

Safety

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she said. "The red flag campaign is simply a Band-Aid for a much larger issue, but it is a jumping-off point."

In the event of an attack, ASUO will also be displaying a red flag in front of its office and in other various locations around campus. In addition, the group will have an electronic reader board, an updated Web site and a phone number for students to call for more information about the incident.

The red flags will stay up for 48 hours after the attack, and Pilliod said the flags will only be used for serious threats.

"We don't want to be crying 'wolf' all the time," she said. "We want

students to take it seriously."

DPS Associate Director Tom Hicks said an example of a severe situation would be an ongoing threat, where the suspect has not been apprehended. It could be sexual assault, serious aggravated assault or armed burglary in the campus area.

Hicks said in the past, DPS has sent warning e-mails and posted signs in both the EMU and residence halls for incidents that have required immediate notice. He said DPS has plans to continue to do this in response to campus threats, and he hopes the red flag will be another avenue for communication.

Pilliod said they wanted to display the flags on campus transportation vehicles because they cover a wide

area, increasing visibility. She said she wanted to emphasize that although the flags will be on these vehicles, people should not be asking drivers about what has happened unless they already have a reservation.

"The purpose of having it on the vehicle is to create awareness that something has happened," she said. "The drivers have a job to do, so they can't be answering questions. People should call to find out about it or use the other resources available."

DPS also has 37 blue-light emergency phones, for students in danger, that can be found in both indoor and outdoor locations around campus. These phones are blue, for night visibility, and are located in places such as University elevators, the Knight

Library, Lawrence Hall and the Student Recreation Center. If a student pushes the red button, a dispatcher will answer the call and an officer is sent immediately to the location.

"When it's a false alarm, the officer will be called off, but it is always important for us to respond as if it's a real one," Hicks said.

Hicks said unfortunately, the majority of calls tend to be pranks or misunderstandings.

"There are a lot more false alarms than there are real ones, but if it is used only once for an emergency situation, then that is a justifiable reason for having it," Hicks said.

University senior Kara Bigelow said she is glad to see organizations on campus taking steps to

improve safety.

"If people actually know what the red flags mean, I think it will be more effective than the fliers hung around campus last year by DPS," Bigelow said. "I think DPS had the right intention, but the signs were hard to see. The flags could be another method for letting people know. It's a good experiment."

In addition to the red flags and emergency phones, ASUO has also consolidated the number for DDS, Saferide and Night Ride to make the service more accessible to students needing immediate response. All three services can be reached at 346-RIDE.

Contact the reporter at daniellegillespie@dailyemerald.com.

Coming out

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going to Monday night group, and meeting all the different guys over there. And we're like one big, happy family now."

In general, Bonnell said the University is a positive place to express and discuss homosexuality.

"It's come up in classes before, and I've never been offended by anything a professor has ever said," he said. "Classmates are a different story. And it's not been directed toward me; it's just been the topic in general — the way that they speak

of it, or think of it. They have an uneducated opinion."

Uneducated opinions may be an average part of the college experience, but for some gay students, violence can also be a fact of life. Bonnell said he has never felt threatened on campus, and in fact, it was at the University that he felt motivated to reveal his sexuality to a female friend.

"The thought just popped into my head that I would tell her because I was at a party she threw, and there were two gay guys at the party," he said. "They were boyfriends, and they were really

Come out, come out

Today is National Coming Out Day, and the University offers services for students of all sexual orientations.

• Scott Bonnell mentions the Monday night Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Youth Group, held at the Koinonia Center at East 14th Avenue and Kincaid Street. It runs from

5-6:30 p.m., and everyone age 18-25 is welcome.

• For information or support, call the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Alliance at 346-3360 or the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Educational and Support Services program at 346-1134.

comfortable in the environment, holding hands and hugging.

"I saw that my friend was per-

fectly fine with it. None of my friends had ever been OK with it in that way — that I had noticed. So I

felt really comfortable telling her.

"The only awkward part was that she wanted to go on a date about a week before that. That was kind of tough, to talk to her and be, like, 'Oh, by the way, that date's not going to work, because...'"

Bonnell trails off again, laughing as he recounts the incident. Ultimately, his first moment of self-discovery is a story about dating awkwardness between a young man and a young woman.

How ordinary.

Contact the editor in chief at editor@dailyemerald.com.

Self-defense

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Apart from self-defense classes, Department of Public Safety Associate Director Tom Hicks suggests other methods people can use to stay safe.

"One thing we recommend is to find a friend or a trusted person to walk with," said Hicks, who noted that in all of the assaults that took place on campus last year, the victim was alone. He also advised students to walk on well-lit paths at

night and be aware of their surroundings.

"Be confident and appear confident when you're walking about," Hicks said.

In case of an attack, Hicks said one's best line of defense is noise.

"Make a lot of noise," he said. "If someone comes from behind you, just yell, 'No, go away.' Just scream." Hicks added that DPS also gives away whistles, which can be used in emergencies.

After citing research that shows

it is better to resist the attacker than to submit, Hicks suggests scratching or kicking, or if the attacker is male, kneeling him in the groin. Hicks said if students choose to buy mace or pepper spray, they must know how to use these tools properly.

The DPS Web site, <http://safety-web.uoregon.edu>, has more information about campus crime statistics and safety.

Contact the freelance editor at ayishayhya@dailyemerald.com.

Prom

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son, a student handing out pamphlets at the ASUO Street Faire.

LGBTQA member Cathlene McGraw said prom has been considered by some to be a 'heterosexist' occasion. She said while there will be no king or queen crowned at the Queer Prom, the event celebrates all types of relationships.

The Queer Prom will take place Saturday in the ballroom at the Red Lion Inn, located at 205

Coburg Road from 8 p.m. until midnight. It will feature dancing and piñatas, as well as music by DJ Coco. Tickets are available at the door and cost \$5 per person or \$8 per couple. There will also be a photographer to capture the memories of the special night, with photo prices ranging from \$5 to \$45. Organizers said anyone with an open mind and the need to have a good time is invited to attend, with or without a date.

Athena Ehnott is a freelance writer for the Emerald.

To place an ad, call (541) 346-4343 or stop by Room 300 Erb Memorial Union

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GO DUCKS!

Horoscope by Linda C. Black

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 11). Shop carefully before you buy real estate or something important for your home. Be critical. Read all the fine print. Dig for the details. The more you know before you write the check, the better the surprises will be.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) _ Today is a 7 _ One little thing could cause difficulties, so go over your checklist again. Do everything perfectly, and you'll impress a very influential person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) _ Today is a 6 _ An outing this weekend will do wonders to brighten your spirits. This doesn't have to be expensive. Meanwhile, put one of your worries to rest or simply toss it out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21) _ Today is a 7 _ You're blessed with good communication skills, and they're getting even better. Don't hesitate to bring up a delicate subject (money) with a loved one.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) _ Today is a 5 _ You're not working hard for nothing, you know. But you can still get somebody to help. That wouldn't be a violation of the rules.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ You're smart but not infallible. A scheme that at first seems brilliant still needs some more work. Be cautious in order to avoid extra expenses.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) _ Today is a 6 _ Keep at it, and soon you'll have things arranged to

your liking. Don't worry too much about where you'll get the financing. Work up your plan, then relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) _ Today is a 7 _ The more you learn, the more powerful you become, but you don't know everything yet. A silly household frustration could have you stalled, but you can figure it out. Keep trying.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) _ Today is a 6 _ A financial reversal inspires you to be more creative and inventive, maybe even more frugal. Make the switch from a bad habit to a good one, and do it for keeps.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) _ Today is a 7 _ It'll soon be a lot easier to get information, but that doesn't mean it's all good. There'll be more gossip and innuendo. Check out what you hear before you pass it along.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) _ Today is a 6 _ Your decision should be made by now. If not, finish your research and make up your mind. You want to be ready when the time is right. You'll know when.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) _ Today is an 8 _ If you're gonna be late for a date, better call and keep your sweetheart informed. "Hanging out with friends" may not be considered a valid excuse, by the way.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) _ Today is a 6 _ Stay out of the congestion as much as you can in order to minimize confusion. And, don't offer your opinion unless they ask for it. Until then, they won't be listening.

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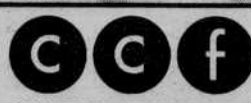
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