

Opinion/Commentary/Letters

Students give views on gays, lawsuit

Editor:

Established under the Morrill Act, Texas A&M College was officially opened on October 2, 1876. Over the past hundred year history at A&M, many traditions have been established at A&M — traditions that separate Texas A&M aside from any other college or university in the United States. A person was and I still hope is, proud to tell someone that he or she graduated from Texas A&M and they are and forever will be an Aggie!

But lately it seems as though some of these traditions and many others have lost their meaning. They haven't really lost their meaning, they've lost their support from members of this University! I dare not say that there are only a few people on campus that know a lot about A&M traditions and history (faculty and students included) with exception of the Corps of Cadets.

The most recent and most prominent change in traditions and organizations at Texas A&M has been the Gay Student Service Organization (GSSO). Now the GSSO has sued Texas A&M because the University won't recognize them as an organization. For Christ sakes, can't the GSSO take a hint! I just wish that the GSSO would pack up their gear and "high tail it" to t.u. and leave the Aggies here at Texas A&M who want to be true Aggies and who want to live up to that good old Aggie spirit alone. We don't want the Twelfth Man to be a homosexual!!!

—Frank Robinson, '80
—Jim Parker, '79
—Don Glockzin, '80
—Tim Peters, '80

Society clings to status quo

Editor:

I am white, male, and sexually "straight;" characteristics which could easily predispose one to cling-

ing to tradition and the status-quo and fearing any change which would undermine our, "American way of life." "I fear the woman who exhibits ambition and intelligence, daring to compete in our man's world." "Even today I begrudgingly accept the Black, for it has only taken 200 years to realize that maybe he is a person, even if he is a different color." The list continues, and the philosophy of Mr. Chauvin is alive and well at Texas A&M.

Specifically, I am speaking of the unrest concerning the GSSO. I am not homosexual — believe it is wrong for me. However, I do believe in homosexuals' rights as people and American citizens.

"But homosexuality is illegal in the state of Texas," you say? Indeed, it is; but then so is heterosexual oral sex and extramarital sex. It is still technically illegal in the state of New York for a woman to bare her ankles in public, and if Texas state law was strictly enforced in College Station, literally hundreds of Aggies would spend the night in jail after every midnight yell practice.

"But homosexuality is condemned by the Bible," you say? Indeed, it is. But look again, my friend. It is condemned along with drunkenness, premarital sex, and many more activities. The Bible does not quantify sin. One "sin" is no more wrong than the other.

But my purpose is not to debate religion. Suffice it to say that we often tend to be very selfish. We choose to enforce the laws which do not affect us, and to categorize as immoral those activities which we do not desire or understand.

Granted, the state of Texas is perhaps a more appropriate defendant in a civil rights suit. A&M receives state funds and is bound to comply with state law, however archaic that law may be.

However, this fact and one's upbringing should never excuse inflexibility to constructive change. If this were the case, the Black would still be saying, "Ah'm a good nigga, Massa," and women would still be saying, "Yes, dear, anything you say."

—Randy C. Potts, '77

'True Aggies can't be bigots'

Editor: I have had it. I cannot believe the prejudice that exists on this campus. If someone isn't complaining about the blacks, it's the whites. If not the gays, it's the rednecks. If it isn't the jocks, it's the theatre people. This is ridiculous.

I have known blacks and whites and jocks and theatre people and rednecks and Heaven and God almighty forbid, gays, and I don't know what the hell any of you bigots are talking about when you say that rednecks are stupid, that blacks are crude, that theatre people are strange, or that gays are all on the make.

I don't think for one half of a second that I was just lucky in meeting the special ones from each group. I think it's my attitude. I wasn't raised with this attitude, I acquired it. I saw how being mean, thoughtless, and cruel can affect someone. I know you all have also.

I bet three-fourths of you have a friend that is black, or redneck, or gay, and he or she is a good friend. And you say to yourself, "I hate blacks, but my friend's different. I hate rednecks, but my friend is different. I cannot stand, at all, gays, but my friend is different."

Like hell they're different. They are the same as you. The same as me. The same as anyone else. Their skin, or sex, or religion, or sexual preference may be different, but inside, they look just like the rest of us.

All it takes to understand is the time it takes to sit, and listen to their side of an argument. Then, if you want, storm off hating them,

but damn it, listen first. It doesn't take shuttle diplomacy to settle arguments. It takes patience, trust, understanding, and a little love. Scream all you want, the best friends I have up here are the ones that I listen to and that listen to me.

—Charlie Andrews, '80

Constitutional rights important

Editor:

Regarding the letters published in the March 3 issue of The Battalion, there are a few issues that must be addressed.

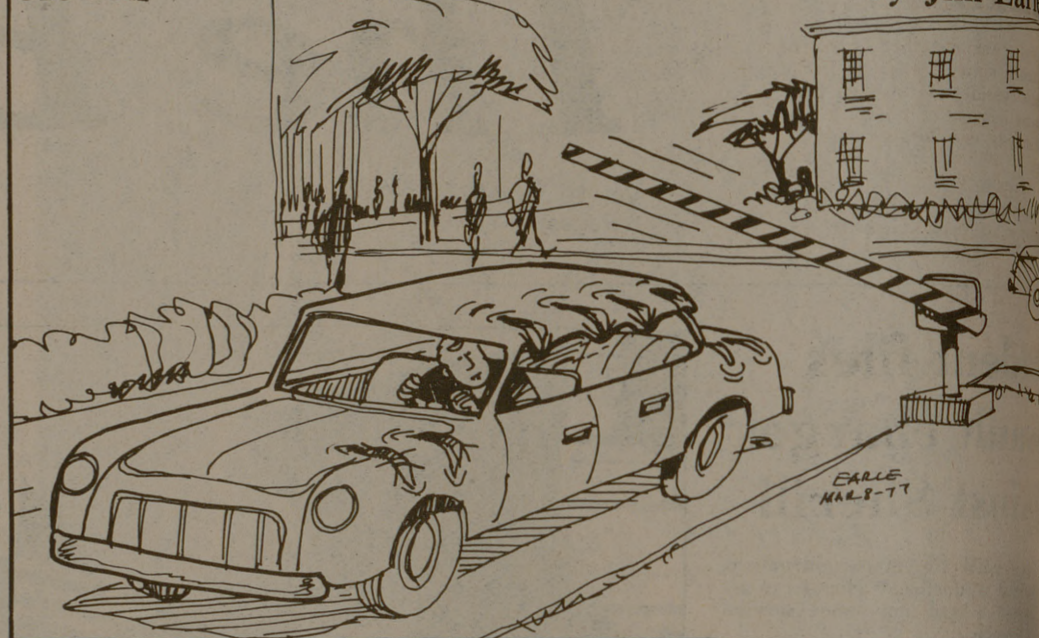
First, to the four members of the S.S.O.: there is no doubt that you have the right to apply for recognition and that you have the right to file suit. I must point out, however, that several members of the G.S.S.O. have had the courage and conviction of their beliefs to allow their names to be made public. That you did not even have the nerve to sign your names to a sarcastic letter (an action of the Batt which I strongly condemn) renders your opinion worthless.

To Mr. Holley: thank you and congratulations for writing an intelligent comment. I do not, however, agree with you. Homosexuality is not an illness and I refer you to the position taken by the American Psychiatric Association, American Psychology Association and numerous professional studies especially those of Dr. Evelyn Hooker.

Most important, however, is the issue of constitutional rights. No one ever claimed that enforcing the principles of the Constitution would be easy, or that constitutional rights only apply to issues that everyone agrees with. The suit filed by the G.S.S.O. is based entirely on constitutional rights. If the Constitution is to mean anything, the rights it accords must be assured for all citizens.

—Michael J. Garrett, '77

Slouch



Is Batt withholding the real story?

Editor:

Thank you very much for the excellent interview with Carl Oglesby (Battalion, March 3) which was both revealing and invigorating. But what disturbed me was the poor coverage in Friday's Battalion about his speech on "Yankee/Cowboy Theory of American Politics."

Due to a conflict with my class schedules I was unable to attend Mr. Oglesby's and Mr. Kostman's earlier lectures, but I assume their reportage was equally poor because

in summing up his speeches during the last talk, Mr. Oglesby said more about them than did your paragraphs.

I did not take notes during the lecture, and so I do not recall precisely all the issues he talked about, but I do remember certain salient features which I thought were imperative to be included in any news report about the speech.

For example, there was no mention of Galin and his Nazi hoodlums who were hired right after World War II to lead the U.S. foreign in-

telligence apparatus. The political marriage between Eastern Establishment (Wallpower elite and that of the (Cowboy) which were maintained such partnerships as Kennedy/Johnson, Johnson/Humphrey/Nixon/Kissinger, and now as infested by Carter/Mondale were conveniently left out. What was led to the uncovering of the Watergate incident, and why Johnson and Agnew forced to leave were not mentioned either.

You are beginning to noticeably more like the media. The colleges are the last of intellectual endeavors and students are deprived of their information by their very school newspaper such endeavors are hard to pursue. The media have shamelessly turned their cause to serve the people, and I am afraid the newspapers may follow suit. FREE, Batt!!!

—Ishtiaq A. Chishti

Editor's note: Your letter is to insinuate that The Battalion involved in some national conspiracy to keep some truth from the American public. Let me assure you this is not so.

In your opinion, the coverage one Battalion reporter of a speech was not adequate, but should not make blanket assertions about the skills or motives of all Battalion reporters.

The lengthy interview is an indication that The Battalion was trying to bury Oglesby or his ideas. The reporter, through lack of skill or lack of space, did not get detail about the particular spiracies Oglesby mentioned which you seem to be interested in.

If you want to know more of Oglesby's theories, you might try his book, "The Yankee Cowboy War: Conspiracies from Dallas to Watergate."

The Battalion generally assign only one reporter to a potentially newsworthy occurrence, because we are, using students who are still developing reporting skills. We may sometimes come up short of the full story. On many occasions the problem can be alleviated by rechecking with the sources, one only gets one chance at a story.

Even though the coverage of wrap-up speech of the best series may have seemed shallow, the editors' only alternative would have been to not run the article at all.

And then what kind of conspiracy theory could you have developed?

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Regents. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843. United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

MEMBER Texas Press Association Southwest Journalism Congress

Editor: Jerry Needham
Associate Editor: James Aiken
Managing Editor: Rusty Cawley
Assistant Managing Editor: Mary Hensalroad
Features Editor: John W. Tynes
News Editor: Debby Krensch
Sports Editor: Kevin Venner
Photography Director: Paul Arnett
Copy Editor: Steve Bets
Reporters: Paul McGrath, Lynn Rossi, Lee Roy Leschper Jr., Jan Bailey, Darrell Lanford
Asst. Photo Editors: Tracie Nordheim, Mike Willy

Student Publications Board: Bob G. Rogers, Chairman, Joe Arredondo, Tom Dawsey, Dr. Gary Halter, Dr. John W. Hanna, Dr. Clinton A. Phillips, Jerri Ward, Director of Student Publications: Guel L. Cooper.

ATTENTION

PHI ETA SIGMA MEMBERS

ANYONE INITIATED IN THE SPRING OF '76 OR BEFORE CAN PICK UP YOUR CERTIFICATE WED. MARCH 9 BETWEEN 4:30-7:00 1ST FLOOR MSC. (THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE MEMBERS INITIATED AT THE CONVENTION)

THE MSC TRAVEL COMMITTEE PRESENTS . . .

EUROPE 1977
June 7 - July 4
D/FW-PARIS
LONDON-D/FW
\$458. AIR FARE ONLY

LAND OPTION: "THE GRAND TOUR OF EUROPE"

COUNTRIES — FRANCE, ITALY, AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND, GERMANY, HOLLAND, ENGLAND

CITIES — Paris, Grenoble, Nice, Venice, Florence, Rome, Vienna, Salzburg, Lucerne, Munich, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, London

INCLUDES — All transportation between cities and transfers
All hotels in cities (Superior Tourist Class Double Occupancy)
Two meals per day except in Rome, Paris, and London

Complete Sightseeing Program
Services of a multi-lingual tour guide throughout the tour
All gratuities and service charges

PRICE — \$830. maximum + \$458. round trip air fare

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT MIKE COX OF THE MSC TRAVEL COMMITTEE OR COME BY ROOM 216 OF THE MSC. 845-1515 FROM 12 UNTIL 4 P.M. EACH AFTERNOON.



RICHARD E. LEAKEY

"OUR HUMAN HERITAGE - Millions of Years of Man in Africa"

8:00 P.M. March 8 Rudder Auditorium
Texas A&M University
\$1.00 Students \$3.00 Non-students

Tickets available at the door and through the Anthropology Club, Anthropology Research Labs 311 Bolton Hall

APPLICATIONS FOR EDITOR

- + The Battalion, Summer 1977
- + The Battalion, Fall 1977
- + The AggieLand, Academic year 1977-78

The Student Publications Board is accepting applications for Summer and Fall editorships of The Battalion and for 1977-78 editorships of the AggieLand.

Application forms may be obtained at the Student Publications office, 216 Reed McDonald Building, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Completed application forms should be returned to Bob G. Rogers, chairman, Student Publications Board, 301 Reed McDonald. Deadline for submission of applications is 5 p.m. Tuesday, March 22.

The Battalion summer editor will serve from May 16 through August 24, 1977.

The Battalion Fall Semester editor will serve from April 18, 1977, through Dec. 4, 1977 (with the exception of the summer term.)

The AggieLand editor will serve for the academic year 1977-78.

Qualifications for editor of The Battalion are: 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of taking office and during the term of office. At least one year of experience in a responsible editorial position on the Battalion or comparable student newspaper OR at least one year of editorial experience on a commercial newspaper OR at least 12 hours of journalism including Journalism 203 and 204 (Reporting and Editing I and II) or equivalent. The 12 hours must include completion of or enrollment in Journalism 402 (Law) or equivalent.

Qualifications for editor of the AggieLand are: 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of taking office and during the term of office. At least one year in a responsible staff position on the AggieLand or equivalent yearbook experience elsewhere.

Tower Dining Room

Top of the Tower
Texas A&M University

Pleasant Dining — Great View

SERVING LUNCHEON BUFFET

11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

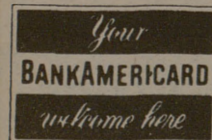
Each day except Saturday

\$2.50 DAILY
\$3.00 SUNDAY

Serving soup & sandwich
11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.
Monday - Friday
\$1.50 plus drink

Available Evenings
For Special
University Banquets

Department of Food Service
Texas A&M University
"Quality First"



Now Open
AggieLand
Harley-Davidson
801 Texas Ave.
Bryan

BRAZOS VALLEY
African Violet Club
presents

Annual Judged African Violet Show and Sale

March 11, 12 Manor East

Get into some great pants!

TOP DRAWER
Culpepper Plaza

Embrey's Jewelry

We Specialize In Aggie Rings, Diamonds Set — Sizing — Reoxidizing — All types watch jewelry Repair

Aggie Charge Accounts 846-5819
9-5:30