

The Lance Next Economic Agenda

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mortgage deductions, eliminate the aforementioned tax loophole for foreign corporations and raise the tax on social security benefits for single earners with incomes above \$25,000 a year from 50-85%. All together, this will bring an estimated \$277 billion in additional revenue. For health care, Medicare premiums would be raised and some employer-paid health insurance would be taxed, bringing in an additional \$95 billion over five years. Spending would be cut in several ways, primarily by severing farm price supports and curbing Medicare and Medicaid costs saving an extra \$158 billion. Mr. Perot would also provide \$61 billion in tax breaks for investment, research and worker training and would obtain another \$140 billion through more minor tax hikes and spending cuts.

Mr. Bush's economic program can be mainly criticized for its lack of attention given to structural problems in the economy, such as the federal debt or the lack of U.S. competitiveness with other nations. Nobel Prize-winning economist Robert Solow railed at the income tax cuts saying "the only word for it is stupid" because it would increase consumption rather than investment. But by far, the major problem with the plan is the huge shortfall in revenue that would be needed to pay for it. Mr. Bush claims he would pay for it with spending cuts as well as devoting a further \$300 billion to deficit reduction over the next five years. To do this would require \$570 billion in cuts, and Mr. Bush has only specified \$130 billion. To pay for the \$440 billion shortfall, the government may have to reduce Medicare, veterans' benefits and other programs by as much as 30%.

Mr. Clinton's program suffers from the view that public investment will be ineffective and will largely consist of pork-

barrel projects. Economist Pete Marwick states "Bullet trains, smart highways, optical-fiber networks-it looks like the purport of pork to me." The plan does happen to be endorsed by 556 economists; three Nobelists among them strictly oppose it. As with Mr. Bush's program, Mr. Clinton's plan is plagued with the problem of a huge budget shortfall. The claim is that the budget deficit would be reduced by \$142 billion over the next four years. In fact, the Clinton shortfall amounts to a staggering \$359 billion and there comes to be no specific plans in dealing with it.

Mr. Perot's budget is the only one that offers a balanced budget in five years and whose numbers do not flunk arithmetic, but the plan is so stringent in its cutting of cost that its greatest asset may also be its greatest liability. In a recession, budget deficits can be used to stimulate the economy, increasing economic growth, and reducing unemployment. Many economists, such as Nobel Prize-winner Paul Samuelson, believe that to cut the deficit so much and so quickly would lead to an economic meltdown. As Samuelson puts it: "To wait until you are in a recession...for dras' and quick action I don't think is good apriori policy." In addition, even if Mr. Perot was elected, it is doubtful that than a handful of them could pass Congress given their political volatility.

Of course, none of us will ever know for certain which plan is better simply because only one person can be elected. We are destined to follow a path either to prosperity or decline, and no one can say for sure which it will be. as for myself, I will not say who I am voting for until after the election. Hopefully, fate will be kind and the best man will win.

Sources: *The Wall Street Journal, Business Week, Time, and Newsweek.*



ALUMS: Libby Flowerree '77 (above) and Karen Stone Gullede '63 (left) shared their St. Andrews' experiences and secrets for success with students. More opportunities to hear from successful alumni will be offered later this year.



Success series

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agenda, Karen encouraged. And she concluded with a spontaneous question and answer period whereby her success with teaching advice was quite impressive, as well as words like, if you're playing, give that 100%; if you're working, give that 100%. Be enthusiastic and bring it out!

Our second guest was Elizabeth (Libby) Flowerree. She received her bachelor's degree from St. Andrews in 1977 and received her teaching certificate in 1978. She taught for three years and went on to work as a detail person for Bristol Meyers. In 1983, she started her own business, Flowerree Restorations, remodeling and restoring homes. Libby is now a task leader for Habitat for Humanity, and she works on the hotline for the Metrolina Aids Project.

Libby recognizes that she learned how to learn at St. Andrews; she learned that basically, all you need to be assured of is that you can always ask questions. This assurance, which was granted in no small way by St. Andrews, is the hope that inspired her to start her own business. Her closing words centered on the idea that there are still days when she can barely get food on the table, "but St. Andrews has taught me how to get through rough times," she said.

2 Merit Scholars among new students

By Laurie Warbrick

St. Andrews is proud that two National Merit Scholars, Jeremy Calbreath and Steven Grimsley, are among new students at the college this fall.

How does one become a National Merit Scholar? The criteria is basic. The search begins with the PSAT. Students with extraordinary scores are singled out, then their grades and extracurricular activities are assessed. Finally, nominees are asked to write an essay.

Both students were visible in their homecommunities. Grimsley gave swimming lessons and volunteered at Discovery Place, a science museum in Charlotte. Calbreath was a lifeguard at the YMCA, worked at an ice cream shop and spent many hours water-skiing.

Grimsley and Calbreath participated in several on-campus activities as well. Grimsley was an active member of the

Latin Club and elected as an officer twice. He was also a member of the West Charlotte High School swim team. Calbreath was in the Philosophy Club and on the Geometry team at Jordan High School.

Both Calbreath and Grimsley were attracted to St. Andrews' science program. Calbreath dreams of becoming a pediatrician or a small-town M.D. while Grimsley hopes to become a botanist. Calbreath is pleased with St. Andrews' medical acceptance rate and "the awe-

some science facilities." Grimsley enjoyed his visit with St. Andrews' staff botanists because of the personal attention he received. He was further convinced St. Andrews was the place for him because it hosts his favorite tree, the Hawthorne.

Even though our National Merit Scholars found varying qualities appealing about St. Andrews, they agree completely on one thing: It is the friendliness and helpfulness of the entire St. Andrews community that brought them here.

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