

Malicious acts not 'good bull'

Pranks — especially quadding — have long been a part of dorm life at Texas A&M. Both friends and enemies fall victim to the perpetrators and, more often than not, nothing worse than someone's pride has been hurt.

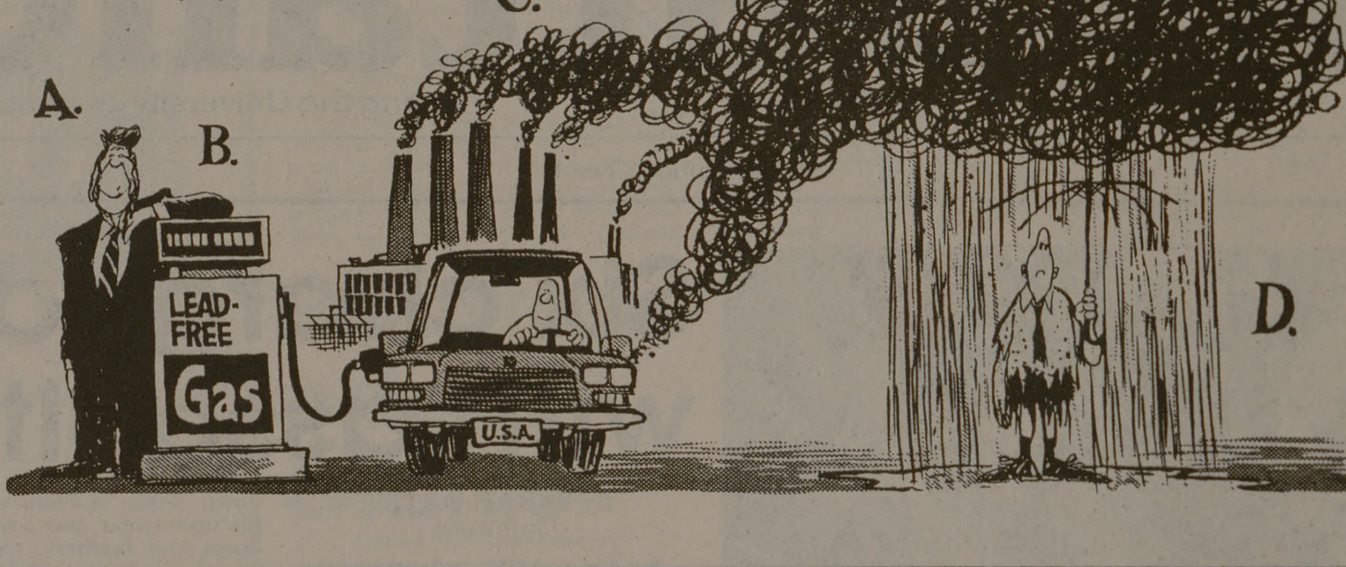
But this week a student living in Underwood Hall was stripped, covered with molasses and feathers and dumped in front of a local restaurant. That's not a prank — it's a malicious attack.

And it's the type of action that reflects poorly upon everyone at the University. It's incomprehensible that a group of students at a school like Texas A&M could be so insensitive toward a fellow student for any reason.

This kind of behavior cannot be tolerated. Students have a responsibility to ensure that actions such as this one do not happen just because the perpetrators consider it to be "good bull."

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Reagan administration (A) gets the lead out of gas (B). However, the same administration is lackadaisical about pollution standards (C), causing one to wonder when it is going to get the lead out and do something about acid rain (D).



Business booming for CIA

By ART BUCHWALD
Columnist for
The Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Many stories have come out about the CIA, but this is one that is still buried secretly in the archives. It has to do with an agent named Greensleeves. He was young, energetic, and imaginative. The CIA decided to set him up in a souvenir shop across the street from the palace of a Central American dictator, where he could keep tabs on the comings and goings of government officials.

They gave him enough money to buy the shop and the souvenirs so the operation would be legitimate. The exchange of cables, after they were decoded, tells the story.

"CIA Headquarters, Langley: Business excellent. Have sold \$16,000 worth of souvenirs thanks to Dictator Tacos' three-day anniversary celebration in front of palace. Please tell our people in Taiwan I need more Tacos ashtrays, paperweights and letter openers. If all right with you, am planning a sale on Tacos music boxes that play 'South of the Border.' — Greensleeves."

"Greensleeves: Glad to hear you are doing well businesswise, but what the hell is going on at the palace? We hear Tacos may be overthrown by right-wing colonels. Please advise at once — Frogmaster."

"CIA Headquarters, Langley: Sorry I have been too busy taking inventory to pay much attention to palace, but have good news. Expect sales figures in June up 20 percent over May. Had to pay off customs to get cigar lighters into country, but will add bribe to price of item. — Greensleeves."

"Greensleeves: Why no word from you on Tacos assassination attempt and his exile from country? Who is now in charge of Paella? Urgent need list of junta and whether it's pro or anti-American. — Frogmaster."

"CIA Headquarters, Langley: Agency has nothing to fear from Tacos overthrow. I got wind of it two weeks ago and had Tacos Birthday Sale on Saturday, where I marked down all Dictator Tacos items 50 percent. The bronze busts moved especially well. We also unloaded 4,000 plates with portraits of Mrs. Tacos. Only item that didn't sell as expected was night-light of Tacos standing next to Virgin Mary. Tell our Hong Kong people that I am sending them photograph of Colonel Chiu which I would like them to have framed with sea shells. Also need 3,000 beer mugs commemorating the junta's revolution of July 5. — Greensleeves."

"Greensleeves: What information do you have concerning naval attack on Paella by neighboring country of Enchilada? Understand shelling destroyed half of downtown as well as Soviet, British, French, and Chinese embassies. — Frogmaster."

"CIA Headquarters, Langley: U.S. Ambassador was kidnapped three days ago. One of my salespeople has brother who told her about kidnapping plans last week. I immediately took steps to check Ambassador's charge account. He owed us \$89. Managed to get his check before he was grabbed. We haven't lost a dime on him. Any chance of shipping Fidel Castro baseball caps? They're expecting 15,000 armed Cuban tourists, and it could be hottest item this summer."

GSS leader fights misconceptions

Editor:

Lately it seems that Battalion readers, Eagle readers, and KBTX viewers have been subjected to a lot of news and information concerning Gay Student Services. Apparently, everyone has something to say about what GSS stands for or what its aims are. It is obvious by all the articles in the paper that few people actually know what our intents and purposes are. At this point we, the Board of GSS, feel it is time that we spoke for ourselves. We are thus writing this letter to explain, once and for all, the purposes behind GSS.

First of all, what GSS is not: GSS is not a fraternity, nor is it a social organization. GSS is not devoted to sexual promiscuity, and it is not a dating service. In fact, the organization is not based on sex at all. What binds us together is our concerns for the needs of gay men and women.

GSS is an organization devoted to providing a range of services designed to meet the needs of gay students and promoting awareness and under-

standing about gay issues on campus as well as off. These services include:

1. The Gayline — a confidential referral and information service which can also be used by gay students for peer counseling.
2. A roommate service for gay students.
3. A Speakers Forum, in which we invite professionals and others to speak on gay-related issues.
4. A Speakers Bureau, in which we provide speakers to discuss gay issues before any organization or class which requests them.

Concerning the article by Steve Thomas in the Aug. 7 issue of The Battalion: Steve, although we are sympathetic with some of your concerns, there are two essential misconceptions which you harbor that render your protests moot. The first is your comparison of homosexuality, which is a sexual identity, with fornication and other sexual acts. In fact, you state that "homosexuality is a method of having sex." This is simply not true! One may

Reader's Forum

be homosexual and never have sex, or one may

have homosexual encounters without themselves being homosexual. Homosexuality is not a chosen state, however acts such as fornication, sodomy, and bestiality are acts one may or may not choose to perform.

Your second misconception concerns the state support of GSS. As far as Joe Taxpayer is concerned, one out of every 10 Joes is gay. By your own reasoning, then, we are entitled to 10 percent of state funds since the 10 percent gay population would certainly support a gay organization. The fact is that we have only requested recognition by Texas A&M University, and that does not necessarily guarantee funding. Incidentally, the only reason we requested recognition was to fulfill University requirements that anyone who wishes to advertise and meet on campus must be recognized.

In response to Steve Patti's letter of Aug. 8, other organizations that re-

ceive funding are not also listed on fee slips. We are sure that many of these groups are not supported by the whole of the campus. In addition, the Ku Klux Klan differs dramatically from the GSS in that the KKK is dedicated to the denial of civil rights whereas our group is only trying to protect these rights. And as far as necrophilia is concerned, homosexual acts require two consenting adults, while necrophilia does not.

Finally, we would like to applaud The Battalion Editorial Board for its brave and firm stand in supporting human rights. We certainly understand the problems their courageous position might cause them.

One last note — we would like to say that when we do get on campus, we will cooperate fully with the University in becoming a contributing and productive part of the campus community.

Marco A. Roberts
President, Gay Student Services

Letters:

GSS editorial admirable, column not

Editor:

I commend The Battalion Editorial Board for its Aug. 7 editorial, "GSS recognition a step forward." Texas A&M's student body needs these examples of fairness and good sense more often.

Steve Thomas's column on the same page deserves comment. Thomas thinks no "sexually-based organization" should be recognized by any university anywhere. The crux of his argument lies in his fairly limited understanding of gay rights: that homosexuality is nothing more complicated than "a method of having sex" and "a private affair" and therefore not the basis of a genuine civil rights problem.

Because I'm heterosexual, my "method of having sex" is, in fact, a private thing; no one is likely to judge me, fire me, disown me, prevent my becoming a schoolteacher or soldier, or ridicule me in public because I sleep with my husband. Gays, however, get fired from their jobs; they're in danger of being "found out" no matter how privately or discreetly they conduct themselves; Phil Gramm, Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate (and insensitive clod extraordinaire) doesn't want one of "them" teaching his kids. Clearly, homosexuality in our culture is more than sexual preference — it's a minority lifestyle that attracts a whole array of vicious stereotyping, discrimination, and stomach-turning hatred.

I'm inspired by GSS's courage and heartened by their victory. More power to them!

Kristin Parsons

Homosexuality a deviation against God

Editor:

I couldn't believe it either. Rev. Miller defends the actions of homosexuals by protecting them with the often abused claim for rights. There are no such things as "homosexual rights." There are, however, homosexual wrongs. These wrongs have originated from the turning away from the natural order of species, to commit unnatural acts of sexual deviancy. Homosexuality (sex with one of the same sex), pedophilia (sex with little children), necrophilia (sex with cadavers), and bestiality (sex with animals) are all deviants from normal human relationships.

Remember that the basic unit of government is the family; its primary purpose is reproduction for the con-

tinuation of the human species. Any of the above relationships only nurture self-gratification, not procreation. Be fruitful and multiply...

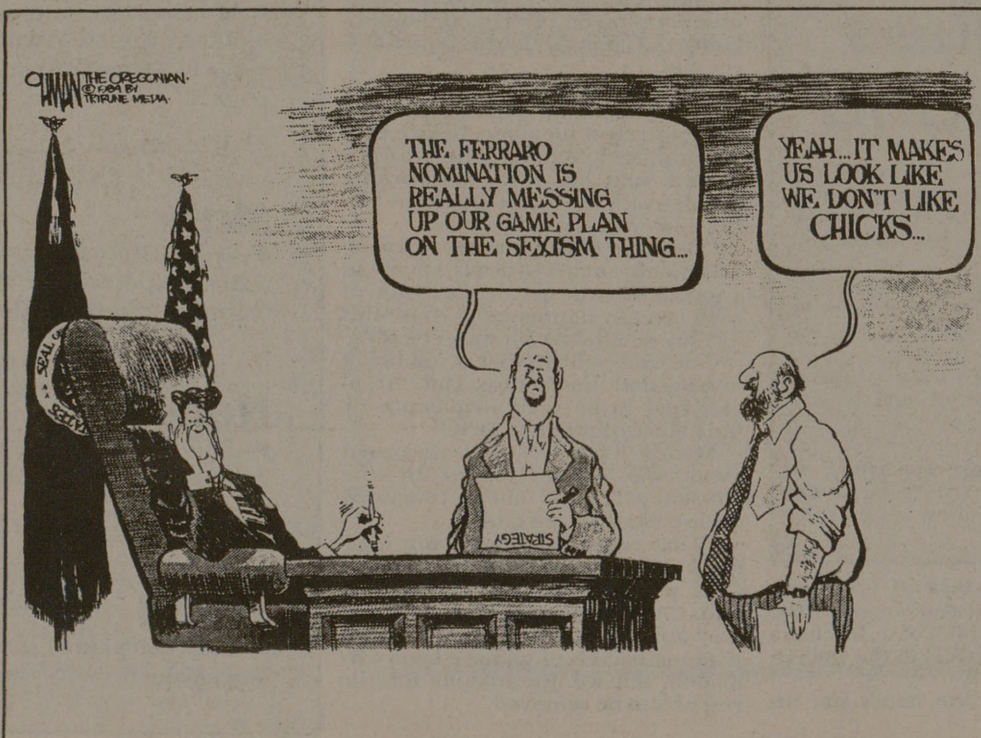
Rev. Miller has claimed God-given love for those of his kind. Perhaps he knows of another god, for God would never condone such actions. How conveniently he has forgotten or ignored the many passages of the Bible which specifically prohibit or sanction those actions. After all, God did create Adam and Eve, not Bruce and Jack.

Whether a criminal commits an unlawful action in private or not has no bearing on the wrongfulness of the action. Obsession for justice is not only right, it is necessary. Homosexuality is an example of a crumbling society, not

rightful socializing. So when you feel persecuted, I hope you realize that you are and should be. If we hold prejudice against what is wrong, so be it! If we pass judgement (and expect the Lord to do so) on crimes against humanity, so be it!

As long as a man and his sheep (or boy or corpse or homosexual partner) cannot walk down the street holding hands (or hoofs) or kiss goodbye at a train station (or barn or casket), we will have retained the decency that the human race deserves, and our society will not collapse into oblivion.

Benito Flores-Meath
Class of '83



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