

Imagine yourself being placed in a wooden crate so small that you can't even lie down. You're kept in total darkness except for a couple hours a day. You never receive any solid food, only a liquid diet. You will never know how it feels to run through an open field or even breathe fresh air.

How does this scenario sound to you? Barbaric? Cruel? Inhumane? It's hard to believe that such suffering takes place in America; but unfortunately, it does. Every day, this treatment plagues hundreds of innocent animals.

Those animals are calves, taken away from their mothers at birth, squealing. Placed in tiny crates, the calves stand on wooden slabs for twenty-four hours a day. (If they moved around, their muscles would develop, and that would yield tough meat.) They can slouch against the sides of the crates, but can never fully lie down. Total dark-

ness surrounds them, except for the hours during feeding time. (Of course, the darkness keeps them from being restless, ensuring that tender meat.) Their diet consists of no solid food, only a liquid filled with antibiotics. (These drugs are absolutely necessary, you see. Without the medicine, the calves couldn't stay alive.) On this diet, the calves develop anemia and have continuous diarrhea. But soon their fate changes. In a

few weeks, they are brought into the light, taken away, slaughtered, and shipped off to grocery stores and restaurants throughout our country.



Kristin Mundy

No, I'm not an animal rights activist trying to persuade you to become a vegetarian. In fact, I'm a girl who grew up raising cattle for meat. I've seen calves just minutes after their birth, wobbling around in search of their mother's

see EDITORIAL page seven

Letters to the Editor

I am writing in regard to the Point/Counterpoint in last week's (Feb. 10) newspaper. I applaud Jackie Webb for defending the homosexuals and their rights, and I greatly frown on Tina Sylvester for her prejudice and misconceptions of the homosexual population. I don't think the Point was well supported at all, and for one to make judgment on such an important topic, they need to know a little more about the subject at hand and not just what their father tells them.

First of all, the opening statement about being stranded on a beach with three other people for seven days and having one of them be homosexual, causing the other two to act differently is far-fetched. I sincerely doubt that would happen. If anyone was deserted on a beach with nothing other than what you have on your back and the companionship of the other two people, I think the least of your worries would be whether or not the person sitting next to you was gay. What about your survival? I would have to say that your own survival would take precedence over the other person's sexual preference.

Secondly, it shouldn't be difficult to maintain high morale if the ban is lifted. If these heterosexual soldiers were any good at being a soldier and a defender to their country, than under any circumstance they should be able to keep the morale high. If they find that it's not possible than they weren't trained properly and maybe they are the ones that should not be in the military! As for having different housing for the heterosexuals and the homosexuals, this is also far-fetched. This won't ever happen successfully because one has to consider the many people who aren't going to come running out of the closet and admit they are gay, and who are still going to be housed in the "straight" barracks. Many of the gays in the military are strongly for the lifting of the ban because they feel it should

be the right of the soldier to be open about their sexuality. However, many of them will still remain "in the closet" because they know that the life and the harsh realities of being a homosexual are hard enough to live with without bringing it into the workplace for fear of ridicule and discrimination. These people are homosexuals, they are NOT stupid!!

I would like to argue other issues and misconceptions which were not discussed in the article. First of all, the theory that the straight soldiers would worry about the gay soldiers "hitting" on them. To clarify my point to a tee let me say this, what makes any (openly) straight person think that they are the objects of the homosexual's desire? Don't flatter yourself!! Why would a gay man or lesbian even bother with a straight man or woman? It's obvious this person isn't going to get anywhere unless the person he thought was straight turned out to be a homosexual or bisexual (would could easily happen nowadays). I would also like to say that the homosexual community has no hopes of turning the world gay, that is not their main objective by any means.

To further stress the issue of the spread of AIDS throughout the military, I would like to point out that the military has mandatory blood testing which goes on about twice a year so the cases of AIDS in the military is slim to none. I'd also like to point out that homosexuals are not the only people who have or get AIDS. There are a great deal of straight men and women that have this disease and with the increase in prevention precautions, I don't think the military has any more to worry about now than the did before the lifting of the ban.

In closing I would like to say that Ms. Sylvester's statement about President Clinton's military experience or lack of, has NO relevance in this situation. Stick to the point at hand! Also, knowing and

see LETTERS page seven

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