

Bomb threat delays progress in Hutchison case

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison pleaded innocent in court Monday of criminal ethics charges, but the first day of proceedings in her trial was delayed because of a bomb threat.

Judge John F. Onion Jr. began consideration of pretrial motions at 9 a.m. But just 30 minutes later, he said "an emergency has arisen" and postponed the trial until later in the afternoon.

A person claiming a bomb had been planted in the Tarrant County Criminal Justice Center called the sheriff's department about 7:30 a.m., said Lt. G.M. Hendrix.

The threat was not related to Mrs. Hutchison's trial, but instead involved a trial of anti-abortion protesters, Hendrix said.

Hendrix said the caller threatened the "baby-killing judge" and said a bomb would go off at 11:11 a.m.

Hutchison and her attorneys left the courtroom about 9:30 a.m. All nine floors of the justice center were evacuated shortly thereafter.

Two sidestreets beside the justice center were then blocked off from traffic, fire trucks were on hand and the bomb squad arrived. But no bomb was found

Hutchison gets Aggie yell farewell before beginning of trial

By Jennifer Smith

THE BATTALION

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison received an Aggie farewell when she left her Washington D.C., office Friday to begin trial on ethics charges in Fort Worth.

Dave Beckwith, a spokesman for Hutchison, said the senator's entire Washington staff surprised her by organizing an Aggie yell practice in her office.

Hutchison, a former cheerleader for the University of Texas, was delighted by the yell practice, but questioned its appropriateness because she attended A&M's rival school.

Beckwith said there was little discussion about which school's cheers would be used to show support for Hutchison.

"There's no place in the world with spirit like Texas A&M," he said.

Beckwith said A&M's cheers also were used because Republicans have traditionally received such strong support from A&M.

Anne Dumesnil, Class of '93, a staff assistant to

Hutchison, thought of the idea of holding a yell practice for the senator, and served as a yell leader for the 25-member staff.

Dumesnil said she prepared sheets of yells to acquaint the staff members with the A&M tradition of yell practice.

"They even humped it," she said.

Instead of yelling "Farmers Fight," they yelled "KBH Fight." And instead of yelling "Beat the Hell Outta Texas," they yelled "Beat the Hell Outta Ronnie Earle," referring to the Travis County district attorney in Hutchison's case.

and the building reopened around 11:30 a.m.

Before the postponement, Hutchison, seated in the courtroom next to her lead attorney, Dick DeGuerin, waived an arraignment and pleaded innocent to all charges.

"She wants to say in front of the jury, 'I'm not guilty,'" DeGuerin said.

Hutchison was tight-lipped toward reporters' questions about the trial as she entered the courtroom with her attorneys and husband, Ray. When asked whether missing Senate business concerned her, she responded: "Oh, of course it does. It makes me feel terrible that I'm going to miss votes."

According to indictments handed up by a Travis

County grand jury, Hutchison, 50, used state funds, state employees and state computers for her campaign, and then altered records as part of a cover-up.

Hutchison, a Republican, was state treasurer from January 1991 to June 1993.

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TEXAS A&M'S BLACK HERITAGE

Trials, tribulations of first black students

By Jennifer Smith

THE BATTALION

James Courtney felt like a fish out of water when he stepped onto the Texas A&M campus in the early 1960s.

Courtney, one of the first black students admitted to Texas A&M, said he saw only a "handful" of blacks walking around campus.

Although there were no riots, protests or blocked doors by the governor, Courtney was hardly welcomed to the University by his white peers.

His worst experience with racism at A&M was being forced to hear and sing "nigger jody." A jody is a song sung in unison by a military outfit as they run or walk in formation.

— Samuel Williams, former black student

"We weren't wanted, especially by the majority of students," he said.

Courtney said the black students' presence was hardly noticed by most students most of the time.

"But there were times when I was spat on," he said. "Students knocked books out of my hand and sometimes wouldn't speak to me."

Courtney said many students looked through him and not at him.

Samuel Williams was barely 17 when he came to A&M in the fall of 1964. He was one of only three black students in the Corps of Cadets, which was still mandatory for A&M students at the time.

"Some people treated you well," Williams said. "Some people kept you at arms length."

Williams said his worst experience with racism at A&M was being forced to hear and sing "nigger jody."

A jody is a song sung in unison by a military outfit as they run or walk in formation.

Cadets in Williams' time would sing jody's filled with racial slurs and derogatory lines.

The demands of the Corps put even more pressure on Williams and other black cadets.

Besides being able to get away with regular hazing, Williams said Corps members could go even further and get away with it.

For personal reasons, Williams did not finish his four years in the Corps. He left school and came back as an athlete where the discrimination was even worse.

He and J.T. Reynolds were the first blacks on A&M's football team.

"They didn't want us there," Williams said. "They were told to get rid of us."

Williams was not allowed to play, despite being told he was the best wide receiver in the Southwest Conference.

Many blacks folded under the pressure of being minority

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Got a little story for you . . .



Rain Nohavitzka/The Battalion

Rose "Red Elk" Hardman speaks in the MSC Flag Room to children from kindergarten through second grade from Bryan's Education Station to celebrate the opening ceremony for Native American Week, Feb. 7-12.

Clinton credits Houston crime decrease with mayor putting more police on streets

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — President Clinton praised Houston Mayor Bob Lanier for putting more police on Houston's streets, resulting in a dramatic decrease in the city's crime rate.

"He's given America its best reason for passing a crime bill," Clinton said at a luncheon address before nearly 1,000 members of the Greater Houston Partnership, a group of city business leaders.

"We know this is an issue without party or racial or economic labels," Clinton said. "If you have more police on the street ... they will not only catch criminals quicker but they also will deter crime."

Clinton used the Lanier example to push his own crime package, which he promises will add 100,000 more officers to the nation's streets.

The president, who arrived in Houston Sunday for a Democratic Party fundraiser, began his day Monday with a jog through

Hermann Park with several members of the Houston Police Department.

"I think we both did all right," Officer Michael Jones said. "I guess I was so pumped up."

"He was setting a good pace," another officer, Lawrence Mouton, said. "I just hope I can do that when I reach his age."

Later in the morning, Clinton met with Democratic supporters.

"He took time with everybody," Mary Almandarez said. "We really loved it."

He also planned to tour some of the training facilities at Johnson Space Center before flying to Shreveport, La.

Ironically, his visit to the NASA center Monday coincided with release of his budget for next year which would cut the space agency by \$131 million, the first cut in the NASA budget in 21 years.

In his speech, Clinton touted his administration's efforts in getting a budget deficit reduction measure passed last year. Without approval of the package, the North American

Free Trade Agreement never would have passed later in the year because everyone in Washington would have become bogged down in the deficit matter, he said.

He also put in a pitch for his health care program, saying there would be no ultimate solution to the federal deficit until skyrocketing costs in the Medicare-Medicaid programs are resolved.

President Clinton was in Houston as part of a three-day Southern swing designed to fatten the Democratic Party coffers and promote his new federal budget.

The President was expected to raise \$2 million dollars Sunday night at a glitzy Texas Presidential Dinner and Gala at Houston's Wortham Center, the money is to be divided between the Democratic National Committee and the Texas Democratic Party.

Clinton is trying to build support in Texas where his approval ratings dropped into the 20s last year before rebounding to 50 percent range in recent months.

HIV-infected women inform students of life with virus

By Angela Neaves

THE BATTALION

Two Houston women offered Texas A&M students a first hand account of what life with HIV is like during a presentation sponsored by the HIV/AIDS Committee.

The women, Amy Dolph and Geri Briggs, are representatives from the AIDS Foundation of Houston. They have given presentations to both junior high and high school students.

Dolph said she became infected with the human immunodeficiency virus through heterosexual intercourse with her second partner. She discovered she had the virus when she was 18 years old.

After donating blood, Dolph received a certified letter from a blood bank telling her HIV antibodies had been discovered in her blood. Dolph said she tries to stay healthy while still enjoying her life.

"If you are putting yourself at risk and get infected with this virus,

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Aggielife

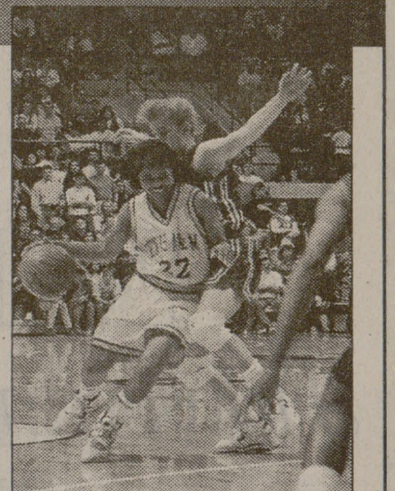
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Candlelight vigil tonight for AIDS-affected families

A candlelight vigil will be held at 9 p.m. tonight at the All Faiths Chapel on the Texas A&M campus to show support for the individuals and families that have been affected by AIDS and HIV.

Everyone is invited to the vigil, and attendants will be given candles to light.

The ceremony not only recognizes those who have been affected by the disease, but it also acknowledges the impact AIDS has had on the lives of everyone.

Brian Walker, student body president, and Dr. Kenneth Dirks, director of A.P. Beutel Health Center, will speak at the vigil. The vigil is part of AIDS Awareness Week.