

Violence

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same-sex violence is somewhat similar to heterosexual domestic violence, but many issues are different.

For example, if the person being abused is not openly gay, the abusive partner can attempt to control the other by threatening to reveal their homosexuality.

Schaefer said it is more difficult for gays and lesbians to come forward about domestic violence because they fear they will be the only one.

Martin agreed and said for lesbian women, it is often a stereotype that women do not batter other women.

"Basically, the more challenges they have in their lives, the more difficult it is to come forward," Schaefer said. "It is difficult enough to come forward, anyway."

Schaefer said Womenspace has shelter and support services available to heterosexual men and gay men. She said men can come to Womenspace and know that they will be believed.

"I know there are barriers, but we have services," she said. "We have sheltered men before, but their shelter needs are not as great as women's."

Trask said she hopes to see more

resources in the community for gay men who are being abused by their partners.

"Obviously, queer men need resources," Trask said. "There needs to be a space for these men to go and feel safe." For more information about same sex domestic violence, visit www.nwnetwork.org.

Contact the reporter at daniellegillespie@dailyemerald.com.

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