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A few months into his first job after college, Gary Van Deurse needed a break from his nine-to-five routine—a way to feel "useful and alive." Gary found his answer in AmeriCorps. During his year of service in a rural community, he helped improve the lives of families who needed education, affordable housing, and other support. Looking back, Gary says, "Joining AmeriCorps is the best thing I've ever done. AmeriCorps challenged me, opened my eyes, and gave me new skills and new energy."



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Gay Day

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ality in everyday conversation. This heterosexual bias, he said, is one of the factors that separates the homosexual community from the rest of the community.

"Straights come out all the time, every day," he said.

Issues such as sexism, racism and other phobias further separate the homosexual community into factions, Thompson said.

"Fear within the community adversely affects us as we try to move toward a more unified whole," she said.

In an attempt to unify factions on campus, LGBTA is sponsoring Gay Day in the EMU Ben Linder Room as a way to build a stronger homosexual community on the University campus.

"What brings us together as a group and the differences that separate us have the potential to create more of a support for each other," said Gabbie Hendel, LGBTA's co-director.

By recognizing differences and

by providing a forum to deal with the issues that split the homosexual community apart, Hendel said she hopes Gay Day will help strengthen ties within the homosexual community in an effort to begin building a stronger campus community.

"I would encourage everyone to go to Gay Day," Hendel said.

Gay Day participants will be divided into sexual identity caucuses where they discuss issues that bring the homosexual community together. The day will end with a speaker who will discuss how the community can work together to move past the issues that divide the community.

"We are hoping to acknowledge our differences as a way to deal with them," Thompson said.

Stephanie Carnahan, director of LGBTA, said she hopes Gay Day will "find solutions to some of the problems we are faced with within the community and the frequency with which they occur."

People interested in training to participate on a Bridges panel or to request a Bridges Presentation can call 346-1134 or e-mail Bridges1@gladstone.uoregon.edu.

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