

# LGBSA strives for harmony between sexes'

## Despite more women members, sexism in group still exists

By WENDY KOPS  
Collegian Staff Writer

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Alliance members agree that although the climate for women in the group is improving, sexism still exists.

Women in the group must first deal with the fact that there are more men in the group. At an average meeting this semester, there are about 15 women present out of 50 members.

"That's a big improvement," said Catharine Buck, LGBSA political co-director. "It's been really difficult because there's more men in the group."

Men outnumber women in LGBSA because women usually reveal their sexual orientations later than men, Buck said.

"To have someone come out as I did, at 17, is pretty unusual," said Buck (sophomore-English).

"Men and women experience being gay differently."

— Jenifer Fabian  
(senior-molecular and cell biology)

Jenifer Fabian, LGBSA social/educational co-director, agreed.

"Men and women experience being gay differently," said Fabian (senior-molecular cell biology). "It would be nice to come out to a sea of women because those are the people you relate to."

Tony D'Augelli, an LGBSA adviser, said there is more visibility for men and there will always be more men in lesbian, gay and bisexual groups in a university setting.

Although some people think members of one

underrepresented group would support each other in all issues, it is not always true, Buck said.

"The only way for us all to work together is to take care of each other," she said.

Jeff Kemp, LGBSA social/educational co-director, said the climate is much better than three years ago. He added that when he became involved in LGBSA, men had little or no understanding of women in the group.

"I think there's improvement, but I don't think it's where it needs to be," said Kemp (senior-rehabilitation services). "We have to take the time to educate our own members."

Buck and Fabian, newly elected officers, plan to organize programs to educate LGBSA members about sexism and racism.

"Sometimes it comes down to laying down the law," Buck said. "I think it's important to have strong women in leadership roles who aren't willing to be stomped on by the men."



Collegian Photo/Kris Risi

### Cutting 'the ribbon

Rodney J. Reed, dean of the College of Education, and James H. Sleezer, director of Instructional and Technological Support Services, mark the official opening of the newly renovated IBM computer lab yesterday with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The lab in 202 Chambers offers 25 IBM personal computers and access to the University's mainframe. The lab's hours are 8 a.m. to 1 a.m., Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., Sunday.

## National teleconference on environment comes to PSU

By SCOTT DODD  
Collegian Staff Writer

Members of the University community tonight will have a chance to learn about vital environmental issues the United Nations will address this June during the Earth Summit.

Universities and other groups from all over the country will participate tonight in a teleconference organized by the Iowa division of the United Nations Association-USA, the National Wildlife Federation and the University of Iowa Student Association.

Penn State's Undergraduate Student Government and Eco-Action will sponsor the teleconference here from 7:30 to 10 tonight in 312 Keller.

The teleconference will feature panelists who work in various environmental fields and will focus on the upcoming U.N. conference on environment and development — the Earth Summit — to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, June 1-12, said Kay Powers, assistant teleconference project director.

The teleconference will be divided into segments dealing with specific environmental topics. A ques-

tion-and-answer session — when viewers can call and talk with the panelists — will follow each segment, Powers said.

Videos, including one from U.S. Sen. Al Gore, D-Tenn., will also be shown as part of the program, Powers added.

Penn State will have its own phone line to call in questions, said USG President Mark Stewart.

The teleconference will be videotaped and sent to the United Nations Association-USA, which will determine U.S. policy for the Bra-

zil summit, Stewart said.

"They'll have input from college students across the country," Stewart said.

The teleconference started within the Big Ten but has spread to schools around the country, Stewart said. About 100 sites nationwide and in Mexico and Canada will participate, Powers said.

Along with the teleconference, a letter-writing campaign will be organized asking that President Bush attend the Earth Summit in person because of the importance of environmental issues, Powers said.



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