



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Cloudy with a high chance of
thunderstorms
HIGH: 69 LOW: 48

Regent considers finals exemptions low priority issue

By CHRIS VAUGHN
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M Regent Ross Margraves said he is not working with other regents or administrators to revive the tradition of no finals for graduating seniors, but he said he will look into it.

Margraves was quoted in a Houston Post story last Thursday as saying he was working with other regents and A&M President William Mobley, without the knowledge of the faculty, to overturn the decision that makes all students take finals.

Graduating seniors used to be able to skip finals in their last semester, a tradition dating back to when A&M was an all-military, all-male university. The policy was changed under former A&M President Frank Vandiver after a strong recommendation from the Faculty Senate.

Margraves, however, said he is not working on the issue now without the knowledge of the faculty.

"This is not an issue," Margraves said Wednesday. "This is not an issue with President Mobley or with Herman Saatkamp (Faculty Senate speaker). This is way down on the list of priorities of the A&M System."

Saatkamp, head of the philosophy department and Faculty Senate speaker, was quoted in the Post story expressing shock at the regents' apparent decision to overturn the pol-

icy he had helped implement.

Saatkamp said Monday, however, that after talking with Margraves it is "a bogus issue" and that graduating seniors still will have to take finals.

"This was an issue created by a reporter," Saatkamp said.

Mobley was unavailable for comment.

Margraves said he liked the tradition and would like to see it reinstated.

"I thought it was a fine tradition," Margraves said. "It was really unique. It was something all of us looked forward to."

Margraves said he would like to get the opinion of faculty members and students about reviving the tradition before making any recommendations.

Saatkamp, who served in the Faculty Senate during the original controversy, said the current policy of everyone having to take finals has the support of most faculty and students.

Margraves supports the tradition because he said it gave seniors time to look for a job, prepare to leave school and still participate in graduation and the final review of the Corps of Cadets.

Saatkamp, however, said it would be harmful academically because seniors often would skip the last weeks of classes because they knew they would not be tested on the material.

Crime fighters



Lt. Bert Kretschmar of the University Police Department places an identification sticker on a student's bike in front of the Memorial Student Center Wednesday. The bicycle registration is part of Ag-

gie Watch Week sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega. Registrations are turned over to the Department of Parking, Traffic and Transit and will be made available to police departments nationwide.

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Easterwood's new terminal opens today

Easterwood Airport's new \$4.5 million William A. McKenzie Terminal opens today for commercial use.

As of today, Easterwood's old terminal will be used only for private flights.

The two-level McKenzie terminal covers 32,000 square feet and is accessible from Highway 60. It features amenities the old terminal did not offer, including runway extensions, a baggage claim area and a restaurant.

Three commercial commuter airlines will serve the new terminal. American Eagle and ASA-Delta have daily roundtrip flights to Dallas, while the Continental Express flies daily to Houston.

Jury finds five A&M officials guilty of violating prof's free speech rights

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

Five Texas A&M officials were found liable Friday of denying a former A&M professor his constitutional right of free speech.

A Houston jury in federal court ruled that the family of the late Abdel K. Ayoub, a former A&M electrical engineering professor, should receive \$625,000 in damages.

The officials at once appealed the decision on the grounds that there was no evidence to support the jury's verdict.

Ayoub, a tenured professor who came to A&M in 1968, claimed he was the victim of pay discrimination because he was born in a foreign country. Ayoub was born in Egypt and was a naturalized American citizen.

According to court records, after Ayoub discovered the disparate pay scale in 1980, he raised and continued to raise the salary complaint,

which became disruptive to the department.

In addition, Ayoub didn't get along with the electrical power group in which he worked and was having arguments with other faculty members.

To resolve the bickering caused by the dispute, the administration decided to move his office in 1985 to another building also occupied by electrical engineering faculty. Ayoub refused to move.

His grievance went to the Faculty Senate, which assumed the move was punitive and said his right to due process had been violated.

In 1987 Ayoub filed suit, claiming the motive for the move was to chill his free speech right.

A&M officials said they never attempted to silence any complaints. They said that Ayoub's office move was not punitive, but an attempt to quell interdepartmental bickering.

Assistant Secretary Attorney General D. Elliot Branson, legal counsel to the A&M system, said there is no evidence that the motive was to chill

Ayoub's free speech. If officials were trying to punish Ayoub, Branson said, they could have taken other action, such as dismissal. Disruptive activity is grounds for the initiation of dismissal procedures for tenured professors.

Ayoub died of a heart attack in February 1988. State law permits a family to continue litigation in civil rights actions in the event of the original plaintiff's death.

The defendants in the case are Herbert H. Richardson, deputy chancellor of engineering for the A&M system; John E. Flipse, director of the Offshore Technology Research Institute; Carl A. Erdman, executive associate dean of engineering; Leroy S. Fletcher, a mechanical engineering professor; and Jo W. Howze, head of the electrical engineering department.

The jury ordered each of the defendants to pay \$50,000 compensation and \$75,000 in punitive damages to Ayoub's family pending the decision of Judge Norman Black.

Water supply contamination minimized

Officials take steps to reduce fly larvae

By DAPHNE MILLER
Of The Battalion Staff

The fly larvae that showed up in Texas A&M's water supply last semester have been minimized, Dr. Jim Olson, professor of entomology, said.

No traces of fly larvae in the A&M water supply have been reported recently, Olson said.

Early last semester, students reported seeing worms in their drinking water, he said. These worms were identified as midge larvae.

"These critters are aquatic and they like mud," Olson said.

The larvae were traced to the water storage tanks and reservoirs that feed the A&M water supply, he said.

The storage tanks are open water

A&M professor mixes job, academics with politics

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

Serving as a journalism professor, program director of a local TV station and a political party chairman seems like a conflict to those who believe political involvement jeopardizes a journalist's objectivity.

But to Rodger Lewis, they go hand in hand.

Lewis is a Texas A&M journalism professor, program director of KAMU-TV and Brazos County Republican Party chairman.

"Some people think it's OK for journalists to be involved in the Boy Scouts, but not OK for them to be politically active," Lewis said. "Everyone has opinions, but fairness and honesty are not lost when you have those opinions."

After graduating from A&M in 1976 with a journalism degree and minors in business, Spanish and sociology, Lewis worked briefly at WFAA-TV in Dallas. He attended Wheaton College in Illinois for his master's degree in communications and worked for three Chicago television stations while at Wheaton.

"As a journalist, the people I worked with were the best informed," Lewis said. "If there was a rat in the courthouse, they knew about it. For those people not to be involved in their community and politics would be a great waste of talent and energy."

In fact, because he thinks a journalist can have an opinion and still report both sides fairly, Lewis said he would rather media outlets admit their biases.

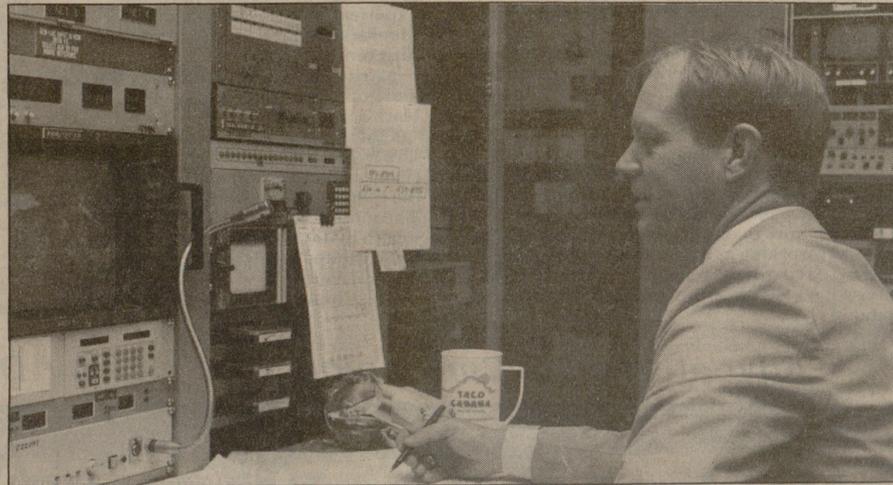


Photo by Steven M. Noreyko

Rodger Lewis, KAMU-TV program director, watches a monitor while checking the air schedule.

Before a story is assigned, Lewis said it has already been influenced by the ideas and opinions of the assignment desk. Then the reporter uses or discards certain information based on his or her own perceptions and experiences. Finally, the story undergoes another transformation at the editorial level.

"It's only been a fairly recent development that journalists have been trained to present the news in an objective manner," Lewis said.

There are enough programs and channels to express differing viewpoints, Lewis said.

As a part of the baby boom generation, Lewis said he was drawn to broadcast journalism because TV was an integral part of growing up. He still considers it the most exciting medium.

In the political arena, the Republican Party of Brazos County will continue to be under Lewis' leadership through the 1990 primary, and perhaps through 1992. He will seek reelection in the

March 13 primary.

Lewis had his sights set on the primary race for county judge, but instead decided he should lay the groundwork for seeking the judgeship next time it opens and seek reelection as the republican chairman.

He had requested unpaid leave from his jobs at A&M in order to run without causing a time conflict. The leave was denied because of a Texas A&M Board of Regents policy which would have required him to resign from the

University prior to announcing a candidacy.

The filing deadline was Jan. 2, and those elected in November take office Jan. 1. Lewis would have been out of work for a year.

"Even though I would be willing to sacrifice my job for a year, the negative impact on other people would be too great," Lewis said. "My staff at KAMU-TV and the journalism students who had already registered for my class would suffer."

"I felt like the people of Brazos County deserved a candidate for county judge who shared the philosophy and commitment that these other republicans have. But circumstances prevent me from being that candidate in 1990."

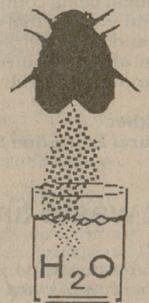
During his chairmanship, the Republican Party was the majority party in the county. Republican candidates have won all but one of the offices they have sought.

Lewis said he credits the growth to the party's candidates, organization and commitment to traditional values.

He considers Sen. Phil Gramm, Congressman Joe Barton and other members of Congress to be friends. He has met President George Bush.

Lewis said he would like to have the opportunity to run for a higher office, especially the Texas Legislature, but at the present salary, he couldn't afford to campaign or hold office.

"In Texas, you almost have to be rich to be a legislator," Lewis said. "They are paid so little to do so much. The average citizen can't serve as a legislator."



Graphic by Tim Austin

bodies, and adult flies can lay eggs on the surface of the water, he said. The eggs find their way to the bottom of the tank to live. Larvae also may have entered the tanks through holes in the sides of the tanks, he said.

"We had to drain the tanks and put screening devices in them to filter the critters out," Olson said.

Harry Stütel, director of safety and health at A&M, said that even though the tanks have been drained, the holes have been repaired and the screens have been enclosed, the larvae cannot be eliminated completely — they only can be minimized.

Stütel said it should be emphasized that finding larvae in water supplies is a common occurrence.

Olson said the larvae are not harmful.

If larvae are swallowed, they will pass through the digestive system without harm, he said. No sickness will occur other than being nauseated by the thought, Olson said.