

Bush says Kerry 'unfit to lead'

■ BUSH

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elements in his convention speech. In the commercials, Bush vows to "spread ownership and opportunity," "make our economy more job friendly" and help lower health care costs.

Locked in a tight race, the president underscored his differences with Kerry on issues of war, tax cuts, values and more. At the same time, he used terms less incendiary than those wielded by Cheney or Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga., from the convention podium Wednesday night.

Bush said Kerry and Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards had both voted against \$87 billion in aid for "troops doing battle in Afghanistan and Iraq." "When asked to explain his vote, the senator (Kerry) said, 'I actually did vote for the \$87 billion before I voted against it.' Then he said he was 'proud of that vote.'"

The president said Kerry has proposed "more than \$2 trillion in new federal spending so far, and that's a lot, even for a senator from Massachusetts."

Bush added: "To pay for that spending, he is running on a platform of increasing taxes — and that's the kind of a promise a politician usually keeps."

Contrary to Bush's characterization, Kerry's economic plan calls for rolling back the Bush-era tax cuts only on the top 2 percent of wage-earners, while leaving the rest in effect.

The public opinion polls made the race a toss-up as Bush stepped to a custom-made, theater-in-the-round style podium at Madison Square Garden, the country divided along political lines that shaped the Electoral College strategy for him and Kerry alike.

By all accounts, Bush is safely ahead in customary GOP strongholds across the South and Great Plains states, with Kerry similarly situated in Democratic base states from New York to Illinois to California.

That left about 20 states to contest, across nine weeks of personal campaigning, presidential and vice presidential debates and more than \$100 million in campaign advertising — the White House the prize.

Bush offered Reagan-style optimism in a time of national testing, mixed with self-deprecating humor. "Some folks look at me and see a certain swagger which in Texas we call 'walking,'" he joked.

Referring to the remnants of the World Trade Center site four miles distant, he said, "Here buildings fell, and here a nation rose. ... And all of this has confirmed one belief beyond doubt: Having come this far, our tested and confident nation can achieve anything."

Bush mentioned cultural issues where he and Kerry differ — abortion rights and a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage among them, and legislation that the senator opposed and Democratic President Clinton signed to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

"If you gave a speech, as my opponent did, calling the Reagan presidency eight years of 'moral darkness,' then you may be a lot of things, but the candidate of conservative values is not one of them," Bush said.

He called anew for making his tax cuts permanent — a goal that even some Republicans balk at in an era of record federal deficits.

Beyond that, Bush pledged a second-term effort to reform and simplify the tax code, part of a broader effort to appeal to millions of Americans

"We are staying on the offensive — striking terrorists abroad — so we do not have to face them at home."

GEORGE W. BUSH
PRESIDENT

anxious over the economic security of their families.

In a return to the rhetoric of compassionate conservatism that marked his 2000 election campaign, the

Republican pledged changes in health coverage, pensions and more.

Protestors freed after Convention

By SARA KUGLER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The city said it set free nearly 500 protesters late Thursday after being fined by a judge for failing to immediately release the demonstrators, who had spent the previous days venting their rage at the Bush administration.

The legal battle came as the convention received a mostly mellow sendoff from protesters.

Hundreds of them gathered — noisily but without incident — near Madison Square Garden as a huge wall of police stood between them and the site of the convention. As President Bush began his nomination acceptance speech inside at about 10 p.m., the crowds of protesters outside began to disperse. The week saw nearly 1,800 arrests in all, but only 26 on Thursday.

"It's been a long week," explained demonstrator Sam Nolan, 37, as he walked away from the protest. "The cops really wore us down. I guess people got intimidated."

There were accusations



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David Protomastro participates in a vigil.

that the city was deliberately holding the protesters longer so they would not be in the streets during Bush's speech.

"The evidence shows that the city told defendants that they would not be released until George Bush went home," said Dan Alterman of the National Lawyers Guild. The New York Police Department denied the charge.

"The allegations that the NYPD was purposely holding demonstrators until after the president of the United States left New York City was part of a deliberate misinformation campaign," police spokesman Paul Browne said.

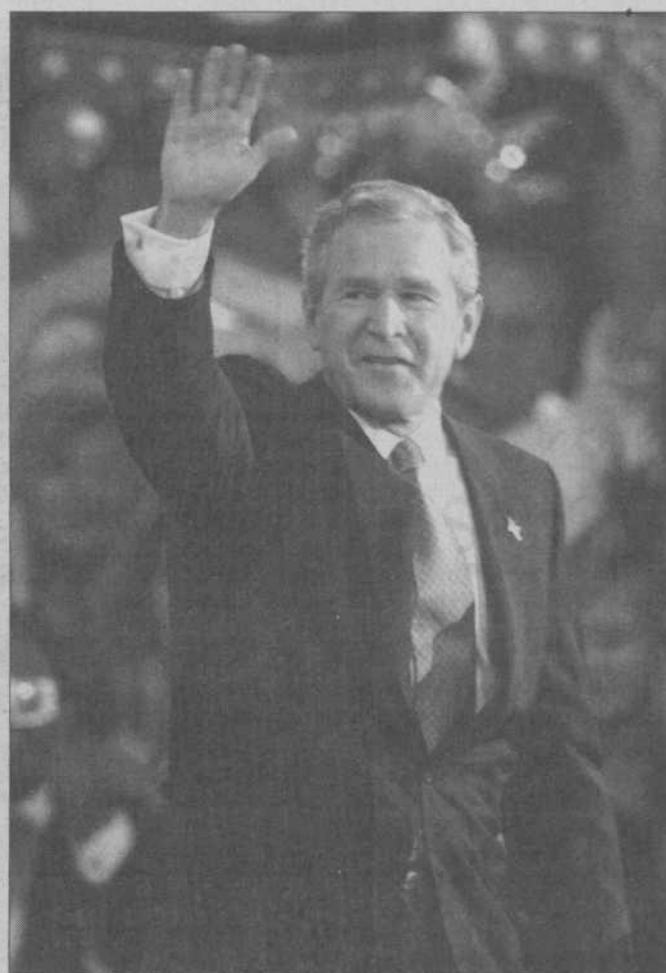
State Supreme Court Justice John Cataldo fined the city

\$1,000 for every protester held past a 5 p.m. deadline that he had set for their release. It was unclear how many detainees were still in custody, but Cataldo had ordered the release of 470 people.

"These people have already been the victims of a process," Cataldo told the city's top lawyer. "I can no longer accept your statement that you are trying to comply."

City Corporation Counsel Michael Cardozo tried in vain to convince the judge that the city was trying desperately to comply with his wishes.

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER SAMUEL MAULL CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.



GREGORY BULL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush accepts the party nomination at the Republican National Convention Thursday. Bush spoke on domestic issues, such as taxes and health care, as well as foreign issues such as the war on terrorism and the Iraq war.

■ GRAD 800

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those numbers increase in future years. "A lot of people expressed interest," she said, adding that, to accommodate such interest, next year the school plans on having multiple sessions.

Although the Graduate School holds an intensive two-day workshop in August to prepare teaching assistants, Ebert said some students wanted something more.

This course "provides support and information for graduate students throughout the year," she said. Along with the support, graduate students get verification on their transcript of their training for teaching, which Ebert said students hoped would help them get jobs post-graduation.

To help encourage students to take the course, the Graduate School offers it free of charge—students get one credit hour, but

don't have to pay tuition for it.

Jed Lyons, a mechanical engineering professor at USC, not only teaches the course but also helped design it.

Having done "a lot of collaborative research" in the College of Education, Lyons said he learned much that he wanted to share with the students.

"I have a real strong interest in preparing future faculty, and most of the graduate student experiences don't include training on teaching. Grad students in the College of Education get formal training, but the rest of us sort of just make it up as we go along," he said.

Lyons said he allowed the students, whose various fields include anthropology, biology, linguistics, psychology, engineering and English, to have a say in the course materials by finding out what they wanted to learn this semester.

"I think they're going to get a lot from it, mainly because we're

covering things they said they wanted to know," he said.

So far, reviews have been good. "This is an experiment," Lyons said. "Everything indicates so far ... that it's a good course and the graduate school will want to continue to do these kinds of things."

Lyons said that in the future, different sections of the 800 course might specialize in different aspects of the graduate student experience, for instance, focusing only on laboratory teaching.

For now, whether the enrollees are teaching assistants or the university's future professors, this course offers an inexpensive guide to a difficult and necessary trade.

"It gives [the students] some knowledge of teaching strategies that they can use in the classroom, wherever they're teaching," Lyons said.

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■ FRANCES

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exciting. Sokol said he'll head to the Washout at Folly Beach with his 6-foot-6-inch Rainbow surfboard under one arm.

"I'm going back to Charleston to get the waves," he said. "I'm going back to Charleston for the excitement."

Tropical Storm Gaston drenched the Lowcountry last weekend, flooding streets and knocking down power lines around Charleston.

USC's 2003-2004 Online Fact Book reports that 1,822 students at the Columbia campus came from Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties last year.

Although early forecasts indicated Hurricane Frances might hit South Carolina, it appeared by Thursday evening that Florida and Alabama would absorb the brunt of the storm. Forecasts projected Frances could make landfall on Florida's east coast Friday morning, with gusts of up to 145 mph and waves as high as 15 feet. About 2.5 million Florida residents have been ordered to evacuate. At 5 p.m., the hurricane was centered 375 miles southeast of West Palm Beach, Fla., and was moving northwest at about 10

■ ENFORCER

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"A lot of students don't think about running their anti-virus software and as a consequence viruses are spread through instant messenger and the network when people share files," she said. "I feel safer with it working because last year I got a lot of viruses that I couldn't clean out of my hard drive. I haven't been infected yet."

In fact, hardly any students have been infected this year. Compared to about 3,000 machines infected on last year's move-in weekend, Computer Services quarantined only three machines on move-in weekend this year.

Computer Services is not ready to take a break.

"We've upgraded our firewalls and have begun to shape the flow of our network traffic," Anderson said. "As much as we tried to project the network load, it's difficult to tune the system for 6,000 plus users until the actual 6,000 are connected and using the system. The good news is that it's relatively easy for us to add more horsepower if we need it."

Department representatives asked students to be patient with fixes, as technicians have been backlogged for the past week.

Computer Services is also asking for feedback on Smart Enforcer.

"It's clearly a bit more hassle to log on, but I think everyone appreciates the fact that their network bandwidth isn't being killed by infected systems," Anderson said. To comment on SmartEnforcer, e-mail smartenforcer@sc.edu.

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mph. Hurricane-force winds extended up to 80 miles from its eye.

Even as Floridians made way for the storm, S.C. Lowcountry residents readied for Frances and began contingency planning.

Nathalie Iniguez, a third-year English and philosophy student at the College of Charleston, said the storm is garnering a lot of attention in Charleston.

"Everyone is talking about it, and it's all over the news," said Iniguez, whose family lives in Columbia. "Some people by the beach have already started boarding their houses up, and I just passed a church down here in downtown that was all boarded up as well."

Iniguez said she plans to return to the Midlands if the storm hits South Carolina. "I'm not counting on the hurricane hitting Charleston right now," she said. She added that she would rather be safe than sorry. "Actually, at the first sign that it's headed this way, I will probably pack up my computer and other necessary items and head up there just in case," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

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■ RHA

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At the conference, RHA sets budgets for programs like the South Carolina Organization for Residence Education. Thomason is required to attend every conference, and they are open to all students.

"We want to encourage students to get involved and expand attendance at these conferences. Any student on campus can go and be a part," RHA President Adam Hark said.

Hark said RHA members are "hoping to act on several important bills early in the year, especially one about modifying visitation hours on campus," Hark said.

RHA is also responsible for running the student channel on the Gamecock Cable Network. WRHA Channel 8 broadcasts movies that students request, as well as supporting CTV, the student run television program that creates original programming for WRHA and students on campus.

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