

Oregon Daily Emerald

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Tuesday, October 13, 1987

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 89, Number 29

Gay rights activists' protest to coincide with national rally

By Kelvin Wee
Emerald Reporter

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) and its supporters will rally for an hour in front of the Federal Building in downtown Eugene beginning at noon today.

The rally is being held in conjunction with the mass march currently being held at the nation's capital to protest the federal government's stand on gay rights and to demand more funding for AIDS research.

"The goals of this and other similar rallies around the nation is to allow those of us who can't afford to go to Washington (D.C.) to show our support for the march there," said Tim Hughes, director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at the University.

Hughes, a sophomore in philosophy, explained the rally is to protest the Supreme Court stand on the Hardwick decision of 1986 that stated that sodomy among consenting adults, even in the privacy of their homes, was unconstitutional.

"They are trying to take away our right to love whom we choose in the way we choose," he added.

GALA also hopes to create more awareness in the community on the AIDS issue with this rally. A flyer that will be handed out at the rally states: "only when AIDS becomes a major heterosexual problem... will our government show its concern..."

A condom is attached to the flyer, which is titled "Free condoms on demand!"

Hughes feels that local, state and federal governments have been extremely passive in their coverage of AIDS education. He said that it is not enough for the government to provide information on AIDS and wants them to take a

stronger stand on the issue.

"They are not doing any favors to the heterosexual community because statistics show that within another year or two, it will be primarily a heterosexual disease as it is with many parts of the world already," Hughes said. "Only when the prom queen comes back with it will they realize that AIDS is not a gay or junkie disease. That's why we feel that condoms and education on how to use them need to be provided free to everyone."

Another issue to be addressed at the rally is House Bill 2325, which was introduced to the Oregon Legislature and sought to include the words "sexual orientation" to the already existing list of minorities.

"HB 2325 is an ongoing priority for GALA and several other organizations. We want some form of institutionalized gay civil rights and even though the bill is now dead in Legislature, the issue is definitely not," said Tora Johnson, former director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Johnson, a senior in biology, said that the federal government has taken the stand that homosexuals and drug addicts are responsible for the spread of AIDS. She added that no federal, state or local government has taken an active role in the process of AIDS education and prevention with the younger heterosexual community.

"The problem is kids are going to start getting AIDS and there will be no one around to tell them what they should or should not do," Johnson explained.

GALA also will present a brown bag forum with a discussion on gay civil rights after the rally from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the EMU Forum Room today.

"If all goes well, we will also be able to include a live report from the march in Washington at the brown bag forum," said Hughes.



Photo by Ted Shepler

The Calkins House, located at the intersection of Patterson Street and East 11th Avenue, is one of the few Victorian-era homes.

Historic home preserved, to open as a coffee house

By Andrew LaMar
Emerald Reporter

Eleventh Avenue was once lined with tall trees and large, stately homes, but over the years 'progress' brought down most of those homes and today few remain.

The Calkins House is one that remains. A three-story, Victorian-era home built in 1902 by W. W. Calkins, the house was saved from destruction in 1976 when Nelly Link Macon bought the home and restored it.

Now the house, across 11th Avenue from the Patterson Towers at 588 East 11th Ave., will be turned into a cafe. Christian Gunther, a 26-year-old University alumnus, bought the house from Macon this summer and plans to use it for a cafe-style restaurant.

Gunther spent three years in Europe where he was originally planning to buy and run a coffee house, but last winter he got homesick for the "hospitality and greenery" of the Eugene area, he said.

In June he returned to Eugene and began looking for a building to house his

cafe. One afternoon shortly after his return, Gunther walked by the Calkins House and fell in love.

"I pictured this house being lit up at night with people enjoying themselves in it, and I thought what a perfect spot," he said. "I can't think of more than three or four other houses that have this sort of historical character and size in Eugene. It's a remarkable structure."

He asked people in the neighborhood about the owner and four days later he talked with Macon, who had been receiving offers for the house from doctors, lawyers and others who wanted to use it for offices. Macon said she thought Gunther's cafe would best serve the community and preserve the house.

"I had several excellent offers on the house, but he was what I was looking for — someone to run it in a way for the public, like a coffee house," Link said. "I liked him very much. It was not an investment for him but an attachment."

Gunther has been clearing old furniture and junk out of the house, and in the coming months, he will submit an ar-

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Alumni offered credit card

By Paula Green
Emerald Reporter

The University Alumni Association, in conjunction with U.S. Bank of Oregon, soon will offer a customized, low interest VISA credit card to about 85,000 alumni.

"We have joined with U.S. Bank to create an innovative marketing program that benefits our alumni with, perhaps, the best credit card package in the state. And, we have generated a steady new source of revenue from U.S. Bank for our alumni association," said Phillip Super, the university Alumni Association director.

The alumni will have the opportunity to choose either U.S. Bank's Classic or Premier VISA card. The cards carry a 14.9 annual percentage rate of interest on the unpaid balance as well as a 25-day grace period on purchases before interest is charged.

"This is the lowest VISA card interest rate, with a 25-day grace period, offered by any of the major commercial banks in Oregon," Super said. Because most people who use

credit cards carry a month-to-month balance, the lower interest rate and grace period can save customers "a substantial amount of money," Super explained.

U.S. Bank will pay the Alumni Association a royalty based upon the use of the card and the number of persons using it. The remuneration will help the association maintain current alumni programs, reach out to prospective University students and increase the public's perception of the quality of education available here.

The Classic VISA will feature a full-color autumn photograph of Deady Hall. The Premier card will be gold, emblazoned with the University logo. As more than half of the University alumni live in Oregon, Super thinks that while they make a purchase with the new cards, "they are really making a positive statement about the University of Oregon."

The Alumni Association soon will begin offering the card to non-alumni, termed contributors, such as faculty and staff. Furthermore, a review

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