Guild supports Glasgow gays

Caroline Moore

Guild Council voted unanimously last Tuesday to sever all links with Glasgow University Student's Union because of their recent refusal to allow the affiliation of a Gay Society to their Union. Liverpool and Glasgow Universities have traditionally maintained strong links over the years because of their similar Union structures and Redbrick traditions.

Edinburgh University Student's Union has also severed relations with Glasgow and forwarded to Guild Officers a letter from Glasgow Union President explaining his Union's refusal. He argued that in view that homosexual relations are illegal for persons under 21 and that the majority of students under 21, the affiliation of Gay students to the Union might give, "the impression that the Union in some way bestows an unofficial blessing on their activities."

He also argued that the majority of Union members do not want Gay Society affiliation and felt that, "many members of the Society are not interested in a constructive approach to changing the membership's attitude but are using this controversy as a ploy to gain publicity and momentum to destroy the character of the Union as we know it."

However, the move for a

'Ungentlemanly'

Because of Council's motion last Tuesday to break off relations with Glasgow University, Liverpool University debating society had to withdraw an invitation to Glasgow's debating Society to take part in an Inter-Varsity competition held here on Friday. This was greatly regretted, especially since Glasgow won the competition last year, and many people felt that making them withdraw was unreasonable because the competition was arranged three months ago, and Glasgow's debating society was not responsible for their union's action.

Gay Society in Glasgow has had a good deal of support with about 180 people wanting to affiliate and a candidate standing for Gay issues in the recent Union Officer elections polled 20% of the vote. In addition, it is NUS policy to promote discussion on sexuality in general and to act as a focus for social activities. It is not at all necessary to be Gay to join a Gay Society.

The Convenor of Glasgow's debating Society was very angry when Pete Rainford phoned to cancel their invitation on Thursday, "this is damned ungentlemanly conduct, not the business of any other Union to interfere with Internal workings. Debates should be separate." She then slammed the 'phone down.

Despite several last minute cancellations by other universities, the debates were very successful and Cambridge University won the prizes for best team and individual speaker. The standard of debates was very high over the motions "This House believes the suffragettes movement was the very beginning of the end." and "This House believes full employment is a myth."