

The Battalion

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Candidates fire shots in final debate

By GINA HOWARD
Reporter of THE BATTALION

Supporters of the three presidential contestants in Bryan-College Station said the double format of Monday's debate was fair and benefited their candidates.

Lou Zaeske, chairman of the Independent Texas Network, said he felt the format worked well and gave voters a chance to see a cross section of the candidates.

"I think it was very well done," Zaeske said. "The first half was very good at addressing issues and the panelists asked good questions. I am very comfortable with everything that transpired."

Ben Morris, a member of the Republican Party, said the double format gave both President Bush and Bill Clinton a chance to perform under their debate conditions of choice.

"I think it is always better to have more than one moderator," Morris said. "I maybe would have preferred to see them able to debate directly with each other

and with a panel of questioners, but basically I think it was very fair."

Supporters, however, did not agree on who was the overall winner of the debate.

Zaeske said independent candidate Ross Perot was the clear winner.

"Perot won the debate because of his sincerity and how handily he brought up the issues," Zaeske said. "I think he revealed some things that will be food for thought for people in the next weeks."

"Clinton seemed over-coached and plastic while Bush just went *ad nauseum* over the same old trust issue."

The American people, he said, are looking to Perot for non-partisan leadership.

"Perot is representing the American people, independent of Congress," Zaeske said. "I think a lot of people want change and to get it, they must vote for a change."

State Senator Jim Turner, a De-

mocrat, said Bush was the winner. "Bush did better than anyone else," Turner said. "Clinton was second and Perot came in third."

Ben Morris, a member of the Republican Party, said while Bush may not have been the clear winner, he had the best performance of the debate.

"Bush came out with a lot of very factual information and was more aggressive," Morris said. "He should have been this aggressive all through the debates."

Morris said mud-slinging seemed to be the debate objective of Perot and Clinton.

"I think it was clear Clinton and Perot had nothing to say about each other, but were doing nothing but ragging on Bush," he said. "I think the American people will see that."

Morris said Bush stuck to the issues and did a lot to solidify his positions.

"He didn't attack Clinton personally," he said. "He stated not only his positions, but also Clinton's inconsistencies."

DEBATE ANALYSIS

Bush makes comeback, report says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON— It was a more-combative, more-focused

President Bush who took the stage in the last debate, hammering away at Democrat Bill Clinton's record as governor of Arkansas and repeatedly raising issues of character and trust.



Clinton

home run many Republicans said he needed in the wrap-up show-down in East Lansing, Mich.

Nor did Clinton stumble. So that left little in the final debate to help Bush end his long stall in the polls and save his presidency.

Independent challenger Ross Perot used the word "irrelevant" several times.

In the end, that's how the three presidential debates over eight days may apply to the election outcome.

"I think that people were confirmed in their own opinions," said

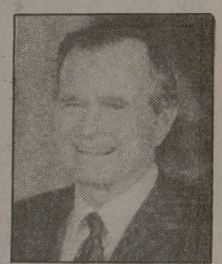
Henry Graff, presidential historian at Columbia University. Even though Bush came across stronger Monday night than in the first two debates, Clinton "represents the spirit of a generational change in the making. Bush is last year's show. Clinton is the new fall show," Graff said.

Bush stepped up his attack, seeking to tar Clinton as a poor governor and an opportunist with "this pattern" of waffling.

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Perot



Bush

Koriyama students visit sister university in Aggieland

Visit provides guests insight into local culture, traditions

By TANYA WILLIAMS
Reporter of THE BATTALION

Aggies will have the opportunity to practice on their "Konin-nochiwa" or Japanese "howdy" and meet their brother and sister counterparts from the east while students from the Texas A&M Koriyama campus visit College Station this week.

Sixty-five students from the Japan campus arrived Sunday and began their week-long stay at Aggieland yesterday with a luncheon hosted by the TAMU/Koriyama Support Office Staff.

The luncheon, held in the Memorial Student Center, was given in honor of visiting TAMU/Koriyama Aggies and their student hosts.

A&M President William Mobley began the luncheon by welcoming the guests from Koriyama to College Station and thanked the Texas A&M student hosts for taking an active involvement in "one of the most important agendas of this university," to be an international university.

"Our relationship with Koriyama is growing and we look forward to a bright future where

students from Texas and students from Koriyama, faculty and community leaders, in these states and nations are cooperating more effectively and move toward a global economy," Mobley said.

"Texas A&M is proud to be hosting you this week and we look forward to many years of friendship, collaboration and education."

Dr. E. Dean Gage, senior vice president and provost for academic affairs, also welcomed students and staff from Koriyama by encouraging students to become more aware of the world around them.

"Texas A&M University is very, very aware of the fact that we do live in a shrinking world and, in our academic programs, we need you to help train you, as well as the fact that our interchange with you in Japan will be so very important to us, as we graduate young men and women who will be capable of functioning in a very rapidly changing world," Gage said.

Karen Demoss, a member of the Koriyama staff and advisor on the trip, explained that students that are visiting this week have only completed one and one half semesters of study in their 27

month program before relocating in College Station.

"The program at Koriyama is two and one half years," Demoss said. "Most students entered in May, when the Japanese school year started."

"They take intensive language courses for one full year," said Demoss. "And these students are only still in their second semester, so they're not fluent at all."

The visiting Koriyama students are considered enrolled in Texas A&M University and will only relocate, not transferring, to Texas A&M after completing 35 to 45 credit hours in Koriyama. This December, 17 students will be transferring after visiting two years ago.

The rest of the week, students will be able to tour various parts of the campus such as The Sterling C. Evans Library, Corps Center, and the KAMU Communications building.

The students will also have the opportunity to learn American football from the A&M football team and Coach R. C. Slocum this afternoon, and get to experience football first hand when the Aggies play the Baylor Bears on Saturday, Oct. 24.



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Patricia Campos, left, a psychology major from New Braunfels, talks with Aya Kitbatake, a

business major from Fukushima, Japan, talks about Koriyama, where Kitbatake attends.

Lobbyist delays congressional action

Government researchers rebuff AIDS vaccine

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A biotech company's effort to rush an experimental AIDS vaccine to large-scale human trials was rebuffed by government researchers, so it went the old-fashioned way: it lobbied.

It hired former Sen. Russell Long, one of Washington's legendary powerbrokers who now is a lobbyist with a rare asset — access to the Senate floor.

The result? Congress slipped \$20 million into a \$250 billion Pentagon spending bill for the coming year, earmarked for trials of the Connecticut company's developmental drug.

But that move, which circumvented the scientific process the government normally uses to allocate research dollars, created what some say is a dangerous precedent.

That politicians, not doctors, can make life-and-death decisions about drug testing.

"I don't know how in good conscience you can go to a patient and say, 'We're giving you this drug because a lobbyist chose it,'" said Dr. Bernardine Healy, director of the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Mervyn Silverman, president of the American Foundation for AIDS Research, said, "AIDS is the most political disease I've ever dealt with, and this only further politicizes it."

The provision in the defense appropriations bill, already signed by President Bush, earmarks \$20 million for large-scale clinical trials of the vaccine gp160, a genetically engineered version of a protein that surrounds the virus that causes AIDS.

The pioneer and leader in gp160 research is MicroGeneSys of Meriden, Conn. The company is represented in Washington by Long, a former Louisiana senator who chaired the tax-writing finance committee for more than 15 years.

At least a dozen potential vaccines to prevent or treat AIDS are in development.

The MicroGeneSys product is one of about half a

dozen such drugs now undergoing limited trials in human patients.

Healy said Long had approached her agency and asked for special treatment for gp160, to "pull it out of line" and give it expedited consideration.

At one point, he sought to have the NIH brief senators on the relative merits of all the developmental vaccines. The agency declined.

"This vaccine is not in a class by itself," Healy said. "There are others that may be as good if not better."

When that failed, Long pursued what Healy called "a backdoor channel." He approached Sens. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., and John Warner, R-Va., the chairman and ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee.

They added the provision Sept. 18 on the Senate floor.

There was no opposition and little debate. Warner mentioned that Long had used his privilege as a former senator to come to the Senate floor to underscore the amendment's importance.

A competing biotechnology firm, the San Francisco-based Genentech, sought to counter the lobbying push by having a Washington public relations firm spread the word on what MicroGeneSys was doing. But it was too late.

Lobbying registration records show MicroGeneSys paid Long \$6,600 during the first half of 1992 to push the amendment.

A Long aide said he was on vacation and would not comment on his activities because of "discretion and client privacy."

Company president Frank Volovitz said gp160 is "the most thoroughly studied AIDS vaccine" and has shown encouraging results in limited trials at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

He declined to address his company's decision to lobby Congress to win research funds, saying only: "We're trying to develop a product here."

U.S., U.N. should force Serbs to talks, expert says

By MARK EVANS
Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

The United States and United Nations can force the Serbians to the negotiating table by providing military aid to Bosnia and Croatia, balancing the scales between opposing armies in what used to be Yugoslavia, said a Texas A&M foreign policy expert.

"As long as the Serbs think they can win militarily, they have shown little interest in coming to the negotiating table," said Dr. Ronald Hatchett, director of Texas A&M's Mosher Institute for International Policy Studies.

"The way that we persuade them that they cannot win militarily is that we give more military aid to the Bosnians and Croats, so that they can match the military potential of the Serbs."

Only by doing this can the world community convince the Serbians that negotiating new boundaries with Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina is the best way to preserve the interests of Serbs living outside Serbia, he said.

Currently, almost one-third of the Serbian population lives outside of Serbia.

Large Serbian enclaves exist in Bosnia and Croatia.

So far, the United States has remained on the sidelines, Hatchett said.

President George Bush refused

to recognize Bosnia, Slovenia and Croatia as independent republics until this summer, almost one year after fighting broke out in Yugoslavia.

"Basically, the U.S. foreign policy has been to support the status quo," he said. "We feared any changes in boundaries because we were afraid that once (the boundary changes) began they might not be able to be controlled."

"Our unwillingness to step in (with military and humanitarian aid) has caused more people to die," he said.

Sending troops into Bosnia will not solve the problem, he said, because without a political solution the same problems will return once the troops leave.

Hatchett said he supports providing the Bosnians and Croats with military aid because the only weapons they have are small arms.

The Serbian-controlled Yugoslavian army controls all of the heavy artillery, and the Bosnians and Croats have no way of effectively defending themselves, Hatchett said.

Any aid provided by the United States, military or otherwise, should go through the United Nations, he said.

The Yugoslavian conflict is a "quagmire," and the United States should avoid direct involvement.

Hatchett said he agrees with

last month's U.N. action, revoking Yugoslavia's membership in the General Assembly.

"It's a wise move because it shows the indignation and unwillingness of the world community of nations to tolerate continued military aggression on the part of Serbia against its neighbors," he said. "All of this is aimed at trying to force Serbs to sit down and negotiate to stop the killing."

Meanwhile, more than 14,000 people have died in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina since February when the Bosnians announced plans to secede from Yugoslavia.

Serbians, who controlled only 40 percent of the land in Bosnia before the war, now control well over 70 percent of the former Yugoslav republic.

Peace will not come to Bosnia until all sides — Serbians, Croats and Muslims — agree to establish new boundaries based on ethnicity, Hatchett said.

If peace does not come soon, outside countries may intercede, he said.

Turkey feels responsible for the Bosnian-Muslims because of ties which date back to the Ottoman Empire, Hatchett said. Greece has its eye on Macedonia as do the Bulgarians.

"The Europeans are becoming more and more anxious about this situation," Hatchett said. "Their reluctance to become involved militarily is eroding."