

Slouch By Jim Earle



"It's just like he writes home — he spends every night with his face in a book!"

Proof A&M is alive, thinking

Controversy: You bet.

For the last two weeks, tempers have flared all across campus about everything from the sanctity of traditions to the recognition of Greeks.

The result has been a flood of more than 150 letters to the editor. In an effort to clear some of the backlog of letters and to lay to rest some of these issues, today's Viewpoint section has been expanded to two pages.

Never in my career at Texas A&M has there been such a rush to appear on the editorial page. In the past, 150 letters might be the total for an entire year.

I'll take the current trend any day. Not because I want to see controversy just for the sake of controversy, but because it speaks of people responding to issues that affect their daily lives. It also points up that they recognize they have a place to turn where their voices can be heard. And they're using it.

There have been letters from not only students, but faculty and staff as well. The diversity of opinions has been amazing.

Angelique Copeland



Texas A&M is often criticized for being too conservative, but all sides of some very sensitive issues have been represented here on the editorial page.

Most of the letters have been critical of some group: the Greeks, the gays, the Corps, The Battalion. There have been some letters that criticized the criticism.

Someone asked me if I wouldn't like to see more positive editorials. I think it is more through this process of debate, questioning, challenging and even criticizing that we learn and eventually make the forward progression that is essential not only

on this campus but in every aspect of lives.

No person or group is perfect. With its admirable qualities, Texas A&M is perfect. And it is those few individuals who dare to question, to scoff and to laugh in the face of the self-proclaimed status quo who will raise the consciousness of others to recognize and then deal with our problems.

I am grateful for not only being able to express my opinions, but for being able to extend that privilege to you through Viewpoint page in The Battalion.

Together, we can address, debate, argue what course and direction this university should take. Freedom to express and even promote unpopular beliefs sets this country apart from all the rest. Many of the basic freedoms embodied in our constitution were once very unpopular ideas.

A few thought-provoking questions and criticisms never hurt anyone. If you suppress all friction, a machine will run fine. Suppress all friction here, and the University will down.

Greeks: acceptance comes slowly

Greeks: rapidly growing reality

Most Corps members that I know tend to accept Greeks, albeit reluctantly, being members of the largest fraternity on campus. Indeed, several members of the Corps are now active members of fraternities.

Instead, the antagonistic force in this melodrama is a group of neo-Nazi Hitler youth headquartered in that basilion of higher thinking on the northside of campus, Davis-Gary Hall. Last year, when a group of frat-rats took brillo pads and scrubbed their letters on the Academic building dome, the DG SS got together and marched on a frat house. Upon entrance of the frat house grounds, someone announced that they were Delta Gamma from Texas and they were there to party. Well, one thing lead to another and a near riot broke out, and the police had to break it up. Never mind that the Aggie Band had painted on the dome the same night. As one pillar of intellect rationalized: "they've been around for 100 years, they're allowed to do things like that." Destroy campus property? So much for Aggie brotherhood. By the way, Delta Gamma is a sorority, you big brutes.

Frank Vandiver was a fraternity adviser at Tulane University. John Koldus was a member of one at Arkansas. What are you going to do now, DG, march on the president's house? NUKE FRANK VANDIVER?!

Sorry to fester your paranoia, but you are all surrounded by Greeks, some even live in Davis-Gary Hall, and if you can't learn to live with it, than heed thy ancient Ag who once drivelled, "Highway Six runs both ways!"

It is reassuring to note that such literary genius still exists at Texas A&M in the form of one Thomas King.

Mike Burrichter '81

Greek system weakens spirit

Editor:

As a couple of former students, we have always been proud of the fact that all Aggies are tied together with a bond of friendship and camaraderie. When we were attending Texas A&M there was no need for social fraternities and sororities.

During a recent visit to the campus we were appalled to overhear a conversation in which three coeds were discussing "black balling" a fellow AGGIE from their greek social society. Is this the true AGGIE spirit?

Living near another Southwest Conference university, which we will not name, we have observed a fraternity and sorority system that is backed by both faculty and students. This system has split the school into small social groups, each primarily concerned with how much money and social status their parents have. It is a shame that the students unable to meet the warped social standards of these peer groups must be looked down upon as inferiors. Also, while they are always ready to brag about the greek social group they have pledged, they seem to take little pride in their own university, much unlike the PROUD tradition of TAMU.

Seriously Ag's, do we need to stoop this low? Have we lost the ability to meet people, make friends, and cultivate life-long friendships without the use of petty greek social organizations.

Isn't it enough to be PART of the finest group of men and women in the world, the Fightin' Texas AGGIES.

Ric Federwisch '77
Greg Karlik '79

Don't compare A&M greeks to tu

Editor:

This letter concerns the issue of Greeks at Texas A&M. For the four years I've been a student here, I've also been in a sorority. I've read many letters in The Battalion comparing the sororities and fraternities at Texas A&M to those at other schools (namely, t.u.), questioning the need for their existence, criticizing Greeks for their selection procedures, and referring to Greeks as "snobs" and "two-percenters." In all fairness, the other side should be known.

Greeks at Texas A&M are relatively new. Since we are new, people feel compelled to judge us by the Greek systems that exist at other schools. I don't think our Greek system even resembles that of t.u. or other schools. Sure, we have meetings, mixers, and houses, but A&M Greeks don't fit the typical stereotype. Our chapter has girls from many different backgrounds, hometowns, and lifestyles. The majority of our fathers don't make "six digit incomes and drive four cars." Our common ground is that we are all Aggies — and all proud of it. Being in a sorority isn't a substitute for that; it is a supplement to it.

You may argue that Ags have been around for more than 100 years and never

before needed to be "supplemented." Being in a sorority (or any organization that matter) enables one to interact with same people daily, provides an opportunity to establish lasting friendships, encourages the development of leadership qualities, teaches social graciousness, and serves as a reference group for people at a large university. The result of these merits of group affiliation is that the individual has the chance to experience more of life than just books. A sorority or fraternity is just one of the many ways we are "supplementing" being a student since school has grown so large and geographically spread out.

Greeks are also actively involved in the B-CS community. We collectively contribute thousands of dollars yearly for various philanthropies.

I can't deny that rush is a "selection procedure." Yet, so are Town Hall, Ross Valley, and many other student organizations. People choose lab partners — do we all choose our friends too? Many of our friends are not Greeks and I don't feel we have a "God to peon" relationship. Friendships exist when people have similar interests and enjoy each other's company not because they are or are not members of an organization.

Greeks are here to stay, recognized or not. In five short years, we've become one of the largest groups on campus. Obviously the need for such organizations should be evident by our growth rate. We will continue to support the philosophy "Ags and Greeks second." Whether or not people are open-minded enough to give something new to A&M a chance to prove their merits is a question that only time will tell.

Drue Townsend

Homosexuality: an explosive topic

What are you afraid of?

Editor:

Some say anger is born of ignorance and fear. Kenny Ray (and your 99 friends) what are you afraid of?

I am amazed at the violent and inhumane attitude found in Kenny Ray's "Reply to GSSO." He sounds as if gay people are low-life creatures who don't deserve to live on the same planet as the "normal" people. You, Kenny, gave no supporting evidence to your statement: "GSSO is a lying hypocritical organization." Where does the "hypocritical" part come in? Just because you say that there is no 10 percent gay population at A&M — are we supposed to take that as fact? If anyone would know what percentage of the university is gay — it would certainly be the gay people themselves. The reason you are so unaware of their numbers is because you close your eyes and mind to the possibility that gay people are human beings who live, breathe, eat, sleep, and go to football games like everyone else.

I'm willing to bet that you know at least one gay person. You will probably never discover it because who in their right mind would confide in someone so insensitive to their feelings as you seem to be? Being gay doesn't make a person sub-human. Just because a guy is gay, it doesn't mean he will

make passes at you or threaten your tough macho image, Kenny; it doesn't mean he will be attracted to every male that walks by either. It doesn't mean they are a bunch of child molesters, ass-grabbers, one-night-standers or sex crazed perverts. They are capable of monogamous love and caring just like anyone else.

Just because someone doesn't feel or act the way you do, it doesn't give you the right to condemn them. I have quite a few friends that I never knew were gay until recently — they are still the same beautiful people I cared about before. Whom they are attracted to or fall in love with is not for me to judge. You are not some special vigilante who has the right to tell people how to live or to beat up whoever doesn't meet with your approval. I'm sure you are not perfect.

What happened to such things as: sensitivity, open-mindedness, caring, Christianity, and understanding? Do those things only apply to where "you" see fit? You have the right to feel the way you want about what is right and wrong for "you" — but you shouldn't be given the right to condemn and abuse other people because they are different.

If every man on earth were as insensitive, narrow-minded and judgmental as you appear to be in your letter — I'd probably be gay too.

Mary Rose Gibson

Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by 12 other signatures.

Violence is not ever a solution

Editor:

This letter is in regard to Kenny Ray's "Reply to GSSO" in the Oct. 27 Battalion.

Mr. Ray, I am not, nor do I associate myself with anyone gay. I do, however, see a slight problem with your letter.

Whether or not 10 percent of the A&M campus is gay is irrelevant. The fact is, gay people are here, and to quote you, if "we could beat the hell outta the GSSO and all its kooky-queers," we probably could not get rid of the gay population.

You suggest that we have them wear big pink buttons, proclaiming "I am Gay." Are you aware that this was tried once before? A few years back, a political organization required all people with opinions opposite its own to wear stars which marked what the individual's "offense" against society was. Yellow indicated Judaism, and pink indicated homosexuality, etc. The political party was the National Sozialistich Partei Deutschland. Its leader was Adolf Hitler. We call it the Nazi Party. It did not work then, nor will violence or buttons work now.

I suggest that the rest of the Aggie population accept these people as people with a different lifestyle. They do not wish to impose their lifestyle on us, nor should we on them. Some may be asking for help, others

for acceptance, others just to be left alone. I ask all Aggies: Do you think violence and prejudice can solve anything?

If you can answer yes, talk to Adolf Hitler. I hear he needs some new recruits ...

Ashley Ellis '85

GSSO shouldn't use tax money

Editor:

As a concerned citizen and an avowed Aggie, I am writing in response in the recent rash of letters concerning the Gay Student Service Organization (GSSO). First of all, I consider myself to be a normal heterosexual and I find the current "trend" towards homosexuality appalling. It is extremely hard for me to believe that one out of 10 people are TRUE homosexuals. However, I don't feel that "beating the hell out of any queer" will solve the problem or ease the tension it creates.

To the GSSO I would like to point out the inconsistency in your quest for recognition and acceptance. You complain of hostility towards yourselves arising solely on the basis of your sexual preferences — yet you form clubs and seek University recognition on this basis alone. I agree, what you do in the privacy of your own homes is your business — however what you do in public becomes mine and that of any other responsible citizen.

University recognition of the GSSO would be utterly ridiculous. If this group is recognized solely on the basis of their sexual preferences, where will this recognition end? Will we soon be recognizing the Sex Students Service Organization of Sado-Masochism Awareness Club? Seriously, I don't feel that the tax dollars myself or my friends and family should be used to promote the sexual aberration of the GSSO or any other group.

Bob Morrow

Better fruitful than just a fruit

Editor:

I don't feel that I should glorify the subject of faggotry with a long discussion of my own personal views. There will be plenty more people writing letters, explaining their point of view is right for such a reason. From the point of view of being "straight," however, I find it encouraging that everyone in my category being fruitful and multiplying, while rest are just being fruits. Look at the other side, Ags ... homosexuality can't be beat.

Riley B. Rain