



# The Cavalier Daily

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*"For here we are not afraid to follow the truth wherever it may lead,  
nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it."*

*-Mr. Jefferson*

*Th. Jefferson*

Wednesday, October 26, 1977

## The truth according to YAF

No one who reads the fliers being distributed around the Grounds by two officers of the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) can accuse that pair of being fair, truthful or well-intentioned.

The handouts, which protest the allocation of office space to the Gay Student Union (GSU), are inaccurate, distorted and bigoted. Karol Lamos, president of the University chapter of YAF, and chapter treasurer Mark Ward are the fliers' authors.

The fliers' headline, "YOUR CHILD IS FUNDING A GAY GROUP\*" is a blatant appeal to emotions which can only offend anyone who favors responsible, intelligent debate. It's also totally false. The GSU is receiving no funds from students, and in fact, has repeatedly been denied funding by the Student Council Appropriations Committee.

The flier does not stop with the intimations that the University is corrupting the morals of innocents. It features a United Press International article printed in *The Washington Post* (Oct. 19, "Gay Student Union in U. of Va. dispute") which is highlighted by several significant inaccuracies, not surprising since the story was based on a vague and partly inaccurate YAF press release.

Although we cannot assume that YAF is responsible for all the errors in the UPI story, by reprinting an article which they surely know is false, Lamos and Ward have befouled themselves.

Item. The UPI article says that three students "challenged a policy of paying for gays' office space with \$5 collected from each university

student." The article apparently refers to the Peabody Hall office space which was granted to the GSU by Council. But according to Council President Stefan Underhill, no money from student fees was used in the construction of Peabody Hall, and no student money is used for its upkeep.

Item. The UPI article says that the three students making the appeal, Ward, Lamos and John Davies, "said students should not have to provide a gay organization with office space as a precondition to remaining at the university." It's hard to understand how that statement is true, since University space does not belong to the students and the students do not pay for its maintenance.

Item. The flier claims "The GSU is a political homosexual movement." Yet, the allegation is not substantiated anywhere on the flier, probably because it's just not true.

Although YAF is not officially involved in the handout campaign, the fact that two of its top officers are the campaign's organizers implies at least the tacit endorsement of the group.

YAF should repudiate the fliers, not only because they are inaccurate and offensive, but also because their distribution needlessly embarrasses the University community.

As for Lamos and Ward, it's more than a little ironic that these self-proclaimed champions of American morality and decency would stoop to such reckless and false statements.

By doing so, they have violated that very moral code which they so righteously — and so hypocritically — defend.