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Bush says he's open to debate with Ferraro

By ROBIN BLACK
Senior Staff Writer

Vice President George Bush said Tuesday he has agreed to a debate with Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, and details of the debate are now being negotiated, but said he is not prepared to say definitely what will happen.

Bush, who opened MSC Political Forum's first program in 1967, was on campus to open this year's program with a campaign speech.

Although a debate between two vice presidential candidates would be unusual, Bush said he doesn't think the emphasis is in the wrong place.

"I want to focus on the top of the ticket," he said, "and they're doing the same thing — Ferraro has been attacking Reagan."

On other campaign issues Bush said:

"I am absolutely convinced that if we do our jobs right, this campaign will result in the re-election of Ronald Reagan for a second term as president of the United States."

The vice president said later in a news conference that talk of complacency within the Republican party was unfounded and that the party instead has a "certain confidence" about the election.

Bush based his confidence in the November election on the Reagan administration's record.

"America is back," he said. "The economy is on the move again. We've stopped experimenting with our children's education."

"Our streets are safer and our communities are more secure."

"America is back and America is strong. We've built up our military and under Ronald Reagan's sure and guiding hand, America has regained the admiration of her friends and the respect of her adversaries."

Bush denied Mondale's charges that the Reagan administration has botched all efforts to negotiate arms agreements with the Soviet Union.

"Mondale is jumping all over the president for not negotiating with the Soviet Union," he said, "and he doesn't have any grounds to be saying that."

He said the Russians are at fault for cutting off all arms talks.

"Well," he said, "President Reagan is the only American president to have three Soviet leaders in three and a half years."

Bush also said in the news conference that he does not feel that the Republicans have Texas wrapped up as a victory for the Reagan-Bush ticket yet.

"Right now," he said, "we are taking nothing for granted."

Bush strongly attacked Mondale's stand on the Central America situation.

"Our opponents won't acknowledge the Communist threat in Central America," he said.

For proof, Bush held up an envelope that had gone through the Nicaraguan postal service. The envelope sported the Communist emblem and two Marxist stamps.

"The power in Nicaragua is Marxist," he said. "They're not just liberals, like Mondale said. If you walk like a duck and look like a duck and talk like a duck, you're a duck! These people are Marxists!"

"They (the Democrats) have consistently opposed sending aid to the democratically elected government of El Salvador and have voted to cut off aid to the Nicaraguan freedom fighters."

The speech was sponsored by MSC Political Forum, a non-partisan group that brings political leaders to the University.

Rudder Auditorium, with a capacity of about 2,500, was full and a simulcast was set up in the smaller Rudder Theater for those who couldn't get into the auditorium.

A spokesman for the group said Sunday that although Bush's speech would be a campaign speech, it would not be a political rally.



Photo by Dean Saito

Vice President George Bush waves to the crowd Tuesday afternoon after speaking in Rudder Auditorium. The Aggie-

band played the Aggie War Hymn as Bush shook hands with special guests.

Employee dies after awards ceremony

By DAINAH BULLARD
Staff Writer

An employee of the Texas Engineering Extension Service collapsed Tuesday during an awards ceremony in Rudder Tower and died a short time later. Robert W. Wagner, 60, was pronounced dead on arrival at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan at 12:03 p.m.

Ernest A. Wentreck, associate director of business affairs at TEEEX, said Wagner collapsed while walking to the stage to receive a distinguished service award.

Several TEEEX employees administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation to Wagner, and emergency medical technicians and a paramedic from Texas A&M Emergency Medical Services arrived at Rudder Tower immediately, Wentreck said.

The College Station Fire Department also responded.

Ambulance chief David Phillips said a University Police officer and a TEEEX employee were administering CPR to Wagner when emergency personnel arrived. Phillips said the responding EMT's assumed rescue efforts and transported Wagner to St. Joseph Hospital. Wagner never revived, Phillips said.

Elizabeth Scott, spokesperson for St. Joseph Hospital, said the unofficial cause of death is cardiac arrest.

Wagner collapsed during an awards ceremony which ended an annual two-day TEEEX conference. Wagner, an associate training specialist for vocational industrial teacher education, was supposed to receive one of four awards presented at the ceremony.

Before Wagner's collapse, distinguished service awards were presented to Lawrence Burnside, manager of the Public Works Resource Center, and Joseph J. Polasek, administrative services officer. A fourth distinguished employee award was presented to Wentreck after Wagner was taken to the hospital.

"At the time they took him to the hospital, nobody realized it was that serious," Wentreck said. "It was very much a shock to everyone in the organization."

Wagner was employed at TEEEX from 1967 until 1973, Wentreck said. After teaching school for a year, Wagner was rehired at TEEEX in 1974, Wentreck said.

Wagner had been active in the field of vocational industrial education for 22 years and was responsible for the analysis and course-making program within the Vocational Industrial Teacher Education Division of TEEEX.

He assisted in statewide vocational education state meets for nearly 20 years, helping about 1,000 people gain expertise as vocational education teachers through secondary programs.

A native of Junction City, Kan., Wagner was a member of Phi Delta Kappa, an organization for professional educators. He also was a member of the Iota Lambda Sigma Society for vocational teachers, in which he served as state president during 1974-1975.

Wagner earned a bachelor's degree in 1950 from Kansas Wesleyan University, and a master's degree in education from Texas A&M in 1969.

"He was a wonderful person ... he was a diligent worker," Wentreck said. "He believed in vocational training and in helping others to help themselves. The fact that he was selected for the distinguished service award by his peers says enough for him right there."

Wagner is survived by his wife, Margie, of College Station; his three sons, Charles John, of College Station; Gregory Allan, of Austin; and Robert William Jr., of Austin; and five grandchildren. Funeral services are pending with Memorial Funeral Chapel.

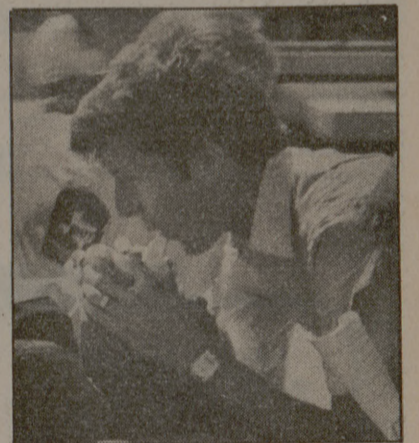


Photo by Robert Rizzo

Robert W. Wagner, 60, receives cardiopulmonary resuscitation after collapsing during an awards ceremony.

Bomb threat forces station evacuation after one explosion kills three, injures 41

United Press International

MONTREAL — A bomb threat forced evacuation of Montreal's main railway station Tuesday less than 24 hours after a bomb explosion ripped through the building, killing three people and injuring 41. No new bomb was found.

Police also investigated numerous "targets" mentioned in a letter threatening Pope John Paul II and linked to Monday's bombing. The pope begins a Canadian visit Sunday.

Police detained a 30-year old man who was "seen walking around" the station after a French-speaking caller phoned police claiming a second bomb had been planted in the railway station, police spokesman

Real Cantin said. Police withheld details on the man.

Officers evacuated the station and closed it from shortly after 8 a.m. to 11:55 a.m. A search turned up a suspicious parcel left on top of a locker that turned out to be a lunch packed in a styrofoam cooler.

The bomb scare came less than 24 hours after a bomb exploded inside the station crowded with Labor Day travelers, killing three people and injuring 41.

At the Vatican, a spokesman said there would be no changes in the pope's scheduled 11-day visit to Canada which begins Sunday with the pontiff's arrival in Quebec.

John Paul is to arrive by train Monday evening at Montreal's

Windsor Station, about a block from Central Station, and is to stay at the Roman Catholic archdiocese located in the block between the two stations.

Police Tuesday questioned American Thomas Brigham, 65, about two rambling nearly incoherent letters believed connected to the bombing.

One of the letters, delivered to a ticket agent at Central Station last Friday, threatened the pope and noted a time and date, 8:30 a.m. Sept. 3, 1984, less than an hour before the bomb exploded at 9:22 a.m.

Police spokesman Pierre Vezina said that letter "revealed a lot of targets and we investigated right away." He would not disclose the other alleged targets.

A second letter written with the same block lettering and title "A parable of Job" was found by police in the Victoria Hotel above the station after the bombing. It praised the "valiant death" of the woman and two men who died in the blast.

"The reason why he (Brigham) was being detained is because he might have written them (the letters). One before and one after. We don't know very much about him," Constable Bob Mireault said.

Lt. Jean-Louis Helie, chief of the Montreal police homicide squad, said Brigham was taken into custody when police "got leads from the notes and they led us to him." He refused to elaborate.

In Today's Battalion

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State

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National

• Congress tries to avoid lame duck session. See story page 10.