OSU action late:
Officials encouraged homophobia, threats

Homophobia should not be tolerated by Ohio State in any form whatsoever. This is supposed to be a place of higher learning and intellectual activity, not gay bashing and persecution.

Residence and Dining Halls closed the third floor men's wing of Bradley Hall on Wednesday, after Mike Scarce and Tom Fletcher, two gay residents on the floor, reported that they received a death threat. This was the culmination of seven months of harassment by floor residents, which Scarce and Fletcher had reported to the proper officials but had been ignored.

RDH not only tolerated this inane and juvenile homophobic behavior, but encouraged and perpetuated it by refusing to take immediate action against those individual residents who harassed Scarce and Fletcher. RDH allowed those residents to violate Scarce and Fletcher's civil rights without any punishment.

The OSU nondiscrimination policy prohibits discrimination against any individual based on sexual orientation and guarantees that all university activities are extended to all persons.

RDH clearly violated the university's own policy because Scarce and Fletcher were discriminated against by the university officials who ignored the problem and the harassing individuals.

When RDH finally chose to act, officials had no other choice but to take a drastic action resulting in sweeping generalizations. It was the only respectable thing to do after ignoring the problem for so long. No one has the right to harass or threaten any individuals for being gay, lesbian or bisexual, but that is what some former residents of Bradley Hall did.

Chances are, not everyone who had lived on the floor took part in the harassment of Scarce and Fletcher. But because there was no one was willing to admit to the death threat, everyone on the floor was forced out of the dorm — guilty or innocent. If RDH had punished the individuals who Scarce and Fletcher identified in their earlier reports, this entire situation could have been avoided and those who are truly guilty would have been the only people punished. Officials should have set a precedent by drawing attention to and prosecuting those individuals.

The heterosexuals that were forced to move to other dorms should not be angry or place any blame on Scarce or Fletcher. They should be angry with RDH for not taking appropriate and immediate action, as well as themselves.

Scarce and Fletcher did not force or even suggest that all the residents of their floor should be moved, they only wanted to live without being threatened — a basic human right. The other floor residents chose to harass Scarce and Fletcher and post death threats on their door. Those residents who claim to be innocent, still allowed the harassment to continue by not speaking out against it.

By moving everyone off of the floor, Ohio State excused their actions because those who committed
Dormitories to fight student homophobia

By Cheryl Curry
Lantern staff writer

Campus dormitory residents will have an extra lesson to learn this fall when they return to their rooms after classes — how to eliminate homophobia.

Residence and Dining Halls will educate staff members and students living in campus dormitories on gay, lesbian and bisexual issues, said Rebecca Parker, associate director of Residence and Dining Halls.

"Our primary goal is to help people shed their own biases so they can learn to live together in a safe and healthy environment," Parker said.

The educational program, which will be implemented during dormitory orientation, was developed in response to the relocation of students from their third floor Bradley Hall dorm rooms last quarter after two gay residents received a death threat.

This fall all dormitory residents will attend workshops about oppression, will sign contracts with roommates agreeing to tolerate differences and will receive copies of Ohio State's non-discrimination policy.

"We all have a collective responsibility, as members of this institution, to do something when we see someone being victimized by hate crimes," Hall said.

Mike Scarce, president of the OSU Gay and Lesbian Alliance, and one of the gay students who was harassed at Bradley Hall, said he believes the changes outlined by Residence and Dining Halls will resolve many incidents of harassment in dormitories.

"I think training staff members is the best approach because when there's a problem, that's the first level at which it's going to be handled," Scarce said.

Scarce said he was relieved to learn university officials are working to hasten the judicial process for victims of hate crimes.

"Hopefully they have learned a lot from this incident and next time they will act more quickly so they don't have to take a drastic step like relocating an entire floor," Scarce said.

Richard Hollingsworth, dean of student life, said his office will increase efforts to educate students outside the Residence and Dining Hall system about homophobia.

"Bradley Hall is just one area of the broader community that makes up Ohio State, and I believe the attitudes that lead to harassment there exist across this campus," Hollingsworth said.

Student Life will work through student groups to educate students about hate crimes and will encourage students to report incidents of harassment, he said.
Hate-crime policy still needed

By Cheryl Curry
Lantern staff writer

Three months after he found a death threat taped to the door of his Bradley Hall dormitory room, an angry Mike Scarce said Ohio State's judicial process needs to be restructured.

Scarce, president of the OSU Gay and Lesbian Alliance, said he is frustrated by the university's judicial affairs system because officials refuse to release information about Bradley Hall residents who were accused of harassing him and his roommate because they are gay.

"For all we know, nothing happened to the students who harassed us and that sets a dangerous precedent for incoming freshmen," Scarce said.

William Hall, director of Residence and Dining Halls, said Ohio State does not release information about any student accused of violating university codes.

"Regardless of whether or not people know what happened to these students, hate crimes like this are still going to happen on campus because they're a reflection of a larger societal problem," Hall said.

Scarce said Ohio State should establish a specific policy for disciplining students who commit hate crimes.

No policy has been established to discipline students accused of committing hate crimes and each reported incident will continue to be "dealt with on a case-by-case basis," Hall said.

"One thing I've discovered from all of this is that appealing to the university's sense of justice won't get you anywhere," Scarce said. "If you want Ohio State to react to a problem, you have to talk money or publicity, and either way it can get ugly."

The story of Scarce and his roommate, Tom Fletcher, became the focus of attention in May when university officials relocated 34 residents of the third floor of Bradley Hall to "create a positive living environment for everybody."

Scarce said he and Fletcher, who lived together as friends, not lovers, were the victims of hate crimes by other dormitory residents for more than seven months before Scarce threatened to take legal action against the university.

After Scarce's threat, the Office of Residence and Dining Halls sent letters to residents warning that action would be taken if the harassment continued. The next day, 15 of the letters were taped to Scarce and Fletcher's door with "Die fags" written across them.

University officials said information about three residents of Bradley Hall who were summoned by the Office of Judicial Affairs for harassing Scarce and Fletcher is protected by federal law.

"The three students could not be reached for comment," Merrily Dunn, judicial affairs coordinator for Residence and Dining Halls, said.

"Our judicial process is an educational process and we are really seeking to help people learn," Dunn said.

Phil Martin, executive director of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Office, said he believes Ohio State's judicial process needs to be reviewed.

"The system protects the accused rather than the victims," Martin said. "Hate crimes, especially those directed at gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, will continue on this campus until Ohio State sets some definite examples that say it's not OK to victimize other people."
Gay bating prompts OSU dorm action

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Continued harassment of two gay students living in Bradley Hall prompted The Ohio State University yesterday to close the men's third-floor wing of the dormitory.

Thirty-two students were given the option of relocating to other campus dormitories or finding other accommodations.

The two gay students — Mike Scarce, 20, a sophomore from New Paris, Ohio, and Tom Fletcher, 19, a sophomore from Greenville, Ohio — were moved to new living quarters off-campus for security reasons.

The last straw came Tuesday when the words "Die Fags" were left scrawled on a letter taped to their dorm door.

The decision to close the wing was made after a series of "homophobic gestures, acts of harassment and threats," said William H. Hall, director of residence and dining halls at OSU.

"The environment on that wing of Bradley Hall had become unhealthy and unmanageable," he said.

The female students living in the other wing on the third floor were not affected by yesterday's eviction notice. Campus police are investigating the Bradley Hall matter and other incidents of harassment against homosexuals on campus, and OSU plans to file criminal charges against those involved, Hall said.

The two gay students have been subjected to death threats over the telephone and anti-gay graffiti in the third-floor men's restroom, Scarce said.

Scarce said he and Fletcher are friends, not lovers, who met last year and decided to room together, he said.

"We just thought it would make it a lot more comfortable than living with a straight person," Scarce said.

The two are considering filing a lawsuit against the people who harassed them and want to be reimbursed for three-quarters of tuition and room and board since the school year began.

"This is no environment to live in, let alone to be educated in," Scarce said.

He also said OSU did not act quickly enough after the incidents began last October.

"We have not been physically harmed, but the situation has been escalating to the point that it would have come to that in a day or two, and we let the university know that," he said.

OSU did act, Hall said:

- An educational program on gay issues was offered fall quarter after the first incident of harassment.

- Three student residents and a student guest were referred to the student judicial system during winter quarter for acts of harassment, with one of the students placed on probation.

- A letter was sent to students living in south campus dorms, reminding them to be hospitable.

Tuesday, the university sent a warning letter to the third-floor male students at Bradley. Early yesterday, 15 of the letters were found taped to the gay students' dorm door with the words "Die Fags" scrawled on the center letter.

About noon yesterday, OSU officials, security guards and police officers asked students to clear out of the dorm by 10:30 p.m.

Students without cars worried about finding a way to move personal belongings. Others fretted about completing their school work with just two weeks to go in the quarter.

"I don't know what I'm going to do with all this stuff," said Jerry Neff, 20, a sophomore from Toledo, as he waved his hand at books, clothes and a stereo.

OSU's actions were unfair to those who hadn't bothered the two gay students, said Chris Hadden, 18, a freshman from Tampa, Fla.

"Seriously, I can honestly say I have never done a thing to them — at all," Hadden said.

"Even after they said they were fags, I'd still say hello to them in the hall."

Some students believe the two gay students should have been the ones to move.

"Why relocate the entire floor?" said Andy Eckert, 20, a sophomore from Cincinnati.

"It is like when you have cancer, you remove the cancer."

Still other students said the two gay students were treated unfairly.

"I don't support their lifestyle, but I support their right to do what they want," said Steve Scherer, 19, a freshman from Galion, Ohio.

The Columbus Dispatch

Lancaster Colony names director

Edward H. Jennings, president of The Ohio State University, has been appointed a director of Lancaster Colony Corp., the company said yesterday.

The 53-year-old academician, who became OSU's 10th president in 1981, also is a director of Bane One Corp., Borden Chemicals and Plastics Limited Partnership and the Center of Science and Industry.

Jennings also is a trustee of the Columbus Symphony Orchestra and Children's Hospital.

Jennings, who plans to step down as OSU president this year, was president of the University of Wyoming before coming to Ohio. He holds a doctorate in finance from the University of Michigan and also is a professor of finance at OSU.

Lancaster Colony, a diversified consumer products manufacturer, also announced yesterday a regular 19 cents-per-share cash dividend, payable June 30 to shareholders of record June 11.
Harassment charges close Bradley wing

By Steve Sterrett

The Office of Residence and Dining Halls on May 23 closed the men's wing of the third floor of Bradley Hall for the remainder of spring quarter and reassigned 32 residents to other buildings.

The action came as a result of a series of acts of harassment and threats directed at two students on that floor who are gay. Residence and dining halls gave these two students temporary housing off campus for their safety.

William Hall, director of residence and dining halls, emphasized that his staff had taken a number of actions since last fall to promote tolerance and acceptance on that floor.

“When education and mediation fail to change intolerable behavior, we must take stronger action to resolve the problem,” Hall says. “The environment on that wing had become unhealthy and unmanageable.”

The first harassment came in the autumn quarter. Two students were referred to the student judicial system. An educational program on gay issues was offered.

Additional incidents occurred in early January and three students were referred to the student judicial system.

Hall in late April sent a letter to all students in the south residence halls reminding them of the University’s commitment to a hospitable living environment for all.

Despite these efforts, acts of harassment escalated spring quarter, including obscene telephone calls. Threats against the two students were turned over to University Police for investigation in early May.

The Office of Residence Life on May 22 distributed a letter to each man in the wing warning that the environment had deteriorated and that any further incidents would result in reassignment.

Early the next morning, 15 of these letters were taped to the door of the two gay students. Scrawled across the center letter was “Die Fags.” University Police were called and are continuing the investigation of this threat.

A few hours later Hall announced the reassignment of all the students.
and intellectual characteristics of a racially identifiable group, as well as its social behavior."

I hope this answers any questions as to what racism is. Last Fall I might have agreed that minority groups show reverse racism by having their groups and pride shirts, that is until my eyes were opened to the problems that minorities face every day on our campus.

Minorities need support groups because they have special problems that aren’t helped by other campus organizations. Have you ever been in a class where you are the only caucasian? And then your professor walks in and he or she is also a part of the group that you aren’t in? Imagine then going home to your non-white roommates and turning on the TV and there is a show about successful non-whites. You turn the channel and there is a commercial dealing with a product that only non-whites use and the commercial claims that only their product can make you beautiful. You turn the channel again and there is a news program showing whites stealing, murdering and dealing drugs.

This is a typical day for some minorities. So far, if you notice, there aren’t many successful people to use for role models. Beauty is defined as not being you and everyone who is like you is going to jail. After awhile you would begin to have a very negative attitude about yourself. This is where support groups and pride shirts come in.

So you see, if your race had been oppressed for as long as some minorities have been you might begin to believe that you are bad. Women have support groups on campus and these groups are called “Women’s” groups but men are allowed to join and participate. Minority groups also allow white people to join and participate. Pride shirts are also important because they help to build the pride and esteem of people who hear from everywhere that they are not up to the standard of beauty, intelligence, or wealth. If you don’t believe that the groups will allow you in and find out when the next meeting is and attend. You will be very surprised.

So next time, before you judge a person, not as part of a group but as an individual and try to put yourself in their shoes. I can really put yourself in their shoes. Notice the little things that happen every day around you and how they can affect and/or offend someone else who might not be exactly like you. Racism will only end if everyone starts taking responsibility. Don’t blame the victims.


No mush here

Finally! Someone who does editorials for the Lantern whose brains are not made of mush. Muchin Yin’s editorial Friday, May 18 jammed with unparalleled intensity. Dump Sonya and Wenger, and give their space to Muchin Yin’s.

Mary Purnell
Staff

THE OHIO STATE LANTERN, Wednesday, May 23, 1990

Homophobic values
condoned by OSU

For the last seven months my roommate, Tom Fletcher, and I have lived on the third floor of Bradley Hall on south campus. It has been the single most unhealthy and uneducational environment I have ever experienced. Since late October 1989, we have been verbally abused, threatened, intimidated and harassed continuously because of

our sexual orientation.

Our civil rights have been stripped from us by other bigoted, prejudiced, homophobic students who believe they can do these things to us and get away with it.

The university has taken no direct action against our floor or the identified individuals involved. We have become fair game for anyone who wants to take shots at us, for obviously the university condones and tolerates this activity against gays and lesbians.

We realize you must work within the system you function in, but the system itself is so homophobic and so racist that it only perpetuates the problem itself.

Since we cannot gain support from Residence and Dining Halls, we have decided to solicit the following plea for their support to resolve this situation: the OSU Gay and Lesbian Alliance, Undergraduate Student Government, Affirmative Action, Ombudsman Office, the Lantern, the Columbus Dispatch, OSU police officers Debbie Jones and Richard Mormon, attorney Jerry Bunge, Stonewall Union of Columbus, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Lambda Legal Defense, and the American Civil Liberties Union.

The university has until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 29 to begin educational, disciplinary or legal actions to correct this situation and produce immediate and tangible results to our satisfaction, or we will be forced to implement our own strategy and deal with our situation in ways we see fit.

Michael Scarce
Sophomore

Business

The Lantern encourages letters from its readers. Letters should be addressed to Glenn Hall - Editor, the Lantern, 242 W. 18th Ave., Columbus, Ohio, 43210. Letters can also be dropped off at the newsroom, Room 271 of the Journalism Building. Letters must be legible, include the writer’s printed name, class rank and daytime telephone number. The Lantern reserves the right to edit for length and clarity.
Students rallied Thursday in front of Steed Hall. Some protesters said if gays could room together in the dorms, then co-ed couples should have the same rights. Gay students and members of Gay and Lesbian Alliance attended to support the University's decision to relocate the 34 students of Bradley Hall.

Residents of Steed Hall express their displeasure over the decision to evict some residents of Bradley Hall.

Jill Emmert, 20, newly elected Co-Vice-President of Gay and Lesbian Alliance holds a sign and chants at Thursday's rally. Emmert said she lived at Nosker House where she experienced discrimination for sexual orientation.

Some displaced residents claim to be victims as well

By Jill Grant and Christine Cicero
Latern staff writers

Some of the students who were evacuated from Bradley Hall Wednesday said they had no problems with having homosexuals living on the same floor as they, only a select few harassed the two gay men living there. These students also said they are victims of incidents of which they had no part.

Robert Troutman, 18, of Costesville, Penn., a freshman majoring in journalism, said he was made a victim in a situation in which he was only a spectator.

Troutman said he did not have a problem with the two homosexual residents living in his dorm.

"I have been taught to accept diversity," he said.

"The rules at this university are that two students of the same sex can live together. I don't feel their sexual preference should matter," Troutman said.

Troutman said he was only given a 10-hour notice to leave the dorm and either be relocated or break their contracts altogether.

He said his parents are very upset over the University's decision to relocate him and are looking into pressuring changes.

However, Troutman added, "the removal of the homosexuals would have been wrong because they were the victims in the situation."

Christopher Baltis, a freshman from Celina majoring in architecture, and Zeigler's roommate in Bradley, said the students responsible for the anti-gay activities were already on probation.

Baltis said Hall told the students that the perpetrators of the discrimination should have been brought before the Residence and Dining Halls committee.

"Most of the people on our floor don't really care that they're homosexuals, but it seems they used that for power. We could care less what their sexual orientation is."

- Chris Ziegler

In a meeting Wednesday night with William Hall, director of Residence and Dining Halls, Baltis said the students were told that it is a collective responsibility for everyone to make sure harassment does not happen by the other students.

"I know he knew who did it," Baltis said. "We're not babysitters, and it's not my job to worry about it."

Ziegler, a freshman from Celina said the individuals who committed the anti-gay messages were identifiable because they were asked to attend Residence Hall hearings regarding their harassment.

"Most of the people on our floor don't really care that they're homosexuals, but it seems they used it for power. We could care less what their sexual orientation is," Ziegler said.

Eric Poklar, a freshman from Beachwood, said the move has disrupted his job as well as his studies.

Poklar works for Bradley-Patterson-Geiber weekend housekeeping and feels the bannerishment from south campus may cost him his job.

Poklar has not been notified whether he has lost his job or if he will continue to work.

Construction worker recalls tragedy

By Holly Goodman
Latern staff writer

Roger Anthony, 44, of Columbus, was kneeling down, putting a screw into a beam at the construction site of the Ohio Union Computer Center on Tuesday morning when he heard the cracking of iron above him.

By the time Anthony realized a beam was coming straight for him, there wasn't enough time to move out of its path.

"I was hitting my head on the beam and drove me through the deck," he said.

There, he said, hung upside-down by his feet with blood flowing from a gash on his head until rescuers pulled him up.

A veteran ironworker of 13 years, Anthony said he had been in accidents on other job sites, but never one in which someone was killed.

Anthony had no idea about what could have caused the accident that took the lives of three of his co-workers at the $50 million construction project.

Before he had time to react, Anthony saw one of his co-workers fall past him. Within seconds he saw another. He heard the crack of iron again and saw the iron beams fall, including the one that hit Anthony.

"I just feel sorry for the families of the kids who died," he said. "All of these men were much younger than me. They were just starting their lives."

Anthony said he is glad he will have the chance to see his three children and three grandchildren grow up.

Although he is in fair condition and might be released within the next few days, Anthony said he is not sure if he will ever return to ironworking.

Rick Lombardi, vice president of Turner Construction, said the company provided counseling for other workers who were there during the accident.

Many deep-seeded emotions were expressed during the closed-door counseling session Wednesday morning, Lombardi said.

Turner Construction works hard to keep construction sites as safe as possible, Lombardi said.

"Construction is a dangerous business," he said. "We as a company and as an industry work very hard to minimize the opportunity for accidents."

Turner Construction has brought several of its regional investigators to look at the site. Joining Turner's crew in the investigation is a team from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, said Jim Vaughn, OSHA's Columbus area director.

Vaughn said a federal team of OSHA construction accident investigators has joined the local crew.

Vaughn said OSHA will not conclude its investigation and release a statement for a month.

Gina Langen, public information officer for the Ohio Department of Industrial Relations, said officials in her department do not think the accident was related to structural design.

"In our mind this was purely an accident that could not have been foreseen," she said. "The designs wouldn't have been approved if they had not been up to standards."

The state will keep the construction site closed at least through this week to allow OSHA investigators to finish their investigation, said Gretchen Hall, spokesman for Administrative Services.
Residents ousted for threats to gays

By Kurt L. Leib
Lantern special assignment writer

University officials closed the third floor men's wing of Bradley Hall Wednesday and reassigned 34 students to other residence halls after an unresolved year-long battle by two homosexual residents to stop the harassment against them.

Residence and Dining Halls ordered the wing closed because student harassment of Michael Scarce and Tom Fletcher increased during the past month. University officials acted after a threat was reported Wednesday morning.

Letters previously sent to residents of the third floor by officials from the Office of Residence and Dining Halls warning that serious action would be taken if Scarce and Fletcher continued to be harassed. Fifteen of the letters were found taped to their door with the message "Die Fags" scrawled across the center, and University Police were called at 1:40 a.m.

OSU Police Captain Deborah Jones said the department is investigating "nothing like this happens again" to others that have occurred. One officer was posted on the floor Wednesday afternoon as a security precaution, Jones said.

Residents of the floor said they were told by hall officials about 12:30 p.m. Wednesday that incidents by two students, who had been until 11:30 p.m. to be packed and moved out.

"I could see if someone was beating them (Scarce and Fletcher) up. All they (floor residents) are doing is putting stuff on the door. All you do is take it down and ignore it. You don't call the police," said one resident who had been threatened.

University officials said they had been informed by Ohio State that the threat was made.

The university informed the residents that if these situations did not stop officials would take action, Fletcher said. He also said some of the students on the floor were not involved in the intimidation, but should still be moved.

"It's a very unfortunate situation but the reality is they aren't safe either," Fletcher said. "They would be sitting targets like everyone else."

Fletcher said the situation could have been avoided if Residence and Dining Halls had attempted to educate students after the initial incidents began.

"Their system should have been more effective to deal with this," Fletcher said. "We have been asked to be patient and don't be loud and say we are not safe."

Fletcher said he and Fletcher intended to stay on the floor but now think they have become targets and will move off campus.

"We have had a real precedent-setting situation," Scarce said. "We made the decision to live together."

"I support the victims," a parent of an evicted resident said. "It's a real matter of time before someone gets hurt again and hopefully the university will handle the situation better from the start instead of getting it this far," Scarce said.

He called the situation a real positive statement to other gay and lesbian students living in residence halls. "They can now say we have a system behind us and there is a way for us not to be living in terror constantly," Scarce said. "This is definitely not over. Not by a long shot."

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Asian Americans seek recognition

By Chris DeVito
Lantern staff writer

Asian Americans are the only Asian-American student group at the university.

The Asian Americans were excluded from the Minority Scholars Program for a few months at the end of last year, but that decision was reversed earlier this year.

They were excluded because they were not considered under-represented. The administration at OSU compares the proportional number of Asian Americans in Ohio and the number of incoming minority students enrolled at OSU, Sheila Kapur, said.

This is a good criterion because they are based on the 1980 census and the numbers have probably changed substantially since then, Kapur said.

Asian-American students are defined as those persons with at least one parent of Asian descent and who are either citizens or permanent residents of the United States.

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Students clash over resident rights

By Lara Reed

Demonstrators gathered in front of Steeb Hall yesterday afternoon to voice numerous opinions about Wednesday's transfer of 34 residents from a campus dormitory because of increased harassment of two gay roommates.

About 35 demonstrators, some protesting in favor of the roommates and some in favor of the displaced dormitory residents, displayed banners and shouted slogans at each other as the number of onlookers grew into the hundreds.

The demonstration began at 3:30 p.m. and lasted for about one hour. OSU police blocked off the area of College Road between West 11th Avenue and West 12th Avenue when the demonstration spilled onto the street. Police Chief Larry Johnson, who was in charge of police controlling the crowd, said it was better to block the area to cars rather than risk someone getting hurt in the traffic.

The two roommates who were harassed, Michael Scarffe and Tom Fletcher, were both present at the demonstration, flanked by two security guards.

The two men have received 24-hour security since 11 a.m. Wednesday, said for by the university.

Demonstration organizer Lawrence Sumpter, a political science major and resident of Steeb Hall, said the purpose of the demonstration was to protest the university's decision to evict all 34 of the residents of the east wing of Bradley Hall's third floor after increased harassment of Scarffe and Fletcher.

Sumpter said they were not protesting against homosexuality, but only how the university handled the situation.

"They are focusing attention on the poor people who had to move out of their dorms, rather than us, who were harassed," said - Tom Fletcher

Gay and Lesbian Alliance, said the decision of Scarffe and Fletcher has been breached, not the rights of the other dormitory residents.

"I think that there is no such thing as homosexual rights, women's rights, or black rights. It's just human rights. That's basically what we're fighting for," Collingsworth said.

"We're human as well as they are," Fletcher, referring to the demonstrating in the street, said what was needed was mature and rational discussion, rather than shouting matches.

"We are focusing attention on the poor people who had to move out of their dorms, rather than us, who were harassed," Fletcher said.

"People who are shouting things out the window should come and talk, instead of hiding in their rooms," Fletcher said.

Midway through the demonstration, OSU police captain John M. Metz entered Steeb Hall to confiscate a recording of comedian Andrew Dice Clay from resident Sangston Woodruff, a freshman from Northfield, Ill., who was playing the recording from a dorm room window.

"It has been received in attention for his jokes about homosexuals and women," Woodruff said. He played the recording to protest the Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

"I don't like them... I don't think there should be fags. They should be castrated," Fletcher said.

Fletcher, referring to the demonstrations in the street, said what was needed was mature and rational discussion, rather than shouting matches.

Fletcher said the protesters were hiding behind their arguments and in reality did not like gays or lesbians.

"They are focusing attention on the poor people who had to move out of their dorms," rather than us, who were harassed," Fletcher said.

"People who are shouting things out the window should come and talk, instead of hiding in their rooms," Fletcher said.

Midway through the demonstration, OSU police captain John M. Metz entered Steeb Hall to confiscate a recording of comedian Andrew Dice Clay from resident Sangston Woodruff, a freshman from Northfield, Ill., who was playing the recording from a dorm room window.

"It has been received in attention for his jokes about homosexuals and women," Woodruff said. He played the recording to protest the Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

"I don't like them... I don't think there should be fags. They should be castrated," Fletcher said.
Controversy over gay, lesbian issues continues

by Kurt L. Leib

The dust may have settled on the men's wing of Bradley Hall's third floor, but the controversy over gay, lesbian and bisexual issues continues.

"The fallout has just begun," said Michael Searce, one of the Bradley residents harassed because of his homosexuality. "Some people only see that 34 students were inconvenienced."

Chris Zeigler, a freshman from Celina who was evicted from Bradley hall along with 33 other residents after anti-gay sentiment escalated, said all of the third floor residents were shocked because nobody knew what was going on. "They gave us 10 hours notice to have everything out of our rooms," Zeigler said, "I don't think this is all anything. It only made everyone mad. It seems the university got scared, and this was the easiest way out," Zeigler said.

Zeigler said they were sent letters on Tuesday in regard to the problems between homosexuals and heterosexuals. Then Wednesday at noon they were told about the evacuation. As a part of the evacuation, he said the former students of the third floor of Bradley are not permitted to eat in or even enter Bradley, Siebert, or Patterson Halls.

"Mr. Hall told us that if any of us basically be dead, I guess," Woodruff said.

Brad Wendle, a junior who is a probation in connection with one of the harassment incidents and also was forced to leave Bradley, said he was there to protest being moved. "I told Dr. Troutman what was going on from Bradley, said he had always been taught to accept diversity. Troutman said to only remove the gay roommates would be wrong because they were the victim. "But now I feel I am the victim," Troutman said.

Brad Liming, a freshman in elementary education, said kicking Troutman out two weeks before the end of the quarter was interfering with their rights too.

At the demonstration, Liming and Iggy Sanon, a freshman majoring in hospitality, were holding up a sheet on which was written: "If homosexuals can co-habitate, we want female roommates." Searce said it is a gross generalization to assume two people living together are involved sexually.

Christine Cleary, Krist Maines and Ryan Somerville contributed to this report.
Homosexual harassment isn’t

By Tim Doulin
Dispatch Higher Education Reporter

College is tough for Mike Scarce and Tom Fletcher, sophomores at The Ohio State University.

Their difficulties are not so much inside the classroom as outside.

Threatening signs were hung on the door of the dormitory room they shared at Bradley Hall.

Harassing telephone calls greeted them at all hours of the day. They even received death threats.

The two students are gay. They are roommates and friends, but not lovers. The harassment came from fellow students.

"There is just so much ignorance," Scarce said.

"They didn’t really try to get to know us. They prejudged us. If they wanted to hate us for the right reasons — my personality or something — that would be one thing. But just to hate us for our sexual orientation, I feel it is really wrong."

The matter erupted last week. Under the threat of a lawsuit from the two gay students, OSU closed the men’s third-floor wing at Bradley Hall.

Students living on the wing were relocated to other dorms on campus or told to find another place to live. Although they wished to stay in Bradley Hall, Scarce and Fletcher were moved to off-campus living quarters. OSU is picking up the tab for their new accommodations.

The situation involving Scarce and Fletcher is the most publicly visible case of harassment of homosexuals at OSU, but certainly not the only one, university officials said.

OSU estimates that about 6,000 homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals are enrolled at the school.

In part to help educate an often intolerant student population, OSU announced plans earlier this year to create the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Student Services Office. OSU is one of a handful of universities to establish such an office. It will be similar to those already in place for African-American, Hispanic, Asian-American and women students.

The office will have a referral service, set up workshops and bring speakers to campus to discuss issues facing the homosexual community. It will try to reach the entire campus community, not just its homosexual segment.

"Hopefully, the office will educate and help make the campus a better environment," said Phil Martin, acting director.

That may take some doing.

In a 1987 campus poll, 77 percent of OSU students and 54 percent of faculty members said they feared or were hostile to homosexuals.

The poll also showed that 58 percent of homosexual, lesbian and bisexual students felt excluded from campus functions; 53 percent felt isolated at the university; 35 percent experienced discrimination on campus; and about 40 percent said they wanted to leave OSU for a more supportive environment.

The poll was conducted by a committee of faculty and staff members and students appointed by OSU President Edward H. Jennings to study the need for an office dedicated to the homosexual community.

Attitudes haven’t changed much since the poll was conducted three years ago, Martin said.

"You constantly see anti-gay graffiti or slogans in public buildings or in the residence and dining halls," he said.

"There are physical threats. There are landlords who want to evict you or professors who are homophobic. You wonder how open can you afford to be with a class assignment where you are writing about love. There is a whole myriad of issues that affect the population."

The intimidation often causes homosexual students to hide their sexual orientation.

"We are so afraid of the oppression we might face, we put ourselves in a position where we won’t have to face it," said Chris Kelly, a senior from Columbus.

OSU is stepping out of the closet, in a way, to face the issue.

The school joins the University of Michigan, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and Mankato (Minn.) State University in setting up an institutionally funded office, with a full-time staff, for homosexual students.

Other universities, such as the University of San Francisco, offer programs for homosexual students.

OSU is one of 66 universities that protect homosexuals under a non-discrimination policy. But the students need more, university officials said.
At the moment, the OSU Gay and Lesbian Alliance, a student organization, is the only support for the homosexual community on campus.

The office will give students a link to the administration that the student organization doesn't have.

The office could have helped Scarce and Fletcher cut through the bureaucracy to solve their problems, one student said.

"If you had an office set up to show students how to deal with problems in the most efficient way, it would help," said Jill Emmert, vice president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

Some gay and lesbian students view the new office as a sign of recognition from the administration.

"It is a major milestone," said Amy Price, 22, a senior from Akron. "For some reason, it brings legitimacy to what is going on."

The office will serve as a beacon for homosexual students on campus, she said.

"I'm in women's studies and sociology so I get gay and lesbian panels to come into my classes," Price said.

"But if you are an engineering major or an accounting major, where are you going to hear about these things? If you're just coming out on your own, you may not know where to turn."

The office may encourage closeted homosexual faculty members to step forward as role models for students. More often than not, students fill that role now, Price said.

"It would be nice to have other role models, like professors, willing to take that chance," Price said.

The student organization would like to see the new office establish a mentoring program so new students who are homosexual can see campus from the perspective of a similar student.

A library of books, literature and pamphlets, and a homosexual curriculum similar to those already established for blacks and women, should be added in-time, the student organization said.

The OSU office will have a full-time director who will be hired this summer. A graduate student will be the assistant director. The office will have an annual budget of at least $35,000.

The fledgling office has been operating through the Office of Student Life in the Ohio Union. Starting this summer, the office will be moved to a permanent home elsewhere in the building.
Looking Back:
At this time in 1980, the Lantern reported that the enrollment of women at Ohio State was the second largest in the nation at 24,064, or 45 percent of the student body. Female enrollment was up 1001 from 1978.

Students clash over resident rights

By Larra Reed
Lantern staff writer

Demonstrators gathered in front of Steeb Hall yesterday afternoon to voice numerous opinions about Wednesday's transfer of 34 residents from a campus dormitory because of increased harassment of two gay roommates.

About 50 demonstrators, some protesting in favor of the roommates and some in favor of the displaced dormitory residents, displayed banners and shouted slogans at each other as the number of onlookers grew into the hundreds.

The demonstration began at 3:30 p.m. and lasted for about one hour. OSU police blocked off the area of College Road between West 11th Avenue and West 12th Avenue when the demonstration spilled onto the street. Deputy Chief Larry Johnson, who was in charge of police controlling the crowd, said it was better to block the area to care rather than risk someone getting hurt in the traffic.

The two roommates who were harassed, Michael Scanle and Tom Fletcher, were both present at the demonstration, flanked by two security guards.

The two men have received 24-hour visas since 11 a.m. Wednesday, paid for by the university.

Demonstration organizer Lawrence Sumpter, a political science major and resident of Steeb Hall, said the purpose of the demonstration was to protest the university's decision to evict all 34 of the residents of the east wing of Bradley Hall's third floor after increased harassment of Scanle and Fletcher.

Sumpter said they were not protesting against homosexuality, but only how the university handled the situation was explosive and then made their statement.

Sumpter added that the increased harassment of Scanle and Fletcher could live responsively in the dorms together, then heterosexual men and women should also be allowed to live together.

Steve Collingsworth, a junior majoring in English and a member of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, said the rights of Scanle and Fletcher have been breached, not the rights of the other dormitory residents.

"I'm protecting the university," Sumpter said. "They waited until the situation was explosive and then made their statement."

Sumpter added if two homosexuals could live responsibly in the dorms together, then heterosexual men and women should also be allowed to live together.

"They are focusing attention on the poor people who had to move out of their dorms, rather than us, who were harassed," Fletcher said.

"People who are shouting things out the window should come out and talk, instead of hiding in their rooms," Fletcher said.

"They're charging us with being aggressive and unsafe," Fletcher added.

Midway through the demonstration, OSU police captain John M. Petry entered Steeb Hall to confiscate a recording of comedian Andrew Rice Clay from resident Sangston Woodruff, a freshman from Northfield, Ill., who was playing the record from a dorm room window.

Clay had been receiving media attention for his jokes about homosexuals and women.

Woodruff said he played the recording to promote the Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

"I'm the fugitive, really, screw 'em all. I think it's all crock," Woodruff said. "They should go back in the closet."

"I don't like them... I don't think they should be fags. They should leave us alone.

The Lantern
Some displaced residents claim to be victims as well

By Bell Grant
Lantern staff writer

Some of the students who were evacuated from Bradley Hall Wednesday said they had problems with having homosexuals living on the same floor as they, and only a select few knew who the two gay men living there. These students also said they were victims of incidents of which they had no part.

Robert Troutman, 18, of Contoocook, N.H., a freshman majoring in journalism, said he was made a victim in a situation in which he was only a spectator.

Troutman said he did not have a problem with the two homosexual residents living in his dorm.

Woman claims innocence

Student asserts innocence in rape falsifying charges

By Tony Mack
Lantern staff writer

An OSU student charged with falsely reporting a rape on the Oval fall quarter pleaded not guilty in a pre-trial hearing today, her defense attorney said.

OSU Police charged Michele Ann Yentes, 19, of Frolic House Community with making false alarms, a first-degree misdemeanor. Police filed the charge April 4. Yentes was arraigned before Judge April 6 in the Franklin County Municipal Court.

Robert Myers, attorney for the Columbus Public Defender's Office, said Yentes pleaded not guilty and she could have a trial by jury. Myers said as of Thursday that Yentes will continue to stand by her not-guilty plea. The case goes to trial July 7.

Tony Past, the assistant city prosecutor, said he is waiting for additional information from OSU police before he vets the case and makes his arguments.

OSU Police Capt. Deborah Jonas said the information includes transcripts of all statements made by Yentes and other people concerning the case.

On Oct. 24, Yentes reported to OSU police that she was raped by a black man near the Main Library. Police said March 28 she admitted fabricating the story.

Yentes later said the rape did not occur, but by the man she described and not on the Oval. She said she made up the story to lie to her boyfriend. He called the police with the story and knew it was a lie, she said.

Yentes and members of Gay and Lesbian Alliance attended to support the University's decision to relocate the 34 students of Bradley Hall.

Craig Higginbotham Lantern

Residents of Steinman Dorm are upset over the decision to evacuate some residents of Bradley Hall.

Craig Higginbotham Lantern

Some protesters said if Guys could room together in the dorms, then co-ed couples should have the same rights. Gay students from Celina majoring in architecture, and Ziegler's roommate in Bradly, said that the perpetrators of the discrimination should have been brought before the Residence and Dining Halls staff. Balthis said Hall told the students that the perpetrators of the discrimination regarding the anti-gay activities were already on probation.

Most of the people on our floor don't really care that they're homosexuals, but it seems they used that for power. We could care less what their sexual orientation is. -- Chris Ziegler

In a meeting Wednesday night with William Hall, director of Residence and Dining Halls, Balthis said the residents were told that it is a collective responsibility for everyone to make sure harassment doesn't happen.

"Most of the people on our floor don't really care that they're homosexuals, but it seems they used that for power. We could care less what their sexual orientation is.

Construction worker recalls tragedy

By Holly Goodman
Lantern staff writer

Roger Anthony, 44, of Columbus, was kneeling down, putting a screw into a beam at the construction site of the Ohio State University campus facility Tuesday morning when he heard the cracking of iron beams and saw another beam fall. Anthony said he is glad he will have the chance to see his 12 children and three grandchildren grow up.

Before he lost his vision, Anthony recalled a beam coming straight down, but it wasn't strong enough to move out of its path.

"A piece of iron hit me on the head and drove me through the deck," he said.

There, he saw his three children and three grandchildren.

Anthony said he is not sure if he will ever return to ironworking. Rick Lombardi, vice president of Turner Construction, said the company provided counseling for other workers who were there during the accident.

Many deep-seated emotions were expressed during the closed-door counseling session Wednesday morning. Lombardi said that the company held the session.

"There is danger. We as a company and as an industry work very hard to minimize the opportunity for accidents.""
Controversy over gay, lesbian issues continues

by Kurt L. Leib
Lantern staff writer

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"The fallout has just begun," said Michael Scarce, one of the Bradley residents harassed because of his homosexuality. "Some people only see that 34 students were inconvenienced."

Chris Ziegler, a freshman from Columbus who was evicted from Bradley Hall along with 33 other residents after anti-gay sentiment escalated, said all of the third floor residents were shocked because nobody knew what was going on.

"They gave us 10 hours notice to have everything out of our rooms," Ziegler said. "I don't think that helped anything. It only made everyone more mad. It seemed the university got scared, and this was the easiest way out," Ziegler said.

Ziegler said they were sent letters on Tuesday in regard to the problems between residents in the homosexual and heterosexual communities. Then Wednesday at noon, they were told about the evacuation.

As a part of the evacuation, he said the former students of the third floor of Bradley and several others who lived in the same room are moving to Siebert, or Patterson Halls.

"Mr. Hall told us that if any of us were to come back, we would be expelled," Ziegler said.

We can help.

Grade A Notes

rhodes hall auditorium may 20-june 9

Maines contributed to this report.

"I absolutely think it is the right thing to do," said Hall. "It was just too much for residents to stand by and watch these kinds of things happen."

Richard Hollingsworth, Dean of Student Life, said he supports the action taken by Hall.

"That was not a healthy environment for anyone on that floor, and they should have a right to do that under their contract," Hollingsworth said.

"There is a new management being established that if there is a repeated pattern of harassment of any kind that residents halls are going to step in to deal with that and do whatever is necessary to create a positive living environment for everybody who lives there," Hollingsworth said.

Scarce and Fletcher said they were not trying to make a statement as a result of this situation. "The residents were moved off the floor contact the media," Scarce said.

"People keep asking us 'Was it worth it?' We say 'It's definitely worth it,'" Scarce said.

Both men have been moved to an undisclosed off-campus location owned by the university. The university also provided two private security officers.

Kris Maines contributed to this report.