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Clinton and Dole return to campaigning

■ **CANDIDATES:** Dole pushes trust in New Jersey while Clinton gets corporate support in Connecticut

By Tom Raum
The Associated Press

MILLTOWN, N.J. — Hustling back to the campaign trail after the first debate, Bob Dole pressed his comeback quest Monday by insisting he's the candidate voters can trust while President Clinton pursued support in states that normally vote Republican.

Both candidates were trying to build on momentum they claimed from Sunday's showdown in Hartford, Conn., although early polls suggested the debate produced little movement in the race.

Traveling across New Jersey in a bus caravan, an energized Dole underscored a line of attack he used in the debate.

"Halloween's still three weeks away, Mr. President. Stop trying to scare everyone," Dole told a rally in this central New Jersey community.

Earlier, he told a rally in Toms River, "When people think of Bob Dole, I want them to think of the word trust. Trust. Trust. And when they think of the word Bill Clinton, I want them to think of the word fear."

Dole pressed his plan for a 15 percent tax cut by campaigning with Republican Gov. Christie Whitman, who upset Democratic incumbent James Florio in 1993 largely on the promise of a big tax cut.

In Stamford, Conn., Clinton accepted the endorsement of 2,500 corporate leaders, many of whom already were known as Clinton supporters.

"I have wondered for years why the Democratic Party shouldn't have at least as much support in the business community as the other party," Clinton said.

A sign hanging from the balcony read, "One Down. Congratulations, Mr. President!"

The president, with the luxury of a big lead, was also campaign-

ing in normally Republican Maine and New Hampshire.

Clinton's political aides asserted that Clinton did well enough in the opening debate to fortify his standing in the polls — and that he would spend less time in traditionally Democratic states like New York and Massachusetts where he has built up huge leads.

Meanwhile, Reform Party candidate Ross Perot, who participated in the 1992 debates but was excluded from this year's showdowns, derided Sunday night's debate as a "theatrical event."

"If you listened last night, it was confusing because they were both playing Ping-Pong, and denying what the other said, and not getting to the facts and the numbers," Perot told a business audience in San Francisco.

Both Clinton and Dole campaigns unleashed new ads to complement the candidates' messages, Dole's casting Clinton as "a real spend-and-tax liberal," and Clinton's promoting his presidency as "moving people from welfare to work. Meeting our challenges."

Both camps sought to cast their candidate in the best light after Sunday's opening 90-minute debate.

Scott Reed, Dole's campaign manager, said the Dole campaign didn't expect an overnight shift in the polls. "This is a steady building process that we're going to build up on as time goes on," he said.

Reed said he hoped Dole's burst of campaigning by bus this week — New Jersey on Monday and Tuesday, and Ohio at the end of the week — would help narrow Clinton's lead to the high single digits by Friday.

White House press secretary Mike McCurry said Clinton made "the best argument for the future" in the debate, one which came through "loud and clear."

Dole was somewhat subdued on Monday after overnight polling found neither candidate scored much of an advantage in the debate.

"I don't know," he told reporters when asked if he thought his performance would help turn the race around.

Later, Dole joked during his New Jersey bus trip: "I felt good last night when an impartial observer told me I won the debate. And Elizabeth generally knows what she's talking about."

Elizabeth Dole campaigned in her own bus tour across Connecticut, telling a business group in Waterbury that her husband had "known the struggle to make ends meet," a reference both to his recovery from near-fatal World War II wounds and his current lagging presidential campaign.

While Clinton and Vice President Al Gore have made bus campaigns something of a trademark, Monday's tour through New Jersey was the first time Dole has campaigned by bus since winning the GOP nomination.

Dole seemed to revel in the experience, and likened it to Whitman's bus tour during her winning gubernatorial race.

"We've got the momentum on our side," Dole declared. "We're moving. We're moving. We're going to move him right out of the White House!"

While Clinton and Dole moved beyond their face-off, their running mates retired to separate sites in Florida to prepare for their debate on Wednesday night. Kemp was practicing at the same Miami Beach condominium complex where Dole had rehearsed; Gore took time out from his preparations to make a public pitch for support from senior citizens in Sarasota.

Meanwhile, a survey found that the TV audience for Sunday's presidential debate dropped more than 20 percent compared with viewership in 1992.

Preliminary Nielsen overnight ratings covering 33 cities — roughly half the U.S. population — showed the audience for the Clinton-Dole debate as aired by ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox averaged a 33.8 rating. No figures were immediately available for CNN, MSNBC, C-SPAN or PBS.

Organizers urge students to give blood as part of University drive

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Editor

After surviving the first week of classes, some University students may feel the campus has sucked the blood right out of them.

But Lane Memorial Blood Bank and the ASUO Student Alumni Association are hoping there are just a few drops left.

"The University is a great source of healthy, willing blood donors," donor recruiter Tonya Willis said. "We especially need O-positive and A-positive blood types."

Lane Memorial and SAA are sponsoring a two-day long blood drive. The blood will go to people who are undergoing surgery or suffering from accidents or chronic illnesses, Willis said.

"Students can come here and help people they'll probably never even know," she said. "Our donors are never paid, but they can give one hour of their time to reach out to someone else."

Student donors can expect the process to take about 60 minutes, Willis said. Donors need to be in good health and must bring photo ID with them.

Then students will go through a registration process, have their temperature taken and meet with a nurse before blood is drawn.

The blood drive begins today in the EMU Fir Room and will run through Wednesday. Blood will be drawn from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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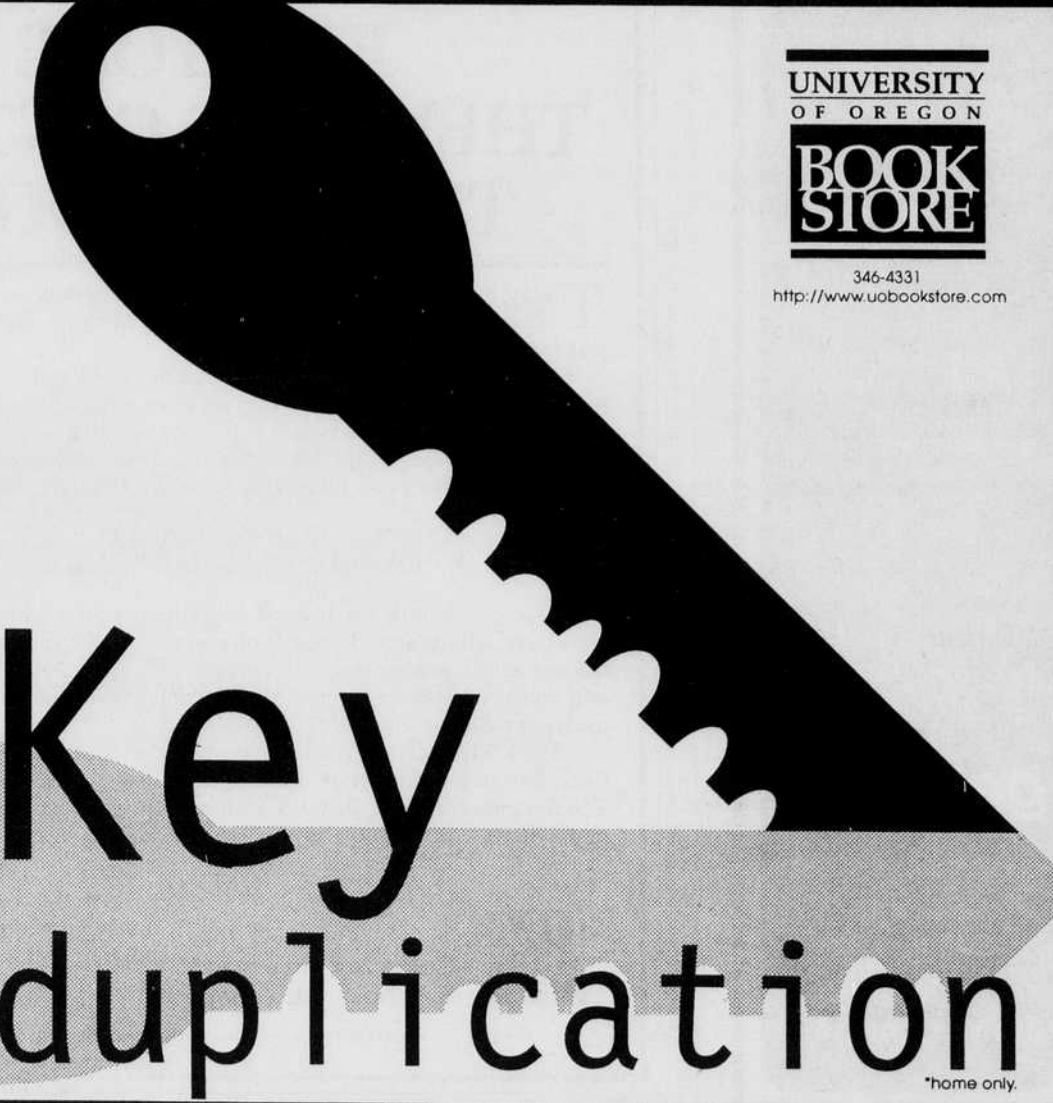
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