

Glick: Heterosexual Society letter didn't cause LGBA denial

3-7-91 ISD

by JEFF EWOLDT

Daily Staff Writer

22/4

A letter sent to selected university administrators by Iowa State's Heterosexual Society is not responsible for the rejection of a request made by ISU's Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Alliance, a top university official said Wednesday.

Interim President Milton Glick said he had not had a chance to consider what (the Heterosexual Society) had to say, but said the letter had "nothing whatsoever" to do with the LGBA being denied a Presidential Task Force.

The LGBA request called for the formation of a Presidential Task Force responsible for assessing the needs of the gay community on campus.

A Heterosexual Society press release said the LGBA's demands could have a "serious impact" on ISU and said they may "strike a serious blow to academic liberty."

The letter, sent to Glick, incoming ISU president Martin Jischke, Gov. Branstad and others, said the Heterosexual Society is "alarmed" by the LGBA's demands, stated in the letter as:

- Official university minority status for gays, lesbians and bisexuals.
- The creation of a gay coordinator staff position and resource center.
- The creation of a mandatory orientation course for incoming freshman to raise awareness of the homosexual lifestyle.

Deanne Backes, chairwoman of the Heterosexual Society, said the LGBA being denied a Presidential Task Force is "a very good decision

on Glick's part. I'm hoping in the future they will deny all the other demands (of the LGBA)," she said.

However, James Schafer, president of the LGBA, said the university already has granted some of the LGBA's demands. He said the university granted homosexuals minority status "years ago, under Eaton."

Vice President for Student Affairs Tom Thielen said the university will hire a half-time graduate student to address homosexual issues and work with the LGBA. He said the position would start next fall "pending money being available."

Thielen said the position would cost the university \$7,500.

Backes said there are "better things to focus on." A Heterosexual Society press release said funding a coordinator for gay issues would "needlessly drain the university's scarce monetary resources."

Dean of Students Mary Beth Snyder said the university has been discussing the possibility of creating an orientation course dealing with "all kinds of issues related to diversity."

The proposed course would not be mandatory, Snyder said.

But Backes said, "You can't force people to diversify. I don't see what purpose (the course) would serve."

Schafer said the LGBA's requests for an adviser and recognized minority status are "merely exerting our right to equal treatment (as other minorities)."

Backes also said the Heterosexual Society is "offended that homosexuals want minority status," because homosexuality is a "moral issue."