

CAROLINA NEWS

Bush rallies in Greenville

BY RON HUTCHESON
COLLEGE PRESS EXCHANGE

GREENVILLE — Texas Gov. George W. Bush portrays himself as a candidate who reaches out to minority voters, but he was the featured speaker Wednesday at a Christian school that prohibits interracial dating.

Bush's visit to Bob Jones University here underscored the lingering complications of racial politics in the South, a vital region for Republicans in national elections. In going to the school, the Republican presidential hopeful reached out to Southern conservatives at the possible risk of alienating moderates, independents and voters of color in other parts of the country.

The visit was viewed as politics as usual in South Carolina, where racial tensions are focused on the Confederate battle flag that flies over the state capitol. Even the NAACP took a pass when given the chance to comment on the Texas governor's appearance at the school.

At a news conference after his speech, Bush said he opposes the ban on interracial dating but said he sees no conflict between his visit and his inclusive campaign message. Bush often presents himself to voters as a candidate who can appeal to all races and ethnic groups.

"I went there to see 7,000 people. I went there because I was invited to go," he said. Bush's speech replaced the normal Wednesday chapel service, which is mandatory for students.

Although Bush's visit to the racially separatist campus did not cause any noticeable headlines, the school and its policies have stirred passions in the past.

The university, founded in 1927 by the Rev. Bob Jones Sr., a popular evangelist, has been in the prohibition movement. It has a five-exempt status in the 1970s for refusing to admit blacks. The school has since abandoned its segregationist admissions policy but continues to prohibit dating by blacks and whites.

In defending the ban on interracial dating, school officials point to the Biblical story about the tower of Babel, where God divided the tower builders

by their different languages. Some segregationists have interpreted the story as a warning against mixing races.

It was unclear if the prohibition applies only to blacks and whites — and not to Hispanics or Asians, for example — and school officials did not return phone calls seeking clarification.

Interracial or cross-cultural dating and marriage is becoming more and more widespread in the United States, particularly in places with diverse populations such as California, Texas, Florida and New York. Census figures from 1998, the latest available, show that 5.6 percent of married couples in the United States identify themselves as interracial, up from 4 percent in 1990.

In 1998, school officials threatened to arrest a gay alumnus for trespassing if he came on the grounds, prompting a demonstration by gay rights activists. The university's mission statement declares that the rules guiding student life flow from a literal interpretation of the Bible — "whatever the Bible says is so." The school's goal is to produce graduates who are "Scripturally disciplined; others-serving; God-loving; Christ-proclaiming; and focused above."

Despite its sometimes controversial policies, the university is familiar turf to Republican presidential candidates. At least two of Bush's rivals, publisher Steve Forbes and radio commentator Alan Keyes, are expected to visit the campus and its 5,000 students before South Carolina's Feb. 19 primary. Keyes is African-American.

"Republicans and Democrats have been going to that campus for years," said former Gov. David Beasley, a Bush supporter. "They're good folks, they're good people, and they have strong views that they don't play politics with. They're not trying to impose that view on any of the candidates running for office."

A spokesman for Bush's chief rival, Sen. John McCain of Arizona, declined to say whether McCain would accept an invitation to the campus.

"Sen. McCain does not support that policy or that viewpoint," spokesman John Weaver said of the interracial dating ban.

S.C. colleges on the road to more funding

BY JENNIFER HOLLAND
ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Carolina's colleges and universities hope lawmakers accept a new system that rates requests for campus construction or repair projects.

The state's Higher Education Commission approved the first project scores Thursday, which are meant to help lawmakers decide which projects to fund this year.

A five-member committee of state business and education leaders scored the projects based on the type of construction, how well projects met the school's long-term goals and building needs identified in a 1994 study.

The process stems from a request last fall by House Ways and Means Committee member Thomas Keegan, who wanted the commission to prioritize the schools' projects before they were submitted to the Legislature.

It would be up to lawmakers to decide how to use the scores to distribute funds, unless the Legislature is considering a bond bill, said John Smalls, director of finances and facilities for the commission.

State law requires that the commission rank projects with the greatest need when the Legislature considers a bond bill.

The scoring system was developed as a more objective way to determine which

projects should be funded. Commission staff used to tour campuses to judge which projects to recommend to the Legislature, but "because it was so subjective, we felt we needed something," Smalls said.

Commission member Lawrence Gressette objected to new scores Thursday, saying "we're establishing a dangerous precedent."

Some universities are concerned the scores create one more variable in state funding and could overlook schools' individual needs.

Scott Ludlow, chief financial officer at Clemson University, said the state's colleges are still adjusting to the 3-year-old performance funding system, which uses 37 criteria — from teacher and research funding to student SAT scores and graduation rates — to determine state funding.

"I want to recognize the difficult situation (the commission is) in, but I want to recognize the frustrations of the universities when they see things shifting,"

Ludlow said.

The scoring process for building projects will work if it "strongly considers the individual institutional matters," said Robert Gallagher, vice president of finance for the Medical University of South Carolina.

FAIR

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organization, because if they can show on a resume that in college they could work with many different types of people, an employer will appreciate them more," Wilson said.

Wilson also said that the NAACP wasn't limited to African-American members and welcomed anybody to come to their meetings.

Students who would like more information about student groups on campus are encouraged to stop by the Campus Activities Center, located in the Russell House basement. The Center has information on all registered groups and will help students get involved on campus.

SENATE

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Goldberg said that since the three programs are so similar, the College of Pharmacy feels justified in asking for equal "allocation of funding to go to pharmacy organizations, as they [the Budget Committee] see best fit, enabling students to fulfill their professional pursuits."

STUDENT SENATE



Currently, four of the 10 existing pharmacy organizations get funding. These organizations work within the community, sponsoring events like Operation Immunization, a flu-vaccination campaign.

"I believe the compromise presented by Mr. Woody Carothers, which states that pharmacy students receive 38 percent of the fees for the last two years, is equitable and fair," Sadik said.

The senate will further debate the issue Wednesday.

VOTERS

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registered to vote 30 days before.

There are several ways to register to vote: One can register at the DMV, go to the Richland County Voter Registration Office on the corner of Harden and Hampton streets (2020 Hampton St.) or mail in a voter registration form to PO Box 192, Columbia, SC 29202.

Students who consider Columbia their

permanent address (or live in Columbia the majority of the year) can register in Richland County, but students who have permanent addresses out of town can call their home county voter registration office and register an absentee ballot. Registering an absentee ballot is just like voting; one can pick candidates and send the ballot to the home county.

Absentee ballots must be received three days before the election. Also, parents can call in to their local voter registration office and arrange for their children to vote.

The number of absentee ballots has increased over the years, as numerous reasons for casting an absentee ballot have increased. The long list of reasons included being a college student away from home, a person spending time out of the country or anybody over 65.

If you are not sure about voting or where to vote, you can do what is called "fail safe" voting the day of the election at the Richland County Voter Registration Office.

MCCAIN

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care of our obligations in good times," McCain said.

McCain also talked about his signature issue, campaign finance reform. He said the Clinton administration "debased the institutions of government" in the 1996 campaign finance scandals. President Clinton "treated [the Lincoln Bedroom] like a Motel 6," McCain said, referring to allegations that the president allowed donors to his re-election campaign to sleep in the Lincoln Bedroom, usually reserved for guests of honor.

McCain said Bush defends the current system.

"You can't defend this system," he said. "It's indefensible."

McCain cited his experience as a reason he was ready to take over the presidency. McCain has specialized in foreign policy during his tenure in Congress and served in the military before being elected.

"I'm fully prepared to take over as commander-in-chief right now," he said.

McCain promised to tell Americans the truth, if elected. "I will always act on principle, and you will always hear the truth from me, no matter what," he said.

McCain also showed some of his trademark humor at the rally. He talked about Bruce Babbitt, Barry Goldwater, and Mo Udall, all failed presidential candidates from Arizona.

"Arizona may be the only state in America where mothers don't tell their children they can grow up to be president," McCain joked.

He also talked about selling the movie rights to his best seller, "Faith of My Fathers," which covers the military service of his grandfather, father, and himself. He said there was some dispute over who should play McCain in the movie.

"I want Tom Cruise. My kids want Danny DeVito," he said.

McCain also joked about the establishment's dislike for him, referring to Harry Truman's statement that if somebody wants a friend in Washington, they should buy a dog.

"That's certainly true in my case," he quipped.

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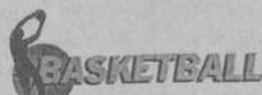
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Student Basketball Ticket Distribution

There is a printing error in the 1999-2000 University Of South Carolina Student Basketball Ticket Information Book.

The distribution dates for the Mississippi State and Alabama games are NOT Feb. 8 and 9.
The NEW DISTRIBUTION DATES are Monday, Feb. 7 and Tuesday, Feb. 8.

The distribution dates for the LSU and Georgia games are NOT Feb. 15 and 16.
The NEW DISTRIBUTION DATES are Monday, Feb. 14 and Tuesday, Feb. 15.



Lets have a big Turnout of Student Basketball FANS for the last Four Home Games of The Season.
Distribution for the games will be in ROOM 205 Russell House from 9:00am - 4:00pm.

• Students are not guaranteed a student ticket to each game, only the right to a ticket as long as student tickets are available.

• Remember, the good seats go early, so get your ticket as soon as you can.

Handicapped or disabled students can get assistance by calling 777-6742.

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