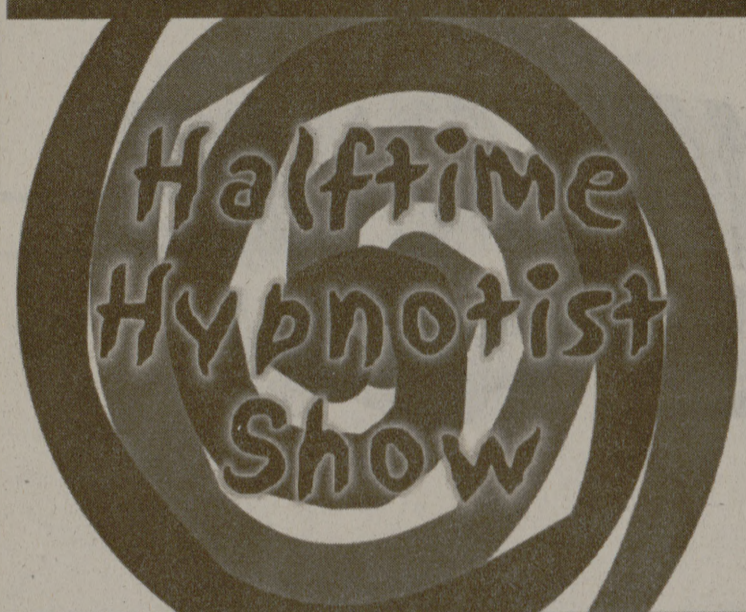


Men's Basketball



Texas A&M vs. Missouri
Saturday * 12:45 p.m.

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Clinton denies wrongdoing in pardon

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Clinton said Thursday that he is "bewildered" by the controversy over his last-minute pardon of fugitive financier Marc Rich and he blamed Republicans for fueling the criticism.

In a telephone call to Geraldo Rivera, host of CNBC's "Rivera Live" and a friend, the former president again denied any wrongdoing in pardoning a man who had faced federal charges of evading more than \$48 million in taxes, fraud and participating in illegal oil deals with Iran.

"There's not a single, solitary shred of evidence that I did anything wrong, or that his (Rich's) money changed hands," Clinton said, according to Rivera. "And there's certainly no evidence that I took any of it."

Clinton's comments were not recorded, but a transcript of Rivera's notes was provided to the Associated Press. A call to Clinton's transition office was not returned.

The pardon is the subject of congressional inquiries and a criminal investigation by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office in New York, which

indicted Rich in 1983. Prosecutors are trying to determine whether Clinton was somehow bribed to grant the pardon.

"I was blindsided by this," Clinton told Rivera. "I just wanted to go out there and do what past presidents have done, but the Republicans had other ideas for me."

Clinton pointed out that Rich was once represented by lawyer Lewis Libby, now Vice President Cheney's chief of staff.

"It's terrible!" he told Rivera. "I mean, he had three big-time Republican lawyers, including Dick Cheney's chief of staff."

U.S. Attorney Mary Jo White, in a brief statement issued Thursday, confirmed her office and the FBI are investigating whether federal laws were broken in the pardons of Rich and his partner, Pincus Green.

The probe is expected to examine bank and telephone records and other documents.

Critics have noted that Rich's former wife, Denise Rich, contributed an estimated \$450,000 to the Clinton Presidential Library Fund, more than

\$1.1 million to the Democratic Party and at least \$109,000 to Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate campaign.

Denise Rich has refused to answer questions before Congress, citing her constitutional right against self-incrimination. Her spokesman has not returned calls seeking comment, but Rivera said he spoke to her by telephone Thursday.

"I spend half my time crying and half my time laughing," she said, according to Rivera. "But that's not so

unusual for me — I'm such an emotional person."

As part of the probe, federal investigators are expected to determine whether campaign finance laws were broken — in particular, whether Rich, who renounced his U.S. citizenship, illegally funneled money through his former wife's accounts.

In any event, legal experts say prosecutors will have a difficult time proving bribery in the case.

Pardon begs questions

Here are some of the people involved in the controversy over former President Clinton's pardon of fugitive

billionaire Marc Rich. Federal investigators are trying to determine if money played a role in the pardon.



SOURCE: Compiled from AP wire reports

REVEILLE VII

Continued from Page 1

and things like that, just dealing with people. I don't believe that we're going to use the same trainer they used back in '93, but once she is here, we will continue her training process," said Bo Wilson, current mascot corporal and a sophomore business major.

Unlike the last mascot transition in 1993, when Reveille VI was trained as a puppy in boarding-school fashion, Reveille VII will stay on campus with the mascot corporal for her training. If the puppy has a problem adjusting, Reveille VI will be around to help.

Reveille VII's initial training has gone well and will continue when she gets to College Station, Efron said.

"Reveille knows how to stand and pose, stand still for petting, lay down and stay," Efron said. "She has not been taught to sit because she is being trained as a show dog, and that is not something that you want. We will be there to help with the introductions of the dogs and show them how to continue training her in the manner that we began."

In preparation for Aggie sporting events, Reveille VII has been getting used to loud noises such as yelling, clapping and cheering. Efron said the puppy should not have a problem adjusting.

She is being trained not to bite and nip people as they run by her. "Reveille carries a Bevo stuffed animal with her in her mouth all the time to help her train," Efron said. "It is the nature of a collie to go get something that runs by her and bring it back to the fold."

When Reveille VII arrives today, she will be four months old. Graham, Serold, Wilson, A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen and Wynn Rosser, assistant to the vice president for student affairs, will fly to Fort Lauderdale to get her.

McDonald, Bossart and Efron will accompany the puppy to College Station to witness the pomp and circumstance associated with her arrival.

"It's an honor and a privilege for us to provide Texas A&M University with the next Reveille," Efron said. "We can't thank Texas A&M enough for asking us to be a part of such a revered tradition."

The role of mascot corporal is available only to sophomores in E-2. The candidates study the history of Reveille in the Cushing Library and are quizzed

by their upperclassmen each week for six weeks.

"The selection process really begins the first day of FOW (Freshman Orientation Week at Corps) with seniors looking at the incoming class and finding out who is a good leader," Serold said.

Wilson will remain mascot corporal for the next several months and will continue to train Reveille VII with the transition after the new corporal is chosen.

"There seems to be a whole lot of emphasis placed on the mascot corporal, but it really is an entire outfit job as the role of Reveille changes within the University," Graham said. "There are 100 people in this outfit, and everyone really has a hand in caring for the tradition of Reveille."

Wilson said, "Pretty much every event that we go to, I'm going to be accompanied by two buddies. So, it's not like it's just me. They go with me to help me out."

Reveille VII will make her public debut at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, before the Aggies face Missouri in a basketball game at Reed Arena.

Both Reveilles will be available Sunday for opportunities at the Memorial Student Center from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Fun, Free Events

National Engineers Week
February 18-24, 2001
Open to all majors

50 Years
February 18-24, 2001

SWE Fun Run (2/17)
8am, held at Research Park. There will be prizes, so be prepared to run (or walk) your way to first place!

Fajita Lunch (2/18)
12pm-2pm, held on the All Faith's Chapel lawn. We'll have tents, tables, and chairs. even if it rains, come on out!

And More Next Week!
Visit <http://sec.tamu.edu/e-week> for details and a complete list of events.

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