

THE BATTALION Editorial Board

CHRIS WHITLEY, editor in chief

JULI PHILLIPS, managing editor
 DAVE THOMAS, night news editor
 BELINDA BLANCARTE, night news editor
 MACK HARRISON, opinion editor
 MARK EVANS, city editor
 ANAS BEN-MUSA, AggieLife editor
 MICHAEL PLUMER, sports editor
 WILLIAM HARRISON, sports editor
 KYLE BURNETT, photo editor



EDITORIAL

Reaction to Russia

U.S. must support Boris Yeltsin

The United States must stand behind Russian President Boris Yeltsin's efforts to resist a Communist-led campaign to topple his government and restore the Soviet Union. The Yeltsin administration has emerged as the only alternative to renewed Communism or complete anarchy.

The crisis in Russia began Sept. 21 when Yeltsin dissolved Russia's parliament. That action was designed to eliminate parliament's opposition to economic reforms and attempts to give itself executive powers. Yeltsin and the parliament have a history of conflict.

About 110 of the 1,033 parliamentarians took up weapons and barricaded themselves in the parliament building. The hard-line Communist and ultranationalist legislators called for a violent uprising to overthrow President Yeltsin.

The situation worsened as about 1,500 demonstrators exchanged gunfire with security forces and smashed into buildings Sunday. At least one riot policeman died and 24 were injured in the disturbance.

Yeltsin declared a state of emergency in Moscow to give

police the power to bring unrest under control.

Yeltsin anticipated a quick end to conflict and the surrender of armed protesters. Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexy II is mediating negotiations between representatives of Yeltsin and the former lawmakers.

The Yeltsin government is committed to managing the country until democratic elections are held in December. His continued sponsorship of a new constitution and economic development contradicts fears that he will become a dictator. Most members of parliament have already joined the Yeltsin government.

The United States can maintain continued goodwill with Russia by offering approval of Yeltsin's control. Despite internal problems, Russia's nuclear capabilities continue to pose a serious potential threat to the United States.

The United States is now in a position to play a positive role in the transition of the former Soviet Union. Diplomatic measures to support Yeltsin offer a means to aid the development of Russian democracy and reduce the risk of renewed hostility.

Time for a new American revolution

Citizens must demand that government redirect itself

A little over 220 years ago, a group of generally affluent and very smart men got together in a tiny, unobtrusive building in the middle of summer and laid out the plans for the great nation we live in today.

They had a very limited objective: to establish a government that would work without forfeiting the natural rights of its citizens. Little did they know that in less than 200 years, the ideal they had laid out for the nation would be perverted and destroyed by a shifting paradigm of government's purpose to the welfare state. With this one swift move, the government sacrificed our liberties to bureaucracy, to the politics of race and poverty.

Our generation has very little concept of what life is like in a truly free society. We have never been exposed to life without taxation. You and I accept without question that our salaries should be diminished so that people who don't work and rely on the government for their sustenance can easily survive in their non-productive lifestyles. Thomas Jefferson is rolling over in his grave.

It's time for a change. It's time to overthrow the massive infringement of our private and personal lives. It's time to end the emphasis on cultural division. It's time to stop accepting every regulation, law, tax and social welfare policy. It's time to go back to our roots.

Some may argue that a change this massive



ELIOT WILLIAMS
Columnist

is impossible or at least terribly difficult. Think again. Most of you are familiar with classical Newtonian physics. It worked beautifully for many years explaining almost all natural phenomena, or so scientists thought.

Gradually, Newton's theories became inadequate. Classical physics couldn't describe certain things very well — like radiation or electron rotation about an atom. Luckily, Einstein's theories were able to explain many of these things. The transition happened almost overnight. There is no half-Newtonian/half-Einsteinian theory of physics.

One theory is shown to be inadequate, so another one takes its place. Well, the same thing can happen to governmental paradigms. Franklin D. Roosevelt ran for president under the balanced budget paradigm. Yet, he was elected to three more consecutive terms as a welfare statist. Clearly a shift took place.

Can you imagine saying to someone on Nov. 21, 1963 that within three years it would be pretty much understood that government should require preferential treatment for blacks. That would have been unthinkable by even a good Northern Liberal Democrat, although we hardly remember that now. These massive shifts in government structure are possible if not common.

So, how is the new paradigm shift going to come about in today's society? Simple. First, it must be established that the government is not functioning. Okay, so what's the hard part? Well, it's not as easy as it sounds. People must genuinely believe that governmental intervention is totally detrimental to their lives before we can redevelop government.

Vice President Al Gore claims he has started us down this path to freedom with his re-inventing government, but beware. The praise

es he sings of privatizing parts of government are a facade to keep our minds off the inadequacies of the current system.

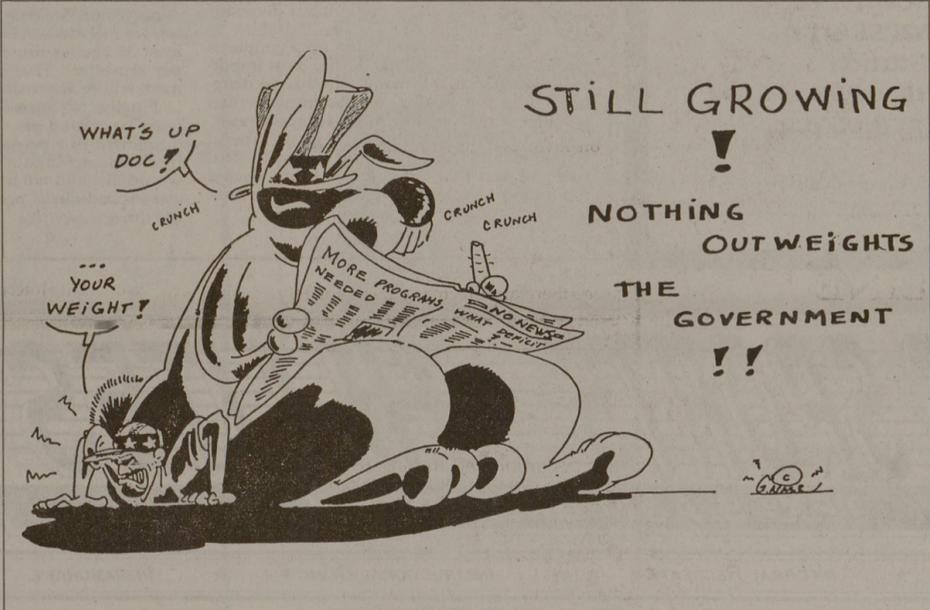
We are, in a sense, victims of our own success. Our government would have been overthrown years ago were it not for the success of the private market to overcome the horrendous burdens the government lays upon it. America's markets are so successful that given even half a chance, they will produce well in excess of what our government burns up in bureaucratic expenses and poor investments.

Therefore, the only way to achieve total liberty is for our markets to fail. Because this is not likely, the quest for liberty will be hard fought to prove that the current governmental paradigm is irrational.

I overheard a fellow Ag talking to his friend the other day as their conversation turned to politics. He, obviously ill-informed on the issue his friend had decided to discuss, said, "I don't really care about anything that doesn't happen on this campus." It is this mentality that is keeping us from returning to the system we governed ourselves with many years ago.

If we collectively choose to ignore the harms the government does to our economy by subsidizing failure (welfare) and penalizing success (capital gains tax) we have no hope of restoring our liberty. We must fight for reason and rationality — the principles on which our country was founded. We must actively demand a new governmental paradigm. The time has come for a revolution to restore our country, and it is our generation that must carry out this revolution.

Eliot Williams is a sophomore electrical engineering major



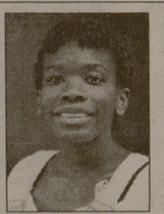
Some instructors with racist attitudes insult, hurt students

Every person has experienced some kind of dislike at one point or another in their lives. For each of us, it is different. Or it should be different.

But for African-Americans, the only difference in experiencing dislike based on appearance is the manner in which we handle it.

I am not beating a dead bush. Racism is still very much alive. It is everywhere, and this school is not immune. Several people that I have talked to have experienced blatant racism on this campus, not just at the hands of students, but faculty members as well. I have experienced it.

For those who don't experience prejudice or discrimination or intolerant atti-



TRACEY JONES
Columnist

tudes, it is hard to conceive that these behaviors still exist.

Well, they didn't go out with the 60s. The people on the receiving end of these ideas are just that — people. They have feelings that can be hurt, ears that hear harsh and demeaning words, eyes that see distaste.

Contrary to popular belief, not all African-Americans love violence or are just waiting to fight. What seems to feed this belief is a perfect right that every human being has to get angry when insulted.

And believe it or not, there are words that are just as racist and derogatory — if not more so — than the word "nigger."

For instance, I have an acquaintance who was terribly insulted by a department head that she was speaking to about taking a particular class. He asked her why she wished to take this class at this time, and she told him that she felt like she could get an A in it.

He looked at her and responded, "What makes you think that you can get an A in the class?"

And then, "What's your GPR?"

Shouldn't that have come first?

And if you think that perhaps he was just referring to her ability as a person and not a black person, I will give you a personal example.

In the spring semester of 1992, I was forced to "no-grade" four courses due to medical difficulties. I, of course, provided numerous documentation to my college.

She heatedly suggested that I drop out of school and get a job as my people often do. My people? I have no children

But one particular teacher did not wish to give me the no-grade in her class. Throughout the course of a game of phone-tag and three actual conversations, she heatedly suggested something to the effect that I drop out of school and get a job as my people often do.

My people? I have no children

At the time, I was just about to start

work on my senior honors' thesis, which was especially helpful to me because I am a psychology major, and it would give me research experience before entering any type of professional school.

This "teacher" told me that she didn't feel that I was physically or mentally fit to complete my project. And the bad part of it was that I didn't understand whether she was calling me crazy or stupid.

But whichever one, I reported her to her department. She received a written reprimand, and I received my no-grade.

I am well aware that every issue is not a black and white issue. I am not paranoid over racism. But I am realistic in the fact that I recognize it exists, and that it indeed does affect my life and the life of others like me.

Suppose that at the time that I had the incident with her, I was truly not emotionally strong. Suppose I went the other way and took her word for it that I am not a person capable of completing college material. After all, she is a figure of authority, and there is a certain weight that goes along with that.

She has no medical degree. She knew nothing of my medical condition or any other condition that I had. She assumed.

And this hurt. It hurt because I respected her as a person, and she did not return the same favor. She saw me as belonging to a group that was not intelligent or moral or capable of handling important jobs.

My purpose here is not just to point fingers and smear faculty members. I have had excellent, excellent professors. There are just a few that need to be cured of their bigotry and ignorance.

This is in part a responsibility of African-Americans. If you experience racism from a faculty member, report it. You are not intentionally or unnecessarily making waves. You have been offended and insulted and in some cases, deterred from pursuing higher goals.

This person has scorned your position as a thinking, feeling human being. And it is not a privilege for you to speak out about it — it is your right.

Tracey Jones is a senior psychology major

COLLEGE STATION, TX
 OCT 4
 1993

MAIL CALL

Beutel staff works all day answering calls

Recently, a letter was published in The Battalion asking when Beutel is going to answer the phones. In response, I would like to say that we, the staff and student workers at Beutel, answer the phones all day long.

There have always been complaints that it is "too hard" to make an appointment at the health center. However, the problem is not that the phones are not being answered.

One problem is that people do not realize the volume of students that pass through the health center each day. Students, especially freshmen, do not realize that there are 42,000 students enrolled at A&M. How many of those 42,000 do

you think call or come in each day? Each student must realize that he or she is not the only sick person on campus who needs to see a doctor.

Every morning at 7:30 when the appointment lines open, the constant ringing starts. Two clerks sit at the appointment desk and do not get up for at least an hour and a half. The two lines are constantly busy.

As for the recording, it is not an answering machine. The appointment lines, like all phone numbers on campus, are connected to a system that automatically states, "Your call will be completed as soon as a line is available, 409-845," when all lines are busy. I personally called while I knew both lines were busy and heard this recording.

Students need to realize that the employees of the health center are only human. We cannot control the number of

appointments available each day, and we cannot help it if you have to wait. If every student had to work in the health center for one day, he or she would understand what it's like to listen to everyone constantly complain about the job you do.

Angie Ready
Class of '94

Ten more reasons for minorities to go here

In addition to Mario Morales' top ten reasons minorities should consider A&M, here are reasons 11-20 from an "inexperienced and sheltered fish."

20. R. C. and Tony are on your side.

19. Be the lone representative from your socioeconomic group.

18. Upon acceptance, you're automatically a two-percenter.

17. Republicans aren't racist.

16. The privilege to be a part of the liberal fad of diversity (as set forth by Batt columnist Eliot Williams).

15. You too may someday work for some ol' Ag.

14. The two people who say "Howdy!" to you around campus.

13. The chance to participate in long overdue debates on multiculturalism.

12. Those five WASPs who aren't conservative.

11. The convenient and extensive files of tests available to Cain Hall residents. Gig 'em!

Rian Roberts
Class of '97