

# Lecture opposed by gay community

Jean M. Bond  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Members of Eugene's gay, lesbian and bisexual community disrupted the Freedom Fellowship lecture, "Can Homosexuals Change?"

The lecture was presented by the Freedom Fellowship's Terry Gray as part of Jesus Week, and was sponsored by Chi Alpha and Campus Crusade for Christ.

The Lesbian Avengers, the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance (LGBA), and the University's Wesley Foundation were among the groups opposing the views presented at the event.

Gray, who said he is a reformed homosexual, said homosexuality is a sin and homosexuals should change.

"We are only here for the homosexuals who want to change. Each person must make their own choice, but your eternity depends on you making the right choice," he said.

The dynamics of homosexuality are different for women than for men, said Laura Rice from the Freedom Fellowship's women's group. While men are "acting out sexually, moving from relationship to relationship," she said, relationships between women are very emotional. These emotions "can be crippling," keeping women from leaving the "homosexual lifestyle."

Rice ended her presentation after she became disconcerted by audience comments.

Midway through the lecture, a woman in a leather jacket and baseball cap stood up and loudly sang, "Jesus Loves Me," before walking out of the lecture.

A young man claimed to have been cured of HIV after he converted to Christianity.

LGBA passed out literature opposing Exodus International's views. The group asked Freedom Fellowship for permission to set up an information table at the event, but its request was denied, according to LGBA director Susan Anderson.

Bjorn Pettersen, a gay graduate student involved with LGBA, said he was disappointed with the lecture. "This [debate over Christianity and homosexuality] is a difficult issue, and they weren't addressing that at all," Pettersen said.

The Wesley Foundation distributed a statement of reconciliation at the lecture. The statement said the Wesley Foundation, affiliated with the United Methodist Church, has "decided to take a stand and work to end this discrimination [of gay, lesbian and bisexual people], which we believe does not reflect God's love, grace, or justice."

Jennifer Cross, of the Wesley Foundation, said Gray misquoted the Bible and took quotes out of context. Cross said she was upset Gray presented Exodus International's view as the Christian view of homosexuality. "This is not the only Christian way," she said.

Gray said he was sure despite "all the hoopla," his message had changed people's lives Thursday night. "I know God's word doesn't return void," he said. "They know within themselves that the way they are living is not right."

In an article in *Pressing On*..., a Freedom Fellowship newsletter distributed at the lecture, Gray likened homosexuality to being "a strange creature with two opposing minds in one body."

Homosexuality is often the result of a poor childhood relationship with the same-sex parent, Gray said. He characterized the process of changing homosexuality as a long, sometimes lifetime, process.

"Right away, we start them on a path to [becoming] totally male or female - not mixed," Gray said. "It's their identity they have to reorient. Jeans, sweatshirts and combat boots...[are] no representation of femininity."

## ■ POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to the University Office of Public Safety and the Eugene police department April 8-14.

- A 22-year-old male student was arrested for first-degree theft April 8. According to police reports, the suspect stole more than \$300 in text books from various locations and sold them back for cash.

- A 20-year-old male student was cited for drinking in public and possessing a fake driver's license April 8 on the 1800 block of Hilyard Street.

- A fraternity on the 1000 block of Hilyard Street reported a burglary April 8. According to police reports, a group photograph valued at \$1,100 was stolen. The photo was later found floating in the Millrace.

- A 24-year-old male transient was cited for possession of less than one ounce of marijuana April 9 on the 1800 block of University Street.

- A 20-year-old woman was

cited for unlawful possession of a controlled substance April 9 on the 1200 block of Ferry Street. According to police reports, police responded to a residence after receiving complaints of a loud stereo. When the door to the residence was opened, the officer smelled burned marijuana and noticed a bong and pipe on a nearby table. When the suspect consented to a search of the premises, police found a bag of psilocybin mushrooms.

- A fraternity on the 1800 block of Alder Street was cited for noise disturbance April 11.

- A 20-year-old male student was cited for urinating in public April 11 on the 500 block of East 13th Avenue.

- A 40-year-old female student was cited for shoplifting April 11 on the 1900 block of Franklin Boulevard.

- A fraternity on 1400 block of East 19th Avenue was cited for noise disturbance April 12.

—Compiled by Joe Harwood

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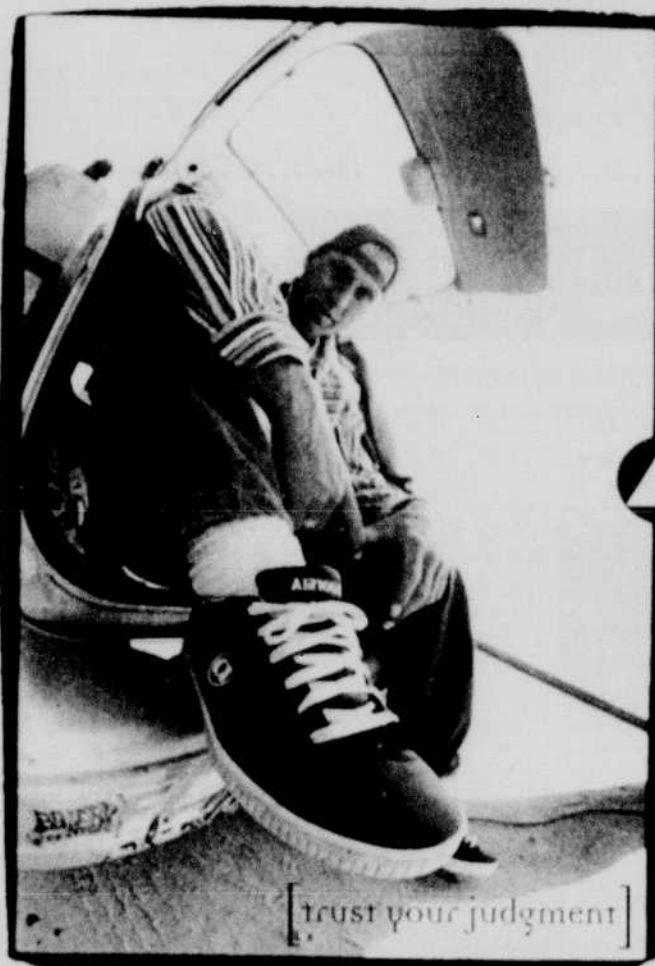
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