

World and Nation

Bush keeps lead in presidential polls

From Associated Press reports

Republican George Bush sounded like a man counting down the hours to victory in the race for the White House on Wednesday as he renewed his pledge not to raise taxes. Democrat Michael Dukakis vowed "to work, to campaign and to win" despite the odds against him.

The latest news from the pollsters was anything but good for the Democrats. A Washington Post survey in Maryland, one of the nation's most Democratic states, showed Bush with a nine-point lead. Also, two national polls Tuesday showed a double-digit Democratic deficit.

Bush's lead was back down to a single digit in an ABC News-Washington Post poll released late Tuesday in which he was ahead by 52-44. The survey of 1,242 likely

voters was conducted during seven days, a longer sampling period than in the other surveys, and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points.

The vice president began his campaign day in Detroit, where he said Dukakis sounds like a man "just itching to repeal" the income tax cuts of the Reagan era. The vice president also defended his call for a capital gains tax cut from Dukakis' criticism.

"It's not a tax break for the rich. It is a break for those who want to have a job in this country," he said.

Dukakis was in Colorado, meeting privately with Hispanic leaders who later said high voter turnout among their constituents could deliver a Democratic upset on Election Day. He laid claim to strong Hispanic support and said that was due in part to his stand against drugs.

"They want a president who doesn't talk about the subject but who has done something about it," he said.

In Pueblo, Dukakis defended his record on gun control in a region where he has been under heavy advertising attack from the National Rifle Association. Dukakis said he does not oppose gun ownership by hunters and sportsmen and for protection.

"I hope you'll take that word back to your friends and neighbors," he said. "These charges are a lot of baloney and I hope you'll tell them that."

Advisers insisted the campaign's own polling reflects a closer race than the Bush lead in national polls. Said the candidate, "The pollsters are not going to call this election. It's the people who are going to be voting."

He added he would go "on across

this country to work, to campaign and to win."

Bush optimistically looked beyond the election.

"If I am elected in 13 days, 8 hours and 22 minutes from now, I will work with Congress, telling them the American people in electing me voted against a tax increase," he said. "Now let's sit down together, honor the people's decision, and hold spending increases to the rate of inflation."

Bush also contended that there have been a "staggering" number of jobs created as a result of Reagan-era tax cuts.

"My opponent thinks they were a disaster," Bush said. "Those sound to me like the words of someone who is just itching to repeal one of the most successful economic policies in our history."

Birthday letter to hostage printed in Lebanese papers

From Associated Press reports

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Seven Lebanese newspapers published a letter to U.S. hostage Terry Anderson Wednesday on the eve of his 41st birthday, his fourth in captivity, from a committee of journalists working for his release.

Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for The Associated Press, is the longest-held of the 14 foreign hostages held in Lebanon. He was kidnapped March 16, 1985, by a pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem faction calling itself Islamic Jihad, or Holy War.

"Your colleagues in the U.S. and throughout the world salute you today on your birthday," said the letter published Wednesday in the newspapers. Anderson's birthday actually is Thursday.

The Christian Voice of Lebanon and the Moslem Voice of the Nation radio stations broadcast the statement in Arabic against a background of somber music.

The stations also announced that they will broadcast the statement in English on Thursday in the hope that Anderson, who does not speak Arabic, would be able to hear it.

The papers also published a photograph of American country music star Hank Williams Jr. receiving a bracelet from Anderson's sister, Peggy Say.

In addition to Anderson, the 13 foreigners missing in Lebanon are eight Americans, three Britons, an Italian and an Irishman.

The group has demanded the release of 17 comrades jailed in Kuwait for the 1983 bombing of the U.S. and French embassies.

News in Brief

because of its remoteness, officials said.

The copters went down about 7:45 p.m. Tuesday approximately 125 miles southeast of the Marine Corps Air Station at Yuma, officials said.

Drug-related deaths increase

WASHINGTON — Increasingly violent turf battles involving drug dealers have pushed the nation's capital to the brink of a homicide record this year, the city's police chief said Wednesday.

With less than three months remaining in 1988, 285 people have been killed in the District of Columbia, two deaths short of the record for one year set in 1969. There were 227 homicides in Washington last year.

Police estimate that 60 percent of this year's killings have been drug-related, compared with 1986 when 33 percent of the homicides involved drugs.

The demand for crack, a highly addictive cocaine derivative, has fueled the accelerating homicide rate, Turner said.

Martin supporters confident of victory

From Associated Press reports

Gov. Jim Martin embarked on the last leg of his three-day whistlestop journey across North Carolina Wednesday, with confident supporters saying that nothing short of "massive complacency" could cost him reelection.

The Republican governor's train tour, which began Monday in Asheville, was scheduled to conclude at Morehead City after stops in Wilson, Greenville, Washington, New Bern and Havelock.

The train got under way at dawn Wednesday at the Amtrak depot in Raleigh, where about 150 supporters gathered to see Martin off. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., whose political base is in the conservative East, spent the day with Martin.

"We're charging to the finish line with all the power that a locomotive can give us," Martin said, speaking

from a lectern inside a doorway of one of the train's three passenger cars.

The spectators, who enjoyed coffee and doughnuts in the morning chill, chanted "Four more years!" as the train lurched down the track.

Republican insiders said that with just under two weeks remaining before the Nov. 8 election, they saw no reason to curb their optimism.

"Everybody's seeing the same numbers," said Frank Rouse, an Emerald Isle developer and former chairman of the state Republican Party. "This may be a bellwether year. It seems like the courthouse Democrats are collapsing."

Another former GOP chairman, Human Resources Secretary David Flaherty, said he had detected significant support for Martin in the East. He said a Democratic county commissioner in Craven County told him

Tuesday that he supported Martin.

"His next question was whether (Jim) Gardner can win" in his race for lieutenant governor, Flaherty said. "And some even think Carrington will win," a reference to GOP secretary of state nominee John Carrington.

"It's really amazing that people are talking that way down East," Flaherty said. He said he saw no way that Democratic Lt. Gov. Bob Jordan could overtake Martin unless the governor's supporters are afflicted with "massive complacency and don't turn out."

He recalled 1982, when polls showed Republicans leading several races two weeks before the election. "Then along came the reports that unemployment was 10 percent and the bottom just fell out."

Tommy Rhodes, secretary of Natural Resources and Community

Development, said he was concerned about overconfidence. "The worst thing to do is sit back and think everything's all right," he said.

Appeals Court Judge Donald Smith, who is seeking election to the office to which Martin appointed him, said it was hard to tell whether the top of the ticket would have long enough coattails to help him.

"I can tell you that the printed media has shown a lot more interest in the judicial races than I've seen before," Smith said.

Gardner, during a campaign appearance in Hillsborough, again blasted his Democratic opponent, state Sen. Tony Rand, for representing people charged in drug cases.

In Albemarle, 76 of the state's 100 sheriffs Wednesday endorsed Rand in the lieutenant governor's race, Rand's campaign announced.

South Africans vote in council elections

From Associated Press reports

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Security forces ringed polling booths Wednesday as South Africans of all races, voting simultaneously for the first time, elected segregated municipal councils nationwide.

President P.W. Botha's National Party faced a fierce challenge from the extreme-right Conservative Party in white communities. Turnout was low in many black townships, where anti-apartheid activists urged an election boycott in defiance of state-of-emergency regulations.

The most important white battleground was Pretoria, the capital. The

South African Press Association said an independent computer analysis indicated the Conservatives would outpoll the National Party for control of Pretoria's city council.

Police reported scattered arson and stone-throwing attacks but no fatalities or major clashes.

In Soweto, a township near Johannesburg where more than 2 million blacks live, only 4,000 people had voted by midafternoon, the state radio reported. The radio said 20,000 of Soweto's 347,000 registered voters had cast ballots in advance.

Of South Africa's 26 million blacks, 1,464,198 were eligible to vote

in contested elections Wednesday.

Nationwide, 7,229 council seats were at stake in 1,071 communities. The state radio said only 905 of the 1,839 black council seats were being contested.

Anti-apartheid clergymen such as Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, opposed the elections and urged South Africans to fast and pray during the day.

The United Nations General Assembly voted 146-0 on Wednesday to condemn the elections. The United States and Britain abstained.

The government spent millions of dollars on advertising to promote a

high turnout, contending that it was broadening democracy even though blacks cannot vote in national elections.

Critics say turnout percentages will have little meaning because millions of blacks were ineligible to vote. Many leading black opposition groups are banned.

One black who did vote, Siza Zwane, said national issues didn't prompt him to vote for the Sofanoke Party, whose candidates in Soweto have been criticized for making sweeping promises.

"We are going to pay less rent, and they will make the roads much better," Zwane said.

The state-run South African Broadcasting Corp. said the overall black turnout exceeded the 21 percent registered in the previous black local elections five years ago, but it gave no figures.

Many schools in black, mixed-race and Asian townships near Johannesburg and Cape Town were virtually deserted as students stayed away to protest the elections.

In the white elections, the pro-apartheid Conservatives hoped to sweep to power in most northern towns.

Formed only eight years ago, and never before a factor in local elections, the Conservative Party won 26 percent of the vote in May 1987 national elections. Its leaders believe they could seriously challenge the National Party in parliamentary elections expected by 1990.

Murder suspect denied bond

MARION — A Superior Court judge Wednesday refused to set bond for a Fayetteville man charged with pushing his wife and another woman off a Blue Ridge Parkway overlook.

Judge Zoro Guice ordered James Clifton Gibbs held without bond in the McDowell County Jail pending a Nov. 9 probable cause hearing. Gibbs, 37, is charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of his wife, Helen Burnette Gibbs, 30, and Susan White Haire, 32, of Ladsen, S.C.

Mrs. Gibbs and Ms. Haire died Oct. 17 when they fell from the Chestoa View overlook along the Blue Ridge Parkway. Gibbs has insisted he is innocent and said he fell while climbing down the rugged slope to help the women.

Autopsies indicated the two women died instantly, authorities said last week.

Parking

more parking off campus, improving bus service through student fees, charging fees for on-campus parking at night, and charging the Educational Foundation (Rams Club) for special events parking, he said.

Also included are proposals requiring the University to create and finance new parking when new buildings are built on existing lots and preventing transportation fees from going toward non-transportation uses, he said.

Hardin was unavailable for comment Wednesday.

Other sources of research and information, in addition to the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee, include the Office of Facilities Planning and Design and Chapel Hill town officials, Hershey said.

The report will include the results of meetings held last year by the planning office concerning the parking issues, he said.

For the Record

In Monday's article, "Court may try case without student," the DTH quoted Student Congress representative Brock Dickinson as saying he represented the "voice of student government" at a rally Friday sponsored by the Chapel Hill Coalition for Freedom to Dissent. Dickinson was not formally representing student government, and the views he expressed were his personal beliefs.

Wednesday's article, "Course review improvements suggested at forum," misrepresented the views of Michael Salemi, economics professor, on the Carolina Course Review evaluations. Salemi does not believe that the large number of "satisfactory" ratings in the course review is a problem, and he did not say that the evaluations need to be changed. The DTH regrets the errors.

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Nomination forms are available at the Black Cultural Center and at 03 South Building.

Nominations may also be made by writing or calling:

Ms. Carolyn Briggs
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