

THE BATTALION

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Dole, Kemp vow to end Clinton era

VP selection rejuvenates Brazos Valley delegates

By David Taylor
THE BATTALION

SAN DIEGO — Until this week, delegates to the Republican National Convention in San Diego saw little to be excited about. With their presumed presidential nominee, Sen. Bob Dole, floundering in the polls and the national media declaring the race all but lost, many delegates just seemed content to enjoy the sights and sounds of southern California. But when the former senate majority leader anointed

Jack Kemp his vice presidential candidate, everything changed.

Rodger Lewis, Brazos County Republican chairman, said Kemp is everything the Texas delegation could have hoped for in Dole's running mate.

"I'm sure we could possibly find some point of disagreement on some issue," Lewis said, "but I can't think of it at the moment."

Even experienced Texas Republican Party insiders were caught

See Delegates, Page 8

SAN DIEGO (AP) — With an opening night splash of political all-stars, Republicans launch their harbor-front convention today hoping to lift Bob Dole's struggling campaign and redeem his promise that "the era of Bill Clinton is about over."

Dole and running mate Jack Kemp brought an air of excitement to this convention city where nearly 1,990 delegates — ages 18 to 93 — were eager to turn from partying to politics. "Here in San Diego, the real race begins," Dole declared.

Filling his time before accepting the nomination Thursday night, Dole planned a mid-morning speech at a solar turbine plant to tout the tax-cutting plan that is the centerpiece of his campaign — and the target of jabs from Clinton.

Down in the polls — but perhaps pulling up — Dole proclaimed, "It's a fresh start for us." Two surveys showed Clinton ahead by about 10 points, half his lead in earlier polls. But two others suggested Clinton's advantage was nearly 20 points.

Kemp, who has differed with Dole on

many policies, declared unwavering allegiance. "Let me just tell you here today, unambiguously, Bob, you are the quarterback and I am your blocker and we're going all the way," Kemp said, drawing on imagery from his football career.

With security tightened after the Olympics' pipe bombing, the San Diego Convention Center was ringed with a chain-link fence, metal detectors and police officers. Concrete barriers lined the streets.

The four-day convention was scripted for television, fast-paced with a 10-minute limit on speeches and big-screen videos showing "average Americans" with "above average accomplishments."

The first-night headliners were not so average: former Presidents George Bush and Gerald Ford, soldier-turned-statesman Colin Powell and Nancy Reagan, standing in for her ailing husband Ronald Reagan.

A slew of Republican candidates for Senate and House seats also got a turn at the mikes — a sign of the GOP's hopes of holding on to control of Congress after two years at the helm.

Aside from the speeches, the main order of business was the ratification of the GOP platform with its bitterly debated anti-abortion plank and a proposed statement of "tolerance" relegated to the appendix.

Three governors who support abortion rights, California's Pete Wilson, New York's George Pataki and Massachusetts' William Weld, were denied or gave up prime-time speaking spots.

Overall, the platform is a staunchly conservative document that urges elimination of four Cabinet departments and denial of automatic citizenship to children born in America of illegal aliens. It declares opposition to same-sex marriages and preferences under affirmative action. Dole said he hadn't read it and wouldn't be bound by it.

Dole's primary rival, Pat Buchanan, staged a rally with supporters and took credit for the platform's conservative flavor. But in a show of unity, Buchanan also declared, "It is time for a party truce in the name of Republican victory."

More troops head to Mideast

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite two terrorist bombings aimed at forcing American troops from the Persian Gulf, the U.S. military is intensifying its presence in the region, not depleting it.

About 5,000 soldiers, airmen and other military specialists are heading to the area on temporary duty to participate in land, sea and air exercises throughout the strategic area. Some will be bolstering defenses for air crews living in the region.

They will be joining the 21,000 troops already there. Of that number, about 15,000 are afloat on 20 warships in the Persian Gulf and nearby waters.

Iran contends such activities amount to "provocative acts," and claimed last week that U.S. warplanes violated its air space twice during the ongoing exercises. Wash-

ington denied it.

But Pentagon officials say the latest round of military maneuvers, some of which will last into December, are evidence of U.S. resolve to maintain peace and stability in the area.

"We will not be driven out," Defense Secretary William Perry vowed in the wake of the June 25 truck bombing that claimed 19 servicemen's lives in Dhahran. In November, a bomb attack in the Saudi capital of Riyadh killed five Americans and two Indians.

The exercises include:

— "Intrinsic Action 96-3," in which 1,200 Army soldiers from Fort McPherson, Ga., and Fort Hood, Texas, rush to the former battlefields of Kuwait to show how quickly they can deploy the armored tanks and weaponry stored there.

The exercise, which began over the weekend and will last through December, is one of a series conducted by U.S. troops since Saddam Hussein's forces were driven from the emirate during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

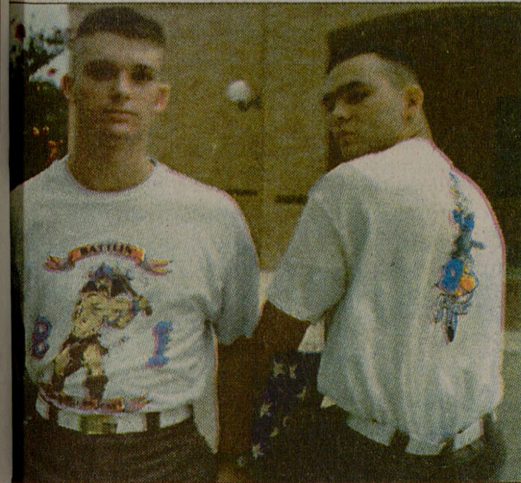
"This is part of the forward presence we're maintaining in the Gulf that allows us to respond very quickly and forcefully to any emergencies that might arise there," Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said.

— "Rugged Nautilus," primarily a naval exercise which involves about 2,000 servicemen and women. It began in July and will last through August to test their ability to rapidly organize U.S. military forces in the area.

Planes, ships and troops on the

See Troops, Page 8

Expansions provide leadership opportunities for Corps members



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

By Ann Marie Hauser
THE BATTALION

Two new companies and a new brigade will contribute new traditions and provide leadership opportunities for the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling, former commandant of the Corps, authorized these expansions to give more leadership positions for cadets.

"I think it will provide additional leadership opportunities which has been the main objective over the past three years," Darling said.

Army ROTC split to form a second brigade because it had grown almost twice as large as the regiment, wing and band.

Steve Foster, Corps commander and a senior political science major, said the new outfits will benefit numerous cadets because they offer

more leadership opportunities.

"This gives everybody a chance to work on their leadership skills," Foster said. "It's an incredible opportunity for members of the new outfits."

Shawn Lauderdale, a new upperclassman of B-1 and a junior marketing major, said recruiting this summer was their only chance to recruit the incoming freshmen.

"Myself and A-2 share a unique challenge because the usual paths for recruiting have not been available to us," Lauderdale said.

Both outfits are ranked within the top five for the success they have had in recruiting this summer.

Joel Taylor, first sergeant of A-2 and a junior civil engineering major, said a lot of progress has been made this summer.

"We've had to do everything on our own, picking all new things to start an outfit," Taylor

See Corps, Page 8

Finals put stress on students

By Tauma Wiggins
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M students might be busy preparing for the fall semester, but they must make it through this week's final exams first. All the work can make some students stress out.

Day Diltz, a senior elementary major, said she has experienced stress while studying for and taking exams this summer and is presently studying for two exams she will take Wednesday.

"Any time I take a test, I get pretty anxious," Diltz said. "With math tests I sometimes look at all the numbers and start to panic."

The Texas A&M Student Counseling Service offers as-

sistance to students going through academic-related stress and other problems.

Ellen*, a volunteer for the Student Counseling Service help line, said many students seek help for stress during exam time. She said the counseling center offers several different solutions.

"(For exam stress), we advise them to on-campus services such as a study-skill program," Ellen said. "If they're really stressed out — and it's more than an academic struggle — we suggest they can go see a counselor (for up to 10 free sessions)."

Ellen said the Student Counseling Service offers many programs and workshops, such as a

See Exams, Page 8

Touring the Presidential Mansion

By Brandon Hausenfluck
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M presidential mansion might look like a million bucks, but it only cost the University around \$60,000 to build.

The majestic 7,000-square-foot home sits atop a knoll surrounded by the evergreen oak trees that typify Texas A&M. The large driveway circles perfectly at the doorstep, and has received distinguished guests for over 35 years. Inside, high ceilings, wooden floors and antique-style molding create a roomy yet comfortable atmosphere. The furnishings have belonged to

A&M for years. Some pieces were salvaged from a fire that burned the first president's house to the ground. In the formal dining room, a large wooden table with 12 chairs is accented with a handsome silver collection donated by former student Buddy Benz. A grand piano, antique couches, large paintings and a statuesque fireplace make up the formal living room.

Mrs. Margaret Rudder, the widow of former A&M president Earl Rudder, said much of the home was donated by

See Mansion, Page 8 The A&M Presidential Mansion sits on the southside of campus.



Gwendolyn Struve, THE BATTALION

ROPIN' THE WIND

Jesse Carver, a junior animal science major and a junior herdsman for the Texas A&M Show Team, halts a heifer Friday. The Show Team puts on grooming and showmanship clinics for FFA and 4-H clubs.



Pat James, THE BATTALION

FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE			
10-Week Semester, Tuesday August 13 and Wednesday, August 14			
August 13, Tuesday	8-10 a.m.	classes meeting MWF 8-10 a.m.	
August 13, Tuesday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	classes meeting MW 10 a.m.-noon	
August 13, Tuesday	1-3 p.m.	classes meeting MWF noon-2 p.m.	
August 13, Tuesday	3:30-5:30 p.m.	classes meeting MWF 2-4 p.m.	
August 14, Wednesday	8-10 a.m.	classes meeting TR 8-10 a.m.	
August 14, Wednesday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	classes meeting TR 10 a.m.-noon	
August 14, Wednesday	1-3 p.m.	classes meeting TR noon-2 p.m.	
August 14, Wednesday	3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	classes meeting TR 2-4 p.m.	
Second Term, Wednesday, August 14, 1996			
August 14, Wednesday	8-10 a.m.	classes meeting 8-9:35 a.m.	
August 14, Wednesday	10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	classes meeting 10-11:35 a.m.	
August 14, Wednesday	1-3 p.m.	classes meeting noon-1:35 p.m.	
August 14, Wednesday	3:30-5:30 p.m.	classes meeting 2-3:35 p.m.	