

# The Battalion

Vol. 92 No. 113 (6 pages)

1893 - A Century of Service to Texas A&M - 1993

Friday, March 12, 1993

## WAITING in WACO Day 13

### Standoff creates business boom

WACO - Good luck finding a hotel room or rental car in this city.

Fast food sales are sizzling. Camping gear is going fast.

At Waco Communications Inc., manager Pam Katrycz has rented about 100 pagers to federal agents and journalists covering the standoff between federal authorities and members of the heavily armed Branch Davidian religious sect.

"We're almost out of stock. People are still coming in," Ms. Katrycz said.

Whether it's a \$25 Yellow Cab trip to the sect's Mount Carmel compound or the \$10.26 pepperoni pizza delivered, money has flowing into Waco since the siege began on Feb. 28.

Hundreds of law enforcement officials, reporters and photographers have swarmed the city since that Sunday, waiting for the cult members to surrender to federal agents.

Some reports have estimated that the armies of agents and journalists are spending \$1 million a week. But local experts say they can't put a price tag on the spending.

Some business owners even downplay the boom, noting that the slaying of four agents and wounding of 16 others isn't the kind of publicity any city would want.

"It's certainly having an economic impact," said Chamber of Commerce President Jack Stewart. "It's not an event anybody would have asked for."

Stewart said Chamber officials by next week should know just how large the impact has been.

Gordon Rostvold, secretary of the Waco Hotel-Motel Association, credits the standoff with filling the city's 2,700 hotel rooms to about 90 percent occupancy.

Rostvold has hired temporary workers to answer phones and wash laundry at the Hilton hotel he manages.

### Koresh to release 3 more members

WACO - Doomsday cult leader David Koresh agreed to let three men leave his armed compound, the FBI said, but his dozens of followers remained locked in a standoff with federal agents for a 12th day Thursday.

The three men, whose exit was promised in a phone call early in the day, had not left the Branch Davidians' rural compound near Waco by early evening, federal authorities said.

Rain and fog blanketed the compound for much of the afternoon, as the weather began to turn colder. While highs reached into the 80s earlier this week, below-freezing temperatures were forecast for the weekend.

Also Thursday, a 12-year-old girl who lived with the cult for four years said that while there, she was taught to put a gun in her mouth and instructed how to commit suicide by taking cyanide.

Two elderly women and 21 children were allowed to leave last week. The last was a young girl last Friday. Ninety adults and 17 children are still believed to be in the compound.

More than a week ago, Koresh reneged on a promise to surrender the entire cult once a radio station played a 58-minute statement of his on the air.

FBI spokesman Dick Swensen called Koresh's latest promise to release a positive signal in negotiations to end the stalemate, which began Feb. 28 when an attempted raid by federal agents turned into gun battles. Four federal agents and at least two cult members died.

But Swensen also cautioned, "Until they come out, we won't be comfortable that they are coming out."

Swensen identified one of the three men who want to leave the compound as Oliver Kyarfas, 19, an Australian.

The Associated Press

## Reno becomes nation's first female attorney general

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The Senate unanimously confirmed Janet Reno on Thursday as the nation's first female attorney general, completing the Clinton Cabinet and bringing fresh leadership to a Justice Department still led by a Bush holdover.

Applause broke out in the normally decorous Senate chamber when the 98-0 vote was announced, making Reno the government's top law enforcement officer.

Problems ranging from a terrorist bombing in New York to questions about the FBI director in her own department, await the 54-year-old South Florida prosecutor. She is expected to be sworn in next week.

"President Clinton should be commended for taking yet another step in opening new opportunities for women and minorities," Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, said in the brief discussion that preceded the vote.

Reno's cakewalk through the constitutional advise-and-consent process closed

the book a Clinton Cabinet-selection process that got under way not long after his election last November.

Clinton's difficulties filling the job of attorney general - the failed nomination of Zoe Baird and the withdrawal of federal judge Kimba Wood from consideration - have delayed any major policy reviews at the Justice Department.

"I would submit that President Clinton - albeit not the first time at bat - has hit a home run," said Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del.

The Senate confirmed Reno just a day

after the Judiciary Committee approved her nomination. Normally, there must be a three-day waiting period before the full Senate can act, but that was waived.

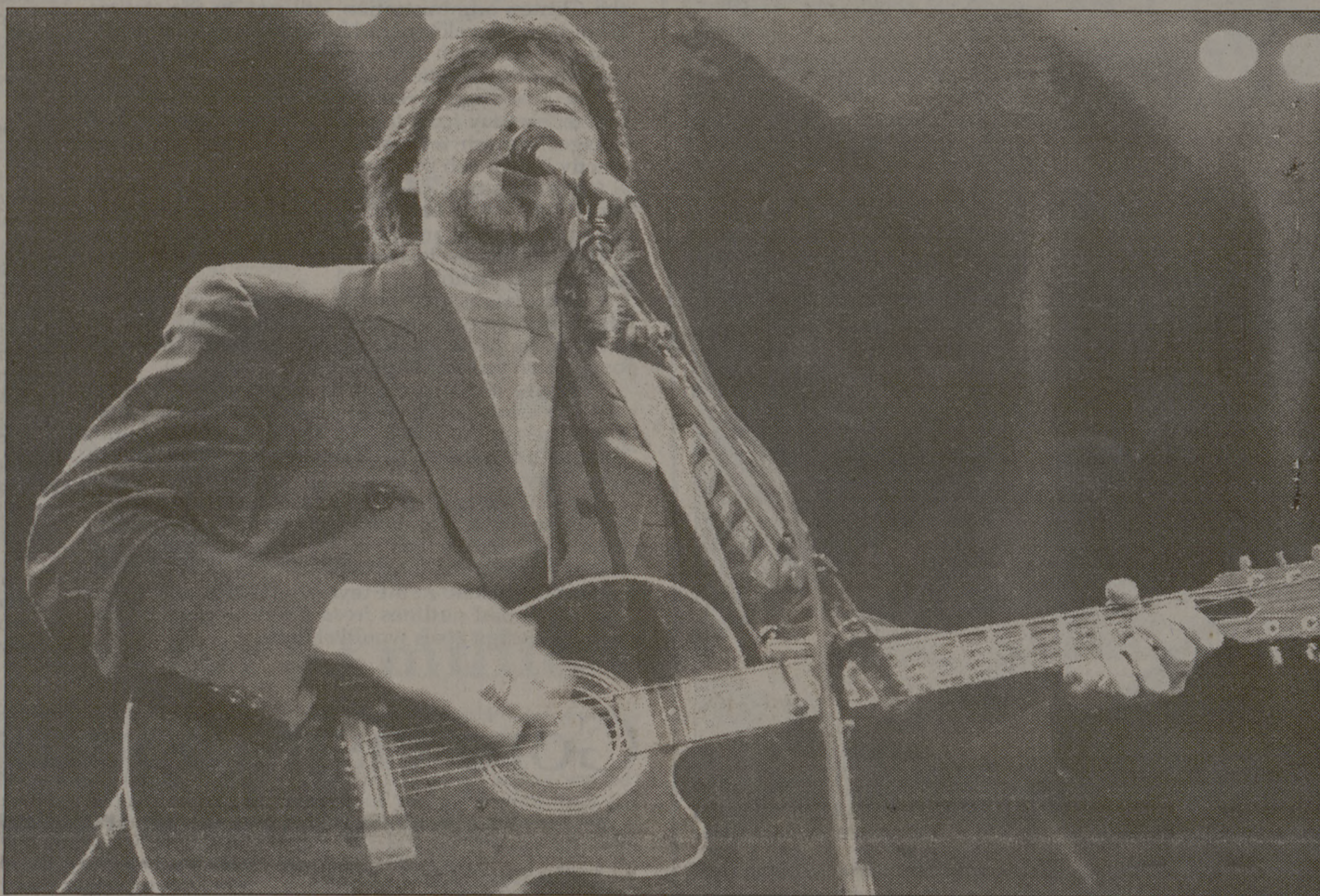
The agency has been run, since Clinton's Jan. 20 inauguration, by Bush administration appointee Stuart Gerson.

Reno, who will be the first Democrat to head the Justice Department in 12 years, is expected to make many policy changes.

But the standoff between federal agents and an armed religious cult in

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## Alabama sells out G. Rollie



Randy Owen, a member of the band Alabama, performs in front of more than 6,500 fans in G. Rollie White coliseum Thursday night. Alabama stopped by College Station during a tour of their most recent album.

DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

## Clinics tightening security

Added measure taken after death of doctor

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PENSACOLA, Fla. - Investigators found no evidence Thursday of a conspiracy in the shooting death of a doctor outside his abortion clinic. The anti-abortion demonstrator who reportedly confessed was ordered held without bond.

In the wake of what's believed to be the nation's first killing stemming from an abortion demonstration, clinics around the country tightened security and women's groups urged Congress to approve legislation making the blocking of clinics a federal crime.

At conservative Pensacola's two abortion clinics, police increased security.

"The whole community feels violated by the killing," Mayor Jerry Maygarden said.

A candlelight vigil in Gunn's memory was planned in Pensacola for Thursday night.

Michael Frederick Griffin, once described by his wife as suffering "great fits of violence," was ordered held without bond. A day earlier, he shot Dr. David Gunn, calmly surrendered and confessed, authorities said.

"At this time we have no evidence to indicate a conspiracy exists," police Sgt. Jerry Potts said. "The case is not closed, but I can't say we anticipate additional arrests."

In Washington, several national groups urged an FBI investigation of "anti-choice violence."

The shooting, abortion rights advocates said, is indicative of growing extremism in the anti-abortion movement.

"The government needs to ensure that vigilantes, terrorists and religious extremists do not take away our basic right to choose," said Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion Rights Action League.

Randall Terry, a leader of the anti-abortion group Operation Rescue, called the killing an "inappropriate, repulsive act," but he also called Gunn a murderer of babies.

Griffin, 31, was charged with murder. He is accused of firing three shots at Gunn from a .38-caliber revolver at point-blank range.

Gunn, 47, was getting out of his car at the back door of the Pensacola Women's Medical Services as anti-abortion demonstrators picketed the clinic.

Via a television hookup between the jail and the Escambia County Courthouse, Griffin asked Judge William J.

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## FBI tracking money behind bombing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWARK, N.J. - Investigators in the World Trade Center bombing are tracking \$8,000 transferred from Europe into a Jersey City bank account jointly held by the two key suspects, an official confirmed Thursday.

Federal investigators believe the money paid for the attack but didn't appear to have come from either suspect's family or homeland, The New York Times reported Thursday.

The newspaper quoted a law-enforcement official it didn't identify as saying the money trail "suggests some foreign group was financing them."

Investigators continued searching with body-sniffing dogs for a worker missing since the blast, and crews at the 110-story towers started an expected two-week job scrubbing soot from the complex.

A third man arrested during the blast investigation, Ibrahim Elgabrowni, faced a bail hearing on charges that he punched FBI agents when they came to search his

apartment in New York's Brooklyn borough on March 4. Elgabrowni faces no charges related to the bombing, although a federal judge at an earlier hearing said Elgabrowni "may be involved up to his eyeballs."

The two main suspects are Mohammed Salameh, 25, an illegal alien from Jordan who was arrested March 4 in Jersey City, N.J., where he was living; and Nidal A. Ayyad, 25, a Palestinian-American chemical engineer arrested Wednesday at his home in Maplewood, N.J.

## Yeltsin loses more power to hard-liners

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW - The Communist-dominated Congress whittled away more of President Boris Yeltsin's powers Thursday and canceled a national referendum he had sought to cement his authority.

The criticism was so biting that Yeltsin walked out of the Grand Kremlin Palace before the Congress of People's Deputies adjourned its second day of an emergency session.

The votes cutting his power were preliminary but potentially damaging to Yeltsin, who has haggled for months with Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov over who should wield supreme power: the president or parliament.

Without his present power to issue decrees, Yeltsin loses the ability to implement market reforms over the heads of obstinate officials and pro-Communist lawmakers. And without the threat of the proposed April 11 referendum, lawmakers may be emboldened to attack Yeltsin further.



Yeltsin

Yeltsin's supporters in the 1,033-member Congress claimed the restrictions, if given final approval, could make Yeltsin a lame-duck president. The resolution was sent to an editing committee - which includes Yeltsin and Khasbulatov - and could be presented for a final vote Friday.

"After this Congress, the reforms could be finished," said Leonid Gurevich, a pro-Yeltsin lawmaker.

In Washington, Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed confidence Yeltsin could emerge in a stronger position. "It's a very dynamic situation," Christopher said. "The end of the story

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### Military cutbacks

## Clinton promises aid to ease transition

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE - Looking to wean the nation off Cold War military budgets, President Clinton on Thursday promised help to people and places hurt by deep Pentagon cuts and a new round of base closings.

He also pledged to spend billions of dollars to promote civilian uses of military technology.

"The world's finest makers of swords can and will be the world's finest makers of plowshares," the president told enthusiastic workers at a Westinghouse Electronic Corp. plant, one day before the scheduled announcement of a new round of base closings.

Clinton plans to ease the pain of military cuts with a five-year "defense conversion" budget of \$19.6 billion, a fraction of the \$112 billion he plans to slash from the Pentagon budget during the same period.

Republicans said the conversion program won't provide enough help to victims of Pentagon cuts.

"I think it is a political effort to try to cover and make excuses for the incredible slashing that they're doing in this Pentagon, because they don't have the guts to cut anywhere else," said Rep. John Kasich, ranking Republican on the House Budget Committee.

"I don't pretend that this will be easy, and all of it will take some time," Clinton

said.

Clinton's first-year budget contains little new money, and most of the programs announced Thursday have been on his agenda since the presidential campaign. But the Westinghouse plant - with its electric cars and high-tech civilian radar - was a fitting backdrop for unveiling his repackaged defense conversion program.

Nearly 4,500 plant employees have been laid off since 1991, but company officials said hundreds of jobs were saved when the firm began using its technology to create products for civilian and military uses.

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