

THE BATTALION

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Yeltsin, Zyuganov face off in election

MOSCOW (AP) — A tumultuous five years after abandoning communism, Russians voted today whether to re-embrace Soviet-style controls in a presidential runoff that will determine the fate of democratic reforms in the world's largest nation.

President Boris Yeltsin smiled and spoke animatedly as he cast his ballot near his home outside the city. His failure to appear as scheduled at a Moscow polling station had resurrected fears about his health and ability to govern should he defeat Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov.

Yeltsin's often-shaky health threatened his campaign when he canceled public appearances during the final week. But he went into the vote the favorite in a country that has endured but not prospered under his wrenching free-market reforms.

Tension, tears and heavy security were in evidence for one of the most pivotal elections in modern history — Russia's first presidential vote as an independent country.

Voters faced a sharply contrasting choice: Yeltsin, an endorsement of Western-style democracy. Or Zyuganov, and a return to more restrictive ways.

Zyuganov looked confident as he

voted, telling journalists that early reports from his election observers were encouraging. Of Yeltsin's health, he said that "in the last four or five days he hasn't seen anyone except his inner circle. ... It shows the situation isn't very good."

Thousands of armed guards patrolled Moscow's polls and subway. Huge Russian flags hung from buildings along boulevards. Banners and posters everywhere urged people to vote. Nervous, pro-Yeltsin Muscovites said they wouldn't sleep until they knew the outcome.

Scores of journalists waited for hours for Yeltsin to appear as planned at a polling station in northwestern Moscow.

"It was his decision. It's closer," Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said of Yeltsin's voting instead in the small village of Barvika outside the capital.

The first results from the 93,500 polling stations were expected late today. Yeltsin's forces hoped for a large turnout among the country's 108 million eligible voters to carry him past the Communists' rain-or-shine voters.

His campaign said a turnout of 60 percent or less — down significantly from 69.8 percent in the first round — could give Zyuganov the race.



YELTSIN



ZYUGANOV

Three football players bid A&M farewell

McMullen, Colon brothers make new plans for '96 season

By Ray Hernandez
THE BATTALION

In only two official days as a member of the Big 12 Conference, the Texas A&M football team has already suffered three losses.

Last season's starting strong safety Typail McMullen and reserve quarterback Kevin Colon will be transferring to other schools by the end of the week. In addition, Colon's brother Chris, a reserve linebacker, said he would not be returning for the fall season.

McMullen, who was dismissed from the team by coach R.C. Slocum June 20 for violating unspecified team rules, said Tuesday he will transfer to Sam Houston State University after being contacted by several programs.

"I felt like I was being recruited again," McMullen said. "I took a trip there (Monday) and had good communication with their coaches and liked what I saw. Everything should be official by the end of the week."

Although the reason for his dismissal was unexplained by Slocum or the University, McMullen admitted to breaking team rules.

"I was at fault, and all the blame falls on me," McMullen said. "I was not as responsible as I should have been. I didn't

do the little things right as far as working out, going to class every day and doing things the coaches wanted me to do.

"I have nothing against the coaches. I'm just going to learn from my mistakes and put this behind me."

Kevin Colon, a sophomore quarterback who was Corey Pullig's backup last season, is in the process of negotiating a fall transfer to Texas Christian University in the fall.

Kevin would have likely served in the same role this season under junior transfer Brannndon Stewart, but he believes he will have an opportunity to start at TCU.

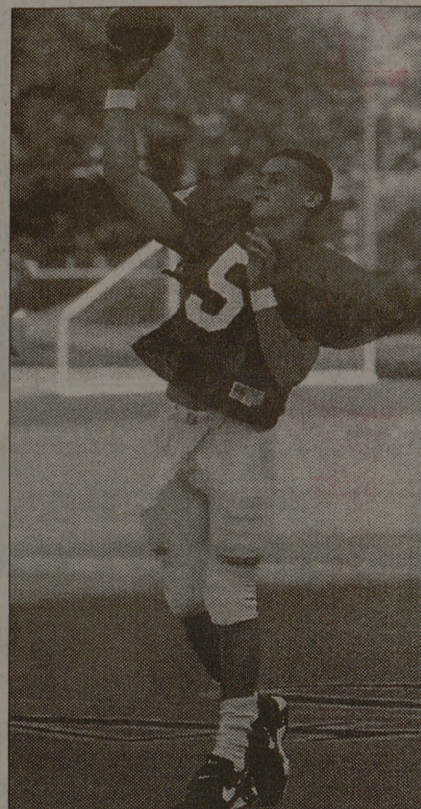
"I had to weigh all the pluses and minuses and TCU had what I wanted, especially since they recruited me heavily out of high school," Kevin said.

"I'm going to go and sit out for a year and learn the offense and get used to it. I think I have a good chance to start with three years remaining."

History is on Kevin's side. Matt Miller, a backup to Jeff Granger and Corey Pullig in 1992, transferred to Kansas State in 1993 and developed into one of the top-rated NCAA quarterbacks in 1995.

Kevin said he leaves A&M harboring no resentment toward the University or the

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BATTALION FILE PHOTO

Former A&M quarterback Kevin Colon warms up at a '95 practice session.



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

BLADERUNNERS

Students in a physical fitness class rollerblade across from the MSC Tuesday afternoon.

Independence Day lives up to expectations

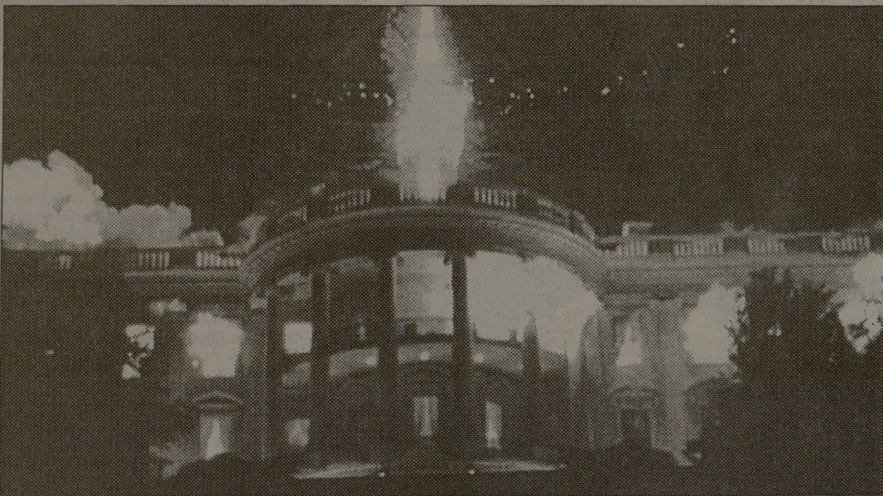
MOVIE REVIEW
Independence Day
Starring Will Smith, Bill Pullman and Jeff Goldblum
Directed by Roland Emmerich
Rated PG-13
Playing at Hollywood 16
★★★★ (out of five)

By Nick Georgandis
SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

Believe the hype. With an ad campaign that began on Super Bowl Sunday and continued to awe audiences throughout the year with its special-effects-enhanced trailers, *Independence Day* has a lot to live up to.

The modern-day, aliens-invasion Earth film delivers its goods with a vengeance, dazzling the senses with the most comprehensive collection of special effects in motion-picture history and capturing the essence of patriotism as the Fourth of July holiday weekend gets underway.

The sci-fi epic begins with a shot of the plaque left where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin set foot on the moon — perhaps mankind's greatest achievement ever. The plaque and the American flag beside are suddenly dwarfed and shaded by an immense shadow cast by one behemoth



An alien spacecraft launches an attack on the White House in *Independence Day*.

of a spaceship headed toward Earth.

Within hours, military and scientific sites pick up the object on radar as it breaks into 15 smaller pieces — each of which begins heading for a major world city.

In Washington, D.C., President Andrew Whitmore (Pullman) remains optimistic about the spacecraft's intentions and urges the American people to resist panic. Only when David (Goldblum), a wasted prodigy, relays a countdown hidden in the aliens' signal to Whitmore does the President realize the aliens' true intentions: an

all-out attack.

Within moments, New York, Washington and Los Angeles are smoldering piles of rubble, victims of massive fire storms rained down by the giant spacecraft in the form of piercing blue lasers. Whitmore's first reaction is to strike back, and the United States launches an assault at the mothership over Los Angeles — led by ace Marine pilot Capt. Steve Hiller (Smith).

Hiller's squadron finds the aliens

See *Independence Day*, Page 6

CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE

By Melissa Nunnery
THE BATTALION

The cities of Bryan and College Station are busy preparing community celebrations for Independence Day this Thursday.

Fourth of July celebrations will be held at Olsen Field, downtown Bryan and the College Station pools, providing games and entertainment for families, children and students.

The College Station Noon Lion's Club is sponsoring the I Love America Celebration at Olsen Field. The celebration will kick off with a parade at noon.

John Happ, co-chairman of the 1996 Bryan-College Station I Love America Celebration, referred to the parade as a "folks march." He said anyone is welcome to participate.

"The parade is just local residents who wanted to come out and show how much they love America," Happ said.

"Right now we have the two mayors, Miss Brazos Valley, a couple of antique cars, fire trucks, miniature ponies and some Little League all-stars in the parade. We're looking for more participants for the parade."

The entertainment will include games for children and skydiving by Aggies over Texas. KBTX weatherman Bob French, Brazos Valley Choral and the Rockefellers will also perform. A professional fireworks display is set to begin at 9:40.

Happ said there have been problems with traffic congestion in previous years.

"If people will be courteous and patient, there shouldn't be a problem this year," Happ said.

The City of Bryan is also sponsoring a Fourth of July celebration. The festivities will take place on the streets of downtown Bryan beginning at noon and ending at 6 p.m.

There will be games for children and a bicycle parade. Entertainers will include Ruthie Foster and HYPE, a Hispanic dance troupe from Bryan High School.

Mary Bryant, chairman of the Fourth of July celebration, said the celebration attracts families and A&M students.

"We'll probably have between 800 and 1,000 people," Bryant said. "We would like everyone to be more aware of downtown Bryan and the progress we're making."

The College Station pools will also be open. Early in the day, admission prices will be reduced, and there will be games and activities. Representatives from local radio station Mix 104.7 FM will be at the Adamson Lagoon providing food and drinks for pool guests.

College Station authorities encourage people to attend professional fireworks displays instead of trying their own. Fireworks often become a problem when people do not use them responsibly.

Lt. Raymond Olson of the College Station Fire Department said people who use fireworks should follow directions and use common sense.

He said some areas of the state have banned fireworks because of the drought. "There have been concerns and warnings, but no bans (in College Station) due to dryness," Olson said.

According to the city code, it is illegal to carry or discharge fireworks within the city limits. Lt. Mike Matthews of the College Station Police Department said police will confiscate illegal fireworks and may give citations.

He said the police department is discouraging use of fireworks. "There's a fireworks display at Olsen Field," Matthews said. "People would probably be better served by going there."

