

Gay cadet quits Corps after hostile reactions

By BRADY CREEL & MARIUM MOHIUDDIN
The Battalion

Unlike the sunny beaches of California, Texas A&M and the Corps of Cadets are not a welcoming haven for all. That was the experience of one student who entered A&M and the Corps as a sophomore in August and told his outfit he was gay.

The cadet, who will be called John in the article, is a four-year veteran of the military from southern California. About three weeks ago, he informed members of his Corps outfit that he is gay. But, problems did not arise for John until Monday, when fellow members of the Corps walked past the Memorial Student Center (MSC) breezeway and saw him sitting at an information table for the

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Aggies (GLBTA).

As of Wednesday, John is no longer a cadet, a decision he made of his own volition.

"I got absolutely ripped by my buddies," John said of the outfit's response to his presence at the GLBTA table. "I was called an embarrassment and disgrace to my outfit and the Corps. I have never been made to feel worse and more ashamed of who and what I am than I did [Tuesday]."

The dissension did not come from his upperclassmen, outfit commanders or Corps staff. It came from his "buddies" and forced John to make the decision to leave the Corps. Yet he still advocates participation in the Corps.

"As much as I love the Corps, it is not my

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— "John"
a former Corps member
who requested anonymity

right to create a situation where there is animosity. I am not bitter toward the Corps or my outfit. I did it for them, not for me," said John, explaining his decision to leave the Corps.

He said the response of some of his outfit members was "very hostile—bordering on violent." John said one of his female buddies said he "disgraced her" and "made her look bad."

John said he does not want the Corps nor his outfit to look bad, but he wishes that people would understand him and others like him.

"What happened to me was a result of misunderstandings and fear," he said. "People should have told me how they felt a long time ago and not waited for something to happen."

John said his openness with his sexual orientation was an understanding with the rest

of his outfit: He wanted to be in control of what people knew about him and that it was not his outfit's place to tell people about it.

"They can't understand it because they don't get it up here," he said, pointing to his head. "A lot of times, they refuse to believe that it is not a choice and that we are made this way."

Major Doc Mills, media relations coordinator for the Corps of Cadets, said the Corps and its administration are part of the University and the Corps is bound to the same policies of the University, but could not comment specifically about the case.

"I am not going to speculate on this case because I do not have knowledge about it,"

See CORPS on Page 12.

Internships teach Aggies the ropes in Washington

Public Policy among new A&M programs

By BRADY CREEL
The Battalion

The old adage "get your foot in the door" might change to "get your whole leg in the door" at Texas A&M as the Public Policy Internship Program (PPIP) officially lifts off.

"We need more Aggies in Washington, D.C.," said Manda Rosser, PPIP coordinator and a student development coordinator for the office of Honors Programs & Academic Scholarships.

She said needing more Aggies in Washington was the consensus among officials in Washington, D.C., and A&M administrators when the program began its development phase about 18 months ago after A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen took a trip to Washington, D.C.

Rosser said Bowen set aside an endowment of \$2 million to start sending Aggies to Washington D.C.

Rosser said the PPIP is designed to find the best fit for the students in the internship program, find them internships, give them academic credit and give them a stipend to help them pay for expenses.

In addition, she said, most agencies employing interns probably will pay them.

"If we are going to send good-quality students, they should be willing to compensate for that," she said.

Rosser said a selling point of the program is the chance for students to get hands-on experience.

"These internships are less than 20 percent clerical," she said. "You're not going to be just answering the phone or doing the mail. You're going to be in committee meetings, doing research, taking notes, helping make decisions and really seeing the workings of public policy."

Students from all majors are welcome to apply for the PPIP. Students need not be in the honors program, but must be at least a junior with 60 credit hours when the internship happens and have a GPR of 3.0 or higher.

The PPIP was in its trial phase for the 2000 spring and summer semesters but is beginning "full force" this fall. Rosser said the five interns who participated in the pilot program were really successful.

One intern chose to extend her internship and is still in Washington, D.C. "A lot of times that happens,"

Pulling strings



Andrzej Grabiec, a member of the Western Arts Trio chamber music group, rehearses on the violin before a performance at the Presidential Conference Center.

Gore criticizes Bush's record

Candidates call on Yasser Arafat to end Middle Eastern violence

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — Al Gore criticized Gov. George W. Bush's record in Texas in debate Wednesday night, saying he blocked hate crimes legislation and presides over a state that ranks last in health insurance for families. "We care about our people in Texas," Bush shot back, and said the state spends \$4.7 billion a year on the uninsured alone.

In the waning moments of their second 90-minute clash, Bush said Gore had misrepresented several facts in their first debate, and that prompted an unusual apology from the vice president.

"I got some of the details wrong," the vice president responded softly. "I'm sorry about that, and I'm going to try to do better" in the future.

The two men met on a stage at Wake Chapel at Wake Forest University with less than four weeks remaining in their close, volatile race for the White House. The atmosphere seemed more congenial than when they debated last week in Boston, and when it ended, Bush mouthed the words "good job" to his rival as they shook hands.

The calendar calls for one more pre-election debate, next Tuesday in St. Louis.

It was a debate in two parts: the first half a polite conversation about foreign policy, the second half a more pointed series of disagreements over domestic issues.

Gore and Bush both called on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to restrain the violence rocking Israel. The vice president also called on Syria to "release three Israeli soldiers that have been cap-

tured" by Hezbollah militia forces during more than 10 days of violence. Both men stressed support for Israel.

When asked by moderator Jim Lehrer of PBS about the Middle East, Gore said, "We need to insist that Arafat send out instructions to halt some of the provocative acts of violence that have been going on."

Bush, given a chance to answer the same question, began by saying that in times of tension overseas, "We ought to be speaking with one voice. I appreciate the way the administration has been working to calm the tensions."

He also said the United States ought to call on Arafat "to have his people pulled back."

Gore defended the administration's handling of Iraq's Saddam Hussein. Bush, whose father was president during the Persian Gulf War, declared that the "coalition against Saddam is unraveling... sanctions are being violated." If Saddam is developing weapons of mass destruction, he said, "There are going to be consequences if I'm president."

Gore, who has been buffeted by allegations that he embellishes the facts, readily offered a mea culpa after Lehrer raised the issue in a question to Bush, and the governor read from a 1988 staff memo to then-Sen. Gore to be careful about getting facts right.

"I can't promise I will never get another detail wrong. I can promise you I will do my best if I'm elected president. I will work by heart out to get it right for the American people," Gore said.

Asked if he was satisfied with the explanation, Bush said, "That's up to the American people, isn't it."

October named for fire prevention

By MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

On Oct. 1, five College Station residents faced the reality that their house had burned, destroying everything they had. However, the question remains: How prepared are students for a fire?

The Bryan and College Station fire departments, as well as the Brazos County Precinct Fire Department, are posing this question as part of Fire Prevention Month this October.

In its 60th year, national Fire Prevention Month commemorates the Oct. 9, 1871, Great Chicago Fire, which left 100,000 people homeless, 17,400 structures burned and more than 250 people dead.

Bart Humphreys, public information officer for the College Station Fire Department (CSFD), said this year's theme is "The Great Escape," which stresses the importance of home exit drills.

"The majority of fire deaths occur in the home because people aren't prepared to escape," Humphreys said. "We give them information to help them plan in advance for this type of emergency. Hopefully, we can prevent it, but if it does happen, hopefully, they can get out alive."

Because a large percentage of Bryan-College Station residents are students and many live in apartments, Bryan Fire Department (BFD) and CSFD will hold a mock apartment fire on Tuesday to educate residents about the importance of preparing a fire escape plan for their homes.

Apartment #413 in the Plantation Oaks complex on Harvey Road will be the site for the mock fire. Theatrical smoke will be used to simulate a fire in the apartment. After a simulated emergency call to the 911 dispatcher, the fire departments will demonstrate their emergency response and rescue methods.

"When we do these simulations, we do them really safely us-



Dustin Metting, an employee at the Brayton Fire School, refills fire extinguishers for use in training drills.

Public Policy Internship Program

FEATURES:

- FULL-TIME INTERNSHIPS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
- 6 HOURS OF ACADEMIC CREDIT AWARDED AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Students must have at least a junior classification

Students must maintain a GPR of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

For more information visit <http://PPIP.tamu.edu>

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

Students, administrators share, eat at bug banquet

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — Steamed crickets and baked mealworms provided a juicy feast Wednesday for a group of surprised Texas A&M administrators who could not recall approving Bug Tasting 101 as a course offering.

The Aggie officials thought they were attending a science class to improve interaction with students, but instead found a bug banquet prepared by entomology professor Roger Gold.

"I think they're very tasty," said William Krumm, controller and vice president for finance. "I think the worms are my favorite. They have that nice chewy taste."

Charles Sippal, vice president for administration, seemed to prefer crickets.

"If it came down to it, I guess I could survive on insects out in the wilderness," he said. "But I don't think I'll ask my wife to have a plate of these ready tonight."

Gold offers the bug tasting once each semester, to point out how tasty, vitamin-rich and full of protein insects are.

Like it or not, they are a steady part most Americans' diets, he said.

"I guess I could survive on insects out in the wilderness. But I don't think I'll ask my wife to have a plate of these ready tonight."

— Charles Sippal
vice president for administration

"A box of raisins you buy at the store is full of insect parts," Gold said. "On average, there are 10 or more insect parts for every 8 ounces of raisins."

The average peanut butter and jelly sandwich has about 56 insect parts in it, he said.

"The point is, just about every piece of food we eat has insect parts, and the government knows this," Gold said. "The Food and Drug Administration realizes it's impossible to eliminate all insect parts from food, so they have set down maximum standards allowed for food products."

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