

## Gay, lesbian rights denied by society

**R**uth Colker, a professor of law at Tulane University, recently spoke on campus regarding gay and lesbian rights, a conspicuously overlooked topic in an era of anti-discrimination crusades.

Gay and lesbian couples are not allowed to receive benefits of any kind that would be part of a relationship in a heterosexual marriage, much less legally marry.

This is senseless. Two consenting adults who feel a need to form a legal commitment should be allowed to, regardless of whether they are the same sex or not. A heterosexual relationship is no more valid than a gay or lesbian relationship, and in many cases gay and lesbian monogamous relationships last longer.

The only difference between a heterosexual relationship and a gay or lesbian relationship is that heterosexuals can reproduce. According to this logic, a couple is eligible for marriage, and the legal benefits that go with it, only if they are able to reproduce. Does this mean that if one partner in a heterosexual marriage is sterile then that couple should not be allowed to marry? Of course not.

As far as any moral objections to gay and lesbian marriages go, everyone in America is entitled to their opinion. However, those opinions should not be forced upon others. ■