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## MISSION

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Under the aegis of the UCLA Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies Program, *Queer Cats Journal of LGBT Studies* is an open-access e-publication of the QGrads @ UCLA graduate-student organization. We publish peer- and editorial-reviewed interdisciplinary LGBTQ research along with the proceedings of our annual QGrad (queer graduate student) conference. *Queer Cats* provokes discourse that inspires, expands and challenges our understanding of LGBTQ issues, from the local to the global. *Queer Cats* provides a critical space for queer knowledge production, as it unites a multiplicity of scholarly voices in a critical dialogue about the past, present and future of LGBTQ studies.

The name “Queer Cats” commemorates one of the earliest LGBTQ uprisings in the United States (pre-Stonewall) that began on New Year’s night, 1967, when the patrons of the Black Cat Tavern in the Silverlake neighborhood of Los Angeles protested police brutality in the name of queer freedom.

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