

Texas needs a state lottery

Texas should cash in on a state lottery. A lottery would create new jobs, provide revenue for businesses selling lottery tickets and re-circulate money into the local economy. Money generated from the lottery could be used for education, anti-drug programs and law enforcement.

Of 50 states, 30 have lotteries and all have benefited from them. In its first 12 months, the Florida lottery generated \$570 million in revenue. Texas, with 5 million more people than Florida, may generate even more money. And New York, the state closest to Texas in population, has grossed \$707 million. According to statistics from the office of the state attorney general, no lottery in the last 25 years has ever lost money.

It would be a contradiction of terms not to have a lottery in a state that has legalized pari-mutuel horse racing.

Proceeds from lotteries could be used to fund programs that help all segments of the population. In the long run, if a lottery is implemented, all Texans will be winners.

Bush hurt poor by vetoing bill

President Bush made a mistake in vetoing a bill that would have allowed federal Medicaid funding for abortions of pregnancies caused by incest or rape.

Bush said that although he believes in a woman's right to have an abortion in such cases, he only supports the use of federal funds when the life of the mother is endangered. That means abortions for victims of rape or incest now are available only to women who can afford them. These babies often will be born into an environment where they are unwanted and unloved, in the care of a parent or parents who are financially and emotionally unable to care for them.

By vetoing the bill, Bush has driven yet another wedge into the gap between the rich and the poor in the United States.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Government needs to keep a cool head about the flag

In a banner decision last June, the Supreme Court overturned a Texas law that was used to convict Gregory Lee Johnson of burning an American flag.

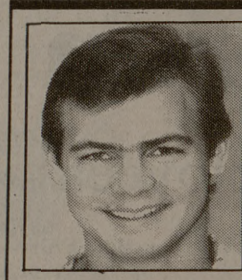
As expected, George, the not-so-burning Bush, became a little hot under the collar and decided that the only solution to this dilemma was a Constitutional Amendment. Last week the Senate rejected the proposed amendment in one of its most controversial deeds in years.

I am surprised that I do not have mixed emotions on this issue. After all, I pledged my allegiance to the flag, and to our republic, five times a week during my first five years of school. I feel touched when I see the classic World War II photograph of American soldiers raising our banner at Iwo Jima. I even have a flag on my ceiling.

Oddly enough, my emotions are fixed, not mixed. I was glad to see that the 51-48 Senate tally fell short of the two-thirds needed to send the amendment to the states. I am convinced the flag itself stands for freedom that even entails the right to protest our government by burning the flag. Flag burning is a deplorable deed, but it is an extension of free speech. It really is of no consequence anyway because flag burning is far from being an epidemic, or even popular.

My point is not to saturate this column with the much beleaguered Constitutionality issue, but to say that our men in Washington have handled the entire ordeal quite poorly.

As for amendments, the Equal



Matt McBurnett
Columnist

Rights Amendment, a much more reasonable proposal, has been turned down about 800 or 900 times now. So why was this flag burning proposal such a hot topic? The answer is sitting in the White House mulling about the placement of his library.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Maine) said the most distressing aspect of the matter has been the eagerness with which the president sought to exploit the flag for political reasons. Joining in on the Bush-whacking was Edward Kennedy who, in his most logical statement in years, said that Bush was "using the high power of his office for a low purpose. Tampering with the Constitution in 1989 is an unjustifiable extension of the 1988 presidential campaign." I am forced to agree on both counts.

Recall that during the 1988 election, Bush made an issue of Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis having vetoed a bill mandating teachers lead students in morning flag salutes.

Bob Dole conceded that there was little support from Bush, last week, in getting the amendment passed. In other words, Bush got what he wanted — recognition for supporting the pro-

posed amendment without actually having done anything.

This would not usually upset me. Receiving credit for nothing and getting blamed for everything is the president's job.

Bush simply wanted to play politics and justify his campaign. He attempted to do this by pulling on American emotional strings. That is upsetting.

The House, in a stroke of genius similar to Bush's, recently passed a measure making it a federal crime to mutilate, deface, burn, physically desecrate, or maintain on the floor or ground any flag of the United States. The motion had earlier passed through the Senate. The measure provides that violators can be smacked with a \$1000 fine or a one-year term.

Most likely, President Bush will let the bill pass without his signature.

Without even glancing into my crystal ball, I can see that eventually someone will break this law and take it to court. The Supreme Court will have to exert its authority once again to declare this new statute unconstitutional.

This proves that our three-branch government, when unchecked, is quite unbalanced. Bush wants an amendment. Congress wants a law. The Supreme Court declared that flag burning is an extension of free speech. The amounts to wasted tax money, wasted time, and a return to status quo to begin again!

Matt McBurnett is a junior electrical engineering major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Jury wrong to acquit rapist because of "sex advertising"

We have before us the case of a young woman from Fort Lauderdale who went out with her girlfriend one evening dressed in a sea-green tank top and a ruffled miniskirt.



Lewis Grizzard
Syndicated Columnist

Actually, it's what she did not have on that is the key issue here. She didn't have on any underpants.

She gets raped by a 26-year-old man and then a jury ups and acquits him because, in the words of the jury foreman, the victim "advertised for sex."

Obviously, there have been outcries of injustice, and how can I remain silent when so many others have seen the wrong here and have made public their disdain for the obviously Neanderthal thinking of the jury?

Here's the deal:

You see a woman out in public dressed in a sea-green tank top and a ruffled miniskirt and you say to yourself, "Hey, this chick probably isn't wearing any underwear either, which obviously means she obviously wants to do the dirty deed."

OK, so there's some basis for logic there, I suppose, but here's the spoiler, Big Boy.

Just because she's advertising for sex, it doesn't necessarily mean she's advertising for sex with you.

She could be advertising for sex with her boyfriend, Harold, who's meeting her later.

She could be advertising for sex with her husband.

Just because you're married doesn't mean you can't still be kinky. She even could be advertising for sex with a movie producer who might be hanging out and happen to see her, and a month from now, she'll be co-starring with Mel Gibson.

Here's all the jury had to know:

Did this woman want to have sex with the creep who raped her? The answer is, of course, no.

"To force someone into sex is rape, and it doesn't say anywhere that it doesn't count if the victim is provocatively dressed."

But, did the man force her to have sex with him?

The answer is, of course, yes.

Then, it doesn't matter if she were walking around buck naked. To force someone into sex is rape, and it doesn't say anywhere that it doesn't count if the victim is provocatively dressed.

Send the creep to the Big House. If you don't, what happens the next time he sees a woman dressed in a sea-green tank top and a ruffled miniskirt?

If it were OK for him to rape the first one, why not number two?

Listen, I'm a man and I know the stirrings that loosen themselves when I see a woman dressed in something she obviously isn't wearing to a Junior League meeting.

But there are ways a man can soothe himself when visited upon by such stirrings.

Think of the least sexy thing you can think of. Like Harry Truman. Or gall bladder surgery. Or the infield fly rule. And, if none of that works, there's still the cold shower.

Just because you're wearing dancing shoes, doesn't necessarily mean you want to dance. And just because a woman isn't wearing underwear doesn't necessarily mean she is there for the taking.

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Mail Call

Proud of Aggie leaders

EDITOR:

In my work here at the University, I continually have the opportunity to observe the outstanding attributes and contributions of our students. On two recent occasions (one here on campus and one at a professional meeting in San Antonio), I had the privilege of being in the audience when several Texas A&M student leaders represented A&M and their various constituencies. I am continuously impressed and proud on these occasions regarding how blessed and fortunate we are as University staff to have such outstanding students to work with and serve. I know I think it a lot, but do not say it nearly enough. So from me to our students — YOU ARE THE GREATEST!

Ron Sasse
Director of Student Affairs

Hang your tag

EDITOR:

I have recently been given a ticket for not having a parking sticker, which I do have. It's not bad enough that the closest space was just this side of Snook, but I got a ticket because I forgot to hang my parking pass.

I know I'm not the first person this has happened to, and I won't be the last either. We Aggies are being held responsible putting a piece of plastic on our rear view mirrors every time we get out of our cars. I can't speak for everyone, but I like I have more important things to worry about; for instance, my GPR, money, health and other trivial things college students waste their time stressing over.

I guess DPS is having Johnny (Law) write these tickets to help pay for the new approved hike in our budget.

Am I being unreasonable? I could always rebel and leave my pass on my mirror, but it clearly says, "Remove before vehicle is in motion." Does DPS give out tickets for not remembering to do this, too?

Chris A. Collins '91

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