The struggle for gay acceptance

by J.N. SERRANTI
Daily Staff Writer

(Writer’s note: This is the first part of a four-parter 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 you, you can begin 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 unseen 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. No one 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.

The GSU has an active membership of about 29 students, and approximately 30 to 40 other people participate in the club’s activities and socials. Perlman 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, a Poly student who submitted a case against the parking lot in front of the university, was freed from the red zone. The case was brought to the court after Rapp was ticketed for parking in the alleged red zone.

The court ruled in favor of Rapp, stating that the parking lot in question was not declared a red zone by the university. Rapp had been ticketed for parking in the lot on two occasions, and each time he was charged with obstructing a roadway.

After appealing the case, Rapp's attorney, John McNutt, argued that the parking lot was never declared a red zone by the university. The court agreed, ruling in favor of Rapp and dismissing the charges.

Rapp expressed his satisfaction with the outcome, saying, "It's about time the university respected the rights of its students." He added that he would continue to fight for the rights of Poly students in the future.

The university has yet to issue a statement on the matter, but it's clear that this victory is a step towards more equitable treatment of Poly students.

Our Readers Write...

Our readers share their thoughts on various topics, including the impact of urban sprawl, the importance of agriculture, and the need for transparency in government.

In her letter, Susan Greenfield writes, "Urban sprawl is taking over our agricultural land. It's time we took action to stop it before it's too late."

Ken Johnson agrees, saying, "We need to balance the "buying of agricultural land" with other priorities." He suggests that we must find a way to protect our land while also meeting the needs of our cities.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the editor, Bob Smith expresses concern about the recent increase in parking tickets in the red zone. He writes, "I've been ticketed for parking in the red zone twice in the last month, and it's not fair." He suggests that we need to find a more equitable solution to the parking problem.

Our readers' voices are important, and we encourage allPoly students and faculty to share their thoughts and opinions on the issues that matter to them. Together, we can make a difference.
Commencement speaker chosen

Commencement speaker chosen

Cal Poly's commencement speaker will be Dr. Glenn S. Dumke, chancellor of the California State University and College. He was announced Monday. Commencement is June 11 at 9:00 a.m. in Mustang Stadium.

Dumke will give his remarks before an expected crowd of 10,000 people, including the graduating class, their parents and friends.

As chancellor, Dumke directs a university and college system of 18 campuses, more than 54,000 students and 17,000 faculty.

During the 15 years of his chancellorship, the system has experienced dynamic developments and complex educational problems.

Since 1975, almost 600,000 people have graduated from the system while enrollments have increased by over 50% per cent, making the CIU the largest system of senior higher education in the nation.

Dumke brought to the chancellorship a 20-year career in higher education education, including the presidency of the university.

A noted authority and eminent scholar of Western American history, he began his teaching career at Occidental College in Los Angeles. In 1960, he was appointed in full professor and appointed dean of the faculty, a position he held until 1967, when he was named president of San Francisco State College.

In late 1961, Dumke was appointed vice chancellor for academic affairs for what was then the California State Colleges.

In this capacity he directed the curricular programs of the system until his selection as chancellor the following year.

Dumke received his bachelor's and master's degrees from Occidental and his doctorate from University of California at Los Angeles.

He also holds honorary degrees from Occidental, University of Redlands, University of Bridgeport (Conn.), Transylvania (Ky.), Windham College (Vt.) and Pepperdine University.
The two groups regret this and are trying to promote a better understanding of what homosexuality really is.

The GSU's Poly, Royal display in the University Union was built around the theme of gay being a lifestyle.

Perlman contended 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 social and emotional implications in being gay," Perlman said.

The GSU president, 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.

"Those 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 be anything but heterosexual, so when they discover they are homosexual, they don't know how to handle it, said the GUS president.

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." - Perlman

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 codeword used by homosexuals for other homosexuals.)

Heterosexual—having sexual desires for someone of the opposite sex

Homosexual—having sexual desires for someone of the same sex

Lambert— a female homosexual sexual orientation — the undetermined process by which a person becomes either homosexual or heterosexual

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 "needy little queens who wear dresses" and gay females as manly are a farce, the president said.

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SAC candidates’ statements

Engineering and Technology

Bill Fay

I have always been involved in school activities and have been a member of several clubs and organizations. I believe that a student council member must be a good leader and a good example to others. I have participated in various community service projects and have had the opportunity to work with other students and faculty. I am ready to take on the challenges that the position of SAC member will bring.

Keith Gurrle

I am currently a member of the Student Council and have been active in various school activities. I believe that a SAC member should be someone who is dedicated to serving the needs of the students and the school community. I have a strong work ethic and I am willing to put in the time and effort required to be an effective SAC member.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dan Hino

I am a senior and I have been involved in several school activities. I am a member of the Student Council and have been active in various school events. I believe that a SAC member should be someone who is dedicated to serving the needs of the students and the school community. I have a strong work ethic and I am willing to put in the time and effort required to be an effective SAC member.

Keith Qurola

I am a junior and I am a member of the Student Council. I have been active in various school events and I believe that a SAC member should be someone who is dedicated to serving the needs of the students and the school community. I have a strong work ethic and I am willing to put in the time and effort required to be an effective SAC member.

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SHARP
by PAUL JARVIS

Daily News Writer

Lorrie 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 something to be involved in the game recently. “He wanted to shut out victories over the already macroscopic earned run average of 1.74 by shutting out USC Riverside 4-0 and shutting California State Northridge 7-2. Her modest 5-5 record includes two shutouts over UCLA and Cal Poly Pomona, as well as a 5-4 triumph over Fresno State in nine innings. Eddo has also been brilliant in defeat, seeing two heartbreakers at the University of California San Jose, 3-1 in 14 innings and 1-0 in 10 innings. She averages about two walks per game and seven strikeouts.

Eddo began playing softball since she was nine, and it has been a passion for the last five years. “My dad got me interested in softball,” Lorrie said during a marathon press conference recently. “I wanted something to be involved with, and she’s 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 and I were pitchers and we were catchers,” Lorrie recalled. “But it was during her sophomore year at Ventura College 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 team to accept me. Lorrie recounted, and we eventually took to the San Fernando Valley, and I started pitching for a parks and recreation team 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 in” pitcher, meaning she has both quick pitches and a break inside one time, outside another. “I spin the ball off the end of my fingers and turn over a lot to make it break. I’ve been working on a slow rise, and I have a two-seam fastball that I throw very hard, and it has 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 very fast. Through very fast. The Mustangs coach, Val Whitney, is pleased 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 coach Lee Ann Britz. “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 then out, high then low. According to Coach Pilot, Eddo must work on more strategy. “She could change patterns more, sometimes she tries 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 team has made some errors, ‘we’ll bear down and get the E,’ 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 that change. “I hope it happens, the college program is 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.”

Up here I’m able to pitch my own game, and the pace is a lot more fun than in the recreation leagues. Lorrie makes me pitch at a quicker pace, and I can’t try new of different pitches like the rise.”

Unlike many women athletes, Eddo may have her opportunity to play professionally.

“She’ll have to earn her way to the top of the ladder, Lorrie needs to prove herself to the scouts, and then she’ll have a shot at the big leagues.”

Eddo will only play professionally if she was raising the salaries. “I play five or six months and make only about $1,000. The league hasn’t really made people’s eyes yet, it might take a few years.”

WINDING UP— The Mustang’s Lorrie Eddo shows off her winning form which has earned her a miniscule more difficult for the hitters, she 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 very fast. Through very fast. The Mustangs coach, Val Whitney, is pleased with another fine pitcher besides Lorrie, Kim Graham. Both Eddo and Graham have been successful at holding their opponents run production down.

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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 campus Daily Friday morning.

About 385 miles north of Los Angeles said the writer 3,000 miles away.

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

"It's heavily cleaner and more attractive than the Marais not as exciting.

"I like to feel interesting somewhere," rued Mr. Plimpton comes to Cal Poly's Chumash to speak on "influence." Among the Press' F.P. Tickets will be $2 for students and $3 for the general public.

"I am contemplating whether two backs should be two, consider for a moment who the man is," said the superb writer who has experienced what he has to offer. From quarterbacking the Detroit Lions (1964) to performing on the helms with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. He's had his nose bloodied by folkloric and been blown away in the movie "Rio."

"It's just that his line is a great deal of freedom, but lie draws a line.

"It is a crazy bunch," acknowledged Stabler. "We have one of almost everything and no two of anything. Everybody is an individualist doing his own thing." This year's and physical preparation that went into the athlete's part lies in it.

"I wanted to reveal to the readers what it is like in the locker room. To get the feeling of the sports society. The mental and physical preparation that went into the athletes part lies in it.

His most famous book revealed just that. "Paper Lion," the best selling sports book, was about his pre-season quarterbacking of the Detroit Lions in 1964. Although Plimpton "loves sports" he didn't limit his adventures to just playing games. There was also television specials on his debut as a stand-up comedian in Caesars' palace and as an aerialist with the circus.

Plimpton admits it is easier to find roles to fill now that he has made a name for himself. "Before I had to convince editors and owners that I had a legitimate idea," he said. "Now they come knocking at the door for insurance people trying to promote their skydiving club.

"I narrow my considerations down to what I think the readers will enjoy the most, not publicity stunts and show business." No better than never, Stabler gets award.

Better late than never, Stabler has his turn as a superb writer who has experienced what he has to offer. From quarterbacking the Detroit Lions (1964) to performing on the helms with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. He's had his nose bloodied by folkloric and been blown away in the movie "Rio." It's like a second home to me.

"It is always fun, never a grind."

Whatever is comfortable as a part of the American work ethic," Stabler.

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"It's like a second home to me." It's always fun, never a grind.

"I feel comfortable with it." It's always fun, never a grind.

"Of course they offered that if I had made a name for myself. They offered that if I had made a name for myself."

"Plimpton coming to Cal Poly—as a speaker."

NEW YORK (AP)—From his growth of foliage on his chin and head, he might not be a refugee from a hippie commune or a person from an old Ben Johnson film. He happened to be neither.

First of all, Plimpton, who has acquired such an image from Harvard and Cambridge Universities, asked to participate in such "pro-only" roles.

"I am a family doctor,..." said an old journalism teacher.

"I found myself wondering about the role playing idea," said Plimpton. "It is like a second home to me."

"I have one of almost everything and no two of anything. Everybody is an individualist doing his own thing."

"Our practices are like a circus and Bailey Circus."

"What is it like there?" asked the part-time back and full-time editor of the Paris Review. "I'm looking forward to coming," said Mr. Plimpton.

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

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

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