

Gays face job problems

By VINCE BROTSKI

Gays often feel unwelcome in careers such as education and the military, according to former Gay Student Union president John Curtin.

Curtin led a seminar Tuesday night on "Careers: Opportunities and Difficulties" sponsored by the GSU as part of Gay Celebration Week.

According to Curtin, if someone in the military is found to be gay, he is either separated or given a general or dishonorable discharge. But he added that heterosexuals cause an equal number of problems for the military.

Male officers often harass female officers below them, according to Curtin, who said he knew of a female army officer who filed a lawsuit for this reason.

Joining in the discussion, a member of the audience noted being single and straight can also create problems. "There is the stereotype that couples are more stable," he said.

Another person mentioned oc-

cupational pressures to marry for social reasons, such as company gatherings attended mostly by married couples.

An audience member who worked in a law firm where his employer knew he was gay said both he and his boyfriend were included in all office social functions.

But "it makes a subtle difference," he said, "when everyone brings their wife or girlfriend to a party or dinner, and you bring your lover."

"Even though before I left the internship I had told my employers I wasn't that interested in staying with the firm, I was mildly upset that another invitation had not been extended to me," he said, adding he felt being gay might have had some effect on that decision.

But one University medical student said most of the his peers know he is gay, and it has not caused any problems. "There are a growing number of support groups for gays in

the medical field," he added.

During the seminar, Curtin also read a list of non-discriminatory corporations from a booklet the Student Council Gay Affairs Subcommittee compiled in 1977. Although the subcommittee no longer exists, the booklet is still available at the Office of Career Planning and Placement.

Curtin concluded the seminar by telling the audience about the National Gay Business Association, recently formed, he said, "to bring the gay community together and better use gay media for advertising."

The association has chapters in most large cities, he said, adding that a number of organizations for gay professionals have also been formed.

Curtin, not the scheduled seminar speaker, was forced to lead the seminar himself when an OCPP representative failed to arrive. Curtin said yesterday a GSU member had forgotten to make the necessary arrangements with the OCPP.