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University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Free

Gays won't be 'coming out' at UNLV

BY GREGORY QUINN
NEWS EDITOR

Miscommunication in scheduling at UNLV leads gay community to the Winchester Center for celebration

The Las Vegas Gay and Lesbian Pride Association will observe National Coming Out Day on Oct. 10 at Winchester Park and Community Center, instead of the UNLV campus, as was hoped.

Mike Gentile, co-president of the Las Vegas chapter of Gay Pride, said that, due to the UNLV Debates scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 9 and 10, he was told all classrooms on campus were completely booked.

Negotiations began over a month ago when Gentile contacted Pat Loosbroock of the office of Continuing Education, which handles classroom reservations for outside groups. Gentile, who is also the current president of Delta Lambda Phi, a gay fraternity on campus, explained to Loosbroock that he needed a venue which would accommodate 1,000 to 2,000 people.

"We needed some outdoor space as well as indoor space," Gentile said. "(Continuing Edu-

cation) said they do all the bookings for everything on campus, except for the Thomas and Mack and the (Moyer) Student Union."

Loosbroock suggested the possibility of using several rooms in the humanities building, as well as the auditorium.

"That was agreeable to him," Loosbroock said. "So... I went ahead and processed the paperwork."

Mora Snyder at the Registrar's Office, which reviews the initial request, informed Loosbroock that no classrooms were available.

"The debate was scheduled a long time ago," Snyder said.

And so why wasn't Gay Pride informed sooner?

"Well, they were probably just processing their request to see if there was any available space," she said. "And that takes time."

According to Gentile, Loosbroock informed him that there wouldn't be anything available.

They told him that "every single room and every single public space area was booked," Gentile said.

Since it was his understanding that most of the space on campus was booked through Loosbroock, Gentile didn't bother to "get specific with her because I figured if that huge (debate) thing is there..."

"If you're booked the whole

day," he said, "then there's nothing you can do."

According to Gentile, Loosbroock predicted the student union would be booked Oct. 10 because of the debate.

However, Pida Plaza is not booked on Oct. 10, according to Tony Manibusan of room reservations at the MSU.

"We spoke with (the MSU) over a month ago," Gentile said. "It was one phone call...and then I spoke to some gentleman over at the Thomas & Mack."

Thomas & Mack officials, however, claim they never spoke to anyone from Pride.

"We try to accommodate everyone at the Thomas & Mack," said Steve Sonmier of bookings. "But nobody here has spoken to anyone from Gay Pride."

There are many other venues on campus, such as Tam Alumni Center, Judy Bayley Theater and Ham Hall, but since he thought "every single room and every single public space area was booked," Gentile didn't press the issue.

"We want to have an event (at UNLV)," he said. "Obviously we were too late on this. But we're interested in next year."

The purpose of National Coming Out Day, according to a Gay Pride press release, is "for gays to take the next step in the



National Coming Out Day is Oct. 10. Festivities will be held at Winchester Park and Community Center.

coming out process."

The event at the Winchester Center will feature local and national speakers on the importance of being out. Federal Fair Housing official Roberta Achtenberg, who was the subject of a bitter confirmation battle in the U.S. Senate due in large part to being a lesbian, will be present.

Miriam Ben-Shalom, discharged from the military and reinstated by the courts only to have it reversed, will speak

And controversial writer

Michaelangelo Signorile, author of *Queer In America*, will also speak. Signorile is responsible for what is known as "outing," the controversial practice of revealing the homosexuality of a public figure.

"We're satisfied with Winchester," Gentile said. "It's a good facility for us. It's just that we wanted to see if maybe we would get better exposure being at a place like UNLV. And we're still hoping for that in the future."

Baring it all: tale of a student stripper

BY HEATHER SUBRAN
STAFF WRITER

Kathleen is a smart young student at UNLV. Attractive, a little shy, and very ambitious, she is 22, a junior majoring in education. Her dream is to become a teacher.

She is also a stripper.

Over the summer, Kathleen worked as an exotic dancer in one of the best known "strip joints" in Las Vegas.

Contrary to popular belief, exotic dancers are not hopelessly dumb, big-breasted females with no ambition or moral standards. According to Kathleen, "It is upsetting the way society judges without even knowing all the facts about something."

Kathleen is proud of her body and of the fact that she is able to earn enough money to put herself through school, and eventually reach her goals.

Kathleen had to face a lot of criticism from her friends, who believe her job is degrading.

"...I tell them, slaving away for \$4 an hour, to me, is degrading. My time is precious, I'm a college student with bills to pay and deadlines to meet. I just don't have time to slave away for not a lot of money."

Most of society's bias against strippers relates to issues of sexuality. When asked to respond to public opinion, Kathleen replied: "Is erotic dancing a negative thing? What is negative about sexuality? Sexuality promotes life, it is positive. What I do is done in an adult setting."

Kathleen did her summer job in a respectable, professional atmosphere. The club was strictly an adult, social setting. "I see more unusual sexual acts on MTV than I ever would in the club...and a family would sit and watch MTV with the children around."

Kathleen described her first experience: "At first I was a little scared, you know, taking off my clothes in front of strangers. But the first time I did it, nobody was shocked. The men in the audience were acting normal, so I felt normal. I felt very comfortable, not scared or threatened at all. It's very natural."

When she told her family about her job, the reviews were mixed. "My brother was kind of angry...he was jealous," Kathleen said. "He wanted to make that kind of money too."

Although her parents were proud that she would be able to support herself and realize her dreams of becoming a teacher, they were worried about her safety. But

"My brother was kind of angry... he was jealous. He wanted to make that kind of money, too." — Kathleen

Kathleen believed there was a greater feeling of safety at the club—with the bouncers, the manager, and the bartender all looking out for her safety—than there is walking to the grocery.

Most of the clientele at the club were professionals passing through Las Vegas on a business trip. They were very respectable people who wanted to be entertained or needed someone to talk to.

"Sometimes, if I'm not dancing, I can go to the back room to study, or just hang out with the girls. Sometimes I go to the bar and talk to the customers," said Kathleen, "...the men tell me their problems and I listen. I feel like a psychologist, and it helps them to talk to someone. I realize now that I'm a good listener."

Exotic dancers earn a sizeable income. A girl can earn up to \$400 in one night, and she hardly ever leaves with less than \$150, although you have to pay \$15 to perform.

University of Wisconsin Professor Lloyd Bitzer to speak at UNLV

Lloyd Bitzer, a professor of communication arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will speak at UNLV on Oct. 7 and 8 as part of The Rhetorical Edge lecture series.

Bitzer will speak on the topic "Miracles: Hume and His 18th-Century Critics" at 1 p.m. Oct. 7 in Frank and Estella Beam Hall, Room 223.

On Oct. 8 he will discuss "Science and Religion in 18th-Century Rhetorics" at 1:30 p.m. in Frank and Estella Beam, Room 223.

BITZER SPEECH
OCT. 7 & 8
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Both lectures are free and open to the public.

Bitzer, who has taught at the University of Wisconsin-Madison since 1961, is co-author of the book "Carter vs. Ford: The Counterfeit Debates of 1976."

The Rhetorical Edge: A Lecture Series on Contemporary Theory and Criticism is sponsored by UNLV's Greenspun School of Communication. For more information, call the Greenspun School at 895-3325.

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