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Informational Meeting Times:

WEDNESDAY JULY 10 at 3 pm

THURSDAY JULY 11 at 11 am

FRIDAY JULY 12 at 12 pm

All Meetings Held in Bizzell Hall West room 358

FOR ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS, INFORMATIONAL MEETING TIMES, OR GENERAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM OFFICE
161 BIZZELL HALL WEST
(409) 845-0544

Reform party ready to relax nomination requirements

Ross Perot remains party's potential presidential candidate

DALLAS (AP) — Ross Perot's Reform Party may relax its ground rules for putting people on the party's presidential nominating ballot if candidates fall just short of meeting the requirements, officials said Monday.

The party initially said would-be candidates would have to show they were supported by 10 percent of Reform Party members to be considered for the nomination.

But Russell Verney, national political coordinator for the fledgling third party, said Monday, "If someone just misses by a little bit, I don't think we should just cut them out."

The party is mailing out a survey this week to determine which candidates have enough supporters to be on the nominating ballot.

The only potential candidates named in the survey packet are former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm and Reform Party founder Ross Perot, but members can write in anyone.

The raw survey results will be kept secret, as will the identity of the companies that tally the results and audit the process, Verney said.

"It has more integrity this way," Verney said.

He added that keeping the information secret means that every would-be nominee will come to the Reform Party's Aug. 11 convention on equal footing.

"We're not looking to embarrass anybody in this process. We're not looking to set up a clear favorite or a dark horse," he said at a Dallas news conference.

Verney said that if auditors report there are candidates near the 10 percent threshold, they may be considered as nominees. That decision will be made by "reasonable people," he said.

The survey being mailed this week is expected to reach between 950,000 and 1 million of the 1.3 million people who have signed petitions to get the Reform Party on state ballots. To be on the nominating ballot, candidates will have to be named on 10 percent of the responses.

Keeping the raw survey results a secret seems to be at odds with the Reform Party's idea of reforming government, said Larry Hugick, director of political and media polls for Princeton Survey Research.

"I can't see that people are going to blindly trust someone to do this," he said. "It'll be a hard sell."

The Reform Party so far has been certified for ballots in 21 states, either as a party or through independent candidate petitions.



PEROT

GOP proposes minimum wage exemptions

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the Senate set to vote on raising the minimum wage, Democrats focused Monday on defeating a Republican push to exempt millions of newly hired workers and employees of small businesses.

The House-passed bill, scheduled for a Senate vote today, would raise the federal minimum wage by 2 cents, in two steps — initially from \$4.25 an hour to \$4.75 and then to \$5.15 a year later.

It's paired with a package of tax breaks, mostly for business.

According to Democrats, an amendment by Senate Small Business Committee Chairman Christopher Bond, R-Mo., would deny a raise to more than 4 million of the 10 million workers earning less than the proposed new minimum.

"Harry Truman said that Republicans are the minimum wage — the minimum-possible wage," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D.

"But there's a 1996 twist to it. It's ... the minimum number of people possible, ... a Swiss-cheese minimum wage (with) ... as many holes as they can get by with."

While the House bill provides a three-month subminimum training wage only for new hires younger than 20, Bond's amendment would exempt all workers during their first six months on a new job as well as employees of businesses with gross revenue of less than \$500,000. It also would delay by six months the effective date of each step of the raise.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., planned to offer an amendment that would shorten the training wage period to 30 days and strike a provision in the House bill excluding workers who earn tips.

The minimum wage was first established by Congress in 1938 at 25 cents an hour. It was increased periodically, with the last raise taking effect in April 1991.

Democrats say inflation has eroded the wage's purchasing power since then to nearly a 40-year low.

Republicans argued that raising it would discourage employers from hiring low-skill workers who most need jobs — welfare recipients and young people with little experience.

Victim's mother takes stand in 'Uncle Hilty' trial

(AP) — A tearful Paulette Everett identified Monday a photograph of her 12-year-old son McKay taken the day before he was snatched from their Conroe home as the trial of the man accused of killing the boy got under way.

"That's my baby," Mrs. Everett, her voice choking, told the jury at the capital murder trial of Hilton Crawford, a family friend known affectionately by McKay as "Uncle Hilty."

The enlarged snapshot showed a grinning boy wearing a green t-shirt, light blue denim shorts and black athletic shoes with a backpack slung over his shoulder.

He was standing outside the back door of his family's house, the same door that the following night was discovered by his father to be open, alerting Carl Everett that something was wrong.

His mother, the first witness called by prosecutors, said her son never would have allowed a stranger into the house and would not have disarmed the

home burglar alarm unless he knew whoever was at the door.

"I told him he needed to lock the door and turn on the alarm," Mrs. Everett said, recounting the last time she saw her only child alive. She and her husband were leaving home the evening of Sept. 12 to attend an Amway meeting nearby.

Crawford, 57, could face the death penalty if convicted of the abduction, beating and fatal shooting of the seventh-grader whose decomposing body was found several days later in a swampy area off Interstate 10 in Louisiana.

When asked by state District Judge Fred Edwards how he pleaded to the charge, Crawford, dressed in a tan sport coat and brown slacks, responded: "Not guilty."

Montgomery County prosecutors say Crawford, a former Jefferson County lawman who held a security job but had filed for bankruptcy, abducted the youth and killed him in a foiled kidnapping-for-ransom scheme.

Crawford has given a confession in which he admitted taking the boy but maintains he's innocent of the capital murder charge.

"This case is about a child's trust and betrayal of that trust," assistant district attorney Nancy Neff said in her opening statement to 14 jurors, 10 of them women. The panel includes two alternates who will not participate in deliberations.

"This case is about the ultimate betrayal," she said. "The evidence will show Samuel McKay Everett is dead because he trusted someone he knew."

Mrs. Everett, who was helped to the witness stand by a bailiff, spoke softly and haltingly as she told of her activities with McKay the day he turned up missing, how she picked him up from school, fixed him dinner and helped him with school work. Several people in the courtroom wiped away tears and at least one juror tightly gripped a tissue during the emotional testimony.

The couple became concerned when McKay did not answer a

telephone call from his father as their Amway meeting, which lasted about two hours, concluded.

"It was not normal for McKay to not answer the phone," she said. "I was puzzled."

Asked what she found when she returned home, she said "My son was gone."

The trial, expected to last about a month, was transferred out of Montgomery County in February after defense lawyers claimed publicity surrounding the case was so widespread and inflammatory that Crawford could not get a fair trial there.

Irene V. Flores — a Houston woman employed by Crawford in a security business he owned years ago — also is charged with capital murder but will be tried separately.

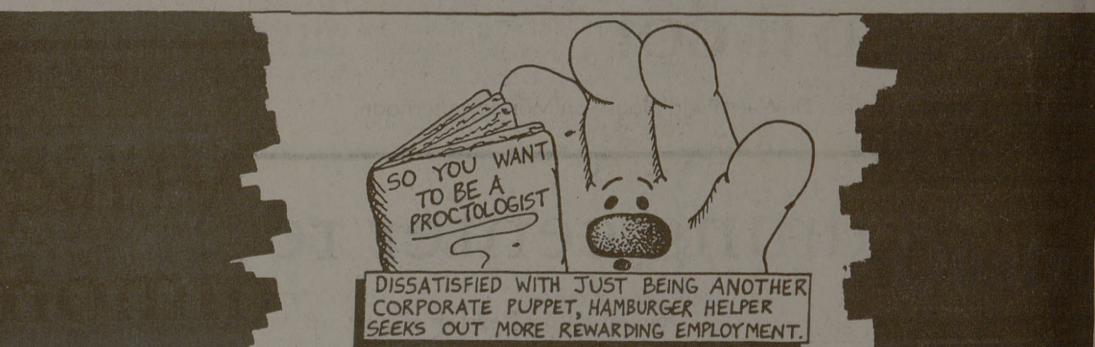
The 54-year-old mother of four has admitted making a call to demand \$500,000 in ransom from McKay's father, a Conroe home builder. Ms. Flores claims Crawford duped her into participating in the abduction scheme.

BAH! by Chuck Johnson



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Sketch



By Quatro

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MSC TownHall presents...
Tunes in the Flagroom
July 16th from 11:30-2:00pm in the MSC Flagroom

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Fast Times at Ridgemont High
July 17th @ 9:00pm in MSC-201

MSC Hospitality presents...
Splash 'O Rama
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Deadline Aug. 1st (call 845-1515 for more info)

*Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We require notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to place you on the list of attendees.

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