

## Thief steals McNuggets

FULLERTON, Calif. (AP) — Sheila Friend's dog won't get her bag of leftover Chicken McNuggets, because a bandit took them at gunpoint and made a clean getaway, police said.

The bandit thought he had a bag containing McDonald's restaurant cash receipts, police Lt. Ronald Kazzor explained. Ms. Friend, 50, is assistant manager of a McDonald's franchise in Fullerton.

There were two similar bags on the seat of Ms. Friend's car, which the gunman commandeered Saturday.

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## Gay Peoples' Alliance

# Support its biggest asset

by Joe Hudon  
Evergreen Staff

Yesterday, Alex MacMath, co-president of the Gay Peoples' Alliance told of some of the problems he had growing up and coming to terms with his sexuality. He also talked about his foster son who is also a homosexual.

Today MacMath discusses his role in the Gay Peoples' Alliance, how he became co-president, and some of the goals his group will be pursuing in the future.

Alex MacMath, co-president of the Gay Peoples' Alliance came to this university last fall with intentions to become a veterinarian. He is 33 years old and currently a sophomore.

"I originally got into the Gay Peoples' Alliance because I was looking for a support group in the community here."

MacMath had trouble reaching the group at first and went as far as calling the crisis line for referral. "I finally found their number in the phone book."

"I realized that there obviously was a need for better communication. Then I met my current co-president. She told me about the group."

MacMath said that last fall the GPA was a group of people without an outlet for support, but there were also those who "were trying to make society realize that homophobia is not something to be feared like the early witch hunts that we had back in Salem."

"I FOUND A GROUP of very caring, very nice individuals," he said.

MacMath was chosen as co-president particularly due to his age and advanced experience dealing with prejudice.

"I have an advantage at my age, perhaps being a little more worldly — maybe a little more understanding than a college student who is 17, 18, or 19. Because of that, I'm not as oppressed as easily. I'm not one that can be gotten down or put down as fast as some of my younger peers are."

He said one of the biggest assets of the group is support.

"There are approximately 1,600 students on this campus who are either gay or bisexual. We've heard a lot of talk recently that Pullman doesn't have (gays). I don't find anything unique about Pullman that makes it any different than any place else in the country. Therefore, I feel the statistics are true."

MacMath said that those people do need an outlet.

"GAY LIFESTYLE is not something that is not that easily understood or talked about in the straight community. They need other gays to talk to about some of their problems, and some of the interpersonal relationships that go along with the gay lifestyle are easily understood by another gay person where they are not by a straight ... even by a straight counselor."

The other asset that MacMath believes his group has, is in the speakers' bureaus the GPA puts on for nearly 3,000 people per year in classes and living groups on campus.

"One of the main reasons I am part of the speakers bureau is that I do have a son - I've seen the impression that society has put on him, and I really don't want to see him growing

up with a lot of the crap that I've had to put up with."

The GPA president said the major reason more members of his group have not come out and identified themselves is because of the hostility they feel on campus.

HE SAID THAT identifying yourself as a gay would be like opening yourself up to those who would start casting stones.

"I don't think that I'd want to stand up and voluntarily put myself through that. I stand up to this because I'm old enough to realize the fact that this oppression has got to stop, as many others have throughout history."

The GPA would like to schedule religious programs along with the Catholic church and its outreach program, however, with the group's current situation on campus, MacMath said it would be difficult.

He said the form of counseling that the GPA now offers is peer counseling.

"We work on referral with Crisis Line here in town, which is support by this campus. We have referrals with people who are professionals in the field who are sympathetic to the gay issues in the mental health departments and crisis departments. And there are several members of our group who are trained in crisis intervention."

The peer counselors neither promote or put down homosexuality when someone comes to them for help.

"WHAT'S PROMOTED is learning to accept yourself whether it be gay or straight. If you are comfortable being gay, but not comfortable with the pressures that society puts on you, then we will examine ways to deal with those pressures so they don't become insurmountable.

MacMath attributes the recent failure of the GPA's attempt to gain ASWSU committee status to "lack of understanding."

"The ASWSU survey pointed out that those students who had seen speakers' bureaus were much more accepting of committee status. Therefore, you could carry that same line of thought through a little bit further. That (the survey) indicates that there is obviously a great need for awareness on the rest of the campus."

In the future, the GPA would like to be involved in forums where both sides of the issue can voice their opinions.

"This way, the fundamentalists will have just as much an opportunity to express their points of view," he said.

According to MacMath the GPA would "absolutely" be attempting to gain funds in the future.

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