

# college campuses

"At the same time that I've gotten a lot of harassing calls, I've also gotten a lot of calls from people who needed someone to talk to," he said. "I pretty much don't worry but I think it's hard for a lot of people to make that kind of choice."

Pippa Holloway, U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill Lesbian/Gay Alliance co-chair, said she often was harassed verbally when she lived in a dorm. "But I don't feel physically threatened," she said. "That atmosphere of violence is designed to keep gays silent."

But the atmosphere of harassment isn't keeping all gay students silent. Across the nation, with varying degrees of success and failure, they are calling for equality on a number of issues.

One area where gay students are being more vocal is with the recognition and funding of gay and lesbian student groups.

In 1974, the courts first ruled in a U. of New Hampshire case that public universities had to allow gay student organizations on campus. In 1987, the courts ruled

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similarly — granting a gay student organization equal access to facilities — in a case involving Georgetown U., a private Catholic institution.

"There are a long line of rulings from the 1970s that universities must afford recognition to gay and lesbian student groups," said Nan B. Hunter, director of the Lesbian and Gay Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. "I think campuses are an arena where some of the most significant progress is being made."

The latest in these successes involves the issue of funding. Two out of three years during the mid-1980s, the Gay and Lesbian Student Association of the U. of Arkansas, Fayetteville, was denied funding by the student senate. The GLSA was the only group asking for funds in 1985 to be denied. Appeals to Lyle Gohn, the vice chancellor for student services, were fruitless.

"The student senate refused to fund it because they felt it was morally wrong," said Linda Lovell, GLSA president during the controversy. Lovell, along with the ACLU's Hunter, filed suit against Gohn and the university in April 1986.

In 1988, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a district court deci-

sion and ruled in favor of the GLSA. Although the ruling does not explicitly order universities to fund gay and lesbian organizations, the ruling established that the groups must be treated the same as other student organizations. "It simply says they must treat us equally and not refuse us funds on ideological grounds," Lovell, a UA-Fayetteville graduate student, said.

Gohn said he did not reverse the student government's decision because it was not evident it was the product of anti-gay sentiments. He also said he had a long-standing tradition of not reversing student government decisions. But, he said, had he been able to discern that discriminatory attitudes were part of the debate, his decision probably would have been different.

Although the ruling only applies to the seven states in the Eighth Circuit, Hunter said she hopes it takes on national prominence. "I would hope that legal advisers at other universities would simply advise administrators that a circuit court has already ruled on this instead of having to litigate this in every circuit."

Funding problems have arisen at several other schools in the last few years, including U. of Nebraska, Lincoln, and Duke U. But all indications are that student governments at both universities have allocated funds for the organizations for the next year.

"I think the new student government is making an effort to really know the issues," said David Whitaker, chair of Nebraska's Committee Offering Lesbian and Gay Events.

The last couple of years have been ones of change for the Duke U. Gay and Lesbian Association. After 17 years of existence, the DGLA asked for funds for the first time last year.

The student government denied the group funds, but it was because of the government's own financial difficulties. All other groups applying for funds for the first time last year were also denied.

This year, despite some haggling over the DGLA budget, the group expects to receive about \$950. "There was never any question that the organization as a whole is legitimate and valuable," said Jonathan Rosenzweig, chair of the student government's budget committee.

Another change at Duke within the last two years was the amendment of the university's non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation. The policy was adopted without much controversy during a 1988 Christmas-break board meeting.

According to NGLTF figures, there



PHIL JONES, THE STANDARD, SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE U.

The home of Brad Evans, a senior theater and performance major at Southwest Missouri State U., was destroyed in a fire on Nov. 15, 1989. Fire department officials classified the blaze an arson and linked it to Evans' support of a university production of a play about gay men. "The whole situation was just boiling and ready to blow up in some way," Evans said.

are about 100 universities that include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies, although Berrill admits this is probably only a partial list. Still, he pointed to the existence of only 400 gay and lesbian student groups compared to about 3,000 campuses nationwide as evidence of discrimination. "A vast number of universities do permit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," Berrill said.

Boston U., U. of Virginia and U. of Oklahoma are a few schools where amendments to include sexual orientation have failed. In contrast, efforts at Western Illinois U. led to the enactment of sexual orientation clauses at four other schools. "Passing that kind of clause is regarded as one of the most basic rights to grant," said Nickel, co-president of Boston U.'s organization.

Boston U. President John Silber, a candidate for governor of Massachusetts, is known for his opposition to such an amendment. In a *Boston Globe* article, Silber was quoted as saying, "They wanted us to put in the phrase, 'no discrimination according to affectional preference.' Well, 'affectional preference' can involve bestiality and it can involve abuse of children."

"He's kind of fostering these negative stereotypes, exactly the kinds of things that we are fighting against," Nickel said.

Silber did not return three phone messages left with the Boston U. office of public relations.

While gay students have made some

progress, attitudinal changes are coming about more slowly. "That's why we need to do a lot of educating and revealing to people what we already know — our common humanity," said Michael Ramsey-Perez, director of Student Organization Services at Stanford U. "That's the hardest and one of the most exciting tasks of student affairs work."

Most gay rights leaders are optimistic about the future. They point to the Rutgers report, and other victories, as models for dealing with gay students' needs. But they also admit the college movement is still in its early stages. "The fact that so many things are first time and unique talks about how early in the process this is," Nieberding said.

"In general it is an ever-improving situation," Hunter said. "There's far more concern paid now to conditions on campus that would tend to make lesbian and gay students uncomfortable."

And if gay students adopt an attitude similar to that of U. of Virginia government professor Dante Germino, progress will continue. "The problem is a fear of rocking the boat and an unwillingness to see these matters as political. There has to be more action on the political front."

"As a gay person, I'm tired of just sitting in the back of the bus."

Anyone interested in a copy of the Rutgers U. report on gay and lesbian concerns should send a \$10 check to: Rutgers U., 301 Van Nest Hall, Old Queens Campus, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

## ROTC

**Exclusion of homosexuals spurs campus debate...** Despite a U. of Wisconsin, Madison, faculty-wide vote calling for a phase-out of ROTC if it does not change its policy excluding homosexuals from service, the school's Board of Regents opted in January for a milder plan that allows ROTC to remain on campus but also commits to lobbying efforts to change the military policy. The UW debate is representative of what is going on at several universities nationwide and, coupled with an incident involving an ROTC cadet at Washington U. in St. Louis, has focused increased attention on ROTC programs.

Jim Holobaugh, a senior civil engineering major, was the second-highest ranking Army ROTC cadet at U. of Missouri before he transferred to Washington U. in fall 1988. He was the recipient of a prestigious four-year ROTC scholarship and appeared in a nationwide advertising recruitment campaign for

ROTC. But when Holobaugh admitted his homosexuality to his superiors, they started proceedings to have him disenrolled from ROTC and have since asked Holobaugh to repay his scholarship. The case is now on administrative appeal within the Army.

"We have a policy that we don't enlist homosexuals in military service," Department of Defense spokesman Bill Caldwell said. "The presence of a person who is a homosexual in the military impairs the accomplishment of the military mission."

Holobaugh disagrees. "It's a policy that's based on prejudice, not performance. In a war situation, you're going to follow the person who is most competent, and you're not going to care what the person's sexual orientation is."

Washington U. Provost Edward S. Macias sent a letter to ROTC officials denouncing their policy, making Washington the eighth major university in the nation to speak out against the ROTC. Harvard U. and Yale U. were two of the first schools to ban ROTC from campus

in the early 1970s. In December, the Harvard Undergraduate Council reaffirmed its position by passing a proposal that prohibits ROTC from returning until its policies are changed. Debates about whether the ROTC, and other government organizations with similar policies, should remain on campus have surfaced at the universities of California, Iowa and Minnesota, and Dartmouth College.

The Supreme Court recently refused to hear two cases involving two military members and the DOD's policy on homosexuals, an action that has no real legal significance, said ACLU attorney Jon Davidson. It shouldn't affect how campuses decide to deal with the ROTC.

"Eventually, I think our actions are going to force a change of policy," said Steve Boland of Minnesota's Student Association Forum, which has called for the school to lobby against the military's policy. "I don't see that happening in the real near future, but it's certainly possible within the next few years." — Abigail Goldman, *The Daily Cardinal*, U. of Wisconsin, Madison, and HV