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U.S. News & World Report
October 28, 1996

★ CAMPAIGN TRAIL ★

POOL PARTY: DOLE COURTS THE YOUTH VOTE

■ Rock the Vote, a group that gets out the vote among the younger crowd, threw a poolside party for about 2,000 students at the University of San



Diego after last week's presidential matchup there. It invited the two candidates to the postdebate festivities, but both declined. Clinton did send his youthful senior adviser, George Stephanopoulos, and event organizers called New York Rep. Susan Molinari to sub for Dole, but she never made it. Then, a bossy advance man in a dark suit arrived. Not far behind was candidate Dole himself, who arrived with his wife, Elizabeth, and former President Gerald Ford in tow. Ford, 83, introduced Dole, 73, saying, "I've known Bob Dole since 1960." Or twice as long as the average college freshman has been alive.

LOCAL CHURCH

USD Getting Back to Normal

By Cyril Jones-Kellett

The Southern Cross

SAN DIEGO — After its moment on the national stage as host of the final 1996 Presidential Debate, life is returning to normal at the University of San Diego. There are a few pieces of equipment left where just days ago a swarm of satellite communication trucks, busses from C-SPAN and MTV, and an army of security personnel were present.

Msgr. I.B. Eagan, university Vice President for Mission and Ministry said, "I think that it was a wonderful opportunity for a Catholic University to host the debate."

He confessed to being "disappointed that no one asked the candidates a question about abortion,"

because such a question would have been appropriate coming from a Catholic institution. But he pointed out that the participants in the town hall-style debate were chosen not by USD but by the Gallup organization. Selection of questions was left to participants.

Msgr. Eagan attended the debate in the university's Shiley Theater with a USD contingent that included 100 students. The students attending were chosen by lottery from a pool of 2,000.

A student body executive secretary, junior Stephanie Riesenman, volunteered as an usher for the debate and got a seat when debate commission personnel noticed there were a few still empty. She called it a "once in a lifetime experience," saying, "It makes it

much more real to have (the candidates) standing in front of you."

Junior Eric Karakis, who also watched the debate from inside Shiley Theater, said, "The entire student body was electrified and unified, students really behaved very well." He pointed out that 600 undergraduates, about one-seventh of the undergraduate population, volunteered to help with debate events.

"We talked about it in every single class of mine," he said. "It got people really thinking about what their political beliefs are."

Students not in the theater watched the debate on video monitors in the school's gym and held a discussion of their own after the debate. Bob Dole, Gerald Ford, and George Stephanopolous all stopped by after the debate to speak with students.

The University Ministry office will follow up with a series of lectures and debates on economic justice, immigration, workplace democracy, and crime and punishment.

Some of the week's inconveniences turned out to be surprisingly pleasant. A university vice president contracted with a golf course adjacent to the school to allow students to park on the course for the week. Busses conveyed students from the golf course to the center of campus. By students were so pleased with the service, they talked about asking the university to buy the golf course to relieve the school's usual cramped parking.

San Diego Union-Tribune, October 20, 1996

DECISION
1996

STYLE OVER SUBSTANCE

Great debate skills say little about ability to govern

By Robert J. Caldwell

It's a tribute to American democracy that presidential debates, however stage-managed and rigidly formatted, are now mandatory fixtures. Yet, they have significantly altered the electoral equation only twice — giving John F. Kennedy the stature he needed to defeat Richard Nixon in 1960, and moving Ronald Reagan decisively ahead of Jimmy Carter in 1980.

Measured by this latter standard, the second and last Dole-Clinton debate almost certainly fell short. Dole turned in a highly credible performance at the University of San Diego's Shiley Theatre. But he scored no breakthrough. That leaves the race about where it was, tightening a bit in the polls perhaps but probably not enough to rescue Bob Dole from what seems the ever more likely prospect of defeat Nov. 5.

Debate coaches polled by news organizations around the country Wednesday night tended to score

Clinton the winner on points. An Associated Press panel of six debate coaches gave the president an overall score of 159 to 148 for Dole. Telephone polls by ABC and CBS registered stronger, if less expert, first-impression judgments by the public. Solid majorities, including some who favor Dole, saw Clinton as the debate winner.

The larger question for voters, however, is this: What does debate performance — or campaigning skills, for that matter — tell us about which of these two men would do better as president for the next four years?

Clinton's campaigning skills are by now approaching legendary status. He empathizes with every audience. His seeming sincerity on the stump, evident in 1992 and even more finely honed this year, is a winning trait reminiscent of Ronald Reagan's gifted touch. Name your pain, Clinton feels it, or appears to.

As a debater, Clinton is facile and smart. Selective

CALDWELL is editor of the Insight section.

See **DEBATE** on Page G-6

LAURA EMBRY /
Union-Tribune photos

Continued ↕

statistics, leavened by carefully crafted anecdotes, flow in profusion from this ultimate policy wonk.

Dole, by comparison, is no Ronald Reagan and no Bill Clinton. Even his aides concede privately that he's an awkward, uninspiring campaigner. He lacks an instinctive feel for language, which is why his rhetoric rarely soars. His stump demeanor often appears forced. Where Clinton connects effusively with voters, the more private and reserved Dole can seem remote, even wooden.

This said, it's also true that Dole is no slouch as a debater. Years in the Senate sharpened Dole's ability to cut and parry on the issues. He held his own in Hartford two weeks ago and, adopting more aggressive tactics in San Diego, scored points against Clinton while still retaining his dignity and decency.

But debates and especially campaigning are largely matters of style. We know that Clinton has it, Dole doesn't. That still leaves voters with the much more important question of substance.

And on this central point, Dole may have done better in San Diego than many realize.

All the polls show that a consistent majority of voters retains serious doubts about Clinton's integrity, even as the public continues to accord him a substantial lead over Dole. Conversely, and ironically, Dole's truthfulness and, more broadly, his fundamental honesty are widely recognized and respected. Analysts increasingly describe the president's lead as reflecting a Faustian bargain in which voters who don't completely trust Clinton are prepared to vote for him anyway.

Thus, Dole repeatedly stressed the trust issue in the debate. It's a core theme that will echo at every Dole rally and in most Dole ads. Clinton, sitting on his lead, chose to ignore Dole's frequent, pointed assaults on the character issue.

Voters interested enough to watch the debate saw, on this issue, what can only be described as an astonishing spectacle.

The president of the United States was portrayed, altogether credibly, as a man who cannot be trusted to keep his word. The president's administration was depicted, again credibly, as tarnished by scandal, debased by unethical conduct and undeserving of public confidence.

Betrayed campaign promises, the Whitewater swamp, dangled presidential pardons, abuse of power in Travelgate, hundreds of purloined FBI files on political opponents, suppression of evidence, possibly even obstruction of justice were all either explicit or implicit in Dole's litany.

Incredibly, Clinton offered no defense, no rebuttal to this sweeping indictment. Only once did he even attempt to deflect the charges, and then merely with

Incredibly, Clinton offered no defense, no rebuttal to Dole's sweeping indictment of him on the character issue.

a cleverly conceived non sequitur. "No attack ever created a job or educated a child . . . no insult ever cleaned up a toxic dump or helped an elderly person," Clinton said. True, perhaps, but beside the point.

One imagines that an honest man wrongly accused, most especially on a national stage before millions of viewers and with his stewardship of the nation's highest trust impeached, would have risen indignantly to defend his honor and reputation. Not Clinton. He offered not a single word in rebuttal.

Some interpreted this as merely smart politics — an incumbent president comfortably ahead refusing to "take the bait." A more telling interpretation would see Clinton's eerie silence as supremely cynical and evidence of a chilling amorality. 'Yes,' the president seemed to be conceding, 'we told some whoppers and bent the rules but Americans care more about what we've delivered.'

Voters have 16 days to ponder this and decide whether they can be bought so cheaply.

As for all the other issues — and, yes, character is an issue, not an "insult" — the differences were well enough drawn. Dole and Clinton are both running essentially as political centrists. Dole remains what he has always been, a moderately conservative, Main Street Republican. Clinton is the born-again New Democrat, shorn of his liberal persona of 1993-94 by the GOP's congressional sweep two years ago.

Dole offers the promise of a modest tax cut (one percent of federal revenues over the next seven years), a faster growing economy and a slightly less intrusive, less expensive federal government. The

war against drugs would be waged with considerably more vigor. His judicial nominees would be generally conservative. A Dole foreign policy would be firmer and more consistent.

Clinton offers "targeted" (read, politically tailored) tax breaks for favored constituencies, a status quo economy and incrementally more government to help Americans across that endlessly invoked "bridge to the 21st century."

Either man would have to reform entitlements and slow the growth in their spending. This is particularly essential for Medicare, which trustees report will be bankrupt in just four years. Clinton's Medicare mantra, cutting deeply into Republican support among senior citizens, conceals what both political parties know: That the growth rate of Medicare spending must be slowed from 10 percent a year to about 7 percent to avoid bankrupting the program.

The final Dole-Clinton debate didn't, and couldn't, erase the president's lead. Dole must hope that it may yet cause voters to think anew about substance over style, beginning with the bedrock matter of trust.

View from USD: Reform Party officials say they know nothing about these letters carved into a side of Tecolote Canyon.



S.D. Union-Tribune, October 20, 1996

Vandals who carved 'Perot' into hillside left some clues

By Steve La Rue
STAFF WRITER

San Diego police and city parks officials are searching for the people who stripped vegetation off a hillside in Tecolote Canyon Nature Park last week, and they have some clues.

A white compound spelling out the word "P-E-R-O-T" was left in the cleared space.

And it happened late Tuesday on the eve of the presidential debate at the University of San Diego, from which the sign is visible.

Reform Party candidate Ross Perot was excluded from the debate between President Bill Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole.

"My mouth fell open," Tracey Walker, senior city park ranger, said about Wednesday's discovery of a 70-by-270-foot message carved into the park's coastal sage scrub.

"The letters were cut into the hills. It is an ecological bomb," Walker lamented. "That is one of the last remaining coastal sage scrub, south-facing slopes in this canyon. Now, there will be erosion. And that stuff doesn't grow back very quickly. It is depressing as hell."

Coastal sage scrub is among the county's most biologically valuable and rapidly disappearing habitats. It is home to a variety of declining, protected plant and animal species.

Representatives of the Reform Party said the sign was not an official campaign activity.

"We have been getting calls all day. People are naturally blaming us, but I really don't know anything about it," Richard Fick, county treasurer for the Reform Party, said Friday.

The chairman of the local Re-



Tracey Walker

form Party committee has checked around but so far has not been able to determine who did it, said Mel Edwards, the group's communications coordinator for San Diego County.

"We are planning to write a letter of apology to the parks people because it certainly must be a supporter," Edwards said. "I cautioned people at the last meeting we had to be very careful about putting any kinds of signs on private property or in any way defacing property, and most of our people are not the kind that would do that."

Edwards said: "I'm sure sorry it happened. That is the kind of thing we don't want to happen."

Ingrid Lewin, a park volunteer at the 970-acre reserve who lives on the rim of Tecolote Canyon, said it must have taken several people a considerable time to dig out the five 30-foot-wide letters.

"I am truly ticked off. That was a stupid thing to do," she said.

Whoever did it, she said, had to carry heavy bags of gypsum up a steep hill to color the letters white.

"One person? No way. There were many people involved and they had to do it in the dark. It was very well planned. There was red string that was still there, where they planned the letters."

San Diego Police Detective Kenneth Brown believes he will know much more about those responsible because witnesses who spotted vehicles near the park late Tuesday took down license plate numbers.

"There are some other angles I am working on right now, and there is more to it than I can release right now," Brown said.

Whoever created the sign, Brown said, may have violated city ordinances banning the destruction of city property, and perhaps parts of the state Fish and Game Code.

Walker said crews will start removing the gypsum letters this week.

"The locals are taking it pretty personally, and rightly so."

San Diego Union - Tribune, October 19, 1996

DIANE BELL



Perot shows at debate after all

The presidential debate wasn't disrupted by arrests, but there was a bit of visible vandalism. There, on a Tecolote hillside facing the campus, was the word "Perot" inscribed 60 feet high by 250 feet wide in a white powdery substance by persons unknown. Turns out for the unlucky vandals, the hillside is part of Tecolote Canyon Natural Park — and the letters cover some endangered sage shrub. The police have leads and are investigating.

De tales of debate

One of the folks selected by Gallup pollsters to be part of the pool questioning the presidential candidates turned out to be a convicted murderer. He didn't make the final cut. But, no problem — convicts can't vote anyway . . .
Tight security: Police Chief Jerry Sanders drove onto the USD campus before the debate and was promptly halted by Secret Service. He showed ID, but it wasn't until the Secret Service called to confirm his identity and SDPD cops there vouched for him that our top cop was allowed to pass . . . After the debate, Bill Clinton voiced regrets that he hadn't had an opportunity to "brag on" his old friend U.S. Attorney Alan Bersin after Dole accused the Clinton appointee (wrongly, incidentally) of failing to prosecute marijuana smugglers caught with less than 125 pounds of drugs.

STORY BELOW

"It absolutely was worth it."

USD President Alice B. Hayes
On Wednesday night's presidential debate at the university

San Diego

THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1996

DECISION '96

Who won debate? USD!

Time was well-spent, says Hayes

By Clark Brooks
STAFF WRITER

Several people have asked University of San Diego President Alice B. Hayes who won Wednesday's debate, President Clinton or Bob Dole?

"The answer to that question is USD," she said yesterday, the day after the presidential candidates squared off in the school's Shiley Theatre.

It was worth every hour that the students, faculty and staff put in over the past few months, Hayes said, and every dollar the university spent.

The biggest expense was the \$1.2 million to renovate Shiley Theatre. Improvements included

new seats, carpeted aisles and air conditioning that the Commission on Presidential Debates insisted on to ensure that the

"The thing that excites me the



Laura Embry / Union-Tribune photos

After the ball was over: Dennis McCubbin (center), of the Commission on Presidential Debates, helped union members of the stage technicians take down the main lighting truss used at USD's Shiley Theatre.

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"The thing that excites me the most is that it was an opportunity for the entire campus to take part in it."

GREG JOHNSON
President of USD
Associated Students

"It absolutely was worth it," Hayes said. "Our students will never forget it. We had an opportunity to see the democratic process in action, and we got to showcase our beautiful university."

Greg Johnson, president of USD Associated Students, worked on the student planning committee. He has put in three or four hours a week since May, he said, helping to prepare the campus for the candidates and the media that follow them everywhere.

Johnson watched the debate on TV in the school gym, along with some 2,000 other students. Before the debate, the alternative-rock band Better Than Ezra performed for 45 minutes, entertainment that Johnson lined up.

"It was a piece of history in the making," Johnson said at the student center. "The thing that excites me the most is that it was an opportunity for the entire campus to take part in it."

In the office next to Johnson's, Amanda Jo Beck was still wound up from Wednesday's excitement.

"It was the most amazing day of

new seats, carpeted aisles and air conditioning that the Commission on Presidential Debates insisted on to ensure that the candidates wouldn't perspire too much beneath the television lights.

Donations have paid for most of the debate costs, Hayes said. The university probably will wind up paying between \$300,000 and \$400,000 of the expenses, she said.

"It absolutely



LAURA EMBRY / Union-Tribune photos

After the ball was over: Dennis McCubbin (center), of the Commission on Presidential Debates, helped union members of the stage technicians take down the main lighting truss used at USD's Shiley Theatre.



Coming apart: Mary Shepherd (left) and Barbara Peterson, of the USD presidential debate volunteer center, laughed yesterday as they tried to separate nailed lumber.

my life," she said. "I met Senator and Mrs. Dole and President Clinton, and I got to ride with Sam Donaldson. I was able to watch the debate in the theater. I had a completely unobstructed view. I still haven't comprehended it all yet."

Beck, the Associated Students vice president for internal relations, served on the host and student committees for the debate. She is majoring in political science and mass communications.

The debate, from preparation to seeing it in person, was a real-life lab for political science.

"I have been able to see how the political process works, taken political science into the practical world," she said.

Nearby, workers were removing the rented platform that extended the Shiley Theatre stage to accommodate the "town meeting" debate format. John Forbes, the theater manager, said the job would be completed sometime today and that 10 more rows of new seats will be installed next week.

Then, Forbes said, USD will have one of the finest campus theaters around.

In the end, big issues got a turn

By Mark Sauer, STAFF WRITER

Gallup pollsters chose 113 undecided voters to ask questions at Wednesday night's presidential debate at the University of San Diego, and among them was a fellow in a large cowboy hat. Color: black.

The man — Chris Davis, 18, of Spring Valley — said he didn't get a chance to ask his question on national TV, but he did query President Clinton after the debate.

And the question?

"Next to professional football, baseball and basketball, which sport do you prefer: hockey or rodeo?"

According to Davis, the president said he prefers rodeo. Then Davis added that he planned to vote for Bob Dole.

Here are some other things you probably missed if you watched the debate (or the baseball game) on television:

Former San Diego Mayor Maureen O'Connor was delighted that her sister got to ask a question of the candidates. Colleen O'Connor, a political science and history professor at Mesa College, asked Clinton and Dole how they would cure voter apathy.

"I'm proud to be Colleen's sister today," Maureen, a Democrat, said yesterday.

Spectators at Shiley Theatre witnessing their first live debate gushed about how being there in person eliminated the distance of television and overcame the sterility of that medium. Still, 90 minutes of political discourse can have an anesthetic ef-

Tidbits

The real show began
after cameras went off

Continued from B-1

fect. Forty-seven minutes into the debate, writer Norman Mailer, covering the presidential campaign for John F. Kennedy Jr.'s *George* magazine, was dozing peacefully in his seat.

Who was that young man with the long, blond hair seated directly to President Clinton's left? His name is Michael Breen, a 34-year-old computer programmer at UCSD, who was disappointed not to be called on to ask a question. "Jim Lehrer was probably afraid I was some left-wing radical," Breen quipped.

But being seated so close gave Breen a rare view of the president. Some observations: Clinton is a lefty and he doodled. "When he wrote all those notes at his podium? It was gobbledegook. I tried to get his doodles after the debate was over, but the Secret Service wouldn't let me."

Concerned about possible government efforts to control the Internet, Breen asked Elizabeth Dole after the debate if he would have anything to fear if Bob

"This is just what we
were afraid of —
becoming
background music."

Dole were elected president. "She said, 'No,' and told me that their dog has a Web page," Breen said.

At the umpteenth mention of tax cuts and bridges to the future, more than one audience member confessed to falling prey to a wandering mind. Common daydreams: What would I ask the candidates if called upon? How would I do in a nationally televised debate? And, I wonder if those two beefy Secret Service guys flanking the stage are really listening to the Braves-Cardinals game on those little wires plugged in their ears?

Steve Binder, a local criminal-defense attorney, stood outside the media center at USD passing out blankets bearing the imprint of police citations. The

blankets, he said, symbolized the cold treatment the homeless get from the city of San Diego which "blankets them with criminal citations for nuisance-related offenses." Binder did manage to hand a blanket to Gov. Wilson, although he was unable to engage him in conversation. Wilson thanked him and kept moving. (Binder has 20 blankets left over and said they will be sold in an effort to raise money for homeless shelters.)

The 13-member USD Choral Scholars were told at the last minute that they could not perform on stage because of security concerns but that they might be allowed to sing in front of the stage. They were finally demoted to singing in the theater lobby. "This is just what we were afraid of — becoming background music," one singer-scholar quipped. The group led off with a jazzy rendition of "America the Beautiful."

Among the first to arrive — more than an hour early — at the Shiley Theatre was state Sen. Diane E. Watson of Los Angeles, a Democrat and a friend of Clinton's. When approached by a reporter, who said he was gathering material for a "color" story, Watson, who is African-American, replied: "No pun intended?"

Staff writers Terry Rodgers, George Varga and Ronald W. Powell contributed to this story.

San Diego Commerce, October 18, 1996



R.L. JONES/San Diego Commerce

President Bill Clinton and Senator Bob Dole: address the questions posed during a 90-minute town hall-style debate held at University of San Diego's Shiley Theater Wednesday night.

The last battle dies down as the war waits for a winner

■ *Two different visions of the American future fight for a place in the history books*

By R.L. JONES
Editor

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Democratic President Bill Clinton and Republican presidential nominee Senator Bob Dole faced off for the second and presumably final time during a town hall style debate held at the University of San Diego's Shiley Theater Wednesday night. Both discussed issues. Clinton continued to hold out as the Ever-Ready Clydesdale on the straight, narrow and steady course towards success in many policy issues, while Dole attempted to showcase himself as the man who will lead the next administration in the fight to champion the United States into economic brilliance.

Democrats watching the debate triumphantly declared Clinton the victor, Republicans saw Dole as the stand-out. Some undecided's were swayed, some remained confused and candidate-less. Depending on who one talked with, the version of the debate before them was different nearly each and every time.

So while the format changed dramatically for the San Diego debate from Hartford, Connecticut's cookie-cutter podium stand-off, the result remained the same - no decisive winner.



R.L. JONES/San Diego Commerce

Senator Bob Dole: laughs with the audience during the debate.

See DEBATE, page 6

continued ↓

A public opinion poll compiled by various news organizations which was published Thursday in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, showed slightly more than half of the viewers leaned towards Clinton's performance, while less than 30 percent felt Dole made a significant showing. But what still remained was the high 20 to 30 percent of undecideds.

Some are Democrats who can no longer see Clinton as their leader-in-chief, whether personal ethics issues or policy concerns are to blame remains different for each voter. Others are Republicans who see Dole, with his opposition to same sex marriages, Pro-Life stance and vote against "special rights" for gay and lesbians, as too conservative for their tastes.

Clinton remarked during his closing statements that no matter what the people remembered from the debate he hoped they left knowing "(t)his is a real important election. The world is changing dramatically in how we work and how we live, how we relate to each other - huge changes. And the decisions we make will have enormous practical consequences."

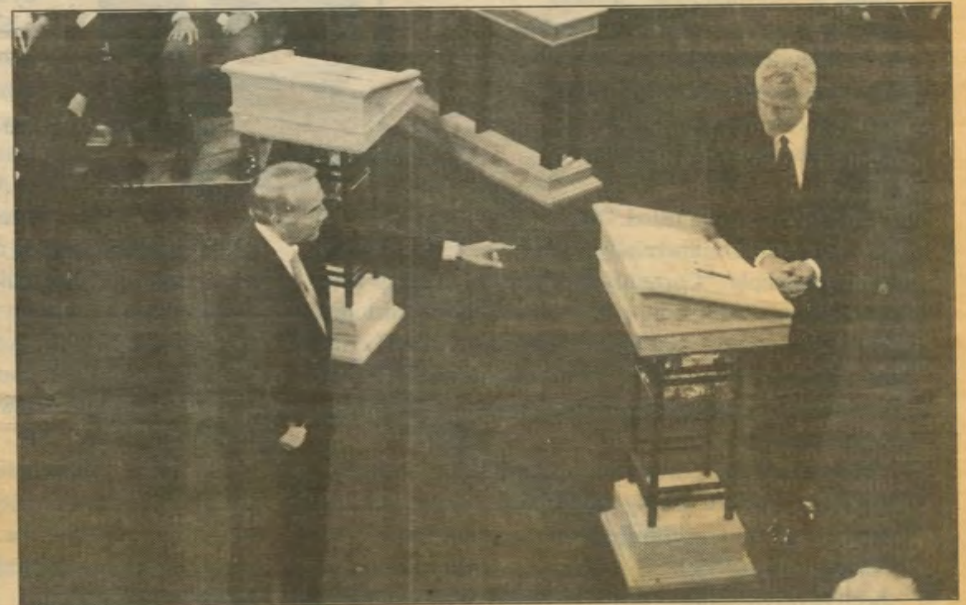
It has been a long time since such a void of choices among candidates existed for the "undecideds" during the presidential election. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter faced Ronald Reagan as the Iran hostage situation dragged on under the Carter administration's ineffective negotiations. With economic reform visions and a call for strong-handed foreign policy, Reagan stepped up to a waiting plate as voters looked for decisive leadership. The chipping away at the ice of the Cold War, coupled with a strong '80s spend, spend, spend domestic economy - plus a less than perfect Democratic candidate found in Michael Dukakis - insured Reagan's second term in 1988.

During the 1992 President George Bush and Clinton campaign, Bush was coming off a hard four years dotted with military successes in the Gulf War, which temporarily won him a major increase in popularity, followed by a sharp downturn in the economy for which the recession brought a steeper drop in Bush's public favor. Clin-



R.L. JONES/San Diego Commerce

Working the Hall: President Bill Clinton makes his way around the stage as he answers the questions from the Gallup-poll selected audience. While 113 people attended the debate with the objective and mission to ask policy questions, but only 20 individuals had the chance to ask a question.



R.L. JONES/San Diego Commerce

President Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, share a congratulatory hug after the debate. Right, Senator Bob Dole and Clinton argue their separate visions for the future.

ton's promise and offered hope of "change" under Democratic leadership, galvanized voters into believing it was time for the end of the Republican rule. Although it was a close race and election day proved the real day of reckoning, specific issues outlined Bush's defeat.

But the 1996 campaign seems to offer no clear choice to more than one-third of the voting public. Many claim Clinton hasn't done anything worthy of notice with his administration, but Dole's conservatism causes them to pause before voting Republican. Die-hard Republicans with Pro-Choice agendas also find Dole a risk, but the fiscal side of them denounces Clinton as an option.

One explanation for a large section of support behind Clinton may be the age and policy concerns of the younger voters involved in the election. As the older voters loose interest in the campaign rhetoric and the spin on each issue, fed up with election politics, younger, first and second time voters are getting more involved in the race for control of the White House and the movements of Congress. While many Republicans walk the halls of college campuses across the nation, there are also a great many registered Democrats or Independents who list the funding and management of social programs at the top of their presidential ticket.

But some of the children watching Wednesday's debate found discussion on

the issues shallow and the deciding factor between the candidates solely that of personality and demeanor - and besides, they asked, "what difference does it make anyway?"

Julia Frost, a 12-year old student in Flemington, New Jersey who watched the debate as part of a class assignment, said she believed more adults should actively participate in the election process.

"You should know what's going on with the presidential election," she said. "You are pretty much deciding who is going to run the whole country."

"Both of the candidates say they're going to do stuff, but they don't say specifically how they're going to do it," said her 13-year old sister, Katie Frost, who had some doubts about the candidates. After watching part of the debate on television, she decided to turn it off because of a lack of discussion on the issues.

"How do they plan to wage the war on drugs? How are they going to decrease taxes?" she asked.

"Besides, there is no way one person can do it when they have to deal with Congress," she added.

California Attorney General Dan Lungren, who felt Dole won the debate on a general platform of leadership, disagreed on the depth of discussion where economics and drug related issues were concerned.

"(Dole) controlled the agenda," Lungren said during a tour around 'Spin Alley' after

the debate. "... I wish the President had been called out onto the carpet about drugs (and) over his failure to respond on MTV when (he was asked if he inhaled)."

Lungren admitted the initial town-hall format of the debate had him worried, but found it promoted the best exchange yet in the series of debates.

"The first debate was almost antiseptic," Lungren said, adding the structure of the last debate allowed for a closer connection because the candidates "were able to approach the audience."

But regardless of the format, some questions were glossed over and went partially-unanswered by both candidates. One such question was that posed by ex-smoker Oscar Delgado who called Dole on a past statement that nicotine was not addictive.

"Are you still holding to that statement, or do you wish to recant or explain yourself?" Delgado asked.

After deciding that a "technical question," Dole admitted he didn't know if nicotine was addictive or not because he wasn't a doctor, but used the chance to switch from smoking to drugs and Clinton's past history on drug enforcement. Declaring his ability to change the influx of drugs into the United States, Dole had this advice for addicts.

"If you stop the drugs, nobody is going to use the drugs," Dole said. "So don't smoke, don't drink, don't use drugs. Just don't do it."

Confusion set in regarding the last ques-

tion posed by a female minister who asked for a clarification between "special rights" and "equal rights" from Dole after he used such terminology to answer a previous question about the Employment Nondiscrimination Act.

Both candidates stressed their platform of nondiscrimination on all fronts, but failed to address the issue of "special rights."

With the debate wrapped up for the evening, the candidates headed out to their respective rallies, Clinton at Balboa Park and Dole at the San Diego Convention Center where he enjoyed the GOP festivities in August.

Declaring the Republican rally a "retirement party for Bill Clinton," Dole furnished an optimistic face for the crowd as he struggles to overtake the incumbent and pull off a difficult come-from-behind victory in November.

The bare bones of the campaign, however, will come down to not which candidate appealed to more voters or who's policies became the most attractive, but what percentage of each person's supporters will take that extra effort to get to the polls. A process so many Americans opt out of each election.

"I think the American people also need to be a little more responsible and think about whether there is a connection between their lives and what we do in Washington," Clinton said.

Rival Camps in Final Debate Faced Subtle and Basic Aims

By RICHARD L. BERKE

SAN DIEGO, Oct. 17 — "We're going to tear his face off," Scott Reed, the Dole campaign manager, said of the President of the United States in a burst of bravado on the eve of the final Presidential debate.

Paul Begala, a strategist who helped coach President Clinton, was also ready for Bob Dole to jab and pound relentlessly. "I was praying for the hatchet man," he said. "Soccer moms don't like hatchet men."

As often happens with prize boxing matches, the face-off between the President and Mr. Dole was excessively hyped by its promoters. The Republican challenger was not as combative as the advance billing from either side suggested.

But the objectives for both camps in the encounter at the University of San Diego on Wednesday night — an event that was viewed as Mr. Dole's last big chance to close Mr. Clinton's yawning lead in most public opinion polls — were more subtle and basic than the candidates' handlers led the public to believe.

Mr. Dole's aides wanted him to pointedly raise questions about the President's character, but advised him against overkill. Their best hope was that the former Senator would goad Mr. Clinton into exposing his famous temper before tens of millions of Americans, thus raising questions about his fitness for the Presidency.

"I thought he was going to blow — he was seething," Mr. Reed said of the President's body language in the first 15 minutes of the 90-minute debate. Asked if that was what he wanted, he replied, "Of course."

Aides to Mr. Clinton had counseled a defensive crouch: keep cool, and do not engage in a dialogue over ethics.

"The temptation was to go tit for tat — they wanted some drama, they wanted a circuit breaker," said Douglas Sosnik, the White House political director. "But the polling is clear, the dial groups are clear, the focus groups are clear: people aren't interested in politicians going negative against one another."

The Clinton camp's best hope was that Mr. Dole would be so nasty that he would come off as desperate and unseemly. Their biggest gamble was that Mr. Clinton could ignore the attacks, and not come off looking like he was ducking the issues.

Asked before the debate to predict Mr. Dole's tone, George Stephanopoulos, Mr. Clinton's senior adviser, replied, on a hopeful note, "Rabid."

Leon E. Panetta, the White House chief of staff, said of Mr. Dole: "We

For both sides, expectations that didn't pan out.

thought he would be obviously more aggressive. We had anticipated, frankly, that it would appear in his opening statement."

While there were differences in the Dole camp over whether to open with an attack, Mr. Reed said the candidate "ultimately made the right decision." He started with upbeat references to his family, telling the audience, "I understand the problems."

Mr. Sosnik said he was pleased that Mr. Dole sometimes made his accusations about a scandal-plagued Administration in an oblique shorthand. Still, he hoped Mr. Dole would be less articulate. "He did maybe 10 minutes of Dole-speak — words that have no verbs," Mr. Sosnik said. "My preference would have been 90 minutes of Dole-speak."

Neither side got their dream scenario, but both claimed victory nonetheless: Mr. Dole raised questions about Mr. Clinton's ethical lapses while also displaying flashes of humor in the 90-minute town-hall forum. Mr. Clinton displayed a Presidential bearing — and did not stray from the message of highlighting his record. As Mr. Reed said of his opponents, "Their strategy is to beat the clock."

The White House did get one unanticipated benefit: the pollster-picked audience of uncommitted voters had easier questions for Mr. Clinton. When one questioner asked the President whether he had plans "to expand the Family Leave Act" — one of his favorite topics — a roomful of his advisers watching on television nearby burst into cheers.

Aides on both sides said they were surprised that not one of the 20 voters who asked questions as part of the forum raised the issue of Mr. Clinton's ethics. "I thought the questions would be a little tougher," Mr. Reed said. "Obviously, I wish there had been more talk about ethics."

One member of the audience, Tamar Doory, a 41-year-old veterinarian assistant, said afterward that if she had been called on, she probably would have questioned Mr. Clinton about the controversy over Demo-

crats accepting large donations from a wealthy Indonesian family and whether there was "a conflict of interest."

"I was going to ask Mr. Clinton about the contributions from Indonesia and, from there, ask about limiting campaign contributions," Ms. Doory said.

Although Mr. Clinton's strategy was not to be drawn into questions about his ethics, his aides said his body language — frequently staring at Mr. Dole and moving closer to him — was intended to unnerve him as he set out to attack the President.

Mr. Sosnik said Mr. Clinton's advisers did not want Mr. Dole to "get away with saying a lot of wild, crazy things" without "looking him in the eye."

But the President was armed for a response to Mr. Dole's laundry list of accusations. "No attack ever created a job or educated a child or helped a family make ends meet," Mr. Clinton said. "No insult ever cleaned up a toxic waste dump or helped an elderly person."

Explaining that response, Rahm Emanuel, a White House aide, said, "Our goal was to make sure we had a way to characterize the attacks in a way that would relate to the American people."

Nelson Warfield, Mr. Dole's spokesman, said that after Vice President Al Gore's "metronome-like" mentions of it in his debate with Jack Kemp in St. Petersburg, Fla., last week, Mr. Dole was prepared for the President to attack the Dole tax plan as a "risky scheme."

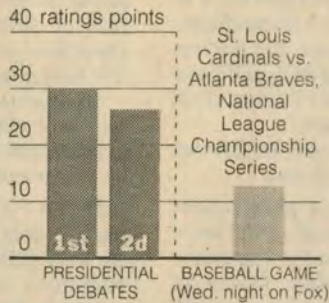
"We expected him to repeat the same attack on the tax cut — that was probably the one that was most crystal clear," Mr. Warfield said. "Dole was prepared to respond with indignation."

Thus, after Mr. Clinton labeled the tax plan a scheme, Mr. Dole replied on cue: "I must say, I'm a little offended by this word 'scheme.' Last time you talked about a risky scheme, and then Vice President

THE RATINGS

Ahead of Baseball

Preliminary ratings for the 1st Presidential debate compared with Wednesday night's debate on ABC, CBS and NBC.



One rating point represents 531,000 homes. Preliminary ratings cover 34 metropolitan areas, roughly half the U.S. population.

Source: Associated Press

The New York Times

Gore repeated it about 10 times in St. Petersburg. If I have anything in politics, it's my word. My colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, will tell you that Bob Dole kept his word."

Alex Castellanos, a Dole media consultant who had pushed for the candidate to step up his attacks, said that line and other lines that zeroed in on Mr. Clinton's ethics were the most effective of the evening: "I keep my word."

Dole aides said they were just as unsure as their counterparts in the Clinton campaign as to how aggressive Mr. Dole — who is known for resisting handlers' telling him what to do — would be. "We were divided and flip-flopping every 30 seconds," said Mr. Begala of the Clinton camp. "Someone would say, 'He's going to be the hatchet man,' and someone else would say he wouldn't."

Mr. Castellanos said that he, too, was not sure what to expect. "Nobody knew what he would do until he did it," the consultant said. "And that's the truth."

Today, both camps were enthusiastic about how their candidate fared. Joe Lockhart, the Clinton campaign's spokesman, said the Republicans "made a tactical mistake for building up how negative it would be — Dole needed to change the nature of the race, and he didn't do it."

After declaring the event a rousing success, Mr. Warfield countered that "nobody expected this debate to be a make or break for the campaign."

But Ms. Doory, who never got to ask her question, said today that she left the auditorium on Wednesday night as confused as ever.

"President Clinton has got a doctorate in charm, but that's not what I want anymore," she said. "I just don't trust him. But the last four years haven't been so bad."

So who will she vote for? "I find myself leaning toward Perot," Ms. Doory said haltingly of the Reform Party's Presidential candidate, who was excluded from the debates this year by the sponsors on the ground that he had no chance to win the election. "But I don't want to throw my vote away."

Nielsen ratings of USD debate hit record low

By David Bauder

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The second debate between President Clinton and Bob Dole drew lower ratings than any other presidential face-off ever televised, according to Nielsen Media Research figures released yesterday.

Wednesday night's debate at the University of San Diego captured a 26.1 rating on ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN. That means 25.3 million households were tuned in, Nielsen officials said.

Since that translates into an estimated 36.3 million viewers on the four networks, it may have been the least-watched presidential debate ever. Nielsen had no immediate measurements for other networks, like the Fox News Channel, MSNBC and PBS, which also showed the debate.

All of the 16 other televised debates since the tradition began in 1960 drew higher ratings, according to Nielsen.

In fact, all four debates between John Kennedy and Richard Nixon in 1960 were seen in more homes, even though it was an era with fewer television sets.

The viewer reaction typifies this turned-off election season, which has seen television networks pulling back on coverage since the conventions.

The high-water mark for presidential debates was the third Kennedy-Nixon debate, which drew a 61 rating. That means that 61 percent of the TV homes in the country were tuned into the debate.

Ratings for the second Clinton-Dole contest compared to the 29.3 lodged by the same four networks for the Oct. 6 face-off in Hartford, Conn. That debate was seen in an estimated 28.4 million households.

There was far more public interest in 1992, when the second debate between Clinton, President Bush and Ross Perot had a 46.3 rating for the ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN. That translates into a total of 43.1 million households.

At least the politicians beat the baseball players this year. Wednesday night's Fox telecast of the sixth game of the National League Championship Series between the Braves and Cardinals had an 11.9 rating and was seen in 11.6 million households, according to Nielsen.

San Diego Union-Tribune, October 18, 1996

Weather

Today: Mostly sunny, breezy, warm.
High 78. Low 58. Wind 8-16 mph.
Friday: Windy, showers late.
High 70. Low 48. Wind 12-22 mph.
Yesterday: Temp. range: 53-75.
AQI: 23. Details on Page B2.

The Washington Post

FINAL

Inside: The Weekly,
Washington Home
Today's Contents on Page A2

119TH YEAR •••• No. 317

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1996

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Prices May Vary in Areas Outside
Metropolitan Washington (See Box on A4)

25c

Dole Pursues President Throughout Final Debate



Republican nominee Robert J. Dole makes point during debate with President Clinton at the University of San Diego, the second and final debate for the two.

Clinton Avoids Direct Responses, Often Ignoring Pointed Attacks

By Dan Balz and Blaine Harden
Washington Post Staff Writers

SAN DIEGO, Oct. 16—Republican Robert J. Dole repeatedly challenged President Clinton on ethics and broken promises tonight in a debate that featured pointed and sometimes icy exchanges over taxes, the deficit, Medicare, affirmative action and health care.

Living up to his pledge to take a more aggressive stance tonight, Dole charged that the Clinton administration's ethical problems had led to a loss of faith in government by many Americans. "They see scandals almost on a daily basis," Dole said. "They see ethical problems in the White House today."

Clinton often completely ignored his challenger's attacks and at one point suggested that Dole's critiques were a diversion from the major problems facing the country. "I don't want to respond in kind to all these things," he said, adding, "No attack ever created a job or educated a child."

Tonight's debate represented a clear contrast to the first presidential debate in Hartford, Conn., 10 days

ago, both in format and in tone. Clinton and Dole answered questions from an audience of 113 citizens from the San Diego area who had been selected by the Gallup organization because they have not made up their minds about whom they intend to vote for next month.

Throughout the 90-minute debate, held on the campus of the University of San Diego, the two candidates walked out from behind their lecterns to address their questioners face-to-face. Because of the close quarters on the stage, they had to steer carefully around one another. For part of the evening, the two men politely answered a series of questions about major policies and problems facing the country. But it was their clashes that punctuated the evening.

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The New York Times

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NEW YORK, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1996

\$1 beyond the greater New York metropolitan



Suzanne DeChillo/The New York Times

Last-Minute Checks

Elizabeth and Bob Dole left the Shilaey Theater at the University of San Diego yesterday after a look at the debate set. At North Island Naval Air Station, President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, spoke before the debate, which took place too late for this edition.



Monica Almeida/The New York Times



Campaign ★96



Dole Assails Clinton, Accusing Him of Violating Trust

By JAMES M. PERRY
And HILARY STOUT

Staff Reporters of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
SAN DIEGO — Robert Dole attacked President Clinton's integrity in last night's final presidential debate and said he had violated the public's trust.

Reacting to criticism that he hadn't been tough enough in the first presidential debate, Mr. Dole said Mr. Clinton "ought to say tonight he's not going to pardon anybody he was involved in business with who might implicate him later on." He also criticized the president's staff for procuring 900 FBI files on former White House employees.

Answering a question from the floor—this was a town hall format—Mr. Dole said voters could rely on him. "I'll keep my word," he said. "My word is my bond."

For Mr. Dole, this was a critical moment. He's trailing badly in the polls and

this debate — the second and last — was being watched on all the major TV networks, except for Fox, which was carrying a baseball playoff game. Mr. Dole started the proceeding by telling the audience of 113 undecided San Diego-area voters that the Braves were ahead.

The two candidates also resumed their argument over what needs to be done with Medicare for senior citizens and health care generally. Mr. Clinton accused Mr. Dole and the Republicans of pushing Medicare "cuts" that would hurt seniors and close hospitals. "There you go again," replied Mr. Dole, picking up on a famous Ronald Reagan line. Mr. Dole charged in return that Mr. Clinton's big national health plan would have raised 17 separate taxes and created 50 new bureaucracies.

The debate was held at the University of San Diego's Shiley theater and moderated by PBS's Jim Lehrer.

Mr. Dole really did need a good show-

ing. After a brief flutter following what was generally seen as a successful national convention here in San Diego, it's been a rough road for the former senator. The polls have been almost impervious to events, showing Mr. Clinton with a steady double-digit lead.

Mr. Dole's first big chance to turn things around — at least to begin to generate excitement in the race — took place in Hartford, Conn., on Oct. 6. In that first presidential debate, Mr. Dole won points for being gently amusing and sticking to serious issues. But most polls showed that voters figured the careful, always smiling Mr. Clinton had won the debate on points, and nothing changed in the polls.

Mr. Dole had been widely praised for picking Jack Kemp as his running mate, but when Mr. Kemp was put into the hothouse of a nationally televised debate against Democrat Al Gore on Oct. 9 in St. Petersburg, Fla., he seemed to wither. Mr. Kemp's own allies, conservative Republicans, complained he rambled and failed to make an effective attack on Mr. Clinton's record for integrity in the White House. Once again, the polls held steady for Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Dole planned to sit down with his advisers today to develop a coordinated Republican strategy for winning California, with its 54 electoral votes. The campaign expects the national party will be pumping millions of dollars into the state, on top of the \$4 million the Dole campaign

has spent there since the convention. The Dole campaign expects some of this Republican money will be spent promoting the California civil-rights initiative, an anti-affirmative-action ballot issue. It is believed the initiative will draw thousands of potential GOP voters to the polls.

Both Mr. Dole and the President will be campaigning in California today, but at the moment Mr. Clinton isn't scheduled to come back, though Mr. Gore will be in south-central Los Angeles on Monday. Nor has the Clinton campaign been running TV ads in the state the last four weeks, which some say is the reason Mr. Dole has narrowed the gap in some polls to about 10 points.

For Mr. Clinton, everything seemed so much easier than for Mr. Dole. Nursing that big lead in the polls, and knowing the voters have been hearing about alleged ethical lapses for years, he needed to stay calm, and his handlers told him in debate training sessions that he must continue to soar above the fray, looking presidential and pointing again and again to that bridge he wants to travel into the next century.

Mr. Dole awaited the judgment of the voters on his showing in this final debate before planning what he would do next. His schedule indicates he expects to finish out this week in New Mexico, Colorado, Kentucky and Virginia, and then spend the first part of next week in Ohio and Michigan. After that, he plans to campaign in the South, probably in Florida, a state that

What's News—

* * *

World-Wide

DOLE ATTACKED Clinton's integrity in the second and final presidential debate.

The Republican challenger, reacting to criticism he hadn't been tough enough in the first debate, pressed Clinton to pledge not to pardon any former business allies and criticized the White House staff for procuring FBI files on former employees. The two also argued over their plans for Medicare and health care generally. The debate was set up in a "town hall" format, and the audience of 120 was chosen by the Gallup polling organization, which concentrated on including undecided voters. (Articles on Page A24)

Among House races, there are 33 that feature the same two candidates who faced each other in 1994. The tide appears to be running in the Democrats' favor.

* * *



Bill Clinton



Robert Dole

Clinton's Ethics, Integrity Assailed by Dole in Debate

■ **Politics:** President says he won't respond in kind and instead talks of economic gains. GOP nominee asserts his rival has deepened public cynicism, debased his office.

By JOHN M. BRODER and MARIA L. La GANGA, TIMES STAFF WRITERS

SAN DIEGO—Republican Bob Dole, trailing badly with time running short, opened the final debate of the 1996 presidential campaign Wednesday night with a broad attack on President Clinton's ethics and integrity, but seemed to hesitate in pressing his charges as the 90-minute encounter continued.

Getting scarcely a rise out of Clinton, the Republican challenger said the actions of the president and many of his subordinates had deepened public cynicism and debased the office of the president.

"There's no doubt about it that many American people have lost their faith in government," Dole said in response to a school-teacher's question about the values public figures impart to the nation's children.

"They see scandals almost on a daily basis, they see ethical problems in the White House today," said Dole, citing more than two dozen administration officials investigated or indicted and the case of 900 FBI files of former government officials improperly obtained by a White House aide.

Dole suggested repeatedly that Clinton had abandoned promises or adopted stands merely as election-year ploys to win votes. "When I'm president," he insisted, "I will keep my word. My word is my bond."

It was a carefully prepared set of attacks that Dole has been rehearsing all week, and it drew an equally well rehearsed response.

Clinton barely deigned to respond to Dole's attacks, instead reminding the audience at the University of San Diego's Shiley Theater of Republican efforts to cut popular government programs and of the economic progress made during his tenure.

In among those recitations, however, he twice responded with a line that expressed more sorrow than anger at Dole's charges.

"I don't want to respond in kind to all these things," Clinton said halfway through the debate.

sounding almost indulgent of his older opponent. "I could. I could answer a lot of these things tit for tat. But I hope we can talk about what we're going to do in the future. No attack ever created a job or educated a child or helped a family make ends meet. No insult ever cleaned up a toxic waste dump or helped an elderly person.

As the debate went on, Dole's fire grew less sustained—deterred, perhaps, by Clinton's unwillingness to engage in an exchange on ethics and morality as well as the tone, substance and town-hall format of the questioning.

'His Word'

Eleven times Dole referred to "his word" being more trustworthy than the president's, but at times, his ripostes seemed almost cryptic.

In response to a question about the millions of Americans alienated by the political process, for example, Dole said he knew of no perfect solution to the problem of low voter participation. Then he added, almost as an aside: "Campaign finance [reform] might help, might help contributions coming in from Indonesia or other foreign countries, rich people in those countries, and then being sent back after the L.A. Times discovers it—\$250,000."

Dole did not explain his reference, but was apparently referring to a campaign contribution to the Democratic National Committee by Cheong Am Business Group, a South Korean company. The DNC refunded the money when The Times inquired about it. Cheong

Am, because it earned no income in the United States, was not qualified to contribute to American political campaigns.

But Clinton did not respond to Dole's assertion and the matter did not come up again.

Early on in the debate, a young woman undergraduate at UC-San Diego asked Dole a question that many voters appear to have in their minds—whether, at age 73, he could relate to the concerns of young people. In one of his defter responses, he said he thought his age gave him an advantage.

Formula for Wisdom

"You know, wisdom comes from age, experience and intelligence. And if you have some of each—and I have some age, some experience and some intelligence—that adds up to wisdom," he said to gentle laughter from the audience.

Clinton replied that he didn't think his opponent was too old to be president. "It's the age of his ideas that I question," Clinton said.

Both candidates went out of their way to address California concerns, exchanging differing views on the California ballot initiative on affirmative action and the condition of California's economy.

Dole noted that thousands of high-paying manufacturing jobs had been lost during Clinton's presidency and that California had been particularly hard hit by cut-backs in defense spending. But he gave Clinton a huge opening when he claimed that the last four years had produced "the worst economy in a century."

"If you believe that the California economy was better in 1992 than it is today, you should vote for Bob Dole," Clinton responded.

Both Against Quotas

On affirmative action, both men asserted that they did not favor numerical quotas for members of minority groups. Clinton, however, said he continued to favor "the right kind of affirmative action" programs—ones that he said would "give people a chance to prove that they are qualified."

He said that he opposed the ballot initiative, Proposition 209, noting twice that retired Gen. Colin L. Powell agrees with him.

Dole said he supported the initiative, which would end government-sponsored affirmative action programs. In response to the question of whether the country had

Continued ↴

arrived at a point where it is free of discrimination, Dole said that "we may not be there," but "we're not going to get there by giving preferences and quotas."

He noted that he had supported affirmative action in the past, but he said he had determined that government programs primarily helped a privileged few "who had the money" anyway.

Discord Over Gays

On another issue of discrimination, Clinton said he supported legislation that would protect gay men and lesbians from discrimination on the job. Dole declined to support the legislation, saying he supported equal treatment, but not special rights for particular groups.

One of the sharpest splits between the two candidates came over the issue of how tightly the federal government should regulate the sale of tobacco.

Asked by Oscar Delgado, a self-described former "pack-plus-a-day man," whether he would recant a previous statement he made questioning whether nicotine was addictive, Dole quickly brushed the issue aside. He went on to lament the growing use of drugs by young people, a theme with which he has attacked Clinton for weeks.

"I was asked a technical question—are they addictive?" Dole said of his statement this summer in which he questioned whether nicotine is addictive. "They probably are addictive," he said Wednesday night, in what seemed like a partial correction. "I don't know, I'm not a doctor."

Quick Counterpunch

Clinton lost no time in firing back, calling their positions on the tobacco issue "one of the biggest differences between Sen. Dole and me."

"No president had ever taken on the tobacco lobby before," Clinton told the audience. "I did. Sen. Dole opposed me. He went down and made a speech . . . saying that I did the wrong thing. I think I did the right thing."

Dole accused Clinton of cutting too much. Clinton countered "there's less than 1% difference between my budget and the Republican budget on defense."

In fact there is relatively little difference between what the two advocate on the subject. Clinton wants to cut more now and restore some later; Dole wants to cut less now and pare some later on.

Hits Health Overhaul

On domestic issues, Dole repeatedly reminded listeners about perhaps Clinton's greatest policy and political failure—health care reform.

"Don't forget what he tried to do with health care," Dole said, reciting—sometimes inflating—figures thrown out by opponents of the health plan. "Seventeen new taxes. Spend \$1.5 trillion. Fifty new bureaucracies. Can you believe that?"

"We have the best health care delivery system in the world, and we want to keep it that way," the Republican candidate said.

Clinton defended his plan as one that would have cut medical costs "way below the rate of inflation." In the absence of overall national health reform, he said, the government should extend health care coverage to more people, provide more preventive care and protect people whose insurance may have lapsed because they are between jobs.

The two also disagreed over the Family and Medical Leave Act, which Clinton signed early in his tenure. The law forbids companies with more than 50 workers to fire an employee if he or she takes time off for family problems, such as a child's illness. Clinton said he hoped if reelected to expand the law. Dole repeated his opposition to it, saying he preferred giving companies a tax credit to ease the burden of paying for replacement workers to fill in for those who take time off.

Over the last four years, Clinton said, medical care costs of 1 million additional children have been met by Medicaid, which pays the medical costs of poor people. Also, he said, under legislation sponsored by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Nancy Kassebaum (R-Kan.) that he signed into law this summer, 25 million people will continue to receive health insurance when they change jobs.

Dole said that while managed care programs may be "part of the answer," the government should not eliminate traditional fee-for-service coverage because "then I think we've taken a giant step backward in the United States of America."

By coincidence, the debate closed with questions from two ministers, who asked about promoting tolerance and religious values.

Clinton spoke in his customary programmatic way about proposals he had supported to permit voluntary prayer in school, to permit parents to regulate their childrens' television viewing and to keep drugs out of schools.

But Dole, knowing that time was short in the campaign and aware that his prospects were difficult, responded in an almost fatalistic way.

"You know, before I came in tonight, my wife and daughter and I had a prayer because if it's God's will, whatever happens, if it's God's will, it will happen," he said.

Then, in his closing remarks, the former Senate leader, a 35-year master of the legislative process, sounded an almost valedictory note.

After reminding viewers of his impoverished upbringing and the debilitating war wound to his right arm, he said that the campaign was not about two individuals, but about "the process" of selecting a president.

"And I would just say, with my time running out here, it's a very proud moment for me. And what I want the voters to do is to make a decision. And I want them to be proud of their vote in the years ahead, proud that they voted for the right candidate, proud that they voted, hopefully, for me," Dole said.

"And I'll just make you one promise. My word is good. Democrats and Republicans have said Bob Dole's word is good. I keep my word."

Broder reported from Washington and La Ganga from San Diego. Times staff writers Art Pine and James Gerstenzang in Washington and Jonathan Peterson and Dave Leshner in San Diego contributed to this story.



NANCEE E. LEWIS / Union-Tribune

He's over there: University of San Diego students strained to get a glimpse of President Clinton as his motorcade arrived at the campus yesterday. Clinton took a walk through the debate arena.

USD audience on its best Sunday behavior

By Mark Sauer
STAFF WRITER

So who won last night's debate?

Clearly it was the president — President Gerald Ford, that is.

The former president, who strode into Shiley Theatre last night just as USD's public relations director Jack Cannon was quoting the Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia about what a "long, strange trip" the debate preparations had been, garnered a standing ovation when introduced by moderator Jim Lehrer.

Then Lehrer spent the final moments before President Clinton and Bob Dole arrived onstage schooling the audience in protocol — no outbursts, no loud snickers or groans, no mocking laughter or sneers, no beepers going off.

"And, Mr. President," Lehrer concluded, looking over at Ford, "I appoint you hall monitor. You can discipline anybody who gets out of line." Nobody did, of course.

The USD audience was on its best Sunday behavior (fitting for a Catholic school).

"Yes, President Ford did a great job," said a chuckling Candice Taffolla, a USD junior and one of more than 100 students among the 365 spectators. "I didn't dare make a sound. But the girl next to me was sighing and registering her disgust with some of the answers by making all sorts of noises — I had to ask her to stop."

That's not a problem when watching a debate at home, Taffolla said, one of several differences noted last night by those seeing a presidential debate live for the first time.

"It was an astounding experience to be here. It really felt like live theater — far more immediacy than film or television," said John Forbes, manager of Shiley Theatre, who seemed electrified moments after the candidates finished their closing remarks.

"It's the actual person right there in front of you; the candidates were talking person to person — with each other and with all these ordinary people asking the questions," he raved on. "You're right in the same room with them! It's terrific."

Cynthia Villis, dean of academic services at USD, echoed several in the audience by being surprised that Dole — who elicited chuckles several times during the debate — had such a wry sense of humor.

"But I had the sense that the president was a better listener who grasped not only the content of the question but connected with the emotion of the person asking it," she said.

"What's different about being here in person is you can really feel the dynamic tension between the candidates and you can watch the responses of the men to each other and of the people on stage with them. You're not limited by what the camera is showing."

One person, who was unable to attend the debate but enjoyed herself nonetheless, was student Leigh Navarro.

She occupied a dorm room off an upstairs hallway with a door that opens onto the balcony of Shiley Theatre, where newspaper photographers were trapped in their perches during the

debate.

Accommodating staff at USD got the Secret Service to agree to an elaborate scheme in which holes were cut in a side-balcony door leading to the theater roof; film was dropped out to runners who carried it over the roof and through Navarro's window — and cluttered dorm room — then down back stairs and out of the building.

"Good night and thanks for everything," one of the Secret Service roof snipers cheerfully called to Navarro from the darkness outside her window after Clinton and Dole entourages made their way from USD shortly after the debate.

Later, Clinton and Dole held post-debate rallies.

At the San Diego Convention Center, an estimated 5,000 people showed up to support Dole.

The enthusiastic crowd, seated on bleachers and chairs, watched the debate on two giant-screen televisions — one on each side of the stage where Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, appeared late last night.

The crowd was energized by Dole's performance.

"He really showed that he knows where we should be going," said Marcelo Marino, 37, a tennis pro from San Marcos. "He came off as very presidential. I believed him. I didn't believe Clinton."

Staff writers L. Eric Bratt and Clark Brooks contributed to this report.

OCTOBER 17, 1996

PETER
ROWE

At USD, chaos is written into lesson plans

The University of San Diego offers degrees in 35 subjects, but not a single course in "Bomb Etiquette 101."

Until this week.

It was a short class. No papers. No lectures. Required reading: a bookmark from the FBI Bomb Data Center.

"Place this card near your telephone," it read.

Below this suggestion were conversational gambits, for when a caller makes a bomb threat ("Questions to ask: What kind of bomb is it?"). Ways to describe the call ("Threat language: — Well-spoken. — Foul. — Irrational.").

While the Catholic college prepared to host last night's debate between President Clinton and former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole, the card sat near hundreds of campus phones. Just in case.

Perched on a hill overlooking Mission Bay, USD sits in serene majesty, its faux Spanish buildings cool and elegant. In its 47 years, this college has educated thousands.

But this week, the campus resembled a nervous but excited freshman, enrolled in the University of National Politics.

"I've been doing theater for 25 years," said John Forbes, 43, manager of Shiley Theatre, site of last night's debate. "I've never worked on anything *close* to the size of this."

Godzilla drops in

Like many campuses, USD's Alcala Park is a village of restaurants, shops and residences. There's even a church, the Immaculata, its blue dome a campus landmark.

It's quiet and peaceful and well-manicured — and total chaos, now that Godzilla's in town.

"It's hard not to notice," Julia Diehl, a 19-year-old sophomore, said of the debate preparations. "It's all over the place."

By Monday, police were quizzing drivers who ventured onto campus.

Sacred Heart Hall was re-christened "The White House" after Clinton and Dole staffers commandeered offices and classrooms.

The national media, 2,000 strong, captured Hahn University Center, home of the cafeteria. Through today, students' tacos, salads and sandwiches will be made in four tents. Yesterday, 60 part-time employees prepared 7,000 meals under canvas — including 2,000 dinners for the press and 500 dishes for a private, post-debate affair.

"Hire any additional staff?" I asked.

"No," Rudy Spanos, director of dining services, said with a laugh. "We're going to work ours to death."

Joey Santos has also been running ragged. A 21-year-old senior, Santos is *The Vista's* editor in chief. He spent this week trying to get one reporter into the debate — and the rest of his 30-person staff into the newspaper's Hahn Center of office.

"We had to get accredited (by the Presidential Debate Commission) to get to work," he said. "Twelve of us got credentialed. Everybody else, I made them do their stuff over the weekend."

Midterms, anyone?

From Camino Hall, the building that houses the Shiley Theatre, the Secret Service evicted some professors and students. Several classes were canceled. More were moved.

At the Immaculata, daily Mass was celebrated at the normal time — 8 a.m. — but parishioners were urged not to linger over their prayers. After 9 a.m., Monsignor Daniel Dillabough warned, any cars parked behind the church would be towed.

For USD, this week has been inconvenient, frustrating — and thrilling.

"I'm putting everything aside for this," said Noli Zosa, neglecting first-year law-school studies to volunteer for CBS News. "I've waited too long."

Studies can wait — even if grades can't. This being midterm week, editor Santos had a crucial biology test Monday.

How'd it go?

"I could have studied more," he said.

PETER ROWE's column appears Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. He welcomes calls (293-1227), faxes (235-8916), letters (c/o *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, P.O. Box 191, San Diego, CA 92112) and e-mail (peter.rowe@uniontrib.com).

San Diego Daily Transcript, October 17, 1996

USD Debate Audience Focuses On Issues, Not Character

By DAN GALLAGHER
Daily Transcript Staff Writer

The eyes of the nation were on Shiley Theatre at the University of San Diego Wednesday night for the final presidential debate of 1996.

Thousands of Clinton and Dole supporters, not to mention local leaders, media representatives and USD students, were vying for the comparatively few seats available in the newly renovated theater. The candidates took the stage at 6 p.m. sharp and spent the next 90 minutes in a calm and civil debate, fielding questions from a randomly selected group of San Diego County voters.

The questions covered several topics, but were mostly domestic in nature. Welfare, Medicare and economics were recurring topics; however, hot topics like affirmative action and gay/lesbian rights also surfaced. Several of the town hall audience members were connected with the military, paving the way for several comments about defense spending.

Dole opened the debate with strong comments about Clinton's character and ethics within the White House. The challenger had avoided these areas in the first debate, but had hinted of a more aggressive attack on these issues

during several rallies in the past two days.

"There's no doubt about it that many American people have lost their faith in government," Dole said to a young female educator. "They see scandals almost on a daily basis. They see ethical problems in the White House today. They see FBI files being gathered up by somebody in the White House. Nobody knows who hired this man."

Dole made several other comments early in the debate regarding the president, but seemed to lose steam on the topic after a few questions. Clinton did not respond to any of the comments, and the audience did not ask any direct questions on the matter.

The president, instead, continued to take credit for the country's healthy economy and push his ideas for health care reform and the themes of responsibility and the community. He highlighted his family leave law and hinted at bringing reasonable tax cuts "that can be paid for."

Dole countered with a proposal to instead grant tax breaks for businesses for employees who take time off for family reasons.

The hot political potato which never surfaced was abortion. No

audience members brought up the subject, and the candidates did not discuss it.

The audience, which in theory was representative of San Diego County voters, was primarily white with few minorities. Two asked the candidates questions about gay rights and discrimination against homosexuals. Both candidates said they opposed discrimination but stayed away from details about gay issues. Dole said briefly he is against same-sex marriages because it entails "special rights."

The nonparticipating audience was filled with famous faces. Former President Gerald Ford slipped into the audience minutes before the debate began, amid a standing ovation. San Diego Mayor Susan Golding was also in the audience.

The theater was kept to a chilling temperature in order to ensure the stage temperature would remain at 65 degrees.

Pre-Debate

At the entrance to the USD campus just prior to the debate, a handful of gagged Ross Perot supporters waved "Where's Ross?" signs.

In the "Spin Alley" media filing center set up for the debates, former Secretary of State George Schultz called Clinton's lead before the debate at just 9 percent and

continued ↓

predicted the gap would close when Dole's "message of trust" is fully appreciated.

"That message of trust is, can you trust the president?" he said. "Clearly the president has shown you can't."

Ä Gov. Wilson went virtually unnoticed for several minutes in the media filing center until several local reporters spotted him and his wife, Gayle. Thereafter he was mobbed for debate predictions, which leaned toward a positive outcome in the California polls for Dole himself as well as stimulus for Republican legislative positions.

"Mr. Clinton has said the right things but has failed to act," Wilson said, adding that if Dole can hammer that message home in the debate, Clinton's lead in the state will dwindle.

Asked if his own failed presidential bid would preclude his running for the office again, Wilson admitted the difficulties associated with a national campaign were more than he bargained for but he would not rule out another attempt.

"My wife would like to know the answer to that question," he said.

Mrs. Wilson said campaigning in California is the closest thing to a national campaign, though the logistical problems are on an even grander scale.

"There are a lot of factors that have to be considered before we do

that again," she said. "As long as we stay young and we stay healthy anything could happen."

Ä During Jim Lehrer's opening announcements, he addressed the audience and asked for silence throughout the debate. Turning to former President Ford, Lehrer said, "You have my permission, sir, to whack anybody who gets out of line."

Post Debate

Ä Having seen his candidate's performance, Schultz said he was happy with the way Dole raised questions about Clinton's ethics and performance without appearing to be on the attack.

"I thought he was clear and concise," he said, adding he did not consider references to the notorious FBI documents and Whitewater investigations soft lobs where fastballs were called for.

"Just because he was concise doesn't mean he didn't have a socko performance," he said.

Ä Former HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros had a completely different take on Dole's quick asides against Clinton's character.

"Sen. Dole came in with a tactical agenda," he said, "but the people wanted to talk about issues. When the analysts digest it they will see the president answers questions while Bob Dole takes jabs."

Ä Mayor Susan Golding criticized Clinton's soft responses to Dole's character questions and

noted that four years ago in the race against George Bush, Clinton thought ethical standards were "a very reasonable subject. Clinton did not respond at all about the issues of the FBI files.

"If someone on my staff was misusing FBI files, I'd be very embarrassed," Golding said.

Ä Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour said, "I thought Dole wiped the floor with Clinton. I don't think it could have gone better for Dole. Clinton dropped most of his big attacks and stayed on the defensive."

Ä Connecticut Sen. Chris Dodd agreed with Cisneros and said Clinton has a "very solid character and sound values. Bob Dole is obviously losing an election. Despite his attempts to bring up negative issues not a single person should join Bob Dole in attacking President Clinton."

Ä Former Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney said Dole dominated the debate while Clinton was "hesitant."

"It was a sit-on-your-lead kind of strategy," he said.

Ä Democratic National Committee Chairman Don Fowler said, "The president was clear and specific about his economic plan, and Dole reverted to generalizations. I think the president was obviously better."

Kacey Craig and Andrew Kleske contributed to this article.

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Presidential Debate Brings Another Round Of Notoriety To S.D.

By DAN GALLAGHER
Daily Transcript Staff Writer

"San Diego is the most beautiful city in the country" is how ABC commentator Sam Donaldson opened a presidential debate corporate luncheon Wednesday, quoting Richard Nixon.

Statements like that, which have been echoed by politicians, world leaders and opinion makers several times over the last few months, are giving San Diego the kind of publicity far beyond what money can buy. It is a major part of the image that the city is trying to convey throughout the world.

Several recent events have propelled the nation's sixth largest city into the spotlight of late. Hosting the Republican National Convention, next year's Super Bowl, Insights and, not the least, Wednesday night's presidential debate at the University of San Diego have constantly kept the city's name in headlines and broadcasts.

"All those things (the debate, the RNC, the Super Bowl, etc.) add up to a positive exposure of our area," said Dan Pegg, president of the city's Economic Development Corp.

The presidential debate at USD is not likely to cause a windfall of revenue into the city's coffers; it is not a convention-size crowd that follows the debates. However, Pegg and many other local experts say the debate helps give San Diego an image of national prominence, which will likely carry over to economic growth and increased levels of tourism.

As the debate brings the nation's most prominent thinkers, leaders and writers together, San Diego hopes to sell itself as the place where important people make important decisions. Sal Giametta, vice president of community relations at the city's Convention &

Visitors Bureau, said the debate helps to create a "destination awareness," which gives the city a high profile as a major player.

Marco Walshok, a professor in San Diego State University's School of Public Administration and Urban Studies, characterized the effects of events such as the debate as affirming "metropolitan status."

"It tells you how big of a city you are really in," Walshok said.

Arthur Lafford, a professor at the University of California, San Diego who recently wrote a column in *The Wall Street Journal* on Bob Dole's tax cut plan, said he thinks the debate simply illustrates the power San Diego wields in the state. However, Lafford doesn't see the debate as an important issue for the area in the long term.

"Having the debate here doesn't mean we're Washington, D.C.," Lafford said.

The debate not only showcases the picturesque USD campus and the bickering candidates, but also San Diego's electorate. Those throwing questions at the candidates will not be prominent journalists, but rather uncommitted registered voters taken randomly from San Diego County. The candidates, their staff workers and the pundits will pay close attention to the questions, hoping to get a glimpse into the mind of an "average citizen."

"I think we will find that the real stars of tonight's program will be sitting in the stands rather than standing on the stage," said David Broder, political correspondent for the *Washington Post*, at a pre-debate luncheon.

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SAN DIEGO Daily Transcript, October 17, 1996

2 Groups Criticize Corporate Funding of Presidential Debate

By TONY PERRY
TIMES STAFF WRITER



Associated Press

Backer of Proposition 212, a campaign reform ballot measure, chases 'fat cat' at news conference attacking corporate financing of presidential debates.

SAN DIEGO—The financing of Wednesday night's presidential debate here came in for attack by two groups favoring campaign finance reform.

Singled out for criticism were contributions from corporations and other "fat cats" to both the Commission on Presidential Debates, the official sponsor of the debates, and the University of San Diego, where the debate was held.

Corporate sponsorship of the debates, while it may appear as a public-spirited act to promote democracy, is actually part of a strategy by the corporations to influence public policy by electing friendly politicians, said Parker Black-

man, field director of Proposition 212, a campaign reform initiative on the Nov. 5 statewide ballot.

Blackman said that having corporations sponsor such debates stifles discussion about the corrupting influence of corporate money in politics.

A spokeswoman for Bank of America, one of the sponsors, rejected the allegation and said the bank helped underwrite the debate as a way to assist the University of San Diego and to showcase the city. "It's clear that debates are part of the national political process and they need support," said Lisa Margolin-Feher.

Philip Morris, Lucent Technologies (formerly part of AT&T), Dun and

Bradstreet, Sara Lee and Sprint are official sponsors of the Commission on Presidential Debates, and their contributions to the commission are tax-deductible. Created by Congress, the bipartisan commission receives no government money.

John Callahan, a spokesman for Lucent, said of the company's contribution, "We look on it like a contribution to a food bank or United Way—something to help the democratic process, and we're happy to do it."

The contributions were blasted at a news conference held by Americans Against Political Corruption and the California Public Interest Research Group (CalPIRG) in a park near the campus theater where President Clinton and Bob Dole later engaged in their second and final debate.

Citing reports from the Federal Elections Commission, Blackman said the five commission sponsors have also contributed \$6.2 million this year to federal campaigns nationwide through employee groups, political action committees and other methods. (For Lucent, AT&T figures were used.)

Using state records, Blackman said three local sponsors for the San Diego debate—Bank of America, Waste Management of North America Inc. and San Diego Gas & Electric Co.—contributed \$325,684 to political campaigns during the June primary in California.

(A spokeswoman for San Diego Gas & Electric Co. said the company's only contribution to the debate was to provide a

backup transformer "for safety purposes.")

CalPIRG is sponsoring Proposition 212, one of two campaign reform measures on the November ballot. It would set spending limits for local and statewide campaigns, restrict contributions from outside districts, limit out-of-district contributions, and prohibit lobbyists from making or arranging contributions.

At their debate Oct. 6, Clinton and Dole both said they favor campaign reform. Clinton reminded voters that he backed a bill that failed in Congress; Dole said he would like a commission to be established.

Derek Cressman, campaign director of Americans Against Political Corruption, said both candidates were guilty of only giving lip service to reform: "We're fed up with politicians who promise reform during the elections, but continue on with business as usual."

Contributions from corporations, labor unions and other groups or individuals with matters pending in Washington are a perennial source of controversy during presidential campaigns. The controversy has grown this year because of the record-setting amount of money being gathered by and for the political parties and candidates.

To help drive home their point, and snatch a little coverage from the media assembled to cover the debate, CalPIRG and Americans Against Political Corruption rolled out a one-ton, 46-foot rolling pin as a backdrop at their news conference.

The rolling pin, spokesmen said, is symbolic of the need to "flatten the fat cats who have sponsored tonight's debate and this fall's elections."

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Dole turns up the heat

Surveys find Clinton weathered attack

By **DAN BALZ** and **BLAINE HARDEN**
The Washington Post

SAN DIEGO — Republican Bob Dole repeatedly challenged President Clinton on ethics and broken promises Wednesday night in a debate that featured pointed and sometimes icy exchanges over taxes, the deficit, Medicare, affirmative action and health care.

Living up to his pledge to take a more aggressive stance Wednesday night, Dole charged that the Clinton administration's ethics problems had led to a loss of faith in government by many Americans. "They see scandals almost on a daily basis," Dole said. "They see ethical problems in the White House today."

Clinton often completely ignored his challenger's attack and at one point suggested that Dole's critiques were a diversion from the major problems facing the country. "I don't want to respond in kind to all these things," he said, adding, "No attack ever created a job or educated a child."

Throughout the final, 90-minute debate of the campaign, held on the campus of the University of San Diego, Dole and Clinton took questions from an audience of 113 citizens from the area. Dole's aggressive posture reflected the decision made within his campaign that his best hope of overtaking Clinton's lead in the polls rested on forcing voters to rethink their support of the president and to remind them of many of the things they dislike about his presidency.

Dole criticized the president for running a scare-mongering campaign, complaining that Clinton and the Democrats were mired in the past and tied to liberal solutions to the country's problems. "When you don't have any ideas, when you don't have any agenda ... all



continued



you have is fear," Dole complained.

Clinton saved his strongest words for Dole's economic plan, which he said would "blow a hole" in the deficit, and the Republican-controlled Congress's efforts to sharply reduce the rate of growth in the Medicare program.

When Dole was asked directly by one audience member about his age, Clinton said: "I don't think Sen. Dole is too old to be president. It's the age of his ideas that I question."

Clinton charged that Dole was offering a risky economic plan that would reverse the growth of the economy over the past four years and that would do the opposite of what Dole was promising. "We've tried this before," Clinton said, "promising people an election-year tax cut that's not paid for."

"We tried it last time you ran," Dole shot back.

Dole accused Clinton of a pattern of broken promises that he said diminished the presidency. "My word is good," he said. "I keep my promises. I don't break my promises after the election."

With Public Broadcasting

Service's Jim Lehrer handling the duties of moderator Wednesday night, the citizen audience threw up an array of questions — both pointed and general — to the two candidates, and by the end of the evening their differences were as clear as they have been at any time in the campaign. They disagreed over affirmative action, gay rights and constitutional amendments to balance the budget and to allow voluntary prayer in public schools.

With California now apparently on Dole's political radar screen, the Republican nominee repeatedly tried to score points on the president on issues that are especially sensitive here, such as illegal immigration and cuts in the defense budget.

But when the talk turned to the economy, Clinton turned to the audience and said, "If you believe that the California economy was better in 1992 than it is today, you should vote for Bob Dole."

Early network polls of the debates' outcome seemed to validate Clinton's approach. An ABC News survey had him the winner by a 56-27 margin; a CBS News poll had respondents favoring the president by a 54-26 margin.

From the start Wednesday night, Dole's demeanor was markedly different than it was in Hartford, Conn., at the first presidential debate 10 days ago. He appeared tense, even grim, as he came on stage and waited for the debate to begin, and throughout the evening, he pressed his case against Clinton — and for his own economic program — with greater precision and persistence than in the earlier encounter.

A questioner revived one of the major controversies of Dole's campaign by asking him if he still feels that smoking is not addictive. Dole replied by rehashing the non-committal answer that triggered headlines last summer and prompted the Clinton campaign to dispatch "Buttman" to pester him at his rallies.

"I was asked a technical question," Dole said, referring to a question asked last June by a reporter in Kentucky about whether he believes nicotine is addictive. But Dole again refused to say explicitly that cigarettes are addictive.

"Are they addictive? Maybe they — they probably are addictive. I don't know. I'm not a doctor. You shouldn't smoke," Dole said.

Candidates shine spotlight on California all night long

POLITICS: With 54 electoral votes hanging in the balance, Clinton and Dole focus on a variety of state issues.

From Register news services

SAN DIEGO — With Wednesday's debate set in the nation's largest state — the one with the most electoral votes — President Clinton and Bob Dole made a point to court the hometown crowd.

The final debate of the 1996 campaign was held in the 44-year-old Shiley Theater at the University of San Diego, a collection of Spanish Renaissance buildings pillowed in the hills overlooking Mission Bay north of downtown San Diego.

The theater underwent \$1.2 million in renovations for the event. It offered a town-hall setting in which voters posed questions to the candidates. The 113 audience members from the San Diego area were selected by the Gallup polling organization from a pool of voters who said they were undecided or did not strongly back either candidate. Their questions were not screened in advance.

Ross Perot, who participated in all the debates in 1992, was not invited to participate this year, but he was not forgotten here; his name was engraved into a hillside facing the debate site in enormous white letters, like a signal to the gods by some Andean culture.

Meanwhile, Dole and Clinton sparred in the hall.

"If you think the economy in California is better in 1992 than it is today, then you ought to vote for Bob Dole," Clinton said.

Dole took the opposite spin: "President Clinton came to California in 1992 and said, 'The centerpiece in my first four years is going to be a middle-class tax cut.'" Dole noted that it never happened.

Listening to the exchange, viewers might have mistaken California for the only state, not just the biggest, with 54 electoral votes.

Among the Golden State's moments in the sun:

► On litigation reform: Discussing the influence of trial lawyers in blocking reform, Dole said, "I fell off a platform out in California, in Chico, a while back. Before I hit the ground, my cell phone rang, and this trial lawyer says, 'I think we've got a

case here.'"

► On trade: Clinton said he has helped create and save jobs by negotiating more than 200 trade agreements. "In California, we made \$37 billion worth of telecommunications equipment for exports for the first time," he said.

► On affirmative action: Explaining his opposition to affirmative action, Dole said, "It seems to me that we ought to support the California Civil Rights Initiative," a reference to an issue on November's ballot.

► On defense: Clinton said he tried to help soften the impact of cutbacks by funding a project in San Diego to use airplane composite materials to build lighter, stronger bridges. Dole opposed it, Clinton said.

The debate came as Dole was weighing whether to spend time and money in California with just 20 days until Election Day.

Clinton has been to the state 27 times as president. Rarely a week has passed without a visit from some senior administration official.

A recent public poll put Clinton's lead over Dole at 10 points.

The Associated Press and The New York Times contributed to this report.

USA TODAY, OCTOBER 17, 1996

For voters, a chance to get up close and personal

By Jill Lawrence
USA TODAY

SAN DIEGO — For 90 minutes Wednesday, 20 Americans got to be on a first-name basis with the president of the United States and the man who wants his job.

It was "Jason, I appreciated that" and "Iris, this is one where we have some agreement . . ." as President Clinton and Bob Dole tried to prove they were in touch with America.

The setting for the zings, arrows, earnest questions and earnest answers was the Mission-style campus of the University of San Diego. In the Shiley Theater, 113 undecided voters, scientifically selected, sat on the red-carpeted stage facing the audience, the candidates and moderator Jim Lehrer.

Lehrer said they were chosen "to represent a rough cross-section of America." Their attire supported that idea. Some were dressed up as if for the office. Some wore jeans, floppy hats, cowboy shirts, even a flag shirt. There was a teacher, landlord, mechanical engineer, travel agent, martial arts instructor and Amway business operator. One said she was jobless.

Behind them sat Hillary Clinton, in pink and pearls, with former Senate majority leader George Mitchell. Elizabeth Dole, in pale green and gold jewelry, was with Dole's daughter, Robin.

Some questions evidently had personal meaning. A black woman asked about affirmative action. Two questioners pressed Dole and Clinton about protecting gay people from job discrimination through a federal law.



Pool photo by Mike Nelson

Trading quips: Bob Dole, at left podium in Wednesday's debate, and President Clinton each got off a few 'bon mots' while pleading their cases.

Lesbian minister Yvette Dube was satisfied with the answers, especially from Dole, who does not support a federal law. "I got him to say that he does not believe in discrimination," she said. "That's far more than I've heard any other Republican candidate say."

Retired Air Force pilot Jack Fleck was disappointed with "non-specific" answers about how to stabilize Social Security. His own ideas include raising the age for benefits and cutting cost-of-living adjustments. "I was hoping that someone would have the courage to say that," he said later.

Fleck, a Ross Perot fan in 1992, said Dole "probably did a personal best" performance but "the candidate still isn't there that's saying the things I want to hear."

Before the debate started, and a good 10 minutes before it ended, the "spinners" — the candidates' surrogates who volunteer to be interviewed, in order to put their side's spin on things — swarmed over the room where reporters watched the debate on TVs. When a talkative group entered, one

journalist yelled "shut up" without looking up. The offender happened to be Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala.

The Clinton campaign booked 75 TV interviews, with 25 surrogates, to be conducted by satellite after the debate. The spin artists included Cabinet members and Congress members. The objective was to hit every news slot from 10:30 p.m. ET to California morning news shows at 9 a.m. ET today. Also scheduled: 37 radio interviews reaching 2,000 stations.

The Dole campaign had its own high-level spin doctors and pages of interviews scheduled.

In the battle of the placards, begun at the last debate, Dole spinners now had aides holding up blue Dole signs. But the Clinton spinners had tall triangular signs like those marking delegations at political conventions. One over-enthusiastic aide had to be told he was not to wave his sign distractingly behind his spinner as she did TV interviews.

Contributing: Martha T. Moore

USA TO DAY, OCTOBER 17, 1996



By Eric Draper, AP

'Town hall': President Clinton and Republican Bob Dole face the audience Wednesday night during their debate at the University of San Diego. Questions for the candidates came from among a group of 113 San Diego-area voters.

Audience 'more sequestered than Simpson jury'

From wire reports

The debate was held at the University of San Diego's Shiley Theater. The format was a "town hall" meeting.

Jim Lehrer of PBS served as moderator, as he did for the first Dole-Clinton debate Oct. 6 and for the encounter last week between Vice President Gore and Republican Jack Kemp.

But this time, the questions came from among a group of 113 San Diego-area voters. Lehrer was there only to move the discussion along.

The audience members were selected by the Gallup polling organization because they told telephone

pollsters that they were undecided or not firmly committed to any presidential candidate. They could be "leaning" toward a candidate but told pollsters that they might still change their minds.

Before the debate, the 113 audience members' identities were kept secret. When audience members arrived at the university in the afternoon, they were whisked to a private location.

"My understanding is they'll be more sequestered than the (O.J.) Simpson jury," Kate Callen, a university spokeswoman, said before the debate.

While the potential questioners had been carefully screened to determine their political leanings,

they were not asked what questions they might pose to the candidates.

Also in the theater were about 200 people who either work for the candidates or were invited by the candidates.

As for the discussion itself:

After two-minute opening remarks by each candidate, the format allowed Lehrer to choose questioners. The first candidate was given 90 seconds to respond to a question. His opponent was given 60 seconds to give a response, and then the first candidate could give a 30-second rebuttal. Then the process was repeated. Each candidate also had two minutes to make closing remarks.

“
My word is my bond...
You have to keep that public trust.
I think now that trust is being violated.

”
BOB DOLE



PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
FINAL ROUND: SAN DIEGO

“
No attack ever created a job or
educated a child or helped a family
make ends meet.

”
PRESIDENT CLINTON

Dole presses, Clinton parries



Facing the voters: San Diego County residents prepare to query the candidates — President Bill Clinton (left) and Bob Dole (right) — as the political opponents take the stage for their debate at University of San Diego.

Challenger cites scandals, but president won't take bait

By John Marelus
STAFF WRITER

Bob Dole sought to light a fire under his campaign for the White House last night by accusing President Clinton of presiding over a scandal-ridden administration, while Clinton emphasized his record and characterized his Republican opponent as a product of out-moded ideas.

The Republican nominee wasted no time ripping into the president's ethics as he seized the first question posed at the University of San Diego's presidential "town hall meeting" to tear into Clinton as presiding over one scandal and ethical breach after another.

"There's no doubt about it that many American people have lost their faith in government," Dole said. "They see scandals almost on a daily basis, they see ethical problems in the White House today."

The Republican sought to frame the election as one of trust and promise-keeping.

"I'll make you one promise: My word is good," he said.

Clinton listened impassively and repeatedly refused to take the bait.

"No attack ever created a job or educated a child or helped a family make ends meet," he said at one point. "No insult ever cleaned up a toxic waste dump or helped an elderly person."

Dole portrayed Clinton as an

continued ↓



JOHN GASTALDO / Union-Tribune

The candidates talk: Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole gestured toward President Clinton during last night's debate at the University of San Diego. The candidates fielded questions in a town hall forum for their second and final debate before the Nov. 5 election.

election-year moderate who would careen to the left as a big-government liberal once re-elected, while the president depicted his rival as someone who would leave people in need to fend for themselves.

Again and again, the retired Senate majority leader brought up Clinton's failed health-care program as the kind of intrusive government program the Democrat would foist on the public, while Clinton often raised the Family and Medical Leave Act as the kind of modest government helping hand that Dole opposes.

With less than three weeks until Election Day, Clinton enjoys a double-digit lead nationally and is comfortably ahead in nearly all regions of the country and most of the large states.

Dole, unable to gain much traction from his 15 percent tax-cut proposal and other issues he has raised, sought to use the second and final debate of the campaign to turn the election into a referendum on the incumbent's character — something he has shied away from doing throughout the campaign.

And while the Republican made his point, he did not do so with the harshness or relentlessness that a succession of speeches leading up to the debate suggested.

Clinton often leaned expressionlessly on his lectern through his opponent's remarks.

He ignored an effort by Dole to draw him into a discussion of the Whitewater investigation.

"The president should say tonight that he's not going to pardon anybody that he was involved in business with that might implicate him later on," Dole said, but Clinton failed to respond.

The town hall format, featuring questions from an audience of 113 undecided voters selected by the Gallup Poll organization and called upon at random by moderator Jim Lehrer, afforded Dole few opportunities to raise character questions.

At one point, a young college woman voiced skepticism about Dole's age.

"Wisdom comes from age, experience and intelligence," the 73-year-old candidate replied. "It's a strength. It's an advantage."

Clinton offered, "I don't think Senator Dole is too old to be president. It's the age of his ideas I question."

Dole campaign officials have signaled a major high-stakes push in California in the closing weeks of the campaign which could include a heavy emphasis on the state's anti-affirmative action ballot measure, Proposition 209 — an issue Dole has mostly avoided despite entreaties from Gov. Pete Wilson and other Republicans.

But last night, Dole urged Californians to vote for Proposition 209 to strike a blow against "preferences and quotas" even as he acknowledged he "supported that route for a long time."

Clinton insisted that while he opposes quotas and arbitrary preferences, he opposes Proposition 209 because it would do away with what he termed "extra effort programs" such as those Dole has championed over the years to benefit the disabled.

Both sought to exploit unpopular ghosts from the recent partisan past.

Dole repeatedly assailed Clinton's unsuccessful health-care program as "an extreme medical plan the government was going to take over for all Americans."

The president never defended his program, which was shot down in Congress, let alone respond to the suggestion he might reintroduce it in a second term.

Rather, he argued that Republican budget proposals would slash Medicare and force closure of hundreds of hospitals.

Dole's irritation flickered a few times during the debate.

Plainly wearied by Clinton's repeated claim that his 15 percent tax cut — or "tax scheme" in the Democrats' well-worn phraseology — would "blow a hole in the deficit," Dole snapped: "I'm a little offended by this word 'scheme.'"

He added, "The president doesn't have any ideas, so he's out trashing ours."

Oscar Delgado, who identified himself as a 30-year smoker, raised the tobacco issue that tormented Dole on the campaign trail for weeks over the summer.

Recalling that Dole had questioned that tobacco was addictive, he inquired: "Do you wish to recant or explain yourself?"

"I was asked a technical question

..." Dole replied. "I don't know. I'm not a doctor."

He instead sought to hold Clinton responsible for rising teen-age drug use on his watch.

"We need to talk not only about tobacco but drugs," Dole said, saying the president had been "AWOL for 44 months" in the war on drugs.

"Don't smoke. Don't drink. Don't use drugs. Just don't do it," he said, expanding somewhat on his newly minted campaign mantra.

Clinton seized on the tobacco issue as "one of the biggest differences between Senator Dole and myself" and asserted that no other president "ever took on the tobacco lobby before."

As for drug use, Clinton said: "I have repeatedly said drugs are wrong."

Two members of the audience asked about laws protecting gays and lesbians from employment discrimination.

Clinton said he believed that any "law-abiding, taxpaying citizen who

continued
↓



NANCEE E. LEWIS / Union-Tribune

Not all were enthralled: USD students Adam Gardner (front, left photo) and Mike Rehder appeared to catch naps during debate televised into the university's gym last night. But debate moderator Jim Lehrer found at least one response worthy of a chuckle. Lehrer also hosted the debate 10 days ago in Hartford, Conn.

shows up for work in the morning and doesn't break the law ... shouldn't be subject to unfair discrimination."

Dole said he opposed "discrimination in any form."

But, he added, "I don't favor creating special rights for any group."

From that, Dole segued into gay marriages — something on which he and Clinton agree, much to the dismay of many liberal Democrats. Clinton signed a bill that allows states to not recognize same-sex marriages sanctioned by other states.

A second questioner took exception to Dole's use of the term "special rights."

"I hope I made my answer clear," he replied. "I said I'm opposed to discrimination."

At one point, Dole injected a little humor into the showdown. "I'm disabled. I shouldn't have a preference. I'd like to have one in this race. Maybe we can work that out." Dole lost the use of his right arm

when he was wounded in World War II.

Dole closed with a recitation of his familiar humble-beginnings story but then listed a succession of "some very fundamental differences" with the president.

He cited the balanced budget amendment.

But then Dole went on to reel off a list of favorite conservative constitutional amendments — issues he almost never brings up on the campaign trail: term limits, voluntary school prayer and an anti-flag-burning amendment.

The candidates offered starkly different versions of the state of the U.S. economy. Clinton talked about job creation and how the economy was booming compared to when he was first elected in 1992. Dole, seemingly ignoring the Great Depression and other serious economic downturns, proclaimed, "We have the worst economy in a century." Dole accused Clinton of taking credit for the economic successes

of others, while exaggerating the robustness of what he maintained is a very sluggish economy.

Clinton directed his retort at California voters: "If you believe the California economy was better in 1992 than it is today, you should vote for Bob Dole."

On issues where there is not

much difference between the two, such as welfare reform, Dole contended the president was trying to soak up credit he doesn't deserve.

When Clinton boasted of a reduction of 2 million from the nation's welfare rolls, Dole insisted, "He takes credit for all these people off welfare. The governors do that."

The citizens asked

A revealing debate in San Diego

For voters who cared enough to tune in, last night's televised debate at the University of San Diego's Shiley Theater provided an instructive look at the contrasting visions of Bill Clinton and Bob Dole.

Both candidates offered enough substance and enough policy details to define the real differences between them.

Dole successfully stressed the twin themes of tax cuts to spur economic growth and trust in his personal commitment to keep his promises — an oblique assault on Clinton's character. For his part, the president cited a series of initiatives achieved in the last four years, from the family leave act to the Israeli-Palestinian peace accord, and advanced his view that America is on the right track.

As expected, Clinton staged a flawless performance in the town hall format, which turned over the questioning of the candidates to a cross-section of uncommitted voters from throughout San Diego County. But Dole, too, seemed to thrive on the encounter with ordinary citizens sharing their concerns on an unpredictable array of issues.

Perhaps the most telling moment of the evening came on a question about the looming crisis in Medicare and Social Security, and how each candidate would deal with it. Both Dole and Clinton largely sidestepped the problem, providing no specifics about the tough actions that will be required to rein in

galloping entitlement spending. And the president, predictably, sought to turn the issue to partisan advantage by scaring senior citizens with the false assertion that Republicans want to eviscerate Medicare.

At the urging of GOP partisans, Dole got in a number of justifiable licks on Clinton's questionable record of "public ethics." But it is far from certain that Dole can narrow the president's double-digit lead in the polls on the character question, however valid it might be. Indeed, the issue was not raised by a single citizen questioner during last

night's debate, and polls show that many voters have deep doubts about Clinton's character but intend to vote for him, anyway.

The town hall format was more revealing in many ways than the Hartford debate 10 days earlier, when veteran broadcast journalist Jim Lehrer did the questioning. The only problem is, far too many Americans seem to have tuned out this entire presidential campaign and have not

bothered to watch either encounter.

In fact, viewership for the first debate was one-third below what it was four years ago. A New York Times/CBS News Poll released this week showed that only 44 percent of registered voters find the 1996 presidential race to be interesting; in 1992, the comparable figure was 78 percent.

That's a sad commentary on an electorate that will choose the next president of the United States only 19 days from now.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Diego Union - Tribune, October 17, 1996

**DIANE
BELL**



The debate is the talk of the town

Steve McGowan, manager of the Avis car rental in Coronado, was fined \$40 by his Rotary Club yesterday, for renting about 40 vans to Clinton's Democratic entourage — after tuning the radio dial in each to Rush Limbaugh's show . . . The South County Economic Development Council was trying to get Bill Clinton or Bob Dole to address its economic summit today at Le Meridien Hotel. Members were ecstatic last week when Clinton confirmed. Roger Clinton, that is, the president's brother . . . Unjaded journalist: ABC TV's Sam Donaldson told USD debate co-chairman John Robbins that after his many years in Washington, he's convinced that 90 to 95 percent of the politicians are honest, hard-working folks trying hard to do their best for their country . . . Anne Redlinger of San Carlos was at the front of the Dole/Kemp rally Monday with her five young children. They started crying as the departing crowd pushed and shoved. To Redlinger's surprise, Jack Kemp and his wife, Joanne, rushed over to comfort the kids. They picked them up and guarded them until the place cleared.

Street seen

The California Milk Advisory Board has a long-running billboard campaign touting its *fromage*. Capitalizing on yesterday's presidential debate, it posted a billboard on Morena Boulevard at Linda Vista Road near USD that answers a question which must be on everyone's mind: "Why Clinton keeps visiting. It's the cheese."

San Diego Union-Tribune, October 17, 1996

\$615,000 donated for debate

UNION-TRIBUNE

Numerous private citizens and corporations donated a total of \$615,000 to help sponsor last night's presidential debate at the University of San Diego.

Major donors include Donald and Darlene Shiley, the Bank of America, Copley Newspapers and an anonymous friend of USD, each of whom donated \$100,000 or more. *The San Diego Union-Tribune* is part of Copley Newspapers.

Mesa Distributing Company Inc.,

Murray and Elaine Galinson, Laura and John Robbins, Solar Turbines Inc, Sandicast Inc., Doug and Betsy Manchester and Qualcomm each contributed between \$25,000 and \$99,000.

Coast Income Properties, the Nutrasweet Kelco Co., Douglas Applegate Capital Management and Douglas E. Barnhart each contributed between \$1,000 and \$24,999.

Numerous other companies donated goods or services to help produce the event. In-kind goods and services amounted to \$572,800.

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
FINAL ROUND: SAN DIEGO

In their own words

The following are excerpts from last night's presidential town hall debate at the University of San Diego.

■
SHANNON MacAFEE, a USD graduate student: I really think it's important what children have to say. I have a quote for you from "If I Were President," compiled by Peggy Gavin. A 6th grader says:

"If I were president, I would think about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington and what they did to make our country great. We should unite the white and black people and people of all cultures. Democrats and Republicans should unite also. We should all come together and think of the best ways to solve the economic problems of our country."

If you are president, how will you begin to practice what we are preaching to our children, the future of our nation?

Dole: There's no doubt about it that many American people have lost their faith in government. They see scandals almost on a daily basis, they see ethical problems in the White House today, they see 900 FBI files of private persons being gathered up by somebody in the White House, nobody knows who hired this man. So there's a great deal of cynicism out there.

But I've always tried, in whatever I've done, to bring people together. I said in my acceptance speech in San Diego about two months ago that the exits are clearly marked.

If you think the Republican Party is someplace for you to come if you're narrow-minded or bigoted or don't like certain people in America, the exits are clearly marked for you to walk out of as I stand here without compromise because this is the party of Lincoln.

When I'm president of the United States, I will keep my word. My word is my bond.

Clinton: One of the reasons that I ran for president, Sandy, is because not just children, a lot of grownups felt that way. If you remember, four years ago we had not only rising unemployment, but a lot of rising cynicism.

I'd never worked in Washington as an elected official. It seemed to me that most of the arguments were partisan — Republican, Democrat, left, right, liberal conservative. That's why I said tonight I'm for opportunity, responsibility and community. And we've gotten some real progress in the last four years...

SAN DIEGO-UNION TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 17, 1994



NANCEE E. LEWIS / Union-Tribune

The Dole angle: *Former Secretary of State George Schultz, in support of Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole, was among notables who gave their views on the outcome of last night's presidential debate in "Spin Alley."*

'Spin Alley' takes on a life of its own

continued ↓

By Gerry Braun
STAFF WRITER

At the end of a post-debate interview in "Spin Alley" — the spot reserved for candidate surrogates to ladle out straight-faced, self-serving sound bites — a campaign aide stretched out his arm as if to shake hands, concealing in his palm a memento on the occasion.

A small blue top. A small blue Clinton-Gore campaign top.

"Consider yourself spun," he said with mock seriousness.

The plastic tops were only the latest — um — twist on the "Spin Alley" concept during the second presidential debate last night at the University of San Diego.

In their struggle to get the most mileage out of post-debate media coverage, this year's presidential campaigns have provided more spinners and better spinners than ever before and have begun identifying them with colorful handheld placards.

So while the floor of "Spin Alley" was largely a mob scene last night, with scores of reporters packed in tight bunches around unseen surrogates, spectators could follow the action simply by reading the signs that bobbed overhead:

■ A thick crowd surrounded the "Leon Panetta" sign, a measure of the media's respect for the White House chief of staff.

■ Two people stood forlornly under the "Norm Rice" sign, the sign-holder and, one would assume, the Seattle mayor himself.

■ The sign reading "The Honorable George Schulz" began to bounce and weave and then to move west through the crowd, making a beeline toward either a television camera or the men's room.



NANCEE E. LEWIS / Union-Tribune

The Clinton angle: *Harold Ickes, deputy White House chief of staff, put a Democratic spin on last night's debate as political notables gathered in "Spin Alley."*

■ Jesse Jackson and Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt worked the crowd without any visible signage, which itself may have been a sign of some sort.

Political spin has been going on for centuries, but its biggest beneficiary, it turns out, may be none other than "Spin Alley" itself.

Begun in 1984 in comparatively modest circumstances, it has taken on a twirling, whirling life of its own, and the result is not pretty.

Imagine a cocktail party where every overheard conversation is boringly similar and no alcohol is served. Or a rugby scrum that includes hefty camera gear and run-

ning commentary on capital gains tax cuts.

In the end, "Spin Alley" had all the centrifugal force of a manhole cover laid on a sandy beach.

"It's humiliating," Republican spin doctor Kenneth Khachigian said as he surveyed the scene. Then, spotting a reporter's notepad, Khachigian spun wildly. "It's an honor. It's an honor to be here on Spin Alley," he said.

Last night at the Hahn University Center at USD, the spinning began before the debate, as did distribution of fact sheets called "prebuttals."

U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut engaged in the art of lowering expectations, telling reporters a town hall format wouldn't favor Bill Clinton.

"Oh no," Dodd said. "I've seen Bob Dole very relaxed and very energetic in these situations on the Senate floor."

More than an hour after the candidates had left the university, it still continued in earnest, as reporters lapped up quotes that, had they arrived on a fax or in a press release, would have been hurtling toward a trash can in a matter of seconds.

"It was a very good debate for Bob Dole. We got our message across," said Dole-Kemp campaign manager Scott Reed. "The American people saw a clear contrast tonight."

A Bay Area reporter looked at his notes in disgust. "I'm not using any of this bleep," he said. "I'm going back to write."

And as he walked away from the mob, another reporter moved to take his place.

SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE, OCTOBER 17, 1996

On both sides, the facts got twisted a bit during the heat of debate

By Pat Flynn, STAFF WRITER

The truth sometimes hurts. In politics, at least, it also sometimes gets stretched or twisted.

During last night's presidential debate at the University of San Diego, Republican candidate Bob Dole asserted that President Clinton's U.S. attorney in San Diego, Alan Bersin, does not prosecute Mexican marijuana smugglers unless they are caught with at least 125 pounds of the drug.

"If you're caught with 125 pounds of marijuana or less, you go back to Mexico. You are not prosecuted. You have a U.S. attorney here that sends them back home," Dole said.

Dole began making that charge this spring after the *Los Angeles Times* published a story suggesting that Bersin had a 125-pound threshold for marijuana prosecutions.

Several weeks later, however, the newspaper published a highly unusual nine-paragraph clarification acknowledging that it had "misstated federal guidelines for prosecuting seizures."

Bersin, backed by District Attorney Paul Pfingst and Sheriff Bill Kolender, provided documentation that border drug prosecutions are up in the county and that

many of those cases involve less than 125 pounds of marijuana.

Mexican nationals caught carrying less than 125 pounds of marijuana are sent to immigration court, instead of criminal court, only when they also meet four other criteria that make successful prosecution unlikely.

For his part, Clinton proudly claimed that 12 million Americans have taken advantage of the Family and Medical Leave Act to take time off because of their own illness or to care for new babies or sick relatives.

But, as Dole noted in the debate, the Department of Labor indicated that approximately 88 percent of the kind of medium and large firms covered by the law already had maternity and sick leave policies or collective bargaining agreements that ensured much the same protections as granted in the Leave Act.

By some estimates, the new law may more accurately be said to have benefited 1.5 million to 3 million people.

Clinton also asserted twice that the American Hospital Association had predicted the GOP congressional budget "could have closed 700 hospitals."

Rick Wade, a senior vice president of the AHA, said

the president has misquoted his organization.

"We never said 700 hospitals would close," Wade said. In fact, according to Wade, the group told Congress if revenues were reduced too much, "a variety of things could happen" at 700 hospitals, including reducing services, cutting costs and "some ultimately might have to consider closing their doors."

Dole told the audience that under Clinton, "We have the worst economy in a century."

While individual voters' perception of that charge will vary depending upon their own circumstances, there is evidence to contradict Dole's accusation.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average is at a record high. A slim majority in a recent *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News poll said they believe they are better off financially now than they were four years ago. Interest rates remain near their lowest point in the last 10 years. The annual federal deficit has declined. And the Bureau of Labor statistics reported that inflation-adjusted hourly wages increased from \$11.55 in January 1993 when Clinton took office to \$11.62 in December 1995.

"Real hourly wages are rising for the first time in 10 years," *Business Week* wrote in March.

Clinton charged that only his veto stopped the Republican-controlled Congress under Dole and Newt Gingrich from slashing student loan programs.

It is true that GOP budget writers considered cutting spending on — but not the availability of — student loans during the early fiscal 1996 budget plans. Under one House plan, students would have paid slightly more for loans.

However, the final plan the GOP Congress sent to Clinton in 1995 had banks and the agencies that run the program — not students — bear the costs of any spending cuts. That plan would have cut \$4.9 billion over seven years. Clinton vetoed it.

Since then, Republicans have proposed no cuts in student loans.

And, Clinton's own advisers once considered increasing student loan costs as a way to balance the budget. A 1994 memo from White House budget director Alice Rivlin proposed eliminating the government subsidy on interest for loans to students still in school.

Union-Tribune library researcher Kristine Berg and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

SAN Diego
Union-Tribune, October 17, 1996

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
NATIONAL ROUND: SAN DIEGO

'Town hall' questioners steered debate

Ordinary citizens aimed at the issues

By Ron Powell
STAFF WRITER

San Diego voters took a turn as journalists last night, quizzing incumbent President Bill Clinton and challenger Bob Dole on a range of issues that touch their lives.

National unity. Health care. Smoking. Taxes. The Middle East. The future of Social Security and Medicare. Family medical leave. The trade deficit. Education. Discrimination. Affirmative action.

The 90-minute town hall debate, in which questioners were selected at random by moderator Jim Lehrer, offered a forum for the voices of average Americans, not flinty political pundits.

Shannon McAfee, an educator, read a letter from a sixth-grade student who said Americans should learn to live in harmony and embrace the ideals of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States who ended the institution of slavery.

At the conclusion of the debate, McAfee, 22, a graduate student at USD from Las Vegas, said she shifted from being undecided to being certain she would now vote for President Clinton.

She said that, for her, the deciding factor was that the president stressed issues that affected people whereas Dole emphasized statistics and impersonal economic issues.

Duane Burns, who asked the president to explain why he favored newly passed legislation allowing families to obtain leave from their jobs for emergencies such as a family illness, said he remained undecided.

"Both candidates came out fairly even to me," Burns said.

Blair Soper, 17, of La Jolla was among the 113 chosen to sit in the bleachers and ask questions, but he didn't get a chance to ask his question on national TV.

But following the debate, he said, "I felt that President Clinton did a better job but I'm still undecided."

Dr. Robert Berkeley, a cardiologist from Fallbrook, asked Presi-



JOHN GASTALDO / Union-Tribune

San Diego speaks; nation hears: President Clinton responded to a question during the presidential debate last night at USD. He and GOP challenger Bob Dole expressed their views on many issues, including health care, smoking, taxes and the economy.

dent Clinton what he would do to improve the health care system.

Jason Milligan, a Navy man and Amway distributor, asked Dole how the gap can be closed between civilian and military pay.

Cecily Kelly asked whether Clinton would send U.S. troops to the Middle East as peacekeepers.

Oscar Delgado, a 30-year smoker, asked Dole about his prior comments that cigarette smoking is not addictive.

Jack Fleck, a retired Air Force

pilot, told Clinton he was worried about the future of Social Security and Medicare.

Suzanne Gonzales asked Dole how he would change the welfare system.

Pamela Johnson, a landlord, asked Clinton if he planned to cut the capital gains tax.

Ken David, a mechanical engineer, asked Dole how he would cut taxes and, at the same time, balance the budget.

Michael Smith, an electronics

technician with the Navy, asked Clinton how he would reduce the U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

When the debate ended, it was not clear whether Dole's performance had the kind of impact that helped Republican Ronald Reagan overtake incumbent President Jimmy Carter in 1980. After that debate, polls showed that Reagan had jumped in front of Carter, making up a nearly 20-point deficit on the way to the first of his two terms in the White House.

But at least one person who attended last night's debate was unimpressed by either Clinton or Dole.

"The acting was bad," said Jose Lucero-Aquino of Vista, a 20-year-old USD junior majoring in English. "They should have spiced it up with a few more candidates."

Staff writers Terry Rodgers and George Varga contributed to this report.

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New York Times, October 16, 1996



Jim Wilson/The New York Times

Preparing for Presidential Debate, Round 2

Tonight's debate between President Clinton and Bob Dole, the Republican Presidential nominee, will be broadcast live on ABC, CBS, NBC and PBS, beginning at 9 P.M., Eastern time. The cable channels

CNN, C-Span, the Fox News Channel and MSNBC will also carry the 90-minute debate live from the Shiley Theater at the University of San Diego. Technicians held a rehearsal yesterday.



Debate locale: Students chat in front of USD's Camino Hall, site of Shiley Theatre where tonight's debate is to be staged.

JOHN McCUTCHEM/Union-Tribune

University of San Diego gets its night in limelight

By Jeff Ristine
STAFF WRITER

It won't take a "knockout punch," a performance that "exceeds expectations" or any of the other hackneyed debate catch phrases for the University of San Diego to score a breakthrough tonight.

In hosting an event that draws an international audience, USD hopes simply to reaffirm one of its institutional missions and pull a little attention to its sometimes sheltered existence.

"The debate is something we're doing out of a sense of civic responsibility," said USD President Alice B. Hayes. In a similar vein, the campus mounted a variety of voter-education and registration efforts in weeks leading up to tonight.

The debate brings perhaps the highest profile ever for USD, overlooking Mission Bay from buildings following a 16th century Spanish Renaissance theme at a campus it calls Alcala Park.

Even locally, students and faculty — to their everlasting chagrin — occasionally find the private, Roman Catholic-affiliated university confused with sound-alike UCSD in La Jolla.

"We hope this will give us an opportunity to

welcome to our campus a lot of people who might not come here otherwise," Hayes said. "What's important is that they'll meet the people here and there will be an opportunity for them to get to know what the university is about."

It's about a full range of academic offerings, including a law school and school of education, and a place where students praise instructors for the personal attention they offer.

The university's vast collection of fine and decorative art are openly displayed from one end of campus to another — the predecessor women's college was founded by nuns who believed beauty and harmony should envelop a learning environment.

In Shiley Theatre, the candidates will look out over a hall with two imported crystal chandeliers, donated from the James Flood estate in San Francisco. Two large tapestries depict Queen Esther at the court of King Xerxes and the child Jesus.

To be sure, this will be the first presidential debate in a hall that shares walls with a freshman women's dormitory — Camino Hall, affectionately known in some quarters as the Virgin Vault. Shiley, which in recent years has seen

undergraduate productions of "Flora, the Red Menace" (a Kander and Ebb musical about Communist Party politics) and "Drums in the Night," got a \$1.2 million make over in the last few months.

Outdoors, grounds crews planted new flowers on a campus already known for its immaculate landscaping.

For all the honor in the selection as a debate site, Hayes said, "an institution makes its reputation on the basis of its academic program. That's really the important thing that we are able to share."

Undergraduate tuition at USD is a numbing \$14,860 a year. That generates complaints of country-club overtones to the student body, and more sober reflections from USD leaders about the ill effects of a crushing debt load.

But student satisfaction with USD is equally high.

"The professors are excellent," said Randy Heimann, a senior in international relations. "You can't beat the location. It's a beautiful campus."

"Everyone here seems to know each other," said senior Chantel Arroyo, studying communications. "I feel it's like a family."

San Diego Union-Tribune, October 16, 1996

The Media

An estimated 2,500 journalists from around the world are expected to cover tonight's presidential debate in the University of San Diego's Shiley Theatre.

According to A.C. Nielsen, the first presidential debate Oct. 6 was seen by 46.1 million viewers. The vice presidential debate Oct. 9 was seen by 26.6 million viewers.

Following is the scheduled coverage on television and radio:

■ **KGTV/Channel 10 (ABC):** Live coverage of debate (6-7:30 p.m.), followed by half-hour discussion and analysis, anchored by KGTV's Kimberly Hunt, Carol LeBeau and Stephen Clark.

■ **KFMB/Channel 8 (CBS):** Live coverage of debate (6-7:30 p.m.), followed by half-hour CBS panel discussion.

■ **KNSD/Channel 39 (NBC):** Live coverage of debate (6-7:30 p.m.), followed by half-hour analysis by NBC's on-site correspondents. Local panel discussion to follow, anchored by KNSD's Marty Levin and Susan Taylor.

■ **XETV/Channel 6 (Fox):** Coverage of debate to air 10-11:30 p.m. on tape-delayed basis following Braves-Cardinals baseball game.

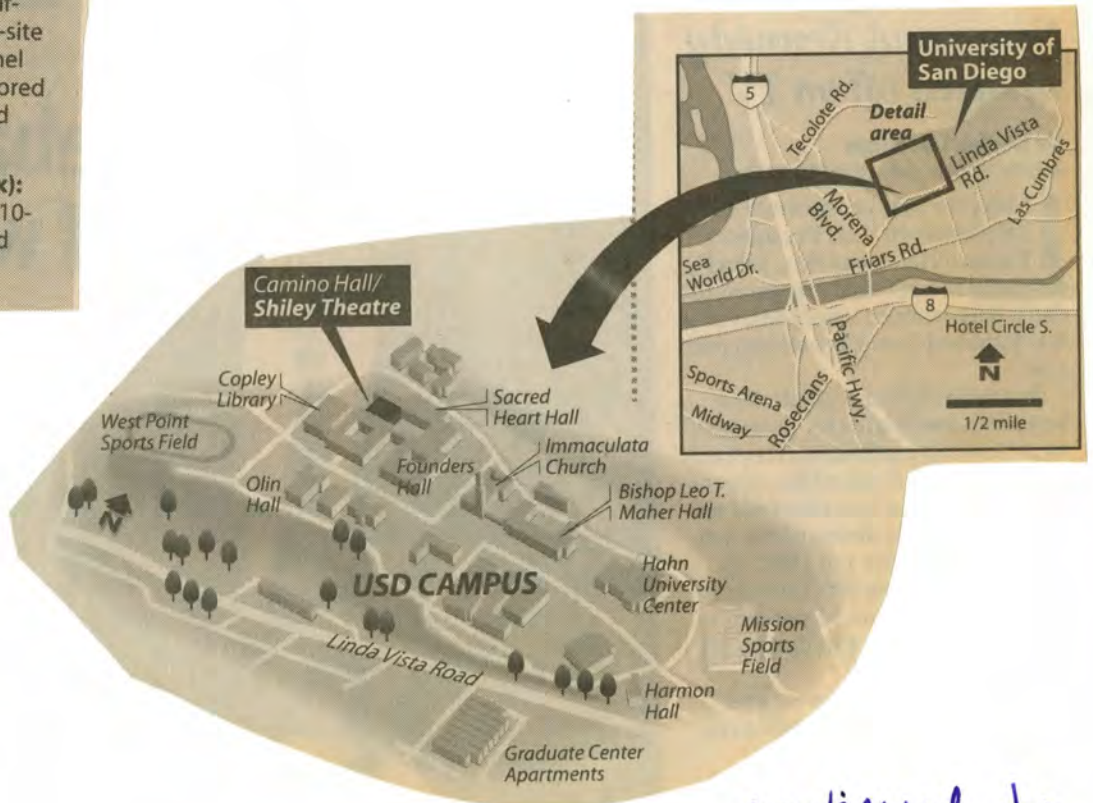
■ **KPBS/Channel 15 (PBS):**

Live coverage of debate (6-7:30 p.m.), followed by half-hour PBS panel discussion as part of "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer."

■ **CNN:** Coverage begins 5:30 p.m. with "Inside Politics" (Bernard Shaw, Judy Woodruff, Bill Schneider, Ken Bode). Live coverage of debate (6-7:30 p.m.), followed by 90-minute edition of "Larry King Live."

■ **C-SPAN:** Live coverage of debate (6-7:30 p.m.), followed by panel discussions, viewer phone calls, analysis.

■ **Local radio KPBS/FM (89.5) and KSDO/AM (1130):** Live coverage of debate (6-7:30 p.m.), followed by live reports, analysis and interviews.



continued ↴

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

ROUND 2: SAN DIEGO

Sniley Theatre

The second and final presidential debate of 1996 will be held in Shiley Theatre, the main performance venue at the University of San Diego. The theater was constructed in 1952 in Camino Hall, one of USD's original buildings.

Shiley Theatre was selected as the site for a presidential debate in 1992, but that debate was canceled late in the campaign.

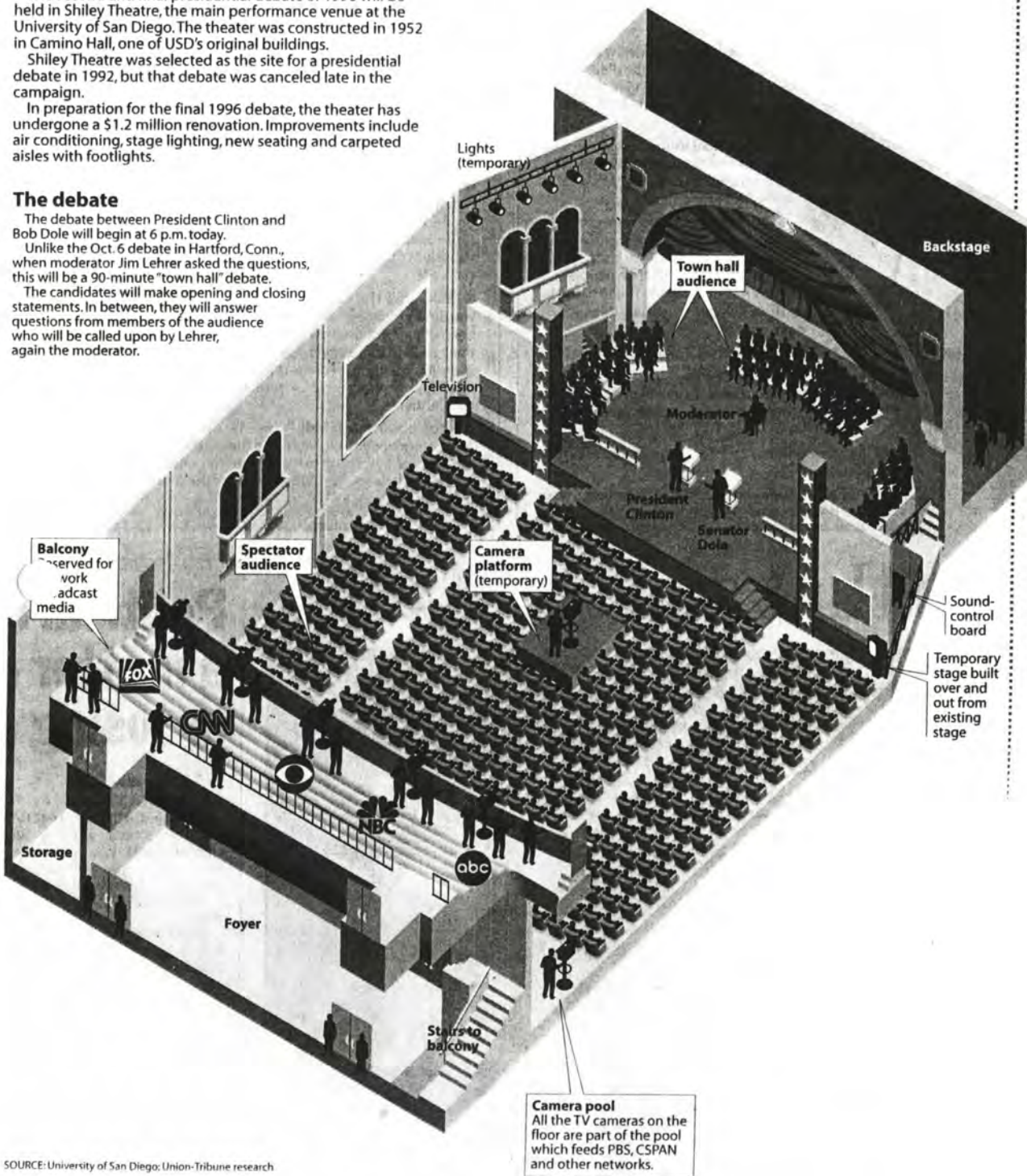
In preparation for the final 1996 debate, the theater has undergone a \$1.2 million renovation. Improvements include air conditioning, stage lighting, new seating and carpeted aisles with footlights.

The debate

The debate between President Clinton and Bob Dole will begin at 6 p.m. today.

Unlike the Oct. 6 debate in Hartford, Conn., when moderator Jim Lehrer asked the questions, this will be a 90-minute "town hall" debate.

The candidates will make opening and closing statements. In between, they will answer questions from members of the audience who will be called upon by Lehrer, again the moderator.



Camera pool
All the TV cameras on the floor are part of the pool which feeds PBS, CSPAN and other networks.

The moderator

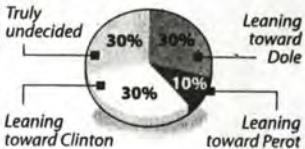
Jim Lehrer
Age: 62
Hometown: Wichita, Kan.
Occupation: Host of "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" on PBS.
Background: Joined PBS in 1972 after a career in newspapers and television in Dallas. Author of several novels and plays.



Lehrer

"Town hall" audience

- About 110 people will participate in the debate. They were chosen by the Gallup Poll from registered voters in San Diego County.
- Approximately 2,200 adults in the county were interviewed, and 800 were deemed to be "uncommitted voters" — those who are undecided or do not have strong leanings toward any candidate.
- Of those, 180 accepted invitations to participate in the town hall audience. Those not on stage will watch the debate from a special viewing area.
- The audience is to be divided as follows:



"Spectator" audience

■ The estimated 360 floor seats in Shiley Theatre will go to USD students, debate sponsors, guests of the campaigns and the Commission on Presidential Debates.

SOURCE: University of San Diego; Union-Tribune research

San Diego Union-Tribune, October 16, 1996

Students are preliminary event at the USD debate site

By James Steinberg

STAFF WRITER

For a 14-year-old contemplating a career in politics, standing in front of television cameras on the same stage President Clinton and Bob Dole will use tonight for their final presidential debate is something he isn't likely to forget.

Even if it was the day before.

"I think this is going to be a good forum for me to express what I feel," said Daniel Oswald, a sophomore at La Jolla High School.

He was one of seven local teens participating in an "electronic field trip" yesterday. Called "Election '96: Behind the Scenes," the Turner Adventure Learning broadcast from the University of San Diego campus linked

participants in front of the camera in San Diego with callers from around the country for a look at the debates and their influence on the electorate.

For Daniel Powell, 15, a 10th-grader at Serra High School, the broadcast was "an opportunity to address youth's concerns and get our views heard by other people."

He was joined by Erica Truett, 16, and two USD faculty members, Larry Williamson, a professor of communications studies, and Noelle Norton, a professor of political science.

Erica, a junior at Mt. Carmel High School, expressed a keen interest in political and social issues, and has worked as a volunteer for the consumer group CalPIRG and with Food

Not Bombs, "a grass-roots international organization that seeks to redistribute food that would be otherwise thrown away."

Other participants in the one-hour mix of live television and taped segments included *San Diego Union-Tribune* political cartoonist Steve Kelley and MTV's "Rock the Vote" program director Mark Strama, in San Diego; and rap musician and erstwhile "political commentator" Chuck D, in Atlanta.

Scheduled for a second broadcast later yesterday were Emily Goss, a sophomore at the San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts, and Daniel.

"I want to be informed. The more informed I am, the better the decisions I can make," said Emily, 15.

Three other students were invited to attend the broadcast and sit on stage. They were Melissa Stobbe, 17, a senior at Bonita High School, and Andrea Gonzalez, 17, a senior at Coronado High School.

For Patrick Shaw, 17, another Coronado High senior, being on the same stage Clinton and Dole were to use 35 hours later heightened what he called his "extreme interest" in politics. "I'm always listening to talk radio," he said.

It was also a valuable experience for the participants, he added. "It's pretty much impossible to get my generation interested in anything."

San Diego Union-Tribune, October 16, 1996

For USD, it's a triumph after a disappointment

By John Marelus
STAFF WRITER

The University of San Diego, left holding the presidential debate bag four years ago, finally gets its moment in the national spotlight tonight as the host of the second and final face-to-face encounter between Bill Clinton and Bob Dole.

USD was tapped by the Commission on Presidential Debates to play host to Clinton and George Bush in 1992, but the debate collapsed when Bush — whose campaign had already written off California as a lost cause — vetoed San Diego as a site.

Before the plug was pulled four years ago, the small hilltop Catholic university had ripped rows of seats out of Shiley Theatre to accommodate a massive press platform, installed heavy-duty air conditioning and miles of wiring to turn the cafeteria into a media center.

"We knew what to expect this time around," said Jack Cannon, USD's director of public relations and chairman of its presidential debate task force.

The University of San Diego's role as a presidential debate site grew out of a chance encounter on the Washington Metro several years ago.

Cannon, a former State Department spokesman and television newsman, had just been hired by USD to help boost the small private university's national visibility.

On a trip to Washington, Cannon bumped into Ed Fouhy, with whom he had broken into the television business in Boston some 30 years before, on the train. Fouhy had just been named executive producer for the 1992 presidential debates by the bipartisan debate commission.

USD submitted a bid to host a debate and the commission, seeking a suitable venue in the West, selected it as one of four sites in 1992 and again this year.

"We wanted a debate on the West

Coast. We wanted one in an area that had good facilities and good transportation access, a reliable phone company and enthusiastic sponsors and would be a battleground state," said Bob Neuman, media director for the commission. "San Diego fit all of those."

Tonight's debate was briefly imperiled three weeks ago when the Dole campaign balked at signing an agreed-upon contract because of the timing of the event and the configuration of the stage.

That temporary snag was insignificant compared to the roller-coaster ride USD went through over the debate that never was four years ago.

The university was officially designated on Aug. 14, 1992, by the presidential commission as one of four debate sites. It began immediate extensive preparations to stage the Bush-Clinton face-off scheduled for Oct. 4.

All the while, officials of the two campaigns quarreled inconclusively about debate terms as people in chicken suits showed up at Bush campaign events around the country to taunt "Chicken George" over his reluctance to debate.

USD officials began to squirm when the first debate — scheduled for Sept. 22 at Michigan State University — fell through because the campaigns had yet to reach accord. A week later, debate No. 2 scheduled for Sept. 29 in Louisville, Ky., bit the dust.

Finally, USD's Sept. 27 drop-dead date rolled around, but the school acceded to the commission's request to extend its deadline 24 hours before canceling.

The next day Bush — after dragging his feet for months — abruptly challenged Clinton to a series of four debates, but refused to come to California for any of them.

Cannon, summoning up his best State Department diplomatic language, observed, "This is always a very contingency-laden exercise."

Washington Times, October 16, 1996

Audience for presidential debate will be kept away from media

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Little is known about them. Even their names are Top Secret, although the Secret Service has been informed.

Before they make their nationally televised debut "they'll be more sequestered than the Simpson jury," one of their keepers says.

They are 120 men and women from San Diego County who have been invited to watch tonight's final presidential debate up close and throw out a few questions — if they're lucky enough to be chosen to do so.

PBS newscaster and moderator Jim Lehrer will randomly select questioners from the audience seated on five tiers surrounding President Clinton and Republican Bob Dole, who will stand in the center of the room.

The Commission on Presidential Debates, the sponsor, has given

a lot of leeway to Mr. Lehrer, who moderated the first presidential debate at Hartford, Conn., Oct. 6 and the vice-presidential face-off last Wednesday.

Mr. Lehrer is allowed to ask for a question on a certain topic and he can hone or sharpen a question once it is asked.

Until then, those select San Diegans — screened by the Gallup Poll organization to keep out hardcore Dole and Clinton backers — will be kept from the prying eyes of the media and the candidates' campaign staffs.

Upon their arrival this afternoon at the University of San Diego, the 120 men and women will be whisked off to a private waiting area.

"My understanding is they'll be more sequestered than the Simpson jury," said Kate Callen, a campus spokeswoman.

Lydia Saad, managing editor of the Gallup Poll, put it more delicately. "The Gallup staff will stay with them," she said.

Members were prescreened over the past week by the Gallup organization, hired by the commission to find an audience of undecided voters. The same concept was used four years ago during the town-hall-style presidential debate in Richmond.

Since the questions are not prescreened, they can catch the candidates off guard. In 1992, citizen Marisa Hall asked President Bush, Mr. Clinton and Ross Perot how "the national debt personally affected each of your lives."

Mr. Bush was left floundering and Mr. Clinton changed the subject.

This time around, if Mr. Dole intends to raise character questions, as advertised, he'd better

hope the audience gives him the opening, said Wayne Fields, a Washington University professor who has written a book on presidential speechmaking. Mr. Dole would look obvious twisting a question on another topic into a discussion of Mr. Clinton's flaws, he said.

"If the audience asks hard questions of Clinton, that's fine," Mr. Fields said. "Dole has to hope that's what happens. If he raises the hard questions, it's just not likely to work in this format."

To find this year's audience, Gallup pollsters randomly sampled San Diegans by telephone. They had to be uncommitted registered voters from the San Diego area. They could be leaning one way or the other, but they had to be able to still change their minds.

If they fit the bill, they were invited to participate in the debate,

according to Gallup's Miss Saad. To get past the tight security, they were told to bring social security documentation and a photo ID.

And, of course, to have in mind questions for Mr. Clinton and Mr. Dole.

About 40 extra people were invited as audience members in case of no-shows or failure by some to bring the proper documents.

About two-thirds of the audience will be in the 18-44 age range and the remainder age 45 and over. Gallup did not attempt to provide a racially accurate mirror of San Diego County because it is too difficult to duplicate among uncommitted voters, Miss Saad said. For example, most African-Americans have decided to vote for Mr. Clinton, making it hard to find uncommitted black voters.

But the audience will be ethnically diverse, she said.

SAN Diego Union-Tribune

OCTOBER 16, 1994



Debate this!

The Cleveland Plain Dealer reports that, while visiting with the Eagles at a Sept. 28 political fundraising concert in Boston, President Clinton told Eagles' guitarist Joe Walsh that his favorite song of all time is Walsh's 1973 hit, "Rocky Mountain Way." (Sample lyric: *Spent the last year Rocky Mountain Way, couldn't get much higher.*)

If GOP contender Bob Dole wants to score points with baby boomers at tonight's presidential debate at the University of San Diego, *Pop Beat* suggests Dole state his preference for "Funk 49,"

Walsh's 1970 hit with the James Gang. The two candidates could then debate the comparative merits of Kenny G and Glenn Miller, a move certain to catch the attention of Hungarian MTV, which will have a film crew in attendance.

Ethics card in Dole's hand



JOHN R. McCUTCHEN/Union-Tribune

The stage is set: Final preparations were under way yesterday at Shiley Theatre at the University of San Diego for tonight's debate. The nationally televised debate will begin at 6 p.m. Below, President Bush, Ross Perot and Bill Clinton as they squared off in 1992 debate.

But dealing the character issue is not risk-free

By John Marelius

STAFF WRITER

Tonight in San Diego, Bob Dole will finally have the opportunity, if he chooses to use it, to say to President Clinton's face what he has been warming up to from afar for the past 10 days — that his administration is nothing short of an ethical swamp.

The Republican nominee repeatedly has promised to use what may be his best and last chance to alter the dynamics of a presidential race that is fast getting away from him by turning tonight's encounter into a thorough — although by no means risk-free — airing of the alleged character flaws and ethical lapses of Bill Clinton.

"You think we ought to be tougher on Clinton in the next debate?" Dole prompted as a Broadway Pier crowd whooped its approval upon his arrival in San Diego Tuesday afternoon.

The 90-minute debate will be nationally televised at 6 p.m. from Shiley Theatre at the University of San Diego.

Hard-core Republican partisans have expressed disappointment that, in their view, Dole let the president off the hook during a genteel debate in Hartford, Conn., a week ago Sunday and that running-mate Jack Kemp did the same against Vice President Al Gore last Wednesday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Dole has promised a much more aggressive performance tonight as he has delivered a succession of denunciations of Clinton administration controversies with ever-increasing harshness.

"No administration has been more self-righteous, but few administrations have been more self-serving," Dole said in a speech in Coronado yesterday. "No administration has shown more arrogance, but few administrations have displayed more ethical failures."

Carrying this line of attack into tonight's televised debate is not without risks, say analysts who note Americans' tradition of respect for the office of the presidency, whomever its occupant.

"Looking the president in the eye and attacking his personal character is like accusing the Queen of England of sleeping around: It may be true, but nobody wants to hear it," said Benjamin Ginsberg, a professor of political science at Johns Hopkins University.

As others see it, Dole would have been better off going for the jugular in the first debate, which featured PBS newsman Jim Lehrer asking questions of the candidates. Tonight is billed as a "town hall" debate where the questions will be posed by average citizens who were chosen to participate because they do not have a strong preference in the presidential race.

Ignoring a question about the budget deficit from a television journalist to talk about federal officials being marched off to jail is one thing, analysts say. But it's much more likely to provoke a negative reaction to do that in response to an earnest question from a citizen about schools or sewage treatment.

"Dole's challenge is tough," said John Pitney, professor of government at Claremont-McKenna College. "On the one hand he has to attack. On the other hand he's in a format that deters attack."

"He's looking for wrestlemania at a chess game," Pitney added.

A debate attack strategy involves several trade-offs for Dole, said UCSD political scientist Sam Popkin.

While it might light a fire under hard-core Republicans who have been unenthused by the campaign,

it might also alienate undecided moderates, he said.

At the same time, Popkin said, if after the 10-day buildup Dole does not aggressively take the case to Clinton, it would further demoralize conservative activists.

"If after all of this he does not go jugular in any way, it's a real problem," Popkin said. "They'll feel as if their side doesn't have a warrior."

Clinton spent three days preparing for the debate sequestered at the Holiday Inn in Albuquerque, N.M., with advisers and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Campaign press secretary Joe Lockhart described the president as "very upbeat" heading to San Diego. "He'll be ready and he is very much looking forward to the people aspect of this debate. This is the voters — not the pundits."

Aides said that despite his healthy lead in the polls and his surprising margins in normally Republican states, the president considers the stakes in San Diego to be high.

"We don't dismiss the importance of these events," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry. "That's why we're here. That's why we're taking it seriously. That's why we're making sure the president has an opportunity to adequately prepare himself for the debate because millions of Americans will watch."

Dole arrived in San Diego Monday afternoon and has conducted debate preparation sessions since then with advisers and a debate coach at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Campaign press secretary Nelson Warfield said Dole was getting ready for the debate, not so much by intensive rehearsing but by discussing issues with aides.

USD campus to be closed for debate

Officials at the University of San Diego yesterday said the campus will be closed to-night to the general public for the presidential debate.

A USD spokeswoman stressed that the limited seating at the Shiley Theatre is already taken. She said university officials are concerned about traffic congestion if a number of people converge on the Linda Vista campus and have to be turned away.

Warfield insisted the Dole team was not devoting much time to anticipating Clinton's remarks.

"Our focus really has been more on what Senator Dole has to say as opposed to what the president might say," he said.

The town hall format of tonight's debate, if nothing else, lends an unpredictability to the event by putting citizens in charge of the questioning.

Four years ago, George Bush stumbled over a question about how the national debt had affected his daily life.

The former president was also subjected to a dressing-down by a questioner who thought the candidates were spending too much time "trashing their opponents' character."

"This is clearly Clinton's strongest format, but I don't think Dole will be nearly as weak in this format as George Bush was in 1992, which was really quite devastating for him," said Roderic Hart, professor of communication and government at the University of Texas.

"Bush just didn't know how to handle that level of informality, and

continued ↓

my sense of Dole is he'll be much better at that."

Devotees of the town hall format say it forces candidates to address the concerns of average citizens. Hart doesn't buy it, noting that for every question that steers the debate into uncharted territory there are rambling or overly broad questions that invite canned responses.

"One of the dangers of this format is that the candidates are much more able to slip into their stump speechlets," he said. "That's less likely with a group of reporters who have heard it all before and have ways of heading it off."

There has been much debate over the past week and a half among Dole advisers over how strongly the Republican nominee should go after Clinton. Likewise, how much good a frontal assault would do in jump-starting a long-stalled underdog campaign is debated.

"Presidential campaigns are won on the basis of an a strong affirmative message," said Ginsberg of Johns Hopkins. "That's Dole's failure, not his failure to attack President Clinton really hard in the debate."

Dole advisers have signaled that the Republican would steer clear of any personal assaults on Clinton and focus on conduct in the White House, such as the FBI files and travel office controversies.

Ginsberg doubts even that would do any good because voters have already factored them into their thinking about Clinton.



JOHN R. McCUTCHEN/Union-Tribune

The place: *Shiley Theatre, with its imported crystal chandeliers and tapestries, will be the site of tonight's debate between President Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole.*

"These issues have been so extensively aired in the press already that, as they say in the stock market, they've already been discounted by the marketplace," he said.

However, Pitney, at Claremont-McKenna, maintained Dole needs to try to work some of these issues into the debate.

"A fundamental challenge for any challenger is to give the people a reason to toss out the incumbent and unless you've reached that threshold, you're not going anywhere else," he said. "And Dole is far from settling the argument that people should fire Bill Clinton."

October 15, 1996

School hopes debate will clarify image

By Amanda Covarrubias
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — When Nicole Wakim mentions her college to someone, the response is often something like "Oh, UCSD, the research school" or "San Diego State, the party school."

Just once, she'd like them to get it right: the University of San Diego.

She and others affiliated with the small, Catholic university are hoping much of the confusion will disappear after tomorrow when President Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole hold their second debate.

The town-hall-style debate will take place in the 49-year-old campus' Shiley Theater, which has undergone a \$1.2 million renovation.

"I think it's radical of them [university officials] to even consider having it here," said Wakim, one of 6,000 students at the liberal arts college. "It'll definitely put us on the map."

And maybe not be confused with the larger University of California, San Diego, and San Diego State University.

With 2,000 journalists from around the world expected, university officials see the debate as a chance for national attention, much as the city received in August when the Republican National Convention was held here.

The 180-acre hilltop campus, including the blue-domed church, well-tended gardens, and Spanish Renaissance architecture, should look good on television.

The interior of Shiley Theater, which was scheduled for renovation with or without a debate, will be modified temporarily for the town-hall format. Dole and Clinton will be at the center of the room, surrounded by an audience.

The university has included the study of presidential debates in its



Associated Press / LENNY IGNEZI

Tomorrow's presidential debate will be held here in the Shiley Theater of the University of San Diego, a small, Catholic university.

political science curriculum. It also has recruited 600 student volunteers to perform a variety of jobs, from assisting the campaigns and media organizations to providing campus tours for school children.

For Mark Bella, a junior business

major who gets around campus on his skateboard, the benefits of having the presidential debate could pay off in a more personal way. Bella said: "Now people will look at our degrees and say 'Oh, USD, the presidential debate school.'"

San Diego Daily Transcript

October 14, 1996

Voters Lined Up For Clinton, Dole Debate

By DAN GALLAGHER
Daily Transcript Staff Writer

The Gallup organization has selected more than 120 registered voters who can participate in the presidential debate Wednesday night at the University of San Diego.

The Commission on Presidential Debates, the bipartisan organization arranging the debates, has set aside about 88 seats for participants in the town-hall style debate, according to university officials. Gallup, a nationally known public opinion pollster, was commissioned to line-up undecided registered voters who will ask questions of President Clinton and Bob Dole during their debate in the Shiley Theatre at USD.

The debate will be broadcast on the major networks live from 6 to 7:30 p.m. PST.

Gallup also selected the participants in the last town hall-style debate, where then-President George Bush faced off against challenger Bill Clinton in Richmond, Va., in 1992.

Gallup set out to find registered voters who are either undecided, or have decided but could still change their minds before the election. Frank Newport, the editor in chief of the Gallup Poll, said the organization used the method it developed for the Richmond debate to select the San Diego audience.

Potential participants were first selected from a random probability sample, and were screened for their voter registration status. Each person was then asked several questions about who they plan to vote for. Newport said this would insure that the participants would be representative of all uncommitted voters in the county.

Kate Callen, of the USD News Bureau, said the commission will be seating about 88 participants in the debate. Newport said Gallup has lined-up additional participants in case of no-shows.

The newly renovated Shiley Theatre has been reconfigured into a theater-in-the-round. In the traditional debate format, the theater would have seated about 500 people; Callen said she is unsure how many seats will be available in the theater-in-the-round.

Remaining debate seats will be allocated by the commission, with many going to the candidates and their supporters. USD officials hope to have some seats for students. Callen said about 12 students were in last week's debate in Hartford, Conn.

Activities surrounding the debate will begin Sunday, when representatives of the Commission meet with local media representatives in the Hahn University Center. On Wednesday, USD and Bank of America will host a Corporate Associates luncheon featuring a panel discussion with national media and political analysts.

gallagher@sddt.com

USD preens for second Clinton, Dole bout

45 million are expected to see debate Wednesday

By Jeff Ristine
STAFF WRITER

The aroma of fresh paint and the whir of an electric drill were in the air last week as Darlene Shiley entered the theater at the University of San Diego, where President Clinton and Bob Dole will mix it up during their final campaign debate.

Shiley, whose name graces the hall, hadn't been inside since a \$1.2 million remodeling was in the scaffolding stage. As a USD trustee and co-chairman of the debate host committee, she helped persuade the debate commission to assign the university one of the '96 showdowns after it lost a chance for one four years

ago. "Ahh! This is stunning!" Shiley exclaimed as she gazed at the new seating, new carpet and restored ornamentation. "It's spectacular! What a kick!"

That seems to be the sentiment all over Alcalá Park as the political clock ticks closer to USD's big day Wednesday.

It's a chance for the Roman Catholic-affiliated institution to preen before an audience of up to 2,000 media visitors and 45 million or more television viewers. And it's an educational opportunity for the 6,400 students and 500 faculty members on campus.

"The debate is a unique classroom," president Alice B. Hayes said. "The slogan we're using for the process is 'History in the Making,' because in this situation our students will actually observe an important step in the political process."

USD is taking advantage of debate fever with a slate of special one-unit courses connected to campaigns and elections, along with special lectures and exhibits. Students have volunteered for a variety of work related to the debate, such as checking credentials at the media center and conducting tours.

A list of debate spinoffs on campus ranges from whimsy — a lecture on collecting political memorabilia — to a concert of "American music."

A luncheon and political discussion for the government and corporate crowd, to be carried on cable television's C-SPAN,



Hard at work: A crew builds the platform for Wednesday's debate. Counterclockwise are Fred Nace (with drill), Trevor Hay, Gene Reilly and John Kenniston. 54

GERALD McCLARD / Union-Trib

is scheduled for debate day at the Hyatt Regency San Diego. Cable television's CNN and MSNBC also plan extensive programming from campus.

Meanwhile, the main event has meant hard work for USD.

The university had to agree to put up \$500,000 toward costs for putting on the 90-minute show. The sum includes construction of the town-meeting style "set," special lighting, electrical and engineering work and a media center.

Shiley Theatre needed an even bigger investment. The facility is part of Camino Hall, which has the freshman women's dormitory and one of the campus' first two buildings. The ornate hall has received good maintenance, but it wasn't set up to handle a presidential debate.

So out went the hand-carved but uncomfortable pew seating, replaced with regular theater seats.

An air-conditioning system was installed, one that is powerful enough to keep the stage temperature at 65 degrees under banks of hot TV lights.

Workers sanded and polished the parquet floors and cleaned the two crystal chandeliers and two huge 18th century tapestries. The room was repainted and a new curtain was installed.

USD scrambled to accommodate the Commission on Presidential Debates on another big change, when the panel decided it wanted a "town meeting" format for San Diego. Originally, USD expected a traditional format in which the candidates deliver remarks from podiums.

"That changed everything," said Jack Cannon, chairman of the USD debate task force. "It's a major challenge to accomplish that."

Cannon made hurried, late-night checks with top figures from Balboa Park's Old Globe Theater and was assured that USD could handle the different town-meeting format, including wholesale changes in seating.

The stage, already lengthened as part of the renovation, will be extended even farther toward the au-



GERALD McCLARD / Union-Tribune

Wired up: George Barreto (right) and Dave Larson run cables for the news media at the University Center. The event is expected to last 90 minutes.

dience, and risers will be erected for seating on three sides. (Both are temporary steps, to be eliminated after the debate.)

The commission's production team arrives tomorrow to begin the final phase of work.

USD officials and Shiley — who with her husband, Donald, contributed \$100,000 toward the renova-

tion — note much of the permanent alterations to the theater was considered about due anyway. They said the debate simply accelerated the timetable for the work.

In the classrooms, the debate was a springboard for several electorally oriented classes in the departments of Political Science, Communication Studies and Fine

continued ↓

Arts.

One class considers how recent elections, from Mexico to the Middle East, affected national security policies. Another looks at elections from artists' points of view; yet another explores campaigning and political discussion boards on the Internet.

"There's probably 20 or 30 other courses in which major assignments for this semester will be organized around the presidential debate," said Patrick Drinan, dean of arts and letters. "It will be pretty hard . . . not to be talking about the (debate)."

Michael Pfau, a political science professor, is using the debate to replicate research on how great an effect — if any — the highly publicized events have on voters.

"There's one thing special we hope to be able to do that hasn't been done before, and that is to compare the impact of the debate on the studio audience vs. the (impact on) the (television) audience," Pfau said. His class hopes to distribute questionnaires to those inside the hall.

About 500 have volunteered to help with various debate logistics, said Barbara Peterson, student involvement coordinator.

Shawnee Delaney, a freshman from Santa Cruz, helped put together a "town hall" facade for a trailer that will serve as a volunteer nerve center, and will run errands for visiting reporters on debate day.

"It's just a good, lifetime experience," Delaney said. She doesn't mind being consigned to menial chores far from the famous candidates: "I learn things on my way," she said. "That's what school is all about. That's what volunteering is all about."

Elizabeth Arleo said a group of fellow law students, taking a political metaphor literally, will transfer the major parties' campaign platforms to planks of wood for a mammoth display in front of the law school.

Only a few students will be lucky enough to see the debate from inside the hall. Amanda Beck, student member of the host committee, said selection will be made by a lottery, set for today.

Up to 2,000 other students and faculty members can watch the debate on big-screen TVs at the Sports Center gym on the opposite end of campus, she said.

Beck said just seeing the debate coming to fruition, "going through all the ups and downs of the whole process, has been pretty incredible."

The stage is set

First debate opens the door for Dole

Neither Bill Clinton nor Bob Dole scored a decisive blow in Sunday night's televised debate. That means their second and final encounter, set for Oct. 16 at the University of San Diego, will be all the more important for the large segment of voters who are undecided or squishy in their support for either candidate.

During the 90-minute exchange in Hartford's Bushnell Auditorium, the president exhibited his legendary speaking skills, appearing confident and articulate from beginning to end. But Dole gave a very strong performance as well, surprising critics who thought he would be no match for Clinton.

In defiance of skeptics who already had written off his candidacy, Dole projected the image of an experienced, thoughtful lawmaker; more important, he showed he is a leader of presidential caliber — the threshold test for anyone who seeks to dislodge the incumbent from the Oval Office. The Republican challenger thereby left open the door for voters to take another look at him. Such a re-examination is absolutely essential if he is to overcome the double-digit lead Clinton has enjoyed in the polls since early in the year.

As the clear underdog, Dole must do more than hold his own against Clinton. He must find a way to alter the dynamic

of the presidential race in a fundamental way. The San Diego debate will offer another opportunity — perhaps his last — to make a convincing case that Americans should make a change in the White House.

With the election only a month away, the burden is on Dole to persuade Americans they would be better off with a Republican in the Oval Office. In our view, Dole's most promising issue is his pledge of a 15 percent across-the-board income tax cut, coupled with real spending restraint in the form of entitlement reform.

In Hartford, Dole allowed himself to be thrown on the defensive by Clinton's unrelenting attack on the GOP tax cut, which the president dismissed as a "scheme" to balloon the deficit. The truth is that tax relief, combined with genuine spending restraint, would spur stronger economic growth, job creation

and an end to the deficit.

Our hope is that, during tomorrow night's vice-presidential debate, running mate Jack Kemp will advance the cause of tax reduction as the centerpiece of a Dole administration.

The two presidential contenders now have outlined sharply contrasting visions for America. The challenge for Dole remains to persuade voters they will be better off four years from now if they take a chance on Republican-style change.



Dole and Clinton after debate.

San Diego Union-Tribune
October 7, 1996

USD takes many logistical tips from Hartford

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

HARTFORD, Conn. — While most of the people here for the first presidential debate of the 1996 campaign were focusing on how the two candidates were doing, observers from the University of San Diego were concentrating on how the local organizers staged the event.

The USD visitors were hoping to pick up as many tips as they can to help them prepare for their own moment in the spotlight when they host the second presidential debate Oct. 16.

"We're learning as much as we can by watching how they've done it," said Chris Mattson, assistant director of public relations for USD.

Mattson said she and a colleague arrived in Hartford on Thursday and watched the local host organizations set up the debate.

"It was very helpful watching them build it from the ground up," she said, noting that they took "tons of notes," photographs and diagrams to help guide their own preparation.

Mattson said she was surprised at how quickly Hartford switched gears from the original plans to host the vice presidential debate, which was shifted to St. Louis.

CLAIREMONT Light

USD's revamped Shiley Theater will sparkle for Presidential debate

By John Ferrari

Historic Shiley Theater undergoes renovations and refurbishing for big event.

Preparations are in full swing for the presidential debate to be held on the University of San Diego campus later this month.

The Oct. 16 debate will be the last of three presidential debates scheduled for this election year.

In anticipation of the debate, USD has refurbished Shiley Theater, where the event will actually take place. The theater, part of the Camino Hall complex, was built in 1949, when the university was established. This is the first major renovation of the building.

Among other improvements, the theater's original wooden pews have been replaced with Carnegie Hall seating, the wooden floor has been refinished, and modern theatrical light-

ing has been installed. Air conditioning has also been added to the building, which should come in handy during the heat of the



Mesa Distributing Co. helped the university complete renovations with a healthy contribution.

debate. According to theater manager John Forbes, "everything that needed to be done for the debate is completed."

Shiley Theater's new decor was designed to complement two Spanish tapestries that have been

displayed in the theater since it opened. From the start, the theater's modernization was planned to highlight, rather than replace, its original character, and it has retained its original charm and intimacy.

Ultimately, the theater will be able to seat 650 people. However, for the debate the balcony has been left bare in order to accommodate network anchor stations and seating capacity will be reduced to roughly 500 people.

As USD News Bureau Director Kate Callen pointed out, "The debates are primarily a television event, and a lot of space will be taken up by television platforms and other equipment."

The debate is costing the university \$1.7 million, which includes \$1.2 million for the theater's renovation and \$500,000 for production and technical costs.

Callen admits that it has



Part of the idea behind the renovations was to complement two Spanish tapestries that have been displayed in the theater since it opened in 1949. Photo/ Don Balch

been a challenge to raise funds for the debate in the wake of the recent GOP convention.

However, a host committee composed of local corporate and community leaders has helped tremendously with the fund-raising campaign, she said.

Mesa Distributing Co., Inc., donated \$25,000 to the project, the first gift from a corporate sponsor that USD received.

Callen said that profes-

sors and students are organizing seminars and public forums that tie in with the debate.

She also said that USD hopes to use the debate to become more involved with the local community, the Clairemont area especially. "People know we're here, but they need a reason to come and see the campus," she said.

"We hope the debate leads to an increased awareness of the university." ■



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SD. Union-Tribune
October 3, 1996

KRIS LINDBLAD / Union-Tribune

A word about the sponsors

Big donors pay tab for political debates

By **Connie Cass**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — While President Clinton and Bob Dole share the limelight of the debates, Philip Morris, Sprint, and other corporate giants will be offstage — paying the bills.

The Commission on Presidential Debates has already obtained between \$25,000 and \$250,000 from each of five companies to be national sponsors of the debates.

In addition, about \$1.5 million will come from local sponsors solicited by committees in each of the presidential debate cities — Hartford, Conn. and San Diego — and in St. Petersburg, Fla., site of the vice presidential debate.

All donors will get tax deductions.

Such coziness between corporations and political parties has long been criticized. And the critics have an ally in Reform Party candidate Ross Perot, who has been denied a seat at the debate.

Perot argues that his exclusion is evidence that Democrats and Republicans, and their financial supporters, have rigged the system against outsiders.

The debates, Perot said recently, are underwritten by "the same people and the same special interests who give a lot of money and

Local sponsors

As of Oct. 1, donors had committed \$445,000 to the Presidential Debate Host Committee for the Oct. 16 debate at the University of San Diego. The donors are:

- **\$100,000 and up:** Donald and Darlene Shiley; Bank of America; and an anonymous friend of USD.
- **\$25,000 to \$99,999:** Mesa Distributing Co. Inc.; Murray and Elaine Gallinson; Laura and John Robbins; Solar Turbines Inc.; Doug and Betsy Manchester.
- **\$1,000 to \$24,999:** Coast Income Properties, the NutraSweet Kelco Co.

The committee also reported \$373,100 in donations of goods and services from the following companies:

- GTE Mobilnet
- Bank of America
- Santa Catalina Nursery
- Da-Lite Screen Co.
- Nextel Communications
- Hughes-JVC Technologies Corp.
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- Dow Stereo/Video Inc.
- Sea World of California
- Cloud 9 Shuttle
- Dukane Corp.
- TIAA-CREF
- Sun Microsystems

SOURCE: Presidential Debate Host Committee

get a huge return for their contributions."

To members of the debate commission, that sounds like sour grapes. They note that Perot participated in the 1992 debates sponsored by some of the same companies.

"These corporations have no influence whatsoever or contact whatsoever with the commissioners or candidates about the debates," said Frank Fahrenkopf, co-chairman of the commission.

"It is their contribution to good government and nothing more," Fahrenkopf said.

In addition to cigarette maker Philip Morris and the long-distance company Sprint, the commission said national sponsors are Sara Lee, best known for frozen foods; Dun & Bradstreet, a financial information company; and the new telecommunications company Lucent Technologies, which broke away from parent AT&T on Monday.

Three nonprofit foundations also serve as national sponsors: the Joyce Foundation, The Marjorie Kovler Fund and Twentieth Century Fund.

Campaign finance laws passed in response to the Watergate scandal ban corporations from contributing money to political campaigns, but there are loopholes. Corporations are allowed to defray the costs of party nominating conventions, as they did in August, and can give unlimited amounts of "soft money" to help the parties promote themselves.

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Debate sponsor Philip Morris also is the top "soft money" contributor so far this election season, according to a study by Common Cause. Through the end of June, Philip Morris, its subsidiaries and executives had contributed \$1.63 million to the Republican Party and \$350,250 to the Democrats.

As the elections approach, Philip Morris money continues rolling in — \$394,000 in August alone to national Republican committees.

Philip Morris' contribution to the debate in cash and donated goods will be worth between \$200,000 and \$250,000, company spokeswoman Darienne Dennis said.

"We have absolutely, absolutely nothing to do with the substance or selections of the debate," Dennis said. She said the company has supported the debates since 1988.

She said Philip Morris will pay for the media filing centers, including meals for

journalists, to "showcase the breadth and depth of Philip Morris products," including Maxwell House coffee, Kool-Aid, Jell-O and Miller beer.

The national sponsors receive free tickets to the debates and recognition in the written program, but won't be mentioned during TV coverage, said Janet Brown, the commission's executive director.

Brown said the commission's policy is not to disclose the size of each donation "out of deference to our sponsors." The donations are reported to the Internal Revenue Service, which keeps them private.

The first debate is scheduled for Sunday in Hartford, followed by a debate in San Diego Oct. 16. The vice presidential debate is set for Oct. 9 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Staff writer Rod Riggs contributed to this report.

Those contributions have to be reported to the Federal Election Commission; debate donations do not.

"The focus needs to be on the appearance of corruption, not just looking for a quid pro quo," said John Bonifaz, executive director of the National Voting Rights Institute.

"What does the public think of this process when they see this big money floating around?" asked Bonifaz, whose group wants the public financing of presidential campaigns extended to the debates.

Dole camp wants terms changed for USD debate

By John Marelius, STAFF WRITER

Bob Dole's campaign sought to renegotiate the terms of the agreed-upon presidential debates yesterday, potentially putting the planned Oct. 16 encounter at the University of San Diego in jeopardy.

The Republican nominee's campaign wants to move the debate with President Clinton up two hours to avoid a conflict with a baseball playoff game.

It also wants the candidates to stand behind lecterns at the debate, which is to have a "town hall meeting" format, so that Dole can take notes.

Each side yesterday accused the other of attempting to use what seemed like a minor snag as an excuse to duck debates.

In Pennsylvania with the president, campaign press secretary Joe Lockhart said the Dole campaign refused to sign a contract locking in the commitment to the debates they had

agreed to in talks last week.

"It now is no longer completely clear they want to debate Bill Clinton," Lockhart said, calling the stated objections of the Dole campaign "a red herring."

But, aboard Dole's plane en route from St. Louis to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Dole press secretary Nelson Warfield contended that the White House was trying to pull a fast one by changing details in the arrangements. Lockhart denied any changes had been made.

Warfield called it "an old used-car salesman's trick," stating that the Democratic operatives wanted the Republicans to merely sign the contract without noticing changes.

"The Clinton campaign was kind enough to send over a contract with details we hadn't agreed to," he said, adding that the differences involve "apparently mundane details, but they can be significant."

The two sides agreed Saturday to hold two presidential and one vice presidential debate. The first presidential encounter is scheduled for Oct. 6 in Hartford, Conn., the second for Oct. 16 in San Diego. The vice presidential debate is supposed to take place Oct. 9 in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The sides also agreed to exclude Ross Perot, the Reform Party's presidential candidate, and all other candidates from the debates, each of which will be 90 minutes long.

The selection of debate moderators cannot go forward until Dole signs the agreement, said Commerce Secretary Mickey Kantor, Clinton's lead negotiator. "I'm sorry they're jeopardizing the debates, but that's up to them," Kantor said.

In a letter to the Dole campaign, Clinton campaign manag-

er Peter Knight said "no substantive changes will be acceptable" in the agreement.

Dole campaign manager Scott Reed replied to Knight by listing six proposed amendments, including the possible baseball time conflict and lectern issue. He also proposed adding language to ensure an independent research firm "makes an effort to divide the audience between self-identified liberals, moderates and conservatives."

The 90-minute San Diego debate would begin at 6 p.m. which would overlap with the seventh game of the American League championship series, if one is necessary.

Despite the dispute, Clinton said at a Philadelphia fund-raiser, "There'll be debates. I'm sure of it."

And University of San Diego officials said they were prepared to host the debate under whatever terms the Commission on Presidential Debates and the campaigns agree to.

"We are fully confident that we are ready to put on a debate and that it will occur," said Jack Cannon, director of the UCD Presidential Debate Task Force.

The lectern dispute involves a question of whether the two candidates would be seated in chairs for the San Diego debate, which is to be in a "town hall" format, or standing at lecterns.

"Given his war wounds, Sen. Dole has specific concerns about how he would have access to notes or how he would take notes," said Warfield, adding, "I can't imagine the Clinton campaign would try to get some kind of advantage over Sen. Dole" because of his disability.

Dole campaign strategists said they saw this trip to St. Louis as worthwhile even though he lags so far behind Clinton here that it has been all but written off by the campaign.

Warfield said the visit here shows "we were ready to debate, we wanted to prove we were ready to go."

Warfield said they hoped to draw a contrast with the president, saying, "Let's face it, Bill Clinton said he was too busy to debate today, but he's out on the campaign trail. There's a real issue of credibility."

George E. Condon Jr. of Copley News Service contributed to this report.

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