

The Battalion

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President, parliament battle for Russian power

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW — Russia veered between confrontation and compromise Wednesday, and President Boris Yeltsin and his legislative opponents ended up no closer to resolving their power struggle.

The fierce arguments in Moscow reverberated across Russia. Cosacks offered to form a presidential guard to defend Yeltsin and declared self-rule in their southern Don region. Siberian coal miners threatened a strike in support of the president.



Yeltsin

Hopes for a settlement dwindled after Yeltsin's chief rival, parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, presented "rude ultimatums" for concessions during talks with the president, said Yeltsin spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov. "The president responded with a resolute and firm rejection," Kostikov said, according to the Interfax independent news agency.

Khasbulatov later indicated he still hoped for a compromise.

Also Wednesday, President Clinton also expressed hope for a negotiated solution, saying "It is very much in our interest to keep Russia a democracy." He met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to discuss U.S. aid and the planned Clinton-Yeltsin summit in Vancouver on April 3-4.

The struggle between Yeltsin and the Communist-dominated Congress of People's Deputies had

been stewing for months over the question of whether the executive or legislative branch should have more power.

The situation boiled over after Yeltsin declared emergency rule on Saturday and called for an April 25 referendum on whether a new form of parliament should be established.

Russia's Constitutional Court on Tuesday ruled both those actions violated the constitution, although it approved Yeltsin's request for a national vote of confidence on him.

Wednesday began with the Supreme Soviet voting to convene an emergency session of the Congress on Friday to consider removing Yeltsin for violating the constitution.

During the session, Yeltsin's

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A&M officials analyze Russian politics

Yeltsin pushes for democracy, capitalism

By JENNIFER SMITH

The Battalion

The power struggle between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the Russian parliament could leave the nation's fate in the hands of a moderate majority somewhere between communism and democracy, said two Texas A&M University authorities on Russia.

Dr. Ronald Hatchett, director of the Mosher Institute for International Policy Studies, said the parliament gives power to the president, and this has caused a battle for authority since it recently attempted to limit Yeltsin's power.

"Yeltsin has only the power

that the Congress of People's Deputies gives to him," he said.

The Congress of People's Deputies, made up of 1,041 members, is part of Russia's parliament. The second branch of parliament is the Supreme Soviet, which is made up of 243 members.

Hatchett said the parliament gave Yeltsin the right to rule by decree in 1991, effectively giving him the power to dictate what reforms went into effect.

Throughout the next year, the parliament questioned Yeltsin's authority, but they extended his power until the end of 1992.

"But by December of 1992, it was clear that the parliament

wanted to control government policies and appoint government officials," Hatchett said.

In reaction to this, Yeltsin asked for a referendum to be held in April that would let the people decide if they wanted a government with a strong president or one with a strong parliament. This kept the power with Yeltsin and not the parliament.

"As the time for this referendum drew near, it was clear that the parliament wasn't going to let it happen," Hatchett said.

By March 10, the parliament had taken away most of Yeltsin's powers and canceled the April vote.

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Summer, fall class schedules are available



Seth Terry (right), a junior agriculture major from Waxahachie, picks up the summer and fall schedule books in front of Heaton Hall

Wednesday from Mary Saladino (left). Saladino lives in Bryan and has worked with A&M registration for about 13 years.

BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

University asks Regents for fee hike

Student senator says A&M needs to consult those most affected by increase

By JULI PHILLIPS

The Battalion

Texas A&M students will face raises in current fees for the fall semester if the Board of Regents approves the administration's request later this week, but student representatives say the administration needs to make sure the students can handle the raise.

Earlier this week, the Battalion confirmed that the kinesiology fee will be raised from \$12 to \$16; the new student conference fee from \$15 to \$25; binding and collating fees for a masters thesis from \$85 to \$90 and doctoral dissertation from \$110 to \$158.

The Board may also raise the computer ac-

cess fee from \$4 per credit hour to \$5 per credit hour for the fall and spring terms and from \$2 to \$2.50 per credit hour in the summer.

According to the Provost's Office, all money brought in by the computer use fee will go to the library.

Texas A&M University Provost E. Dean Gage said. "We felt that this was an appropriate method to take care of student concerns for library needs without imposing a big burden on students."

Gage said the other fees were only an effort to keep revenue in line with cost.

Assistant Provost Dan Parker said the University is not out to make a profit.

"All we can do is recoup the cost and a lot

of time we don't even do that," Parker said. "Costs are much higher than what is being reflected and they are just escalating out of sight."

Gage and Parker confirmed the University will raise other fees, and the Office of Finance and Administration has the complete list, however Robert Smith, the vice president over that office, did not return Battalion phone calls.

Just before spring break, the Student Senate passed a resolution requesting the University consult the Senate about fee hikes.

Northside Senator Russell Langley, who drafted the resolution, said the administration

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Graduation guest limit draws few complaints

By ROBIN ROACH

The Battalion

There has not been an overwhelmingly negative response from students or parents regarding the change in the May 1993 graduation ceremonies, said Mary Jo Powell, associate director of University Relations.

University President William Mobley announced Feb. 25 to deans and department heads that each graduate will be limited to six guests for this May's commencement exercise.

The University sent letters to the May degree candidates on March 5 to inform them of the change. Each graduate will receive six tickets to distribute to their guests but may exchange tickets with those students who do not use all six of their allotted tickets.

"I think it's a reflection of our need to have a larger facility for student events."

-Patty Warhol, student senator

Powell said she has talked to "a few mad parents," but most of them have been understanding once the safety concerns of accommodating such a large audience were explained to them.

"We'll do what we can in University Relations to inform people of the change," Powell said. "Almost everyone I have talked to has been most understanding."

Patty Warhol, a student senator and a May degree candidate, said although the change is not a problem for her family, she realizes students with larger families will not have enough tickets for all their guests.

"I think it's a reflection of our need to have a larger facility for student events," Warhol said.

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Freshman cadets await trial for assault with ax-handle

By GINA HOWARD

The Battalion

Two members of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets, arrested two weeks ago for aggravated assault, are awaiting a possible grand jury indictment, said an investigating officer with the College Station Police Department.

Police arrested Andrew Scott Wlazlinski, 18, and Jonathan Michael Thornberry, 19, March 9 in connection with the aggravated assault of an Austin man.

According to police reports, Michael Scott Fagan, 22, was followed from a College Station club to the CSPD parking lot where two men attacked him with an ax handle.

Donny Andreski, CSPD investigating officer, said charges have been filed and the next step is for District Attorney Jim Turner's office to bring the charges before a grand jury.

A secretary with Turner's office confirmed the charges will go before a grand jury, but said she could not speculate when that might happen.

A grand jury does not judge innocence or guilt, but decides if enough evidence exists to go to trial.

Thornberry recently bowed out of the race for president of the class of 1996.

If convicted, the cadets face 2-10 years in prison and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.

According to the 1992-93 Texas A&M University Regulations, the University can suspend the cadets only if the Commandant's office determines them to be a disruption of the educational process or a threat to others.

In such a case, a prompt administrative hearing must be held and the ruling of the University investigating officer is made independent of any off-campus authority.

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Bryan, College Station attempt to remedy traffic congestion

By JASON LOUGHMAN

The Battalion

At five o'clock each weekday afternoon, thousands of drivers wrestle their vehicles through unending lines of cars crammed onto the streets surrounding the Texas A&M campus.

Each day they rediscover the meaning of traffic congestion — that condition in which the volume of traffic on a road exceeds the road's designed capacity.

Dr. Tim Lomax of the Texas Transportation Institute said, "We clearly have a problem for some time during the day, but not for a very long time." The question, Lomax said, is how much of a

problem is it and how far is the community willing to go to fix it?

He explained the city could, for example, build an overpass at the intersection of Texas Avenue and University Drive to solve the traffic problem there, but such a solution would not be cost-effective.

"Lo-trak," a proposal to lower beneath ground level a stretch of railroad track parallel to Wellborn Road, demonstrated several years ago the lengths to which the city was not willing to go. A bond issue to finance the project was voted down.

Ed Hard, transportation planner for College Station, said lo-trak "would have helped out a whole lot" in easing traffic prob-

lems.

Lomax said such remedies as adjusting traffic signal timing or lengthening left turn lanes to help eliminate traffic bottlenecks are cost-effective. "There's a lot of this kind of stuff that could be done in Bryan-College Station that wouldn't cost a lot of money," he said.

In fact, College Station received state funding to install a closed-loop traffic signal computer last year.

In a closed-loop system, a central computer controls a series of traffic lights based on information it receives from sensors at the

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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Traffic at the Corner of University and Texas at 5 p.m. Wednesday