

# Gay rights march to imitate D.C.'s

By Daralyn Trappe  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Washington, D.C., may attract more than a million activists this weekend for a gay and lesbian rights march, but those who can't make the journey can attend a smaller, local version of the same event.

The People's March in Springfield is just one of several events set for Saturday and Sunday. In addition to the march, a networking day, dance, rally and party have been organized by a coalition of about 20 local human rights groups.

Carol Berg, volunteer project manager for the coalition, said while the Washington march is focusing on gay and lesbian rights, local efforts will include human rights in general.

"We want this to be an overall celebration of the whole spectrum of human rights," she said. "I think this will do a lot to show people around this county that a lot of positive things can come out of networking and educating others."

Berg said Springfield-based groups make up a majority of those represented in the coalition, and the events have received the backing of the Springfield Human Rights Commission. Berg said the focus on Springfield was a conscious decision in the wake of last year's decision by the city's voters to approve an anti-gay rights initiative.

"Springfield has been smarting under a stigma since that passed," Berg said. "We want to remind onlookers in this state and in the country that there are a lot of people here who value human rights."

Berg said the response has been overwhelming from both group participants and those who want

to attend. Among the groups that will take part are Citizens United Against Discrimination, Clergy and Laity Concerned, Republicans for All Americans and HIV Resources. These groups, as well as many others, will be represented at the Networking Day event.

Speakers at the rally will include State Rep. Jim Edmundson, D-Eugene, Greg Evans of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People, Rico Perez of the Eugene Human Rights Commission and former senatorial candidate Harry Lonsdale.

Berg said the coalition expects between 5,000 and 20,000 people to attend, some from as far away as Washington and Idaho.

"We're getting a lot of calls from people who wanted to go to the D.C. march but couldn't afford it," she said, adding that the Springfield events are the only others in the country planned to coincide with the Washington march.

The weekend kicks off with the "Networking Day," which will take place at the Whiteaker Elementary School at 21 N. Grand St. in Eugene from 1 to 5 p.m. Information tables, panel discussions, workshops and speakers will all be featured. A dance in the University's EMU Ballroom follows from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The cost is \$4.

The march begins at 11 a.m. Sunday at the Springfield City Hall, 225 5th St. Marchers will follow a two-mile route and return to the city hall. The rally will begin about 12:30 p.m. at the same location. A party with live music and a barbecue will begin about 1:30 p.m. at Island Park in Springfield, four blocks west of City Hall.

# LGBA members to make D.C. trip

By Tammy Batey  
Oregon Daily Emerald

More than seven University students traveled to Washington, D.C., this week to participate in the annual March on Washington for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Equal Rights and Liberation Sunday.

Sarah Ross, Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance co-director, said more than one million people are expected to be in the march. The march begins at the Washington Monument and will wind around the White House before ending up on the Mall.

The march will give LGBA members a chance to network with members of other organizations. But most importantly, students will be "exhilarated" because they can be visible about their sexual orientation, Ross said.

"It's going to feel like having two million people who are your friends around you,"

she said.

LGBA had several fund-raisers and raised about \$75 each for seven students to attend the march. The students picked up the rest of the tab. Ross said the LGBA delegation will return Monday.

Ross said she believes the students will receive some special attention because they're from Oregon.

"It'll be really neat to be from Oregon, having defeated Measure 9," she said. "I think we'll get a few slaps on the back and that'll feel good."

A weekend presentation in the nation's capital will examine whether gays, lesbians and bisexuals really won when Ballot Measure 9 was defeated, Ross said. The passage of Measure 9 would have changed the Oregon Constitution to label homosexuality "immoral" and "wrong." The presentation is titled "Victory? in Oregon."

## POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department April 12-19.

•A 37-year-old man reported an assault on the 1300 block of Agate Street April 14. The man was hit in the head with a water balloon while jogging on Agate Street. The man told police he had just turned off East 13th Avenue and was heading south on Agate Street when he was hit in the left eye with an object. The man said he fell to the ground and blacked out for a moment. Two University students helped the man up and gave him a ride home. The man was treated and released for his eye injury. An OPS officer went to the scene of the assault and found small pieces of broken balloons in the area.

•The Campus Copy Center reported a theft April 15. Someone took \$150 in quarters, dimes

and nickles from a copy machine in front of the copy center April 14. There were no signs of forced entry and police do not know how the suspect got to the machine's cash box.

•Police responded to an attempted suicide at the Motel 66, 755 E. Broadway, April 16. An EPD officer was originally dispatched to the motel because an employee reported that a customer would not check out of her room. The officer forced his way into the room and found a University student having a seizure on the floor. The student had mixed some prescription pills with vodka in an attempt to commit suicide, according to police reports. Police found a photocopied page detailing how to commit suicide with alcohol and pills in the motel room.

•A University student reported a theft of a car stereo on the 1300 block of Columbia Street

April 16. The suspect took a wiper blade off of the victim's car and somehow used it to open the car door, according to police reports. The stereo was valued at \$300.

•The Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, 791 E. 15th Ave., reported the theft of numerous items April 17. The fraternity reported a stereo, VCR, compact disc player, telephone, 30 movies, five speakers, television and a toolbox stolen. The missing items were valued at \$3,510. Police said there were no signs of forced entry, and no one at the fraternity reported seeing anyone suspicious in the house.

•A University student reported a theft of a car stereo on the 1900 block of Onyx Street April 18. The suspect broke the front wing window of the car to gain entry. According to police reports, the stereo was valued at \$250, and \$175 in damage was

done to the car in the theft.

•A University student reported a theft of a car stereo and speakers on the 700 block of East 15th Avenue April 18. The items, worth a total of \$550, were taken from the unlocked vehicle.

•A 36-year-old man was arrested for menacing at the East 19th Street Cafe, 1485 E. 19th Ave., April 18. The man was in the cafe panhandling from customers and allegedly attempted to steal some tip money off of a table, according to police reports. When an employee told the man to leave, the man lunged at the employee with his fist and said, "I'm going to knock your lights out." The man finally left the cafe when the employee called the police.

## CORRECTION

An article in the April 22 *Emerald* incorrectly reported the name of ASUO vice presidential candidate Diana Collins Puente. The *Emerald* regrets the error.

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