Homosexuality at UR

Acceptance Comes with Maturity

"It's never been offered to students. We don't ever really talk about it," said one. Among the students interviewed, it was generally agreed that there were several homosexual males who were friends, some of whom are popular for their maturity, and they are open about their sexual orientation. They said they have been part of the student body for as long as they can remember.

The atmosphere at the University is supportive, and many students feel comfortable expressing their sexual orientation. There are no specific groups for students, and the social scene is varied. People talk very openly about their sexual orientations.

According to Dr. Burhans, the football players are generally open and supportive of each other. Some of those guys could be so nice, but they felt they had to hide it. Z. a dorm student, said, "For me, it's just about being open."

During their time as UR students, many have found themselves objects of a certain amount of ridicule. Some have been ignored, others have been teased. But they said it doesn't affect them.

They agreed, however, that it was easier to be open about their identities after midnight. They mentioned that some people knew they are gay and just didn't feel they had other gay friends. They emphasized that homosexual roommate is not necessarily a problem, but something they thought about. And they don't always agree with each other.

"It's really a relief to have a gay roommate," said Z.

Some people, said X, "try to make statements and draw attention to themselves." They pointed out the students who are not afraid to be different. "They are not afraid to be different," said Y.

A homosexual response is not always the same. "It's not the same," said Z. The situation is less about the object of ridicule, and more about how the people react.

They agreed that the student body is open and supportive of each other. "It's just about being open," said X. "You don't have to hide it sometimes, but some people like to keep it a secret."