

Most offensive part was back page

22/7
The following column is my personal "opinion" and is not in any way the opinion of this newspaper. It is my reaction to an alternative newspaper distributed on the Iowa State campus; nothing more, nothing less.

I'm sure it was the intended effect but the current issue of *Campus Review* has a lot of people pissed off and some conservatives happily giggling.

The paper is focused on Iowa State and the "left wing" on campus. It was distributed in the residence halls and various other places at ISU.

Although the content of the entire issue can be labeled only irresponsible opinion, not journalism, perhaps the most offensive part is the back page, which illustrates two figures; one is standing and the other is bent over to simulate a sex act between two males. The entire caricature is circled in red with a red line through it.

The message at the top of the page says "To our special friends at Iowa State: The gay and lesbian student outreach — Stop Aids!"

I am not an active member of GLSO, but *Campus Review* just changed that. This kind of display of opinion is an insult to homosexuals everywhere, which I'm sure is the intended result. But it is also a display that is an insult to conservatives or the right wing everywhere.

When my lover, a female, and I saw the ad we were immediately enraged. Despite my commitment to freedom of speech under the First Amendment we ran towards the Memorial Union

AFTER DEADLINE

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intending to destroy as many copies as we could find. By the time we crossed campus cooler heads had prevailed. We decided to stop by the GLSO office in the Union to see if there was a plan of action.

They had not seen the paper yet, and upon hearing about the details several of them went in search of a copy.

As my lover and I continued on to Campustown to eat lunch we had an argument.

She wanted to go to the residence halls and tear the papers up. I was in a silent rage, partly at myself for not being enough of an activist to also want to cause destruction and partly at the newspaper for personally insulting me.

As we walked I told her I was sorry that I couldn't do it, I wanted to be sure that she knew that she could react in whatever way she wanted to.

She turned to me with tears of anger in her eyes and said, "Do you ever hate being gay?"

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Display of opinion is an insult

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It seemed like an accusation. I also had tears in my eyes. The feelings were so overwhelming. I pride myself on always being in control, always figuring out the strategic response for things that are inequitable. And yet I had no control over this situation. How can you respond to something like this?

I said, "I hate it a lot of the time."

She said, "This is the first time I have ever felt this way."

"Sometimes I just wish I was a white, male Republican because that's what America is. There isn't room for anything else," she said.

I wonder, is that what America is? I don't think so. My America is compassionate and caring, it is freedom for all people to pursue happiness, it is freedom from harassment, it is the ability to rent an apartment without having to lie, it is the ability to walk down the street and hold the hand of someone you admire without the fear of being hit by a beer can flung from a passing car.

There are a lot of people in this country who are excluded from those things. They are not a part of America as even the right wing perceives it. I'm not talking about just homosexuals, I'm talking about blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, international students and the list goes on.

I am not a part of America, and that hurts more than anything I have ever experienced.

A couple of years ago, there was an attempt to place protection for those with alternative lifestyles in the city housing codes. Not a single city council member would introduce the motion, and when it

was finally introduced it died for lack of a second.

Granted, Ames is not thriving with homosexuals, but there is a growing number of us who are open. In being so, we run the risk of discrimination. If America is half the place we think it is or that our forefathers and foremothers dreamed it would be, we need those protections.

At that time Ames Mayor Paul Goodland said there was no discrimination.

I want to say there is. We are a joke to people like Jack Hudson, Dave Kochel and many others. While I may have turned off a number of people to my message by being too blatant, you also failed to get the message that AIDS is a serious health hazard that needs to be stopped.

GLSO is not an issue group, it is purely educational. Students go to classes and speak about their choice. They do not try to convert anyone. They do not demand that the students at ISU approve of their choice, they simply want an educated public. Through education often comes understanding.

The Government of the Student Body funds only an information line; they do not fund parties, etc.

I think it's amusing that whenever this issue comes up we hear rumors about conservatives telling residence halls residents that the money goes to pay for parties and social events. They can't argue with the truth so they use false information to incite anger and resentment.

There is no strategic way to fight false information, or blatant insults. I guess all we can hope is that there are enough true conservatives out there who will denounce this kind of thing and prove that my America does exist.