

OPINION MAGAZINE

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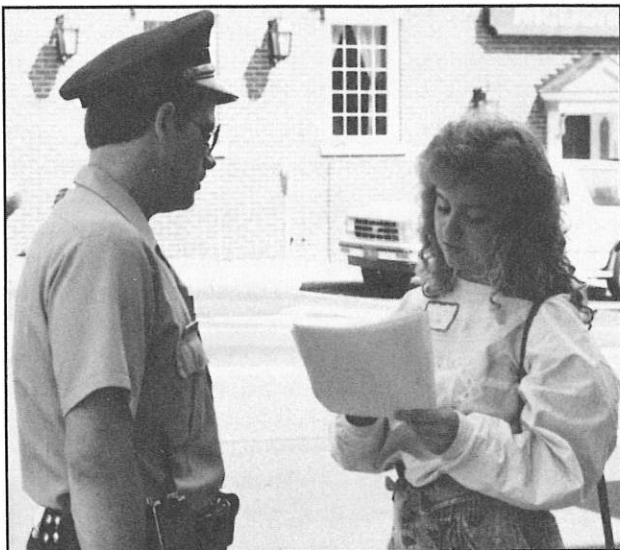
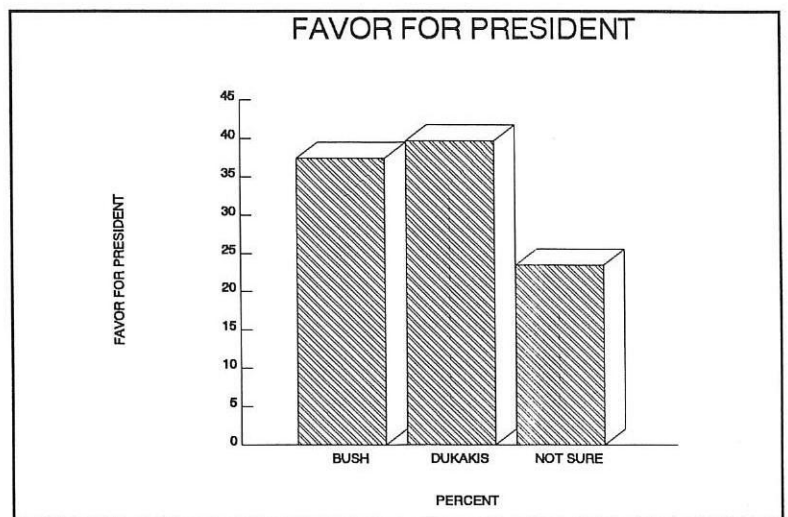
October 21, 1988

BUSH, DUKAKIS IN DEAD HEAT

According to recent polling results from Clayton, the presidential candidates are in a dead heat in the election race.

The graph at right illustrates the percentage of people voting for either George Bush or Michael Dukakis.

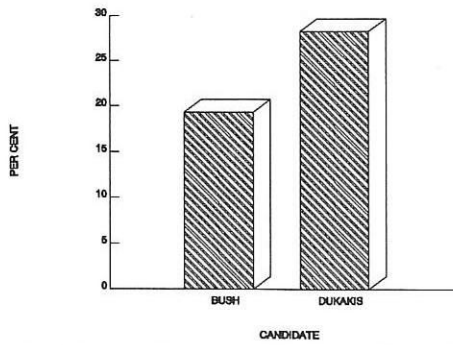
There is also a fairly high percentage of voters who are not sure for whom they are going to vote. The next few weeks of debating and speeches will give these unsure voters a chance to make their decision.



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WINNER OF THE SEPTEMBER 25 DEBATE



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The opinions expressed herein are solely those of the contributors to the publication and does not represent the views or values of Crossroads School.

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A DEBATE ABOUT THE DEBATE

by Dana Pownall

According to a *Newsweek* poll, 42% of the people think Dukakis won the first presidential debate compared to the 41% who thought Bush won (NOTE: the Crossroads poll showed Dukakis prevailing by 9 points.)

A widely-heard complaint is the lack of issues in this campaign, although *Newsweek* thought the Sunday debate was more substantive than expected. Bush tried to label Dukakis as a big-spending liberal "out of the mainstream." Dukakis answered by hitting on Bush's record in the Iran-Contra scandal, his alleged support of drug ring leader Noriega, and the qualifications of his vice-presidential candidate Dan Quayle.

Political consultant Eddie Mahe supports *Newsweek's* poll results by saying that Bush came off as "the more human fellow, but not the more presidential one." Both candidates made blunders, but with clear, dismissive retorts like "George, that's no answer," Dukakis won the small edge showed by the polls.

THE ISSUE OF THE PLEDGE

by Tammy Stutes

The question: should reciting the Pledge of Allegiance be made a requirement in U.S. public schools? George Bush says yes, Michael Dukakis says no.

If this proposition becomes law, any student not complying could be expelled from school. Vice-president George Bush implies that anyone not in support of such a law or not willing to say the Pledge of Allegiance is unpatriotic. He has used this many times in his campaign against Governor Dukakis.

The bill was brought before Dukakis in the state of Massachusetts and he vetoed the measure which was passed by the state legislature. Governor Dukakis defends his position by stating that the bill is unconstitutional, denying people the freedom of religion and freedom of opinion.

In the past, the families of children who refused to say the pledge have been harassed. In West Virginia, seven Jehovah's Witnesses were forced to drink castor oil and forced to march through town on a rope. Many Witnesses have been beaten, had their homes sacked, and their religious halls burnt. More than 800 incidents of harassment and 2,000 expulsions from schools attended by Witnesses have occurred in the past two years because these students refused to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

In my opinion, this issue in itself is ridiculous and should not be given so much publicity. Because of all the media propaganda given this issue, ten percent of those voting for George Bush are basing their vote on this issue according to a recent *New York Times* poll. I think this issue should be ignored. Let's get to the real issues.

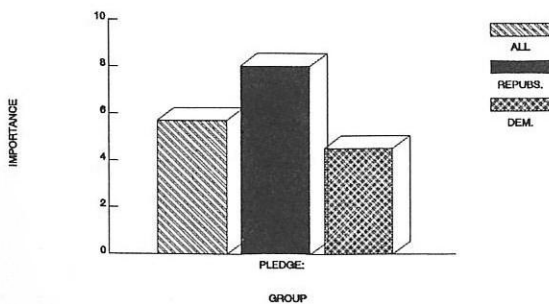
THE ISSUES ???

Many wizened observers of the campaign are disappointed in how issues unrelated to the future of America have come first and foremost. Each candidate has had his share of these non-issues: George Bush with the Pledge of Allegiance and Michael Dukakis with his "son of immigrant parents" theme.

Apparently, George Bush has struck a cord in the psyche of the American people with his plea for the pledge. On a scale of '1' to '10', the general public holds the pledge at a 5.70 importance. Among Republicans, the significance is fully 8.00. On the contrary, Dukakis' "son of immigrants" *cause celebre* ranks a bland 2.81 with all groups.

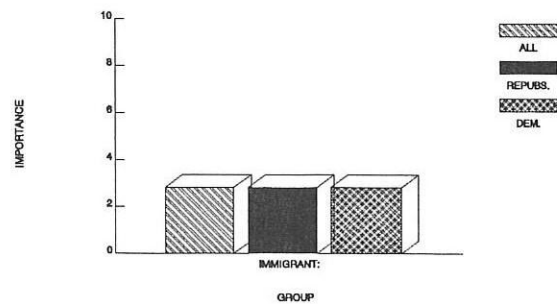
IMPORTANCE OF PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

(Ranked on a '1' to '10' Scale)



IMPORTANCE OF DUKAKIS

BEING SON OF IMMIGRANT PARENTS



DON'T FORGET THE DEFICIT

What About the Deficit?

The federal deficit is confusing at best even for the economists. There is no consensus on how certain aspects of the budget, the money supply, and the government programs change our economy.

Though the Reagan Administration claims victory as the economy maintains steady growth, many economists say it would have happened anyway without supply side policies. Economists also debate if supply side economics is a valid theory. If the economy is so stable, why did we suffer the Stock Market Crash of 1987? Why are so many plants closing and people out of work? Why are so many American companies going "off shore" to manufacture? Why is our trade deficit growing?

Looking back on federal spending

Historically deficits are created when a government spends more than it receives over a period of years. The Roosevelt New Deal of the 1930s spent money according to the John M. Keynes theory: the government spends to pull the country out of a recession. When prosperity returns, the government collects taxes until the deficits are paid. The New Deal debts were not paid until after World War II.

Federal spending continued through the Korean War, Vietnam, and Johnson's Great Society programs. The economy was doing well because a large portion of the labor force was fighting or manufacturing armaments. When Nixon pulled the U.S. out of Vietnam, we had a glut of labor: the soldiers returned and defense plants closed. However, countries always experience inflation and depression after a war.

What was this "stagflation"?

Carter got caught in this fluctuation of the economy. We had "stagflation:" high unemployment and high inflation. This is something that should not happen according to the economists. We had

a large number of people out of work buying goods and services at inflated prices. OPEC was artificially raising the price of petroleum. Not only did this jack up the price of gasoline, but also all plastic products. People began to demand cotton clothes, not polyester, and smaller, fuel-efficient cars. Most of the inflationary pressure that built up in the late 1970s came not from the demand side and government deficits but from supply side shocks and cost-push inflationary effects. A leading indicator is interest rates, the price people are willing to pay for money. The rates during the Carter Administration went as high as 22%. Consequently, price for houses and other construction skyrocketed. The economy had to adjust while OPEC debated lowering prices, Detroit retooled its plants for smaller cars, and labor took cuts in pay and gave back benefits to management. Was the economy ready to recover when Reagan took over?

A look at the figures adds fuel to this argument. Even though Reagan cut much of the federal government spending, the federal deficit has grown from \$58,961m when he took office in 1980 to \$220,698m in 1986. The balance of international payments was \$3.7b in 1980 and the latest figures show \$141.4b in 1986.

Bush/Reagan economy, *deja voodoo*?

Reagan's theory was to lower taxes to increase spending money for people investing in companies (buying stock). The theory said workers receive more money as it "trickled down" to salaries and wages. The programs cut to make up for reduced revenue of taxes would not be needed because those people hurt by the cuts would soon find work in the booming economy. However, Reagan's own supply-side budget architect David Stockman confided to a magazine that it would not work. George Bush as a presidential candidate called it "voodoo economics." The debate

continues that tax cuts only helped the rich. Conservatives say the debt explosion was the result of pre-Reagan fiscal excesses and a Congress hesitant to cut federal spending. Liberals charge that the federal budget was hemorrhaging from supply side tax cuts while the administration encouraged a tight money policy to keep inflation down. At the same time Reagan increased military spending by 50%

How do the present candidates stand on the deficit?

If George Bush is elected, he favors reducing the deficit. That's nice. According to his local campaign office, "He first plans to lower the captial [sic] gains which would increase business investments. That would mean jobs increase and business revenues would increase. Thus, the social programs would decrease, that meaning government expenditures would be cut." Dukakis economic advisor Lawrence Summers said it best: "I feel a sense of *deja voodoo*." When pressed for more details, this reporter was told the phone had suddenly developed a bad connection.

Dukakis Theories

And in the Dukakis camp, an aide explained his attack on the deficit this way: Dukakis does not plan to raise taxes, but to close up the loopholes and to have better tax collection. He also feels that the federal government should lower federal defense spending, mainly Star Wars, from \$4 billion to \$1 billion.

According to the Wall Street Journal (6 Sept 88) "Both candidates dodge suggesting specific budget cuts or revenue increases to close the budget gap. Edmund Pratt, the chairman of Pfizer Inc. and head of the Business Roundtable, complains that neither candidate is dealing with the crushing problem, and that is the double deficits, budget and trade."

Vice Presidential Qualifications

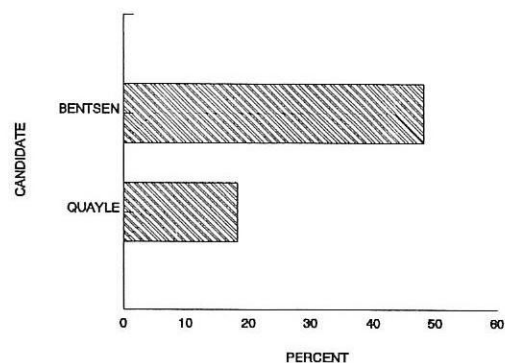
by Carrie Driscoll & Earl Holmes

One big question of this election seems to be who is most qualified to be vice president?

Much controversy has stemmed from the nomination of Dan Quayle. Although Dan Quayle has served two terms as a U.S. senator, many citizens fear that at 41 he doesn't have enough experience to run the U.S. in the event something would happen to George Bush.

According to our graph, 18% of people polled say that Quayle is qualified to serve his nominated position, while 48% say that Lloyd Bentsen is qualified to serve the position of vice-president.

MOST QUALIFIED TO BE V-P.



Freshman KAY WYATT polling in Clayton

THE SAMPLE

The survey was conducted on Monday, September 26. The technique used was "intercept polling", meaning interviewing people personally. The polling was done in Clayton, Missouri.

Two hundred seventy-six (276) individuals were interviewed. A sample of that size is valid within a plus or minus range of 7% points.

The specific characteristics of the sample included:

Men: 57%	White: 80%
Women: 43%	Black: 20%

CONFESSIONS OF A STREET-WALKER

by Kay Wyatt

How would you feel if you had to walk up to a complete stranger? Students of Crossroads School have been doing that in Clayton this Fall to get a sense of St. Louisans' views on the election.

It seems on an average most people like to be polled. We talked to a girl who polled in Clayton and enjoyed it. It seems she interviewed mostly Republicans. She said, "The Republicans were not quite as willing to answer our poll as the Democrats were."

Most of the Republicans were young, upper class "Yuppies". Democrats were mainly black or elderly.

Our next pollster was a boy who interviewed about twenty people. It seems that only 16% were for Quayle. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that Quayle is not a positive contribution to his ticket. Both pollsters agreed people did not feel there was a winner in the debate. "Hey, Duke, stop telling us about your family and patriotism; and, Bush, learn the facts. For crying out loud, you're running for president."

Clayton passers-by seem most interested in the deficit and defense, but find it hard to learn the candidates' positions.

EDITORIALS:

THE HOMELESS: A NON-ISSUE?

One issue that both candidates have side-stepped is the homeless.

Democrats on all levels of government are quick to point out that the cuts in social programs are the main reason for the shocking rise in the number of the homeless. The statistics of the ever-growing population belie the old belief that everyone on the streets is an older male wino. The new members of the group are the young families, especially the single mothers, black and white, with children. And then, it is hard to count persons who have no address, and therefore no job. It is hard to count the children who cannot go to school for the same reason. These people migrate from one shelter to another every day as they wait for practically non-existent low-income housing.

Of course, these people do not qualify for welfare either because they have no address. There are an estimated 69,318 welfare cases in the city of St. Louis alone. It is not surprising that the city does not want the added expense of the homeless. The revenues the federal government no longer sends to cities used to fund many of the programs that could help these people.

This problem is big enough to deserve a stand from Bush and Dukakis; but neither has addressed the issue head on. The federal government has dumped many problems on the local level. The charities and the shelters are packed and the numbers increase. Winter is coming on. Is this the 1980s version of the Hoovervilles of the '30s?

If you think the candidates should address this issue, please call the headquarters in town. The phone numbers are Bush:569-3442 and Dukakis:726-6101.

The Slow Burn of America

by Wizzie Bartley

In the past summer the environment has been an increasing point of interest to many people including presidential hopefuls Michael Dukakis and George Bush. The question is though, are they serious about the environment or has the heat of the past summer just gotten to them? This past summer vast majorities of our western states have been stricken with devastating forest fires. These fires include the most publicized ones in Yellowstone which have claimed 40% of the park. The damage to America's forests will take anywhere from 100-300 years for nature to repair. The park service is under attack for its "free burn" policy and for waiting so long to suspend it. There is no telling how much could have saved if they were fought from the very beginning. There is still speculation on how effectively the government and park service has dealt with the situation.

Defenders of the park service point out that this year's drought is the cause of the forest fires. This is true, but critics point out that what they see is inefficient government management. Many have speculated that we will be seeing more drought-filled summers because of the thinning ozone layer.

SLOW BURN -- continued on Page 6.

MY TURN

by KELLEY CARPENTER



Vice President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis have varying opinions on Foreign Policy and budget deficit/tax issues.

Mr. Bush supports a balanced budget amendment and the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law. He proposes we do this without tax increases and instead has proposed a half-dozen new programs based on new tax breaks.

While Mr. Bush supports this reduction of government spending without tax increases, he supports aid to the Nicaraguan Contras while peace efforts are underway and supports the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf.

The question is, where will the money come from for these projects? Without a tax increase and deficit spending, won't money for some other projects close to home be taken?

Mr. Dukakis opposes the balanced budget amendment, but wants a spending restraint. He has supported this by specifying cuts in the Pentagon. He says stricter tax enforcements should be tried before a tax hike is considered, without ruling that possibility out.

Paralleling this, Dukakis is against aid to the Contras. He calls for partnership for the Americas to ensure regional development. He does favor a multilateral peace-keeping force in the Persian Gulf.

The issues of foreign policy and the budget deficit and taxes are shown to be related in that what we spend on other countries will effect what we spend on our own, depending on the stand taken.

Mr. Bush appears to be a hero, trying to help other countries, and not increasing taxes here at home, but is the money is going to come from somewhere. From where is the money for aid to other countries going to come from if Bush plans to stick to his stand on a balanced budget? Without increased taxes, this money may have to come from other programs.

Mr. Dukakis's plan may not sound as appealing as Mr. Bush's, but at least with a tax increase we won't have to let other programs suffer for foreign aid.

SLOW BURN -- continued from Page 5.

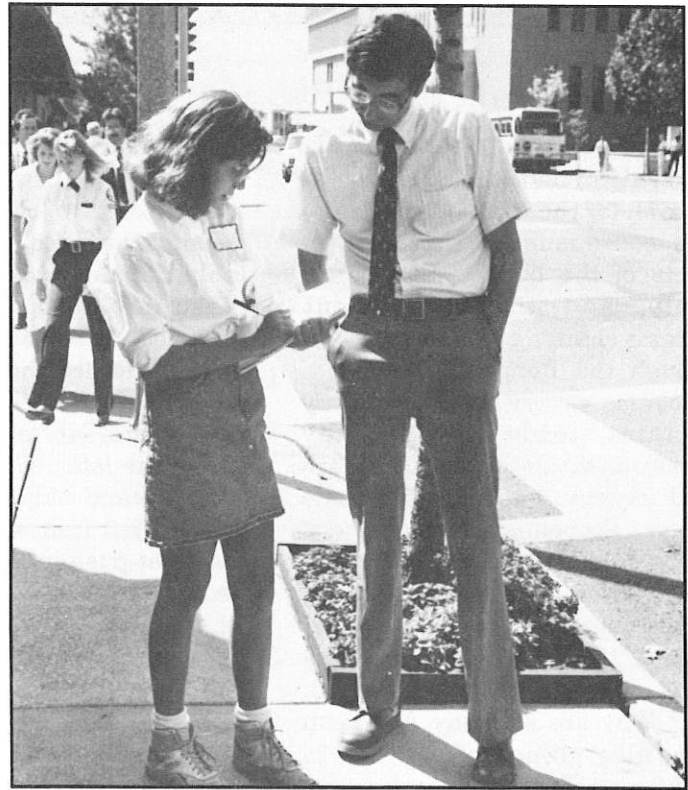
Can we afford to risk our forests to a continuation of Reagan's "environmental policy"?

Each candidate has stated his worries about the environment, but neither has stated what he is going to do about it. It is hard to pin them down on this issue. We are all able to state our worries about the environment, but we are not all able to do something about it as the candidates are.

In order to be able to take Bush seriously, he needs to shake the Reagan reputation on environmental issues. Bush also needs to define what he wants to do with the environment.

Dukakis is not much better. While he condemns Reagan's forest service, his critics point to contaminated Boston Harbor in his backyard. Therefore, Dukakis also needs to define whatever plans he may have.

Each candidate has a relatively equal opportunity to win the environmental debate, but I feel that the one who defines his policy on environmental issues to the public first will have a better chance of winning.



Freshman KETRILL FELTMEYER "intercept polling" on Central Avenue.

OPINION MAGAZINE

Crossroads School is a private institution in the Central West End that offers students a chance to learn in a liberal and relaxed environment. Crossroads also offers students the opportunity to develop close relationship between students and teachers. Teachers are willing to sacrifice time to help the students.

Students are taught not only the basic subjects, but offered classes that give practical application of basic skills. One of the many classes offered is Crossroads Magazine.

The magazine is not only a class, but a study of the 1988 Presidential Election. This publication is a product of the class. The articles and editorials in this magazine were derived from information found in various polls (taken in Clayton), political speakers, publications, and interviews.

The staff of the Crossroads *Opinion* Magazine hopes you enjoy our publication, and that it will assist you in your decision of how to vote.

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