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Perot outpaces Clinton, Bush in poll

WASHINGTON (AP) — It is a long drive to Election Day, but in an April show of strength, not-yet-candidate Ross Perot sits atop the latest presidential poll in his home state of Texas.



Perot

It is dangerous to put too much stock in polls a full six months before the election, particularly one gauging the support of an unannounced and untested potential candidate such as Perot.

Still, the survey results are a slap at adopted Texan George Bush and another sign that Democrat Bill Clinton, who ran a distant third, is having trouble attracting the independent voters who swing presidential elections.

The survey also provides fresh evidence of the potent protest vote lurking in the electorate and a striking show of strength for Perot in the state with the third-most electoral votes.

The Texas Poll, released Tuesday, showed Perot supported by 35 percent, Bush by 30 percent, with 20 percent for Texas neighbor Clinton, the Arkansas governor and likely Democratic nominee.

Bush aides cast the numbers as the product of a media honeymoon for Perot that will not last if he enters the race as an independent, as now appears likely. Clin-

ton aides joined the Bush camp in predicting that closer scrutiny of Perot's business dealings and views would undercut his early favorable reviews.

"He better get ready for criticism," said White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, who predicted Bush "will do very well in Texas... we expect to win."

"It's not something we've given a whole lot of thought to at this point although we're certainly going to begin to give it more as it looks more like he is going to be in the contest," Clinton campaign manager David Wilhelm said of a Perot candidacy.

Perot, asked about the poll results on CBS-TV's "This Morning" show, said, "I'm honored the people of Texas feel that way. It gives me a great sense of responsibility."

GOP pollster Bill McInturff called the new Texas survey "an attention grabber." The telephone poll of 674 registered voters was conducted April 9-18, an unusually long sampling period that coincided with a wave of largely favorable media attention for Perot, particularly in Texas.

McInturff predicted Perot's luster would fade fast if he enters the race and attracts the scrutiny applied to major candidates.

"Perot is rising to his peak right now," said Democratic pollster Claibourne Darden. "He still has that new car smell."

But in a year that has defied conventional wisdom on a regular basis, such predictions are made

Candidate resigns from racist clubs

DALLAS (AP) — Billionaire business executive Ross Perot, moving toward an independent presidential campaign, said Tuesday he has resigned from two private clubs that exclude minorities.

"I resigned yesterday from both clubs," Perot said. He did not name them and associates later declined to say which clubs were involved.

Perot indicated he resigned after concern over his membership was expressed by volunteers working to get his name on presidential ballots. He has said he will run if volunteers put him on ballots in all 50 states.

It was the second time the issue of discriminatory clubs has come up in the presidential race. Gov. Bill Clinton of Arkansas said March 20 he erred in golfing at an all-white club in Little Rock and vowed not to do it again.

In an April 10 appearance before newspaper editors in Washington, Perot was questioned about his membership in private clubs.

"If I run for office, I'll resign... If I get into this, we'll look at whatever's there and clean it up," Perot said. He said he was not a racist and that his membership in the clubs was not evidence to the contrary.

with trepidation.

"Perot is like the new girl on the block, she's the most popular girl in town for a while," said Texan John White, the former Democratic Party chairman. "For Perot, my guess is about two months... But I've been wrong all year on everything."

Democratic pollster Natalie Davis said that unless Bush or Clinton can tap the attention of the angriest voters, Perot may gain a constituency that wouldn't desert him as his record gets dissected.

"With Perot, the support is from the 'I'm mad as hell and I'm

not going to take it any more crowd," said Davis. "If they're determined to upset the apple cart, it doesn't matter what type of baggage Perot might carry."

In recent national polls, Perot has trailed the major party candidates somewhat.

In last week's Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll, for example, he was third with 26 percent support nationally, compared to 30 percent for Bush and 30 percent for Clinton.

Muster pays tribute to A&M deceased

Continued from Page 1

asked the audience to ponder the question: "Where has the time gone?"

Cox served as a Ross Volunteer and as Head Yell Leader while a student. Cox is the author of the poem, "Aggieland - Why I Love Her So," and the book "I Bleed Maroon."

Cox reminisced about his days at A&M and told students to make the most of their college years.

"Get involved. Meet as many people as possible. Make as many friends as you can," he said. "Blink once. Turn a corner. Pick a leaf. Where has the time gone?"

One special Aggie received a standing ovation during the ceremony. Urban C. Hopmann, Class of '39, was one of the 25 participants in the 1942 Muster on the island of Corregidor during the Japanese siege of the Philippines.

Only five of the participants are now living.

When the Japanese were taking jewelry from the prisoners, Hopmann hid his Aggie ring so they would not find it. Hopmann was recognized for saying at the time, "They got my wristwatch, but they weren't going to get my Aggie ring."

Cox said he appreciated students' boldness to share their faith and the spiritual side of their lives and was encouraged by the stand they had taken.

Cox thanked the Class of '42 for their achievements and their loyalty to A&M.

"We will never forget what you've done and what you mean to us," he said.

Laughing, Cox said that he appreciated the attention the "Campus Cops" gave him when he visited A&M.

Holding up a yellow parking ticket for the audience to see, he said, "You always make me

feel like a student again. So on behalf of the student body I'd like to say thank you... NOT!"

Remarking on how special Aggie Land, Cox asked President Mobley, "Do you really get paid for doing this?" Through applause and laughter Cox said, "What a cush job!"

Cox praised A&M students for their pride and for upholding traditions. Bonnie Silver Taps and the 12th Man were a few of the practices Cox lauded.

"Aggies aren't quitters," Cox said. "When you fail a course you don't quit, you change majors," he said.

Cox said his memories of A&M would continue on even past the day when his name would be called for Muster.

The shots have been fired, the bagpipes played and the candles blown out. Muster 1992 has passed.

Survey identifies children eligible for nutritional programs

Continued from Page 1

Texas children are eligible for but do not receive benefits through a summer food program that substitutes for the school lunch program.

Texas consistently ranks around the bottom among states in spending for health and human service programs.

But even in entirely federally funded programs — like the one

providing food stamps — the state is not getting its fair share of federal money because eligible people are not being served, said Diane Stewart, director of the Center for Public Policy Priorities in Austin.

Besides giving hard numbers on the number of hungry children, the study should identify barriers to people getting those services, Stewart said. For example, she said some may not be aware of the

programs they can use.

It is the first survey of its kind in Texas, she said.

The survey will include interviews with about 800 low-income families, each with at least one child under the age of 12, randomly selected from 26 counties in Texas. The counties were chosen to be representative of the entire state. In communities where the initial study was done, Fersht said, "It has resulted in significant poli-

cy changes to the benefit of low-income children."

For example, he said, hospitals in Hartford, Conn., are informing low-income mothers about the WIC program; and schools in Pontiac, Mich., and New Haven, Conn., are mandated to offer school breakfast to students.

"It's the squeaky wheel that gets the grease," Fersht said. "We're trying to squeak."

Departments preserve classes

Continued from Page 1

just having fewer sections," he said.

Hill said this is basically the same situation for all courses in the department.

The Department of Biology is another department able to offer as many class sections as it did last summer.

Dr. David Owens, associate department head, said there is actually one more class offered this summer than the previous one.

The department received some money from the provost's office to offer a 200-level zoology course for non-biology majors.

Many students in other departments, such as health and physical education, need the course for

their majors, Owens said.

The basic required courses are filling up quickly, Owen said.

"We're not offering as many courses as we'd like, and as we fill up, but we are offering as good or better as last summer," he said.

However, the department is still not where it would like to be as far as class offerings.

"I would be reluctant to say we're in good shape," Owens said. "We had to put in a fairly modest plan for the past couple of years. We haven't had the funding increases to match increasing student demand."

Dr. Bryan Jones, head of the political science department, and Dr. M.B. Hall, head of the chemistry department, could not be reached for comment.

M.B.A. criteria unchanged

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gram. In universities that do offer a one-year M.B.A., enrollment ranges from 30 to 80 students.

"We're already pressed for resources," he said. "With more programs and the same number of faculty, we simply do not have the resources."

Susan Robertson, director of the master's program in the Graduate School of Business, said that M.B.A. programs are designed typically for students who do not have undergraduate business degrees.

"Students who already have some course requirements in business can waive courses and short-

en their time in class," she said.

The Wall Street Journal article stated that programs offering master's degrees in business administration usually cost about \$40,000 or \$20,000 a year.

Robertson said since tuition in Texas is so low, students can probably graduate from a two-year program for less than \$20,000.

Cocanougher said he was always looking for ways to improve the A&M program.

"We'll keep an eye on them (the other programs), if it looks like there are ways to improve we'll strongly consider them," he said.

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