



Suicide spurs LGBT support

After Kyle Dalton Richmond's recent suicide, the community has been raising awareness of available resources for LGBT

Roman Gokhman
Campus/City Culture Reporter

As the school year draws to a close, there is an increased feeling in the LGBT community that the University campus is not a safe environment. At the same time, the community is reaching out to make students aware of the

resources available to them.

Many people were disturbed by comments made by Vincent Martorano in a guest commentary published in the Emerald ("Homosexual men should hide their disgusting acts," May 9). And the recent suicide of University student Kyle Dalton Richmond, who community members say was suffering from depression and was questioning his sexual orientation, has generated concern about the campus atmosphere for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students.

Richmond, a resident of Junction City, committed suicide May 15, and a memorial

service was held for him Thursday. According to his mother, Richmond was severely depressed at least as far back as March and had previously attempted to commit suicide. He had also gone to the University Health Center and was prescribed anti-depressants.

Elise Self, co-chairwoman of the local chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians And Gays, specifically pointed to the guest commentary published by the Emerald earlier this month that she said could have been one of many factors that contributed to

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Statistics say drug offenses increased

According to DPS and Judicial Affairs, the number of alcohol- and drug-related violations is related to the month and term

Caron Alarab
Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

Since September, Department of Public Safety statistics have reflected significant increases in the number of liquor and drug law violations on campus at certain points during the academic year.

Although annual statistics show the frequency of incidents has decreased since 2001-02, Judicial Affairs Director Chris Loschiavo says he has seen an increase in alcohol- and drug-related violations on campus.

The Judicial Affairs office receives more accurate statistics because residence hall staff tend to contact complex directors instead of DPS, except in the case of more severe violations, Loschiavo said.

"DPS just wouldn't know about those cases," he said, adding that the current Judicial Affairs statistics have yet to be updated. "But we've definitely seen an increase in incidents in my mind."

According to annual liquor law statistics published by DPS, violations have decreased by almost 10 percent since the 2001-02 school year, while annual drug law statistics show a 20 percent increase from last year. But Loschiavo persisted that there has been an overall increase, which he attributed to more student violations, better DPS enforcement and an increase in student complaints.

"Even though we have various campus programs and community resources that discourage the activities, there will always be students who decide to go their own way," he said.

In the past nine months, DPS received 173 reports of liquor-law violations on campus, 18 percent of which occurred in October and 24 percent of which occurred in February. Although he didn't speculate the cause for the February statistics, Loschiavo said the fall term numbers reflect violations made by newer students.

"At that point in the year, it's typical of freshmen or first-year students to get

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Handing over the torch

Rachel Pilliod closed her term in office, and she prepared Maddy Melton for presidency; Melton's term began Sunday

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

University junior Maddy Melton hasn't smoked a cigarette in 48 hours — it's been a rough beginning of her reign as ASUO president.

Melton, along with Vice President Eddy Morales and the 2003-04 ASUO staff, officially took office Sunday, but they have been preparing for the change the past few weeks with the help of former staff members, by exchanging information, trading tips and advice for getting work done and learning the basics of working in the ASUO office, including memorizing phone codes.

Rachel Pilliod, former ASUO president, has been working to make Melton's transition as smooth as possible, bringing her along to meetings with administrators and giving Melton all of her old files and information. During the past few weeks, the two student leaders have been collaborating on work and attending important meetings together, including a United States Student Association Board of Directors meeting in Wisconsin the weekend of the official transition. Pilliod said she didn't want to leave Melton with the same problems that she once faced.

"I wasn't really transitioned at all, and it was like being hit with a Mack Truck," Pilliod said.

Pilliod said she has also tried to lighten Melton's workload by finishing up the establishment of all of the contracts ASUO has with outside entities, such as

the agreement with Lane Transit District to get students free bus fare. Only one contract remains for Melton to complete — the agreement with the Emerald on how many papers the ASUO is willing to pay for and at what price.

Other than completing

the contract with the Emerald, the only thing Melton said she really has to worry about is restructuring the placement of staff members in the ASUO office, setting the pace of her administration for the rest of the year and making executive appointments to various committees within the University.

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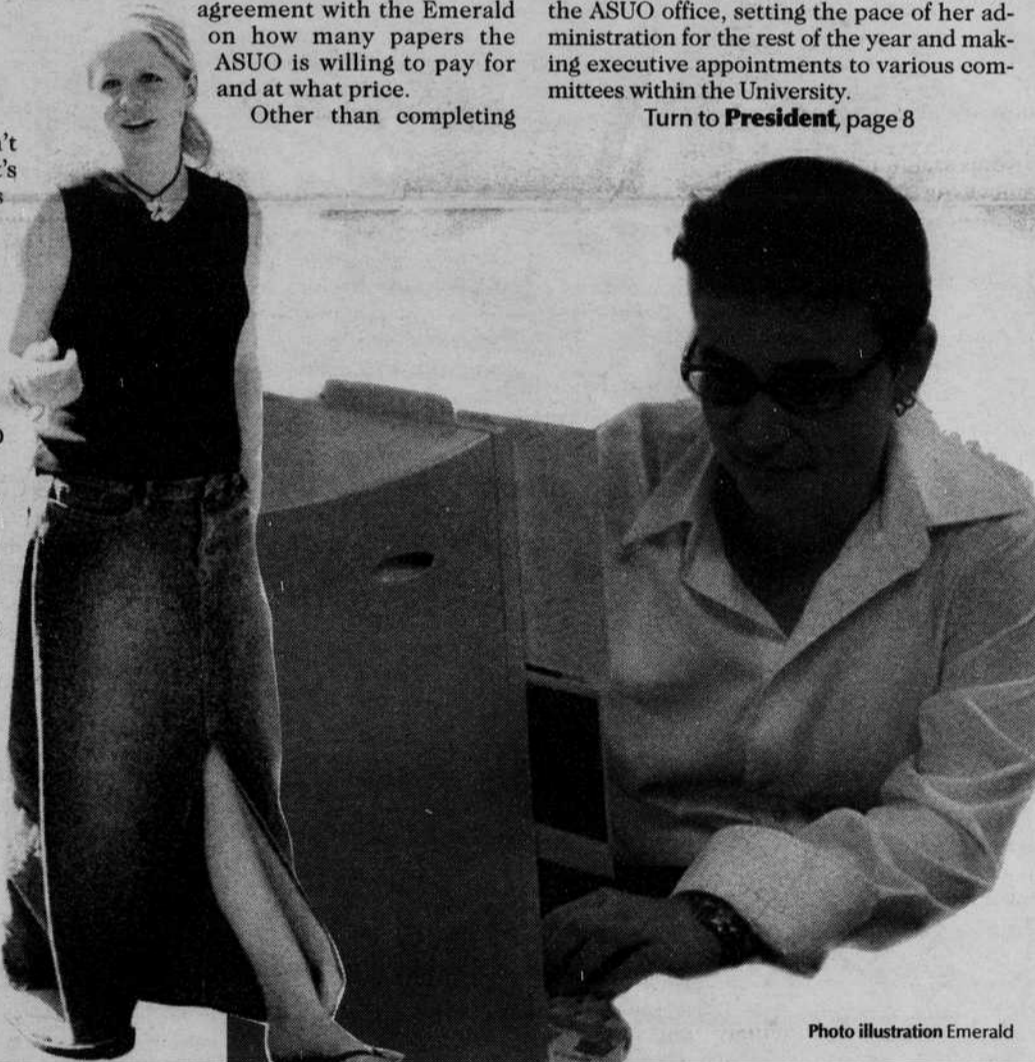


Photo illustration Emerald

Emerald seeks professor, GTF of the year nominations

E-mail the paper by Sunday with your name, major, favorite professor and GTF and why they deserve the award

Brook Reinhard
News Editor

It's almost summer. It's Week 9, yet students still slavishly sit in classes despite the sunny skies outside. The textbooks often are hard to read because there are so many other things going on.

But before graduating, or coming back for summer term or even another year at the University, students should take a few minutes to remember their professors. You know, the suit-clad scholars behind the podiums in those 400-seat psychology classes? Well, they're people too.

That's why this year, the Emerald is sponsoring its own teacher of the year contest. But we won't decide who the best teacher is — that's your job.

Think back over your past four years of classes. (Or the last year, if you're a lowly freshman.) What professor has really stood out? What professors really made things interesting — insulted the smartass who interrupted them or knew so much about the course subject they could have written (or did write) the course text?

We're not stopping at professors, however. The Emerald also wants to know about the best graduate teaching fellow. They may earn less

pay and receive less respect than a professor, but as professional students who'll be spending the rest of their lives in an ivory tower, they deserve some recognition, as well.

Here's how to nominate a professor and a GTF:

- E-mail the Emerald at professor@dailyemerald.com
- List your name
- List your major

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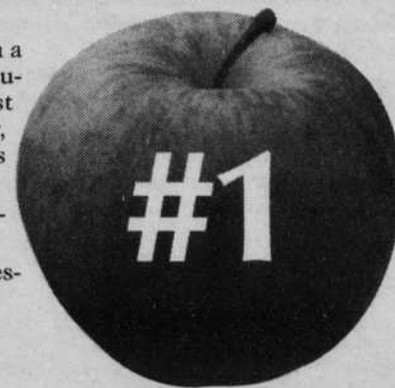


Photo illustration by Adelle Lennox Emerald