

Week focuses on acceptance

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

Shortly after last year's anti-gay rights initiative failed, University Prof. Henry Alley received a phone call that helped spark a University backlash against intimidation.

Alley, who "came out of the closet" and announced he was gay about two years ago, came to the Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns then out of the frustration over the harassment.

"He was making fun of my status as a gay man," the professor said, concerning the phone call.

Alley suggested that the committee had to do something in the face of the rising tide of hate crimes against homosexuals.

Thus, the first Hate Free Week was born late last February. Events last winter then addressed a growing trend of violence against homosexuals, triggered partly by the Oregon Citizen Alliance's failed coup against gay rights.

Monday marked the beginning of the second Hate Free Week. This fall's events hope to expand debate to all minorities and drive home the idea that all hate crimes are wrong.

Organizer's broadened this week to include discussions on racism, sexism and issues

'We have to start at the root so people can go out to the community and stop hate crimes.'

— Shannon Wall
Organizer

against religions.

"We have to start at the root so people can go out to the community and stop hate crimes," said Shannon Wall, one of the organizers of the event.

Statistically, the speakers said more discussion of minority and gay issues sparks more violence from against those groups.

But, Alley said activities like Hate Free Week can create a base of support for minorities and possibly grounds for acceptance within the community.

ASUO President Eric Bowen said at Monday's meeting that ever since coming to the University in 1989, he has seen a constant flow of hate crimes.

In a letter on Hate Free Week, Troy Shields, ASUO Safety Affairs Coordinator and co-chair for the National Lesbian Gay Bisexual Student Caucus of the United States Student Association, agreed with Bowen.

"At the University, there is a lot of talk about diversity and tolerance, but through my experience the result is just talk and frequently it is insincere talk," he said.

"I have learned just how violent and cruel this world can be," Shields said. "I have dealt with women who have been stalked on this campus, and I have had women share with me some very personal heart-wrenching stories of their assaults."

Hate Free Week, said Shields, hopes to be that impetus for change.

Pink triangle buttons will be passed out during the week with the hope that students, faculty and staff will wear them not just during the week but throughout the year, said Alley.

The symbol, made famous by gay rights activists during last year's Ballot Measure 9 anti-gay rights campaign, can mean support of diversity, Alley said.

"Even heterosexual people can show their support," said the professor.

Events sponsored by the ASUO Safety Affairs staff and the Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Concerns will hold speeches throughout the week.

For more information and a list of scheduled events, please contact the ASUO at 346-3724.

Information sessions examine gay issues

By Manya Shorr
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance is sponsoring Hate Free Week activities for today. Designated as Homophobia-Free Day, LGBA is presenting several information sessions.

"Our goals are to educate and to reach out in support of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their allies," said Jodi Mai, LGBA co-director.

A Safe Zone table will be set up in the EMU lobby all day today. The table will provide an environment that is non-threatening to both heterosexuals and homosexuals. The LGBA will be selling stickers and pins that express support for the homosexual community.

From 3 to 5 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room, LGBA will present a hate crimes panel, "Is Our Campus Safe for Lesbians, Gays and Bisexuals?" The panel will consist of a representative from the Eugene police department, the Office of Public Safety, the dean of students office, University Housing and one or two students.

The panelists will take a look at campus safety issues for homosexuals. Harassment issues will be examined and students will have the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists.

Also represented on the panel will be Hillel and the Jewish Student Union. Although LGBA set up the panel to address campus safety issues for lesbians, gays and bisexuals, Mai and LGBA believed there were safety issues that needed to be addressed for less visible minority groups. Representatives from these two organizations will be able to talk about what it means to be Jewish in terms of safety on campus.

"Out of the Closet" is a panel from 5 to 7 p.m. in the EMU Walnut Room. This will discuss problems that are faced by visible lesbians, gays and bisexuals. Discrimination is a problem that all homosexuals face, but it is a major issue for visible homosexuals.

"I receive a lot of hate mail," Mai said. Not all of the planned activities for today are sponsored by LGBA. The ASUO is taking an active role in two of the discussions.

The first, "Religious Perspectives," will be from 3 to 5 p.m. in the EMU Ben Linder Room. This discussion will cover religious rights for students and the community, and the Oregon Citizens Alliance, the Jewish Student Union and various campus organizations will be represented and discussed.

The ASUO is also sponsoring "Organizing Around Hate Initiatives" from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room. This panel will discuss the issues surrounding Ballot Measure 9. Included in the panel will be Ron Schlittler, an LGBA activist who rallied against the measure.

ET ALS

MEETINGS

Student Senate will meet tonight at 5:30 in EMU Century Room E. For more information, call 346-0630.

Mortar Board will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 484-4426.

Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma

will meet tonight at 6:30 in EMU Cedar Room F.

Club Sports will hold a mandatory Snowboard Club meeting tonight at 7:30 in EMU Cedar Room E. For more information, call 346-3733.

Physical Therapy Club will meet tonight at 6:30 in Room 112 Esslinger. For more information, call 485-9686.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chelsea House Christian Co-op will host a Mark Alan concert tonight from 8 to 10 at 1851 Onyx St. For more information, call 343-2674.

Jewish Student Union will present a panel discussion with local Jews of all persuasions titled "Why be Jewish?" tonight at 7 in the EMU Ben Linder Room. For more information, call 346-4366.

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CALL 346-4343 BEFORE 1 p.m. TODAY TO PUT US TO WORK FOR YOU TOMORROW!

FREE HAPPENINGS

A♦ The tailgate and function were lots of fun. Thanks for a great weekend with our parents! ♡, the Alpha Phi

ΠΒ♦ To the Men of Phi Kappa Psi And the tradition continues Thanks for the spaghetti winner It was the best once again Love-Π Beta Phi **ΠΒ♦**

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