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Democrats offer health care compromise

The Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — Senate Majority leader George Mitchell sparked fresh debate among fellow Democrats by suggesting ways to make President Clinton's health care plan less costly. The White House said it wasn't endorsing any compromises.
 Rep. Pat Williams, D-Mont., said Monday the House subcommittee he chairs will begin work Thursday on a version that does not include one of the most controversial elements of Clinton's plan.
 Alliances envisioned in the Clinton plan would pool large groups of people to give them purchasing clout in buying health insurance at better prices than they could negotiate individually.
 Clinton press secretary Dee Dee Myers welcomed Mitchell's alternatives to the president's plan as "yet another sign that things are moving along." And Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., said Mitchell had

Senate majority leader outlines possible scenarios; White House says it won't endorse compromises

"established himself as someone who's going to ram (reform) through the United States Senate."
 "Mitchell did a real fine job of outlining three different versions of employer mandates," said Sen. John Breaux, D-La., whose plan would avoid forcing any business or individual to buy insurance. "I don't think there's a majority of support for mandates before we move on (other) reforms."
 All of Mitchell's alternatives would retain Clinton's idea of making employers help pay for their workers' coverage. They would lighten the burden by tinkering with the benefit package, the subsidies and the employer share.
 He got help from senior White House

advisers in framing his options for less expensive ways to achieve health coverage for all Americans.
 Ira Magaziner, the senior White House adviser who took part in the Democrats' discussion at a weekend retreat, said of Mitchell's suggestions, "They were scenarios more than proposals. He was using them to get a discussion going."
 As for the House bill drafted by Williams, the Montana congressman said states would perform the function of alliances and could do so either by creating mandatory consumer purchasing cooperatives, voluntary cooperatives or no cooperatives.
 His proposal would also provide more

generous subsidies for all small businesses, with the majority of assistance going to businesses with 25 or fewer workers.
 Unlike the president's plan, Williams would exclude all such businesses from his cooperatives. They would run their own health coverage, but pay a 1 percent payroll tax.
 His proposal also would provide subsidies to low-income workers up to 200 percent of the poverty line instead of 150 percent as in Clinton's plan.
 He said his subcommittee would vote not only on his draft but on a single-payer plan, like the Canadian system, in which the government pays most bills, without co-payments for all women of childbearing age.

Williams said that his proposal would cost \$15 billion to \$30 billion more than the president's over five years but that it would be worth it.
 The Democrats spent much of Saturday discussing Clinton's plan and alternatives at a Williamsburg, Va., retreat. Clinton joined them that evening and urged them to press forward on health reform and other issues. The president did not take part in the talk of possible compromise on health reform, an aide said.
 Sen. Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said "no commitments were made" on the shape of health care reform.
 "We agreed to additional sessions," said Daschle, co-chairman of the Democratic Policy Committee. "We are working on building a consensus around the principles the president has outlined," said Daschle, who is a candidate to take Mitchell's post when the Maine Democrat retires at the end of the session.

Supreme Court may renew ban on guns near school grounds

The Associated Press
 WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court stepped into the national debate over gun control Monday, saying it will consider reviving a federal ban on possession of guns within 1,000 feet of any school.
 The justices agreed to decide whether a federal appeals court erred when it essentially threw out the 1990 Gun-Free School Zones Act as unconstitutional.
 The Clinton administration is asking the high court to reinstate both the law and the conviction of a former San Antonio, Texas, high school student who admitted he took a gun to school in March 1992.
 Alfonso Lopez Jr. told authorities he was to be paid \$40 for delivering the gun to someone else to use in a gang war.
 Dennis Henigan of the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence expressed hope Monday the court will reinstate the law. Gun violence at schools has become a national problem, Henigan said, adding that the 1990 law was a "sensible public safety measure."
 More than 200,000 children carry firearms to school every day, according to Sen. Herb Kohl, D-Wis., sponsor of the invalidated law.
 Larry Pratt of the Gun Owners of America said the lower court was correct in throwing out the law.
 Lopez's conduct already was banned by other state and federal

A kiss is just a kiss



Jason Welborn/The Aggietland
 Brad Stevenson, a junior sports management major from Houston and Barbie Anderson, a sophomore accounting major from Fort Worth, take part in the United Way Kiss Off at Kyle Field on Saturday.

Aggies for Richards, Bush hope gubernatorial debate informs undecided voters

By Nicole Cloutier
The Battalion
 Members of Aggies for George W. Bush and Aggies for Ann Richards will face off in a debate Tuesday in an attempt to inform voters about the two gubernatorial candidates and their platforms.
 The debate, which is being sponsored by the League of Women Voters, will be at 7 p.m. in Room 601 of Rudder Tower.
 Bo Armstrong, debate coordinator and one of the five people representing Bush at the debate, said he hopes mudslinging will not be a part of this race as it was in last week's runoff between Jim Mattox and Richard Fisher.
 "This has been one of the best efforts between these two parties to work together," Armstrong said. "It has really gone very smooth working with the other party."
 Suzanne Chase, a representative for Aggies for Richards, said she hopes the debate attracts a variety of attendants.
 "We hope to reach more people who are seeking to get informed about the is-

ssues like crime and education," she said.
 "We both decided that it was not going to do anyone any good to fill the room up with Aggies for Richards or George Bush because they have already made up their minds who they are going to vote for."
 Both Armstrong and Chase said the debate is targeted towards voters who are not decided, although everyone is invited.
 "This is really a great chance for them to get to the issues," Armstrong said.
 Coordinators of the debate plan to address several issues that are important to Texans, including crime, education, taxes and spending, gun control, social family values, welfare, jobs and juvenile crime.
 Armstrong said if this debate is a success, another debate will be planned for later in the year.
 Both organizations will send representatives who will address the issues and elaborate on the candidate's position.
 An open forum is scheduled following the debate to allow audience members to question the representatives.

South African officials allow Zulu leader's party into election

The Associated Press
 PRETORIA, South Africa — A breakthrough agreement to resolve South Africa's political crisis appeared imminent Monday when Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi dropped his demand for a delay in next week's election.
 Buthelezi, President F.W. de Klerk and African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela will approve Tuesday a proposal that would bring Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party into the April 26-28 election, said a government source close to the talks.
 Ending the Inkatha boycott would be a key to ending violence between pro- and anti-election forces that has killed hun-

dreds of people and threatened to make voting impossible in some parts of the country.
 "I can say the discussions have gone very well," Buthelezi said after several hours of talks with de Klerk. He added that he hoped to have an announcement Tuesday "that might be very positive."
 One of Buthelezi's conditions for taking part in the vote has been a delay in the election, but on Monday he conceded that ANC and government opposition to a postponement made this impossible.
 "I don't think there is any possibility of postponing the election, although I would prefer a postponement, but I am a realist," Buthelezi said.

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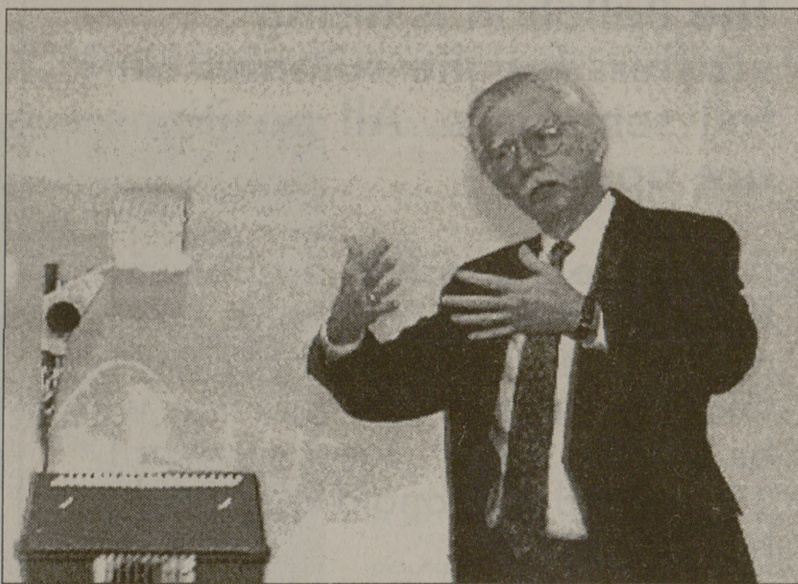
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Lecturer warns of future climate changes

North says greenhouse gases responsible for temperature rise

By Melissa Jacobs
The Battalion
 A faculty lecturer told students and faculty members during a University Lecture Series Monday night that the climate system has undergone drastic changes.
 Dr. Gerald R. North, director of the Climate System Research Program at Texas A&M University, said the climate system is a complicated subject.
 "Probably the closest thing to it are biological systems," North said during the program, "Climate Change in the Last Century: Forced or Natural?"
 North, a distinguished professor of meteorology and oceanography, explained the greenhouse effect is heating due to gases in the atmosphere. He said there is abundant evidence the climate is warming because of increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
 Carbon dioxide is one of the greenhouse gases.
 "Modern climate models say doubling carbon dioxide leads to a

warming of about 2 to 40 degrees Celsius," he said.
 North said problems he has encountered in his research include biases in ways of measuring the earth's temperature. The temperature of ocean water was once measured by lowering a pail into the water and measuring the temperature of the water in the pail, he said. Whether the pail was made of canvas or wood could make a difference in the temperature.
 "Also, the center of an urban area is much warmer than that of a countryside," he said.
 North said the effect that aerosols have on the atmosphere is still a question.
 "We don't know what they are doing to the heat budget of the planet," he said. "Once the aerosol gets above the stratosphere it stays there a couple of years."
 North said the climate change will result in higher temperatures, lower precipitation, an increase in the sea level by about a foot or two and changes in the frequency of hurricanes.
 "A model suggests that in Texas



Amy Browning/The Battalion
 Dr. Gerald R. North, professor of meteorology and oceanography, explains climate systems as a part of the University Lecture Series.

there would be less precipitation," he said. "It is likely that the hurricane frequency will change, but we don't know which way."
 North said there are a lot of problems left with climate research.
 "There are enough problems to keep me here a while," he said. "A realistic goal is that we will actually know where the error bar is in ten years. The government thinks we should be there now but we have a long way to go."

Gorazde falls to Serbs despite cease-fire pact

The Associated Press
 SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Confounded by Bosnian Serb guns they cannot silence, international mediators and U.N. officials acknowledged Monday there was nothing they could do for the terrorized Muslim enclave of Gorazde.
 "The town is at their mercy," said the U.N. commander for Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Sir Michael Rose. "We are on the edge of a major humanitarian catastrophe."
 While Serb artillery pounded Gorazde, U.N. officials said Serb leaders had committed yet again to a cease-fire and the deployment of U.N. troops in the eastern enclave, home to an estimated 65,000 people. But there was no immediate sign it would be anything different from other broken pledges in recent days.
 Russia's special envoy, Vitaly Churkin, lashed out at Serb leaders after a weekend of trying to negotiate a halt to the fighting at Gorazde, saying he had never heard so many broken promises.
 Churkin offered little hope to the thousands of refugees huddled in the ruins of Gorazde trying to escape explosions and bullets from snipers and machine guns. "In my view, there is very little way to control the situation," he told reporters in Zagreb, Croatia, and predicted a bloodbath if Serb troops moved into the town.
 In Washington, President Clinton played down the possibility of further air attacks on Serb forces around Gorazde. He renewed his call for an end to the U.N. ban on arms shipments to Bosnia's Muslim-led government.
 U.N. officials said there would be little gained by calling in more NATO air strikes like the limited raids over the past week that did not blunt the Serb offensive.
 The only military officer in Gorazde to guide NATO planes was among seven British officers evacuated at dawn, U.N. officials said.
 Hampered by that muddled sense of purpose and lack of will, the United Nations could do little but express outrage at the Serb attacks on Gorazde, one of six "safe areas" declared by the Security Council a year ago.