

State & Local

# Non-gay student active in GSS to support others

By MARK VIGUET  
Reporter

A "straight" in the Gay Student Services? Impossible? Not quite.

Lynn Scannapieco, a junior biology major, is a non-gay member of GSS, the group battling in the courts for official university recognition.

Although she didn't join until last semester, Scannapieco first learned of the organization last year.

"A friend of mine from school told me he was gay, and I met people in the group through him and learned about GSS," she said.

Scannapieco decided to become a member when she discovered how hard it was for her gay friends to talk to others about their lifestyle.

"I saw that it was extremely difficult going to parents and friends with this type of thing, and I wanted to feel like I could do something to help," Scannapieco said. "I felt like my support meant so much to them. I also joined for the same reason someone else joins a group — because I believe in what they stand for."

"It doesn't matter to me what a person's sexual preference is; that's a personal choice. To me it's comparable to the color of someone's skin. It really shouldn't be a basis for prejudice."

Scannapieco says the moral support is one of the most important things straights can give to the group.

"They are in such a minority here, they love to know that some in the majority support gay rights," Scannapieco said.

*"I joined for the same reason anybody else joins a group - because I believe in what they stand for." — Lynn Scannapieco, non-gay GSS member*

Scannapieco says the Board of Regents' decision to fight the group is the result of outside pressure.

"I personally think much of it comes from old Ags who say it doesn't uphold the traditional atmosphere here — but that certainly isn't a legal basis to refuse a club recognition," she said. "I think the Regents realize that the former students would get furious if they didn't show they were at least trying to put up a fight."

"The main reason university recognition is important will be university-approved advertising," she said. "Many people come to meetings now who are so scared, they won't even give their names, but at least they come. The advertising will help us get to the people that need to know we're here."

Scannapieco believes the fight for gay rights is comparable to the black's fight for equality.

"I think the civil rights movement laid the foundation for other minority groups, including gays, to speak out in defense of their rights," she said. "The fight for civil rights still isn't complete, and it's been going on for such a long time. I sense that the atmosphere in general is becoming more tolerant toward gay rights, but it will take a long time."

"People become frightened because of the fact the group will be recognized," she said. "Gays are out there now in your classes, walking across campus; maybe you even bump into them."

napieco said. "At a fund-raiser, someone once gave a good sum of money to help with their legal costs, and you just wouldn't believe how happy those people were to know there was support from outside the group."

"We can also talk to other straights about gays. I mean, these are people with rights just like anyone else. They are extremely intelligent and great to be around. I think of them as my friends, not my 'gay' friends."

Harassment has not been a problem as a result of her involvement with the group.

"If I'm with someone who's gay, people will often think I'm gay, but it doesn't bother me," she said. "Most just want to know why I'm in the group."

Her parents, however, do not look kindly on the fact that she has gay friends.

"My brother is very supportive of my involvement in the group, but my parent's don't know I'm in the group yet," she said. "They know I have gay friends, but don't approve of it."

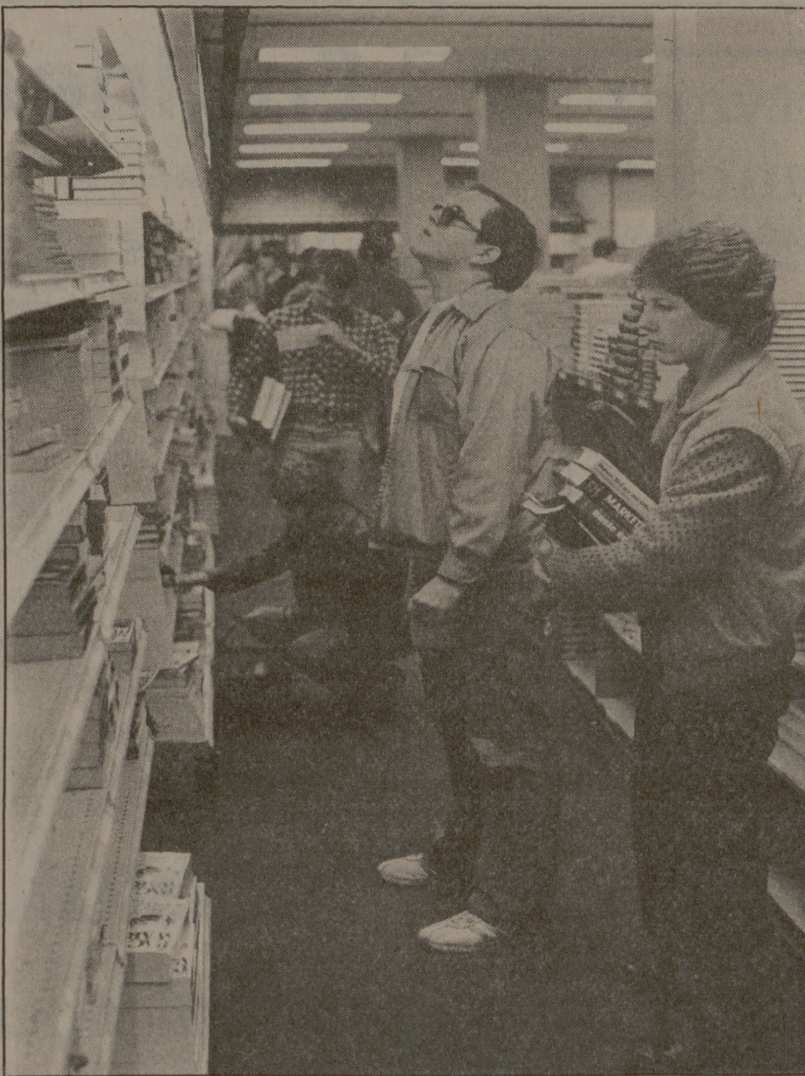


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

**High and low**

Looking for textbooks at the MSC bookstore are Robert Fawcett, a senior education major, and Stephanie Sobotik, a junior sociology major. Bookstore lines were short Tuesday but are expected to increase as the week continues.

# Klan plans to oppose ordinance

United Press International

HOUSTON — The Ku Klux Klan plans to demonstrate in front of city hall Saturday against a proposed ordinance giving homosexuals equal protection in city jobs, the Texas grand dragon said Tuesday.

"Basically it's an anti-homosexual and anti-Kathy Whitmire demonstration," Charlie Lee said.

"The mayor's efforts to pass these ordinances providing homosexual equality is far beyond her public duty."

"To let some of her aides off so they can go out and work for the campaign for homosexual rights is really too much as far as we're concerned and we feel somebody needs to speak up against it."

Whitmire's top political aide has taken a leave of absence to campaign for passage of the referendum scheduled for Jan. 19 on the job discrimination issue.

The referendum was forced by a public petition after City Council in June passed a resolution and ordinance adding sexual orientation to the list of factors — including race, sex, age and national origin — that cannot be considered in city hiring, firing and promotions.

"The main reason (for the demonstration) is we're going to get out there to demonstrate to let the public know it is an important issue," Lee said.

# Children play according to traditional patterns

University News Service

Despite efforts to de-emphasize sexually oriented roles with children, preschool boys and girls continue to choose activities that follow traditional patterns, a Texas A&M study indicates.

In a study designed to examine the relationship in children between creativity and different types of play materials, doctoral student Marc Rogers found there were distinct patterns in boys' and girls' choices of play centers.

Choices of the 26 girls and 23 boys who were 3, 4 and 5 years old reflected a preference for activities that follow traditional patterns, said Rogers, who received his Ph.D. in educational psychology in December.

"This is supposed to be an androgynous stage of development, but there were sex differences in the children's choices of play materials," he said.

Among the 23 play centers available to the children were a home center, a block center, a doll center and a dress-up center which included firemen and military uniforms.

Rogers observed the children during 45-minute periods and measured the amount of time each center occupied a child in one-minute intervals and then came up with a total number of minutes for boys and girls at each center.

For example, two girls playing one minute at the doll center would

constitute a total of two minutes for the center.

Out of a total of 5,536 minutes of play time, boys spent zero minutes with dolls while girls played 142 minutes with the dolls, Rogers said.

Boys played 49 minutes with the home center while girls played 340 minutes at the center.

Boys played with the blocks 466 minutes while girls played with blocks only 96 minutes and boys played zero minutes at the dress-up center while girls played at the same center 240 minutes.

Rogers also found boys engaged in "tomfoolery" behavior three times as much as girls during the observed play periods.

"The current belief that males and females are coming together does not seem to be true," he said. "Children are reflecting more traditional roles than ever."

The toy industry is saying boys and girls like the same kind of toys and that doesn't seem to be true.

The Houston Chamber of Commerce also is urging Houstonians to vote against the ordinance.

Lee said he expects 75 to 100 Klansmen at the rally at City Hall. The protesters then plan to distribute anti-homosexual pamphlets on Main Street, he said.

"We don't want homosexuals to have equality in being hired by the police department or the fire department," Lee said.

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