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been out of the closet long enough to be comfortable with his sexuality and hoped his parents would be also, he said.

"They thought it was just a phase," Scott said. "They didn't understand at all."

"The Mormon church does not go for homosexuality," he said. "They tried to get me to go to (Mormon) counseling."

Scott is now excommunicated from the church, he said, and he receives financial but not emotional support from his parents.

Dave Miller, a senior human services major and co-director of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, told his mother, Gale, last year that he was gay, he said.

"That's the toughest thing I ever did," Miller said.

Miller knew before he told her that his mother suspected he was gay, he said.

"I always told my friends, 'My mother knows, I just haven't told her yet,'" Miller said.

Miller's sister and mother are both aware of his sexuality, although his father is not, he said.

"I always say, 'One and one-half of my parents know,'" Miller said.

Miller's father knows of the position that his son holds at GALA, Gale Miller said.

"He may just see it as a position...and may not make the link," she said. "Or, he may not want to know."

"I don't think there'd be any kind of big splitting of the family (if his father knew)," Gale Miller said. "The initial reaction might be a lot of anger."

"I find myself wishing that the issue would come out in the air with his dad," she added.

Gale Miller has been aware of

the homosexual lifestyle for about 15 years, she said, and does not believe homosexuality is a "black-and-white" issue.

If one were to look at the sexuality issue on a scale, with heterosexuality on one end and homosexuality on the other, very few people would come out on the extreme end of the scale, she said.

"Most people probably have some tendencies both ways," she said. "It's just a matter of how they deal with it."

Tora Schulman, a junior biology major, has had problems about her sexuality, not only with her family, but with her friends as well, she said.

"My parents were divorced when I was seven, and my mother was pretty liberal," Schulman said. "I sort of assumed that when she found out I was gay, she would be understanding."

Although her mother was angry at first, she has since come to accept the situation, Schulman said. Her father still does not know, she said.

"He'd try to have me cured," she said.

Schulman has had negative experiences with friends over her homosexuality, she said.

She used to babysit for a straight (heterosexual) friend, but her friend's ex-husband didn't want a lesbian taking care of his son because he was afraid she would give the child AIDS, Schulman said.

Lesbians are in the lowest-risk group to contract the disease, Schulman said, pointing out people's ignorance on the subject.

As a result of the incident, the child's mother did not contact Schulman for a long time after that, she said.

"She was afraid of losing her son because a gay woman was taking care of him," Schulman said.

In addition to telling their families of their homosexuality, Weston, Miller and Scott also have had to deal with their friends' reactions, they said.

When Miller lived in the dormitories last year, there were always rumors about whether he was homosexual, he said, although no one confronted him about it.

"If they would have asked, I would have honestly come out and told them," he said.

Currently, most of Miller's friends know he is gay, he said. However, in the dorms he could "always tell when people had figured it out, because they would avoid me," he said.

"When most people find out about it, they back off for a while, and then they kind of ease back into being friends, and they don't really bring up the issue for quite a long time," Miller said.

People can often deal with his homosexuality on a personal level, Scott said, but not on a social level. Often, because of the negative stereotypes associated with homosexuals, his acquaintances wouldn't acknowledge him in certain situations, he said.

"People get real judgmental about outward appearances," Scott said.

Miller has learned to deal with this response among his friends, he said. In certain situations, he often will not associate with people who feel uncomfortable around him, he said.

"It's really conditional," Miller said. "There are certain points where you don't push the issue."

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IFC Continued from Page 1

and its connection to what has happened in El Salvador, and what is happening in Central America, Moore said.

IFC member Ron Munion voted against the program. Munion is concerned about the political objectives of the group, he said.

"According to the attorney general, any group whose goals are strictly political should not be funded," Munion said.

Munion believes the group has a "clear political objective," he said.

"This is simply a group of

students with their own beliefs and ideals, and that is all they represent," Munion said.

"I would have no problem if the group just came to the University and told us about El Salvador. What I have a problem with is when they tell us that the U.S. government is the cause of the problem, without allowing for any room for debate; they are just telling us their opinion," Munion said.

"A lot of people will debate whether or not the U.S. is sponsoring a war, or is trying to control a situation out of hand

down there, or whether or not Napoleon Duarte should or shouldn't be the president, or whether he was rightfully elected," Munion said.

"These are issues that should incite debate, and the group should not be coming before the students and saying, 'This is the U.S.'s fault, and they are spending money to support a war.' They are coming to a conclusion without allowing actual debate to occur, and when you are talking about an educational situation you want to have debate," Munion added.

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