

# Valier Daily

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## Homosexual students suffer harassment

By SARAH McCONNELL

Homosexual students at the University have been harassed in recent weeks by firecrackers, a smoke bomb and physical attacks.

In early October a Gay Student Union (GSU) dance was disrupted when firecrackers were tossed onto the dance floor, while a smoke bomb was thrown at the building another GSU social event was being held in.

Several professed homosexuals have also been physically intimidated in recent weeks.

All the incidents have occurred since early October.

Third-year College student Bob Elkins, a former GSU president and professed homosexual, said that until recently, GSU functions had not been disrupted by violence.

On Oct. 1, a dance sponsored by the GSU in Halsey Hall was disrupted when lighted firecrackers were tossed onto the dance floor from a side entrance, according to a University Police report.

The University Police were summoned, but no one was arrested.

Elkins, who was at the dance, said that the crowd acted calmly, but in disbelief.

"I just never expected to be at any

University function and have firecrackers thrown at me," he said.

Elkins added, "I don't think these incidents should be blown out of proportion. Everyone has got to be careful around the University."

Dean of Students Robert T. Canevari said yesterday that he had not received any official complaints on harassment of homosexual students; however, he did say he had heard of "unsubstantiated cases of harassment."

Canevari said, he "would encourage all students to report cases of assault or harassment to the police. "It's the only way to deal with the problem," he said.

University Police Sgt. Charles E. Tyler said that the incidents are unfortunate.

One GSU member was assaulted on Oct. 13 as he was leaving the Wesley Foundation after attending a GSU meeting, according to GSU Executive Officer Monty Reiger.

Reiger said the assailant fled in the dark and that no complaint was filed with the police.

A week later, GSU members were forced to leave a late evening meeting held in the Wesley Foundation after they discovered that a group of high school aged students, who Reiger said had

previously roughed up a GSU member on the Corner, was loitering near the building.

According to Reiger, the most recent incident of harassment occurred at a GSU-sponsored Halloween masquerade ball in Halsey hall on Oct. 29, when a smoke bomb was thrown at the building shattering a window.

Reiger said the smoke bomb ricocheted onto the grass outside.

Although University Police were notified, the attackers escaped before any identification was possible, he said.

Student Council Representative Myles Hurd said he arrived at the dance after the incident, but he said since the smoke bomb landed outside the building, most of the people inside Halsey Hall were unaware of what had happened.

Reiger had asked Student Council two weeks ago to pass a motion to condemn the recent acts of harassment on homosexual students.

Council decided not to take any action on the proposal according to Student Council President Stefan Underhill because of the possibility that publicizing the occurrences might lead to additional incidents, and also because the blame for the incidents could not be directed at any group or individual.