

# GSU

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'prove you're a macho male' dilemma."

"I think a lot of lesbians are realizing the GSU doesn't intend to isolate them," Jill said, "and males have expressed delight in women being there. They like it integrated."

"There's been an increase in women's participation just over the last year," she added, "At dances a year ago women were one in ten; this year there were a couple of dances where women outnumbered men."

In the past, the GSU has been dependent on dances, one every three weeks, to raise its funds. With the money it supports an office, a helpline and brings speakers to Charlottesville.

In the past two months, participation in its dances has dropped as some gays have gone instead to a local restaurant/ bar.

"We've been losing the town support," Steward said. "They [gays from town] prefer the atmosphere they find at a bar. But student support has gone up."

"I don't think the GSU is in danger of falling apart it just may spell change in revenue raising. It may become more focused on students. The GSU has to contribute something or it won't be a very relevant group for long."

The future of the GSU according to Steward, is hard to predict. Changes on the national level are presently

"causing gays to downplay the importance of gay groups in their lives, but U.Va tends to change so slowly, I'm just not sure."

"Eventually," he added, "it would be nice if the University community was so tolerant that gay students didn't feel isolated and there was no need for the GSU — but that's not very likely."

"We've been moderately successful as a support group," he said, "but not 100 percent. There are still a lot of closeted gay people, many [people] carry the stereotypical image of a gay group as a bunch of very effeminate people sitting around being promiscuous."