

# Opinion

## Pay at the counter

The thought of raising taxes is enough to boil a Texan's blood in the dead of winter. But with the reality of falling revenues in virtually every sector of the state's economy, Texans may find themselves warming to the idea of raising taxes.

Less than a week from today the Texas Legislature will convene in a special session for the purpose of repairing the gaping \$3.5 billion dollar hole in the state budget.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby introduced Tuesday the idea of raising the state's sales tax either by reducing the products and services exempted from the tax or by increasing the tax amount. Hobby presented the tax increase as an alternative to slashing 34 percent from most of Texas' state agencies, including education. And according to education officials poor school districts will be affected more severely.

Texas ranks 43rd in total state tax revenue and as part of a long-standing tradition Texas does not have, and never has had, a state income tax. Only seven other states maintain this tradition.

The answer to the budget shortfall is not a decrease in services but an increase in revenue. Cutting services means cutting state jobs and it's obvious our economy can't absorb thousands of unemployed state workers.

Aside from that, former Gov. Bill Clements and Gov. Mark White have maintained a policy of streamlining waste at the Capitol. So, little fat remains to be trimmed.

A great deal of the projected shortfall stems from effects of the Gramm-Rudman law which may cost Texas \$600 million in federal funds. Federal income tax cuts may provide a little extra money for an increase in the state sales tax.

If the first thing on legislators' minds is the reduction of the state budget shortfall, the first means should be a re-evaluation of state revenues — not state services. We will all have to assume the financial burden of balancing the budget one way or another. Let's pay for it at the sales counter and not at the expense of these vital services.

The Battalion Editorial Board

## The long road ahead for zealous reformists

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, addressing Secretary of State George Shultz and the television camera, acted as though he had just come to town from 20 years in the desert and discovered Pontius Pilate sentenced Christ to the cross. Shultz said calmly that he "resented" Biden's suggestion that President Reagan's speech had been "immoral" and a tacit approval of continued apartheid in South Africa. Shultz can be tough customer when he wants to be, but there are restraints on secretaries of state addressing congressional committees. Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson complained that 90 percent of foreign policy for a secretary of state is domestic policy.



William F. Buckley Jr.

What Shultz didn't say, others can say. For instance: "Biden, old shoe, when did you discover the evils of apartheid and the necessity that the United States declare economic war against that government? Apartheid has been going on for 38 years. When did you first come out for sanctions?"

Everything in politics, and much in life, is a matter of timing. Why are we so excited at this particular moment? Because of the emergency decree in South Africa? There are 8,000 South Africans being held without charges filed against them, and in American circumstances such a figure would be intolerable. But has it not occurred to any observer of the current scene in South Africa that the government there might have reckoned that in the absence of the emergency decree, 10 times 8,000 might have been killed in general rioting? Isn't it possible that history will judge that there was less suffering in South Africa than there otherwise would have been, had the government failed to act?

And then there is this matter of timing. Viewed against the African scene,

the crimes of South Africa assume grandeur only because the government is composed of white people. And this is a subtle form of racism, as if to say: That which is bad is bad if committed by a white man, but understandable if it is committed by a mere black. Adam Wolfson, in the *Policy Review* of last fall, deplores the lack of self-government in South Africa, but then concedes that there is no popular accountability in Angola, Benin, Burkina, Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Namibia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire and Zambia. We are talking about 85 percent of black Africa.

It is true that there is brutal railroad-ing of people in South Africa — and elsewhere. For example, the Ivory Coast expelled 16,000 Beninese in the mid-1960s; Ghana gave two weeks' notice and expelled 500,000 "aliens" in 1969; Zambia expelled all of its "aliens," some 150,000 people, in 1971. Uganda expelled 50,000 Asians in 1972, and 10 years later expelled thousands of Banyarwandas; Kenya expelled almost 5,000 refugees from 1979-1981; Ethiopia began a massive relocation of 1.5 million persons in 1984. In May of last year, Ethiopian soldiers ruthlessly forced 50,000 starving people at the Ibenet relief camp to leave, and then set the camp on fire, as part of a national policy to resettle people in the western region of Gondar.

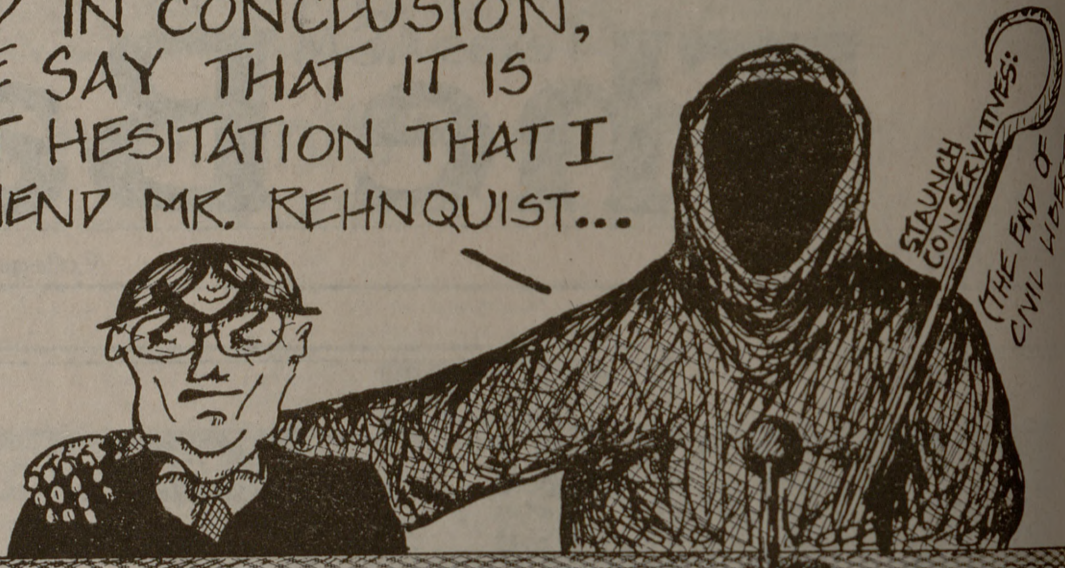
Had enough? No, don't go away. "The most brutal expulsions," Wolfson informs us, "have occurred in Nigeria. In 1983, up to 3 million foreigners were forced to leave. *The Washington Post* reported that in the 'frantic struggle' to escape by the deadline, many refugees were killed while some died of hunger. Two years later, Nigeria expelled another 700,000, at times using tear gas to break up refugee camps. In one confrontation, the Nigerian police shot 65 fleeing refugees.

"South Africa also is properly condemned for its inhumane 'influx control' system, which allows blacks to visit white urban areas outside of their homelands for only 72 hours at a time. Similar laws restrict citizens' freedom of movement in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Zaire. Ethiopians, Mozambicans, Rwandans and Zairians must carry work and residence permits and cannot move without permission of the government."

It's a good thing the moral energy of Sen. Biden et al is so profound. They have just begun to fight. After the South African blacks bring freedom to South Africa, the senators can move their reformist zeal north.

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... AND IN CONCLUSION, LET ME SAY THAT IT IS WITHOUT HESITATION THAT I RECOMMEND MR. REHNQUIST...



## SENATE JUDICIARY HEARING

## Beauty pageants, livestock shows have many similarities

It is the mark of a good coach or manager to be able to lose with dignity. Nobody likes a losing coach who jumps up and down and screams: "They cheated!" or "we should have won!"



Karl Pallmeyer

Some coaches, like Tom Landry and Don Shula, are well-known for the graceful way they accept defeat. Other coaches, like Woody Hayes and Mike Ditka, have been known to act childishly when things aren't going the way they would like. But that's football, not the Miss Universe Pageant.

You might expect competition in beauty contests to be more mature. But last week Richard Guy, manager for Miss USA Christy Fichtner, made some statements that showed he needs some lessons in how to lose gracefully and how not to make a fool out of himself.

When Miss Venezuela, Barbara Palacois, became Miss Universe last week in Panama, there was the usual amount of polite tears and plastic emotions from the other contestants. Miss USA, the first runner up, responded in the traditional fashion with a hug so gentle that neither contestant's dress would be ruffled.

The next day Guy responded with some accusations.

"We got cheated," Guy said. "This girl (Palacois) had pock marks on her face. This girl (Fichtner) had nothing." Guy obviously believes that beauty is only skin deep.

It's funny to hear a grown man argue about which woman is the most beautiful, but it's sad to think that a grown man would be so upset that the woman chosen to be Miss SMU, Miss Texas and Miss USA could lose to a *foreigner*.

Like most people who don't like to lose but do, Guy tried to appease his and his protegee's hurt egos by claiming they didn't want to win anyway. Guy said it's better to be Miss USA because the connections will be in the United States. It seems as if Guy was saying that he and Fichtner would just take their crown and go home.

Such childishness at a beauty contest isn't so hard to believe when one considers how childish a beauty contest really is. Most people should have dropped such sexist and voyeuristic tendencies by the time they reached 18.

A beauty contest is nothing more than a livestock show. Women are trotted out like cattle for a bunch of over-excited old men to drool over like a starving rancher looking at a T-bone. A

beauty contest is pornographic in putting women on display for mensure. Why did former Miss Vanessa Williams get into so much trouble for her nude pictures? The difference between *Penthouse* and Miss America Pageant is the amount of clothes the women wear.

A beauty contest degrades women by telling them that physical beauty, intelligence or personality, is the important attribute. They are expected to say anything except the "I-would-like-to-make-the-world-a-better-place-to-live" speech or do anything except twirl a baton and sing a song except the Carpenters' hits. A beauty contest also degrades women by telling them that all they have to do is wear nice clothes and put on lots of makeup; they will be pleasing to men. It's sad to see these women transferred into cold, plastic Barbie Dolls which when to turn on a smile that is calculated to make everyone happy.

Guy said that Fichtner should have won the Miss Universe title because she was with her. "Everyone who is a classy, elegant woman," he said, "is a classy, elegant woman would not be around with the likes of someone like Guy. A real classy, elegant woman would not lower herself to a beauty contest."

Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for *The Battalion*.

## Mail Call

### In training for 'The People's Court'?

EDITOR:

What an incredible laugh I am having imagining just what went through Loren Steffy's head as he was coughing up that oh-so-juicy "Monkey Trials II" column. I can see Steffy, in deep thought, pacing slowly in his room, so lovingly concerned about the masses somewhere out there. His forehead wrinkled, worried that their sheltered world might be disrupted by those "idiotic Christian moralists," otherwise known as God's censorious stormtroopers. This is side splitting stuff. Steffy ought to be a comedy writer for *People's Court*. Unfortunately, his article's obvious close-minded bigotry, I think, would be a bit much for the viewers to stomach.

It is amazing how difficult it is these days to have both sides of the coin presented, and when the attempt is made, look at all the feathers it ruffles. We Christians are interested in having our side shown also, so people with free choice (all Americans) can choose for themselves. Why are so many disturbed by this notion?

The right to voice our views and not be subjected to the humanist religion in the schools, that our tax dollars help support, is guaranteed by our Constitution. (By the way, the Supreme Court ruled that secular humanism is a religion which places man as the supreme being instead of God.) When supposed unbiased sources appear just the opposite, people who seek freedom and the right to make informed choices will make their voices heard.

John W. Roman  
Class of '85

### Old reruns in *The Batt*

EDITOR:

I saw an old rerun in the pages of *The Battalion* yesterday. It was entitled "The Great Christian Massacre Part VI: Loren Lives!" The plot was typical and just another example of the producer's inability to come up with anything original.

In this horror flick the antagonist, Loren Steffy, takes his routine potshots at morality, Christianity and the Bible just like he always does and his position on the issues is, as

usual, misinformed and biased. Steffy attempts to unfold his plot around what critics have called "The Monkey Trials II."

If Siskell and Ebert reviewed this film they would probably say that the film has several flaws. First, Steffy says that "secular humanism" is a term that only Fundamentalists can define. But informed moviegoers know that the Supreme Court defined it as "a religion without a god where man is considered the center of all existence and the ultimate authority of good and evil."

The second flaw of Steffy's story is that the script was probably taken right out of the pages of *Time* and *Newsweek*. It doesn't occur to Steffy that these magazines may be biased and that the information therein may not be accurate or worse, a gross misinterpretation of Tennessee's Vicki Frost's position. Now he could have investigated a little further and written something more objective and accurate, but it must have been a low budget film.

So for its misinformed, inaccurate, biased content, I half to give Steffy's film a one and a half "putrid popcorn" rating. But what do you expect from someone who considers morality as "idiocy."

Mike Foadre '87

EDITOR'S NOTE: While some of the information was taken from *Time*, much of it came from articles in *The Christian Science Monitor* and *The New York Times*. Yet again we state that opinion writing is not and never was meant to be objective.

### In the name of party loyalty

EDITOR:

We are writing in response to a letter in last Thursday's *Battalion*. We enjoy Karl Pallmeyer's writing and wish to continue hearing his opinion. However, we must agree with the author that Pallmeyer is fat, is short and does in fact dress like a dork — but at least he gives great parties.

Randy Kolb  
Gary Engstrom

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(USPS 045 360)  
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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Journalism.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.