

Back to the daily line



ANDREW BRACKENSICK/Emerald

After a change in ID format, students wait to be photographed at the new photo ID office in Room 12 of the EMU basement. All students will be required to get new IDs for the fall term. The office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. all week.

Perot upset by television time slot

■ **DEBATES:** Third party candidate's supporters claim that his opinion on NAFTA cost him a slot in the presidential debates

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Ross Perot will get his hour of network TV on Tuesday, but it's not the weekly prime time he wanted. So he's forging ahead with his complaints to the Federal Communications Commission.

He'll also get a federal court hearing Tuesday on the lawsuit he's filed in an attempt to be included in the presidential debates that start Sunday night.

The Presidential Commission on Debates excluded Perot, saying he has no real chance of winning

the presidency.

But Perot argues that he meets the bipartisan commission's objective standards to be in the debates — such as access to federal campaign funds and a spot on all 50 state ballots.

In advance of Tuesday's hearing before U.S. District Judge Thomas Hogan, Perot's staffers aired theories that he has been excluded because some commission sponsors support the North American Free Trade Agreement, a pet target of the Texas billionaire.

"We've known the debate commission was a shill for the two established political parties all along," said Perot running mate Pat Choate. "Now we know it is a paid lackey for the NAFTA lobby as well."

The Perot campaign claimed

three of the commission's corporate patrons, AT&T, General Motors and IBM, also served on USA-NAFTA, a lobbying consortium that pushed for approval of the trade pact in 1993. However, neither General Motors nor IBM is among the national sponsors of the debate commission this year and Lucent Technologies, which is a sponsor, broke away from parent AT&T on Monday.

Even if he wins his court battles, Perot, who has been polling in single-digits, is unlikely to win the election, said longtime Perot watcher Earl Black.

"Right now he's back in the position of being a potential spoiler. If he gets into the debates he has a greater potential to be a spoiler. He's a spoiler either way," said the Rice University political scientist.

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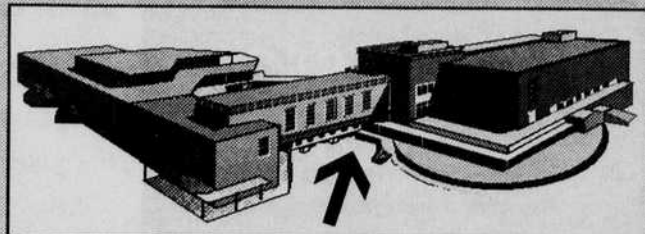
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