The struggle for gay acceptance

by J.N. SERRANTI
Daily Staff Writer

(Staff Writer; This is the first part of a four-part series on homosexuality in San Luis Obispo.)

Think of how it would feel to be labeled a sinner. Imagine what it would be like not being able to hold hands with the person you love in public.

If you consider the emotional effects that being a social deviate would have on your self concept, then you may be able to understand what it's like to be a homosexual in San Luis Obispo.

Being gay in San Francisco is one thing. But being gay in conservative San Luis Obispo is something entirely different.

Homosexuality and gay rights are highly emotional issues which only recently have come to San Luis Obispo. Locally, the united fight by homosexuals for acceptance began at Cal Poly in 1971 with the unofficial formation of the Gay Student's Union.

Pres. Robert Kennedy repeatedly denied the GSU official recognition after the Associated Students, Inc., approved the GSU bylaws.

It took an opinion rendered by the State Attorney General's Office in 1974 to persuade the president to approve the group.

The Attorney General's opinion was attained after the ASI filed suit and went to court on behalf of the GSU against Kennedy to have the group officially recognized.

That battle is over, but the gay community's fight for understanding still continues in San Luis Obispo.

The public's intolerance of homosexuality expresses itself in varying ways.

Twice within the last year, for example, unidentified explosives blew up in GSU meetings. Nobody was injured by the acts of violence, and no suspects were apprehended.

Discrimination without violence has also been shown locally as many discotheques refuse to allow gay couples to dance together.

More subtle forms of prejudice are expressed daily through the use of 'fag' jokes and impersonations.

While in most Christian churches, God's condemnation of homosexuality, based on anti-gay passages in the Bible, is preached.

But, San Luis Obispo is slowly beginning to accept its gay community, Michael Perlman, GSU president said.

Perlman, 24, explained the GSU exists to foster a better understanding of gay lifestyles in the community and to

(continued on page 4)
Freed from the red zone

Let's hear it for the little people! At last we have won! It may not be a big win, but it's a start.

The victory came Wednesday in the county municipal court when Bert J. Rapp, well known Poly student concerned with fighting violations issued on campus. Four ticketed students, of which I was one, had been cited at different times for illegal parking in lot No. 1 near the president's home.

In my case, I was fined $1-50 for parking in a red zone and $5 for obstructing a roadway. The other defendants were charged with similar crimes.

Two weeks ago when I found that pink slip hanging there, I was shocked. When I read the charge, I was more confused than anything else. It is true of course that the growth of cities will balance the "buying of agricultural land. That this cannot continue forever is clear, but lacking in common logic.

After solving that mystery (I still don't know what was meant by obstructing a roadway), I began looking around. What I found was car after car—four of them right in front of me—that had been snapped with tickets for similar reasons.

In fact, all over campus. Students all over the lot were getting tickets for parking in red zones which were indistinguishable from the pavement! I decided enough was enough. The next day, on a Friday afternoon when most of the lot was empty, I took pictures of the poorly painted zones.

When I went to the courthouse Wednesday, I came prepared with photos in hand to convince the judge the ticket was unfair. Much to my surprise, while waiting for the proceedings to begin, I met three other students also who had been barred for parking in the alleged $1-6 red zones. They, too, were challenging the charge.

With the pictures and our testimony as proof of our claim, the traffic referee, Dr. Dean McNutt, who judged our cases, agreed we were in the right. Our tickets were voided.

Mr. Rapp kept the photos promising to take up the matter of repealing $1-50 with proper authorities. Let's hope his intentions are carried through and the lot is repainted soon.

I must agree with Mr. Rapp that it is the American people who must decide who will get what land, the agriculturalists or the urbanists. The American people will also have to decide what they will want more of, food or houses. As this prime agricultural land keeps disappearing into concrete and houses the production costs for food produced also increases. Will the American people be willing, through the years to come, to pay for that increased production, handling, processing, and marketing costs? If food is to be produced in America, won't the marketing channels have to improve so as to be able to meet the rising demand?

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Mentioned in your article was the fact of the "Mustang"..." the weekly newsletter of the La Mision Kiwanis Club and this week I was so enthused about our visit to Cal Poly that I felt obligated to share it with the rest of the Club. Several members said that I should send you a copy of it... I hope you will enjoy it.

Cyril J. Padula, DVM

Editor: As a compromise solution to the Poly parking controversy, why not remove the content "F" and create a natural "P" made up of distinctive massive plants, brush or shrubs? The solution could serve as a basic for a senior project in majors like the Oil and Landscaping Architecture, or as rich projects, class gifts, etc.

A natural "P" would completely dispose of some of the unique ideas here at Poly, and it would allow the traditional distinctive "F." It would also serve some of the alleged erosion that has taken place and demonstrate that it is possible to live in greater harmony with our environment.

Check It

...
Commencement speaker chosen

Cal Poly's commencement speaker will be Dr. Glenn S. Dumke, chancellor of the University of California at Los Angeles. He has been a leader in higher education for over 20 years, serving as president of Occidental College and as provost at the University of California at Los Angeles. Dumke's selection was announced on May 11, 1977.

Library funding approved

A unanimous endorsement of the $11.8 million Cal Poly library proposal by a joint Assembly Senate subcommittee yesterday moved the $11.8 million proposal one step closer to final approval.

The Assembly Ways and Means Committee unanimously approved the proposal following a hearing on the need for the new science building.

Arocky start delays new science building

The $11.5 million science building is behind schedule, as repairs to the building are expected to delay the opening of the building for the fall quarter of 1977.
Homosexuality: An out of the closet issue

The two groups regret this and they are trying to promote a better understanding of what homosexuality really is.

The Gay-Straight Union display in the Union University was built around the theme of gay being a lifestyle. Perlman contends that most people think of homosexuality strictly in terms of two members of the same sex having sexual relations, but they don't realize that gay people actually fall in love with each other.

"The physical aspects of homosexuality is not what gay is all about...There is a lot of social and emotional implications in being gay," Perlman said.

The Gay-Straight Union, who came out when he was 15, believes once the public understands what gay really means, it will become more tolerant of the varied lifestyle.

Until that time, many homosexuals will continue to hide in their closet for fear of not being accepted, Perlman said.

"There are probably hundreds of closet cases in the campus community," he estimated.

Perlman feels fortunate that he was raised in a liberal environment which enabled him to accept his homosexuality with little problem. But, he said he was the exception and not the rule.

"People in our society are not expected to do anything but heterosexual, so when they discover they are homosexual, they don't know how to handle it, said the GSU leader. Before they come out, homosexuals feel like they are the "only ones in the world" who are different, Perlman said. This, he said, is because they are unable to relate to their friends and family.

"They just hold it (their homosexual feelings) inside and play the game. So, they go through school, marry, have kids and go through hell..."

Definitions:

Coming out of the closet—a person's acceptance of their homosexuality

Close case—a homosexual who has not accepted his or her homosexuality

Gay—homosexual (The word came into use in the late 1900's in England as a code word used by homosexuals for other homosexuals.)

Homosexual—having sexual desires for someone of the opposite sex

Heterosexual—having sexual desires for someone of the same sex

Lesbian—a female homosexual

Sexual orientation—the undetermined process by which a person becomes either heterosexual or homosexual

Straight—heterosexual

That's what is so sad. People destroy their lives because they try to live up to what society thinks is normal...They're playing a game and living a lie," Perlman said.

One misconception people hold about homosexuals, Perlman said, is the belief that they fit the popular gay stereotype.

The depictions of gay males as "nelly little queens who wear dresses and gay females as mannies are a facade," the president said.

Perlman doesn't agree completely with Murphy's theory. He contends as few as one to two percent of the population fit the stereotypes. The rest of the gay men and women are indistinguishable from the heterosexuals, he said.

"You run into gay people all the time and you don't know they're gay. Stereotypes are copious. It's easier to look at everyone as an individual," Perlman commented.

Perlman does not fit the gay male stereotype and most people do not know he is gay until they inhabit. He believes once the public encounters enough gay people who don't fit into the stereotyped mold, it will begin to reconsider and begin dealing with homosexuals on an individual one basis.

One question Perlman doesn't have a sure answer for is why he is a homosexual. He contends he is gay by choice. He doesn't understand the nature of the force behind his decision.

However, Dr. Norman Murphy, Cal Poly counselor, who's doctoral dissertation dealt directly with the phenomenon of male homosexuality, is convinced homosexuality is biologically determined;

Murphy's theory is based on laboratory evidence which shows homosexuality can be induced in a number of species through the blocking of androgens during critical periods of brain development.

The blocking of this sex differentiation hormone more in the development of the female mating center in male organisms, Murphy's research indicated.

Evidence clearly supports the theory that fetal androgen patterns in structural males are created when sex is produced in the mother during gestation. Murphy said.

He contended that no treatment, be it medical or psychological, is universally or even marginally effective in reversing the course of sexual preference.

Perlman doesn't agree completely with Murphy's explanation, but he does agree it is worthwhile only to change homosexual into heterosexual.

In the upcoming three parts of this series, an in-depth look at a sampling of homosexual lifestyles in San Luis Obispo will be taken.

Interviews with gay men, gay women and gay instructors at Cal Poly will be included.

(Daily photo by Ken Crosby)

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(Part two deals with one student's story of coming out)
SAC candidates' statements

Engineering and Technology

Bill Fey

I have been a member of the SAC for many years and I am proud of the work that we have done. I believe that the students should be more involved in the decision making process. As an engineering student, I have seen firsthand the importance of having a strong engineering program. I believe that the SAC should be more involved in the decision making process for the engineering program. I have worked hard to improve the engineering program and I believe that I can continue to do so as a member of the SAC.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Keith Gurrola

I am a freshman majoring in Agriculture and Natural Resources. I have always been interested in the field and I believe that the SAC should be more involved in the decision making process for this program. As a member of the SAC, I will work to improve the program and make it more accessible to all students. I believe that the SAC should be more involved in the decision making process for the program.

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SHARP
Eddo has gained a reputation for being fast, but that doesn't mean you'll find her flitting in some bar around town. Eddo has gained her reputation on the pitcher's mound, for she is a hard-throwing sophomore righthander on the Cal Poly women's softball team.

After some tough losses early in the year, Eddo has thoroughly dominated, opposing hitters. Last weekend, she lowered her already microscopic earned run average of 1.74 by shutting UC Riverside 4-0 and shutting California State Northridge, 7-2. Her modest 5-5 record includes 19 shutout victories over UCLA and Cal Poly Pomona, as well as a 3-0 triumph over Fresno State in nine innings. Eddo has also been brilliant in defeat, losing to Arizona State, 9-2, Stanford, 10-2, and UC Santa Barbara, 5-2 in 14 innings, and in a seven inning rematch. She averages about two walks per game and seven strikeouts.

Eddo's playing softball since she was nine. "My dad got me interested in softball," she said during an interview before her game recently. "He wanted something to be involved with, and he'd always come and watch our games."

Mr. Eddo must have been a busy spectator: for Lorrie has three sisters who all play softball. Her twin sister, Linda, is a sophomore at Cal Poly, and starts at third base.

"When we were younger, Linda was a pitcher and I was a catcher," Lorrie recalled. "But it was during her freshman year at Vanguard High in Southern California that Eddo's career took a turn."

"I helped a woman coach in a midget league, and her husband was an excellent softball pitcher. He felt I had good potential as a pitcher, but I couldn't get a -out on any of the storms in my area. Eventually, he took me to the San Fernando Valley, and I started pitching for a parks and recreation team out there."

The experience and knowledge Eddo gained playing in the highly competitive recreation leagues has helped to make her one of the premier collegiate softball pitchers in California. She is a "drop ball" pitcher, and her strong arm is a break inside one time, outside another. "I spin the ball off the end of my fingers and turn very quickly to make it break. I've been working on a slow rise, and I have a split finger," she said. To make matters even more difficult for the hitters, Eddo can throw her pitches out of three motions. In her regular windmill wind-up, Eddo loops her arm high over her head, and in a sweeping arc, brings it under and through. She also has a double pump motion, as well as a jerk, quicker delivery called a "rocker." In the "rocker" wind-up, Eddo white her arm back behind her head, and then brings it through very fast.

The Mustangs coach, Val Filice, is blessed with another fine pitcher besides Lorrie, Kim Graham. Both Eddo and Graham have been successful at holding their opponents run production down.

"Both are doing real well," said catcher Lee Ann Britt. "Lorrie might have a few more strikeouts. They both have excellent control," she added.

Both pitchers use strategy and pitching patterns while they're on the mound, throwing pitches in sets out, high then low. According to Coach Filice, Eddo must work on more strategy. "She could change patterns more, sometimes she try's to overpower her opponents. I think Lorrie could also be more effective with a better change-up," she said. "Lorrie really knows the game, she has good softball sense, and is a pressure performer. When the season has made some errors,"we'll bear down and get the 'K',' she added.

As of yet, women's college softball may not be of the caliber of some of the outside recreation leagues, but Eddo would like to see more change. "I hope it happens, the college programs are progressing, they're recruiting better. In the past, school leagues just weren't as competitive. Lorrie enjoys the college game much more, because the pressure isn't so great, and she can be more independent than in the "AA" recreation leagues in the Los Angeles area.

Athlete of the Week

**Monday - Home Run Hurdles.** Her best time this year was 62.67 in the intermediate hurdles at Pomona, with a time of 53.87; a 39.7 quarter mile as Cal Poly ran 10:10.5 for 7th place in the men's relay; had a leadoff leg of 48.7 for her 440 as Cal Poly placed 3rd in the College Kille Relay with 3:18.5.
Plimpton coming to Cal Poly—as a speaker

by KEVIN FALLS
Daily Associate Editor

George Plimpton had never heard of San Luis Obispo.

"Tell me where is your town anyway?" asked Plimpton from his New York office in a telephone interview with the Maroon Daily Friday morning.

About 250 miles north of Los Angeles and the writer 3,000 miles over.

"So what is it like there?" asked the part-time back and full-time editor of the Paris Review.

"It's cleaner and more attractive than the city," said Plimpton, not as exciting.

The event will be quite interesting tomorrow morning when Mr. Plimpton comes to Cal Poly's Chumash to speak on "The Purpose Among the Pros".

Stabler gets award

Better late than never, Stabler gets award

Tuesday, May 11, 1977

For his face and chin, he might expect to hire a nurse from the country's top pro football team.

He didn't hire been a refugee from the hippie commune or a Bamum and Bailey Circus.

"I'm looking forward to coming," said Plimpton.

Unlike many of the pro athletes of today Plimpton is not the guy—bulbous Coach Madden gives us a great deal of freedom, but lie draws a line.

"It's always fun, never a grind." she said.

Doug Jones, advisor (or the activities planning center, is hoping Plimpton will be well received here.

"I hope people realize how interesting a man Plimpton is," said Jones.

The trophy presentation will be at 7 p.m. in the Chumash, the writer's home away from home.

One person is definitely going to be at Chumash. "I'm looking forward to coming," said Plimpton.

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