

Point

Counterpoint

Economic plans of the presidential candidates

by Nancy Bradley

Trickle-down economics has not worked for twelve years. Bill Clinton believes it is time for a change. The qualities which make America great are opportunity, responsibility, and reward for hard work. These basic ideals are the major components of a brochure entitled "Putting People First" written by Clinton earlier this year. He provides five methods to improve the economy which coincide with what he believes to be the American values.

The most important issue to aid the economy in Clinton's plan is creating new job opportunities. The other issues on which he focuses are government cutbacks, lifelong educational programs, affordable health care, and rewards for hard-working families.

Each of these five topics assists the economy in many ways. The health care issue has long been con-

sidered a problem to many American citizens. Clinton asserts that by making health care affordable many people would have more money to circulate elsewhere in the economy. Government cutbacks are basically self-explanatory in how they would aid our economy. The idea of rewarding families means tax breaks, family and medical leave programs, and child support enforcement. Clinton believes each of these rewards would immensely supplement family income. The lifelong educational programs would educate all persons interested in furthering their educations, without posing a major financial burden.

If Clinton is elected, he will implement all of these economic betterments. He promises to make this great change in order to assist all classes of our society so that the economy will no longer seem to be a burden at all.

by Missy Barakat

As a whole, the Republican party believes the same things that President Bush tries to implement. Republicans believe in a private enterprise system and a broad-based system of economic development. George Bush promises, if re-elected, to try to keep Congress implementing ideas of the Republican party and to carry these ideas out himself whenever possible.

President Bush says he will continue to support big business and continue to help smaller ones, contributing to the general wealth of the American public. He believes a balanced budget is possible without raising taxes. He will try to maintain his idea

of "no new taxes." He also believes Congress should not be allowed to spend at will. Bush strongly believes in the conservative economic reforms, with efforts to reduce taxes and regulation. Bush also hopes to reduce unemployment, gas prices, inflation, interest rates and hopes to increase personal wealth of US citizens, investment, and economic growth.

If re-elected, President Bush plans to implement all of the above ideas, plus other new plans of the Republican party. Bush's platform will try to maintain and better some of his ideas from the Reagan-Bush era.

The *Meredith Herald* would like to thank Dr. Clyde Frazier and his Current Events class for their contributions to the Point/ Counterpoint page.

Amity Brown, editor

Health care plans of the presidential candidates

by Trista Schagat

On July 16, 1992, Bill Clinton announced that "health care for every American should be a right not a privilege." Along with this statement, Clinton introduced his health-care proposal. His proposal is based on the belief that current health care rates have become virtually unaffordable to the average American and involves the government stepping in to reshape the system.

Clinton's proposal is slightly vague, but his goal is clear: universal coverage. He plans to set up a system that will help cover those people who are too poor to afford private health insurance. There is some mention of a "pay or play" plan that would require every employer to provide their employee with the money needed for health insurance, but because of the effect that this could have on small businesses, Clinton is not stressing

this point.

The key to Clinton's plan is putting a ceiling on the amount of money that doctors and hospitals can charge their patients. Through cost containment and government-sponsored insurance, Clinton hopes to make quality health care available to all Americans.

Although President Bush thinks this plan will lead to a system of socialized medicine with the "efficiency of the House Post Office and the compassion of the KGB," Clinton, on the other hand, acknowledges that the health care problem exists. The problem is health care expenses have become extremely high, and something needs to be done.

by Ellen Greer

President Bush and Bill Clinton have opposing views on health care as seen in this election. In the *New York Times*, Aug. 12, 1992, President Bush uses the quotation "the Grand Canyon of philosophy" to describe the differences in opinion on the issue. President Bush wants to cut costs and make insurance available to the majority of the public.

George Bush and Bill Clinton do not agree on the method to go about giving out health care, especially when it comes to the government. Bush relies heavily on the private market. He wants to offer tax credits to the lower-class people up to a certain amount (about \$3,750) for them to buy private health insurance. He wants to offer deductions to middle-class citizens so they can also buy private health insurance. President Bush wants to try to lower costs by encouraging Congress

to limit the damages received in suits involving malpractice. He also believes in providing the public with valuable information on the most economical hospitals and doctors. Another one of his ideas was to encourage individuals and small businesses to buy health insurance at a discounted rate by using their purchasing power.

**Michael
Chitwood**
**Poetry and Short
Fiction Reading**
Tuesday, Oct. 20
7:30 p.m.
Kresge Auditorium
For more information,
call X8507