

# LGBA member assaulted

4-19-91 I10

by BILL HEIN

Daily Police Reporter

22/4/010.

Ames Police are investigating a possible hate crime involving a homosexual who was punched in the face in Campustown last Friday night, according to Sgt. Craig Reid.

But, police reports and reports from Iowa State's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Alliance conflict as to the name of the victim.

Todd Bennett, a member of the gay rights group Phi Alpha Gamma, said he told police that he was walking at the corner of Welch Avenue and Chamberlain Street when he heard footsteps coming from behind him, and he was then struck in the face by an assailant.

Bennett said he told police of the incident and they took some state-

ments he had written down, but he said he was told he didn't need to go to the police station to file a complaint.

Actual Ames Police reports state the victim's name as Todd Benz.

Capt. Jerry Snyder of the Ames Police said he could not confirm that police reports were incorrect, but because the time and location are identical, Snyder said the instances are probably the same.

A person answering the LGBA hotline said Bennett had been wearing a jacket displaying the Phi Alpha Gamma letters.

The suspect, described as blond, clean-shaven, six feet tall and weighing 165 pounds, then got in a black Jeep-type truck and drove off, said Reid.