

OPINION

Discrimination should not be A&M tradition

Federal Judge Ross Sterling ruled Thursday the Texas Aggie Band Association has no legal right to intervene in Melanie Zentgraf's sexual discrimination case against Texas A&M. Sterling ruled A&M must accept the decision of Attorney General Jim Mattox, who represents all state institutions in the courts.

Mattox has already agreed women should be allowed to join all Corps programs, including the band and the Ross Volunteers, and signed a consent decree with Zentgraf's attorney, settling the case.

The Texas A&M Board of Regents and the Band Association, a group of band alumni, have been arguing that Mattox had no right to settle the case without A&M's approval and therefore should not be allowed to represent A&M.

In a prepared statement, the Regents "expressed dismay that our Attorney General was not a fighter," and did not deem it worthwhile to fight to preserve the "Fighting Texas Aggie Band" as "a very distinctive and unique organization unlike any other volunteer organization in the country."

The Regents and their lawyer, John Tyler, have vowed to appeal the decision — even though such an appeal could take many years and many dollars to beat its way, in vain, through legal red tape.

Welcome to the 1980s, fellows. Trying to preserve a distinctive and unique organization is one thing; violating the Fourteenth Amendment is something else entirely. Banning women from joining the band is discrimination, pure and simple. And it's unconstitutional.

Trying to deny such a fundamental constitutional right as equal opportunity is ludicrous. If the Regents refuse to accept reality and insist on continuing this backwards battle, they will only succeed in making bigger fools of themselves, of Texas A&M and of everyone associated with this University.

The Battalion Editorial Board

'White Patriot' warns of racial war

Writer called race traitor

When I wrote my column on the Ku Klux Klan last week I expected to get some letters in response. I figured my statement about gays eventually being accepted by society would spark some discussion. It did. But the column also brought in a different kind of response:



Loren Steffy

"Mr. Steffy, You are an ignorant, brainwashed and misled little fool. What is worse is that you are typical of your type (of) de-racinated, emasculated wimpy white boy who is always bemoaning the fate of the myriad of minority groups who imagine themselves to be unfairly and unjustly discriminated against.

In other words, you are a liberal which is to say, you are merely a fool, lacking a mind of your own, but never the less wanting to have a cause.

If you want a cause, if you want to help a group of people that is truly discriminated against, why don't you try doing something for your own white race? Start a club for "White Awareness" or "The Aryan American League" or some other nonexistent (but needed) organization that caters to the needs of European-Americans.

If you did that you would be called a

fascist/racist/Nazi/hate monger, etc. ad nauseum. We have "Black Awareness" and similar groups for Mexican, Arabs and Jews on campus. What's the difference? Racial awareness is O.K. for them but not for you, right?

Read the enclosed material! Maybe it will wake you up to a few facts that the Jewish controlled media have carefully kept from you.

You should learn to investigate both sides of a question before you start writing articles about things of which you are totally ignorant.

You young journalists are all alike. You act like trained seals. Just honk your horns, balance your ball, bark and clap your flipper at the right time so that the Editor will throw you a little piece of fish.

You couldn't care less about objectivity, when you are the one writing the article. By the same token, you are always the first to condemn a right wing "extremist" for his "lack of objectivity" and his "insensitivity."

I could call you a race traitor or a majority renegade, but you probably wouldn't understand what those terms mean. I will tell you this. There is a storm coming. The Majority is getting pushed and they won't take it much longer. We see who our enemies are and we know who the traitors are.

In the coming race/holy war we will treat both categories in the traditional manner. I hope you realize soon who

you are and where you belong. You're already wearing your uniform, it's your skin.

Sincerely, A White Patriot."

The letter was accompanied by some literature on how America is being taken over by other races, specifically the Jews.

First, I would like to thank the "White Patriot" for going to the trouble of writing the letter and getting all those pamphlets to fit in one envelope.

Secondly, I would like to point out that the article was a column, and, such, was purely my opinion. My editor doesn't have any fish (it would make the newsroom smell) and I am rather busy at balancing a ball.

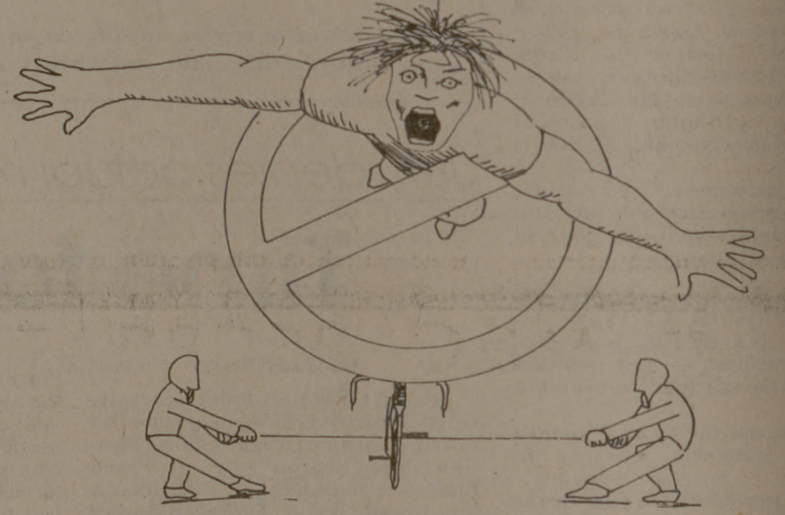
Finally, I must decline Patriot's offer to change my beliefs. I am as set in my ways as he obviously is in his. A total pure race is impossible to achieve in today's society. Anyone who likes their barbecue or even apple pie has been influenced by another race.

Some of W.P.'s literature came from a place called Lord's Covenant Church, which would like to point out that Christianity in general has its origins in the Jewish religion.

If a "holy" war is coming, Patricia, will always take up my pen in favor of the side being discriminated against whatever color they may be.

Loren Steffy is a sophomore journalism major and a weekly columnist for The Battalion.

BIKE BUSTERS



LETTERS:

Men shouldn't have vote on abortion

EDITOR:

Isn't it funny that all the people carrying the casket on the front page of the Jan. 23 Batt are men? I address this question to them and every other male member of the Anti-Abortion movement: How do you know what you would do if you were female and 15, impoverished and could not afford to properly care for an infant, or if you knew that your child would be born brain-damaged, or if you were the innocent victim of a sex crime?

Personally, I am against abortion, but I realize that I cannot, indeed, I **must** not make a stand on issue of which I can only see one side. I submit that men should have no vote in the issue. A man will never know how it feels to have his belly distended and his body thrown into hormonal turmoil due to an unwanted fetus. A man will never know the agonies of childbirth. How can any man decide so surely on an issue on which he is so blind?

The best way the gentlemen in the photo can take a stand is to use adequate birth control measures during sex. When used in conjunction with the pill, condoms have a prevention rate which is ridiculously close to 100%. (Might I point out that abstinence has never resulted in one unwanted pregnancy. Effective, no?)

One other thought: Isn't it curious that many conservatives who are so rigidly Anti-Abortion are in favor of the death penalty? Chew on that one for a while.

Scott Ferguson
Marine Biology

Gays are abnormal; or are they?

EDITOR:

Let me beat a dead cat one more time. I am writing in response to the letter by Eddie Klein entitled "Gays shouldn't be accepted as normal."

According to the textbook "Sociology" used in my Sociology 205 class, "All human males have some homosexual tendencies." How can you consider something to be abnormal if 100% of human males have such tendencies.

Mr. Klein also wrote "all men are created equal, but that doesn't mean that they can't become warped as time goes on." If Mr. Klein knew anything about the situation, he would know that homosexuals are born gay, not changed over time.

One final question to Mr. Klein, how do you survive in college with such a closed mind?

Signed, more straight than gay.

Chris Peek
Class of '87

Journalists report what interests public

EDITOR:

So, all journalists are biased and left-wing. That certainly destroys my perception of reality. I always thought that newspaper, magazine, and TV network owners pay their journalists to report news that interests the general public. Give the people what they want, right? Apparently, we, the people, want left-wing journalism. But we elected a right-wing president! Boy, am I confused. I certainly hope that Mr. Bryan Jones, who obviously has a firm grip on reality, will change his major to journalism and save the United States.

Georgette Nicolaides
a concerned citizen

Corps commander not objective

EDITOR:

Asking Corps of Cadet Commander Chuck Rollins if the Corps chain of command should be restructured is akin to asking a five-year-old child whether the cookie jar should be moved to a shelf above his reach.

Frank Irwin

Cadets supposed to keep A&M traditions

EDITOR:

In regard to the last of the three part series on the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets, the title "Cadets believe in keeping traditions," caught my eye. I have dealt with situations that are totally defiant of that title. The tradition to which I refer is the "Howdy" tradition. When passing a cadet and eye contact is made, you expect a "Howdy." However, there have been instances when not even the **slightest** acknowledgment has been made. Furthermore there have been other occasions when I have addressed a cadet with "Howdy" and not received the slightest bit of recognition. I have become disappointed and disgusted with this part of the Corps.

In addition I would like to comment on Gen. Ormand R. Simpson's statement "what it teaches them in terms of maturity, a sense of responsibility." Would the General care to tell me how? Is it doing multiple sets of push ups and

sit ups? Or is it running for miles on end? Is it the uniform? Or is it having all your decisions made for you by your commanding, not always superior, officers. If this is six percent of A&M's student body, aren't they like 2200 Gumbi dolls waiting to be positioned? Where does responsibility and maturity play a part in a roll like this?

I would also like to comment on several of Don Powell's statements. Powell, the reason A&M has not had any "burning of the ROTC buildings" is because brick does not burn. Powell, if I wanted to feel like dirt I would wallow in the mud. Powell, if I wanted adverse conditions I would go to New England for the weather. Powell, your biggest loss to the University because not everyone experiences the same hardships, is not a loss at all, but a gain for the University. It brings a variety of experiences along with the variety of people and with the different experiences are different ways to handle them. Yes you do go through a lot being in the Corps, but you go through a lot growing up in the city, too. The sense of maturity and responsibility gained from growing up in the dirt of the city is in my view the same as if it does not surpass that gained from being a cadet. The city is where real life exists. You don't have to join the Corps in order to conquer the battles of the business world. And until Wall Street is in jeopardy of being invaded by foreign forces, I would not chose the Corps contrary to Gen. Simpson's belief "that all students should be in the Corps."

I respect the choice of those who are members of the Corps. However, if Powell's "stick-to-it-iveness" is not applied to "keeping the traditions at A&M" those members of the Corps are not worthy of what their uniform implied.

Michael J. Doiron
Class of '88

Students shouldn't carry tuition burden

EDITOR:

Criticising the laxity of the Corps of Cadets seems to be the going thing lately: They've too much money and free time, not enough discipline or esprit-de-corps; they just don't have it as tough in days of olde, and will therefore be unable to withstand the rigors of their careers upon graduation.

The Corps is an easy target to critique, a convenient scapegoat for selfless barbs of criticism. Barbs which all too often only serve to further lower the Corps' morale and spirit.

Many of these incisive attacks are made by antiquated veterans still living in their stuffy world of severe discipline, order, and abeyance... I can understand

their perspective; I've been there, and know how easy it is to depend on the rules of order. I've functioned in such an environment as an officer-in-training at a service academy (though not necessarily survived) during the Vietnam era).

I was so wrapped up in the routine there, where the brigade members — unlike the Corps here — were virtually isolated from the civilian world; so much so that the people, the communities, which we were trained to serve became vague idealizations not worthy of our service.

I was an honors student, a Company Commander, etc... in civilian life I had trouble functioning as the leader I was trained to be: Sure, I was forced fed a dogged perseverance, and loyalty, but the human relations indoctrinated in us didn't help much in the civilian world.

In essence, I was a high-class version of the veterans who are discharged from the service into a life of vagrancy, unemployment, and social inconsistency. I have therefore found that the traditional service academies are not oriented to interacting with civilians, the system followed by the Corps overcomes this shortcoming, and trains its members to not only become officers who will serve America with honor, pride and professionalism; but to become equally capable leaders in their communities as well.

Indeed, the Texas State Legislature, by targeting students for higher fees, seems to think of students as we sometimes think of the Corps of Cadets — anachronistic loafers and free loaders! It seems a little unfair to single out a minority to carry the burden of taxation which should be shared by residents of the State of Texas as a group. Much less a minority which is of recognizable importance for funds elsewhere, Legislators; or at least not mislead the public into thinking of students as wealthy parasites who are spending taxpayers money to have a little fun, a few cheap thrills — or didn't you ever attend college?

William H. Clark II

The Battalion
USPS 045 360
Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board
Brigid Brockman, Editor
Shelley Hoekstra, Managing Editor
Ed Cassavoy, City Editor
Kellie Dworczyk, News Editor
Michelle Powe, Editorial Page Editor
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

The Battalion Staff
Assistant City Editors.....
Kari Fluegel, Rhonda Snider
Assistant News Editors.....
Tammy Bell, Cami Brown, John Hallett
Assistant Sports Editor.....
Charean Williams
Entertainment Editors.....
Shawn Behlen, Leigh-Ellen Clark
Staff Writers.....
Cathie Anderson,
Brandon Berry, Dainah Bullard,
Tony Cornett, Michael Crawford,
Kirsten Dietz, Patti Flint,
Patrice Koranek, Trent Leopold,
Karla Martin, Sarah Oates,
Tricia Parker, Lynn Rae Powe
Copy Editor.....
Kay Mallett
Make-up Editor.....
Karen Bloch
Columnists.....
Kevin Inda, Loren Steffy
Editorial Cartoonist.....
Mike Lane
Sports Cartoonist.....
Dale Smith
Copy Writer.....
Cathy Bennett
Photo Editor.....
Katherine Hurt
Photographers.....
Anthony Casper,
Wayne Graben, Frank Irwin,
John Makiely, Peter Rocha, Dean Saito

Editorial Policy
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.
Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.
The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Letters Policy
Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.
The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holidays and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full-year. Advertising rates furnished on request.
Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2630. Advertising: (409) 845-2611.
Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.