



Lesbian and Gay HISTORICAL SOCIETY of San Diego

# NEWSLETTER

"Preserving and Teaching Our History"

## A View of the Youth Center

by Sharon K Parker

The Youth Center in Hillcrest is a haven and a hub of "happenings" for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth in the San Diego area. Come 4 p.m. every school-day afternoon, this converted residence is teeming with activity. This vital drop-in center is a program of the Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center.

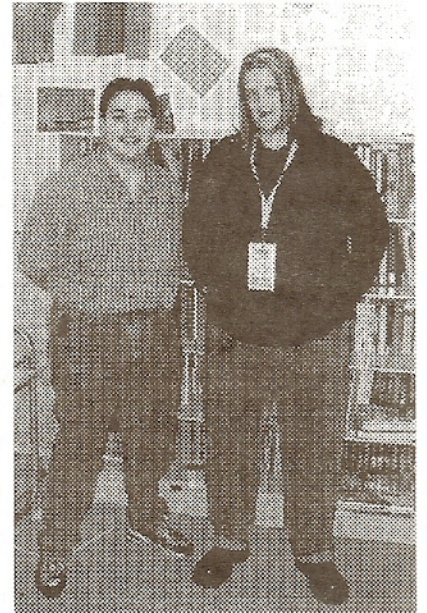
From an historic view, this facility is the first of its kind in San Diego. (Even some large cities with viable LGBT centers do not have separate, dedicated facilities for youth.) The Youth Center encourages youth ages 14 to 24, LGBT or not, to drop-in, hang out, do something, or just plain relax! The Youth Center not only provides a place to visit nearly every day of the week, but also offers such activities and services as

computer games, counseling, and job and home placement.

Youth (approximately 200 weekly) come here from all walks of life. Some are homeless (or at risk of homelessness), some are having problems with their families after coming out, some have supportive families, some are students, and some are gainfully employed.

The Youth Center has been in operation since July 2000. Its staff and parent organization, the Lesbian and Gay Men's Community Center, are encouraged by the support they receive, not only from funders, but also from the community.

This space is truly "for, of and by" the youth who use it. The furnishings and decor are youth-oriented. Adults who are older than age 24 cannot be at the facility when the



Cristina Machado, coordinator, and Summer Morse, program/education manager.

youth are there. The facility has a couple of comfortable sitting/lounging rooms, a library, computer stations, music area complete with space

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## Groundbreaking UCSD Course on History of Sexuality in U.S.

An innovative course in "The History of Sexuality in the U.S." was offered this quarter at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). Course lecturer Frank Nobiletti researched whether such a class had been offered at UCSD; it was determined there were none quite like it.

Frank is a longtime San Diego resident, historian, teacher, student, and has been affiliated with LGHSSD

as both a volunteer and board member for more than ten years.

Class enrollment was approximately 175 students, limited only by the size of the lecture hall. Many students were turned away. Frank noted that the class was academically demanding. Class attendees were not just history majors. There were computer scientists, bioengineers, physical science majors, and students

concentrating on gender/sexuality studies.

Frank explained that it was a challenge at first for some students who were confused between *sex* and *gender*. They also learned the links of sex to politics, social structure, and how sexuality in the U.S. has historically changed.

In recent times, as the old consensus of the Twentieth Century

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