

Vernon's in D.C. Working for Bush

By SHERIDAN HILL
Chronicle Assistant Editor

Dial Vernon Robinson's new work phone number, and a cheery voice answers: "Bush/Quayle '92." He is the staff director of the national Bush/Quayle educational choice coalition, a job he created and is filling quite nicely, thank-you.

In May, Robinson lost his bid for Republican candidate for N.C. superintendent of public instruction. He was the first black to run for the office, and mustered impressive backing, including an endorsement from Housing Secretary Jack Kemp, but opponent Teena Little enjoyed solid support from the old-line establishment here at home. It didn't take him long to connect with Washington.

"After the campaign was over, I was exploring options," said Robinson. "I always thought a campaign season a terrible thing to waste."

Here in Winston-Salem, 38 year-old Robinson has enjoyed his reputation as a conservative Republican, including being named the 1991 N.C. Young Republican Man of the year.

His knack for publicity stunts is enough to make some politicians envious. Once he showed up at a school board meeting with a tire around his neck to symbolize the board's lack of understanding of issues affecting black children. He made the news with several foot campaigns into urban housing developments stirring up support for his educational reform projects. This reporter accompanied him last summer as he went door-to-door through a housing development near Groves Stadium, asking residents if they wanted a \$4000 voucher from the state to use for their child's education.

He got several hundred signatures on his petition that day.

He says he brings immediate credibility to the president's educational choice coalition, primarily due to several mentions in national publications while he campaigned for the state superintendent's job.

"People remember those articles," says Robinson. "They say, 'Vernon Robinson, I know you, you were in the Wall Street Journal.'"

Robinson's friend Nathanael K. Pendley, an attorney in Winston-Salem, was quoted during the primary in a Robinson press release, calling him "A brilliant education policy strategist...the education bureaucracy's worst nightmare

come alive, walking around in a 6'4" frame."

A former assistant business professor at Winston-Salem State



Vernon Robinson

University, he felt unfairly penalized earlier this year when the UNC Board of Governors voted to slash his salary because he was campaigning statewide.

He maintained that he was never given the opportunity to prove he could campaign and still fulfill all his responsibilities to the university. He complained loudly about the decision, and still believes that racial prejudice worked against him.

But his work for the president's reelection campaign has him pumped up. He says he is putting together state coalitions to support the schools of choice concept and speak up loudly in support of the president.

"We are taking the message that the president supports full and fair choice, empowering parents to choose between private and public school," he says. As evidence, he points to the GI Bill, which now includes vouchers for veterans to send their children to either public or private school. But Bush has not yet shown support for Robinson's idea of awarding low-income parents a \$4000 voucher per child towards the school of their choice.

Since coming to Washington in August, Robinson says he has put together strong political alliances in the California and Ohio, critical election battlegrounds, and in South Carolina.

"In California, I recruited the guy in charge of lobbying for a \$2,500 tuition grant program, and they have 10,000 volunteers," he says. "In Ohio, a guy who supported Bush/Quayle in '88 was uncommitted, and I recruited him, which removed a thorn in the Ohio Bush/Quayle coalition. And in South Carolina, I convinced Secretary of State Jim Miles to be the state chair of the Bush/Quayle educational choice coalition."

After the election, Robinson says he'll still be pushing for schools of choice, and hopes to go back on faculty at a university.

"Assuming the president is reelected, I'll have lots of options," he says.

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RECIPES FROM NABISCO FOODS GROUP

VEGETABLE CHOWDER
Makes 8 servings

1/2 cup chopped onion
2 teaspoons FLEISCHMANN'S® Margarine
4 cups COLLEGE INN® Lower Salt Chicken Broth
2 medium carrots, peeled, sliced and halved (about 1 cup)
2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced (about 2 cups)
1 cup cut green beans
1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
1 teaspoon dried tarragon leaves
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
40 Fat Free PREMIUM® Saltine Crackers

In large saucepan, over medium-high heat, cook onion in margarine until tender. Add chicken broth, carrots, potatoes, green beans, parsley, tarragon and pepper. Heat to a boil, reduce heat. Simmer 20 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Serve hot with crackers.

Nutrition information per serving (1 cup soup, 5 crackers): 158 calories, 573 mg sodium, 0 mg cholesterol, 3 gm total fat (17% calories from fat), 0 gm saturated fat, 2 gm dietary fiber

APPLESAUCE BRAN PANCAKES
Makes 12 pancakes

3/4 cup skim milk
3/4 cup applesauce
1/2 cup EGG BEATERS® 99% Real Egg Product
2 tablespoons FLEISCHMANN'S® Margarine, melted
3/4 cup NABISCO® 100% Bran™ Cereal
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1 tablespoon DAVIS Baking Powder®
FLEISCHMANN'S® Margarine and VERMONT MAID® Syrup, optional

In small bowl, beat together milk, applesauce, egg product and melted margarine. Stir in bran; let stand 5 minutes. In medium bowl, combine flour, sugar and baking powder. Stir in bran mixture just until blended. (Batter will be slightly lumpy.) Heat lightly greased nonstick griddle or skillet over medium-high heat. Pour scant 1/4 cup batter onto griddle or skillet for each pancake. Cook until surface is bubbly and bottom is lightly browned; turn and cook until done. Remove and keep warm. Repeat to make a total of 12 pancakes. Serve immediately topped with margarine and syrup if desired.

Nutrition information per pancake: 83 calories, 180 mg sodium, 0 mg cholesterol, 2 gm total fat (22% calories from fat), 0 gm saturated fat, 2 gm dietary fiber

SAVORY POT ROAST
Makes 8 servings

1/3 cup A 1® Steak Sauce
1 (9-ounce) envelope dry onion-mushroom soup mix
1/3 cup water
1 (2 1/2-pound) boneless beef chuck roast
6 medium potatoes, quartered
6 medium carrots, pared and cut into 1-inch pieces

Blend steak sauce, dry soup mix and water; set aside. Line a shallow baking pan or dish with heavy-duty foil, overlapping edges. Place roast in center of foil; arrange potatoes and carrots around roast. Pour sauce mixture evenly over beef and vegetables. Seal foil loosely over top of meat; secure side edges tightly. Bake at 350°F for 2 hours or until meat is tender. Slice meat and serve with vegetables and pan gravy.

Nutrition information per serving: 340 calories, 507 mg sodium, 84 mg cholesterol, 8 gm total fat (21% calories from fat), 3 gm saturated fat, 4 gm dietary fiber

SPICED SNACK MIX
Makes 5 1/2 cups

1 cup PLANTERS® Dry Roasted Mixed Nuts
3/4 cup sugar
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground allspice
1 teaspoon ground ginger
4 cups SPOON SIZE Shredded Wheat®
1/4 cup EGG BEATERS® 99% Real Egg Product
1 cup seedless raisins

In small bowl, combine nuts, sugar, cinnamon, allspice and ginger; set aside. In large bowl, toss cereal with egg product until well coated. Add nut and spice mixture, stirring until well combined. Spread on lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 275°F for 30 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes; remove from oven. Stir in raisins; cool. Store in tightly covered container.

Nutrition information per serving (1/2 cup): 228 calories, 11 mg sodium, 0 mg cholesterol, 7 gm total fat (28% calories from fat), 1 gm saturated fat, 2 gm dietary fiber

HARVEST FRUIT CRISP
Makes 6 servings

4 cups sliced fresh or canned fruit
30 HARVEST CRISPS® Crackers, coarsely crushed (about 1 cup crumbs)
1/3 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons FLEISCHMANN'S® Margarine, melted
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Place fruit in greased 8x8x2-inch square baking pan; set aside. In medium bowl, combine cracker crumbs, brown sugar, flour, margarine and cinnamon; sprinkle evenly over fruit. Bake at 375°F for 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve warm.

Nutrition information per serving: 230 calories, 156 mg sodium, 0 mg cholesterol, 6 gm total fat (23% calories from fat), 1 gm saturated fat, 2 gm dietary fiber

A Little Latex A Few Pills And A Lot of Luck

ALWAYS (24.9%)
OFTEN (10.0%)
SOMETIMES (6.2%)
NEVER (58.9%)

Birth control isn't controlling births in Forsyth County. In our survey of 1,269 youths, more than half of the sexually active teens said they *never* used birth control. Less than one-fourth used it *always*. Maybe they don't believe they're at risk for teenage pregnancy, but they're wrong. This year, more than 1 in 10 of the girls aged 15 to 19 will become pregnant. They may think that their luck just ran out, but luck never had anything to do with *getting* pregnant.

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