

Dinner time



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Ann Marie Prazak, a food science and technology graduate student, bottle-feeds a Holstein calf Wednesday evening at the Dairy Center. The calves are bottle-fed twice a week so the mothers can produce milk for market.

Regents approve renovation

\$8.1 million plan will improve safety, increase available space

BY SUZANNE BRABECK
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Board of Regents approved \$8.1 million out of its special construction fund to facilitate renovation of the first two floors of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

Acklam Construction Company was awarded the contract when it presented to the board presented the lowest bid of \$5,855,584. The remaining funds will be spent on architectural fees and other expenses.

Charlene Clark, public relations officer for Evans library, said that since the bid already has been approved, construction will likely begin within the next 30 days. The project is estimated to conclude in August 2000.

Charles Gilreath, associate university librarian said there are two main goals in renovating the library.

"One [is] to bring the building up to current standards for life safety," he said. "Two, to relocate space and make the first two floors more attractive and usable."

Gilreath said with the Dorm 9 fire last fall, the library realized they needed to increase the number of sprinkler systems in the facility.

"Obviously, with a danger of destroying numerous books if they (the sprinklers) were to go off, the systems will have higher security on them than normal," he said.

Clark said students should not be affected by the construction because most of the study areas are in the Evans Library Annex. Signs and notices will be posted as changes are made. She said the main entrance to the library will remain open to allow access to the third through sixth floors, but more than likely the main entrance area will be tunneled off.

As part of making the library more accessible, the University is updating the study areas to comply with new Americans With Disability Act regulations. The library's goal is to have one handicap-accessible study room on each floor. The library hopes to aid all students by updating the service units.

Relocated resources

During construction

- Annex:**
- reference materials (5th and 3rd floors)
- 3rd floor Evans:**
- inter-library loan service
 - current periodicals

After renovation

- 1st floor Evans:**
- Main service point
 - Large reading room
 - general, humanities and sciences references
 - controlled access area that frequently turn up maps
- 2nd floor Evans:**
- conference & classrooms
 - administration offices
- 5th floor Annex:**
- Will house the science and engineering references

Envoys deliver peace plan to Milosevic

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Russian and European envoys hand-delivered a peace plan to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic late Wednesday in hopes of ending the Kosovo crisis and nearly 2 1/2 months of NATO airstrikes.

But differences persisted among Moscow and the Washington-London axis on how to police any peace for the troubled province.

After two hours of face-to-face meetings, the talks adjourned until Thursday. The Interfax news agency quoted Russian spokesperson Valentin Sergeyev as describing the meeting as "pretty productive."

The talks took place amid indications that Russia — Yugoslavia's main ally — was solidly behind the West in wanting agreement on the newest plan.

"It is necessary for the Yugoslav leadership to accept this document," Sergeyev, a spokesperson for Russian en-

voy Viktor Chernomyrdin, was quoted as telling the press.

Comments from senior Russian, European Union and U.S. officials all indicated the three powers backing the plan were closer than ever to agreement on what would take to establish peace in Kosovo, a province in Serbia, the main republic in Yugoslavia.

"We think the areas of agreement are sufficient to justify a joint trip," State Department spokesperson James Rubin said of the mission led by Chernomyrdin and Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, the EU envoy.

Ahtisaari said two days of talks in Bonn, Germany with Chernomyrdin and U.S. envoy Strobe Talbott ended in a "largely common position." Before departing for Belgrade, Chernomyrdin spoke of a "realistic plan that the war will end."

The envoys attained a "very far-reaching message agreement," Michael Steiner, foreign policy advisor to German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, said. "Now we have to see how Belgrade reacts."



MILOSEVIC

LONG DISTANCE

6.9¢

MINUTE

For Information Call

821-2901

Summer Work & Business Opportunities Available



Just scraping by? Save 10% with your student ID.

At Half Price Books we are offering you a 10% discount on new and used books, videos, software & more when you present your valid student ID.

Waste Not **HALF PRICE BOOKS** Read A Lot

3828 Texas Ave. S. • 846-2738
10am-9pm Mon.-Sat. • 12pm-9pm Sun. • www.halfpricebooks.com
We buy books, CDs, cassettes, LPs, videos, software & more, all day, every day.

When it comes to choices,



no one stacks up like FIRSTCARE

Some like vanilla. Some prefer chocolate. Some rave about tutti-frutti. But everyone likes to have a choice. That's why FIRSTCARE offers you more choices than any other Health Maintenance Organization.

With FIRSTCARE, you can choose your Primary Care Physician from Bryan-College Station and Central Texas' largest network of doctors. You also have direct access to your designated OB/GYN for gender-related problems, and there are many other referral specialists ready to serve you.

On top of that, the dollars spent with FIRSTCARE stay right here in Central Texas.

To top it off, FIRSTCARE has no claim forms to fill out, no annual deductibles to meet and minimal out-of-pocket expenses.

If this all looks good to you, call (254) 202-5300 or 1-888-817-2273 for more information. With so many choices, FIRSTCARE is a whole new flavor of HMO.



FIRSTCARE

The HMO of Choice.

A Service of Hillcrest

4547 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 4 • Waco, Texas 76710 • (254) 202-5300 • (888) 817-2273

Mandel era ends in peace

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The Nelson Mandela peace era ended Wednesday with a joyful election almost certain to propel the African National Congress (ANC) to another overwhelming victory five years after South Africans cast off the evil of apartheid.

On a day bathed in good will, millions of voters stood in lines — some snaked for miles — and returned out hours before dawn. Black mothers with babies on their backs stood beside white men in suits. Many were wrapped in blankets to ward off the cold morning air. Some rural voters went to polling stations on horseback.

Together they tested the strength of their young democracy on a continent where two successive free elections are held. And the black majority has its first chance to vote since the 1994 race elections of 1994 ended minority rule and sent Mandela, who spent 27 years as a prisoner of the apartheid state, to the presidency.

The moment also marked the close of a period of racial reconciliation nurtured by Mandela, who plans to retire, and the start of a new generation of ANC leaders. They include pragmatic administrators, such as the minister of health, and articulate presidential candidate, Thabo Mbeki.

Mbeki is expected to be elected president by the newly elected National Assembly and inaugurated June 16. He will face the monumental task of quickly improving living standards for blacks.

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

FREE PAGER
\$3.95
pager airtime
Discount Paging System
Free Activation
Access
Calling Card
PrimeCo phone service
764-5900