

Homosexuals should have right to privacy behind closed doors

Many of the darkest years in history were observed firsthand by people that marked their privileges above their principles. These people lost both. Although the morally upright have always speculated about the terrible present day, the younger generations in our society do appear to be approaching the same precipice. Keeping a foundation underneath our choices seems to be too bitter a pill to take.

As we often see, permissiveness abounds (especially in the Northeast, on the West Coast and at t.u.). Regardless of how heinous or disgusting an act or policy, some group demanding equal footing will defend it. Normal adversaries from the political right and left have united to take up the causes of the Mary Jane Speak Easy and equal

Jon Beeler
Columnist

rights for those with alternative sexual orientations. Apparently, political persuasion has less to do with societal ethics than some think.

But although certain vices, homosexuality notwithstanding, are decidedly distasteful, I do believe man has an inviolable right to privacy when his autonomy in this matter victimizes no other. Barring the extreme, household sovereignty is the most fundamental privilege one gets.

Consequently, although it is contrary

to many of our beliefs and convictions, homosexuality should be legalized in Texas. On the other hand, I do not think that homosexuals, as a group, should receive the privileges that racial and ethnic groups have. As individuals, gay men and women should enjoy the same rights that all Americans receive until their sexual preference obstructs the welfare of their immediate environment. Whatever they want to do in their bedroom is their business, but society has no obligation to nurture their orientation.

Certain groups, particularly a handful of far left mainstream U.S., have been waging a war to legitimize the gay population as a particular faction of society deserving the same rights other minorities possess. The fallacy of this

"we want what the Jones' have" argument is simply that homosexuals do not constitute a minority described by family trees; they comprise a minority defined by their behavior. Although not a completely analogous case, car thieves could also pool into a minority characterized by actions.

A much more analogous albeit much less pernicious behavior is cigarette smoking. Cigarette smoking is discouraged by "sin" taxes, and the Marlboro man is heavily regulated in public arenas, yet may smoke as he pleases in private. Sidestream smoke, like homosexuality, only hurts the vice's disciple when he or she is in the bedroom. But with this lighthearted comparison I do not mean to trivialize homosexuality (or offend smokers).

A lot that goes on in this world is detrimental to the intellectual and spiritual growth of humanity, and no matter how harmless someone might demand something is, it oftentimes just was not meant to be — by God or by nature. The future is always in the next generation, and how will that generation cope with something that, had it been more prevalent, would have precluded their existence?

A stick of tobacco, on the other hand, should not disturb our children too much.

Alternative sexual preference should not be protected in the business place, the military or in institutions of higher education. And in one, and only one, ultimately important case, sexual orientation should be regulated in the home: Homosexuals should not be permitted to rear children through adoption. Homosexuality is a social deviancy detrimental to family values, and family values sew the nation together.

By giving leeway to gay rights activists, we would be opening the flood gates for a gay draft of the insecure young and restless. Therefore, marriage opportunities and incentives should never be granted to homosexuals. Taxpayer money should not be spent defending their sexual tendencies. And closer to home, Texas A&M student fees should never be allocated to groups

such as the Gay and Lesbian Student Services.

In their Ivory Tower in Austin, legislators have criminalized sodomy, figuring this a panacea for our dilemma. It is time we all emerge from our paternalistic cocoon and realize liberty cannot be compartmentalized, not from gays or entrepreneurs or students of Texas A&M. We should educate people about the demerits of homosexuality. Gays should be allowed their lifestyles, but society need not the bill.

In the unfortunate eventuality that majority of Americans someday support the homosexual lobby, then the homosexual movement should be granted the privileges they demand. May that noose never fall around our neck.

The most conspicuous cannon in the national homosexual lobby is the American Criminal Liberties Union, does the "C" stand for "Civil"? The scare tactics and dollars have produced political compromises and ingratitude. Local, state and national lawmakers, homosexual lobby has also propelled many officeholders to their current positions. If this lobby favors a candidate, they have untold sums of money and time to insure that candidate's victory.

A remedy is dedicated activism by those who do not want America overruled by homosexual concerns.

I think homosexuality is a hapless choice of the mentally ill. Another will say it's his cure from the stress of today's chores. In the current ethical spectrum it seems the maxim "One man's trash is another man's treasure" may be applied to Pandora's Box. In accuracy, in this case, the maxim should be changed to "Humanity's trash is deviant's pleasure."

If homosexuals obtain the privileges they seek ... well, I'll be hanged.

Jon Beeler is a junior nuclear engineering major.



Mail Call

Registration system needs improvement

EDITOR:

Texas A&M University has a problem and it's not crime or rape or even AIDS. It's called phone registration. The A&M phone registration system stinks.

You would think that at a university as large as Texas A&M they would have a decent computer system, capable of handling a large load of incoming phone calls. But instead of spending more money to upgrade the system's capacity, they'd rather spend more money on that feature we all love to hate. Yes, it's that sexy voice that comes on in between busy signals and says, "All telephone registration lines are busy. Please hang up and try your call again in one hour. Thank you."

Finally, after a student gets into the system he's told about 20 times to hold on for a computer operator to connect his call. Then the system activates, and the student must force himself to enter the action code, his student I.D. number and personal identification number.

Once this is all done the student gets to talk to a mentally retarded computer with a speech impediment that tells the student that every class he registers for is full or that he is blocked from registration. Gee, great time to tell us, guys!

It just seems that A&M should spend more money on correcting problems within the University, such as phone registration or parking, before it goes off and does something stupid like naming a street after a bogus president.

Terence Emory '92

Have an opinion? Express it!

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

Former A&M Parents of the Year thank Aggies for taking them under wings

It is hard to believe, it will be 10 years next month, that two unsuspecting parents, and their son arrived at the Texas A&M campus for orientation. Little did we know about the education we were about to embark upon, or the drastic change it would make in our lives.

To be honest, our first trip to A&M was taken out of a sense of duty to our son, and the University. Our major concerns were how to pay for the education; did he choose the right school; and would a job be available for him when he finished.

We considered ourselves to be reasonably intelligent people from the Midwest. Little did we know how incredibly uninformed we were. First, we had to learn a new language, full of abbreviations, and such.

You know: MSC, Sully, Reveille (we thought that was a wake-up call), SCONA, OPAS, The Batt, Sbsia, the Fish Pond, the Chicken and the Hall of Fame. A great misconception was that Texas university was supposed to start with capital letters. We also learned to stay up past 10:30 p.m. for midnight yell practice, and to hump it.

It was also a learning experience for us to discover that parents do not always know what is best for their children. A long Saturday night and Sunday, after

Frank and Joanie Abbott

Reader's Opinion

Fish Camp, was spent trying to dissuade our son Preston from joining the Corps of Cadets. In 1983, when he put on the four diamonds, we realized how smart he was. The same decision was made by Frank Jr., but by that time we were zealous converts.

The fact that A&M has maintained its commitment, to the tenet that the University exists primarily for students is crucial for current and future students. Second, the fact that the entire school welcomes, indeed encourages, parental participation, is unique in the world of education.

For the quality of the school, the cost is minimal. They received a good education, and both are gainfully employed. As an added bonus, two parents received a full 10 years of the most wonderful experiences, and education of their entire lives.

There are no words or deeds that will adequately express, or repay the Aggies for all the love, joy, friendship and education they have bestowed on us. The thousands of students we have met, the hundreds we feel we know well, the

faculty, the administration, the Corps Cadets, the Memorial Student Center, the Board of Regents, the Federation of Mothers' Clubs, the former students and the many wonderful parents have all contributed so much to enhance lives. The rich and exciting traditions have made an indelible etch upon our hearts and minds.

Texas A&M is a great university in a class all by itself. This is a very biased statement, because of a great number of people who cared enough to take two unbiased, uninformed, smart town parents under their wing 10 years ago.

Our greatest hope is that all students would encourage their parents to take refuge under that same wing. It is enough for all who will come.

A decade has come and gone. As small as it may seem, we want to close with a big "thank you" to our son and all who have made the trip through Texas A&M so great for us.

Our only pledge is to try to do all we can for the betterment of Texas A&M future students and former students.

Frank and Joanie Abbott were A&M Parents of the Year for the 1987-88 school year.

Fax by Brett Bridgman



The Battalion

(USPS 045 360)

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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 is published Tuesday through Friday during Texas A&M summer semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year: 845-2611. Advertising rates furnished on request: 845-2696.

Our address: The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Newsroom: 845-3313.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-4111.