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House, to provide kosher meals and an opportunity to speak Hebrew. And at UT in Austin, Christianity has proved appealing to the large community of Asian students, particularly immigrants—even though it is alien to many of their native cultures. "They're a long way from home and want to be with a group that speaks the same language and knows what they're going through," says biochemistry senior Sophia Chiu.

At times, however, this sense of belonging may induce a degree of narrow-mindedness that seems to conflict with the larger significance of a faith. "People are clinging an inordinate amount to ethnic identification and not enough to



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spiritual ideals," complains Rabbi Marc Gopin, adviser to the Orthodox Jewish community at Brandeis University. "Say anything about Israel and people start screaming; say anything about God and people shrug their shoulders." That emphasis on ethnicity led to a bitter controversy last year when some students on the predominantly Jewish campus charged that protests against South African apartheid had distracted the Brandeis community from the plight of Soviet Jews. Emphasis on Jewish issues is "a part of Judaism," Gopin concedes, "but it's a very thin line to ethnic racism."

No gay rights: Intolerance has cropped up in other forms as well. At Arizona State, for example, conservative students, including members of the City of the Lord—a Catholic fundamentalist group—in 1984 took over the student government and the campus newspaper, where they editorialized against gay rights and women who pursue careers. In the spring of 1985 Scott Scarborough, a born-again campus politician at Texas, was elected president of the student government after pledging substantial reforms, including the abolition of a subcommittee for homosexuals. When that subcommittee presented a gay-rights bill to the student senate the following

Mixing faith and fun: Members of the Islamic Society of Washington University take time out for an informal game of soccer

Religion and relationships:

Sunday services at St. John's Catholic Chapel at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana

fall, Scarborough and his supporters walked out in an attempt to deny the assembly a quorum. The tactic failed: the bill was passed, and a string of similar defeats left some conservative