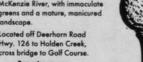
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SEXUALITY

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that she wants to become a man.

"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."

Persson does have some acceptance in her family. She's found a sympathetic ear with her younger sister, Ellinor.

Persson said Ellinor knows she would like to become transgender and has always supported her.

"I think that if I were to come out as (transgender) to my parents that I would very possibly lose my relationship with them," she said. "And I'm not sure if I'm ready for that or not yet."

Persson's fear of acceptance is common, said Chicora Martin, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Educational and Support Services Program. Martin said many times an individual has gone through the internal process of acceptance, but he or she still worries about how their coming out will affect their

friendships and family relationships. Regardless of her fears of disappointing her family, Persson has managed to find acceptance.

She has worked for the Office of Student Life, the LGBTOA, the Multicultural Center, the Oregon Students of Color Coalition and others. She also helped start a group called Fusion, which is for LGBTQ people of color. Through those groups, Persson has found a group of peers with whom she can be comfortable. She now has lots of "good" friends, many of whom are transgender and many of whom are queer.

This Friday, gay students who have not revealed their sexuality - as well as those who have - will celebrate "Coming Out Day." A rally will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the EMU Amphitheater. More information about events leading up to Coming Out Day can be obtained from the Office of Student Life display case in the EMU.

Contact the people/culture/faith at jaredpaben@dailyemerald.com.

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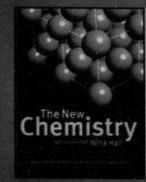
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WORKSHOP

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they can discover how to make their experiences more fulfilling.

Senior Price Sheppy said he signed up for the workshop to learn how to express himself more effectively.

I write poetry, but I don't necessarily physically express myself," he said. "I feel like I will be more comfortable expressing myself in a public environment.

Sheppy said he is looking for a way to connect his intellectual experiences with whatever he discovers about himself at the workshop.

"I think I've learned a lot through my school experience, and I'm looking for a way to express those ideas,' he said. "This is the first workshop

that I've seen like this that's just about self-expression and tapping your creativity.

Although the workshop has limited space available, Gaddy said there are ways to incorporate concepts from the workshop into everyone's lives. She suggests that people find something they love to do and spend 15 minutes a day doing it. She added that people should also surround themselves with a supportive community, and students should choose majors they are truly passionate about.

"This is just a great opportunity for those who are really wanting to chart their own path," she said.

Contact the higher education/student life/student affairs reporter at chelseaduncan@dailyemerald.com.





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