

Bailout bill approved by House; Bush signs, stocks plummet

Andie Diemer
News Editor

Following President George W. Bush's signature on a \$700 billion bailout bill to help keep America's economy afloat Friday, the U.S. financial situation began to envelope the rest of the world. On Monday, stock prices plummeted, both nationally and internationally, causing many to reevaluate the world's banking system.

Even though the rescue package bill, which passed 263-171, was passed in an effort to protect Americans financially, it couldn't combat the snowball effect of a crumbling economy.

On Monday the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed below 10,000, which is the first time it has hit that low in almost four years. It fell 800 points before a late rally pushed it down 369.88 points, at 9,955.50. The Dow first fell to 10,000 on March 16, 1999.

The Federal Reserve announced Tuesday that they will buy a large amount of short-term debts to help resolve America's credit clog. They are planning to purchase commercial paper, a short-term mechanism that will finance day-to-day operations, like making payrolls.

The Treasury Department set temporary guidelines for hiring money managers to oversee the bailout bill and prevent conflicts from ensuing on Monday as well, according to CNN.com. Many analysts said they do not foresee many dramatic changes in the short term, though the bill should be more effective in the long run.

Last week, President Bush said the \$700 billion rescue package will help restore assurance in America's financial system.

"It's going to take a while to get in place a program that, one, is effective and, two, doesn't waste taxpayers' money," Bush said. "It's going to take awhile to restore confidence in the financial system."

Since banks are reluctant to administer loans to one another, companies and individual consumers, the rescue package will aim to absorb bad assets, like troubled mortgage bonds. This will allow banks to begin loaning money again.

CNN reported that the Federal Reserve also took action to keep the financial crisis from growing out of control by establishing an additional \$300 billion available to banks in exchange for damaged assets on Monday. While this number raises the amount available to \$600 billion, they said it may continue to expand to \$900 billion.

The Federal Reserve also established short-term loans in an effort to keep global financing moving.

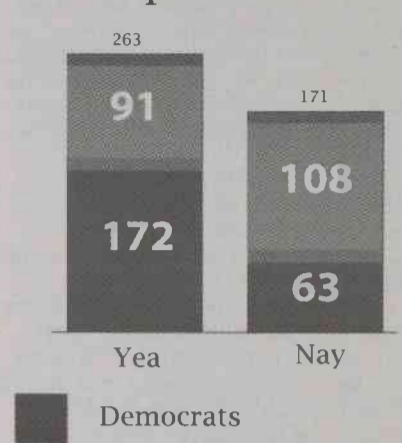
But all of these efforts combined didn't stop depositors from Europe, Mexico and Brazil from attempting to escape the stock markets.

The German government officials announced Sunday they would backstop all bank deposits after a German mortgage mender rescue plan failed, causing the public to infer economic problems outside of the United States were much more severe. Many European exchanges also

Sept. 29 vote:
Bill defeated



Oct. 3 vote:
Bill passed



CAROLINE FOX | Graphics Editor

posted some of their worst losses in history. London's FTSE fell 7.9 percent, France's CAC-40 index fell 9 percent, Russia's stock index fell by 19 percent before being halted and Germany's DAX-30 fell 7 percent, CNN said.

Indonesia's stocks slumped by 10 percent while Asian stocks fell by 5 percent.

In Asheville, N.C., on Monday, Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama called for a new federal economic stimulus package.

He said Monday's stock market drop is a "reminder that the rescue package that was passed last week is not the end of our efforts to deal with the economy," Obama said. "It is just the

beginning."

He said a new stimulus would encompass relief from high gas and food prices, assistance for both the local and state governments to maintain payrolls and extend unemployment insurance.

While traders shifted capital to safer outlets, such Treasury bonds and gold, oil prices actually fell 6.5 percent from the record high in July to \$87.81.

Even though it may take time to see the economy become stronger, Bush urged believing in the moves the government was making.

"One thing people can be certain of is that the bill I signed is a big step toward solving this problem," he said.

Annual anti-abortion rally aims to speak for the voiceless

Keegan Calligar
Reporter

Local residents lined sidewalks of Church Street in Burlington Sunday afternoon as part of an annual anti-abortion protest held across the nation. Life Chain is always held on the first Sunday of October.

Life Chain was started in 1987 by a small California ministry called Please Let Me Live. Participants stand on sidewalks for one hour, holding approved signs denouncing abortion and avoiding conversation.

Burlington participants held signs reading "Abortion Kills Children" and "Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation," among other things.

Corinne Pivins of Graham said she participates in Life Chain to impact others.

"[We] let the community know that abortion exists, abortion kills children, abortion hurts women [and] abortion causes social problems," she said. "We believe life begins at conception, that God gives life and only God can take that life away."

She added she only votes for pro-life politicians. Burlington resident Tammy Page said she only votes for politicians against abortion as well.

"I think it's very important we vote in November," Page said. "I think we need to realize this is killing. This is killing a life. Even though it is not a life we can see, it's still a life and we definitely need to keep that in mind in November when we vote."

Page said that she agreed with Gov. Sarah Palin, the Republican vice presidential nominee, who has said she would not support abortions, even in cases of rape and incest.

"Irregardless [sic] of how it got there, God created [the baby]," Page said.

Elaine Goodman, an Elon resident, said abortion heavily influences her political views.

"It is my number one reason for going to vote," she said.

Goodman was accompanied Sunday afternoon by her six children. She said her children know what abortion is and are against the practice as well.

"I explain to them as best I can what abortion is, and they are with me 100 percent," Goodman said. "They wanted to be here, too."

Poll shows Palin exceeded expectations but still lost

Noelle Clemente
Reporter

An informal poll of 230 Elon University students, faculty and staff conducted by 18 students in the reporting for the public good class after the highly anticipated vice presidential debate showed Democratic nominee Sen. Joe Biden to prevail over Republican nominee Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

The results of the poll show 37 percent declared Biden the winner and 28 percent had no comment or did not watch. Twenty-three percent supported Palin's performance and 12 percent viewed it as a tie.

With the election approaching in nearly a month, this debate was an extremely important opportunity for these candidates to not only meet, but also have their only debate in the race.

Junior Kristin Riggs said she didn't think there was a winner.

"It's just two different people expressing their views," Riggs said.

Though both Biden and Palin spent a majority of their

time defending the stances of their running mates, the debate did give the audience the opportunity to see each of the vice presidential candidates in action and on their own terms.

Junior Ashley Flanagan said each candidate won in his or her own way.

"I think that Palin had really low expectations and she did a good job, seeing that she had such low expectations," Flanagan said. "But I think most people would probably say that Biden won based on his experiences, but I think Palin held it together."

Dean of the School of Communications Paul Parsons had a similar sentiment.

"I thought it was a victory by both for their various purposes," he said.

He eventually sided with Biden saying, "I thought that Joe Biden won the debate. At the same time I thought it was a victory for Sarah Palin, in the sense that she surpassed expectations. She showed a feistiness that I think endeared her to her constituency."

Most expert analysts found Biden to provide more

specific responses while Palin's spirited responses likely gained support of the Republican base.

A common complaint during polling was that Palin was simply skirting the issues.

Senior Chris Briggs said Joe Biden was the clear winner.

"His answers were just more coherent and on-topic," Briggs said. "Palin tended to only approach questions she wanted to answer while Biden tackled all questions that were asked."

Some people, like junior David Hitch and Communications Professor Ocek Eke, said even though she delivered well, Palin appeared very coached while Biden thought more on his feet.

Biden and Palin will not meet again face to face in debate. Obama and McCain will debate again at Belmont University on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

The poll was conducted between 11:00 and 11:30 a.m. Oct. 3 morning and spanned most areas of campus.

Keegan Calligar, Lesley Cowie, Andie Diemer, Daniel "Hobie" Temple and Hannah Williams also contributed to this article.



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Twenty-three percent of respondents in an informal poll of Elon students, faculty and staff said Palin won Thursday's debate, as compared to the 37 percent who sided with Biden.