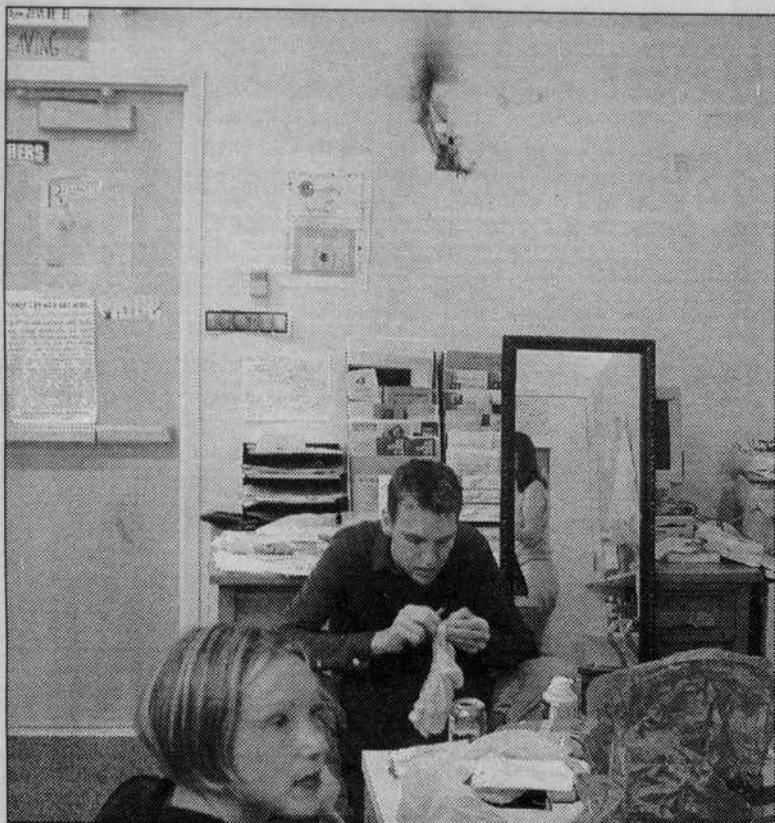




Theater arts graduate student Harmony Arnold (left) and Lonnie Winks prepare for Friday's drag show below the LGBTQA office wall.

Michael J. Kleckner Emerald

Bomb threat

continued from page 1A

crime, it may not meet the legal definition.

Tom Hicks, associate director for the department of public safety, said Oregon's legal definition of a bias crime is so narrow — even more restrictive than the national criteria — that it's hard for any case to meet the definition of a criminal act clearly motivated by bias.

"We have incidents occur that are bias-related, but few crimes that are bias-related," Hicks said, adding that a bias crime hasn't been reported on campus since 1998. "Many victims are upset at what isn't a crime."

And if EPD classifies Friday's incident as breaking and entering or as arson, the most that could happen is an asterisk will be put next to the case to note that bias was involved.

Members of the LGBTQA and student government are combining forces to make sure that Friday's incident isn't forgotten. ASUO President Rachel Pilliod said her

office and the LGBTQA office will have red ribbons that students and faculty can wear to show support and blank paper for them to write their thoughts about Friday's incident and LGBT issues. She also sent an e-mail to Associate Vice President Anne Leavitt to forward to staff and administrators about the incident and response.

"We don't want this to be swept under the rug because it's Finals Week," Pilliod said. "Everyone on campus should feel violated by what happened."

Milton said red "symbolizes more of a progressive, proactive stance historically," which was why they chose the color.

Even though most of the student body will leave campus in a week or less, the LGBTQA also plans to discuss Friday's incident at the monthly meeting of the Oregon State Students Equal Rights Alliance. The student-led group, formed under the umbrella of the Oregon Student Association in November, represents at a state level LGBT groups on seven campuses, with each school having two voting members.

OSSERA's mission is to help incorporate LGBT issues into classroom discussion, especially classes where relationships are discussed.

"If you can personally relate to the material, you can engage more in the learning," Milton said, adding that Friday's incident reinforced the idea that she should feel just as comfortable in a classroom as she does in her office.

"Our office can throw as many events as we want, but we're only going to attract our allies," she said. "For people to stop being bigoted about sexuality, it has to start in the classrooms."

She added that Friday's incident didn't change her perception of safety on campus, but it brought to the front of her mind the personal safety issues LGBT students face on campus, adding that other lesbian students have told her about being harassed in the past weeks.

Check the Emerald's Web page, www.dailyemerald.com, for updates on the investigation.

E-mail managing editor Jeremy Lang at jeremylang@dailyemerald.com.

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