

Seminar to address myths about gays

BY KRISTIN STOCKTON
The Battalion

A seminar entitled "Dispelling the Myths of Homosexuality" will be tonight at 7 p.m. in 111 Koldus to educate students about stereotypes associated with homosexuality.

The Student Action Committee; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Aggies (GLBTA); and Gender Issues Education Services (GIES) are sponsoring the program.

Dr. Mary Ann Moore, a psychologist from the Student Counseling Service, will discuss misinformation surrounding homosexuality.

Moore said a good example of these myths in popular culture is the movie *In & Out*.

"Not all gay men are good dancers, and they don't all love Barbara Streisand," she said. "These are exactly the kinds of myths we want to acknowledge, as well as the more serious ones."

Following the speaker, a panel of gay, lesbian and bisexual students will be available to answer questions and listen to comments from the audience.

Moore said the seminar would have to be longer and more in-depth in order to actually change people's feelings about homosexuality, but instead what she said they hope to do is bring to people's attention stories they hear about homosexuals and their lifestyles that are not necessarily true. She said some of the prejudice against homosexuals comes from a lack of knowledge, and that is what they are trying to change.

Trish Draughn, a graduate assistant with GIES, said she hopes the program encourages people to look beyond labels.

"We are hoping this program can raise awareness that homosexual people are just like everyone else," she said. "They are all individuals and should not be stereotyped."

Academy creates ethics think tank

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — The U.S. Naval Academy, shaken by a series of scandals during the 1990s, has created a think tank on military ethics.

The Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics will hold conferences and collect military case studies illustrating ethical dilemmas that will be available for training programs throughout the military.

It will be funded by private donors. "This center symbolizes a concerted effort to restore and enhance the reputation of our sailors and Marines," Navy Secretary John Dalton said Monday.

Since the early 1990s, the 153-year-old academy has been beset by problems including a major test-cheating scandal and allegations of sexual harassment by students.

NICKEL

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"This means that freshmen in high school may be urged to take remedial courses to boost their GPA and not preparing them for college."

Issues Nickel said are currently being worked on include:

- expanding Aggie Bucks to on-campus washing machines and dryers and at athletic events

- a centralized database system that would include information about professors, including grade distribution and teacher evaluations

- the 60-60-60 Q-drop bill, reforming the current Q-drop policy.

- a graduated-ticketing plan to be implemented during the first two weeks of school in order to reduce confusion about parking during the first weeks of the semester

• a possible Internet registration system.

Dr. Ben Welch, director of Student Activities, also addressed a crowd of 100 students, introducing himself and providing an overview of the goals he has for his position.

Welch said one of his goals is to aid students who are looking for a way to get involved in campus activities.

"One of the things that I am continuing to work on is to help students who have not yet found their niche," Welch said. "I have been in Student Activities for one of the things that I have found is that there are so many students that have not found their niche on campus where they can actually serve. We are working on aiding the over 700 student organizations find [those students]

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