

Symposium ends Pride Week

By Kaly Soto
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Sex education, genetic components for sexuality, religion and homosexuality were among the many topics discussed at interSEXions, a symposium dealing with concerns of the gay, lesbian and bisexual community which marked the end of Pride Week at the University.

The symposium, sponsored by the University Standing Committee on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns, began last Friday with a lecture by Carole Queen, an alumnae of the University of Oregon in sociology.

Queen who now works as a writer and an activist in San Francisco, spoke about her own experience as a bisexual and her research at the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality.

In the course of her speech, Queen introduced the subject of "sexualities," a theme that dictated the course of the whole symposium. By "sexualities" Queen was referring to the idea of using a myriad of sexual identities instead of lumping all people into only three categories of sexual preference.

Queen also reviewed the history of sexual research and called on the audience to question a recent *New York Times* report that claimed that only 1 percent of the population is exclusively homosexual. This report contradicts the earlier work of Dr. Alfred Kinsey, whose research found that 10 percent of the population claimed to be homosexual.

Dean Hamer, the second speaker and a molecular biologist for the National Cancer Institute, spoke about the genetic and biological research that has been undertaken in the study of human sexuality. Hamer and his colleagues have been working on the theory that if there is a genetic component that influences a person's sexuality, it is present on the X chromosome, which is inherited by the child from the mother.

Hamer specializes in the study of "linkage analysis," which is a process by which all of the genes on the same chromosomes are "inherited together." In order to apply the concept of "linkage analysis" to the debate concerning whether homosexuality is genetic or a life choice, Hamer studies siblings who are homosexual.

Janice Weeks, a biology professor, said Hamer's lecture was "wonderful" and that she "learned a lot."

Friday night concluded with a dance in the EMU Ballroom and a showing of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

The first speaker Saturday was Carmen Vasquez, who is the Coordinator of Lesbian and Gay Health Services of the San Francisco Department of Public Health. She spoke on the topic of "enforced heterosexuality." Her lecture focused on "the centrality of sexuality to systems of oppression in this country, drawing connections to sexism as an economic and political force."

The final speaker in the interSEXions symposium was Elias Farrajaje-Jones, a professor at Howard University's Divinity School. In his lecture Farrajaje-Jones covered the historical and religious aspects of the debate against homosexuality. He tried to dispel the belief many people have that the story of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was due to the sexual conduct of its inhabitants.

Farrajaje-Jones began his lecture by announcing that the residents of Oregon were "under siege," and that the battle was not yet over just because Ballot Measure 9, an anti-gay initiative, had been voted on.

The next point that Farrajaje-Jones sought to make was that those people who identified themselves with the "religious right" were not only concerned with stopping homosexual behavior, he claimed that they would stop at nothing to squelch any opposition to their agenda.

"They will destroy the Jews as fast as they will destroy anyone else they seek to silence," he said. He went on to say that anyone involved in the "religious right" had been manipulated by the images presented in the media about the "homosexual agenda."

The symposium concluded with Julia Wallace, a representative for the LBGA on the planning committee for interSEXions. She said that from the beginning, "the vision has been looking at sexualities. It was not meant to be a gay, lesbian, bisexual event. It was open to all who are examining how sexualities are understood and manipulated currently and historically."

Earth Week festivities educational

From now until Friday, the University's Survival Center will sponsor lectures, musicians and an environmental issues symposium to celebrate Earth Week.

The purpose of the week's events is to educate students about the environment in a fun way, said Matt Kertesz, Survival Center co-coordinator. And despite Eugene's reputation as a hub of activism, students still have much to learn.

"The level of awareness is high," Kertesz said. "It's almost to a point where people ignore it. It's almost where people lose interest. We would like to raise the level of activity."

Simple lifestyle changes can

bring about amazing results, Kertesz said. Students can choose to buy organically grown food, ride bicycles and educate themselves and others about the environment.

The Survival Center's motto: "In order to survive, we must change. In order to change, we must survive" should also become students' motto, he said.

"If we ignore the fact we're connected to the environment, we'll bring about our destruction," Kertesz said.

Today, an environmental issues symposium will be at 9 a.m. in the EMU Fir Room.

A kids and community environment fair will take place on the EMU east lawn Wednesday

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— Matt Kertesz,
Survival Center co-coordinator

from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Thursday, which is Earth Day, music will be featured in the EMU Courtyard from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On Friday, demonstrations on bike maintenance will take place in the EMU Courtyard.

All events are free. For more information on these events or on other Earth Week events call the Survival Center at 346-4356.

1994 Eugene budget reduces shortfall

Eugene's proposed 1994 budget includes a 65 percent reduction in the city's predicted general fund shortfall, said Eugene City Manager Mike Gleason.

The general fund, which pays mostly for public services, is facing a \$7.7 million shortfall, due partly to inflation, a growing city population and a decrease in money from the federal government.

"This will require we continue to make adjustments in the service base from year to year," Gleason said. "We need to continue to make strategic decisions."

The \$3 million savings comes mostly from service reductions and increases in user fees proposed as a result of the Eugene Decisions survey.

Some of the proposed changes include reducing animal control services and park maintenance as well as the number of administrative support jobs within the city.

The budget also proposes increasing user fees for recreational activities, including swimming pool use, community center activities, athletic programs and senior center activities.

Other changes include reducing support for the

Eugene Celebration while making the Celebration more profitable, and a voluntary membership program for the Hult Center.

Gleason said the changes being made were either sustainable, like cuts in services, that can be made year after year, or non-sustainable.

Non-sustainable changes include reducing the beginning cash balance and the use of contingency funds.

Gleason said reducing the beginning cash balance is like "eating your seed coin."

"It's like a person who has a lower paying job than before," Gleason said, "but maintains his current expenses and has to draw on his savings. Eventually the savings account is gone and a drastic change is necessary, like selling his car."

Gleason said he does not expect the city's financial situation to improve substantially over the next few years.

"I don't believe things will get easier," he said.

After the proposed budget is presented to the Budget Committee, public hearings are scheduled in late April for comment and testimony.

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