

Perot, Gore clash in NAFTA showdown

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a combative debate Tuesday night, Vice President Al Gore charged that Ross Perot has a financial stake in the defeat of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Perot dismissed the charge as "propaganda" to defend a deal that would punish American workers.

The high-stakes, prime-time showdown was contentious from the outset. Gore and Perot repeatedly interrupted each other and often traded a barrage of charges, some of them substantive, others more personal.

Gore said Perot abandoned his one-time support of the trade deal during last year's presidential campaign "to bring out the politics of fear." Later, he upped the ante, saying a Perot family business in Texas stood to make huge gains as a trade center should



Ross Perot labeled NAFTA as 'the world's dumbest trade agreement'



Al Gore accused Perot of trying to bring out the 'politics of fear'

NAFTA be defeated. "If NAFTA is defeated this family business that has a free trade zone outside Dallas will continue ... to distribute goods in the United States and Mexico," Gore said.

Perot fired back. The feisty Texan said that in pushing for NAFTA, the Clinton administration was in essence a front for a greedy corporate elite in America and a corrupt Mexican government he said had no interest in democracy or boosting the

living standards of its people. "Our problem is we do the world's dumbest trade agreement," he said.

"You will hear the giant sucking sound" of jobs flooding to Mexico if the agreement becomes law, Perot said, repeating his trademark anti-NAFTA slogan.

The agreement, if approved by Congress, would remove most tariffs and trade barriers among the United States, Canada and Mexico over a 15-year period.

Short of votes with a week to go, President Clinton sent Gore into battle with Perot hoping to shake up the dynamics of the NAFTA debate. Hours before the debate, the White House won the support of five previously uncommitted Democrats — and got one more as it got under way. Still, Clinton was roughly 25 votes short in the House and Speaker Thomas Foley rated NAFTA's chances of passing at "50-50."

The cacophony throughout the capital on a frenzied day of morning-to-night NAFTA jockeying suggested both sides viewed it that way.

The Gore-Perot debate was the climax, and the combatants both came to the 90-minute "Larry King Live" program on CNN armed with props. In addition to fighting among themselves, Perot and Gore fielded questions from viewers in the United States and abroad, including one from Croatia.

University students, faculty have mixed responses to debate

By Lisa Elliott

THE BATTALION

The debate between Ross Perot and Vice President Al Gore focused nation-wide attention on the North American Free Trade Agreement, and Texas A&M University faculty and students had varied responses to the outcome.

James Kolari, associate professor of finance, said the best thing about the debate was that it focused attention on NAFTA.

"A lot of people in the U.S. are trying to learn more about what's going on now that we have a national debate on television," he said. "Before the debate I don't think people talked about NAFTA much at all."

Kolari said he thought Gore made his point better, but Perot brought up some very valid concerns such as the environment and labor.

"Perot is right — there are problems in any agreement of NAFTA," he said. "Any agreement that's really important is going to have some problems."

Kolari said although Perot was right to bring up these concerns, he used too many "far arguments" while Gore presented optimistic facts.

Kolari said he was disappointed that Gore left out the implications of NAFTA to the rest of the Western hemisphere.

"If we get NAFTA, then other countries will



join," he said. "So NAFTA would benefit the entire Western hemisphere."

Kolari was appointed by Texas Gov. Ann Richards to chair a committee to study NAFTA. He said his committee, as well as the eight other committees also appointed, found that NAFTA would benefit Texas more than any other state in the country.

The committees consisted of approximately 600 to 900 professionals from around the state.

Jody Withers, a junior economics major and executive vice chairman for the College Republicans of Texas, said he was not impressed with either of the sides, but that Gore had a better argument.

"It's very doubtful it will have any effect on the way people will think," he said.

Withers said there was too much petty bickering between the two and not enough points were brought up.

He said Perot had just three or four points that he kept bringing up while Gore was more consistent.

Withers said he was surprised at how well Gore performed. He said he hardly ever agrees with what Gore said, and was impressed.

Sam Harwell, director of the Small Business Development Center, said the debate was "entertaining," but that's all.

He said he didn't think it would sway anybody's opinion because neither Perot nor Gore brought up any new arguments. He said he was surprised at how well Gore performed and at how poorly Perot performed.

"He (Perot) came off as a little meaner than he should have been," he said. "He seemed almost too whiny."

As for who won the debate, he said it was awfully close, but that Gore came out ahead.

Candidate

Continued from Page 1

"I thought he had real good insight with issues facing us today," Carreathers said. "He has a lot of experience and would make an excellent leader."

Carolyn Adair, director of student activities, also had a chance

to meet with Correnti.

She said she has known Correnti for years through the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. Correnti served as president of NASPA from 1984-90.

"He is very well-known and one of the most respected administrators in the country," she said.

During his visit, Correnti presented his ideas, qualifications and opinions to the search committee.

He said the committee was interested in his style, his definition of diversity and what role he thought a vice president serves.

"But most of all, they were interested in who Dick Correnti was as a person," he said.

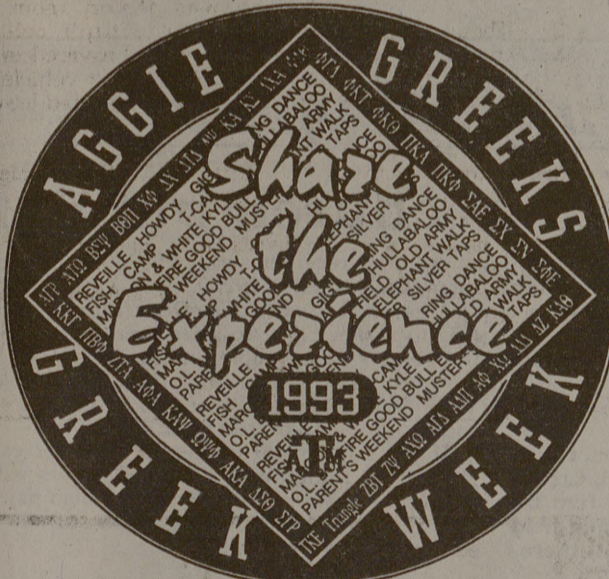
Ron Sasse, chairman of the committee, said the committee is looking for a fit between the person and the University.

One of the six candidates will replace Dr. John J. Koldus III, who

retired Aug. 31.

Correnti has served as vice president for student affairs at Florida International University in Miami since 1987. He was also vice president for student affairs at Ithaca College in New York from 1977-87.


The final two candidates will visit A&M through November, and Sasse said he hopes the new vice president for student services will be in place for the spring semester.



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Editor, The Battalion

Spring 1994

The spring '94 editor will serve from January 10, 1994, through May 6, 1994.

Qualifications for editor of *The Battalion* are:


- Be a Texas A&M student with a minimum 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of appointment and during the term of office;
- Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on *The Battalion* or comparable student newspaper, OR
- Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper, OR
- Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), JOUR 301 (Mass Comm Law) and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to the Student Publications Manager's office, room 230 Reed McDonald Bldg. Deadline for submitting application: 9 a.m. Tuesday, November 16, 1993. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting beginning at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 17, 1993, in room 301A Reed McDonald.

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