



# THE BATTALION

Vol. 93 No. 20 (8 pages)

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

Friday, September 24, 1993

## Clinton enlists aid of Cabinet members to sell health care package

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton dispatched Cabinet members coast to coast and opened the White House lawn to a thousand allies Thursday to get the sales campaign for his health care plan out of the starting blocks. "We have to do it right and we have to do it right now," Clinton declared.

"As much as I wish this to be a celebration . . . I remind you that our work is beginning," Clinton told the rally before

heading to Florida for a nationally televised town hall meeting.

"It's going to be a long, long tortuous road," said Senate GOP leader Bob Dole, praising Clinton for his pledge to compromise but criticizing the Democrat's plan as "a little overgenerous and underfunded."

Sen. John Chafee, R-R.I., urged Democratic leaders to impose strict deadlines, such as a wrap-up of initial hearings by Thanksgiving, committee votes by next April, a floor vote by June and a bill to Clinton by August.

"My hope is that we can do it sooner," countered Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, "I hope we don't have to wait until next summer to get final passage."

Vice President Al Gore went on a morning TV show, and radio talk show hosts, invited by the White House to broadcast from the front lawn, set up shop at 6 a.m.

Clinton asked for help in persuading the public the current system is grossly inefficient. Clinton's plan to provide universal coverage is expected to cost an ad-

ditional \$350 billion over five years.

"It is still sinking in on our fellow citizens," Clinton said.

"There's still a lot of people that don't think we're going to get this done," Clinton said. He also said the system has deteriorated so much that it will be possible to form a national consensus.

"We don't want to rush this thing; it's too complicated," Clinton said. "But we don't want to delay it, using complexity as an excuse."

Clinton asked for help in pressing members of Congress to keep pledges of

bipartisanship on the issue.

Hillary Rodham Clinton and Tipper Gore spoke, as well.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen crossed the state of Pennsylvania for tours of a rubber business, then an ice cream company.

Health Secretary Donna Shalala lunched in Los Angeles at a seniors center; Attorney General Janet Reno visited a neonatal unit in Buffalo, N.Y.; Kristine Gebbie, the administration's AIDS policy

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### Yom Kippur - the holiest day

## Jewish day of atonement begins at sundown

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

The Jewish community in and around Bryan and College Station will start their celebration of Yom Kippur tonight at sundown, marking the end of their Jewish New Year celebration.

Yom Kippur, which means day of atonement in Hebrew, is the holiest day of the Jewish year, said Reuben Ehrlich, vice president of religious activities for the Hillel Jewish Student Association.

Dr. Peter Tarlow, adviser and rabbi for the student group, said the celebration is a period of prayer and contemplation.

"It is a period of 10 days in which to ask forgiveness, make up, and to not carry a grudge," said Tarlow of the time between Rosh Hashana, the start of the Jewish new year which was last week, and Yom Kippur.

Ehrlich said the period of atonement is a good opportunity to begin the new year with a clean slate.

Tarlow said the celebration is marked by a total fast starting at sundown on Friday and lasting through sundown on Saturday.

"The fast allows people to understand the concept of poverty," Tarlow said. "It makes you understand what it's like to not have food or water or even medicine."

The local Yom Kippur celebration will begin with the Kol Nidrei, a sacred worship service, on Friday at 8 p.m.

The celebration will continue on Saturday with a service at 10 a.m. and another service in the afternoon.

The activities will conclude Saturday evening with the blowing of the shofar or ram's horn.

The shofar is blown at the beginning of Rosh Hashana and at the closing of the High Holy Days.

The celebration also ends with a breaking of the fast.

Tarlow said the Jewish congregation here at Texas A&M University has its own tradition of "breaking the broken fast," where students go out to a restaurant together to celebrate the conclusion of the Yom Kippur holiday.



Mary Macmanus/The Battalion

Scott Bernstein, a junior bioengineering major, will blow the shofar, or ram's horn, at the conclusion of Yom Kippur Saturday.

## MSC offers sign change on hat policy

By Geneen Pipher

THE BATTALION

In order to more accurately explain the tradition of removing one's hat upon entering the building, a new inscription will be placed on the signs at the four entrances to the MSC.

The MSC underwent extensive renovation and expansion in the '70's and the building was rededicated in 1975. The new signs will reflect the words used at the building's rededication, said Heather Hartman, a senior journalism major and MSC president.

"The old signs reflect the building's first dedication in 1951 when it was only dedicated to those Aggies who died in World Wars I and II," Hartman said. "In 1975, the building was rededicated to 'all Aggies who have given their lives in defense of their country in any war past or future,' that is what the new inscriptions will reflect."

James Reynolds, MSC director, said the new inscriptions are a temporary part of a larger plan to better inform visitors of the tradition of removing hats before entering the building.

"The new signs are needed because the wording, as it stands now, does not reflect the original words and intent," he said.

Dennis Busch, assistant manager of the University Center Complex, said it took almost 20 years to change the wording of the signs because until last year, no one had ever questioned the building's purpose.

"I guess it took such a long time to change the words because until now no one had ever raised the point that the lettering might be outdated," Busch said.

Hartman said the new signs come after many students said they did not feel comfortable removing their hats because they believed the facility was a memorial to white males only.

"Last fall, we began hearing that there were some individuals who didn't feel obliged or comfortable removing their hats," she said. "They did not feel the building was a place for them, too."

Hartman said she understood why many students were upset.

"If I didn't feel like a certain building was for me, I may feel uncomfortable," she said. "I could understand their difficulty with that. I would probably still remove my hat out of respect, but I understand what they were saying."

Brian Walker, a senior man-

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## Physical Plant develops proposal for renovating G. Rollie

By Andrea Taormina

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Physical Plant is preparing a program of requirements on the renovation of G. Rollie White to present to the Board of Regents at its December meeting.

Joe Sugg, executive director of the Physical Plant, said the program of requirements consists of a detailed presentation of the estimates of money, time and plans that would be involved in the renovation of the coliseum.

The list of general plans, Sugg said, includes upgrading the dressing rooms and the upholstered seating, removing interior supports, improving public accessibility and

meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Sugg said the hallways would also be widened from eight feet to 20 feet, and new restrooms, especially women's, would be added.

The program of requirements also calls for the completion of the horseshoe seating into a full bowl, Sugg said. A new facility housing offices, dressing rooms and practice facilities would be built where DeWare Fieldhouse and Down's Natatorium now stand.

Athletic Director Wally Groff said if the program passes, the new practice building would have to be built first. The triple gym in the annex section where the athletic teams now practice would be torn down to add the extra seating, he said.

The renovations to G. Rollie are an alternative plan to the proposed \$50 million special events center, which has not been approved yet, Groff said. The cost of the renovations to G. Rollie would be about \$20 million less than the cost of building the special events center, he said.

Groff said the special events center would cost \$1 million to operate and would generate revenue of only \$500,000.

Sugg estimated the cost of renovating G. Rollie at \$19 million plus another \$10 million to build the new practice facility. If the Board of Regents passes the program of requirements instead of the special events center, Sugg said he expects to rededicate G. Rollie in 1996.

Another plan for renovations to G. Rollie had been proposed, Groff said, but it did not meet the need for additional practice space for University sports teams. Groff said he did not know if the new plan would have any more success than the first one.

G. Rollie serves the academic needs of the Department of Kinesiology and Health as well as the athletic needs of the volleyball team and the men's and women's basketball teams.

The sports facility under construction across the tracks is a student facility that will be used primarily for recreational sports, Sugg said, with swimming being the only competitive sport possibly taking place there.

## Richards denies accusations of a political purge

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Ann Richards finished testifying Thursday in a federal lawsuit, saying that accusations of political patronage in the 1991 reorganization of the Texas Department of Commerce were "offensive."

Three former Commerce employees have accused Richards and her key aides of a political purge at the agency in which Republicans were fired and Democrats were hired. Richards is a Democrat.

The trial before U.S. District Judge James Nowlin is expected to last at least two more days.

On the witness stand for the second day, Richards said she ordered a reorganization of the Commerce Department shortly after taking office because "the agency was a mess."

Richards said federal and state funds were in danger of being cut off because Commerce Department officials had been accused of mismanagement and improper expenses.

"What we had here was basically a dictatorship. Somebody went in and just chopped a bunch of people's heads off."

— Jim Mikus, one of those suing Gov. Ann Richards

Later, Derek Howard, the attorney representing the three former workers, said the problems at the Commerce Department had nothing to do with his clients.

"The reorganization was designed to get rid of Republicans," he said.

Of those former workers, Richards said, "I'm sure they are very nice people," but she added that their allegations were "offensive" because as governor she represented Texans of both major political parties.

Jim Mikus, one of those suing Richards, said "What we had here was basically a dictatorship. Somebody went in and just chopped a bunch of people's heads off. And now someone is daring to question that form of government."

The ex-employees want more than \$2 million in back pay, future lost earnings, attorneys' fees and mental anguish damages, Howard said. Other defendants in the lawsuit are Richard Moya, a top aide to Richards; Cathy Bonner, executive director of the Commerce Department; and Alan Kahn of Dallas, former chairman of the agency's board.

### Inside

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#### OPINION

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#### WEATHER

•Friday: partly cloudy, highs in 90s

•Weekend forecast: partly cloudy with scattered showers, highs in 90s

•Extended forecast: partly cloudy, much cooler, highs in 80s