

Get your motor running



Hugh Jamison, a graduate mechanical engineering major, jump starts his car that died outside the engineering physics building Tuesday.

JAKE SCHRIKLING/THE BATTALION

Clinton signs \$25 million police grant program bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police officers around the country will get \$25 million in help buying bulletproof vests under a grant program being signed into law today by President Clinton. The legislation, overwhelmingly approved by the House and Sen-



CLINTON

ate last month, sets aside \$25 million for a 50 percent matching grant program in the Justice Department to buy vests with state and local police agencies. In a White House signing ceremony this afternoon, Clinton was also signing the Police Survivors Act authorizing help for families of slain officers, and releasing \$27 million to 73 communities to hire 369 new police officers. Ronald Brown Sr., the officer who chased down the student suspect in Monday's school shooting in Richmond, was in-

ited to attend the ceremony with Clinton. President Al Gore. Brown hired and stationed in the strong High School as the administration's policing initiative. The Justice Department estimates that 25 percent of local police are bulletproof vests. According to the FBI, more than 30 of the 1,182 officers killed in the line of duty could have been saved by body armor.

Senator compares homosexuality to alcohol addiction

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate should take up the stalled ambassadorial nomination of a gay philanthropist to clear the air after Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott likened homosexuality to an addiction, a senator said Tuesday. There should be an "honest discussion" on James Hormel's nomination to be ambassador to Luxembourg, Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., said in a floor speech. "Otherwise, I worry about a climate that will become increasingly polarized, increasingly poisoned, and we don't want that to happen," he said.

President Clinton nominated Hormel to the post last year, but his confirmation has been delayed by a small group of conservatives who say the problem is not his homosexuality but his active support of gay causes. Supporters of the 64-year-old businessman and Democratic Party contributor say they have 59 votes, one short of the 60 needed to break the conservative hold on the nomination. He would be the country's first openly gay ambassador. Lott, R-Miss., who controls the Senate agenda and opposes the Hormel nomination, created a

controversy Monday when he told a conservative television host that homosexuality should be treated "just like alcohol ... or sex addiction ... or kleptomania." "There are all kinds of problems, addictions, difficulties, experiences of things that are wrong, but you should try to work with that person to learn to control that problem," he told "The Armstrong Williams Show" on the America's Voice television network. Asked about the comments Tuesday, House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, said the Bible considers homosex-

uality a sin, and he said he would abide by the Army's rule that officers in the line of duty should not be in the same room as someone who is in the line of duty. "It seems to me that this subject," David Spokesman of the Rights Campaign, the group's largest gay group, said that it may interpret the disagreement differently but never justify discriminatory public policy. "It seems to me it's open season on people up there of the Republican Congress.

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