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Campus 'Queerfest' entertains, educates

Event: Pride week activities will continue through the weekend

Natasha Shepard
Oregon Daily Emerald

Drag queens entertained University students at the EMU courtyard Thursday for "Queerfest," sponsored by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Alliance.

Queerfest, part of Queer Pride Week, included speaker Allen Brown from the Citizens United Against Discrimination, a poetry reading, and Willamette Valley Folk Festival performer Jess Hawk Oakenstar.

The drag queens, who are part of the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire, lip-synched to several songs and pulled audience members from the crowd to dance, including ASUO Vice President Mark Rhinard.

The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Emerald Empire is a non-profit group that performs in order to raise money

for various charities, including mainly gay-supporting organizations.

"We want you to know that we dress up like this, act silly like this, but it's all for a good cause," said Emerald Empire member Terri Sullivan.

Drag queens Erika Odessa and Diva Simone Slaughter said they both enjoy entertaining and making money for the charities.

"I do this mainly for entertainment," said Odessa, who has been performing as a drag queen for seven years. "It raises awareness and gets us out in the community. ... I love to do this because I love to entertain."

Odessa said drag queens were some of the first people to fight for gay and lesbian rights when they protested police raids of the Stonewall Club in 1969.

The Queerfest is about becoming visible to the community at large, said Susan Anderson, co-director of LGBA.

"It's so the population in general

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Officials say restraining orders help domestic abuse victims

Violence: Police and social workers recommend the legal action to keep abusers away

Regina Brown
Oregon Daily Emerald

"I was in my car, the window was down and he punched me in the face two times and in my shoulder once."

Restraining orders, containing descriptions of abuse such as this one, can be an effective way of eliminating contact between victims and their abusers, said Bill Warnisher, a deputy district attorney.

Victims of domestic violence can take legal action to protect themselves from their abusers, say police and social workers. Batterers can be prosecuted and victims can file restraining orders to keep their abusers away from them, say police.

Eugene police officers respond to domestic violence calls every week, said Eugene police officer Kris Martes, who patrols the campus area. Arrests are made about half the time, she said.

Oregon law permits police to arrest abusers on site without a warrant if the arresting officer sees evidence of physical abuse, or if he or she has reason to believe the victim may be in danger of serious injury.

The law applies to members of the

ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Third in a three-part series on physical and mental abuse in intimate relationships.

■ **WEDNESDAY:** The signs, symptoms and effects of physical abuse.

■ **THURSDAY:** The signs, symptoms and effects of mental abuse.

■ **TODAY:** How women can break the cycle of abuse.

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opposite sex related by blood or by marriage who live together, or who have lived together in the past.

If an arrest is made, the batterer will be held in jail until his or her arraignment, which usually takes place the next afternoon, Warnisher said. If the batterer pleads not guilty he or she will be released, he said.

After an arrest, the district attorney's office must decide whether or not to prosecute the accused batterer, Warnisher said. The process usually takes three to six months.

During this time the abuser is not in custody, officer Martes said.

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■ GOOD MORNING

► Three University teachers were awarded for outstanding teaching on Wednesday.

Karen J. Ford, assistant professor in English, and Alan G. Stavitsky, assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Communication, received the Ersted Awards for Distinguished Teaching.

Paul E. Buckner, professor of fine and applied arts, received the Thomas F. Herman Faculty Achievement Award for Distinguished Teaching.

University President Dave Frohnmayer surprised the three recipients in their offices or classrooms with the news. Each will receive \$2,000, which will be added to their base salaries in subsequent years. They also received crystal apples and will be honored at spring commencement.

Recipients are chosen by recommendation from a committee of faculty members. The awards, given since 1957, are meant to encourage and reward exceptional teachers early in their careers.

U-Day all the way



LES ZACZEK/Emerald



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Maggie Morris (above), the assistant vice provost for research and graduate education, takes time to plant flowers outside of Condon Hall for University Day Thursday. Kevin Allen (below), a sophomore pre-journalism major, does his share of work for University Day by washing dirt and moss off the sidewalk. The annual spring cleaning day was initiated by former University President Prince Lucien Campbell in 1904. Volunteers on Thursday received a free T-shirt and perhaps even a sense of pride in their University.