

# LGBT sponsors talk on faith

The discussion was the first of several events this week in recognition of National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11

By Kara Cogswell  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Aaron Casper doesn't think of himself as a member of the Mormon church anymore. He stopped attending services after it became clear to him that the church expected him to choose between his faith and his homosexuality, he said.

Casper, a Eugene resident, was one of several students and community members who took part in a discussion on religion and spirituality held Monday in the EMU Rogue Room.

Sponsored by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Educational and Support Services Program, the discussion was the first of several events scheduled this week to recognize National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11.

LGBT director Chicora Martin said she sees many students who are dealing with issues of religion and spirituality because the faith they were brought up in does not accept their sexuality.

Some religious groups have used interpretations of the Bible as a way to justify denouncing homosexuality, she said.

"Interpretation, in a sense, is the ammunition of ignorance," she said.

Janet Cromwell, a clergywoman for the Wesley Foundation Campus Ministry, led the discussion. She said literal interpretations do not take into account the fact that the Bible was written by many authors in many different styles.

Biblical passages which appear to condemn homosexuality should be examined critically and not always taken literally, she said. Often, she said, looking at the historical context of the text can help explain why the authors wrote what they did.

For example, passages taken from the text of Paul condemn ho-

## Coming Out Day — Week's Events

Tuesday, Oct. 9

### "Men who have sex with men"

What: A forum geared toward medical, mental and social welfare professionals who are trying to outreach to communities of color around issues of sexuality, sexual practices and sexual identity.

Where: Walnut Room, EMU

Time: 4-5:30 p.m.

### "Dream Girls"

What: A documentary film about the Takarazuka Review, a theater company in Japan. The film presents an insight into gender and sexual identity and the contradictions experienced by Japanese women today.

Where: 100 Willamette Hall

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 10

### "Becoming Gendered: Identity and Crisis"

What: A lecture exploring the impact of gender and gender identity presented by Psychology Professor Pam Birrell.

Where: Ben Linder Room, EMU

Time: Noon-1 p.m.

### "The Gender Evolution Intergenerational perspectives on coming out transgender"

What: A speaker's panel that details the real life experience of growing up and coming out transgendered, including personal stories and political aspects.

Where: Ben Linder Room, EMU

Time: 7-9 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 11

### National Coming Out Day Rally

What: A celebration of solidarity on campus. Activist and University alumnus James Green will also speak from his experience as a national leader.

Where: EMU Amphitheater

Time: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 12

### "The Gender Evolution of Vignettes and Music: A Performing Piece"

What: The performance of dramatic monologues and songs written and performed by Lori Buckwalter. Her performances incorporate stories about growing up and coming out transgender.

Where: Fir Room, EMU

Time: 7-9 p.m.

### Dance and Social

Where: Fir Room, EMU

Time: 9 p.m.-Midnight

— Beata Mostafavi

mosexuality as inappropriate, she said.

But many biblical scholars believe Paul was referring to the sexual exploitation of young boys by married men, she said. Those

*"Interpretation, in a sense, is the ammunition of ignorance."*

Chicora Martin  
LGBT director

non-consensual relationships were very different from modern concepts of homosexuality, she said.

"To take it literally does damage

to what the original authors meant to say," she said.

Casper decided to leave the Mormon church behind, but he said spirituality is still an important part of his life.

He said he believes church leaders are reluctant to accept homosexuality because they are afraid of what may happen if they do.

"For fear of disrupting the community that they've created, they've decided that perhaps this is an energy they don't want to include," he said.

Kara Cogswell is a student activities reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at karacogswell@dailyemerald.com.

## Small Classes & Practical Experience



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The application deadline is **OCTOBER 12**. Pick up your application in Hendricks Hall or contact Heather at 346-2069

19th Annual  
**LANE COUNTY**

**HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW**

**OCT. 11-14**

Thursday & Friday:

5 PM to 9:30 PM

Saturday:

10:30 AM to 9:30 PM

Sunday:

10:30 AM to 5:00 PM

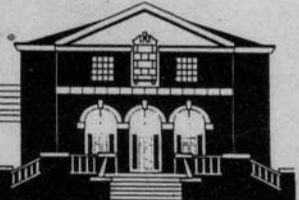


**ADMISSION IS FREE**

Lane County Fairgrounds  
13th & Jefferson, Eugene

Sponsored by the Lane County Home Builders Association  
a Berg Production

School of MUSIC  
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON  
& Department of DANCE



## OCTOBER CONCERTS!

Clip and Save this Calendar

For more information on School of Music events, call 346-5678, or call Guardline at 485-2000, ext. 2533 for a taped message.

Tue. **DAVID SHEA TRIO: Clarinet, Cello, Piano**  
10/9 *Guest Artists* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$7 General Admission, \$4 students & senior citizens

Thu. **CHAMBER ORCHESTRA KREMLIN**  
10/11 *Chamber Music Series* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
Music by Tchaikovsky and Stravinsky. Free *Musical Insights* at 7 p.m. Reserved seats \$10, \$20, \$25, available at the Hult Center (682-5000) or EMU (346-4363).

Fri. **DAROL ANGER-MIKE MARSHALL DUO**  
10/12 *Guest Artists* 7:30 p.m., Beall Hall  
Co-sponsors: Oregon Festival of American Music (OFAM)  
\$16.50, \$14.50, \$12.50 at OFAM Office (687-6526)

Wed. **SOPHIA GILMSON, Piano & Harpsichord**  
10/17 *Guest Artist* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
Performing Bach's *Goldberg Variations*  
\$7 General Admission, \$4 students & senior citizens

Fri. **HOMECOMING CONCERT**  
10/19 *UO Ensembles* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
FREE Admission

Sun. **UNIVERSITY SYMPHONY**  
10/21 *UO Ensemble* 3 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens

Tue. **FACULTY SHOWCASE**  
10/23 *UO Faculty Artists* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$7 General Admission, \$4 students & senior citizens

Fri. **THE JAZZ CAFE**  
10/26 *UO Jazz Combos* 8 p.m., Room 186 Music  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens

Sat. **FESTIVAL OF BANDS**  
10/27 *Marching Band Competition* All Day, Autzen Stadium  
\$12 General Admission, \$8 students & senior citizens

Sun. **MONICA HUGGETT, Baroque Violin**  
10/28 *Chamber Music Series* 4 p.m., Beall Hall  
"Italian Influences on Bach." Free *Musical Insights* at 3 p.m. Reserved seats \$10, \$20, \$25, available at the Hult Center (682-5000) or EMU (346-4363).

Mon. **JAZZ ARRANGERS CONCERT**  
10/29 *UO Jazz Ensembles* 8 p.m., Beall Hall  
\$5 General Admission, \$3 students & senior citizens

For our complete calendar, check: [music.uoregon.edu](http://music.uoregon.edu)

## Fall Inter-Faith Religious Fair

Tuesday

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>

11 A.M.-1 P.M.

EMU Amphitheater

Helping You find a Spiritual Home!