Dance to beat

By MARGOT FRIEDMAN

The Tufts Lesbian and Gay Community (TLGC) has been almost invisible since its founding over ten years ago. If it weren't for notices advertising their weekly meetings and a few scattered educational events, it would be easy for the campus to forget they really existed. But as of Saturday night this trend will be altered. For the first time in its history, TLGC is sponsoring an all-campus social event. The twenty members will host a dance with the theme "Dance to the Beat of a Different Drummer" in Curtis Hall.

The big question is, after ten years why is TLGC finally having a dance? One of the co-coordinators said, "No one has ever had the guts to do it before." But a junior male member explained that TLGC has reached a "stage of maturity"; the group feels comfortable enough with each other and comfortable enough with the campus to sponsor the event.

All the members of TLGC, which for the first year is half lesbians and half gays, agreed that one of the main reasons they wanted to host the event was because they have become close during the year, and felt good about themselves as a group. A senior woman said, "One thing that strikes me is that this group is really positive. People have this idea that we sit around unhappy. There certainly are a lot of tough things but we help each other work them out." The co-coordinator emphasized that "community" was part of TLGC's name. He explained, "I came here to develop a sense of community. I like having gay friends I can relate to. I can relate to them on a level that I can't with my straight friends." A junior woman stressed that it is important for gays and lesbians to create social events that they can feel comfortable at as themselves.

That the members of the TLGC feel fairly accepted on the campus was another condition that made this spring the right time to have a dance. Most members had positive things to say about the tolerance of the campus. "I realized there are so many people who would not only tolerate my homosexuality but wouldn't even make a point of it." Another added, "There is a group of people who make me feel my homosexuality is not a big deal." A sophomore woman said, "It's not easy to come out on campus because you think all this hostility is out there. You assume it's hostile." She said when she did come out she didn't get any malicious remarks, although a few people began to avoid her.

The co-coordinator concluded that the dance would be a political statement, adding "Anything that's public and gay will make a political statement." A sophomore explained "Gay people aren't visible in church or at dinner. A specifically gay event makes a statement that we're here."

The co-coordinator said he hopes that straight people on campus will show their support by attending.

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