

The Battalion

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Clinton pledges 'new era'

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LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — President-elect Clinton and Democratic congressional leaders promised a "new era" of action on Monday, and said creating jobs and restoring America's economic power would be their top priorities.

"I will be in a hurry," Clinton said at a joint news conference with Democratic lawmakers.

"Gridlock is over and cooperation and teamwork have begun," said House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt.

Clinton declared an end to "the Cold War between the Congress and the White House" and promised, "Pennsylvania Avenue will run both ways again."

"I can't say for sure which 100 days," he said. "I'll just work as hard as I can and get as much done as quickly as I can."

Clinton said during his first meeting with congressional leaders all hands agreed that "creating jobs, raising incomes, getting our economy moving again, and the long-term competitive strength of the American economy" was the No. 1 objective.

Democratic leaders share his commitment, Clinton said, to health care reform and bringing down the deficit.

Those attending Sunday's session included Gephardt, House Speaker Tom Foley and Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, Vice President-elect Al Gore and Clinton's wife, Hillary.

"Our dinner last night marks a new era of cooperation and action in our nation's capital," Clinton said.

Analysts: bank rates could rise

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — No quick changes in interest rates are expected from the Federal Reserve, but analysts said Monday the central bank may start pushing interest rates higher during President-elect Clinton's first year in office.

The Fed's top policy-making group, the Federal Open Market Committee, meets behind closed doors Tuesday. Until recently, many economists had been forecasting that the central bank would decide to push interest rates down again in the face of continued economic weakness.

The prevailing view now is that barring any surprisingly weak economic reports, the Fed has made its last interest rate cut and could very well start raising rates by late spring.

Many analysts believed that consumer and business rates will show little movement over the next six months.

Many analysts also suggested that banks' prime lending rate will remain at 6 percent probably until mid-1993.

A Fed sitting on the sidelines would be quite a change from the activist stance the central bank has taken over the past 3 years. It cut interest rates 24 times as it struggled against a recession and lingering slowdown.



Chad Perkins, a freshman civil engineering major from Boyd, scores a basket in a free throw contest Monday at the Reebok Campus

Tour America. The tour, sponsored by Reebok and Barnes and Noble Bookstores, will be at Rudder Fountain through Tuesday.

BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

U.S. relies on Vietnamese testimony

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HANOI, Vietnam — War stories of Vietnamese veterans who fought the Americans could provide important clues to help resolve the fate of the 2,265 U.S. servicemen missing and still unaccounted for in Indochina, Sen. John Kerry said Monday.

Kerry, leading a team of three senators from the Select Committee on POW-MIA Affairs, asked Vietnamese officials if Pentagon researchers could attend the first

meeting of a veteran's association to gather oral histories that might shed light on the missing.

"That would be a very historic process of a soldier-to-soldier beginning of answering questions," said Kerry, who served a tour of duty in 1968-69 as a navy officer on a gunboat in the Mekong Delta. "We are not looking for re-identification. We are looking for answers."

Vietnamese officials with the group applauded the idea of collecting such oral histories, but said they would have to consult

with other officials. Kerry and Sens. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and Hank Brown, R-Colo., on Monday began a three-day visit to Hanoi with a promise from Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai to get the "clearest possible answers" to any questions they raised.

Kerry said he carried a letter from President Bush to the Hanoi leadership.

Although he would not disclose its contents, he said it was a "sign of the importance of direct contact to get this matter resolved."

Catholics alter doctrine

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — The Roman Catholic Church took a step Monday to bring doctrine in line with modern life, unveiling a new catechism that maintains bans on divorce and abortion but urges compassion for homosexuals and condemns low wages as theft.

The first catechism of the Catholic Church in 426 years contains no new sins and absolves none of the old ones. In a retrenchment of orthodox positions bound to disappoint many of the world's 900 million Catholics, divorce and abortion remain forbidden sins. The only contraception accepted by the church is natural.

"We have simply tried to take up the command-

ments again on how a Christian can conduct his life today," said Jean Honore, bishop of Tours and the catechism's French editor.

Woman priests are unacceptable. The catechism describes homosexual acts as "intrinsically disordered, contrary to natural law," and instructs homosexuals to practice chastity. Since most homosexuals do not willingly choose their lifestyle they "must be welcomed with respect, compassion and delicacy," it says.

"One must avoid all unjust discrimination against them."

The catechism spurred intense debate among the 3,000 bishops who submitted some 24,000 amendments to the six-year project. It is rooted in the Ten Commandments.

A&M officials ignore threats

SAE fraternity to remain active

By JULI PHILLIPS

Reporter for THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University administrators said the suggestion by a state representative to disband the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity for the "jungle party" is not a true option.

The original sanctions, which included a monetary fine and a multicultural education program, have been producing the desired results and will not be changed despite the threats from Texas State Representative Ron Wilson.

Vice President of Student Services Dr. John Koldus said that the most misunderstood aspect of this entire controversy is that even if the University decided not to recognize the fraternity and remove them from campus, SAE could still exist off campus.

"The fraternities and sororities existed off campus for years before the University recognized them," Koldus said. "If the fraternities and sororities moved off campus, it would be up to some nationalist to decide what to do about them."

Kevin Carreathers, director of Multicultural Services, said he fully supports the sanctions handed down to the SAEs.

"Disbanding the fraternity would have only sent the message that the University does not approve of the theme of the SAE party," Carreathers said. "With the sanctions set up the way they are, the message that the University does not approve of the actions gets through, and the fraternity will be educated to know why the actions are not approved of."

Koldus said he agreed with Carreathers and added that the sanctions also maintain a good and positive relationship between

the University and SAE which is necessary and the fraternity to function together.

The opinions expressed by Wilson in a letter to Board of Regents Chairman Ross Margraves has not caused anyone to sway in support of the SAE sanctions.

"With a decision like this one, unless indicated by a superior, you do not change your position on the actions taken," Koldus said. "I am comfortable with what was done."

Student Body President Steve Beller said Texas A&M minority leaders he has been in contact with said they were shocked to read about the letter from Wilson and have said they are comfortable with the sanctions imposed by the Judicial Board, the Office of Student Services and the President's Office.

Students are now contacting ethnic groups around campus to make sure mixer themes are not offensive to anyone, Beller said.

"Everyone is in consensus," Beller said. "What has happened because of (the Sigma Alpha Epsilon incident) is multicultural awareness has been increased and that's all anyone ever wanted."

The letter by Wilson demanded action from the Board of Regents and the immediate expulsion of SAE from the A&M campus. Wilson further stated that if the actions taken against SAE did not meet the expectations of himself and the other minority members of the state legislature, they would use their power to punish A&M.

Margraves and Wilson were unavailable for comment by deadline, but the Board of Regents office indicated that Margraves had been in contact with other Regents although no formal actions have been taken.

Policemen face murder charges

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Two police officers were charged Monday with murder and one with manslaughter in the beating death of a black motorist, a case that drew parallels with the Rodney King confrontation in Los Angeles.

A fourth officer was charged with assault with intent to do great bodily harm. Three other officers who also had been suspended after the Nov. 5 beating of Malice Green were not charged.

Green, 35, died of head injuries after being beaten on an inner-city street near a suspected drug house.

"I feel justice is done... I think they handled it very well," said the victim's father, Jessie Green Jr.

"He's dead, and any charges aren't going to bring him back. I got to live on."

Three of the officers charged, including the two charged with murder, are white. The one charged with manslaughter is black. While the beating of an unarmed motorist drew parallels to the videotaped beating of King and the rioting that followed the acquittal of officers in that case, NAACP officials have said the Detroit case was different.

They credited quick action by Police Chief Stanley Knox in sus-

pending the officers allegedly involved. And Mayor Coleman Young publicly denounced the beating. Knox has said he did not believe the beating was racially motivated and Wayne County Prosecutor John D. O'Hair said Monday no racial epithets were used during shouting that witnesses said was going on during the beating.

"What was in their minds is hard to tell," he said.

Fifty-eight percent of the 3,850-member force is black in a city that is 75 percent black.

Knox had suspended seven officers Nov. 6, a day after Green's death. O'Hair said there was not enough evidence to charge the three other officers. Those officers remain on indefinite suspension, police Sgt. Christopher Buck said Monday.

"What is different in Detroit is the leadership," said Jack Gravely, NAACP national director of special projects. "When we compare what happened in Detroit with what happened on the other coast, it does make a difference. Without it, this city probably would still be burning at its walls today."

While the four officers were being arraigned, about a dozen people demonstrated at the site of the beating.

UPD seeks clues in computer theft investigation

By ROBIN GOODPASTER

Reporter of THE BATTALION

The University Police Department said it still has no leads in an investigation into the theft of \$3,000 of computer equipment stolen from Texas A&M's Agricultural Communications Office in the Reed McDonald Building.

According to police reports, the

break-in occurred between 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 8.

The burglary was discovered after Barry Jones, head of the agricultural communications department, came back to work on Sunday.

The door was shut and locked when Jones arrived.

"The best evidence that we have so far is that the lock to room 229 was opened by a key or a

pick-artist," said Sgt. Jim Lindholm of the University Police Department.

Room 229 is the Agriculture Communications Office in the Reed McDonald Building.

Collectively, the stolen computers were valued at \$3,000, and the stolen merchandise included three Apple 80 megabyte SCSI hard drives, four Hewlett-Packard post script font cartridges and one

Hewlett-Packard 2 megabyte memory upgrade for a Hewlett-Packard Series III printer.

Lindholm said he doesn't know why the computers were stolen.

"It may have been for several reasons," Lindholm said. "It could be for personal reasons, or for a computer chop shop in which the computers are taken apart and sold."

The burglars had to take the

computers apart to remove the hard drives, said Lisa Guerrero, a secretary in the Agricultural Communications Office. After the hard drives were removed, the computers were reassembled and plugged back in after the hard drives were taken out, she said.

Cindy Engelmann, staff assistant in the Agricultural Communications Office, said the hard drives in the Hewlett-Packard computers

were not touched.

"They just took the hard drives out of the Macintoshes," Engelmann said.

Sgt. Lindholm said that prints were taken at the scene, but nothing viable has come from that.

"There are no suspects right now," Lindholm said.

Anyone with any information pertaining to the crime may contact Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS.