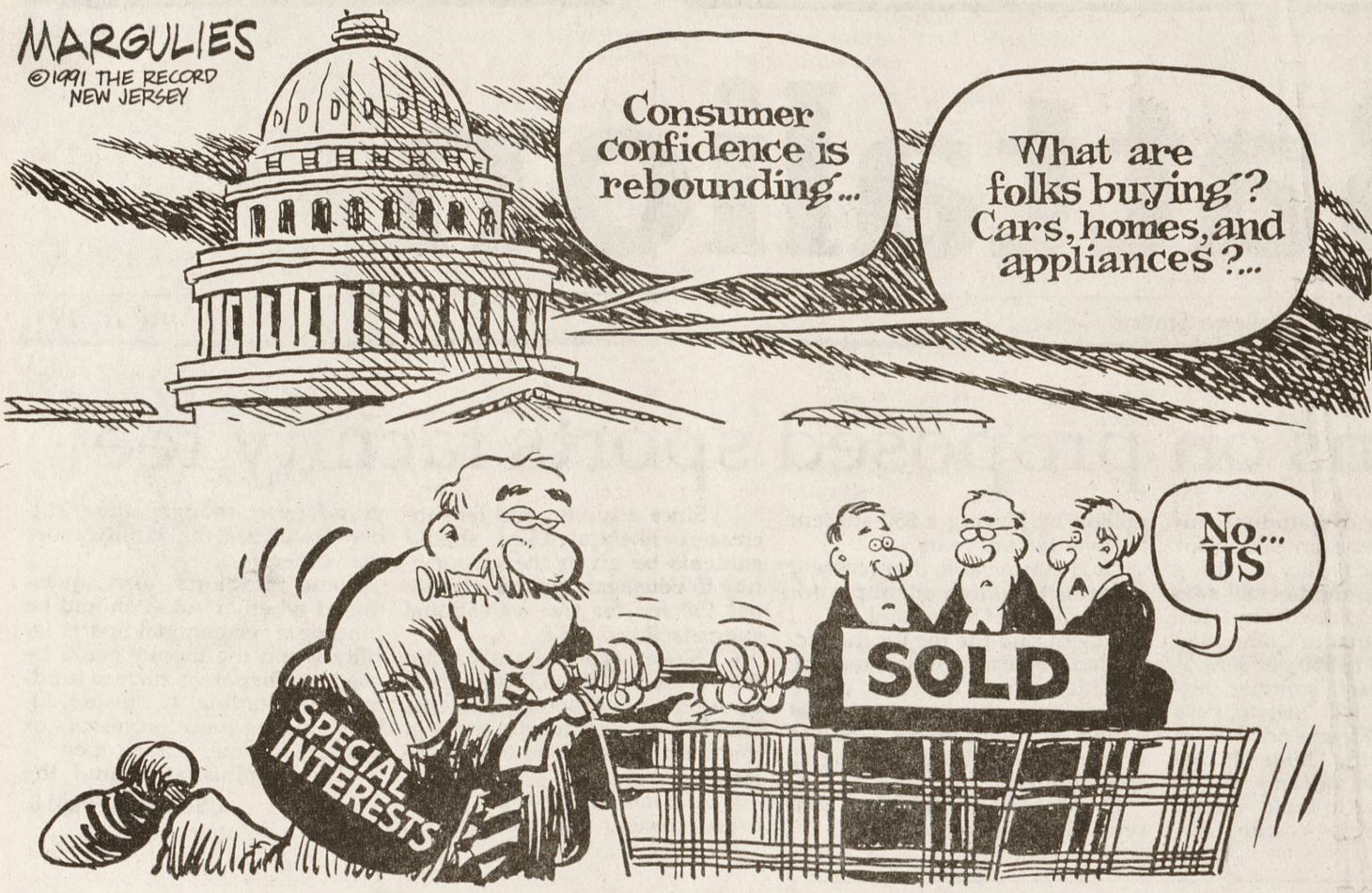


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EDITORIALS

Editorials expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

Re-evaluate sports center fee

We believe that although the campus needs more recreational sports space, the new \$41 million recreational sports facility will cost too much. The proposed fee of \$50 per student per semester is just too high.

Last week, the state Senate Finance Committee approved a bill that would allow Texas A&M to charge the \$50 fee when the facility opens in Fall 1994 or Spring 1995.

At that time, A&M students who attended fall, spring and both summer sessions would be charged \$150 per year for a building that they might never use.

No one has proven that the majority of students will use the new facility that all students will pay for.

The costs of education are getting out of hand, and the recreational sports fee could be the last straw.

We believe the recreational sports department should reconsider the \$50 fee. The \$35 fee the state Senate approved for the project in 1989 is much more reasonable.

The Battalion Editorial Board

MAIL CALL

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers and welcomes all letters to the editor. Please include name, classification, address and phone number on all letters. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Because of limited space, shorter letters have a better chance of appearing. There is, however, no guarantee letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

Ask, ye shall receive

EDITOR:

Having read the April 16 letter of "Kellie," I was shocked when my mind was opened and I learned that the Bible I have been living by (to the best of my ability) for the last two years is nothing but a gross misrepresentation of the original Greek and Hebrew.

So I did a little research of my own. I obtained an Inter-linear Greek-English New Testament.

This book (and many others like it are available) provides the reader with the word by word translation of the original texts that Kellie claims do not specifically condemn homosexuality.

Here are the results of my study: Romans 1:26-27, the original translation as given in Interlinear, and then as rendered by the translators of the New King James Version.

26. For this reason gave up them God to passions of dishonour, both for females their changed the natural use into that contrary to nature; 27. And in like manner also the males having left the natural use of the female, were inflamed in their lust towards one another, males with males shame working out, and the recompense which was fit of their error in themselves receiving.

27. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

Kellie wanted an "intelligent basis on which to support the argument that these (the Old and New Testaments) are accurate translations of the original text."

Ask and ye shall receive.

Patrick Goguen '92

For those of us who are Christians, we must remember that it is not our place to judge homosexuals (Matthew 7:1), but rather to share the Bible with them and allow them the opportunity to study and fully understand the Bible for themselves.

The Bible speaks for itself, but to understand what it is saying, you must read it for yourself and not rely on anyone's "perspective" (Ephesians 5:5,6).

Michelle Lyone '93

Stay on the sidewalks

EDITOR:

Sidewalks. Why do we have them? What are they for? I always have thought of sidewalks as a convenient place to walk, to keep the dirt off my shoes, to keep my feet dry when it rains or, if for no other reason, simply out of respect for the beauty of my campus. Dirt pathways though grassy areas look so unkept.

But when I walk around the Texas A&M campus, I wonder. I wonder why someone put the sidewalks here.

I wonder when I follow a young man across campus who never deviates from his path, straight through a line of bushes, straight through a flower bed, only touching the sidewalk when it matches his path.

I wonder when I see two young women veer from their path through a hedge row only to avoid hitting a bush.

I really wonder, though, when I see a man, all decked out in a business suit and shiny shoes, walking along under an umbrella in a rain storm, who cuts the sidewalk corner and sloshes through a mud puddle, emerging with filthy shoes.

Granted, the majority uses the sidewalks. It's only the few that keep our campus from looking neat and trim.

Come on A&M, stay on the sidewalks, off the grass and out of the flower beds. Let the landscaping return to its intended state. Be proud of your campus!

William H. Charlton Jr.
graduate student

Read the Bible for yourself

EDITOR:

After attending Dr. Helminiak's seminar concerning the Biblical perspective on homosexuality, I felt that many listeners who were homosexuals might have been misled.

Dr. Helminiak, in referring to scriptures such as Romans 1:18-32, failed to point out the consequences of the sins that were committed.

Romans 1:32 states "who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."

What if there's ample evidence?

EDITOR:

In response to Stephen Beck's article concerning coerced confessions: Why should coerced confessions even be allowed as evidence if there already was ample evidence to convict? Why?

Gregory T. Damron '91

Change comes through the heart, not from laws

Discrimination by skin color is one of the most obscene policies our nation has ever had in place. Whether African Americans were denied access to schools, front seats in buses or water fountains, discrimination was wrong. Every American has a right to be treated as a first-class citizen.

Over a period of years, and thanks to several legal battles, racial discrimination was rejected as unconstitutional. Of course, the result was a fully integrated society. I mean, that was the proposed result, wasn't it?

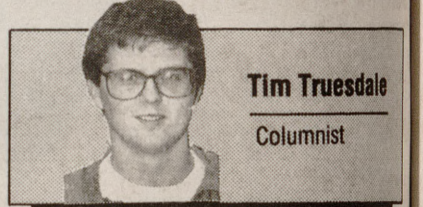
Actually, some scholars suggest the result was not more integration, but less. When schools were required to desegregate, whites moved into the suburbs to avoid sending their children to school with their black neighbors. When busing was instituted to counter the move, parents either moved again or sent their children to private schools.

"I believe that homosexuality is sin. But let me recommend that whoever among you is without sin should cast the first stone."

When the nation's bus lines experienced equality in seating, the same phenomena was seen. Of course, the airplane came along at the right time to keep those with superiority complexes from having to mingle with the minorities on the buses and in the depots. But, if it hadn't been for the plane, it would have been the train or some other escape.

What's the point? As awful as segregation was, it wasn't the problem. It was merely a symptom. The disease was hatred.

Institutional actions have no way to keep people from being treated as second-class citizens. Sure, they can prohibit discrimination, and they can even set quotas in an attempt to draw minorities into mainstream society. They even can award huge money settlements in attempts to make reparations.



Tim Truesdale
Columnist

But institutions cannot take away the hatred that causes the problem. Maybe morality can be legislated, and maybe it can't. For sure though, love cannot be legislated.

It appears to me that homosexuals on campus feel the brunt of hatred and discrimination. But really, which is the symptom and which is the disease?

If President Mobley could guarantee you tomorrow that no one could legally discriminate against you, would that make everyone treat you with respect? I seriously doubt it.

On the other hand, where are the people who claim to serve the God who is the author of love? Can we really afford to bash away "til Kingdom come?"

Of course I'll go on the record! I believe that homosexuality is sin. But let me recommend that whoever among you is without sin should cast the first stone.

There is only one way to change people. It can't be done by outlawing discrimination. That's already been tried; it failed miserably.

But people aren't changed by hurting stones, either. Just look at how much success we've had using that tactic.

The only way people are changed is through a transformation of the heart.

Tim Truesdale is a graduate student in urban planning.

The Battalion

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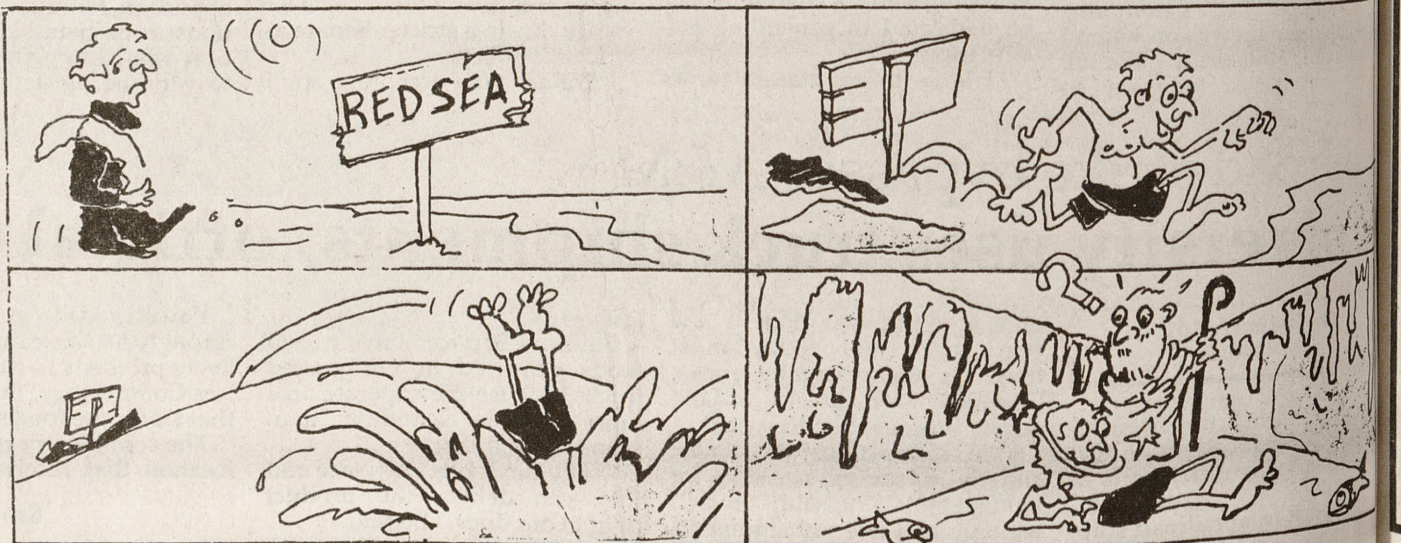
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