

Texas leaders differ in opinion on debate result

Associated Press
 Texas political leaders predictably differed on who came out on top in Sunday night's nationally televised debate between presidential candidates George Bush and Michael Dukakis.

Gov. Bill Clements, a Republican, called the 90-minute debate a clear victory for Vice President Bush, while State Treasurer Ann Richards, the keynote speaker at this year's national Democratic Convention, said Bush appeared confused and that Dukakis "looked presidential." Clements said the debate presented a clear focus of the two candidates' positions on the issues.

"He (Bush) showed Michael Dukakis for what he is — a liberal Massachusetts politician who is out of step with the majority of the people of this country, and especially the people of Texas," Clements said.

"After watching this debate, America should know there is a clear and distinct choice: we can continue with the kind of leadership that has brought America back to greatness, or we can start over again with Carter-Mondale-Dukakis liberal programs," the governor said.

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, also a Republican, called the meeting "probably the best quality presidential debate we have had."

Gramm said, "I don't think either candidate scored a knockout in the debate, but I believe George Bush did what he had to do to win the election. He came across as being more of a leader and more of a real person. Michael Dukakis had to win this debate in order to get back into the race. He not only did not do that, but I think in terms of overall impression, he was a loser."

Richards, a possible Democratic gubernatorial candidate in 1990, expressed satisfaction with the debate. "Dukakis seemed in command of the issues, certainly in command of information," she said. "I thought he looked presidential."

"I thought that George Bush... sometimes has difficulty... I've never really known whether he's confused about facts or simply mis-speaks himself... the silver foot syndrome," Richards said. "I thought some of that was evident."

"I thought both of the men handled themselves well, although I thought Bush visibly lost his temper, which is a no-no in a debate."

Texas GOP state chairman Fred Meyer of Dallas said he liked the debate because "the contrast between the candidates was very apparent... and that worked to George Bush's favor, because his stance on the issues is one that is the stance of most of the people, and certainly the people in Texas."

Meyer said, "I thought he (Bush) was very relaxed and communicated his position very well. You notice that Dukakis danced every year around the tax issue without answering the question." Gramm said he thought Dukakis came across "especially weak" on foreign policy and defense. He also thought Dukakis was poor with his indignation when he argued how anyone could accuse him of not being patriotic when he was the son of an immigrant.

At stake in the debate, considered by many to be the most important event in the 1988 presidential campaign, was an edge in a campaign rated a tossup in most national polls.

Texas, with its 29 electoral votes and home to two of the candidates running for national office, is viewed as a key state in the election.

A statewide poll released earlier Sunday found Bush had a solid 10-point lead over Dukakis.



Photo by Scott D. Weaver

Peaceful Protest

Paul Perry pickets the Plitt Cinema Three to protest the opening of the film "The Last Temptation of Christ" Saturday evening.

Bush, Dukakis clash over deficits, patriotism

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. (AP) — George Bush and Michael Dukakis clashed over deficits, drugs and the Pledge of Allegiance in a crackling campaign debate Sunday night. Bush said, "I hope people don't think I'm questioning his patriotism," but Dukakis said he was and added, "I resent it."

Bush said his sharp campaign attacks were meant to question Dukakis' judgment on matters like his membership in the liberal American Civil Liberties Union and his veto of legislation requiring teachers in Massachusetts to lead their students in reciting the pledge.

But Democrat Dukakis, saying he hoped he wouldn't have to repeat himself, replied: "Of course the vice president is questioning my patriotism. I don't think there's any question about that. And I resent it. I resent it."

The clash came little more than 30 minutes into the 90-minute nationally televised confrontation. At stake was an edge in a contest rated a tossup in most national polls. With many voters undecided or wavering, both campaigns viewed the showdown as a potentially pivotal event.

The formal debate rules were designed to prohibit direct candidate-to-candidate comment, but there was no shortage of hostilities.

Bush worked into one answer that Boston city police had endorsed him

over their hometown candidate. Replying to a Bush comment about being haunted by the plight of underprivileged children, Dukakis said, "I must have been living through a different eight years than the ones the vice president has been living through." He said programs had been "cut and slashed and butchered and they hurt kids all over this country."

In their argument over ways to cut the deficit, the vice president depicted his rival as a tax-raiser and the Democrat suggested that Bush would cut Social Security.

Both men aimed snappy comments at the other in the debate's opening moments.

Dukakis was asked to specify three programs he would cut to curb the federal budget, and said he would reduce "certain weapons systems, which we don't need and can't afford." He also said he would try to implement a program of collecting delinquent taxes that has been successful in Massachusetts.

With that, he focused on Bush, and said the Republican wants to spend more on defense, cut capital gains taxes, spend more money on other programs yet impose no new taxes.

"If he's serious about what he's saying the only way he can do it is by raiding the Social Security trust fund," Dukakis said.

"If he keeps this up, he's going to be the Joe Isuzu of American politics," he said, drawing laughter from the audience with his reference to the television advertising character who exaggerates everything he says about the cars he's selling.

"Is this the time to unleash our line liners?" Bush said in response. "That answer was about as clear as

Boston Harbor," he said in reference to environmental problems in Dukakis' home state.

The first question of the debate was about drugs, and Dukakis took the offensive by questioning Bush's leadership on the problem.

Bush said the reason drug use was exploding was because of a "deterioration of values."

Dukakis agreed, but said values must begin with the nation's leaders. He accused the Reagan administration of dealing with Panamanian

Gen. Noriega, whom he referred to as a "drug-running dictator. We've been dealing with him, he's been dealing drugs to our kids."

Bush swiftly replied that the Reagan administration moved quickly to indict Noriega on drug charges as soon as it had evidence.

Bush and Dukakis were all smiles as they walked onto the debate stage. They met midway and shook hands before taking their positions behind wooden podiums.

Shuttle flight delayed eight hours because of 'lagging preparations'

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA postponed the start of the countdown for space shuttle Discovery by eight hours Sunday because of lagging preparations, but still aimed for a Thursday morning liftoff.

"We're still on the timeline for launch on the 29th and that's the plan," launch director Bob Sieck said.

The countdown was rescheduled to begin at 8 a.m. EDT Monday for the first manned American space flight since the Challenger blew up over the Atlantic 32 months ago.

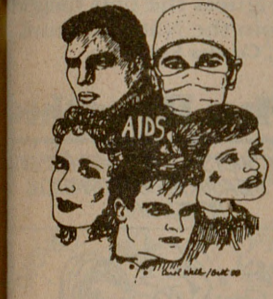
The space agency had added 27 unprogrammed hours to the countdown as insurance for last-minute problems, and Sieck said eight hours of that time would

be used in advance to complete the work of replacing panels and work platforms.

NASA had planned to start the countdown at midnight, but "buttoning up" the aft end of the spaceplane — akin to closing the hood on a car — was delayed by a problem that had the potential of postponing the launch for two days.

Low voltage readings were found in an electrical circuit that triggers the explosive charges used to separate the shuttle from its fuel tank when the tank is empty. Eventually engineers determined that the fault was in a ground circuit, which does not affect the flight.

Expert: Education holds key to AIDS epidemic



By Kelly S. Brown
 Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is the first in a three-part series on acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Staff writer Kelly Brown attended a state conference on "AIDS and the College Campus — Policies and Perspectives" earlier this month. AIDS is not going away. The number of those infected is not decreasing. It has invaded the lives of homosexuals and heterosexuals, rich and poor, young and old. Immunity to AIDS can be achieved only through education and application of that education, an expert on AIDS says.

Dr. Richard Keeling, director of student health at the University of Virginia, said in the American College Health Association Special Report that many people know about AIDS, but they don't know exactly what it is — and many don't want to be told.

Barbara Tyler, a staff physician at A.P. Beutel Health Center, said, "A&M has no reason to believe that we are different from any other university — AIDS is here and the numbers are increasing."

After AIDS was identified in 1981, it took a lot of deaths and a lot of publicity before America began to listen — really listen — to the dangers of AIDS.

"The personal tragedy of Rock Hudson in the summer of 1985, like the discovery of AIDS cases in children several years earlier, initiated an epidemic of fear," Tyler said. "However, studies have shown that the accuracy of information the public possesses is considerably less impressive than the fear many feel."

"Next year at this time there will be twice as many cases of AIDS as there are today. And from that number, two or three times as many people have AIDS-Related Complex."

ARC, Keeling said, includes some symptoms of infection with the causative agents of AIDS, but does not meet the Center for Disease Control's definition of AIDS.

"There are many other people, apparently healthy, who are infected with human T-lymphotropic virus, type III (HTLV III), which is the virus that causes AIDS," he said. "Of the people who have this, some are infectious carriers who can transmit the disorder, while others are not. And most of these people don't even know they are carriers and that they can infect others."

Tyler said she encourages any students or faculty who think they might be infected to come to the health center for testing. The center will give the HIV testing with informed consent, but the report will not go in the patient's official medical record.

The outlook for people with the severe form of AIDS is exceedingly

bleak, and the months and years of their survival is often tainted by hospital stays and debility, Keeling said.

But for some, he said, the most devastating blow is when they are told of the incubation period for AIDS. While incubation usually takes less than three years, sometimes five or more years may pass between the time of exposure and the development of symptoms of AIDS itself.

"No wonder then, people are afraid — a new disease, a relatively short period of observation, rapidly increasing numbers of cases, a long clinical incubation period, healthy carriers, and a dreadful outlook," Keeling said.

Looking at current evidence, researchers say that so far they only know of AIDS being spread through needle sharing, sexual contact and less commonly, blood. The Harris County Medical Society and the Houston Academy of Medicine describe what happens to the immune system when a person has AIDS. Usually, when antibodies fail in fighting a sickness, the immune system battles the virus. White blood cells find the infected cells and destroy them.

But the AIDS virus attacks these cells that normally are protectors, the HCMS said. The virus then takes control by turning the white blood

cells into mini-factories for making more viruses. After a cell is taken over, it fills with thousands of new viruses, dies and releases those viruses, which attack more white blood cells.

This process recurs until the defense system becomes so weakened that certain infections and conditions which normally could be fought off, win the battle.

Carriers are virus-infected individuals with no symptoms of the disease. Most carriers are unaware that they are infected, the HCMS said. These individuals represent a major potential source of new infection since they are fully capable of transmitting the virus to others.

Those who get AIDS might live a week from the time they are told they are infected, or they may live for many years, but the outcome is usually the same — the person dies.

Meeting victim brings understanding of AIDS

By Kelly S. Brown
 Staff Writer

It seems that every time we pick up a newspaper, read a magazine or watch TV, words about AIDS are read or heard. The facts are there, and sometimes a face, but we can turn off the TV or turn the page and the cries are quieted, the faces gone.

Viewpoint

They're gone only from our minds, though. Behind every AIDS story and statistic is a real person wishing they could keep turning the pages.

But they can't. Without a cure, the numbers of those infected with

AIDS continues to rise, and education programs, like the conference on AIDS I attended last week, are being relied on so that prevention will become the rule and force the numbers to drop.

When the conference broke for lunch, there was a mad race to get the prime tables, which were closest to the speaker. I was the last one to enter the dining room and there was one remaining seat. As I sat down, the young woman beside me introduced herself as Penny. This initiated introductions around the table.

Around me were health center workers, two doctors, three nurses and a vice president of a college.

The talk around the table focused mostly on how colleges are handling

AIDS, how students aren't handling AIDS, and how moist the cheesecake was.

I could only comment on the latter because I knew very little about the consensus of how everyone is handling or not handling AIDS. I was the only one at the table who had never known or met anyone with AIDS.

One of the doctors spoke of the AIDS patient who would be the closing guest speaker. No one knew who he or she was, but we all wondered if the person were there.

Talk wasn't all about AIDS. Penny had us laughing with her keen sense of humor. Even when she was slightly serious with her honest and blunt opinions, she would still slip in a sarcastic word or two.

When we returned to the conference room, Penny took her daughter, who was almost three, aside and introduced me to her. I told her jokingly she should have had her husband take girl for the day. She smiled.

The day was winding down and there was but one speaker left — the person with AIDS — whom the conference was really all about.

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As the speaker was called, Penny arose from her seat in the back of the room, handed her daughter to a woman, and walked to the microphone at the front of the room.

I was stunned. Wait a minute, I