

# PRIDE<sub>POST</sub>

Volume I, Issue I

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April 2005

## Upcoming Events

- Fundraiser- Hip Hop Dance Class: Beginning April 11th, 4-5pm
- Spring Quarter Rap Group: Every Tuesday beginning April 12th, 5:30-6:30pm
- Day of Silence: April 13th, TBA
- Celebrating Pride and Excellence Scholarship Dinner: April 14th, 5:30-8pm @ The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch

## Meetings & Gatherings

### QSAFE

Queer Students & Allies  
For Equality  
Tu 12-1pm @ Pride Center

### La Familia

Th 12-1pm @ TBA

Lavender Graduation  
Celebration Committee  
Th 12-1pm @ Pride Center

Spring Quarter Rap Group  
Tu 5:30-6:30pm @ Pride  
Center

## Pride Student of the Month



Chester Lagmay— 3rd year Marketing student

“The Pride Center has created a safe space for me to be me!”

## Hate Crimes: Our Reality, Our Solution

By Nancy Gonzalez

Crimes such as assault, rape, and even murder are committed against people because of differences such as race, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity. These crimes have been labeled hate crimes in California.

We have seen evidence of these crimes in the case of Matthew Shepard. Shepard was a young gay male lured by young men to the middle of nowhere. Shepard was brutally beaten and tied to a fence where he was left to die in freezing weather.

The Matthew Shepard story is probably familiar to you, but there are many other hate crimes that have resulted in death. One such case

which you may not be as familiar with is the case of Gwen Amber Rose Araujo. Gwen, a 17-year-old transgender, was at a party the night of October 3, 2002 when four young men that she had previously had relations with discovered that Gwen was biologically male. After this discovery the young men brutally beat and killed Araujo. They then drove 150 miles and buried her body in the Sierra Nevada foothills. A week later, after rumors of what had happened began to spread one of the young men, Jaron Nabors, led the authorities to where Gwen was buried. The four young men that committed this act have yet to be convicted. The first trial

ended in a mistrial and Araujo’s family is seeking a retrial. Gwen was the 25<sup>th</sup> transgender known to be murdered in 2002 according to the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition.

Gwen’s mother, Sylvia Guerrero, was very supportive of Gwen wanting to actively live her life as a woman. Gwen’s family was devastated by the loss of her death. Sylvia has become an activist for the rights of the transgender community.

Laws have been passed in order to deter such crimes from occurring, but these crimes are difficult to capture because of existing barriers in reporting which include the fear of

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## Pride and Excellence at Cal Poly Pomona

By Chester Lagmay

The Celebrating Pride and Excellence Scholarship Dinner Committee will be holding its annual scholarship dinner for the fourth year in a row!

The Celebrating Pride and Excellence Scholar-

ship Dinner is a fundraiser for scholarships aimed at recognizing the academic and community achievements of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and allies students. With student fees rising every

year, our Cal Poly GLBTQIA student are in much need of financial support. This event strives to provide not only financial support but also the personal recognition

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## Scholarship Dinner cont'd

that helps motivate and empower our students to excel.

A few of the awards to be presented at the dinner include two \$500 scholarships funded by Pride Alliance, one \$500 scholarship funded by the Pride Center and three \$150 scholarships funded by Lambda Alumni. Faculty and staff who have helped students reach their academic and personal potential will also be recognized.

Join us as we celebrate this years scholarship recipients, RSVP now! Student sponsorship is strongly encouraged. Contact the Pride Center for more info.

## Coordinator's Corner

By Fernando Estrada

With much excitement I thank you for taking the time to read our first issue of the Pride Post! Our goal is to create a stronger connection between the Pride Center and the Cal Poly community at large for the purpose of increasing awareness on GLBTQIA issues.

It seems like just yesterday I was stepping off my New York flight and getting situated again to LA life. New York taught me many different valuable lessons, one being the importance of staying connected! With hundreds of people passing you by on the streets and everyone working with a personal schedule fit for any celebrity, finding ways to stay connected proved to be a challenge. The



Pride Center hopes to maintain a connection with you and ultimately offer you some valuable insights on the issues facing our community.

As any cultural community, the GLBTQIA community is very diverse (as indicated by the ever-growing acronym). I encourage you to drop us a line if you're interested in learning about a particular issue or segment of the community.

Lastly, I'd like to invite you to visit us in Bldg 26-107. Nothing compares to the in-person connections one makes. I hope to see you around Spring quarter as we enjoy the sunny days to come!

## Hate Crimes cont'd

being "outed," the fear of retaliation after making a report and the hesitancy that arises when working with law enforcement due to the fear of being re-victimized. Indeed, although hate crimes pose a challenge to our communities, the challenges to reporting hate crimes, at times, pose just an equal threat.

The Pride Center, in addition to supporting students with the re-

porting process also takes a more proactive approach to the issue of bias— education! The Pride Center has developed the GLBTA Speakers Bureau, a service that offers panel discussions around the issue of sexual and gender variance. Speaker's Bureau members, the majority consisting of Cal Poly students, are invited into classrooms on a quarterly basis and through their personal experiences, help humanize the GLBTA experience. Additionally, the Pride Center has a library of books and videos that cover a

multitude of topics for those interested in learning more about GLBT issues.

Crimes like the ones committed against Araujo and Shepard affect all of us. The Pride Center recognizes that in addition to working with local and state agencies, education is a key factor in reducing the number of crimes motivated by bias and hate.

Contact the Pride Center to schedule a GLBTA Panel for Spring 2005.

## Term of the Month: *Transgender*

*Transgender* is an umbrella term that encompasses many different identities including transsexual, cross-dresser and drag queen/king. In general, a transgender person is someone who embodies and/or expresses their gender in a way that goes against the social norm. Often times a transgender person feels

their internal sense of self and the expression of that self (i.e. their gender) is not in-line with their biological status (i.e. their sex).

Gender and gender expression exists on a continuum and thus the transgender community is very diverse. Some do not feel the need to

alter their body with hormones or surgery although there are some who feel a physical change, whether temporary or permanent, is necessary.

Gender and gender expression is independent of sexual orientation, thus adding to the diversity of the transgender community. For more information contact the Pride Center or:  
WWW.GPAC.ORG  
WWW.IFGE.ORG  
WWW.ANNELAWRENCE.COM