

Tax Revenue Philosophy: 'Squeeze Those Sinners'

Governor Preston Smith's budget message last week proved he has the age-old savvy for increasing tax revenues. In short, the formula is squeeze the sinners.

Using a philosophy somewhat reminiscent of a medieval medic drawing a quart of blood to cure a cold, the governor has elected to bleed the state's users of tobacco and alcoholic beverages for some \$91 million extra.

The official reasoning behind squeezing these sinners stems from the Puritan viewpoint that tobacco, and alcohol are devices of the devil. In accepting the responsibility of carrying the Lord's banner, the government

uses the tax bite to punish these transgressors while using the rake-off to enhance the pure society.

THE FUNNY part is, these evil-doers go along with the idea. From birth, the populace is harangued from pulpit and platform with the evils of wood and drink. And the followers of Satan, while being in a majority, meekly submit to the monetary rack, apparently harboring the belief that they are receiving their just due for their acts.

If the collectors of Little Orphan Annie codebooks (of which there may be five in the world, or none) were threatened with special taxing, they would

immediately form a lobby to fight, tooth and nail, this "un-American" concept. But nary a word of protest is ever heard from the maligned and persecuted group of smokers and drinkers.

ONE OF the more interesting arguments suggested by the proponents of increased taxing of tobacco and liquor follows the line that higher prices will help curtail these habits, which are admittedly non-essential to perfect health. Then, in the same breath, these people are able to forecast almost to the dollar how much revenue these taxes will raise. (The estimates are based on a normal projected increase in sales—that's curtailment.)

Meanwhile, Texas remains one of the few states that still exempts food products from sales taxes. The reasoning here is that a food tax hurts the poor much more than the affluent (which is probably true), but this reasoning seems to forget that poor people also have been known to take a drag or swill a drink.

IN FACT, if anyone bothered to look, they would find that smoking and/or drinking is practiced by the poor in higher proportions than food consumption. The rich drink, but the rich eat more.

The idea that smoking and drinking are not necessities of life is false. To their users, these items are just as necessary as having a mattress to sleep on is to most elements of society. Therefore, why doesn't the government opt for special taxes on bedsteads, television sets or hat-racks? In fact, why doesn't the government get out of the phony monetary regulation of morals completely. "Sinners," you don't really have to be the scapegoat for the ills of society and the fiscal practices of government.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"We may bust chemistry, but we'll corner th' shaving lather market!"

At The Movies

by Mike Plake

"Hang 'Em High" Clint Eastwood has come a long way since the dusty days of the "Rawhide" television series.

He is the biggest and hottest property since Steve McQueen and/or Paul Newman. His tough guy western-typed characters are his ponies; eventually, he will ride them to an Oscar.

Chronologically, "Hang 'Em High" is the first American western Eastwood has made; that famous Italian-Spanish trio, "A Fistful of Dollars," "For a Few Dollars More" and "The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly," started him on his way. Since he completed "Hang 'Em High," Eastwood starred in "Coogan's Bluff."

His latest venture is a big-budget World War II flick with a role opposite Richard Burton. SO THE TALE goes for Eastwood. A successful metamorphosis from the boob tube to the flicks.

"Hang 'Em High"'s principal support comes from its capable character actors, who play pivotal

people. Pat Hingle is the Hanging Judge, whose passion supposedly is justice. Practically, his thing is hanging people, by the neck until dead.

Ed Begley is a ranch owner leading the group of nine men who mistake Jedediah Cooper (Eastwood) for a murdering cattle thief. They lynch him.

Inger Stevens is a doctor's widow, whose bag is searching out the pair who murdered her husband and raped her.

MORE OR LESS, the plot concerns Eastwood's journey of revenge for the nine men who lynched him. Along the way, he is sidetracked by an appearance at the Hanging Court and a love scene with Miss Stevens.

Poor Miss Stevens seems to be sidetracked since she left television's "Farmer's Daughter." She continually plays the role of the beautiful, lonely widow whose history has been spotted with raping bad guys. Not until the "House of Cards," opposite

George Peppard, has she seen a role to fit her abilities.

Her performances seem to get better each time, though, despite the limited roles issued her.

THE SOUNDTRACK of "Hang 'Em High" is two shades below that of any of the three Italian movies by Eastwood. All three of those themes, similar though they be, have hit the million record mark in arrangements by Nelson Riddle and Leroy Holmes and their respective orchestras.

In fact, the soundtrack and the close-ups are the only glaring misgivings in this highly entertaining, mythical western.

It seems an important feature or technique by photographers these days is the close-up. The only thing worse is, when you get four or five main characters, and give them all 50 or 60 close-ups during a film, the old eyes get kind of tired of it all.

Total: an entertaining western with a tough guy in the top role who can hold his own against anybody.

THE BATTALION

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Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and must be no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. David Bowers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Donald R. Clark, College of Veterinary Medicine; and Hal Taylor, College of Agriculture.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M is published in College Station, Texas daily except Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

MEMBER The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

Mail subscriptions are \$5.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 4% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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ATTENTION

New Barbershop hours at College Station
Beginning March 1, 1969

MSC Barbershop
Don's Barbershop
Northgate Barbershop

Will be open Monday thru Friday 8:00 to 5:30
Closed Saturday and Sunday

Aggieland Barbershop
Varsity Barbershop

Will be open Tuesday thru Saturday 8:00 to 5:30
Closed Sunday and Monday

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

A&M Parachute Club will meet at 7:15 p.m. in the MSC Coffee Shop.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4692, will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Post home. Monthly business meeting for members.

The Gavel Club will meet at 7 p.m. in the YMCA basement meeting room.

Tyler-Smith County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC Social Room.

Brazoria County Hometown Club will meet at 8 p.m. on the steps of the MSC. Picture for Aggieland will be taken.

Texas A&M Sports Car Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 107 of the Military Science Building. No business session, just program consisting of three sound and color films. Visitors invited.

MONDAY

Texas A&M Chapter of DPMA will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Holiday Inn Banquet Room for a get-acquainted session, to be followed by a meal at 7:30. Charles L. Davis, DPMA International

Tonight On KBTX

6:30 The Queen and I
7:00 That Girl
7:30 Bewitched
8:00 Thursday Night Movie — "Sex and the Single Girl"
10:00 News, Weather and Sports
10:30 The Avengers
11:30 Alfred Hitchcock

president, will be guest speaker. Division 3 Chairman Dan Lucas will present the charter.

Industrial Education Wives Club will meet at 8 p.m. at Bryan Building and Loan. Mary Beth Gandy of Merle Norman will present a program on "Cosmetics and Their Use."

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By Charles M. Schulz