

Kim's Korner

# Just treat Faulkner like every other Cadet

Commentary by  
Kim Button

It's true that history does repeat itself. Forty years ago, the Supreme Court made a law to guarantee equal education without discrimination. But today we are faced with the same problem again, only this time with a new twist: discrimination based not on your race, but on your gender.

In the past few months, there has been much talk about Shannon Faulkner, who applied to The Citadel, was accepted, and then was told she could not attend because she was a

female. Soon the news spread and the country started wondering if it was fair to keep her out just because she is a girl.

One major reason people give that The Citadel should not become coed is simply because it is a long-standing tradition that the school is all-male. Well, some traditions were made to be broken.

The biggest reason that I've heard, however, is that a single-sex education is better, and that females would just be a distraction to the cadets. I admit, it would be much easier to concentrate on

academics without members of the opposite sex on the same campus, but students all over the country have learned to adjust. I'm sure the boys down at The Citadel could, too.

The real issue is that The Citadel is a state-sponsored, military college which all taxpayers, both male and female, help to support. And if everyone helps to support it, then we should all have an equal chance to go.

What the courts decide - if Faulkner can attend or not - will be a landmark decision. If they decide she can attend, sexual discrimination will take another major blow. But if the courts decide to

keep her out just because she is a female then they'll be sending out a message that women still aren't equal to men.

It is a shame that Shannon had to delete all references to her gender just to even be considered to be accepted, but what is even worse is the abuse that she has taken just for wanting to go to a school which she believes can give her the best education.

I hope that the people down at The Citadel realize soon that by not admitting women, they are turning their back on some of our country's brightest minds.

In the Long Run

# The Menendez brothers cut off my penis with an ice skate

Commentary by  
Christopher Ford

The Menendez brothers cut off my penis with an ice skate. Many times before we have had examples of how cosmetic the emphasis is in this nation's media, but none quite as evident as that that took the airwaves over during our winter break.

First of all, the stories that I am referring to do have some content to them, yet nowhere near the amount the press pumped into them. The Menendez

brothers did kill off their parents in a rage of lunacy, and Lorena Bobbitt did exactly what her last names implies. And the most newsworthy story of all, the Kerrigan attack, has us recounting memories of a Texas cheerleader's mom. Personally I am convinced that the Tonya Harding family is the result of government radiation testing on the Brady Bunch.

Yet in the long run of our nation, how do stories like these outweigh the nuclear proliferation of North Korea, the nuclear disarmament of the Ukraine, the

stock exchange rocketing, and President Clinton's health care package? They don't.

What outweighs these articles is our sadistic longings when we open the print or tune into CNN. It provides comfort for our own shortcomings when we watch someone taking the blows in the national media. We zone out from nagging bosses, bills, children, parents, and school by drooling over the downfall of others. This is not a nouveau observation, just very evident over the past two months of media and

reading; demands for "Court TV" from cable companies have hit the roof.

So in an update for those who have been waiting for Ginsu to run a phallic ad and Harding to be sponsored by the NRA, I'll give you a "use at any time" update on the world. We got colder, we got safer, we became threatened by a new side, and we deny all involvement. Personal conventional wisdom says to look for Michael Eisner to offer a lucrative deal to Kerrigan to star as Cinderella in Paris to pull EuroDisney out of a hole.

Guest Commentary

# The truth is, homosexuals are real human beings

Commentary by  
Missy McGill

*"At every age I was taught of the importancy of TRUTH. Truth prevails, honesty is the best policy, never lie or it will come back to haunt you, but today I have been reprimanded for telling the truth. My family has 'disowned' me, I lost my job, I was beaten walking the street in my own neighborhood, yelled at, spit on, lost friends, shunned by those who barely know me, and most importantly I have lost my rights. All of this for telling the truth... I'M GAY."*

- author unknown

It's hard to believe that even in the 90's, when our society is trying so hard to grow and expand further from its primitive ways of thinking, that there are people who are still being taught to judge others. Homophobia is unfortunately one of the prejudices of our society, but the focus of society is not on the homophobes but on the homosexuals.

Racism was changed when people began to realize that no matter what

color you were or where you were from, you were human and deserve equal rights. The racists were fought. The direction of change for homosexual rights also needs to focus towards the people who still believe that homosexuality is incorrect, immoral and unnatural. This unforgivable hate is not something that a person is born with, but something taught from one person to another. It is time to teach the truth!

Indisputably, love is a natural feeling, it is an emotion that isn't taught, yet society says that homosexual love is wrong or 'unnatural'. Homosexuality is nothing more than two people loving one another or searching for true love, the one thing most people search for all their lives. Take time to think, to put yourself in a homosexual's shoes, to end the useless hate and fear towards homosexuals, to befriend a homosexual, to stand up to the prejudices toward homosexuals. If you know a homosexual, you know an average person going through the same day-to-day trials and tribulations as you: having fun, laughing, crying, sleeping. (See *Homosexuals* on Page 3)

**THE CLARION**

---

Kim Button & Casey Marshall  
*Co-Editors*

Kelly Wright                      Henry Stepp II  
*Campus Life Editor              Photo Editor*

Ben Voegele                      Christopher Ford  
*Sports Editor                      International Page Editor*

Brad Kimzey  
*Advisor*