

Monday, October 16, 1989

**Mail Call**

**Society should wake up**

EDITOR:  
I would like to congratulate Adam Mathieu on one of the few intelligent columns I have read in *The Battalion* in a long time.

I worked with a progressive political lobby in Austin this summer, and several of my co-workers, male and female, were homosexual. None of them remained untouched by the homophobia that runs rampant in this country.

Sue, who was 22 with a four year-old child, was undergoing a legal battle with her parents over custody. Her parents had found out about her stable two-year homosexual relationship, by then akin to a marriage, and considered it grounds for "unfit motherhood."

This ignorant and dangerous attitude even exerted itself at Austin's March for Gay and Lesbian Rights, a monumental event which drew 20,000 people. Small groups of fundamentalists could not resist showing up to thump Bibles, taunt the marchers and hold up signs proclaiming, "You don't have to be gay!" It didn't take long for me to understand the dangers of being homosexual in this country; I was only relieved that I didn't have to live with the prejudice daily, as they must.

In the 20 years since the Stonewall uprising, it seems that not much has been gained concerning acceptance of homosexuality in the United States. Gays still cannot "come out" without the risk of being fired or losing their insurance due to misguided AIDS prejudice.

We rarely see homosexuals in positions of authority; the only avowed homosexual in the U.S. Congress, Rep. Barney Frank, was just recently thrown to the wolves. Musicians such as Elton John, K.D. Lang and Austin's great *Two Nice Girls* may provide some positive role models for younger gays, but they cannot make up for the absence of homosexuals on television, in the media, or in the church.

The only arena in which I have seen any numbers of avowed homosexuals allowed to achieve important roles has been the progressive political community, where gays and lesbians work

side by side with heterosexuals to secure civil rights for everyone, women's right to choose, their right to a peaceful world and the right to freedom in Central America and the Third World.

Many homosexuals have been quick to realize that no one can be free when others are oppressed. It's high time that the rest of society wake up and realize this also.

**Melanie Shouse '89**

**Pray for homosexuals**

EDITOR:

I am writing in response to Mr. Mathieu's article concerning homosexuality. If I recall one of my psychology classes correctly, homosexuality is considered to be a deviant lifestyle. Mr. Mathieu, how can you justify something that is so aversive to the moral majority of society? Frankly, I found the display table in the MSC being tended by the Gay Students Association offensive. These particular individuals do not need or deserve our respect in my opinion. What they do need, however, is our concern and prayers. Lastly, allowing two people of the same sex to marry would be an abomination in the eyes of God. If God had wanted homosexual relationships he would have placed Adam and Biff together, not Adam and Eve.

**Kimberly Murrell '91**

**Prejudice: individual's right**

EDITOR:

Adam Mathieu is to be applauded for his open-minded thinking. Mr. Mathieu suggests in his Oct. 10 article that we, as a society, need to end our prejudice, respect homosexuals and willingly accept their lifestyle. Mr. Mathieu condemns our society for current and past discriminations.

However, he seems to have forgotten that in America, we have the right to be prejudiced. The law may say, "thou shalt not discriminate," but prejudice is a personal freedom. I may have a strong prejudice against t-sips but I don't have the right to be discriminatory toward them in terms of hiring, firing, wages and such.

Therefore, since the American people have the right to their own opinions, morals, religions, etc., we certainly have the right to be prejudiced against homosexuality.

Furthermore, if the vast majority of Americans feel so strongly that an action (such as dealing drugs) is morally wrong, we have the right to pass laws forbidding it. This, indeed, is the case regarding homosexual behavior. Why are there laws in Texas, other states and nations forbidding homosexuality?

Mother Nature, for one, clearly indicates to us that this is deviant behavior. History also points to great civilizations, such as the Roman Empire, in which moral decay was a significant factor in their demise. God Almighty certainly leaves us no room for doubt. Jesus taught us to love the wayward one, but to hate the waywardness. Jesus was and is the Great Physician. He can cure homosexual tendencies!

Mr. Mathieu would surely agree that curing AIDS, not accepting it, is the way to go. Likewise, curing homosexuality, not accepting it, is the correct course of action for a decent and moral society.

**Notie Lansford  
Graduate Student**

**Christianity denies humanity**

EDITOR:

It is surely a sad day at Texas A&M when a professor chooses to incriminate himself by admitting to all he cannot think for himself and must rely on the Bible to tell him what to believe ("Offensive Attack on Values," Oct. 13th.) Yes, folks, Fundamentalist Christianity rears its ugly head once again in our beloved *Battalion*.

It just never ceases to amaze me how a supposed "savior" like Jesus can be turned into a slavemaster by so many Christians. Is it some kind of sado-masochistic will of the interpreters of the Bible to deny themselves not only a life free from guilt but one of continual denial of one's own humanity? It is truly a shame that the most popular religion in this country is one that tightens the grip on its followers through the merciless imposition of the

guilt of being human. How easy it is for some Christians to deny homosexuals their right to be the way they are. After all, Christians do the same thing when denying they lust or have premarital sex.

**Loris Salinas '88**

**Discipline key to education**

EDITOR:

More students like Editor Scot Walker should cry out for better education. Unfortunately, Scot, the "big hurdle," as you say, is not money. We are, and have been, spending more and more on education — and getting less and less.

I would like to remind you that your generation is the first that is getting less educated than your predecessors, despite all the federal, state and local money we pour into education. At the risk of sounding like an old fossil, I must say that the root cause of educational problems lies with the attitudes of students, teachers and parents.

As a society, our values are tarnished, if not corrupted. We want instant gratification. We are becoming soft and flabby, in mind and spirit, as well as body. We are not willing to discipline ourselves and work hard enough to get well educated. Life has become too easy for the average American. *Unlike the material things of life, education cannot be served up on a silver platter. It has to be earned.*

The Japanese still know that. Aggies would do well to take more time to make friends with our foreign students — most of them are more prepared to work at their education because they come from cultures where life is not so easy.

**Bill Klemm  
Professor of Veterinary Medicine**

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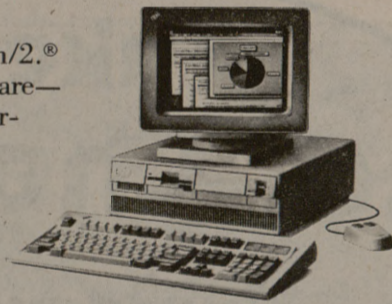


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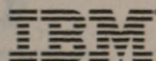
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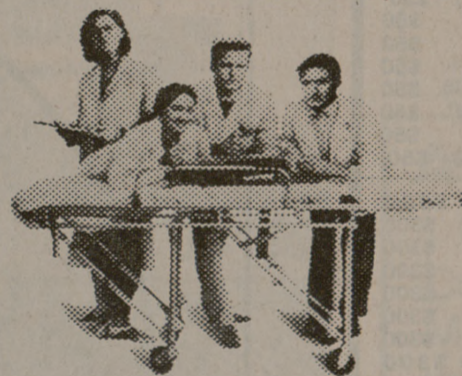
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