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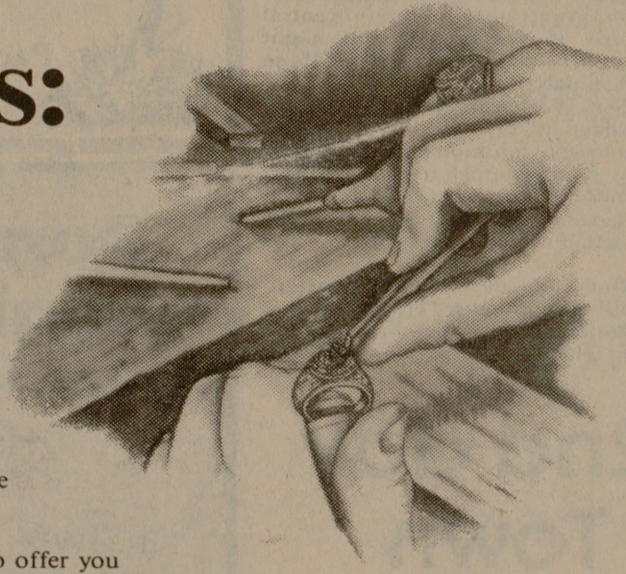
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## Homosexuals

(Continued from page 1)

tually, I think it would be a tribute to the University to be liberal enough to let them be themselves."

Once homosexuals only had to cope with suppression of their feelings, but now there is a more prevalent fear — AIDS, or acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

"For Bryan-College Station and Texas A&M, AIDS is here," Kyle says. "It has changed the gay community as far as sexual promiscuity is involved. The people who are really serious about it will not have casual sex. It used to be that one could go out and pick up anybody and take them home and have a one-night stand. Each could then go their separate ways and that was that. Now you don't do that. If you do, you are a fool."

Some homosexuals do not care and continue to have casual sex, he says. These people do not get them-

selves tested for the virus and do not practice safe sex.

Safe sex entails either the use of a condom or not having sex at all, Kyle says.

For some homosexuals, the fear of AIDS is in the past.

*"If I saw two men holding hands on campus I would take it in stride. Homosexuality has been with man since the beginning of documented history."*

— Matt Garnett, an A&M former student

"I was afraid of AIDS until I got myself tested," Scott says. "Until the test result was negative I experienced a lot of fear. Now it is more of a caution-type thing, and the worry is just to keep from getting it."

Dr. Larry Hickman, an associate professor in the A&M philosophy department, believes AIDS has a certain good quality.

"I think that AIDS, contrary to popular belief, has, even though it has been a tragedy to the homosexual community, been politically good for the homosexuals," he says. "For the first time, people have to admit that there are homosexual people in this country. They can no longer ignore them. They have to face the issue in some way or another."

With the subject of homosexuality coming into the public sphere, some homosexuals hope that one day they will be recognized for who they are and not for their sexual preferences.

"I'm no different than anyone else. I hold a full-time job, and I do well," Kyle says. "I get nothing but compliments on my job from customers and my supervisors. I go to class and do my work. I'm just a student like everybody else, except in my bedroom."

## House votes tentative OK on capital punishment bill

AUSTIN (AP) — The House voted preliminary approval Tuesday to a bill that would make it more difficult for Texas juries to order death sentences for accomplices in capital murders.

The capital punishment bill was authored by Rep. Larry Evans, D-Houston, and sparked by the 1985 execution of Doyle Skillern. Evidence showed that Skillern was in a car during a drug deal that ended with the slaying of an undercover narcotics officer. Skillern was executed in 1985. Charles Sanne, the triggerman, is serving a life sentence.

"I think this bill would go a long way toward correcting that type inequity," Evans told the House, which gave the bill tentative approval in a non-record vote.

The measure faces another House vote that could send it to the Senate.

Under the bill, jurors in cases in which more than one person is charged with capital murder would have to decide whether a defendant was "a cause" of the death. Evans said evidence showed that Skillern was not a cause of the officer's death.

He also said there was some doubt as to whether Charlie Brooks, who in December 1982 became the first Texan executed in many years, was the triggerman in his case.

"It's the type of thing that really does not occur too often, where you

have more than one defendant charged in a capital murder," Evans said. "But in those instances where it does happen, I think this bill goes a long way toward correcting the problem where the lesser culpable person receives a greater punishment."

## Senate to make changes in 1984 education reforms

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate on Tuesday, with experience as a teacher, made numerous changes in education reform bills enacted in 1984.

One of three bills sponsored by Sen. Carl Parker, chairman of the Senate Education Committee, that cleared the Senate would repeal the provision that requires first-graders to take a test to measure their skills.

"There has been considerable doubt brought in this area about whether these tests were really accomplishing anything by testing first-year children," Parker said.

The same bill, he said, would "fa-

cilitate year-round schools" if a district chose to implement such a program on a voluntary basis. It was sent to the House on voice vote.

Also approved on voice vote was a bill changing the teacher appraisal system, including fewer approaches for teachers who rate satisfactory the first time or have reached higher levels on the career ladder.

Yet another Parker bill repeats a provision that prohibits the Board of Education from requiring school districts to hire counselors as part of the accreditation process. The measure was sent to the House on a 30-1 vote.

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