

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Civil rights of gays topic of debate

By ANN CERVENKA  
Staff Writer

Is the closet open?  
This question was the topic of a forum Tuesday night on the civil rights of homosexuals. Co-sponsored by Political Forum and Great Issues the debate featured Houston City Councilman John Goodner and Gara Lamarche, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Texas.

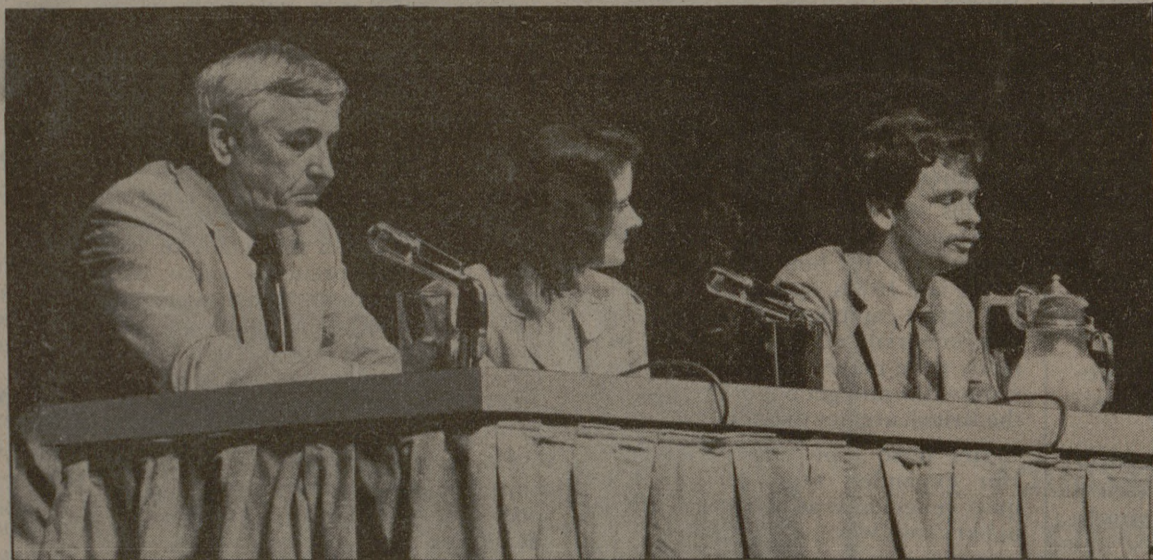
"Yes, the door is open," Goodner said. "Whether people walk through that door is something I can't answer."

In January the Houston City Council passed an ordinance that would have outlawed discrimination against homosexuals in city employment.

Once the referendum went to the voters Goodner led a fight against the change — saying passage would grant minority status to homosexuals and legitimize their lifestyle.

The referendum failed by a 4-1 margin.

However, Goodman does support civil rights. "My problem with the so-called gay rights movement is that there is an assertion that their rights may ex-



Moderator Debbie Ramsey of KBTX, Channel 3, sits between Houston City Councilman John Goodner (l) and Gara La-

marche, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Texas at a forum Tuesday night on the civil rights of homosexuals.

ceed those of heterosexuals," he said.

Statistics show that the average homosexual male has a higher

level of education and income than members of society in general, Goodner said.

"It seems unfair to demand mi-

nority status on that basis," he said.

Lamarche, who supports civil rights for any oppressed group,

said homosexuals do not want additional rights.

"Gay people are not asking for more rights than anyone else," he said. "Nothing could be farther from the truth."

"All gay people want is not to be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation."

Although up to 10 percent of society is gay, they are discriminated against in many areas of public life, Lamarche said.

"To be a gay in this society is to risk your life," he said, after citing examples of physical assaults and vandalism against gays.

Goodner said physical abuse cannot be condoned. However, in a gay rights parade in Houston last year, two people dressed as nuns "pretended to have violent sexual activity," he said.

"I think that goes beyond freedom to display your lifestyle," Goodner said.

Both speakers favor equal treatment in employment.

However, Goodner is concerned with homosexuals teaching students.

"I don't have a problem as long as they teach the curriculum,"

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## A&M Corps to disband 3 companies

Cadets to form outfits A-2, G-2

By TRENT LEOPOLD  
Staff Writer

Three Corps of Cadets companies will be consolidated into two outfits to provide organization and leadership, and women cadets will be moved from Dormitory 3 to Dormitory 5 to allocate living space more efficiently.

Col. Richard G. McPherson, professor of Naval Science, said Tuesday that Companies H-2, N-1 and M-2 will be consolidated into Companies A-2 and G-2 at the second march during Final Review.

During the second march cadets assume their positions for the next year.

"The companies (H-2, N-1 and M-2) have had no real organization since 1972," McPherson said. "The formation of the two new companies will provide junior and senior leadership."

McPherson said those who would have been commanding officers for Companies H-2, N-1 and M-2 will become commanding officers for the new Companies, A-2 and G-2.

Corps Commandant Col. Donald L. Burton said that in addition to the consolidation of the three companies, Dorm 5 will become an all-female dorm next year.

Currently, the Quadrangle contains 10 male dorms and two female dorms. After the housing arrangements are changed, there will be nine male dorms and three female dorms. Dorm 3, like Dorm 1, will house non-cadet female students, and Dorm 5 will house both cadet and non-cadet female students, Burton said.

"We are making sure we are utilizing our space in the most efficient way possible," Burton said. "We are looking at a smaller junior class next year due to a low freshman enrollment two years ago."

## GSS president: Gay rights fight not over

By KARI FLUEGEL  
Assistant City Editor

Though the battle is won, the war against discrimination based on sexual preference is not over, the president of Gay Student Services said Tuesday.

Marco Roberts, president of the homosexual student group, said during a press conference that he was proud of the group's achievements and that the group will not accept any harassment.

"It's been a long fight, but we've shown that we are Aggies too," he said.

Roberts' comments follow the U.S. Supreme Court's decision Monday to let stand a ruling by the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals stating that Texas A&M

cannot deny recognition to organizations because of sexual preference.

The Supreme Court cited a lack of jurisdiction in the case.

Larry Hickman, an associate philosophy professor and the faculty adviser of GSS for the past two years, agreed with Roberts that though the courts ruled in favor of gay rights, the issue was far from settled.

"Gay students are still the object of subtle and not so subtle discrimination," Hickman said. "Roberts said the court's decision proved that students had the right 'to better their own lots.'"

GSS first applied for and was denied recognition in 1976. The University denied recognition to the group on the grounds it

would not be "consistent with the philosophy and goals that have been developed for the creation and existence of Texas A&M University."

The University also argued that homosexuality was illegal and that the University could not recognize an organization "likely to promote and result" in homosexual activity.

In 1982, a U.S. district court in Dallas ruled homosexuality was legal, thus making the University's argument invalid.

A&M also contended that GSS was a social organization, and the denial of recognition was in keeping with the University's ban on social organizations.

But in August 1984, the 5th Circuit Court ruled against A&M.

"(The University) had eight years to show how GSS could harm the University and they failed to do so," Roberts said.

After the Supreme Court's ruling, Ted Hajovsky, system general counsel, said Monday the University would seek alternate legal avenues to pursue the case.

Roberts said that he was disappointed with the University's decision and that he thought A&M's chances for successful litigation were slim.

The argument that the majority of the University community opposes GSS also is not a sufficient reason to refuse recognition to the group, Roberts said.

"These rights are not up for vote," he said. "Almost all progress in civil rights has been in the

courts and rarely in the polls, he said.

Roberts said the group plans to file for recognition within a week, and will not wait for the University to receive a court order requiring it to grant recognition.

"We're going to approach this with caution," Roberts said. "We don't want to be thrown out on technical grounds."

During the litigations, Roberts said the group followed the University regulations while it functioned off campus.

Roberts said the group will make full use of all the benefits afforded to recognized organizations — including the allocation of student service fees.

"We will try to get everything we are entitled to, Roberts said."

## Faculty Senate representatives to be chosen

By KIRSTEN DIETZ  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M faculty will be able to elect representatives to the Faculty Senate on Thursday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The 28 open Senate positions are in the colleges of agriculture (6), architecture and environmental design (1), business administration (2), education (2), engineering (5), geosciences (1), liberal arts (4), medicine (1), science (4) and veterinary medicine (2).

Polling places for each college are:

- College of Agriculture: first floor lounge of Harrington Classroom Building and the first floor lobby of Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center.

- College of Architecture and Environmental Design: gallery of the Langford Architecture Center.

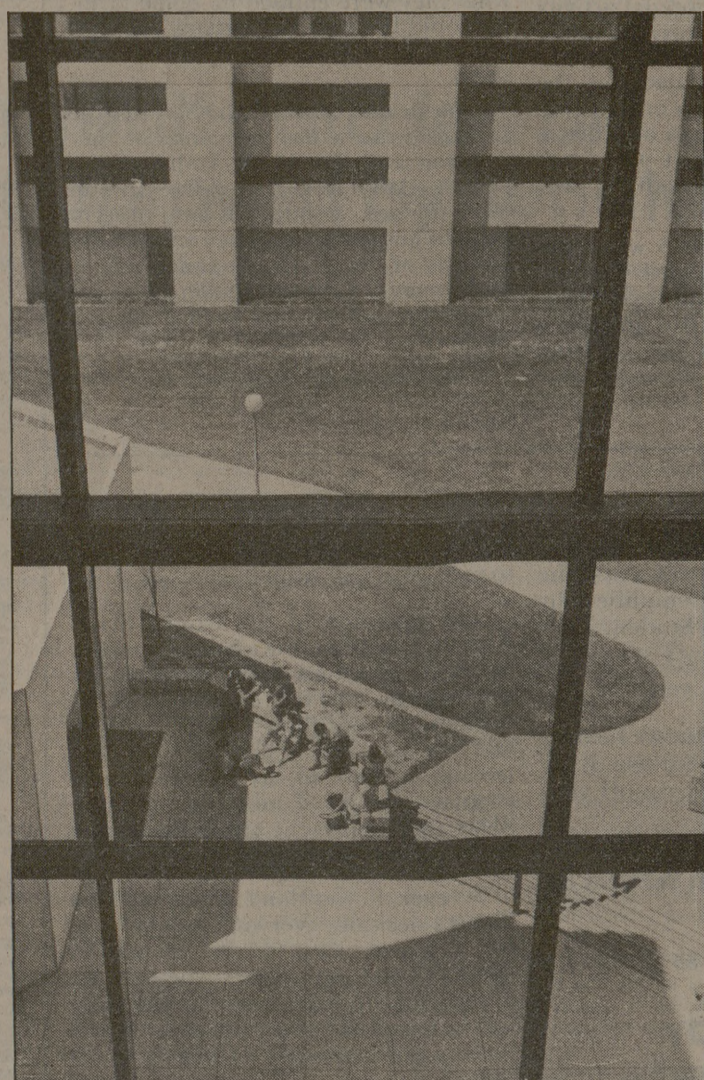
- College of Business Administration: second floor lobby of the Blocker Building.

- College of Education: first floor lounge of Harrington Classroom Building and East Kyle (health and physical education faculty only).

- College of Engineering: first floor lobby of Zachry Engineering Center.

- College of Geosciences: gallery of the Langford Architecture Center.

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Framed by PETER ROCHA

The frame for these sunning Aggies is made from an upstairs window in the the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center. Today's forecast calls for sunny, warm weather with a high of 80 degrees.

## Students march on Capitol to protest tuition increases

By JERRY OSLIN  
Staff Writer

About 3,000 college students marched on the State Capitol Tuesday protesting a plan by Lt. Governor Bill Hobby that would triple tuition for students attending state supported colleges and universities.

The march began at a rally at the University of Texas Tower — where students passed out protest signs and march organizers led the crowd in practicing chants.

The first two speakers unsuccessfully tried to fire up the crowd, but the third speaker was successful.

"This drastic increase is wrong," he yelled. "Are we going to stand for it?"

"No," the crowd yelled back.

"We want a chance to better ourselves and to compete in the market place. Are we going to let the Legislature take this away from us?"

"No."

"Are we going to let the Legislature put the budget problems on our backs?"

"No."

People in the crowd yelled: "Give me a sign," and "Let's march."

One of the speakers appeared with an American flag and shouted, "Follow me."

About 2,000 people left the Tower on the march to the Capitol. An additional 1,000 people joined the procession on the way.

Some of the marchers wore shirts that said "Education is No Hobby." Some carried signs which said, "Please, my father can't pay anymore" and, "I am not a Hobby horse."

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The crowd chanted, "One, two, three, four — we don't want to pay no more. Five, six, seven, eight — don't tax, educate."

The marchers passed a grassy hill and jeered at some sunbathers when they refused to join the march.

"Where are your ideals," one man shouted.

Groups of foreign students carried protest signs written in their own language but chanted in broken English.

Austin police lined the protest route but ignored the few obscene comments directed at them.

Construction workers stopped working to watch the mile-long procession. Office workers on their way back from lunch stopped to listen to the chants.

When the marchers reached the capitol they pointed at the building and yelled, "You, you, you."

The crowd, numbering about 3,000, gathered around the steps on the southern side of the building and shouted, "We want Hobby."

The speakers fought their way to the front and tried to quiet the

crowd but they continued chanting.

"One of the speakers tried to get the crowd to move away from the steps but was met with boos and chants of "We won't move."

One of the speakers finally quieted the crowd and introduced State Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin.

Barrientos said the state is facing a budget deficit but students shouldn't be the ones to make up for the shortfall.

"Some legislators didn't vote for para-mutuel betting or a state lottery because they said it was immoral and sinful," he said. "But it's immoral and sinful to put the budget problem on your back."

The crowd replied with cheers and chants of "We want Hobby."

State Rep. Lena Guerrero, D-Austin, criticized the Legislature for considering a tuition increase.

"Politicians would rather tax the hopes and dreams of middle and lower income families than tax the oil and chemical companies," she said.

Later, several hundred marchers entered the capitol and confronted Hobby.

Hobby had to be escorted by state troopers and Capitol policemen to the Senate — where he addressed about 500 students who were sitting in the balcony.

"I commend every one of you for being here today," Hobby said. "It shows you care about education. It has to be paid for. We just disagree on how."

The crowd booed Hobby's statements.