

'We choose to compete, not retreat'

Clinton wins first battle as NAFTA passes House

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a hard-fought and decisive triumph for President Clinton, the House approved the North American Free Trade Agreement late Wednesday to fuse the United States, Mexico and Canada into the world's largest trading bloc. Republicans provided a majority of the support.

The 234-200 vote sent the measure to the Senate, where leaders predicted swift approval. "NAFTA is a lock," predicted GOP Leader Bob Dole.

Clinton, beaming, lauded the bipartisan House vote. "Tonight I am proud to say we have not flinched," he said. "...We had to come from a long way back to win this fight." NAFTA will "expand our exports, create new jobs and help us assert America's leadership in the global economy," said the president.

The House rendered its verdict after a daylong debate that reflected high-minded disagreements over America's role in the world



economy and bare-knuckled politics. Scores of labor-backed Democrats abandoned their president, but 132 Republicans signed on to assure passage.

The 34-vote margin was far wider than anticipated, the result of a furious last-minute lobbying

blitz that blended presidential phone calls with concessions to key lawmakers concerned about the pact's impact on a variety of domestic industries.

A cheer went up in the crowded chamber when the vote count passed the 218 needed to approve the pact. Opponents stood in clumps, shaking their heads and grimacing at the result.

"A vote for NAFTA is in the great tradition of our party," House GOP Leader Bob Michel of Illinois said in a ringing speech of support. "So let it be said on this crucial vote tonight, that we Republicans did not sacrifice the jobs of tomorrow to the fears of today."

Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt summed up for the opponents who fear the pact will throw thousands of Americans out of work. "Deficient and flawed," he said of NAFTA. "We cannot and must not expose our workers and our corporations to unfair competition."

Local experts disagree on potential effectiveness

By Lisa Elliott
THE BATTALION

Congress approved the hotly debated North American Free Trade Agreement last night and local experts disagree on whether it will accomplish its goals.

Jared Hazleton, head of Texas A&M's Center for Business and Economic Analysis, said he is confident that the agreement will bring positive economic benefits to the people of Texas as well as the nation.

Hazleton conducted research into the benefits of NAFTA on the energy industry and found Texas could gain 29,000 energy-related jobs and see a \$2 billion increase in the output of goods.

Hazleton said NAFTA may hurt some Americans, but it would be for the best in the long run.

"It doesn't benefit everyone,

but it does benefit the nation," he said.

It was difficult for Congress to make a decision about NAFTA, he said, because people find it hard to vote for things that affect people's jobs.

NAFTA has had an unusual effect on the political system because it doesn't pit any one political party against another, Hazleton said. It follows the American idea of the open market that the United States have stood for throughout history, he said.

"A lot of the support NAFTA got was because it is what America has stood for throughout time," he said.

Hazleton gave credit to the proponents of NAFTA for putting up a strong argument to win votes in Congress. Another reason NAFTA passed is because its opponents failed to do a good job in presenting their side, he said.

Louis Zaeske, chairman of the American Ethnic Coalition in Bryan-College Station, said NAFTA in its present form is an unfair agreement for the people of Mexico and the United States.

"We're not against the concept of free trade," he said. "But we are against the concept of unfair free trade."

NAFTA will send jobs to Mexico, and the people of the United States will get nothing in return, he said. Mexico's workers will be exploited because of their willingness to work for less, he said.

Zaeske said he hopes the closeness of the vote will send a message to the Mexican government to abide by the agreement.

Zaeske said Clinton will continue to adjust the agreement so the opponents of NAFTA won't start a movement to have it overturned.

Roughing it



Cris Stephenson, Lee Wall, Trey Wimberly, J.W. Allison and Patrick Dodson (from left) play John Madden Football on their Nintendo in their tent in front of the G. Rollie White ticket office on

Wednesday. The five students were some of hundreds of Aggies who were camping out for tickets to the Texas game. See related story on Page 2.

SEC investigation prompts A&M to open own inquiry

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

A&M Interim President E. Dean Gage has launched an inquiry into research activities by a chemistry professor in response to an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The University is looking into activities related to a research project seeking to make gold out of mercury and lead and funded by California businessman William Telander.

The SEC is investigating Telander's \$200,000 contribution to the school to find out if the gift was part of a \$7.8 million fraud case brought against Telander.

Gage said the inquiry attempts to find out if all appropriate University procedures were properly followed and to decide if any scientific misconduct took place in the research effort.

The inquiry is a University investigation separate from the SEC probe.

Gage ordered Robert Kennedy, vice president for research and graduate studies, to assemble a committee to collect information regarding the case.

Nancy Sawtelle, communications director for Kennedy's office, said Kennedy is currently working to put together the committee in order to report back to Gage within 60 days.

"The committee will collect information to find out what happened and to see if the standards for research were maintained," Sawtelle said.

Gage said he wants to make sure officials in the chemistry department were not deceived in any way.

In a statement released earlier this week, Gage said University policies and procedures ensure both academic freedom for researchers and scientific and fiscal accountability for Texas A&M.

"This institution is absolutely committed to the highest standard of proper ethical research," Gage said.

Sawtelle said the inquiry could be compared to a grand jury investigation. The committee will compile information now to decide if further action is necessary in the case.

"We want to make sure everything is kept at the highest level of research professionalism," she said.

75 percent of the \$200,000 donation has already been spent, but the remaining funds have been frozen by the chemistry department.

The money will remain frozen until the SEC decides if it actually came from Telander or from investors, and the Southwest International Exchange, a financial institution, Sawtelle said.

"The money was frozen in the event that the money actually was from the investors," Sawtelle said.

The SEC has charged Telander, Roger Briggs and the Southwest International Exchange with selling phony and unregistered securities.

"This institution is absolutely committed to the highest standard of proper ethical research."

*-E. Dean Gage,
A&M interim president*

Faculty stress benefits of multiculturalism at open forum

By Jennifer Smith
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M faculty members discussed the benefits of a multicultural education Wednesday at an open forum, avoiding the usual debate over which classes or how many hours will be required at A&M.

A proposal that will force students to take three hours in a United States culture course and three hours in an international

course is waiting for approval by Interim President E. Dean Gage.

Dr. Karan Watson, assistant dean of the College of Engineering, said the value of this proposal lies in the positive results it will bring to students.

"It gives our students the edge in a competitive field," Watson said. "If our students come out, and don't know how to participate with people of different cultures, they won't succeed."

Watson said students don't have to embrace people with prin-

ciples that don't match their own.

"But, they do have to be able to work with them," Watson said. "Nobody works in a cubicle by themselves. All of the real problems are solved in teams."

Dr. James Mazzullo, associate professor of geology, said a global emphasis was not as important in the past, but is essential to students now.

"This is a different world we live in," Mazzullo said. "We have to get used to it in order to be successful."

Mazzullo said countries like Japan and Germany may snag some of this country's business if the United States doesn't understand people of different cultures.

"If you're not accommodating to them, then someone else will be," Mazzullo said.

Many companies are realizing this and are including multicultural education in their leadership training programs when they visit A&M.

See Faculty/Page 10

Chick-Fil-A goes Underground

Food Services announces food court commitments at Student Senate meeting

By Kim McGuire
THE BATTALION

The Student Senate passed a resolution Wednesday night supporting the decision to place the Food Services department in charge of contracting brand name food chains in the Sbisra Underground Food Court.

The resolution follows the University's decision to allow Food Services to manage the food court when brand name food companies begin operating following the food court's reconstruction.

Tobin Boenig, Senate speaker

pro tempore, said the resolution was created in response to a request by Robert Smith, vice president of finance and administration.

"He brought it to our attention," Boenig said. "The Senate passed a bill last year supporting Food Services managing the food court and our opposition to bringing in a private firm to run it. This is just a direct message that the Student Senate still supports that decision."

Dr. Richard Floyd, interim Food Services director, announced at the Senate meeting that five brand name food companies have

made commitments to operate in the food court.

"We've gotten commitments from Chick-Fil-A, Whataburger, Taco Bueno, Pizza Hut and we've already got Columbo yogurt," Floyd said. "In the next few weeks, we should be signing contracts with them."

Floyd said some of the companies have said they wanted to begin operating as early as Jan. 17 of next year, but the date will depend on the progress of the food court's construction.

"We expect the construction to begin early next year but we're

waiting on a report from the Physical Plant," he said.

He said the Underground Market will be relocated to the north dining hall, which is currently not in use, and the brand name food companies will be set up in the semicircular area where the Underground Food Court is now located.

"We will also have to widen the foyer when you first enter the food court to better accommodate the traffic and more seating," Floyd said.

Floyd said all of the food companies will accept Aggie Bucks.

Inside

- Aggielife**
- Students coping with holiday depression **Page 3**
- SPORTS**
- Lady Aggie basketball team tips off season **Page 7**
- OPINION**
- Editorial: New ring policy for transfer students is unfair **Page 11**

TEXAS LOTTERY

TEXAS LOTTERY

- Wednesday's winning Texas Lotto numbers: 2, 11, 23, 31, 34, 46
- Estimated Lotto jackpot: \$3 million