

Opinion/Commentary/Letters

Gregson supports Harvey for president

Editor: It seems that my quote in yesterday's Battalion was a bit premature. It is now evident that the lines of the campaign for President of the Student Body have been drawn and are well defined. I have decided to give Robert Harvey my entire support for this office.

The editor(s) of the Battalion seem to think it is a sin for the Corps to all get out and vote. The essence of any political race is to vote for the best person running — not to judge from which organization he or she is from. The duties of the Student Body President include serving the needs and interests of ALL the students of Texas A&M. It is my opinion that Robert Harvey can and will serve these interests of the students of this University.

The alleged election irregularities in my campaign were blown totally out of proportion. Instead of six complaints being filed with the election commission only one was filed. That complaint, after talking with the election commissioner, was filed by Stanfield himself. My campaign was halted by the ACCUSATIONS of one of my opponents! This seems a long way from sincere concern for student interest. It seems more like someone wants the job so badly that he would resort to anything to get it.

I would urge everyone to seriously consider the choices that we have for Student Body President. Do not look at the organizations that these people are a member of but for who is truly concerned about our interests and needs as students.

— Scott Gregson

Student jury supported again

Editor: Within the last two weeks three letters have appeared in The Battalion concerning the dissemination of candidate information and qualifications to the Student Body. All three letters expressed a desire by the students for more information concerning candidates seeking various elected positions. It is quite apparent from these as well as other examples that students are being asked to vote for a candidate whom they know little if anything about.

The question is, should we elect Student Government Officers because they have flashy advertising or should we elect officers who have the qualifications to perform their duties in the best interest of the Student Body? Because the students are faced with voting with little or no information or not voting at all, I submitted the "Student Jury Nominee" proposal to the Student Senate on Wednesday, March 23. A number of us felt that this lack of candidate information could be partially rectified with this system.

Basically this system calls for a

group of randomly selected students to review written statements submitted by the candidates for Student Government President or Vice-President. This group of students would also interview the candidates for approximately one hour to determine the legitimacy of the written statements. After a careful analysis of each candidate, the "Student Jury" would endorse a candidate for each office, with the analysis as well as the endorsement being printed in The Battalion. This system would supplement the voter's knowledge of the candidates as well as offer an endorsement by a randomly selected group of students.

When the "Student Jury" proposal was introduced, the major opposition was led by Senator Robert Harvey, Corps Commander. During last semester's debate on the No-Confidence bill, Mr. Harvey stated, "students are not logical enough to know when to vote no-confidence." Perhaps he meant that if the Student Body had more information dealing with the candidates, they would be in a more rational position to vote for a particular candidate or cast a vote of no-confidence. It would seem logical that Mr. Harvey would then actively support a proposal to increase the amount of information made available to students. Unfortunately, Mr. Harvey as well as a number of other senators vehemently opposed the passage of such a proposal. They argued that this would be "Government by Committee" and that no group of students should be allowed to present endorsements except The Battalion.

The irony of the situation is this. The day prior to the elections last week, the Corps newspaper, The Quadrangle was distributed to all members of the Corps. This paper stated, "The Corps this year is well represented in the campaign with 71 candidates. Perhaps, if this represents a resurgence of the Corps interest in having a voice on campus, the Corps will have the biggest turnout of voters for the election ever. Every vote counts! The following is a list of the candidates from the Corps. This is not intended in any way as an endorsement but to inform." This publication developed by the Corps leadership served its purpose well. A large number of Corps members cast their ballots as they consulted The Quadrangle. In effect The Quadrangle served as a group endorsement of that group's candidates, with candidates being elected because they are part of a group, not because of their qualifications.

Now don't get me wrong, I am not opposed to the Corps having 71 candidates, that shows an interest on the part of the individuals who filed. On the other hand, if we are to endorse a group of candidates, let's not be hypocritical. Let's develop a system whereby all students understand the legitimacy of the

candidates' qualifications after a careful analysis by their peers.

In order to help rectify the present electoral environment, I would hope that students would follow the suggestion previously offered by The Battalion, "Talk to your new senators, as that is where the decision to implement the system will have to come from."

—John Oeffinger
Speaker Pro-Tem
1976-77 Student Senate

Stanfield expands on two issues

Editor: I wish to try to expand on two issues which have been misused by my opponent in an effort to alienate students because of his failure to present adequate information on the issues involved. The first of the two issues is that of providing low-cost day care facilities. The monies which were requested for the day care center by the Student Senate are being held in reserve and have been collecting dust for the last two years. None of the requested money would have come from current student service fee payments.

Though the Student Senate made its voice known with a 36-6 vote in favor of the resolution, two lines of thought were debated. First, Texas A&M is one of the few major universities which does not provide day care facilities for its students needs. Second, many students at A&M are voicing their opinions that because they pay Student Service Fees, they would like to see some student services and not only programming services as offered by the Memorial Student Center.

The day care center was to be funded for two periods and then become self-sufficient after those periods. I use the past tense "was" because one prerequisite of the bill was to investigate the availability of manpower and funding through the College of Education. The funding is not available and the issue is at rest.

The second of the misused issues concerns the Gay Student's Services Organization. Because I voted against the bill presented in the Senate, my opponent has said that I support the G.S.S.O. which is false. The bill asked that the Senate support the administration's delay on giving an answer to the G.S.S.O.'s request. After attempts to amend the bill to request their non-recognition had failed, the original bill was voted on and passed. I voted against the bill because supporting inaction on behalf

of the administration is ridiculous. The bill was introduced by my opponent.

—Stan Stanfield
Candidate, Student Body President

Name was listed wrong

Editor: Re: Robert Harvey's statement in Tuesday's Battalion that the fact that Harry Warren lost is evidence that the Corps did not attempt a bloc vote.

The truth of the matter is Harry Warren's name was incorrectly listed in the Quadrangle under vice president of Rules and Regulations. Actually, Mr. Warren was running for vice president of Student Services. He did receive numerous write-in votes for Rules and Regulations though.

So much for that argument. 'Nuff said.

—W. Scott Sherman

Picture did not endorse article

Editor: In reference to my picture which appeared in the April 12 edition of The Battalion, I would like to set the record straight by stating that in no way did I endorse the article associated with my picture.

I had presumed that The Battalion would possess the responsibility to try and prevent false impressions from being created about an individual. Although I was informed the picture would appear in The Battalion, I allowed my picture to be made only as a personal favor to Kim Tyson and had no knowledge of the content of the article. In fact, The Quadrangle was given to me by Kim Tyson herself for making the photo.

—Craig Gontarek '79

Editor's note: Your picture was not meant to endorse the article, as the article was a simple news story. As to false impressions, The Battalion is not responsible for the assumptions and impressions of its readers. We attempt to print the news as accurately as we can and let the readers draw their own impressions.

Your statements may be warranted, but I must defend The Battalion's reporter/photographer.

The photographer says she asked you twice and both times you agreed to have your picture taken and published in The Battalion.

As to "a personal favor to Kim Tyson," she says she had never met you before.

Gay lifestyle a political attitude

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second part of a four-part series on homosexuals, their lives and their problems. The Battalion is aware that the subject is controversial and that almost everyone has strong feelings about it. But The Battalion believes that more is to be gained by intelligent discussion than by rumor and invective. We hope that this series will contribute to understanding and enlightenment.

By GLENNA WHITLEY
Battalion Staff

The seven men around the kitchen table looked no different than other Texas A&M students. No limp wrists. No feminine giggles as the stereotypes suggest. Their fashionably styled hair and blue jeans are characteristic of thousands of other college students.

But six of the men are homosexuals. The seventh is a heterosexual who lives with two of the homosexuals, Mike and Keith.

Gay lifestyle is viewed today not as a description of sexual preference, but as a political attitude, said Mike Minton, one of the plaintiffs in a suit filed by the Gay Student Services Organization against Texas A&M University in an effort to gain recognition as a student organization.

"The actual labels for sexual preference are homosexual, bisexual, heterosexual, asexual. Gay is a political attitude that says a person should be free to choose whom he loves and be able to discriminate that from gender," Mike M. said. "It shouldn't be a choice of the state, society or an institution."

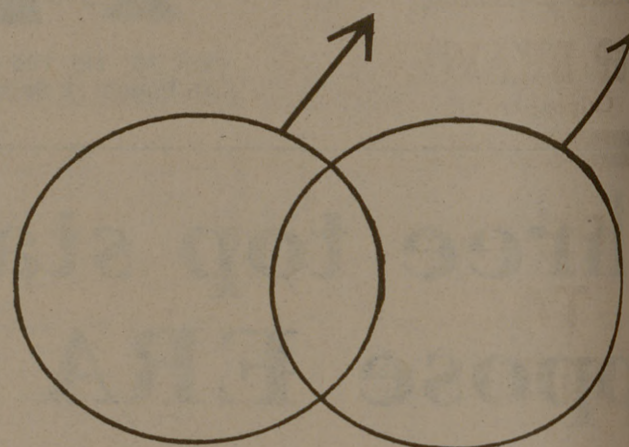
Keith Stewart, his roommate and co-plaintiff in the suit, said, "I think it also applies to a lifestyle, the way we carry on our lives. Gay people are less likely to view a particular sex act or preference as morally or socially wrong."

"When I transferred here as a sophomore, (University President) Jack Williams got all the transfer students together at the orientation and said, 'Welcome to Texas A&M, the school where there is no drugs, no sex, and no homosexuals,'" Keith said. He added that happened in 1973-1974.

"Just because this is a rural community, it doesn't mean there aren't and haven't always been gays here. We are not liberal elements from urban areas that are going to be here for four years and then rid the city of the pestilence," Mike M. said. He added that this community has about 15 businesses established by gay people, but he wouldn't name them.

There are more lesbians in the GSSO than there are gay men, he said.

"They don't have as much to lose or gain. The males here are very much afraid of being discovered.



They feel they would be persecuted. Speaking from personal experience, I don't think this is the case," said Mike G., an environmental design student, who didn't want his last name used. "I haven't been persecuted. My name came out last semester in The Battalion. I haven't even attempted to put up any kind of straight appearance since then."

"The social climate has changed so radically here, especially with the influx of women, there is really a different social attitude than when Mike was putting on his straight act," Mike M. said. "Most people wouldn't openly go up and punch you out because they knew you were queer. They would just snicker and point and say, 'My God, he's gay.'"

"I have had that happen," Keith said. "I'm glad I transferred here though. I think we have so much more than gay people in other college towns because we don't have bars here. We have to stick together. We have to like each other and get to know each other. In a large city like Austin, Houston, Waco, all those university places where they have bars, the gay people just see each other in the bars."

The group described gay bars as sexual marketplaces. Keith said that the large discos cater mainly to gay men and to "fag hags," straight women who like to be around gay men.

"Fag hag is one of those terms like queer, faggot and queen that is typical of any minority or stigmatized group. It's offensive coming from an outsider, but it's acceptable within the group," Mike M. said.

Frank said that less than 10 percent of all homosexuals frequent the bars, but everyone interviewed said they leave College Station often to go to the bars in Houston, Dallas or Austin.

Keith said the atmosphere at gay

bars is much freer in terms of playing than at straight bars. "We can be whatever we want. We can be masculine, we can be feminine. We can be in between. We can be neither," he said. "When I first met Keith, I thought he was a football type, really macho. The next time I saw him, I thought I cannot be the same person. He acted just the opposite, said who is heterosexual."

"This is a phenomenon of camping. It's an act that a person will put on to amuse himself but onlookers," Mike M. said.

He added that they "camped" several times in the community, for example at the Restaurant. On one such occasion one man had on a Japanese kimono, one was dressed in up pants with a rhinestone belt on the crotch, and one was dressed in a hooded caftan.

"One guy dressed up in drag went shopping in Skaggs. Two went to the Ring Dance together," Mike M. said.

"Seriously, on dancing together at the various bars here in town, try to do it discreetly like there is a big crowd," said Mike M. as everyone laughed.

Mike M. said, "We don't like any of the bars in town. We tried them..."

The rest of his sentence drowned out by laughter. He promanaded in dressed in a length black dress with a gold design.

"I thought I'd give you a demonstration of camp," he said. "Where did you dig up that of trash?" asked Mike G.

"Do you want me to get my demonstration on?" Mike asked. He left and came back dressed in shiny purple lame pants.

(See "Gay" Page 6)

The Battalion

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WHO is Robert Harvey representing?

Why did Robert Harvey vote against student input in the administration? (Senate Bill 77-032-11)

VOTE in the Student Election Runoffs April 14

pd. pol. announcement by the Concerned Students Group
Doug Skee, treasurer

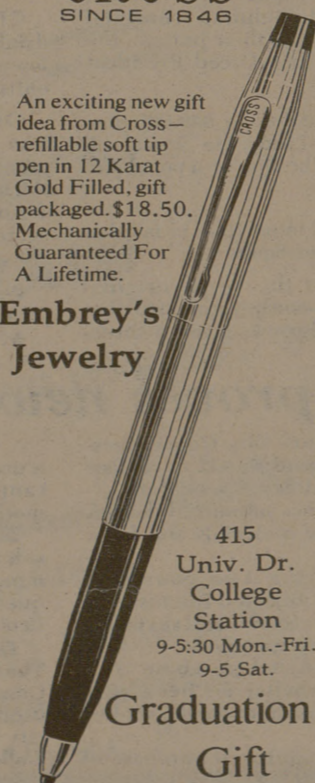
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