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 2. 12:00 3:15 7:00 10:35
 3. 12:30 3:55 7:40 10:50
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 1. 11:45 2:45 5:25 7:55 10:25
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 (on two screens)
 1. 11:30 2:05 4:10 7:00 9:30
 2. 11:10 1:20 4:10 6:30 9:00
- THE ROCK (R)**
 (on two screens)
 1. 11:00 1:40 4:35 7:30 10:35
 2. 11:05 2:10 5:05 7:50 10:55
- STRIPTSEASE (R)**
 11:00 1:30 4:00 7:20 10:15
- THE CABLE GUY (PG-13)**
 11:45 2:30 4:50 7:45 10:20
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Senate passes minimum wage

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate approved a 90-cent increase in the minimum wage Tuesday, raising the prospect of bigger paychecks for more than 10 million Americans. Lawmakers rejected a Republican proposal to narrow the number eligible, culminating months of acrimonious debate.

The 74-24 vote to raise the minimum from the current \$4.25 an hour to \$4.75 initially and to \$5.15 by next July was a victory for Democrats who have sought to make it a central election-year issue.

"The invisible Americans who have been left out and left behind were recognized today by the U.S. Senate," said Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a leading proponent.

The bill was part of a package of tax breaks aimed mainly at business that passed the House by 281-144 in a similar version on May 23. The two chambers still must work out differences in the tax section of the legislation.

Sen. Majority Whip Don Nickles, R-Okla., said he might try to block the House-Senate negotiating conference until Democrats give ground on stalled health care legislation. But Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota said Republicans would obstruct final passage "at their own peril."

Americans overwhelmingly support the increase and Nickles "would be held responsible should he decide to pursue that course," Daschle said.

President Clinton urged Congress to send him the bill quickly for his signature. "There is no reason that minimum wage workers should have to wait any longer for their raise. This is not a time to nickel and dime

our working families."

Vice President Al Gore made a rare appearance in his capacity as president of the Senate to oversee the final vote and stress its importance. "If you are looking for a straw in the wind" to see how political fortunes are blowing this year, "look no further than this vote," he said.

The Clinton administration has campaigned vigorously for the wage increase and has chided Bob Dole, President Clinton's likely opponent in November, for not speaking out in behalf of it. The minimum wage issue bedeviled Dole's final days as Senate majority leader, with Kennedy and other Democrats blocking movement of other bills because of GOP reluctance to take up the minimum wage.

Dole's campaign, in a statement, said he had made clear his support of a raise in the wage and said Clinton had ignored the issue in his first two years and was now "playing maximum politics with minimum wage."

Clinton, while saying the increase was crucial in helping millions of working Americans escape poverty, had promised to veto the bill if it contained an amendment, proposed by Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo., to exempt newly hired employees and workers in businesses grossing less than \$500,000 a year.

Bond's measure would have allowed employers to wait six months before meeting the minimum wage. It would also have delayed until Jan. 1 the date for raising the wage to \$4.75 and until Jan. 1, 1998 for instituting the full \$5.15, both six months beyond the House-set dates.

The House bill allows for a 90-day period when teen-agers can be given a "subminimum" or "training" wage of \$4.25. It would double that period and make it apply to all new workers.

His amendment was defeated 52-46, with five Republicans joining all 47 Democrats in opposing it. Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., a joined GOP Sens. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Colorado, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, Alfonse D'Amato of New York and Mark Hatfield of Oregon in voting against it, voiced concern that businesses would fire workers after months to avoid paying the minimum wage.

The Senate also rejected by 52-46 amendment by Kennedy that would have reduced the training wage time for teenagers to 30 days and removed House language requiring the hourly wage that must be paid those receiving tips.

Supporters of the bill argued that the minimum wage has not been raised since 1991 and is nearing a 40-year low in purchasing power. They said the \$8,800 an individual can earn on the minimum wage is slightly more than half the poverty level, come for a family of four.

But Republicans said the raise could force small businesses to make large-scale layoffs of low-income workers, adding to the welfare rolls. "There's something worse than low wages and that's no wages," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

Bond accused Democrats of being manipulated by organized labor and said the defeat of his amendment "shows me they don't care about small business in America."

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Lamm launches presidential campaign

DENVER (AP) — With just \$6,000 and a "hard-choices" slogan, former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm on Tuesday began a drive for the presidential nomination of Ross Perot's fledgling Reform Party.

The lifelong Democrat framed his uphill campaign as an outsider's wake-up call to the nation, declaring, "I begin this campaign with only one promise, and that's to present the truth and, in some cases, the hard truth, and to trust you to make the right choices."

His decision was sure to muddy the race between President Clinton and Republican Bob Dole, and it threatened a showdown with Perot himself, who has left his candidacy for the Reform Party nomination an open question.

At a packed news conference on the University of Denver campus where he teaches a course dubbed "Hard Choices," Lamm said he would campaign on a platform of restoring fiscal sanity to Washington by drastically curbing popular entitlement programs such as Medicare and Social Security.

"America has to ask itself not what it wants, but what it can afford. . . . The New Deal, in my mind, has become a raw deal for my children," Lamm said. He faulted Democrats and Republicans alike for what he said were cowardly decisions to paper over the nation's problem and leave the bills to future generations.

With all the hurdles facing this former law professor little known outside of Colorado, the Clinton and Dole camps professed nonchalance about his candidacy. And pollsters could only guess whether Lamm would drain more votes from Clinton or Dole.

"If Dick Lamm getting into this race focuses the debate on the important issues facing Americans then we welcome it," said Clinton-Gore spokesman Joe Lockhart. He dismissed any suggestion the campaign was worried Lamm would siphon Democratic votes from Clinton.

Dole spokesman Nelson Warfield's take was that "if two Democrats are in the race, it probably going to help the one Republican."

Republican pollster Linda DiVall said it was too early to tell, given Lamm's minuscule national profile. She predicted that as Lamm gains exposure, his "gruff, candid, straightforward approach is one that voters will embrace."

It's his message — bent on tipping sacred cows — that could trip him, DiVall said.

Lamm called it "a no-B.S. agenda." Lamm, who left the Colorado statehouse in 1986 after three terms, wants to gradually privatize Social Security, raise the retirement age to 70 and reduce annual cost-of-living adjustments. He would deny both Social Security and Medicare benefits to wealthy retirees. He would also scale back veterans' benefits and military pensions.

The country, he said, "just doesn't need a new president. It needs a whole decade of reform and renewal."

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Bertha heads toward U.S., Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Swirling out of the Caribbean with four people dead in its wake, Hurricane Bertha whipped up force Tuesday, menaced the Bahamas and headed for the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Forecasters expected Bertha to skirt the U.S. coast from Florida to Delaware. By late Wednesday, they should know just how close it will come to land, Chris Landsea with the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

"It depends on how close it gets before it makes the turn" due north, Landsea said. "When it's going to turn is the \$64,000 question."

Late Tuesday, the National Weather Service issued hurricane watches for Georgia and South and North Carolina and a tropical storm warning for Florida. A watch means the hurricane could come close to the area

within 36 hours. Hurricane warnings were in effect Tuesday for the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Bahamas, 250 miles east of Florida.

Bertha became more dangerous early Tuesday, spinning winds up to 115 mph that upgraded it to a Category 3 storm capable of extensive damage. Its size alone — 460 miles around — makes it formidable, said Jerry Jarrell, deputy director of the U.S. Hurricane Center in Miami.

"This is a huge storm — it's more like Hugo in '89 or Gilbert in '88," Jarrell said.

Forecasters earlier had thought Bertha would probably stay south of the United States. By 11 p.m. EDT, Bertha was about 70 miles east of San Salvador, in the center of the 700-island Bahamas archipelago.

Its wind speed had decreased slightly to 105 mph as it moved toward the northwest at 21 mph, a motion expected to continue

for the next 24 hours. That would bring the eye of the storm near or just east of the central and northwestern Bahamas, before it turns north, and then northeast, forecasters said.

Bertha brushed by Puerto Rico on Monday, then the Turks and Caicos Tuesday, teasing them with harmless rain showers and gusty winds. But three people died in storm-related accidents in Puerto Rico and one in the Virgin Islands.

Coast Guard officers in Puerto Rico were searching for a crippled boat with as many as 42 people aboard. The boat radioed Monday that it was in the eye of the hurricane and passengers were jumping into the water, the Coast Guard said. There was no sign of the boat Tuesday afternoon.

Hours earlier than expected, Bertha drenched the southern-most of the 700 islands in the Bahamas archipelago Tuesday afternoon.

Library

Continued from Page 1

and public leadership. "Everything is good, the academic building is ahead of schedule," Hermann said. "We are encouraged by the interest and cooperation of other departments."

Dr. Charles A. Johnson, professor and head of the Political Science Department, said faculty members and others will be attracted to Texas A&M because of the Presidential Library Center.

"We think the library and the center, including the academic facilities, are an important step for the University," Johnson said. "It's going to be one of the (University's) crown jewels."

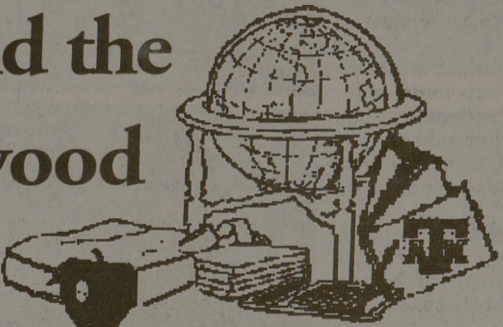
Johnson said the library center will be a remarkable resource for students.

"The library and museum archives are an important part of the past," Hermann said. "But the school is the future."

"Everything is good, the academic building is ahead of schedule," Hermann said. "We are encouraged by the interest and cooperation of other departments."

MSC Political Forum Presents:

Beyond the Hopwood Case



Dr. William Perry

Associate Provost & Dean of Faculties

How Will the Hopwood Case Effect Funding at Texas A&M University?

Wednesday, July 10, 1996
 12:00 Noon in the MSC Flagroom

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