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Let gays live their lives

To the Editor:

Two cheers to Bryn Olexy for adding his voice to those protesting continued bigotry towards gay and lesbian Americans even as AIDS has genocidally decimated their numbers, but I withhold the critical third cheer for his paternalistic refusal to let our gay citizens direct their own lives. After his own service in the Army, where he experienced first hand the sort of anti-gay hatred which permeates much of our nation, Olexy regrettably declines to jump on the "let them enlist bandwagon" because "the army is not ready for homosexuals." But while he may or may not be correct in advising gay Americans to select other careers instead, to which he alludes in his article, nevertheless the choice itself must reside as a fundamental right in the hands of those who are affected. And while some may suffer the army's lack of preparedness, the involvement of gays is the only route to secure that preparation, and we should applaud those with the courage to stand against discrimination and to give of themselves to future generations.

But at least Olexy has caught the essential tragedy of all bigotry: progress is only possible at the irrevocable expense of human suffering.

Keith Supko, SIPA '92