

News-Register

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Contributing Illustrators  
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The News-Register  
North Lake Campus  
5001 N. MacArthur Blvd.  
Room A-234  
Irving, TX 75038  
By E-mail  
News-Register@dccc.edu

Letter Policy

The News-Register welcomes letters to the editor for publication. Letters must be typed or legibly written and limited to 300 words. Shorter letters are appreciated. Full name and telephone number must be provided for confirmation. The editor and faculty advisor will decide if a name will be withheld upon request. Obscene, libelous and/or racially, sexually, or religiously offensive material will not be published. Letters may be rejected for style and taste and edited for length and clarity.

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STAFF EDITORIAL

# Era of book bans leads to loss of First Amendment

We are entering an era of censoring what we do not agree with and retreating to old ways because the changes are too scary and confusing for some people. Instead of accepting that there are things out there that we may not agree with like gender, racism, sex and the history of our country, this state is trying to shame them into the old ways of hiding and not talking about it.

One way Texas is doing this is by banning books that teach grade school kids about those topics.

They are believed to be taboo, sensitive or traumatic but banning books does not serve the American collective because it creates a hostile environment where kids, teenagers, teachers and parents are not able to discuss a wide range of social topics.

It's okay for Americans to have contradicting opinions and for parents to have some weight on what their child can be exposed to but not at the expense of the first amendment right.

The government cannot ban books because a portion of republicans deem a book inappropriate, obscene, controversial or sensitive especially if those books are not

causing physical harm to the child or violence towards others.

School is about learning and banning books limits the education on topics that interest children and teenagers and raise their curiosity.

It prevents students from having the knowledge they need to develop their critical thinking and their own opinions while in high school.

It is during the ages from K to 12 grade that students create their foundations for their future.

By banning these books and preventing students from accessing them, the government controls what students can learn and what is repressed. They control what is relevant and what remains ignored.

Racial and LGBTQ themes are relevant in our society because more and more people are acknowledging and fighting for equality and human rights. Books with such topics should be available for the public, and especially young students to learn from past mistakes and have an open mind.

As human beings, we need to understand that we are all different, which is our superpower, but if society can only learn about a certain group of people, we will con-

tinue to make mistakes that we thought we already surpassed.

We should be looking at solutions instead of putting everything people are uncomfortable with back into the closet so to speak.

Education is the key to moving forward instead of going back.

One solution may be following what movies and tv shows do. They have ratings because some are not suitable for children and their parents can make the decision on what they can and cannot see.

Why should books be any different? Instead of banning them create a rating that requires a parental signature to check out.

Another solution could be having schools create a system notifying parents through a text message when their child is trying to check out a book that some might deem controversial, sensitive, obscene or inappropriate.

This does not mean the child cannot check out a book, but instead it will give an opportunity for the parent to have a conversation with their child about the topics discussed in the book.

However, because of those with strong religious beliefs, the people who fight the book ban, unfortunately, end



News-Register | Joanna Mikolajczak

up getting even more suppressed.

Not complying with Texas county regulations may put a whole public library in jeopardy of shutting down in Llano county.

After a federal judge ruled that Llano County had to put the 17 books they tried to ban back on the shelf in 24 hours.

In response the county threatened to shut down the entire library system.

They would rather lose a place where not only children but teenagers and adults can go and read physical books and expand their knowledge than accept that there are going to be books in the world that have mature content in them.

These banned books range from ridiculous content as well.

From a book "They Called Themselves the K.K.K.: The

Birth of an American Terrorist Group" by Susan Bartoletti that recalls the history of the K.K.K. to "Larry the Farting Leprechaun" by Jane Bexley that was created as a funny St. Patricks Day book for children.

Bartoletti's book was banned because it was teaching people a horrific part of Americas history and Bexley's book was banned because it taught kids about farts and used words like, toot, fart, gas, and booty.

Censorship is not the answer. However, during the last couple of years, censorship especially around social media has reached extreme levels.

So, banning that many books doesn't surprise us anymore.

It seems like next level of control and suppressing the people.

## LAKE TAKES



The N-R's opinion on recent campus & world happenings

**THUMBS Down to the limited commuting this semester.**

*The MacArthur Boulevard Reconstruction Project, running from Metker Street to Byron Nelson Way, hinders traffic for both Singley Academy and North Lake campus Students.*

**THUMBS Up to the spring semester coming to an end.**

*Students will be able to enjoy a long deserved break from stressful classes and exams because, Summer is almost here.*

**THUMBS down to the lack of phone signal on campus.**

*There are many spots in North Lake that does not have cell signal.*

*In the A building you have to go outside in order to receive or send texts or to call anyone.*

*It is very inconvenient when you are trying to work.*

**THUMBS Up to the 2023 Annual Bits & Bites event.**

*Celebrating the culinary culture in Dallas at the Arboretum.*

*It featured tasteful food by some of the best Chefs in Dallas working together with Dallas College alumni and culinary students.*

# My body, My choice, but the governments ruling

My body, my choice may be an old saying but many women are still fighting for their rights to decide how to handle their own pregnancies.



Heather Sherrill

Layout Editor

HeatherSherrill@dallascollege.edu

The government has taken four steps backwards with "allowing" them that option.

The first step backwards was overturning Roe V. Wade in 2022. That piece of legislation made it possible to have an abortion in the U.S. and with removing it, it took away the federal constitutional right to an abortion.

The second step was then creating laws to charge people if they were reported assisting in an abortion, even just

telling the women where she can go to have one can lead to an arrest.

The final two steps will be making "the pill" as some call it; Mifepristone, illegal to take and removing it from the doctors office.

Mifepristone blocks a natural substance (progesterone) that is needed for your pregnancy to continue.

The government is only making one of the two pills you are supposed to take when trying to expel a miscarriage or having an abortion illegal.

Misoprotol, the second pill, evacuates the uterus in cases of embryonic or fetal death, and induction of labor will still be available, but women will experience more side effects without combining the medications.

This means that if a woman takes the second pill to expel a miscarriage or to have an abortion that it will work but the body will need time to realize that there is no baby.

I can say from first hand experience that my miscarriage was the most trauma-

tizing experience of my life.

After hearing my OB-GYN say that there wasn't a heartbeat I froze and the world went silent. I don't remember what she said from that moment on.

I wasn't aware that the medication I received from her wasn't both pills when I took it, because she told me to take two pills.

I recently found out that those pills were both Misoprotol. She instructed me to take two at a time to make sure everything was expelled on the first round.

If there were still parts of the sac left in my uterus then I would have to take another one and experience labor all over again.

I say labor because that is exactly what it was for me.

The pill kicked in an hour after consuming it and at first it was just light cramps.

I was told by the OB-GYN, my husband, now ex-husband and his mother that it was going to be some bleeding but the baby hadn't grown enough to be anything more.

The baby lost its heart-

beat at 8 weeks and when I took the pill I was half way through my 13 week of pregnancy.

I was in labor for six hours. It was extremely painful to lay down in bed so I made a pallet on the bathroom floor and kept going from the toilet to the floor.

I was both hot and cold and couldn't stop vomiting. The pain got worse with every passing minute. I was on a group phone call with my friends because I was home alone and they were trying to keep me calm.

Eventually the timing of the cramps were closer together and I couldn't move off of the toilet. This was the final push.

I remember screaming at the top of my lungs, covered in sweat and then the baby came out just as my husband came home from work.

He scooped the baby out of the toilet so that we could bury, what I thought was going to be a girl, in the backyard.

The baby had eyes and was growing fingers and toes. It

wasn't just "some blood" as I was told it would be. That was a huge unexpected shock for me that still breaks me when I remember her.

Even after all of that my body still thought I was pregnant for a couple more weeks. I was starting to get milk in my breasts and my stomach was hardening and taking shape.

To have to live everyday knowing before your body does that you lost the baby was extremely difficult, but these are the side effects of not having access to Mifepristone.

They aren't the only side effects either. To this day my periods are much more severe and sometimes last longer.

The cramps are also a lot harder to deal with than normal and I was told by my OB-GYN that it would eventually stop, but it has been eight months and it is still happening.

Making Mifepristone illegal is not only the stupidest thing our government could do but extremely dangerous for women in general.