

## Diversity in danger

JACK BOND

OPINION EDITOR



Jack Bond is a senior English major from Marion

On Oct. 31, the Supreme Court saw two cases pushing against affirmative action: "Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard" and "Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina."

In the case against Harvard, Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) argued that the university's consideration of race in the admission process discriminated against Asian

Americans. Records reflected this, showing that Asian American applicants had lower personal ratings than any other racial group.

In the latter case, SFFA argued that the university's consideration of race in the admission process violated Title VI and the Equal Protection Clause. They further asked the court to overrule the decision in Grutter v. Bollinger, which ruled that the University of Michigan could be allowed to consider race in the admission process so as to promote diversity in the student body.

These two cases are pending adjudication, but they could potentially get rid of affirmative action altogether. This seems to be the most likely outcome given the conservative majority among the justices.

Although there are alternatives to diversify a student body (such as consideration of factors like

parental income, family college attendance, or high school standing), affirmative action has proven to be the most effective by far. Take the University of California for example; ten years after California banned the consideration of race in admissions, the college saw only 96 Black students enrolled in a class of 5,000.

**"The Court expects that 25 years from now, the use of racial preferences will no longer be necessary to further the interest approved today"**  
**-Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on Grutter v. Bollinger**

With race tensions and hate crimes as high as they are right now, it may not be the best idea to get rid of affirmative action altogether. Just last month,

Dallas police reported a spike in anti-Asian hate crimes: 27 this year compared to 19 last year. Even just last week, a couple in West Virginia were charged with hate crimes after shooting a Black man with a paintball gun.

Getting rid of what many opponents might refer to as "forced diversity" could potentially pave the way for more hate crimes down the road. Lack of diversity reinforces such hateful behavior, which is why it should be protected at all costs.

That being said, Harvard's treatment of Asian American applicants is unacceptable. I find it hard to believe that the Asian American applicants scored lower on personal ratings on sheer coincidence. If their admission process was truly unbiased, this difference would be negligible or nonexistent. Their methods of enforcing affirmative action absolutely need to be reconsidered.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HARVARD MAGAZINE

Hopefully, we'll reach a point where race will not be a necessary consideration in college admissions. We've come a long way from the civil rights movement, and we're continuing to do better still.

That day is probably a lot closer than you might expect. Until then, affirmative action should continue to promote diversity in future generations of people in every field.

## Why are dry counties still a thing?

JACK BOND

OPINION EDITOR

At the end of a stressful day, there are few things more cathartic than cracking open a cold one. Unfortunately, many counties throughout the U.S. make this pastime difficult for their residents. I'm talking of course about dry counties

Dry counties can still allow establishments to serve alcohol with a permit; however, the average citizen cannot buy alcohol for their fridge in stores. If they want to stock up on beer or liquor, they'll have to make a quick trip to a neighboring wet county.

Although Poinsett county is a wet county, the city of Weiner, Arkansas is dry. On Nov. 8, the city voted whether to keep it this way or end the probation on alcohol. Even the mayor, Mike Frasier, posted his support on Facebook with a (funny) t-shirt whose slogan is probably not appropriate to quote for a school newspaper.

With Weiner's decision to potentially change, I couldn't help but wonder why there are still dry counties in the first place.

The main reason for banning

alcohol is mainly a moral one. Alcoholism is a very serious problem with very serious consequences. Its negative effects are pretty damning, but the prohibition of it in a modern day setting just seems archaic and pointless.

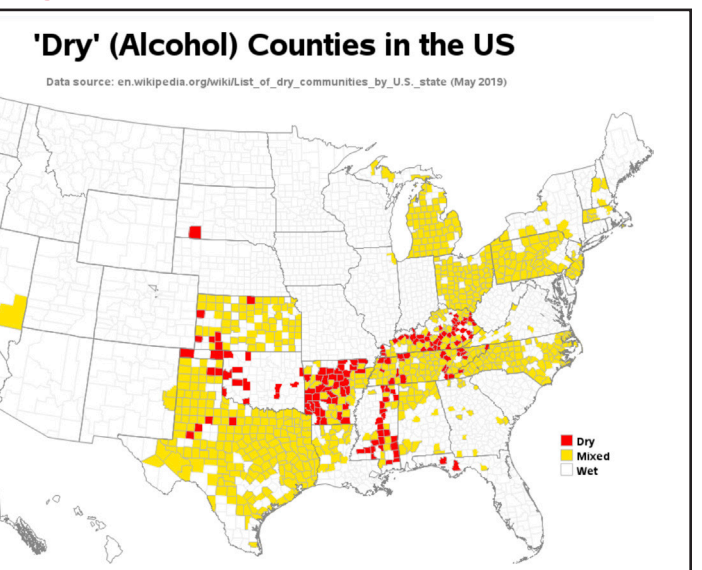
It's almost like the prohibition of the 1920's taught us nothing. The movement originally aimed to reduce many of society's problems that were only exacerbated by alcohol. Issues such as crime, health, and productivity were expected to get better, but

instead only got worse. Crime especially got worse, with many people turning to highly illegal and dangerous methods to get their fix. Even history's most infamous gangster, Al Capone, had to get a foot in the bootlegging business.

It may not be entirely fair to compare today's local bans with the infamous nationwide ban of the 20's, but there are still pretty damning studies in favor of wet counties. A 2010 survey conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation found that binge drinking was more

prevalent in dry counties. This is attributed to the fact that since residents of dry counties have to drive a decent distance to get alcohol, they are more likely to buy in bulk which leads to binge drinking.

Perhaps the most critical piece of evidence comes from Kentucky State Police records from the early 2000's. The records showed that instances of driving under the influence were higher in dry counties than wet ones. It's speculated that this is because drivers are driving greater distances from



Map of dry, wet and mixed counties in the U.S.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF SAS

wet counties back to their dry county home.

Data like this shows that banning alcohol today is not only pointless, but counterproductive to solving the issues it tries to address.

Despite this, it doesn't seem likely that the dry counties will change anytime soon. It's no coincidence that a vast majority of dry counties fall on the Bible Belt, which means that the likely reason for prohibiting alcohol is purely religious even if politicians won't admit it publicly.

Drinking alcohol can lead to many problems in the long run. It's bad for your physical health, mental well-being and can even put the drinker in embarrassing or dangerous situations. If someone is struggling, someone close to them or they themselves can seek help via the limitless number of support groups and websites available. Problematic drinkers will be problematic whether alcohol is legal or not, and making it illegal just adds criminalization to the list of issues. Making their problem illegal will only make it worse.

# THE HERALD

REBECCA ROBINSON: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
rebecca.robinson@astate.edu

RACHEL RUDD: NEWS EDITOR  
heraldnews1921@gmail.com

BRAYDEN MORSE: SPORTS EDITOR  
heraldsports1921@gmail.com

JACK BOND: OPINION EDITOR  
heraldopinion1921@gmail.com

KARA CAMPBELL: LIFE EDITOR  
heraldlife1921@gmail.com

JESSICA MCMILLIAN: PHOTO EDITOR  
heraldphoto1921@gmail.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN EDITOR  
heraldonline1921@gmail.com

SANDRA L. COMBS: ADVISER; ADVERTISEMENT SALES  
scombs@astate.edu  
astateherald@gmail.com

THE HERALD OFFICE IS IN ROOM 224 OF THE COMMUNICATIONS/EDUCATION BUILDING.

NEWSROOM: 870-972-3076

AD OFFICE: 870-972-2961

FAX: 870-972-3339

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Story ideas or news tips may be emailed to [heraldnews1921@gmail.com](mailto:heraldnews1921@gmail.com). The Herald welcomes comments, criticisms or ideas that its readership may have. We encourage you to send a Letter to the Editor to [rebecca.robinson@astate.edu](mailto:rebecca.robinson@astate.edu).

### EDITORIAL POLICY

Opinions expressed in personal columns are those of the writers and may not reflect the opinions of the staff as a whole.

These opinions are not necessarily reflective of the students, faculty or administration at A-State.

Columns, letters to the editor, cartoons and other content on the opinion page are the views of the author. Content does not necessarily represent the opinion of The Herald.

### STATEMENT OF PUBLICATION

The Herald is printed every Wednesday during the semester, except during finals and holidays. Copies of The Herald are free.

### CORRECTIONS GUIDELINES

The Herald wants its news reports to be fair and accurate. We correct all errors of fact. If you know of an error, please contact us.