

Wright tried, but he was no Rayburn

For a while, we were frightened. It looked as though he'd filibuster until, at least, President Bush left office. He even compared himself to former House Speaker Sam Rayburn — but that went over as well as Dan Quayle's comparison to Jack Kennedy.

He took a long time getting to the point, but House Speaker Jim Wright announced Wednesday he is surrendering his leadership post and has offered to resign his congressional seat after a year of controversy over alleged ethics violations.

On May 26, 1988, a formal complaint was filed with the House Ethics Committee asking for an investigation to determine whether Wright violated House ethics rules. On May 24 of this year, Wright's lawyers broached the possibility of Wright resigning his leadership post in exchange for dismissal of some of the ethics charges against him.

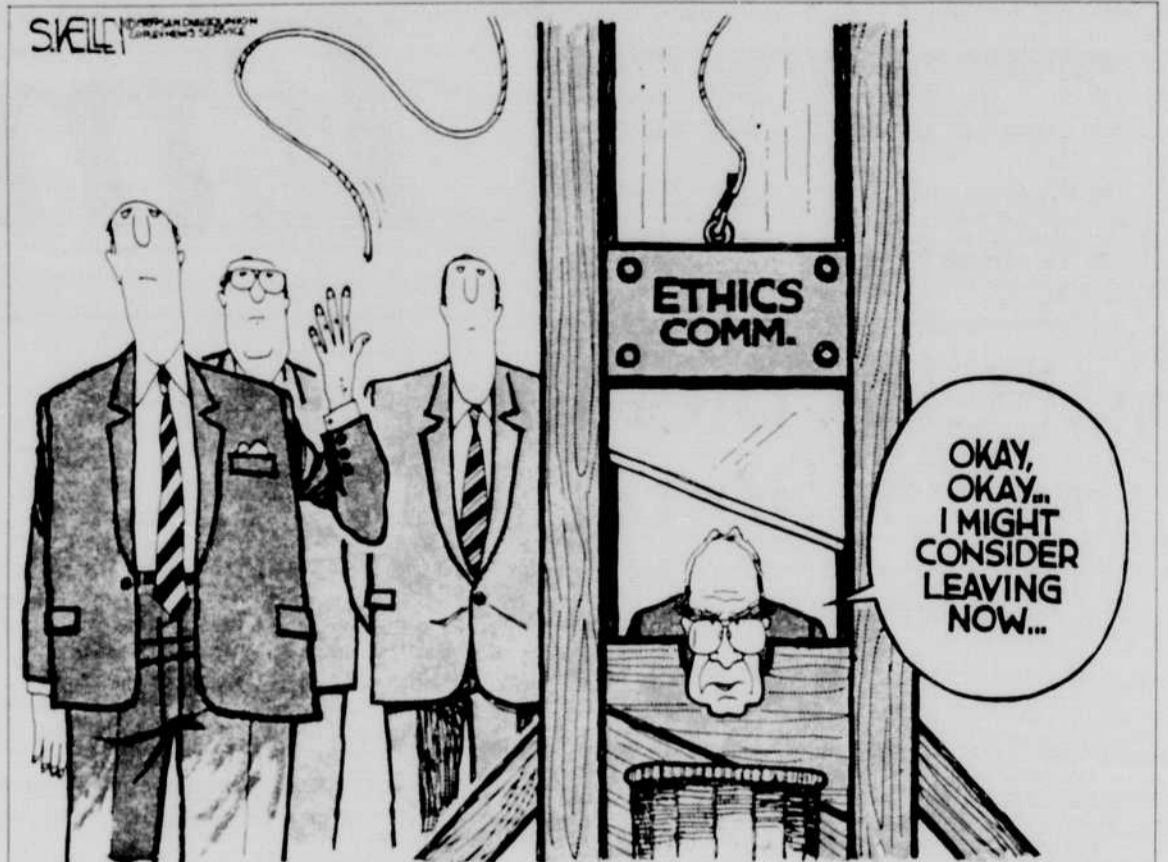
So now Wright, who has "ached" to tell his side of the sordid story for a year, spent an hour Wednesday answering the three basic questions the ethics committee had raised against him. These questions dealt with the employment of his wife Betty (and alleged "gifts" she had received while employed), the monetary influence of his friend and business partner George Mallick, and Wright's evasion of outside income limits through bulk sales of his book "Reflections of a Public Man."

Wright contended the ethics committee did not offer evidence that his wife did not earn the approximately \$18,000 she made while employed over a four-year period — although the committee accused her of not working, and inadvertently accused them both of being involved in subterfuge by accepting gifts from Mallick.

Wright also faced the committee's charges that Mallick had direct influence in establishing legislation and in making Wright vote in Mallick's favor on legislation. But apparently, the committee claimed Mallick didn't have direct interests in Wright's proceedings, and neither were any of his actions in violation of the direct interest rules.

Finally, in terms of his book, Wright said he did not "scam to exceed and violate the outside income limits rules." He was just sorry his staff was so eager to sell his books.

But Wright wasn't finished. He called for both parties in Congress to "resolve to bring this period of mindless cannibalism to an end." No doubt relieved that Wright's emotional defense was over, his colleagues gave him a standing ovation. Or maybe they're as relieved as other Americans that the ethics scandal is over, and House Majority Leader Thomas Foley, D-Wash., likely will take his place and complete the shift to a new generation of leaders in Congress.



Bush scores his first victory at summit

Boy, you think you got a guy pegged, and he goes off and does something that really surprises you.

After four months of a do-nothing presidency and a record of diplomatic waffling, George Bush did indeed go off and, seemingly from out of nowhere, pull off a surprising foreign policy achievement last week at the 40th-anniversary summit meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

You've got to give the guy some credit; the NATO summit was a tough challenge. Bush managed to walk a thin line between hawkish Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of England and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany, who passes as Western Europe's version of a peace maverick.

In forging for NATO a bold yet tenuous conventional arms control agreement with the Soviet Union, Bush brought back an achievement where none was expected. Partly, Bush was under the gun, needing an initiative to counter Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's recent popular proposals.

Bush's proposal calls for a 20 percent cut in European combat troops and a 15 percent reduction in aircraft, with a completion schedule of six to 12 months. While a call

for "partial reduction" in short-range nuclear missiles (the major source of contention between Kohl and Thatcher) was made, real plans on the missile issue have been delayed until progress is made in talks taking place in Vienna, Austria. Coming from a man who shuffled his feet in diplomatic situations in China and Panama and billed himself as "tough on defense" during the election, the conventional arms proposal is quite the bold initiative.

While Bush managed to put together a difficult consensus between the 16 NATO members, there are still some things to be worked out. The language of the missile compromise was left intentionally vague, and Thatcher and Kohl have already started taking potshots at each other over it. Also, now the technical experts must put the president's proposal down on paper, deciding how and where to start dismantling and destroying tanks and warplanes.

But for now, Bush can savor his victory — we won't begrudge him that. And we also hope he has learned the confidence in this summit that will allow him to make other bold, crucial foreign policy decisions in the future.

Letters

Low blow

I was honestly shocked to read the editorial about the Gaffney/Hoyt administration (ODE, May 25). I really think claiming their leadership was invisible is harsh and unfounded.

The people that worked in the ASUO this year worked hard and were extremely dedicated. For the Emerald to simply attack this administration for doing nothing is a low blow to these people.

When I went to the Emerald to inquire about this editorial's harshness, the response I got was "we actually had fun writing it." The Emerald ought to be ashamed of having a good time cutting people down in such a manner and remember its responsibility of writing constructive editorials rather than destructive.

Along with objecting to the tone of the editorial, I have to point out that it is unfounded. Read your own newspaper, folks. The Emerald has reported the ASUO's involvement in registering 2,000 voters, griev-

ances on the semester issue, and advocacy for child care nationally, state-wide, and at the University.

The Emerald reported the ASUO fought fee increases on user fees, tuition increases, building fees and financial aid. The ASUO was in the Emerald for informing students on election issues. It fought for tenants' rights, according to the Emerald.

I think the Emerald ought to think more clearly about what it says before it simply prints such a vicious attack because it brings some kind of personal entertainment. The Gaffney/Hoyt administration has been a very strong representative for the student body and ought to be recognized for that.

J. Lauren Norris
Former Incidental Fee
Committee Chair

Waiting

I'm writing in support of Steve Hanson's stance (ODE, May 25) on the Emerald's letter

policy, as I was frustrated by a similar problem.

After a full scale article/interview with Pam Daener appeared in the Emerald focusing on "one side" of the animal rights issue, I wrote a letter in response. I was aware that my letter was over the 250 word limit, but considering the fact that the Emerald had made no attempt to feature an article presenting the "other side," I thought the least they could do was publish my letter. There were no other letters regarding the article submitted.

Meanwhile, numerous letters have appeared concerning issues such as abortion and fraternity practices. Is the Emerald teetering so precariously over the abyss of biased journalism that it can refuse to print one letter in response to a full-scale article and instead print multiple letters on another subject again and again?

I welcome the Emerald to interview anyone from Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to write an article like that about Pam Daener and even the score. If they aren't in-

terested, they could still print my letter. Still waiting

Jill Freidberg
Anthropology

Not all right

In reply to Dan Hawkins (ODE, May 15):

You claim to be for the peace movement, and attempt to prove that graffiti perverts the cause. You are actually perverted — perverted into false reality, insulated from the brutality of life in other parts of the world or the brutalities of hunger, homelessness and the ravaged ecosystem.

What you fail to grasp is that there's a war being waged in El Salvador by the government against the people. We don't live with the trauma of a military state.

Grffiti gets noticed; somehow the war doesn't. Grffiti forces you to think.

Grffiti is a reaction to the smug complacency of a country responsible, but never accountable, for crimes against human-

ity and the planet.

I won't condone graffiti of hate. However hate is communicated, it's reprehensible.

Just because graffiti is illegal, does that mean it's wrong? Outlawing graffiti does enable us to apprehend messengers of hate, but also suppresses truths, truths which when hidden ease the conscience.

You complain that graffiti is "an eyesore." Should all eyesores be removed? Should the United States follow the totalitarian example of creating an artificial surface to convince the public that "everything is really all right." It reminds me of POW camps in Germany, Iraq or Cambodia doctored up for the Red Cross examinations. "Everything is fine here," they would tell observers.

Well, everything is not all right. You missed the cause. Can't we sacrifice the clean side of buildings for the homeless, the people of El Salvador, our ancient forests?

Jonah Bookstein
Philosophy