

Mail Call

Read our lips, no beer tax

EDITOR:

During the current Congress, several proposals to increase the federal excise tax on beer have been made. The increased revenues are targeted for deficit reduction and supporting the war on drug abuse. While I recognize the seriousness of the deficit and the gravity of the drug problem, I oppose raising the federal excise tax on beer to pay for solutions to these national problems. I feel that all Aggies should be aware of this situation and come out against this proposed tax because of the following facts:

- Beer drinkers are already among the most heavily taxed of all consumers. We pay more for taxes on beer than the cost of the ingredients and the brewing labor combined.

- Excise taxes are a form of regressive taxation. They place a disproportionately greater burden on lower- and middle-income consumers since those consumers spend a greater proportion of their income on consumer goods than the well-to-do.

- Excise taxes are hidden and inefficient. Since they are imposed on the producer level and added to the cost of the product, most consumers are unaware they are paying them. The proposed \$2.60 increase per case will cost the consumer over \$5 per case at retail.

- An increase in the excise tax on beer will reduce state revenues in two ways. First, as the price of the product goes up, the sales will go down. Less product sold translates into less taxes collected. Second, since state governments are dependent on excise taxes for their revenues (rather than income taxes), an increase in federal excise taxes forecloses state revenues options and revenues will fall.

- Beer excise taxes are unfair. They penalize the vast majority of responsible drinkers for the abuses of a tiny minority. Singling out one industry and its employees and customers to carry the burden of dealing with national problems is ridiculous and will ultimately cost jobs and hurt our nation's economy.

Now is the time for all Aggies to stand up and be counted. Read our lips, no new taxes.

Alan Tidwell '84
Operations Manager, Brazos Beverages, Inc.

There's not too much in Europe that we can't find here at home

It is great to be back at Texas A&M! This is a metamorphosis in my attitude about this University. In the past I have considered life at A&M to be something of a drag, sort of like a boring job which I could not wait to finish.

When I arrived here I was a skeptical, unenthusiastic fish who thought only of ways to either transfer out or study abroad. I had spent the previous year living in West Germany, so after touring Europe, College Station fascinated me about as much as a lecture on insect mating habits.

Over the last two years, I have realized that such an attitude is utterly stupid. This university town has all that life in Europe has to offer. If life at A&M is boring, don't blame the place. Blame yourself.

Think about it for a minute. What is so fascinating about Europe? The buildings, the countryside, and the people and culture. There is no doubt that Europe has beautiful architecture and spectacular cities. But looking at pretty buildings gets boring after a few days. And the rolling hills of central Texas are just as pleasing as the English countryside. If you love mountains, that is what Colorado road trips were made for.

The most important factor is the culture and the people. If you think B-



Andrew Matthews
Columnist

CS is lacking in the above, then either you are some intellectual snob or are

just clueless. Think about it for a minute. What is so fascinating about Europe? The buildings, the countryside, and the people and culture. There is no doubt that Europe has beautiful architecture and spectacular cities. But looking at pretty buildings gets boring after a few days. And the rolling hills of central Texas are just as pleasing as the English countryside. If you love mountains, that is what Colorado road trips were made for. The most important factor is the culture and the people. If you think B-

just clueless.

What Americans find so fascinating about Europe is nothing more than the way of life that the local people developed there. We might visit a small German village and call it quaint. A German though would probably drive through it and call it a hick town.

My German friends were amazed at my excitement over everything in Germany. They, on the other hand, were bored with Germany, and dreamed of seeing the United States. A classic case of the 'grass is greener on the other side of the fence' syndrome.

I hear many students trash this as the 'cultural armpit of the state,' without realizing the immensity of culture at College Station. The Duck Chicken is ozing with culture. Tourists from other lands are fascinated by truly Texan sights as the bars, country dance clubs, ranches and Aggie spirit. Culture is not simply going to opera and viewing museums. Why do you think visitors to the University love to Northgate?

Once you get over the initial exuberance of seeing new sights, you

realization that is fundamental to the quality of life you lead from reflection upon which are slightly correlated with location, as spiritual achievements

family, love, life, friends, and career satisfaction.

So I think it would be a healthy attitude if for the rest of our time at A&M we seized all the opportunities available here. As for myself this Houston suburbanite is going to go buy some boots, learn to jitterbug, and drink some beer. (Well, when I turn twenty-one)

Andrew Matthews is a senior economics major.

U.S. forces ought to kick Saddam Hussein's butt

What this country has needed for a long time is to kick butt.

The last time we did it was in World War II. We showed 'em back then. With some help from our friends, we brought Hitler down and then we dropped a couple of big ones on Japan.

I still enjoy seeing the film of the Japanese officials signing their country's surrender.

Hey, guys, what did you expect?

You sneaked into Pearl Harbor and you bombed our Navy and you killed our people and you thought you were going to get away with that?

No way. We didn't pussyfoot in those days. You started it, we finished it, and I always get angry when I read about commemorative protests against the United States' decision to dispatch the Enola Gay with its surprise. We were tough back then. Mess with us and you'll be immensely sorry.

But then came Korea. And then came Vietnam. Two dirty little wars that ended in scoreless ties.

We've seen our country scorned. We've seen our people taken hostages. We've seen young soldiers die at the hands of terrorists with bombs.

Oh, we've issued a few sanctions here and there. We've warned our enemies that if they take one more step we're going to intervene militarily, but we rarely do. Recall the phrase "paper

Lewis Grizzard Syndicated Columnist

tiger"? That's us. We've been all hat, no cattle.

But now's our chance. Iraq needs to go down in the worst sort of way. Iraq is a bully of a nation that engulfs its neighbors. It encourages terrorism. It uses poison gas. It is run by a devil.

In Europe they are calling Saddam Hussein "the new Hitler." Hitler first bullied Austria and Czechoslovakia and nobody did anything. So he kept up his threats until the rest of the world finally figured out they were dealing with a bloodthirsty

despot who eventually would try to take over the entire world if somebody didn't act to stop him.

Now, there is Saddam Hussein and Iraq. First, Kuwait. Who's next? Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Israel?

Nobody could imagine Hitler going any further after he humiliated the British and the French in the Munich Agreement of 1938, but he did. He was a bud begging to be nipped, as is Hussein in Iraq.

Let's go get 'em. Get the Soviets to help ans they did in World War II. Get the Israelis. Talk about a fighting

machine. Israel, when it fears it is being threatened, wastes no time. It shoots first, asks questions later.

Let's go into Iraq. Let's send a message that says we're back, and we won't tolerate such aggression.

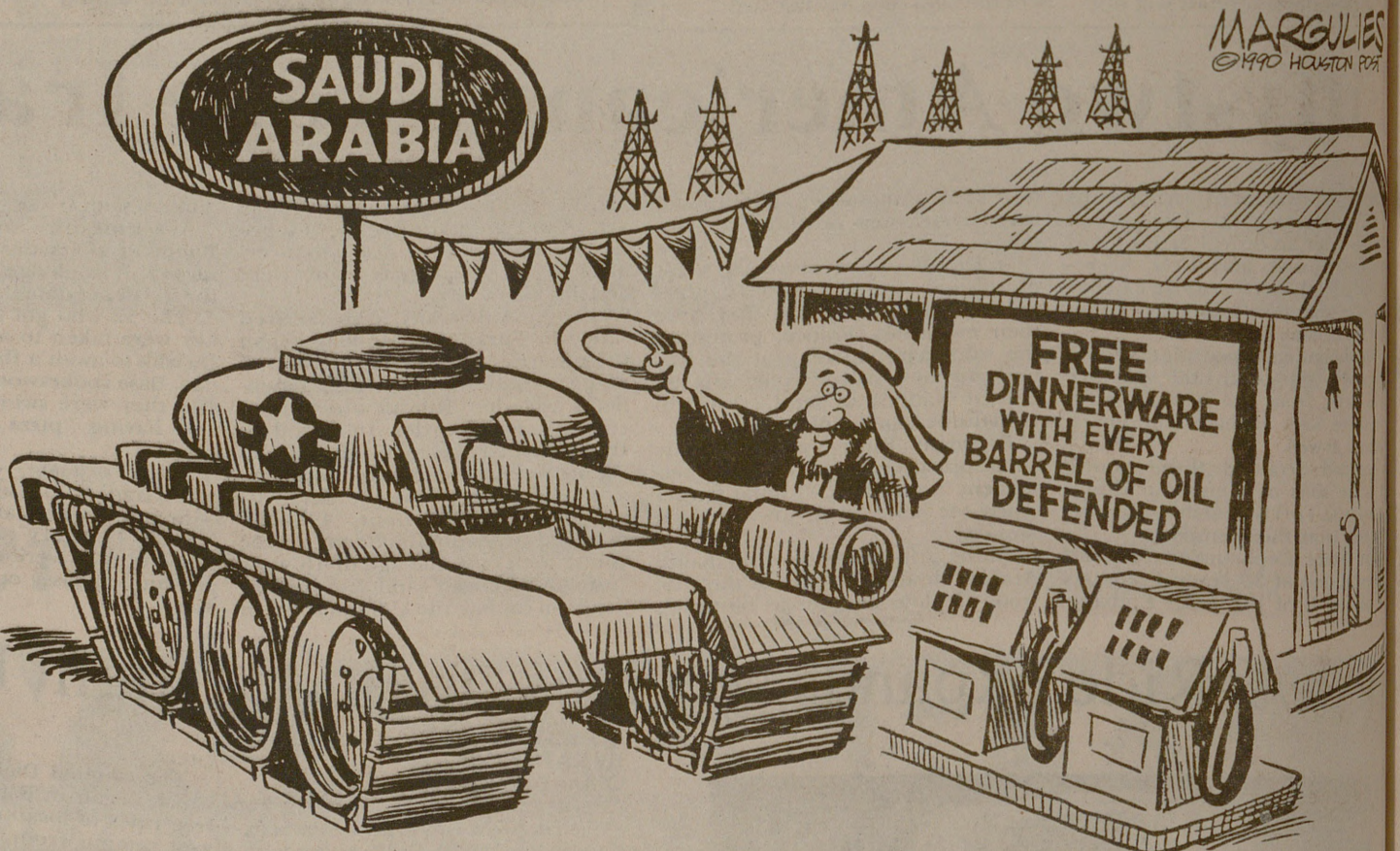
Over There, Pal. That where we need to be. Send in the Marines. Put our top

guns in their jets with orders to shoot to kill. Teach Iraq a lesson we taught the Germans and the Japanese.

They are just sitting over there and asking for it. So let's answer back. Let's kick butt and take some names.

The world would be a safer place as a result. And whatever is left of Jimmy

Carter's malaise would be swept away our flag hanging in Baghdad.



MARGULES
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The Battalion

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Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.

MEET OUR CHARACTERS:



DON - (MAIN CHARACTER) STUBBORN, OPINIONATED AND A LOUD MOUTH. BEARS A SLIGHT RESEMBLANCE TO THE CARTOONIST.



DOG - CUTE AND EASY TO MERCHANDISE. FREQUENTLY MORE INTELLIGENT THAN HIS OWNER. CURRENTLY A STUDENT AT TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY.



BETH - PLATONIC BEST FRIEND TO DON. GREATEST AMBITION: TO PUNCH MADONNA IN THE NOSE.



EARNEST - OWNER OF THE RECORD STORE WHERE DON WORKS. HATES ANY MUSIC WRITTEN AFTER 1940.

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