

# THE BATTALION

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## Embracing the Spirit

# '96 Olympic games draw to a close

ATLANTA (AP) — After 16 days, 271 events, millions of spectators and endless hours of timeless moments, the Olympics got down and jammed the night away Sunday to celebrate the end of the 100th-anniversary Summer Games, the biggest ever.

Thousands of young athletes, their labors done, their medals lost or won, their memories safekept for a lifetime, poured onto the Olympic Stadium infield in an end-of-games free-for-all of music, dancing and farewells — and of vows to meet again at the 2000 Olympics in Australia.

"I call upon the youth of the world to assemble four years from now at Sydney," declared Juan Antonio Samaranch, International Olympic Committee president.

Samaranch congratulated Atlanta organizers but stopped short of calling the games "the best ever," as he traditionally does after each Olympics. Instead, he called them "most exceptional."

The bittersweet partings took on a specially sad note for these '96 games, because of the bombing, still unsolved, that injured scores of people and killed one at an Olympic park concert a week ago.

The 80,000 packed into Olympic Stadium remembered the victims Sunday night with a moment of silence. Samaranch also recalled the tragedy of Munich 1972, when 11 Israeli athletes were killed in a terrorist attack.

"No act of terrorism has destroyed the Olympic movement and none ever will," he said to the crowd's cheers. As he spoke, an army of police, federal officers and military kept watch on the stadium and other Olympic venues. A police blimp and helicopter hovered overhead.

Aside from those melancholy moments, the night, telecast to hundreds of

millions worldwide, belonged to buoyant athletes, rocking musicians and the time-honored ritual of the closing ceremony.

The evening's ceremonial heart was an old rite of passage, the handover of the Olympic flag — passed on since the Antwerp Games of 1920 — from Atlanta's Mayor Bill Campbell to Sydney's Mayor Frank Sartor.

The Atlanta Games, where sprinter Michael Johnson made history and gymnast Kerri Strug defined courage, ended with a bang and a boom: U.S. boxer David Reid's stunning gold medal knockout, and the women Dream

Team's romp over Brazil.

Reid captured America's only gold in the boxing ring Sunday, while the U.S. women rolled to a 111-87 victory that capped a year-long odyssey and erased the memory of settling for a Barcelona bronze.

The 17th and last day, which officially ended with a closing ceremony featuring Stevie Wonder and Gloria Estefan, began with a South African marathoner mining an extraordinary gold medal and delivering a message of conciliation.

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## Student leaders work to stop high school drug use

By Melissa Nunnery  
THE BATTALION

A group of Texas A&M student leaders are working to publicize their views on alcohol and drugs.

Workers in the Center for Drug Prevention and Education — an office in the Department of Student Life — are distributing pamphlets and posters to high schools. The purpose is to promote A&M to high school students and inform them about leadership, alcohol and drugs.

Carl Baggett, A&M student body president, said he created the project to evoke a positive image of A&M while teaching high school students to say no to drugs and alcohol.

"It's good for high school kids to see, from a student's point of view, why you can do well in college and drugs don't have to be a part of it," Baggett said.

He said the program will be effective in reaching high school students because they are more likely to listen to people their own age.

"I really think students will listen to students," Baggett said. "We would have a different angle. We're going through the same things they (high school students) are, or we just did in the past five years. They would be more responsive to what we have to say."

Matt Mayfield, executive vice president of Student Government administration, agreed with Baggett about the effectiveness of an anti-drug message coming from A&M student leaders.

"In the '80s there was the big 'Just say no' campaign," Mayfield said. "Now I think that's falling on deaf ears. We need to show kids there are kids in college, especially at A&M, who stand up for the right things."

Dr. Dennis Reardon, senior coordinator of the project, said the point is to get student leaders together to address alcohol and drug issues. He said the pamphlet will address people's success and leadership roles and how alcohol and

drug abuse affect them.

"You can't be in a leadership position if you're abusing alcohol and drugs," Reardon said. "Even if you can get away with it for a while, you won't be looked at as a leader with potential."

Reardon said the program seeks to separate alcohol from A&M traditions. He feels if alcohol is not part of traditions, A&M will be seen in a more positive light.

"We want to change the environment surrounding traditions," Reardon said. "This project sends a strong message about what leadership thinks of alcohol."

Mayfield said he hopes other colleges in the Big 12 will follow in the footsteps of A&M's student leaders.

"It (the project) is a positive thing. Hopefully we could lead a collegiate charge against drugs and alcohol," Mayfield said. "Very positive effects are going to come out of it."

Melissa Ballou, who was unavailable for comment, is also involved with work on the pamphlet.



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

## REST IN PEACE

The grave of "Ranger," former A&M President James Earl Rudder's dog, lies in front of the President's Home. Rudder and his wife, Margaret, named the dog after the Rudder Rangers, which James Earl Rudder was a member of. The dog was also an honorary Corps Cadet.

By Ann Marie Hauser  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Student Recreation Center is taking a chunk out of area gyms' student membership rolls.

Aerofit Health and Fitness Center bought Jay's Gym and Royal Oaks Racquet Club after business decreased because of the Rec Center.

Larry Isham, director of marketing at Aerofit, said student numbers diminished at the club the day the Rec Center opened.

"I considered it (the decrease) solely because of the A&M Rec Center," Isham said. "Everybody here knew it was coming."

The Class of '91 voted for the \$50 fee to pay for the then-future Rec Center. Isham, a 1991 graduate, now faces the consequences.

For Royal Oaks, the Rec Center

opening was only a contributing factor in the club's buyout.

Darren Busby, the manager of the Royal Oaks club, said the club has always maintained a racquet club persona and is more family oriented.

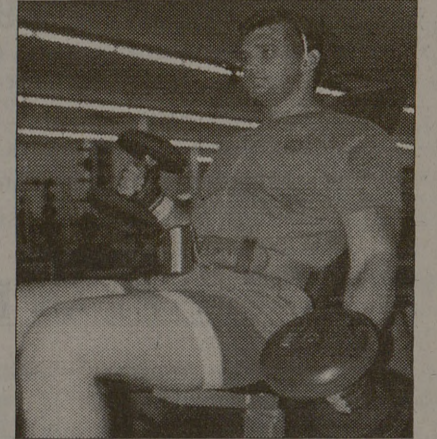
"It (Rec Center's opening) certainly didn't help us any," Busby said. "The few college members we had, we certainly lost."

The Royal Oaks club is now under the Aerofit title along with the aerobic annex on Texas Avenue.

Joe Brown, a Bryan public information officer who has worked out at Aerofit for six years, said fewer students seem to be working out at the club.

"Aerofit was wise in their marketing by shifting their focus to the family," Brown said.

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Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

Stuart Jackson, a junior finance and accounting major, works out at Gold's Gym Sunday.

## Dole to unveil economic package

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bob Dole, trying to reinvigorate his presidential campaign, decided to sweeten his economic package with a dramatic call for a 15-percent across-the-board tax cut, his advisers said Sunday.

He will formally unveil his tax plan, which the campaign claims would cost \$548 billion over six years, on Monday in Chicago.

Dole aides said it was the first step in a major tax simplification plan that would eventually result in a "flatter, fairer and simpler" system.

"It is bold and it is comprehensive," senior Dole policy adviser Donald Rumsfeld said Sunday. "It will be a wonderful thing for the country."

The plan was immediately attacked by the Clinton administration. Vice President Al Gore said it would "blow a hole in the deficit."

Dole had swayed between such a Reaganesque tax cut and a more modest gesture of proposing the repeal of the 1993 tax increase pushed through Congress by President Clinton.

But he finally sided with advisers who defeated GOP rival Steve Forbes and Sen. Spencer Abraham, R-Mich.,

who had forcefully urged the more dramatic approach, said those close to the deliberations, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

"We'll lay it all out there," Dole told reporters on Sunday as he headed to his campaign headquarters for what he said would be a "long" day.

The launching of the economic package begins a critical week for Dole, who trails Clinton by as much as 20 points in some national polls.

In the week ahead, Dole must also settle on a running mate and prepare for next week's Republican National Convention.

Advisers view this period as crucial to animating the Dole campaign and say the economic plan will become the centerpiece of Dole's effort.

On the eve of his announcement, Dole was still grappling with details of the plan — and how to pay for it.

Beyond spending cuts, Dole will propose the sale of some federal assets to boost revenues and simplifications in the tax code designed to reduce tax avoidance.

But a large portion of paying for the \$100-billion-a-year plan — roughly 30 percent — would come from an assumption of stronger economic growth, theoretically to be triggered by the tax cut itself. Earlier versions called for up to 40 percent to be "financed" through such a spurt of economic growth.

### Besides an across-the-board tax cut, Dole's plan would:

— Reduce the capital gains tax from its current 28 percent to 14 percent.

— Re-propose a GOP-backed \$500-per-child tax credit that had been vetoed by Clinton.

— Repeal the tax hike on Social Security benefits that was part of the 1993 tax increase that Clinton pushed through Congress.

— Rewrite the tax code so that about 40 million Americans would not have to file at all but could do so if they chose to claim deductions.

— Establish "investment education accounts" that would be similar to Individual Retirement Accounts. Earnings would accumulate tax-free as long as money was spent on a child's education.

Many economists have scoffed at such "supply side" economic theories, as has Dole himself in the past. Dole has a history of preferring to cut the deficit to cutting taxes.

But campaign advisers felt that the Republican candidate, who will be formally nominated at the GOP convention in San Diego, needed something dramatic to get his campaign off the ground.

## Pilot of doomed flight found

EAST MORICHES, N.Y. (AP) — The pilot of doomed TWA Flight 800 was found still strapped in his seat before a major section of his cockpit — a mangled mess of switches, instruments and seats — was raised from the ocean floor, investigators said Sunday.

The bodies of the pilot, Capt. Ralph G. Kevoorkian, 58, of Garden Grove, Calif., and his flight engineer, Richard G. Campbell, 63, of Ridgefield, Conn., were retrieved Saturday night.

The recovery of bodies — 194 by Sunday, leaving 36 missing — and the arrival of bargeloads of wreckage were major weekend strides in a disaster probe that had been frustrated for days by bad weather.

The newly recovered wreckage included seats, instruments, switches and fuses mangled together in the cockpit, but did not include a crescent-shaped section with windows that searchers had previously seen underwater.

The cockpit wreckage — 6 feet high and 10 feet wide — was pierced by "a big beam from another part of the aircraft. I am not even sure how it got there," said National Transportation Safety Board Vice Chair-

man Robert Francis.

"To see that mass of jumble of wires certainly brought home to me how difficult it's going to be ... to try to put that all back together again," added James Kallstrom, the special agent in charge of the FBI probe. "Basically, it's just a solid pile of debris all mixed together."

Francis said investigators would now begin the arduous task of untangling the wreckage to see what evidence it might contain on the cause of the July 17 explosion that killed 230 people.

Because of the condition of the wreckage, Francis said he was "not expecting dramatic results from today to tomorrow."

It was unclear how many of the cockpit's 900 gauges and dials and gadgets were in the recovered section. An instrument panel — perhaps frozen in time — could yield clues: about engine speed or how the plane was reacting, perhaps whether parts were shattered by the crash or by a blast.

Wreckage will also be inspected for explosive residue, which would suggest a bomb. A missile theory and mechanical failure also have not been ruled out.