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Facts stretched thin in VP debate

STUDENTS RESPOND TO ATTACKS EXCHANGED BY RUNNING MATES

BY PARKER HOWELL
& MEGHANN M. CLINIFF
NEWS REPORTERS

Supporters of the two major presidential campaigns rallied together Tuesday night on campus to watch the first and only debate between vice presidential hopefuls Dick Cheney and Sen. John Edwards.

Republican congressional candidate Jim Feldkamp joined College Republican members and other University students at The Break in the EMU to watch the debate, praising what he said was an inspiring level of political involvement at the University.

"It's great to see young voters excited about politics," Feldkamp said.

He said the viewing was a perfect way to watch the debates while connecting with the students he is working so hard to reach.

Feldkamp said both Cheney and Edwards' performances reflected their personalities, reiterating the Republican Party's preference for facts instead of fear.

"Fast lines and smooth talking come natural to Edwards, a

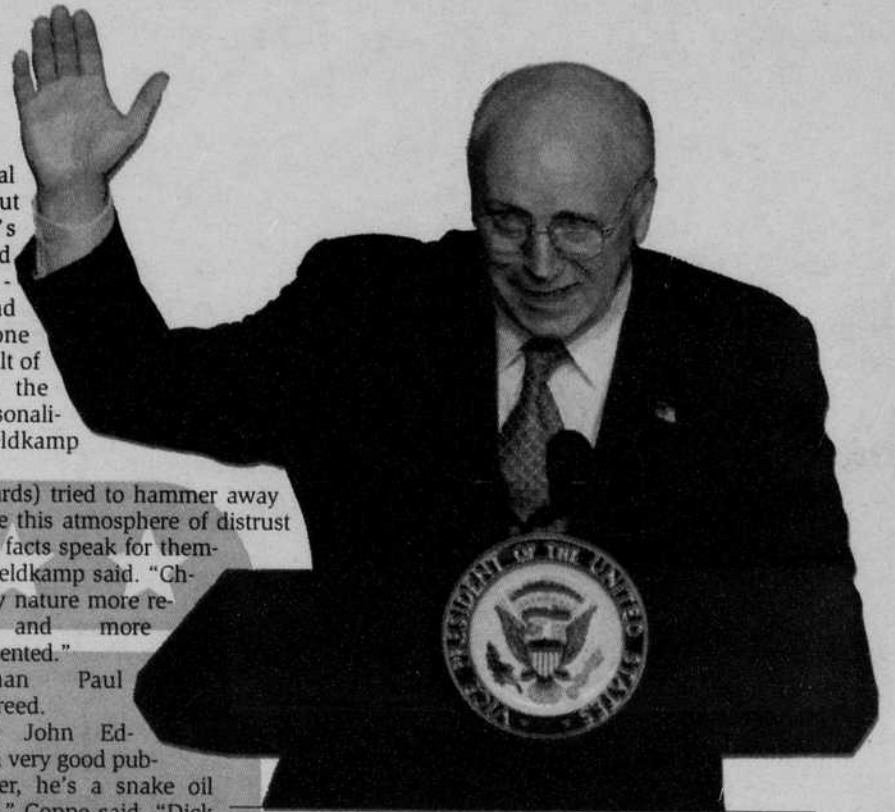
formal trial lawyer, but Cheney's reserved appearance and quiet tone are a result of his 'just the facts' personality," Feldkamp said.

"(Edwards) tried to hammer away and create this atmosphere of distrust when the facts speak for themselves," Feldkamp said. "Cheney is by nature more reserved and more factual-oriented."

Freshman Paul Coppe agreed.

"While John Edwards is a very good public speaker, he's a snake oil salesman," Coppe said. "Dick Cheney speaks more from the heart," he said, adding that Cheney is much more qualified to lead the country than Edwards could ever be.

Anyone still undecided about who to vote for should understand that "it's better to err on the side of caution and values you can trust than flashy gimmicks," Coppe said.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Though Edwards and Sen. John Kerry's ideas about America may sound wonderful, most are not feasible, junior Josh Tucker said, adding that neither candidate will discuss the ideas enough to give citizens adequate information to make a

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VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ON OFFENSIVE ABOUT CREDIBILITY, QUALIFICATIONS DURING DEBATES

BY TOM RAUM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — Sen. John Edwards accused the Bush administration Tuesday night of bungling the war in Iraq and presiding over a historic loss of jobs. "Your facts are just wrong," Vice President Dick Cheney shot back in a crackling campaign debate.

In a clash at close quarters, Edwards accused Cheney of "not being straight" with the American people about the war. He said U.S. casualties are rising monthly and the United States is bearing 90 percent of the cost and suffering 90 percent of the dead and wounded.

Cheney promptly challenged those figures,

saying the Iraqi security forces had taken nearly half of the casualties.

"For you to demean their sacrifice is beyond the pale," he said to Edwards, seated a few feet away.

"Oh, I'm not," Edwards protested before the vice president cut him off.

The debate format encouraged give-and-take, and neither the vice president nor Sen. John Kerry's running mate shrunk from the task.

"Frankly, senator, you have a record that's not very distinguished," Cheney said to the North Carolina lawmaker after accusing him of a pattern of absences in the Senate during his one term.

Edwards summed up his points like the former trial lawyer he is.

In a jab at the Bush-Cheney campaign's claim on experience, he said, "Mr. Vice President, I don't think the country can take four more years of this type of experience."

He also said that as a member of Congress more than a decade ago, Cheney voted against Head Start and banning plastic guns that can escape detection in metal detectors.

Edwards was on the attack from the opening moments of the debate.

He said that in addition to mismanaging the war in Iraq, the administration had Osama bin Laden cornered in the mountains of

Afghanistan at one point, but turned over the hunt for the mastermind behind the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to Afghan warlords.

"The senator has got his facts wrong," said Cheney. "We've never let up on Osama bin Laden from Day One. We've actively and aggressively pursued him."

In rebuttal to Edwards' charges on the war, Cheney repeatedly criticized the Democratic presidential nominee, Sen. John Kerry, for shifting positions on the conflict.

Referring to Kerry's debate with President Bush last week, Cheney said the four-term Massachusetts senator had declared he would

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DPS amps up bike rules citations

The renewed effort to enforce bike laws stems from increased complaints about violations during this past winter and spring

BY KARA HANSEN
NEWS REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety will increase enforcement of Oregon's bike rules starting Wednesday by posting new signs and issuing warnings to law-breaking riders for about a week before it begins handing out citations.

The efforts come in response to increased complaints last winter and spring from faculty and students on foot who were hit or nearly hit by bikes, DPS Lt. Herb Horner said.

"We periodically enforce things like this," Horner said, noting that a limited staff requires DPS to focus on individual issues for blocks of time. "Last year, complaints came daily. And the squeaky wheel gets the grease, so for a period of time officers will be out notifying people where to dismount and

educating people about the rules."

Starting Wednesday, four new sandwich-board signs warning riders to dismount will be posted during enforcement hours, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the ASUO Street Faire on East 13th Avenue. Beginning Monday, two of those signs will sit near the EMU, while the other two will be shifted between campus "problem areas," such as the walkway from the residence halls near Agate Street to the EMU, Horner said. A pathway near East 15th Avenue to Franklin Boulevard and a fire lane by the Knight Library and Gerlinger Annex to the EMU are the only designated bike routes on campus, not including main roads. Horner said riders who fail to dismount and walk at appropriate areas are subject to a \$20 fine, and no skateboarding is allowed at the EMU.

While bikes are allowed on all main streets, including lanes on East 13th Avenue, there are many other rules that riders can unknowingly violate. DPS encourages riders to register their bikes, which is required on campus but has not been enforced. Students who don't attach their bikes to designated racks risk having them impounded and incurring a \$10 fee if they aren't registered. Registering a bike increases the chance of getting it back if it's impounded, lost or stolen, Horner said.

In addition, bicyclists are subject to general moving-vehicle rules.

"The rules establish that the speed limit on a skateboard or bike is 15 mph," Horner said. "But some bikes, they're flying."

And although the speed limit is difficult to regulate, at least one Eugene Police Department officer will be on campus daily to enforce other moving vehicle regulations, which restrict bikes as they would cars.

In Oregon, people on bikes have the same

BIKES, page 7

IN BRIEF

The ASUO Street Faire makes a comeback to satisfy hunger

Students looking to grab a bite between classes will be flooded with new options for the rest of the week.

The ASUO Steet Faire, which has been a biannual event on campus since 1970, will run from today until Friday.

"We have about 70 vendors — both craft and food vendors," Marketing Director Kelly O'Brien said.

The vendors will be on East 13th Avenue near University Street from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. In addition, nonprofit groups will have tables set up in the EMU Amphitheater, while Dee Jays play music during the day.

Vendors will provide a wide range of goods from as far north as Canada and as far west as Kansas, O'Brien said.

Money raised from renting tables to vendors will go to the ASUO.

"This is one of the office's biggest fundraisers," O'Brien said.

— Gabe Bradley