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GOP may replace Hiatt with someone who doesn't scare children – Page R

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Speaker asks Darrell Gilbert to take off Starfleet uniform

By Charles Haskell,
Partisan Staff Reporter

For the fifth time in as many days, Rep. Darrell Gilbert, D-Tulsa, has been asked to refrain from wearing his Starfleet uniform while in session.

House Speaker Larry Adair requested Gilbert take off the uniform, noting that it made the Tulsa representative “look like a dork.”

Gilbert has defended his choice of clothing.

“This uniform means something to me,” Gilbert said. “As the captain of the USS District 72, I feel it is my duty to fight for all of my Federation, whether they be human, Vulcan, Andorian or even Tellarite.”

This session, Gilbert has authored legislation to commend Ambassador Sarek for his service to the Federation and to memorializing Paramount to bring back the original “Star Trek” series in prime time.

The House faced a similar showdown in 2000 when several representatives refused to take off their Josh Heupel and Rocky Calmus jerseys.



Rep. Darrell Gilbert, D-Tulsa, says he prefers the “Next-Generation”-era uniform to its “Voyager” and “Deep Space Nine” counterparts.

Republicans applaud installation of double standard in House chamber

OKLAHOMA CITY (OP) – House Republican leaders say they are “pleased” with the GOP’s installation of a double standard in the House chamber at the Capitol.

Provided by the Oklahoma Republican Party, the standard allows GOP lawmakers to hurl criticism upon their Democratic counterparts without making themselves open to similar attacks.

For example, the standard allows Republicans to bemoan the legal problems of Oklahoma insurance commissioner Carroll Fisher while at the same time ignoring charges of sexual battery pending against Rep. Mike O’Neal, R-Enid.

Under the operation of the standard, Democrats who attempt to hide legislation under shell bills

or floor substitutes are guilty of trying to deceive the people. Similar bait-and-switch tactics with Republicans, such as replacing a premarital testing bill with a gay marriage ban, are exempt from such accusations.

The standard also comes equipped with a “good old boy” attack mechanism, which allows House Republicans to whine about how the Democrats are slaves to wealthy special interests without a hint of irony.

The standard is based off a similar program in place at the federal level, which allows Republican congressmen to denounce huge government deficits unless they are produced by a GOP administration.

Fun with state statutes

“Every person guilty of profane swearing is pushishable by a fine of One Dollar (\$1.00) for each offense.”
–2001 O.S. 21§905

Nearly 90 percent of Democrat agenda ‘for the children’

OKLAHOMA CITY (OP) – According to a recent study, fully 87 percent of the Democrats’ 2004 legislation has been filed ‘for the children.’

“Children are our most precious natural resource,” said Sen. Bill Mitchell, D-Lindsay. “I fully believe that children are our future and we must invest in them.”

Mitchell invoked the children to bolster support for HB 1201, which modified auditing requirements for the Department of Agriculture.

Democrats also cited Oklahoma youth as the reason to deregulate SBC, modify the districts of the Oklahoma Peanut Commission and allow

campaign fundraising in Oklahoma County.

Republican leadership has been skeptical of the Democrats’ tactics, noting that the children probably didn’t give a damn about how much the Commissioner of Agriculture was paid.

“I mean, I guess if you’re boosting pre-school funding, I can understand,” said Sen. Fred Morgan, R-Oklahoma City. “But how is redrawing the districts of the Peanut Commission ‘an investment in Oklahoma’s young people?’”

But Democratic lawmakers disagreed. “We must protect those who cannot protect themselves,” said Rep. Jari Askins, D-Duncan. Askins

said a vote against HB 1805, regarding automated external defibrillators, would be “a vote against babies, puppy dogs, flowers and sunny days.”

“We have a duty to protect Oklahoma’s youngest, and I take that obligation seriously,” said Sen. Barbara Staggs, D-Muskogee, in defense of a bill that would exempt cellular towers from the definition of “telecommunications services” for tax purposes. “Before voting for this bill, I would ask you to please, please think of the children.”

As of press time, the children were unavailable for comment.