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Margraves plans to appeal Clinton, Dole debate major campaign issues

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Former Texas A&M Board of Regents chairman Ross Margraves plans to appeal a felony conviction of misconduct taking a state plane for a personal trip in 1993.

A Lee County jury sentenced Margraves on Friday to four years probation and a \$3,000 fine. Margraves, a Houston attorney, could lose his law license as a result of the conviction.

Margraves declined to comment after the verdict was returned.

Attorney David Berg of Houston said his client's conviction was "dirty wrong" and he plans to appeal.

"In 29 years (as a lawyer), I've never seen such an unjust verdict," Berg said. Margraves could have been sentenced to 10 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. However, Brazos County prosecutor Bill Turner said he would not seek prison time if Margraves was convicted.

Bill Clayton, a former regent, said he was "astonished" by the verdict.

"I can't see how he could have been found guilty," Clayton said. "I still don't think he did anything wrong."

The charges stem from a round-trip flight on a state plane Margraves and his wife chartered to Baton Rouge. The trip cost the state \$1,435.

Prosecutors said Margraves took the plane to see his son graduate from Louisiana State University.

After the verdict was returned, Turner said Margraves had abused the public trust.

"Any time you have a breach of trust, every citizen is the victim," he said.

Friends and associates at the Dallas-based law firm Winstead Sechrest & Minick stood by Margraves, who is the senior shareholder in the firm's Houston office.

Kent Caperton, a former senator

from Bryan and a shareholder in the firm's Austin office, said the firm will continue to support Margraves.

"We're going to stand by him at Winstead Sechrest, I hope. I am, certainly," he said. "This is a tragedy and a travesty. I know Ross Margraves, and he's no criminal."

Margraves testified Thursday that he went to Louisiana for official business, with plans to discuss the status of Texas A&M athletics after the demise of the Southwest Conference with LSU Chancellor William Davis.

Margraves said he and the Chancellor discussed the possibility of A&M joining LSU in the Southeastern Conference.

"The future of the Southwest Conference was a raging issue," Margraves said while on the stand.

When asked by Berg if he had any intent "to defraud the State of Texas," Margraves answered, "Absolutely not."



Margraves

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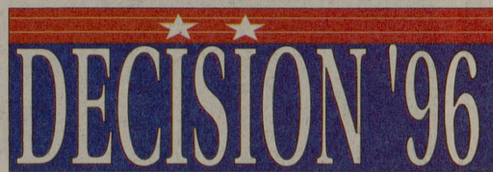
HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — President Clinton and Bob Dole clashed vigorously over tax cuts, Medicare, education and the economy Sunday night in a spirited prime-time debate over who should be trusted to lead America into the 21st century.

"I think the best thing going for Bob Dole is that Bob Dole keeps his word," the Republican challenger said in a 90-minute debate critical to his hopes of launching an October comeback.

"It is not midnight in America, senator: We are better off than we were four years ago," Clinton said in making his case for a second term.

The Democratic incumbent and his Republican challenger stood just a few feet apart on a red-carpeted stage, challenging each other again and again in a showdown that ushered in the final month of the White House campaign.

Clinton took credit for an economy that



had created more than 10 million jobs, for cutting the deficit by 60 percent and for vetoing Dole-backed Republican budgets he asserted would have cut \$270 billion from Medicare and another \$30 billion from education.

Looking ahead, Clinton said his \$100 billion in tax credits targeted to making college more affordable were far more responsible than Dole's proposed "\$550 billion tax scheme."

"We have the right approach for the future," Clinton said.

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Parson's Mounted Cavalry Headquarters dedicated to former horse soldier

BY WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

The new Parsons' Mounted Cavalry headquarters was named in honor of the late Hughes "Buddy" Seewald, a former horse soldier, at a dedication ceremony Saturday.

Seewald, Class of '42, and Wade H. Cockburn, Class of '75, donated the funds to construct the administrative office building.

Maj. Gen. M.T. "Ted" Hopgood Jr., Corps commandant, presided over the dedication and said Seewald was a loyal Aggie who spent much of his time working with students, especially cadets.

"His dream was for the Parsons' Mounted Cavalry to achieve its greatest potential," Hopgood said.

Seewald, a World War II cavalry officer and Purple Heart medal recipient, died in 1995 without seeing the completion of the headquarters.

His widow and son attended the dedication of his namesake building.

The cavalry was formed in 1973 and named after Col. Tom Parsons, the Corps commandant at the time.

The "Cav" represents Texas A&M in numerous parades and fires the cannon during yell practice and at home football games.

Paul Simone, PMC first sergeant and a junior rangeland management major, said the new headquarters is a needed addition to the Cav's 30-acre site, Fiddler's Green.

The headquarters building neighbors the two barns and tack building, which house the horses' equipment and the cannon.

Simone said the 100-member cavalry is made up of sophomores, juniors and seniors. Cadets are only accepted to PMC during their sophomore year.

Junior cavalry members feed the horses every morning at 5:30 and every afternoon, he said. All PMC members practice Monday through Friday from 3 to 6 p.m.

Simone said the sophomores are the work force behind the PMC.

Their duties include cleaning the tack, maintaining the saddles and equipment, cleaning the barn and the general upkeep of the horses.

Jeff Bearden, Class of '76 and one of the first cavalry executive officers, said the PMC has undergone positive changes since he graduated.

"There's a heck of a lot more facilities, but the spirit and the camaraderie are still there," Bearden said.

He said the cavalry used to be more of an extracurricular activity than a University organization, and was made up of only juniors and seniors.

"Only seniors rode," he said, "and the juniors cleaned up."

Bearden said the PMC rode in the San Antonio, Houston and Fort Worth stock shows, and portrayed the Confederate cavalry in a Civil War reenactment.

Tall Ellison, Class of '76 and a former commanding officer of PMC, said the cavalry began "out of a love for fun and the University."

"They talk about the keepers of the spirit," Ellison said. "We were the spirit."

Ellison said the cavalry connects the present with the past for many members.

Bearden said at some pa-

rades PMC members "see old Ags with tears in their eyes."

Ellison said he includes his PMC training on job resumés because it taught him so much.

"You don't know leadership experience until you try to get 45 seniors to go anywhere," he said. "It was probably the finest training I've ever had."



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Senior Chris Miner, Section Chief for the Parsons' Mounted Cavalry, wildcats after firing the cannon during Saturday's game.



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Sergeant Chris Gibson (left) and Section Sergeant Dan Dietze reload the cannon.

Cadets assemble for Fall Review

Outfits evaluated on marching ability, unison and appearance

BY ANN MARIE HAUSER
THE BATTALION

A military tradition dating back to the Middle Ages manifested on Simpson Drill Field Friday as the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets marched in for their annual Fall Review.

Military review originated in the 17th century as a means to communicate orders to armies before battle.

Jason Waligura, Corps public relations officer and a senior petroleum engineering major, said the purpose of the Corps "in-line battalion mass formation" review has evolved from its original purpose.

"Now it's a chance to showcase the Corps to the University," Waligura said. "It gives the Commandant the chance to [look over] the cadets and see the strength of the Corps."

Brig. Gen. Kenneth Hess was the reviewing officer

along with Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. Ted Hopgood and Dr. J. Malon Southerland, vice president for Student Affairs.

Hopgood said the cadets have been working hard and he was looking forward to the Review.

"I have been very pleased with the intensity of all the cadets," Hopgood said. "Everything is going very well and I'm impressed with the spirit of the Class of '00."

Waligura said every march-in and Review is graded, which creates competition between outfits to look the best.

"A lot of people take it seriously and practice during the week," Waligura said.

Lt. Col. Jim Harrison, a grader and cadet adviser, said the cadets are evaluated on different aspects of their marching ability.

Outfits are judged on their unison, the appearance of

their uniforms and organization between lines.

Chris Jones, a freshman business administration major, said the graders inspect minute details like the angle of cadets' heads and the

swing of their arms.

Jones said his outfit practiced three times before the Review but he still felt uncomfortable.

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Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Awards are given out at Fall Review on Friday.

Campus leaders visit elementary students

BY WESLEY POSTON
THE BATTALION

Members of Texas A&M University Student Government visited Pebble Creek Elementary School Friday afternoon to teach third and fourth graders about student council and to encourage them to participate in their upcoming elections.

The student officials presented skits describing the different council positions to classrooms of 8-, 9- and 10-year-olds.

Carl Baggett, student body president and a senior accounting major, said the program differs from other similar efforts with school children.

"There's a lot of mentor programs," he said, "but there's not a lot of student development."

The program began by

introducing each Aggie and teaching the elementary students to say "howdy."

Each Student Government member described the characteristics of their elected position.

"Which one do you think is the most important?" Baggett asked. "They're all equally important. It's a team."

Laurie Nickel, vice president of programs and student development and a junior business analysis major, said the A&M Student Government was looking for a way to give back to the community.

"The reason we're here is the community has continually given to the University," Nickel said. Community businesses have always donated to such programs as Muster.

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THE BATTALION TODAY

Aggie Words

An Aggie dictionary helps decipher the unique language of Texas Aggies.

Aggielife, Page 3

Ground Force

The A&M offense rolled up 432 rushing yards in a 63-13 trouncing of La. Tech at Kyle Field.

Sports, Page 7

Boob tube

Howard: People shouldn't have to put up with immoral television shows.

Opinion, Page 9