

opinion

Letters: Gay writer raises questions

Editor:

This is in reply to Miss Brown's letter last week. I would first like to thank her for raising a very real question that I think we all could benefit from pondering: "Why are homosexual people treated so differently from others?"

I am not gay. In fact, I have personally always felt disgust and confusion when considering the issue of homosexuality. Miss Brown, I would like to thank you for reminding me of the importance of equality and respect for all — no matter what race, religion or sexual preference one may have. Now, please do not get me wrong, I am not endorsing a public campaign of "Aggies Show Gay Support," but I do think that individually, we should ponder our motives before tossing out a faggot joke or biggoted remark (tell a longhorn joke instead!).

Texas A&M is not a university that discriminates against minorities, so why should we, as individuals?

Miss Brown, although I do not support the concept of homosexuality, I applaud you for your honesty and courage.

Donna Scheider

Gays in minority

Editor:

This letter is in response to The Battalion on Oct. 26. Maybe you do all the things a "Basic Aggie" does on campus, but you can not leave out the most important thing that makes us individuals: our personalities.

Maybe you have no choice in your sexual tendencies, but we all are born into situations in which we have no choice. As far as I'm concerned, gays have been, are and always will be minorities. My advice is to ept the situation and deal with it. If you expect to get any special sympathy or consideration from the other 35,000 of us, you can forget it! Your frustration about the jokes is only a sign that you are insecure about your own sexuality. If you really have accepted being gay, the jokes shouldn't bother you. In society today, the ridicule will accompany you wherever you go. Maybe in 200 years, homosexuals

will be more accepted in society, but until then, get used to it.

Ray Watson '85

Gays not singled out

Editor:

In response to "Basic Aggie Gay," I would like to suggest that Ms. Brown take a good look around. Gays are not singled out on this campus as scapegoats for any jokes anymore than any other group. If she is sure that gays are just like everyone else, then why is it that they should not be the butt of jokes, just like everyone else? There are jokes about the Corps, the non-regs, the greeks, the Jews, the Catholics, the Polish, the rich, the poor, etc.

Wisen up, Ms. Brown — if the gays are to be like everyone else, then they must take the ridicule, too — no special treatment.

Carolyn Curry

Pedestrians liable

Editor:

This letter is in response to a letter written by Mr. Weiss on Oct. 24.

Mr. Weiss, when did you become an authority on the traffic laws of this state? What you stated in your letter about pedestrians always having the right-of-way is absolutely false. If you have ever been in an auto-pedestrian accident, you will find that a pedestrian has the right-of-way only at an intersection or a crosswalk. I can also tell you that a pedestrian can be charged with failure to yield right-of-way.

I believe that it would be advisable in the future, Mr. Weiss, to check your facts thoroughly before you go about dispensing your advice to people who may just believe you.

Brian A. Koontz '86

Obnoxious, part 2

Since the publishing of a column a few weeks ago about obnoxious people, I have been approached by several students who have wanted to read more about obnoxiousness.

Well here it is folks, Obnoxious: Book II.

Obnoxious: Book II is dedicated to a guy I danced with recently at the Texas Hall of Fame. We were dancing when he asked me, "Aren't there any dance halls in Amarillo?"

"Well, there is one," I answered innocently. I then added, with a little laugh, "Why? Am I doing that bad?"

"Well you aren't the best person I have ever danced with," he said.

I wanted to tell him that no one is a great dancer after 12:30 a.m. and several beers.

Mr. Obnoxious Dancer . . . this one's for you.

One of the most obnoxious things in the world are pants that shrink while hanging in the closet for several months.

Girls who dress up as hobos for Halloween in their week-old Calvin Kleins are as obnoxious as people who never have wrinkled clothes.

People who have no sense of humor are extremely obnoxious as are people



kari fluegel

who get on an elevator to go up only one floor.

Another thing that is high up on the list of obnoxiousness is when a police officer tickets a person for going 75 mph in a 45-mph zone when he was really only going 71 mph.

Personally, I call it obnoxious if anyone can eat barbeque chicken on a first date without making a complete mess.

So is a person who can eat two hamburgers, a burrito, a chili dog, two orders of french fries, a six-pack of beer and a fried pie, and not burp. After eating all that he should have at least enough human decency to feel a little bit uncomfortable.

Those fiends who take other people's

clothes out of the dryer before they are as obnoxious as those people who always seem to find an open machine.

People whose class schedules come out scheduled around the rite soap operas are obnoxious.

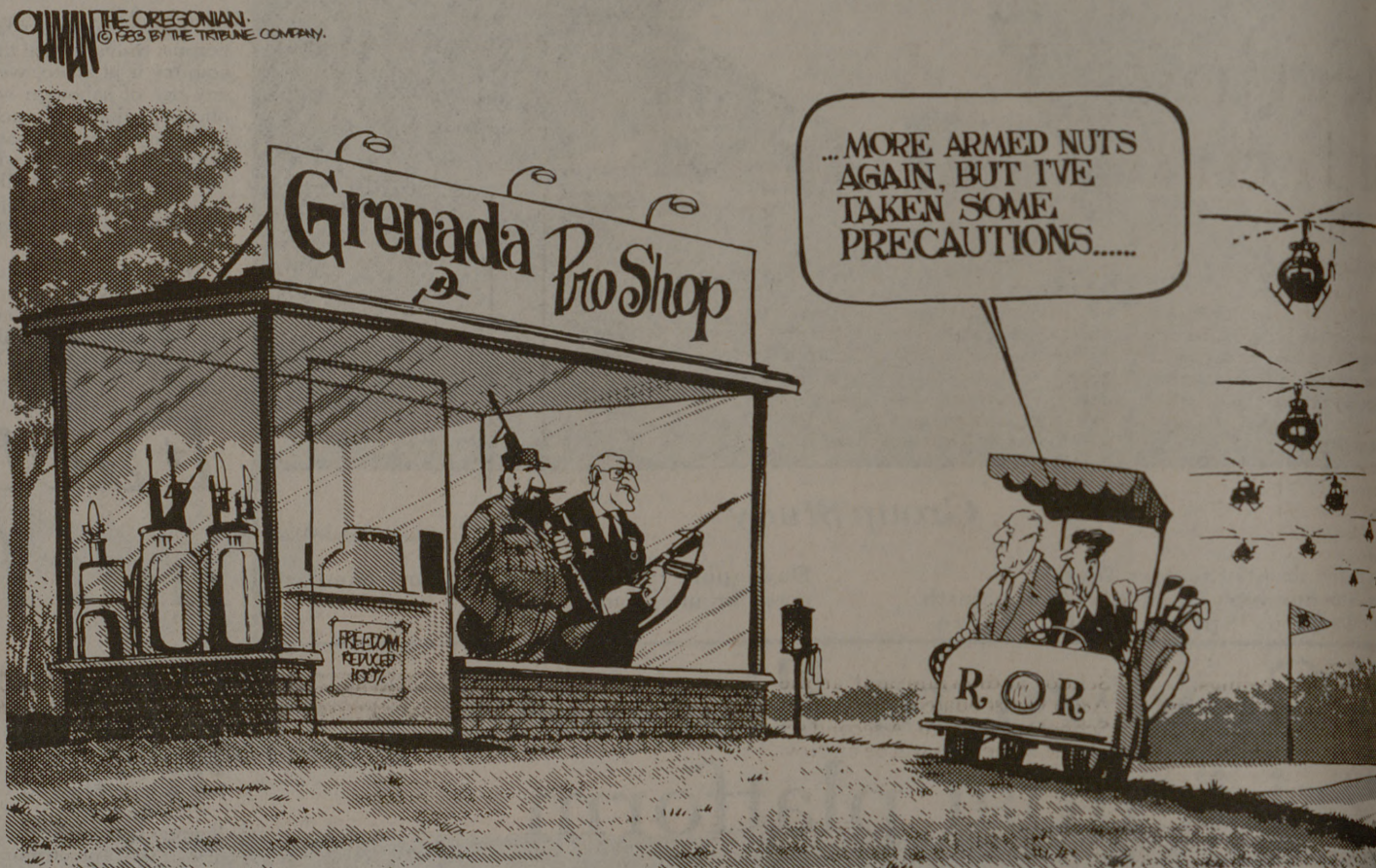
Students who claim to be failing and then confess to having an 88 average are really obnoxious.

Anyone who studies in lieu of immediately after a football game is obnoxious but he is probably the person who claims to be flunking out of school.

If you want to get downright obnoxious, goody-two-shoes student, then confess to having an 88 average. Everyone has done it at least one of these general righteously. You know who the student in a class of 150 who the professor knows will read the assignment fore class.

But probably the most obnoxious are those who swear they will do their final project done before giving and then actually do it.

The only people who are more obnoxious than those who finish projects are the ones who count down the days until Thanksgiving. By the time there are only 22 days to turkey



Tip O'Neill's blindfold patriotism out of style

by Steve Gerstel
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Speaker Thomas O'Neill, now nearing 71, may be living in a political world that no longer exists — a world that died in the Vietnam War. O'Neill's old-fashioned approach during a national crisis is to rally around the flag on whatever foreign soil it is planted by American Marines, American Rangers.

In the past month, O'Neill has given a remarkable demonstration of this form of blindfold patriotism.

To begin with, O'Neill strongly supported an 18-month extension of the U.S.

presence in Lebanon, as requested by President Reagan.

This, despite the serious misgivings among many younger, more vocal Democrats under his command and the near-unanimous opposition of Senate Democrats.

After the Beirut massacre, O'Neill once again rallied to Reagan's call that the Marines must stay in Lebanon.

And in the days after the invasion of tiny Grenada by 2,000 U.S. soldiers and leathernecks, the speaker refused to criticize the administration's action, of which he was informed but on which he was not consulted.

"I'll have plenty to say about this after

the action is over," O'Neill said on the second day of fighting in Grenada. "This is not the time in my opinion for my party or the press to try to divide the nation."

"It's great to be partisan but there are times when people have to be patriotic too," O'Neill said. "I'll have plenty to say about Grenada when the action is over and our boys are secure."

O'Neill's genuine patriotism and his sincere efforts not to make either Lebanon or Grenada a partisan issue are laudable.

Yet, in neither case would O'Neill's criticism endanger the security of Americans under fire.

What is lost, however, is a major voice

in opposition. And only O'Neill, as the highest-ranking elected Democrat, can provide that.

The criticism leveled at the administration's policies in Lebanon and the invasion of Grenada by rank-and-file Democrats, in addition to good number of Republicans, has negligible impact.

The O'Neill approach was the prevailing one in Congress during the Korean War, the invasion of the Dominican Republic and the Vietnam War.

Only because it existed, was President Lyndon Johnson able to rush through the Gulf of Tonkin resolution — which he then used as a virtual declaration of war.

Only two back-bench senators Ernest Gruening of Alaska and Morse of Oregon — rose in opposition smothered by their colleagues to give Johnson a free hand.

The unquestioning loyalty to a identical action that sends American combat is no longer valid. Many Democrats, and some of the Republicans, recognize that.

"I'll have my views and my say what the president did, whether he was right or wrong, when I think the proper time to speak up," O'Neill said after the invasion of Grenada.

That, in O'Neill's case, is really

Auto safety proposals overdone

by Dick West
United Press International

WASHINGTON — A third brake light the government has ordered installed on all new cars beginning in 1985 still does not meet all the safety concerns of some of the more nervous organizations.

For example, Dale Lowdermilk, executive director of NOT SAFE, has called for a "twelfth light" by 1993 and "a full set of brightly colored blinking strobes" by the turn of the century.

As part of its goal of "protecting everyone from everything at any cost," NOT SAFE subscribes to the motto that "if it's worth doing right, it's worth over doing." Only the very rash could quarrel with that precept.

Two years hence, an extra taillight, mounted near the rear window, will emit a red glow when the car's brakes are applied. Although this may help prevent rear-end collisions, as the Transportation Department envisions, it gives no warning to drivers approaching from the other direction.

Neither, I might add, would the pinball machine lighting arrangement advocated by Lowdermilk.

Even a regulation requiring that autos have front brake lights wouldn't go far enough. There still would be no light to

flash automatically when the braking car reached a stop.

Would not motorists feel safer if they knew another driver was slowing down without braking? You bet they would. Lights to indicate a reduction in velocity are an idea whose time has come.

I don't necessarily agree with Lowdermilk on the need for a 15 mph national speed limit. Nor do I endorse his demand for "radar guided lasers" to "incinerate the tires of any auto following too closely."

I can't even urge that the Transportation Department require that new motor vehicles be equipped with rear bumper gadgets that would simulate screeching brakes and tire smoke.

I do, however, second Lowdermilk's motion that all cars have "a special tamper-proof electro-shock device" that would be activated whenever a car is speeding.

"Ten thousands volts can be a great safety tool," Lowdermilk writes in his latest news release.

Yes, but electrocuting a speeder might be carrying the safety campaign too far. Merely galvanizing the driver should suffice. Nobody wants to drive for long all a-tingle from an electrified car seat. If need be, however, the electro-shock

device could be augmented by a atop the car. It would burn when it exceeded the speed limit and turn when the brake light came on.

Slouch by Jim Earl



"We need your signature this letter to the editor. We figure out what the issue is going to be later."

The Battalion

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and telephone number of the writer.

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