

Gore, Quayle tangle in spicy Atlanta debate

ATLANTA — With pointing fingers and insistent interruptions, Al Gore and Dan Quayle clashed over leadership, abortion and the economy Tuesday night in a vice presidential debate denounced by James Stockdale as "why this nation is in gridlock."

"I feel like an observer at a ping pong game," Ross Perot's running mate said after listening to perhaps the tenth or twentieth time that Gore and Quayle interrupted one another.

It was a messy affair that ended on a sharp, negative note, with Republican Quayle looking into the prime-time camera and referring darkly to the Democratic front-runner.

"The American people should demand that their president tell the truth. Do you really believe Bill Clinton

Stockdale says clash indicative of gridlock

will tell the truth, and do you trust Bill Clinton to be your president?"

The lines were drawn from the outset on the main issue of the campaign.

President Bush and Quayle were like "deer caught in the headlights" when the recession struck, Gore charged — "Blinded to the suffering and pain of bankruptcies and people who are unemployed." He pledged that he and Democratic presidential candidate Clinton "stand for change."

Quayle retorted that Clinton and Gore "will make matters much much worse. He will raise your taxes, he will increase spending, he will make government bigger. Jobs will be lost."

The 90-minute debate also touched on environmental, defense and trade policy.

The political imperative was clear for each of the three running mates: to boost the fortunes of the man at the top of the ticket in a race that has exactly three weeks left to run and shows Clinton with a double-digit lead in the polls.

Quayle attacked the Democratic standard-bearer vigorously, persistently. He accused Gore several times of "pulling another Clinton," which he quickly defined as saying one thing in one place and another thing someplace else. Several times he said, "Bill Clinton has trouble telling the truth," referring to the Vietnam draft controversy and policy positions on school choice and the North American Free Trade Agreement.

At one point, Gore responded with a litany of Bush flip flops, starting with "Read my lips, no new taxes."

Stockdale erupted at one point after Quayle and Gore argued, saying, "I think America is seeing right now the reason this nation is in gridlock," adding that Perot was the man to fix the system.

The heated debate sparked occasional applause from an audience made up of partisans of the three men — and few hisses, as well. That prompted moderator Hal Bruno of ABC News to say, "There's no call for that... so knock that off."

The format — no panel, just Bruno — made it a lively affair. The debate ended with brief closing statements in which each man recapitulated his underlying theme for the evening.

Stockdale said the United States is "in deep trouble," and Perot alone can "bring out the firehoses" needed to restore the nation.

"We've got to change directions," Gore said. "Bill Clinton offers a new approach."

The unknown figure was Stockdale, tapped to be Perot's running mate but with no political experience after decades in the Navy. He stressed his non-politician's status, and he stumbled over his words periodically in a demonstration of his inexperience at political combat and his lesser familiarity with some of the issues.

"Don't expect me to use the language of the Washington insider," he said in his opening statement.

On abortion, Stockdale said, "I believe a woman owns her body and what she does with it is her own business. Period." That was Gore's position, too, but not Quayle's.

When the subject turned to health care, Stockdale seemingly had little to say. "I'm out of ammunition on that one," he said after Gore and Quayle clashed.

Baker lobbied for oil interests, group charges

WASHINGTON — White House chief of staff James A. Baker III, who has large oil investments, played a role in the administration's effort to lobby Congress on oil spill liability in 1990 as secretary of state, documents show.

The Project on Government Oversight, a liberal research group, said Tuesday the documents raise ethical questions about actions by Baker, who also heads President Bush's re-election campaign.

Janet Mullins, a former State Department official who is now an assistant to Bush for political affairs at the White House, dismissed the group's statements as "totally bogus."

"Baker had absolutely nothing to do with this issue," said Mullins, who worked on the oil-spill liability issue. She co-authored a memo on the subject to Lawrence Eagleburger, the acting secretary of state who was then Baker's deputy.

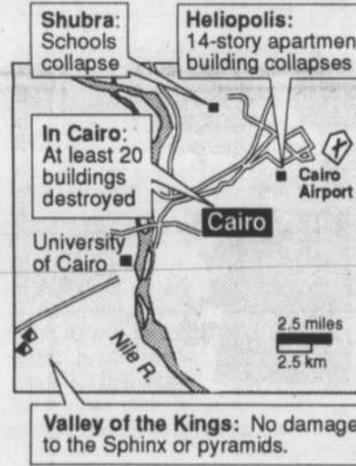
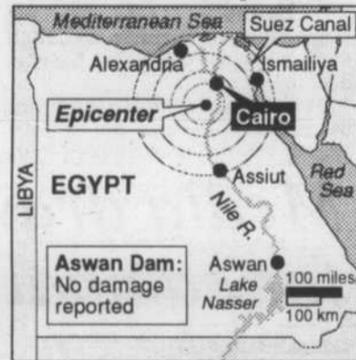
A memo from then-Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner to Baker, indicated the two discussed preparing a joint letter urging Congress to approve international accords limiting oil companies' liability for spills. The letter to Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell was signed by Skinner and Eagleburger, but not by Baker.

That March 1990 letter is one of several State Department documents on the matter obtained by the Project on Government Oversight, a nonprofit group in Washington that investigates activities of the executive branch and Congress.

Baker had promised a month earlier to abstain from involvement in any issues affecting domestic oil and gas prices in order to avoid a conflict of interest.

Baker has a blind trust for his investments, but it does not shield him from federal conflict-of-interest laws because it is not diversified.

Cairo earthquake



Cairo quake casualties mount; officials try to calm survivors

CAIRO, Egypt — Egypt's earthquake death toll climbed past 400 Tuesday, and officials broadcast appeals for calm among Egyptians terrified of another tremor. Many prepared for a second straight night under the stars.

Authorities blamed the high death toll partly on panic stampedes but mainly on the many weak, old or poorly constructed buildings in the Cairo area.

Countries pledged millions in aid. A security official told Cairo Television the search for survivors was called off Tuesday at all the scores of collapsed buildings in the capital area except for one: a 14-story apartment complex in the affluent suburb Heliopolis.

Dozens of people were believed to be buried in the rubble. Relief workers were using their bare hands to sift through dust and stones, and drills to cut through steel construction rods. Many workers said they had little hope of finding anyone alive.

Police Maj. Gen. Nadir Noman, director of civil defense, said 11 bodies were pulled from the debris by early afternoon. As many as 15 people

were found alive in the debris shortly after the quake.

Witnesses reported two people died Tuesday as three quake-weakened structures collapsed in the poor Sayeda Zeinab neighborhood.

Life was generally back to normal elsewhere, but hundreds of aftershocks didn't help. Almost all were too feeble to be felt but not to be imagined: "Now I know what hell is like," said Nadia Ezzeddin, a housewife in Cairo's residential Zamalek Island.

In hopes of calming the public, the official Cairo Radio and Television broadcast a statement by Subhi Freiha, deputy director of the government's Helwan Observatory.

"All the observatory's recordings indicate that the situation is stable," Freiha said. "There is no need to worry."

On TV, Information Minister Safwatel-Sherif answered a reporter's question about the rumor of another strong quake by chastising Egyptians to watch their own media instead of believing the foreign press.

The "second quake" rumor was rampant, and intensified as telephone service neared normalcy Monday

"Now I know what hell is like."

— Ezzeddin Cairo housewife

night.

Sometimes the rumors went beyond a simple prediction of another big quake. One reported being falsely told by a crowd of people gathered in a park that the American, British and Italian embassies had been evacuated in expectation of another tremor.

Government officials said 409 bodies have been found and 3,369 people were injured in the quake.

Dr. Mamdouh Gabr of the Egyptian Red Crescent told The Associated Press that his agency, the Islamic equivalent of the Red Cross, believes 1,000 people are dead, missing or homeless because of the quake. He said hospitals reported 10,000 injured, although only about 400 remain hospitalized.

Scores of blood donors were reportedly turned away from hospitals, where officials said they already had enough blood.

Surprise: College cost rise outpaces financial aid

BOSTON — The cost of attending public colleges and universities has increased at a double-digit rate for the second straight year, far ahead of state and federal financial aid, the College Board reported Tuesday.

The cost of higher education ranges from \$321 a year at the public, two-year College of the Mainland in Texas City, Texas, to \$24,380 at private Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, N.Y. The highest-priced state school is the University of Vermont, which charges in-state students \$10,006 for tuition, housing and a meal plan.

Average tuition and fees at four-

year public universities and colleges rose 10 percent to \$2,315 this fall, the College Board reported. Room and board brings the total to \$5,841. At two-year schools, the average increased to \$1,292.

"A lot of students have been driven from public colleges and universities and people are also having trouble affording community colleges at this point," said Stacey Leyton, president of the U.S. Student Association.

This fall's 10-percent hike follows an increase of 13 percent last year.

The increase in the cost of private institutions has been slowing, partly

in response to competition for a dwindling number of traditional-age students.

At four-year private universities and colleges, tuition and fees now average \$10,498, and at private two-year colleges, \$5,621 — increases of 7 percent and 6 percent. Room and board adds an average of \$4,575 to the cost at private four-year schools.

"Given the state of the economy and its impact on state budgets, many people expected much larger increases this year, particularly in the public sector," said Donald M. Stewart, president of the College Board, a New

York-based association of 2,800 higher education institutions.

Many colleges and universities are cutting programs, laying off some faculty and staff, and deferring maintenance of buildings and equipment.

"Even with the big tuition increases, they're still losing ground," said David W. Breneman, former president of Kalamazoo College and a visiting professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Colleges and universities are also being squeezed by falling public budgets for financial aid.

Gunshot incident sparks safety talks

By Sarah Scalet Staff Reporter

Student leaders are looking at safety and security at the Nebraska and East Campus unions because of a Sept. 20 incident at the Culture Center when gunshots were fired, an official said Tuesday.

Daryl Swanson, director of the Nebraska Union, told Union Board members that although the incident was not directly related to the Culture Center because it occurred outside, students

already had discussed safety concerns at two meetings.

The Culture Center is part of the student unions.

Students will continue discussion Oct. 22, Swanson said.

Suggestions at previous meetings included having police on duty at certain functions at the unions, requiring advisers to be present and limiting events to University of Nebraska-Lincoln students with identification cards, Swanson said.

In other business, Union Board members discussed a study about the Nebraska Union's accessibility to disabled students.

The study's suggestions include:

● Raising two tables in the food court so wheelchairs without trays can maneuver under them.

● Making the door near the north revolving doors accessible to students who cannot maneuver through revolving doors.

● Moving second and third floor elevator buttons so they are more accessible.

● Installing flashers on fire alarms for students with hearing disabilities.

Union Board members will discuss recommendations after board adviser Frank Kuhn researches the cost and time needed to implement the changes.



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Daily Nebraskan contact information including Editor Chris Hoptensperger, Managing Editor Kris Karnopp, and various staff members.