

Kaleidoscope

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Biden blasts Reagan's reign

By Karen Klumb

Delaware Senator and potential vice-presidential candidate Joseph Biden, Jr., speaking on the UNCA campus, said he feels, "The nuclear arms freeze movement is the best thing that's happened to this country in ten years," although he opposes a nuclear arms freeze resolution. Biden took the opportunity in his on-campus speech and an exclusive interview with the *Kaleidoscope* to blast the current administration, Reaganomics, and North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms.

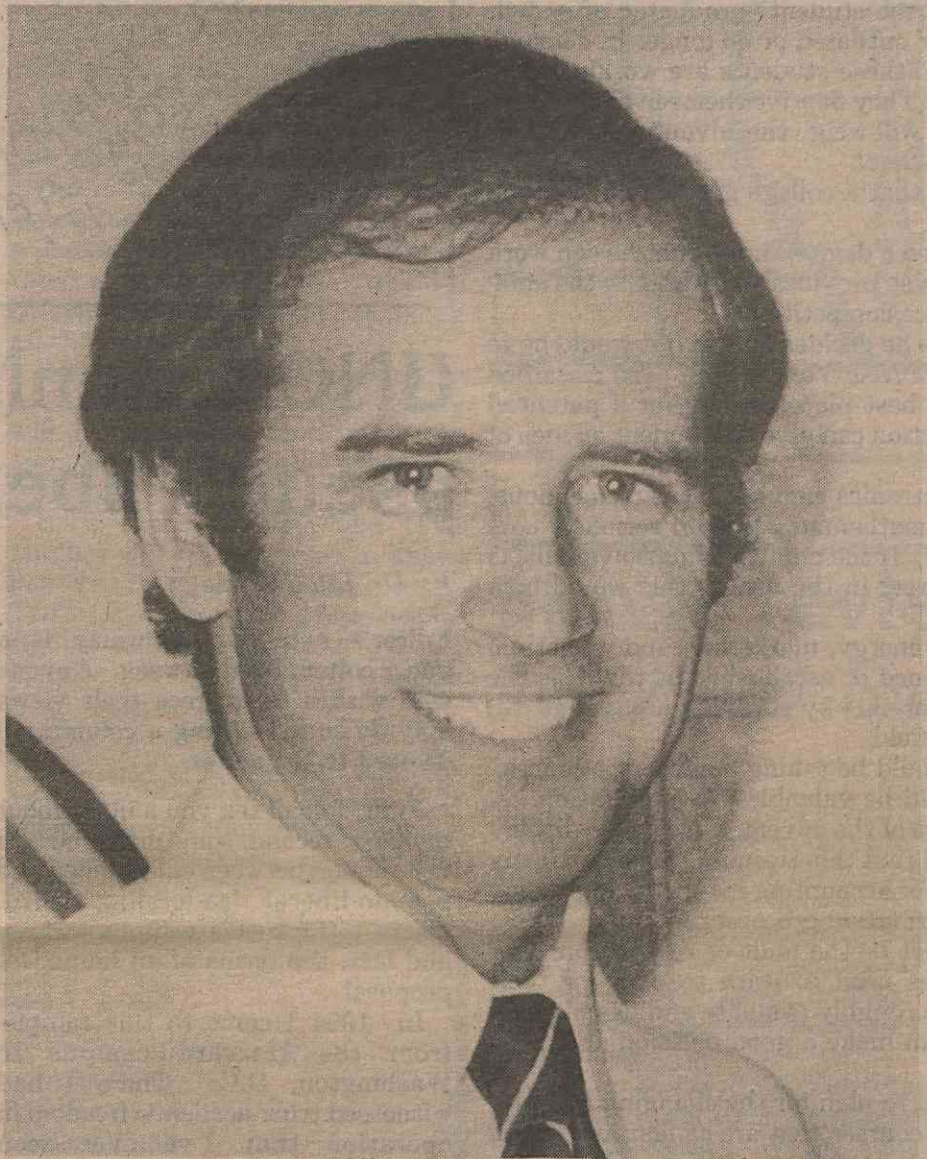
Biden spoke at an event held Monday, Sept. 27 in Lipinsky Auditorium. The speech, which drew an audience of about 75, was co-sponsored by the UNCA Young Democrats and Students for Clarke. James McClure Clarke is the Democratic candidate for the 11th Congressional District, opposing incumbent Republican Bill Hendon.

"I'm so tired of Jesse Helms and others tying up the Senate, while we are going to hell in a hand basket."

— Sen. Biden

"If I were the President, would I put a freeze proposal on the table?...The answer is 'no,' I'd put a SALT proposal on the table," said Biden, who led the fight for the SALT II treaty in committee and on the Senate floor. Biden explained his opposition to a nuclear arms freeze by stating, "As a negotiating tool, it's too hard to get in place. It takes too long to get into the question of who has what now; and the bottom line is that it would take several years to negotiate a freeze. We don't have that much time."

Although opposing a freeze, Biden contended that the freeze movement was "the best thing that's happened to this country in the last ten years, because what it said to the President was: 'We [the voters] think you're crazy, building more weapons and talking about winning nuclear wars. We want arms control.'" Biden continued by saying that when people vote for a freeze, they're often not sure of what they're voting for, other than that they're voting against the arms race. He said, "I think that's a very, very important message for the Ronald Reagans and Jesse Helmses of this world to get, and get it straight. I think that's the only reason why Ronald Reagan has decided to start arms negotiation discussions - because of the pressure of people in the freeze movement."



Delaware Senator Joseph Biden, Jr., pictured, spoke on the UNCA campus Sept 27. A potential vice-presidential candidate, Biden spoke against the current administration, Reaganomics and nuclear freeze.

Photo courtesy of Asheville Citizen-Times

In the interview as well as in his speech, Biden attacked the Reagan administration's cuts in Social Security benefits for dependents and survivors, alleging that "by cutting aid to students and education, this administration is mortgaging the future of our country."

Referring to survivor's benefits in particular, Biden stated that if a student's mother or father passed away, after paying money into the social security system, the government has the responsibility of returning that money which was paid, in the form of survivor's benefits. He stated, "The government's not doing these students a favor. It's paying back what's owed."

While on the subject of education, Biden referred to N. C. Senator Jesse Helms' attempt to legalize prayer in public schools. He stated that he does not feel that the Helms amendment has much chance of succeeding in the Senate. Biden contends that we should be clarifying,

through a constitutional amendment, the right to voluntarily pray in school. He disagrees with the notion of a school board deciding what prayer would be prayed by all the children in a given school district. Biden stated, "If you were able to come up with an ecumenical prayer, I'd like to see it. What worries me is that we will have...some school board dominated by some right-wing faction or a Falwell, telling us we have to pray in the strictest interpretation of the Bible. I respect people who believe that. But I happen not to be a strict creationist, and I don't want to have to say Jesse Helms' prayer."

Referring to Senator Helms' attempt to pass an anti-abortion amendment, Senator Biden stated that he supported Helms' attempt to break the filibuster, although he opposed the amendment. He stated, "I supported the attempt to break the filibuster so we'd have a vote," saying that he thought the Senate

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An unidentified student marks his ballot for SGA candidates during elections last week.

Staff photo by David Pickett

Turn-out low

Students elect SGA Senators

Student Government elections were held last Thursday and Friday for nine senate seats.

The three new freshmen senators for student government are Stephen Magoon, Mike Norris, and Valerie Reed.

The two new junior senators are Michael Dombrowski and Thomas Reynolds.

Newly elected dorm senators are Deborah Wilson and Bryan Joyce.

New commuter senators are Terry Lynn Smith and Ken Cagle.

Voter turn-out this fall was lower than that of last spring. Last spring, 296 students voted as compared to 226 students who voted this fall.

This figure represents less than 10 percent of the students who are eligible to vote.

"I didn't vote because I didn't feel like it was worth my time," said one junior.

The duty of the senators is to "represent the people who elected them," according to Biff Guilmartin, Student Government Association president.

"The senators' job is to find out what problems students may have. SGA then tries to go to the various people or organizations on campus and solve the problem with policies or other options," said Guilmartin.

Guilmartin plans a "meet your senator party" after fall break, so the students can meet their representatives.