

Champ Champion wins NCPA Paper competition

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Staff Writer

Darl "Champ" Champion Jr., a senior political science major at Methodist, recently won the 2004 Troutman-Rainey Undergraduate Paper Competition.

Champion's paper entitled "Factors that Affect the Election of Female State Legislators" revealed that women are just as likely as men to win elections but that few women run for office.

Because of the lack of female candidates, Champion conducted a study that answered the question, "What types of states are more likely to have a higher proportion of female legislators?"

His study identified three different conditions in a state that



discourage female candidates from seeking legislation. These set-backs included: a large number of residents who identify with a particular religion, a large Baptist population and a large frequency of women married.

Champion's study also unveiled the fact that there are

powerful societal factors such as education that can play a role in the percentage of female legislation. His paper proved that states that had a large percentage of females with a college education, tended to have more female legislators.

Champion, who was unaware about the competition, was entered in by Dr. Ziegler. Dr. Ziegler, who is the associate professor of political science and the head of the Department of Government Studies, stated, "Champ's paper is one of the best student papers I have ever read. His paper was well organized and he did an excellent job on linking theory with statistics to prove his points."

Ziegler believes that Champion's paper had the quality and workmanship of that of

graduate level paper, which is the main reason why he decided to enter Champion's paper into the Troutman-Rainey Competition.

Sponsored by the North Carolina Political Science Association, the Troutman-Rainey Competition is held every year. The winner of the competition receives a \$100 reward and honorable mention at the annual North Carolina Political Science Association Banquet.

As for Champion and his plans after May graduation, he will attend law school. After applying to five different law schools and accepted by each, Champion decided to take a merit scholarship at Georgia's Mercer University Law School, where he will be attending this fall. It seems as though, life must be good in the life of a "Champion."



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(U-WIRE) SAN DIEGO —

National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice testified Thursday before the special commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks. She defended the Bush administration's handling of the attacks during her questioning by the 10-member panel. Rice's testimony revealed the name of the president's daily briefing report — or PDB — during her time before the commission. The Aug. 6 PDB was titled "Bin Laden Determined to Attack Inside the United States," Rice said. According to a U.S.

with National Public Radio, commission member Richard Ben-Veniste, a Democrat and former Watergate prosecutor, said only two members of the panel were able to view the document prior to Rice's testimony. After the hearing's conclusion, Commission Chairman Thomas Kean, the former Republican New Jersey governor, said he hoped the White House would declassify the Aug. 6 PDB for further review by the commission. By Thursday evening, the White House reported it planned to make the PDB public within the near future. During her two hours before the commission, Rice also answered questions based on statements made by Richard Clarke, former

Rice speaks to Sept. 11 commission

intelligence official interviewed by The Los Angeles Times, the actual title was "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S." In an interview

czar of counterterrorism for the White House who previously testified before the group. Rice supported the Bush administration and specified the nature of the intelligence received in 2001. "The threat reporting that we received in the spring and summer of 2001 was not specific as to time, nor place, nor manner of attack," she said. "Almost all of the reports focused on al Qaeda activities outside of the United States. Most often, though, the threat reporting was frustratingly vague." Rice refuted statements made by Clarke, asserting he asked to speak with the president on terrorist threats. Rice said "not once during this period" did Clarke ask for time with the president. While many of the Republican members of the group had been mostly supportive of Rice's presence, former Illinois governor James Thompson asked why no action was taken after the October 2000 bombing of the USS Cole near Yemen. Rice responded by saying the Bush administration didn't want to handle

attacks on a case-by-case basis and instead opted for a more strategic plan. In response, Thompson asked how many attacks would warrant an act of war. Rice then stated the president was "tired of swatting flies" and sought to create a broad plan. Former Sen. Bob Kerrey (D-Neb.) then asked Rice when the president had ever "swatted a fly when it came to al Qaeda" and asked why the government hadn't responded to the USS Cole attack. According to the Chicago Tribune, the audience applauded Kerrey when he criticized military operations in Iraq. He then pressed Rice about the use of force in Iraq, but not in retaliation against the Cole attacks. Rice responded with a statement of her own. "I'm aware, Mr. Kerrey, of a speech that you gave at that time that said that perhaps the best thing that we could do to respond to the Cole and to the memories was to do something about the threat of Saddam Hussein," Rice said to audience applause.