

Clinton bids farewell

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, in a farewell from the Oval Office, told the nation Thursday night that "America has done well" during his presidency, with record-breaking prosperity and a cleaner environment. He said President-elect Bush will inherit a country "in a great position to meet the challenges of the future."

"As we become more diverse, we must work harder to unite around our common values."

— Bill Clinton
President

Offering advice to the incoming administration, Clinton urged that the United States stay on the course of fiscal discipline and continue to pay down the national debt. It seemed to be a pointed alternative to Bush's proposal for sweeping tax cuts.

Clinton turns over the presidency to George W. Bush at noon Saturday.

In the speech, Clinton said that America must continue to lead in foreign affairs "and must not disentangle itself from the world." He said that

President challenges new administration to continue successes

at home, the nation "must treat all our people with fairness and dignity, regardless of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation and regardless of when they arrived in this country."

It was Clinton's 15th Oval Office address over the course of his presidency, a turbulent eight years that brought unprecedented economic prosperity along with a humiliating sex scandal and bitter impeachment battle.

While Clinton boasted of economic good times, he made no mention of the Monica Lewinsky sex-and-lies scandal that roiled his presidency or the impeachment battle that followed.

The president, speaking for seven minutes in a prime-time, televised speech, said he leaves office "more idealistic, more full of hope than the day I arrived and more confident than ever that America's best days lie ahead." He said there is no higher position than president but that "there is no title

I will wear more proudly than that of citizen."

Two days before Bush's inauguration, the imminent change of command was apparent at the White House. Clinton's aides stripped his photos from the walls and packed personal papers into boxes. Computer drives were being archived and cleared for the incoming administration. Clinton's staff was to lose e-mail capability at the end of the day.

Refer to related column on page 7.

Emphasizing that the United States must remain a world leader, Clinton said, "We must remember that America cannot lead in the world unless here at home we weave the threads of our coat of many colors into the fabric of one America."

"As we become more diverse," Clinton said, "we must work harder to unite around our common values — and

our common humanity."

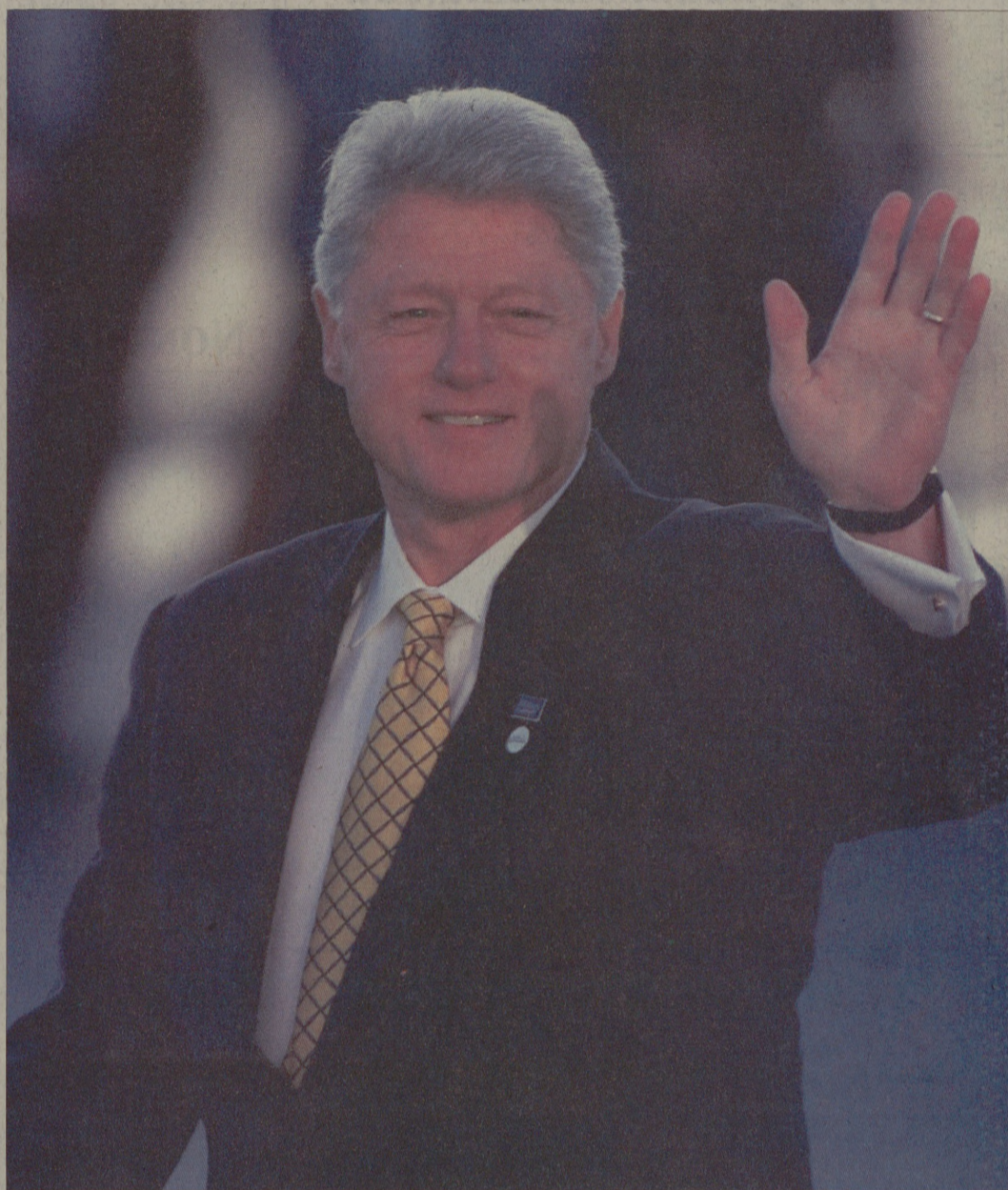
Clinton said he was proudly grateful to Americans for the chance to serve two terms — the first Democrat since Franklin D. Roosevelt to be twice elected.

"This has been a time of dramatic transformation, and you have risen to every new challenge," the president said. "You have made our passage into the global information age an era of great American renewal."

He said he had been guided by the values of opportunity and responsibility for all and had tried to give America "a new kind of government — smaller, more modern, more effective, full of new ideas and policies appropriate to this new time. Working together, America has done well."

As he has many times, Clinton boasted that America is enjoying its longest economic expansion in history, with more than 22 million new jobs and the lowest unemployment in 30 years. Still, the incoming Bush administration said it is worried about signs of an economic slowdown.

Clinton said his administration had achieved progress across the board, fighting crime, reducing welfare rolls and expanding college opportunities.



The 42nd president of the United States leaves office an eight-year administration.

MSC hosts open house

Over 700 campus organizations to attend on Sunday

By COURNEY STELZEL
The Battalion

With more than 700 campus organizations to choose from, students may think finding a niche in the "other education" can be daunting. The 2001 spring Open House will give them the opportunity to learn about some of the extracurricular activities available at Texas A&M.

Open House, to be held Sunday from 2-6 p.m., will allow students to browse informational tables in the Memorial Student Center (MSC) and Rudder Exhibit Hall. Representatives from the organizations will be on hand to discuss their groups with interested students.

James Glueck, executive director of MSC Marketing, which sponsors the annual event, said changes have been made to ease overcrowding and help the Open House run more smoothly.

"We have removed some tables from the center of the Flagroom in order to open up more space and provide a better atmosphere for students," Glueck said.

Tables will also be placed in the Rudder Exhibit Hall to free up space in the MSC.

This year's Open House will feature more than 250 tables, an increase from past spring events, Glueck said.

An added attraction to the Open House will be entertainment featuring student organizations and individuals, including the Aggie Wranglers and the A&M Dance Team.

MSC Marketing estimates that about 15,000 students attended last fall's Open House and expects about 12,000 students to attend Sunday.

Big Event, an annual community service project that will take place on March 31, will be represented at the Open House.

"Students go out and help the community members by pulling weeds, trimming shrubs, painting houses and other such activities," said Marcie Sandford, Big Event director and a senior finance major. "The citizens of Bryan-College Station really love to talk to college students and really appreciate their efforts."

Students can pick up applications

See MSC on Page 4.

Inauguration 2001

Bush concerned about dancing at inaugural gala

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush has said the most nerve-racking moment of his 1995 inauguration as Texas governor was not when he took his oath of office.

"It was dancing with Laura at the last gala," Bush said at the time.

No dancer, he will face the challenge again Saturday night, when all eyes will be on the first couple.

Until his 1995 inaugural, Bush had not danced since his 1977 wedding. But under media pressure and egging on from supporters, he faced down the challenge of having two left feet.

On a stage before a cheering crowd, Bush took his wife, Laura, in his arms, attempted a couple of awkward steps and finished by giving her a twirl. Then he did the

same with Jan Bullock, wife of the late Texas Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

He put the dreaded dance number behind him, only to face it again after his 1999 reelection.

Bush joked then that after running a focus group and a poll, his decision on whether to dance was "a matter of the heart."

See DANCE on Page 4.

Bush begins inaugural activities

WASHINGTON (AP) — Festivities leading up to George W. Bush's inauguration began Thursday with a star-studded show at the Lincoln Memorial.

Before laying claim to the presidency this weekend, Bush attended the celebratory show with his wife, Laura, as well as Vice President-elect Dick Cheney and his wife, Lynne. A smiling Bush saluted the audience before taking his seat off to the side of the stage.

Organizers had anticipated that 75,000 people would attend, but the cold and intermittently rainy weather apparently kept many away. Bush and other members of the incoming administration sat under a canopy that protected them from

the elements.

Bush was not taking center stage until late in the program, leaving Latin singer Ricky Martin as the headliner for much of the show set on a stage built on the memorial's steps. The 2 1/2-hour program featured CNN talk show host Larry King as master of ceremonies.

Later in the evening, Bush and Cheney were

appearing at three candlelight dinners for Republican supporters who could afford the \$2,500 per ticket price. A table cost \$25,000.

On Friday, Laura Bush was to make her Washington debut at a celebration for America's authors. The former librarian was to fete best-selling writers

See BUSH on Page 4.

Planners faced with Bevo problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — Planners of Texas inauguration events are faced with a problem: where in the nation's capital do you house a Longhorn steer?

Bevo, the University of Texas — Austin mascot, is a star attraction for the Texas State Society's Black Tie & Boots ball on Friday and Saturday's inaugural parade.

The steer left Texas Tuesday in a custom-made trailer — big enough to completely house his 5 1/2 foot-long horns — for the trek to the nation's capital.

Most ranches and farms in the area were too far from Washington, D.C., said Mark Franz, vice chancellor for federal relations.

But Franz eventually found a stable for the

1,900 pound Bevo at Rock Creek Park, a 1,754 acre National Park Service forest that is five miles from the White House.

Members of the UT Silver Spurs, students who care for Bevo, accompanied their mascot to what is believed to be the steer's first appearance in an inaugural parade.

Bevo is the 13th Longhorn to serve as the university's mascot and has held the job since 1988.

The mascot got its name in 1916, when pranksters branded the unnamed steer with "13-0" the final score of UT's annual football matchup with rival Texas A&M. Students altered the "13"

See BEVO on Page 4.

Band to march in Washington

By BRYAN BLANTON
The Battalion

The red, white and blue that will blanket the nation's capital during the inaugural festivities this weekend will be sprinkled with a touch of maroon.

The Aggie Band and the Ross Volunteer Company departed Thursday morning for Washington, D.C., where they

will march Saturday in the inaugural parade at 2:30 p.m. following the swearing-in of George W. Bush as president.

"It just hasn't sunk in yet that we have actually been invited by the next president of the United States to attend his inauguration," said Brett Eubank, a Ross Volunteer and a senior civil engineering major. "It's a big deal, and we're going

to try and represent Texas A&M to the best of our ability."

The Ross Volunteers will also perform saber arches for President Bush and his family.

"It's been an honor to be the honor guard for President Bush when he was

See BAND on Page 4.

Osprey commander relieved of duty

STAFF & WIRE

WASHINGTON — A Marine Corps officer was relieved of duty as commander of the only V-22 Osprey training squadron Thursday after being accused anonymously of ordering the falsification of the aircraft's maintenance records.

In announcing the allegations and the action against Lt. Col. Odin Fred Leberman, the Marine Corps said "at this point" it believes there is no connection between the alleged falsification of records and the causes of two Osprey crashes last year that killed 23 Marines.

"There is nothing in these allegations, even if substantiated, that would have affected the safety of the aircraft," said Maj. Patrick Gibbons, a spokesman at Marine Corps headquarters in the Pentagon. Gibbons said he could not be more specific because he had not been informed of

the exact allegations.

"In a general way, they (falsifications) were made to put the aircraft in a better light," Gibbons said.

Leberman, 45, had commanded the training squadron at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., since June 1999.

TODAY
January 19
Last day to drop
CLASSES without
Record

Monday
January 22
Last day to add
CLASSES

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION