

Gay

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preference, they could be useful lists."

Some gay students are also unsure just how the administration regards them. "I don't know how tolerant the administration is," Jim commented. "Do they give the GSU a harder time than other organizations? It's not like they're blocking us from sponsoring speakers or functions, but they don't exactly jump in to help. I can't imagine a Spring Fling for gays — I don't think they want gay students to come here."

"I've worked with Newcomb Hall administrators for space, and Food Services, and the University Police because of GSU dances," Joe said, "but besides direct contact in the business sense, the administration deals with the GSU very little. I doubt very much [University President Frank] Hereford sits up on Carr's Hill and thinks about the GSU."

"To a certain degree, that's okay, but when there is a problem, there's

no one to turn to in the administration," he added. "Right now we raise no problems as a small minority, but if the number of gays coming out of the closet keeps growing, as it has been, there will be a need."

Most people keep an outward appearance of tolerance, but often the acceptance is superficial.

"People are now very careful about their language," Joe said. "It looks stupid to be intolerant around gays. They're very 'chic' if they can accept gay people, but the majority might think differently if they came in contact with a gay person, say in their family."

"There are rabidly anti-gay fundamentalist Christian groups, but I'd rather have that than false acceptance."

"Concisely," Jill said, "the majority practices overt acceptance and covert denial."

"I would frankly like to see a blase attitude develop towards sexual

preference," Jim said. "Straight or gay, who cares? Only when being gay ceases to be a 'big issue' will gay people be allowed to live normal lives."

"Acceptance," Joe said. "I don't really care if people approve of my sexual orientation because I don't mind that. All I want is acceptance of myself as a human being who happens to be gay. Unfortunately, people categorize you as a gay and then refuse to see the rest or whole of you."

"I would like to see the gay stereotypes of the 'lispng, limp-wrist fag' and the 'butch, bull-dyke' dispelled," Jill said. "Gays, whether male or female, are just like everyone else, and no one should give a damn what they do in bed. Just accept us as people."

Editor's note: All students interviewed requested that only their first names be used. All first names are accurate with the exception of "Sandy."