

## Leading history

### Black History Month person of the day

**Wilma Rudolph**, born June 23, 1940, in St. Bethlehem, Tenn., was the 20th of 22 children. As a young child, Rudolph was frequently ill, suffering through pneumonia, scarlet fever and polio, among other ailments. Rudolph was tutored at home until she was 7 years old, when she was enrolled in school. It wasn't until she was 11, after years of exercise, that she was able to walk without the aid of a metal leg brace.

In high school, after joining the basketball team, Rudolph was recruited by the track coach at Tennessee State University to join a summer sports camp. When she graduated from high school,

Rudolph received a full scholarship to Tennessee State and began to set her sights on the Olympics.

She participated in her first Olympic competition in 1956 and won the bronze in the 4x4 relay. In Rome in 1960, she became the first American woman to win three Olympic gold medals — in the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and as the anchor on the 400-meter relay team — after breaking world records in all of them, which won her notoriety as the "World's Fastest Woman."

Rudolph died at her home in Nashville, Tenn., in 1994 after a battle with brain cancer. She was 54.

— Jessica Richelderfer

# Groups debate issues

The College Republicans and College Democrats address affirmative action and Bush's economic stimulus plan

**Jennifer Bear**

Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

The College Republicans and College Democrats disproved claims that students are politically apathetic at their debate Tuesday night, when more than 100 people packed the EMU Fir Room to hear their arguments.

Organizers said it was one of the most successful joint debates the two groups had ever had. Jeff Oliver, the moderator for Tuesday night's debate, said only 10 people attended the college groups' last debate.

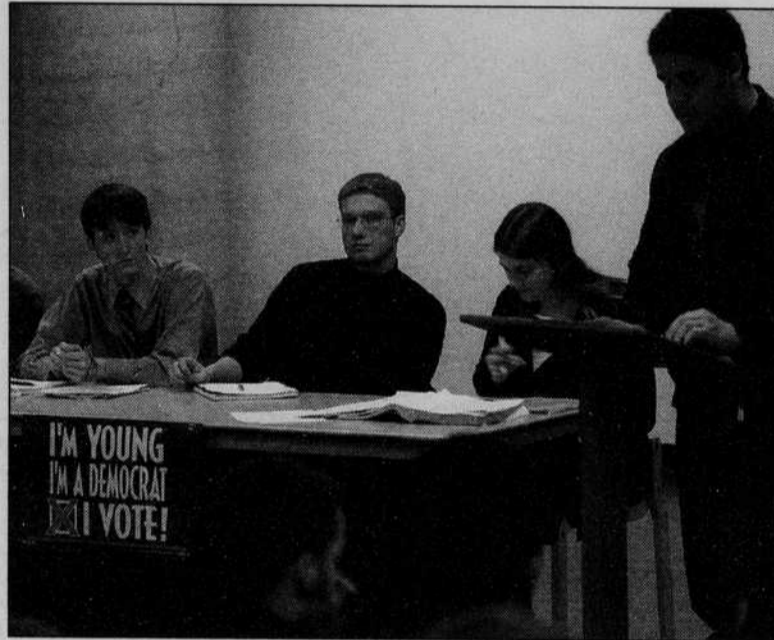
Each group had a six-person panel, two to argue each of the three topics — affirmative action, President Bush's economic stimulus plan and the impending war in Iraq.

Eathan Firpo and Samantha Bouton spoke on behalf of the College Democrats on the topic of affirmative action. Firpo said opponents' claims that affirmative action is no longer necessary in today's society is untrue. Bouton argued that discrimination is deeply ingrained in American institutions, and affirmative action is the only way to level the playing field.

However, College Republicans C.J. Sage and Anthony Warren argued that affirmative action was not a fair or effective method for helping disadvantaged people. Sage objected to affirmative action because he claimed it increases discrimination against minorities by saying they are incapable of helping themselves without the federal government's aid. Warren added that the Republican Party proposed a shift in focus from race to income status for determining which populations require assistance.

"When students are graded on their ethnic background, not their merits, that is wrong," Warren said. "There is no longer the nationwide ignorance and hatred there once was. Affirmative action does not solve the problems of discrimination when it's based on race."

Scott Austin and Greg McNeill defended President George W. Bush's economic stimulus plan for the College Republicans. Their core arguments were that the proposed tax cuts would benefit everyone, not just the wealthy, and returning taxpayers' money will help the ailing economy in the long run.



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Young Republican C.J. Sage spoke about affirmative action as Young Democrats Samantha Bouton, Eathan Firpo and Mike Linman look on in the EMU Fir Room on Tuesday night for a Republican and Democrat debate.

In the College Democrats corner, co-Chairman Mike Linman and Ben McKee said Bush's economic stimulus plan was not the answer because it failed to address the key to pumping life back into the economy — increasing consumer spending.

Kevin Curtin and Paul Griffes denounced going to war with Iraq. Neither College Democrat disputed claims that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein is "evil," but they still argued the United States should not engage in a military attack against Iraq. Curtin said there are many brutal dictators around the world, yet Bush is obsessed with a war in Iraq. He added that al-Qaida is America's biggest threat right now, and the Bush administration has failed to provide sufficient proof that Hussein is connected with al-Qaida.

College Republicans Vince Martorano and Matthew Lawrence said the Republican Party firmly supports going to war against Iraq. Martorano said U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell provided sufficient evidence of the threat Hussein poses to America and the world at the United Nations Security Council meeting.

A member of the audience cranked the tension level up a notch when he asked if the University should take a stance regarding the war.

Lawrence said that if the University condemned the war in Iraq, it would alienate students with opposing beliefs.

"A resolution would push them away, and it would scare the hell out of them," he said.

Griffes' demeanor was mellow throughout the evening, but that changed when he gave his own opinion on the matter.

"The idea that the University should not be taking on political issues is fucking ludicrous," Griffes said, after stating that it was his personal belief, and not all of the members of the College Democrats agreed with him.

Mary Van Noy, a sophomore at the University and political science major, said she enjoyed the debate.

"They hit a bunch of different points, and I thought there was some really intelligent thought in there," Van Noy said.

Matt McConaghy, a sophomore business major, said he thought the two groups had picked important, relevant topics for discussion, and he planned on attending their next debate. However, he said debaters on both sides of the issues had room for improvement.

"At times, it was kind of like they were bantering to the crowd," McConaghy said.

Contact the senior news reporter at [jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com](mailto:jenniferbear@dailyemerald.com).

## Crime watch

### Theft and recoveries

The Department of Public Safety received three impounded bike reports and two stolen bike reports. DPS also received eight theft reports and three found-property reports.

**Friday, Feb. 21, 11:42 a.m.:** DPS received a report of a parking permit being stolen from a vehicle at the Gerlinger Annex parking area.

### Disorderly conduct

DPS received four suspicious subject reports, three graffiti reports, three dispute reports, two criminal trespass reports and two noise reports.

**Friday, Feb. 21, 5:40 p.m.:** DPS received a

report of a male subject punching another male at the School of Music.

**Saturday, Feb. 22, 5:19 p.m.:** DPS received a report of two subjects climbing on the side of Friendly Hall.

**Saturday, Feb. 22, 5:45 p.m.:** DPS received a report of a subject on the roof of the bike rack at Bean Complex.

**Sunday, Feb. 23, 12:38 a.m.:** DPS received a report of fireworks being set off at Walton Complex.

### Alcohol and drugs

DPS received reports of six alcohol-related incidents, three drug law violations and one issued MIP citation.

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A little off the top.  
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