



# THE BATTALION

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## Republicans mass to revitalize health plan

The Associated Press

### Party leaders to meet at retreat, discuss potential solutions for taking initiative in health care debate

WASHINGTON — The timing couldn't be better for this week's Republican health care summit: Support for President Clinton's reform plan is crumbling, both in Congress and among the American public, and Democrats aren't quite sure how to proceed.



Clinton

But don't expect Republicans to step into the vacuum and seize the momentum in the health care debate.

Although they are convening Thursday and Friday for a health care retreat, Republicans are no closer to resolving the deep policy and political disputes that have kept the party from speaking with a

clear voice on the dominant issue before Congress in this election year.

Democrats are hardly of a single mind in the complex debate either. But with the White House and Congress in their control, and a keen understanding of health care's potential political power, the Democrats promise to eventually settle their myriad differences and deliver a victory to Clinton come fall.

One question facing Republicans is whether to make any compromise a bipartisan deal, or to unite around a single GOP alternative and, as was the case in last year's budget fight, make a partisan stand, win or lose.

The answer to that political question

lies in whether the most vocal Republican voices on health care can settle some of their biggest policy disputes, and no two-day retreat is going to bridge those gaps.

"The purpose of the meeting is not to try to come together," says Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, making clear in advance that he's nowhere near his goal of a shaping a single Republican plan.

Another participant, Texas GOP Sen. Phil Gramm, adds: "We Republicans have an opportunity because of the collapse of the Clinton plan. We have an opportunity to get back in the game."

But Gramm wants others to make the compromises, Rhode Island Sen. John Chafee chief among them. Gramm's call

for incremental health care reform is a far cry from a Chafee plan that shares most of Clinton's far-reaching goals, if not the road to reach them.

"Those concepts are dead," insists Gramm, offering an obituary to any kind of national health board, or government-regulated health care purchasing cooperatives. "There are some areas where I'm not flexible."

Or, in Chafee's view, realistic.

Gramm, like virtually everyone in the debate, says insurance coverage should be portable — meaning you can take it with you if you change jobs or move. But Gramm doesn't want the government in the business of guaranteeing universal

health care coverage — a liberal entitlement in his view.

"I have great trouble understanding how you can have portability without universal coverage," says Chafee, who as organizer of the retreat has invited several experts along to make that point when Gramm makes his case.

When asked about Gramm, Chafee won't offer any personal criticisms. But he's quick to note "there are 43 other Republican senators and 56 Democrats. I for one want to work with the Democrats on a bipartisan bill."

Many conservatives scoff at such talk, and that dispute is proving a barrier to even trying to narrow the GOP policy divide.

"They have the right to decide whether they would like to work with people like me or with Clinton," Gramm said scornfully.

### Stick it to 'em



Blake Griggs/The Battalion

Sophomore Rob Rickman defends against senior John Hardy attempt to score. Rickman and Hardy are members of the Texas A&M Lacrosse team. The lacrosse team has only lost one game in the past four years. They will be playing UT this Saturday.

### Students' bad habits open doors for car thieves

By Eloise Flint

The Battalion

The number of vehicles burglarized on the Texas A&M campus is on the rise and will continue to rise as long as car owners provide the opportunity to burglars, said Lt. Bert Kretzschmar, a crime prevention specialist with the University Police Department.

There is no definite reason for the increase in vehicle burglary, but Kretzschmar said students must take precautions to lower their chances of being burglarized.

Glenn Marsh, a senior construction science major, said students feel safe on campus and do not take the precautions they should.

"I think part of it is that people believe in the Aggie Code of Honor, and they don't take adequate precautions like they would in larger cities or those with a higher crime rate," he said.

Kretzschmar said the only element that can be taken away from a criminal is opportunity.

"A burglar will go around parking lots and look for opportunity," Kretzschmar said.

"When a burglar sees a purse, backpack, radar detector or something of value laying in the seat, it is motivation."

Chris Tibbitt, a junior electrical engineering major, said students need to take responsibility in protecting their own property.

"If people don't lock their cars, it's because they don't care about them or what they have inside," he said.

Kretzschmar said students do not always take precautions, such as locking their car doors, because they feel secure on campus.

"There is a saying on campus that Aggies don't lie, cheat or steal, nor tolerate those that do, but the part about tolerating them is questionable," Kretzschmar said.

Kretzschmar said police would catch more

burglars if more people would report suspicious behavior.

UPD has three to seven cars at a time patrolling the campus, depending on who is available.

They try to patrol in the remote areas of the A&M campus, such as west campus, fish lot, and the medical and veterinary schools, Kretzschmar said.

The parking garages are equipped with 50 surveillance cameras and 24-hour security, and Kretzschmar said the only problem the garages have is criminal mischief, such as scraping cars.

The burglaries have been committed by juveniles, A&M students and adults during the day and night.

"Thieves look at A&M as a prime opportunity," Kretzschmar said. "It is 42,000 students, and if you have a parking lot full of cars, it's easier for a criminal to hide and fit in, even in the broad daylight."

### Suicide prevention

## Student's death pulls issue into frontline

By Lisa Elliott

The Battalion

After the recent suicide of a Texas A&M student, many University health care professionals are trying to persuade students to come forward with personal problems before they reach a critical stage.

On Feb. 19, Ivo Zuniga, a junior speech communications major, died after an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head outside a College Station nightclub.

Although Justice of the Peace George Boyett has not yet ruled the death as a suicide, the College Station Police Department is investigating it as one, Sgt. Robert Cahill said.

Dr. Debbie Rabinowitz, a psychologist with the A&M Counseling Center, said that on average two A&M students commit suicide each year, but that number is probably an underestimate.

"That number doesn't count deaths that weren't ruled as suicides but may have been," she said.

Many times a suicide occurs in a one-car accident, but isn't ruled a suicide because it looks more like an accident, she said.

The common causes of suicide are a major loss, she said, such as an ended relationship or the death of a close friend or loved one.

"Usually suicide isn't instantly decided," she said. "Most are usually depressed and the final straw will break."

Daryl Wright, rush chairman of Zeta Beta Tau, the fraternity Zuniga was a member of, said Zuniga showed no signs of a problem before his death.

"He hid his emotions really well," he said.

"There were none of the classic signs like giving up his prized possessions or anything."

Wright said Zuniga's death was a tragedy for his fraternity, but they are learning to deal with it and move on.

"We're very upset," he said. "Everyone considered Ivo as their best friend because he was."

Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said attempting suicide is a crime, but it usually isn't prosecuted.

The most common type of attempt is usually from an overdose of pills, he said.

After a student attempts suicide and is discovered, the emergency medical team is notified. Once the victim is safe, the Department of Student Affairs and the University counseling services are notified.

Rabinowitz said there are 70 suicide threats among students every year. About half of those are actual attempts, she said, and the other half are serious threats.

"Lots of people have minor thoughts of suicide," she said.

According to a tape about suicide produced by the Texas A&M CounselLine, a system of tapes about topics such as depression, intimacy and relationships, some of the warning signs include abrupt changes in eating, sleeping and activity patterns. Putting business and personal affairs in order, such as writing a will and returning borrowed items, are other signals.

The tape says that once a person decides to commit suicide, a period of calmness usually follows before the actual attempt, and most people attempt suicide several times before actually succeeding.

Rabinowitz said someone is always available to help potential suicide victims. During the day, a psychologist is available at the Counseling Center located in Henderson Hall. After hours, student can contact the health center and a psychologist will be contacted using a beeper.

She encourages students to see the counseling services as an alternative to death.

### Fundamentalist Palestinians call for revenge

The Associated Press

JERICHO, Occupied West Bank — Israeli soldiers killed two Palestinian youths Wednesday as fury over the Hebron mosque massacre spread to Jericho, where the PLO plans to set up its headquarters under a peace plan with Israel.

As part of an effort to curb the bloodletting, security forces disarmed seven extremist Jewish settlers in the occupied territories and banned them from Palestinian areas.

That was a radical move for the Israelis. But it's unlikely to placate Palestinians demanding the removal of Jewish settlements from the territories and international protection.

Militant Palestinians called for revenge attacks.

In Jericho, a normally peaceful town, the trouble flared when 400 Palestinians, some waving black flags, protested Friday's massacre of Palestinian worshippers by a Jewish settler in Hebron. Protesters stoned army vehicles and a police station, and troops on rooftops opened fire at youths, who were using slingshots.

One teen-ager was killed in the shooting and about 20 people were injured, including Saeb Erakat, head of the PLO's negotiating team, who was slightly wounded in the leg.

Chanting "revenge! revenge!" the teen-ager's family grabbed the body from an ambulance. They wrapped it in a Palestinian

flag and carried it through the rubble-strewn streets to a cemetery for burial.

The marchers called for Jews to be killed. One placard read: "You will not live on our land. You will not fly in our sky."

In Hebron, a 17-year-old Palestinian was shot dead and 33 Arabs were injured by soldiers.

At least 13 Palestinians were wounded by gunfire in scattered stone-throwing clashes with troops in the Gaza Strip, hospitals reported.

Wednesday's fatalities raised the death toll since Friday to at least 66, including at least 30 men and boys massacred in the Hebron mosque Friday.

All but three of those killed were Arabs. More than 400 people

have been wounded.

Officials at hospital near Tel Aviv said an 8-year-old Gaza girl shot in the head by troops Feb. 2 died of her wounds Wednesday.

The Gaza-based Muslim fundamentalist Hamas movement called for all-out revenge for the mosque massacre, heightening Israeli unease amid military warnings that Arab reprisal attacks are likely.

The government put its embassies and citizens abroad on alert. Rabin's terrorism adviser, Yigal Pressler, urged Israelis with gun permits to carry their weapons at all times.

Hamas called for a "holy liberation war" against Israel and exhorted the 1 million Arabs living in Israel to avenge those killed in the mosque.

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