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Clinton's election popular with HQ crowd

By Pat Malach
Emerald Editor

The cheers for President-elect Bill Clinton's acceptance speech Tuesday night in Little Rock, Ark., echoed all the way to the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Clinton's speech, which was broadcast live via satellite to the Lane County Election Headquarters, was greeted with nearly overwhelming approval by about 2,500 people who showed up at the fairgrounds to mingle with the local candidates.

Among those cheering the loudest during Clinton's speech were two sisters who moved to Oregon from Arkansas.

"This is a dream come true," said Shelley Snow, a Eugene resident who moved here four years ago from Fort Smith, Ark.

Her sister, Sheila Pepiot, a University research technician in molecular biology, said Clinton's victory was even sweeter in light of George Bush's campaign attacks against her home state.

"It's always the hillbilly jokes and everything else," she said. "But now it's like, OK, now who's talking about jokes?"

All joking aside, U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Springfield, who also won re-election Tuesday night, said a Democratic administration was going to be able to get down to serious business on some important issues in the country.



Photo by Jeff Paslay
Some voters were happier than others that George Bush lost his re-election campaign for U.S. president, such as this "waiter" at the Lane County Election Headquarters Tuesday night.

"For the first time in 12 years," he said, "the first time in my six years of elected life, I'm going to have an administration that will return my

phone calls. They might even be interested in some of my ideas. No more President 'Veto' Bush. We just vetoed him."
ASUO President Bobby Lee

said Clinton has a more favorable attitude toward the Higher Education Reauthorization Act, which Bush has vetoed in the past. The act allots federal financial aid.

"Bill Clinton was one of the people who supported it," he said.

But the atmosphere was not a total washout of hugs and cheer.

Republican James Wittenbach, a first-year law student at the University, said he didn't believe Clinton's narrow margin of victory in the popular vote had given him much of a mandate.

"It's not a mandate at all," he said. "It's an expression of frustration."

Wittenbach said he wrote in Jack Kemp, Bush's Housing and Urban Development secretary, for president.

Although the independent Magic Johnsonesque campaign of Ross Perot came to another abrupt halt early Tuesday evening, Perot supporter John Shephard said the Texas billionaire's run for the White House had not been a waste.

"He brought up so many more questions that had not been addressed by my good friends, George and Bill," Shephard said.

And Shephard said Perot shouldn't be counted out in 1996.

"He has a page out called the quitter," Shephard said. "It says, 'Never give up. Never. Never. Never.'"

CLINTON

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my Carter left office.

His voice still hoarse from a grueling final day of a grueling campaign, Clinton told the nation:

"This election is a clarion call for our country to face the challenges of the end of Cold War, and the beginning of the next century, to restore growth to our country and opportunity to our people, to empower our own people so they can take more responsibility for their own lives, to face problems too long ignored — from AIDS, to the environment, to the conversion of

our economy from a defense to a domestic economic giant."

He told Bush and Perot supporters: "We need your help, and we will do our best to deserve it."

Clinton took a minute to thank two supporters who died during the campaign, fund-raiser Vic Raiser and Paul Tully, the Democratic National Committee's political director.

"I still believe in a place called Hope," he said at the close of his remarks, a tribute to his tiny hometown.

Clinton then introduced Gore, who embraced him and said:

"This has been a time of discovery; a

time of restored dream and renewed hope."

He thanked the people of Tennessee, and the nation.

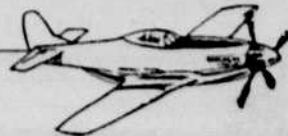
"I look forward to the high challenges of national office and I consider it a matter of tremendous honor and pride," he said.

Clinton ran an aggressive 13-month campaign and in the end, trumped Republican charges about his character with relentless attacks on Bush's economic stewardship. Instead, Clinton offered a jobs program, health care reform and education improvements.

The Great Airplane Toss

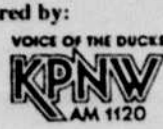
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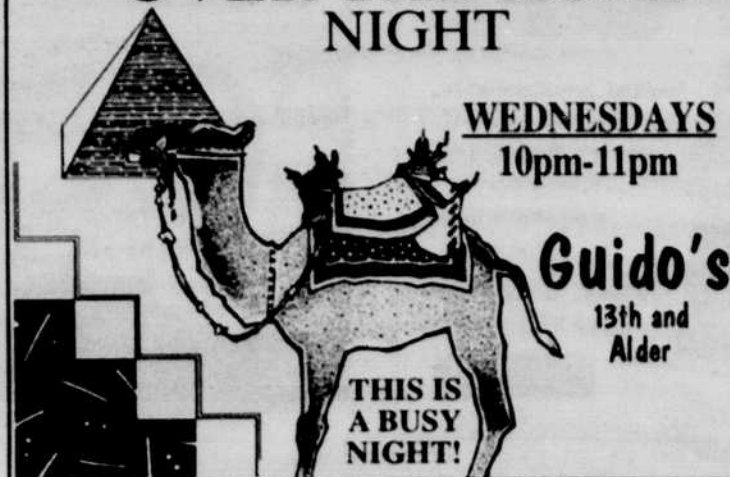
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