



Monday, October 4, 2004

OU's first-ever Coming Out Week set for Oct. 4-11

By **Dawn Pauli**, contributing writer

Oakland University's first-ever Coming Out Week will celebrate the diversity on campus Oct. 4-11.

"This is the first time we've done a weeklong event," said Sara Crampton, coordinator of student leadership development. "In the past, we've done a one-day event on national coming out day."

The event, sponsored by **Students, Administrators & Faculty for Equality (S.A.F.E.)**, offers activities and programs to provide resources and information for anyone dealing with issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity. S.A.F.E. helps educate the university community on current issues facing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) population.

S.A.F.E. also launched its Web site Oct. 1. Those who visit the site and submit their name and phone number through the **Comments and Questions** page will be entered in a drawing to win two free tickets to "The Laramie Project." Presented by OU's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance, the docudrama focuses on the October 1998 death of Mathew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay college student, who was found brutally beaten in the hills outside Laramie, Wyo., and died six days later.

During Coming Out Week, a rally will be held Tuesday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of Kresge Library. Representatives from Planned Parenthood, the ACLU, Triangle Foundation and Haven Shelter for Women will speak.

"We are rallying for a women's and LGBTQ center on campus," Crampton said. "Our goal is to provide a resource center for women and gays/lesbians to offer resources, programming and support groups."

"Coming Out week is important because 10 percent of the population fits into this LGBTQ community. When you look at OU, that's potentially 1,600 students. It's not only important to assist with resources and programs but also to educate the campus with the issues facing this population."

For more information, visit the **S.A.F.E. On Campus** Web site.

Coming Out Week Schedule

Monday, Oct. 4

"That's So Gay" (transition workshop for first-year students)

Sponsored by New Student Programs and S.A.F.E. On Campus

Noon-1 p.m.

Oakland Center Gold Rooms B and C

Information table about S.A.F.E. On Campus and Coming Out Week

Sponsored by S.A.F.E. On Campus

Noon-1 p.m.

Oakland Center Hallway

Tuesday, Oct. 5

Equal Rights Rally

Sponsored by S.A.F.E. On Campus, Women's Issues Forum, Gay/Straight Alliance, College Democrats, Association of Black Students

11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Front of Kresge Library

Wednesday, Oct. 6

Information table about S.A.F.E. On Campus and Coming Out Week

Sponsored by S.A.F.E. On Campus

Noon–1 p.m.

Oakland Center Hallway

Film: "The Experiment: Gay and Straight"

Sponsored by S.A.F.E. On Campus and Triangle Foundation

6 p.m.

Kresge Library Student Lounge

Thursday, Oct. 7

Road to Freedom: A History of the GLBT Movement

Sponsored by S.A.F.E. On Campus

9 a.m.–7 p.m.

Oakland Center Fireside Lounge

Friday, Oct. 8

Speaker: Jeff Montgomery of the Triangle Foundation and a special performance by "The Laramie Project" cast

Sponsored by Gay/Straight Alliance and S.A.F.E. On Campus

Noon–1 p.m.

Oakland Center Fireside Lounge

Monday, Oct. 11

Coming Out Day Potluck

Sponsored by S.A.F.E. On Campus

Noon–1 p.m.

Between the Oakland Center and O'Dowd Hall (rain site: 202C O'Dowd Hall)

Coming Out Day Candlelight Vigil

Sponsored by S.A.F.E. On Campus

6 p.m.

Between the Oakland Center and O'Dowd Hall

SUMMARY

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Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Monday, October 4, 2004

Article Start Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2004