

Candidate fumbles by using beer, pizza to get votes McCAIN FIGHTS FOR THE RIGHT



JILL RILEY



TO PARTY!

EMILY HARRELL/THE BATTALION

College students, take note: some politicians seem to think your support can be won with little or no effort. And the biggest culprit of the 2000 election could be John McCain.

The McCain campaign claims that young voters comprise a large portion of his support. Did this support come because the young agree with his spin on the issues, or because he mentioned during a New Hampshire meeting that his favorite band was Nine Inch Nails? Most likely he wins support by throwing beer and pizza campaign parties for college students.

A McCain campaign event held Feb. 3 catered to college students' appetites by serving free pizza and beer, according to the Drudge Report. Held in a hangar at the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, students from Clemson University, University of South Carolina, Furman, Wofford and Newberry partied until McCain arrived on stage at 3 a.m. to the song "Play That Funky Music (White Boy)."

"No one was even carded [for the alcohol]," said a student.

The technique used by McCain is abhorrent because politicians are supposed to be good examples. Hosting a beer and pizza bash past 3 a.m. on a school night may seem cool at first glance. But McCain should not endorse such an irresponsible campaign method.

Serving alcohol to minors is not only irresponsible, it is illegal.

"I am disgusted by the fact this man has used free alcohol to draw college students and then claim they are in tune with his message," another student from Furman said.

Some people at the event resorted to calling airport security because there was no security presence. Even when a police officer arrived, he "did very little to prevent open containers being taken out into the parking lot, people driving drunk, etc.," according to the Drudge Report. Some of the students drank non-stop for over four hours.

Though the tactic used by McCain seems reprehensible, he scored the desired effect. By offering a cool party to college students, McCain won favor among them, and perhaps more than a few votes.

Campaign managers think young people only want to make money and go to rock concerts. Hand out a beer while playing rock music, and the young will vote as desired.

While college students may not agree with the campaigners' hypothesis, the students at the McCain rally apparently saw nothing wrong with taking the free goodies while extending the "college students only want to party" stereotype.

Norman Luttbeg, professor of political science at Texas A&M said politicians tend to ignore issues affecting college students, such as financial aid and the legal drinking age. The reason, he said, is probably because so few members of the young demographic vote.

"It's kind of like the chicken and the egg debate. It is not known whether college students don't vote because their issues are ignored, or if politicians don't deal with their issues because [the students] don't vote," Luttbeg said.

The demographic section consisting of 18 to 25-year-olds has always had the fewest participants in the democratic process. Only about one-third of those 18 to 25 said they voted in the last election.

McCain served as chairperson of the directors of the International Republican Institute (IRI), which worked to increase participation among young, apathetic voters in several countries, such as Slovakia, according to Christine Stone of the British Helsinki Human Rights Group. McCain and the IRI used the U.S. Rock the Vote technique for the 1998 Slovakian elections. Now McCain will use the strategies he learned with the IRI in the U.S. presidential election of 2000.

Campaigners began the Rock the Vote program in 1991 to encourage young Americans to register and vote. The program was promoted at concerts, clubs, record stores and on MTV, hoping that the young would think it cool to be politically active.

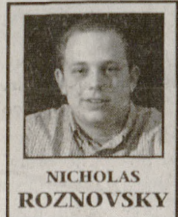
Rock the Vote is not a bad idea in theory, and it may claim some success in increasing the number of young voters. However, the voters who were influenced by Rock the Vote heard very little actual political meat and tons of political hype. The program attempts to place politicians in areas where young people are more likely to pay attention, but more often than not, the politicians do not discuss what they stand for and why young people should vote for them.

If politicians want to be taken seriously by young people, they must use political stimulation instead of manipulation. College students should challenge politicians to be interested in their concerns, instead of getting wasted and cheering along whoever buys the beer first.

Jill Riley is a senior journalism major.

Athletic Dept. chooses cash over students in Aggie Alley decision

Just eight months after representing Texas A&M in Omaha at the College World Series, the Aggie baseball team is back behind the left field wall. As always, faithful fans pack the stands of Olsen Field and support their beloved Aggies. For years, those who could not get in to the stands were content to sit behind the outfield fence, either atop the railroad tracks behind right field or in the parking lot which has affectionately become known as "Aggie Alley" behind the left field wall. It is a tradition as old as the game of baseball itself — diehard fans leaning their necks, trying as hard as they can to get a look at the game they love.



NICHOLAS ROZNOVSKY

So much for tradition. This season is the first in which determination and quickness will not be able to get loyal fans a spot in Aggie Alley. Apparently not content with the record-setting admission returns of the 1999 season, the Texas A&M University Athletic Department decided to charge fans who are not even in the stadium. Once again, the University administration has shown that its primary goal is to make money off

of the athletic program instead of fostering school spirit and tradition.

Without consultation from the students who faithfully attend A&M baseball games, the Athletic Department has commenced the selling of parking permits for Aggie Alley. One hundred dollars (or a mere \$50 for the financially strapped college student), a ticket to the game, and an incredible amount of luck on parking spot lottery day is what it now takes an Aggie baseball fan to get a spot out behind the left field fence.

What was a fun and spirit-charged way to see a baseball game is now another economic windfall for the University. Although the Athletic Department has cited a number of reasons for the new Aggie Alley policy, none of them hold any water except for the economic influx the new policy will create. Once again, the Athletic Department is chasing dollars and ignoring students.

Athletic Director Wally Groff cited incidents that occurred at last year's Texas-Texas A&M game in Aggie Alley as sufficient reasoning for closing the area to the general public. Certainly those incidents, which were minor and no more out of control than some of the events occurring

within the stadium, cannot justify the need to sell permits and exclude fans from Aggie Alley.

If the University is trying to limit the number of disturbances in Aggie Alley, closing the parking area during each game once a limit on cars and people is reached makes sense. Having uni-

What was a fun and spirit-charged way to see a baseball game is now another economic windfall for the University.

formed security officers, like those in the stadium, to discourage unruly fans from getting out of hand makes sense. What does not make sense is charging fans to sit in a poorly lit parking lot and look all the way across a baseball field to see the game.

It is no coincidence that the incidents to which Director Groff referred occurred when demand for seats was at an all-time high. At most games during the season, Aggie Alley is comfortably inhabited by a handful of diehard fans who have made a tradition of parking their trucks behind the fence and enjoying the game with their buddies.

Instead of making fans pay because Olsen Field does not have enough room to accommodate the record crowds, perhaps the Athletic Department should consider expanding seating at the stadium. Over the past four years, the Athletic Department built a new multi-purpose arena and tennis facility, and added The Zone to Kyle Field. It is hard to believe that they have now run out of funds and cannot afford to add some bleachers behind the fence at Olsen Field.

Of course, doing so would mean losing the opportunity to market and make money off Aggie Alley. Just as the campus has been inundated with advertisements for The Zone and The Court at Reed Arena, ads for Aggie Alley at Olsen Field are no doubt being prepared at this very moment. Perhaps Athletic Director Groff stated the problem with the Aggie Alley situation best when he told *The Battalion*, "I was not aware that the

athletics department needed to involve the students in order to make [a] decision."

Why should the Athletic Department consult the student body?

A&M athletics are no longer a matter of school honor and pride — they are a cash cow for the University. None of these new additions and policies have been designed for the benefit of students. They are aimed solely at former students and other fans who can afford to pay whatever the University demands to attend a sports event.

When you factor in the cost of the Aggie Alley permit and season admission on the all-sports pass plan, it will cost the average Aggie nearly \$100 to have a tailgate party and support their favorite team. It is obvious that the ability of students to afford making it to a game is the least of the Athletic Department's concerns. Making sure that the big spenders can is their top priority.

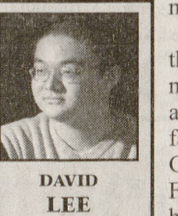
The new Aggie Alley may be good economics for the University, but is bad bull for Aggies just trying to go out to the old ball game.

Nicholas Roznovsky is a junior political science major.

Giuliani's reputation under fire

Free speech infringements should not be overlooked in Senate race

He's like an archetype of the figure that the First Amendment was kind of aimed at protecting from — the government official out of control," said Bruce Miller, a professor at Western New England College of Law.



DAVID LEE

No, Miller is not referring to any of the obvious answers such as Adolf Hitler, Saddam Hussein, or Joseph McCarthy. Instead, he is referring to the celebrated mayor of New York City — Rudolph Giuliani.

Such criticism of Giuliani is hard to swallow at first. He has traditionally enjoyed some of the highest approval ratings ever recorded amongst his constituents. Giuliani's eagerness to please and defend the people of New York City has been legendary — from hosting Saturday Night Live in drag to firing off insults against Atlanta Braves' pitcher John Rocker.

More importantly, Giuliani has been credited with single-handedly "cleaning up" New York City during his time in office, a feat deemed impossible before his election. The unorthodox, iron-fist methods with which he has restored the city to grace gives Giuliani ample ammunition in his current campaign for the United States Senate. Giuliani is shrewdly billing himself as a hard-hitting, no-

nonsense leader with proven results.

There is one troubling misconception that needs to be clarified, however — it must be realized that Giuliani's ruthless and aggressive nature can prove to be his fatal flaw as well. At numerous times, Giuliani has defiantly infringed on the First Amendment rights of citizens who have opposed his agenda as mayor. Such rampant disregard has caused many of Giuliani's detractors to label him a tyrant.

The voters of the state of New York need to realize the threat Giuliani imposes to their constitutional rights and think twice about electing him to Congress.

Here is an interesting statistic: Giuliani has been sued over two dozen times on grounds of the First Amendment and has lost virtually every case.

One notable case was the mayor's attempt to cut off the Brooklyn Museum of Art's funding after it showcased a painting of the Virgin Mary decorated with elephant excrement.

Another example has Giuliani attempting to halt New York magazine from buying advertisement space on New York City buses following its light-hearted campaign poking fun at him.

In both of these cases, it is ridiculously evident that Giuliani abuses his power. It is not his job to decide what is obscene and what is not. More importantly, it is not Giuliani's place to hold personal grudges and revoke the constitutional rights of those who do not share his views.

Understandably, Giuliani's frequent infringement on the First Amendment has made him the butt of jokes at many law schools across the nation.

"It is important in any area of law to try to show students that what they're learning is relevant. The beauty of living in New York is that the mayor is constantly generating classroom hypotheticals," said Michael Dorff, a Columbia University professor of law.

"The reason why I think professors are teaching 'Giuliani 101,' in effect, is that this is a clear example of government abuse of authority," said Norman Siegel, the director of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

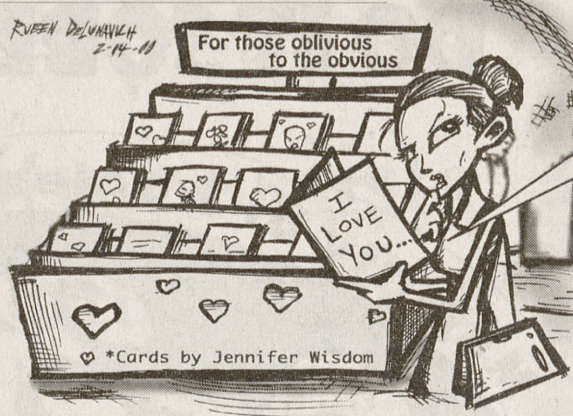
As mayor, Giuliani's primary duty is to keep his constituency's interests in mind when making public policy. This duty does not include singling out certain forms of speech against which he has a personal bias against.

As a potential United States Senator, his duties will not change. Accordingly, it is very unlikely that Giuliani will forget his distaste for the First Amendment.

It must be kept in mind that Giuliani's influence as of this moment is limited to the city limits of New York City. If he is elected to Congress, Giuliani will have a say in legislation affecting all Americans. This realization alone should scare the voters of New York stiff.

David Lee is a junior economics and journalism major.

Hallmark's New "Real World" Valentine Series



EVEN THOUGH YOU DON'T HAVE AN EXPLANATION FOR THOSE PHONE CALLS, HICKIES, OR WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN THE LAST TWO WEEKS

MAIL CALL

Aggies tend to obsess over racism on campus

In response to Micah Belden's Feb. 11 mail call.

I have only been an Aggie since this past August, and just have to ask why there seems to be this constant internal strife concerned with racism.

Texas A&M is a world class university. I however find it disheartening to constantly have to read the bickering among us Aggies on the topic of racism in our own newspaper.

In my personal view, I see racism as a stigma that can go both ways and should not be prevalent and as intelligent individuals we need to understand others and their views. Racism abounds everywhere in this world, and our campus is not immune to this. So before we complain excessively about the lack of diversity here we need to look at ourselves and educate each other about our differences one Aggie at a time without forgetting our uniting

bond, which is being an Aggie.

Being diverse is a key to becoming a recognized institution in this world, whether we want it or not. But before we go and prove the rest of the world of our strength we need to clear up all this internal strife and show our acceptance and what it truly means to be an Aggie.

Dhawe Setabutr Class of '03

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:

The Battalion - Mail Call
013 Reed McDonald
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX
77843-1111

Campus Mail: 1111
Fax: (409) 845-2647
E-mail: battletters@hotmail.com