

Surprise: Pollees back pollers' political ideas

Political Roundup

The Libertarian Party afforded University students an opportunity to take "the world's smallest political quiz" last Friday in the EMU.

Students participating in the survey answered 10 opinion questions dealing with personal and economic issues. A volunteer evaluated responses and determined participants' political bent according to a point scale.

Brad Klopfenstein, a Purdue student and Libertarian Party intern, said the purpose of the survey was twofold: It made participants aware of their political orientation and it introduced students to the libertarian philosophy.

The Libertarian Party emphasizes individual liberties, economic freedom and a minimal role for government.

Klopfenstein said many of the people surveyed were surprised to find their beliefs align with those of the Libertarian Party. Some identified themselves as Democrats or Republicans, but they responded to the survey the way a Libertarian would, Klopfenstein said.

Klopfenstein will visit 45 campuses this term in an effort to augment the party's membership and increase the number of campus organizations, which is currently 75.

The Libertarian Party is larger than all other third parties combined and boasts 25,000 registered members. This election year 890 Libertarian candidates appear on ballots.

Klopfenstein said his work this term is part of a larger effort to broaden the party's membership base in preparation for the next presidential election.

Bush falls in national voter polls

NEW YORK (AP) — President Bush's favorability ratings have slipped since the presidential debates began, and he has the support of only one in three voters, pollsters said Monday.

In three major independent polls, Gov. Bill Clinton had a lead of 19, 18 and 17 points. Ross Perot remained a distant third in voter support, but his favorability ratings surpassed the president's.

Gallup's daily tracking for Cable News Network and USA Today had Clinton's support at 48 percent, Bush at 30 percent and Perot at 15 percent, among about 1,000 registered voters interviewed Friday through Sunday. Clinton's 18-point lead was up from 13 points before the Thursday debate.

The number of voters who said they had an unfavorable view of Bush rose from 38 percent to 57 percent. The number who said he would handle the economy best dropped to 21 percent, below Perot's 29 percent and Clinton's 30 percent, according to CNN.

ABC News' tracking poll had Clinton supported by 49 percent of likely voters, Bush 30 percent and Perot 13 percent. Perot's popularity rebounded to a 47 percent favorable rating, compared with Bush's 44 percent favorable and 50 percent unfavorable.

ABC said it calculated the favorability ratings from 2,082 likely voters polled Wednesday through Sunday. The voter preference came from a smaller group of 1,263 likely voters polled since the debate Thursday that allowed undecided voters to question the candidates.

A poll taken Friday and Saturday by CBS News showed Clinton with 50 percent, Bush 33 percent and Perot 13 percent among 1,106 registered voters.

The network polls are taken by telephone nationwide and have margins of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Quayle plays underdog role at New Jersey stop

PENNSAUKEN, N.J. (AP) — Vice President Dan Quayle campaigned like an underdog Monday and held on to hope that the Republicans would spring a "November surprise" victory in the presidential race.

A top aide traveling with Quayle acknowledged that if the election were held now, the Bush-Quayle ticket would probably lose.

"We need something to happen," said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "If the election were held today, we would not be in good shape. Would we lose? I think so."

Quayle told reporters: "Everybody's talking about the October surprise. It's the November surprise we are now talking about."

The term "October surprise" has been used to refer to a sudden policy shift or other dramatic

move in the weeks just before an election.

Quayle acknowledged that he and Bush are down in the polls but told supporters he didn't care what the experts were saying.

"The fight is going to continue," he said. "So, my friends, hang in there with us. ... We're going to win this election."

New Jersey, with 15 of the 270 electoral votes needed for victory, is a key state for Republicans and Democrats alike in the upcoming election and both parties have repeatedly campaigned in the Garden State.

Quayle later visited the New York Stock Exchange. There were cheers as he walked the floor of the exchange and rang the closing bell. But one broker, Irwin Montag, quipped: "He must be passing out resumes."

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