

Guilford gets it half right:

• Bubba's going back to Washington, but North Carolina disagrees with Guilford sentiments, sending Jesse Helms back for 6 more years

LAUREN GILL
world editor

"Under Bill Clinton, the United States of America is not just better off, it's better."

Al Gore's words brought thousands of supporters to their feet Tuesday night only hours after the President was reelected to office. William Jefferson Clinton became the seventh name on the list of Presidents to serve two terms, and only the second Democrat since Franklin Roosevelt. With Bill Clinton, "We will, we will build a bridge to the twenty-first century."

Little Rock, Arkansas was filled with tears, laughter, and victory last night as Clinton rallied his fans with hopes for the future. Along with his thanks to friends, family, and "the finest Vice President this country has seen," Clinton gave a special thanks to Bob Dole. The President stressed the fact that it was "time to put aside politics, and build America's community, together."

After what most are calling a "harsh" campaign, Dole addressed the President from his headquarters in Washington, as his "opponent," not his "enemy." Dole went on to thank the President as well as his supporters. With bright eyes, and a face that looked as if it could stay awake just one more day, Dole called himself, "the most optimistic man in America." Reporters agree that we have not seen the last of Bob Dole, who seemed relieved that the election was over, stating that "Tomorrow is the first time in my life I will have nothing to do." For the first time in a 45-year political career, Bob

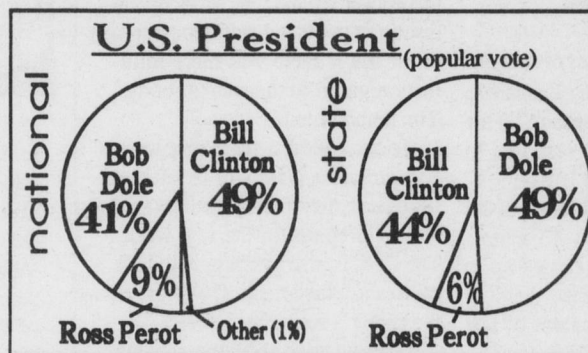
Dole can rest.

Although Clinton won three-quarters of the electoral votes in states ranging from Arizona to Wisconsin, Dole won North Carolina's electoral votes with a 47%-46% popular vote margin. The same Republican air that supported Bob Dole in the Old North State returned 75-year-old Jesse

Helms to the Senate. Senator Helms defeated Democrat Harvey Gantt with 53% of the votes. Gantt, who was counting on the support of the one million new North Carolina residents since 1990, only received 56% of their votes. Helms plans to continue his term in Senate with a restoration of the "moral and spiritual values" which he based his campaign on. Governor Jim Hunt was reelected over Republican

Robin Hayes. Hunt will reenter his fourth term in North Carolinian office with a new power, that of the veto. North Carolina was the last state in which the Governor received veto power. The veto bill was voted for 75%-25%.

Result's of the Guilfordian's mock election mirrored those of the Presidential election. The student body which participated in the election that began a week before in



Democratic voice supported Gantt with 87% of their votes while Helms received 13%. Junior, Jessica



Images from Guilford Vote '96 last week

Steve Marasco, President of Guilford senate has tried

the lobby of Founders, showed a clearly Democratic mind set. Bill Clinton towered over Bob Dole with 84% of the votes, while Bob pulled 13% and Perot a mere 2%. In the Senate race, once again Guilford's Templeton was one of many Guilford students who found the results of the mock election "typically Guilford". Templeton said, "No, it doesn't surprise me at all. We have a very liberal campus. I would expect nothing else."

COMMENTARY

Election '96: predictable and embarrassing

LINCOLN PENN HANCOCK
guest writer

It is ten o'clock Tuesday night. We elect a new president today, and the air is bittersweet. I have not turned on that all-knowing box of electrodes and transistors for the precinct-by-precinct, state-by-state report, but word on the street is Clinton and Helms aren't going anywhere. I overheard this news in the Underground a few minutes ago, and I have no reason to doubt it. A noticeable lack of reaction in my gut. Resignation, perhaps, but it could be nothing more than a reflexive recoil at the thought of that senator/relic.

Nausea is my forte at this point. Lauren asked me to write on the election a couple of days ago, and I am yet to find an object of inspiration. I asked her this evening if she could manage without my contribution, but ultimately I could not disregard my incurred obligation. So I am writing to you now rather reluctantly. I should be up front about this.

What can I possibly say about this entirely predictable and embarrassing election? I could lament the "lesser-of-two-evils" ballot, the insulting slanderous ads, voter apathy, blah-blah-blah. Better writers than I have attempted to express their outrage and indignation at the sorry state

of the democratic process. But the truth is, we have the government we deserve.

No monster to blame here. As Abraham Lincoln said over a century and a half ago, "If destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen we must live through all time, or die by suicide." We live in freedom sanctioned by our government, but we've got to realize this freedom is not self-perpetuating. The founding fathers built us a quality machine to ride on, but if we don't check the oil, the engine will inevitably lock up. And we'll be left on the curb.

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I don't know political theory, but I know enough to know there aren't any easy answers for us now. In a system of majority rule, where the majority is becoming more and more susceptible to technological persuasion, we have a problem. Who is going to put a check on the ability of the mega-corporation to shape public opinions and desires? The founding fathers never experienced a thirty-second sensory blitz

emanating from the TV screen, much less witnessed a corporation like General Electric (one of our largest defense contractors) owning one of the most prominent and effective media outlets, NBC. Can anyone ever really wonder why the amount we spend on defense perpetually increases, even in peacetime? Can you imagine a candidate who

openly confesses to disagreeing with our military philosophy receiving the media spotlight now essential to any major political aspiration? The guys in the GE boardroom certainly don't want to jeopardize the billions of dollars they receive from the US government each year in the name of something so abstract as truth, so they just tell Tom Brokaw to shut up or pack his bags.

Excuse my ranting, please. It's just that this type of thing is going on. It scares me to death. The majority rules, and the majority gets its news from sources owned by larger interests, and thus the majority will likely never find out what hit them. Or is in the process of hitting them, I should say. I guess even if some hard-hitting stuff did make the airwaves, people would be more interested in turning the channel to their favorite sitcom, anyway. Who wants to be bothered, right? Everyone's too busy playing her own part in the exact destruction Lincoln spoke about.

The default setting is self-destruct. Larger interests are acting to get what they want; they are shaping the very fabric of our culture to do it. Who profits from a culture of unreflective consumerism? Not just McDonald's. The more accustomed one becomes to receiving information and forming judgments based on the thirty-second TV commercial format, the more open she will be to absorbing crap like the pet-of-the-week segment on her local news show in place of substantial content. Eventually, no one will notice the anchorwoman's passing comment that Congress has been sold to Time-Warner.