



All in the Family: From left: Matthew Friday, Devena Wilson, Trish Charles, Autumn Unck. The CSUMB group is becoming a visible part of student life on campus.

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CSUMB Gay Club Out & Wired

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by George I. Goddett
Contributing Writer

A fledgling gay association on the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) is well on its way towards making a name for itself both on and off campus.

"All in the Family" became an official campus student organization during this, CSUMB's inaugural academic year.

"We wanted to be able to say that were here from the beginning," said club President, Autumn Unck, a marine biology major who transferred into CSUMB from Colorado State. Unck has managed to juggle writing the bylaws of the group and other duties with a full class load.

Out on Campus

As an official campus organization, All in the Family will be listed among all of the other clubs in the campus brochures and bulletins. The group also set up a table at the recent student orientation days.

The group met 10 times over the course of the past semester and has 7 student members. Four faculty members serve as advisors.

CSUMB's reliance on the Internet and computer technology has proven invaluable to the group.

They use it to post meeting announcements, correspond with members, and inform the rest of the student body about gay issues, even during school breaks when many students move back home.

All in the Family plans on organizing events on campus to help publicize their group with students

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President, All in the Family

and the community. The first event will most likely be an evening of comedy and theater from FatLips, a lesbian theatrical troupe.

Devena Wilson, the group's treasurer, and Matthew Friday, their community liaison, organized a panel on gay, lesbian, and bisexual issues earlier this year, before All in the Family was organized. The event drew the largest crowd for any workshop yet held on the CSUMB campus.

First Impressions

Unck's first impression of Monterey's gay community was that it was hidden, inaccessible and closed, which is something she would like to see change. "The biggest wall is that I was new to the community and didn't know where to go," said Unck, who has heard that students were calling the campus police department and student center out of desperation when looking for local gay groups.

Wilson's approach will be to promote being gay or lesbian as a culture, and plans to hold cultural workshops to help others better understand the gay community.

The group has received support from the local community. A woman approached Trish Charles, one of the group's advisors, at Santa Cruz's pride festival and made an unsolicited offer to silkscreen the group's T-shirts at cost. Matthew Friday and other locals have offered to help publicize the group at Peninsula Professional Network and other local social gatherings.

Unck summed up the group's attitude in a rallying cry: "Closets are for clothes; come on out!"

You can contact All in the Family by calling Autumn Unck at 372-3002 e-mail autumn_unck@otter.monterey.edu.

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Older lesbians & gays tell us how it was and how it is to be over 50 in the gay world • The local angle on the International AIDS Conference in Vancouver • Gay marriage bill updates • More movie, music and restaurant review including a visit to the Carmel Bach Festival • The best spots for hiking on the central coast • Plus the community calendar, our resource guide, personal & classified ads, and news from Monterey's G/L/B/T communities.