



MARGULIES
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NEW JERSEY

LIGHT at the END of the TUNNEL

MAIL CALL

The Battalion is interested in hearing from its readers and welcomes all letters to the editor. Please include name, classification, address and phone number on all letters. The editor reserves the right to edit letters for style and length. Because of limited space, shorter letters have a better chance of appearing. There is, however, no guarantee letters will appear. Letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.

Fight racism where it exists

EDITOR:

This is in answer to all who feel that it is unjust that there are a disproportionate number of blacks serving in the Persian Gulf.

Our military currently is all volunteer; no one was forced to join the U.S. armed services.

To those claiming they were forced to join because of economic reasons, I say this: Our military is not a social program.

The charges of racism against the U.S. government are ludicrous. Instead of falsely accusing the government of racism, fight racism where it does exist.

Otherwise, you may lose your credibility.

Larry Odom '88

Consider facts, not propaganda

EDITOR:

This letter is in regard to a statement made in Michael Worsham's letter in the Feb. 13 issue of The Battalion. Worsham makes the statement that the United States should stop its "... cruel, unprovoked and expensive bombing of innocent citizens of Iraq."

What Worsham has neglected to consider is that Iraq has been bombing civilians in both Israel and Saudi Arabia almost non-stop since the beginning of the war.

Although there have been very few casualties as a result of these bombings, that still does not excuse Hussein's actions.

Apparently Worsham is buying into the Iraqi propaganda that the baby food plant was really a baby food plant and so on. Maybe he should consider the facts instead of the propaganda before making such a statement.

I'm not saying that turn about is fair play, or that the ends justifies the means.

But maybe we all should look at the facts before condemning the United States' actions.

Adam Richards '94

Bail out on country?

EDITOR:

In response to the foresighted comments of B. Jon Traylor in the Feb. 4 issue of The Battalion, I would like to reply:

If the American people were to sit idly by and leave the country every time they opposed the actions of our great yet ever confusing government, as B. Jon Traylor would have us do, there would be only three people left.

And before long Barbara would take leave of President Bush and Mr. Sununu.

Patrick Gendron '94

Let's do something besides robbing the poor

Sixty-six percent of Texas citizens favor a state lottery to raise revenues, according to a survey conducted by The Eppstein Group in Fort Worth. I, too, support a state lottery ... I think.

You see, I — like a lot of others — am concerned that the people who will buy lottery tickets will be the poor who are optimistic enough to believe they might actually win a lottery, and money they should be spending on food and shelter will end up going toward lottery tickets.

Yep, even though I think a state lottery would help the economy, I wouldn't buy a ticket myself. The odds are so bad against me winning, I would think it was just plain silly to spend money on such a thing.

However, some people might really



Ellen Hobbs
Columnist

start to believe they have more than a snowball's chance in hell of winning the lottery. Not everybody will realize they're being duped into making a silly purchase.

So, instead of trying to make money by enticing people to buy lottery tickets, which some people aren't going to realize is silly, I've designed a plan of making people who buy really silly stuff help us take care of our money problems.

Here's the plan: We should just tax

the hell out of things we think are really silly, like scented erasers, dolls that pull their pants down, fruit roll-ups, New Kids On The Block remix albums, decorative wind socks, that kind of thing.

It would work like this: Each voting district would select two people to be part of the Silly Tariff Proposal Board. They could do this by election, by asking for volunteers or whatever. The only stipulation is that nobody could do it twice (that'll keep it more interesting).

Each proposal board member will have to come up with one thing that people buy that they think is silly. They then submit their idea to the board chairman, whose name was selected out of a hat.

If two members submit the same silly thing, the one who brought it in second has to come up with a new idea.

A list of all the ideas would be compiled and presented to the general public for a vote during regular elections. Voters then can pick up to 50 things that they think are really silly and ought to be taxed.

The top 50 items selected would then have an attached 25 percent state sales tax for one year.

The taxed items, like the members of the Silly Tariff Proposal Board, would naturally rotate. That way, no one industry — say, the scented eraser industry — would feel the bite of the taxation for more than one year.

And I dare say that the companies producing scented erasers would realize they deserved to be taxed.

The members of the board would

switch quickly (there would be so many of them), and they would never actually meet, just mail in their ideas. This would make it quite difficult for the scented eraser lobby from bribing members not to propose that their product be taxed.

To me, this plan seems to me to hit the most deserving consumers with the extra financial burden to keep this state on its feet.

I suppose it's got its flaws, but what revenue raising plan doesn't?

The best thing about it is that it will eliminate the guilt we're gonna feel if we implement a lottery and get our revenue from the poor and destitute. And with this war going on, who needs more guilt?

Ellen Hobbs is a senior journalism major.

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The Battalion

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