

Photo illustration by Jessica Waters Emerald

The LGBTQA invites students to show support for anti-discrimination by participating in the 'Love-in' on Wednesday in the EMU Ampitheater.

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Love-In

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Emerald ("Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts," *ODE*, May 9) written by University student Vincent Martorano, as well as an inflammatory note recently left under the door of the LGBTQA office.

"We need to show that those specific things are symbolic of anti-gay sentiments that lead queer people to depression, despair and suicide, and this community will not accept that," Armenakis said.

Former LGBTQA co-Director Colin Hedrick helped create the idea of the kiss-in with University student Matthew Strickland. Hedrick the kiss-in's message is that hate is wrong and to prove to the campus that "we are legitimate people."

"Hate is never acceptable in any form," Hedrick said. "Certainly not in a campus paper."

Martorano, who wrote the guest commentary, said he did not feel his piece fell into the category of hate speech.

"We need to show that those specific things are symbolic of antigay sentiments that lead queer people to depression, despair and suicide, and this community will not accept that."

Kristina Armenakis LGBTQA co-director

"I don't believe it's hate speech," he said. "Nowhere did I call for rights to be taken away." He said his reasoning for writing the commentary was to open discourse about conservative views of the LGBT community.

"I realize I took a harsh stance on it, but it got people talking," Martorano said.

Hedrick disagreed, saying he felt the commentary had a negative effect on the LGBT community because of its potential harm.

"No one should ever have to go through those feelings because some close-minded person decided to say they hate everyone in a college paper," Hedrick said. "I should never feel ashamed of who I am on this campus."

Contact the reporter at alishaughnessy@dailyemerald.com.

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