



A view of Granada from the Alhambra

photo by Anna Rajotte



4 Behrend students boat at a lake in Parque de Madrid

photo by Anna Rajotte

Former RNC chair speaks at Behrend

by Will Jordon
staff writer

"Recognize the major impact that the government has on your everyday lives." Haley Barbour, former chairman of the Republican National Committee (RNC), shared an "Insider's View of Washington" Wednesday evening in the Reed Commons.

In November 1994, under Barbour's chairmanship, Republicans won the greatest midterm majority sweep of the twentieth century, gaining control of both houses of Congress for the first time in forty years. In 1996, Republicans maintained their majorities in both the

House and the Senate, winning control of Congress in back-to-back elections for the first time in 68 years.

During Barbour's four-year tenure as chair of the RNC, the committee broke all fundraising records, donating record-breaking amounts to the largest field of candidates in Republican history. Currently Haley Barbour is practicing law with the firm of Barbour, Griffith and Rogers in Washington D.C. and his home state of Mississippi.

Before his presentation at 7:30 a small press conference was conducted in the Wintergarden. The major topic covered at this press conference was the controversy involv-

ing Bill Clinton, Monica Lewinsky, and Kathleen Willey. Barbour believes that the president deserves the same courtesy as all Americans. He commented, "It seems that a new shoe drops every week."

Barbour felt that the Republicans are being quiet on the matter. They feel that judgement of the issue should be held until all the facts are in. Barbour has no judgement at this time. However, he feels that the public has every right to make inferences, have strong opinions, and be very emotional about the whole ordeal. The only questions that Barbour had about the outcome were about hurting the presidency. He feels that there has been a lot of back and forth. Documents and other facts keep coming up. Kathleen Willey testified under oath and more facts came out. More questions than answers have appeared. Documents that have been under subpoena have failed to be produced. Barbour feels that voters, the country, and the presidency deserve better.

Barbour feels that the whole situation in the White House is very powerful because it is unprecedented. He added that the whole situation brings up the issue of "abuse of power"; people being asked to lie as well as people being threatened and intimidated.

The question of which Republican has the best chance for the presidency was also raised. Barbour said that there is no "front runner." Republicans have a clear agenda which is to cut taxes, reform welfare, and reform social security, among other things. Clinton also recently spoke about the need for social security reform.

Haley Barbour then spoke about Tom Ridge and his chances if he ran for president. He said that he felt that Ridge has been a very successful governor and he has a lot of political respect. At this time Barbour thinks that Ridge is more focused on reelection, however if he did run for the presidency, he would be received very well. He also said that he feels that Tom Ridge has tremendous po-

New tax laws benefit students

by Jon Tatalovic
staff writer

The chance of attending college is a goal being made more attainable by the government. On August 5, 1997, President Clinton signed the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, which in turn will assist the parents of college students. The Taxpayer Act of 1997 enables funding for the HOPE Scholarship and Lifetime Learning Credits which will help the student's parents through graduation.

The HOPE Scholarship is available for students who are enrolled in their first two years of college or other post-secondary training which is deemed eligible. The taxpayer will be eligible for a 100% tax credit from the first \$1,000 of tuition and fees. They will also be eligible for 50% tax credit from the second \$1,000 of tuition and fees. These conditions are only applicable for students who are enrolled after December 31, 1997.

The Lifetime Learning Credit is available to students who have passed their first two years. The taxpayer will

receive a tax credit for 20% on the first \$5,000 of tuition and fees through the year 2002. After that, they will receive a tax credit for 20% on the first \$10,000 of tuition and fees. These conditions are only applicable if the student is enrolled after June 30, 1998.

In addition to tuition tax credits, the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 also has several other aspects. One such benefit is tax free interest on education IRAs, and no penalty for early withdrawal. Another is the repeal of the cap on tax exempt bond issuance by colleges and universities. Finally, employer provided education benefits of up to \$5,250 of can be excluded from taxable income.

Because laws are constantly changing, it is a good idea to check with the Financial Aid office to make sure that all breaks are being taken advantage of. Many of the areas covered by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 can benefit Behrend students by helping them save money.

Spain continued

Here the students were able to meet his family, who had prepared a meal of paella for them. Bob Bland, MBA program, commented, "The hospitality of Mr Fernandez' family was wonderful. The paella was absolutely wonderful, especially the brains of the rabbit." Tracey Titchner, 04 International Business, agreed, "I enjoyed the day we spent getting to know Dr. Fernandez' family."

In Escuenela, Dr. Fernandez took the group on a tour of the olive oil factory that his father had a hand in establishing. The province of Jaen produces a good amount of the world's olive oil, which was evident by the miles and miles of olive trees surrounding Escuenela.

All of the students on the trip seemed to regard it as an educational and fun way to spend Spring Break. Mark Greenbank, 06 Political Science, remarked, "I'm glad I went. I'd like to go back someday." Mike Coursey, 08 Political Science, added, "It was a very spiritual experience. There were a lot of cathedrals and being Catholic, it gave me a sense of where everything started."

From a trip to the emergency room to a lost suitcase, the group thought that Dr. Fernandez did an incredible job of organizing the trip and handling any problems along the way. Greenbank stated, "Dr. Fernandez did a very good job. He planned it out very well." Ellis agreed, "Dr. Fernandez is a great tour guide."

tential.

Haley Barbour believes that the political environment in Washington has changed since 1994. He stated that there is a "focus on policy." National welfare reform was based on model programs that were conducted in a handful of states in the early 90's. Clinton had vetoed the current welfare bill twice before finally signing it into law. However, the current welfare program is not perfect. Fortunately, the percentage of people on welfare has been decreasing.

Barbour then brought up the subject of "surplus politics." He said that as long as the budget is balanced, Democrats feel that there should be more government spending. On the other hand, Republicans feel that there should be tax cuts. He stated that, "money belongs to the people who earn it." He went on to say taxes are at the highest percentage ever. The common household where both the wife and husband work have to pay 38.2% taxes out of their income. Barbour feels that this percentage should be no higher than 25%. He continued by saying that when a Republican is in office, they will replace the current tax system with one that is cheaper and more simple.

Barbour also said that defense

regulation, and being tough on crime.

Barbour felt that the best way to show that Republicans are winning the battle of ideas is to listen to Clinton. He feels that Clinton says what the people want to hear. An example would be Clinton's 1996 State of the Union Address when he said, "the era of big government is over." Barbour feels that Clinton is "the greatest political performer in history" and that Clinton "has perfected the ability to cry out of one eye." Barbour stated that the people have begun to accept the ideas of low taxes and welfare reform. Clinton is only the third president to be elected and reelected without majority vote.

"In politics it is not enough to just be right," Barbour stated. Clinton vetoed the bill for a balanced budget twice in 1995-96 before he signed it. He also vetoed the welfare reform bill twice before signing it. Barbour said that the Republicans that are in the House are very timid.

Barbour feels that, "Clinton is weak but very clever." As far as where the government will be in the near future, Barbour said that he feels that the government "will drift to the right." We have a balanced budget for the first time since 1969. How-

recognize the major impact that the government has on your everyday lives. The government is run by politicians. If you turn your back on those who are involved, you will pay the price."

Barbour then opened the floor to questions from the audience. The first question concerned Medicare being expanded to people under 65 and medical savings accounts. Barbour answered the second part first. He said that medical savings accounts are a good policy. Barbour feels that it will be successful. Medical savings accounts allow young people to buy healthcare at a low premium. Barbour stated that 5% of all medical bills are paid by someone other than the patient. Barbour is opposed to the expansion of Medicare saying that it was very risky.

Another member of the audience asked about the national debt. Barbour answered by saying that our generation will be better off than his. He feels that it is bad policy to build "big surplus." Barbour feels that the government should reduce the national debt, but they should not eliminate it because of the investments such as bonds and treasury notes. If they do eliminate the national debt, Barbour fears that it will deflate our currency.

Another member of the audience asked why the Republican leadership does not take impeachment seriously. Barbour replied by saying that if it is partisan, a) there will not be impeachment and b) if there was an impeachment, it would tear at the fabric of the presidency. It takes a two thirds vote to impeach, meaning that a many Democrats would have to vote for impeachment, whether the Republicans like it or not. Barbour feels that if the Republicans take the risk of making it a partisan issue, they will have done the country a great disservice.

Haley Barbour concluded that he liked going to colleges because of the quality of questions. He feels that Generation X will be the best generation ever.

Students had mixed reactions to Barbour's ideas. Russel John-Baptiste, 02 Computer Science, said "I thought his speech gave insight into the thoughts behind government, even with his constant praises of Republican policy."

Yong Soo Lee, 02 DUS, said "He was ambiguous. Barbour dodged questions with numbers and facts." Ken Lynch, 05 Computer Engineering, said, "He was conservative. He knew what he was talking about."

Dave Grygier, 04 MIS, said, "I wasn't sure about some of the ideas in his main speech. He knew about taxes. Barbour used a lot of examples that don't apply to our generation. He is a good politician."

Police And Safety REPORT:

03/10/98 Complainant reported that the carbon monoxide detector was going off.

03/11/98 Complainant reported that there were students in the gym. Found five non-students. They stated that they were told the gym was open to the public. They were advised of the rules and were escorted out of Erie Hall.

03/12/98 Father of ex-student stopped to see if we could help get info in order to try and locate her. She apparently went to Daytona Beach and hasn't called.

03/13/98 Wesleyville PD delivered copy of warrant for former student who may be around here from time to time.

03/14/98 Complete power outage all over campus.

03/15/98 Found the "do not enter" sign going from the Reed Lot entrance along the westbound sidewalk had been knocked down.

03/15/98 Complainant reported one of his employees had struck a parked vehicle.

03/16/98 Complainant reported individual on the second floor of the plastics lab.

I thought his speech gave insight into the thoughts behind government, even with his constant praises of Republican policy.

Russel John-Baptiste
02, Computer Science

spending is down 40% and procurement is down 7%. The decline of procurement brings up the issue of a "hollow military." Barbour said that our military is based on technology and not manpower. He also said that defense money should be spent totally on defense and not used for other things.

At 7:30 Dean Lilley introduced Haley Barbour as part of the speaker series "A New View: Old Questions, New Answers." Barbour opened by saying that he was going to speak on "the views about what's going on in Washington."

In regards to the Clinton, Lewinsky, and Willey situation, Barbour again said that he does not know the facts and does not know what the outcome will be.

"Washington has changed a great deal since 1992," Barbour stated. He went on to say that Republicans have had great success in Washington since 1993. They are the majority party on Capitol Hill and it's the first time since the 1920's that they have won control of Congress in back to back elections. Barbour said the major change is that, "Republicans have won the battle of ideas." According to Barbour, Republicans believe in a smaller, smarter government, ratio-

ever, "it is not a great budget." Tax rates are extremely high. The deficit issue versus the balanced budget comes up. Barbour asked the question, "Who gets the surplus, taxpayers or the government?" Clinton has projected that there will be \$145 billion in new government spending. "Did we fight thirty years to balance the budget so the government could spend more or so that the public will get more back? The government spends more than it needs to." Out of the 40 million working couples in America, at least one of the person's entire salary goes into paying taxes. "No one should have to pay more than 25% on taxes," he reiterated. He stated that the average working couple pays more on taxes than on housing, food, clothing, and transportation.

Barbour then continued by saying that Medicare reform needs to be solved, the government is discussing social security reform, and that the goal of smaller government probably will not be achieved. He also mentioned that under the Clean Air Act the government has more power and by the year 2008, America will have to reduce its energy use by 35%.

Barbour concluded his presentation by saying that "the public should