**Apathy the Greatest DANGER to America**

By Jana Larsen

On Sept. 11, we found out that terrorism is a very real danger in the United States. When the bombing in Afghanistan began, we found out that war is a very real danger in the United States.

But according to panelists at Tuesday night’s forum in the Performing Arts Center, cynicism and apathy on the part of U.S. citizens can be even more dangerous to democracy.

“What Americans need to be aware of is the fundamental sense of whether we as a democracy are strong enough to preserve and protect our security and at the same time protect our civil rights,” said attorney Scott Hambarger, president of Common Cause, a grassroots citizen’s lobby.

Hambarger said that our democracy is vulnerable not just to terrorism, but also to internal cynicism, apathy and lack of involvement, which can be even more dangerous.

He and other panelists mentioned that the low number of registered voters, coupled with the fact that only 52 percent of them participated in the last election, is a danger to democracy.

Patricia Ireland, past president of the National Organization for Women, said that she hoped the war on terrorism would reduce voter indifference. A recent public opinion poll showed people had more respect for and belief in elected officials since the attack on Sept. 11, she said.

“We have the opportunity to determine how we are going to be governed and whether our self-government system is going to work,” she said.

In America, citizens have an opportunity to put people in Congress, and right now Congress is very receptive to what people have to say, said Jim Petroni, who conducted courses in terrorism awareness and preparedness for the Governor's Office.

**Future of freedom on the mind of Americans**

By Stephen Curran

“Haven’t been subject to any kind of search,” Thompson said. “At the smaller airports, things are pretty much the same.”

But, like travelers throughout the country, this veteran flier knows that things are not the same. Not only are things not the same with travel, but citizens nationwide worry that these new security measures may be paving a dangerous path toward a reduction in civil liberties.

In Texas, a city editor at the Texas Daily Sun was fired after making comments in an editorial.

**Battle to find bin Laden**

By Tyler Marshall

*Austin American*-

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — In the minds of many Americans, the end to Afghanistan’s agony begins with a simple step: Just show the door to Osama bin Laden.

After all, he’s a foreigner — a Saudi exile whose very presence has complicated the diplomatic isolation of his Afghan home and brought more suffering to a people whose plight is already desperate after decades of war.

The ruling Taliban’s refusal even to consider such an option — even though the stance has drawn four days of U.S. airstrikes and raised the prospect of the regime’s demise — seems baffling to many in the West. It also reflects a startling disconnect between American expectations and Taliban capabilities in the wake of last month’s attacks on New York and near Washington.

“To a mind not in tune with this region, the answer is easy — give him up,” noted Amr Urmah, a former Pakistani ambassador to Afghanistan.

**coming out day**

By Liz Boscacci

**I was a wreck. You’re worried about everything you do. You try to talk differently, make a certain way — it’s very exhausting.”**

For computer engineering senior Mike Sullivan, coming to terms with his homosexuality meant finally being able to be comfortable in his own skin.

Now, as president of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals United (GLBU), he works to help others identify that same feeling within themselves.

Today marks the 13th annual National Coming Out Day. A day of awareness and reflection, NCOD promotes living honestly and openly with oneself.

The idea of a national day to celebrate coming out originated in 1988 when a group of more than 100 gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists collaborated at a conference in Mannus, Va. They selected Oct. 11 as the celebration date after half a million people marched on Washington for gay and lesbian equality on Oct. 11 of the previous year.

While the city of San Luis Obispo does not have anything formally planned for NCOD, there are events happening in larger areas around the state (check www.hrc.org for more details). However, GLBU will be conducting activities taught in Sierra Madre and Yosemite halls designed to gain perspectives of what it means to be gay.

Like many in his position, Sullivan was scared of the potentially negative outcomes that often result from the public exposure of homosexuality.

"I got nervous all the time," he said. "I never had a role model that said 'it's OK to be gay.' And then living in the dorms... I was petrified.

The process of coming out tends to follow a series of steps, the first being "coming out to yourself." This is simply the self-realization (not necessarily the acceptance) of the fact that you are gay.

Sullivan went through this stage in seventh grade, but it wasn't see COMING OUT, page 11
What do you think about America drafting women?

- I think it's great. I don't have a problem with it - it's fine. If they want equality they should be happy about it.
  - Max Dworkin
  - industrial technology
  - senior

- I think it's a great idea. It continues our evolution, it makes us all equal.
  - Rich Glimpse
  - construction management
  - senior

- They wouldn't put women on the front line because men would take bullets for them.
  - Men do stupid things to protect women.
  - Steve Metrulas
  - mechanical engineering
  - senior

- Shoot... I don't feel like women should be drafted, or men. People have freedom that's too constricted. My dad is a Vietnam Veteran and he enlisted.
  - Megan Allen
  - education grad student

- It's alright because everyone complains about equal rights.
  - Adele Beaudreau
  - business freshman

- I never thought about it. I don't think they should be, but I never really thought about it.
  - Audra Torres
  - civil engineering
  - junior
National Briefs

Natural match for anthrax strain identified
MIAMI — The "unique characteristic" of the anthrax strain that killed one Florida man and infected one of his co-workers matches a strain of the bacterium that was found in Iowa during the 1940s, said federal investigators. But final results have not yet been confirmed.

Two of the hijackers who died on Sept. 11 had subscriptions to the tabloids that were published in the building where the two men worked at in Boca Raton.

— Miami Herald

One plane crashes, one flight diverted
LOS ANGELES & DILLINGHAM, Alaska
Nine people died and one was injured in a commuter plane crash Wednesday in Alaska. Ten people were on board.

The plane, operated by PenAir, Alaska's biggest commuter airline, crashed shortly after take-off. No indication was given from the crew that the plane was in trouble. The National Transportation Safety Board is sending investigators.

PenAir is an affiliate of Alaska Airlines.

In a separate incident, a flight that was en route from Atlanta to Los Angeles made a safe landing in Shreveport, La., on Wednesday. The plane was escorted to the airport by U.S. fighter jets after an on-board disturbance was reported by the pilot. The airplane was a Boeing 757 owned by Delta.

— Reuters and Associated Press

Discovery of sperm gene may lead to birth control and infertility treatments
NEW YORK — A channel on the tail of a sperm cell that appears to allow calcium ions to pass through is controlled by a recently discovered gene. Proper sperm function is reliant on calcium ions. But the connection between the gene and male infertility has yet to be proven. It is thought that if men and women may be able to take a medication that would block the normal function of the gene as a form of birth control because sperm in which the gene is not fully functional are unable to penetrate female eggs. The medication could be used by either sex because the treatment would act wherever sperm were present. Some cases of male infertility may be treated with gene therapy.

— Reuters

Bush releases 'most wanted' list
WASHINGTON — On Wednesday President Bush released a "most wanted" list that named 22 suspected terrorists. Many of them are also suspects in other terrorist activities spanning two decades.

Those named include Osama Bin Laden, his two top deputies and two Egyptians who are his top lieutenants, suspects in the 1998 U.S. Embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania, the former head of the Egyptian al-Zawahri terrorist group which is suspected in the assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in the early 1980s, two men suspected in the 1996 Khobar Tower bombing in Saudi Arabia, suspects in the 1985 hijacking of TWA flight 847, the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center and the foiled 1995 plan to bomb airliners in Asia.

Bush said that the people listed are the "leaders, key supporters, planners and strategists."

The State Department has set up a program to offer large rewards to people providing information that leads to the terrorists' arrests. They will also be working with the team "America's Most Wanted.

Law enforcement officials have begun to narrow their search down from the 600 people listed as possible collaborators in the terrorist attacks, and an additional group of 200 people are being sought for questioning.

— Associated Press

Briefs compiled from various news services by Mustang Daily contributor Anne Guiford.

International Briefs

Hurricane Iris kills Russian submarine raised from Arctic Ocean
RUSSIA — The Kursk, the nuclear Russian submarine that sunk due to a wreck in August last year, has finally been raised. All 118 crew members died in the wreck. The sub arrived in Belokamenka Bay on Wednesday.

The vessel was moved by being strapped to the Kustum of a barge 

The hurricane's winds have reached 140 mph and have destroyed up to 95 percent of Belize's banana crop. Over 13,000 people have been left homeless by the storm and 80 percent of villages have been affected. Several resorts have been destroyed and damages have been estimated at $250 million.

— BBC News

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— BBC News

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News

Office of Emergency Services.
"At this time there is a need to have a real sense of accountability from the government, from the media and from us as citizens," Penner said. "We need to recognize all of us, the things that we have done or not done that have helped create the situation that we are at today."

Part of accountability is in a citizen's responsibility to not only listen to the experts and government officials, but to question them, said panelist Larry Noble, executive director and general counsel of the Nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics in Washington, D.C.

"While it is not popular to criticize the president, we still need an explanation of what the country is going to do," Noble said.

Now is the time to keep an eye on the government and ask why they are doing things, he said. "What happened on Sept. 11 is a tragedy, but it is not an excuse for everything that the government wants," Noble said.

Ambassador Vernon Penner, who had been in the diplomatic service and is skilled on terrorism, said that although many may not agree with how the elected officials are responding to the attacks, those elected officials are the ones in charge.

"We should continue debates," Penner said. "But ultimately someone has to lead, and we must leave it to the people we elected."

Harshbarger said that he greatly supports elected officials who encourage debate. He mentioned the need for citizens to take an active participation in debates with political leaders.

"There is a difference between an inconvenience and things we as a nation have to be careful about," Harshbarger said. "While there is a need for tightened security as a nation, and being careful about classified information, the greatest danger is that the government in the name of national security would curtail expressions of opinion."

We have to increase national security without damaging civil liberties, Noble said.

"Don't accept blindly the idea that the cost of security is giving up your civil liberties," he said.
When art and design faculty let their talent loose, there are no holds barred.

Upon entering the softly lit room, the visitor is surrounded by photographs, paintings and a series of 3-D multimedia creations. These are just a few examples of the artistic genres showcased in the Cal Poly Art and Design Faculty Art Exhibit at the University Art Gallery, located in the Dexter Building.

This event, which happens twice a year, allows students to experience the faculty’s creativity in a variety of media. The exhibit opened Oct. 1 and will continue until Oct. 26. The works showcased include paintings, drawings, photographs, blown glass, sculpture, graphic designs and typography samples.

By Whitney Kobrin

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Art and design faculty member Crista Hewitt, one of the artists featured at the exhibit, began her artistic career as a child. At the age of five, her father helped her build model boats to float in their swimming pool. When the hobby shop ran out of models, he taught her how to carve her own ship parts and build one herself.

“My father loved to create things and work with his hands,” Hewitt said. Her love for art has been a prevalent force in her life ever since. She took some art classes in high school, and when she visited her friend at Cal State Northridge and saw her friend's artwork in the shape of pottery, she began to explore a new media.

Today, Hewitt works mainly in silver, but she enjoys a variety of other mediums.

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“I am very fond of the doing — the process of creating,” Hewitt said. She hopes that viewers are drawn to the art in a way that makes them want to handle it.

Hewitt is just one of the 12 art and design faculty members whose work is featured in the exhibit.

Sky Bergman chose to display some of her photography in the exhibit.

“I took a photography class my last year of college and that was the beginning of the end,” Bergman said. She feels that both black and white photography and color photography can be equally expressive, though she uses color in the photographs on exhibit.

Bergman said that her father lives vicariously through her because of her opportunities for travel as a photographer. Her father lives on a boat and travels around the world, so when she can, Bergman ...
Arts

By Lauren Chase
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

wide-eyed, 8-year-old San Luis Obispo County resident Alexandra Krause, emanated an innocent and pure glow as she participated in the Art March and Rally in downtown San Luis Obispo, where nearly 150 residents, school officials and organizations across the country congregated to show support for the arts Tuesday. Krause, whose words are beyond her years, expressed why she enjoyed taking part in the event.

"I think it's really important to have an arts day," she said. "It's so beautiful when everyone gets together and getting to know each other. It scared me where airplanes crashed in Washington and New York ... being here today takes our minds off of it."

Ready for the event, she wore a shirt with the ironed words "Art Helps." She exhibited passion and conviction toward the importance of art in our schools and county.

"The promise of the arts makes life worth living," she said. "It overcomes all adversity. It's that promise that keeps us pursuing. Don't quit!"

The company, formed in March 1999 through a representative. The Art Rally began at the Art Center on Broad Street and proceeded through the Mission and up Monterey Street to the courthouse steps.

The California Arts Council has designated 2001 as the Year of the Arts. The official California Arts Day was October 10, 2001. The San Luis Obispo County Arts Council has joined thousands of California communities, arts organizations and everyday people in recognizing the first California Arts Day.

"Arts Help You Think," "Open Your Eyes," and "Heals the Soul." Rhonda Achadith, a representative from the SLO County Arts Council that extended an invitation to the public.

"We call on all citizens to get involved and enjoy the arts in San Luis Obispo," Achadith said. "They are a force for healing in our nation ... they are the heart and soul."

Father Jerry Maher of the San Luis Obispo Mission spoke about his years of preparation for a journey.

"Art brings us to a place in our lives where words can't ... in all that is cracked and unsolved," Maher said.

He added that art brings out the inner spirit of love and joy. "Come spirit," Maher enticed. "Empower the powerless, rekindle the weary. Heal the division that is cracked and unsolved," he said.

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The Pepsi Bottling Group is the world's largest manufacturer, seller and distributor of Pepsi beverages. The company, formed in March 1999 through an IPO, generates nearly $8 billion in annual sales. PBG's sales force sells and delivers over 100 million 8 oz. servings of Pepsi-Cola beverages per day and operates 70 plants worldwide.

We will be at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo on the following dates:

October 18th - Information Session • Veranda Cafe 6pm-7pm
October 19th - Interviews • Career Center
November 1st - Fall Career Fair
February 7th - Information Session • Veranda Cafe 6pm-7pm
February 8th - Interviews • Career Center
May 9th - Information Session • Veranda Cafe 6pm-7pm
May 10th - Interviews • Career Center

See the Career Center to sign-up on our interview schedules for our Sales and Operations Management Development Program

Visit our web site at: www.pb.com
Actors from the SLO Little Theatre perform a scene from "Dames at Sea," currently playing at Mustang Daily Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and Sunday afternoons.

"Dames at Sea" is a 1930s-style musical written in the '60s, and its whole point is to make fun of other musicals.

"It's goofy, but a better word to describe it is campy," said Mary Meserve, the producer of the show, who is taking her whole family this weekend. "You escape, you smile, you laugh, it's good, clean fun."

The musical, half of which takes place on a battleship, was planned a year ago, but the timing turned out to be just perfect.

"It's exactly what we need right now," said Meserve, referring to the terrorist attacks in New York last month.

"Dames at Sea" is a pithy, no-frills, patriotic comfort show," said Meserve, comparing it to comfort food.

She described how the audience can escape and go back in time to a "boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl" kind of story.

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Art lecture gives
low-down on pop-up

By Patty Green
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

By Brian Kluchurosky
The Pitt News (U Pittsburgh)

(U-WIRE) PITTSBURGH — It’s been said that “Hollywood couldn’t have scripted it better,” but not even Touchdown could have envisaged the horrific and tragic events of the past week. Slowly, we are turning our attention back to the industry that was ironically tossed out of the spotlight at a time when all of the world’s eyes were upon us.

The entertainment industry is a mere afterthought in the wake of these tragically happenings, but thought nonetheless. Questions now exist about the future of the entertainment business: What does that mean? How will the industry react? What will we remember as “the world of entertainment”?

According to a recent article in the New York Times, the entertainment industry is in a state of shock.

“Hollywood has been hit hard,” a spokesperson for the film industry said.

The industry is facing a significant loss of revenue due to the recent attacks.

According to the same article, the film industry is currently working on new projects to help bridge the gap.

The entertainment industry is a tough business to navigate, but it is crucial for the future of our society.

The entertainment industry has been at the forefront of cultural events for centuries.

In the early 1900s, movies were a popular form of entertainment.

People flocked to theaters to see the latest films.

And now, with the recent attacks, the entertainment industry is once again at the forefront of cultural events.

The entertainment industry is a powerful tool for change.

It has the ability to shape public opinion and influence the way people think.

It is up to the industry to use this power for good.

We must remember that the entertainment industry is a reflection of our society.

It is up to us to shape that reflection.

We must work together to create a better future.

Thank you.
Letters to the editor

Not taking action guarantees loss of more Americans

Editor,

In response to Jesse McCrackens "Bombing in Afghanistan," I would like to share a desire to talk to many "war is not the answer" people the past couple of weeks. Their intentions appear to be good, yet like most "war is not the answer" people, one has been able to produce a single solution to what the United States should do in response to the terrorist attacks. Our nation's history is one that the attacks on our country, yet we seem content with protesting and complaining about the media instead of taking action and defending this nation.

It worries me that you must be reminded that the freedom you enjoy and cherish so much was paid for with the blood of a military soldiery. Do you honestly believe that freedom of any sort comes without tremendous cost? Yet, you have the audacity to denounce military action when 6,000 innocent American citizens lie dead and the financial nerve center of the entire world lies in ruins. As a political science major, maybe you should review your history books and realize that by the United States declaring "war" on Hitler, Western Europe was freed from Nazi fascism, and the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki saved a countless number of lives that otherwise would have been lost to that catastrophic ordeal. Perhaps then you will wake up from your slumber of conscious ignorance and be thankful for the freedoms you take for granted and who sacrifice duty on your behalf to secure it. Unfortunately, war is needed against these freedom haters. To sit back and do nothing guarantees a loss of more American lives.

Ryan Quinnan is an industrial technology senior.

Disputing the myths about jihad

Editor,

People in Western World were the ones to give the name of "holy war" to "jihad." I think you are missing the point. I realize that I would make a comparison that non-Muslim Americans might be able to better understand.

From some of the things that Muslims have told me, and that I have read since the attacks, the main jihad is really an inner struggle. It is fighting against the sins in the life, the struggle to remain submissive to Allah, and to battle off the opposing forces of evil and wickedness as interpreted by the Quran and Muslim clerics. The prophet Mohammed said to his people once after just coming back from a battle, that he had gone from the minor jihad of war and back to the major jihad of submission.

The perception of jihad comes from the extreme fundamentalist Muslims who are intolerant, hateful and basically mad at the Western World. They interpret their lifestyle as wickedness and an evil driving force, which fits into the category of just cause for declaration of the minor jihad. This is where they start blaming us. Even the Quran clearly states that the loss of the blood of one innocent life is the loss of all humanity. These extreme fundamentalists do not see us as innocent, for we are godless, and to them we support fascism.

A good comparison would be Christians who believe in sin and repentance, which is the biblical form of inner jihad. The perception comes when those fundamentalist Muslims try to apply their rules to everyone else, and try to start fighting the sins of others, a general move from secularism to a "biblical sharia." It seems logical that you only as a Muslim can fight your own sins and repent for yourself, so I do not see why these fundamentalists try to control everyone else's lives. I say that they are trying to defend their own beliefs, and since they are feeling threatened, they feel the need to make everyone do what they are doing so that it validates their lifestyle.

Please, let's unite and speak out against fundamentalism together. Christians, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Mornons, Sikhs, Atheists, Agnostics, Secular Humanists, Skeptics, Rationalists and anyone else who sees the error in fundamentalism with one clear voice we do speak loud.

Rodney Wallwork is a modern language and literatures senior.

Opposing forces of evil and bad vengeance. Craig Darnells' opinion, "U.S. is attacking Taliban, not Muslim world" (Oct. 10) is a disgrace. He said, "I hear that the Jews are strong and the U.S. is the only hope that as more gay teen-agers come out.

Lynette Kapp is a political science senior.

No one wants to read about others' pent up anger

Editor,

The recent letters published in Mustang Daily clearly display that we are at war with each other. If one disagrees with another, a rational debate is worth fighting. However, in the past two weeks many individuals have used harsh words to label others who have different opinions. This is a university, not a high school. College students should be able to express their views without name calling, racial remarks and slander. Nobody wants to read someone else's pent up anger and revenge. Craig Darnells' opinion, "U.S. is attacking Taliban, not Muslim world" (Oct. 10) is a disgrace. He said, "I hear that the Jews are strong and the U.S. is the only hope that as more gay teen-agers come out.

Lynette Kapp is a political science senior.

Coming out eliminated fear of society's acceptance

I never did make a very good heterosexual. As a boy, while the other guys would play basketball and chase the girls around the playground, I would be off playing four-square, or flipping myself around the parallel bars. At such a young age, I didn't find it peculiar that my disininterest in girls, and mild attraction for guys, didn't really fit in with my assumed heterosexual sensibilities.

In middle school, not only did I have to address my apathy toward girls, but also my attraction toward guys. I was left with two other males. This left me disoriented and panicked. As a God-fearing Baptist, I couldn't possibly be gay. Why would God purposely make me into something He didn't approve of? "Hurt" was just a phase—until that day God was putting me through me.

I eventually accepted that this was not a phase, but an actual part of my identity. As with skin color, sex or height, I never chose my sexual orientation. Homosexuality was clearly something that I would have to live with for the rest of my life.

In the meantime, nobody knew. I could pretend to be a heterosexual, continue to be raised and panicked. As a God-fearing Baptist, I wasn't in charge of our country right then. I was afraid that I would never want to talk to me again. I was afraid that I wouldn't be loved or accepted or cared for. The dream of being straight was that I wouldn't realize that my life was any easier. I'd eventually have to tell someone.

My sophomore year, for the first time, I fell for a guy, and it hit me very strongly. I had to tell him. I was his best friend. In the coming moments of my life, I told her, "I'm gay." I was terrified. She was shocked, and said to me that she never would want to talk to me again. I was afraid that she would link all the stereotypes, the word "gay" comes with being a deviant. I wanted to talk to her. But she did none of those things. That was the day that I began to come out.

Coming out was a very slow process for me. Over the course of the next year, I told a few more people, and life was a little more smoother. I could actually be myself around the people I trusted. My parents didn't know, but I was not ready to tell them. Everything was going well, and my life was once again under my control.

But coming out wasn't that easy for me. One of my closest friends, in a round of drunken gossip swapping, told a whole large group of people that I was gay. When I learned what happened, I felt as though my life was taken out of my hands, and I would have to face the reality of the entire world around me. But to me, it was like realizing that pretending to be straight was as silly as a black man painting himself white just to make life a lit­ tle simpler. Holy war versus modern life

I began to realize that pretending to be straight was as silly as a black man painting himself white just to make life a lit­ tle simpler. Having to juggle my real identity and the artificial one was not making my life any easier. I'd eventually have to tell someone.

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Panel to address civil liberties issues

The Cal Poly Journalism Department and the California Newspaper Publisher Association will be hosting a panel Friday to address issues concerning American journalists.

The panel, which will include local newspaper editors and media law experts, will address such timely issues as censorship and libel.

“Once a program like this has been started, it can be hard to get it stopped,” Piper said. “But to the best of my knowledge, no one has lodged any formal complaints.”

Overall, he said that people have not let these new policies go well.

“Obviously people don’t like to walk as far,” Piper said. “But to the best of my knowledge, no one has lodged any formal complaints.”

“The issues are more relevant after the attacks,” Newton said. “Any powers that were too close to the terminal, as required by the FAA.”

“The good news is people are traveling,” Piper said.

Though the country it is also true that people are taking back to the skies, as according to an ABC News report, carrier Southwest Airlines reports that its flights are back up to two-thirds full.

Newton added that, while some issues are more relevant after the attacks, the focus will be on building the necessary skills for reporters in truthfully and ethically gathering the news. Topics such as libel, privacy laws and open records will be at the forefront of the discussion.

“It’s goal is to empower journalists so they know what the law is,” said journalism professor Teresa Allen. “We’re trying to inform and really raise the consciousness of journalists.”

Allen said that broader issues such as these are especially timely, as citizens throughout the country are now being subjected to encroachments on their civil liberties unimaginable before.

“I’m not sure I want my civil rights violated,” Allen said.

Sandy Daem, executive editor of the San Luis Obispo Tribune, will also be on hand to discuss relevant issues pertaining to journalism.

“These issues are relevant to journalists in covering city councils, police, or traveling the world,” Newton said.

The event is open to the public and will be held on Friday in room 220 of the University Union from 9 a.m. to noon.

— Stephen Curran

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That purpose is to provide unifica-
tion and support for the gay commu-
ity through GLBL, as well as creating
awareness and making an effort to edu-
cate people who don’t understand what
it means.

"Here you meet people who have
never met a gay person before — I find
that fascinating," he said.

The fact that the Central Coast is a
fairly conservative area is just one more
factor that doesn’t always make it easy
to be different.

Patrick Hoesterey, architecture
junior and secretary of GLBL, admit-
ted that San Luis Obispo isn’t very
conservative but said that it isn’t enough dis-
proportional to make him feel alienated.

"It’s kind of a quiet disappointment
there’s not a lot of gay hangings and
hate crimes, it’s more any looks, or
often get torn down, or disapproving
comments. So there’s definitely an
underlying kind of homophobia con-
servatism, but it’s not to the point where
I feel threatened walking down
the street."

Hoesterey, who came out when he
was 16, said he is thankful for his op-
enned community of family and
friends who helped make his coming out
an easier process.

"It was turbulent and emotionally
ingriving," Hoesterey said. "But I was
lucky."

His advice for those who are strug-
gling with their sexual orientation is:

"Take your time and do it when
you’re ready," he said. "If you come to
terms with it and don’t care what oth-
ers think, it’s much easier process."

NCQD serves as a reminder of how
much the acceptance of gay rights in
our society has progressed, offering an
opportunity for those who are struggling
with their own sexuality to relieve them-
seves of the stress being “in the closet”
tends to cultivate.

"To me it’s a day to reflect, to think
about who you are or aren’t out," he
said. "It’s a day that draws attention to
this whole concept. It excites me because it
really unites us."
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