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May 3, 2001

Lois G. Lerner
Acting General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street NW
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20463

Re: MUR 5183, Gore/Lieberman, Inc., and Jose Villarreal, Treasurer

Dear Ms. Lerner:

This is the response of Gore/Lieberman, Inc. (the "Committee") and Jose Villarreal, as treasurer, to the above-captioned matter. As demonstrated below, the Commission should find no reason to believe that the Committee has violated any provision of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, 2 U.S.C §431 et seq., (the "Act" or "FECA"), or the Federal Election Commission's (the "FEC" or the "Commission") regulations and should immediately close the file in this matter, as it relates to the Committee.

Introduction

The complaint is based on news reports published between August 16, 2000 and November 8, 2000 that chronicled the political activities of the Rev. Jesse Jackson and his affiliated organizations, the Citizenship Education Fund, Inc., the Rainbow/Push Coalition, Inc., People United, and Keep Hope Alive PAC (collectively "Jackson" or the "Jackson Respondents"), from the date of the Democratic National Convention through Election Day.

In the complaint, in regards to the Committee, it is alleged that (1) payment of Jesse Jackson's salary during the campaign activity should have been paid for, at least in some part, by the Committee rather than by his affiliated organizations, (2) the expenditures by Jackson for endorsements, voter registration, and mobilization activities were coordinated with the Committee and thus should be considered improper corporate contributions, (3) Jackson's travel and appearances were qualified campaign expenses that could only be paid for by the Committee and reported as such by the Commission, and (4) all expenditures by the Jackson Respondents

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for the Committee should have counted against the total expenditure limit for the Committee in the 2000 general election.

The complaint is in error in all of the above allegations. The complaint misconstrues Jesse Jackson's and the Jackson Respondents' activities as actions on behalf of the Committee. They were not. The activity of Jesse Jackson and the Jackson Respondents was part of a nationwide party effort on behalf of the entire Democratic ticket. The use of party leaders and dignitaries in efforts such as these have long been considered part of the traditional role of the national party committees. On the Republican side, leaders such as Bob and Elizabeth Dole, George and Barbara Bush, Colin Powell, John McCain, and Ralph Reed made similar appearances. See Exhibits attached hereto.

The Commission is well aware that Jesse Jackson, though not a public officeholder, is and has been for numerous years a public figure with both a policy platform and a constituency of political supporters, for whom and to whom he speaks. This complaint must be viewed squarely within the context that public figures such as Jackson have traditionally exercised their right to free speech during the course of an election, and the Commission should carefully analyze Jackson's activities within the context of his ability to exercise this right.

As more fully explained below, the complaint provides no basis for a determination of reason to believe that the Committee violated any provision of the Act or regulations, and for that reason, this matter, as it respects the Committee, should be closed as expeditiously as possible.

Discussion

1. The Complainant relies upon inaccurate newspaper accounts to make its otherwise unsubstantiated allegations.

The essence of Complainant's charges is that the Committee somehow received a contribution in the form of Jackson assistance throughout his various speaking appearances. In an effort – albeit a meritless one – to support these charges, Complainant appears to simply attach every newspaper article referring to a Jackson appearance from the Democratic convention through the election. The complaint contains no analysis, but merely asserts a series of bald conclusion that contributions occurred.

However, in order for the Complainant's allegations of improper contributions to have merit, there must be a "recipient" of something of value arising out of the activity alleged. In other words, something of value must be received and accepted by someone. Complainant relies exclusively upon inaccurate newspaper accounts to conclude that the Committee was the "recipient" of Jackson's activity. Unfortunately, those newspaper accounts are rife with inaccuracies, misstatements and, most importantly, partial or short hand references, leading to the erroneous conclusion that the Committee was the recipient of something of value.

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The primary example of this is the description of the political entities that Jackson allegedly was assisting. The articles cited interchangeably used phrases such as "the Gore Campaign," "Gore/Lieberman," "the Gore/Lieberman ticket," "Democrats," the "Democratic ticket," or "the ticket" when referring to the beneficiary of Jackson's activity. Because the activity was on behalf all elements of the ticket, it would be inaccurate to say that the activity was meant exclusively for the Committee or any one segment of the ticket. Because of this ambiguity, it would be inaccurate to rely on the above characterizations as proof that Jesse Jackson's activity was solely on behalf of the Committee.

Thus, the Commission should not take at face value either the complainant's charges or the newspaper articles upon which they are based that the Committee received anything from Jackson. If – as more fully explained below – Jackson was performing services on behalf of the party as a whole, the fact that the Committee's candidates were part of the party is not enough to give rise to a contribution. In addition, contrary to what complainant's might wish, the fact that a newspaper article refers to the Committee, when, in fact, Jackson's activities were on behalf of all Democrats, should not be used to support an unwarranted investigation into Jackson or the Committee.

2. *Complainant grossly mischaracterizes the newspaper accounts to support its otherwise unsubstantiated allegations.*

In essence, Complainant has made a series of conclusory allegations and has done so in a way that mischaracterizes and exaggerates the newspaper stories attached to the complaint. For example, Complainant outrageously concludes that Jackson appeared in 150 cities "specifically" on behalf of the Committee and cites a Boston appearance as the very first example of support for this allegation. In fact, the only attachment to the complaint relating in any way to a Boston appearance by Jackson states in its entirety "[t]he Rev. Jesse Jackson expressed support for the Democratic ticket before the debate at the University of Massachusetts at Boston." If this statement were sufficient to warrant an investigation into Jackson, then the Commission would find itself deluged with an endless series of investigations into any national figure who expresses similar general feelings of support. Clearly something more is required for an investigation – let alone a conclusion that a contribution has occurred. Unfortunately, complainant's conclusions repeatedly suffer from this defect.

Likewise, the next attachment, titled "Kentucky and West Virginia" describes a Jackson appearance at a union hall – yet complainant characterizes this as an appearance before the general public. There is no indication of this at all. Clearly, complainant has done nothing except attach every newspaper account referring to Jesse Jackson, with the hope of convincing the Commission that commencing an investigation into Jackson would be a worthwhile endeavor, and does this by making bald generalities in the complaint which are not even supported by the materials attached thereto. An objective reading of the newspaper attachments will clearly reveal that not only has Complainant misread them, but there is also no merit into commencing an investigation into Jackson.

3. *In addition to mischaracterizing the erroneous newspaper accounts, Complainant misstates and misapplies the law.*

Complainant's abbreviated and conclusory legal analysis attempts to apply 11 CFR §114 to Jackson's activities in order to make the leap that a contribution resulted. In fact, section 114 is inapplicable to Jackson's activities and has no bearing on the appropriate analysis of them. On its face, the provisions of section 114 apply to corporate efforts – rather than individual or party efforts – to engage in political activities. For example, section 114.4 refers to “[a] corporation . . . may communicate . . .” and “[c]ommunications by a corporation . . .”. Section 114.4 then goes on to describe certain types of corporate communications: candidate appearances on corporate premises, corporate registration and voting communications, official registration and voting information, voting records, voter guides, corporate endorsements, and candidate appearances at educational institutions. None of those applies to the subject of the complaint, i.e., the activities of Jesse Jackson, as an individual and revered public figure and party leader.

To differentiate these circumstances from the typical corporate political activity that is meant to fall under section 114, it is only necessary to look as far as Jackson's long and distinguished public record, and it is a record that is unequalled by nearly anyone else on the current political scene. Clearly, Jackson has a long history of speaking out. He has a long recognized and respected public persona and is a leader both nationally and within the Democratic Party. Jackson is in the unique position of commanding a high national profile and a speaker on a host of political, religious, social, and civic issues. He is both a religious and spiritual leader. Jackson hosts a television news show, and is a frequent media commentator. He is without a doubt a political figure, having run for national office himself. Jackson is even an international figure, having played a prominent role with respect to a number of international disputes, with the hope of parlaying his unique standing into achieving a positive resolution of an otherwise problematic diplomatic situation. He has the respect of thousands of people from all walks of life.

All of these attributes clearly differentiate Jackson from the typical CEO or other corporate leader to whom section 114 could apply. This complaint is not about corporate activities. To apply the provisions of section 114 to Jackson's activities here – be they personal or party-related – is to extend that provision and 2 U.S.C. §441b way beyond their intended scope. Section 114 is simply not an appropriate part of the analysis of Jackson's action as a national and party leader, and for that reason, there is no basis for the Commission to find any violation thereof with respect to the Committee.

4. *The Committee acted legally and appropriately with respect to Jesse Jackson's activities.*

As indicated above, the Committee fully respected Jesse Jackson's role as a national and party leader. While the Committee had a surrogate program whereby it arranged for speakers to make appearances on its behalf – and paid the costs thereof – Jackson was not part of this effort. The Committee took great pains to make sure that it had a policy in place and adhered to that ensured that its representatives and speakers made appearances that were appropriate and legal.

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As far as the Committee was concerned, Jackson was, instead, part of the party efforts on behalf of the whole ticket and all office seekers across the country. The Committee was aware that Jackson's role and his ability to speak out was far beyond the mere presidential contest and instead related more to the multiple concerns and interests of his various social, political and religious constituencies. It was intuitively obvious that his strengths as a leader coincided more directly with the party's activities and strategies than that of the Committee.

Consequently, the Committee deferred in utilizing Jackson to the national party. The Committee relied on assurances from the national party that Jackson was being appropriately schooled in the permissible range of activities and that steps were taken to ensure that the law was complied with. For this reason, the Committee should not be held responsible for the party's arrangements with Jackson, given his unique role therein and given the reliance upon the party of which Jackson was truly one of the leaders.

Given this role, there is no basis to conclude that the costs of his travel, salary or other efforts are contributions to the Committee. Such a conclusion would require, in all fairness, the Commission to examine other similar situations whereby individuals such as Colin Powell, George and Barbara Bush, Bob and Elizabeth Dole, John McCain, Ralph Reed, and Charlton Heston, among others, traveled extensively on behalf of the "Republican ticket". See attached Exhibits. Instead, the Commission should conclude that the Committee acted appropriately and responsibly and did not accept a contribution of any kind with respect to Jackson's activities.

Conclusion

Because the complaint misconstrues Jesse Jackson and the Jackson Respondents' activities as actions on behalf of the Committee, we respectfully request that the Commission find no reason to believe that any violation of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended, was committed by Gore/Lieberman, Inc. or Jose Villarreal, as treasurer, and close this matter with respect to the Committee, as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,


Eric Kleinfeld


Lyn Utrecht

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EXHIBITS

Chicago Tribune, October 30, 2000

October 30, 2000 Monday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 8; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 783 words

HEADLINE: LIEBERMAN: BUSH NOT QUALIFIED

BYLINE: By Naftali Bendavid and Rick Pearson, Tribune Staff Writers.

DATELINE: EAST LANSING, Mich.

BODY:

As the presidential race entered its final full week, Sen. Joseph Lieberman unleashed the Gore campaign's strongest, most direct attack on Texas Gov. George Bush, saying Bush is not prepared to run the country.

"George Bush is not ready to be president of the United States, the kind of president you need and deserve," Lieberman, Vice President Al Gore's running mate, told a rally kicking off a bus tour to tout the nation's prosperity.

"Look, it's a big job," Lieberman said. "And with all respect, if you look at his record, if you look at his plans, if you look at his experience, if you compare them to Al Gore's record, experience and plans for America--maybe someday, but not now."

Nine days before the election, Gore is slightly behind Bush in most polls. Lieberman's assault, which he also leveled on Sunday morning talk shows, was a carefully calculated maneuver to reinforce any lingering voter doubts about Bush's qualifications.

The Bush camp portrayed the attack as a desperation move. "Every national poll shows Gov. Bush in the lead," said Bush spokesman Dan Bartlett. "I think you have a campaign that is running out of options. It has every indication of a losing campaign."

Attacking the opposition is a traditional role for a running mate, and while Lieberman had certainly done so before Sunday, he had refrained from flatly declaring Bush unqualified. The strategy is risky because such criticism can backfire if it appears too harsh.

Lieberman unleashed his attacks at a rally kicking off Gore's two-day "Great Lakes Prosperity Tour" through Michigan and Wisconsin. This is his effort to

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convince voters that he can extend the nation's extraordinary prosperity while Bush would recklessly torpedo it.

It is clear that this pitch will be combined with the message that Bush is not ready to run the country. Even Gore's wife, Tipper, made that point at the rally, an unusual role for her.

"It's not the dating game," Tipper Gore said. "You don't have to fall in love with Al Gore. I did that. What you have to do is figure out who you're going to vote for. ... Somebody who understands foreign policy, somebody who understands how to keep this economy going. That's what we want in a president."

On Sunday, Bush was at the governor's mansion in Austin, Texas, preparing for the last full week of the presidential campaign. Bush's team portrayed his schedule, which includes visits to several states that should be solidly Democratic, as evidence of momentum.

Bush will start the week in New Mexico, California, Oregon and Washington, and then will hit Minnesota and Iowa. Bush's final campaign theme will be "Bringing America Together."

Bush also is dispatching high-profile surrogates to several states, including his father, former President George Bush, and his mother, Barbara Bush; former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole and his wife, Elizabeth.

Setting the stage for his visit to California on Monday, Bush spoke via satellite to a rally of Latinos in Anaheim Hills, contending the vice president has shown little interest in the state.

"Vice President Gore has been taking California for granted, and hasn't even been there since way back in September," Bush said. "I hear he's going to rush in at the last minute. But his spokesman said it's 'primarily an opportunity to do the Leno program.' Well, you're looking at one candidate who has never lost sight of the importance of California." Bush also plans to tape "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" in Burbank on Monday.

Meanwhile, Gore's bus tour was launched in Warren with a rally featuring rock star Jon Bon Jovi. The trip was originally to include a boat ride on the Great Lakes, but Gore scrapped that idea as too slow for this urgent phase of the campaign.

Gore's bus, with a "Great Lakes Prosperity Tour" banner on the side, rolled through the Michigan towns of East Lansing and Muskegon, and will continue in Wisconsin on Monday. Then Gore heads to the Pacific Northwest and California to try to bolster his lead there.

Earlier Sunday, Gore met with Arab-American groups in Detroit and emphasized his commitment to issues important to Arab-Americans, including racial profiling, hate crimes and the use of secret evidence in immigration cases.

Gore also sought to reassure the 25 to 30 leaders that he does not tilt excessively toward Israel in the Middle East struggle, mentioning instances when he has disagreed with the Jewish state.

After the meeting, six of the leaders endorsed Gore; other Arab-American groups have endorsed Bush. Arab-Americans make up 9 percent of the vote in Michigan.

Gore also spoke at two African-American churches in Detroit.

CAMPAIGN 2000. THE DEMOCRATS.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOPHOTO: The Democratic presidential candidates kick off a Michigan bus tour Sunday at a rally in Warren, Mich. Waving are (from left) Hadassah and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Vice President Al Gore and Tipper Gore. Tribune photo
Chicago Tribune, October 30, 2000

by Chris Walker.

LOAD-DATE: October 30, 2000

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<=1> View Related Topics

October 30, 2000, Monday, Home Edition

SECTION: Part A; Part 1; Page 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 1719 words

HEADLINE: CAMPAIGN 2000;
GORE STAYS ON TRAIL; BUSH'S DAY LOW-KEY

BYLINE: JAMES GERSTENZANG and MARIA L. LA GANGA, TIMES STAFF WRITERS

DATELINE: DETROIT

BODY:

With time unforgivingly short before election day, Al Gore careened through Michigan on Sunday, issuing stark warnings about the stakes attendant to election day.

He excoriated George W. Bush's economic plans on a day when the Republican nominee spent most of his time in Austin, Texas, out of the public eye. And Gore distanced himself from President Clinton, even as Clinton and other Democrats spread out to fan support for him.

Privately, the vice president sought to allay worries among this state's significant Arab American population that his support for Israel would deafen him to their views on the Mideast and matters at home. Publicly, he swayed in the embrace of African American churchgoers and rewarded them with a speech laden with biblical cadences and political bluntness.

"You have a chance," Gore told the congregation at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church. Election day "is the one day every four years when the wealthy and powerful and special interests tremble at the thought that you will penetrate the smoke screen and see for yourselves exactly what is at stake."

While Gore was revving up his populist rhetoric, Bush spent the day in a largely low-key fashion, campaigning only via a satellite transmission to Latino supporters in Anaheim Hills, Calif.

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"You're looking at one candidate who has never lost sight of the importance of California," Bush said. He vowed that he would win the state's 54 electoral votes, adding that "while my opponent has been busy counting the votes of California, we've been working hard to earn them."

Bush could not have found much solace, however, in a new San Francisco Examiner poll that gave Gore a 10-point lead in California. Last week, a Los Angeles Times poll gave Gore a 7-point lead in the state.

Both men are due to campaign in California this week for the first time since September, with Bush appearing Monday in Burbank and Fresno and Tuesday in the Silicon Valley. Gore will hold a Halloween evening rally in Westwood.

As the presidential campaign opened its last full week, it continued to be the tightest such contest in at least two decades, and perhaps since the 1960 contest between another vice president, Richard Nixon, and Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. National polls released over the weekend showed the race as either a dead heat or Bush with a minor lead. Some polls in crucial states, however, suggested an edge for Gore in the all-important effort to collect 270 electoral votes.

With the polls stubbornly close and the time to change them evaporating, the candidates and their parties were strongly working their get-out-the-vote efforts. Their campaign teams belted out their points of view on the Sunday talk shows and prepared to send a last blizzard of mail to the doorsteps of American voters, particularly those in crucial areas.

Clinton Talks of 'Clear, Stark Choice'

For the Democrats, the campaigner-in-chief, President Clinton, was an integral part of the mix. Echoing Gore's Michigan efforts to spur African American voters to the polls, Clinton told congregants at the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., on Sunday to make sure that "nobody takes a pass on Nov. 7."

"When I hear people say this is not really a very significant election, it makes me want to go head first into an empty swimming pool," Clinton told church members. "We really do have a big, clear, unambiguous, stark choice here. We don't have to get mad, but we need to be smart."

If Clinton's effort was singular--to get out the vote among core Democrats who still overwhelmingly back him--Gore's remained manifold. He was pleading not only for the loyal Democrats but for the swing voters who gave life to the term "Reagan Democrats" 20 years ago, and to those who this year have cast aside both major parties to side with Green Party nominee Ralph Nader.

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In Michigan on Sunday, Gore borrowed from the presidential campaign of 1988, when the last vice president to seek a promotion was running. That year, the second-in-command and ultimate winner was George Bush, father of the current Republican nominee.

"There will be change," he told members of the Greater Grace Temple, then swiped from Bush's convention acceptance speech: "If you are changing horses in the middle of the stream, at least get on the one going in the right direction."

Earlier, at the Hartford Memorial church, he drew an unspoken contrast with Clinton's scandalous personal behavior. Gore said that nine times in his public life, beginning with his entry into the Army during the Vietnam War, he had taken an oath to defend the Constitution.

"I have never violated that," he said.

There too he scored Bush's tax cut proposal as a return to trickle-down economics, "that disproved, discredited, failed theory."

"We have tried that way before," Gore said. "It doesn't work that way."

Even more critical of Bush was Gore's running mate, Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut.

Lieberman Focuses on Bush's Readiness

"I don't think George Bush is ready to be president of the United States," said Lieberman, comparing Bush's six years as Texas governor against Gore's 25 years in Congress, the Senate and the vice presidency. The remark, made on ABC's "This Week" program, was repeated by Lieberman at a campaign appearance later in the day in Saginaw, Mich.

Bush's campaign strategist, Karl Rove, refuted Lieberman's contention on CBS' "Face the Nation," arguing that Bush is the sole candidate with executive experience.

"He has demonstrated through his stewardship and leadership of the second largest state in the country that he has the executive leadership, the vision, the ability to work across party lines and the principles that do not change based on the latest focus group or poll," Rove said.

Making some news of his own, Lieberman on Sunday acknowledged for the first time in the presidential race that he is personally opposed to abortion "for my wife and daughters," although he backs abortion rights as public policy. He has received sterling recommendations from the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, which said he voted its way in 72 of 74 votes

in the Senate.

Bush's running mate, Dick Cheney, was in Washington Sunday with no public events scheduled.

Bush aides on Sunday described the parameters of their own get-out-the-vote operation, which like the Democrats' will star a White House veteran. In Bush's case, that is his father, the former president. Former First Lady Barbara Bush, who recently quarterbacked a women-for-Bush tour, will also campaign for their son, as will Bob and Elizabeth Dole, football coach Joe Paterno and actress Bo Derek.

In the remaining days of the campaign, spokesman Ari Fleischer said, the GOP will "launch the largest-ever Republican grass-roots activities in the history of Republican presidential campaigns." Included will be 62 million telephone calls, 110 million pieces of mail, 1.2 million yard signs and 1.5 million bumper stickers, Fleischer said. Additional surrogates will make 20 bus tours with 290 stops.

As for the GOP candidate, his day was conducted largely behind the scenes. He attended church services in Austin and publicly interrupted his day thereafter only by the video transmission to his Latino supporters in California.

During that address, Bush reiterated his proposals for tax cuts and education reform, for strengthening the military and limiting the reach of government. And he repeated his pledge to split the Immigration and Naturalization Service into two agencies--one to enforce laws and the other to process immigration applications.

He also tossed in a little Spanish ("Les estoy pidiendo su voto, y les estoy puenda su ayuda" . . . "I'm asking for your vote, and I'm asking for your help."). Illustrating how broad his effort has been in California, he dispensed a ticker tape of figures.

"Catch this fact: We have 310 county and local headquarters. We've signed up 25,000 volunteers and they've delivered 2 million pieces of literature door-to-door. They've made a million and a half phone calls, and handed out 200,000 yard signs and a quarter-million bumper stickers. I can't tell you how grateful I am."

But much of the message was simply that he--and not Gore--cares about California. Bush and his campaign aides made much of his plans to campaign in California this week, insisting that he can win the state. Bush spokesman Fleischer claimed that Gore's longtime lead in California "is diminishing and is at risk of vanishing."

Copyright 2000 Globe Newspaper Company
The Boston Globe
October 19, 2000, Thursday ,THIRD EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL/FOREIGN; Pg. A24

LENGTH: 1340 words

HEADLINE: CAMPAIGN 2000 / FAMILY EFFORT;
MOM'S THE WORD FOR CANDIDATE BUSH

BYLINE: By Mary Leonard, Globe Staff

BODY:

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. - You know George W. Bush is pulling out all the stops when he lets the Silver Fox loose on the campaign trail.

Yesterday, the redoubtable Barbara Bush, known for a tart tongue, silver hair, and strong opinions, boarded a bus here in Grand Rapids, and, bounding along with daughter-in-law Laura, set out to convince undecided women voters from the west end to the east end of this battleground state that her oldest boy is presidential timber.

By the second stop, in the state capital of Lansing, the former first lady, who hasn't campaigned much since her husband lost to a Clinton-Gore ticket in 1992, was warmed up by gleeful crowds, a big media gaggle, and a gorgeous autumn day. During a visit to the Impression 5 Children's Museum, she met with reporters and said:

She had watched only the second and third presidential debates because she was afraid "I might get sore."

She doesn't give her son advice, except to tell him to "be himself - and he has never veered from that course."

She won't be campaigning nonstop, but she hopes to be on the road two to three days a week. After all, she said, she is a senior citizen. "I am 75, and you can't be running all over town like you used to."

She thinks her most famous quality is loyalty to her children, and when she hears or reads things about George W. that aren't true, "I am really upset," she said, waving her arms as if to shoo the words away.

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"Parents today need allies, not adversaries, to help raise moral, responsible children," Bush says in the ad. The second is on education. "It's easy just to spend more. Let's start by expecting more," he says.

If polls begin to show Bush's lead slipping, he might reconsider his positive themes. But for now, he's letting surrogates level the harshest attacks on Gore. William Bennett, who served in former president George Bush's administration, called Gore "an habitual liar" Sunday on NBC's Meet the Press.

* Let no attack go unanswered. Bush aides are making contingency plans for what they expect will be an all-out Democratic offensive in the campaign's last days -- attacks on Bush's Medicare and Social Security proposals and questions about whether he is qualified to be president.

On CBS' Face the Nation, Sen. Bob Kerrey kept up the criticism. "I'm not saying that he is not smart enough. I'm not even saying he is not competent enough," the Nebraska Democrat said. "I'm saying that experience matters."

The 28 Republican governors who gathered here Sunday before forming seven teams to barnstorm 25 states today and Tuesday will try to rebut those charges. There are 30 Republican governors, including Bush. Only West Virginia Gov. Cecil Underwood, who is in a tough re-election campaign, won't participate. On Fox News Sunday, New York Gov. George Pataki called Bush "a confident, strong leader" and "someone who has been able to work in a bipartisan fashion to bring people together."

* Brace for the unexpected. Bush advisers know that a last-minute foreign or domestic crisis, verbal blunder or factual error by Bush or new tactic by Gore could undermine all their planning.

They worry that if polls show Bush ahead and Republicans likely to retain control of Congress, some voters will shift to Gore because they don't like the idea of the presidency and the Congress controlled by the same party. And believing that many reporters support Gore, they fret about a late Gore surge generated by favorable coverage. Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer says, "Anything can happen."

Candidate examines goals

Excerpts from George W. Bush's interview with USA TODAY:

On Al Gore's criticism of his proposal to remove U.S. troops from the Balkans: "He's the kind of candidate who will say anything. And I want to remind people that it wasn't that long ago that his quote was, 'I certainly don't disagree that we ought to get our troops home from places like the Balkans as soon as we can, as soon as the mission is complete.' Well, I've been saying we need to get our troops home and work with our European allies to do so."

On his goals for the final two weeks of the campaign: "My goals are to rally the base and turn out the vote and keep pounding home the differences. He is big government. He is going to triple the size of the Clinton budget requests. He is going to increase the bureaucracies. He will require more IRS agents in order to be able to audit people under their targeted tax plan."

On his biggest concern for the remainder of the campaign: "Obviously, the biggest concern is that our base takes something for granted, but I'm going to remind them nobody's going to take anything for granted until the people show up to vote."

On whether his performances in three presidential debates were successful: "The American people are going to decide that. I was pleased that I had a chance to debate, that the people got to see me without a filter. I was able to talk about not only domestic policy but foreign policy, and people got to hear my views and learn more about my philosophy."

FOR TEXT WITHIN GRAPHIC "Bush pulls ahead in race for electoral votes" PLEASE SEE MICROFICHE

GRAPHIC: GRAPHIC, B/W, Frank Pompa, USA TODAY, Sources: National Journal's Political Hotline, USA TODAY research and analysis (MAP); PHOTO, B/W, Paul Buck, Agence France-Presse; Republican presidential nominee: George W. Bush campaigns with 28 fellow Republican governors Sunday in Austin, Texas.

LOAD-DATE: October 23, 2000

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The choice was no accident. Cedar Crest, which launched an aggressive campaign to register student voters, invited both candidates to its campus.

The Bush campaign probably accepted the invitation because Cedar Crest represents key issues in the campaign, said Kim Spiezio, a political science professor who has organized the voting effort at Cedar Crest. Not only does it have a concentration of female students, but the college also has emphasized science, technology and environmental programs in its curriculum, all of which have surfaced as campaign issues.

Coxe couldn't say why Cedar Crest was selected.

Colon suspects the decision had less to do with Cedar Crest than with its location: the Lehigh Valley. In hotly contested Pennsylvania, where polls have Bush and Vice President Al Gore in a dead heat, the Valley has become a pivotal battleground.

Gore will make his move with a campaign stop at Stanley Avenue Park in Fountain Hill on Friday night.

'Bush can't be there himself, so he's sending a surrogate,' Colon said. 'Apparently Dick Cheney (his running mate) isn't available either, so the surrogate is his father.'

Bush the candidate will be in Pittsburgh today with retired Gen. Colin Powell.

The elder Bush is no stranger to the Lehigh Valley. While campaigning against Bill Clinton in 1992, then President Bush stopped at Dieruff High School and even visited classrooms to promote educational reforms.

His visit to Cedar Crest won't be as intimate. After a quick speech, Bush will head to Chester for a rally at Widener College. His son will also make a campaign stop in Erie.

Colon questioned the rationale of sending the former president to capture the young vote for his son, when he had trouble attracting that vote for himself eight years ago.

But Spiezio said Bush could prove effective at Cedar Crest, where the vote seems to be as divided as it is elsewhere in Pennsylvania.

The college has tried to educate young voters with a series called Election 2000 that analyzed issues and generated political discussions. Out of that series grew a campaign to register voters. A raffle was used along with other

grassroots efforts to register Cedar Crest students, most of whom are Pennsylvanians voting in their first presidential election.

Spiezio confirmed that 65 percent of those eligible have registered. He believes the number of registered voters on campus actually is higher than 80 percent.

Such statistics buck a national trend of apathy among voters aged 18-24. Students aren't disinterested, argued Brandt Siegel, co-president of the Communications Union at Lafayette College in Easton and co-vice chairman of the College Republicans.

'I think, honestly, that students are interested and they do follow the campaigns but they are to some extent cynical of the choices we have,' said Siegel, a sophomore who registered to vote in his home state, Ohio.

'The candidates aren't diametrically opposed. If you look at issues like Social Security, the difference between the candidates is not that great.'

While Lafayette has seen an increase in the number of students participating in political groups this semester, the percentage of active students is still small. Jennifer Gibbs, who has gone room to room in dormitories to register voters, said about 30 students are active in the College Republicans this year compared with about 10 last year. She noted that about 70 students, 'an overwhelming number,' showed up for a party held in conjunction with the first presidential debate three weeks ago.

'Most students will be joining the work force soon and they are interested,' said Gibbs, a junior who is registered in Northampton County. 'Whether or not they are going to vote is a different question. They're bogged down with work. They don't have the time to watch C-Span and CNN. But they are concerned and they do discuss the election in classes and out.'

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The Christian Science Monitor

October 24, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: USA; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 943 words

HEADLINE: It all comes down to Michigan

BYLINE: Linda Feldmann Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

DATELINE: FARMINGTON HILLS, MICH.

HIGHLIGHT:

Recognizing its importance, both George W. Bush and Al Gore are storming the state.

BODY:

Dave Ciampa hangs up the phone and grins broadly, then fills in the circle on his form with a No. 2 pencil. Another voter contacted. Another potential vote for George W. Bush.

At this Republican "victory center" in suburban Detroit - a large room filled with telephones and pizza - volunteers are contacting voters who have asked for absentee ballots. Their job is to locate supporters of the GOP nominee and make sure he gets their votes. On the Democratic side, unions dominate get-out-the-vote efforts - with phone banks, door-to-door leafletting, and worker-to-worker contact during lunch and at shift changes.

In a way, Michigan is turning into a general-election version of New Hampshire at primary time.

The zeal of volunteers is palpable. The state is crawling with national media. Bush and rival Al Gore have been here early and often, and almost daily, surrogates are on the stump. Michigan - often a reflection of the national vote - looks like it will be one of the decisive states.

Just two weeks before the election, the race is so tight that a recent statewide poll in the Detroit News put the margin between Bush and Mr. Gore at one vote. That represents a decline for Gore, who until recently maintained a slight edge.

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"What it comes down to is who will do the best job in the ground game, who can deliver their voters," says Steve Mitchell, the Michigan pollster who conducted the Detroit News poll.

Here in affluent Oakland County, there's a little extra oomph to the volunteers' phone calls: Republicans still dominate local politics, but the county is diversifying. Democrats and independents, many of them the children of the fabled "Reagan Democrats" in working-class Macomb County next door, are moving in.

There's also now a substantial black professional population here, who largely vote Democratic. Analysts say Oakland County is on the verge of becoming the bellwether for the state - and even the nation - that Macomb County was once seen to be.

That sense of import comes through on the phone. "People are starting to care," says Mr. Ciampa, a sheriff's deputy in neighboring Wayne County. "They've been told by people this is ground zero. They actually feel, 'I'm important.' "

Wooed by Bush

The Bush campaign itself is showing Oakland County just how important it believes it is. On the night of the first presidential debate, Bush domestic policy director Steve Goldsmith came to the Farmington Hills victory center to preside over the festivities. For the third debate, former national GOP chair Haley Barbour was the honored guest.

Elsewhere, surrogates are standing in for both men. National Rifle Association head Charlton Heston has been here for Bush to woo gun-owning union voters.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson has come through to turn out the black vote for Gore.

The "W is for Women" tour - featuring Bush's wife and mother and the wife of his running mate - stopped in nearby Southfield last week to appeal to the women of Oakland County.

But the biggest surrogates of all - Sen. John McCain and President Clinton - haven't been here yet with the top candidates. Senator McCain, who won the crucial Michigan primary last winter, and nearly stole the GOP nomination from Bush, appeared in Michigan with Bush's running mate, Dick Cheney, last weekend.

But, Republicans here believe, an appearance with Bush himself may help seal votes from some of the 650,805 Michiganders who chose McCain in February.

For Gore, the key to Michigan - the most unionized state in the country,

encompassing about 40 percent of the labor force - is the union vote.

The latest poll in the Detroit Free Press shows Gore's union support at 51 percent, down from his post-convention numbers, but higher than they were in the spring.

Unions soft on Gore?

Publicly, union officials in Michigan are optimistic that they can deliver enough votes for Gore, as they focus on worker to worker contact over the high-priced television ads of previous elections. On issues affecting working people, leaders say, such as family leave, healthcare, and wages, Gore is an easy sell.

But privately, some are worried that Gore's support of free trade with China - a big blow to the unions, which fear job loss abroad - could cost him votes. Two big unions, the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters, withheld their endorsements of Gore until later in the campaign, and some union activists say that has dampened energy among the rank and file.

Still, the official union effort here is massive - and in a dead-heat, every vote matters. Green Party nominee Ralph Nader is polling at about 2 percent, and isn't gaining much traction among union voters, despite their shared views on trade.

"Nader is not a threat," says pollster Ed Sarpolus. "Most of his voters wouldn't be voting otherwise."

Perhaps the bigger danger for Gore among union members is a proposal in his 1992 book, "Earth in the Balance," that the internal combustion engine be phased out.

In a campaign appearance in Michigan Sunday, Bush's father, the former president, tried to play on concerns that a President Gore would hurt the auto industry.

Dennis Henry, head of UAW Local 160 in Macomb County, dismisses the notion that Gore's environmentalism could hurt him among union workers. "Do workers really think Gore wants the end of the car?" he says. "Not at all."

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USA TODAY

October 23, 2000, Monday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 10A-

LENGTH: 1191 words

HEADLINE: Bush runs 'hard all the way to the finish line' He's mindful 1 wrong
step could end race

BYLINE: Judy Keen

DATELINE: AUSTIN, Texas

BODY:

◇The campaign◇

Bush on Sunday

AUSTIN, Texas -- George W. Bush's strategy for the last two weeks
of the campaign is simple:

"I am going to remind people that Vice President Gore hasn't
led, and I'm going to remind people that I'm a person who has
been in a position of responsibility and has gotten things done,"
the Texas governor said in an interview Sunday.

And one more thing: There must be no mistakes.

That means that Bush must hit just the right tone in public appearances
and advertising, go only to states where his presence can make
a difference and nimbly defend his positions. There is no margin
for tactical errors now.

The latest state opinion polls suggest that Bush has within reach
enough states to assemble the 270 Electoral College votes needed
to win. However, the campaign has been a rollercoaster, and Bush
and his aides are acutely aware that one miscue could be decisive
in the final days.

"I'm going to run hard all the way to the finish line," Bush
said. "I never take anything for granted."

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An outline of Bush's plan:

* Control the headlines by forcing Gore to react to him.

As voters focus on the race and decide which candidate they'll vote for, the significance of newspaper headlines and TV news broadcasts is magnified. There will be a daily tug of war to shape the images voters see. "Now more than ever, you have to win the day," says GOP strategist Scott Reed, manager of Bob Dole's presidential campaign in 1996.

The challenge is to be the candidate who sets the agenda by talking about issues that force his rival to react. Bush tried to do that Sunday by assembling 28 Republican governors to attest to his leadership. Gore countered with a trip to Dallas to criticize Bush's record.

* Waste no time. There can be no more feints, the trips to unwinnable states to try to lure the other side to invest time and money. "Time is the only commodity you can't buy in the last two weeks," Reed says.

That means Bush's itinerary is now a clear roadmap of his strategy. This week, he'll be in eight states with 128 electoral votes: Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Tennessee, Florida, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Bush doesn't see himself getting the 270 electoral votes he needs without Florida and Missouri. He's also hitting Illinois, Pennsylvania and Michigan because he must win one of them.

Bush will spend the most time this week in Florida, crossing the state by bus Wednesday with Arizona Sen. John McCain, his former rival for their party's nomination. The state's 25 electoral votes are the cornerstone of his strategy.

The "waste no time" commandment makes Bush's schedule intriguing: He trails Gore in California, but he'll campaign there just days before the election. That means Bush believes he has a shot at the state's 54 electoral votes -- or he wants to force Gore out of Florida and the Midwest battleground to campaign there. Ken Khachigian, a veteran GOP strategist who advises Bush in California, says heavy advertising by Bush has made the state competitive, and "Gore is slipping fast."

* Accentuate the most effective message. New TV ads suggest that Bush wants to convey a reassuring tone. One focuses on helping families with flexible work schedules and school safety measures.

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Copyright 2000 The Morning Call, Inc.
The Morning Call (Allentown)

October 26, 2000, Thursday, FIFTH EDITION

SECTION: NATIONAL, Pg. A1

LENGTH: 1080 words

**HEADLINE: YOUNG CROWD FOR BUSH'S DAD;
THE FORMER PRESIDENT LOOKS TO WIN VOTES FOR SON AT CEDAR CREST
RALLY TODAY.**

BYLINE: CHRISTINE SCHIAVO; The Morning Call

BODY:

Cedar Crest College represents the voters that both presidential candidates have found most elusive. They're Pennsylvanians, they're young and they're women.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush has tapped his father, former President George Bush, to reel in that group during a rally at the college today. One-third of the 1,500 free tickets have been reserved for Cedar Crest students and faculty. The rest are being distributed by the Republican committees in Lehigh and Northampton counties.

Doors open at 12:15 p.m., with the event starting with band music and speeches 30 minutes later. Bush, accompanied by Gov. Tom Ridge's wife, Michele, is expected to deliver a 15-minute speech about 1:30 p.m. The Republican National Committee wasn't sure Wednesday what topics he will cover.

'It's a Victory 2000 event and he'll be there to rally support for Republican candidates,' said Jennifer Coxe, a spokeswoman for the committee's Victory 2000 campaign.

Chances are, Bush won't talk about abortion, an issue that separates his conservative son from most young female voters, who favor abortion rights, said Frank Colon, political science professor at Lehigh University in Bethlehem.

'Is he going to talk to young women about Social Security, about Medicare? If the Bush campaign picked Cedar Crest because it's a women's college, then they have to have a message that goes to that audience,' Colon said.

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But the Bush team has yet to provide numbers to back up that assertion, and the release of the Examiner poll showing a solid Gore lead only underscored the steep trajectory of their effort here. The lead suggests that Gore has made up ground since dipping several weeks ago.

Moreover, Bush's attempts to lay claim to the state were seen by some veterans here as an effort to divert Gore from more contested areas, such as the cluster of upper Midwestern swing states and Florida that will likely determine the winner. A new Florida poll showed Gore with a lead, within the margin of error, in a state which Bush needs to win to command the presidency.

Both Bush and Gore were drawn to California by an invitation to appear as headliners on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno"--Bush on Monday and Gore on Tuesday. Each scheduled rallies around the appearance, with Bush due to hit three California cities and Gore dropping into Westwood for a single appearance.

The scheduling of the Gore rally, in particular, was seen as a peace offering to California Democrats who have complained about the vice president's absence. He has not campaigned in California since Sept. 20. Bush hasn't set foot in the nation's largest state since Sept. 27.

In both cases, the rallies may be the last visits to California. Their travel schedules are as fluid as the polls have been in the last riotous days before the election. Yet both candidates are expected to spend the bulk of their time in the upper Midwest and in Florida, each seeking the 270 electoral votes that have proven maddeningly elusive so far.

*

Times staff writer Dana Calvo contributed to this article, which was written by Times political writer Cathleen Decker.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Presidential candidate Al Gore addresses service at Greater Grace Temple in Detroit. PHOTOGRAPHER: Agence France-Presse

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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October 27, 2000, Friday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 529 words

HEADLINE: Former first lady stumps for son

BYLINE: By JR ROSS, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: WAUNAKEE, Wis.

BODY:

Barbara Bush promised seniors Friday that her son wouldn't harm Social Security or Medicare if elected president, saying his opponents were trying to scare them into voting Democratic.

Without offering any specifics, the former first lady told crowds at the Waunakee Manor Health Care Center that George W. Bush would grow the Social Security Trust Fund to allow younger Americans more flexibility with their benefits while protecting payments to the elderly.

"Please remember George W. has our best interests at heart, no matter what you hear from the other side. He'll protect Social Security," she said, joking that her son would get in trouble with her if he didn't.

Bush also had harsh words for her son's opponents - whom she promised she wouldn't refer to by name - for a series of taped calls going out to senior citizens from actor Ed Asner in which he says that "George W. Bush has a proposal that would undermine Social Security, even scuttling current benefits."

"I'm suggesting when he calls, tell him to call Barbara Bush, because what he's saying is not true," she said.

George W. Bush has said he could maintain benefits while creating personal accounts by tapping into the Social Security surplus, which is about \$2.4

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trillion. That money, he says, can cover the \$1 trillion younger workers would have paid into the current system if it wasn't diverted into personal accounts.

But critics say that plan would further aggravate Social Security's financial problems. The trust fund is already set to go broke in 2037

John Kraus, spokesman for Democratic nominee Al Gore's Wisconsin campaign, said Bush's plan also could force an increase in the retirement age.

"The voters in Wisconsin want specifics," Kraus said. "They want an honest debate on the issues, and Al Gore is going to continue focusing on the issues important to the people of Wisconsin as he has done throughout this campaign and will continue to do until November 7."

Still, Mrs. Bush's appearance seemed to play well with the crowds, even if it was light on specifics.

Margaret Brown, 81, who came from nearby Lake Windsor, said she was there more to see the former first lady than to hear about any detailed policy proposals. But hearing her speak passionately about her son affirmed Brown's support for the Texas governor.

"Oh yes, it helps, although I didn't need much help," she said.

Barbara Bush was the latest in a series of surrogates for George W. Bush and Gore who have visited Wisconsin in recent weeks, including the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who spoke at Marquette University on Friday to rally support for Gore.

There's good reason many of these visits lack substance, said University of Wisconsin-Madison political science professor Michael Pfau. They aren't about policy as much as they are about publicity.

"The campaign needs to have its coverage both on the national news every night and the local news," Pfau said. "The way they get that is by the media covering the visits of not just the candidates but family members and so on."

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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November 6, 2000, Monday, BC cycle

SECTION: Political News

LENGTH: 453 words

HEADLINE: Ohio, no longer a battleground state, gets Buchanan, Hagelin visits

BYLINE: By THOMAS J. SHEERAN, Associated Press Writer

BODY:

Ohio, no longer a battleground state, was left to also-ran presidential candidates as Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore stumped in tossup states elsewhere.

Still, Democratic Congressman Dennis Kucinich of Cleveland said Sunday, "Ohio's results could well be the deciding factor in the national election outcome."

"The great thing about close campaigns is that surprises are guaranteed," Kucinich said. He was favored to easily win re-election in his Democratic district in the city and its western suburbs.

Polls taken in the final days of the campaign put Bush ahead of Gore in Ohio by 6 percentage points to 10 percentage points, leads exceeding the margin of error of the polls.

No Republican has ever been elected president without winning Ohio.

With Bush having the consistent edge in polling in Ohio, the Republican was campaigning Sunday in Florida while Gore went to another battleground state, Pennsylvania.

Third-party candidates for president made the rounds in Ohio on Sunday, with Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party in the Cleveland area and John Hagelin of the Natural Law Party in Dayton.

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Bush's mother, former first lady Barbara Bush, campaigned in Middletown to encourage party faithful in the southwest Ohio Republican stronghold to go to the polls and support her son.

The Bush campaign arranged a five-city GOP surrogate swing Monday led by Gov. Bob Taft, his predecessor, Sen. George Voinovich, and Sen. Mike DeWine, who is seeking re-election. They had stops arranged in Cleveland, Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati, Columbus.

Buchanan spoke Sunday to more than 300 people in the social hall of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Broadview Heights and acknowledged, "Things are looking a little rough for us on Election Day."

A poll published Saturday by The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer said that of the 625 randomly selected Ohio voters surveyed by phone Wednesday and Thursday, 1 percent said they would vote for Buchanan.

Buchanan, who was introduced to the audience as a friend to the Serbian-American community because of his opposition to the U.S.-led bombing of Serbia, thanked the crowd for turning out "when we're not doing that well in the polls."

The audience cheered his criticism of the American-led alliance that bombed Serbia last year to halt alleged atrocities against the mostly ethnic Albanian population of Kosovo, a province of Serbia.

Hagelin, speaking to about 85 people at the University of Dayton, said his party was "winning in the marketplace of ideas."

He noted that through the years, reforms such as reducing the national deficit, women's voting rights and the abolition of slavery were achieved through third-party candidates.

GRAPHIC: AP Photos CDY101-05; CINMS103-04 of Nov. 5

LOAD-DATE: November 7, 2000

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Copyright 2000, Telegraph-Herald
Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)

November 6, 2000, Monday

SECTION: Pg. a5

LENGTH: 783 words

HEADLINE: Celebrities, surrogates invade Iowa; Caucus No. 2: Actors dominate Democratic list while GOP brings in political leaders and a former coach

BYLINE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

BODY:

Former president stumps for son

DES MOINES - With three days remaining before a tight election, former President George Bush implored Iowa Republicans on Sunday to make the difference for his son.

"It is so important to do this last-minute, grassroots politics that many turn their noses up, but it can actually swing elections," Bush said. "This state is in play. We can win the state of Iowa."

Bush said he was encouraged by an Iowa Poll released Sunday by the Des Moines Sunday Register, which found that 44 percent of likely Iowa voters support or lean toward Al Gore and 42 percent back George W. Bush. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

"I'm probably the most nervous father in the United States," Bush said. "It is so much worse when it's your son than it is your own self. It is unbelievable."

DES MOINES (AP) - Want to meet an Olympic gold medalist? Some Emmy Award-winning actors? How about the first daughter of Camelot?

Come to Iowa.

During the past two weeks, a band of actors, comedians and politicians have deluged the Hawkeye State in hopes of wrangling the state's seven electoral votes for Democrat Al Gore or Republican George W. Bush.

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One of the Midwest states considered a toss-up late in the election, Iowa's fall campaign has turned into Caucus No. 2, a hotbed of political activity rivaling January's leadoff precinct caucuses.

The state has supported Democrats during the past three elections, but Bush and Gore remain neck and neck, prompting a last-minute flurry to capture the state's voters.

"What we're trying to do is get people motivated," said Jeff Link, who runs Gore's Iowa campaign.

The parties have responded, dispatching their luminaries to inner-city neighborhoods, college campuses and small towns across the state.

The Democrats' cast of characters reads like an Academy Awards after-party invitation list: Track star Carl Lewis, actor Martin Sheen, of "The West Wing," Jimmy Smits, formerly of "NYPD Blue," film director Rob Reiner, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, music producer Jimmy "Jam" Harris, actresses Martha Plimpton, Alfre Woodward and Christine Lahti, and comedians Al Franken and Tom Arnold, an Ottumwa native.

Democrats have also tapped the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo.

Republicans have drawn upon dozens of out-of-state political leaders with star power, including congressional candidate and former Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne, 1996 GOP nominee Bob Dole and wife Elizabeth Dole, a bevy of Republican governors and former President George Bush and first lady Barbara Bush.

With humor and passion, the surrogates urge their audiences to support their nominees while lambasting their opponents' records.

"The governor has done some things for education in Texas," Franken told a group of University of Iowa students. "Sixty percent of high school students in Texas now read at a higher level than the governor."

Former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson joined a busload of Republicans called the "Gore Detectors" on Saturday in Ames intent on reviewing Gore's record every step of the way.

"We're like the guys following the elephants at the (Ringling Bros. and) Barnum & Bailey Circus," Simpson said. "We got a big shovel and we just pitch it out in the street as they go through."

Demonstrating Iowa's importance, Gore and Bush both made several visits to the state during the fall. Gore planned an early morning stopover in Waterloo on Monday while Bush was expected to stump in Davenport on Monday afternoon.

While the nominees hopscotch the nation, campaign staffers say the surrogates lure supporters to political events while generating media attention for their campaigns.

Many caution, however, that Tuesday's election will reflect the popularity of their candidates - not the help of Hollywood.

"They're not going to be voting for a celebrity," said Ann Dougherty, an Iowa GOP spokeswoman.

Reiner and Sheen planned to return to Davenport today, joined by Julia Louis-Dreyfus from "Seinfeld."

Both parties also buttressed their efforts with three-day bus tours of the state headlined by state leaders, including Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley and Rep. Greg Ganske and Democratic Gov. Tom Vilsack and Sen. Tom Harkin.

With only a few more hours of phone bank activity and get-out-the-vote drives, campaign workers say the star power will likely cap one of Iowa's longest campaign seasons in years.

"This feels like we've had a caucus that's lasted for two years," Link said.

LOAD-DATE: November 6, 2000

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Copyright 2000, The Des Moines Register
The Des Moines Register

November 3, 2000, Friday

SECTION: Main News Pg.1

LENGTH: 824 words

HEADLINE: Parties try star power for votes

BYLINE: Lynn Okamoto

SOURCE: Register Staff Writer

BODY:

By LYNN OKAMOTO
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Celebrities flocked to Iowa Thursday on behalf of Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush, using everything from sex appeal to religious conservatism to woo voters.

Democrats overwhelmed the state by bringing five surrogates here for Gore, including U.S. Sen. John Edwards, a Democrat from North Carolina named this year's "sexiest politician" by People magazine, and actor Tom Arnold.

Republicans kicked off a three-day bus tour Thursday but were saving their biggest star power for the weekend. Former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole and former first lady Barbara Bush, the candidate's mother, are scheduled to visit Iowa Saturday.

"I don't know if I can sway anybody, although I've just made my brother register to vote," said native Iowan Arnold, a longtime Democrat.

Arnold had lunch with Iowa City students, then went to Ottumwa, Pella and Des Moines. He will join Gore today for a 12:15 p.m. rally at Iowa State University in Ames.

The GOP bus tour featured strategist Ralph Reed, the former director of the Christian Coalition, and Jim Nicholson, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

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"Iowa is ground zero in this real close presidential election, and it's very important that we turn out every vote we can get," said Nicholson, who also is a native Iowan. "I came here to emphasize that."

The bus tour joined up with local Republicans in five northeast Iowa towns Thursday. It was scheduled to work its way west today from Cresco to Mason City, Clear Lake, Algona, Spencer and Sioux City. "We have a wonderful opportunity to do something we haven't done in almost 50 years, and that is elect a Republican president and give him a Republican Congress," Nicholson said.

Iowa Democrats will kick off their own three-day statewide tour Saturday to promote Gore and other Democratic candidates. U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin, Gov. Tom Vilsack and U.S. Rep. Leonard Boswell will lead three separate groups visiting a total of 41 towns.

"We want to reach out to people who are undecided and be sure that we can energize our base, and that's how we're targeting cities," said Chris Moody, Iowa press secretary for the Gore campaign.

Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy, visited two cities Thursday with large Catholic populations. She had lunch in Carroll, then visited a child-care center and met with supporters in Dubuque.

Iowa Democratic Party officials said the visit was Kennedy Schlossberg's first campaign work on behalf of Gore since she addressed the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles in August.

Kristin Gore, 23, the second of Al Gore's four children, met with supporters in Waterloo, then joined Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman for an event with the National Farmers Union in Mason City.

The campaign surrogates are nearly bumping into one another because the race is close in Iowa and other Midwestern battleground states.

The University of Iowa's 2000 Heartland Poll released Thursday showed the candidates in a "virtual dead heat" in four Midwest states -Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin. Bush was ahead in the survey by a percentage point, but Gore seemed to have some momentum. The poll had a 2.3 percentage-point margin of error.

Reporter Lynn Okamoto can be reached at (515) 284-8131 or okamotol@news.dmreg.com

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The Houston Chronicle

October 29, 2000, Sunday 2 STAR EDITION

SECTION: OUTLOOK; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 681 words

HEADLINE: Campaigns get a little help from friends

SOURCE: Staff

BYLINE: CLAY ROBISON; Robison is chief of the Chronicle's Austin Bureau.
(clay.robison@chron.com).

DATELINE: PITTSBURGH

BODY:

PITTSBURGH - With a tight presidential race in the stretch run, both major candidates were banking on a little help from some high-profile friends.

Al "I-am-my-own-man" Gore was expected to bring President Clinton out on the campaign trail for selected events, and George W.

"It-doesn't-stand-for-Washington" Bush corralled all but one of his fellow Republican governors last week to campaign across the country on his behalf.

Time will soon tell which brand of surrogate campaigning was more effective, but, at the outset, Bush's surrogates were a more comfortable fit.

The only elective office Bush has held has been governor of Texas. That is his sole claim to leadership.

Moreover, Bush and many of his fellow governors are popular in their home states and are generally well thought of as a group. They are much more highly regarded, collectively, than members of Congress, who, not surprisingly, weren't invited to participate in Bush's "Barnstorm for Reform" or, he hoped, "Barnstorm for Victory" tour.

Governors work outside the Beltway on many of Bush's priorities, such as improving education, changing civil justice laws and balancing tax loads with spending needs. They are executive officeholders, although they have varying degrees of authority over their respective state governments.

They also symbolize the can-do, Washington "outsider" message that Bush is

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trying to convey, the message that he, as president, could overcome the partisanship that often has crippled Washington.

Clinton, meanwhile, presents a mixed bag for Gore, and the incumbent president's campaign appearances for the Democratic nominee have to be carefully scheduled or they could backfire.

Although he is a good campaigner, Clinton carries a lot of baggage that could do Gore more harm than good with many voters. That is why Gore took pains at the Democratic National Convention in August to define himself as his "own man."

As Clinton's vice president for eight years, Gore is eager to share - or at least claim - credit for positives from the Clinton era, such as a prosperous economy, while distancing himself from Clinton's negatives, mainly the sex scandal involving the president and a White House intern.

So, any campaigning that Clinton may be called upon to do late in the race would likely be limited. He is expected to make a campaign trip to California - a safe choice - to promote Democratic voter turnout in a vote-rich state that Gore has long taken for granted but which Bush has refused to concede.

Bush, meanwhile, also campaigned with two other well-known surrogates last week. Colin Powell, the popular former general who perhaps could have been Bush's running mate had he wanted the job, joined the Republican nominee in Pennsylvania. And former rival John McCain made two appearances with Bush in Florida.

Surrogate is a label not readily associated with McCain, and the bitterness of their fight for the Republican nomination last winter left many people wondering if the senator from Arizona could ever display any enthusiasm for Bush's candidacy.

But there he was, in Daytona Beach, assuring everyone that Bush was "fully prepared to assume the duties of the presidency of the United States of America." And when it came to foreign policy, McCain added, Bush would be a "steady hand on the tiller."

If those plaudits sound familiar to attentive, longtime followers of the presidential race, they were the same words that McCain used last winter to describe how his own qualifications for the White House were superior to Bush's.

Any of several factors could determine the outcome of a race this close, including advertising by the candidates and their parties, subterranean whisper campaigns, the public's view of each candidate's personality, a major mistake by either nominee, another international crisis and the number of votes Ralph Nader's Green Party candidacy siphons from Gore.

Even the effect of weather on voter turnout in key states could be a factor.

And so could surrogates. At least, that's what both Bush and Gore are hoping.

TYPE: -LINKS-; Editorial Opinion

LOAD-DATE: October 30, 2000

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Wearing her signature multiple-strand of pearls and a royal blue suit that was almost identical in color to her daughter-in-law's, the former first lady drew big crowds that came out to see her and touch her and wave to her. That makes her a secret weapon on the campaign trail, but potentially a lethal one: As someone who once described Democrat Geraldine Ferraro as a woman who rhymes with witch, Barbara Bush certainly has been known to let loose, and sometimes it's with a zinger.

The Republican candidate's mother hasn't exactly been idle this campaign season. She has raised some money for her son and made a few appearances on his behalf, including a walk-on role at the GOP convention in Philadelphia. But yesterday's kickoff of a three-day "W Stands for Women" tour marked Barbara Bush's debut as a crowd-pleasing surrogate and something of a policy spokeswoman.

The mission is specific: The Bush women, joined on the tarmac at Grand Rapids's Gerald R. Ford International Airport yesterday morning by Lynne Cheney and Condoleezza Rice, Bush's top foreign-policy adviser, are unabashedly playing the gender card, strong women trying to close Bush's gap with women by touting what they say is his female-friendly record on education and his dedication to family values.

The route of the "W" tour was carefully planned: the tour takes the women to hotly contested Pennsylvania where they will do a breast-cancer awareness event and a visit to a community college in the Philadelphia area. Monday, Cindy McCain, wife of Arizona Senator John McCain, joins up with Laura Bush for a trip through Wisconsin, another Midwestern battleground state.

Yesterday the Bush women visited Grand Rapids, a Republican stronghold, to energize the party base and encourage GOP voters to get to the polls. The next stop was Lansing, a higher-education hub in a swing district that President Clinton carried in 1992 and 1996. By the time they got to Brighton, a village 40 miles from Detroit, the senior Mrs. Bush was acting anything but 75: She outpaced her daughter-in-law as she rambled down crowded Main Street, snuggling babies, signing autographs, and posing for photos with Girl Scouts and women shopkeepers.

"I'm not supposed to speak," she said with a wink, as she took the microphone and launched a spirited get-out-the-vote call.

They ended the day with a rally outside Detroit in Southfield, a booming suburban area full of soccer moms. Asked by a reporter how Bush could stand for women and oppose abortion rights, Barbara Bush snapped, "I am very offended when I hear women's issues are just one issue."

"We hope to have the opportunity to talk about George in a way that other people don't," Laura Bush told reporters in Grand Rapids. "We know him in a very personal way. That gives us the opportunity to talk about him and about his heart and about how compassionate he is."

Laura Bush said she was "thrilled" and seemed relaxed to have her mother-in-law in tow. The "W" tour came at the end of the tense debate season and as the campaign kicks into overdrive for the last three weeks.

"We are working very hard," Laura Bush said. "A spouse feels the same amount of pressure as the candidate."

She said she thought her husband's performance Tuesday night was "terrific," but she admitted that debates are "very high tension. They are very nerve-wracking."

Barbara Bush, who reportedly never believed her son would be elected Texas governor, admitted it was "agony" being the mother of a presidential candidate. Her daughter-in-law suggested the elder Bushes were coming to understand the anxiety she and her husband felt as they watched people they loved come under fire and be put to the test every day.

Polls in Michigan show the presidential race in a dead heat. A Detroit News poll released over the weekend put Bush and Vice President Al Gore each at 42 percent of the vote. Bush leads among men, 48 to 38 percent. Gore leads with women, 47 to 37 percent.

The gender gap has been a persistent feature of presidential polls, but John Zogby, a pollster who is tracking the race closely, says Bush is gaining ground among married women and mothers who like his focus on education. The "W" tour is aimed precisely at that constituency, and it is targeted at undecided women, who outnumber undecided men.

"Bush's wife is not Hillary, and his mother is very popular," Zogby said. "Barbara Bush has always been a secret weapon because she is likeable, honest, straightforward, and a role model in a sort of white-haired, traditional way that is almost lost in most campaigns."

The venues for yesterday's events were selected to highlight the themes of education and economic opportunity for women. But the more subtle message was that Bush is a man imbued with the traditional values that would make you proud to have him as a son, love to have him as a husband, and admire him as the father of your children.

Condoleezza Rice, an African-American, called Bush "wonderful to work for" because he keeps his word and practices the policies of inclusion. Lynne Cheney,

wife of Bush running mate Dick Cheney, called Bush an honest and decent person who would end the bickering and blame-casting in Washington and form "a government you can be very, very proud of."

At the Van Andel Museum Center - the cultural center that the Amway Corp. fortune built in Grand Rapids - a mostly female crowd filled the central hall. Those who weren't holding babies happily waved red, white, and blue pompoms to the beat of a high school marching band. Some said they were curious to see Laura; most said they most wanted to meet the beloved Bar.

"I respect Barbara Bush more than any first lady," said Deb Cheadle of Rockford, Mich. "She stands for things that are real and familiar to American families, not something that is not attainable for the rest of us."

Linda DiVall, a GOP pollster, says voters see Bush and his wife as individuals with stature - certainly a word that could describe the candidate's monied, well-mannered, and well-bred mother as well.

But Barbara Bush's breeding may not have prepared her for being a policy wonk on women's issues. In Grand Rapids, she told a joke about a new business owner who receives flowers with a card signed, "rest in peace." Puzzled, he calls the florist. The florist is not only contrite, he's embarrassed about what the folks over at the funeral home must have thought when they received flowers bearing a card that said, "give 'em hell, big fella."

"If I try to go into details, I might make a similar mistake," Barbara Bush quipped.

GRAPHIC: PHOTO, Lynn Cheney (left), Michigan first lady Michelle Engler, Laura Bush, and Barbara Bush in Grand Rapids, Mich., yesterday. / AP PHOTO

LOAD-DATE: October 19, 2000

LEVEL 1 - 98 OF 339 STORIES

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<=1> View Related Topics

October 19, 2000, Thursday, Late Edition - Final

SECTION: Section A; Page 30; Column 1; National Desk

LENGTH: 1030 words

HEADLINE: THE 2000 CAMPAIGN: THE FAMILIES;
Barbara Bush Joins G.O.P. Women on Stump to Try to Bridge Gender Gap

BYLINE: By FRANK BRUNI

DATELINE: SOUTHFIELD, Mich., Oct. 18

BODY:

It is a sure sign that Election Day is around the corner when the big guns come out, and today the Bush campaign unleashed its silver-haired, pearl-draped howitzer. The former first lady, Barbara Bush, hit the trail, pressing her outsized and enduring popularity into the service of Gov. George W. Bush's aspirations.

Mrs. Bush said voters should not expect this kind of effort too often.

"I'm 75," she said at a news conference in Lansing, one of several stops on a bus trip across the breadth of southern Michigan. "When you're 75, you're not running around town like you used to."

But when a son is running for president and the family pride is on the line, a woman does what she must, even if her methodical gait reflects her ongoing recovery from back surgery three weeks ago.

Mrs. Bush said she would manage two to three days a week on the trail from now through Nov. 7, and officials with the Bush campaign said that President George Bush would also start popping up here and there.

The former first lady's appearances today -- the first time that the Bush

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campaign had marketed her so aggressively, -- dovetailed with a theme built around the middle initial in the Texas governor's name and an effort to bridge the gender gap.

This was the "W. Stands for Women" tour, intended to reduce the Democrats' frequent advantage among female voters to the point where W. stands for something else: winner.

The governor's wife, Laura Bush, was side by side with her mother-in-law. Michelle Engler, the wife of Gov. John Engler of Michigan, played tour guide. Condoleezza Rice, the Bush campaign's foreign policy adviser, and Lynne V. Cheney, the wife of Mr. Bush's running mate, Dick Cheney, were also part of a morning rally in Grand Rapids, then took off in their own bus for their own events before reconnecting with the Bushes in Southfield tonight.

The women embraced the issue of education. They danced cautiously around the issue of abortion.

And they returned time and again to the issue of integrity, until one of Barbara Bush's principal purposes came into focus: She was out here to remind voters of an administration without the stain of sexual scandal and to vouch for the character of the Republican presidential nominee.

"George W. must be the next president of the United States," she told the crowd in Grand Rapids, making it seem like a moral imperative.

Today's show of feminine force reflected more than an appeal to women. It signaled the presidential campaign's transition into a final-stretch, make-or-break phase in which the packaging would get more fanciful, the strategies more inventive, the surrogates more numerous and their movements more frequent and rapid.

The two Mrs. Bushes were due in the Philadelphia suburbs on Thursday morning. On Monday, the tour was scheduled to resume in Wisconsin without Barbara Bush but with Cindy McCain, the wife of Senator John McCain of Arizona.

Barbara and Laura Bush seemed to be enjoying it, but then they were also still basking in evident satisfaction over Tuesday night's debate.

In an interview on their bus, they made clear that they thought that Vice President Al Gore had gone several paces too far, especially when he moved to within a few inches of Mr. Bush to stare him down.

"I thought he literally was going to hit him," Barbara Bush said, adding that her husband, who had watched the television broadcast with her, had exclaimed, "My God!"

They were not the only Bushes disturbed by Mr. Gore's stratagems. Laura Bush said that one of her twin 18-year-old daughters felt insulted by Mr. Gore's overt reference to his four children being at the debate. The Bush daughters, Barbara and Jenna, were not there.

They have always maintained a careful distance from the campaign, to the occasional dismay of their father. But Laura Bush said the couple's daughters had tuned in to every debate, and she said that when Jenna, who is more difficult to impress, gave her father a rave review, he cried.

Part of today's project was to talk about the softer side of the Texas governor, and the two Mrs. Bushes at times preferred that to policy.

After fielding several questions about abortion, Barbara Bush interjected, "Is there any other subject you're interested in?"

The Texas governor opposes abortion in most cases, and that is one reason some moderate women are reluctant to vote for him.

But Barbara Bush hinted that her son is no ideologue on the matter.

"George has said he's not going to have a litmus test," Mrs. Bush said, referring to her son. "By coincidence, neither did his father."

She went on to note that one of the two Supreme Court justices whom President Bush appointed, David H. Souter, turned out not to be so conservative after all.

Laura Bush said there were issues above and beyond abortion that women cared about, a point she emphasized at news conferences. In Lansing, she said that her husband's proposals would help women care for elderly parents in need.

Barbara Bush took mock offense, dramatically muttering, "I'll never speak to her again!"

It was a fleeting star turn on a day when, in some senses, the torch was being passed. Laura Bush got the featured speaking position and last word at joint rallies. She also conducted the news conferences.

Not that Barbara Bush lacked for adoration. People lined the hallways or streets she walked, dazzled to be near her. Mrs. Cheney introduced her in Grand Rapids as "the most admired woman in the entire United States." Mrs. Engler introduced her in Lansing as "the greatest first lady of the United States so far."

She was also the fulcrum of the argument, implicit and explicit in much of

what the women said today, that family values had gone missing from the White House over the last eight years, that "honor and dignity" needed to be returned.

And she herself said that if her son and Mr. Cheney win on Nov. 7, "Our country's going to be respected again."

In the days until then, she said, she will assiduously avoid anything that might cause her agitation or angst.

"I don't read the papers," she said. "I won't watch TV. I won't do any of that. But I will vote three or four times."

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THE HARTFORD COURANT

October 16, 2000 Monday, 7 SPORTS FINAL

SECTION: MAIN; Pg. A2

LENGTH: 1013 words

HEADLINE: TRAILSIDE

SERIES: VOTE 2000

BYLINE: FROM STAFF REPORTS AND WIRE SERVICES

BODY:

BUSH SENDING OUT HIS SURROGATES

AUSTIN, Texas -- Pumped by the polls and looking beyond his final debate with Al Gore, George W. Bush announced that women, governors and John McCain will campaign for him in more than two dozen states in an effort to sway swing and undecided voters.

Bush's wife, Laura, and his mother, Barbara, are among the women from his family and his circle of advisors who will spread his message, the campaign announced Sunday.

Meanwhile, both presidential candidates were facing substantial hurdles in their third and final showdown Tuesday in St. Louis before their all-out sprint to the Nov. 7 election.

Preparing in Austin for the town-hall style of debate that Bush has said isn't his favorite, the Texas governor

Dodd came to the defense of Gore, who has been battered by the GOP for misstatements and exaggerations during the campaign, especially in the past two weeks. He also had harsh words for Bush, deriding his six-year record on education, the environment and health care as governor of Texas, and his lack of experience in foreign policy.

"The mere fact that he can identify four continents and pronounce the name Nigeria doesn't make him a specialist in foreign affairs," Dodd said of Bush. "We've got to do better than that."

Lott defended Bush's record as a leader and said Dodd's criticism reminded him of barbs that were thrown at another GOP candidate.

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"I remember people belittling a governor of California, Ronald Reagan, who became a great president," Lott said. will seek to continue showing a command of issues and a likability that has helped him in the polls, aides say.

Gore, meanwhile, headed for St. Louis on Sunday to begin preparing for a format that advisors say is his strongest, one honed during years spent representing Tennessees in Congress. He was to hold a mock town hall today.

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October 16, 2000

LENGTH: 940 words

HEADLINE: CAMPAIGN 2000 AS MICHIGAN GOES... ... SO GOES THE NATION IN
RECENT
PRESIDENTIAL RACES. THE VIEW FROM A VOLATILE BATTLEGROUND STATE

BODY:

Sandra Plezia invokes the mantra of the swing voter when she's asked about her political history. "I vote the person," says the 40-year-old Detroit attorney. That was Bill Clinton in 1996, but this year she is stuck.

SHE WORRIES about the air her 5-year-old daughter will breathe and what the little girl may see on cable and the Internet. And while she likes Al Gore, she wonders about his ability "to be an activist" and deal with a recalcitrant Congress on these issues. As a pro-life Catholic, she appreciates George W. Bush's appeal for a "culture of life" in America. But she never cared for Bush's father and his indifference to domestic problems. "I'm waiting to see if he is a chip off the old block," she says of W. "Because I didn't like the block."

If the 2000 campaign turns out to be Kennedy-Nixon close, Plezia and Michigan's other 525,000 undecided voters could be the difference. With its mix of blacks, white ethnics, conservative Christians and powerful trade unions, the state is a classic bellwether. In the past four presidential campaigns, the state's popular-vote percentages have nearly matched the national returns. But the political terrain here has changed. The fabled Reagan Democrats in the blue-collar suburbs north of Detroit, angry about high taxes, contemporary culture and their party's tilt to the left, have aged or died off. They've been supplanted by a new, more moderate generation of voters, many of whom look a lot like Plezia: fiscally conservative, socially moderate, college-educated suburban professionals. Instead of tax cuts and big military spending, they want safe schools and clean water for their children and prescription-drug coverage for their aging parents. They believe that government may not always be the solution, but it is not automatically the problem, either. "They're saying, 'Times are good, so let's attend to some of our problems'," says pollster Ed Sarpolus.

What hasn't changed in Michigan are the stakes for presidential candidates.

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The state's 18 electoral votes are a must-have in the victory scenarios of both campaigns, and each has committed huge amounts of precious television-advertising cash (a combined \$ 7 million to date, by one estimate) and candidate time to win over the uncommitted. Clinton took the state by 13 points in 1996, but most polls give Gore only a narrow lead.

Both candidates headed to Michigan after last week's debate. Bush spoke to suburban middle-school parents about Internet filters and met with Arab- and Muslim-Americans angry about racial profiling at airports. **The Bushies have imported a string of marquee surrogates, including campaign national-security adviser Condoleezza Rice, who visited with professional women. Michigan Republicans also expect John McCain, winner of the state's Republican primary on Feb. 22, to rally independents and moderates later this month.**

Gore parachuted into Grand Rapids - Gerald Ford's hometown and the heart of conservative western Michigan - for a downtown rally. He has no hope of winning that part of the state, but hopes to peel off some moderate Republicans and diminish the big margins Bush will need to offset Democratic majorities in Detroit. "Michigan is a must-win and we will win. That's the bottom line," says one senior Gore adviser.

Oakland County, northwest of Detroit, has become the most important Michigan battleground. Its prosperous suburbs should be a natural base for Bush's "compassionate conservatism." But doubts about W that helped defeat him in the primary - about his experience and his seriousness - have again driven off many voters. Gore is now ahead in a county that is nearly 60 percent Republican. "They're uncomfortable with Bush," says Sarpolus, who adds that many of the Oakland moderates like Gore's fact-laden, heavily programmatic presentation. Some leading Republicans, including Gov. John Engler, want Bush to hit harder on Gore's alleged environmental extremism, including his past calls to eventually replace the internal-combustion engine. But pollsters say the charge is not likely to stick in a state where environmentalism is growing.

Gore seems better positioned, for the moment. One third of the state's likely voters live in union households, and labor has overcome its unhappiness with Gore's support for free trade. The UAW's contract gives autoworkers a paid vacation day on Nov. 7, which is bound to stimulate turnout. But other factors are making it difficult for Gore to close the sale in Michigan. A Bush ad attacking his prescription-drug plan - the spot falsely claims that seniors would be forced to join drug HMOs and pay a \$ 600 "government access fee" - has hurt the vice president with older voters in the state. Talk radio and office chatter about last Tuesday's debate centered on Gore's tendency to stretch the facts. Some voters who agree with his positions found his attitude difficult to take.

William Cohen, a 29-year-old Oakland County lawyer who voted for Bush's

father in 1992 and Clinton in 1996, was not impressed with what he saw in the debate. "I found Gore to be egotistical, condescending and rude," says Cohen. While he still leans slightly toward him, he is still not convinced. "Depending on what I hear and read in the next few weeks, my vote could still be swayed," Cohen says. Even some faithful Democrats have found themselves driven into the ranks of the undecided by Gore's highhandedness. "I don't know," says Angela Maiuri, a 45-year-old freelance automotive writer. "There's just something about him that I don't like." That something might yet cost Gore a critical state.

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St. Louis Post-Dispatch

October 16, 2000, Monday, FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A6

LENGTH: 531 words

**HEADLINE: REPUBLICAN GOVERNORS, PROMINENT WOMEN WILL STUMP FOR BUSH;
BARBARA BUSH, WIFE OF SEN. MCCAIN WILL TAKE PART IN CAMPAIGN TOUR**

BYLINE: From News Services

DATELINE: AUSTIN, TEXAS

BODY:

The campaign of George W. Bush has drafted 28 Republican governors and five prominent women to lead an all-out assault in the final weeks before the election Nov. 7.

The push will begin after the Texas governor's third and last presidential debate with Democratic rival Al Gore in St. Louis on Tuesday and will last through Oct. 25, Ari Fleischer, Bush's senior adviser, said Sunday.

The first contingent on the campaign front lines will be an all-woman team leading the charge in the key swing states of Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania.

The team includes Bush's wife, Laura; his mother and former first lady, Barbara Bush; Lynne Cheney, wife of his vice presidential running mate, Dick Cheney; Condoleezza Rice, his chief foreign policy adviser; and Cindy McCain, wife of Arizona Sen. John McCain, the man Bush defeated in the battle for the Republican presidential nomination.

"The women involved in this tour will discuss how Governor Bush has brought people together to make the lives of women in Texas better and what the future holds for all women under President Bush," Fleischer said.

Vice President Gore leads Bush among women voters, but the Republican has made inroads with them on such issues as education.

"This is an important voting group representing 51 percent of the population," said spokeswoman Mindy Tucker. "We're not going to concede any of

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these votes to the Democrats."

Overall, Bush has made up much of the ground he lost after the Democratic convention in mid-August. Most surveys now give him a slight edge in a presidential race that appears headed for a photo finish. He led Gore by two points in Sunday's Reuters/MSNBC daily tracking poll.

The second wave of Bush surrogates - 28 of the country's 29 other Republican governors - will gather in Austin next Sunday before separating into groups and boarding planes to barnstorm across 24 states to tout his leadership in Texas. The missing man is West Virginia's Cecil Underwood, who has a scheduling conflict.

Metro Detroit's influential Arab-American Political Action Committee endorsed Bush for president Sunday - significant news in a state where the presidential race is in a dead heat.

Members of the committee said their unanimous decision to support Bush was mostly about politics, not ethnicity. Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Joseph Lieberman is an Orthodox Jew, and political observers have wondered whether his faith would be a drawback among Arab-Americans.

Most of the committee's members said Gore had failed to show them he cares about the Arab vote, while Bush went out of his way to do so. At last week's presidential debate, Bush earned huge points when he mentioned Arab-Americans and two issues important to their community: secret evidence and racial profiling.

But some members admitted they were also uneasy about Lieberman.

One committee member, Osama Siblani, said Bush is "someone who listens, who's flexible on Middle Eastern issues."

"Lieberman's culture and religion are embedded," said Siblani, publisher of the Arab American News in Dearborn, Mich. "Lieberman is already committed in his soul to Israel."

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LEVEL 1 - 10 OF 53 STORIES

Copyright 2000 Bulletin Broadfacing Network, Inc.
The Bulletin's Frontrunner

October 26, 2000

LENGTH: 2998 words

HEADLINE: More News On The Bush Campaign.

BODY:

NRA Spent \$1 Million Last Month To Help Bush. The AP (10/26) reported, " The National Rifle Association spent almost \$1 million last month on behalf of George W. Bush's presidential campaign, an effort that is cutting into Al Gore's support in key states. The powerful lobby for gun owners' rights spent \$610,610 on radio commercials and \$336,216 on billboards in support of the Texas governor, according new Federal Election Commission reports." NRA president Charlton Heston "has held get-out-the-vote rallies in such battleground states as Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin." The AP added, "Gore campaign officials acknowledge that the NRA's efforts have hurt them, especially among pro-gun union members in those states, and are trying to counterattack."

LOAD-DATE: October 26, 2000

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LEVEL 1 - 12 OF 53 STORIES

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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October 24, 2000, Tuesday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 711 words

HEADLINE: Political briefs from the 2000 campaign trail

DATELINE: CHARLESTON, W.Va.

BODY:

Election returns from around the state for the top races will be available on the secretary of state's Web site on election night.

The office will gather information from county clerks and post the results on its Web site beginning at 9 p.m. The site will be updated hourly, said Cindy Smith, a special assistant in the elections division.

The office also posted election returns in the primary, but waited until unofficial results were in from all 55 counties. That was the first time West Virginia election results had ever been put on the Internet on election night.

The Web site is: <http://www.state.wv.us/sos/election>.

Results will be posted president, 2nd District Congress, governor, state Supreme Court and a constitutional amendment on whether to allow the creation of a new family court system.

Democratic Minority Leader Richard Gephardt has announced he will stop through Charleston on Wednesday to campaign for congressional candidate Jim Humphreys.

"West Virginia needs a Democrat like Jim Humphreys in Congress," Gephardt said, adding that Humphreys will fight for Medicare prescription drugs, smaller

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class sizes in schools, HMO reform and an increase in the minimum wage.

Humphreys said he is honored that Gephardt, D-Mo., will campaign on behalf.

"It represents a great boost to my campaign," he said. "We have two weeks until the election and his visit is a great chance to highlight the issues that really matter to West Virginia voters."

NRA President Charlton Heston and other top National Rifle Association officials plan a visit to southern West Virginia to promote candidates endorsed by the group, including Gov. George W. Bush and Gov. Cecil Underwood.

The "Get Out The Vote Rally," which starts at 6 p.m. next Tuesday at the Raleigh County Armory, also features NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre and top Washington lobbyist James Jay Baker.

"The NRA has picked Beckley in order to reach the southern West Virginia region where Democrat and Republican voters value their Second Amendment rights," an NRA spokesperson said. "Heston, LaPierre and Baker will urge law abiding sportsmen and gun owners to vote this election, which they deem very, very important."

West Virginia's role in the presidential race hasn't been lost on George W. Bush's campaign.

On Tuesday, four GOP governors traveled to Charleston and Beckley to tout the Texas governor's plan for education, Social Security and taxes.

West Virginia with its five electoral votes is considered one of several swing states in the close race between Bush and Democrat Vice President Al Gore. Although West Virginia is 2-1 Democrat, polls show Bush and Gore are close.

"This is a swing state and a state that has traditionally gone Democrat," said Virginia Gov. Jim Gilmore. "I think the working men and women really understand that Gov. Bush's policies are in their best interest and not the Democratic Party's.

"We want to carry this state, that's why we have come in and put a special emphasis on it," he said.

Gilmore was joined by Wyoming Gov. Jim Geringer, Illinois Gov. George Ryan and Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist. The visit was part of a 25-state barnstorming campaign by 29 Republican governors on behalf of Bush.

West Virginia GOP Gov. Cecil Underwood, did not attend either event. Underwood is in a close campaign for re-election and is not scheduled to

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campaign for Bush in other states.

"We're focusing on our own race," said Rod Blackstone, Underwood spokesman.

Republican congressional candidate Shelley Moore Capito is planning a two-day Eastern Panhandle campaign bus tour.

Capito plans to visit more than a dozen towns and cities this weekend as she travels through Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan counties.

Capito says the tour will give voters the opportunity to look her in the eye and tell her "what's on their minds and in their hearts."

"I want to hear their thoughts on our positive agenda for creating jobs and economic growth, improving education, providing prescription drug coverage for seniors, protecting social security and medicare and providing tax relief for West Virginia's working families," she says.

Capito is running against Democrat Jim Humphreys and Libertarian John Brown.

GRAPHIC: AP Photo Pursuing on GOP governor's visit

LOAD-DATE: October 25, 2000

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Copyright 2000 Cox Enterprises, Inc.
Cox News Service

September 27, 2000

SECTION: National political

LENGTH: 2649 words

HEADLINE: POLITICAL TICKER: Bush takes a lead on character, personality (EDs: A brief roundup of the day's campaign events, pulled from Cox staff and wire reports.)

BODY:

George W. Bush led Al Gore 48-42 percent among likely voters based on a recent advance in strength on character and personal traits, despite Gore's higher marks on every issue except the military, according to a Los Angeles Times poll (4 percentage point margin error) out today. Bush's advantage was based largely on his appeal among men and married women. And in the key state of Michigan, Gore is hanging onto a slim 45-41 percent lead in a CBS-New York Times poll (3 percentage point error margin) because of heavy backing by union voters. Gore is also seen as running a more positive campaign than Bush in the state with 18 electoral votes.

BUSH VISITS SCHOOL IN SOUTH-CENTRAL L.A.

Rejecting attempts to portray him as a champion of the wealthy, George W. Bush visited a Catholic elementary school in South-Central Los Angeles that he termed a "beacon of hope" today to call for safer classrooms and increased spending on character lessons. "The classrooms need to be safe havens," Bush said. He proposed a law to shield teachers from being sued for enforcing disciplinary rules. And he pledged to triple federal "character education" funds that flow to schools. "It's one thing to learn to read and write, but we also want you to learn the difference between right and wrong," he said. The previous night, Bush mingled with well-heeled donors at estates in northern and southern California but said he would be a more aggressive advocate for all Americans than Gore.

GORE DRAWS CONTRASTS ON RX PROPOSAL

Al Gore questioned George W. Bush's commitment to Medicare today and declared "it is time" to help 13 million senior citizens get prescription drugs. "I've met too many seniors who have to choose between filling their prescriptions and filling up their shopping cart," Gore said in Altoona, Iowa. Gore gave 200

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senior citizens a brief pitch for his \$253 billion proposal to add a prescription benefit to the Medicare program, and he also drew a contrast with Bush's more modest proposal. Gore argued that his opponent's plan would leave seniors at the mercy of insurance companies and HMOs. Taking the argument a step further, Gore argued that Bush and other Republicans have a history of opposing Medicare. "They never have really liked Medicare," Gore said.

HELP PROMISED WITHOUT GOING TO CANADA

Joe Lieberman met today with senior citizens so strapped by the cost of prescription drugs that they boarded buses for Canada to buy their medication. He called the situation "an embarrassment" and said Al Gore's Medicare plan would help. George McKinney, 70, told Lieberman that he takes high blood pressure and prostate medicine and his wife needs heart medicine. Together, they pay \$500 a month in the United States for their drugs, but saved 63 percent in Canada. "I feel a little ashamed sometimes," McKinney said. "We're the richest country in the world. Why do we have to go all the way to Canada?" Lieberman assured McKinney and five other seniors participating in a forum at the Wilson Park Senior Center in Milwaukee that, if he and Gore are elected, help is on the way.

HILLARY CLINTON POLLS 50 PERCENT FOR FIRST TIME

Hillary Clinton has reached the 50 percent support level for the first time in her Senate race against Rick Lazio, according to a major statewide independent poll released today. Among the likely voters questioned, Lazio trailed with 43 percent, according to the poll issued by the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute. A Sept. 12 Quinnipiac poll had the first lady leading the congressman from Long Island by 49-44 percent. The poll has a 3 percentage point margin of error. "We know this race is going to be close, but it's nice to hit the big five-oh," said Clinton spokesman Howard Wolfson. Lazio's campaign played down the new results. "Polls have been all over the place, so we don't pay much attention to them," said Lazio spokesman Dan McLagan.

BUSH TO PRESENT ENERGY POLICY

George W. Bush plans to outline his own energy policy Friday while brushing aside Democratic attacks that his long ties to the oil industry give him little credibility on energy matters. Bush will unveil a series of steps to boost the domestic supply of energy and reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil, says Lawrence Lindsey, his senior economic adviser. Lindsey said Bush will blame the administration for creating a squeeze in the oil markets through "eight years of neglect" that have led to a decline in domestic oil exploration and regulatory delays in building refineries, electric generating plants and natural gas pipelines. Bush also will argue that he and Dick Cheney are more

knowledgeable about energy issues than Al Gore, an ardent environmentalist.

DEBATE INVITATIONS SENT: NO SURPRISES

The Commission on Presidential Debates has formally invited Al Gore and George W. Bush to participate in the first of three planned debates, on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at the University of Massachusetts in Boston. The bipartisan commission announced that only those two met all of the panel's requirements. The central requirement is that a candidate must have the support of an average of 15 percent in five national polls by news organizations. Two of the excluded candidates, Ralph Nader of the Green Party and Pat Buchanan of the Reform Party, have repeatedly criticized the 15-percent threshold as virtually unobtainable for a third-party contender. The commission also invited the two major-party candidates for vice president, Dick Cheney and Joe Lieberman, to a debate on Oct. 5 in Danville, Ky.

A DOUBLE AGENT ON THE INSIDE

Dick Cheney got a bit of a surprise when he found out whom Joe Lieberman has tapped as his surrogate Dick Cheney for practice debates. It's Robert Barnett, the Washington-based lawyer and book agent who represents Lynne Cheney, who is the wife of Dick. "He's Lynne's book agent!" Dick Cheney said when he got the news. To which Lynne Cheney joked, "My former book agent. Until this minute he was my book agent." Mrs. Cheney, who has written a number of books, has the Secret Service code name "Author." Lieberman also has written several books, and his agent also is Barnett. How does Cheney think Barnett will do portraying him? "I'm sure he does fine," Cheney said. "He's a smart guy."

BOLD THEMES IN A LYNNE CHENEY NOVEL

An obscure novel, "Sisters," is an Old West romance replete with whorehouses, lesbian affairs and attempted rapes. It was written by Lynne Cheney, the former head of the National Endowment of the Humanities and a crusader against American educational decline and multiculturalism. She's also the wife of Dick Cheney. Her brief biography on the official Bush campaign Web site lists only two books to her credit: a history of the House of Representatives she wrote with her husband, and "Telling the Truth," which argues that political correctness is breaking down America's morality. But, according to the New York Times, she also has written two other novels, "Executive Privilege" in 1979 and "The Body Politic," which was written with Victor Gold in 1988 and concerns the wife of a dead vice president. "Sisters" was printed in 1981 only in a Signet Canadian paperback.

WHAT CHENEY WOULD DO IN EMERGENCY

Dick Cheney said if called upon to take over as president in an emergency,

his first move would be to confirm that the chief executive really was incapacitated. "You'd need to go back and get confirmation," Cheney told a high student in Sharon Hill, Pa., who asked what he would do in the first 24 hours if forced to assume the presidency. The second thing on Cheney's list was taking the oath of office. Third, he would let the public know what was happening. The former defense secretary said his next move would be to put international security forces on a safety alert. Cheney took the question this morning before flying to Washington to practice for his debate next week with Joe Lieberman. Cheney also will speak at a fund-raiser for Senate Republicans.

LIEBERMAN DEBATING _ JUST NOT FACE-TO-FACE

One week before he goes toe-to-toe with Dick Cheney in a televised debate, Joe Lieberman is already arguing with his Republican rival, just not face-to-face. Lieberman responded today to one of Cheney's criticisms: that he and Al Gore were hypocritical for condemning media violence while accepting big Hollywood contributions. "Al Gore and I have had the toughest response to this story. . . . You shouldn't market adult-rated material to children," he said. "We've said to them, 'Stop it.' " Lieberman added that self-imposed marketing changes the industry was announcing today were "positive steps . . . but it's not enough."

LEAVE IT TO THE STATES, PART 1

George W. Bush has always walked a political tightrope over the issue of public education, and it became evident again at Sequoia High School in Redwood City, Calif., on the edge of Silicon Valley. Students, in a school filled with purple iMac computers, quizzed Bush on how he intends to improve education nationwide. Instead, the candidate stated all that he is unwilling to do. The first questioner asked about school vouchers. The next about raising teachers' salaries. The third about reducing classroom sizes. To all three, Bush gave the same answer: He has no intention as president of addressing any of those issues. Those matters are for the states to address, he said. "Write your governor," he advised one young woman.

LEAVE IT TO THE STATES, PART 2

For weeks Dick Cheney has promoted the Bush campaign's plan to take federal money away from failing public schools and give it to parents to use on educational alternatives, a plan that Democrats describe as a voucher system that would hurt public schools. But when Cheney came to Michigan this week _ a swing state where a ballot initiative calling for a voucher system has become a political minefield and drawn the opposition of Republican Gov. John Engler _ he was virtually mum on the subject. He did not mention it at all at an elementary school in Traverse City, not even when asked to comment on vouchers by a woman in the audience. "That's for the state to decide," he told the woman.

BEHIND THE SCENES HELP FROM CHRISTIAN COALITION

George W. Bush, going out of his way to avoid being pegged as too conservative by moderate voters, has decided to skip what for the last two Republican presidential nominees was a must-stop on the election circuit: the Christian Coalition convention that opens Friday in Washington. Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush would not attend the Christian Coalition event because it would "conflict with our debate preparations this weekend." Coalition chairman and founder Pat Robertson said that his group would be far more active in aiding the Republican presidential ticket than it was four years ago. In a letter to supporters this month, he wrote, "Our naysayers are in for a big shock this November!"

BUSH SPURRING FBI ON TAPE PROBE

George W. Bush said someone is "sweating bullets" as the FBI closes in on a possible double agent in the presidential campaigns, and Bush's aides called on investigators to seize computers from Al Gore as part of its investigation. The FBI is trying to determine how a debate coach for Gore came to receive a videotape of one of Bush's debate practice sessions. The coach, ex-New York Rep. Tom Downey, immediately turned the package over to his lawyer, who gave it to the FBI. "Someone working for me did not send the material," Bush insisted.

BETTER FOR LABOR, NADER SAYS

Green Party candidate Ralph Nader criticized Democrats for what he said is their shabby treatment of the labor vote. The longtime consumer advocate said he was disappointed that United Steelworkers of America joined the AFL-CIO in backing Al Gore. "They felt they had to go with the least of the worst . . . instead of the best," Nader said in Pittsburgh. "But choosing between the bad Democrats instead of the worse Republicans is a downward slide, election after election, for the labor vote." The result, he said, is that Democrats take labor votes for granted.

BAN ON ADS FOR CHILDREN PROPOSED

Declaring that advertisers were directing a "barrage of materialistic marketing" at children, Hillary Clinton called on the federal government to ban commercials aimed at preschool children, and to prohibit advertising inside public elementary schools. Clinton, before a Jewish audience in Cedarhurst, N.Y., said the Federal Trade Commission should be authorized to ban advertising that it determines is intended for children susceptible to manipulation. She also called for legislation to prohibit the marketing of materials to children in elementary schools, as in book covers with ads. "Too many companies simply see our children as little cash cows that they can exploit," she said.

'HOOKER' REMARK BRINGS REBUKE

A Missouri Republican Party spokesman is under fire for accusing the Democrats of parading the female state auditor around "like a cheap hooker." Democrats demanded the GOP fire Daryl Duwe, who works for the Republicans under contract and made the remark last week on his private company Web site. "State Auditor Claire McCaskill let the Democrats parade her around like a cheap hooker," it said. Duwe defended the comment, though it was later changed to read "cheap politician." The remark came after McCaskill criticized political ads by Republican gubernatorial candidate Jim Talent. The ads attack the Democrats over the use of riverboat casino money for education. Duwe said McCaskill should not have used her state office to speak out for one political party. McCaskill said the remark left her "at a loss for words."

GORE BURNS OUT ON HOT SAUCE

When Ike "Big Daddy" Seymour asked, "Are you man enough?" Al Gore had no choice but to dig in. The three-alarm hot sauce at Big Daddy's Bar-B-Que in Des Moines, Iowa, left Gore _ nose running, eyes tearing and face flushed _ scrambling for a remedy. While his Secret Service agents laughed (and refused to try the sauce themselves), Gore chugged cold tea, then poured salt in his mouth. Working? "Not so far," he gasped. Then he sucked a hard candy and, finally, tried milk. "Milk works," he reported. A good remedy for burning mouth, however, is to chew some bread.

SANTORUM LOOKS STRONG IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Democrats' high-priority targeting of Sen. Rick Santorum for defeat this year in Pennsylvania is proving to be an uphill struggle so far for his challenger, Rep. Ron Klink. After a divisive primary fight, Klink has had trouble raising the television money he needs for the expensive Philadelphia and eastern state markets. These are Democratic strongholds, yet polls show two-thirds of the voters don't recognize the name of Klink, who's from western Pennsylvania. Democrats hope Al Gore's rise in popularity will energize the Democrats' 500,000-voter edge in state registration and propel Klink toward an upset.

MICHIGAN HOUSE RACE NECK AND NECK

When Democrats set their sights on winning control of the House this year, they expected Debbie Stabenow in Michigan to easily win re-election. But the Democrat from Lansing decided to run for the Senate, giving Republicans the chance to regain the 8th District seat after four years. The vacancy has created one of the most closely contested House races in the country. Two state senators _ Republican Mike Rogers, an ex-FBI agent, and Democrat Dianne Byrum, a hardware

store owner _ have matched each other stride for stride in fund-raising and support. Polls show the pair locked in a statistical dead heat. Neither had a primary opponent, and neither has been able to gain a significant lead.

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The Associated Press State & Local Wire

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October 20, 2000, Friday, BC cycle

SECTION: State and Regional

LENGTH: 588 words

HEADLINE: Robertson releases Christian Coalition's 2000 voter guide

BYLINE: By PETER JACKSON, Associated Press Writer

DATELINE: HARRISBURG, Pa.

BODY:

The Christian Coalition unveiled a one-page "voter guide" for the 2000 presidential campaign Friday night and coalition founder Pat Robertson said he expects it will reach 70 million Americans through churches across the country.

While the coalition technically does not endorse candidates, Robertson acknowledged that his own favorite is Republican nominee George W. Bush and he called on the "evangelical Christians and pro-family Roman Catholics" who dominate the conservative right to turn out on Election Day.

"Hopefully ... the right guy is going to win," he told a news conference in a room at a hotel on the outskirts of the Pennsylvania capital where the coalition was holding a small rally to mark the release of the guide.

Robertson said Pennsylvania's significance in the campaign was what brought him to the state to release the guide, which also contrasts the positions of U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., and his Democratic challenger, U.S. Rep. Ron Klink.

Among the issues listed in the guide, Bush and Gore were on opposite sides of all but one - "prescription drug benefits for Medicare recipients," which they are both listed as supporting. Only Bush supports what the guide describes as "banning partial birth abortions," however, or opposes "control of public education by powerful unions."

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Pennsylvania is one of a handful of battleground states in the presidential campaign. Texas Gov. Bush and Vice President Al Gore, as well as numerous surrogates, have stumped in the state with increasing frequency as the Nov. 7 election draws closer.

As of the April primary election, 3.6 million Pennsylvanians were registered Democrats and 3.2 million were Republicans, but over the years the state has supported both parties in presidential elections. A statewide poll taken at the end of September showed Gore with a distinct lead, although more recent surveys have indicated Bush is closing the gap in the battle for the state's 23 electoral votes.

Robertson, who had criticized Bush earlier for taking the coalition's support for granted, said he is confident Bush will be loyal to conservative ideals if elected. He said Bush has toned down his conservative rhetoric in the final weeks of the campaign for reasons that are practical, if also political.

"He's playing to the independent voters, and he doesn't want to seem too ideological in this last couple weeks. He's running a centrist campaign," Robertson said. "That's politics in America, so I'm sophisticated enough to understand what he's doing."

Even before the Christian Coalition released its voter guide, a group that describes itself as a "religious liberty watchdog group" called Americans United for the Separation of Church and State said the guide is a thinly veiled pitch for the Republican ticket.

"These voter guides are not objective or fair. Instead, they are partisan campaign propaganda," said Barry W. Lynn, director of the Washington-based group, which claims to have mailed letters to 285,000 churches across the country asking them not to distribute the guides.

"The coalition's guides don't belong in church bulletins or in the lobbies of our houses of worship," he said in a written statement issued Friday afternoon. "They belong at the local recycling center or landfill. Our new project is designed to ensure that they end up there."

Robertson sought to turn the tables on his critics, claiming that their campaign to block the leaflet has only made church leaders more eager to distribute them.

GRAPHIC: AP Photo pursuing

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The Dallas Morning News

October 30, 2000, Monday

SECTION: NATIONAL POLITICAL NEWS

KR-ACC-NO: K1653

LENGTH: 1986 words

HEADLINE: Both parties, special interests spending at record levels to get out the vote

BYLINE: By Paul Pringle

BODY:

LOS ANGELES _ In a downtown office suite that could pass for a boiler room, Jim Macdonald works the telephones. What he's peddling can be a tough sell: participatory democracy.

"I had one guy say he'd have to bill me if I asked any more questions," said Macdonald, 22, a college student who volunteers nights and weekends for Democratic presidential nominee Al Gore. "I know how these people feel, because I hate being called by telemarketers."

Macdonald is among the legions of phone jockeys, mail stuffers and precinct walkers who are waging a street-level war to get out the vote for the Nov. 7 election. With Gore and Republican rival George W. Bush running the closest race in decades, analysts say victory might hinge on a final week of voter-turnout offensives, especially in the dozen or so tossup states.

The major parties and a range of special interest groups are setting spending records to deliver folks to the polls. Their combined efforts are widely described as the biggest and most sophisticated ever.

"We're putting together a ground team of unbelievable size," said Holly Gerberich, a Republican field representative here. She was marshaling the Bush troops at a storefront in Monterey Park, Calif., a predominantly Asian suburb 15 miles east of downtown.

The office was crammed with volunteers on a Friday night, all hunched over phones to ring up the GOP faithful. Precinct maps _ "battle sheets" _ papered the walls. Brochures in English and Chinese spilled off tabletops.

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Republicans are a minority in Monterey Park, so turnout is make or break.

"We're doing absentee-ballot chasing," said Marina Tse, 46, a schoolteacher who was supervising the phoning. The calls were being made to Republicans who received absentee ballots but had not mailed them in.

"Seventy percent would be a good turnout," Tse said.

It would indeed. For both presidential candidates, the No. 1 enemy in the election endgame is apathy. Since the 1960s, Americans have been ducking their civic duty in droves. Less than half of the voting-age population cast ballots in 1996, a modern-era low.

Bill Clinton won handily that year, as he did in 1992. But this time around, the trend of smaller turnouts is most worrisome for Gore. The vice president has had trouble motivating the Democratic base, and his strategists say he must reverse the turnout slide to capture the White House.

The reason is simple: Democrats vote in thinner proportions than do Republicans. And while Gore's backers hope the excitement of the neck-and-neck contest will dramatically lift Democratic turnout, experts are skeptical.

"Close elections usually have higher turnouts," said Mark Hansen, a political science professor at the University of Chicago. "On the other hand, it seems that while people are interested in this race, they aren't enthusiastic about it. I'd certainly be surprised if national voter turnout rose by more than a couple of points."

Complicating matters for Gore is Green Party nominee Ralph Nader, who threatens to siphon off Democratic votes. Observers say a one-two punch of Nader and weak turnout could cost Gore key states, such as Washington, Oregon, Wisconsin and Minnesota. That could tip the election to the Texas governor.

"This race is going to be won on turnout _ a lot of old fashioned, shoe leather politics," said Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League, which is promoting Gore.

NARAL has thrown its entire political budget into a turnout blitz that targets Nader sympathizers and pro-choice women voters who are Republicans or independents. The money is funding television commercials and phone banks from Washington to Maine.

"We've never done anything on this scale," said Michelman.

Also pulling out the stops for Gore are the AFL-CIO, the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People and, to a lesser extent, environmental groups like the Sierra Club.

The labor federation has poured millions of dollars into advertising, voter registration and precinct organizing drives. It is busy converting hundreds of union halls into turnout command posts. On Election Day, from morning until night, labor volunteers will monitor polling stations for Democrats who have not voted. The no-shows will be phoned repeatedly with pleas to hurry to the booth.

"We'll take people to the polls if they need a ride," said Steve Williamson, executive secretary of an AFL-CIO council in Seattle.

Democrats are banking heavily on a strong labor turnout in the industrial Midwest, where many say the election will be decided. One of the region's most competitive states is Michigan, home to 400,000 United Auto Workers. The union is pushing Gore, and its contracts give members Election Day off.

"We are focused like a laser beam on getting our people to the polls," said Chad Clanton, spokesman for the Michigan Democratic Party. "Whoever gets their voters to the polls is going to win."

The NAACP clearly agrees. It is spending \$9 million to mobilize African American voters throughout the South as well as in Midwest and Northeast cities with large black populations. While nonpartisan by charter, the association has mounted sharp attacks on the Bush agenda, causing Republicans to cry foul.

Black turnout has climbed slightly from 1992 and was about 10 percent of the U.S. total four years ago. The NAACP's goal for Nov. 7 is 12 percent.

Its Operation Big Vote has sponsored bus tours in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, Florida and other states, featuring road performances by rap artists and gospel singers. Black Democrats also are being bombarded with taped phone messages from Clinton and rights activist Jesse Jackson.

No pool of potential voters has gone untapped. The NAACP reportedly has registered 11,000 jail inmates to vote.

"We know there is a certain amount of apathy in the black community," said NAACP spokeswoman Jean Ross. "We just want to make sure people participate in the process."

The GOP intends to drum up participation with huge media buys and well-oiled precinct machines. By some accounts, the party is prepared to splurge nearly \$70 million on boosting turnout. Like the Democrats, it has tens of thousands of foot soldiers dialing up voters and hanging leaflets on doorknobs.

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"The way Republicans win here is by getting out the vote," said Florida GOP spokesman Leo DiBenigno, who was returning from a Miami rally hosted by Gov. Jeb Bush, the Republican nominee's brother. "Every day, it becomes more critical."

In Ohio, the party is zeroing in on suburban voters who usually swing the state. It talks of increasing GOP turnout by 5 percent over 1996.

"We're doing the typical things, but probably in larger numbers than we ever have before," said Ohio Republican Party spokesman Gary Abernathy.

Among the Bush campaign's well-heeled helpers is the National Rifle Association, which is said to have devoted much of its \$15 million election budget to turning out gun owners. It has staged get-out-the-vote rallies, headlined by Charlton Heston, in states such as Michigan, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

The NRA's Web site also routes browsers to voter-registration links, a common tactic this year.

"We think it can make a difference," said NRA spokeswoman Kelly Whitley.

In California, turnout has taken on a new urgency as Bush narrows Gore's lead in state polls. The Democrats figure to place 1.8 million phone calls to voters by Election Day.

Party leaders note that John F. Kennedy won the presidency 40 years ago by about one vote per precinct nationwide. In terms of the Electoral College, Jimmy Carter's 1976 margin was even tighter_297 to 240 over Gerald Ford. California has 54 electoral votes, the country's fattest prize.

"We have to fight complacency," said Jay Ziegler, Gore's California director. "Turnout is the most important issue in front of us."

He was sitting in a fourth-floor conference room with a view of the gleaming Staples Center, where Gore accepted his party's nomination in August. On the other side of a closed door, 20 young volunteers were pounding away at the phones. They seemed happy to be doing the party's trench work.

"One person hung up on me, but I did get through to two people" said Ashley Sipchen, 16, who is two years shy of being enfranchised herself. "It's really important to get out and vote. It's something people take for granted."

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