

# Homosexuals say they find acceptance at ISU

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## Panel discusses experiences at ISU

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*Daily Staff Writers*

Three members of the Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Alliance said Thursday they have found acceptance on the Iowa State campus.

"I have found an overwhelming acceptance," said Stephen Lorimor, a sophomore in psychology, during a panel discussion in the basement of Helser Hall.

About 50 people gathered at the Chessman Lounge to hear Lorimor, Jay Lane, a junior in hotel and restaurant management, and Beth Repp, a senior in elementary education, relate personal stories of what it is like to be gay.

"We're here to tell our stories," Repp said.

"We are not here to recruit anybody," Lorimor said.

Lorimor said, despite a death threat he received on his answering

machine during his freshman year, his reception at ISU has been one of acceptance.

Repp said she was "surprised" at the amount of acceptance she has received at ISU.

However, Lorimor said acceptance hasn't been found in one recently-formed ISU organization.

He said he originally thought the Heterosexual Society would deal with important issues like "date rape, incest, STDs (sexually transmitted diseases) and AIDS."

But he said he believes the society has become an anti-gay group and that he does not personally think the heterosexual lifestyle needs to be supported.

Rod Williams, a member of the Heterosexual Society who attended the program, said, "the gay lifestyle is a lonely one." Williams said he was there to take notes and monitor what was said, but declined to comment further.

The panel also discussed the issue of marriage, and Lorimor said Denmark is the only country in the world that has legalized homosexual marriages.

# LGBA panel discusses gay issues

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He said although Seattle and San Francisco have domestic partnership laws, the United States has "a long way to go."

Gay marriages are performed in several churches, Lorimor said. Among them, he said, are the Church of Christ, the Unitarian Church and a Roman Catholic sect called "Dignity."

All three of the speakers agreed that all children need role models of both sexes is, regardless of whether the role model is a parent or just a friend.

Repp said gay people make good parents and that children of gay parents "are very thought about, planned and very loved."

Lorimor said he thinks he would be an excellent parent. He said he would like to adopt children, prob-

ably minorities, who are overlooked by the rest of society in the adoption process.

The panel also discussed the spread of AIDS and its effect on the gay community.

Lorimor said although "no sex is safe sex," lesbian sex is the safest.

More than one AIDS test is necessary in detecting the disease, and people who are concerned should be tested again two or three months later, Repp said.

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