Williams doesn't deserve attacks on his character

Michael L. Lee
Reader's Opinion

Recently, there have been a great number of attacks made upon Republican gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams' character. I would like to point out a few facts about Williams and his situation.

In regard to the faux pas Williams made at his ranch, he told a joke that made light of a truly horrible crime, and it was the wrong thing to say. Williams has expressed his deepest regrets for making the remark, and he has apologized in a very sincere letter, and on national television.

The joke that Williams told was told among a group of men, mostly ranch hands and reporters. I'm sure the ranch hands are used to that kind of rough humor, and likely, the reporters are too. Only the reporters thought they could add a little more mud to this race if they reported a gubernatorial candidate was making sexist remarks.

If anyone is going to condemn Williams as a sexist, then they should go ahead and condemn every Aggie that graduated before 1963, every male that has worked on bonfire, every fraternity member and the Corps of Cadets. This is not mentioning all other males, and most females, because at one time or another, we have made a sexist remark, or laughed at a slightly off color joke (and chances are they have too). As for the allegation of being sexist merely because he would rather face a man than a woman in the political arena, this is a misinterpretation of the facts.

Williams is a true gentleman, and has the greatest respect for women. He would prefer to be more genteel towards a lady than an election battle would allow.

As for the other personal attacks on Williams, let's not define Williams as a racist, since some of his best friends are of hispanic origin, and he does not support the official English policy proposed to him.

Why don't we also refrain from calling him stupid, seeing as he started with nothing and has made almost a billion dollars, survived the Texas oil crunch, and is now worth $100 million dollars. You do not build a multimillion dollar empire by "thinking with what is between your legs" as Gary Carroll so ignorantly and immaturely stated in a letter on March 27th. He used his intellect, and his great God-given talent for managing. Let's not forget that the governor of Texas is primarily a manager.

If Williams' detractors had first reviewed the issues instead of racing to defame Williams' character, they would have realized that he has the only logical plan to crime in Texas. According to Texas law enforcement authorities, 8 percent of convicted felons were under the influence of drugs when they commited their crime. If we can reduce the effect of drugs on our society, chances are that violent crimes will go down.

Jim Mattox has not been able to use his influence as attorney general to curb the use of drugs in Texas. And as we have all seen, Ann Richards is not at all ready to address the question of drug abuse. Mattox has formally accused her of abusing illegal substances, and claims that he has proof. I guess that only he knows, because according to the Democrats, everyone except themselves is lying.

I personally find it truly amazing that with all of the internal strife the Democrats have, that they still have time to make as big of a scandal as they can for Williams. But, it is a fact that they will blow any slight mistake Williams makes way out of proportion, because they know he is a strong candidate, and one of them is going to face him in November.

In conclusion, what this situation demonstrates is that Clayton Williams is not experienced in working in the political arena. This in no way implies that he will not be a great governor for Texas, and indeed the opposite will be true. It does show that Williams is not like Ann Richards and Jim Mattox, and all of the other generic politicians. Everything he says is not canned, sliced and preapproved by his campaign manager.

It seems that Texans are ready for a change in Texas politics. They are tired of the pre-molded politician and the mudslinging campaign. It seems they want a "good ol' boy" who is not afraid to scrap it out with the legislature in order to do what is right for Texas, not just what is right for self-serving desires. A vote for Clayton Williams is not a "vote for stupidity." It is a vote for an Ag, and a great future for Texas.

Gig 'em Claytie.

Michael L. Lee is a senior political science major.

'Tex' is hereby announcin' his candidacy for guvnership

Ah'm hereby announcin' my candidacy for guvner of this fahn state. Oh, Ah know, Ah know ... Y'all want ta hear my platform. Well, sit back, relax an' enjoy it.

Plank 1 — Be tough.

Ah'm tough. And if Ah'm elected guvner, Ah'll be even tougher on crimnals! You drug dealin'? Then Ah'll introduce ya ta the pleasures of bustin' rocks ... with yer dang forehead! Ah mean it, boys! You a minor usin' drugs? Then Ah'll make ya eatchur license, *and* bust rocks ... with yer dang FOREHEAD! Ya'll better be lisnen'! You killin' people? Why, Ah'll make ya bust rocks with yer dang forehead, and THEN, Ah'll KILL YA! Yee-haw! You rapin', son? Well, least you didn't hurt her none, an' she was prob'ly askin' for it anyways. You know women.

Plank 2 — Use good ol' common sense.

Did ya know Ah got lotsa common sense? Yesiree, lotsa common sense! Hell yes! Mucho common senso! Uh, f'rinstance! Ah got common sense enough ta keep quiet about this here abortion issue. Now, Ah oppose it, but Ah'm not sayin' nuthin' that might offend lady voters. Ya know how tempermental they can be, 'specially around THAT time of month. Heh heh, knowhutahmean? Say, didja hear (haw,haw) 'bout the homosexshul who ... aw, shucks, guess ya did.

Plank 3 and 4 — Ejication and bujjit.

Ah got a plan ta ejicate all our youngsters, so they kin grow up ta be jus' like me. Y'all want ta go ta college but can't afford it? Ah'll pay tuition *an'* books of every single poor student in Texas, or Ah'll getcha that new-fangled technical training (don't know whut it means, though). State bujjit? HAW! Ah'll sell a few planes, a few cars, a few print shops an' there ya go! Yeee-haw!

And what's more, Ah'm also an Aggie. Yee-haw! That means Ah kin act as stupid an' ignorant as Ah want and nobody'll care. It's kinda charmin', ya know? Kinda like when a baby pukes all over ya. "Ya gotta expect that, for goshsakes, it's only a baby." Well, Ah GUARANTEE, y'all kin expect it from me. Ah'm only a dumb cowboy — it's part of mah charm. An' if a bunch of fancy pants, Yankee, city-folk intulectchals say it cain't be done, y'all tell 'em "Bull hockey! Y'all don't know Ron 'Tex' Garza!" Yee-hah!!

P.S. — Don't y'all tell any of mah fellow Republicans that mosta mah policies come from dang government interventionist, liberal, New Deal Democrat ahdeals.

Ron Garza is a junior English major.

Blaphemous Mattox is far from Christ-like candidate

Damon Arhos
Assistant Opinion Page Editor

Now, I've seen *everything*.

This past Sunday at the Bethlehem Baptist Church in Houston, Jim Mattox compared himself to Jesus Christ. Talk about *blasphemy*.

According to Mattox, Jesus was not a low-key leader, and he feels "a great kinship to him in a number of ways." Mattox continued by saying that he represents Christ, and then made a parallel between his actions that make people angry and Christ's.

"Sometimes my opponents call me a little too tough, sometimes they say, 'Jim, you're not a good politician because you make some people mad.' But I say to them, the fellow that I worship, made people so angry and so mad at him that one week they would take him into Jerusalem, proclaim him as the king and wave palm branches in front of him, and a week later they would demand his crucifixion."

The big question: Where was all of this leading? Why did Mattox stand at the pulpit comparing himself to the only person who never committed a sin?

The big answer: "Are you going to go vote? Amen. Remember Jim Mattox and I'll remember you, too. I really will."

I have no problem with Mattox claiming that he is a representative of Christ. Every Christian is a representative of Christ. But for Mattox to be comparing his life to the life of Jesus Christ is paradoxical.

How ironic it is that Mattox said to the congregation, "I worship the Jesus that grabbed the whip and chased the money changers out of the temple," when he was tried in 1985 on commercial bribery charges. The man who was supposed to be going after criminals in our state was too busy with his *own* trial.

And how about those income tax statements, Jim? Do you have something to hide? If not, why not disclose them? It's about time that you did.

Jesus Christ never told a lie, either. But Mattox has the reputation for being one of the biggest liars in the state. In the words of Ann Richards, if it comes out of his mouth, it's probably a lie. Will Mattox *really* remember the voters if elected? Would he be *honest* with the people of Texas? Can we trust *him* with the power that the governor has?

Ann Richards is quoted as saying, "Jim Mattox has made a lot of promises in this campaign and has failed to deliver on them." Bingo, Ann. Mattox just continues to sling the mud around, always mumbling something about a state lottery.

Mattox also said that he doesn't fear losing the election. He said that he started the campaign on his knees asking for God's assistance.

"I didn't ask the Lord to help me win," said Mattox. "I asked him to help me do the right thing, to have the courage to walk out in the arena."

And if we're lucky, the lions are licking their chops.

Damon Arhos is a senior journalism major.

Mail Call

What is I.D.?

EDITOR:

Many of my friends here at A&M jokingly refer to me as the "interior design" major. They tell me that industrial distribution is in the College of Engineering because there is nowhere else to put it. Although this is all in fun, many people here have never heard of the program or have no idea what I.D. majors do when they "grow up." Some people pretend to know because they're too embarrassed to ask while others could just care less. The situation deserves some attention.

The versatility of the degree is what makes it so unique and appealing. Industrial distribution prepares students for sales and sales management positions with manufacturers and wholesale distributors of industrial equipment, machinery, components and value-added services. Customers include original equipment manufacturers, construction contractors, refineries and material production plants to name a few. Graduates may even choose purchasing or consulting as a career.

Dealing with such a wide variety of products as well as those who design, test, service and ultimately use these products requires the graduate to be a professional with many capabilitites. Classes in business, data processing, engineering, communication and human relations fill the curriculum in order to provide the students with a well-balanced blend of needed skills.

Research is an important part of the I.D. program. The Thomas A. Read Center for Distribution Research located in the Fermier Building is coordinated and operated by faculty members, staff and student workers. Information from this research are provided to companies in many different industries through seminars conducted by faculty members.

Compared to other departments, industrial distribution may seem small with only 484 students. Unfortunately, due to increased popularity and limited facilities, this is full capapcity. But for those of you who are interested, don't worry. There will be space for approximately 75 new students following May graduation.

A surplus of applicants has made competition for these spaces fierce and only a select few will be considered.

Jerry Jones '90

But what if Christianity is wrong?

EDITOR:

This is in response to Bill Pirkle's letter March 27. Bill, you are, no doubt, a nice person with good intent. But, your thinking, as portrayed in your letter, is quite flawed. You present the argument of "greater threat," saying that the atheist, James Hammitt, has everthing to gain and nothing to lose by believing in Jesus. You appeal to the idea of possibilities, and present Mr. Hammit with only two of them — the Christian Heaven/Hell versus Nothing.

If we are considering possibilities, Bill, we have to admit that the consequences of not believing in Jesus are infinitely more than the two you presented. There are many religions, whether we know about them or not, many interpretations of religions, and many more possible gods.

It's not so cut and dry, huh? No one's options are limited to just the two you selectively presented.

It is not my point to attack your beliefs, Bill, but simply to make you and others aware of the problems with your argument. Mr. Hammitt is presented with several religious and non-religious possibilities, more than two of which are mutualy exclusive. And so the argument of "greater threat" isn't fit to be used to make a decision regarding any of them. To follow it makes faith amount to fear.

Bud Cox '90

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(USPS 045 360)

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The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editorial board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion is **published Monday through Friday** during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods.

Mail **subscriptions** are $21.50 per semester, $43 per school year and $53.75 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our **address**: *The Battalion*, 230 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

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 77843-4111.

Adventures In Cartooning by Don Atkinson Jr.