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PANEL

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speaking on tree stumps, the most significant change in campaigns he can see is how Americans get their information about candidates.

"It is all about the game of politics," he said.

Remini said he would like to see once again the Lincoln-Douglas debates of the 1860 presidential election.

Johnson maintained that debates still play a role in the bid for the White House. He referred to Reagan's first landslide victory.

"Ronald Reagan won the debate and won the presidency," said Johnson, a Pulitzer prize-winning journalist and staff member of The Washington Post for more than 25 years.

Johnson said that although the basic premise of presidential campaigns is the same, the method in which they are managed is significantly different.

He said the three most significant factors are an electronic world, cynical media and "horse-race journalism" — the media's constant abuse of polls and minute-to-minute dissection of things that do not matter in the campaign.

"Good information is out there, but you have to wade through to get it," Johnson said. "Television is the transcending factor of all politics. The press gets caught up in the news as entertainment."

Deaver said he has never seen a presidential race change overnight like it did when Gore selected Sen. Joseph Lieberman to join him on the ticket for the Democratic Party.

"[Lieberman] gave Gore confi-

dence and he changed the campaign overnight," he said.

Johnson agreed.

"Lieberman gave a lift to the campaign, and if Gore wins, it will be because of Lieberman," he said.

Deaver added that Cheney has not been the candidate that some might have hoped he would. He said Bush had the support of minorities and women before selecting Cheney, but "the Cheney selection stopped that."

"This is a business," Johnson said. "[Politics] is a huge engine. It runs on money and it runs on time."

When Mudd gave the panel members the hypothetical opportunity to change anything in presidential elections without concern of any veto or override, Remini said he would remove the electoral college.

However, Johnson and Deaver agreed that the most significant change would be how the primary elections are held.

Deaver said primary elections should be held on Labor Day, and political party conventions should be held 30 days later — leaving 30 days before the elections in November.

The panel also discussed the issue of low voter turnout.

Johnson said the JFK/Nixon election had the highest voter turnout in American history, but voter turnout has declined for every election since.

Mudd said the voter turnout was about 70 percent when Kennedy was elected, but Americans grow more indolent each year.

Remini offered his own opinion why: "I don't think the American people appreciate how great this country is."

DEBATE

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the first of their three scheduled encounters.

Each man pledged at the outset to avoid personal attacks. Cheney took that one step further. "I promise not to bring up your singing," he said to Lieberman.

"And I promise not to sing," Lieberman replied with a smile.

But even good-natured comments reflected the widely differing views the two men hold about the role of government in the 21st century.

Pointing to a strong economy, Lieberman said most people would say they are better off than they were eight years ago.

"I am pleased to see from the newspapers that you're better off than you were eight years ago too," he said to Cheney, a reference to the multi-million dollar separation package the former oil services company executive received when he left to join the GOP ticket.

"And I can tell you, Joe, that the government had nothing to do with it," Cheney said.

Lieberman joked that his wife wanted him to join the private sector.

"Well, I'm going to try to help you do that, Joe," Cheney said.

"No, I think you've done so well there I want to keep you there."

The two men debated in a White House race that is as close as any in the past four decades. Bush and Gore are separated by only a point or two in most polls, pointing to a suspenseful final month of the campaign.

When the subject turned to legalized gay marriage, the rivals responded gingerly. Lieberman said "my mind is open" though he wants to preserve the institution of heterosexual marriage.

Cheney, who has an openly gay daughter, said people should be open-minded and tolerant of gays but the issue of gay marriage is "not a slam dunk." He said it was appropriate for states to regulate marriage. "I think different states are likely to come to different conclusions," he said.

Asked by moderator Bernard Shaw about a public uprising in Yugoslavia designed to force out Milosevic, Lieberman and Cheney both said they hoped he would surrender power, but ruled out the use of American troops. Lieberman said a U.S.-led bombing campaign last year had halted Milosevic's aggression.

Cheney hearkened back to Tuesday night's debate. "There appears to be under way an effort to get the Russians involved," the former defense secretary said. "Gov. Bush suggested exactly that ... and Al Gore pooh-poohed it," he added. "But now it's been reported in the press that in fact that is exactly what we're doing, that Gov. Bush was correct in his assessment and his recommendation."

Cheney added the situation was an opportunity to test President Vladimir Putin of Russia. "We ought to find out whether he is indeed committed to democracy, whether he is committed to support the forces of freedom and democracy."

WEATHER

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up a Web page so they could check in whenever they wanted to," he said. "I have had a lot of emails from people who say I am more accurate than The Weather Channel."

The Weatherman Ted site averages about 200 hits per day, Ryan said, but the number has been as high as 500.

"The time most people hit [the site] is in the morning," Ryan said. "A lot of people usually check it in the morning so they can decide what to wear."

Today's cold front is expected to bring an end to the high temperatures, said Texas State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon.

"Not only is the cold front going to drive the hot, humid air out of Texas, but it is going to drive it out of the Gulf of Mexico," Nielsen-Gammon said.

If that happens, the cool temperatures should be here to stay. Ryan expects the front to come through College Station about 9 a.m.

Nielsen-Gammon said he does not expect many days with temperatures above 90 degrees before

Thanksgiving but said this winter could be somewhat warmer than usual.

"There is a good chance for a wet winter for the first time in a long time," he added.

Dr. James McGuirk, professor and assistant head of the atmospheric sciences department, said the timing of the previous two cold fronts this fall was not unusual, but he said they were colder than normal because the hot summer kept the jet stream trapped north, building a colder body of air.

"Starting [today], we are probably going to have another week like we had last week," McGuirk said.

He added that the last cold front set temperature records for that time of year.

"It stayed for a week, which is real unusual," he said. McGuirk said the possibility of a wet winter comes from the El Niño and La Niña weather patterns. El Niño creates a buildup of heavy rainfall while La Niña causes drought for North America.

"We should be back in El Niño next year," McGuirk said, adding that the patterns have been fairly reliable for the past 20 years. "2000-2001 should be wetter than usual."

Ryan predicts a breezy game day, with temperatures in the 50s and a 30 percent chance of showers.

KEITH

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the west-northwest near 13 mph with maximum sustained winds near 65 mph. A tropical storm becomes a hurricane when winds reach 74 mph.

Authorities in Ciudad Victoria were on alert for mudslides in the hills ringing the city of 243,960.

Earlier in the day, the storm dumped heavy rain on Tampico, which together with the nearby city of Ciudad Madero, has a population of nearly 450,000.

Television footage showed call-deep water streaming through Tampico's streets, forcing the evacuation of 2,500 residents in low-lying areas.

More than half had returned home Thursday evening. Only 22 of the 850 government shelters set up in anticipation of the storm remained open, Salum said.

Keith emerged last week in the Caribbean and quickly developed into a powerful category-three hurricane with maximum winds of 135 mph.

SEX

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in the Brazos Valley who have HIV. 48.6 percent are male and 51.4 percent are female.

"HIV is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) like any other disease," Griffith said. "And, yes, it is here on campus. If students don't want to get an STD, they really need to think about what it is they're doing."

Pregnancy is another major issue that many students deal with, Griffith said. She discussed the young men she has counseled who have been sued for paternity and the young women who have not been ready to be mothers.

"Being responsible, sexually, is that you know what you're doing or not doing," she said. "It's if you have a commitment to abstinence, that you keep that commitment, and that if you decide to go beyond that, that you take steps to prevent sexually transmitted infections and unplanned, and perhaps unwanted, pregnancies."

The Women's Clinic at Beutel prescribes oral birth control pills, which must be taken daily, and a contraceptive shot that stays in the woman's bloodstream and is given every three months. Ten condoms can be bought at Beutel for \$2.

"The best type of condoms are water-based latex," said James Stone, Kappa Week assistant chairman and a senior marketing major. "The lambskins or others made of natural materials have pores. And, lubrication reduces friction — which also reduces the chance of a condom breaking."

Many students must realize the importance of sexual intercourse in their lives, Griffith said.

"Casual sex can result in a whole lot more than just a pleasant experience," she said. "Students need to learn about it all, learn that intercourse is a powerful thing and it can result in a pregnancy — or worse. It's so much easier to prevent than to deal with the outcomes."



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