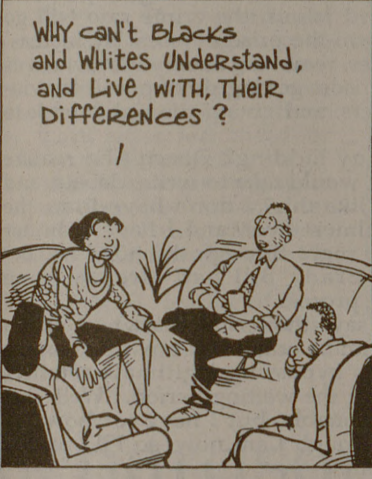


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EDITORIAL

Congratulations Football team deserves praise

Congratulations. No other word in the English language can express the desired sentiment that should be extended to the 1993 Texas A&M football team. Its accomplishments this season, considering the potential roadblocks, are ones that will live for the ages.

Twenty-two straight Southwest Conference victories. A third straight SWC title without a loss. To wit, both milestones came against the beloved neighbors to the southwest which makes it that more special.

Every time the Aggies stepped on the field, they were marked. By the opposition. By the media. By the fans.

If A&M did not beat every opponent by 30 points, then how could they be a good team? Their schedule was weak. Noted college football guru Lee Corso said their conference was weakest in America.

When they got beat by 30 points by Oklahoma, all the experts said that the loss was proof positive the team was not as good as it was cracked up to be. National championship aspirations were buried as was a second consecutive undefeated regular season. And lurking off the field was the NCAA.

Now, all the off-the-field hy-

perbole has been buried like toxic waste. A&M proved the preseason prognosticators actually were right. The Aggies were pegged to win the conference and extend their unbeaten streak. Mission accomplished.

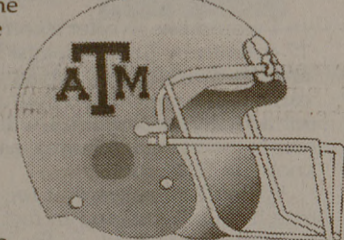
A round of applause should be directed toward A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. He had excuses galore after the Sooner sinking but he did not make any excuses. Slocum bluntly stated that Oklahoma was a better football team that Saturday and deserved to win even though A&M had a major distraction.

The NCAA decided to hand down the player suspensions in the summer job scandal as the team was preparing to board the plane for Norman.

All season long the NCAA cloud hung over the team and to his credit, Slocum directed the attention elsewhere and away from the team.

But there is one stone left unturned. The Cotton Bowl. While the Aggies have passed this season with flying colors, they would have to receive an incomplete without accomplishing something in Dallas on New Year's Day.

So, best of luck in the Cotton Bowl, and remember one thing. Congratulations.



Speaking out against the darkness Facing memories of sexual abuse part of healing process

There's a poem by Maya Angelou very dear to my heart called "Born That Way":

... Childhood whoring fitted her for deceit. Daddy had been a fondler. Soft lipped mouthings, soft lapped rubbings. A smile for pretty shoes, a kiss could earn a dress. And a private telephone was worth the biggest old caress.



TRACEY JONES Columnist

The neighbors and family friends whispered when she was seen walking up and down the streets when she was seventeen.

No one asked her reasons. She couldn't even say. She just took for granted she was born that way.

friend and I worked with juveniles for a time in Giddings. Volunteers are shown files of children who want volunteer brothers and sisters and choose the ones they wish to be with.

Always, for some unknown reason, I had been drawn to children who have been sexually abused. It was what I read about, what I wrote about, what I watched on television — especially the movie "Something About Amelia," which I still have on tape. I was always looking for them to tell me something. And this was no different. I chose a little boy who had been incarcerated for sexually assaulting a four-year old boy.

Everything was fine between us until he began displaying behavior characteristic of a person who has been molested.

At first I saw the boy I was counseling as a victim that needed to be saved. However, it got to the point that I felt like I wanted to hurt this child because I no longer identified him as the little boy who had been maliciously molested by a 16-year-old he was acquainted with. Rather, I saw him as the care-less aggressor against a helpless child.

I remembered how I used to be that child. And finally, I began to speak about it.

I wanted to write this for people who have not been sexually molested as well as for those who have. It is, as a colleague of mine wrote, a kind of "coming out" for everyone.

The victim of sexual molestation does not need to be pampered or sheltered or "taken care of." What happened to the person was terrible and debilitating, but it is not all there is to that person. There are many other inherent traits this person possesses which seem to be forgotten when something as devastating as this happens.

He is not a walking doll with black tape strapped across his genital area. He is still a person, with feelings, thoughts, and emotions.

In fact, survivors of any kind of abuse are some of the strongest people, perfectly capa-

ble of doing for themselves and helping themselves to heal.

And for the victims, healing comes from acknowledging the abuse and getting counseling. It can be psychological, pastoral, psychiatric — whatever you feel most comfortable with. What is most important is that you speak with someone who is professionally capable of listening to you and helping you through the very painful days ahead.

Truly, they are painful. It was almost unbearable to think back to that time and see myself as that helpless child. The abuse started when I was around six and continued up until I was about 11. A little elementary school friend was molested by the same young girl who molested me. I believe that the person who abused us had in turn been molested by some of the men in her household.

I still sometimes think of how withdrawn I am from men and how I cannot relate to the majority of them. I still think of my friend who went the other way and gave her body away to any man who showed the slightest interest in her. And I still cry sometimes for what happened to the both of us. However, I know it is all a part of the healing process.

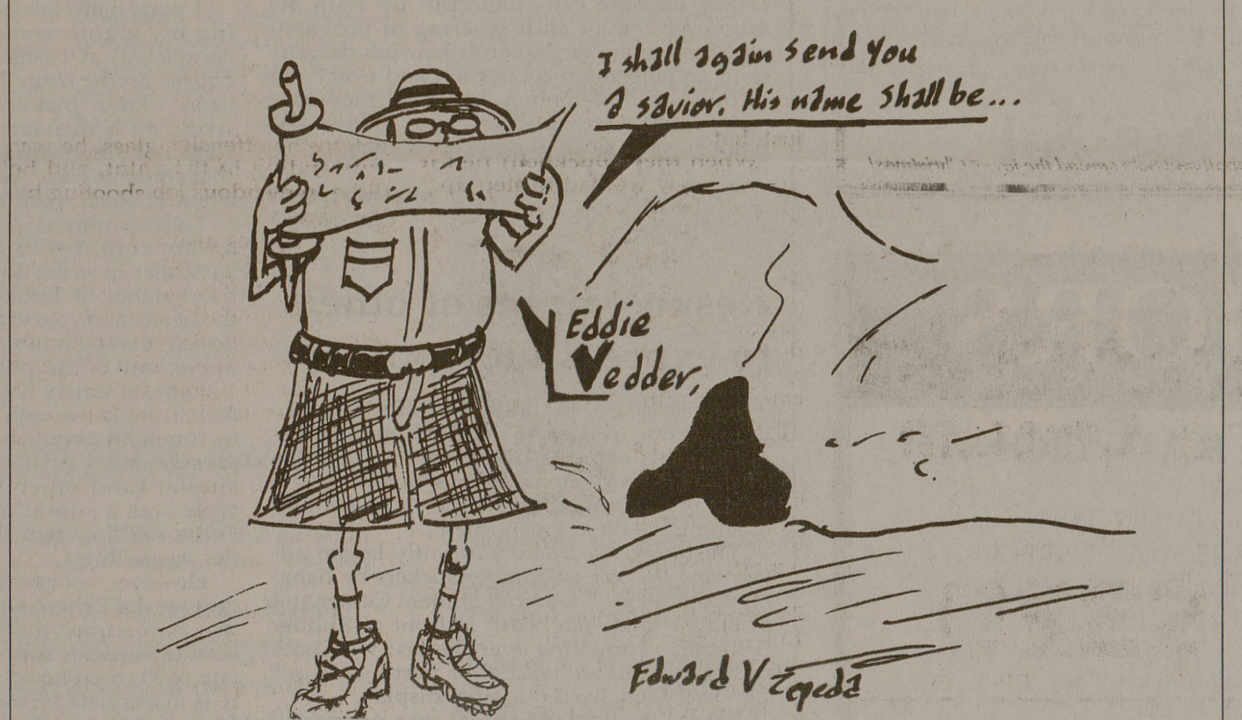
While I do not ever wish to see the girl who fondled us again throughout our lifetimes, I do not harbor anger and resentment for her. I know she was hurt, too. That, too is a part of my healing process.

I am learning to live with the violation that occurred to my body. It was a horrendous act that happened; but I handled it. I survived. And it came to me. I must be a very worthy person. Not weak or invisible or unheard as I believed — rather very worthy and strong.

But I had to break the silence in order for someone to hear my voice. And that is the most important one of all.

Tracey Jones is a senior psychology major

What the Dead Sea scrolls really say...



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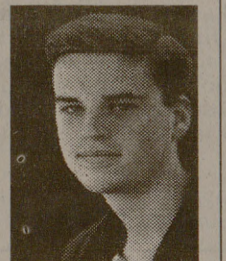
New welfare reform rejects 'big government' philosophy

Certainly everyone remembers Bill Clinton's campaign promises: reduce the tax burden on the middle class, guarantee homosexuals the right to serve openly in the military and restructure our welfare policy to get the poor back to work.

Today, the tax burden has been raised, homosexuals are still forced to hide their sexuality and we have heard nothing about welfare reform — until recently.

For those of you who don't have a photographic memory, Clinton's campaign promise was, "It's time to honor and reward people who work hard and play by the rules.... (T)hat means providing opportunity, demanding responsibility and ending welfare as we know it."

Certainly an ambitious goal, but to



ELIOT WILLIAMS Columnist

date Clinton has not taken decisive action against the failures of the welfare state.

The current welfare program is in shambles. Established as part of the New Deal and crystallized during Johnson's Great Society, welfare was supposed to be a safety net. Today, welfare is not a short term program to help people down on their luck, but a way of life. According to U.S. News and World Report, few experts deny that welfare dependence is passed on from generation to generation.

Additionally, the evidence has been building for some time that the welfare state is destructive to the very people it was meant to help. In 1984, Charles Murray showed in his book Losing Ground that the Great Society programs of the 1960's had not only failed to help America's poor and disadvantaged, but they had made the poor poorer and more numerous.

The welfare state encouraged the poor to behave in the short term in ways that were destructive in the long term.

"The welfare state is inconsistent with human nature as we know it," said Morgan Reynolds, an economics professor at Texas A&M. "Economic theory suggests that individuals respond to incentives, at

the margin. Subsidizing poverty, therefore, does not reduce it."

Although it was clear in 1984 that the welfare state was a tremendous failure, it was not curtailed by the Reagan or Bush administrations. Perhaps the their inaction is best explained by the Spring 1989 edition of the Loyola Law Review:

"Once implemented by 'big government,' a social service can be difficult to curtail even if it is not serving the best interests of those it was intended to benefit."

The situation is not as desperate as it may sound, however. As Reynolds said in 1986, "Nothing is inevitable in public policy, including the future of the welfare state; it all depends on what ideas come to dominate political opinion." It appears

Reynolds' prediction is beginning to come true.

In a surprising move, the Clinton Administration has granted Wisconsin a waiver from federal welfare regulations to conduct "Work Not Welfare," a program that requires every able-bodied welfare recipient in two selected counties to sign a contract pledging to work for their benefits. The experimental policy begins in January of 1995 and is the brain child of Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson.

During the first 30 days of the program, every welfare applicant must begin work or work training. A year after that, every participant must have a job to continue benefits.

"For too long the welfare system has provided disincentives to self-sufficiency," Thompson said. "Work Not Welfare" will help change that. It will make welfare what it was meant to be — a temporary hand up, not a permanent handout."

Thompson has already instituted other welfare reforms that have decreased Wisconsin's welfare rolls by 17 percent in the last six years, the biggest reduction in the country.

One of the reforms encourages a

teenage boy to marry the teenage girl he gets pregnant by allowing the couple to keep more of their earned income. Another program, called "Learnfare," reduces state payments to families with children who are chronic truants.

While Wisconsin's reforms will not significantly reduce our nation's welfare roles, they are a harbinger of things to come. These reforms show that the public is beginning to reject the philosophy of the Great Society and big government.

Thompson deserves credit for holding Clinton to his word. He also deserves credit for advocating such massive change in a policy that has gotten out of hand.

Hopefully Clinton will be true to his word and mandate the Wisconsin reforms on a national level. While they may not be politically popular today, the reforms would redeem him from his failure to implement the other campaign promises while bringing thousands of unproductive welfare recipients back into the mainstream of the American working class.

Eliot Williams is a sophomore electrical engineering major

COLLEGE STATION, TX
 NOV 29
 1993
MAIL CALL

University donations

In response to the Nov. 16 Battalion editorial, I feel compelled to provide some clarification on the "Capturing the Spirit"

Campaign and some examples of its positive impact. The campaign does not raise money for the Development Foundation, but rather the foundation, established in 1953, solicits, receives, invests and coordinates private support for Texas A&M Uni-

versity and its academic programs.

Private contributions support every academic discipline at the university. Though the university and foundation do suggest funding opportunities and priorities to donors, it is, as it should be, the donor who decides which programs will benefit from his or her gift. Very few gifts are unrestricted, and thus the vast majority of monies raised by the foundation will not directly offset budgetary cutbacks, nor are they intended to.

In just over three years, the Campaign has raised over \$332 million. Of this total, \$57 million has been raised for student programs, including scholarships, gradu-

ate fellowships, and the Honors program.

Approximately \$16 million has been raised by the Association of Former Students and \$13 million has been raised by the Twelfth Man Foundation. Over \$13 million has been raised for the Sterling C. Evans Library.

As for faculty support, over \$22 million has been raised to create some 18 endowed chairs and 16 endowed professorships. An additional \$55 million has been raised for special programs, including research enhancements and international programs.

The lion's share, over \$156 million, has gone to college and unit programs, includ-

ing high-profile items such as the Appelt AggieLand Visitor Center, the Runyon Art Collections, and the Stevenson Companion Animal Life Care Center.

We at the Development Foundation are here to support the faculty, students, and programs of Texas A&M, an institution of which I am extremely proud and find extremely deserving. I would be happy to share additional details with the Battalion editorial board.

Dr. Eddie J. Davis '67
 President
 Texas A&M University Development Foundation