

Dole ahead in early polls, cautious about results

MANCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Bob Dole has been ahead in the New Hampshire opinion polls before, only to see his presidential dreams shattered by the likes of Victoria Zachos and David Carney.

So don't blame Dole for not taking much stock in early polls, except to joke he wishes New Hampshire's primary were today instead of a year from now. Or for making sure Zachos and Carney are on his side this time around.

The Senate majority leader and front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination made his campaign debut this weekend with a circuit of town hall meetings across New Hampshire, including four on Monday. Along the way, he served notice that he would not be outworked here in 1996, as he was in 1988 by then-Vice President George Bush.

And he said he planned to refrain, at least for now, from getting drawn into a daily war of words with Texas Sen. Phil Gramm or other rivals, preferring instead the kinder, gentler demeanor of a confi-

dent front-runner.

Dole's cushion — three weekend polls showed him with a 30-percentage point lead here — is unlikely to be so comfortable after his rivals have had more time to introduce themselves and the campaign becomes serious. But as Dole launched his third White House bid he said it had a "much better feel" than the last one.

"It certainly is easier to bring people into the organization now," the Kansas senator said in an interview.

Throughout his Senate career, Dole has earned reputation as a loyal soldier to Republican presidents and a shrewd legislative tactician. But, as was the case in 1988, critics and even some supporters question whether he has what Bush used to call "the vision thing," a compelling message that captures the imagination of voters.

Dole is hoping that when comparisons are made with President Clinton, or his less-experienced GOP rivals, he will win voter loyalty for a simpler reason.

"I want to be your president for the right reason — because I can provide the leadership America needs now and into the next century," Dole said at a New Hampshire GOP dinner Sunday night. He is also banking on the loyalty of GOP primary voters, including many who opposed him in years past.

"I've been tested," Dole said. "I've provided leadership. I am not a lone ranger. I am in every battle for this party and have been a consistent leader."

So far, it's an appeal that is winning Dole important early converts.

Carney, for example, helped orchestrate Bush's 1988 win here but is now a senior Dole adviser and urging fellow Bush loyalists like Zachos to join him.

"He has been there for us back to Nixon," Zachos said of Dole. "I really think he has earned it."

Dole's three-day foray here was designed to "freeze that early support that is out there and get these folks involved and invested in the effort," said William

Lacy, Dole deputy campaign chairman.

It was on the night of his 1988 New Hampshire loss that Dole told a TV interviewer he had this caustic message for Bush: "Tell him to stop lying about my record." Bush went on to crush Dole in the southern primaries.

This time, Dole says he will choose his words more carefully. Still, it appears inevitable that he and Gramm are headed for a few confrontations.

Gramm is fond, for example, of noting that he opposed the 1990 budget deal and its tax increases, a package Dole supported after helping the Bush administration negotiate it with congressional Democrats. Gramm was part of the budget negotiating team, but voted against the final product.

"He insisted that he be invited and helped make the decisions up to the end, and then he jumped overboard," Dole said of Gramm. "Maybe that is the way to get ahead."

Artist improves image of shacks

NORTHAMPTON, Mass. (AP) — To travelers on the highways of the New South, the wooden shacks of the farm country vanish in a blur, sagging remnants of an uncomfortable past.

But Beverly Buchanan stopped to look. And look. Like Monet fixating on the Rouen cathedral, she has photographed, sculpted and painted the home-made shacks of the rural South for more than two decades. In the end, she has transformed eyesore into art and lifted the ramshackle lives of shack dwellers into the halls of high culture.

"A lot of people might wonder why you want to pay attention to that, and I must admit I came to it gradually," said Buchanan in an interview from her home in Athens, Ga. "I was interested in the kinds of structures that were left when people had their hands on them."

Her exhibition, "ShackWorks," is now visiting art museums on a two-year tour to communities as diverse as New York City and LaGrange, Ga. It is showing until April 16 in the Smith College Art Museum in Northampton, in the heart of Yankee country.

"Her works serve as visual metaphors for the poverty, struggles and ingenuity of a culture that is commonly held in disregard and contempt," said Trinkett Clark, curator of the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Va.

Born in Fuquay, N.C., Buchanan grew up on the campus of South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, where her father was dean of the School of Agriculture. While traveling around the countryside with him, Buchanan encountered many shanties built from materials at hand and often

inhabited by black tenant farmers or migrant laborers.

A former public health educator in East Orange, N.J., she balked at an acceptance to medical school in her late 30s and decided to devote herself to art.

She initially concentrated on stone sculptures and abstract expressionist images. Though the shacks of her childhood came increasingly to the fore in her imagination, she was at first surprised by the social significance attributed to them.

"I was just doing this. I wanted to see walls, and I wanted to see structures," said Buchanan.

A heavyset 54-year-old with a self-deprecating manner and flair for storytelling, Buchanan lives far from the glitter of the art world.

"My philosophy is that we all live in shacks," she said. "I've had to put a roof on this house. Two windows were blown out from a storm a couple of weeks ago, so I've had to replace them."

Buchanan has exhibited her works widely. Her pieces are owned by several well-known museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh.

The centerpiece of "ShackWorks" is "Shack South Inside Out." It is a tilting, almost life-size shack replica fashioned from nailed pine boards and tin, surrounded by pieces of furniture that would ordinarily be found inside such a home. Characteristically, she has painted an abstract fruit bowl, in a wink to the world of high art, on an inner wall.

Mary Lou Furcron, a friend of Buchanan, sits on the stoop of her log cabin in a 4-foot-high color photograph included in the exhibit.

Candidates: affirmative action not creating equal opportunity

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three Republican presidential hopefuls are making affirmative action an early campaign issue, saying they want to end such programs as they now exist.

"If I become president, by executive order I will overturn quotas, preferences and set asides," conservative Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas said Sunday.

"In case he doesn't make it," Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said in reference to Gramm. "I'd be happy to help in that effort. I think we need a color-blind society." Dole is currently in the lead among early presidential contenders.

With a year to go before the primary season, affirmative action already looms as an issue that could dominate the 1996 campaign. In California, a referendum is planned for next year that would eliminate quotas for contracts or government benefits.

The Clinton administration says affirmative action is still needed to reverse past racial and sex-based discrimination.

"The vestiges of racism are still here, and it's being exploited," Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., said on NBC's *Meet the Press*. He said Republican attacks on affirmative action are an attempt "to scapegoat minorities, immigrants and poor folks."

One Republican who decided not to run for president, former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp, agreed on NBC that Republicans can't use affirmative action as a wedge issue and still try to reach out to all Americans.

"We've not made enough progress," Kemp said, emphasizing that affirmative action should be based on economic need rather than race. "There are people in our community, in our country, in our family, who need special help."

But those still in the race stressed that help should not come at the price of equal opportunity.

"I'm for equal and unlimited opportunity in America, but I'm for special privilege for no one," Gramm said on CBS' *Face the Nation*. Gramm plans to formally announce his candidacy on Friday.

Students lack knowledge about presidents

LOS ANGELES (AP) — As the nation celebrated Presidents' Day on Monday, a sampling of students at schools named after former commanders-in-chief showed White House history doesn't pack much punch.

"You mean Cleveland High was named after a former president?" asked Mildred Monroy, a junior at Grover Cleveland High School. "I always thought it was named after that city in Canada."

"John Adams? He's dead. That's all I know," said 14-year-old Nazrio Carillo, a student at John Adams Middle School.

James Monroe High School teacher Caryn Cornell offered to let students in her detention class out early if they could tell her who Monroe was.

"Fifteen kids and nobody knew. Nobody. Their mouths all just dropped open like 'Duh,'" Cornell said. "It's not funny, it's sad. In this classroom, we have

pictures of every U.S. president hanging on the wall."

Fair's fair, though, and even teachers admit they don't know all they should.

"James Monroe may be the namesake of our school, but he wasn't exactly among our most distinguished presidents," assistant principal Alice Parrish said. "If someone asked me, I could maybe mention the Monroe Doctrine and not much else, and I'm a history teacher."

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