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# Dukakis outlines insurance plan

HOUSTON (AP) — Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis met with hospital patients Tuesday, using their testimony of medical insurance problems as a backdrop to his proposal for a national employee health coverage program.

The Massachusetts governor cited his own state's actions in developing a mandatory insurance plan as a model for a national program that would require employers to provide insurance for workers.

"My state, as you know, was the first state in the country to pass legislation to guarantee health insurance," Dukakis said during a forum at Hermann Hospital's outpatient oncology clinic.

"It's really bringing down a barrier to a lot of people, to let them go back to work, look for work and know that they've got some kind of basic security," he said.

Dukakis made few comments during his questioning of Houston area residents, who complained about the rising costs of insurance, their inability to maintain coverage after losing jobs and the limitations of employee-sponsored insurance.

"This country, I think, is a country that cares a lot about each other and our fellow citizens, but you're all examples of what's happening here," he told about 20 people who gathered in a talk show-type format with Dukakis as moderator.

Among those in the group was Sherri Rolls of Houston, who was in an automobile accident about a month ago and remains hospitalized and in a wheelchair.

"I had insurance that paid \$7,500, but my bills are already up to \$27,000 now and I have two children that I can't care for," she told Dukakis. The cafeteria where she worked offered a group rate, she said, but offered no assistance in paying for the medical plan.

Bob Clowers, president of the local United Steel Workers union at the now-closed USX steel plant in Baytown, said former plant workers are suffering regardless of whether they've found other jobs.

"The majority of my membership down there have either no health insurance at all or very little," Clowers said. "They're hoping that no one gets sick or their kids don't get hurt," he said, explaining that many local companies provide little assistance in paying insurance costs.

"You go to an emergency room and most of the time, there's a confrontation about whether or not they're going to look at your kids," he said.

The setting was designed to spotlight Dukakis' stance on health care, which he described as an area of growing problems that have been ignored by his Republican opponent, Vice President George Bush.

During his hospital tour Tuesday, Dukakis met with members of the Hermann Hospital Board of Directors, which includes former Democratic Gov. Mark White.

"I think this dramatizes the serious problem we have with health care in this state and throughout the country, where an enormous num-

ber of people are underinsured or left completely without insurance," White said.

"And we all pay for it one way or another. I think this shows that Michael Dukakis and Lloyd Bentsen are going to do something about a problem that George Bush has done absolutely nothing about."

The Dukakis campaign issued a statement Tuesday saying, as president, Dukakis would propose legislation requiring all employers to provide minimum health plans for workers.

The proposal, with special provisions for small and start-up businesses, would offer insurance to an estimated 22 million people who have none.

# Firefighters file lawsuit alleging bias

DALLAS (AP) — A federal lawsuit filed by a black firefighters' organization against the city claimed that a "good old boy" network discouraged hiring and promotion of minorities.

The suit was filed Monday in U.S. District Court by the 207-member Dallas Black Firefighters Association, seeking to end what it calls discriminatory practices, including subjective testing for promotions.

"You've got a good old boy system running that fire department, and it's not being run in an objective manner, where everyone is given fair opportunity," Roger Albright, a Dallas attorney representing the association, said.

But acting Fire Chief Mike Freeman denied the discrimination allegation, saying the city has worked with the association to increase the percentage of blacks on the force.

The department's promotion system is objective, following civil service guidelines, he said.

"We go right on down the (civil service) list, from top to bottom," Freeman said.

Association members want to increase the number of blacks on the city's 1,648-member department from the current 17 percent to 30 percent.

Papers filed in the suit allege a "time-in-grade" requirement, under which candidates for promotion must accumulate time in management positions before advancing, is unfair to blacks who have trouble obtaining low-ranking supervisory positions.

"They're promoting those young, white officers, because we had no blacks who qualified under civil-service rules to fill those (supervisory) positions," Lingburge Williams, association president, said.

"So what we're facing now is another 20 years of subordination within the fire service."

# What's Up

Wednesday

**ALL MAJORS PHILOSOPHY CLUB:** Dr. M. M. Davenport will speak about "there really is a God?" at 7 p.m. in 156 Blocker.  
**POLITICAL FORUM:** will discuss terrorism and the Persian Gulf at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Check the monitor screen for the room number.  
**CKI:** Ms. Jane Morris will speak on behalf of the Brazos Valley Crisis Pregnancy Service at 7 p.m. in 401 Rudder.  
**RAQUETBALL CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. by court seven in the Reed Building. New members are welcome.  
**TAMU AMATEUR RADIO CLUB:** will have an informational meeting at 7 p.m. in 026 MSC.  
**STUDENTS AGAINST APARTHEID:** will have a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.  
**MSC VISUAL ARTS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 145 MSC.  
**AUSTIN HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 6 p.m. in 026 MSC.  
**WOMEN'S BONFIRE COMMITTEE:** women bonfire chairmen will meet at 7 p.m. in 604 Rudder.  
**HILLEL STUDENT CENTER:** will have Yom Kippur services at 10 a.m. in Hillel building.  
**PI SIGMA EPSILON:** will have a pledge meeting at 6:30 p.m. in Blocker. The general business meeting at 7:30 p.m. also in Blocker. The room number will be posted.  
**RIO BRAZOS AUDUBON SOCIETY:** Tonna Harris-Haller will present "Birds and Wildlife of the Galapagos Islands" at 7:30 p.m. at the Brazos Valley Museum in the Brazos Center. Everyone is welcome.  
**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion. Call the center at 845-0280 for details.  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion. Call the center at 845-0280 for details.  
**EL PASO HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder.  
**WOMEN'S STUDIES:** will have a free film, "Coup de Grace," at 7 p.m. in Harrington.  
**AGGIE BLOOD DRIVE COMMITTEE:** will have a Red Cross blood drive at 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. in the Commons and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Rudder Tower.  
**MSC GREAT ISSUES:** will have a committee meeting at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.  
**TAMU SPORTS CAR CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.  
**TAMU FLYING CLUB:** will sponsor the Federal Aviation Administration's Meeting at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.  
**AGGIE DEMOCRATS:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 607 Rudder.  
**UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRIES:** will have an Aggie supper at 6 p.m. at Presbyterian Church.  
**GREAT COMMISSION STUDENTS:** will have a volleyball tournament from 7 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Hensel Park.  
**CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION/CATHOLICS ON THE QUAD:** will discuss lifestyles in the church at 9 p.m. in Lounge B on the quad.  
**CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION/NEWMAN:** will have a hamburger cookout at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Student Center.

Thursday

**HISTORY CLUB:** will have an informational meeting at 8:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder.  
**AGGIE LEAGUE OF ENGINEERS:** will have a general meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 203 Zachry.  
**A&M CYCLING TEAM:** will meet at 7 p.m. to discuss team points criteria at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder.  
**MEXICAN AMERICAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 203 Zachry.  
**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION:** will have a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 601 Rudder.  
**DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION:** will discuss career data processing at 7 p.m. in the University Inn penthouse.  
**SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 203 Zachry.  
**MBA/MS ASSOCIATION:** will have a guest speaker from Conoco speaker at 7 p.m. in 114 Blocker.  
**BETA ALPHA PSI:** will have a professional meeting at 7 p.m. at the Claytor Williams Alumni Center.  
**WICI:** will have a happy hour at 5:30 p.m. at Bombay Bicycle Club.  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** call the center at 845-0280 for details on today's meeting.  
**ATHIEST, AGNOSTIC AND FREETHINKERS SOCIETY:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 604 Rudder.  
**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** call the center at 845-0280 for details on today's meeting.  
**ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS:** call the center at 845-0280 for details on today's meeting.  
**MINORITY ASSOCIATION OF PREHEALTH AGGIES:** will meet to tour the A&M Medical School at 7 p.m. in the lobby of the Medical Sciences Building.  
**PRETHEOLOGY SOCIETY OF A&M:** will elect officers at 7 p.m. in the Methodist Church fellowship hall.  
**LAREDO HOMETOWN CLUB:** will have an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in the Flying Tomato.  
**UNIVERSITY ART EXHIBITS:** Dr. David Anderson, from the English department, will speak about "The Moral Power of the Image for the Eighteenth Century English Collector," at 7 p.m. in 201 MSC.  
**LATIN AMERICAN CATHOLIC STUDENTS:** will meet at 6:15 p.m. at St. Mary's student center.  
**CATHOLIC STUDENTS ASSOCIATION:** will discuss "Companions in a Journey" at 6:15 p.m. at St. Mary's student center.  
**TYLER HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.  
**TAMECT:** will have a team meeting at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

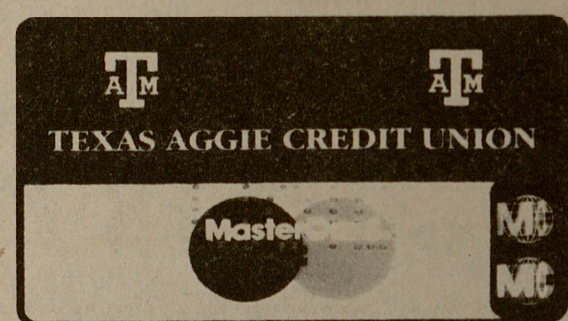
Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McGinnis, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only print the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

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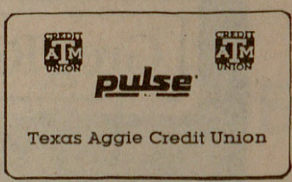
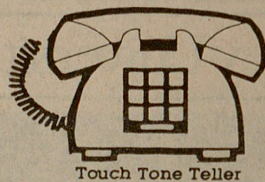
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