

# PRIDE<sub>POST</sub>

Volume II, Issue 6

May 2006

## Upcoming Events

- June 1—Lavender Graduation Celebration, BSC-Ursa Major, 6-8pm
- Lavender Graduation Applications are due by May 12, Applications available at the Pride Center, Rm. 26-107
- Pride Center Staff/Faculty/Student Mixer, Thursday May 25, 5-6:30pm, Rainbow Weaver Room (26-104)

## Meetings & Gatherings

### QSAFE Meetings

Tu 12-1pm @ Pride Center

### Lavender Grad Planning Committee Meetings

Thu 12-1pm @ Pride Center

### Women's Rap Group

Thursdays 6:30pm @ Pride Center

### Co-ed Rap Group

Tuesdays 5:30pm @ Pride Center

## Pride Student of the Month



Kaori Watson is a transfer student majoring in Biotechnology

(Cont. On Page 2)

## “Ex-gay” Therapy Ineffective & Harmful

By Fernando Estrada

Ex-gay therapy is an insidious form of mental health. Not long ago, gays and lesbian were subjected to truculent aversion techniques that believers of ex-gay therapy claimed to “cure” people of homosexuality. For example, gay men were shown pictures of naked men and then administered electric shocks to their testicles.

More than 30 years later after the American Psychiatric Association deleted homosexuality from it’s list of mental disorders, “ex-gay” ministries are still claiming that homosexuality is a curable disease. The following story is an excerpt from an article

written about a pastor who abandoned his attempts to turn Christians “straight:”

“It has become quite obvious that the conservative Christian approach to homosexuality not only fails to produce the promised results, but it has a very destructive effect on the lives of many gay people and their families, and an extremely corrosive effect on their faith in Christ,” says Jeremy Marks, founder and director of [Courage](#), a UK-based Christian organization.

Though young people with unwanted homosexual feelings may put

their hope in claims of orientational change, for members of Courage the promise of ‘healing’ not only rang hollow but proved psychologically and spiritually damaging. “However repentant people were, and however much dedication and effort they put into seeking change, none were really ‘successful’ in the long term,” Marks says. “The traditional Christian view forces gay people either to agree that their natural desire for love and intimacy in committed relationship is fundamentally deviant and ungodly, simply because it is directed towards the same sex, or if they accept them-

## Our Wedding... sort of.

By Steve Alba

As we waited in the lobby of the Secretary of State’s office—between a welfare mother and an injury lawsuit plaintiff—I couldn’t help but think, “these are my wedding guests.” Granted, a Domestic Partnership is not a tra-

ditional marriage but it’s our only option. So on that sunny April afternoon in downtown Los Angeles, our relationship became legally recognized. Without so much as a congratulations, we were given our official

certificate and asked to move along so others could be helped, and off we went to begin our lives as man and man.

So what does this mean? To some it doesn’t

(Cont. On Page 2)

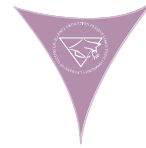
## Ex-gay Therapy cont'd

selves as they are, to feel alienated, misunderstood, and rejected." Christian youth who accept their homosexual orientation are often marginalized by their churches and families, leading many to abandon their faith altogether. Though members of Courage were frustrated in their 14-year search for orientational change, Marks says their faith was re-ignited by realizing that "Gay relationships, entered into sincerely, with mutual commitment, provide value and a sense of belonging. And when Christ has a central place in that relationship, people's morale recovers."

## 2006 Lavender Graduation Celebration

presents

### ☞ The Rainbow Connection ☞



Keynote Speaker: TV Star *Honey Labrador!*

Thursday, June 1

Bronco Student Center—Ursa Major

5pm Reception, 6-8pm Program

Light Dinner Provided

FREE!!

## Our Wedding cont'd

mean anything, but to us it means everything. It means piece of mind knowing that if something were to happen to him or me, the other would not be denied the right to be in the hospital room. It means being able to provide health coverage for each other and our future family. And, when the time comes, it means we cannot be discriminated against when we go buy a home and adopt our children. More than anything, it means no matter how cold or cruel the world may sometimes treat us, we've made to each other a lifelong commitment to protect each other, make each other laugh, console each other's grief, and love each

other faithfully. It may not be called a traditional marriage, and it may not look like one either—but to us it's a marriage, and we wouldn't change it for the world.

Steve Alba and Trevor Tolliver are both Cal Poly Pomona students. Steve is an undergrad majoring in Behavioral Science and Trevor Tolliver is a grad student majoring in English. They have been together for almost 4 years and have been Domestic Partners since April 21, 2006.



## Term of the Month: **Heterosexism**

Heterosexism describes an ideological system that denies, denigrates, and stigmatizes any nonheterosexual form of behavior, identity, relationship, or community ([Herek, 1990](#)). Using the term *heterosexism* highlights the parallels between antigay sentiment and other forms of prejudice, such as racism, antisemitism, and sexism.

In simpler terms, heterosexism is the belief or attitude that all people are or should be heterosexual. Examples of heterosexism include the ban on lesbian and gay military personnel, hostility towards lesbian and gay committed relationships and the existence of sodomy laws in more than one third of the States.

## Pride Student Of The Month cont'd

Kaori Watson is a transfer student and currently serves as a Program Coordinator at the Pride Center. Kaori Watson led the efforts for this year's Pride and Excellence Scholarship Dinner!

Kaori's favorite book is the Never Ending Story and she says, "The Pride Center is important because it brings people from very different backgrounds together. No matter what your preference you are welcome and made comfortable."