



Serving the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community since 1977.

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The Gay & Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach Condemns Violent Crime; Encourages Hate Crime Investigation of Assaults on CSULB Transgender Student, Chicana Feminism Conference

Long Beach, CA , April 29, 2010 - On April 15, 2010, an unidentified white male violently assaulted a 27 year-old transgender student in the men’s restroom on the CSULB campus. The victim was pushed into a stall, had his shirt pulled over his head and physically assaulted.

The Gay and Lesbian Center of Greater Long Beach (“The Center”) condemns this attack, and urges University officials to publicly do the same. We feel the administration of CSULB need to significantly denounce this, and all hateful attacks and expressions of intolerance on campus now and in the future, and to reiterate their commitment to embracing diversity, unity, acceptance and learning.

While we strongly support the investigation by CSULB officials of this assault to determine whether a hate crime was committed, it is also our opinion that University officials are not informing the students and faculty on campus and the City of Long Beach in a timely manner. This is evident by the first and only communication to students alerting them of the attack from campus officials that was distributed via email ten days after the incident on Monday, April 26, 2010. In it, Mary Stephens, Vice President of Administration and Finance, writes “... University Police strongly believe this was an isolated incident and that there is no continuing threat to members of the campus community.”

If CSULB officials find that this was a bias-motivated attack, we urge them to prosecute this crime to the full extent permitted under California’s hate crimes law and the City of Long Beach’s Human Dignity Policy and call upon the California State University system and Long Beach community to speak out loudly against hate crimes. Long Beach is no place for hate.

We are also disturbed by reports surrounding recent violent and homophobic verbal attacks on the CSULB campus this month. In response to an article the CSULB’s Daily 49er (student newspaper) reported on a Chicana Feminism Conference that took place at CSULB, readers allegedly posted verbal attacks on the online version of the Daily 49er that included calling the conference organizers "a bunch of lesbians hiding under the guise of feminism". Authors and respected Chicana academics and activists who attended the conference were called "fucking idiot"... "perverted dyke". The conference, itself, and its organizers were called an "abomination", stating that "lesbians and homosexuals...practice their abominable sexual perversions [and] want to be able to destroy the religions which oppose them...." Finally, some posts made a call to murder all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning individuals under Aztec Law, and specifically noted the way in which they should be murdered. The posts were reportedly done by a known hate group and, subsequently, were removed by the Daily 49er.

Hate crimes have an impact far beyond the individual victim of the crime. When a victim is chosen because of his or her sexual orientation, gender expression or gender identity,

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other members of those groups feel unsafe and unwelcome. Hate crimes resonate throughout the victim's community and threaten the safety and well-being of every member of that group.

The City of Long Beach believes: "everyone should be treated with courtesy and respect, regardless of their racial background, their nation of origin, the religion they practice, their sexual orientation, gender, or disability status. It is the right of all residents to pursue their daily lives with the knowledge that they will not be threatened with violence or physical harm...The City will vigorously fight criminal activity known as hate crimes with all resources at its disposal."

The Center reminds everyone who has been a victim of a hate crime that there is help available for you. Call the confidential Hate Crimes Response Line at **(562) 433-8595** and leave a message. You will receive assistance with resources and support. This hotline is monitored by The Center, in conjunction with our sister organization hatecrimeawareness.org, and the Long Beach Police Departments Violent Crime Division.

"We take our responsibility in the community very seriously", says Ron Sylvester, Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Center, "and, in contrary to CSULB officials who have claimed it's not our position to question their procedures, we disagree. Among the many programs and services we offer, The Center has always, and will continue to advocate for the inclusion of all individuals into a free and just community, without judgment or restriction due to sexual orientation or gender expression."

If anyone has information about this incident or the perpetrator, you are asked to contact Detective Johnny Leyva at **(562) 985-4101**.

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