

Department of Safety wraps up investigation

3-29-90 IJD

by **STEVE BOWERS**

Daily Asst. University Editor

22/4

The Iowa State Department of Public Safety is wrapping up its investigation into the display of an American flag, the appearance of which was altered by an ISU design student and placed in a booth in the Memorial Union sponsored by the Gay/Lesbian Campus Organization.

The flag reads "102,621 reported AIDS cases as of August 1989," and is being displayed by the GLCO as part of its awareness days.

The flag was scrutinized after University officials received several complaints about the portrayal of the flag.

Scott Duke, Art Dn 6, creator of the flag, said it is meant to draw attention to the AIDS issue and to test a flag protection act passed by Congress last year.

Sgt. Doug Clabaugh said the results of the investigation will be turned over to the Story County Attorney's office.

Story County Attorney Mary Richards said she will decide how to proceed in the case after she reviews the findings of the ISU Department of Public Safety.

James Schafer, president of the GLCO, said he thinks officials may be waiting until the flag is taken down so they won't have to act.

Because of this, Schafer said they will continue to exhibit the flag in the display case outside of the GLCO office in Room 38 of the Memorial Union.

"We can outdo their waiting game," Schafer said.

Monica McBride, program director for the GLCO said the New York office of the American Civil Liberties Union has been contacted and has volunteered to send an attorney to help the GLCO if members are arrested because of the dispute.

This is the first time the flag protection act has been addressed by officials at ISU, but the officials around the country have been dealing with the issue since the act passed in October 1989.

United States District Court Judge Barbara Rothstein handed down a decision in February that overturned the law and said it prohibited certain forms of the freedom of expression.

Reid Crawford, assistant to the president, said displaying the flag is a violation of the federal law and a law passed by the Iowa Legislature.