

Evil comes from abuse of government power

In a comparative economic systems class I took last semester, I ran across a sentence which holds more wisdom than libraries of works on political economy.

I forget the author, but he wrote, "Whoever controls the means of production, controls the means of life."

This one sentence sheds much light on the fatal political debate of history. For within the academic campuses and scholarly journals rages a war more important than any of the wars in the last century.

This war is not about Shakespeare's plays, either. The stakes in this war are the lives of the over four billion inhabitants of this world.

Who are the combatants? In the left corner is the oppressive, deadly entity known as the State. And in the right corner is the battle-weary, beaten hero called the Individual. Much, if not all, of the political argument in our society can be dichotomized into these two opposing beliefs.

What is known as the left wing consists of those who believe that government must make all the decisions which concern our lives.

On the far right lives a breed of mavericks who rebel against the constraints which government constantly imposes on us.

My studies of economics and politics have enlightened me about how the world works. But along with the thrill of discovery is the frustrations with the injustices which exist in the world.

Guess what? Capitalism is not to blame. Most of the evil in this world originates from the abuse of government power.

A positive relationship exists between the amount of government control and the amount of repression and misery. This is simplistic, but nonetheless true.

Millions of Chinese have either been shot or died of starvation under the Chinese regime. Some approximations sight that Stalin massacred thirty million farmers. Is this because he was simply a bad man? No, Stalin was trying to eradicate the 'bourgeois' farmers, who were staunchly opposed to his collectivist farming plans.

Most of Africa is plagued, not by bad weather, but by governments that have tried to eliminate the market in their countries. As a result, Africa went from a net exporter of food to content starving for outside assistance.



Andrew Matthews
Columnist

The advocates of governmental control seem to think that government can solve the problems of the market. But what is the market? What is known as the market is simply an extended order of mutual cooperation among individuals.

In the market, each individual makes the decision to buy the goods they want, live where they want, work where they want, in essence, live how they want. The flaws in the market

come not as a result of insufficient regulation but by regulation itself.

Monopolies in capitalism are usually, if not always, created by laws reducing competition. There are too many players in the market to allow for a company, without the aid of the government, to engage in exploitive monopoly pricing for anything but a short time.

The Founding Fathers knew the importance of a limited government. All throughout the writings of Jefferson and Madison are warnings about the abuses of governmental power. The Constitution was originally designed to limit the power of government.

Yet throughout the years, the citizens of this nation have allowed the state to gain increasingly more control of their lives.

This slow subjugation of the people is an insidious process, much like the cooking of a frog.

If the frog is thrown into boiling hot water it will immediately, sensing the danger, jump out of the pot. The key

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is to put it into a lukewarm pot, and then crank up the heat. By the time he realizes he is being cooked, it is too late.

Likewise, the erosion of our liberties has not been by a single giant jump. Hidden by perplexing politics, a new inroad of government intervention is expressed as an action for 'public interest'. I do not propose government should be abolished, that the state should be limited in power.

There are legitimate uses for government. A society and economy not efficiently operate without a set of rules governing the interaction of the populace. A court system, police, national defense are essential for a society. The government also can provide for public goods such as roads and water lines.

But any further usurpations of liberty by Big Brother need to be justified.

Andrew Matthews is a junior economics major.

D.C. mayor's arrest not linked to racism

Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry was recently arrested on charges of buying and smoking crack in a Washington hotel. Not long after his arrest, groups from all angles were charging that his arrest was racially motivated. Although racism still exists in this country, it is obvious that in this case there was not a racially-driven motive to indict Barry.

When Mayor Barry was arrested, it was not because of racism, but because the mayor of Washington, D.C., (white, black or whatever), was buying and using drugs in one of the most drug-ridden cities in the nation. How can a mayor purport to uphold justice when he himself is breaking the law?

To say that he was targeted because he is black is to be of the same mind to say John DeLorean was targeted because he is white, or to say Ed Meese is in trouble because he is Caucasian. It's absurd to think that officials should be immune to punishment because of their color, even though they are obviously breaking the law.

Barry probably thought that as mayor he would not get caught at one of his many vices. The arrest of Barry shows us that politicians are not priv-



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ileged in this country and will be prosecuted for real crimes.

Once in a while it's good to see a politician get what he deserves, whether it be Jim Wright, Gary Hart, or Marion Barry.

Several years ago a black girl, Tawana Brawley, claimed she had been kidnapped, raped, beaten and left to die by white assailants in New York. Rev. Al Sharpton and two black lawyers did not allow Brawley to testify in hearings on the case. This thwarted the investigation and eventually led to the dismissal of the charges.

The most interesting aspect of the case is that many prominent members of the black community, (among them Bill Cosby), claimed the Brawley incident was an indication of the

racial hatred in America.

Contrary to their vocalized opinions, the incident eventually turned out to be nothing more than a sham, possibly a farce designed by certain people to incite racial hostilities.

The point is that black leaders should not be quick to charge racism on cases similar to Brawley's or Barry's. And the people responsible for inciting these feelings should realize that equality must come from both ends of the rainbow.

Making blacks have anger towards whites, in whatever way, may make things better (temporarily) for blacks, but it causes racial tensions to heighten, not ease.

All races must work together if we are to solve the problems of racial discrimination and the attitude of some people that a person should be treated differently according to his racial background.

Working toward this goal means that leaders in the black community should not claim racism every time something bad or unfavorable happens to a black person. When a wrongdoing is obviously racially motivated, the American public will know it.

Black leaders re-emphasizing the

point may even cause the public to be skeptical, if all they see are people claiming racism at every turn.

To help climb toward racial harmony, whites must also strive to be racially sensitive. In daily actions, we should try to avoid unnecessary judgments of people based on race. And members of all races should not be judgmental of others because of race (or gender, sexual preference, religion, etc.)

Not all minority members believe that Marion Barry was subject to a white conspiracy, nor that there is a conspiracy purported by whites against blacks in this country.

But for the few non-whites who do think that Caucasians in America are out to persecute those of other races for no good reason, please know that no such conspiracy exists.

America and the world has come a long way in striving toward the goal of racial harmony.

Few will deny that racism, in some form, still exists in this country; so, especially with regard to the Barry case, we should not try to create racism where it doesn't exist.

Timm Doolen is a junior computer science major.

Boys fight odds, come out singing

This February students at Texas A&M University will have the golden opportunity to see and hear the Boys Choir of Harlem.

The Boys Choir of Harlem is one of the best of its kind. Since its humble beginnings over 20 years ago, the choir has received national and international acclaim.

The choir has performed at such prestigious places as the White House, the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and Radio City Music Hall. Internationally it has given concerts at London's Albert Hall and at St. Paul's Cathedral, Paris' St. Germain des Pres and Tokyo's Budokan Concert Hall.

The story of the Boys Choir of Harlem is a very inspirational one. Under the leadership of Walter J. Turnbull, Ph.D, the choir has, according to Turnbull, "developed from a small church choir into a major performing arts institution of international reputation."

Although surrounded by the drugs, violence and poverty that stereotypically characterize Harlem, the choir has proven that hard work and dedication is the formula for success.

In addition to their very rigorous touring schedule, the 35 member



Ronda Shepherd
Columnist

ensemble is tutored six days a week in subjects like mathematics, music theory and English. All members are required to maintain a B average in school and attend both a city and country summer camp.

These extraordinary youths have a staff of full-time counselors who provide year-round career, family and adolescent guidance. As proof positive that self-discipline and academia are stressed, 98 percent of the youths go on to college.

The most impressive aspect of the choir is that these accomplishments cannot be measured. No words, no awards, no honors can ever give full recognition to the magnificent achievement of Walter J. Turnbull and the Boys Choir of Harlem. This organization has changed lives.

Each year this choir takes 35 youths off of the streets and gives them a chance. It gives the boys a chance to experience the world, a chance to rise

above their environment, a chance to dream; but more importantly, it gives them a chance to succeed.

Many people could learn from the example set by these young men. Many of these young men come from broken homes, poverty, despair and desperation; but they're succeeding. As Jesse Jackson would say, this is a group of "odds busters."

This group has not only come out on top, but has come out singing.

Take the opportunity to support their excellence and hard work. Their February 15th concert promises to be spectacular. They have a repertoire which ranges from classical music to contemporary songs that place special emphasis on the works of black composers. They even sing jazz and gospel.

When the Black Awareness Committee and the Opera and Performing Arts Society decided to bring the Boys Choir of Harlem, they really picked a winner.

Ronda Shepherd is a senior journalism major.

Mail Call

Athletic director is 'magician'

EDITOR:

Just look at what Mr. Crow the magician did with an Aggie tradition: He made it disappear! You can make someone disappear. First of all, you become athletic director, and then you seek out your victim. You see an Aggie who has coached A&M basketball longer than most of us have been alive and since the season didn't start off right away, you can picture him gone. You wait for just the right time, early in the season, amidst the coach's moments of success and setbacks, and then, you fire him (Oh! Excuse me! You have him "transferred").

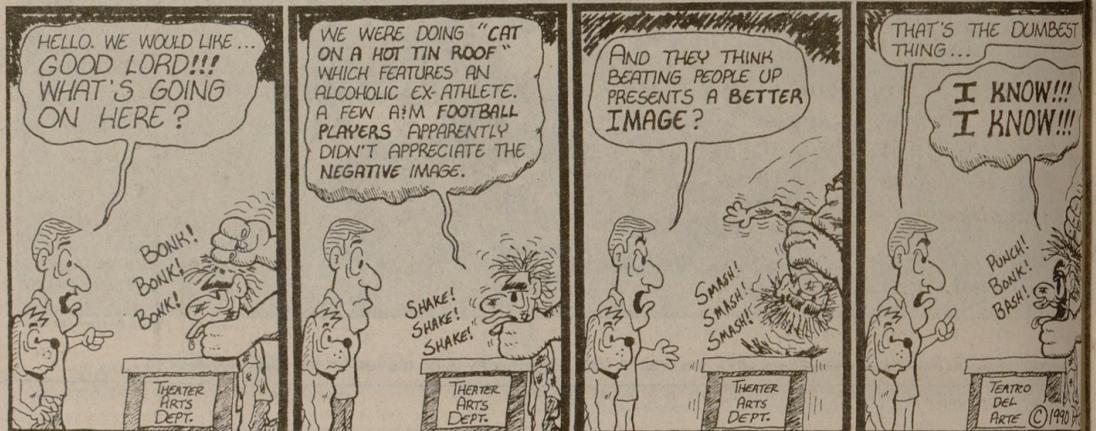
I'm not one for being great when it comes to knowing exact dates or other statistics in sports, but I do recognize that Shelby Metcalf has been the winningest coach in the Southwest Conference. Great athletic departments just don't get rid of experience like Metcalf's.

Mr. Crow, I hope this whole ordeal isn't anything personal because you have treated this basketball legend with a great deal of disrespect. Shelby Metcalf's dissertation had to do with the behavior of a crowd at a basketball game. I think some great newcomer should write a thesis on the psychology of an athletic director. President Mobley should at least give Shelby Metcalf the honor of departing Texas A&M on his own terms. After all, doesn't this man deserve it? On behalf of many Aggies, I hope the former coach sees the support that we're giving him. Meanwhile, thanks, Mr. Crow, for nothing!

Pete Borsack '89

Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr



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