

HOMOSEXUAL GROUP ASKS UNDERSTANDING

The public relations director of the Homosexual League of New York called yesterday for public acceptance of homosexuals as a legitimate minority group.

The director, Randolfe Wicker, addressed a group of 350 students at City College. His appearance was sponsored by the college's WBAI club, an organization supporting the WBAI-FM listener-financed radio station.

"We are only interested in educating the public, not in converting anyone to homosexuality," Mr. Wicker said, referring to the Mattachine Society, which recently absorbed the Homosexual League."

The society, he said, is a legally incorporated organization that includes six psychologists and psychiatrists among its members. It sponsors lectures on homosexuality, aids in research projects and provides employment, psychological and legal referral services.

Acceptance of the homosexual is a "question of education," he said. "Attitudes are changing, and, with organizations such as ours, the issue can be approached legitimately."

Mr. Wicker compared his organization's recruiting problems to those of organizations representing minority racial groups.

"Most homosexuals live fearful, ghettoized lives," he said. "The homosexual's biggest problem is the lack of adequate communication with others."

According to Mr. Wicker, mattachine is an Italian word used to refer to "court jesters of the Middle Ages who always told the truth despite great opposition."