

Dole Takes Strong Lead in GOP Primary Race

TAMPA, Fla. — Terming himself his party's nominee-in-waiting, Bob Dole urged Republicans Friday to consolidate their energy for the impending campaign against Democrat Bill Clinton—but Dole's two rivals and the chairman of the GOP National Committee said the Senate leader was jumping the gun.

"How long do they want to aid Bill Clinton?" Dole harrumphed about his two remaining Republican challengers as he campaigned in Florida, one of seven states conducting primaries Tuesday.

"That's essentially what they want to do. I think it's pretty clear now that I'm going to get the nomination."

Thus, a "fairness" debate engulfed the Republican party.

With nearly two-thirds of the nominating delegates yet to be chosen, is it fair for Dole to insist the race is over?

Conversely, is it fair for Patrick J. Buchanan to continue to incite party restlessness in his followers after 15 consecutive primary losses?

Or, is it fair for self-proclaimed tax reformer Steve Forbes to stay in the race—all the while losing, and, in the process, perhaps stigmatizing the appeal of the flat tax as a GOP issue?

Dole's run-away command of the GOP contest became even more absurdly apparent Friday with an adjustment in the results of the previous day's New York primary.

A retabulation in Manhattan deprived

Forbes of the one delegate he initially thought he won—making the final tally, Dole: 93 delegates, others: 0.

Dole's delegate lead is overwhelming—he now has 383, with 996 needed for the nomination. Forbes has 72, Buchanan 62.

But Dole, even in apparent victory, has plenty to worry about.

One concern is money.

He is approaching the spending ceiling for primary candidates who accept federal matching funds and, presuming he is the nominee, he will not receive a new infusion of cash until August.

Clinton, meanwhile, has been able to save most of his allotment of primary money for use between now and this summer's nominating conventions.

"Forbes has money and Buchanan has rhetoric, and I don't know how long they'll last," Dole remarked to reporters.

"But that's up to them. I can't make decisions for other candidates. My view is to focus on President Clinton. He's got a head start. He's out there (and) got \$25 million to spend."

In Washington, Republican National Committee Chairman Haley Barbour said it was too early to demand that all presidential candidates rally around Dole.

"I think it's premature for us to say that this is over, that there has been a clear decision," Barbour told a news conference.

"Certainly there has been a very obvious trend, and if it continues much longer, then it will be clear who the Republican

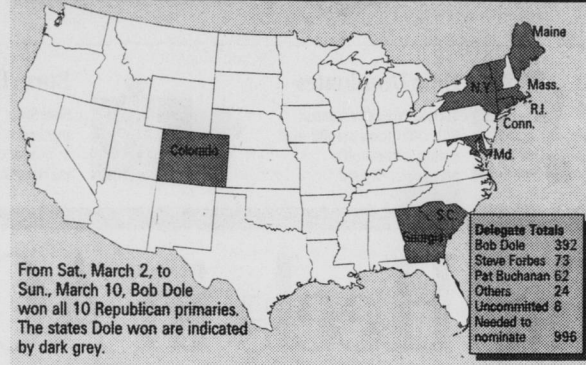
is," he said. He was arrested and charged with second-degree rape. On Tuesday, Choi, an anthropology major, said he hoped to resume classes at the University.

Associate Dean of Students and Judicial Programs Officer Margaret Barrett would not comment specifically on Choi's situation, but she said the committee that decided to suspend a student would also consider that student's re-entry.

If a student was found innocent of charges of a violent nature, he or she would not be automatically readmitted to the University, Barrett said. However, Barrett added that the jury's decision would be "very relevant to the review process."

Margaret Henderson, executive director of the Orange County Rape Crisis Cen-

Spring Break Primary Results



From Sat., March 2, to Sun., March 10, Bob Dole won all 10 Republican primaries. The states Dole won are indicated by dark grey.

SOURCE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

voters of the United States have chosen. And after that we will start to treat (Dole) like the nominee."

In Texas, the heart of GOP country, Friday's long-distance arguments over the duration of the GOP campaign—whether to continue it or consolidate behind Dole—reached a point of sublime symbolism.

Publishing heir Forbes campaigned at the Alamo and at a bridge in Austin with the name "Waterloo."

At the Alamo in 1836 and at Europe's Waterloo in 1815, storied battles ended.

Forbes, though, choose not to yield to history.

Choi said she was not surprised by the acquittal because the statement Choi gave University police officers after the incident was different from his testimony during the trial.

In a taped statement given to University Police Lt. Henry "Clay" Williams about 18 hours after the incident, Choi said the woman had not physically or verbally responded to him during intercourse.

When Williams asked if the alleged victim was passed out while they were having sex, Choi answered, "Yeah."

In his testimony Friday, March 1, Choi said the alleged victim participated in the sexual encounter by moving her legs and body.

Choi said he had consumed a fifth of

"The purpose of staying in is to go all the way," the novice politician said gamely. "Things don't happen unless you have leadership."

His campaign chairman, Bill Dal Col, however, conceded, "We will reassess every step of the way."

"Clearly the momentum at this point, by all perceptions, is with Sen. Dole. Our job is to shift that," Dal Col said.

Dole spent the weekend campaigning and spending time with his family. He and his competitors are all getting ready for "Super Tuesday," the day when the largest number of delegates will be won or lost.

rum on the night of the incident. The victim said she had consumed five or six beers and taken about five hits of marijuana. "If either one of those people had been sober, or even more sober, it wouldn't have happened," Henderson said.

"People on both sides of the issue were hurt," she said. "I don't think it is appropriate to single out any one person and say that person was the cause of this."

On Monday, several young women, all Choi's friends, testified that Choi was "honest and truthful" and "not sexually aggressive."

"As long as I've known Dennis he hasn't had many girlfriends," said Susanna Schweizer. "He doesn't hound women, and he treats them with respect."

IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

Hunt, Helms' Campaigns Have Common Contributors

RALEIGH — Gov. Jim Hunt and U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms are on opposite ends of the political spectrum with differing opinions on just about everything. But North Carolina's leading Democrat and the state's top Republican have one thing in common—contributors.

Hunt has received more than \$500,000 since 1990 from contributors who have also given to Helms, who is seeking reelection to the Senate. That's considerably more money than both Richard Vinroot and Robin Hayes—the chief Republican candidates in the governor's race—have received from Helms' supporters.

Helms and Hunt, meanwhile, are incumbents. They can make things happen and get things done. So the political money flows their way.

Helms, for example, received more than \$300,000 from the contributors he shares with Hunt.

Many of the state's big businesses belong among the supporters of both Hunt and Helms, thanks to contributions from their political action committees. Centura Bank, First Union Bank, Carolina Power & Light, Food Lion, Glaxo, Jefferson-Pilot, R.J. Reynolds.

U.N. Says Iraqis Have Been More Cooperative

BAGHDAD, Iraq — U.N. weapons experts made surprise inspections at two Iraqi sites Sunday in search of information

on banned weapons of mass destruction. A U.N. official said the Iraqis were "fully cooperating" with the inspectors, unlike a search Saturday which began only after an 18-hour standoff with Iraqi authorities.

Iraqis had refused to let inspectors search the Irrigation Ministry, arguing the U.N. team had no right to demand access to the building. They finally allowed in 28 inspectors, but accused the United Nations of provoking an artificial crisis to tarnish Baghdad's image just before talks began on resuming limited oil sales.

Iraq is required to dismantle all its programs to develop weapons of mass destruction under a U.N. cease-fire that ended the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

The nation has been under tough U.N. economic sanctions since invading Kuwait in August 1990.

Israel, U.S. Praise Arafat For Opposing Terrorism

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. and Israeli officials praised Yasser Arafat on Sunday for his strikes against Palestinian extremists, with the reminder that the PLO chief's political survival hinges on his continued efforts against terrorism.

"We think we are getting 100 percent cooperation, but we are going to be monitoring it very closely," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said after Arafat's security forces arrested several leaders of the Muslim militant group Hamas on Friday.

Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said that in the past 24 hours Arafat "has shown already a real readiness to arrest the group which is in charge" of the bombing attacks that killed 62 people, including four suicide bombers, over the past two weeks. "He has arrested three out of the six most important persons."

The four bombings have disrupted Middle East peace talks and brought into question Arafat's will and power to root out extremists who want to undermine the peace process.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

VERDICT

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noon that she considered the trial a personal victory.

"I had doubts about it... You want to say 'forget it, let's drop it and get on with your life,'" she said. "But I feel like it is a victory for me because it made it to court. I'm really proud of myself for doing something about this."

Although she said she knew she would lose the case, the alleged victim, a 23-year-old UNC senior, said she hoped the trial would help the public better understand acquaintance rape.

A committee of University administrators suspended Choi in 1994 after he was

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