

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Candidates for governor 'dead even'

### White campaigns across Texas to put finishing touches on re-election bid

(AP) — Gov. Mark White barnstormed Texas looking for votes Monday, while his Republican opponent, Bill Clements, campaigned with Vice President George Bush in tow.

White predicted victory. Clements, whose 18 percentage point lead in last summer's opinion polls had shrunk to a margin of five to seven points, declined to predict Election Day turnout.

On the last full day of campaigning, each candidate sounded the themes he had relied on throughout the fall.

Clements said the issues were jobs and the faltering economy. White championed education reforms, highway construction and the statewide water plan passed during his term.

Continuing the hard pace he has maintained for two weeks, White campaigned in Lubbock, Wichita Falls, Dallas, Waco, Austin, Beaumont and Houston. He also had San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros working on his behalf in South Texas.

Clements and Bush campaigned across the state as well, visiting the Dallas area, El Paso, San Antonio, College Station and Houston.

White said he believed the race is dead even now.

"I'm very pleased with the results of all the polling that's going on at this very moment indicating that we have pulled up 20 points in the polls

in the last several weeks and that we are neck-and-neck," White said.

Complimenting his campaign workers on the job they've done, White said, "I believe victory will be ours Tuesday (today) because of that effort on behalf of our campaign."

Clements declined to predict today's turnout, which Secretary of State Myra McDaniel has forecast at 44 percent, or 3.2 million voters.

"The issue is going to be jobs, jobs, jobs," Clements said. "And that's going to turn our people out."

Bush, in an appearance with Clements at Eastfield College in Mesquite, accused the White campaign of "ugly negatives" which he said appeared to be "an effort to shift away from Bill Clements' record. And Bill Clements has a great record."

White predicted that he would run strongly in West Texas, as well as traditional Democratic strongholds such as the Rio Grande Valley.

"Just an extra effort right now, just any kind of press forward, and it will push us into the victory column Tuesday night," White said.

Bush said Clements proved his leadership ability during his term as governor from 1978 to 1982.

"Bill Clements is pro-education, pro-growth, pro-jobs, pro-energy," the vice president said. "We have a person who not only talks about the future, but a person who has led a positive, productive Texas for four years when he was governor."

## Freed American pleads for release of other captives

(AP) — David Jacobsen on Monday told of his great joy in being released from more than 17 months of captivity but said other Americans still held by Lebanese kidnappers "are in hell" and must be set free.

Jacobsen, 55, arrived at the U.S. military air base in Wiesbaden one day after being freed by his Shiite

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Moslem captors. Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite accompanied Jacobsen, who was serving as administrator of the American University hospital in Beirut when he was abducted on May 28, 1985.

Waite, who has negotiated to free the hostages since last year, said he would keep on seeking the release of five other Americans who are among 19 foreigners still missing in Lebanon.

They include Terry A. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, and Thomas Sutherland, acting dean of agriculture at the university, who also have been held since early 1985.

Jacobsen, from Huntington Beach, Calif., was examined at the Air Force hospital. Col. Charles K. Maffet, hospital director, told a news

## College Station fire marshal says arson caused fires in store, club

By Bob Grube  
Staff Writer

College Station Fire Marshal Harry Davis said Monday the weekend fires at the nightclub MC<sup>2</sup> and The Christmas Store were caused by arson.

"At this time, we don't know if the fires are related or what started them," Davis said, "but we do know it was arson. We don't want to speculate on whether or not the fires are related."

Fari Estakhri, owner of MC<sup>2</sup>, and M.L. "Red" Cashion, owner of The Christmas Store, were unavailable for comment Monday.

Davis said the fire at MC<sup>2</sup> started about 5:40 Saturday morning and was put out at about 6:20 a.m. He said the flames had worked their way between some of the walls inside the building.

He said it took more time to extinguish the fire in those areas.

"The building (MC<sup>2</sup>) was originally a train depot and it's over 100 years old, so the wood burned faster than it normally would have," Davis said.

"We know the fire started on the east side of the building, but that's all we know right now," he said. "We don't know how the fires were started yet."

## Bush says Republican victory vital to U.S. economic health

By Sondra Pickard  
Senior Staff Writer

Vice President George Bush said Monday that only with Republican progress can the belief that "America is back" continue to be felt across the nation.

After arriving at Easterwood Airport aboard Air Force Two, Bush addressed an enthusiastic, flag-waving crowd packed into Rudder Auditorium. Bush was accompanied by Sen. Phil Gramm, former Gov. Bill Clements and U.S. Rep. Joe Barton in a program titled "A Panorama of Republican Perspectives on Issues Facing the State of Texas," sponsored by the Memorial Student Center's Political Forum.

Although Political Forum originally intended that these officials address problems affecting the state, the program turned out to be a last-minute pep rally for Texas Republicans facing today's elections as Bush and Gramm gave their final endorsements.

In an interview last week Ann Levy, chairwoman of Political Forum, said speakers were asked to address only the specified topic and not to mention any candidates' names. Political Forum also invited Democratic speakers, including Gov. Mark White, but they declined the invitation.

"I will try to be brief," Bush said, "but it's going to be tough to be nonpolitical. I think I'm going to give up . . . because there's too much at stake tomorrow."

Bush said Texas needs a governor who is achievement-oriented and who understands jobs and the economy.

"Today across the U.S. there are more Americans at work than at any time in history," Bush said. "It's jobs that count, and Texas has not kept up with that."

"When Bill Clements was governor, there was a good record on jobs."

Saying the country now feels that "America is back," Bush said Republicans want to take the proper steps at the polls to see that America not only stays "back" but also stays on the move.

When the Reagan administration took office in Washington, Bush said, inflation was at 12.5 percent and the prime interest rate was 21.5 percent.

"Now you can go to downtown Bryan, and it's 2.9 percent to buy a car," he said. "That is Republican progress and with all respect to Political Forum, we're going to keep it that way."

Bush talked of the Grenada invasion and how the Reagan administration was criticized for that as well as for the bombing of Libya.

"Well let me tell you something about that," Bush said. "We feel an obligation to protect the lives

of American citizens wherever they are in the world, and if we find state-sponsored fingerprints on another active terrorist, we'll hit Moammar Gadhafi again.

"If we're not willing to stand up for our people, who will?"

Bush said although he's been unfairly accused of running a secret war in Nicaragua, it is the U.S. government's policy to support those fighting for freedom and democracy in Central America. He said Nicaragua openly violated its promise to "go down democracy's road."

Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, Bush said, should instead be labeled the "strategic defense against nuclear weapons," because, he said, it is not a threat to any single human life, but only to those weapons already launched in the atmosphere.

Ending his speech, Bush said he feels a "visceral commitment to seeing that Bill Clements is the next governor of this great state."

Gramm focused on the traditional ideals of the Republican Party, saying it's a party that believes in limited government and in opportunity for the individual citizen.

"It (the Republican Party) believes that government ought to operate on a budget like everyone else," Gramm said. "It's a party that believes the working men and women of America ought to be the first claimants on their income."

Gramm said the bottom line in this campaign, when all the rhetoric is cut through, is the question of who can do more to rebuild the business climate in Texas.

"We're not going to balance the budget of this state if we follow the policies of these last four years and simply raise taxes again," Gramm said. "Who can do more in bringing new business and industry to Texas of the two people running for governor? I think you know who will do more, and I think you share that view."

Barton said if voters will look at the record and not the rhetoric, it's the Republican Party in the last six years that has gotten the job done.

"The Democrats still talk a good game," Barton said, "but they don't deliver."

"Republicans today are looking toward the future with hope. The Democrats today are looking at the past with longing and talking about the good old days."

In one of his last campaign speeches before the election, Clements expressed hope that he will carry the A&M campus in the election as he did in 1982, and said "if we choose wisely and exercise good judgment tomorrow, we're going to retire old what's-his-name."



Members of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets greet Vice President George Bush as he arrives at Easterwood Airport.



A&M students gather outside Rudder Tower Monday afternoon, yelling "Beat the hell outta Mark White."

## Democrats aiming for Senate majority

## Candidates wind up campaigns

(AP) — The candidates submitted their case to the voters Monday in the tense struggle for control of the Senate, the shining prize in today's elections to pick the nation's 100th Congress and three dozen governors.

President Reagan played his role as chief campaigner to the end, stumping for GOP candidates in two

western states in a bid to keep the Senate from falling into hostile Democratic hands in his final two years in office.

Visiting Nevada for GOP Senate candidate Jim Santini, the president said, "It's time we got the facts out about Jim's opponent. I don't think the fiercely independent people of Nevada want as their senator a tax-and-spend liberal who is against a balanced budget amendment."

Then it was on to Costa Mesa, Calif., where the president holstered his partisan rhetoric in favor of a sentimental speech marking the end of what he termed "the last campaign."

The real issue, he said, is "that future that all of us want: a future of prosperity, of freedom for the individual; above all, a future where America is safe and secure."

Leaders of both parties in the House of Representatives made their final forays of the nation's costliest mid-term campaign — and one of the nastiest.

Rep. Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan, who chairs the Republican congressional campaign committee, headed for Maryland, Ohio, Michigan, Texas and North Carolina.

His Democratic counterpart, Rep. Tony Coelho of California, had a stop in Annapolis, Md. on his schedule.

Most of the attention nationally

was focused on the Senate races. Republicans hold a 53-47 edge in the current Senate, but are defending 22 of the 34 seats on the ballot.

Democrats said they would gain more than enough seats to end six years of Republican rule. The GOP sounded less confident about predicting the outcome.

The final straw polls seemed to swirl in the wind rather than blow in any discernible direction.

Democrats said their best chances for gains are in Maryland and Ne-

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vada, where Republican incumbents are retiring, and in Florida, where GOP Sen. Paula Hawkins is trailing.

Republicans said they would pick up a seat in Missouri, where Democratic Sen. Thomas Eagleton is stepping down.

The races in Alabama, Colorado, Idaho, North Dakota and South Dakota all appeared too close to call, and all except Colorado featured incumbent Republicans battling to hold their seats. Incumbents seemed in slightly better shape but not safe in several more states, including Republican seats in Georgia, Alaska, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, and a Democratic seat in California.

In the 435-member House, there

was general agreement that Democrats would pad their current majority by as many as 10 seats. Republicans said that wouldn't be so bad, pointing out that in the last 30 years, the average election-year loss in the sixth year of a national administration is 47 seats.

Democrats hold a 253-180 edge in the current House. Two seats formerly held by Republicans are vacant.

Republicans are counting on gains in the 36 statehouse races on the ballot, perhaps a pickup of 10 seats. Some of the best known governors seemed likely to win new terms, including Democrat Mario Cuomo of New York and Republicans George Deukmejian of California and James Thompson of Illinois.

In addition to the top of the ticket, there are thousands of candidates on the ballot for positions ranging from state legislator to local judge.

Forty-three states have referenda on the ballot, including six where voters are deciding whether to establish a lottery system. In Oregon, voters will decide whether to permit cultivation of marijuana for personal use.

After months of personal campaigning and millions spent on negative television advertisements, the candidates were running right to the end.