

# University sponsoring Diversity Advocate training

By MARISSA GILLESPIE  
Aquinas News Editor

The University's Equity and Diversity Office is accepting applications to participate in a training program on campus called the Diversity Advocate program.

The Diversity Advocate program was first announced at the week-long Campus Town Meetings sponsored by The University in early October.

The program is designed to train interested parties on campus about diversity, and how to deal with issues surrounding diversity in their personal, professional and academic lives.

Participants from "any campus group, organization, department or office" from the community may sign up to become Diversity Advocates, according to Rosemary Bundy, Equity and Diversity Officer for The University.

Bundy describes the diversity advocate series as "a trainer of trainers program."

The program will begin in February of

2000 and will meet for seven, two-hour sessions.

Any group or individual interested may attend one of the sessions to receive training.

After a two-hour training session, community members will be able to act as advocates for tolerance and acceptance on campus. The advocates may also be called in to help deal with issues surrounding diversity, if necessary.

The definition the Equity and Diversity Office gives for diversity is "all the ways we are different," explained Bundy. She said the use of such a broad definition is necessary because they do not want to exclude anyone with any sort of difference.

According to Bundy, the goals of the Diversity Advocate program are "to define cultural diversity, to be aware of the effects of diversity on education, to teach diversity awareness at The University, to look at perceptions and assumptions around race and ethnicity

and to see how those perceptions affect teaching and learning and to discuss future diversity work and ways to manage diversity."

Participants in the advocate program

*[The program is] in keeping with our Jesuit mission to care for each student as an individual.'*

Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J.  
University President

will learn about different types of diversity, as well as many group facilitation skills, Bundy said.

It is the hope of the Equity and Diversity Office that those who take the training sessions will then bring their knowledge to larger bodies of people within and outside of The University.

University President Rev. Joseph M.

McShane, S.J., feels that the advocate program is a step toward The University's goal of becoming more diverse and accepting.

"These programs that Dr. Bundy is developing are a continuation of The University's efforts to create a truly welcoming environment for students from diverse backgrounds," McShane said. "In addition, they are in keeping with our Jesuit mission to care for each student as an individual."

Currently there are eight community members that have showed an interest in the Diversity Advocate program; three faculty, three staff members and two students. Bundy says that she would like to have five to 10 people attending each session in order to encourage dialogue. The schedule for diversity sessions will be announced in December, and confirmation is expected by January.

Anyone interested in the program can visit the Equity and Diversity Office in Alumni Memorial Hall, Room 126.

## NewsWire

Briefs from Beyond the Commons

### Hate crime fighter

BERKELEY, Calif. — The University of California-Berkeley ASUC is planning to unveil a web site Monday to monitor hate crimes and provide information about their impact on the campus community.

The web site, sponsored by the Student Advocate Office, provides reporting forms for victims and copies of legislation and statistics about hate crimes.

The Web site also provides visitors with a list of resources they can use if they have been the victim of a hate crime. The appropriate list of resources will pop up every time a report is submitted. -Anne Benjaminson, Daily Californian

### Topless in D.C.

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State University officials and the women's rugby team have finally settled the controversy behind the ill-fated weekend in Washington, D.C.

The team has been under scrutiny for a topless picture taken outside the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., Saturday. Vice President of Student Affairs, David Williams II, who originally placed the team under suspension from

practice and two games, decided to overturn his ruling Wednesday after meeting with the team.

"The young ladies indicated to me that it was not all of them, it was 12 of them, and so based on that information I have lifted the suspension of the team," Williams said.

"I think they were very apologetic, they realize they did something that was an embarrassment to the university," Williams said.

Head coach John Moore said the women presented a proposal to the university and it was accepted wholeheartedly.

"[The plan] includes the club performing a project, probably something to the effect of going to local high schools and talking to female athletes about the value of playing club sports at OSU and other colleges," Moore said.

Although the university dropped the suspension of the team, they still are not allowed to play their last weekend of games this season, Moore said. -Isaac Eldridge, The Lantern

### Movie madness

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — A controversial videotape shown in a New Mexico State University psychology class is not only the

subject of a possible law suit, but according to some students who viewed the videotape, had no educational value.

The video showed an eight-year-old girl being sexually molested.

According to the Las Cruces Police Department, the molestation happened about 10 years ago in Las Cruces.

The woman in the video, whose name has not been released, filed an intent-to-sue notice on Oct. 4.

The sexually explicit videotape was part of an oral presentation on pedophiles given by

then-NMSU student and former LCPD detective Kay Hernandez.

Hernandez was placed on leave from LCPD before attending NMSU because of an incident where she allegedly told officers at a murder scene to destroy small bags possibly containing drugs.


A student said she decided to file a complaint with the LCPD after watching the video because she didn't think the video had any educational merit. She also felt the professor didn't handle the situation properly.

The videotape showed the pedophile and the child having various sexual interactions such as kissing, groping and caressing of the child's genitalia, a student said.

"The professor handled this situation very carelessly," she added.

Mike Abernathy, risk management coordinator for NMSU, said the claim and any possible litigation against the university would be handled by the state's risk management program. -Staff Reports, The Round Up

Brian Gavin compiled Newswire from the U-wire website



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