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SOFT DRINKS BUSINESS AT KYLE FIELD



EDITORIAL Labor pains

Students must hustle for jobs

As we sit back to celebrate Labor Day, it is ironic to note the dismal state of the economy today. Wages are down and jobs are scarce. College graduates entering the workforce face a menial job market, where they are forced to compete with more experienced applicants for the same low-paying positions. In addition, the newest generation of workers is expected to have a lower standard of living than the preceding generation — for the first time in a nation's history. Large corporations such as Ford and General Motors have announced massive layoffs and restructurings. Just recently, GTE, a Texas-based company, announced it intends to make massive personnel cuts. This week, a study by the Economics Policy Institute found a disturbing trend in the nation's economy. According to the report, entry-level wages are shrinking. Wages for blue collar workers fell 5.9 percent over the last four years and white-collar wages fell 2.4 percent. In addition, over half of the

new jobs created in the first half of 1993 were part-time positions that offered no benefits. Many job seekers looking for full-time work were forced to take part-time jobs instead, resulting in underemployment. College students are one of the main victims of this underemployment. Forced by class schedules to take part-time jobs at odd hours, students often find themselves working longer just to make ends meet. For future graduates, the job market also looks bleak. The chances of people with college degrees finding a job in their career field are decreasing. This is why it is important for students to think about employment before graduation. The Texas A&M Career Center, academic advisers and student groups can all help the prospective graduate in the great job hunt. Students should prepare for the workplace long before they stand in the graduation line, so they won't end up standing in the unemployment line.

Talk radio: Public Enemy Number 1? Congress, FCC Fairness Doctrine threaten free speech

Be afraid — be very afraid. It is becoming clear that Congress is scared of the American public and is acting to save itself. They've started by attempting to take away the right of free speech. What right will they revoke next? The paranoia on Capitol Hill is not unjustified. The last few years have witnessed unopposed public discontent with Congress.



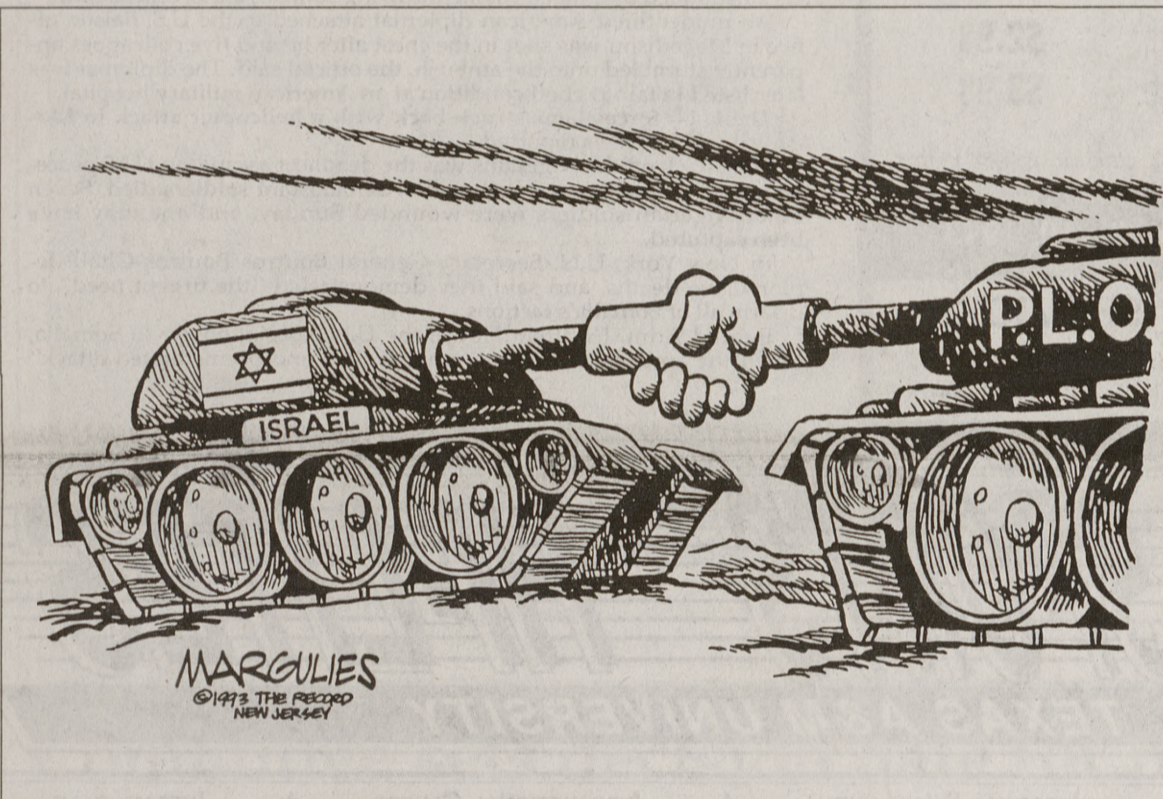
ELIOT WILLIAMS
Columnist

The recent fervor over term limits, the check bouncing scandal and problems with the House post office have our congressmen running scared. Debate over President Clinton's budget resulted in over 100,000 calls an hour into the Capitol Hill switchboard, temporarily shutting it down. Congress has blamed this recent surge of attacks on talk radio and the likes of Rush Limbaugh. According to the Sept. 1, 1993 edition of The Wall Street Journal, 40 percent of all Americans listen to some sort of radio talk show. Rush Limbaugh alone has a self-proclaimed audience of 20 million listeners a week. A new study from the Times Mirror Center for the People and the Press claims that: "American public opinion is being distorted and exaggerated by the voices that dominate the airwaves of talk radio, clog the White

House switchboard ... and respond to call-in polls." Talk radio callers, the study professes, are "rabidly anti-Congressional in their viewpoint." The upsurge in public interest is causing some congressmen to respond with legislation. Rep. Bill Hefner says talk radio "scared me." He contends that negative attacks on Congress are "getting to the point where we're not able to govern." Talk about passing the buck. Hefner and some of his fellow congressmen are responding to the public's renewed interest in government by resurrecting the decrepit Fairness Doctrine — a policy dreamt up by Federal Communication Commission staffers in 1949 which claimed to require broadcasters to provide equal time to all sides of "controversial" issues. The Reagan Administration killed the policy in 1987 after proving that Congress hadn't approved it. The Fairness Doctrine in practice, coupled with the FCC's power to renew broadcast licenses, could be used to censor whatever media personality the administration opposed. The Nixon administration used the doctrine to torment left-wing broadcasters, while Bill Rudder, President Kennedy's assistant secretary of commerce, said of the Kennedy administration: "Our strategy was to use the Fairness Doctrine to challenge and harass right-wing broadcasters and hope the challenges would be so costly to them that they would be inhibited and decide it was too expensive to continue." Look out, Rush Limbaugh. Democracy has always thrived on the free flow of information. George Orwell, in

"1984," claimed that easiest way for government to dominate its citizens is to control the words they use. Big Brother was effective in limiting thought to simple terms where no debate was possible. Congress is learning the benefits of Big Brother's policies. Our society has found new and innovative ways of achieving the free flow of information. Talk radio, CNN, C-SPAN, computer BBSs and newspapers are just a few of the ways American's are conversing and openly debating today. We must continue to fight for these media. Americans are sick of blatant overspending, and we are responding actively with phone calls and criticism. This is what democracy is about. In a true democracy, public objections would be corrected by our leaders. In America, our leaders attempt to correct the public. Congress' new efforts to subvert our freedoms are alarming. The revival of the Fairness Doctrine is just the first step down a very dangerous path. I refuse to stand idly by while Congress begins to revoke our basic rights. Joseph Sobran, a societal commentator, once said: "The essence of tyranny is government without carefully defined powers, powers whose limits can be invoked by citizens under the law." If our Bill of Rights is subject to retraction by any whim of Congress, it is clear that we are moving ever closer to the tyranny to which Sobran refers.

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Blacks must acknowledge individuality to form community

As I began writing this column, it seemed to address a trivial point. Yet, I realized that the subject matter reaches far into the lives of many African-Americans. This is the attitude that all African-Americans are rightly the same. It is a subtle attitude, but it is omnipresent. I decided to write about it for this reason and also because many blacks as well as whites seem to buy into this attitude. That belief is far, far from the truth. We come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. We have minds and capabilities just as anyone else does. In the black race, there are those who are slow or intelligent, criminal or law-abiding, rich or poor,



TRACEY JONES
Columnist

boisterous or soft-spoken — just like any other people. We have had "apples" yet we also produce doctors, lawyers, engineers, accountants and other professionals. Blacks are individuals. The method by which many grocery and drug stores organize their product lines demonstrates how this attitude affects even the most minor and personal aspects of our lives. In one store where I frequently shop, all the hair products are grouped together — all the White Rain, all the Salon Selectives and so on. Yet, the black hair products are placed in a section of their own labeled "Ethnic Beauty." Why is that? Why is that when some black people use Salon Selectives and White Rain? Why can't all hair products be grouped together, eliminating the "ethnic" section? It is the same organizational patterns with cosmetics, by the way. As I mentioned earlier, this topic is very important in part because it is an attitude that some blacks seem to buy into also — which has serious implications for

the race as a whole. We are not acknowledging the differences. Perhaps this is why it is so difficult for blacks to come together as a community as Jewish and Korean people have done. The "black" category encompasses a whole range of religions, socio-economic strata, education levels, parenting styles, etc. We are not acknowledging the differences. Perhaps this is why it is so difficult for blacks to come together as a community as Jewish and Korean people have done. In knowing this, perhaps we should abandon the idea of a centralized black community and look toward a more decentralized community. For instance, it seems easier for a group of blacks who have things in common to come together and in turn work with other groups of blacks who have been brought together because of their

commonalities. This way, there would be much less internal friction and members could spend their energy negotiating with other groups. All of this is not to say that ethnic groups have nothing whatsoever in common. Obviously, people from similar cultures will have some things in common. But the type of person that you are not only encompasses culture, but environmental experiences as well. The beliefs you are raised with determine how you will integrate certain elements of a culture. For instance, I am from a small East Texas town where rap music is not really listened to. As a matter of fact, we don't even have a rap station in my town. And although rap music hails from the African-American culture, I am acquainted with many black people who have trouble relating to the violence and intense cries of police brutality that pervades much of this music. Small towns as a whole don't appear to have the blatant displays of violence and abuse of authority that is evident in big cities. Although corruption might ex-

ist in small towns, it is on a much smaller, less advanced scale. But people from larger urban areas are able to relate more to this particular topic because it might be something that they witness on a frequent basis, or at least enough to know that it exists. Therefore, people from large cities and small towns can relate to different things because their environment allows for diversity, even though we are all a part of the black culture. People are individuals. Not all black men and women are slow, nor are they all sex freaks. There are intelligent black men and women who do achieve and who do participate in the honor societies and go on to live successful, law-abiding lives. Because — blacks are individuals. Basically, the bottom line is that truly, some things should naturally be classified according to color — and you may even buy them for that reason — but not people.

Tracey Jones is a senior psychology major

COLLEGE STATION, TX
 SEPT 6
 1993
MAIL CALL

People created to pick between right, wrong
 I must say I was stunned to learn Frank Stanford believes there are only two wrongs in this world — physical violence and theft. I thought perhaps Frank had spent his

summer in some free-love commune, but then again, you can't have theft of community property, right, Frank? I find it hard to believe that if Frank found out his wife was cheating on him, his children habitually lied to him, and vandals had just spray-painted his car, he could simply shrug it off since "there really is no right or wrong." The fact that there are multiple views on a subject

does not mean all views are morally valid. As politically incorrect as this may sound, quite often one view is right and all others are wrong. It has been my experience that people like Frank Stanford view human beings as, at best, a half-step ahead of the beasts. I, on the other hand, see man as one step below divinity. It is my sincere hope that everyone will ask themselves the following questions: Do you believe, in your heart of hearts, you are a cosmic fluke, a speck of dust on a rock circling a ball of gas, here one moment and gone forever the next? Or, do you believe you were created in the image of God, equipped with the most marvelous of machines — your mind — not only to solve problems, but to differentiate between right and wrong?

This is not an attempt to give you a religious "warm fuzzy," I assure you. Your true belief in this matter is the cornerstone of how you view yourself and how you view others. It will determine the boundaries of your spiritual development and ultimately the fate of your immortal soul. Grant Ruple Class of '94

Shuttle bus changes don't serve students
 PTTS has once again amazed us all with its stellar display of intelligence and efficiency. Its so called "improvements"

in the intra-campus shuttle bus system are a farce. The reason for shuttles and the 20 minutes between class intervals are to allow people such as myself to get from oh, say ... Blocker to maybe ... Kleberg in time for, oh my God ... the beginning of class. As it stands, it would take at least 25 minutes to get from Blocker to Kleberg utilizing the shuttle system. If the counter-clockwise buses were still in operation, many problems such as this would be eliminated. This new system may be more efficient for you, PTTS ... but, in reality, it is not for those of whom you are serving ... THE STUDENTS. Donna Prewitt and Mike Cornell Class of '95

AND BODY, STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CONDUCT SWIM RACES WHILE PERUSING THE DAILY COUGAR. IN THIS