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## THE SETTLER

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## State inmates trade jailtime for colorful vests

Legislature hoping that a new "shame" process will help to reduce drunk driving is a waste of money and should be expunged.

Five members of the Sumner County Jail were among the first in the state to be "shamed" for drunk driving last Saturday, under a new state law mandating that trash pick-up crews wear orange vests declaring "I AM A DRUNK DRIVER."

Oh state lawmakers, do you really have nothing better to spend our tax dollars on? Have you seen the state of education in Tennessee?

The Tennessean reported Sunday that the program will cost \$250,000 in Davidson County alone.

Yet two of the five members

of the crew reported that they had not even been drunk when they were arrested. Both admitted their erratic driving was due to medications and not alcohol.

Several groups have criticized the new law, including sheriffs, attorneys general and MADD.

The new law requires first-time offenders to spend 24 hours in jail and more time on the side of the road wearing flashy new vests picking up trash.

The old law required 48 hours in jail.

Huh?

Did the state of Tennessee really pass a law requiring first-time DUI recipients to spend less time in jail in exchange for

wearing a vest?

Most of the participants interviewed by The Tennessean on Saturday admitted that they enjoyed getting out of their gloomy cells for awhile. One man was wearing house slippers.

The concept of being on the side of the road in jail clothes picking up trash implies a measure of shame in the first place.

It seems unusual that instead of making a DUI more shameful, the state has made it much easier on offenders, using state money and personnel to do so.

The "shame" law is set to expire in 2009 unless the state legislature renews it.

It would be an enormous "shame" if they did.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

On Wed., March 15th I had the pleasure of enjoying free BBQ during DeWayne Carter's Presidential Big BBQ Bash.

The free food and live music was wonderful after a hard day back from spring break. Unfortunately there was a spoil sport at the event.

One of the more immature opponents placed her campaign signs all through the area Carter had reserved for his delightful BBQ.

I am not opposed to passively campaigning for office, but there should have been enough respect and integrity for Bailiff to wait until Carter's party was over.

Surely Carter would not have showed up and protested an event Bailiff organized, if she showed enough thought about the students (who she should be supporting) to hold one.

The candidate I would elect would be humble enough to let their opponent have their own celebration with out attempting to ride on the coat tails of it.

It seems to me that Bailiff tried to turn Carter's personal campaign event into a school-wide SGA gathering, which is unprofessional and

disrespectful.

This is not the behavior I would expect from a presidential candidate.

Sincerely,  
Reece Walter

To the Editor:

I would just like to personally thank everyone who came out to "DeWayne Carters Big Bar-B-Que Bash" on Wed., March 15. It was truly an extraordinary event.

I only wish I had the funds to throw a similar event for the Tuesday/Thursday as well as the night students.

Although my current opponent attempted to spoil the positive vibe of this campus-wide celebration I totally organized for the students, I remained in good spirits while meeting new friends.

Thanks to all of those involved, all who attended, all who wanted to attend, and even those who attempted to sabotage the event. Thank you all!

Sincerely,  
DeWayne Carter