

UNLV celebrates 'Coming Out Day'

By Michael Saunders
Staff News Writer

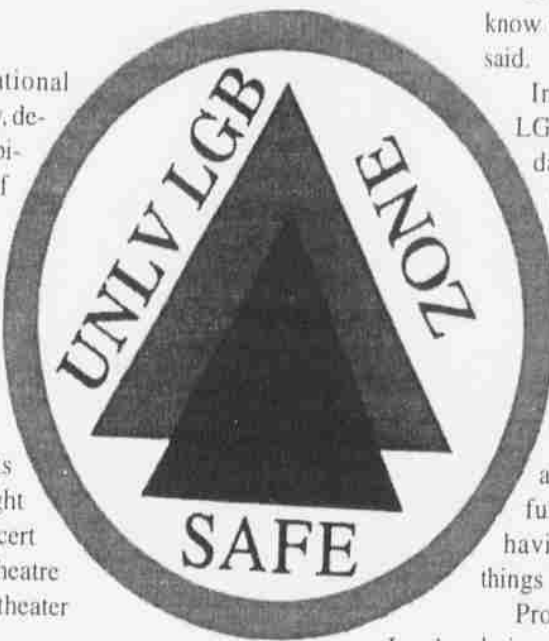
UNLV celebrated National Coming Out Day on Friday, devoted to homosexual and bisexual people coming out of the closet.

NCOD events, which are celebrated every year on Oct. 11, included the second annual NCOD March for Visibility and Human Rights.

About ten participants marched from the Flashlight between Artemus Ham Concert Hall and the Judy Bayley Theatre to the Valerie Pida Amphitheater at around noon.

UNLV's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Association sponsored NCOD events for the second year.

LGBA has been an active student organization at UNLV for four years and seeks to provide support for UNLV's homosexual and bisexual student population.



"It's important to let people know we are here on campus," he said.

In addition to the march, LGBA hosted a dance on Friday that attracted approximately 35.

John Newton, a co-director of LGBA, said the activities achieved their purposes.

"The purpose of the dance was to provide an outlet for gay, lesbian and allied people to have some fun and recreation without having to resort to bars and things like that."

Project Safe Zone, which is designed to coincide with NCOD, is co-sponsored by LGBA and UNLV's Campus Community Development. It is a national program that seeks to create friendly campus environments for homosexual and bisexual students.

UNLV's Project Safe Zone aims to promote consciousness of

the homosexual and bisexual population on campus, create allies for homosexual and bisexual students and foster an attitude of respect toward diversity.

Newton said Project Safe Zone exists so that homosexual and bisexual students can know they have someone to turn to when they have problems. Students, staff and faculty are showing their support for Project Safe Zone by displaying "UNLV LGB SAFE ZONE" stickers on their office doors and windows.

Castillo said of the stickers, "We want to make sure gay, lesbian and bisexual students know if there is a student sticker somewhere, they are able to go there and feel comfortable."

LGBA's future goals include bringing prominent homosexual and bisexual speakers to campus, Castillo said.

I don't think it's necessary to march around with signs screaming that you're gay," said Daren

Palmer, a senior, "I could care less what people do behind closed doors but what's the point in advertising it."

Sophomore Molly Reardon supports LGBA's efforts. "I think it's great that they're confident enough to say, 'This is who I am and I'm proud of it.'"

"People can be very cruel, especially to homosexuals," she continued.

"They deserve to know that there's people at this university and in this world who are on their side and who won't turn their backs just because we have different sexual preferences."

"I don't know what kind of oppression there is (against homosexuals) because I'm not the one who's (being targeted)," said CSUN President Aaron Rosenthal.

"But if they're being attacked, by all means they have the right to do what they need to do to make people like themselves feel more comfortable."

Student Directory a useful tool

By Michael Saunders
Staff News Writer

Students who want to contact their professors but don't know how to reach them by telephone can now do so, thanks to the new Student Directory 1996-1997.

The directory, the first of its kind available to students, contains administrative, faculty and departmental listings.

Student Body Vice President Joe Mills, who originated the idea for the directory, said, "It's a good, useful thing."

The directory was inspired by students continually going to the CSUN office asking for telephone numbers and event information, according to Mills.

"The directory provides a cost-effective way to lessen the amount of questions handled by CSUN while providing a convenient service to the students," Mills said.

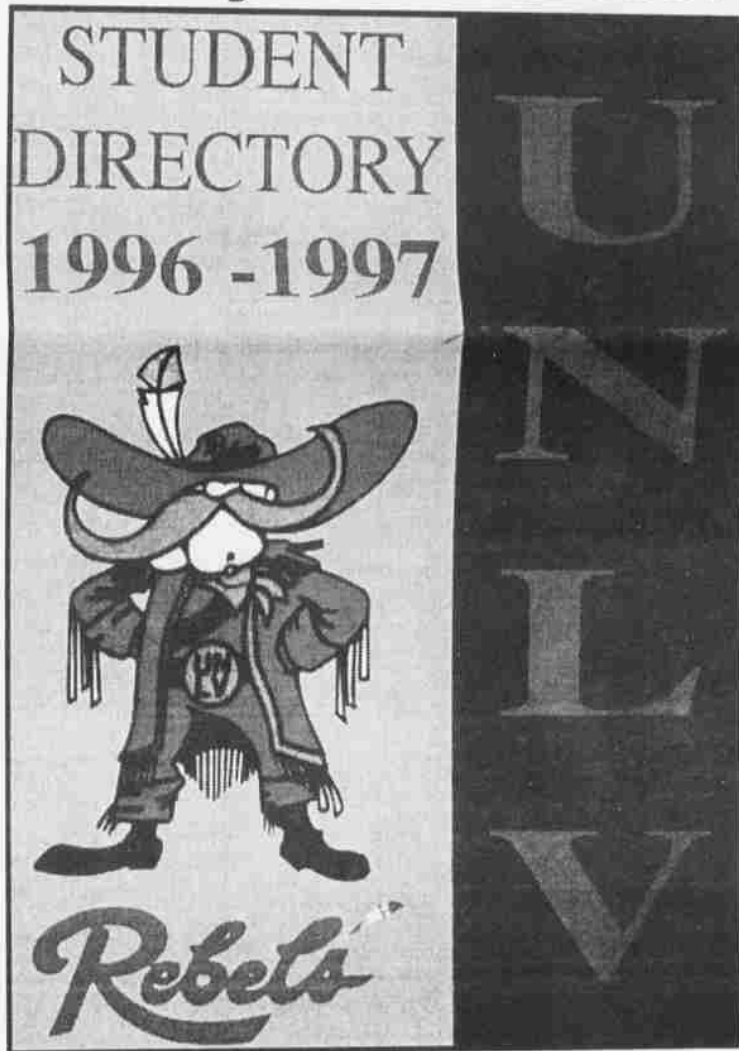
Performing arts, athletics and event schedules for the Thomas and Mack and Sam Boyd Stadium are included in the directory, in addition to UNLV history and a map of the campus. A coupon section is included in the back of the directory.

The student directory--the on-campus yellow pages--contains business listings for everything from accountants to word processing. Students interested in getting involved at UNLV may find the organizations section handy. It includes the purpose of various campus organizations as well as contacts.

Advertisers absorbed production costs of the directories, resulting in free copies for all students, said Heather Hamilton, CSUN office of student information director.

"We were looking for the most comprehensive information that would benefit the students," said Hamilton, who designed the directory's cover.

Students can obtain their free copy at the CSUN office in the Moyer Student Union, the CSUN



annex in the Bigelow Health Sciences building and at the Student Information Desk in the MSU.

"I think (Hamilton) did an outstanding job on (the directory) and I think everyone in the office who worked on it did a good job," Mills said.

CSUN President Aaron Rosenthal said of the directory, "I think a lot of students can get valuable information out of it. If we continue to publish it, we would like to refine it."

Students agree the directory is a useful tool for maintaining communication with faculty members.

Cheryl Hahn, a business major,

said of the directory, "It will help with finding teachers if they don't show up for classes."

Atskuo Watanabe, a communications major added, "I think this is a very good idea because I always need these numbers."

"I've been a student here for three years and have never been able to track down my teachers--until now," said Kurt Steinem, a junior majoring in hotel administration. "Hopefully this directory will save me some time. Instead of walking around campus looking for my teachers, I'll just whip out my directory and give them a call."

DebateWatch '96

UNLV students will be able watch the final presidential debate while participating in DebateWatch '96, a nationwide grassroots voter education project at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the UNLV-TV studios. For more information, call 895-3455.



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