

STATE AND NATIONAL

Lord calls for less government

By Jason Richardson
Assistant State and National Editor

Nancy Lord, the Libertarian nominee for vice president, said Wednesday that the Libertarian Party offered voters an opportunity to reject incumbent parties and vote for truly innovative ideas.

But the party faces an uphill battle in a system designed to keep the two incumbent parties firmly in power, Lord said.

The Democrats and Republicans merely are exploiting their positions as incumbents to benefit themselves, Lord said.

Lord and Scott McLaughlin, the Libertarian candidate for N.C. governor, said the present election system was harmful to all parties except the Republicans and Democrats.

The Libertarians had to spend \$50,000 just to get on the ballot in North Carolina, McLaughlin said. Lord estimated the figure at \$1 million nationwide.

This year has been an interesting one for candidates outside the two largest parties.

With Texas businessman Ross Perot's challenge in the presidential race drawing major attention from the public, this election year holds promise for third-party candidates, Lord said.

Lord said Perot's campaign was "a very good thing for America."

"He legitimized looking outside the Democratic and Republican parties," Lord said.

Libertarian candidates for president and vice president are on the ballot in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Guam, Lord said.

Lord and McLaughlin said that there were Libertarian candidates in 786 local elections nationwide, including 42 in North Carolina.

Although the Libertarians have no

real hopes of winning the national election, the party has many practical goals for the upcoming campaign, Lord said.

"We will gain in terms of membership. We will expand our influence and the number of people who have heard of us," Lord said.

"We will elect local officials at the county and city level," she said.

Lord said that the Libertarian Party presented the only real alternative to the Democrats and the Republicans.

"We're the only (third) party that's on the ballot in all 50 states," Lord said. "If you add up all the votes (for third parties), our total surpassed all opposition parties combined."

"We're where the new thinking is taking place," she said.

The national media also can have an adverse effect on a third-party campaign, Lord said. "The press has been a mouthpiece for the establishment parties," she said. "It's part of the overall collapse of investigative journalism."

But the N.C. media has been beneficial to the Libertarians, McLaughlin said. "We're starting to see change as far as the media is concerned because of disgust with the other candidates."

It is also very difficult for the Libertarian candidates to debate the other candidates, McLaughlin said.

"They're not going to let us debate them. In free debate, we would probably win," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin said that the recent debate between Republican Jim Gardner and Democrat Jim Hunt was a "disservice to every voter in the state."

"Those two should be ashamed of

themselves," she said.

The general Libertarian philosophy is that less government is better, Lord said. They believe government has legitimate functions, such as providing for defense, public safety and judicial concerns.

But Lord said the Libertarians wanted government to end the overregulation of the free market. The Libertarians also think government should stay out of the private lives of its citizens, she said.

"We look forward to a world where nobody will have to have their money spent in a stupid, dishonest or immoral way," Lord said.

With the Democratic and Republican parties exchanging attacks on each other's economic agendas, Lord said the Libertarians were the only party capable of fixing the U.S. economy.

"We're the only party that understands that the reason the economy is collapsing is because the government is taking our money," Lord said.

With an increasing percentage of Americans preparing to draw benefits, Lord said the Social Security system was in danger of collapsing.

"If I were in college today, I'd be out in the streets demonstrating against Social Security the way my generation demonstrated against Vietnam," Lord said. If the system does not change, today's college students are "going to spend their old age eating cat food," she said.

Lord also said the party disliked the present system of tax collection, in which the Internal Revenue Service bureaucracy is responsible for enforcing tax laws.

"The IRS has become a very oppressive agency," Lord said. "With the IRS, you are guilty until proven innocent."

Libertarians do understand that some taxes are necessary, but think better collection methods are needed.

The Libertarian positions on the major issues of the presidential and gubernatorial races stem directly from their philosophy of less government involvement.

For example, the Libertarians support the pro-choice position on abortion, but they do not support using gov-

See LIBERTARIANS, page 7



Nancy Lord



Scott McLaughlin



'Bushwomen' protest the president's view of women following his address in Greensboro on Wednesday

Bush speech draws mixed reactions from protesters, audience members

By Dana Pope
City Editor

GREENSBORO — President George Bush's address to small business leaders and his re-election campaign drew mixed reactions from audience members and demonstrators outside the Joseph R. Koury Convention Center.

Bush addressed the Triad Chamber of Commerce at the convention center Wednesday morning, focusing on small business reform and the presentation of an updated economic plan.

Protesters standing outside the Guilford Ballroom, where the president made his address, said they were concerned with Bush's stand on women's issues and the environment.

Six women wearing 1940s-style dresses, horn-rimmed glasses and pillbox hats protested Bush's stand on

women's issues, saying their dress reflected Bush's view of women.

The group called themselves "Bushwomen" and criticized the president through their comments and dress.

"My husband won't let me talk to strangers," said one woman, who would only identify herself as Mrs. Harold Kiwaleski.

Kiwaleski, who said she was from the Greensboro area, would not give her first name, saying that her identity should be based on her husband. "My first name's not important," she said.

Kiwaleski said Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle's traditional family values should be followed.

"We are what Bush sees as women," she said. "He's promoting these values; we are, too."

"We should let our men run this country," Kiwaleski said as she lifted a sign saying "Whatever you say, dear."

A group of five UNC-Greensboro students also held signs saying "Will the environmental president please stand

up?" and "Read my lips, no new term."

Carmen Christopher, one of the demonstrators, said environmental issues should not be taken lightly.

"I basically feel like the time for luxury is over," she said, adding that the government spent too much money studying environmental problems.

"We need to start taking action," she said.

Despite the negative reactions of the protesters, the president garnered support from many audience members.

Nelson Dollar, the GOP candidate for N.C. labor commissioner, said he agreed with Bush's small business initiative, especially a plan to increase small business exports.

"That's an issue that is very much involved in productivity," he said.

N.C. Sen. Bob Shaw, R-Guilford, said Bush's speech "hit right on the money."

"Clinton keeps talking about taxing business people, but remember no poor person gives anyone a job."

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