

## Repeal bill making homosexual sex illegal

Imagine this. You move into a city. Everyone looks at you funny. You find out that it is illegal to have sex with people of the opposite sex (and, unfortunately for you, that's the kind of sex you prefer). And when you look for work, you discover that finding and keeping a job is harder for heterosexuals because of their heterosexuality. Imagine that: a cold, oppressive world, indeed!

Texas is that kind of oppressive world for homosexuals. Homosexual sex is illegal in Texas, and homosexuals are not explicitly protected by civil rights legislation from unfair discrimination in employment. Homosexuals in Texas are being deprived of their civil rights and their freedom of lifestyle. The situation can and must be corrected.

Law 21.06 of the Texas penal code must be repealed immediately. The law prohibits homosexual sex. It is obvious that such a law is unconstitutional. Two

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Columnist

consenting adults, by having sex, do not infringe upon the rights of others directly or indirectly.

The argument that homosexual sex should be prohibited in order to prevent the spread of AIDS is inane at best. Heterosexual sex spreads AIDS as well. So heterosexual sex would have to be replaced by artificial insemination if we followed the "stop AIDS, ban sex" rule. Destroying peoples' lifestyles is both unnecessary and ineffective. Instead, people should be educated

on the risks of sex, be given the information and tools to prevent possible problems, and be allowed to deal with the risks with their knowledge and their condoms. If people choose to practice safe or unsafe sex, the only people they can hurt is themselves.

In addition to repealing 21.06, civil rights legislation that protects against unfair discrimination in the workplace should be explicitly extended to protect people of all sexual orientations. After all, all people are created equal, whether they are Chicano, African, European, Moslem, Christian, fascist, socialist, overweight, green-eyed, heterosexual, homosexual, or bisexual.

Texas A&M is leading the charge for gay rights in Texas by insuring, with new anti-discriminatory regulations, that homosexuals are not unfairly discriminated against on campus.

Also visible on the local level, however, are two leaders of the anti-gay

movement. First, of course, there is Clayton Williams, who is notorious for his anti-gay statements. Less conspicuous is this district's U.S. House representative, Joe Barton (R). He has revealed his distaste for homosexuals in at least one letter in response to a constituent's letter.

The constituent had written Barton to inquire about his position on House Bill 2273, the Americans with Disabilities Act. The bill prohibits unfair discrimination against disabled people. Barton wrote back that he was concerned about the wording of the bill. Wrote Barton, "I do not want homosexual AIDS patients classified as disabled. I do not consider homosexuals to be deserving of the same treatment as paraplegics."

It is obvious, from Barton's statements, that he wanted to make sure that no homosexual would be protected by the Disabilities Act, no matter if the

homosexual had AIDS or was disabled in some other way.

It is noteworthy that Barton said the homosexual AIDS patients should not receive protection. He said nothing of heterosexual AIDS patients. It seems that just as long as homosexuals do not receive protection, everything is cool with Joe.

The forces working to keep homosexuals oppressed are strong. Fortunately, the times are changing. Homosexual sex used to be a felony in Texas. Now, it is a misdemeanor. But it is we, the people's, responsibility to insure the emancipation of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation. It is time for a state referendum that gives homosexuals the same rights as heterosexuals.

*Irwin Tang is a junior political science major.*



### Mail Call

#### Don't overreact to horselaugh

**EDITOR:**  
This letter is in response to the letter of Jason Finger in the Sept. 19 issue of the Battalion. Hey Jason, lighten up. While I agree that it was inappropriate for people to hiss the kickoff penalty, you appear to have overreacted to this breach of etiquette. Were these people trying to be intentionally disrespectful? No, I'm afraid not. These people hissing were making a legitimate effort to participate in the game, which is more than I saw from several spectators. If the action really bothered you so much, why didn't you explain your problem to the offenders in person? These people that were hissing were merely misinformed, not rude. If every upperclassman reacted the way you have, no freshmen would ever learn what to do at a football game. Should we appoint Jason as our official A&M class watchdog? No, I didn't think so. Get a life.

John Hummel '94

#### Bikers, respect traffic laws

**EDITOR:**  
Some people who ride bicycles on campus seem to think that they do not have to obey traffic rules because they are on a bike.

**WRONG!!!**  
Bike riders must obey all traffic rules while they are on public roads. I ride a bike. I do not run stop signs. I do not ignore signal lights. I do not ride the wrong direction on one-way streets. I ride on the right side of the street (the same as cars). I signal before I change lanes. I also yield right of way to cars when I am entering the street from a sidewalk. If you can't obey traffic laws while on a bike, you

shouldn't ride it on public roads anymore. I'm sick of getting bad looks and having cars honk at me just because I'm on a bike.

I would like to urge the bikers that do obey the law to join me in letting the jerks that break the law know that we are not happy with them. A simple "Wrong way!" or "Nice stop!" would be enough to let the offending party know that they messed up and you are not happy with them. It would also be nice if the campus police would start giving out tickets to bikes again. The campus police used to ticket bikers that broke the law (mainly running stop signs) but I haven't seen anyone bothered in several years.

One more gripe: Most people driving in cars and trucks seem to have a problem coexisting with bikes. When I am on a bike I have every right that someone driving a car has. While I am on public roads, cars must yield right of way at a stop sign when it's my turn. They must also respect my right to a lane of traffic (whether it's a bike lane or a normal traffic lane).

Try thinking of a bicycle as a slow scooter. You wouldn't run a scooter off the road just to get somewhere 10 seconds quicker, so don't harass me when I have to ride in the center of the street to avoid a car parked in the bike lane (usually by the Commons and near Heaton Hall).

Jesse Spears '88  
graduate student

#### 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.

## Free press not squelched by Israeli censorship effort

Hail freedom of the press!  
Our elected interpreters of the Bill of Rights have just shown that, despite such issues as flag-burning and the 2 Live Crew's raunchy recordings, they continue to make decisions reflecting the true light of the First Amendment's meaning.

The case in point is a new book by Victor Ostrovsky, a former case officer of the Mossad. Mossad is, essentially, Israel's equivalent of our C.I.A.

In short, Ostrovsky quit the Mossad and proceeded to write a kiss-and-tell account about the organization in his new book, "By Way of Deception: The Making and Unmasking of a Mossad Officer."

Israel was enraged and claimed that, by spilling his guts about the Mossad, Ostrovsky did the same to others, literally, by exposing Mossad surreptitious activities. So they took him to court which is where our Constitution stepped up to the plate.

In this instance, Israel is simply trying to cover its own hindside under the pretense of security reasons. The real issue is the opinion taken by the masses, not the enemy.

Newsweek detailed some of the charges made in Ostrovsky's Geraldo-type work, none of which seem to endanger anything but Israel's reputation. For instance, in 1983, a Mossad informer in Beirut reported that radical Shiites were outfitting a truck with tons of explosives. The Mossad concluded that there were "only a few logical targets." But the Mossad declined to give the Americans a specific warning and 241 American servicemen died in the truck bombing of their compound. An Israeli official supposedly commented, "No, we're not there to protect the Americans. They're a big country."

Ostrovsky also included details of the Mossad's spy training program and instruction on the use of weaponry. He also charged that the Mossad teaches developing agents that there are "three major 'hooks' that are employed for recruiting people: money; emotion, either vengeance or ideology and sex."

So what's new? Any James Bond disciple has known these things since the 1960s.

Israel wants to save face. Facing the music is a more appropriate metaphor. Ostrovsky was taken to court for his book in New York and Toronto and the Israeli attorneys won restraining orders



**Matt McBurnett**  
Columnist

against the book's publication. Last week, Israel was the appellee in another New York trial and they lost, so the ban was lifted.

By the next day, the book had sold out of its first printing. I can see how the initial gag was in order, but I am encouraged that the full rights of the press were upheld.

In most instances, if the press did not tell us, no one would. Reporters, and authors in this case, are anxious to break a big story or inform the public about something controversial. Whether the motivation be money, fame or whatever, members of the press are hungry for information. They only write what the public wants.

The media is our fourth branch of government. It keeps all of the other branches in check, and balances the heavyweights of the other branches against public opinion.

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As for Israel, good try. I suggest that you try another country with a different constitution if you want to practice censorship. Whatever gag agreements that are made between the Mossad and its agents, present and past, are left to your prosecutors to enforce, not our courts.

I am proud that we do not suppress freedom of the press.

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(USPS 045 360)

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The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Newsroom: 845-3313. Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year; 845-2611. Advertising rates furnished on request: 845-2696.

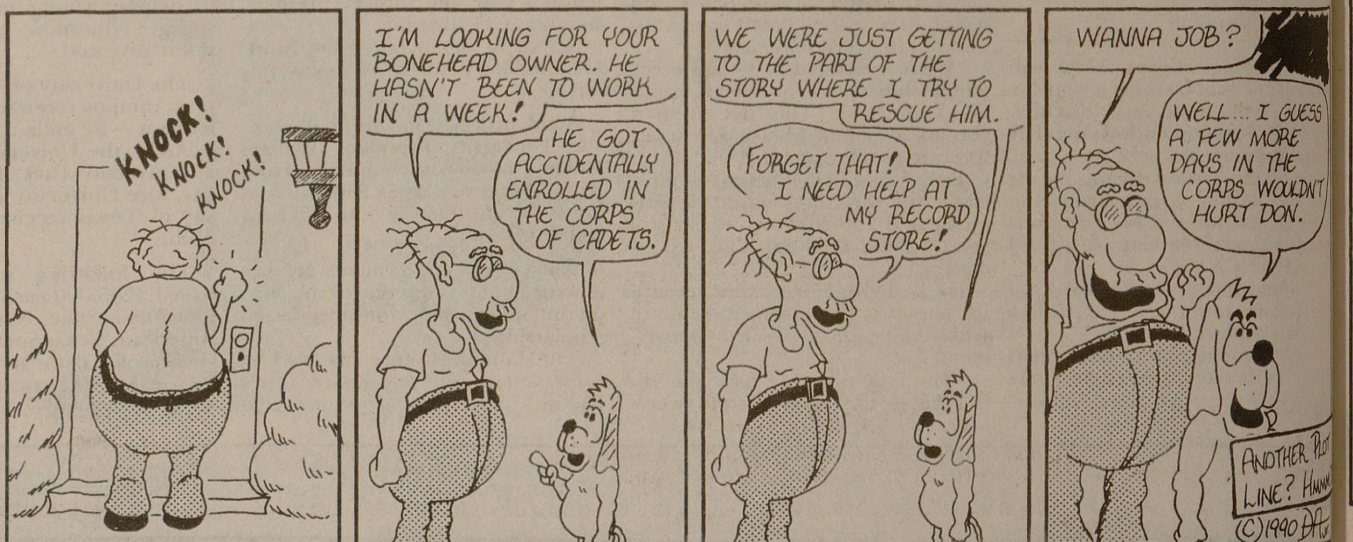
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Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.

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

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