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# Debate highlights Perot

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - In an election year filled with surprises, Ross Perot's strong showing in the first debate could alter electoral dynamics once again, analysts and strategists of both parties suggested Tuesday.

No one expects the Texas businessman to win. But his homilyfilled straight talk could translate into a spurt of support that makes a difference to President Bush and Bill Clinton in individual states.

Tuesday night's vice presidential debate gave Americans another chance to take a look at the Perot-Stockdale ticket.

And, political observers suggested that, since expectations were low for retired Adm. James Stockdale, a credible performance



nam prisoner of war-turnedscholar could further pique interest in Per-

Some analysts said Perot could wind up delivering the coup de grace to Bush and hand an electoral landslide to

Democrat Clinton. The Dallas billionaire could be-

come a "resting place for disen-chanted Republicans" who would otherwise vote for Bush but see the president's chances as hopeless, said Democratic pollster Ge-

of Bush's hide, especially if Bush

no longer looks like a viable candidate," Garin said.

Third-party candidates usually fare worse in elections than they do in polls because, in the end, voters don't want to throw away their votes

But, if Clinton retains a doubledigit lead in the polls over Bush, many voters who don't like either Bush or Clinton may feel they have nothing to lose by casting a protest vote for Perot.

"The minute it looks like Bush may not win, a significant amount of his vote may fold and go into another camp or stay home," said Frank Luntz, a GOP pollster who worked for Perot last spring and

'No longer can you say that 'He can take a lot of votes out Perot will just fade away," Luntz

## American professor earns Nobel Prize in economics

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - American Gary S. Becker won the Nobel Prize in economics Tuesday for pioneering the theory that people make everyday decisions following the same rational path long associated with business.

Before Becker began publishing his ideas in the late 1950s, most academics considered habit and often emotion or irrationality as the primary fac-tors in human behavior like having children or committing crimes

'His work can be used to explain peoples' choice of education, how the family chooses to spend its time, including how many children it should have and the type of marriage," said Assar Lindbeck of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sci-

Becker, 61, a professor of sociology and economics at the University of Chicago, said he was "still in a bit of shock" about receiving the \$1.2 million prize. He was the 15th person connected to the University of Chicago to win the Nobel economics

"I was interested in social problems, but felt economics had the tools by which to handle the long-term interests and social questions," Bee

The key to his research is the theory that hum behavior follows the same rational princip whether it involves a household, a business organization. Though greet initially with skep cism, his work has influenced sociology, demos phy and criminology.

'Becker has been a hot name for 10 years but have preferred to wait and see how solid his search results were since he is such a daring previously controversial person,"Lindbecks But year by year it became clear what a tem dous influence his work has had and he bear the obvious candidate for the prize.

Becker's theory that people choose their level education depending on its economical

quences is generally accepted, Lindbeck said. But still controversial are his analyses of & sions to marry and divorce, based on econo

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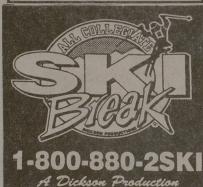
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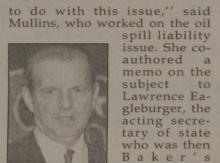
### Reports raise ethical questions about chief of staff's action THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - White House chief of staff James A. Baker III, who has large oil investments, played a role in the administration's effort to lobby Congress on oil spill liability in 1990 as secretary of state, documents show.

The Project on Government Oversight, a liberal research group, said Tuesday the documents raise ethical questions about actions by Baker, who also heads President Bush's re-election campaign.
Janet Mullins, a former State

Department official who is now an assistant to Bush for political affairs at the White House, dismissed the group's statements as 'totally bogus."

"Baker had absolutely nothing



Government documents show Baker's role

in lobbying for oil spill liability in Congress

Baker

from . Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner to Baker indicated the two discussed preparing a joint letter urging Congress to approve international accords limiting oil com-panies' liability for spills. The letter to Senate Majority Leader

deputy.

George Mitchell was signed Skinner and Eagleburger, but by Baker.

That March 1990 letter is one several State Department do memo on the ments on the matter obtained the Project on Government sight, a nonprofit group in W ington that investigates activ of the executive branch and gress. The group provided on of the documents to The Association

Baker had promised a mont earlier to abstain from invo ment in any issues affecting mestic oil and gas price in oil to avoid a conflict of interest.

Baker has a blind trust for investments, but it does not sh him from federal conflict-of-in est laws because it is not dive

## Egypt's earthquake death toll hits 400

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAIRO, Egypt - Egypt's arthquake death toll climbed past 400 Tuesday, and officials broadcast appeals for calm among Egyptians terrified of another temblor.

Many prepared for a second night under the stars.

Authorities blamed the high death toll partly on panic stampedes but mainly on the many weak, old or poorly constructed buildings in the Cairo area.

Countries pledged millions in aid. A security official told Cairo Television the search for survivors was called off Tuesday at all the scores of collapsed buildings in the capital area except for one: a 14-story apartment complex in the affluent suburb Heliopolis.

Dozens of people were be-lieved to be buried in the rubble. Relief workers were using their bare hands to sift through dust and stones, and drills to cut through steel construction rods. Many workers said they had little hope of finding anyone alive.

Police Maj. Gen. Nadir Noman, director of civil defense, said 11 bodies were pulled from the debris by early afternoon. As many

as 15 people were found alive in the debris shortly after the quake.

Witnesses reported two people died Tuesday as three quakeweakened structures collapsed in the poor Sayeda Zeinab neighbor-

Life was generally back to normal elsewhere.

Hundreds of aftershocks didn't help. Almost all were too feeble to be felt but not to be imagined: "Now I know what hell is like," said Nadia Ezzeddin, a housewife in Cairo's residential Zamalek Island. In hopes of calming the public, the official Cairo Radio and Television broadcast a statement by Subhi Freiha, deputy director of the government's Helwan Observatory.

"All the observatory's recordings indicate that the situation is stable," Freiha said. "There is no

need to worry."
On TV, Information Minister Safwat el-Sherif answered a reporter's question about the rumor of another strong quake by chastising Egyptians to watch their own media instead of believing the foreign press.

The "second quake" rumor was rampant, and intensified as telephone service neared normalcy Monday night.

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### French wine industry faces 90s dry spell

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FLEURIE, France- After decade of superb vintages bountiful harvests and his prices, France's wine make are sobering up in the 1998s.

The global recession has trickled down to the most

prestigious wine regions-Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne. The dizzying prices of the 1980s have crashed amidsta surplus of stocks, declining consumption and foreign

competition. And the only winner is the wine drinker, who can bu good wines at reasonab prices for the first time years.

"If someone wants to begin to buy wine now, the red vintages are down 30-40 p cent from what was first asked," said British wine pert Stephen Spurrier.

That's bright news for win lovers, but spells gloom this charming village in But gundy's Beaujolais region. Growers wonder if the

gin Mary, venerated locally protector of the wine harvest has abandoned them. "We've had difficult per ods before, but none like the since the 1940s," said Jean D

traive, a fourth-generation vintner. On the vine-draped hil sides surrounding Fleurie, on of Beaujolais' premier areas it's hard to see anythin

Platoons of straw-hatte harvesters swelter in an age old dawn-to-dusk ritual, sni ping bunches of dusty Gamai

Healthy grapes are sorted from those withered by a sur prise July frost that killed 8

percent of Fleurie's harvest. Growers in tractors ja Fleurie's tiny streets, stick with grape juice, to pool the harvests at a cooperative.

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