

'Coming Out' rally supports homosexuals

10-12-90 IJD

Eaton heckled by GLCO official for not commenting

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by MARIETTA NELSON

Daily Staff Writer

It was reminiscent of a '60s love-in.

About 50 people, many garbed in Tie-Dye and covered with gay-rights buttons, gathered near the campanile in the noon sun yesterday to dole out hugs and support to Iowa State's gay, lesbian and bisexual community. The rally was part of National Coming Out Day.

"I'm Todd, and I'm a gay man and I'm 'out'. I like me. The human being comes in a variety of packaging and we are an example of that," Todd Bennett, a former ISU student, said.

But, according to James Schafer, president of ISU's Gay/ Lesbian Campus Organization, the rally lacked the support of ISU's top administrator.

"(President Gordon) Eaton is a fucking homophobic," Schafer told a clapping and whistling crowd.

EATON REFUSED to release a statement of support for the rally, as he has done for past rallies, Schafer said.

"He said he is going to recommend to the new president not to make statements for any campus activity such as this. We just find it interesting that he is starting with us," Schafer said.

Reid Crawford, Eaton's executive assistant, said in a telephone interview yesterday that

Eaton chose not to issue a statement because he believes the University's affirmative action policy "speaks for itself."

"(The policy urges) accommodation of all people of all backgrounds into our University community," he said.

At the rally, Schafer called the policy "bogus" because it is not enforceable by law.

Crawford said he is mistaken "because the University is committed to equal opportunity for all individuals."

Eaton also chose not to release the statement because of the large number of requests he receives to declare special days for campus groups. He can't fulfill all of them and he denied the request to "be consistent," Crawford said.

Calling Eaton a "fucking homophobic" was "inaccurate and inappropriate. I don't think

that kind of name calling deserves a response," Crawford said.

The rally, in its fourth year, not only garnered coverage from several statewide media, but the attention of ISU's chapter of the Young Americans for Freedom.

But supporters of gay rights weren't the only people to attend the rally.

Greg Fetterman, Pol S 4, and Frank Sebestyen IV, P Bus 2 stood at the outreaches of the group holding signs proclaiming "Get Back in the Closet" and "Stop (Government of the Student Body) funding of homosexuals."

Fetterman said homosexuality is "morally wrong" and the *Bible* condemns it. "Straight people are normal," he added.

Fetterman and Sebestyen

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Daily photos by T. MALLIE and DAN WAGNER

RIGHT: Kristina Hill, associate professor of landscape architecture discusses how the gay community can benefit the non-gay community if people conquer their homophobic fears.

BOTTOM: Mark Lesser, President of DUAL (Drake University Alternative Lifestyles) discusses the morality of homosexuality with two ISU protesters, Frank Sebestyen IV, BUS 2, and Greg Fetterman, POL S 4.



Get back in
The
Closet

CAN'T
RIGHT

Eaton refuses to release statement supporting rally

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weren't the only ISU students who found the rally offensive. Passersby often yelled obscenities, slurs and sexual comments. "Faggot" and "Get back in the closet" were heard most often.

KRISTINA HILL, a new associate professor of landscape architecture and rally speaker, said her Christian upbringing taught her to relate Christian beliefs to others, and homosexuals should relate their own experiences to

others.

"We have more than needs, we have something to offer to the straight community. We can witness about being discriminated against ... we provide the kind of diversity (this world needs)."

Joel Morton, an English instructor, said he has received what the gay community has to offer.

"Your courage has helped me to love myself better and know myself more truthfully," he said.



Daily photo by DAN WAGNER

Dr. Suzanne Zilber, counselor at Student Counseling Service, informs the crowd that homosexuals will be counseled with confidentiality when they come to Student Counseling Service.