

The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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Mercedes Mimi, 6, rides Bimble the elephant at the George Carden Circus Monday. The three-ring circus was in town to perform two shows at the Brazos County Fairgrounds.

BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Perot, Democrats agree on economy

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Ross Perot said Monday there was "a lot of commonality" between his economic views and Bill Clinton's as the Democrat and President Bush made unprecedented overtures to win the support of the Texas billionaire and his followers.



Perot

Perot said he would decide Thursday whether to enter the presidential race for the final month, insisting the answer rested with the supporters who placed his name on the ballot in all 50 states.

State leaders of the Perot movement assembled in Dallas on Monday to hear presentations from both the Clinton and Bush campaigns. On their return home, they planned to poll Perot supporters on whether the Texan should run, throw his support to Bush or Clinton, or stay out of the race and remain neutral.

"They are going to decide what we are going to do," Perot said.

Perot had nothing but praise for the Clinton delegation after it spent 2 1/2 hours in a closed meeting with Perot and his supporters. Participants said the session was dominated by discussion of Clinton's economic growth and deficit-reduction programs.

"There is a lot of commonality," Perot said. "Where there are differences of opinion they are honest differences of opinion, with both sides looking for answers and neither side frozen in its positions."

But he said it was premature to say whether he could support Clinton, saying he had yet to hear from the Bush camp or assess the reaction of his supporters. The Bush delegation was making its case after a lunch break.

Perot runs a distant third in national polls now and would have little chance of winning should he enter for the final month. But with a personal fortune to bankroll television advertising, he could significantly affect the race. Opinions are divided on whether a Perot candidacy ultimately would hurt Clinton or Bush most.

The scene in Dallas was as confusing as it was remarkable, the extraordinary spectacle of both candidates sending high-level delegations to court the Perot.

Perot's legions were divided over whether he should run, regardless of what they heard Monday.

"I have not heard anything that would convince me that we would be better off supporting either Gov. Clinton or President Bush," said Texas Perot coordinator Jim Serur, among the Perot leaders who is paid by the computer magnate.

"I'm very impressed and determined to keep an open mind," said Georgia Perot coordinator Ken Kendrick. Added Tennessee

coordinator Steve Frederick, "They gave me a lot to think about."

"I see the Democrats and the Republicans gravitating to our position," said New Mexico Perot coordinator John Bishop. "The question is: Who would make the best leader? I feel Ross Perot is the best leader and it would be good for the country to have an independent as president."

Perot state leaders said they would poll their supporters and fax their recommendations to Dallas by Thursday. Perot said he would then make his decision.

As Perot inched closer in recent days to mounting an 11th-hour candidacy, some associates said the Texan did not want to run and was looking for a rationale not to run.

Both campaigns sent high-level delegations in hopes of keeping Perot on the sidelines, where he has been since announcing in July that he was abandoning plans to run as an independent. Of late, Perot has complained that neither Bush nor Clinton had a credible deficit-reduction plan and has said he would enter the race if his supporters wanted him to.

For Clinton, a Perot entry could scramble a race that has been stagnant for more than a month — to Clinton's benefit because of his consistent lead in national polls. Perot also could hurt Clinton in California, Colorado, Washington and a few other states where Clinton leads but Perot had deep support before opting not to run.

A&M visit not on agenda

Clinton coming to campus just rumors, volunteer says

By TANYA SASSER

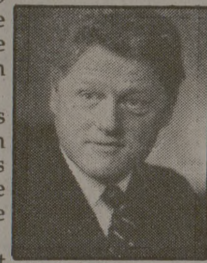
Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

Despite recent rumors that Democratic presidential nominee Gov. Bill Clinton is planning to visit Texas A&M, he is not scheduled to appear in College Station anytime this week, said a volunteer at the Clinton/Gore Texas Campaign Headquarters in Austin.

Clinton volunteer Ann Dennis said she is not aware that Clinton will visit A&M this week and he is not scheduled to be in Texas in the next two weeks but he may be planning a visit at a later date.

"As far as I know, that is not happening," she said. "All that means is that as of now, we haven't heard that. Sometimes we don't find out until a couple of days before the event."

Jim James, Democratic Party chairman for Brazos County, said there is no truth to the rumors and they might have been sparked as a result of Vice President Dan Quayle's recent visit to campus. He said a



Clinton

local radio station had broadcast that Clinton would be here on Sept. 30, but that is absolutely not true.

"We are working to get either (Clinton) or Gore here," he said. "There is a good possibility that one of them will be here but there is nothing scheduled at this time."

Ann Chase, a volunteer at the Brazos County Democratic Headquarters, said Clinton has been invited to visit College Station but there is no word about his decision.

"Several people have asked him to come but it takes awhile," she said. "We're trying. The more people that ask him, the better."

Ron Going, chairman of the communications committee for Aggie Democrats, said according to Texas Land Commissioner Gary Mauro, either Clinton or Gore will visit A&M.

"We're really not sure," Going said. "It's all kind of up in the air."

Clinton's scheduling department in Washington, D.C. would not release campaign trail plans more than 24 hours in advance.

Neither the Bryan or the College Station Police Departments are aware of the possibility of a confirmed visit from Clinton.

Officials nab drug traffickers in worldwide sting operation

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME — Two alleged drug kingpins who walked out of an ice cream parlor in the heart of Rome were the first rounded up in a vast dragnet that authorities Monday said smashed a worldwide drug and money-laundering operation.

"Operation Green Ice" caught some 200 people over the weekend in the United States, Italy, Britain and Costa Rica, Italian authorities told a news conference. Tens of millions of dollars in cocaine, cash, jewels, securities and property were seized.

Achille Serra, a top police official, said the ring sent cocaine from Colombia through the United States and Spain, for distribution in Italy and other European countries.

George Terwilliger, a deputy U.S. attorney general, called the case "truly a crippling blow to the Colombian cartel."

While officials in Rome said 201 people were nabbed, U.S. officials held a news conference in Arlington, Va., and put the number of arrests at 153. The discrepancy could not immediately be reconciled. Authorities in Rome reported 34 arrests in Italy but gave no breakdown of the others.

Robert Bonner, head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, said seven people arrested account for "most of the key financial operations" for the Cali cocaine cartel in Colombia.

Authorities said the operation also struck a deep blow to organized crime groups in Sicily, Naples and Calabria, which have a stranglehold on southern Italy.

"Never has there been a strike of such importance against the Mafia, Camorra and 'ndrangheta," said National Police Chief Vincenzo Parisi, referring to the mobs in those areas.

Parisi said the operation began Friday with the arrest in Rome of Colombians Jose Duran, whom he described as a Colombian cartel boss, and Pedro Villiquiran, a reputed leading cocaine distributor in Europe and Duran's aide.

Authorities were led to them when police trailed a Dutch woman to an ice cream parlor in Rome's famous Piazza Navona, the news agency AGI said.

Officers watched as she sat at a table. Duran, reportedly known as "the Pope," and Villiquiran joined her. As they left the bar and walked a few steps past the fountain in the square, police quietly arrested the three.

Regents discuss budget cuts

Authorities planning for \$70.3 million reduction in funding

By JULI PHILLIPS

Reporter of THE BATTALION

With the possibility that up to \$500 million of Texas' \$5 billion budget shortfall will be made up by cutting funding for higher education, the Texas A&M University Board of Regents began discussing contingencies for just such an occurrence at their monthly meeting last Friday.

The Texas A&M University System's portion of the \$500 million cut in higher education would be approximately \$70 million.

Dr. Eddie Davis, TAMUS Deputy Chancellor of Finance and Administration, said the System should worry about more than just the possible budget cuts.

He said the bigger picture shows enrollment and expenditures are increasing while the

funding is decreasing.

"In terms of constant dollars, our general revenue funding has decreased slightly since 1985," Davis told the Regents. "System-wide our enrollments have increased some 20 percent and we've absorbed several major reductions and legislatively mandated changes have reduced our funds."

As a result, A&M has been forced to make numerous cost-cutting adjustments over the last few years including the reduction of equipment purchases, the merging of divisions and the closing of three agriculture research stations. All of the savings programs have saved the System over \$100 million since 1985, and are projected to save TAMUS \$25 million annually.

To illustrate the impact of the \$70.3 million cut, Davis said the

loss would be equivalent to the savings generated by cutting 2,400 staff positions or 1,930 faculty positions system-wide.

"Cuts of this magnitude would severely damage the Texas A&M University System and its ability to contribute to the economic recovery of Texas," Davis said.

The mission of the System would be damaged because teaching, research and technological transfer activities would have to be sacrificed.

"The potential reductions also would hinder our intra-system collaboration efforts, reduce the rate of change in South Texas and sacrifice the quality of our system as a whole," Davis said.

"We sincerely hope these bleak predictions don't come to pass," he said. "But our approach is to plan for the worst, but work diligently for the best."

Seminar to give assault tips

By CHERYL HELLEK

Reporter of THE BATTALION

An assault prevention workshop to educate Texas A&M students on the methods used to avoid and stop sexual assault will begin Tuesday, Oct. 6 in the Grove. The four-session workshop will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. beginning Oct. 6 and continuing through Oct. 15.

The workshop will combine both verbal and hands-on instruction in common sense prevention and resistance techniques. The concept of combining hands-on experience and lectures is new to Texas A&M, said workshop instructor John Athey.

"We're breaking a lot of new ground," Athey said. "This is the first workshop A&M has done that combines experience with the warnings."

Athey, who became involved with assault prevention at another college, feels that the workshop is necessary at Texas A&M because of the number of assaults on and around the campus.

"The most high-risk time for attacks is generally from the beginning of school in September until Thanksgiving," Athey said, "so I think now is the best time to hold this kind of workshop."

The sponsoring of the workshop by some college organizations is also a first for Texas A&M. Workshop sponsors are the Golden Key National Honor Society, which is sponsoring the workshop as one of its three service projects for the semester, the Off-Campus Aggies, the Panhellenic Council,

the Interfraternity Council, the Residence Hall Association and the National Organization of Women.

"This is the first time there's been a workshop of this kind at A&M that involves any of the big organizations, and I'm really glad that they've decided to take part, because there is a definite need for education about rape at A&M," Athey said.

The first workshop session will be a lecture series and will include a speech from Athey, an officer of the Golden Key Honor Society, who will give the introduction and discuss the safety services that the University provides. A representative of the University Police will also be present to talk about the services the police department provides to students. An officer of the guard will inform students of the services that the Guard Room provides, and Kappa Sigma, supported by their national organization, will concentrate on personal situations, such as date rape and parties.

Later sessions will concentrate on hands-on safety techniques that will allow students to practice and gain experience in the demonstrated techniques.

"Each session deals with a separate specific subject, so if you miss one, there's absolutely no reason why you can't attend the next one," Athey said. "I think that this workshop can provide something for everyone, male or female, and I think we're dealing with services that are necessary for all students to learn in order to keep themselves safe."