

## Back in the ring

### Jesse Ventura's return to wrestling no big surprise

As a wrestler in the World Wrestling Federation (WWF), Jesse Ventura always did things his own unique way.



RYAN GARCIA

Over 15 years later as governor of Minnesota, Ventura is proving some things never change. In a press conference this month, he announced his plans to return to the WWF as a special guest referee for the WWF's SummerSlam, a pay-per-view event scheduled for Aug. 22 at the Target Center in Minneapolis. With a move Fox commentator Mick Morris called "a ritual political suicide," Ventura has generated more controversy than the raunchy, over-the-top antics of the WWF usually do one Monday night. By the time Ventura ended the press conference, his garb had changed from a conservative business suit to feather boas and sequin-covered sunglasses — his trademark wrestling attire. No one really knows what Gov. Ventura's motivations are for his SummerSlam appearance, leaving many to speculate about the off-the-wall governor. In a *New York Post* article, Minnesota GOP Chairman Ron Eiben-

steiner called Ventura's actions an outrage. "It's so obvious, so transparent, that he is using the office of governor to promote his own personal enrichment," Eibensteiner said.

In Ventura's defense, he told the press conference half of his \$100,000 appearance fee will be donated to the Jade Foundation, an abused children's charity, and the remaining \$50,000 will be awarded as part of an annual college endowment at Roosevelt High School in Minneapolis, his alma mater.

However, critics estimate that Gov. Ventura will earn \$1 million in royalties and pay-per-view fees generated from the high-publicity match, and that has some politicians upset.

"He's not earning a million dollars because he's a former wrestler, but because he's a former wrestler who's now governor," Democratic state senator John Marty said in the *New York Post*.

Ventura was not the typical gubernatorial candidate last year, and he is not the typical governor now. His unorthodox actions should not surprise anyone.

While aligning himself with an entertainment industry that spotlights everything from transvestites to first-blood matches may be detrimental to his political career, it's not against the law.

Ventura maintains that the Sunday-

night event will not take any time away from his public duties and defended his actions at the press conference.

"There's not a rule that says a governor can't have fun. There's no rule that says a governor, on his own time, can't be human," Ventura said.

It may be hard to imagine Bob Dole or Al Gore trash-talking the likes of Stone Cold Steve Austin or the Undertaker, but for Ventura, it is just something he wanted to do.

Why should his impulsive personality be chastised when it was this very attitude that won him a governorship?

Ventura wanted to be governor, so he campaigned without taking into account all of the detractors that said he could not possibly win.

By guest refereeing for the WWF, Ventura is staying true to form. Besides battling Ross Perot for control of the Reform Party, the potential for Ventura to serve in a greater capacity than governor does not seem likely.

By participating in a wrestling event, Ventura, at worst, is only harming his own limited political career.

But he is far from disgracing the office he holds, and at best, he is just doing things his way.

Ryan Garcia is a senior journalism major.



GABRIEL RUENES/THE BATTALION

## Proposed dress code at local high school not long-term solution

College Station's A&M Consolidated High School is currently considering requiring students to adhere to a strict dress code. Although a final decision on the code has been postponed, the proposal would ban shorts and tank tops on school grounds.



MARK PASSWATERS

Round Rock High School has also implemented a dress code in the past year, forbidding the wearing of anything red after outbreaks of gang related violence near the school. The reason for this, school officials insist, is to cut down on violence and crime during the time that school is in session. Most students are equally adamant that dress codes are

unfair and violate their personal freedoms.

If only this situation were simple enough to pick one side.

Students are right when they complain that they will be too hot in the summer if they are required to wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts. They are also correct when they say very few people are listening to their cry that they are being discriminated against by having these new rules imposed upon them.

On the other hand, school administrators are correct when they say that they are not implementing this out of spite but out of concern for the well being of the student body.

The only people who have to be thrilled about these new changes are the local clothing stores who get to sell new wardrobes, and the ACLU, who may have another civil liberties case to jump into.

But do dress codes work?

If yes, then all schools in the country should consider them. Those who support such a system say making all students look generic minimizes the possibility of violence breaking out between kids of rival gangs.

They also say that it helps show kids that they really are not all that different, and that there is no need for them to be hostile to one another. But even if these beliefs are true, school is not in session 24 hours a day. As a result, kids can go home, change, and then go out looking for trouble anyway.

In fact, enforcing a dress code may infuriate some students enough that they would add school administrators to their "bad" list.

Instead of solving the problem of teenage violence, a dress code is simply a way to try to cover up a sucking chest wound with a band-aid. School administrators are either unwilling or unable to come up with real solutions to youth problems. Further, even if they were to come up with something that could truly work, they might not

get the required support from city or state government to make the required changes.

To really solve the problem, kids need to be taught that what they are doing is not only wrong but fundamentally stupid. On top of that, they need to understand that if they do something, they are going to have to pay for it in spades.

A job like that is not just for school administrators or the teachers who are on the front lines of this battle. This is something that needs also to be discussed at home.

If parents are willing to wistfully believe that their little angel is too perfect to shove a knife into someone, then this problem is going to continue unabated. Every child has the capacity to go wrong as well as an ability to do the right thing.

Parents need to take the first step to show their kids the fundamental differences between

right and wrong. From there, teachers can reinforce the lessons, and the law can stand by and nab those who choose to ignore the message.

Until then, the police and the school systems will be dealing with students who not only ignore the message but simply have not heard it.

All children, from two to 82, crave attention. If they are given it, and are properly pushed down the right path, odds are they will stay on it.

So are school dress codes the solution? Certainly not a permanent one.

Maybe they can be used as a stop-gap effort while more and more adults are shaken out of their blissful reverie so they can do the right things for their children — and all of society as a result.

Mark Passwaters is an electrical engineering graduate student.



### COLLEGIATE ROUNDUP

#### Do not forget about gun control

From the Daily Collegian at Pennsylvania State University.

STATE COLLEGE, Penn. — As the shock of John F. Kennedy Jr.'s death echoes through the country's collective consciousness, the pain of the Columbine High School shootings seems to have faded and has almost been forgotten. ... The U.S. House of Represent-

atives recently rejected measures mandating background checks for guns sold at gun shows and making child safety locks on all handguns mandatory, sending the measures to conference committees where they will probably be forgotten. ... This has, unfortunately, been the fate of many small measures to curb gun sales to underage buyers. ... Maybe Congressmen were applying what everyone knows about the public in modern society: It has a short attention span.

So now that the CNN cameras have left Columbine and gone to Hyannisport, the National Rifle Association has won; the gun dealers have won, and it is still as easy for kids to attain and break havoc with guns as it was before. ... And if no important policy changes take place, how many periods or classes or semesters will it take before another ordinary kid becomes another victim? The public cannot let its government forget about gun control. ...

Clint Crampton  
Class of '99

#### Disney still makes good, accurate films

In response to Chris Huffines' July 21 column.

Huffines' recent column was as mixed-up as he claims Disney is. First, although no song in *Beauty and the Beast* directly addresses seeing Beast as he really is, the opening song and final reprise in *The*

### MAIL CALL

#### Mourning for JFK Jr. worthwhile, needed

In response to Joshua Levar's July 22 mail call.

Why be saddened by a call for further reflection on the passing of JFK Jr.? America is not just dealing with the death of a stranger, it is in fact dealing with the loss of a friend. Sure, I never knew John Jr. personally, but I always admired the way he carried himself.

I think you also have to keep in mind, in this case, the public's reaction was not a "thirst" for information. We, the collective American people, needed closure.

The Kennedy saga is the closest we have to a royal legacy, and now a chapter in that saga is complete.

Shame on Levar, for trivializing an event and a person respected by the majority of Americans. He should be ashamed of himself.

*Hunchback of Notre Dame* do address the issue. The song asks a question — "Who is the monster and who is the man?" — referring to Frolo and Quasimodo.

Secondly, having read the book *Tarzan*, I can tell you the Disney movie was one of the truest portrayals of the character. It captured his curiosity and thrill-seeking, practical joke tendencies, his desire to fit in and his intelligence.

Third, Huffines claims older Disney films (like *Bambi* and *Cinderella*) never bothered with a formula and implies they didn't have silly side-kicks. He has forgotten Gus and Jack and the other mice making *Cinderella's* dress and Thumper and *Bambi* on the frozen pond.

Finally, any movie should be watched and discussed with children. What is most important is that parents help their children put what they see on a screen into perspective. In fact, most Disney movies are written so parents and their children can enjoy them together.

Opinions are great but attacking an institution just because it is large and visible is simply being hurtful. I have to question Huffines' motives.

apathy of the pro-life movement. There are far too many people who claim to be pro-life, yet allow their actions, or lack thereof, to prove otherwise.

But to truly believe in something is to take a firm stand for those beliefs.

The pro-life movement needs revitalizing. If you know the truth about the horrors of abortion, turn your words into actions. Stay informed about abortion legislation and contact your representatives when a bill is proposed.

Support and join active, pro-life organizations such as Aggies for Life or the Brazos Valley Coalition for Life and peacefully protest abortion providers.

Most importantly, pray for an end to abortion and educate yourself on the facts so that you can stand firm.

When we turn a blind eye to the murder of these innocent babies, we are turning a blind eye to God.

Amber Matcher  
Class of '00

The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 300 words or less and include the author's name, class and phone number. The opinion editor reserves the right to edit letters for length, style, and accuracy. Letters may be submitted in person at 013 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters may also be mailed to:

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#### Pro-life movement needs revitalization

In response to Tom Owens' July 20 column.

Owens hit some too close to home with his column regarding the

Cathryn Clement  
Class of '77