


Thursday, May 17, 1990

The Capital Times

15A

 'Keep your snorkel above the water level.'

Rick Horowitz analyzes George Bush's latest rhetorical flourish on Page 17A

THE EDITORIAL SECTION

The Capital Times

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"Let the people have the truth and the freedom to discuss it and all will go well."
William T. Deane, 1885-1970, founding editor and publisher

No record to cheer about

Nothing should come above partisan politics and if you don't believe it, just ask the Republicans in the state Legislature.

In what will go down as one of the most shameful performances of this legislative session, the Republican legislators lined up like little sheep so as not to offend their governor, Tommy Thompson.

In the process they let stand several Thompson vetoes which killed legislation aimed at helping children, single parents and others who could use a little boost.

One of the bills that was vetoed by the governor would have removed the provision that effectively gags state workers from talking to their representatives in government. Another would have allowed elderly people who would otherwise have to live in nursing homes to receive care at home.

The worst Thompson veto, though, was the one that killed a bill to require school districts to start an organized education program to teach our young people the wrongs of sexual assault in an effort to combat the growing problem that somehow it's OK to force sex on a date.

When the bill was passed by the Legislature, most of the Republicans joined the Democrats in sending it to the governor.

But only five Republicans had enough guts to cross their governor during the veto session this week. Consequently, the bill and the hopes it represented died.

Republican leaders and the governor himself are trumpeting the fact that a Thompson veto has never been overridden, as if that's a record to savor like a baseball player hitting in consecutive games.

In reality, it's just another example of elected representatives disregarding the needs of the people they represent in favor of partisan politics.

Rather than cheering their record, they ought to be hanging their heads in shame.

TOPICS

Car users get subsidies too

While the Madison City Council did the right thing to approve the city's agreement with American Family for the insurance company's new corporate headquarters on the far east side, some of the underlying attitudes about cars and mass transit are worthy of comment.

American Family officials were reluctant to commit their company to provide bus passes to employees because, they said, car drivers would think bus riders were getting a special perk. The city and state are about to spend \$15 million to redo the intersection to handle increased traffic. American Family will provide plenty of parking for its employees. Aren't those perks for car users?

American Family's attitude is hardly unique, but it does overlook the need to encourage the use of mass transit to avoid traffic congestion and energy consumption.

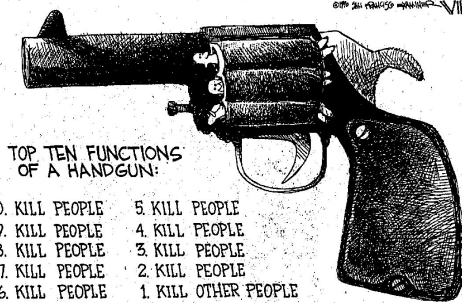
Learnfare tract crossed the line

State officials defend a brochure touting Wisconsin's Learnfare program as just an informational update on the controversial welfare initiative. But when the brochure describes Learnfare as an unqualified success in "bringing chronic truants back to the classroom," it glosses over contradictory data and crosses the line into propaganda.

The fact that it was sent to 5,000 key decision makers and opinion leaders in the state just as the gubernatorial campaign is gearing up makes this seem more like a political tract than an informational brochure.

Even the red squirrels matter

We can't let Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan's view of the federal government's role in protecting endangered species pass without at least one gasp of horror. "Do we have to save every subspecies?" Lujan asked as he expressed annoyance at how preservation of endangered species was stopping development projects. That's exactly why the endangered species law was passed — to protect fragile species from being obliterated by humanity's bulldozers.



- TOP TEN FUNCTIONS OF A HANDGUN:
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 10. KILL PEOPLE | 5. KILL PEOPLE |
| 9. KILL PEOPLE | 4. KILL PEOPLE |
| 8. KILL PEOPLE | 3. KILL PEOPLE |
| 7. KILL PEOPLE | 2. KILL PEOPLE |
| 6. KILL PEOPLE | 1. KILL OTHER PEOPLE |

DAVID HEMENWAY & DOUGLAS WEIL

Redesign handguns for safety

On a typical day in the United States more than 80 individuals are killed with guns; 33 are homicide victims, four are shot accidentally and 43 commit suicide.

The public health response to this carnage has been a call for gun control. Proponents of private gun ownership argue instead for severe penalties on criminal gun use. We believe an additional approach deserves more support — weapon redesign.

A primary motive for handgun ownership is self-defense, but handguns as currently designed are poor weapons for home and self-protection.

Handguns are difficult to shoot accurately, yet only an extremely accurate shot will immediately incapacitate an assailant.

A handgun brought into the home for self-protection is far more likely to be used to kill a family member than an intruder. Indeed, the handgun is so dangerous for the family that almost all experts, including the National Rifle Association, advise that guns be stored in a locked area separate from where the ammunition is kept.

An ideal handgun for self-defense would be less prone to accident, less lethal when used intentionally but quick to stop an attacker without requiring a precise shot.

Much of the basic technology needed to design an effective, yet less lethal weapon is already available. The trigger safety mechanism on many pistols is released by a simple flick of the switch; revolvers are typically manufactured without safeties. Child-proof safety locks on family handguns should help reduce accidental shootings.

In a similar vein, handguns could be redesigned so that it is readily apparent, at least to the holder, whether or not the gun is loaded. A color-coded display, for example, might indicate if there were ammunition in the

chamber.

Bullet material, construction and consistency could be modified to reduce the likelihood of fatal injury. Wax and plastic bullets could be used in place of the conventional round-nosed bullet. This new type of ammunition has been used by occupying Israeli and British armies to quell disturbances.

Another option is reliance on spherical bullets, which should help to limit bullet penetration and tissue damage. A more fundamental approach is the redesign of handguns to shoot electrically, tranquilizers or anesthetics. Such projectiles have the potential to render an attacker harmless, without the need for either deadly force or great accuracy.

Los Angeles police have had some success using electronic guns to subdue individuals believed to be high on phenylethylamine (PCP). Zoo keepers use tranquilizer guns to render dangerous animals harmless. Some farmers immunize cattle with biodegradable, freeze-dried vaccine bullets.



'Handguns as currently designed are poor weapons for home and self-protection.'

shot out of an air gun.

The American Medical Association recently called for research into the development of a less lethal gun. The Department of Justice, in response to a 1985 Supreme Court ruling, established a less-than-lethal-weapon development program. Its purpose is to help police prevent the escape of fleeing unarmed suspects without the use of deadly force. A less lethal gun would be beneficial for private citizens, as well as the police.

Most suicide attempts are spontaneous; the urge passes quickly. Similarly, homicides often occur during arguments when emotions run high. Without easy access to a lethal weapon, many of these fatalities would not occur.

A safer, less lethal weapon is not a panacea to all our gun problems, and its development is not without potential costs. An improved weapon, for example, might lead to an increase in gun ownership and gun use by both criminals and law-abiding citizens. Robbers might be more likely to shoot a handgun that temporarily incapacitates rather than kills the victim. Determined murderers will undoubtedly find ways to obtain lethal weapons.

Without diminishing the importance of these problems, our argument is simply that, in the current situation — in which citizens are apparently bound and determined to purchase handguns and to use them — increased attention to weapon redesign can bring great benefits.

Injury-control professionals have learned that making the product safer is generally the most effective way to reduce injuries.

We believe this may be true not only for lawn mowers and automobiles but also for handguns.

David Hemenway and Douglas Weil are on the faculty of Harvard University's School of Public Health.

JOHN PATRICK HUNTER

Julia Bogholt: by any name an activist



Hunter

Friends will gather Friday afternoon from 5 'til 6 o'clock at the Town Hall in the town of Dunn to pay tribute to the late Julia H. Bogholt. It only a fraction of those who knew her she has enriched show up, the Town Hall will be overflowing.

Speakers at the testimonial will include Tom Loftus, Catherine Coburn, Eleanor White, Hack Fain, Gretchen Franke, Marian Thompson and Ann Cline. Bogholt's March 15 death at age 89 at the Lake Placid, Fla., home of a daughter, Ann Cline, ended a life filled with accomplishments.

She came to Madison in 1926, two years after she had married Carl Bogholt. Her husband had been hired as a graduate assistant in the University of Wisconsin-Madison's philosophy department as part of Alexander Meleghon's famed Experimental College.

When that group folded, Bogholt returned to work with the fledgling Democratic Organization.

But while politics was a passion that consumed much of Bogholt's time for well over 50 years, she had other wide-ranging interests that have left an indelible mark on the area.

She was a founder and director in 1929 of Hillington Way Nursery School, one of the first of its kind in Madison.

In the 1950s, the Bogholts moved to their farm on Lorlor Road with its sweeping view overlooking the wetlands adjacent to Lake Waubesa in the town of Dunn. It is not surprising that both Julia and Carl became active in wetland preservation and environmental protection. They donated part of the wetlands on their farm to the state Department of Natural Resources.

From 1961 to 1976, Julia served as hostess to the nationally acclaimed land tenure and policy seminars at the Lorlor Road farm home.

Not even the death of her husband in 1978 at the age of 81 slowed Julia. She began a second political career — participating in citizen action committees to develop town planning and was a leading campaigner in opposing the Libby landfill site near Lake Waubesa.

After she moved to Florida in 1987, she still worked to benefit Wisconsin. She contributed the remaining Bogholt wetlands to the National Conservancy to complete the sale of the remaining Bogholt farm to the Conservancy.

Julia H. Bogholt: bacteriologist, mother, faculty wife, teacher, political organizer, farmer, land conservationist, environmentalist, a dedicated public servant.

John Patrick Hunter is an associate editor of The Capital Times.

Sound Off!

HEALTH CENTER "I think it's very generous of city of Madison taxpayers to spend over \$300,000 for a parcel of land in the town of Madison and establish a health center that will be used primarily by town of Madison welfare recipients. I think it's very, very generous of the city taxpayers."

WORK "I really resent the attitude of Tuesday's caller who replied to a woman who works at home. Tuesday's caller said she's a homemaker and is employed so where does this woman get off sounding busy. Let's not get so petty. We all work hard and everyone can handle different amounts of work. I feel swamped with work being a homemaker with three preschool kids, a husband who travels and I'm not employed outside the home. I don't know how you do it if you're also holding a job and the husband isn't pitching in at home and with the kids, or how a woman can also find time to add volunteer work to all of that. Whatever we do, there are a lot of factors involved. Let's not undermine the jobs of women be it homemaker, a combination of homemaker and employee or volunteer. We need to work together."

"In regard to the mother who works 40 hours a week, raising children is one of the most demanding, difficult and important tasks anyone can ever undertake. Some mothers choose to stay home and do it themselves. Where do you get off trying to undermine what they do? The attitude in this country is that because they don't punch a time clock or receive a paycheck, they are somehow less ambitious and less productive. I am sick of this attitude and of those who perpetuate it. These women deserve respect."

PRIORITIES "I think humanity is really getting sickening when a country like Nicaragua can't survive and needs \$40 million dollars and the Japanese will pay \$82 million for a Van Gogh painting. Life sucks."



ATHLETES "On the articles you're running on athletes and counseling, as a former athlete myself, one who finished undergraduate and graduate work on time, I also knew that there was a lack of experience on the part of the academic support staff. There were no counselors who had lived in the inner city or played any college level sports. Without those ingredients you really can't advise the kind of students we are seeing. That department needs to hire successful past athletes who can demonstrate from their own experience a way to make it through the kind of quality institution the UW is today."

"I'm outraged over the preferential treatment of student athletes. Last week The Cap Times reported that most campus gang rap are by athletes and frat. Face it, the stereotype of dumb jock holds. The athletic department complains of only four counselors for 900 athletes. I bet there are no more than 20 regular counselors for 42,000 students. As a taxpayer and a college grad, I deeply resent this."

AMBULANCE FEE "In light of the difficulties with the \$200 ambulance fee, will The Capital Times reconsider its support of the fee? It's immoral and disgraceful to put a price on a human life."

If you want to make a quick comment about a current issue, just call "Sound Off" at 252-6434 and tell us what you think.