



EDITORIALS

True change in politics

Voting only way to bring it about

As the Oct. 3 deadline for voter registration approaches, various organizations are stepping up activities to encourage new and non-traditional voters to let their voices be heard in the Nov. 3 elections.

Voter registration cards are available through the Brazos County Voter Registration Office, the League of Women Voters, the U.S. Postal Service, public libraries, and various campus political organizations such as the College Republicans and Aggie Democrats.

The wide range of locations providing cards allows no excuse for failing to register.

As disenchantment mounts over scandals that rock state and national governments from the Guerrero graduation revelations to the House check-bouncing fiasco, voting provides citizens isolated from the

closed-door dealings of politics with the opportunity to control the politicians themselves.

While protest carries with it the stigma of radicalism, voting provides an anonymous means to voice an opinion that may not coincide with those of friends and relatives.

While writing letters to officials does not guarantee that favored issues will be discussed, voting tugs at the ears of incumbents desperate to retain their political positions and neophytes hungry to ascend the political ladder.

As students in other corners of the world withstand violence and terror to express their political beliefs, students in the United States must not stand passively by and ignore their right to participate in the political process. Get registered, get involved, and get out the vote.

Sell-out or survival?

Foreign investment actually a boon

The AppleTree company recently approved a reorganization plan which will make a Japanese bank the supermarket chain's largest shareholder.

The AppleTree acquisition is the latest example of how foreign investment can help, not harm, U.S. companies.

Recent acquisitions by Japanese investors such as record companies and skyscrapers have led many Americans to typify the Japanese as the ultimate conspicuous consumers, intruders with a yen for buying. Some even say Japan will inevitably buy America away from the Americans.

Yet Japan is only the second largest foreign investor in the United States. British investors own \$108 billion in U.S. assets. Japan owns only \$83 billion.

Foreign investment injects needed capital into a currently weak U.S. economy. At a time when some American businesses must borrow more money simply to pay the interest on previous loans, the demand for available capital threatens to send interest rates spiraling skyward.

Instead, foreign investors supply this much needed cash, subsequently keeping interest rates down which helps the floundering economy.

The whole scenario appears to be an endless cycle which increases American dependence on foreign investors, but the fact is that foreign lenders are helping American companies survive.

And as American businesses remain in business, American workers continue working.

MAIL CALL

College Republican tactics overbearing

Tuesday, I attended Dan Quayle's speech. After an hour and a half of waiting, we finally got into G. Rollie White.

Once in we were being ushered to sections by people with air horns. All this was fine, but one of the ushers got carried away. In my section, one woman kept screaming and yelling at people to stand up, 45 minutes before Quayle spoke. In front of me, were about six people who were not standing.

The one adamant usher stood behind me yelling at them to stand. When she was informed that they didn't want to stand, she took her air horn, put it between the heads of two of the

students, blew away, and yelled again. I considered this extremely rude and obnoxious. People have a right not to stand, and her behavior was completely out of line, not to mention probably deafening.

I don't know if she was part of the organization sponsoring this event, but I can't imagine any organization condoning this kind of tactic or behavior.

The nation was watching A&M that day, and we had the opportunity to display the best of Aggieland. Such behavior can only tarnish our image in the eyes of the public and reduce us to the level of other universities.

Susan Emmons
Class of '95

Former Republican snubs party, Quayle

Well Ags, what a great treat, three great Dane Quaylees in our midst. For all of you that agree that it really is time to "take back our culture" this is the time to show your support.

I thought I was a Republican until I realized that this is every American's country whether they're a Seminole,

African-American, Anglo or anything else.

As far as supporting the party that wants to "take back our culture" I ask what is "our" culture? Can Hispanics join, or Asians? Or is that the culture of the Mayflower descendants, the few, the proud, the pretentious. As far as supporting Judeo-Christian heritage, sorry Moslems, Buddhists etc.

Now the Republican party schedules a visit by the great Dane Quaylee. This seems like a great chance to learn more about the candidate and have a discussion of the issues.

But the Republicans tell us we can go to the rally, but we can only wave signs printed by the Republican Party. Sounds like something they don't even do in Russia anymore.

Freedom of speech? Not for Dan Quayle.

How would it look on television, in the home of the George Bush library there were signs of discontent towards the administration?

First tell me whose country this is, then whose culture, then tell me what to say ... NOT. Thanks, Republicans. This is no longer the party of Reagan but the party of Buchanan and Duke.

Jose Gonzalez
Graduate student

Rapists should think about their crimes

I just read about the girl who was raped in Briarwood this weekend, and it really upset me. The girl is my age and Briarwood is very close to where I live. Rape is one of my biggest fears; I know at least five girls off the top of my head who have been raped, and those are only the ones who have confided in me. I consider myself very lucky that I'm not on that list, but unfortunately it may just be a matter of time until I am.

I have a few questions for these guys — not just the two from this weekend, but any guy who has ever committed a rape. I may not get the answers, but I would like them to think: What the hell possessed you to do that in the first place? Were you having a macho contest with your buddies? Did it make you feel good at the time, hearing her scream and cry for help? Did her fear actually turn you on? How do you feel now, knowing your actions will scar her for life? Think back to that night, what you did to her. How would you like that happen to your mother? Or your grandmother? Or your sister? Or your girlfriend? Because believe it or not, they live life fearing guys just like yourself. Or how would you like that

to happen to you? (And I don't mean by a girl either ... I wonder how big and macho you'd feel then.) I hope you're getting my point. Absolutely no one deserves that kind of humiliation and degradation. I don't care how pretty, ugly, fat, skinny, bitchy, trappy, or drunk she may be. Nobody deserves it.

And finally, to the girls, please watch out for yourselves. Granted, not all men were fathered by pit bulls, but we shouldn't let the bunch spoil a few good apples, right? It can happen to you. It isn't necessary to hate men to be smart about them, because there really are some genuinely nice, respectable men out there and they are not hard to find. But please be careful anyway.

A. Yurkosky
Class of '94

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Civics lesson on a Missouri road

Would-be sportswriter compares sausage, politics

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Amidst the prematurely launched oranges of a wannabe Orange Bowl-bound crowd of Mizz-who fans, the Aggies narrowly escaped the nation's inbred heartland with a 26-13 victory over the Missouri Tigers.



STACY FEDUCIA
Columnist

But the real story of the day lies not in the game itself but in the story of a dedicated, determined, persevering few good Ags who defied the threats of an extended drive through this nation's inbred heartland and emerged victorious in Columbia.

The real story of the day was not the story but who covered it — that would be me, the humor columnist, the Lena Guerrero of the sportswriting world.

Two people. One small car. Two bottles of Nehi Grape. Two moon-pies (steadfastly surviving in their plastic wrappers since 1958). Three sticks of beef jerky. One "Hot-rageous" sausage stick (noxiously emitting gas that could damage the ozone layer). Three bags of barbecue pork rinds (vaguely reminding us of Elvis and momma). One six-pack of warm beer. One processed cheese substance. One squashed frog. One splattered "miscellaneous." One near-miss on an opossum outside of McAlester, Oklahoma. 65 unidentified road-loaves. 1,578 miles. 16 hours. East Texas. Oklahoma. Southern Missouri. A&M Vs. Mizz-who.

Throttling the roadways — as only a wannabe sportswriter can do with sports-cliches burning at my side and questionable press credentials awaiting me in Missouri — it was a road trip from hell; it was an assignment from hell.

What was I doing here in the only states aside from Arkansas and Louisiana that think a family tree is a wreath and that roadkill is an hors d'oeuvre as Oklahoma hiked up its leg and rained on us like a dog on a fire hydrant?

What was I doing here in southern Missouri where people build go-kart raceways next to their trailer homes and across the street from their Osmond Family Showcase Auditoriums?

It's really quite simple. I was faking it. Like Texas Railroad Commission Chairwoman Lena Guerrero and her

pseudo-UT (yeah, right) degree before me, I was coasting down the roads to that journalistic mecca of the sportswriting universe, the University of Missouri, pretending I was something I'm not — namely a sportswriter.

And they were sending me, humor columnist from hell, to cover the game? Let me tell you, folks, the closest I've ever gotten to sports is dodging the East Texans who were darting out into traffic to gather their Sunday dinners from the highway.

But hey, if Guerrero can do it — even to the point of fooling the t.u. alumni association — anyone can and everyone does, including me.

The fact that a public official has the gall to forget about her academic status, overlook the fact that the university neglected to send her a diploma and then continue to participate in the race attests to the fact that lying, cheating and stealing really isn't that hard to do — even if you are just a columnist pretending to be a sportswriter.

The fact that Gov. Richards still endorses Guerrero gives this Great Pretender permission to keep up the bad work — and gives others like her the impetus to follow in the long and undignified tradition of filth and corruption that makes state and national government rank right up there with the ingredients in "hot-rageous" sausage sticks.

In these trying political times, nothing really is as it seems. And that's a pretty scary concept when you're trotting into the polling place, vote in hand — or throttling down the highway where people ask, "Yer not from 'round here, are ya hun? You got all yer teeth and you don't have the same last name as all us."

But at least I made it home again, 48 hours later. No more pork rinds. No more moon pies. No more beef jerky (Do you know what they put in that stuff?) No more road-loaves. And one bad case of indigestion.

And when it was all over and I filed my first sports story Sunday night, the sports editors told me to hang up my cleats and return to the opinion page from whence I came. Maybe Governor Richards should tell Lena Guerrero to do the same.

Sucks to be you, Mizzou, but at least you're not Lena Guerrero.

You heard it here first.

Feducia is a senior English and history major



ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW YOU LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN - A&M STYLE.