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Pride Week April 9-14 celebrates diversity, accomplishments

Summary: Annual Pride Week events at UMM will get underway April 9 with the Opening Ceremony at 4 p.m. on the Campus Mall. The week celebrates the diversity and accomplishments of the GLBT supporting community on campus.

(April 11, 2007)-Annual Pride Week events at the University of Minnesota, Morris will get underway April 9 with the Opening Ceremony at 4 p.m. on the Campus Mall. The rain site for the ceremony is Oyate Hall. The week celebrates the diversity and accomplishments of the GLBT supporting community on campus.

The GLBT flag will be raised on the Campus Mall at 4 p.m. Monday, April 9. The opening event will kick off the week's activities and serve as an introduction into Pride Week and the GLBT community. The speakers for this event are yet to be determined.

Leslie Feinberg, a well-known GLBT and transgender activist, speaker and writer, will speak 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, in Edson Auditorium with a reception to follow in Oyate Hall. Jen Hagen, treasurer for E-Quality, said, "I think Feinberg speaking at UMM is an amazing opportunity. Feinberg has done so much for the GLBT movement."

The film, "Beyond Beats and Rhymes," will be shown in the Cow Palace of Imholte Hall 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 12. This documentary explores gender roles in hip-hop and rap music. It tackles the issue of masculinity, sexism, violence and homophobia in today's hip-hop culture by talking with rappers, moguls and fans. A Drag Show will take place Friday at 7 p.m. in Edson Auditorium. This year's show theme is "Shoes!"

Safe Zone Training Session I and II, a six-hour, two-part training for people who want to be active allies of members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-gendered community, will take place on Saturday, April 14. Session I is set from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Session II is set from 2 to 5 p.m. The first three hours are dedicated to basic information about the GLBT community and GLBT identities. The second three-hour training provides participants with opportunities to practice the skills they will need to be active allies. Both training sessions are very interactive. Argie Manolis, co-chair of the Queer Issues Committee who organizes the Safe Zone Training, said, "there is a great deal of misunderstanding about the GLBT community in our culture, and Safe Zone I breaks down some stereotypes and allows participants to explore their questions. GLBT people are in need of allies because they are often rejected for their identity many struggle with being open about who they are, and others struggle with feeling safe." The week's events will culminate with a dance in Oyate Hall starting at 10 p.m.

Hagen encouraged all of the campus community to attend. "These events are free and open to everyone who wants to have a great time. It's a week to recognize the GLBT community, but also to recognize and take pride in identity, in general. It's about taking pride in who you are."

For more information on E-Quality and Pride Week visit <http://www.morris.umn.edu/~pehng/Equality/>. Safe Zone Training information may be obtained by contacting Argie Manolis at manolis@morris.umn.edu. For more information on Leslie Feinberg visit <http://www.transgenderwarrior.org/>.

Photo by David Nieves '10, El Paso, Texas: Argie Manolis speaks during Monday's opening ceremony while Ashley Jensen and Jen Hagen hold the GLBT flag.

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