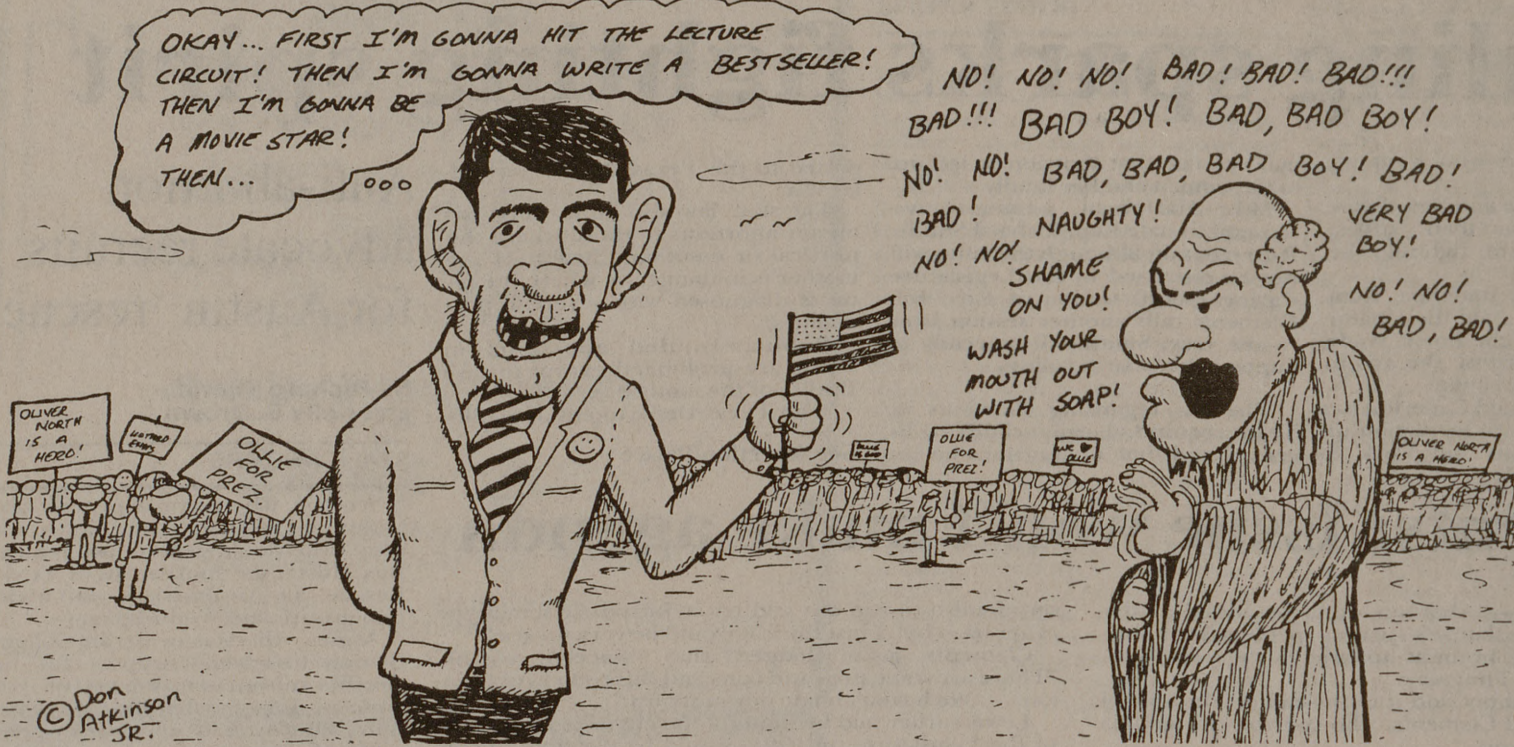


## AMERICAN JUSTICE:

### THE OLIVER NORTH VERDICT



## Children of the sun watch out

During my stay in Aggieland, I've noticed that many sunbathers are taking advantage of the midday sun in the afternoons on campus. From the third floor of my dorm, the view is great. Sometimes while walking from class, the heat becomes almost unbearable, but when I look across the way I see some tanned bodies soaking up the sun on beach towels. But is sunbathing really worth risking your health in the future?

The temperatures have been very high lately and there has been occasional rain at night, but there still seems to be no end for the hot and windless days. I guess the sunbather's philosophy about the heat is that if you can't beat the heat, join the heat on a beach towel with your favorite suntan lotion.

Since I alerted many people of the third floor to this spectacle, we will probably have a contest for the best bathing suit. All races and nationalities are invited to participate in it. It would be great to do something of the sort, but until someone recognizes all of the raw talent lying out in the sun we'll just have to wait.

While standing on the balcony

**Curtis Franks**  
Guest Columnist

Wednesday, this one young lady came outside with a bathrobe on. Well, I was surely interested if she was going to join her friends already out sunbathing. This person deserved a few "cat-calls" for her big unveiling, but to my disappointment she had only dropped her towel out of the window and was retrieving it.

Many might say, "he's got dirty things on his mind," but in all reality the ladies look superb in their summer's best.

"String bikinis always catch my eye," said Rodney Moseley, a resident of McInnis Hall. It's a daily spectacle for the guys, at least whenever the weather's OK.

"One-pieces are definitely out," said Pete Robertson also of McInnis Hall. Maybe the more exotic the better. Keeping in stride with the times, bikinis have come a long way from the days of clothing your entire body, which was almost

mandatory in public. From one-pieces to the "strings," our society has accepted many new and exciting changes.

While writing this column, I've learned that sunbathers mostly do it for the tan instead of for the girls or a date. Many girls do it mostly for the tan, so that tells a lot of guys that they're not doing something right.

After checking the likes of many guys, most said that they like to exercise while out of the sun to keep in shape and avoid the direct sunlight. This seems to be a great way to avoid any skin problems and to stay in shape.

I'd like to commend all those who do sunbathe because the ladies look exceptionally good in those bathing suits. In all reality, what looks fun can be dangerous too, but I'm telling most of you something you already know. With all of the health warnings going around about sunbathing and extra exposure to the sun, I think if they make a fuss about it, we should heed some of their warnings.

*Curtis Franks is a freshman general studies major and columnist for The Battalion.*

## What the flag symbolizes to me

My father died in 1970 at the age of 58. He was a veteran of both World War II and Korea.

His Army service record included a battlefield commission, the Bronze Star for Valor and three Purple Hearts.

He had reached the rank of captain when the Army deemed him unfit for further duty and denied him any benefits.

The years of combat had left him a human wreckage. Some men can cope with fear, death and dying.

Others can't. My father was in the latter category.

When he returned from Korea he began to drink heavily, cried a lot and lost sleep when jolted awake by his nightmares. He lost his wife and son in 1953.

When he died 17 years later, penniless, we had to make all the funeral arrangements.

What I wanted more than anything else was an American flag to drape over his coffin. I figured he deserved at least that.

He had fought under that flag, and he had fought for it.

I had to go out and buy a flag. I forget now where I got it or how much it cost, but I got myself a flag.

I buried my father in his hometown of Snellville, Ga. The local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars sent over

**Lewis Grizzard**  
Syndicated Columnist

an honor guard, of sorts, to the funeral.

I held up pretty well during the first part of the funeral. I loved my father and was, and forever will be, proud of what he did for his country despite the fact it is my opinion his country didn't do all it could have for him.

When the funeral was over a couple of the guys from the VFW took the flag off my dad's coffin, folded it with great care, and then handed it to me.

Ninety percent of the tears I cried over my father's death came gushing out in the next three minutes.

I keep the flag that draped his coffin in the corner of the room I use for my office.

I can't explain the feeling I have for the flag. It symbolizes all that was good and great about my father, and it is a reminder that freedom can demand a harsh tariff.

Now, the Supreme Court of the United States has ruled that it is not unlawful to burn the American flag. It says, by a 5-4 vote, the right to burn the American flag comes under the right of free speech.

"People must be as free to burn the

flag as they are to wave it," said some liberal fool from the Center of Constitutional Rights.

Why are we constantly bending to satisfy the pukeheads in this country? If they want to burn a flag, let them go ahead and burn the Chinese flag, which is a symbol of oppression, the denial of basic human rights, and a government that spills the blood of its own people.

When somebody burns an American flag he or she is also burning and desecrating the flag that sits in the corner of my office.

All I have left now is the right to hate such a bastard.

My consolation is even the Supreme Court can't touch that.

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## Mail Call

### Spera earns stripes for review

EDITOR:

I would like to thank Keith Spera for writing a very informative and provocative article on the hard-rock group Zebra. The article was so good that I cut it out and tucked it inside of one of Zebra's albums.

Zebra never was a flamboyant group; they didn't dress trashy, wear makeup, have a drug image or anti-social attitudes. Their lyrics were positive, uplifting, not full of violent metaphors. Zebra had a social conscience which was, in spirit, similar to the Who and Triumph. Zebra was a clean band concerned with making good music and giving good performances.

It is sad to see a group such as Zebra fail because of bad promotion by record companies. I am glad fans in New Orleans still support Zebra. Thanks for the article, Keith.

Trey Barlow '91

### Campus markers incorrect

EDITOR:

I support Texas A&M's attempt to facilitate inter-campus travel by installing new signs in front of every building, but I'm more confused now than before!

The best award goes to the "north residence halls" sign in front of Sbisal. It includes: Clements, Crocker, DG, Fowler, Haas, Hobby, Neeley, and Hotard.

But wait, where's Moore? Yes, the Moore Hall "truckers" even have neighboring dorms — Moses and McInnis! Would you believe that Hughes Hall on the north side, too? Yep. How could Fowler be on the sign without its twin, Keathley? C'mon. At least the sign directs you to Fowler — anyone would know to go to the light, turn left on University, take another left onto Wellborn, and then another left by the Bell Tower.

My point is this — what kind of morons work around here? It's annoying, ignorant, and, most of all, misleading!

Good luck, fish, as you arrive in the fall searching for your dorms. If your dorm's on the north side, just hang a right at Texas Avenue and University, right by our new campus corner markers.

Kris Wilson

### Right to burn flag should be respected

EDITOR:

I am proud to be a U.S. citizen, and cannot imagine a situation wherein I would feel compelled to burn the flag of the United States of America. However, I disagree with the statements of Somsory and Hogan (*The Battalion*, June 29).

Somsory states that the flag is a "visual representation of the ideals and beliefs of this great country," and that, therefore, it should be protected from desecration. By this same logic, would Somsory also support constitutional protection for other symbols of the USA, for example, the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance? And what would be the penalty for a U.S. citizen who chooses not to recite these symbols at a public gathering?

Mr. Hogan states that he will "take appropriate action against people who desecrate the flag." What would your actions be, Mr. Hogan, against your neighbor who burns her own flag on her yard without endangering the lives or property of others, and without inciting a riot?

Both Somsory and Hogan fail to understand that the flag is only a symbol of the USA. There are many other national symbols. For immigrants to this country these symbols might be as tangible as the Golden Gate Bridge, an airline ticket, or an American newspaper, or perhaps as intangible as the feeling of freedom they experienced upon arriving in America. For me, the right to burn, or otherwise desecrate the U.S. flag, is as precious as is the flag itself. I urge Somsory and Hogan to re-examine the status to which they have elevated a mere symbol.

Laura Bagwell  
Graduate Student

### Flag stance sparks thoughts

EDITOR:

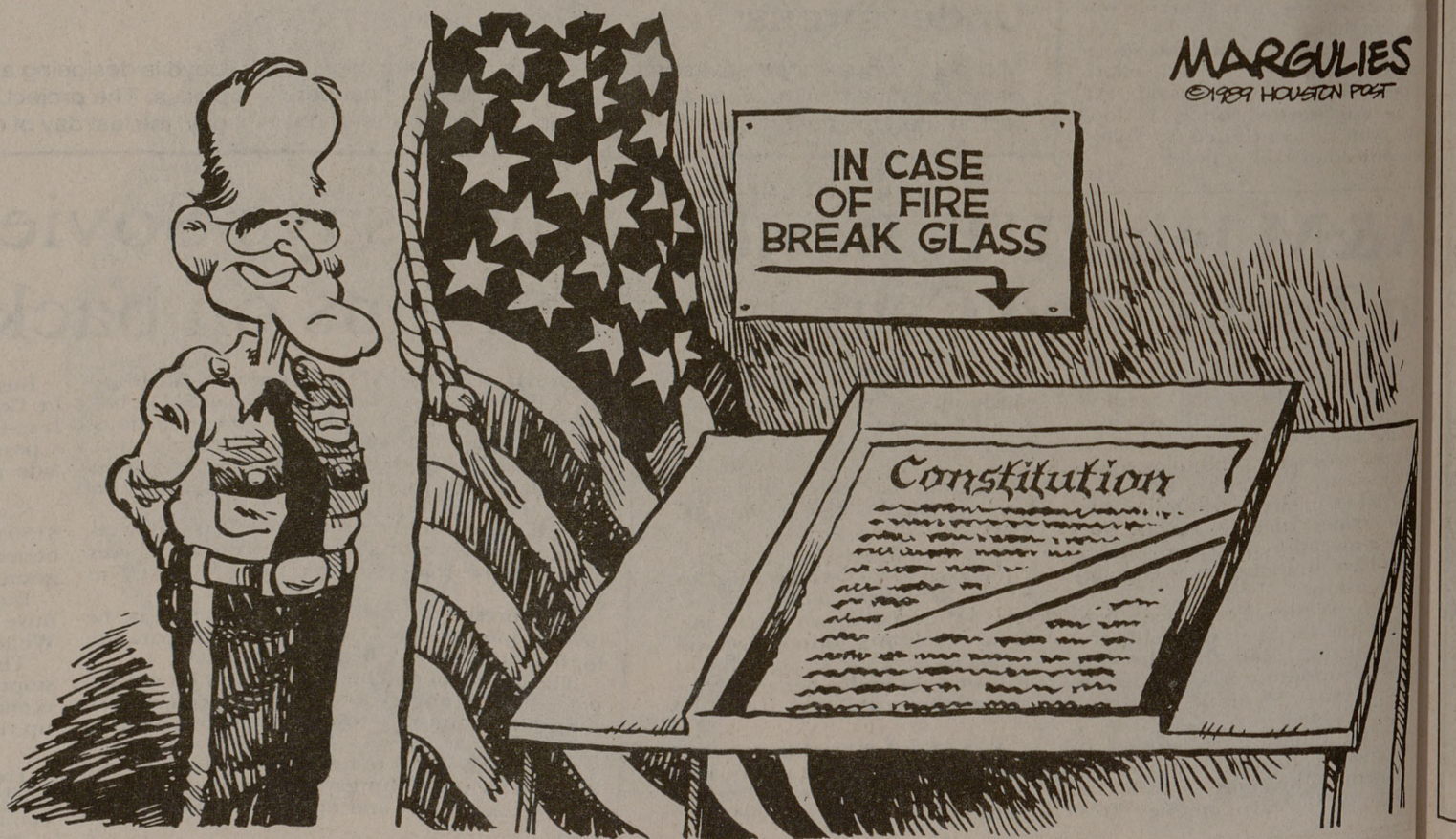
This letter is in response to all the the people who denounce the Supreme Court's flag burning decision, but especially to Chris Somsory '90, whose writing sparked my thoughts.

I refer to Chris' statement that the decision is "a slap in the face to every person who has proudly served and defended the American flag . . ." Please note that these heroic individuals did not defend the flag, a fabric symbol of America. They defended the privileges and freedoms soldiers bravely planted at Iwo Jima. The flag was shot up and "desecrated" by Imperial Japan, but America's Ideals remained stronger than ever. In defending American ideals, the veterans of World War II were standing for, among other things, the freedom of speech you and I enjoy. By limiting free speech, we cut a small piece out of what the flag represents.

I plead with every American to put their emotions aside, as the Supreme Court has done, and resolve the issue on the letter and intent of the law. Do not destroy the principles upon which the country was founded. The people of China are fighting for the very freedoms we are trying to take away. Show them and the world that the torch of freedom and liberty burns brightly in America.

Clifford Hillin '92

*Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include classification, address and telephone number of the writer.*



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