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Gay Social Club attempts to dispel some stereotypes

by Karin Sherbin

"All stereotypes are invalid, including those about homosexuals," said the president of the Gay Social Club at its meeting Wednesday night. A group of 10 met in Roosevelt Hall to discuss their problems and situations.

The president offered some facts to dispel some of the stereotypes. He said only 1 percent of child molesters are homosexuals. He added that Dr. Benjamin Spock, the pediatrician, said that a person's sexuality is formed before the age of five, and that he is in favor of letting gays teach.

The president said the club will be more interested in education than last year's club. "We want to educate the campus community as well as the outside community," he said. He said that through education, gays will not "be totally rejected by society." Some educational activities already planned, he said, is a training class to be given to Speakeasy members and gay participation in yesterday's Bakke forum. He said the club will ask the Student Senate for funding.

Besides stereotypes, the members said they had to deal with heterosexuals asking questions about their lifestyle. One man said he was asked, "How do you kiss a man?"

One woman added that heterosexuals "are afraid of knowing what they really want to know."

One of the problems mentioned was "harrassment from so-called straight people." One said he received obscene phone calls when he lived on campus. "A few quick-witted remarks took care of them," he said.

Another problem is "coming out," or announcing to others that they are homosexuals.

According to the president there are three stages to coming out. The first is admitting to one's self that one is gay, then telling one's family and then allowing the community to know. According to the group, some of the parents' reactions to their children's announcement is their gayness is temporary. "My parents think going to a psychiatrist is the perfect cure," one man said.

"We want to educate the campus community as well as the outside community," he said. The group discussed the difficulty of deciding whether or not to tell other people about their sexual preference. "There's a constant feeling of lying," the president said. "Most people do not like to lie. It's a constant battle between truth and rejection."

One woman said she tells other people because "maybe they'll change their minds about gays" if she is open and honest. She added that her tactic "usually doesn't work."

A man said he had some good male friends who were straight. The friends, he said, still made jokes and comments about his lifestyle.

The club plans to meet regularly. Anyone interested may contact the club through Speakeasy's phone number.