

Little debate drama apparently favored Bush

LOS ANGELES — Presidential rivals George Bush and Michael Dukakis Thursday night gave American voters a review of familiar themes, providing little drama in a debate that apparently went the Republican way.

Drama was not what Bush needed to protect his lead in the polls; it was Dukakis who needed a high voltage performance to propel his Democratic candidacy. It never happened.

As in their first debate, the Republican vice president was more ani-

ated and smiled more easily than did his Democratic rival, a fact that polls suggested tilted viewers his way during their Sept. 25 confrontation.

ABC's instant poll following this second televised confrontation indicated a lopsided preference for Bush, and an Associated Press panel of debate experts likewise delivered a verdict for the Republican. The first time around the same judges decided for Dukakis.

In a sense, it was clear the two candidates had learned from the first

debate that they would be judged on two levels, not only on what they said but how they said it, on such intangible factors as body language.

Once the debate began, the candidates were on familiar terrain.

"Liberal, liberal, liberal," was Bush's favorite way of referring to his Democratic rival.

"If I had a dollar, George, for every time you used that label, I'd qualify for one of those tax breaks for the rich that you want to give away," said Dukakis, getting off one of his best

lines of the evening.

The first question to Dukakis concerned his opposition to the death penalty and he quickly shifted the subject to drugs and made his familiar pledge to wage "a real war and not a phony war against drugs."

And, of course, the debate no sooner ended than the partisans of both candidates swarmed into the press room to declare their favorite the winner and to claim the "liability factor," about which much was made

after the first debate.

Democratic Sen. Alan Cranston of California said Dukakis "overcame, the impression some people have had that he's too cold. . . . He's not a cold guy, he's a warm guy."

Former deputy Treasury secretary Richard Darman, who played the role of Dukakis during Bush debate preparations, said that on the question of likability, he thought Dukakis "didn't help himself tonight, probably that he hurt himself a little bit."

President signs major welfare overhaul

WASHINGTON — President Reagan on Thursday signed the first major overhaul of the nation's welfare system since it was created in the Great Depression. He said the new law is a "message of hope" to those mired in a life of dependency and destitution.

But that message to welfare recipients, said the president, also contains a demand from the citizens who pay the bills: "That you will do your share in taking responsibility for your life and for the lives of the children you bring into this world."

Reagan said the best part of the new welfare plan is that it actually poses "an alternative to life on welfare."

"For too long the federal govern-

ment, with the best of intentions, has usurped the responsibility that appropriately lies with parents," said Reagan at the signing ceremony in the Rose Garden. "In so doing, it has reinforced dependency and separated welfare recipients from the mainstream of society."

The legislation contains the most sweeping revision of the nation's principal welfare program — Aid to Families with Dependent Children — since it was created in 1935.

Under the agreement reached after two years of legislative struggle, the government has pledged to provide training and support systems to destitute parents if they take steps to become independent.

Each state must operate a Jobs

Opportunities and Basic Skills (JOBS) program to educate, train and find employment for the AFDC recipients. Over seven years, states will be entitled to receive \$6.8 billion in federal matching funds to pay for employment and training activities.

The president touted the measure's work and education requirements, as well as its provisions increasing pressure on absentee parents to pay child support.

Also present for the signing was the chief architect of the bill, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y.

"I've been waiting 20 years for this day," said the exultant senator following the ceremony. He added that he hoped its features would take hold fully by the end of the century. Under

the complex piece of legislation, various programs have differing starting dates.

Under the bill, states are required for the first time to offer people on welfare a broad variety of education, training and work programs.

Mothers of young children are required to participate. They retain medical coverage for a year after they find a job, and they will be far more likely to get child support payments.

For the first time, the federal government will require all states to pay cash benefits to two-parent welfare families. Only 27 do so now.

Starting in 1994, one adult in each two-parent welfare household must participate in a job search and, if it

fails, work 16 hours a week in a state-organized work activity. A young parent may work instead toward a high school diploma.

All states will be required to provide at least some cash benefits to families with unemployed fathers living at home.

Non-custodial fathers will face new pressure for child support payments, with states required to identify more of them and automatically withhold payments from their wages.

Those most likely to feel the immediate effects of the welfare bill are able-bodied women with children aged 3 and over. They are the prime targets of the new JOBS programs to be developed by each state.

Notes show Peary never at North Pole

BALTIMORE — Newly uncovered notes kept by Robert E. Peary show the explorer claimed to be the first person to reach the North Pole even though he knew he hadn't come closer than 121 miles, an astronomer and historian says.

The new evidence indicates Peary knew exactly how far away he was and turned back when supplies ran low and warming weather threatened to make the floating ice too dangerous, Dennis Rawlins said in an interview today.

Peary had been under pressure to publicly declare his 1909 expedition a success, said Rawlins, who uncovered a previously sealed file in the Johns Hopkins University library.

"My feeling is his reaction was he had to make the claim because he had published a book in 1907 saying he got close and it didn't sell at all," Rawlins said.

"He had the task of hoaxing the

world while under the harshest spotlight, all the while accusing his archrival (explorer Frederick A. Cook) of faking the very same attainment. The amazing thing is he had the guts and the intelligence to pull it off."

Rawlins' findings, published Wednesday in the Washington Post, are the latest salvo in an 80-year geographical dispute over whether Peary was the first to reach the North Pole, and, if not, whether he knew how far off the mark he had been.

The Peary controversy erupted almost immediately after the explorer lodged his claim because he did not provide evidence, such as the records of his sextant readings, to show he had been at the pole.

A slip of paper with Peary's sextant readings and other navigational calculations, apparently written while he was at his northernmost point during the expedi-

tion, was suppressed by Peary and then was sealed and placed in the National Archives along with his other papers many years after his death in 1920.

In 1984, Peary's descendants unsealed the papers, containing mostly numbers that remained undeciphered until Rawlins obtained them.

Peary's scrawled calculations, understandable only to someone familiar with navigation by the stars, show the explorer came no closer to the pole than 121 miles, according to Rawlins.

Despite the cover-up, Rawlins says Peary still discovered the northernmost point of land in the world, Cape Jesup in northern Greenland, and ranks as the greatest U.S. polar explorer. In addition, Peary should be credited with completing a difficult 400-mile crossing over land through an obstacle course of drifting ice floes.



Illinois students protest campus sexism

URBANA, Ill. — University of Illinois students, shaken by a series of rapes, are taking steps to protect themselves and to fight the sexism many blame for the attacks, student leaders and school officials say.

The attacks around the campus stopped when police identified a suspect, but students are labeling sexism a factor — a message underscored with a candlelight march and rally Wednesday night.

"The message at the rally was that sexism is in our society and it is the cause of a lot of things that go wrong — rape, discrimination and women feeling low self-esteem," Jane Brouwer, president of the Panhellenic Council, said Thursday. The council represents about 3,500 sorority members on the 35,000-student campus and helped organize the demonstration.

"A lot of people just don't think about sexism," Ms. Brouwer said. About 500 students demonstrated

Wednesday, carrying candles to draw attention to the role of sexism in the series of assaults that police attribute to a serial rapist.

"We have a suspect," Champaign Detective Gerald Schweighart said Thursday. "He was identified just before the series of rapes stopped — around Sept. 10."

Police are awaiting results of tests on the suspect's blood and have made no arrest, Schweighart said.

Investigators believe about nine rapes have been committed by the same man since spring, said Schweighart.

The rally Wednesday united groups as diverse as the Panhellenic Council, the campus chapter of the NAACP and a political coalition, United Progressives.

The aim was to focus the role of sexism in society, from pin-up calendars and pornography to references to women in casual conversation, participants said.

"We need a general respect of men and women for each other," Ms. Brouwer said. "If we are serious, we can make a change."

Jenny Keller, a senior at the school majoring in political science who identified herself as a victim of rape, was one of the speakers at the rally.

"We're not asking for pity... we're demanding respect... for the strength it takes to go through this experience," said Ms. Keller. "The vast majority of women are raped by friends, relatives, people who live in their dormitories."

Petitions were circulated urging pay equity at the university, more education on the problems of sexism, and more emphasis on ensuring campus safety.

Participants also condemned campus traditions such as panty raids.

Jeff Jochims, president of the Interfraternity Council, acknowledged the fraternity system has not done a lot to fight sexism.

"We need to realize the Greek system has always had a problem with sexism," Jochims said at the rally. "It's ugly, but it's a reality."

Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey, assistant dean of students, said Thursday the demonstrators' concerns are justified.

Sexism is not just a campus problem, she said, "it is a cultural issue."

Ms. O'Shaughnessey said her office has organized seminars on personal safety, and supervised programs providing women with whistles to use in sounding the alarm if they feel threatened and van service to avert the need for women to walk home alone from class or work at night. Emergency telephones also have been placed around campus.

In addition, Jochims said fraternity members escort women on campus so they do not have to walk alone, and are preparing a program to patrol areas where attacks have occurred.

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