

Suicide

continued from page 1

Richmond's decision to end his life. Self said Eugene is usually a good place to live for the LGBT community, but there are times, such as when Martorano's commentary was published, when some people feel like outsiders.

"Articles like that tend to create an environment where gay and lesbian people don't feel safe and welcome," she said. "I understand why it was put in, but with free speech comes responsibility. To target a group that's already targeted in many ways ... is not responsible."

Although being a homosexual doesn't automatically mean harassment at the University, some students said it seems that way.

Kristina Armenakis, co-director of the LGBTQA, said while she has never felt threatened herself, some of her friends have.

"I've known people who have had things thrown at them and have had homophobic slurs yelled at them," she said.

There are several resources on campus and in Eugene for any students who do not feel safe or are questioning their sexual orientation.

University Counseling and Testing Center Director Robin Holmes said in her experience as a counselor, many LGBT students say they are not discriminated against, but in an anonymous survey released in 2002, many said the opposite.

"It's always our role ... to bring up issues that are being missed," Holmes said, adding that it is normal for students to go through a stage where they question their sexuality.

The Counseling and Testing Center offers support and therapy services for students who are unsure of their sexual orientation. In addition,

two center staff members meet with the LGBTQA staff regularly.

The LGBTQA offers social support services and peer-to-peer assistance to students, but more severe situations get forwarded to the Office of Student Life.

Students are encouraged to drop in to the Counseling and Testing Center office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. An appointment is not needed. Students may request an LGBTQA counselor or a counselor of color.

PFLAG also offers its own help line, where anyone can call and leave a message and receive a prompt response. PFLAG's phone number is 302-4422. The organization receives an average of 10 calls a month.

Self said the calls are usually from people asking for counseling, asking about LGBT events in the commu-

nity or inquiring about LGBT-friendly businesses and doctors; some come from family members calling to say a relative has just come out.

"We tell them that that's OK; we listen to their feelings," Self said.

"Some people are very upset, some people aren't. It's not the end of the world — in fact, it can be the beginning of a wonderful life."


Self added that PFLAG cannot decide someone's sexual orientation for them.

"A person has to explore themselves," she said, adding that people who think they might be gay should find out who they are attracted to emotionally, spiritually and physically. "No one else can tell; it's a very personal journey. Just talk to someone — there's people and family out there who love them just the way they are."

Caron Alarab contributed to this report. Contact the reporter at romangokhman@dailyemerald.com.


"I've known people who have had things thrown at them and have had homophobic slurs yelled at them."

Kristina Armenakis
LGBTQA co-director



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M	E	E	T	E	M	I	R	N	A	O	M	I		
A	L	T	O	E	I	R	E	E	R	N	I	E		
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P	R	O	N	E		A	D	E	N		T	O	E	D
S	O	W	E	D		B	O	R	G		S	P	R	Y



isiting
Candidate

Nominations

continued from page 1

• Pick a professor to nominate, and include one or two sentences addressing the reason for the nomination

• Nominate a GTF, again with a short blurb explaining why

Do it soon! Nominations must be received by Sunday at 4 p.m. At that

time, the Emerald will count the nominations and narrow it down to the top five contenders for both professor and GTF. Monday, the Emerald will announce the five finalists and give students a chance to vote for their favorite.

Contact the news editor at brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com.

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