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COMING OUT



Adam Amato Photo Editor

Junior Hanna Persson said she worries that her parents will not accept her if she decides to become transgender. "I'm still working on a relationship with them," she said. "To come home with a girlfriend is one thing. To come home with a beard is quite a different thing."

Celebrating Sexuality

Some students struggle to find acceptance as they discuss their sexuality with family and friends

By Jared Paben
News Reporter

When junior Hanna Persson was in high school, she was lonely, seemingly isolated from her peers and the rest of society. She didn't look or sound like a "typical" Southern Californian. Part Chilean and part Swedish, she has light blue eyes and a dark complexion. She also spent

part of her life in Sweden and has a noticeable accent.

But what isolated Persson wasn't her appearance or voice, she said — it was her sexuality.

"I ended up coming out to my parents first because I thought they would be OK, but they weren't," she said. "My parents told me there's no way that I'm queer because only people who have horrible things happen to them are queer or gay. They ended up giving me therapy to straighten me out."

Things didn't get "straightened out," however. Therapy didn't make her heterosexual, nor did it fix her badly bruised relationship with her parents.

"My dad ended up yelling at me every night for half a year about being gay," she said.

A couple of days after telling her parents she was gay, her mother suggested she be baptized and confirmed, even though she had never been to church.

Persson protested. Six years later, Persson's parents remain uncomfortable with her sexuality. But despite their reservations, they have maintained a relationship with her.

To Persson, that relationship is very important and is the reason behind why she's debating whether to tell them

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Several viruses hinder access to UOnet e-mail

The University Computing Center is on the lookout for viruses, including the "Blaster" worm, which can damage an entire server

By Caron Alarab
News Reporter

University account users beware — a new series of worm viruses are slithering into the University computer network.

No longer limited to e-mail, the viruses enter a computer system through an open Internet connection, scan the local network connected to the infected computer and proceed to attack other machines on UOnet.

One of the more common worms, called "Blaster," infects a computer by generating more traffic to the server, making it impossible for other people to use it.

After the University Computing Center realized the potential threat of the viruses two months ago, technicians began disabling Blackboard, e-mail, dial-up and wireless access for infected accounts to limit the virus' spread. Although an infected account can still receive e-mail, students are not notified that their services have been shut down because they are unable to access their inboxes.

Whether it is a Gladstone, Darkwing or Oregon server, any University account that is primarily accessed from Windows 2000 or XP can be affected by the virus. And although he couldn't determine the exact number of accounts that have been disabled to date, Microcomputer Services manager Dan Albrich said a handful of computers are infected every day because users don't download enough security updates.

"We've seen an incredible influx of virus activity," he said. "By using RADIUS, we can disable a bunch of access privileges at once."

Initially designed as a dial-up identification system, the Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service is a single point of authentication mechanism that allows one user to have the same user name and password for access to several different systems. The mechanism is ideal for virus protection because Computing Center technicians can use it to disable all potential access points at once, keeping the worms out of the network. Since RADIUS is also used for unique service such as off-campus server access through Virtual Private Network, Albrich said the key advantage of the mechanism is simplicity.

"Students don't want to have 10 user names and passwords for all the campus services available to them," he said.

Acceptable Use Policy officer Jon Miyake, who is in charge of managing infected campus accounts, said disabling accounts has

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Student groups earn University 'politically active' reputation

Some argue that although the campus is politically active, the national hype is overrated for some groups

By Chuck Slothower
News Reporter

The University campus, for better or worse, has a reputation as one of the most politically active in the nation.

And before coming to Eugene,

freshman Robert Jones had some wild notions about what the campus political climate was like.

"I was expecting to walk into a picket line when I came here," Jones said. "Molotov cocktails and 'Kill Bush' signs."

The University Web site says, "political activism is alive at the UO" and celebrates that the University brought more students to the polls than any school its size during the 2000 election. It also cites Mother Jones magazine's

ranking of the University as one of the nation's top-ten activist campuses, as well as its status as the fourth-largest producer of Peace Corps volunteers, as proof of a politically active campus.

Recently, the political cauldron on campus was further stirred up by the formation of a new student group, "Generation Dean" — an extension of former Vermont governor Howard Dean's campaign to capture the demo-

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Mike Sherman and Gabrielle Guidero discuss College Republican platform issues during their sign up on Friday afternoon outside the EMU. Mark McCambridge Senior Photographer

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