

Monday, April 2, 1990

Victory

Pro-Choice wins one with veto of strict abortion regulations

The Pro-Choice movement won an astounding victory this past week when the governor of Idaho vetoed what would have been the nation's most restrictive abortion legislation.

The women of Idaho will luckily not have to go out of state if, for whatever reason, they decide it is in their best interest to have an abortion.

Gov. Cecil Andrus, who has held an anti-abortion stand, vetoed the legislation as part of his bid for a fourth term in office, and because the nation's pro-choice movement threatened to call for a boycott of Idaho potatoes, a move that would have severely cut into the state's economy.

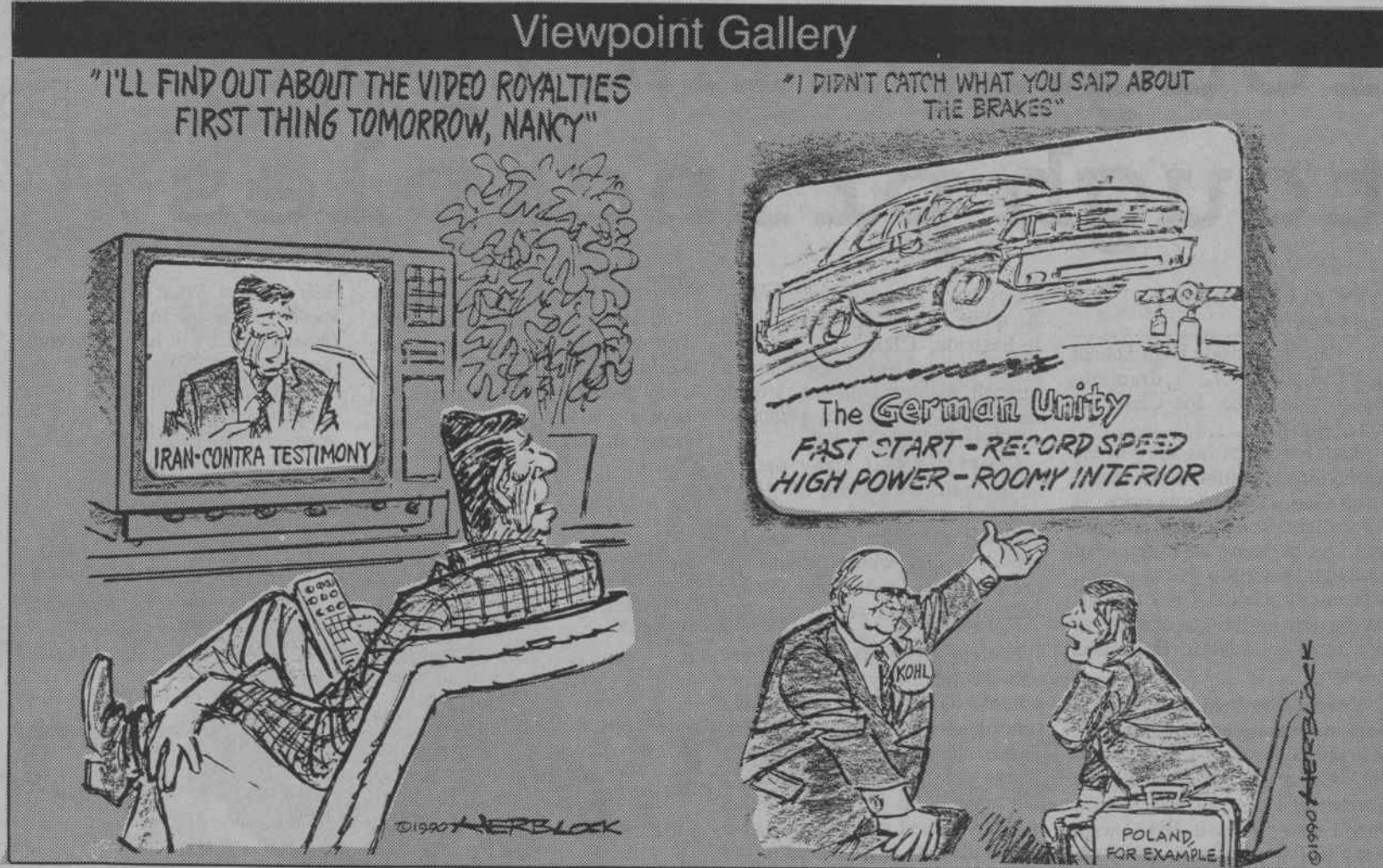
Andrus denied he was giving into economic pressure but said he vetoed the legislation on the advice of legal experts who told him the bill would probably not hold up in a court of law.

Right. It is a shame that, in the land of the free and the home of the brave, people's rights and freedoms are not protected by those we, the people, vote into office to protect those very same rights and freedoms. Instead, they must be economically blackmailed into leaving people with the freedom to choose and make their own decisions.

So many politicians seem to be willing to give into those that would restrict the freedoms of their neighbors. The only people who are greater cowards than the Bible thumpers who would deny women the right to make their own choices concerning their bodies are the politicians who would cave into them.

The women who have faced abortion and the men and women who support them are the heroes. They are the ones who have the courage to face the responsibilities that freedom so often entails.

The victory in Idaho is an important one despite the way it was gained. It will hopefully set the precedent for further abortion legislation, which will recognize all of the freedoms of our fellow man and woman.



Sex stereotypes float in different colors

It's never too early to start installing good old-fashioned stereotypes in your children. They are the cornerstone of American society, as American as apple pie.

These, hopefully, were ways of the past, not 1990. But Saturday I saw that they still exist. And boy, do they exist.

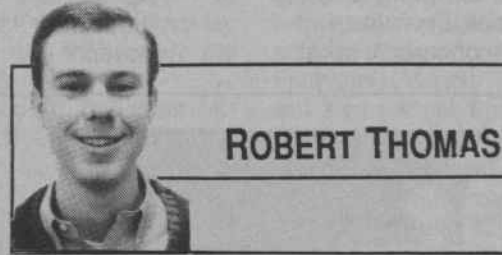
As part of my fraternity's community service projects, we helped out with River Fest at Riverfront Park in Columbia. It was an all-day thing.

My special assignment for the day was to sell balloons. It was a task I thought I really wouldn't mind. How hard could it be to ask little kids, "Do you want a balloon?" Naturally, they said yes so their moms or dads had to hand over 50 cents.

Getting their attention and the parent's cash was the easy part. Finding out which color of the controversial helium-filled flying objects the child wanted was the hard part.

Balloons, like most things, come in different colors, you know. Red, blue, yellow, white, green and pink.

It was early in the my balloon selling career that I approached a man with three children, two girls and a boy. His children each wanted a



ROBERT THOMAS

balloon, and like most fathers, he wanted to give his children what they wanted.

His first daughter wanted a blue balloon. His second daughter wanted a pink balloon. Then there was one child left to select which color he wanted.

I could tell it was a hard decision for the young man, who was about 3 years old, to make. I remember all too well the hard decision of which balloon I wanted when I was young.

But alas a decision. He wanted a pink balloon like his big sister.

His father, in his extremely embarrassed, authoritative voice said, "No, you don't. You don't want no pink balloon. You can have a red, blue, yellow, white or a green one."

If the child wanted a pink balloon, give him one, I thought. Right now in the boy's life, it is

more important for him to have a balloon, no matter the color, than to be told which color he could have. The father should have at least explained to him why he thought he should not get a pink balloon rather than dictate an ultimatum.

I realize the father's logic: pink is often associated with girls and blue is often associated with boys.

Now, I have one question for the father: if you don't want your son to have a pink balloon then why is it all right for your daughter to have a blue one? Stereotypes.

But, that wasn't the only time I encountered the balloon color problem during the day. The problem came up a couple more times.

I'm sure more of these balloon-color questions will come up in that child's life, but maybe he will be more understanding than his father was on that overcast day at Riverfront Park in 1990.

I also hope this won't start a life full of sexual stereotypes, any kind of stereotypes for that matter, in that child's life to come. If so, he won't truly be able to enjoy society's diversity, which makes it more colorful than the array of balloons he saw Saturday.



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Student faults tanning salon

To the editor:

I am writing this letter in order to warn other students about Tan Safe. Each issue of *The Gamecock* carries a Tan Safe advertisement which guarantees a great tan. Two months ago they guaranteed a great tan or your money back for \$29.95. Three friends and I took up this offer and were very disappointed. One person tried to get her money back and both the owner and the manager (who is the old owner) called her at her dorm and cursed at her. They were very belligerent. After this incident, *The Gamecock* had an ad which read, "Great Tans at a Great Price, One month unlimited, \$24.95." There was no satisfaction guarantee on this ad.

Another girl, who was not satisfied, was yelled at by the owner and the manager, too. Upon filing a complaint with the proper authorities, she received a partial refund. The first day I went in to Tan Safe, the manager placed me in the best booth with a tape player and a chair. It looked magnificent. A couple of times, I told them that the bulbs were burned out and the only thing they told me was that it didn't matter because there was enough light in the booths. That wasn't so bad, though, because there everyone can have a little bit of trouble with a business. However, I was upset because no one apologized to me. Just because I am in college does not mean that my money is not as good as someone else's. I, also, expect to be treated as any other customer. The last day I was there (actually it was to be the next to the last day, but they made me so irate that I refused to go again) I requested a booth with a tape player. The people told me that they could only place me in the booth in the back. The other customers were, obviously, new customers because they

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were all placed in the better booths. They were on a plan that included "7 visits for \$10." So, I was stuck in the booth where the earphones did not work, the fan did not work and two more bulbs were out AGAIN. They knew about the earphones because someone had tried to tape it back together. I also complained about the fan because it was so hot that I had to use the emergency stop in order to not faint from the extreme heat. I was only in the booth for about seven minutes which is only half of the time period for a stand-up booth. And as for the two bulbs, the lady said, "It doesn't matter because you get enough exposure anyways." The people at the desk only agreed with me about the problems, but NEVER apologized for the inconvenience or offered me one day without the \$1 charge. I know that they knew about the fan because a friend of mine complained about it being too hot three weeks prior to this incident. Students be aware of this Tan Safe tanning salon. They will sucker you into paying by being real nice, then they don't care about the customers later. You will be flushing your money down the drain. By the way, my tan is gone, too, along with my money. You don't always get what you buy.

Stephanie Moskos
Hotel, restaurant and tourism sophomore

Writer can't relate to issue

To the editor:

I would like to make a comment about the letter in the (Feb. 28) issue of *The Gamecock*. Being that I have experienced a great deal of the white environment and the black environment, I feel I can make an accredited objection to this letter. I have come to the conclusion that on both sides there are those who are ignorant and those who are intellectuals. I'm not saying the person who wrote this letter is either, but I am saying she

wrote in haste. How dare she say the black man can't say this or do this. She has no idea of the black man's struggle or his oppression. She is window shopping trying to dictate the prices! Well, let her listen for once and obtain a little information. For over 300 years, my people (African and African-American) have been oppressed physically and mentally, and now this country owes us for their misjudgment. They thought we were inferior, dumb and animalistic. Obviously, they never expected a black man to create something as ingenious as the traffic light, or to discover a medical breakthrough like blood plasma. My ancestors built this country with their bare hands, and I am here to take what they weren't given. "America (you) may hate me, and I will greet her (you) with such; America (you) may try to hold me down, but I will break free of her (your) mental and physical chains; America (you) may not pity me, and I will not pity her (you); but I will take what the Red, White, and Blue (you) owe(s) me by Any Means Necessary!" I don't expect you or anyone other than a well-educated black man to relate to my point of view, because it is A Black Thing and you wouldn't understand.

Jason B. Abraham
Hotel, restaurant and tourism freshman

Bill promotes atheistic twist

To the editor:

The Hawkins-Downey, ABC Childcare bill just introduced in Congress concerns me. Why did the Democrats keep Republicans and pro-family groups from seeing this bill prior to introducing it? With a projected 23 billion dollar cost, it's socialism and humanism combined.

Why does such humanistic education have no real answers for us? Humanism is just atheism with a

coat of paint. Atheism says: "There is no God." Humanism says: "Man can solve his own problems." Humanism claims that our human capacities and potential are sufficient without God. Thus, humanism is practical atheism. Humanism is merely atheism with a "positive" twist.

Humanistic atheism is selling tragedy. Atheistic schooling replaces time tested, absolute truth with "do-your-own-thing" permissiveness. Permissiveness breeds wild, antisocial behavior, excesses, contempt for authority and crime. It undermines traditional values in classroom and home.

Continued atheistic schooling can bring about an America of fear, corruption, perversion and further violence. Such atheistic schooling is expensive and impractical to society. At the very least, traditional values are more practical and economical.

Attempts at atheistic schooling have clearly failed in Russia, Eastern Europe and the U. S. Removing the Bible, prayer, and absolutes from public schooling has not brought the Camelot that was advertised. At least in Eastern Europe and Russia, the population and some leaders and thinkers will admit it.

Let families, not government, raise their children. Why extend known failures to younger children? Let education first clean up the mess it's already made.

This Democratic ABC bill would license child care in the home, if you can believe it. That's flagrant socialism. It emphasizes constructing many government day care facilities rather than offering tax credits to families. Tax credits give each family the option of choosing a child care center from the private sector. And should not tax credits be offered equally to those who prefer to stay home and tend their own children?

Freedom exists where parents have the right to raise their children with the values they cherish.

Fred Kerr
International student volunteer worker

The Gamecock

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