

Queering the Lone Star State
Episode 7 Guiding Questions

What kind of reputation does Texas A&M University have? In what ways has its reverence for tradition affected gay and lesbian students?

Do you think the SWAMP event in October 1984 was beneficial for gay and lesbian students at Texas A&M University?

What privileges did officially recognized student groups have on the Texas A&M campus? Why did the members of Gay Student Services choose to pursue those privileges for their organization?

Texas A&M Vice-President for Student Affairs John Koldus rejected GSS's application for recognition based on the state sodomy law. Was his argument valid?

How did the plaintiffs in *Gay Student Services v. Texas A&M University* appeal to the US Constitution in their suit against the university?

In what ways was the US Supreme Court decision in *Healy v. James* (1972) helpful for the plaintiffs in *Gay Student Services v. Texas A&M University*?

During the federal trial in 1981, what arguments did Texas A&M administrators rely on to defend their decision to deny recognition to GSS? Were these arguments persuasive?

How did Judge Ross Sterling justify his decision upholding the action by Texas A&M officials to deny recognition to GSS? Was his justification valid?

How did Marco Roberts and Kevin Bailey get involved with GSS at Texas A&M?

What was it like for gay and lesbian students on the Texas A&M campus after the Fifth Circuit ruled in favor of GSS and ordered university officials to recognize it as an official student group?

What insights do we gain from knowing the history of *Gay Student Services v. Texas A&M University*? What do we learn about the history of student activism, the struggle for LGBTQ rights, and the role of universities in a democracy?