

A&M students endorse Bush during debate about election

By Lesa Y. Smith Reporter

Texas A&M students gave George Bush a landslide vote as president of the United States in a mock election held last night.

"Who Should be Elected President of the United States: George Bush or Michael Dukakis?" was sponsored by the A&M Debate Society in 301 Rudder.

Terri McGee, pro-Bush and senior health education major, said Bush is in touch with the American dream.

McGee spoke about Bush's stand on defense, choosing Dan Quayle as vice president and domestic issues.

"Bush is strong on national defense and nuclear weapons," she said. Keeping the Soviets out of the United States is why there is a need for nuclear weapons.

McGee said Quayle knows about defense, is serious about responsibility and is mature.

"He (Quayle) will collaborate, cooperate and come up with the best plans for America," she said.

Bush supports child care, employer sponsored day care and the death penalty for 'Drug King Pins.'

He opposes furloughs for criminals who have committed serious crimes.

Mike Fortner, pro-Dukakis and freshman bio-medical science major, said Dukakis knows the government can't solve all the problems, but the government has the responsibility to lead.

Fortner spoke about Dukakis' ideology and records.

Dukakis wants the military and the police to have exclusive access to guns, Fortner said.

"The Republican charges on gun control are an insult to Texans' intelligence," he said.

Bush opposed a bill that would require

a seven day hold on purchasing a gun, Fortner said.

Dukakis turned the Massachusetts deficit into \$2 million surplus and reduced unemployment from 12 percent to three percent, Fortner said.

"Dealing with issues, Bush is a see nothing, hear nothing, do nothing kind of guy," Fortner said. "He blames other people for problems and passes the buck. He builds on Reagan's accomplishments instead of doing things for himself."

McGee said Dukakis supports conventional defense and nuclear freeze.

"America could not win a conventional war," she said.

Soviets are better prepared for conventional war, she said, but they fear our nuclear strength.

Abortion was discussed when the floor was opened for questions and answers. Most people said they didn't want to

pay for abortions with their tax dollars and agreed with Bush's abortion stance.

Kelly Minear, senior agriculture economics major, said, "I like the Reagan supply-side economics and Bush's plan on child support. Bush has experience dealing with the Russians, and I like that."

Tara Hall, freshman computer science major, said, "Dukakis represents most of my views on social issues. Without equal social, economic, and political factors, there is no opportunity for advancement except for those who already have it."

France Brown, former president of the Black Awareness Committee and senior speech communications major, said, "Dukakis supports my need as a black man and the needs of black people better than Bush. Bush has better qualifications, but he doesn't support me. I can't support him."

Palmer rocks A&M

Concert not irresistible but proves enjoyable

By Shane Hall Staff Writer

It wasn't simply irresistible, but it was a good show nevertheless as Robert Palmer brought his pulsating combination of heavy rock and funk to Texas A&M Tuesday night, playing to a sold-out crowd in Rudder Auditorium.

The concert, presented by MSC Town Hall, was originally scheduled to take place in G. Rollie White Coliseum, but was moved to Rudder Auditorium because of lagging ticket sales.

A fan of various styles of music from around the world, Palmer treated the crowd to some Africanized songs. One song, "Pride," was done in a Nigerian style of music called juju. Juju is similar to reggae in its use of a variety of percussion instruments and syncopated rhythms.

Palmer also performed songs from his early years, including his early hit, 1975's "Sneakin' Sally Through the Alley." This song perhaps best showed Palmer's approach to rock 'n' roll: the lead guitar taking a hard rock approach while the rhythm section ventures into areas of rhythm and blues, soul and funk. His subsequent recordings have, for the most part, followed this approach. Consider the title of his newest album: "Heavy Nova," a combination of heavy metal and bossa nova.



Photo by Scott D. Weaver

Robert Palmer

Midway through the show the lights, which were flashing across the stage in various colors, dimmed as the music took a turn for the mellow. Palmer then sang "Riptide," but it was not long before he had the crowd on its feet again as he led the band through a scorching version of his recent hit, "Simply Irresistible." This song brought deafening burst of applause from the audience, who seemed to love every second of the show.

The only real problem with Palmer's performance was that the show seemed staged. Some of the dance steps by Palmer and his backup vocalist looked to be the result of choreography rather than of spontaneity, which is always more interesting. However, this minor complaint aside, the concert was enjoyable, and one of the best rock shows to come to A&M in some time.

However, the small crowd of 2,500 did not seem to bother Palmer, who has been touring in smaller venues. In fact, more tickets were sold to Palmer's show at A&M than to his Houston performance.

Conservatively dressed in a sharply creased gray suit, Palmer performed songs that span his entire singing career, with much of the material drawn from his most recent solo albums, "Riptide" and "Heavy Nova." Palmer also performed hits from an album he recorded in 1985 as a member of the band Power Station.

Opening the concert with a Power Station hit, "Some Like It Hot," the show was off to a roaring start as Palmer led his group, consisting of six musicians and a backup vocalist, through a string of hit songs. The most impressive of these were "I Didn't Mean to Turn You On," "Hyperactive," and "Discipline of Love," all of them hits from the "Riptide" album. The crowd roared with excitement and danced in the aisles throughout the evening.

Texas' chief justice accuses opponent of tricking voters

AUSTIN (AP) — Chief Justice Tom Phillips of the Texas Supreme Court said Tuesday a television advertisement by his opponent, Justice Ted Robertson, deliberately attempts to trick voters by implying that Phillips — not Robertson — was the subject of a "60 Minutes" program, "Justice for Sale?"

Phillips and Republican political consultant Karl Rove appeared at a news conference to display ads from the two campaigns.

A TV ad for the Republican Phillips says, "Is justice for sale in Texas? '60 Minutes' asked that question and reported that Justice Ted Z. Robertson once took \$120,000 in campaign money from Clinton Manges and then switched his vote back and forth in a crucial case involving Manges."

"This year Robertson's taken over \$1 million in contributions from special interest lawyers. Tom Phillips has said 'No' to big money with strict contribution limits — tough new Chief Justice Tom Phillips for the integrity Texans deserve."

Phillips has a second ad which is similar to the one causing so much controversy in both the political and private forums.

A Robertson ad states, "'60 Minutes' asked the question, 'Is justice for sale in Texas?' Official records show that current Chief Justice Tom Phillips took \$178,000 from one special interest group alone. Phillips ruled for that special interest group in a crucial court case."

"This year Phillips has taken over \$1 million in contributions from special interests and corporate law firms. We need a new chief justice — Ted Z. Robertson, Democrat, Texas Supreme Court," the ad continues.

Rove said, "This is so cynical, so hypocritical... it is a really deceptive attempt by them to mask their biggest weakness, which is he (Robertson) was the subject of '60 Minutes.'"

Richard Jenson, a consultant for Robertson, said in response that Phillips' initial ads were "very, very deceptive" in suggesting that Robertson voted for Manges, a South Texas rancher-banker, when, in fact, Robertson had voted against Manges 12 of 13 times in various cases.

Jenson said if "60 Minutes" had done its program while Phillips was on the bench, he would have been featured.

"(He) raised more money from special interests groups than any other Supreme Court judge in Texas history," he said of his opponent who is causing the controversy.

Jury begins punishment phase for man in capital murder trial

GALVESTON (AP) — A man faces the death penalty or life in prison after being convicted of capital murder in the strangulation death of a former Clear Lake Shores council member.

Jurors began hearing testimony Tuesday morning in the punishment phase of Timothy Lane Gribble's trial, which has been going on for some time.

The jury in State District Judge I. Allan Lerner's court convicted Gribble in the death of Elizabeth "Libby" Jones after deliberating for five hours Monday morning.

"I'm obviously very happy," Galveston County District Attorney Mike Guarino said of the verdict. "I'm looking forward and getting on with the punishment phase."

Gribble, 25, a San Leon roofer, told authorities last October that he strangled Jones, 36, and left her partially clad body beneath some bushes in a secluded field in Dickinson after sexually assaulting her in her home. The police tried to investigate into the crime, but were unsure of her whereabouts.

Gribble later led authorities to the remains of her body and also to her purse, which he had tossed into the waters of Clear Lake.

Gribble had been helping in the remodeling of Jones' home when she disappeared Sept. 8, 1987. He was not immediately suspected in her disappearance.

Gribble's attorney, Mike Miller, conceded during closing arguments Monday

that Gribble was responsible for Jones' death, but he argued that prosecutors had not proved that he kidnapped her, which if not proven, would lessen his punishment.

Without that proof, he argued, his client could not be found guilty of a capital offense.

Under Texas law, a person can be found guilty of capital murder if he or she commits murder in conjunction with another felony, such as kidnapping, sexual assault or burglary.

However, Guarino pointed out that Gribble confessed that he made Jones get in his truck after sexually assaulting her

and forced her to lie flat on the truck's seat as he drove her to the field.

Gribble, convicted of rape in 1983, also has been indicted on a murder charge in the death of Donna Weis, 23, his former girlfriend from Texas City.

Weis had been missing 17 months before Gribble confessed in November that he killed her and buried her body in a field in Hitchcock in 1986.

He later confessed to strangling another unidentified woman hitchhiker in Fort Bend County in 1985.

That woman's body has not been found.

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