

World & Nation

Presidential race shows changes

By James E. Tatum

STAFF WRITER

The 2000 Presidential race may prove to be a turning point in the history of how national elections are conducted in this country.

With over seven months remaining before election day, America has entered the longest general election race on record. It began when Al Gore and George Bush, Jr., the leading candidates for the Democratic and Republican parties, secured the nominations of their party's constituencies. The two candidates wasted no time in lashing out at each other.

Gore opened the general election in his March 7th speech, televised on C-SPAN and other networks. This followed a clean sweep of the "Super Tuesday" primaries, a day when several states around the country held contests, in what George Bush, Jr., described as the "first truly national primary." Gore aimed to recruit independent voters and Republicans who supported John McCain's unsuccessful quest to upset Bush for the Republican nomination.

"Join with us," Gore emphasized, outlining a number of key Democratic issues, including

health care reform and gun control. "Our campaign is your cause."

Bush responded with a speech of his own, emphasizing his slogans about being a "compassionate conservative" and a "reformer with results."

Both major parties select

majority of delegate votes are required to secure the nomination.

What changed this year is that a number of smaller states moved up the dates of their primaries in order to receive more attention from the candidates. To describe this trend, experts have developed the phrase "front-load-

ties.

Andrea Gerlak chairs the Political Science department at Guilford College. "Historically, people have thought that Buchanan would pull only from the Republican Party," said Gerlak. "But, at the same time, the people who are part of the Reform Party, the people who back Pat Buchanan, are not just members of the Christian Coalition," she said, referring to an organization whose members are considered by both parties to be a key Republican constituency. Gerlak noted that some voters are drawn to Buchanan's "protectionist," closed-market response to the growing trend of favoring open international trade.

Although this year's nomination process began earlier and ended sooner than in previous election years, its effects on the regular presidential election calendar cycle may only be temporary.

Early indications show that the current primary system may be on the verge of an overhaul. Officials from both the Democratic and Republican parties are currently discussing at least three alternative models to the present primary system.

If these talks are successful, the current trend of "front-loading" may soon come to an end.

For additional information on the presidential races or politics in general, check out these web pages:

www.wire.ap.org
www.allpolitics.com
www.washingtonpost.com
www.voter.com
www.vote-smart.org

Web sites for the leading Presidential nominees:

(Pat Buchanan) www.gopatgo2000.org
(George Bush) www.georgewbush.com
(Al Gore) www.gore2000.org

their nominees through a series of primaries held in 50 states and several U.S. territories. In recent election history, the nomination process commenced with the Super Tuesday primaries held in March. Only the New Hampshire primary and Iowa caucuses predated this event. Under this system, candidates often ignored smaller states while targeting large states that carried higher numbers of delegate votes for the party conventions where the candidates are officially selected. A

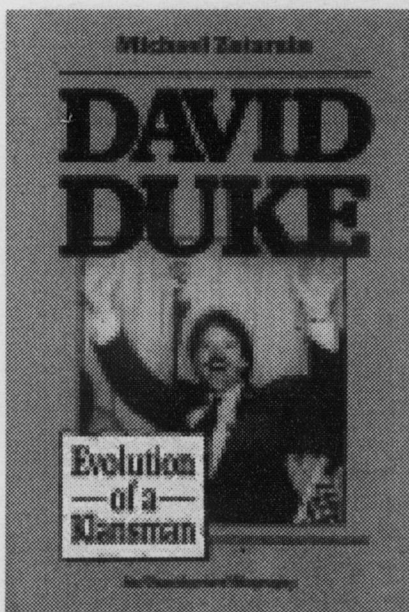
ing." The result was that by the second week of March, both of the leading candidates had secured enough votes to guarantee their party's nomination.

With no tough nomination races remaining inside the two established parties, some experts are predicting that this year may see an increase in influence from third-party candidates. Pat Buchanan, running for the nomination of the Reform Party, could pick away at the traditional constituencies of the two leading par-

NOFEAR: David Duke's "white civil rights"

By Sarah Byrne

STAFF WRITER



Reactions to David Duke include this book.

Former Ku Klux Klansman David Duke launched a civil rights group for whites, claiming that they face "massive discrimination" from the nation's growing population of minorities.

Ken Jacobson, assistant national director for the Anti-Defamation League, called Duke's announcement a weak effort by a "leading racist and hater" to fashion himself as a civil rights leader.

In response to the National Press release that Duke issued, Jacobson said, "He may not have his robe on and he may not have his mask on but it's the same old David Duke."

This is not Duke's first attempt at preserving the rights of white Americans. After resigning in 1978 as national director of the Knights of Ku Klux Klan, Duke formed the National Association for the Advancement of White

People. In 1989, he was elected to Louisiana's House of Representatives.

Duke boasts that his new organization will include members from 50 states, including chapters in major cities such as Washington, D.C.

In a press release, Duke claimed that there is a need for white Americans to protect themselves against minorities.

"I guarantee there are many European Americans who are refugees in our own cities," Duke said half-way through his speech, where he exploded at what he called "biased treatment" in favor of blacks, Hispanics, Jews and homosexuals.

He continued, "We like our values. We like our culture. We want to preserve it."

Santes Beatty, Guilford's Director of African American Affairs, believes that the name of

the organization is no coincidence.

"There is fear in the hearts of many people concerning what would happen if things were really equal in this country. Fear is one of the largest factors that has perpetuated white supremacy in this country for 400 years. I think it is reverse psychology on their part—the organization is founded on fear." In response to NOFEAR, Justice and Policy Studies major Daniel Petrey mockingly stated, "Thank God the white man is finally going to be protected from everybody else."

The first meeting of Duke's organization was on January 22nd, 2000 in Philadelphia. The group plans to tackle such issues as affirmative action, immigration laws, and the "unfair prosecution and persecution" of white Americans, Duke said.