LGBT Resource Office learned that they would be losing their space in the student center. However, university officials came to

them with a plan to move the center to a temporary space.

"We first found out about this in September of 2001, and it was real fast," Shaun Travers, director of the LGBT Resource Office, told the *Gay and Lesbian Times*. "They wanted to have us in the new space by January 1. We went from having to think about this space to having the plans to the builder and getting it all finished in about three months."

The move turned out to be a beneficial one for the GLBT resource office. Last year, Travers recalled, when he came on board at UCSD as a full time director of the resource office, "They knew that we needed to expand the center, but it wasn't their intention to make it any larger until they moved us into a permanent space."

The resource center is scheduled to remain in its temporary spot for the next two to three years.

Along with the move to a larger, temporary space, the new LGBT Resource Office offers an increase in services. The office has two dedicated computers for

see **STUDENTS**, page 22 ■