



House firmly passes federal ban on flag burning

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted final, overwhelming approval Thursday for a federal ban on flag burning, just four months after a Supreme Court decision allowing destruction of an American flag as political protest.

"This is the least we can do to protect the sanctity of the flag," Rep. Butler Derrick, D-S.C., said before the House voted, 371-43, to approve the bill.

However, President Bush and many Republicans say Congress must do more than pass a mere statute, and they have been

pressing for a constitutional amendment to outlaw flag destruction or desecration. The Senate will take up that issue next week.

Still, 154 Republicans joined 217 Democrats in supporting the statutory ban on Thursday, while only 18 Republicans and 25 Democrats opposed it. The bill passed the Senate 91-9.

House Speaker Thomas S. Foley, D-Wash., said he assumed Bush would sign the measure into law, despite his clear preference for a constitutional amendment.

Bush said last week that a new statute

would not be adequate to get around the Supreme Court decision, which threw out the conviction of a Texas flag burner.

The bill on its way to Bush would revise existing federal law and provide up to a year in a jail and a \$1,000 fine for anyone who "knowingly mutilates, defaces, physically defiles, burns, maintains on the floor or ground, or tramples upon any flag of the United States."

The one-sided votes in Congress reflected the power of the flag as a political symbol, as demonstrated by a public outcry

following the Supreme Court decision in June.

Derrick told the House that the court's decision, throwing out the conviction of Texas flag burner Gregory Lee Johnson on grounds that his right to free speech was violated, hit Americans like "a slap in the face."

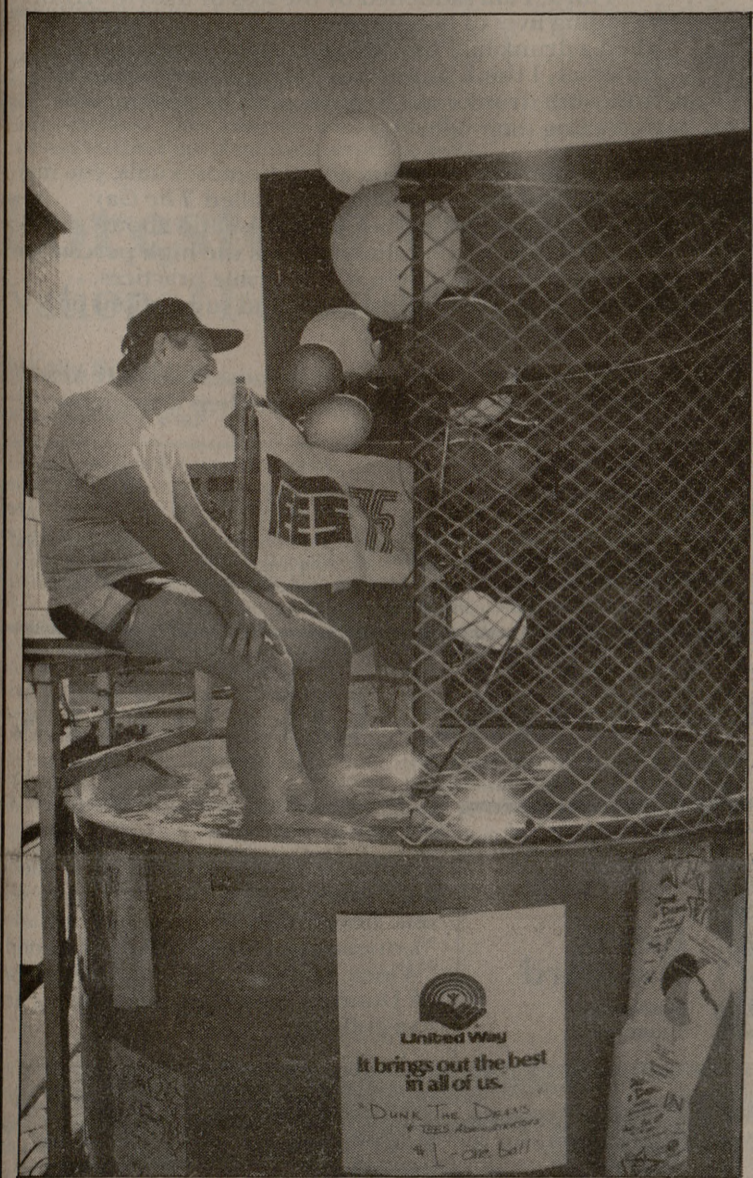
Bush joined the call for a constitutional amendment, but Democratic leaders said changing the Constitution would be too drastic an action in response to an isolated case.

"Amending the Constitution as some would advance should be a last resort and not a first resort," Rep. William J. Hughes, D-N.J., said.

Supporters of the bill approved Thursday said the wording had been carefully fashioned to withstand court challenges, banning flag defacement regardless of whether it involved political protest.

But that idea drew scoffing from some Republicans, who said that any bill to ban flag burning by simple statute would be overturned for the same reasons as the Texas case.

Dunkin' the Deans



Photos by Mike C. Mulvey

Associate Dean of Engineering Dan Turner is the first candidate in Texas Engineering Extension Service's "Dunk the Dean Contest" at Pie Are Square Thursday. For one dollar per ball, people could attempt to dunk a dean.



(Top) Sally Sheppard, Associate Provost, attempts to dunk the second candidate, her husband Lee Blank, Assistant Dean of Engineering. (Bottom) Turner comes up smiling.

U.S. ambassador escapes as radical Korean students storm, occupy his home

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Radical students armed with firebombs and tear gas briefly occupied part of U.S. Ambassador Donald Gregg's residence early Friday before riot police dragged them out, officials said.

A U.S. State Department spokesman in Washington said Gregg and his wife were not injured in the attack.

Police said six male students belonging to an "anti-U.S. death squad" scaled the walls of Gregg's residential compound and hurled tear gas at guards who tried to stop them from rushing the home.

The students locked themselves inside one building and held off riot police for about 30 minutes before troops firing tear gas smashed down a door and seized them, police said.

"Drive out the Yankees!" the students screamed as police hustled them away.

Gregg and his wife, Meg, said at a news conference they were in bed about 6:30 a.m. when they heard a blast and a guard warned

them by telephone that intruders had entered the compound, which is about one mile from the U.S. Embassy.

The Greggs said they heard the intruders on the other side of their locked bedroom door, but were able to escape the house by another entrance and avoid an encounter with the students.

The students however caused extensive damage in the living room, smashing artwork and pottery, Gregg said.

He said though that the incident would have no impact on U.S.-South Korean relations and that the students represented a vocal minority.

"This was the act of six people who broke into our house," Gregg said.

Police said the intruders were armed with firebombs, tear gas and steel bars. Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, said the protesters also carried paint thinner and what it described as a crude homemade explosive.

Police said the intruders did not use any weapons except for one tear gas grenade.

Principal: child care facility will decrease drop out rate

DALLAS (AP) — A plan to reduce the number of teen-age dropouts by offering a child-care facility at a Dallas high school is not meant to condone teen-age sex, officials said.

Officials at Sunset High School said they believe the program will bring to class students who might stay at home with their babies.

Sunset principal Richard Marquez said he had to convince a lot of people that a new program was needed at his school.

"We're not condoning teen pregnancy," he said. "But the reality is that if we don't get these children to school, their children probably will suffer the same things as their mothers."

"The children will grow up to raise another generation of uneducated children, and we lose three generations," he said. "We need to get these kids through school."

Home economics teacher Linda Levine came up with the idea for offering day care after eight of 17 young women in her classes became pregnant.

"I lost four of those students because they did not have reliable child care for the baby," Levine said.

Officials expect to open a licensed child-care program in January at a church near Sunset. It will be operated by day-care specialists at a YMCA.

The young mothers will be charged \$5 weekly for the service.

Students parked by Kyle Field must move cars

Texas A&M University students parking in campus lots immediately adjacent to Kyle Field must move their vehicles by 6 p.m. Friday to accommodate guests for the Aggie-University of Houston football game Saturday.

Students still parked in Parking Areas 46 and 48, adjoining G. Rollie White Coliseum, the Read Building and the Moore Communications Center; PA 62 between Wellborn Road and Kyle Field; or PA 60, across from Rudder Tower, after 6 p.m. will be relocated to PA 50 off University Drive near the Wisenbaker Engineering Research Center.

Those parking in PAs 37, 49, 56, 63 and 69 have until 10 a.m. Saturday to move their vehicles, which will also be relocated if not moved by that time, Parking, Transit and Traffic officials said.

Individuals who usually park in any of the above-mentioned lots should use PA 50 or 51 (near the engineering research center and University Drive) or park in available spaces (other than numbered reserved spots) in any staff lot not named above until following the football game.

Correction

The organization in the page one photograph Thursday was incorrectly identified. The group of hall residents was from Schumacher Hall. The Battalion regrets the error.

A&M center readies for Alcohol Awareness Week

By Mia B. Moody

Of The Battalion Staff

During National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week, beginning Monday, the Texas A&M Center for Drug Prevention and Education will offer educational and fun programs to encourage students to evaluate their drinking habits.

Universities and colleges throughout the nation use the third week of October to make students more aware of the problems and issues surrounding alcohol, Ann Coombs, CDPE assistant coordinator, said.

"We want students who go to clubs such as the Chicken every Thursday and drink to ask themselves why they do it," Coombs said.

"They should ask themselves if they are doing it out of boredom or because their friends do it and if they are, they probably need to make a change."

A competition between the University of Texas and A&M for which school can throw the best party will wrap up Alcohol Awareness Week Thursday night, Coombs said.

"Both universities' parties will be judged on uniqueness, activities offered, attendance based on school size and ability of the party to educate and entertain," she said.

A&M will have a mocktail mix-off between groups on campus to judge who can create the best drink in the time allotted, Coombs said. The party will end with a mock funeral for Bevo and feature a life-sized cow and casket.

Coombs said A&M has been an active participant in National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week since it began in 1984 and its participation has grown from one department to more than 22.

NCAA Events:

• Monday — A forum on alcohol use, misuse and abuse at 7 p.m. in Rudder Theater. A panel of counselors will speak about substance abuse and transition from college to the workplace. This event is sponsored by Greenleaf Hospital, Alpha Phi Omega and Student Counseling Services.

• Tuesday — "Wash Tent" from 1 to 3 p.m. The Corps will set up a tent in the

Southside Quad in a make-believe swamp and serve "mocktails" — non-alcoholic drinks. From 4 to 5 p.m. Hall-y-Wood Squares in the Davis-Gary Quad will test the knowledge of campus celebrities on alcohol use and abuse.

• Wednesday — "Anatomy of a Court Case" at 7:30 p.m. in 201 MSC will feature a reenactment of a court case involving an alcohol-related death at a fraternity party.

• Thursday — A prevention and treatment seminar from noon to 1 p.m. at the College of Medicine. Speakers will discuss current alcohol and other drug abuse prevention and treatments. From 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. the "t.u. Challenge Party" at the Grove.

Veterinarians receive computer help

By Selina Gonzalez

Of The Battalion Staff

Veterinary medicine has logged on to the computer age.

The Associate system, a package of computer software to help diagnose diseases, has been developed at Texas A&M University's Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) by veterinarians Dr. Craig Carter and Dr. Brent Melloy.

Associate will allow veterinarians to draw on diagnostic expertise to treat cases that are ambiguous or limited, said Carter, head of TVMDL epidemiology and informatics and former computer software engineer.

Carter said the Associate system was developed because of the explosion of medical knowledge in various professions.

Medical knowledge doubles every 20 months and medical literature expands 40 percent each year, he said.

"When I was going through vet school, I wanted to organize all the data," Carter said.

He said human hospital studies found that physicians do a good job of diagnosis and treatment with the information they do have.

"Where they lack is when they don't consider something that should be considered," Carter said.

He said the program is designed to include all possible diagnoses to eliminate these "errors of omission."

"Clinicians want a complete electronic reference," Carter said.

The latest treatments for different diseases also are included in Associate.

Carter said he hopes the system will be updated quarterly by a panel

of board-certified veterinary specialists in Dallas.

The Associate, which contains information from textbooks and professional journals, is being reviewed by the expert panel in Dallas, Carter said.

Carter said there will be different Associate systems for different species.

Canine Associate will be available in March 1990 and Feline Associate will follow three months later. By the end of the year, Carter plans to release Zoonotic Associate, focusing on approximately 300 diseases that are common to both humans and animals.

Zoonotic Associate is necessary because these diseases are in a "gray area," he said.

"Vets don't claim them and physicians don't either," Carter said.

Eventually, he said, Carter-Melloy

plans to develop an Associate system for large animals.

Carter said Associate allows clinicians to:

• Enter the animal's signs, symptoms, medical change or behavioral change and a list of possible diagnoses will appear.

• Eliminate some of the possible diagnoses based on other factors of the individual case.

• Draw more information about each possible diagnosis, such as how a certain disease develops in an animal.

• Draw information about which tests to conduct for proper diagnosis.

• Consider all new developments in treatment for each case.

Carter said Associate is not the first of its kind. A few similar programs exist but they are not as comprehensive as Associate, he said.

"They have taken one small aspect of a species and developed a program to help diagnosis that one particular problem," he said.

"We want them (physicians) to be able to ask any question about any disease."

The Associate system will be available to everyone in the health profession, Carter said.

Carter said he sees Associate and similar programs refining the way medicine is practiced.

"Before, clinicians may have been diagnosing and treating animals 90 to 95 percent accurately; maybe now, the percentage will increase to 100 percent," he said.

Carter said, "When we go to the doctor, we want them to consider every possibility, and I think the animals deserve the same consideration."