

Writers speak for candidates in mock forum

Greg Tully as Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton

Frank Jordan as Independent Candidate H. Ross Perot

Robert A. Hibberd as President George Herbert Walker Bush

Questioning by Clackamas Print Columnist Eric St. Anthony's

In an effort to increase student voter awareness of the Presidential Candidates, *The Clackamas Print* has put together this little fireside chit-chat of the issues. Since the three candidates were not available, some staff members will be representing the candidates' positions to the best of their knowledge.

Who do you feel is at fault for the current economic crisis?

Clinton: The current economic disaster known as the Bush

any problem it is probably due to congress' mismanagement.

What do you think is the best policy for economic growth?

Bush: Well as you may or may not know I have appointed James Baker as Economic Czar. We have a plan for continued economic growth that involves free trade, tax cuts and spending cuts. I'm calling for less regulation over American businesses. The question I have to ask at this time - and I direct this to the American people - is: Who do you trust to run the country? I think that's all I have to say on this issue.

Clinton: It's interesting that Mr. Bush would mention de-regulation. The idea seems to be: if it worked so well for the S&L's, let's try it with all American businesses. On trust, Mr. Bush has

are both equally concerned about the status of American families. We should stick it to those fathers who have abandoned their family responsibilities and make them pay for the children that they have produced.

Clinton: I believe very strongly in the American family. When George Bush talks of "family values," he uses it as a coded message for the type of hatred and fear he has promoted every time he seeks public office. I believe in the Family Leave Bill, which has been adopted by every other industrialized nation on Earth. The fact is Bush has done nothing to crack down on delinquent fathers, while it would be one of the top priorities of a Clinton Administration.

What do you think is the best policy for health care?

Clinton: Al Gore and I have a plan that would cover everyone with a basic package of health insurance and, at the same time, reduce the rising cost of health care which threatens to cripple the American family and increase the national debt. This plan would take on pharmaceutical companies which make U.S. consumers pay twice as much for medicine as they charge in Canada for the same drug. We would establish a health care board to crack down on the \$75 billion a year in fraudulent billing. And we would protect those on Medicare while

into the twenty-first century.

Perot: A woman's decision is her own. What I cannot understand is how the current President can be against abortion, but for capital punishment. What do you do? It's like throwing the fish back after you catch it.

Bush: I have a real problem with the amount of abortions that happen each year in this country. I believe that if you do the crime than you should do the time.

Closing statements?

Bush: If a major world crisis were to occur, who do you want to see on your television when you turn it on to see who is in control of the situation? Who do you want to be the president if something really scary were to happen. I'm talking about a big-time crisis, like a nuclear war or something. Who do you trust to be on your TV? Do you trust Governor Clinton, who betrayed his country by dodging the draft and opposing the war, or do you trust me. You know, when I was shot down during World War II and I was awaiting rescue in the big water, I thought about all those war protesters and how un-American they were. I am the one you should trust. I never dodged the draft or burned American flags in Moscow.

Clinton: As usual, George Bush is sinking to the desperate politics of fear and lies. Who do you trust, a president who flip-flopped on unemployment benefits, the civil rights bill, policies towards Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, "No new taxes," "15 million new jobs," abortion, "voodoo economics," aid to L.A. and lord knows what else? Or do you trust a man who has worked

for 12 years as an agent of change? I know I can get this country moving again in the right direction. End the politics of hate, end the era of a man who has run out of ideas, creating fascist governments in Panama and Iraq and then sent our young men to die removing them from power, and, finally, end the horrifying specter of "President Dan Quayle." Vote for me and Al Gore for a change.

Perot: This country is in critical condition. People are out of work, health care costs are skyrocketing, the education system

"Who do you want to be the president if something really scary were to happen?"

—Hibberd as Bush

Decision 1992 President George Bush Governor Bill Clinton H. Ross Perot

administration has so pitifully mismanaged foreign affairs that we currently have no strategy to deal with the crippling national debt, ballooning costs of health care or the global recession. Twelve years of trickle-down economics has made the rich richer, the poor poorer and dwindled the middle class to an almost invisible entity. The time has come for a change.

Perot: My volunteers have entrusted me to work on getting this five-star migraine headache of a problem that we call the fed-

"The only way to get this crazy aunt out of the basement is to put America back to work. . ."

—Jordan as Perot

eral debt under control. The only way to get this crazy aunt out of the basement is to put America back to work so we can have more workers to help pay the bills. Do you hear me, people? \$4 trillion is a little more than change in the collection plate. The time to start is now.

Bush: That's a good question, Eric, and I'm glad that you asked it because I have been wanting to talk to the American people about this issue of the economy. I do not know why the media keep saying that we are in the middle of an economic crisis when I proclaimed just last year that the recession was over. We are streamlining government spending and we are providing big breaks for the American people and believe that the majority of Americans are happy with their economic situation. If there is

broken his tax pledge, embraced an economic theory that he once called "voodoo economics," and has ignored the problems of this country for three and one half years. I've spent the last 12 years creating jobs and that's why Arkansas has created more jobs in the private sector than Bush has in the other 49. My plan includes tax fairness, investment in education and training, jobs programs in the technologies of the future and a trade plan that forces other countries to play by fair rules or we'll play by yours.

Perot: We have got to get America back to work. Enough with the slow dancin' that the big mouthed Washington types just waltz through year after year. Jobs will stimulate economic growth and we won't need to raise taxes to do that. My advisors are working on the problem and it is up to the voters to put me in to get the job accomplished.

And "family values". . . ? How about the Family Leave Bill?

Perot: Family values are important, but this is not what is ailing the country. Economic growth will take care of the prosperity that we all seek as Americans. Whatever the family unit may be, put me in the house in Washington and we will grab the bull by the horns and solve the problem.

Bush: I am the Family Values President. My administration and I have worked very hard for the past four years to protect and preserve the way of life enjoyed by those who have realized the American Dream and I will ensure that we continue to do so in the next four years. Bar and I

"As usual, Bush is sinking to the desperate politics of fear and lies."

—Tully as Clinton

George Bush would decrease their coverage.

Perot: Doctors make too much money, hospitals charge too much, and people running those hospitals can retire at age 40. What do we have to do to get affordable health care? My advisors are working on the problem and I will have a solution by the time I put my hand on the Bible on January 20.

Bush: Our health care system is in just fine shape. The real problem is those greedy lawyers and their outrageous malpractice suits. They have driven the price of insurance up so high that it is almost impossible for a doctor to make a living. Governor Clinton wants to set up a health care package that will bankrupt the pharmaceutical industry, making it impossible for senior citizens to get the medicine that they need. I won't do that.

Clinton: If I could respond: Malpractice costs are the lowest in the country in Arkansas because of sound policies. An independent study group has determined that my plan would save hundreds of billions of dollars and cover every American while Bush's "plan" would rise prices tremendously and leave more and more people without health care.

What about the abortion issue?

Clinton: I'm pro-choice. Period. Let's get out of women's private decisions and on to the issues that can move this country

More than three to choose from Consider all the parties before you make your vote

by Eric St. Anthony's Staff Writer

Some choice this year, huh? We can choose from:

(Republican) GEORGE BUSH, the current president, the inheritor of the Reagan Economic Ideals, political experience galore and more on the federal level, onetime representative from Texas, onetime diplomat to China, (Democrat) BILL CLINTON, the Arkansian Governor, with political experience on the state level, having been Attorney General prior to 12 years of making Arkansas a better state, and ROSS PEROT, the political newcomer and proven business leader.

But I am deeply disappointed with the two major parties for not getting anything done nationally. For the last 130 years or so, they held an oligopoly on political power, and their choices for what to do about this country's problems read like Cola Wars (because there are two major players in that one).

And since there were two other

candidates that the major newspapers blatantly overlooked, I decided to be historic. Never before has any journalist decided to look at some other candidates from other parties before...until now.

So what are we waiting for? (Libertarian) ANDRE MAR-ROU, former Representative from Alaska, now the flagbearer for the nation's third-most popular political party, and (New Alliance) LENORA FULANI, the first woman to run for President, the first African-American to run for President, a psychotherapist out of Harlem, New York, the nation's largest African-American urban area on the island of Manhattan. She is the leader of the nation's fourth-most popular political party.

What I am trying to say is that you have more of a choice than you think, so look at all candidates carefully, especially those from the other political parties. Your Voters' Pamphlet should run down the list of candidates.