

THE BATTALION

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Clinton pledges to sign welfare bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said Wednesday he would sign a Republican welfare bill ending the 60-year federal guarantee of open-ended assistance to the poor, all but assuring that the presidential campaign ends the final three months.

The House quickly passed the bill, 281-101, and the Senate was expected to approve it Thursday.

Clinton pledged during his 1992 presidential campaign to end the current welfare system, but he had vetoed two previous overhaul plans from the Republican-led Congress, leading the GOP to accuse him of renegeing on his promises.

He said the latest bill had "serious flaws" but he would sign it because "I believe we have a duty to seize the opportunity it gives us to end welfare as

we know it by moving people from welfare to work, demanding responsibility and doing better by children."

Campaigning in Nashville, Tenn., likely Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole called Clinton's move "an election year conversion."

"There's not a dime's worth of difference between the bill he talked about today than the one he vetoed a few months back," Dole said. "The only difference is it's 97 days before the election."

But House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., welcomed Clinton's move. "We certainly hope that he sticks to this decision no matter what the more liberal members of his party say to him," Gingrich said.

"It was inevitable that the present welfare system was going to be put be-

hind us," Rep. Clay Shaw, R-Fla., a key author of the bill, said shortly before it passed. "The degree of success that we

are going to have is going to be a victory for the American people, for the poor."

The bill — estimated to save the federal government \$55 billion to \$56 billion over six years — would set a lifetime limit of five years of welfare per family, require an able-bodied adult to work after two years but allow hardship exemptions for up to 20 percent of recipients. It also would give the states

block grants to run the programs and let them set many of the rules, such as terminating benefits sooner than five years.

Some liberal Democrats wasted no time decrying Clinton's decision, speaking out on the House floor even before he announced it.

"My president will boldly throw one million into poverty," said Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y.

Added Rep. George Miller, D-Calif.: "Unfortunately, the president has joined the Republicans now in making the children the victims of the very system he said he wanted to reform."

But Clinton got praise from the Democratic Governors' Association, which called the bill "a victory for all who believe welfare must provide a second

chance but not a way of life."

Acknowledging the concerns of the Democratic left, Clinton said the bill was "far, far from perfect" and said he would work to fix what he considered excessive cuts in food stamps and benefits for legal immigrants who have not yet become citizens.

At the same time, he said the bill "gives us a chance we haven't had before to break the cycle of dependency that has existed for millions and millions of our fellow citizens, exiling them from the world of work. It gives structure, meaning and dignity to most of our lives."

Clinton's political advisers predicted the decision would take the issue off the campaign agenda of Republican rival Bob Dole.



CLINTON

New computing center to offer study area, advanced equipment

By Melissa Nunnery
THE BATTALION

When renovations are completed at Sterling C. Evans Library, students will have access to a new student computing and group study facility.

John Dinkel, associate provost for the Computing Services Center, said the facility is the focal point of computer access for students on campus.

"It will have a large number of machines and will be open 24 hours a day in the school year," Dinkel said. "We will concentrate our services in that facility because it will always be open."

He said the computing section will have about 600 microcomputers and a group study area on the second floor with connections for laptops. He said laptops may be provided at the facility.

"The group study area on the second floor is meant to be kind of a place where if you're

working on a project that involves computers, you don't have to sit in a standard computer lab," Dinkel said. "You can go there and relax; it will have lounge-type furniture."

Stephanie Bevers, a senior English major, said the group study facility will be useful.

"It will be more convenient because everyone lives in all different places," Bevers said. "Having a more relaxed place to study is good."

The computers will have the same programs that are accessible on campus now. Students will be able to use word processing and spreadsheet programs and will have access to the Internet. Electronic library databases can also be accessed through the Internet.

"It will be kind of like the computer labs on campus now, only hopefully more modern," Dinkel said.

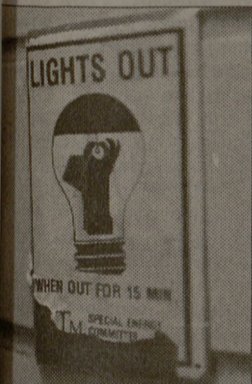


Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

The Evans Library computing center will be completed in Fall 1996 or Spring 1997.

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Groups work to reduce energy usage



By Erica Roy
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Physical Plant and the Energy Systems Lab have created an energy management program to save money and reduce energy consumption on campus.

Dr. Jerry Gaston, interim vice president of finance and administration, said the A&M campus lacked an efficient energy conservation program.

"There was no aggressive program on campus on conserving energy," Gaston said.

Charles Darnell, the energy manager of the Physical Plant, said they are recommissioning several buildings on campus and trying to optimize how the

heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems operate. The Physical Plant is also making efficiency improvements in the chill water control systems in several buildings.

HVAC upgrades have already been completed in the Zachry Engineering Center, the Harrington Education Center and the Kleberg Animal and Food Sciences Center.

Dr. W.D. Turner, director of the Energy Systems Lab, said Zachry Engineering Center has been the primary energy-saving campus building. Eight hundred seventy-seven thousand dollars has been saved in Zachry alone from late 1990 to May of 1996.

Although several buildings on campus need cost-effective ener-

gy improvements, some buildings are being targeted first.

"We are trying to identify the biggest energy users, the ones that are the least efficient," Darnell said. "Zachry is a perfect example; it was a big building designed in the late '60s, early '70s."

Zachry was designed for comfort, Darnell said, not for energy conservation.

Upgrading of the chilling capacity in the main plant involved replacing old, inefficient single-effect steam absorption chillers with new double-effect steam absorbers.

Darnell said the HVAC systems in the Blocker Building

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HANDCRAFTED WITH CARE

Robert Reyes, a cobbler at Holick's Boots, shapes a boot made for a senior Corps of Cadets member.

Atlanta '96

Olympics head into final weekend

ATLANTA (AP) — Gail Devers cleared all the hurdles but the last — she didn't win the gold she barely lost in Barcelona. Pole vaulter Sergei Bubka knew how she felt after leaving Atlanta with his own case of disappointing deja vu.

U.S. decathlete Dan O'Brien, though, was halfway through exorcising his demons of four years ago.

Devers, who appeared a lock for the 1992 hurdles gold until tripping at the final hurdle, sailed clearly above the last barrier Wednesday night. But she couldn't catch gold medalist Ludmila Engquist of Sweden. Devers finished fourth, one spot better than she did in Barcelona.

"Obviously, it was not to be," Devers said. "But I finished ... better than I did in Barcelona. And I finished on my feet."

The U.S. track star already won the gold in the 100 meters. She was hoping for the first sweep of the women's events since Fanny Blankers-Koen of the Netherlands did it in 1948.

Bubka's shot at a Centennial Games medal never got off the ground. The 1988 Olympic gold medalist and five-time world champion pulled out of the pole vault Wednesday with an injured right Achilles tendon.

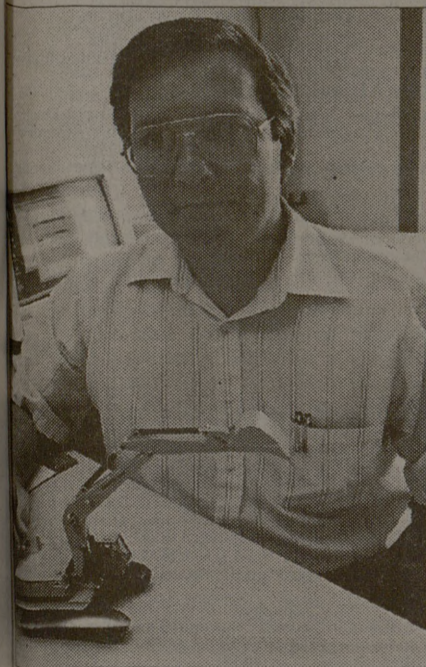
"For me, it is great tragedy," said Bubka, who has set 35 world records — 18 indoors and 17 outdoors. "It was incredible pain, pain not only in my injury, but in my heart."

For the 32-year-old Bubka, in what may be his last Olympics, it had to be a familiar feeling. Favored for the gold four years ago, he won nothing in Barcelona after failing to clear any height in the finals.

This time, the Ukrainian's aging body let him down. He injured his Achilles tendon April 12,

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ROCKET RESEARCH



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Dr. Walter Boles is helping with the lunar soil excavation experiments.

By Brandon Hausenfluck
THE BATTALION

Someday soon humans will be able to live on the moon.

On July 25 and 26, two graduate students at Texas A&M conducted research during flights aboard NASA's KC-135, a cargo plane converted for use in gravitational research.

The aircraft simulates weightless conditions on the moon. Known as "the vomit comet," it was used in the filming of *Apollo 13*.

To achieve zero-gravity during in-flight research, the aircraft traveled in parabolas of only 20 seconds of lunar gravity at a time. Over forty parabolas were flown each day, giving researchers at least 40 periods of 20-second weightless intervals to conduct research.

The research studied the amount of force it would take to excavate lunar soil in reduced gravity, a practice necessary in placing a structure on the moon.

Wesley Scott, a doctoral candidate in industrial engineer-

ing, said it is important to excavate the soil because it is rich in oxygen and aluminum and useful in construction.

"Composition of the soil is 20 or 30 percent aluminum and between 15 to 18 percent aluminum oxide," he said. "If you can process that, you can use it to build on the moon and also to breathe or make fuel."

Scott said the machines used for excavation will also be capable of extracting the elements from the soil.

Dr. Walter Boles, a faculty adviser and assistant professor of civil engineering, said because of lower gravity on the moon, it is difficult to design a tool to excavate lunar soil.

"The moon has one-sixth the gravity of Earth," he said. "With less weight, you couldn't push anything because your foot would slide. And it actually takes one-third the force to move something rather than a sixth."

Boles said the experimentation is crucial because a machine

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1996 OLYMPIC TELEVISION SCHEDULE	
THURSDAY AUGUST 1	SATURDAY AUGUST 3
09 a.m. - Noon Track & Field Equestrian - Jumping final, team Gymnastics - Rhythmic, individual Canoeing - Semifinals 6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Track & Field - Finals include: - Decathlon, final day - Men's and women's 200m - Men's 400m hurdles Basketball - Men's semifinal Diving - Men's platform Gymnastics - Rhythmic, group 11:41 a.m. - 1:11 a.m. Volleyball - Women's semifinal Equestrian - Jumping final, team Boxing - Semifinals Wrestling - Freestyle matches	11:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Volleyball - Women's final Boxing - Finals Canoeing - Finals Tennis - Finals 6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Track & Field - Finals, including: - Men's and women's 1500m - Men's and women's 4x100m relay - Men's and women's 4x400m relay Basketball - Men's gold medal game Cycling - Men's individual time trial final Gymnastics - Rhythmic semifinal, individual 11:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. Soccer - Men's final Cycling - Women's individual time trial final
FRIDAY AUGUST 2	SUNDAY AUGUST 4
09 a.m. - Noon Track & Field Diving - Men's platform semifinal Gymnastics - Rhythmic, individual Canoeing - Semifinals 6:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Track & Field - Finals, including: - Men's pole vault - Women's long jump - Men's 3000m steeplechase Diving - Men's platform final Volleyball - Men's semifinal Gymnastics - Rhythmic final, group Wrestling - Freestyle finals Synchronized swimming - Team final 11:41 a.m. - 1:11 a.m. Boxing - Semifinals Basketball - Women's semifinal Wrestling - Freestyle finals Tennis - Finals	6 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Track & Field - Men's, marathon Volleyball - Men's final Gymnastics - Rhythmic final, individual Equestrian - Jumping final, individual Boxing - Finals Basketball - Women's bronze medal game Canoeing - Finals 6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Basketball - Women's gold medal game Closing Ceremony