

Listen Up

More from gays

Editor:
I'm an Aggie, like it or not. I seriously doubt that anyone loves A&M more than I do. I am also gay. But does being gay and attending A&M bring about such a terrible conflict — a conflict that can only be resolved by complete dismissal of gays at this school? Only the most narrow-minded person could answer 'yes.' Such narrow-mindedness was displayed in "Listen Up" (April 29).

Two points made by Mr. Arto and Mr. Crook are both unreasonable and unsubstantiated. Firstly, exactly what have the gays done to t.u.? Do you mean to say that everything that is undesirable at t.u. is a direct consequence of the existence of its gay community? Secondly, just how are we going to ruin the people and traditions that have made Texas A&M great? While answering this question, one must remember that A&M has not always been a heterosexual university. In fact, the gay population started here as early as the 1890's.

These two "straights" also said they were offended in that we would dare to claim membership in the Corps, in the faculty and among the students. If these two only realized the sizeable membership of the gay society of this campus — a membership that includes officers of the Corps, members of the government, and administrators of the university — I believe they would have a different opinion of us.

History will soon reveal the many great achievements that have been made by the gay world. I just wish that the narrow-minded people would realize that we are not out to destroy society, but to create a better one in which to live.

Name withheld

Editor's note: The writer fears physical and academic harm if his

name is printed. Although we will withhold his name, no further letters from Gay Awareness will be published without the author's name.

Disgusting

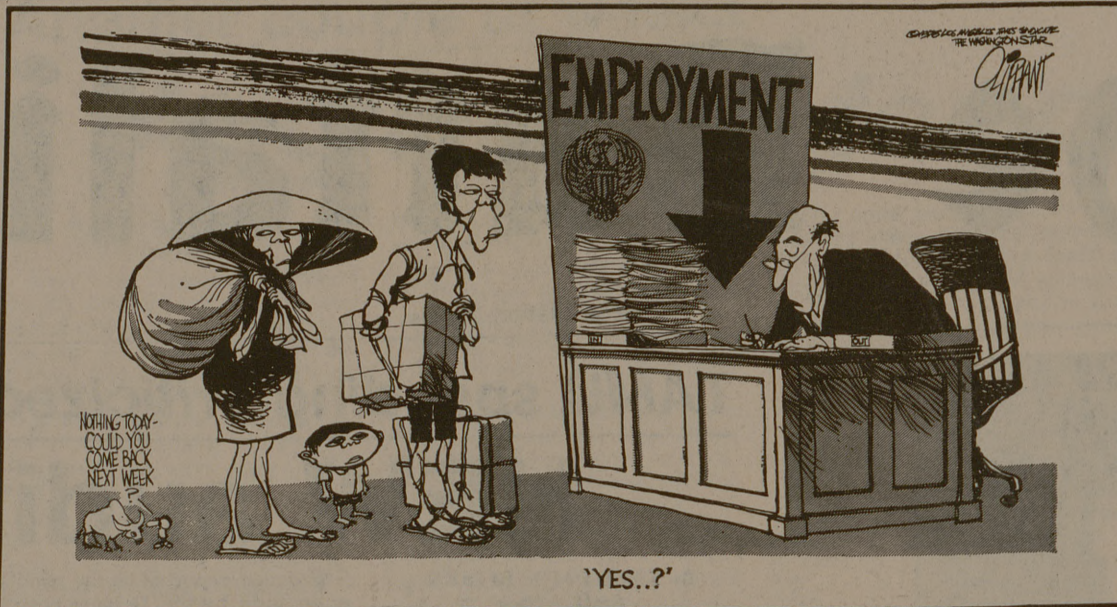
Editor:
I have just finished reading Tom Cooke's letter in the Batt and I find his attitude disgusting. Not only does he deny the fact that some AGGIES are gay, but he thinks that the gay movement should be stopped "before it gets a good chance to start." He further states that being gay is "psychopathological". I think that the truly psychopathological behavior is that of not accepting your fellow human beings and their right to be different. Though I am not gay, I support fully the goals of the Gay Liberation movement. I further believe that the terror tactics he seems to favor would do nothing to stop the movement, it will only cause those who are gay to resent even more the "strait" establishment.

Greg Black

MSC respect

Editor:
In recent weeks I have observed students in our Memorial Student Center wearing cutoff bluejeans, with bare feet, and without shirts. I am appalled that students at such a fine university as Texas A&M should have such poor manners. The MSC is a memorial to Aggies who gave their lives for our country during World War II and should be treated with respect — not like some snack bar at t.u. I only hope that in the future this display of poor attitude declines as it distresses me to see such insolence!

J. Bruce Hamilton



The Aggie forum

Corps change

Emotions replacing logic

By DON MIDDLETON
The Corps of Cadets is in the midst of one of the biggest disarrangements in a long time. Precipitated by the new whipping out policy, the furor has been building for some time now and it is finally out in the open for everyone to get his kicks in.

Emotions and fiery rhetoric are beginning to replace clear, logical thinking. Cries of "They're killing the Corps!" are answered by equally vehement shouts of "We're trying to save the Corps!" And very few people are stopping long enough to give the matter some serious thought.

I'm writing this forum not as a member of the staff of this newspaper, but as a member of the Corps

who wants to see another side of the situation given equal time.

The mere mention of the word "change" is repulsive to most Aggies, especially members of the Corps. We have been taught since the first day we set foot on campus that this university is built on tradition and that to change any tradition is to toss a hundred years of history down the drain.

By and large, this is the attitude taken by those who in reality know very little of the history of A&M other than what is passed on from the class above.

The idea that any institution, in any place or time, can exist for a century without changing is beyond logic. For 99 years A&M, and the Corps, has been growing and changing as the changing times have dictated. Traditions have come and gone, and many more have vanished from the lifestyle of the school than remain to our day.

The majority of the things we do today were not done when our fathers and grand-fathers were here. Some things are the same, and those are the things that have withstood the test of time — Silver Taps, Aggie Muster, the t.u. rivalry and the Corps of Cadets.

The main reason that the Corps has prospered for 99 years is that it has never been afraid to change, to

save from the past what is good and discard what is bad, then face the challenge of the future with an open mind.

But now we are telling the Corps that it must stand still while the world moves on. We are asking it to stand on its past laurels, as if we were afraid to win new laurels. We are saying that an organization which for 99 years has been a dynamic entity must suddenly become stagnant.

Think about those so-called traditions that we are so opposed to letting go of. Aren't they really sacred cows that we lump under the headings "Old Army" and "good bull", but hide from view when the public comes near?

The Corps is not going to die. When change is warranted, change will take place. If you say to me that a change in the way we whip out, or eat or talk is going to kill the Corps, I'll show you a century of change to prove you wrong.

GROOB!



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TALES OF THE GIGAGS

A Parable

AND IT CAME TO PASS EARLY IN THE MORNING OF THE LAST DAY OF THE SEMESTER, THERE AROSE A MULTITUDE SMITING THEIR BOOKS AND WAILING, AND THERE WAS MUCH WEeping AND GNASHING OF TEETH, FOR THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT WAS AT HAND, AND THEY WERE SORE AFRAID, FOR THEY HAD LEFT UNDONE THOSE THINGS WHICH THEY OUGHT TO HAVE DONE; THERE WAS NO HELP FOR IT.

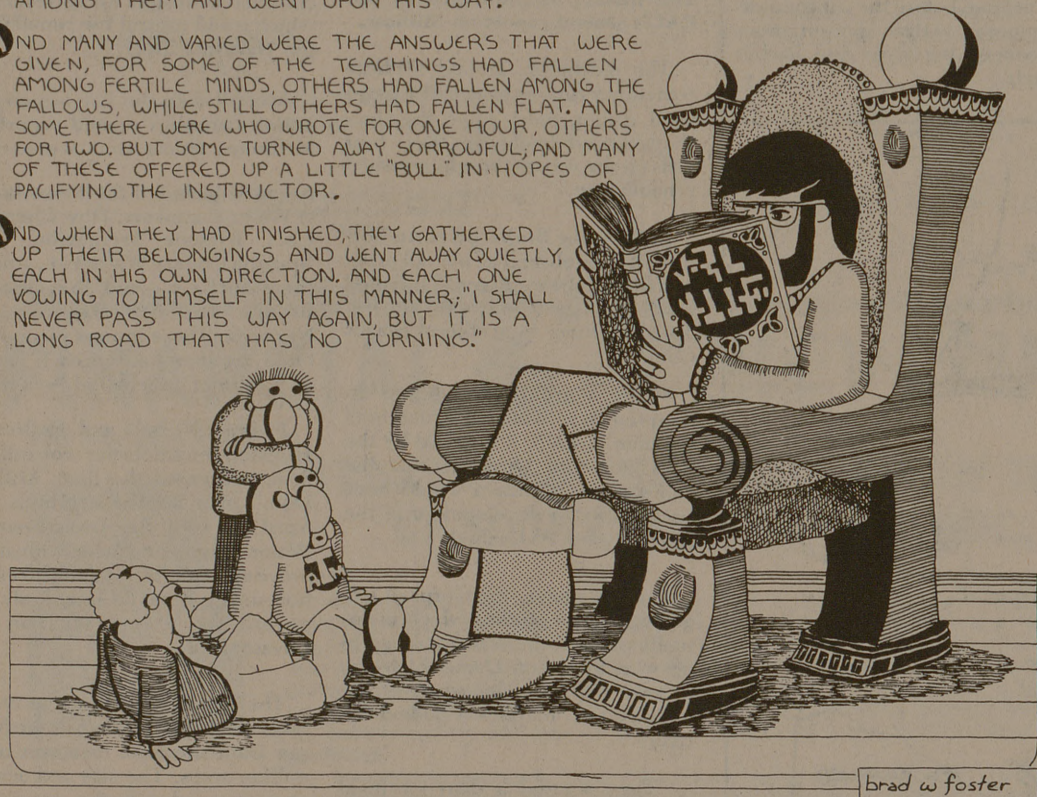
AND THERE WERE MANY IN THEIR DORMS WHO HAD KEPT WATCH OVER THEIR BOOKS ALL NIGHT, BUT IT NAUGHT AVAILETH, BUT SOME THERE WERE WHO AROSE PEACEFULLY, FOR THEY HAD PREPARED FOR THEMSELVES THE WAY, AND MADE STRAIGHT THE PATH OF KNOWLEDGE, AND THESE WISE ONES WERE KNOWN AS THE BURNERS OF THE MIDNIGHT OIL; AND BY OTHERS THEY WERE CALLED CURVE LOUSERS.

AND THE MULTITUDE AROSE AND ATE A HEARTY BREAKFAST; AND THEY CAME INTO THE APPOINTED PLACE, AND THEIR HEARTS WERE HEAVY WITHIN THEM, AND SOME HAD COME TO PASS, BUT OTHERS HAD COME TO PASS OUT.

AND SOME OF THEM REPENTED OF THEIR RIOTOUS LIVING AND BEMOANED THEIR FATE, BUT THEY HAD NOT A PRAYER, AND THE LAST HOUR THERE CAME ONE AMONG THEM KNOWN AS THE INSTRUCTOR, HE OF THE DIABOLICAL SMILE, AND PASSED AMONG THEM AND WENT UPON HIS WAY.

AND MANY AND VARIED WERE THE ANSWERS THAT WERE GIVEN, FOR SOME OF THE TEACHINGS HAD FALLEN AMONG FERTILE MINDS, OTHERS HAD FALLEN AMONG THE FALLOW, WHILE STILL OTHERS HAD FALLEN FLAT, AND SOME THERE WERE WHO WROTE FOR ONE HOUR, OTHERS FOR TWO, BUT SOME TURNED AWAY SORROWFUL, AND MANY OF THESE OFFERED UP A LITTLE "BULL" IN HOPES OF PACIFYING THE INSTRUCTOR.

AND WHEN THEY HAD FINISHED, THEY GATHERED UP THEIR BELONGINGS AND WENT AWAY QUIETLY, EACH IN HIS OWN DIRECTION, AND EACH ONE VOYAGING TO HIMSELF IN THIS MANNER, "I SHALL NEVER PASS THIS WAY AGAIN, BUT IT IS A LONG ROAD THAT HAS NO TURNING."



brad w foster

The Battalion

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