

opinion

Letters: Jeans-clad gays, straights at odds

Editor:

This letter is written in rebuttal to the annual "Blue Jeans Day" sponsored by Alternative (the organization of the Brazos Valley's Gay Community), Gay Student Services and the Metropolitan Community Church of the Brazos Valley.

On this day they are requesting that homosexuals, their parents, friends, supporters and spouses dress in blue jeans to symbolize their support for homosexual rights. Their purpose is to show that the community supports homosexual rights, and that this support warrants the end of "discrimination" against them.

In view of the fact that the majority of the residents wear blue jeans, this is a ludicrous attempt to propagate support for homosexuality by using common, everyday apparel. This can result in an obvious misrepresentation of the truth.

Another point of misrepresentation is homosexuals terming their opponents "homophobics." Fear and irrationality is not the motive, but knowledge that the act of homosexuality is wrong. People are not meant to be in bondage to such defilement.

The homosexuals' goal is to include sexual orientation with race, color, creed, sex, and national origin, among the existing protected rights. To amend this undermines the basic family unit and biblical principles, on which America was founded. The destruction of our foundation can only lead, and in fact is leading, to the ruin of America.

Secondly, people are not born homosexuals. The Bible states:

"Therefore God gave them over in the lists of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever.

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire towards one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error (AIDS)." Romans 1:24-27.

"Blue Jeans Day" is only a sad attempt to justify a lifestyle that is unacceptable to the majority of the public here at Texas A&M. Using our basic clothing — blue jeans — shows just how desperate they are for approval.

Mark D. Chambers
(Editor's note: This letter was accompanied by three signatures.)

Jeans show support

Recent polls indicate that non-gay people who personally know gay people are far more likely to support gay rights than those who do not realize there are gay people they care about in their lives.

Lenny Depalma

"Coming out" is undoubtedly the most effective educational tool available to gay people as we try to change people's attitudes about homosexuality and lesbianism. It is certainly true that there is a wider acceptance of gay people in American society than there was twenty years ago.

Self-acknowledged lesbians and gay men constitute a very substantial segment of American society. According to the authoritative Kinsey study, 10 percent of the total populace is predominately gay. This means that at least 20 million Americans (or, one child in every five American families) are gay. This same likelihood would be true for any ten men or women we customarily deal with in our daily lives (one of those ten is gay). To put this in perspective, we can easily see that at Texas A&M University, with a student enrollment of 35,000, this would translate into 3,500 gays on campus. This easily and without question constitutes the single largest group of minority students on campus without a university-recognized organization to represent it. (In fact, it represents a larger body of people than the Corps of Cadets). Virtually everyone in America knows someone who is gay, even though most of them are unaware of the gays around them.

The gay movement is demanding an end to all forms of private and public discrimination, and is working to amend all local, state, and federal civil rights legislation to include sexual orientation along with race, color, creed, sex, and national origin as an illegal basis for discrimination. We are not asking for something special; we are demanding our right to be on a par with all other citizens, to be considered on our individual merits.

In an effort to combat homophobia and discrimination, Alternative (the organization of the Brazos Valley's Gay Community), Gay Student Services, and the Metropolitan Community Church of the Brazos Valley have designated Wednesday, November 16 as "Blue Jeans Day" in the Brazos Valley. On this day we are asking gays, their parents, friends, supporters, and spouses to wear blue jeans as a sign of support for gay rights. It is hoped that this "coming out" and show of support will serve to emphasize that in fact, gays and our allies are everywhere and that discrimination against us should cease.

We are well aware that this action by the gay community is likely to elicit howls of righteous indignation from the self-appointed defenders of the public morals, and we will not be surprised if some people spend a great deal of time looking for something besides blue-jeans to wear on November 16th. We believe this kind of behaviour speaks for itself.

Though a certain few people may go jean-less, it is our hope that blue jeans day will be the beginning of an education and growth process which will benefit us all. It is our belief that such a process can lead to a very real understanding of the problems faced by gays and will foster the type of communication necessary to correct the problems which currently separate us: one branch of humanity from the other.

Editor's note: The Battalion will run letters pertaining to the rights of homosexuals at Texas A&M and "Blue Jean Day" today and Wednesday. After Wednesday, The Battalion will not run letters on those subjects. This action is necessary to maintain a flow of ideas and discussion of current topics in letters to the editor.

Aggies and equality

Editor:

"Equalitarianism: A belief in human equality especially with respect to social, political and economic rights and privileges."

This concept is the cornerstone of the "American Dream", it's a battered and abused idea, but nevertheless it is the foundation of our system. Aggies, as the leaders of tomorrow's America, we need to learn a few important things. It seems as though we are sadly lacking in understanding of what it means to be an American.

Without the "Freedom of Choice" promised by our Democratic system, there would be no "C.T.'s", no "Non-Reg's", there would be no rowdy Greeks, no vocal Gays, — and there would also be no Ags, good or bad. A lot of good men, (and women) have fought and died to

protect YOUR right to choose your own lifestyle, they didn't make that sacrifice so each of us could try to make others live according to our personal beliefs, they did it to establish and protect our individual freedoms, — who are we to judge or deny that freedom to others?

William Macevevic III

Cigarettes nauseating

Editor:

A fitting celebration for the "Smoke-out" in November would be for the University to prohibit smoking in all buildings, take cigarette machines off of the campus, and place signs over the campus ordering inconsiderate smokers to not throw their butts on the grounds. While smoking is a well-established health hazard for both the smoker and the involuntary smoker, nothing is more nauseating than eating in one of the campus cafeterias which is full of ambient smoke or being trapped in a professor's or employee's office in smoke.

Allowing smoking indoors is unconscionable disregard for the health and comfort of the majority of the Aggies and employees who do not smoke. If the air outdoors was as polluted and irritating as that in the MSC cafeteria or a professor's office everyone would demand action to cleanse it, so why must the non-smoker be

forced to breath such irritating air doors?

James V. Carr

Let Nixon speak

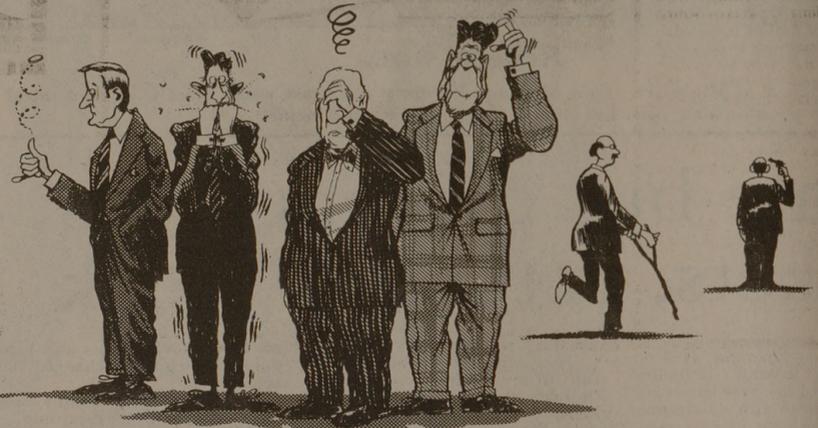
Editor:

Though I am completely ignorant of the operations of the Endowed Learning Series Committee of the Memorial Student Center, I must disagree with Heye's point (Reader's Forum Oct. 1983) that inviting Richard Nixon to speak arms control would be synonymous with officially forgiving and forgetting connections with the Watergate case years ago.

Who proposed forgiveness? It is fortunate that the relevance of these situations must even be argued. We have all seen the hate and judgements passed. Unless forgiveness is formally granted the committee would simply be inviting the man to speak on an important subject in which he happens to have some personal experience. Certainly, Mr. Nixon's reputation has been widely, popularly, perhaps deservedly defiled. Is this a sufficient reason to potentially deepen our ignorance? I hope such decisions made by the committee are made free of such blinding and crippling hatred. As for honor and reputation of the University — what's honorable and reputable about inviting only adequately pure and uncontroverial persons to say pleasant-soothing things?

Scott Cap...

The Crack Reagan Foreign Policy Team Choosing Sides Between Soviet-Backed Syria and the PLO's Yasser Arafat...



Ohio voters realize that tax cuts are not always good

by Arnold Sawislak

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The most interesting and potentially most significant result from the elections a week ago was the vote in Ohio rejecting a repeal of a huge increase in the state income tax.

It always is dangerous to compare similar cases in dissimilar environments, but it is tempting to believe that the Ohio referendum signalled the end of the tax-cutting mania that appeared to be possessing American voters ever since California approved its Proposition 13 in 1978.

No one can sensibly defend high taxes for their own sake, but there is an argument to be made for the proposition that Americans generally don't realize what a bargain they are getting for their taxes. It won't be made here, but it needs to be noted that not everyone believes the well-being of the country improves in direct proportion to the reduction of taxes.

In any case, the tax-cutting fever that swept eastward from California after Proposition 13 did seem to thrive on the premise that all taxes were bad and all measures to cut or eliminate taxes were good. The correlative was that cutting taxes would force government to be more efficient.

Those are attractive but irresponsible and erroneous ideas. We have seen on a national level that deep tax cuts do not force equally deep spending cuts. Instead, they have propelled the country

into an area of deficit financing that would have been regarded only a few years ago as madness.

As George McGovern said recently, "If I had suggested we might have a \$200 billion deficit when I was running for president, I wouldn't even have carried Massachusetts."

How the world has changed since 1972. The United States already has had one deficit in the \$200 billion range and no one in authority disputes that more and bigger red ink years are ahead.

Everyone publicly deplors the deficit situation, but there is no indication at this time that anyone in Washington has the faintest notion how to break the impasse that has developed around it.

The president blames Congress for refusing to cut federal spending more; Congress blames the president for refusing to even consider tax increases. Proposals to do both — dividing the pain, so to speak — have been made but neither side seems willing to compromise.

In truth, the president and Congress seem to be engaged in a game of "chicken," each counting on the other to change course before disaster occurs. So it appears the country will have to discover the consequences of mega-deficits by living through them.

Neither the people of Ohio nor the United States can reasonably be expected

to do something that takes money out of their own pockets without good reason. From everything that came out of Ohio appears the tax repeal was killed because the state's leaders, in and out of government, made a case against it.

There does not seem to be that kind of leadership in Washington to deal with a deficit problem.

Slouch by Jim Earle



"I wonder if you might have overlooked the problem of grading those papers when you made those assignments?"

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

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.

Columns and guest editorials also are welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (409) 845-2611.

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