

Gore announces candidacy

Democratic hopeful vows moral focus in 2000 campaign

CARTHAGE, Tenn. (AP) — Al Gore promised an all-consuming "fight for America's families" in a presidential announcement address Wednesday that declared his commitment to moral leadership and signaled his independence from Bill Clinton.

"Our families are loved but overstretched," the vice president said. Gore, the front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, claimed a share of credit for the six-year economic recovery under President Clinton, but said the work is not complete.

With unemployment low and the stock market high, parents are still working too hard and spending too much time away from their children in a world that is increasingly hostile to families, Gore said. "We have closed our budget deficit," Gore told a crowd estimat-

ed by police at 4,000 to 5,000 — more than the population of his rural hometown. "But today, we find a deficit of even greater danger — one that only seems to deepen the harder we work and the better we do."

"These are our deficits now: the time deficit in family life; the decency deficit in our common culture; the care deficit for our little ones and our elderly parents," Gore said before leaving for campaign trips to Iowa and New Hampshire.

While Clinton focused "like a laser beam" on the economy to win in 1992, Gore will narrow his sights to what he calls "the crisis in the American family."



GORE

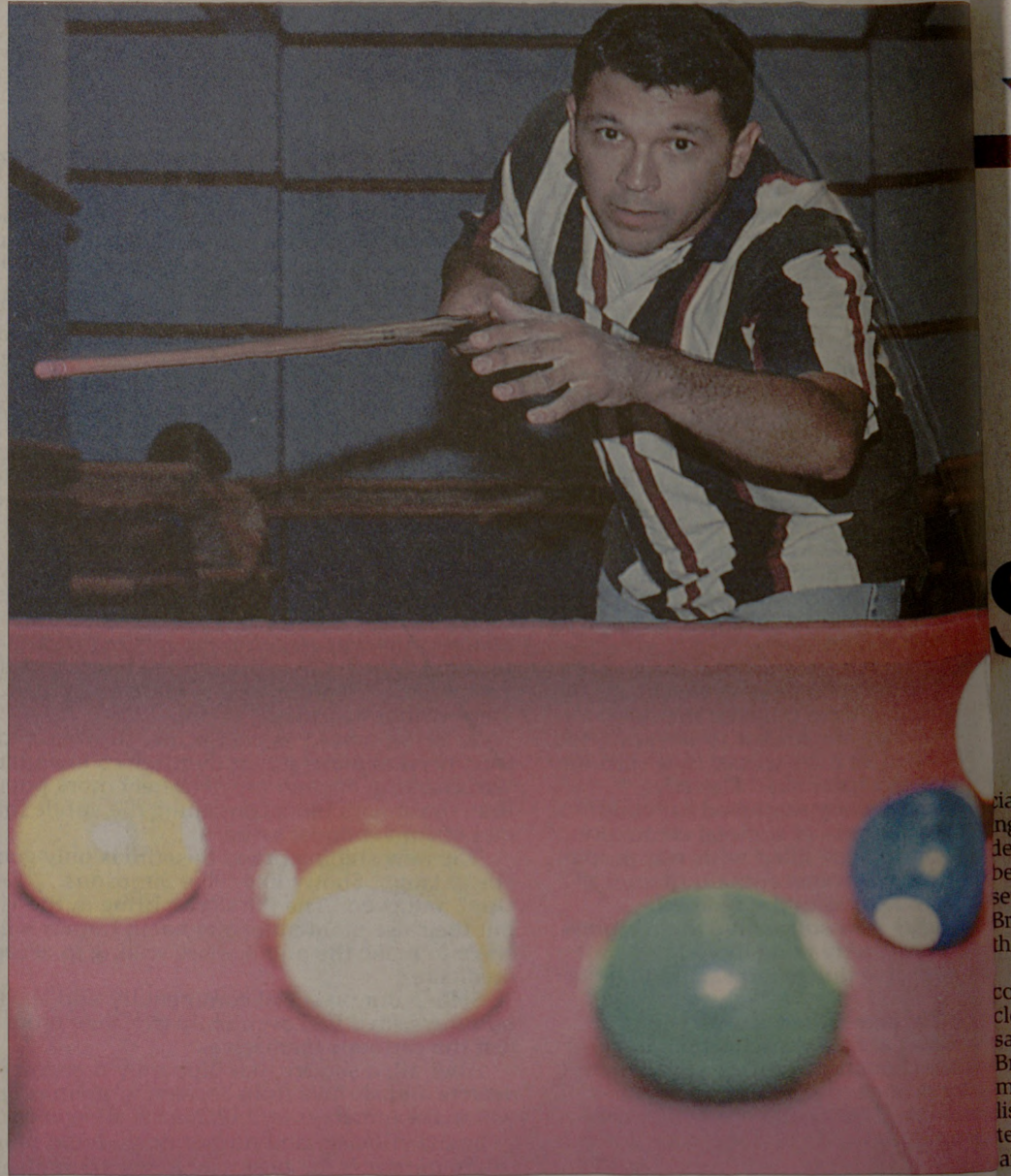
His family-friendly agenda: revolutionize schools, curb access to guns, ease traffic congestion, improve community planning, provide after-school care for children of working parents and crack down on an entertainment industry that "glorifies aggression and indecency."

"As important as prosperity is," he said, "there is a hunger and a thirst for goodness among us."

In using phrases such as "moral leadership" and "values and faith and family," the vice president appeared to be distancing himself from questions about Clinton's character to show he can stand on his own as a presidential figure.

Gore's sole opposition for the Democratic presidential nomination is former Sen. Bill Bradley, who currently trails in the polls.

Rack 'em up



TERRY ROBERTSON

J.D., a senior political science major, breaks during a game of nineball in the Bowling and Snooker area of the Memorial Student Center Wednesday. An average of 100 students play pool on ten tables each day.

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Refugees re-enter Kosovo as officials open border

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — In a ragged but joyous homecoming, thousands of refugees burst through the borders separating their tent cities from Kosovo on Wednesday, overwhelming officials who gave up trying to count them — let alone stop them.

The Yugoslav army pulled its last troops out of the Kosovo capital of Pristina, and panicked Serb civilians who bought and fought their way onto buses heading out of the province.

U.S. commanders, meanwhile, had to threaten force to persuade 200 ethnic Albanian rebels to turn over their weapons.

Navy Capt. Mike Doubleday said NATO peacekeepers have come upon or heard about 90 suspected mass grave sites since entering Kosovo on Saturday.

The rush of refugees came despite warnings from aid workers that Kosovo was not safe enough for them. Roads were clogged almost to a standstill across much of southern Kosovo — and 12 miles back into Albania.

The movement was reminiscent of the rush out of Kosovo after NATO began bombing Yugoslavia on March 24 and severe violence against ethnic Albanians started: tractors piled high with belongings, old cars with children

stacked two to a lap, flopping mattresses tied on top. This time, though, people were smiling.

"When NATO came, it was like God came," Ani Thaci, packed shoulder-to-shoulder in a flatbed trailer with nine relatives, said. "We are healing already, because the peacekeepers are here."

"When NATO came, it was like God came. We are healing already, because the peacekeepers are here."

— Ani Thaci
Ethnic Albanian refugee

At one border crossing, officials counted 1,000 people an hour moving through. By late morning the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe gave up trying to count. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees asked NATO to help control the flow.

The UNHCR said it had processed Wednesday morning all 8,500 people in a refugee camp run by the Arab Emirates. But the camp seemed low; reports of thousands lined up on the Serbian side of the border to cross into Kosovo.

"Once this thing gets going there's a snow and you can't stop it," spokeswoman Judith B...

Officials began to warn the refugees who were warnings to remain in setting up two wayst road to the Kosovo and towing broken the road to prevent getting any worse.

Serbs, meanwhile, to stream north out of either Yugoslav soldiers under terms of the pe civilians afraid of re attacks. Some 860,000 nians that made up a million prewar populat ginning in March.

Serb civilians des leave tussled among at the Pristina bus oring to get on buses wads of cash for a se diers were seen in roads heading north.

Rice falls to Alabama in College World Series

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Sam Bozanich's two-out bloop single in the bottom of the ninth brought in the winning run as Alabama beat Rice, 6-5, on Wednesday in the College World Series.

With runners on second and third, Bozanich hit a 1-2 pitch into shallow right that fell in front of outfielder Stephen Bess.

As G.W. Keller jogged in from third, Alabama players ran from their dugout to celebrate.

Bozanich, who got the game-winning hit off Rice ace lefty Mario Ramos (13-3), also scored the tying run, and right-hander Justin Smith tied a career-high with 12 strikeouts for Alabama (53-15).

The Crimson Tide's Bozanich's two-out bloop single in the bottom of the ninth brought in the winning run, a two-run shot off the lefty pitcher, to give the Owls (59-11) in the top of the eighth.

Alabama advanced to the College World Series (48-13) on Thursday as the team won the tournament meeting.

Rice, ranked No. 1 in national polls this season, was eliminated.

Alabama tied it, 5-5, in the eighth. Bozanich and moved to second base by Darren Wood, then scored on reliever Jeff Nicholl's wild pitch.

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