

With the elections coming up on November 3, students need to make sure they understand the issues at stake and the differences between the candidates for each job on which they'll be voting. There are many, many candidates to choose from, and we've tried to cover some of them here.

We could not address every election here; space simply would not permit us to do so. Instead, we've tried to focus on the presidential race and on choices where voters may not know very much about the candidates. We hope this issue helps you as you enter the voting booth or mail your absentee ballot.

One last note - we have tried hard to write objective, accurate stories. We don't want to tell anyone how to vote. Our goal is simply to give students and other readers the knowledge they need to make an informed decision.

J. Keith Jordan

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On the Cover

Illustration by Laura Allen

Candidates' economic plans differ in taxation and the role of government

By Jeff Drew
Senior Staff Writer

Someone long forgotten once said that Americans vote with their pocketbook. This year, that statement rings even more true than usual.

Unemployment is up, consumer confidence is down. The dollar has taken a beating overseas and the low interest rates are still not enough to encourage long term investment. The American economy is more stagnant now than it has been for years and the three candidates for president — Republican

incumbent George Bush, Democratic challenger Bill Clinton and independent dark horse Ross Perot — offer three significantly different approaches to correct the dilemma.

Of the three plans, Perot's stands out because it devotes exclusive attention to eliminating the \$310 billion a year deficit. This single-minded approach gives the program advantages in that specific area but weaknesses in the overall scene, N.C. State University economist Michael Walden said.

"With Perot, his plan's strength

is that it is the most forceful and detailed in dealing with the deficit and debt," Walden said. "He outlines the most specific offerings in terms of the tax hikes and specific spending cuts he would use to reduce the deficit."

Among the proposals offered by Perot in his plan is a 50 cents per gallon gas tax hike, which would be implemented over five years and would raise \$158 billion over five years. Perot would also limit tax deductions on home mortgages to the first \$250,000, raise taxes on social security benefits for those making more than \$25,000 a year, tax Medicare benefits for those earning \$30,000 or more per year and raise tax rates up to 35 percent on individuals making over \$55,000 or families earning more than \$80,250.

But though Walden agrees that Perot's plan would be successful in attacking the deficit, he said he felt the plan overemphasizes the deficit problem.

"The problem I see with Perot is that his main intention is to reduce the deficit, which he sees as the main economic problem in the country right now," Walden said. "I don't necessarily agree with that. I don't think we have to get rid of the deficit completely, but just keep it from getting any bigger, at least as a percentage of the total budget. If we could do that, we would be accomplishing something."

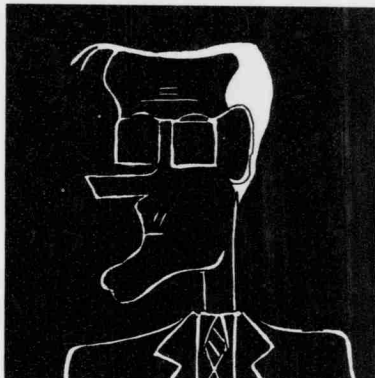
Walden said he thinks the government should focus on spurring economic growth. The Clinton and Bush plans stress economic growth as their primary goals, Walden said.

The main difference in their two plans lie in their approach to governmental involvement in promoting that growth.

"Clinton and Bush agree that the main focus should be on generating growth and I agree with that," Walden said. "Though they agree on the goal, their approaches are different pretty much along the lines of standard democratic and republican differences."

Walden described Clinton's plan as an activist approach to promoting economic expansion. Calling on the wealthy to pay "their fair share," Clinton's plan of "Putting People First" raises taxes on incomes over \$200,000 a year in an attempt to generate \$50 billion a year. That revenue will be reinvested in various productive ventures designed to spur manufacturing activity.

"Clinton's plan is to infuse government funds into



Bush's plan relies on economic growth to solve financial troubles.

NCSU Economics Professor Michael Walden on the candidate's plans:

Bush: "I think the capital gains tax cut will be helpful," Walden said. "There are some economists who think, and the theory has some validity, that the big stock market crash of 1987 was caused by the raising of the capital gains tax in 1986. Cutting the tax would encourage investment."

Clinton: "Clinton's plan is to infuse government funds into improving what he calls the infrastructure — railroads, highways and that sort of thing," Walden said. "He would raise certain taxes to pay for these projects, but the money would be used in a productive way. He's not trying to redistribute wealth or anything like that."

Perot: "With Perot, his plan's strength is that it is the most forceful and detailed in dealing with the deficit and debt," Walden said. "He outlines the most specific offerings in terms of the tax hikes and specific spending cuts he would use to reduce the deficit."

improving what he calls the infrastructure — railroads, highways and that sort of thing," Walden said. "He would raise certain taxes to pay for these projects, but the money would be used in a productive way. He's not trying to redistribute wealth or anything like that. He wants government to act more like a buyer, helping to provide a market for certain American services."

Though he acknowledges that the concept is sound, Walden said he's not sure it's current

design is feasible.

"Now I have a problem with Clinton's idea that he's going to soak the rich," Walden said. "From the numbers I've calculated, he can't raise the revenue he needs to fund his programs just by taxing incomes of over \$200,000 a year."

Walden said he estimates that Clinton would have to tax incomes down to around \$70,000 a year to produce the projected

See **ECONOMY**, Page 10.



Clinton's plan would increase investment in America's infrastructure.



Perot's plan emphasizes eliminating the national debt.

Students examine elections

By Randy Saunders

Staff Writer

On your mark, get set, go! The race for the presidency has begun, and the polls say that Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton has a slight lead over President George Bush and H. Ross Perot. In just 12 days, Americans will head for the booths and decide who will be the Chief Executive Officer for the next four years.

North Carolina voters, however, will also be obligated to elect a new governor and a senator to represent the state on Nov. 3. In fact, our governor's race is more heated here than the presidential race. Will it be Jim Hunt or Lieutenant Governor Jim Gardner replacing Jim Martin come January 1993?

One thing is certain, voter registration is up this year. This means that there could be a record number of votes cast on election day. Candidates are

working hard to sell their platform to the people who haven't decided who they'll vote for yet.

College students are prime targets that candidates try to win. Proof of this is Bill Clinton's visit to N.C. State University on Oct. 4. Vice President Dan Quayle also stopped in Raleigh recently. Hillary Clinton and Marilyn Quayle have also made visits to Raleigh in an attempt to gain support for their husbands' campaigns.

Attitudes toward the election vary here at NCSU. While some students had firm stands on the election and who they will vote for, many were not sure. But one response rang out from all of them: "We want change!"

Most students were very aware of the issues surrounding the upcoming presidential election. The economy seemed to be the biggest concern of college-aged voters. After all, the economy

will have a great effect on the graduates of N.C. State over the next few years, especially the ones who will be looking for jobs after graduation.

The election will effect students' future goals. Kenny Walters, a junior in business management, said "If Clinton is elected, I'll have to change my major to social work or stay in school for four more years." While this is one extreme, it shows the genuine concern this campus has for national affairs.

Chris Gibson, a junior in aerospace engineering said, "Many people think that Clinton's plan is wonderful, but in reality it is dangerously close to socialism."

Other issues are discussed throughout campus. Our government's tremendous deficit is one of these issues. Another concern is for the morality of the United States. Right-to-life



Technician File Photo

Bill Clinton's recent visit to NCSU gave students a first-hand look.

believers make it clear that despite the failing economy,

See STUDENTS, Page 8

College Republicans try to push campus to the right

By Colin Burch

Staff Writer

All around campus, many students have been wearing Bush/Quayle buttons on their backpacks. Where do these Bush/Quayle buttons come from? Perhaps an active College Republicans club is the culprit.

"We're a support group for Republican candidates and an information source for students," says John Shaver, who is the executive director of the N.C. State University chapter and vice chairman of the state-wide College Republicans organization.

They by no means represent the totality of Republican support on campus, but the College Republicans are active and working hard for the state and



Angela Prudgen/Staff

Vice President Dan Quayle is popular among College Republicans.

local Republicans during this election.

Some of the club's 60 members are helping out with the campaigns of Jim Gardner, candidate for governor; Art Pope, candidate for lieutenant

governor; Doug Biddy, candidate for the state House of Representatives and Paul Stam, candidate for state Senate.

They've even tried to arrange a debate between the two candidates for lieutenant

governor — Pope and Democrat Dennis Wicker — but Wicker never returns their calls.

College Republicans also play a large roll in getting politicians to speak on campus. Within the last year, College Republicans have hosted meetings with Pope, Joe Dean, candidate for N.C. attorney general; Vernon Abernathy, a candidate for state auditor; Biddy and the national chairman for College Republicans, Tony Zaggota.

"We also provide a way for NCSU Republicans to get together for social activities," Shaver says.

Last semester, Jim Gardner took members of the group out to lunch. Other recent activities have included attending various functions with important Republicans such as Georgia Rep. Newt Gingrich, First Lady Barbara Bush, Vice President

Dan Quayle, and U.S. Senate candidate Lauch Faircloth. A handful of them made it to the Republican National Convention in Houston.

With the elections right around the corner, College Republicans have a lot to look forward to. "I feel like all the elections [this year] are going to be close elections, but the Republicans can pull it out," Shaver says. "Pope has an excellent chance. And Faircloth has an excellent chance. We might have two Republican [North Carolina] senators [in the U.S. Senate] after this election."

And what of the College Republicans beyond this election year? "We've got our national convention coming up in the summer, but beyond that, we'll continue to keep the politicians on their toes and work for the candidates."

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Pope, Wicker locked in low-key struggle

By Chris Hubbard

Staff Writer

So who are you going to vote for in the lieutenant governor's race?

"I don't know anything about it," you might say. "What can the

sitting on the State Board of Education, so it is appropriate that the principle issue in this year's race is education.

Pope, a congressman from Wake County, is opposed to North Carolina's Basic Education Plan on the grounds

instruction should be an appointed, instead of an elected official, who is more accountable to the State Board of Education.

Wicker, the Majority Leader of the N.C. House of Representatives since 1989, is a proponent of BEP and a supporter of increased development of the state's community college system.

"I believe [the BEP] will create a level educational playing field for every child," Wicker said. He added that the BEP should be "combined with flexibility for some local autonomy."

"We can make our schools second to none," he said.

As far as community colleges: "I have been the voice for increased funding," Wicker said.

He pointed out that businesses considering locating to North Carolina usually ask, "Do you have a skilled work force to produce our products?" He said that improving community colleges is the key to providing that work force.

Wicker said the state's community colleges need to institute an open-admission policy across the board so that any North Carolinian with a high school diploma or its equivalent can enroll. He also supports increased pay for community college instructors so that North Carolina's system can stay competitive with states that offer higher pay to their instructors.

Wicker also believes the state's university system is "an excellent system," but cautions that "we have to make sure the infrastructure remains strong."

Pope successfully fought for increased pay for university instructors. And he pushed for the elimination of unnecessary university administrative positions, in favor of additional teaching positions, but was unsuccessful.

"Pope has been very interested in education," Pope said. "He served on the education committee in the General Assembly. He's been a principal proponent of educational reform. He cares deeply about it. Wicker has never served on educational boards. It's our belief that

Wicker is a late-comer to the educational issue."

Wicker is, however, the co-sponsor of a supplemental assistance program to rural and poorer school districts and has been endorsed by North Carolina's public school

level. He also wants tougher penalties for offenders with high levels of alcohol in their blood.

For Pope, other important issues include winning a veto for the governor, limiting legislators and congress to four consecutive four year terms, constitutional



Photo Courtesy Art Pope Election Committee

Art Pope supports local flexibility in public school operations.

lieutenant governor do for me?" is another possible response. Some might even ask, "Who's running?"

At least that's what a recent News & Observer poll indicated. A staggering 50 percent of those polled said they had no preference in the race, which suggests that voters either don't know anything about the candidates or simply don't care.

The poll did indicate that of the two candidates, Democrat Dennis Wicker is holding a tenuous lead, with 30.5 percent saying they would vote for him, while only 19.5 percent said they would vote for Republican Art Pope. But obviously with so many voters undecided, Pope still has a chance of overtaking Wicker by election day.

So, what are the issues? Besides presiding over the N.C. Senate, the lieutenant governor's most important responsibility is

that it does not allow local school boards flexibility in deciding what is best for their school district.

"BEP is a centrally mandated, one-sized educational plan that treats every child and every school district the same and Pope believes in local flexibility," Pope's campaign manager, Scott Place said. "Wicker wants to stick to the BEP, which mandates dance, drama and other enhanced teaching positions. Pope is for more parent decision-making and being able to choose from within the public school system [what school your child will attend]."

Pope said that doing this will force schools to raise their standards in order to be competitive with the best schools, which will raise North Carolina's overall educational standards. He also said that the state's superintendent of public



Photo Courtesy Dennis Wicker Election Committee

Dennis Wicker wants to help business cut the cost of health care.

teachers.

Another issue that Wicker identifies as important is helping small businesses reduce the cost of offering health insurance to their employees. He proposes to do this by establishing pilot programs to help small businesses pool together in large buying blocks and "get force in the market to negotiate purchasing power," thereby bringing the cost down. Wicker points to a similar program's success in Cleveland and believes that tax credit incentives may be a way to get it off the ground.

Wicker also supports the reduction of the level of blood alcohol content necessary to be charged with a DUI from .10 to .08, citing more reliable and specific breathalizers and studies which indicate a drastic increase in accidents involving drivers with more than a .08 content

amendments requiring budget reform, a limit to the length of congressional sessions and winning the right for the people to amend the state constitution through petition and referendum. And, of course, Wicker and Pope don't agree on the abortion issue, with Wicker being pro-choice and Pope pro-life.

So who are you going to vote for?

Wicker's point of view: "Pope has voted against funding our critical needs in this state, such as his proposal to cut out Rape Crisis Centers. I believe I can help face and solve this state's problems. I believe in progressive government for education, economic development, support of small business and a clean and safe environment. I believe student government can be a

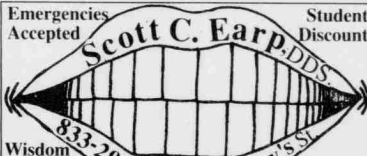
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Where Do The Candidates Stand On



The Environment

Democrats generally support more stringent government regulations of environmental standards. Al Gore are particularly popular among environmental groups, though Bill Clinton has a questionable record as governor of Arkansas.

The Economy

Tax fairness is a major part of the Democratic plan for the economy. Most Democrats say that higher taxes for the rich will help the government provide needed social programs and will speed repayment of the national debt. Clinton's budget plans call for an increase in the top tax rate from 31 percent to 36 percent and project that the deficit will be cut in half within four years.

Foreign Relations

Democratic leaders have been largely silent about foreign affairs except when discussing Bush's handling of Iraq. Clinton did announce his tentative support for the North American Free Trade Agreement recently during a visit to the NCSU campus (see below), though that is more of an economic issue.

The North American Free Trade Agreement

Clinton supports the North American Free Trade Agreement, though he wants to add provisions to protect U.S. workers from unfair competition. Under his plan, American industries that are under a serious threat of not surviving would be shielded by additional taxes on foreign goods. Also, Mexico and Canada would be required to enforce their environmental regulations.

Health Care

Clinton wants a health-care system, operated partly by the federal government, that he says will cover all Americans and save the average American family \$1,200 per year.

Perot wants environmental regulation, but he stresses economic growth above other issues. He has given few specifics about his plans for new environmental laws.

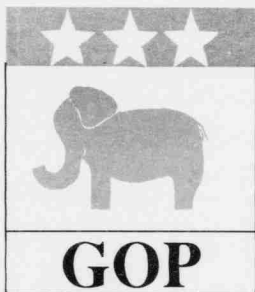
The economy is far and away the most important issue to Perot, who predicts that a major depression is on the way unless we eliminate the budget deficit. He would add a 50 cents per gallon gas tax (in 10 cents increments over the next five years) and talks about the shared sacrifice Americans must take now for their children's sake. He says he wants more taxpayers, not more taxes.

Sometimes viewed as an isolationist and protectionist, Perot pays little attention to foreign relations except as they directly bear on the United States. He favors a get-tough attitude toward trading partners that prevent U.S. companies from fully entering their markets. He, like Clinton, partly blames Bush for the events that led up to the Persian Gulf War.

Perot opposes the North American Free Trade Agreement on the grounds that it will cost American jobs. He says that passing the treaty will eventually reduce American salaries and cut the number of good jobs available in the country. He predicts that the U.S. average hourly wage may fall to about \$7.50 under NAFTA.

Perot, like the other two major candidates, supports health care reform. He thinks the government should take a more active role in making sure that every citizen is covered.

The Issues That Are Important To You?



Analysis

President George Bush thinks that environmental protection and economic growth can go together. His record makes it clear that he thinks the economy is more important than individual environmental concerns such as the spotted owl, though.

Bush favors a one-percent tax cut, an optional 10-percent checkoff that he hopes would let taxpayers push Congress into reducing debt, and a capital gains tax cut as ways to spur growth and reduce the deficit. He is the only one of the three candidates to say he will not raise taxes.

Bush is widely considered an expert in foreign relations. He has successfully led the country during both the Persian Gulf War and the Panama Conflict. An architect of the North American Free Trade Agreement, he supports free trade as a solution to economic problems. He says that the current recession is caused by a global slowdown that will soon turn around.

Bush helped design the North American Free Trade Agreement, and he enthusiastically supports it, saying that it will create jobs and growth.

Bush does not support a government-operated health care system. He feels that Clinton's plan will cause rationing of health care and that it will cause impersonal, shoddy work. Experts say, though, that Bush's plan would leave tens of millions of Americans uncovered.

Clinton's administration is more likely to support environmental groups, particularly because of Gore's presence on the ticket. Both Bush and Perot are likely to put economic concerns above environmental ones unless a crisis arises.

Perot sees the national debt as America's biggest economic problem, while Bush and Clinton focus on solving the recession. Based on the candidates' comments, Bush is the least likely to raise taxes. Clinton and Perot have already suggested tax increases which they hope will lead to better economic performance.

Bush is the only one of the three candidates with any foreign relations experience to speak of, though Perot has been involved in foreign business and special projects. Bush believes that the U.S. should maintain a leading role in the world as a superpower, while Perot and Clinton say that it is more important to focus on being an economic superpower.

Perot is the only one of the three candidates to oppose the Free Trade Agreement; he believes that the U.S. must protect its industries at least as much as other countries protect their own.

Clinton's health care reforms are the most sweeping of the three candidates'. Sometimes labeled as socialized medicine, Clinton's plan would cover all Americans and, he believes, save money.

Students preparing to make tough decisions

Continued from Page 4

George Bush's stand for family values and against abortion is worth their vote.

Students seemed to agree that it is important to be sure to vote. "Anybody with any sense should vote," said Cliff Isaac, a junior in civil engineering. Isaac stressed the importance of our duty to vote.

"Actually, voting is a privilege," Gibson

said, "because it's not a universal right to humans." Gibson stated that rights can't be taken away, while privileges are controlled by others. His advice is don't abuse this privilege by not voting on Nov. 3.

What does the student body think of the presidential candidates? Opinions, unsurprisingly, vary: Perot's a quitter; Clinton can't be trusted; look at what Bush has done to the economy. One of these men, however, will be living in the White House in January.

Closer to home, Democrat Jim Hunt is running against Lieutenant Governor Jim Gardner for the office of governor. Many students feel that this scenario is a no-win situation for the people. Not many students have put any serious thought into this race.

Senator Terry Sanford's chair in Congress is being challenged by Republican Lauch Faircloth. Once again, there is little interest in this race. These two positions will have a large effect on life in North Carolina, yet the student

body does not seem to care.

Some students have already decided for whom they'll vote. Others are waiting until election day to decide. Every student, however, believes that America is at an important crossroads.

With the upcoming election, there seems to be a lot of concern focused on our nation's future. Voting is the most powerful political tool we Americans possess. Take advantage of it. Remember to vote on Nov. 3 for the candidates of your choice.



Angela Pridgen/Staff

Bill Clinton supported state Democratic nominees during his recent visit to campus.

Lt. governor race is low-key affair

Continued from Page 5

constructive tool. But although we want to provide needed services, we must realize we have limited resources and cut waste. We must work together and come together. I want to be a part of the executive branch team with Jim Hunt to bring some of the changes and reform needed for this state."

Pope's point of view, as expressed by Place: "A big issue is Wicker voted to raise taxes by

\$1.8 billion while in office. Art is a strong supporter of death penalty, including for the murder of law enforcement officers. Wicker voted against the death penalty for murder of law enforcement officers. There are very broad philosophical differences. Pope believes people should have control of their lives and government shouldn't cost so much. Wicker wants to control the people from Raleigh. He and the Democrats want to mandate everything. Wicker is a classic liberal."

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What to do, what to do . . .

Technician columnists Colin Burch and Russell Deatherage give lighthearted analyses of the presidential race

Hunter S. Thompson (a.k.a. Russell Deatherage): No good choices

There is an ideological difference between the parties that says one will be a power-mongering, money-hungry, out-of-touch group of assholes more concerned with getting reelected and looking good in history books than doing anything at all worth while with their time in public office, while the other will not be much better at least they won't forget who put them in office. The scariest thing in the world is knowing that the masses are the ones charged with deciding which are put in office, and that the choice must be made between these two groups of morally depleted perverts and uneducated wne.

This election year, like those in the past, offer little hope of anything new, just something different. Bush is on his way out and he knows it. Reality may not have set into the old war-monger's mind but in his subconscious he knows he is moving back to his Texas motel room in January. The guard is changing and the bells are tolling and the starters pistol is about to fire for the last time. George will write a book and take his gas-zuzzling speedboat around Kennenbankport and we will only have to see him occasionally on tv—probably hitching over the loss of the American Dream.

Bill Clinton will step into the White House, fart around for a few hours helping Hillary decide whether the drapes should be purple or pink and who should be on the A list. Then he will set to the task of writing laws and policy that help no one other than the lobbyists, and hopefully, stay out of sight to let things work themselves out. But that is too much to hope for. Bill will have a Democratic congress to play with and new laws will be easy to pass and no one will think to remove a few old laws and our freedoms will be crushed even more. The American system is great, ain't it?

There is a common thought that America is based on freedom. It is an understanding that has been drilled into our heads since kindergarten with the fervor of a religious zealot. It is incomprehensible to many that America could be any other way; we have the Constitution, the bill of rights, the power of election and sweet third grade social

studies teachers indoctrinating us to believe that America is equivalent to freedom. America is not based on freedom, it is based on lack of freedom.

With every law that is passed another right is taken away, another freedom is gone, we are less of a people. Another mindless tangent with no real end.

I wonder what George would be like on acid. "Hey Babe, what does this little red button do? Wow, the whole world is melting away. Look, look, the wall is turning into Lee Atwater. I always loved him, wonder what he was like in bed?"

There is much disagreement that Bill should even be president. Republican zealots blast his character, integrity and past life. They say he is not presidential material because he never went to war and he experimented with drugs. I personally like the fact he is a draft dodger. If he is not willing to send himself to war then maybe he is not willing to send others to war; maybe he would not be so hot on starting a war. He does loose points on his drug experiments. What kind of fool cannot inhale, what kind of hippie or yippie stopped at one attempt? Come Bill, tell the truth, you did all sorts of chemicals and now you hide it because you know the Grandma and Bubba vote won't come through for a junky. Get a spine, stand up and tell the world you ate acid every morning for breakfast and rode the horse to go to bed every night and loved it!

I wonder what George would be like on acid. "Hey Babe, what does this little red button do? Wow, the whole world is melting away. Look, look, the wall is turning into Lee Atwater. I always loved him, wonder what he was like in bed?" The old fool would be zoning around the White House babbling incessantly about demons out to get him and how Barb doesn't put out anymore. The secret service will have to hand-cuff him to the bed and wait out the effects while preventing Dan from coming over to join in on the fun.

Enough of this mindless jabber. The election is almost a forgone conclusion and we will have the next four, and probably eight, years to mull things over and then screw it all up again. The Founding Fathers thought they were pretty cool by letting us do things for ourselves, such as electing our leaders, but I wonder if they had eaten more acid maybe they wouldn't have done things a bit better and left out all this garbage about rights and freedoms and elections. We would have been better off.

P.J. O'Rourke (a.k.a. Colin Burch): Don't trust Slick Willie

"Racist Bush" gives more the United Negro College Fund than any other charity he personally gives to. "Anti-environment" Bush went to the Environmental Conference in Brazil, regardless of criticism from conservatives and regardless of the fact that it was the most blatant case of global government interventionism in the history of the human race.

So there! I got in my two-cents worth, and I feel a hell of a lot better, because I couldn't get an edge in wordwise with my sparring partner, Mr. Hunter S. "Russell" Deatherage?

We were SUPPOSED to get things worked out at the house of his girlfriend (code name: Bubbles) late, late one night — you know, set the record straight on the candidate of my choice and skew the record of the other candidate.

As it turned out, the tape just kept rolling as the love birds looked at Bubbles' photo album and I caught a killer nicotine buzz off second-hand smoke.

But truthfully, as coffee pots were emptied and refilled and emptied again, some conversation did make it into tape. We batted around ideas ranging from who will get the women's vote in Arkansas (Clinton) to which presidential candidate is most like Dick Sheridan (Perot, we decided, because Sheridan insists on going up the middle!).

I'll have to admit, though, that I was put on the defensive quite a bit. All the Clinton crowd has to say is, "Under the Bush administration we've had the worst economic performance in godzillion years."

It's like they think President Bush is supposed to pedal a bicycle that has a chain connected to The Economy. They forget that the Federal Reserve Board and Congress have some pedaling to do, too.

And of course there's the accusatory "read my lips — no new taxes" that the Democrats spout off, mocking the president. Only the Democrats would make an election issue out of signing one of their own tax bills! For that matter, only the Democrats would say that misspelling "potato" is worse than sleeping with Gennifer Flowers.

But everything relates to George Bush. The fact that Mrs. Jones in Sioux City

has a five-year-old with a bed-wetting problem — it's Bush's fault. Those unsightly horse mounds along Main Street in Hickville —

Bush put 'em there. Change. Everyone wants change. Mrs. Jones wants her five-year-old to change his bed-wetting habit. The Hickville City Council wants a major odor change on Main Street. By God, it must be time for an Arkansas governor!

And boy oh boy, what days we have ahead of us! Can you imagine a party thrown by Bill Clinton and Ted Kennedy? MTV would be invited and the Rolling Stone editors would claim they've discovered a new religious experience.

But step back and get a look at the big picture. Imagine you're back in seventh grade. An angel appears to you in a smelly public school restroom. "You're going to grow up and go to North Carolina State University," the angel says.

You would gasp, but at the moment, you think this prediction of making it to college is pretty encouraging because you're having a hell of a time getting your zipper up.

"While you're there," the angel continues, "a man about your daddy's age will become president. The people will be so anxious to make the difficult switch from the Cold War to instituting socialized medicine, they will overlook the fact that the man they elect slept with a woman he wasn't married to and that he tried marijuana when he was younger." At this point, your tummy begins to hurt.

"The people were angry that Judge Bork tried some weed!" the angel continues, "but since the man elected president is not a conservative, they'll impose a double standard and say, 'everyone tried pot back then.'"

Being a bright seventh grader, you realize that this man could be lying. There's no such thing as angels, you tell yourself.

And there's no way this stuff about some slick guy slipping into the White House could happen anyway. "Oh! it's the only response you give, and you act cool. Now, if you could only get the zipper up, you could dart out of the restroom.

It's like they think President Bush is supposed to pedal a bicycle that has a chain connected to The Economy. They forget that the Federal Reserve Board and Congress have some pedaling to do, too.

Economy may determine race

Continued from Page 3

venue.

In contrast to Clinton's plan, Bush's proposal rejects direct governmental involvement and instead suggests several subtle approaches that Bush hopes will stimulate growth in the private sector. These ideas include a capital gains tax cut, enterprise zones and rule changes for various types of legal action.

"I think the capital gains tax cut will be helpful," Walden said. "There are some economists who think, and the theory has some validity, that the big stock market crash of 1987 was caused by the raising of the capital gains tax in 1986. Cutting the tax would encourage investment."

Walden said that the difference in the Clinton and Bush proposals also extends into their approaches to the national health care problems.

Clinton's proposal calls for universal coverage of all citizens to be provided for by various businesses, private insurance companies or a core benefits package set up by a health standards board. This board will set an upper cap on medical spending.

"What Clinton is going to do is set up some boards either at the federal or state level to set spending caps because he's smart enough to know that if you provide services cheaper, more people will use it more often," Walden said.

In contrast to Clinton's plan, Bush's plan focuses on private insurance companies providing coverage with the government providing assistance to cover the lower income groups. Bush also calls for setting limits on malpractice litigation, citing the rocketing insurance rates caused by huge malpractice awards as a main cause of rising health costs.



Technician File Photo

Student groups often take an outspoken role in supporting or opposing controversial policies.

"Bush's plan provides vouchers for the poor and tax credits for the next level up to ensure they can purchase a basic plan,"

Walden said. "It's cost is more susceptible to market forces but it does allow the consumer more freedom in choosing medical

alternatives."

Perot's plan does not propose a specific remedy to the health care problem.

Superintendent race draws little attention

By John Harrington

Staff Writer

With all the excitement of the presidential and gubernatorial races, the sound of any other political activity has been all but drowned out. A case in point is the race for the job of state superintendent of public instruction.

But the superintendent runs a department with a budget of about 4 billion dollars a year, 45 percent of the state's expenditures. And the job is even more important because it affects not only our state's present, but our future as well. You may not even know who the incumbent superintendent is, Bobby Etheridge, a Democrat who has held the position since 1989, is a former businessman and legislator.

The challenger for the position is Republican Teena Little. According to campaign manager

Sue Myrick, Little favors more local control in flexibility and funding. She says that local systems know more where they need their money. She hopes to decrease class size from 28 to 15 students and increase the number of teachers and teacher's aides.

The superintendent is responsible for running the public schools in North Carolina, a system which includes 1.1 million students ranging from kindergarten through the 12th grade. There are also 70,000 teachers and 50,000 other school personnel in the system.

The superintendent keeps the public informed of the problems and needs of public schools, and must recommend necessary improvements in schools and school law to the governor.

The superintendent also serves as secretary to the state Board of Education; manages funds reserved as grants for the Department of Education;

administers policies; and visits schools to see how they are doing.

Sources in the Etheridge campaign cite steady improvement in state SAT scores. When Etheridge took office in 1989, North Carolina's scores were ranked 51st in the nation. This year, though, the state had the highest percentage gain of any state in the scores, now up to 48th in the nation.

Etheridge's campaign also boasts that he has cut bureaucracy by 20 percent, reducing the department payroll from 1,000 to 800 and saving 9 million dollars in the process.

Etheridge has also started a new, publicly-available report card for every school system in the state.

Little wants to make further changes. She believes that the superintendent's position should be an appointed one rather than an elected one. "Under the

current system, the lines of authority are not clear," she said.

Little has a greater education background than does Etheridge. She taught for 10 years. She is also a member of the state Board of Education, and is Chairman of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission.

Currently, though, Etheridge has a big lead in the early polls. Campaign manager Lindsey McKoy expressed confidence that he will hold onto his job.

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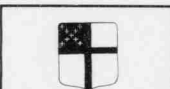
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Quayle praises Bush during visit to Raleigh

By Tracey Neal
Staff Writer

Shouts of "Four More Years" followed vice-president Dan Quayle's entrance into the North Raleigh Hilton last Thursday night.

"Give us four more years, and give Jim Gardner four years as governor of North Carolina," Dan Quayle, vice-president of the United States, said last Thursday night as he took the stage.

"In Richmond tonight, the president won the debate and we're gonna win this election," Quayle said in reference to the debate that took place earlier that evening.

"The reason the president won the debate is because on the policy issues that were discussed, he was on the side of the American people."

The six issues that Quayle focused on included taxes, education, budget spending, crime, term limits, and character. Quayle spoke on Bush holding

the line on and reducing taxes, whereas Clinton is going to raise them.

Quayle confirmed the president's position on education by saying that he believes the parents have a right to choose where their kids go to school.

In the spending issue, Quayle referred to Governor Clinton's economic program that calls for 220 billion dollars in new federal spending and said that Bush and the American people however were for a balanced budget.

"When the issue of crime came up, Governor Clinton went on and on and on... President Bush got up and he said, I want my top anti-crime bill from that democratic congress and I want it now," said Quayle as he stirred emotions in the crowd.

And when the issue of term limits came up Quayle said, "Governor Clinton finally figured out what his position was."

Quayle then commented on the president pointing out that with a new congress, his agenda would pass.

Quayle roused a few cheers by saying, "The most important issue that I saw in this debate was when the president talked about character and Bill Clinton says that's not an issue. Bill Clinton may not want character to be an issue, but the American people feel that character should be an issue." Quayle pointed out three things that American people want in a president.

"They want a person who has strength, who has the ability to make tough decisions, and who has integrity," he said.

Toward the end of his speech, Quayle began rallying for support by commenting on the president's closing statement.

"I think in the president's closing statement he put his finger right on the issue- if a crisis were to occur who do you want to make the decision? I want George Bush there for the next four years to handle any crisis that may occur and he is going to be our president for the next four years."

In closing Quayle said, "It was



Angela Pridden/Staff

Dan Quayle told a Raleigh crowd that Bush is the best candidate. a great victory on behalf of the American people come November 3." even greater victory on behalf of

College Democrats trying to solidify party support Group president predicts Clinton victory

By Amy P. Loring
Staff Writer

The campus community is set to vote Democratic in the presidential election this year, according to the leader of N.C. State University's College Democrats.

"The campus is strongly pro-Clinton from what I've seen," said group president Julie Glover.

And the student Democrats are doing their part to keep it that way. By holding discussions,

passing out pamphlets, selling buttons and bumper stickers, and helping with campaigns, they hope to bring their party the first presidential victory since 1976.

The College Democrats plan to encourage students to take part in

the election with their "Get Out To Vote" rally. The event will help publicize candidates, Glover said.

The group has about 30 paid members, Glover said. Dues are \$5 per year. Funds come from club dues and from selling buttons and bumper stickers.

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