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Student Spotlight

Do you think gays should be accepted into the armed forces?



Leon Carroll
sophomore
undeclared

"It doesn't matter, because sexual actions are their own private matters."



Karen Ng
sophomore
secondary education

"Sexual preference doesn't matter about military skills. It depends on the individual skills and what they can contribute to the military."



Maurice Monteiro
junior
psychology

"It doesn't matter, but they have a personal responsibility to keep the level of tension down to a minimum."



Jean-Leon Stewart
senior
psychology

"I believe that there should be more awareness about gay issues by the military. I don't see it becoming the 'morale' issue they fear so much if attitudes and understanding can be changed. So basically, yes, they should be admitted."



Brandy Hoffman
freshman
education

"I think they should be admitted just like anybody else. There should be standards that they have to follow and if they agree to follow these standards there is no reason why they should not be allowed."

Are you ready for a third sex?

by Debra Bass

Although the theme for the Morton Downey vs. David Pallone debate was gay rights, it petered out during the opening statements when both espoused that there should be no special gay rights. The general consensus was simply to extend homosexual the same human rights and courtesy that everyone else gets. However, both parties addressed this issue from different perspectives and a new theme emerged—societal treatment and views of people from the gay/lesbian social group.

Pallone wants to eliminate gay and lesbian discrimination by eliminating the existing hatred and fear against them. He suggested that education, in both homes and schools, will counter prejudice in our youth who will in turn create a less homophobic society by building a forum for understanding these cultural differences. This is necessary, he added, because "society has taught and bred hatred (against gay and lesbians).

"Certain groups are just not allowed," Pallone said.

Downey countered that he was in favor of gay rights because "gays have a right to express themselves as long as they are not usurping the rights of others." He and several people commenting from the audience discussed public rest rooms, locker rooms, communal showers and sleeping quarters in their arguments. Generally, they proposed that, yes, gays and lesbians have a right to serve in the military and hold any occupation they choose. But they questioned whether or

not their privacy as heterosexuals was being infringed upon by being in such close proximity to homosexuals in the aforementioned areas.

Men and women do not share the same sleeping quarters or shower facilities because of the intimacy and temptation. Therefore, why should homosexuals be allowed special privileges? Downey proposed unisex bathrooms and other unisex facilities. However, Pallone suggested that it was only an overly active American male ego which leads them to believe that gays would find them attractive enough to "jump." He stressed self-control and moral restraint. But if we do not trust these guidelines for heterosexuals, the question again is why should we allow gays and lesbians special privileges? What makes them immune to the same temptations as heterosexuals? Probably nothing.

Pallone then argued that most sexual harassment offenses are initiated by heterosexuals, which is undeniably true considering comparative population sizes. He added during his career he was constantly in close proximity to men and had no record of impropriety. It was a matter of high moral conduct standards for him. Besides, he added, the performance of gays in the military and other professions is so critical and closely scrutinized that they dare not cross certain guidelines. But what happens when the controversy subsides and personal standards become more relaxed?

Debra Bass is the
Opinion page editor

Letters to the Editor



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