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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN MARCOS, INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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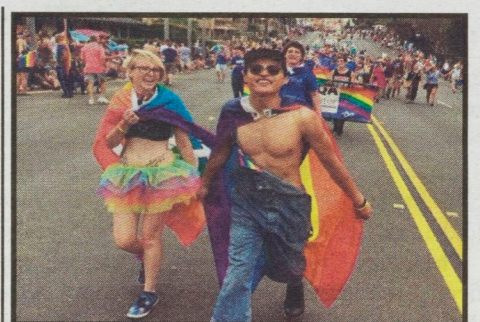
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Yom HaShoah to remember Holocaust

Speakers, presentations and rituals to be held on April 22 at USU Amphitheatre

By NICOLE HOLMAN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Holocaust Remembrance Day will be honored at CSUSM with an event that will allow students to experience the history of the Holocaust in an effort to keep these issues alive within the minds of people across the world.

At 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22 in the USU Amphitheatre, ASI will be hosting a Yom HaShoah event for Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Yom HaShoah was inaugurated in 1953 as a Holocaust Remembrance Day and is honored worldwide. Already a national holiday

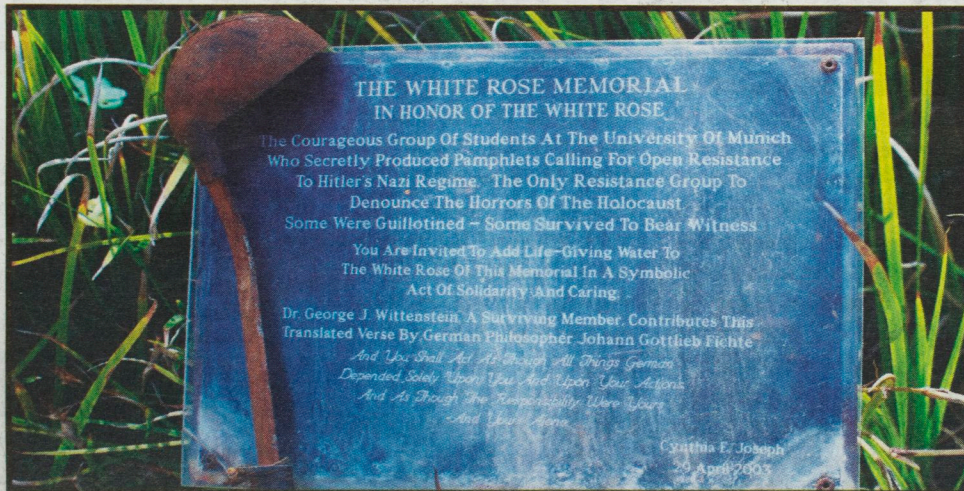


Photo by Chris Morales

The White Rose Memorial has been a part of campus since 2003.

in Israel, Yom HaShoah is a day where people across the globe can stop, remember and learn from the events of the past in hopes

of creating a brighter future.

This event will feature multiple speakers, presentations and traditional Yom HaShoah practices.

It will also highlight Holocaust survivor, Fanny Krasner Lebovits, who will be sharing her experiences with those in attendance.

Incorporating traditional Yom HaShoah elements such as a candle ceremony, this event will also include a poetry reading by several CSUSM students. Another speaker and CSUSM history professor, Dr. Alyssa Sepinwall, will be giving a presentation about the Holocaust Memorial on campus, the White Rose.

"Remembering the Holocaust is an extremely important thing. It is not just a Jewish issue, it is a human issue," said Wendy Bryer, the program director for this event.

Though the Holocaust ended 70 years ago, organizers say that the pain and scars left behind on the world remain fresh in the

minds of millions of people.

"There are only a few years left to hear these important first-hand accounts and we believe it is important to bring Fanny's story to our campus," Bryer said. "Even if you have heard a Holocaust Survivor's story, every story is different and it is our duty as humans to listen, remember and say never again."

Attending this event will help educate students as well as allow them to pay respects to those who survived the Holocaust. In order to commemorate the history and experiences of Holocaust survivors, students and community members are encouraged to attend this free event on April 22.

Red Flag Campaign calls for the end of sexual violence on campuses

CSUSM organizations sponsor awareness month through a variety of events

By JASMINE DEMERS
NEWS EDITOR

CSUSM organizations are currently hosting a campaign in order to end dating and sexual violence as well as to promote empowerment through peer intervention.

The Red Flag Campaign began on April 13 at CSUSM, in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and it advocates against sexual violence and dating violence on college campuses across the country. CSUSM is one of nearly 250 college campuses that are participating in this public awareness campaign.

Sponsored by Student Affairs Departments such as ATOD, ASI, Civility, the H.O.P.E. and Wellness Center, Student Health & Counseling Services, SLL and Residence Education, the Red Flag Campaign had its first official launch in October of 2007 on just 18 campuses.

According to an announcement sent out to Student Affairs at CSUSM, "This social

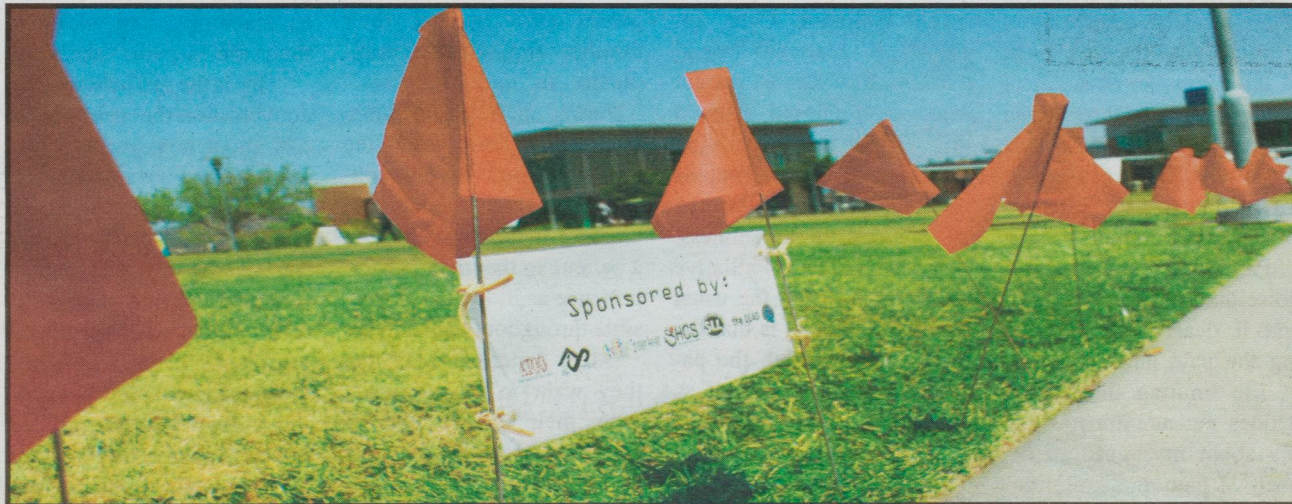


Photo by Chis Morales

Hundreds of red flags adorn the lawn outside of the USU.

marketing campaign was created to promote a 'bystander intervention' strategy, encouraging friends and other campus community members to 'say/do something' when they see warning signs ("red flags") for sexual/dating violence in their own or a friend's relationship."

Red flags have been placed and displayed all across the campus along with a series of eight posters that reflect themes such as co-

ercion, emotional abuse, sexual assault, victim-blaming, excessive jealousy, isolation and stalking.

"[There] will be a series of eight posters displayed across campus that illustrate 'red flags' that might be present in a relationship in which dating violence is happening," said the announcement.

These campaign posters represent a diverse amount of people in different kinds of relationships, whether

that be heterosexual or homosexual. According to the Red Flag Campaign website, one in five college dating relationships are violent and abusive, and one in four women are the victims of rape or attempted rape. 42 percent of those victims didn't tell anyone about their assault and only five percent reported it to the police.

Surrounding this campaign, CSUSM organizations are hosting several events

in the remaining weeks of April that they greatly encourage students to attend.

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 22 in the USU Ballroom, Speaker Liat Wexler, from the Center for Community Solutions, will provide students with a workshop on Bystander Intervention in the LGBTIQ Communities. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to be an active bystander in difficult situations and

also learn how intersectionality is an important concept when intervening.

Also, the annual "Take Back the Night" event will be at 5 p.m. on April 23 in the Library Plaza. This event is a worldwide effort to end all forms of sexual violence and it is recognized in over 30 countries. Take Back the Night events can include marches, vigils, rallies and activities that are centered around the issues of sexual violence and the need to take action against them.

Lastly, April 29 is National Denim Day and the CSUSM Student Affairs division is asking that students wear denim in order to support survivors of sexual violence. This event will also act as a way for students to educate others about these issues.

For more information about the Red Flag Campaign, please visit <http://theredflagcampaign.org/>, and follow the campus calendar for more information on these events.

LGBTQA students release new publication on campus

Party held to celebrate first edition of magazine, The Queery

By NICOLE HOLMAN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The LGBTQA Pride Center at CSUSM recently held a release party for its very first edition of a new publication entitled *The Queery*, a magazine that intends to reach out to the LGBTQA community.

The Queery, which was officially released on Wednesday, April 8, is a zine-like publication written and developed by students on campus, and provides insight into the stories and experiences of the LGBTQA community.

During the event, contributors shared personal

coming-out stories, film recommendations and support for those who exist in the LGBTQA community. A couple of brave writers volunteered to read their articles aloud to those in attendance and, after uproarious applause, many people asked those who contributed to *The Queery* to sign their copies of the publication.

The Queery, although a collaboration between students and the CSUSM Pride Center, is ultimately the brainchild of student, Alex Maravillas.

When asked how he came up with the idea for the new magazine, Maravillas said,



Photo by Chris Morales

Copies of *The Queery* are available in the ASI Community Centers.

"*The Queery* stemmed from my personal stories as a young adolescent gay youth who suffered oppression

growing up. The magazine's goal is to reach out to audiences who identify as queer." Maravillas worked with

other students and members of the LGBTQA Center to create the publication's magazine-inspired layout.

The purpose of *The Queery* is to provide information for those both in the LGBTQA community as well as Allies. It also serves as a creative platform for those who wish to express themselves through writing, art and prose.

"I feel that *The Queery* is important to CSUSM because members of the LGBTQA community usually don't get to be heard. It gives priority to marginalized students so they can have a voice, too," CSUSM student, Kayla Salgado, said.

In an effort to create a safe environment where all students can be heard, publications like *The Queery* allows experiences to be shared that may not have otherwise been heard.

Maravillas also discussed plans for the next issue, saying, "I want the magazine to innovate to different endeavors, perhaps photo stories or collages. I want next issue to be more creative in terms of layout."

If you are interested in submitting a story or art piece for the next issue of *The Queery*, please contact the CSUSM Pride Center for more information.

Conversations that matter, being an active bystander

By CHELSEY SCHWEITZER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

CSUSM organizations recently hosted a discussion that served to teach students about cultural appropriation and bystander intervention in order to foster an accepting and understanding environment.

This event was held on April 14 as part of the Conversations that Matter Series and was sponsored by the Civility Campaign, the Gender Equity Center, the LGBTQA Pride Center, the Office of Diversity and the CHABSS Engaging Diversity Dialogues. The purpose of this discussion was to further educate students on matters such as stereotypes that can

often be seen in society, and how to combat those stereotypes in an educated manner even when the stereotype is directed at somebody else.

The discussion began at 12 p.m. in the USU ballroom and hosted speakers Abrahán Monzón and Greg Toya. The event commenced with Greg Toya, who spoke about the "Beyond the Stereotype" display in the Kellogg Library and the Civility program that is on campus. He introduced the topic of civility, defining it as "conducting oneself with care, respect, empathy, culture and humanity." This idea was further elaborated upon when he began to talk about the relationship between civility and bystander intervention.

Toya defined bystander

intervention as "the willingness to take action and help somebody in need who is in an unwanted situation." He then described some of the different intervention strategies, such as interrupting rude or unwanted behaviors and encouraging an educational and constructive dialogue about the behavior and why it is unwanted.

Abrahán Monzón facilitated a discussion about triggers, which they defined as "situations of high emotion that catch people off guard." They went on to describe how these are situations where the emotional nature of the interaction can make it difficult to effectively take control of the situation and intervene through education.

He also spoke of the idea

of attempting to see a situation from the other person's perspective in order to understand what might have led to the unwanted action and thereby more effectively educate the person. The discussion closed with those in attendance sharing some of their personal experiences with bystander intervention and how they had previously dealt with unwanted behavior.

This event encouraged all students to be a part of the bystander intervention discussion, whether they were already familiar with the topic or not.

"I was just walking by [the ballroom], saw the sign and decided to attend; and I'm glad I did," said Danisha Thornton, second-year

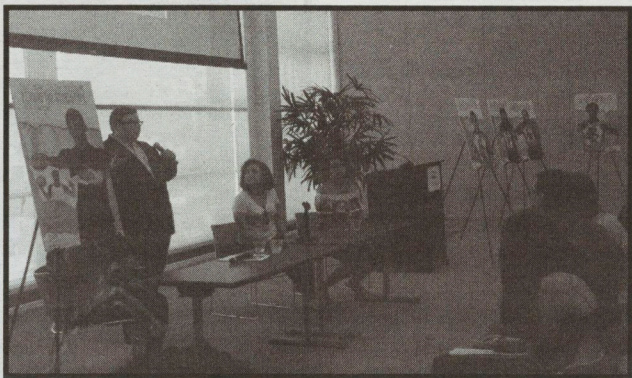


Photo provided by Abrahán Monzón

Another discussion will be held on April 22.

student and Secretary of the Black Student Union.

This event promoted understanding and provided students with tools to use in difficult and possibly emotionally-heated situations. In addition, it encouraged students to take action when they witness an unwanted

event and taught them how to be an active bystander under these circumstances.

"We are all human beings, we all bleed the same despite our background and worldviews," said first year student, Ralph Sibala, after the event. "Every day is a learning experience."

Palliative Care campaign asks students, 'What Gives Your Life Meaning?'

By JASMINE DEMERS
NEWS EDITOR

The California State University (CSU) Institute for Palliative Care recently launched a new campaign that will explore the importance of end-of-life care and educate students on issues that may affect themselves or their family members in the future.

The What Gives Your Life Meaning? (WGYLM) campaign is a way to educate students, as well, as community members, about the impact that palliative care make on

a person's life. The campaign was officially launched on April 14 with the first event of the series, an educational session and lecture given by Dr. Katherine Pettus, an Advocacy Officer for the International Association for Hospice and Palliative Care.

"Palliative Care is a multidisciplinary team approach and it deals with addressing the pain and symptoms of life limiting illness, but it does not attempt to cure. It's about managing all aspects of pain and symptoms including physical, social, emotional, spiritual and exis-

tential pain," said Dr. Pettus.

The Palliative Care approach is centered around the comfort of a patient who is diagnosed with a life threatening condition and follows the patient, as well as their family, through the course of the illness.

"What makes Palliative Care distinct from the usual biomedical model is that the unit of care is both the patient and family as well as the palliative care team. So, it creates an extra layer of care through life-limiting and life threatening illness," said Dr. Pettus. "Palliative

care manages and accompanies patients and their families through the complexity of these illnesses."

During her presentation, Dr. Pettus discussed the importance of having conversations about death and creating a relationship with a patient so that they can experience as little pain as possible throughout their illness.

"Most Americans say that they want to die at home, with their family and in comfort, and yet only 24 percent of Americans older than 65 die at home. 63 percent die at hospitals or

nursing homes, tethered to machines, and most of them are in pain," she said.

"This is the gap between the conversation that needs to be had about how you want to die, where you want to die and in what context, and how people are actually dying. This is the gap that palliative care is trying to bridge."

Dr. Pettus also discussed her claims about why these conversations aren't happening and what Palliative Care can do to resolve these issues.

"The reason we don't have those conversations is because people don't want to

talk about dying. America is a young, immortal, individualistic and driven country, and death is seen as a failure," said Dr. Pettus.

CSUSM has been the home of the CSU Institute for Palliative Care since it started in the Fall of 2012. The CSU Institute is a statewide initiative with a goal that aims to educate students and community members, as well as current and future health care professionals. The Institute offers professional classes to any healthcare professional looking to grow within the

Palliative continued on pg 9

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Contacts
csusm.cougarchronicle@gmail.com
cougarchron.layout@gmail.com
cougarchron.news@gmail.com
cougarchron.sports@gmail.com
cougarchron.features@gmail.com
cougarchron.opinion@gmail.com
cougarchron.arts@gmail.com
csusmchronicle.advertising@gmail.com
Our Website: csusmchronicle.com
Office Phone: 760 - 750 - 6099
Office Fax: 780 - 750 - 3345
Our office is located in Craven 3500

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'Twilight, Los Angeles: 1992' brings to light issues of prejudice, injustice

Performers take on several roles to break down stereotypes

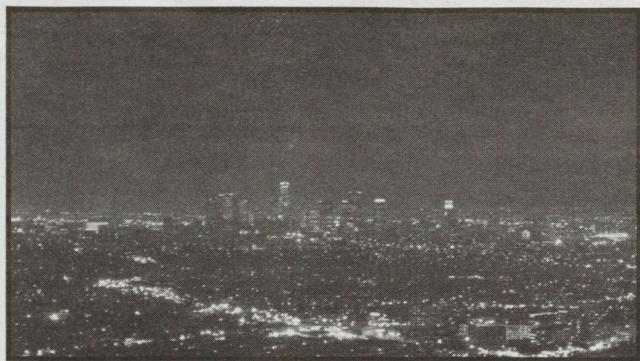


Photo by Serouj, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

By SONNI SIMMONS
COMMUNITY NEWS EDITOR

The CSUSM School of Arts Program is challenging injustice with this spring's presentation of *Twilight, Los Angeles: 1992* by Anna Deavere Smith.

The play was available to students and community members through 6 different performances that were held at CSUSM from April 10 through 19. The production of *Twilight, Los Angeles: 1992* presents a series of monologues that examine the 1992 LA Riots through the perspective of individuals who experienced the chaos. The performance was

centered around the brutal beating of Rodney King in 1991, the riots incited by the acquittal of the four Los Angeles Police Department officers charged with assault and nearly 300 interviews conducted over a nine-month period with gang members, police officers, lawyers, activists and shopkeepers following this event.

The characters created based on these interviews, however, were portrayed unconventionally.

"We play people opposite our ethnicity and gender," said Laurissa Rudgers, an actress in the production who portrayed an African American opera singer, the former Chief of Police for the LAPD

and former female chairman of the Black Panther Party.

"It is our hope that because of that, people who wouldn't normally listen to a woman, or a Korean or an African American because of prejudices or stereotypes, that they will see and hear their voice differently, in a better light," she said.

After each performance, "Talk Back" panels and discussions were held for audience members on topics such as art, education, law, faith and social justice. The goal of these discussions and the production of *Twilight, Los Angeles: 1992* were to engage the audience and promote a reflection of prejudice and discrimination within society.

"Allow the dissonant feeling you'll encounter move you to try and understand people who are different from you," Rudgers said. "As actors, we were able to walk in another's shoes and because of that, have a better understanding of how to face injustices we see happening. We hope you as audience members will be able to do that, too."

Community service fair opens doors for students at CSUSM

Global Commitment Initiative provides opportunity for involvement

By KARRI KIRBY
STAFF WRITER

The CHABBS Global Commitment Initiative (GCI) recently hosted a community service fair that served as an opportunity for students to take action in their community and find ways to get involved on a local level.

The GCI is a campaign by the CHABBS department that encourages students to participate in activities and educate themselves about global issues. The GCI Community Service fair was held on Tuesday, April 14, and was an opportunity for students to explore these issues and get involved through a variety of local service groups.

"The GCI is designed to educate and engage the college, campus, and the broader community in a discussion about global issues, trends, and events," said Elizabeth Matthews, Professor of Global Studies and Political Science, and the Director of the CHABBS Global Commitment Initiative (GCI). She explained that the

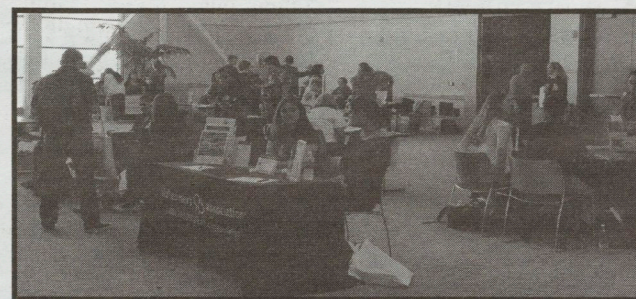


Photo by Johnna Norris

Nineteen local organizations spoke to students about becoming involved in the community.

GCI fair represents a chance for students to engage with 19 local organizations and to learn more about what they do in the community.

During the GCI Community Service Fair, many students were drawn to the San Diego County Foundation known as, Surfrider.

Chapter Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, Haley Haggerstone, said, "We want to give people an opportunity to do something for their oceans."

The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit organization who is dedicated to protecting our world's oceans, waves and beaches.

"Giving back to the community that you apart of now, is reverently important," said

Kimberly Palafox, a Global Studies major at CSUSM. "This is a part of the four, five, six year college experience here [at CSUSM]. It's to not only really immerse here on campus and the opportunities of what the campus gives you, but also the community as well."

According to the CHABBS department, the Global Commitment Initiative is a campaign that is dedicated to implementing issues such as global awareness and multicultural understanding into their curriculum and activities. For more information regarding this event and other events in the upcoming semester, students can visit <http://www.csusm.edu/chabbs/about/gci.html>.

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Does being gay in sports matter? Full disclaimer: it shouldn't!

Sports Commentary

By KATELYNN RISE
STAFF WRITER

Imagine yourself watching your favorite sports team on television. There are just seconds left in the game and you are one point away from winning it all.

You get the pleasurable feeling of screaming at the TV screen while watching your team make its way to victory. When the final point is made, you jump up and down celebrating the team's hard

work and accomplishments. The MVP is named and everyone rallies around the person in celebration. But when the MVP of the game is named, should it matter if the MVP of your winning (or even your losing) team is homosexual?

Michael Sam could have been one of these players. Sam became the first openly gay player to be drafted into the NFL in 2014 and was a defensive end for the St. Louis Rams until the final roster needed to be finalized, and Sam was cut from the team.

Many people believe that his sexuality was the reason for his dismissal from the team's roster. Unfortunately, sexuality

is effecting who gets recognition for their hard work and their athletic abilities. Thankfully for the lovely media in America, Michael Sam's coming out was made into a much bigger deal than it should have been. Sam's face, his name and his sexuality were all over ESPN and the internet.

Instead of focusing on this young man's potential as a football player in the NFL, they decided to focus on how a gay man would shower with a team full of men that were heterosexual (as far as we know).

Since when does a man taking a shower have to do with anything relevant to the game of football, or any

other sport for that matter? Oh right, it doesn't.

This is not going to be the last time that an athlete will identify themselves as gay, and sadly this will not be the last time that an openly gay athlete gets their reputation or their career put in jeopardy because of homophobic tendencies.

What needs to be learned from Michael Sam's story is that it is not your sexual orientation that defines you, but rather what you do that makes you the kind of person that people will look up to and admire.

Sam's sexuality off the field was being brought into his world on the field, causing an unacceptable

amount of intolerance and judgment to his career.

His talent, hard work and dedication were overlooked simply because of the type of people he found attractive.

Michael Sam's story is not all bad though. He was recently nominated as one of GQ's Men of the Year Award, won an Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the 2014 EPSY Awards and was a finalist for Sportsman of the Year Award.

So does being gay in the world of sports matter? No! Because being gay doesn't make you less of an athlete.

If an athlete is talented, dedicated and ready to give his or her all for their team, their sexuality does not matter in sports.

Only benefits result from physical training

Go and get some stress relief

Sports Commentary

By BURTLAND DIXON
SPORTS EDITOR

Negative stigmas are all around whether we like to acknowledge them or not - too many to name and that's a shame of its own.

One we can point out, however, is how physical training is viewed. A common misperception is that when you get a physical trainer, you will only be rewarded with a glowing physical stature. Fortunately, that is not all that working with a physical trainer can provide.

With finals vastly approaching, stress is piling higher than the garbage at a large family get together. How can you help banish said stress? Mayo Clinic indicates exercise can very well help manage stress. Don't know where to start, no problem. Physical trainers are surely available to help get the wheels rolling.

"Our PT (physical training) program strives for optimal fitness for everyone and all body types," Fitness and Operations Supervisor, Jordan Friske, said.

Here at CSUSM everyone and all body types are available for PT, so believing you are too fit or not fit enough for physical training will only prevent you from receiving the benefits that await you.

"With a personal trainer a client can take a step in the right direction to exercising smarter and becoming a healthier person," Personal Trainer, Brendyn Heath, said.

Aside from easing up stress, exercising with a personal trainer can help you become a healthier person. Good health is vital for college students, so doing what you can while attending college to help promote good health would not be a bad idea.

"There are a lot of negative stigmas in our society that we are trying to work through," Friske said.

Friske is adamant about dispelling these stigmas attached to PT and said that utilizing the trainers that CSUSM provides will help with that.

So, do not worry about your appearance before giving it a try, because only benefits await you.

COACH PROFILE

Greg Hutton seeks three valuable attributes from his teams

By CHELSEY SCHWEITZER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Coach Greg Hutton, who is the coach of the men's and women's golf teams at CSUSM, has both assisted individual students on the golf course and helped the Cougar golf team advance through the ranks of college golf teams in his five years as coach.

"[I like golf] because it is a sport that you can play all of your life," Coach Hutton said. "People are still able to play the sport even at 80."

Coach Hutton first got into golf as a kid, when his parents taught him to play the sport. He continued to play golf as he grew up, but didn't consider coaching Cougar golf until the campus athletic director asked him to coach the men's golf team in 2010.

Under the guidance of Coach Hutton, the men's golf team recently ranked sixth and the women's golf team ranked tenth in this year's National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) top 25 polls, according to the school athletics webpage.

"What I look for in my

golf teams is commitment, dedication and the ability to give 100 percent on the course," Coach Hutton said.

Most recently, Coach Hutton and the golf team attended the Hanny Stanislaus Invitational, which took place April 14, and placed in second. The next tournament for the golf team will be the A.I.I. Conference Championship, which will take place on April 25 in Texas.

When not on the road with his golf team, Coach Hutton likes to spend his free time fishing and spending time with his kids.

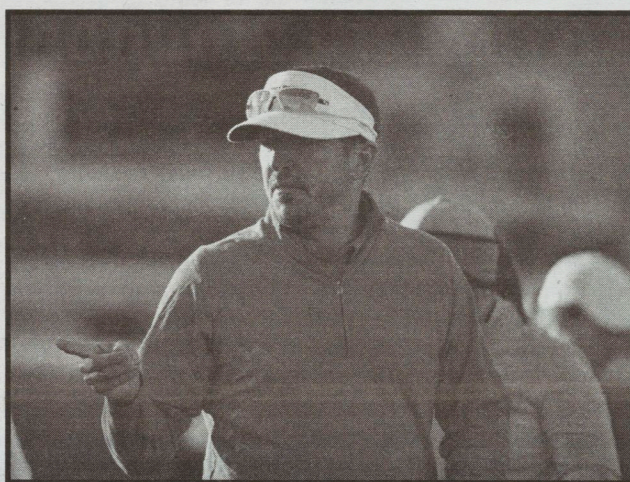


Photo provided by Sports Information

Coach Greg Hutton leads his athletes by example.

Retired San Diego Charger focuses on fitness regime

By AMY CHASTAIN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Shedding over 80 pounds in five months is no small feat. Yet, Nick Hardwick, the retired San Diego Chargers center, has done just that.

The former football player began his weight loss project in 2014 upon his exit from the NFL after suffering a neck injury. During his 11 year career, Hardwick weighed around 295 pounds. As a center, Hardwick used his weight to push the defensive players back and protect his quarterback Philip Rivers.

At his Feb. 3 retirement ceremony, Hardwick stood before the press at 208 pounds down from 293 pounds, according to a tweet by UT San Diego writer Michael Gehlken. Hardwick's focus on a healthy life was all but confirmed when he stood before the media with this new slimmed down frame.

On his Instagram account, Hardwick stamps himself as a "fitness junkie" and "health nut." Hardwick's various social media platforms consistently highlight his wife and children, but now they

detail his journey to health through food and fitness.

He shares workouts which are perfect for college students. These workouts are quick and hard-hitting. They can be done in 20 minutes or less, and with minimal equipment.

The most unique part about the following workout is that Hardwick did it in skinny jeans.

When questioned by a fellow Instagram user on why he was wearing jeans, Hardwick responded that he was "just proving that you can do this workout anywhere. In any attire."

One minute of each of the following (no rest between exercises). Do as many as possible within the time frame. Rest 30 seconds after cycle is completed. Repeat 2 to 5 times.

Jumping Jacks

Squats

Lunges

Mountain climbers

Push ups

If Nick Hardwick can do five rounds of this workout in skinny jeans, it is not wild to think it is an attainable workout for any college student.

Cougars baseball getting the job done on the diamond

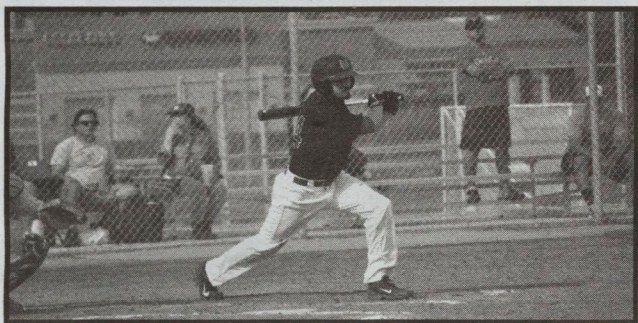


Photo provided by Sports Information

Student athlete Dylan Costello demonstrates confidence and power.

By AMY CHASTAIN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

A new era of baseball has begun at CSUSM. Gone are the days where the team lacked confidence and staying power. This year's baseball team is up for the challenge.

Head Coach Dennis Pugh talked about the progress of the team. "I don't feel we're overmatched against anyone," he said.

On April 14, the baseball team began their pre-game warm-ups in the background. Pugh attributed this increased level of play to

the growth of the program, in terms of facilities and players. The players, according to Pugh, are of increasing quality when it comes to being student athletes.

Quality student athletes, like seniors Dylan Costello and Ray Patchen also reflected on the progress of the season.

The team is "more deep offensively" said Infielder Ray Patchen. Outfielder Dylan Costello expanded on this when he said this year's offense is "better than the last two years."

Costello spoke highly of the pitching and batting averages of the team.

"Everyone [is] over 300 in the lineup," Costello said. When Costello speaks of over 300, he refers to an above batting average that every player in the batting lineup has obtained.

Costello was quick to attribute much of the pitching acclaim to former Palomar Comet Emilio Esquibel. Esquibel's wins-loss record as a starting pitcher is 9-1. The nine consecutive wins when acting as starting pitcher ties the school record set by James Dykstra in 2013.

The baseball team continues to break records in areas other than pitching. The single season record for doubles fell on April 14 versus Biola. CSUSM beat the record of 101 doubles set in the 2011 and 2012 seasons. The newly achieved record is 104.

As the baseball team approaches the home stretch of their season, Head Coach Pugh expects the team to "keep improving" and continue on the trajectory that is setting them up for a run at Nationals.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Chelsea Brown leads through advocacy

Student leader commits to making positive impact on the world

By JASMINE DEMERS
NEWS EDITOR

Chelsea Brown is a dedicated student leader on campus who has turned her personal hardship into fuel towards helping others and advocating for change.

Brown is currently a third-year Political Science major at CSUSM, and she identifies as a Transgender Woman. Throughout her college career, Brown has made an effort to be involved in campus organizations such as ASI, The Gender Equity Center and the LGBTQA Pride Center as a Peer Educator.

The Northern California native is also hoping to spread her activism throughout the community by working with outside organizations such as the Vista Community Clinic and the San Diego LGBTQ Resource Centers.

By working as a Peer Educator on campus, Brown said she aims to transform the campus climate and make a

positive impact on students.

"Working with these organizations has given me the opportunity to not only grow as a person, but also grow in a way that allows me to be a better advocate for not only what I believe in, but for what is fundamentally right," she said. "I've always been someone who tends to fight for rights of the marginalized, and so being in the spaces and working with these organizations has given me a way to reach a larger audience at a more effective level."

Brown holds a passion for representing a larger group of individuals who experience injustice every day. She is proud of the commitment that she has for helping others and her ability to treat everyone as her equal.

"I reflect a lot on where I am now, how I got here and the things I've had to overcome. I've beaten 12 years of depression. I survived my numerous suicide attempts. I've battled through years of

self-loathing and self-hatred because I wasn't comfortable being who I was. And now I'm here. I've survived. I'm about to graduate college; I'm about to live a life of advocacy and empowerment. And that means something to me on a deeply personal level," Brown said.

Brown said that she has had to experience some hardship that only motivated her to push forward and continue her fight so that she could also support other individuals who have had the same experiences.

"Some of the hardships I've had to face on this campus are mainly in regards to my status as a transgender woman. Now I'm sure that many of my classmates will see this article, and it will out me to them. But I'm actually okay with that," she said. "The problem I've run into before is how do I address this with professors and other faculty members, especially since they may not really be used to the

idea of having a transgender student in their class."

Brown said that she aims to make an impact at CSUSM by making a commitment to inform the community of these issues, and making it so that future Trans* identified students feel comfortable and accepted by policy enacted by campus administration.

Some of the issues that Brown referred to are policies regarding name changes for Trans* students and using the preferred name and gender in place of the legal name. She also discusses issues regarding the need for more gender-neutral bathrooms on campus.

While discussing her future goals, Brown said she hopes to go into the field of Journalism and Public Policy.

"In terms of future goals, more than anything, I want to be a writer and a journalist. I want to take the passions and stories of people from around the world and make them into something even more beautiful: a shared, uni-

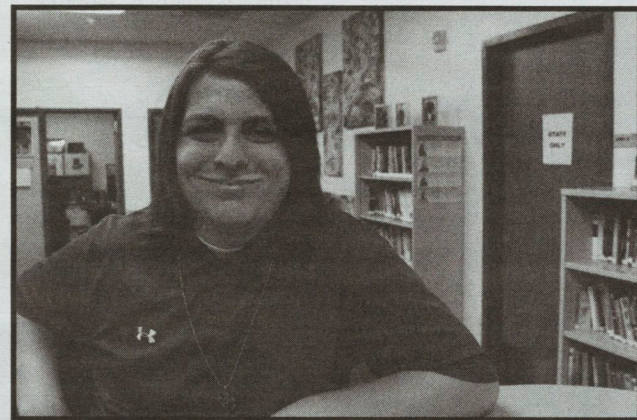


Photo by Chris Morales

Chelsea Brown is an active leader in ASI's Community Centers.

versal experience," Brown said. "At some point in my life as well, I'd like to get into issues of public policy, specifically, I'd like to work as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. But, I might just settle for White House Press Secretary!"

Brown's ambitions and inspirational attitude has already made a long lasting impact on CSUSM and will furthermore continue to influence the rest of the world.

"I think as people, we tend to get wrapped up in the dra-

ma and worries of everyday life, and as a result, we lose sight of what's really important in my opinion, and that's helping others and being good humans," she said. "We all live here on this earth together. It is only due to society and her constructs that poverty, war and other issues persist in our lives. The ability to end poverty and other issues begins when one realizes that it is a natural right of humans to survive and thrive freely and openly in our fleeting existences."

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

ASI Community Centers' Monzón embodies passionate social justice

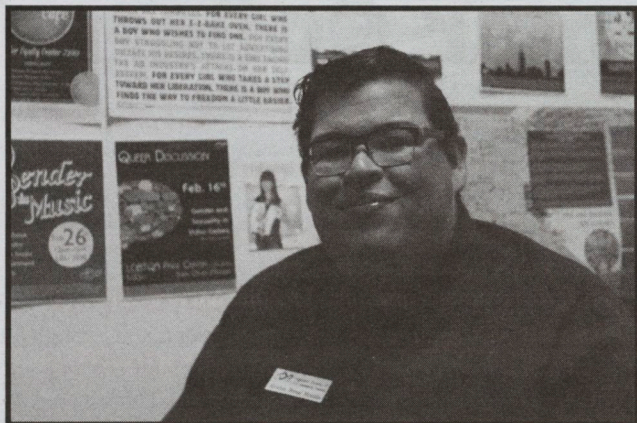


Photo by Chris Morales

Abrahán Monzón works closely with students in the Gender Equity Center.

By KATLIN SWEENEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the new Assistant Director of the ASI Community Centers, Abrahán Monzón is enthusiastic about working with students, faculty and staff to develop programming about issues such as gender and sexuality, social justice and identity.

Monzón graduated from UC Santa Barbara (UCSB) with a B.A. in Feminist Studies and minor in Education, and an M.S. in Higher Education from CSU Fullerton (CSUF).

Monzón, whose preferred gender pronouns are they and their, initially was studying Computer Science until they took a general education Sociology course. This sparked their interest in human in-

teraction and the sociology of gender and sexuality.

Monzón credits their undergraduate career for creating the foundation upon which they discovered their passion for helping others and where they became comfortable with their identity.

"Being a first generation college student, the queer community was kind of my navigational capital for getting to know folks," Monzón said. "My first year on campus is when I came out and got involved. Initially I came out as queer, and then a year and a half later I came out as genderqueer. Getting involved on campus is how I learned what it means to be a college student, and I submerged myself in different leadership and queer groups on campus. I espe-

cially did a lot of work with queer and trans advocacy."

Monzón said that college was initially difficult to adjust to due to struggling with balancing all of their responsibilities equally. Finding mentors taught Monzón the importance of learning from others and helped them to develop other queer leaders.

After graduating from UCSB, they worked as a summer orientation leader, a position that inspired them to think about going into higher education.

"When I was an orientation leader, I was genuine about my identities," they said. "It helped motivate me to show first-year students someone who was queer and trans."

Late into the graduate school application process, Monzón decided to apply for M.S. programs with the encouragement of their mentors. They were interested in applying to CSU Fullerton partially due to the presence of well-known LGBT higher education professor and speaker, Dr. Ronni Sanlo, who taught in the campus' Educational Leadership program from 2010 to 2012.

While Monzón was eventually accepted into CSUF, Dr. Stanlo ended up retiring during the time that transpired from when they applied to the program to

when they started at the campus. However, Monzón said that attending CSUF was the right program for them.

During graduate school, Monzón's accomplishments included an assistantship, an internship with CSUF's Diversity Initiatives and Resource Centers, working with TCAMP, completing one semester at a cultural center at a small liberal arts college and being awarded the Edwin Carr Fellowship.

Monzón's enthusiasm for working at CSUSM stems from a desire for empowering students and the campus' welcoming atmosphere.

"I really wanted to work at a cultural center or resource center, but when I saw this position I never thought that I would get it," they said. "Being a first generation college and grad school student, getting a job was such a pressure to show my family that school was worth it."

"A big thing with job interviews on-campus is that I always had to negotiate how I would represent my identity," Monzón said. "If I could not be genuine to my genderqueerness, it was not going to fit. But I came to my interview at CSUSM with full face and suit, and when I got the call for the job, I was ecstatic. It was important to me not to go

to an established center but go somewhere where I could create programming."

Monzón has enjoyed their first semester at CSUSM thus far and is optimistic about how the ASI Community Centers will change in the next few years.

"It is a combination of working with passionate folks about creating a better campus for themselves and bringing a different set of eyes and thinking about gender, sexuality, program-

ming and ideas for what is to come," Monzón said.

"The campus is supportive and being in a growing place like CSUSM, it is a time when I see some big changes to come."

Monzón credits much of what they have learned and gone on to accomplish to their professional family, which includes the Masters in Higher Education faculty at CSU Fullerton, their mentors and Dr. Joy Hoffman (Dr. Mom).

SUSTAINABILITY SERIES

Environmental Studies major leads to many varied career paths

By COLLIN VAZ
FEATURES EDITOR

Environmental Studies is a new major available to students and was covered in The Sustainability Edition of *The Cougar Chronicle*. The major will prepare students for careers in the public, non-profit and private sectors. There are a plethora of career paths available to students upon graduation, including environmental policy, consulting, education, law and environmental planning/analysis. Graduates will be suited to work for organizations such

as the National Park Service, EPA, Department of Energy, Peace Corps and Nature Conservancy. Students will also have the necessary skills to work for both cities and private consulting firms.

CORRECTION

Editor's Note: An article published in the March 4, 2015 edition contained a typographical error that has been corrected in the web version. Dr. Stricker was referred to as "he", but the pronoun has been changed to "she". We regret the error.



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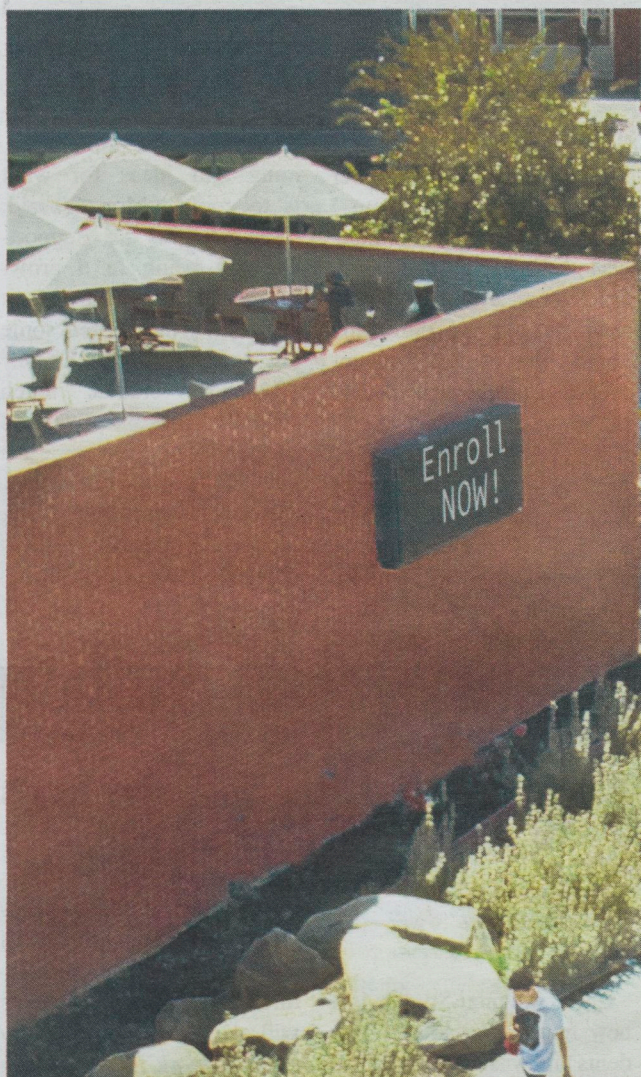
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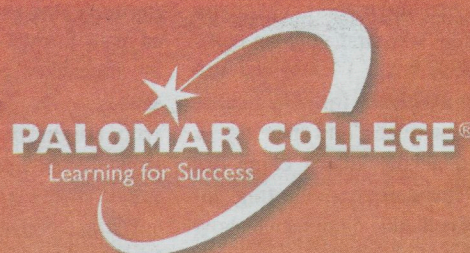
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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Rodger D'Andreas-Wahl advocates owning one's sexuality

By SHANICE DAVIS
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Born in a small town in South Texas, former founding Director of the LGBTQA Pride Center on campus, Rodger D'Andreas-Wahl, admits that he knew the small town life of settling down and having a wife and kids was not for him. Instead he took the high road and paved his own way.

Wahl began his college career as an Opera major at Southwest Texas State, before transferring and receiving his Bachelor's degree in Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin. Afterwards, he obtained his Master's in Counseling

Psychology at Our Lady of the Lake University.

With 13 years at CSUSM, Wahl has held an array of titles on campus; currently he serves as a lecturer in the Women's Studies Department, a part-time professor for the first year program, administrator of Student Affairs and is the Executive Director of ASI.

Another role Wahl took on was being the founding Director of the LGBTQA Pride Center. Originally, CSUSM did not have an LGBTQA Center and ASI wanted to create one. Wahl was considered the perfect candidate for the position, as

he had experience with LG-BTQA students and people.

"Being founding Director of LGBTQA was about getting the center off the ground and creating a safe space for students," said Wahl.

"It allows me to see it from my own journey, but knowing that my own journey may not be someone else's."

Identifying as queer and having a background in mental health, Wahl said he is able to relate more with students.

"When you've gone through a struggle or a similar struggle, I think it's easier to empathize and put yourself in their shoes," he said.

"It allows me to see it from my own journey, but knowing that my own journey may not be someone else's."

Wahl said that at the age of 18 he identified himself as being gay, then changed his identification to queer.

"When I was 18 I thought I was only sexually attracted or romantically attracted to other guys, so gay seemed like the right label for me,"

he said. "As I've aged and gone through life, I've realized that my romantic attraction, my sexual attractions, are more diverse than that."

Wahl said queerness is about challenging rigid ideas about gender and sexuality.

"Queer is a political label,

it's a label that some people use when they want to challenge some of the assumptions we make about what it means to be male or female; what it means to be in a relationship; things like monogamy, marriage; is marriage really what we all aspire to? Is being with the same person for the rest of your life really what we want?" he said.

The perfect fairytale of living happily ever after with one person is simply not his style.

"For some people that works great; I can't even imagine having to be with one person for the rest of my life," Wahl said.

As for the advances made towards the LG-BTGA community, Wahl said they're good but much work still needs to be done.

"The advances are important, they're necessary and they save lives," he said. "When people see themselves represented in television, in the front of classrooms and civil rights are being given to them that are due to them, it saves lives because it helps people understand that they're human beings, they deserve the same things that other people deserve."

As a final point, Wahl has advice for everyone.

"Be you, but make sure you have a support system to help facilitate to you being you."

He also had advice for allies to the LGBTQA community.

"Continue to educate yourself and don't make it about you. Don't be Beyonce, you're one of the backup singers, so be supportive."

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kia Washington takes a stand for gender, sexuality and rights for all

By SHANICE DAVIS
ASSISTANT FEATURES EDITOR

Junior, Kia Washington, is a Peer Educator at the LGBTQA Pride Center, who cites the community as her strength and support system to be herself.

"My passion and energy for the Pride Center comes from the courage that the community there gave me to come out as queer," she said.

It was the acceptance she found in this environment that encouraged her to help others.

"I knew that no matter what, there would be people there for me, and I want to continue creating that environment for others. I

want to be one of the leaders to pass that experience and passion on to all students who come into contact with us," Washington said.

As a Peer Educator, Washington puts on many events; one of her first solo events was a Queer Discussion called "50 Shades of Correction," an event in which participants discussed the dangerous inaccuracies of BDSM portrayed in Fifty Shades of Grey. In addition to that, the Pride Center frequently holds Nights Out, which are nights when students can play games and watch film screenings.

As this month is GAYpril, the Pride Center is putting on some upcoming events

including Queer Homebois, occurring at 5 p.m. on April 27 in USU 3100, where there will be discussion of masculinity in relation to the Latin@ identity.

At 5:30 p.m. on April 29 in USU 3100, Zumba Pride will occur, and finally the Campus Pride Walk and Festival will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 30, beginning in the Commons.

Washington says that working at the Pride Center gives her the opportunity to give back to the community and provide support, as she aims to promote social justice on campus.

"My position gives me the opportunity to not only inform and educate, but to

continually become more educated myself," she said.

She also expresses the gratitude that comes from the end result of fostering change within individuals.

"Seeing someone who has become more informed take what they've learned and use it to treat their fellow human beings with more dignity and respect is absolutely amazing," Washington said.

Educating people on gender and sexuality, and advocating for the rights of all is the main course of action that Washington hopes to convey to people when doing her job.

"The beauty in having the innumerable groups of people exist within it is that everyone should have the



Photo by Chris Morales

Kia Washington accepts herself and encourages other students to do so as well.

right to define and represent themselves," she said.

In addition, Washington recognizes the power of unity in promoting social change.

"However, I must acknowledge the work we must do to support those who are marginalized by the very com-

munity meant to empathize and empower them - for example, bisexual, transgender and non-binary people," she said. "I believe, perhaps too idealistically, that it is vital for the community to be united, especially when there is still so much to fight for."

FASHION COMMENTARY

Students take advantage of low price shopping option (or outlets)

By ANNA PETROV
STAFF WRITER

The upcoming spring and summer trends seen on the runways, then sold in stores include affordable merchandise. Several well-known department stores and boutiques found at plazas and malls carry these options.

Many department stores like Nordstrom Rack, Marshalls and Ross include designer brands for reasonable prices and have big sales both seasonally and during holidays. Similarly, boutiques like Forever 21, Charlotte Russe, Wet Seal and H&M have similar clearance promotions, which carry incredibly chic

apparel and accessories.

"I would definitely recommend Forever 21 for they have a broad choice of clothes, and then newest trends and it's very affordable," CSUSM student, Ronja Skaug, said.

Being able to afford the latest trends for a fair price can be quite rewarding and CSUSM students need access to apparel outlets where they don't have to spend too much of their income.

"My top little last minute shopping store is Wet Seal. They normally have good deals, [and] also include a fashion discount part that saves people five percent overall [on] their entire transaction," another CSUSM student,

Victoria Escobedo, added.

Since the beginning of the internet, shopping online has become highly popular, providing more options of merchandise to buy. Not to mention, customers have access to all different kinds of stores online.

Yet, from personal experience, buying shoes or other merchandise online from stores like Charlotte Russe that also has a store in each county or state may be more trustworthy because you are buying from a more established brand, rather than purchasing from online stores that are only virtual.

Shopping has been done for many decades, and buying great quality goods by saving money is a better bargain.

RESTAURANT REVIEW

Board & Brew

By KAT DILTZ
STAFF WRITER

Board & Brew in Carlsbad Village specializes in creating delicious quality sandwiches, with a broad menu that has something for everyone to enjoy.

Founded in 1979 in Del Mar, California, Board & Brew has stayed true to its mission of creating healthy meals made with real meat and fresh vegetables daily. Their simple menu and delicious meal options always make for a pleasant dining experience.

Not only is the menu easy to navigate through, but their food is quite affordable for the quantity served--each sandwich is large enough to split with a friend (or you

can save the other half for lunch the next day!). What makes Board & Brew different from any other sandwich chain is their "secret sauce" that is included with every sandwich and brings out each meal's unique flavor. It is definitely a signature condiment that cannot be found in your standard fast-food sandwich chain.

My personal favorite is the grilled Baja chicken sandwich, which consists of marinated chicken breast with grilled onions, jalapeño peppers and melted jack cheese on a toasted French baguette.

In addition, the menu also provides heartier sandwiches like the grilled roast beef spicy sandwich, and vegetarian options like the Vegi Supreme. Every sandwich pairs well with a soft drink,

iced tea or local craft beer.

In my experience, the service at the Carlsbad location has always been friendly and helpful, and the interior atmosphere has a beachy, true-to-Southern-California vibe. The restaurant also offers catering services for parties or office events. I have never had to wait more than 10 minutes for my meal to arrive, and it always looked presentable and filling.

With its relaxed environment, healthy and fresh meals and refreshing beverages, Board & Brew is worth checking out.

Find It:

Board & Brew is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Sunday. It is located at 201 Oak Ave, Carlsbad, CA. The restaurant's phone number is (760) 434-4466.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why I am out— a journey to honesty



Photo courtesy of Rodger D'Andreas-Wahl

BY RODGER D'ANDREAS-WAHL
CONTRIBUTOR

I grew up in a small Texas town, a place where men were defined by their love for football, hunting, womanizing and beer drinking. It wasn't a safe place to come out as gay in the 1970s when I was coming into awareness of my sexuality. I saw no queer role models

in my small town or on the few television channels we received. And the words I heard people use to refer to folks who felt the ways I was feeling didn't feel good to me— words like sissy and queer. Words that stung when boys slurred them at me, angry that I didn't know which way to run with the football, or upset at themselves because they secretly wanted

to make out with me on country roads in their pickup trucks after football games.

I was outed when I was 18 years old. I was lucky. My parents were educators, and they responded compassionately. As I came out to others over the next several years, a recurrent theme stood out: "If you're going to be gay, don't make a big deal of it. Don't announce it! And don't march in any gay parades wearing short shorts and twirling a baton!" The message didn't feel good to me, but it was partially intended to ensure my safety—it was Texas in the 1980s.

Fast forward three decades. I'm 51 years old. I've since walked in many gay pride parades, shirtless and in (shorter) shorts. There's been no baton twirling,

but only because I lack coordination. And I do announce my sexuality— I do make a big deal of it.

I believe it's essential that I do so, that I have an obligation to be out— as an aging queer man, a bicultural queer with white passing privilege, a queer feminist, a queer with economic privilege and a sex-positive queer in an intergenerational romantic relationship.

I am out because the intersections of my identities are beautiful and meaningful.

While my queerness precludes me from living up to societal standards of hegemonic masculinity, my queerness offers liberatory possibilities for expressing multiple masculinities. As an aging queer man, I am pressured to remain youth-

ful, fit and sexy to maintain social capital in mainstream gay communities— or I can move into queer kink or bear subcultures with less rigid body politics.

I am out as a bicultural queer with white passing privilege because my Native American and Latino ancestries are often dismissed until I intentionally call attention to them. I am out as a queer feminist because, in my experience, these two communities fail to work toward common goals, instead choosing to perpetuate longstanding conflicts steeped in misunderstanding.

I acknowledge my economic privilege because I grew up without it. I recognize that queer communities disproportionately live in poverty, despite miscon-

ceptions about our wealth. I am out as a sex-positive queer because the sex-negative narratives that have been ingrained in younger LGBTQ generations concern me, particularly around the stigmatization of poly sexuality and HIV. I am out about my queer intergenerational romantic relationship because I believe that love comes in many forms when we give ourselves permission to step outside our comfort zone and approach life openly and honestly.

My journey over the past five decades from the small Texas town of my childhood to working and teaching at CSUSM has been one toward honesty and authenticity. And at its core, that's what being out is about— living authentically.

Writer: 'Homophobia is still alive and well in society'

BY ALEX MARAVILLAS
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

My sexual orientation still makes people feel uncomfortable. That is why I am comfortable being alone.

I have family. However, sometimes it is difficult to be out with family members that are not particularly accepting. That is why identifying as a gay male in a world that is not particularly accepting is especially hard emotionally and physically.

However, as I remain pessimistic in my current situation, I am aware that there is hope for full acceptance for who I am as a human being and that changes towards the view of stereotypes from being gay are transcend-

ing into full acceptance.

Identifying in the Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transsexual Queer Ally (LGBTQA) community, I utilize the resources in my area, for example, the CSUSM Pride Center. With my situation regarding my safety, I like to associate myself in places that identify as a Safe Zone because I fear for my life sometimes due to the occurrence of hate crimes against the LGBTQA community.

While people's reactions are not our fault, we can control our own reactions to the negativity and we can continue to live and better ourselves through education and personal growth without letting the limits others im-

pose on us dictate our lives.

The surface level of what societal hetero-normative stereotypes have labeled upon the gay community is a reaction to my sexual orientation or gender identity because it leaves a negative effect. So distance is the reasonable solution. I am a multidimensional human being with dreams and aspirations like everyone else.

Remaining positive is a struggle as depression sweeps in for those who are out in the community. However, resources are crucial for those in need. For example, when someone in the community is in distress, asking for help is always the reasonable solution in times of crisis.

Homophobia is still alive and well in society. Struggling individuals in the community are sensitive towards trigger topics and words that can make a current situation worse. I speak for all the gay little boys who have been picked on in school or outside of school and who don't have a voice.

Life as a gay male of color leads to self-identification issues. Now, as someone who is a millennial and identifies as a homosexual, cisgender, Filipino-American, able-bodied and a student pursuing a higher education, I understand that my current situation is an awareness that is both a curse and a blessing. As a Peer Educator who



Photo provided by Alex Maravillas

Maravillas walks in Pride parade with friend Cassidy Savoia.

works at the ASI LGBTQA Community Pride Center, I can work in an environment that I feel safe in and I can gain skills as a contributor to society while at the same time, giving me a purpose educating the community about current issues that interest

the LGBTQA community.

In the summer of 2014, I walked in the San Diego Pride Parade. It was a memorable experience for me as a gay young man. I felt proud to be who I am as I walked on the pavement of the Hillcrest community.

Is he good enough for you?

Things to consider before committing to a relationship

BY JEFF KENNEDY
CONTRIBUTOR

You want to get to know a man? Look at how he treats his mother. If he doesn't treat his mother right, he likely won't treat you right.

Let's be honest, a lot of guys are cordial towards women because they want something out of them. That's why cordiality often disappears five years into marriage because they've already won the prize so they see no reason to keep working for it. We live in a society that is based upon rewards and punishments. And we need to push away from that mentality.

One way to combat this issue is for women to have higher standards of what a guy needs to do in order to be worthy of a committed relationship. Opening a door is

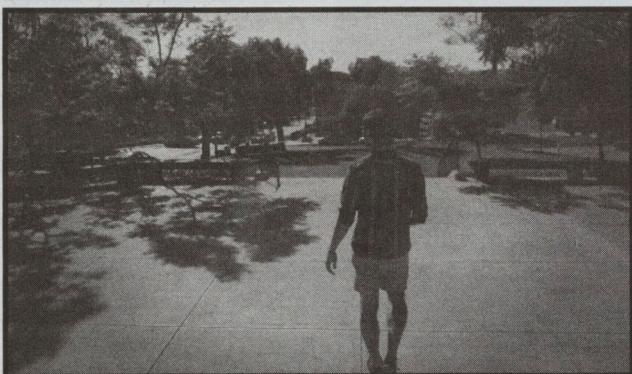


Photo by Noelle Friedberg

How can you tell if he is worth your time?

a good, but it is not enough. Paying for the tab is not enough. Compliments are not enough. Small acts of kindness are good, but they're not enough. What really matters is character. I understand that every girl has a father and I try to treat women the same way I would want my daughter to be treated.

The thing is, you might have to wait for a worthy

guy. But they are out there and they are worth waiting for. Make sure the guy you're considering dating has character before you jump into a relationship with him. He needs to treat everyone with care and respect, not just you. A good way to judge a man's character is to see how he treats the people around him. Looks are not the most impor-

tant thing in a relationship.

Here are the two most important things to consider before you get serious with someone:

Trust is something that has to be earned. If you give it to everyone, you are bound to be hurt. Trust takes time. If you don't trust a guy to be honest with you, you probably shouldn't be in a committed relationship with him.

Communication is one of the most important things in a relationship. If you can't communicate with someone, it leaves you confused, and if you're confused, then you're angry. And relationships don't work when you're always angry with the person you're with.

Remember these two traits because you're worth more than a guy you can't trust and who doesn't communicate with you.

Palliative continued from pg 2

looking to grow within the Palliative Care field, and also offers classes for family members and loved ones. The purpose of this is to make sure that patients who are living with a chronic illness are being given the opportunity to use Palliative Care.

The WGYLM campaign is an all inclusive drive to develop a comprehensive understanding of Palliative Care amongst the community.

In the remaining days of April, the CSU Institute for Palliative Care will continue with this campaign and will host several more events that they encourage students and community members to attend.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 23 in front of the USU, there will be a WGYLM Resource Fair and Public Art Project event that will allow students, faculty and staff to portray their own reflection of what gives life meaning for them.

The resource fair will consist of 22 agencies who will present on Palliative Care through different topics.

Additionally, at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday April 23 at the McMahan House, the Institute will host a free film screening of "Finding Joe", a movie that also reflects the issues and themes within the WGYLM campaign. Ice cream will also be served for anyone attending this event.

Lastly, the WGYLM series will end with "My Voice, My Choice" from 12 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28 in Academic Hall 102. Speaker and RN, Caroline Boaz, will discuss the significance for students to understand what is important to them when it comes to the end of their lives through the introduction of Advanced Directives, which are legal documents that allow individuals to clearly plan their decisions about end-of-life care ahead of time.

To learn more about these events, please visit whatgivesyourlifemeaning.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Do not sanitize my sanctuary

By PRESTON WITCHELL
CONTRIBUTOR

Recently, I have seen an increased push to create LGBT bookstores, coffee houses, churches and theaters to replace bars as centers of community, places to meet people and LGBT rites of passage.

Some agree with this suggestion from a standpoint of exclusion of LGBT youth when events are held at bars or other 21+ venues. However, there are some who express disdain toward bars as “sex-centric LGBT spaces” and suggest that it is in our better image to abandon

them. This normalization of minority communities is appalling. Why should we seek to conform to puritan standards of “sexual morality?” Why should we seek to abandon our history?

I agree that we should also seek to build inclusive spaces that are able to establish community for younger people; however, I do not agree with the notion of erasing spaces that have become a community staple. In some parts of the country, bars are the only safer outlets for the exploration of identities. They are the foundation. They are where friendships have been formed; outside is where

they have been built stronger.

I would like to ask those who seek to de-sexualize identities that are directly related to sexuality why they feel this way. In relation to my identity as queer, I do not seek to make anyone but myself comfortable with my expression of sexuality. The relentless push towards heteronormativity seeks to depoliticize our sexual-political identities, in hopes of easily categorizing us to be more palatable to mainstream society.

Can’t you see that the popular culture, as an institution, is providing false incentive by dangling hetero goals like

monogamy, marriage and children as a carrot towards the goal of conformity?

While I support the desire and push for LGBT bookstores, coffee houses, churches and theaters, erasing spaces such as bars would do our community a disservice. Recently, long established LGBT bookstores have closed their doors in major urban areas, including San Francisco and Los Angeles, because the community cannot sustain them. It is unlikely that a gay coffee house would be able to thrive in a small town; however, an unmarked bar, on the outskirts of town, can serve as a rite of



Photo by Nick Nootbaar

Many locations on campus actively promote a LGBTQ safe zone.

passage—a place of discovery. While some individuals within the LGBT community may seek to abandon bars as community centers in pur-

suit of their heteronormative goals, those of us who do not share these same values ask that our sex-centric sanctuaries remain intact.

A straight woman’s perspective on sexual stereotyping

By KAT DILTZ
STAFF WRITER

One of the greatest lessons that I have learned is to not judge a book by its cover. Upon starting my first year at CSUSM, I kept an open mind when meeting new people, because who a person is on the inside is worth a thousand times more than their physical exterior.

Everyone’s personality is different, and may not match who they appear to be on the outside. This also applies to

each individual’s sexual orientation, which is a sensitive subject that typically would not be appropriate to bring up among acquaintances, but some people do not mind pushing the boundaries.

I have had a rather peculiar situation happen to me on more than one occasion, each time with different groups of people. During the first few weeks of school, when I introduced myself to groups of girls, one girl would ask me if I was a lesbian, and before I would have a chance to respond, another would



Photo by Chris Morales

Features should not indicate whether or not a person is gay.

chime in and say, “No, she’s too pretty to be a lesbian.” I then responded by saying that I am straight; however,

this situation got me thinking about LGBTQ “stereotypes.”

Hypothetically, if I did identify as a lesbian, I would

feel a bit offended. These girls had a certain expectation of what a lesbian should look like, which was a woman with short hair, little to no makeup, a deeper voice and a masculine style. There are many gay women who have a feminine sense of style, and there are many who do not.

Later in these conversations, I would ask these girls why they assumed that I was gay, and one would say, “Oh, because your voice is deep.” I was always confused by this response because my voice does fall

into a lower register, but just because I have one quality of a “stereotypical” lesbian does not make me one.

Everyone should be allowed to express their personal style however they want, regardless of their sexual orientation. People have different quirks that make them who they are, and we should not be quick to judge the people we meet based on their exterior. Give people a chance to show you who they truly are before making assumptions—you may just discover someone is great.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Race and its unintended consequences

Why it’s necessary to analyze tough issues through more than one lens

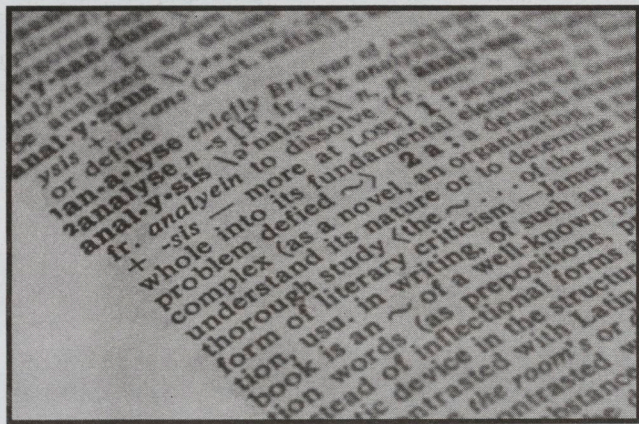


Photo by Chris Morales

By MELISSA DERR
CONTRIBUTOR

Analysis - the Webster’s dictionary defines this as: “the process of breaking a complex topic or substance into smaller parts in order to gain a better understanding of it.”

We have been told as liberal arts undergraduates to analyze a given situation from every perspective possible so that we don’t have a biased

or skewed picture of a given event. Why is it then that our analysis of things has begun to take one shape? Isn’t it ironic that, although analysis by definition should come from many different perspectives, it is in reality only coming from one source?

In the words of academia, why have we become so narrow-minded in our conclusion making skills? With every situation, whether that be in the minutest element of the domestic sphere or in the

wide range of geopolitics, we analyze events through the lenses of race and one’s socioeconomic status.

Now I understand that historically many injustices have been incurred on minorities and that classes were extremely rigid at one time, but we can’t let the turbulent past dictate the outcomes of the present. As many history professors would state: history does not repeat itself because every situation is different with the implicit progression of society as a whole.

Why then is it the case that analysis is limited to one lens with the inaccurate conclusion that every situation must be the same and draw from past historical events? With calamities such as Ferguson and even our minor domestic affairs, we have become so obsessed with the race card type of analysis that the big picture has been majorly distorted.

Because of our history of

slavery and racism, the U.S. has become weak in its foreign and domestic policies because it feels we must pay social reparations to certain members of society for our past crimes. An example of this type of analysis would be the elections of Benjamin Netanyahu. Bibi was criticized for telling Jews to take the initiative to get out and vote because Arabs were flooding the polls. He was attacked on this point because it was not politically and racially sensitive.

Again, the big picture was lost. Oh just “inconsequential” details like Iran being a security threat to his nation if nuclear sanctions were to be lifted (a proposed move by our current administration), and secondly Israel being in jeopardy of losing land to imperialistic Arab nations. Little things, no big deal.

The controversial “Race Together” campaign, which Starbucks has instituted in its stores, began by training ba-

ristas to open up the discussion of race with customers by either directly and assumedly nonchalantly broaching the topic or by dramatically writing “Race Together” in red pen, complete with a smiley face, on their cup.

As a side note, how are baristas qualified to discuss the complexities of race anyway, not to mention who really wants to talk about ANY controversial issue while getting their daily café mocha at six a.m.? I know I don’t, I take my caffeine refueling too seriously.

Ultimately, our generation

has become brainwashed in the realm of domestic and geopolitical events by adhering to the doctrines of simplicity. Specifically, the one noted analyses of race, which consequently has given an unfair advantage to those not deserving clemency, has turned enemies into allies, and allies into enemies and has created a generation so obsessed with a given lens that they wouldn’t know the truth of an event even if a cruel, white-Supremacist, Islamophobic, police officer beat it into them (yes, sarcasm and irony completely intended).

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Is the fear of rape true definition of “homophobia?”

What does it mean to be homophobic?

By JOSHUA D. COPELAND
STAFF WRITER

Homophobia is not a real disease.

At least not according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5), where the term is nowhere listed. Yet many homosexuals face discrimination today, and this discrimination is what many consider the definition of “homophobia.”

But when the term is broken down, “homo” means “man”

or “human being” while “phobe” or “phobia” means “fear of.” Thus, to be homophobic is to fear humans... not homosexuality. Then a movie like “Get Hard,” featuring comedic icons Kevin Hart and Will Ferrell, hits the theaters, and millionaire James King (Ferrell) seems very “homophobic,” indeed.

The recent film has been the target of negative backlash. Of the many offenses the film commits, including negative portrayals of stereotypes of race and homosexuality, King’s biggest fear out of everything is being raped in prison.

And while the fear of man may not necessarily be real, the fear of rape is very real.

From a man’s perspective, masculinity is definitive.

From a man’s perspective, masculinity is definitive. Society is guilty of associating masculinity with power. Emasculation, by any sense, is threatening to men.

Society is guilty of associating masculinity with power. Emasculation, by any sense, is threatening to men. To be raped is to be stripped of your power; to be violated

beyond any means of control. Being raped is a fear that both men and women share. The thought of being sexually overpowered by a man

more masculine is unnerving to straight men especially.

Women are (and rightfully so) the focal point of victimization in what many are calling today’s rape culture.

However, we rarely hear anything about the rape that takes place in prison, which in many cases occurs often.

In prison, young men are violently raped repeatedly by their inmates for the establishment of dominance. There is no escape or protection from their attackers, and there are no police to really report to. There is usually no sympathy for inmates who endure these traumatic experiences. Instead we’re taught to believe that inmates are deserving of torture, so we laugh and make jokes about men being raped. Something that we wouldn’t dare do in

the case of female victims.

Meanwhile, male rape victims have to deal with the trauma of sexual abuse alone, and some later experiment with their sexuality out of sexual confusion. There is a lot of debate as to whether or not a person is born gay and what may ‘cause’ it. In the case of one psychologist, Dr. Umar Johnson, he reported that 95 percent of his patients who were homosexual experienced sexual abuse in their earlier lives.

So is “homophobia” really about the fear of gay people? Or is it the underlying fear of being taken by another man?

Thoughts on womanhood

Reflections on Herstory Month and the rest of the year

By ARIEL ROBBINS
STAFF WRITER

Thought #1: It’s good to be alive in a time and a place where a woman’s thoughts can be taken seriously.

Thought #2: However, being a woman is complicated. The dictionary definition of a woman is: an adult human female—but that’s just as helpful as defining the ocean as “a lot of water.” They’re more than that, both of them. The problem is that we try to define things that

are indefinable. To put it simply, a woman cannot be put into words because that would limit her. There are no bounds on what a woman can be. Her genitalia does not define her. Her ability to bare children, or menstruate, does not define her. Her character does not define her.

It’s common in contemporary society to want to see women as strong, as independent, as selfless, as someone inspiring. However, the second we give one label to women is the

second that all of the women who aren’t strong, who still need to depend on someone, who are selfish, are exempt. We can have our ideals, but we cannot ignore reality.

We cannot ignore the segment of women who don’t live up to society’s expectations. We cannot and should not un-claim them. An unapologetic woman is just as important as a woman that will never stop saying she’s sorry. As a society, we try and weed people out. Women especially are given a mold

more distorted than most. Our waistline is expected to be as petite as our input, but things are changing.

There are women that will live and die under systems of oppression, and there are women who will cry for them, who will fight for them, who will know nothing of them, but that doesn’t change the fact that we are in this together. When society fails us, we must become homes for each other. Today, we are constantly finding ways to build each other up and



Photo by Noelle Friedberg

protect those of us with less privilege, sharing our voice. In the end, all this has lead

me to thought #3: In a world that tries so hard to put us into words, we remain undefined.

Why Pride Center’s Aiello-Hauser is one of my role models

By KATLIN SWEENEY
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I have been very fortunate during my time at CSUSM to have become friends with people that exemplify what it means to be a role model. Meeting Robert not only heightened my desire to make social justice a priority in my career, but he shows me on a daily basis what it means to love and work for your community.

When I started at CSUSM three years ago, I knew only a handful of people. As I became more involved with *The Cougar Chronicle* and various other campus organizations, that gradually began to change. When one of my best friends expressed an interest in visiting the campus LGBTQA Pride Center and encouraged me to go with him, I initially declined. I was nervous about whether or not I would be welcomed in a space where a community that I was supportive of, but did not really know, spent time. When I finally did visit the

Center (which at this time was housed in Commons, not the USU), my nerves vanished almost immediately. Every time I turned around, someone new was coming up to me to say hello and ask me what video games I liked or what other interests I had. Even though I am lousy at video games, I began visiting more and more often and truly felt welcomed.

I had caught glimpses of Robert here and there, but finally officially met him when I became Editor-in-Chief of *The Cougar Chronicle* in May 2013. After sitting down to talk with him, visiting the Center more often and learning more about LGBTQA rights and issues, I gained a whole new appreciation for the movement.

One of the most important things I learned through Robert and the Pride Center is how to be an ally. As a heterosexual woman that identifies in the LGBTQQIP2SA community (thanks Rodger for teaching me this acronym!) as an ally, it has been a journey for me to understand what exactly that means.

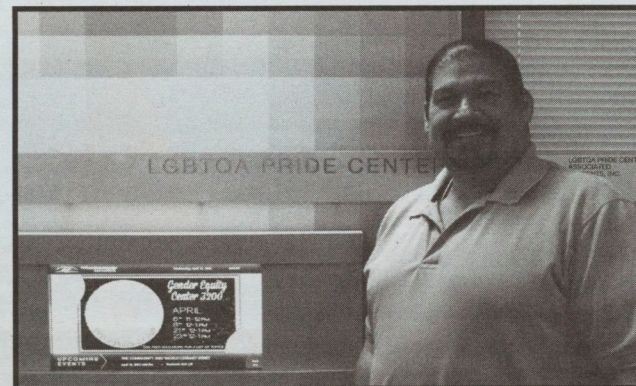


Photo by Chris Morales

Robert Aiello-Hauser is the Director of the LBTQA Pride Center.

Being an ally is a very complicated experience and means a lot of things to a lot of different people. For me, being an ally means that regardless of where I am and who is listening, I will always stand up for folks in the LGBTQA community. I will always stand up against homophobic and transphobic language, actions and stereotyping.

However, being an ally does not grant me the authority to dominate a conversation about LGBTQA issues and direct all attention to me, or to speak on behalf of the LGBTQA commu-

nity. It does not permit me to dominate the front spots at a rally or be the “face” of the movement. It means to support, which to me means not having to be the center of attention, but still making it clear to everyone that my support for the community will not change just to “impress” or “appease” others who may not understand it.

Without Robert, I would have never learned this important facet to my identity. This is just one of the many things I have learned from my time at the Center and becoming friends with him. Robert works tirelessly

everyday to make sure that everyone around him is cared for. He stays long after his “shift” is over to complete all of the work he wants to accomplish. Robert builds coalitions and encourages folks to get to know the community. At events like the Coming Out Monologues and Rainbow Recognition, Robert always cries from genuine love, joy and empathy for everyone that shares their thoughts and stories.

He never forgets anyone or to check that everyone around him feels loved and accepted. He passionately believes in creating safe spaces and giving students a platform to voice their opinions. Robert works hard to make sure that students understand and own their potential. This support is something that has had a tremendous impact on my life.

When my father passed away in November, my close relationships became even more important to ensure that I stayed focused on graduating next spring, building the newspaper and moving forward with my plans to

apply for graduate school.

My friendship with Robert in a lot of ways is like having my father back. He has always been my dad away from home, someone who cheered equally hard for my accomplishments and supported me through my mistakes like my father did. He has been friends with me even when it was not popular to be and believed in my visions for the newspaper when others told me they would never happen.

I see a similarity in my father and Robert in that they both had to overcome many challenges to be successful. But these obstacles did not define either of them. Instead, it is the staunch support and love for the people that they care about. Like my father, Robert is one hundred percent a person with his heart on his sleeve, which he continuously breaks into small pieces so that he can hand them to everyone that is in need of love.

**Robert,
thank you for all
that you do.**

COMIC BOOK CORNER

Rat Queens series honored with GLAAD Award

By FAITH ORCINO
A&E EDITOR

During the 26th Annual GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) Media Awards ceremony in Beverly Hills, Los Angeles, the organization announced Image Comics series "Rat Queens" as the 2014 Outstanding Comic Book.

It was one of the many recipients that were honored for ensuring inclusive representation of the LGBT community and diversity in the media on March 21, 2015. Previous winners of the category included Marvel's 2013 "Young Avengers", Archie Comics's 2012 "Kevin Keller" and DC Comics's 2011 "Batwoman".

The series has been going strong ever since Jim Valentino, co-founder of Image Comics, greenlit the series in 2013, according to series writer Kurtis J. Wiebe's interview with IGN. Wiebe collaborated with Meg DeJmal to create this so-called "love letter of my [Wiebe] years of D&D [Dungeons and Dragons]".

The two formed a fantastical cast of characters including the four leading

ladies: Hannah the Rockabilly Elven Mage, Dee the Atheist Human Cleric, Violet the Hipster Dwarven Fighter and Betty the Hippy Smidgen Thief. This ragtag quartet of mercenaries have a strange way of finding themselves into trouble whether its with new enemies or those from the past.

Even though it is in a mystical realm with elves, dwarves and other magical creatures, some of these characters and situations are close to home. At times these women have to deal with complicated relationships and family issues. Still, they have quests to complete. It is a must-read, especially those that are fans of Image Comics's "Saga" and other adventure series. "Rat Queens" is far beyond any normal D&D campaign.

The series also gained critical recognition when it became one of the distinguished 2014 Eisner Awards nominee for Best New Series. Both Volumes One and Two are available for purchase and Issue #11, the debut issue of Stjepan Sejic as "Rat Queens"'s regular interior artist, will be released on May 6. Visit imagecomics.com for more information.

By ALEX MARAVILLAS
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Matt Bomer had an invigorating and revelatory performance in "The Normal Heart", losing about 40 pounds to play the character Felix Turner. Turner reported for The New York Times who failed to resist to the demise of AIDS. The extremely surprising impressive character development earned Bomer a Critics Choice Television Award, a Golden Globe and an Emmy Award nomination.

Homophobia pulverized "The Normal Heart" at the Emmys. The same anti-gay agitations that incapacitated "Brokeback Mountain" at the Oscars gave the film a disadvantage. Ryan Murphy's HBO adaptation of Larry Kramer's 1985 play about the happening days of AIDS before the usual time was one of last season's most praised enthusiastically and publicly telefilms.

Both the play and the HBO film looked at the New York crisis through writer Ned

Weeks (Mark Ruffalo) who was more adamant about the issue in comparison to his lover, Turner (Bomer). The two struggled to form a group to raise awareness about the disease, constantly arguing about how to confront this problem. Other talents included Joe Mantello, Alfred Molina and Jim Parsons. In June, it won Best TV Movie at the Critics' Choice Awards. Matt Bomer took the award of Best Supporting Actor in a movie or television drama the same night.

Unceasingly, the film had the tendency to remind one of "Brokeback Mountain," which lost at the Oscars in 1996. Losing all its acting bids, it won Direction for Ang Lee and Screenplay for Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana. However, the film lost the Best Picture. "The Normal Heart" similarly lost all its acting bids, but in a reverse change in condition. It lost in the Direction and Screenplay categories, yet still

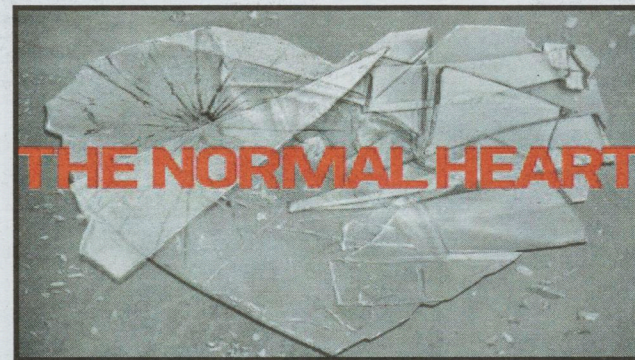


Photo provided by IMDB

won Best Television Movie.

The film's gay sexual content kept the Emmy voters from fully embracing it, in my opinion. "The Normal Heart" won Best Television Movie, so it wouldn't get in a competition in which the losing side failed to score. It opened up voters to charges of homophobia. "The Normal Heart" simply lost its other bids to a superior movie/mini-series, BBC's "Sherlock Holmes".

"The Normal Heart" had a backstory that evoked attention. The full standing ovation that the ailing, 79-year-old Kramer

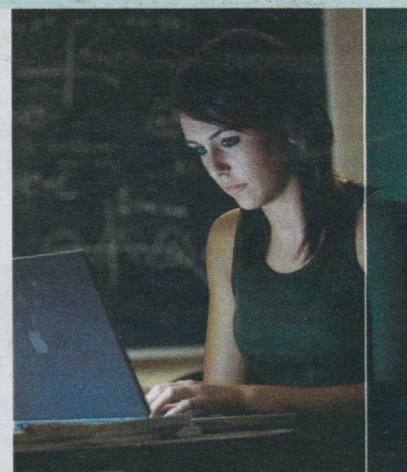
would've received if he had won the Screenplay Emmy, not only for his writing but his nearly 30-year fight to get his story on screen. A Bomer victory would've also made history: He could've been the first openly gay actor to win an Emmy for playing a gay role. By contrast, straight actors are cited for their "bravery" and win Emmys for playing gay (i.e., Michael Douglas as Liberace in "Behind the Candelabra") or Oscars (i.e., Tom Hanks in "Philadelphia"). Does Hollywood assume that it's not really award-worthy for out actors to play gay roles?

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