

King-size mistake

Don King's criminal history makes him a bad choice for being Bush's frontman

He killed a man who was robbing one of his businesses in 1954, but it was ruled to be an act of self-defense. He was convicted of beating a man to death in 1967 and consequently spent about four years in prison. He was investigated by the FBI for tax fraud and racketeering and has undergone three grand jury investigations. His trademark Afro is large beyond belief, and many credit him with coining the phrase "Only in America." And now he's the new face of the Republican National Committee's campaign to re-elect President Bush.



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people to vote for Bush based solely on King's race, and ignores his integrity as a political figure, much less as a responsible member of society. Telegraph.co.uk cites Gillespie as saying, "As the chairman of the Republican party, it is not in my interest that 90 percent of the African-

American electorate vote for the Democratic candidate in election after election."

He certainly has the right idea. In 2000, Bush won just nine percent of the black vote, a number that is rather low, even for a Republican candidate. Bishop R. T. Jones of the

"... it is insulting to assume that race will trump values in the minds of black voters."

Christian Tabernacle Church in Philadelphia said many black people vote Democratic due to social norms within the black community rather than underlying disagreements with Republican philosophy.

"Our family values are Republican, our social values are Republican. We think Republican, but only a few of us have the nerve to vote Republican," Bishop told the Telegraph.

So it is ironic that by attempting to appeal to black voters, the committee is almost certainly alienating them. Bishop expressed a sentiment that has long been noted: Black communities traditionally hold strong values that many would call conservative, yet fail to vote for conservative candidates. To best appeal to this group of voters, it seems reasonable that the committee's mouthpiece

should at least be someone noted for having strong values, which King certainly is not.

In addition to this, King lacks even a nominal dedication to the Republican Party, a quality considered by many to be a prerequisite to campaign for said party.

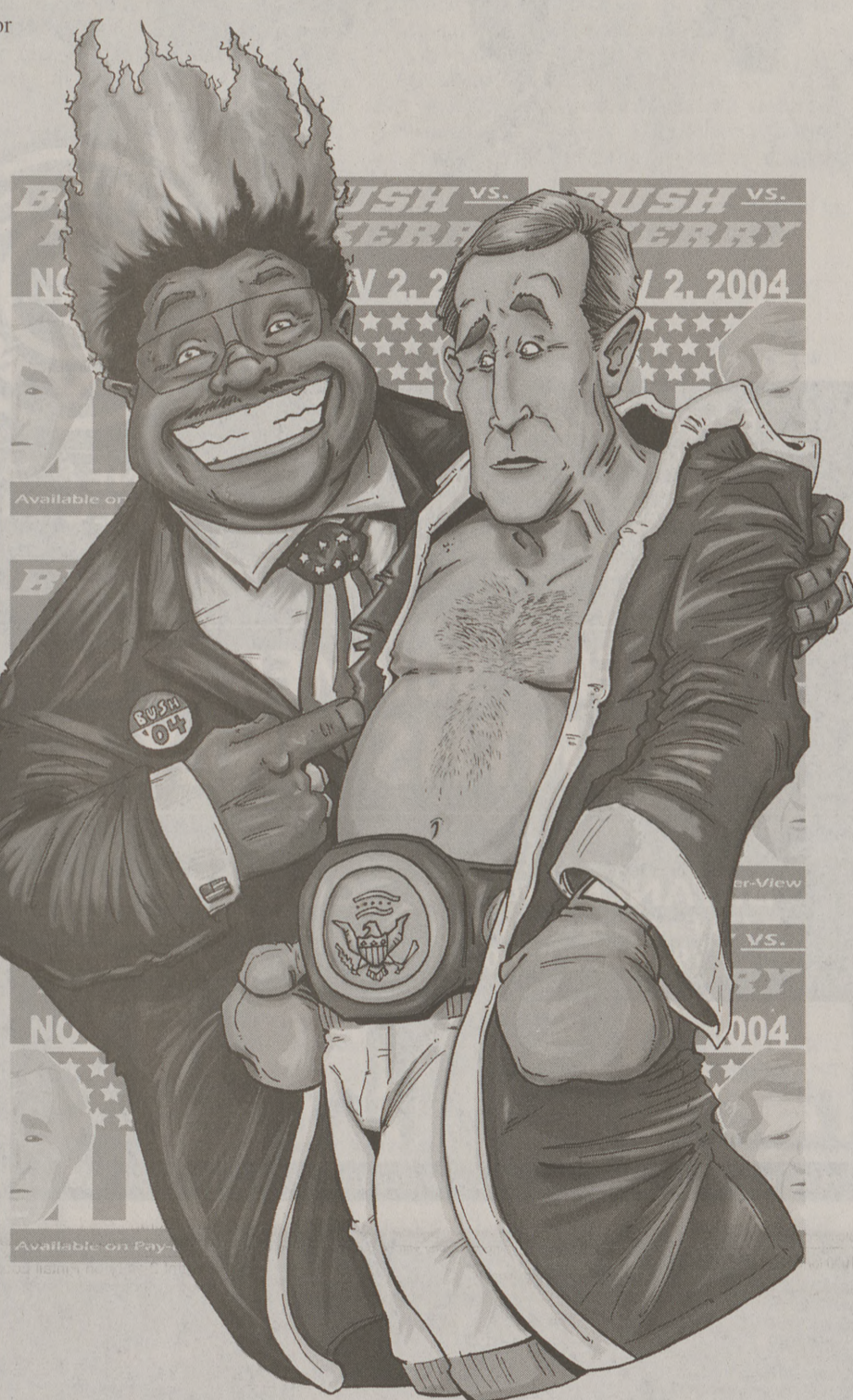
When King recently appeared on CNN's "Crossfire," co-host Robert Novak called King a political "switch-hitter," citing his vocal support for former President Clinton.

In response to this, King said, "You ain't going to do too much unless you have access to power. If you have no access to power, you can't help the loser, if you ain't got the winner."

Herein lies the crux of the matter. King is most likely primarily interested in helping himself and, in turn, his pet causes. He is probably supporting Bush not because he believes in the man, his platform or his party, but because he thinks Bush will win in November and will thus be most useful to him. But, then again, this can be said about nearly all career politicians, and unlike many of King's other offenses, self-interest is not a crime.

The Republican National Committee is ultimately the guilty party. Enticed by the prospect of an untapped resource, a huge number of voters seemingly on the brink of voting for Bush, the committee failed to look before it leaped and accepted help from Don King. But it is insulting to assume that race will trump values in the minds of black voters, and unreasonable for the national committee to expect voters to pick a political ideology if even its own front man cannot.

Lindsye Forson is a senior journalism major. Graphic by Ruben DeLuna



MAIL CALL

Reagan and 9-11 were mourned by A&M

In response to a June 10 mail call:

I would like to comment on a previous mail call article about A&M mourning for 9-11 vs. former President Ronald Reagan, and how the information stated is incorrect. The order for us to have Friday off came from Governor Rick Perry, not President Gates, and surely wasn't limited only to Texas A&M. I'm sure many other states, if not all of them, followed suit.

Now I understand the loss our country felt on 9-11, and the impact it had, but A&M DID do something for that day. One, we all got out of class early that day to be with friends and family. And two, the RED, WHITE and BLUE out occurred at Kyle field, which was an incredible event.

That alone shows our patriotism, so how dare someone say that 9-11 meant nothing to Aggieland. Reagan had nothing of this nature so people could pay their respect, so it was taken upon by our governor to give such an opportunity. Texas A&M has always shown its respect in times of tragedy, no matter how minute, and will continue to do so for generations to come. This is the definition of an Aggie. Gig'em.

Zach Greenwade
Class of 2005

Give the Corps of Cadets some credit

Former President Bush's birthday celebration provided a unique opportunity for Texas A&M students to honor their country and their school. I was thrilled when I saw the Battalion article covering the various student groups that were privileged to serve at this exciting event. It is a wonderful piece of memorabilia that reminds us of our unique student opportunities here at Texas A&M.

However, one of the largest student groups was somehow overlooked. The Corps of Cadets was not mentioned in the article, yet they comprised nearly half of the volunteer force. These cadets turned out in full uniform to serve a former commander-in-chief, and as a fellow student volunteer, I can say that they did a wonderful job. Ol' Ags brightened as they saw these uniformed cadets on the buses to and from the train. Also, the Corps introduced many guests that day to timeless Aggie traditions and practiced courtesy and respect, qualities that are very often refreshing to those outside of Aggieland.

I was proud to serve with all Aggie students that day, and I believe that every participant is grateful to gain such an experience.

Sarah Rapp
Class of 2006
Student Senator

Globalization must not be simply Americanization

For outsourcing to work, job training is necessary

Two of the biggest surprises to hit the New York Times Editorial Page this year have been Thomas Friedman's support for invading Iraq and outsourcing American jobs overseas. The core of his argument for the war with Iraq was the need "to oust Saddam's regime and partner with the Iraqi people to try to implement the Arab Human Development reports prescriptions in the heart of the Arab world. "... the Arab world is falling off the globe because of a lack of freedom, women's empowerment and modern education." The core of his argument for outsourcing is "there is more to outsourcing than just economics. There's also geopolitics. It is inevitable in a networked world that our economy is going to shed certain low-wage, low-prestige jobs. To the extent that they go to places like India or Pakistan — where they are viewed as high-wage, high-prestige jobs — we make not only a more prosperous world, but a safer world for our own 20-year-olds."



JOHN DAVID BLAKLEY

Friedman's comments merit a closer look.

When Friedman placed his stamp of approval on the Iraq War, he should have listed a few conditions for the Bush administration. For example, hearing the truth about the human and financial costs of such an undertaking. The recent implementation of "stop-loss orders" which extend the deployment of many of the troops already in the war zone, accompanied by continuing descriptions of the military force in Iraq as being "stretched thin," does not match up with the president's unwavering positive view of the situation.

In a similar fashion, Friedman has

thrown his support behind outsourcing, drawn in by its overall long-run appeal, but has failed to demand the necessary conditions needed to lighten the short-run burden at home and abroad. America must soften the blow to American workers who are losing jobs. For the traditionally-Republican goal of free trade to succeed, many traditionally-Democratic goals have to be implemented. Friedman is correct to assert that when America lets down its protective barriers and continues to globalize, innovation will be the key to American economic success. But continuing sources of innovation require better education quality and opportunity. People are the source of innovation, and all potential sources must be given the same opening to seize economic prosperity and contribute to American ideas.

Job training is of course the most immediate and palpable solution. Yet, while the Bush administration touts its support for a proposal to increase federal job-training funds by \$250 million, federal support for job training has dropped by an inflation-adjusted total of \$972 million since Bush took office in 2001 said Sen. John Edwards. This ploy reminds one of how the administration brags about new jobs created while having the worst percent employment growth (annual average) compared to the last four presidents, according to MSNBC. Republicans have to concede to the House Democrats' efforts to extend unemployment benefits when finding a job has become harder. Workers must have stable health care benefits for themselves and their families as they move in and out of work.

Friedman did get it right when he conceded that "globalization is in so many

ways Americanization: globalization wears Mickey Mouse ears, it drinks Pepsi and Coke, eats Big Macs, does its computing on an IBM laptop with Windows 98. Many societies around the world can't get enough of it, but others see it as a fundamental threat."

If America could encourage globalization that wasn't merely Americanization, it would do much in the way of preserving other cultures while at the same time healing rifts in the international community created by things such as the Iraq War.

The real incentive of accepting the natural occurrence of globalization could be a better understanding of one another, a chance for countries to proudly share their customs and successes and from each other, improve ourselves. America could give India the technology to compete in the world market and, in exchange, India could show Americans the value of family, and why it is not right to send our mothers and fathers to nursing homes when they become too inconvenient to care for. For such an exchange to occur, globalization cannot be a one way street where countries are bombarded by a new American culture. If this happens, there will only be more global hatred of the United States. America must start to discourage nations from divorcing themselves from their rich reserves of cultural identity.

With these conditions in mind, outsourcing, globalization's inevitability and this year's political hot topic, can be accepted. But without these terms and despite even the best intentions, no one, including Friedman, should be so quick to acquiesce.

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The Battalion encourages letters to the editor. Letters must be 200 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 014 Reed McDonald with a valid student ID. Letters also may be mailed to: 015 Reed McDonald, 1111 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1111. Fax: (979) 845-2647 Email: mailcall@thebattalion.net