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Couples at Weddstock 1992, an event organized by UChicago's Gay and Lesbian Alliance protesting the University's failure to provide benefits for same-sex domestic partnerships. (University of Chicago Photographic Archive, [apf7-03580-001](#), Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library)

## Queer and here

BY [ELIZABETH STATION](#) | [WEB EXCLUSIVES](#)—05.20.2014

Taking a sneak peek at the University's LGBTQ past.

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"[Welcomed Home](#)" (*University of Chicago Magazine*, May–June/14)

"[Desire for History](#)" (*Core*, Winter/13)

"[Queer Review](#)" (*University of Chicago Magazine*, Jan–Feb/13)

A 1982 *Maroon* headline—also emblazoned on a T-shirt—made a bold statement: "The University of Chicago may be gay(er) than you think." Both shirt and newspaper are on display at *Closeted/Out in the Quadrangles, Past and Present*, a preview exhibition running at the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality through June 13.

The exhibit features a small cross-section of the photos, memorabilia, and oral history interviews gathered during [an ongoing project](#) to document the experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) UChicago alumni, faculty, and staff. Since 2012 the project has collected 85 oral histories; they'll be transcribed and housed with related archival materials in the Regenstein Library. A larger exhibition is planned for March 2015, says Monica Mercado, AM'06, PhD'14, who coordinates the student-driven initiative with fellow history graduate student Lauren Stokes, AM'11.

The preview offers a fascinating glimpse into a campus past only recently reclaimed. "My favorite part of the exhibition is the corner sound station where you can listen to Esther Newton [AM'64, PhD'68] talking about what it was like to be on the academic job market as a self-described 'militant feminist' in the early 1970s, while flipping through a copy of her dissertation, her first book, and a more recent book of essays, [Margaret Mead Made Me Gay](#)," Mercado says.

The preview is open to the public during regular business hours at CSGS (Monday through Friday, 9 to 5). Special tours can be scheduled by [e-mailing](#)

Mercado or Gina Olson. A gallery talk and reception will be offered during Alumni Weekend on Saturday, June 7, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

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