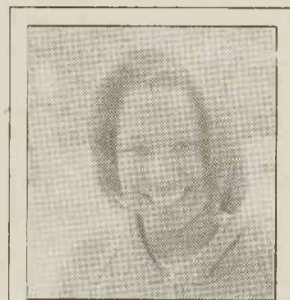


Gays in the military: What's the big deal?

Left! Left! Left! Right! Left!, are the words that some groups in the military are so eager to hear. These people are homosexuals. Now that President Clinton is taking steps to lift the ban against homosexuals in the military, it has caused many people to react with disgust, hate and cruelty.



KIM HALL

Editorial Page Editor

The guidelines in President Clinton's compromise include: Not asking new recruits about their sexual orientation, suspending investigations

to weed out gays in uniform and suspending current cases seeking to discharge gays. It has ultimately put this issue along with others into a huge controversial pot.

Many Americans are against this change. Some argue that having gays in the military would distort the whole system. They feel that these men and women would not know how to properly perform for their country in wartime situations. According to them, gays should be dismissed, otherwise outbreaks of sodomy will happen consistently. These self-righteous, homophobic people, as I like to call them, are quick to shake their finger and protest. What they should be doing is looking at themselves. Did these people know that there are more sexual-harassment lawsuits filed against "straight" people than there are against homosexuals?

My view point on this subject is, what is the big deal? The only thing that these misguided stereotypes do is create division and hinder justice. Gays have been active in serving in the military for years and doing just as well as heterosexuals.

Look at it like this: If a homosexual does his or her job, pays taxes and minds his or her own business, how will it affect you? Why should they be the ones to lose their jobs? I don't understand why so many people are lashing out against this trivial matter. Perhaps it is because of their own insecurities and ignorance. It isn't fair for the system to cast stones at someone for their sexual preference, just like it wasn't fair long ago when they felt that blacks were incapable of serving with white infantry soldiers.

We must not let prejudice guide us, but instead work to better our relationships with all types of people. Until we learn to do this we will go nowhere.

The Abortion Controversy: Pro-Choice

Women of all ages, sizes, races, ethnic groups and socioeconomic backgrounds receive abortions daily. Abortion is defined as the premature expulsion or removal of an embryo or fetus from the uterus before birth. Is abortion legal? The Supreme Court's decision in Roe vs. Wade made abortion a reproductive right.

Pro-choice activists believe that abortion is a private medical procedure that a woman may choose to undergo or to reject. Pro-choice activists believe the abortion issue does not belong on the



**MELODY
WHITAKER**

Opinion

governmental agenda any more than do other surgical procedures that some deem especially unwise. About 1.5 million abortions are performed annually.

The fundamental moral principle for pro-choice is the right to control one's body against social regulation. Every woman has a property in her own person. The right to one's own body is at the center of individual liberty. The pro-choice movement believes that authority to end pregnancies should be solely with the woman. The government continually tries to govern over what a woman should do concerning her body. The courts need to keep abortion legal. Studies show if the courts overturn Roe vs. Wade and make a lot of restrictions, many women that are less fortunate will definitely suffer. Many people feel as if the court system cannot choose what a woman can or cannot do with her body. How can a law dictate these measures? If this were to happen, many woman would do anything to harm their bodies over the knowledge of an unwanted child.

Without abortion rights, women of color are the first to die from back-alley butchers or forced to submit to sterilization, a form of legalized genocide and the United States government's final solution to the "race problem". Women students are forced out of school and white women are coerced into compulsory pregnancy



and unemployment lines. Women and our male allies refuse to submit peacefully to a Supreme Court decision that sentences women and children to deprivation and death. Women must take control and prepare to:

- *Defend in the courtroom, the media and on the streets—doctors, nurses, staff and patients who challenge court and legislative edicts against reproductive freedom;
- *Demand that our unions, churches and community organizations take an active role in defending abortion rights;
- *Aggressively defend women's clinics from physical and political attacks by right-wing supporters;
- *Support national and local legislation that guarantees abortion with funding, as well as free, 24-hour childcare and prenatal care

for low income and poor women.

Developments in rights of control of fertility will obviously not solve the deep economic and social problems facing the world. However, they will give greater control over the lives and more opportunity to have the number of children they want and at the time of life when they are best able to care for them. In the not-so-long run, we need a socialist revolution to guarantee lasting reproductive freedom and to create the good life that every politician promises—but can't deliver.

LETTERS

Express yourself. We welcome your signed letters. Send to Editor, Bennett Banner, Box 302, Bennett College Greensboro, NC 27401. Please include phone number.

Ain't no stoppin' us now!

My how time does fly when you are having fun. All of the fraternity parties, social gatherings, dorm room chats, cafeteria food fights, political sit-ins, and the masses of college activities. Bennett Belles have experienced so much over a period of four, five, or six years that sometimes they have to ask, "How did I make it this far?"

It has been said that people grow on another level when they are in college. They learn to be independent, self motivated and mature. In some cases students who find the college experience to be too difficult to handle and return home.

Several seniors who will be graduating this Spring are full of excitement and anticipation

as well as fear and uncertainties. Graduation is a time in one's life when an individual goes from one level to another in her educational process. "I can't believe I am already graduating. It seems like I just came out of high school last year," said senior education major, Chile' Hailes. "I am glad it is all over, but at the same time I would love to have this time in my life back again."

There have been difficult times during the undergraduate years at Bennett College.

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Opinion

Please see Friendships, next page