

Can't we all just get along?

Differences between cadets, non-reg students should not be source of conflict for Aggies

With the new election of the Corps members Ricky and the position of the Corps leader, it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the division and competition between non-reg Aggies and



CHRISTINA BARROWS

Everyone at Texas A&M University should be considered equally "Aggie." Every student who attends this University in the same manner and should be treated as equals. Unfortunately, there seems to be a huge problem between those who wear uniforms and those who do not.

At the same time A&M students stopped an unfair political competition between non-reg and Corps and realized all Aggies should be on the same side.

For example, Kyle Field would have looked pretty sad during the Nebraska game if the non-reg population had not filled the stadium decked-out in maroon shirts. In the same manner, the 11-time show would be just another high-school performance about the Aggie Band.

The traditional foundation of the Corps of Cadets. Don't believe it? Imagine silence after a march down because non-reg students did not need their Paras Mounted Calvary anymore. Silver Taps and Muster are no longer held in the honor of all Aggies, non-reg and Corps alike, because non-reg could not recognize the importance of the Corps Volunteers.

The hostility between the groups is most apparent at election time when the student body divides into the two "political parties" of non-reg and Corps. The signs such as "Vote Non-reg, don't let 5 percent represent 0 percent," it is evident the school becomes divided.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Why do non-reg students consider cadets to be in a different category from other Aggies when they have been representing A&M for over 100 years in the

same fashion as any other organization? Another ignorant point about this sign is the implication that the majority of the student body

does not want cadets in office because they do not represent non-reg. *The Battalion* reported that four times the number of cadets went to the polls in the

1999 election and four cadets made yell leader. The math is simple: the Corps block would not decide the yell leader election if non-reg did not want

them to, or if they felt misrepresented as Aggies by a cadet.

It is also time to stop harassing cadets for their "biased" voting. Just as any non-reg Aggie would vote for his fraternity brothers or Bonfire buddies, the same applies to the Corps of Cadets.

Organizations support their members and friends support each other. It is not forced upon cadets to vote for other cadets, it is a matter of choice.

And many times cadets choose to support someone else. Case in point, several cadets were seen passing out fliers for Will Hurd, despite the fact his opponent is a proud member of the Corps of Cadets.

However, there is a deeper issue that cannot be overlooked when discussing this topic. The Corps block itself does need to be stopped because of its political unfairness to other potential Corps candidates.

It is only a matter of time before the rest of the school clues in and forms a non-reg block. That's right, the ultimate A&M divider is on its way and it will not be pretty.

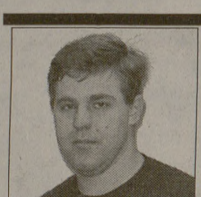
Other non-reg students will still be permitted to run, but the mere advertisement of a concentrated non-reg vote on five candidates will shatter the Corps block by sheer numbers. This will only further the loss of voter rights as elections become a fight between non-reg and cadets.

Political unfairness, both in the Corps and among the non-reg, is not a tradition that should continue at A&M. No one has the right to designate who can run for a position and who cannot. And it causes misrepresentation when Aggies vote strictly non-reg or Corps as if these titles are some political ticket. All Aggies should just vote for the individual they believe in, and may the best Aggie win.

Christina Barrows is a sophomore English major.

Homosexual-rights movie for second-grade students wrong

One of the most contentious issues in American society today is homosexuality. It is an issue that evokes such strong emotions on both sides of the spectrum that it has gone overboard. On one side, there is the First Baptist Church of Topeka, Kansas — more commonly known to the public as the folks who carry the "God hates fags" signs around any time where TV cameras might be found. Not to outdone, the homosexual rights side has the up "ACT UP," whose tactics are very similar to those of the New York Knicks' defense — get up in everyone's faces as often as possible.



MARK PASSWATERS

The latest episode in this conflict centers around a documentary in which second-grade children are taught about homosexuality. In one scene, shown on both CNN and the Fox News channel, a young boy looks at his friend and says, "Who cares if I'm gay?" The friend replies, "Not me." How cute. However, a large question looms over this scene — how many of these kids have any concept of what homosexuality really is? That matter, can they understand the concept of "sexuality" at all?

What the makers of this film seem to have forgotten is that it is next to impossible to understand the birds and the bees. Instead of having that seems to be the desired effect — "These little children can be tolerant, so why can't you?" — the film lands firmly in the category of child exploitation.

The concept of human sexuality is not an easy one. It is usually taught in sixth grade or later for a reason. The most mature children do not get "the talk" until third grade or so, then it usually takes a couple of years for the children to think that they really know what is going on and a couple more years after that to truly understand what happens when the lights go out.

Sex is not a cavalier issue; it should be approached with discretion and tact. Homosexuality is an even touchier issue, and one that should be approached between far more mature individuals. Having a conversation in class about the book *My Sister Sam*, followed by a detailed discussion on homosexuality is not really some-

thing that should be happening with someone who will go home after school and watch "Animaniacs."

If the homosexual lobby thinks that efforts like this will help convince the average American to accept them, they had better think again. Many people are not merely personally or morally opposed to homosexuality, but feel that it is a sin condemned by God.

Other people, who have not yet developed a stance on this issue, will almost certainly be sickened by the use of children as pawns in a high stakes game between adults.

"... it is next to impossible to understand the birds and the bees if someone cannot understand the birds and the bees."

Eventually, children will learn that God created (and/or humanity evolved to) Adam and Eve. They will also learn that, in certain parts of the population, they might find Adam and Steve. Before they reach that point, they will have also learned that there is a time and place for everything.

This, it would appear, is something that the creators of this film and those that back their political position have not yet learned. A second-grade classroom is most certainly not the time or the place for a discussion on homosexuality.

Children of this age cannot possibly fathom the depths to which such a discussion can go. One thing that adults most certainly can fathom, however, is how sick an idea this film is.

One of the most often repeated lines by homosexual rights activists is that "hate is not a family value." This may be true but planting their beliefs in the minds of young children who are not mentally capable enough to make their own stances is not education — it is corruption.

If this is the way that the homosexual rights lobby chooses to approach this delicate issue, it is in serious trouble-for no matter what may come from the mouths of babes, the parents will be so repulsed that it will make no difference.

Mark Passwaters is a graduate electrical engineering student.

Readers debate feminism, abortion

In response to Demond Reid's Apr. 8 opinion column.

Reid mentions in his review that feminism is "veering off in more directions than a drunken New York cab driver."

This is true because many truths have been distorted, and women are blinded from what they are truly seeking — equality. By choosing abortion as a solution to a problem women subject themselves to much hidden pain and suffering.

Like an abusive relationship, she doesn't foresee the destiny of grief, pain, fear, abandonment and much more. If a woman knew that she would be subjecting herself to this entrapment, she surely would not enter into the relationship.

I don't believe Foster's comparison of abortion to violence against women was farfetched because they yield many similar characteristics.

Like the battered woman, the woman who suffered an abortion goes through physical and psychological distress while the man walks away free from the damage he has caused.

Many myths bury the truth about abortion. This simple procedure not only contains many risks such as infertility and death but is also unnatural and painful.

If the situation were reversed where men were pregnant, legislation would not be any different.

Tough laws are created to protect women and innocent children not to prevent women from gaining equality. Abortion is a moral issue, therefore whether it is a woman or a man that was undergoing it, it would not be widely promoted. There would still be the same fight that exists today.

In the end, the true debate is about the right to life. Because one is weak, helpless, and unable to speak for himself or herself, it is right to terminate his or her existence?

MAIL CALL

To do so would be to allow the dominance of strong over weak, therefore defeating the purpose of feminism — equality.

Mary Tran
Class of '01

I am not a feminist, so I openly admit that my perception of the feminist movement is one of an "outsider." However, I feel the need to point out how feminism and anti-abortionism are mutually supportive.

Reid's statement that "a feminist against abortion is like a drowning man against a life preserver" seems ignorant of either ideology. What is the essence of feminism? Why did the movement originate?

Consider this answer: Feminism came into existence to amplify the weak voice of a silenced, suppressed, an abused group of people. Women began to demand their rights and stand up against the mistreatment that had been a part of their lives for so long.

Now tell me this ... have you heard an aborted baby cry out against the robbing of its life? How many fetuses have you seen demanding their right to life or standing up against the abuse of abortion?

The answer is none. So tell me, how similar were the silenced, suppressed women of the '50s to the soundless, helpless babies of today that can't scream loud enough for anyone to care whether their lives are snuffed out?

Feminism is about the rights of a powerless group of people. It is so hard to see that the plight of the unborn is the same? I do not speak for feminists, and I do not speak for the unborn because I am neither, but I do see a common goal of the two: the right to life and dignity.

Furthermore, the only thing that Reid illustrated by saying "if men were able to get pregnant, abortions would be easier to get than gonorrhea at a latex-option-

al bordello" is that no one on Earth is more abusive, self-seeking, and blissfully murderous than men. Congratulations Demond, you sure can make policy. It is because of that mentality that there is a feminist movement at all.

As long as men abuse those who aren't strong enough to stop them, there will be feminists. As long as there are women who do the same, there will be anti-abortionists. Both stand against the abuse of the weak and powerless. They are remarkably similar.

Carrie Kendrick
Class of '00

I just wanted to say thank you for your article on abortion. This is your best opinion since the beginning of the year. I think men speak out against abortions more than women.

Regardless, it is a woman's body, so let them do whatever the hell they want with it. I also have a suggestion for the anti-abortionists. Why don't we worry about the living children who are starving and impoverished first. If the 'pro-lifers' put the same energy into the living children as they do protesting in front of abortion clinics, we could see a dramatic dropoff of hunger in America. Think about it.

Adam Manson
Class of '00

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