

League offers political services

League of Women Voters lobbies, organizes debates

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—Karen Evans, president of the local chapter of the League of Women Voters

By JOHN SCHLANDER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Emerging from the women's suffrage movement in the early part of the century, the League of Women Voters has evolved into a powerful political service and lobbyist organization.

In a recent interview with The Daily Collegian, State College chapter President Karen Evans discussed the actions, objectives and philosophies of the League.

Contrary to its name, the League is open to males, Evans said.

"It was opened to men in the last five or eight years. I think we have two male members — out of 122. That's our local membership. There is at least one, maybe two state League presidents who are men."

"But the tradition is still women. There is annually some push to change the name, but I don't know what can be done," she said.

Any citizen of voting age may join the League, she said.

The League has two areas of activities — voter service and lobbying efforts, Evans said.

The League has been in the news consistently during this presidential election year, she said, because of the debates it organizes.

"The national level of the organization works on the presidential debates, the state level plans senatorial debates and the local chapter plans a candidates' night — a debate between candidates for local office."

The League also holds an annual voter registration drive. Although the number of voters the League helped register this past month — 500 — is not huge, Evans said it could make a difference in the local elections.

"The information given out by the League is equally important, Evans said.

"It's not necessarily the number of people, it's the quality of the vote — an informed vote."

The League helps compile a non-partisan voters' guide to the candidates, which is published in The Centre Daily Times. Other publications include the Directory of Government Officials and the Health Services Directory.

Each year the League chooses a study and action program. This year the local chapter's program includes health care, library services, and land use and planning.

The second area the League is involved in is the support of certain issues, such as Medicaid funding for abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment.

However, she said, the League is non-partisan.

"We don't support any candidates; we don't oppose any candidates. Anyone on the board of the League can't run for office, although we encourage the rest of the membership to run for office or be involved in the political system some way," Evans said.

"We, locally, are encouraged to keep in contact with our state people, like (Rep. Gregg L.) Cunningham and (state Senator J. Doyle) Corman in our case, and encourage them to vote according to our position. So, from that respect, we are a lobbying organization."

"We do come down on one side or the other of an issue that we have studied and have reached a consensus on."

When asked if this was the same as supporting a candidate, Evans said, "It can be construed that way if you're a single-issue candidate."

"We have a fairly strong position that we support Medicaid funding for abortions, and Cunningham has a fairly strong position that he opposes it. If you were voting for your representative only on the issue of abortion and you were a League member, you might vote against Cunningham."

"But that's not the only issue we're concerned with. That's not the only issue he's concerned with."

"Marriage, separation and divorce (reform) is a good example," Evans continued. "He (Cunningham) was very strong in getting legislation through that supported the reform."

We were very supportive of him.

"All we can do is write to him and say, 'This is the League's position and we'd appreciate the vote.'"

"We're not in any way encouraging anybody else to vote for or against him on the basis of how he voted on these issues, or Corman either, for that matter, because he voted against Medicaid funding," she said.

"I can promise you it will never go so far as to support a candidate. That's something the League protects with every resource."

"Anybody who gets in a position where they might be speaking for the League is told over and over again that we must not in any way compromise that standard — being non-partisan," Evans said.

"That's what makes us valuable to legislators. When the League goes to the state Legislature and testifies about an issue, the reputation of the League is at stake, and if it turns out there's some partisan bias to what the League is doing, then we'll lose our value to the government."

The local chapter makes its own decisions, Evans said.

"We're not being told from our state or national organizations how to do things or what kind of action to take," she said.

League activities are financed primarily by member's dues and an annual finance drive.

The local chapter consists of a 12-member board and 122 members. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of every month (except June, July and August) at noon at the State College Hotel.

Jeb Bush campaigns for GOP nominees

By LYNDA ROBINSON
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The son of Republican vice presidential candidate George Bush said his father and Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan will keep the country out of war with a foreign policy based on military strength.

Jeb Bush, 27, campaigned in State College on Friday and said students who fear the possibility of war should support Reagan because "someone that deals from strength can keep the peace."

Bush called Reagan the candidate of peace and said Carter's vacillating foreign policy may force students into military service.

"I've heard a lot of comments from students saying Ronald Reagan will lead us into war," he said at a news conference after a speech to county Republicans. "I don't think they've thought deeply enough about it."

Bush said the state of the economy should also be an important issue to students getting ready to graduate who may discover "no opportunities for finding meaningful jobs or buying homes."

"Students just want the same opportunities their parents had," he said.

Reagan would create a stable economic plan that would limit government spending and reduce taxes, Bush said. He criticized Carter's economic record as inconsistent and said such inconsistency was detrimental to business.

Bush, a graduate of the University of Texas and the assistant vice president of a Houston bank, said Reagan will seek to lessen government influence on the lives of citizens and the affairs of the private sector.

"We need to return to the idea that individuals are what make this country great," he said. "The more Washington gets involved in our lives, the more the thinking will be that we can't solve our

own problems."

Although Carter was praised for his deregulation of the airline and trucking industries, Bush said Carter's record was not good on deregulation for small businesses.

Bush said overregulation creates unemployment and Reagan will strike a better balance between economic considerations and environmental considerations.

Reagan favors an elimination of seat belt requirements for automobiles and a deferral of the Clean Air Act timetable, which forces businesses to invest in costly emission control equipment, Bush said.

"Many people are naive when they think we can live in a risk-free society," he said. "If you can't pay your food bills, it doesn't matter whether it has saccharin in it or not."

Bush also attacked Carter's human rights policy as hypocritical because, he said, it is not applied uniformly and Reagan and his father will place national self-interest as their No. 1 foreign policy priority.

"We should have a human rights policy that is equitable, and it should not be a primary consideration in our foreign policy," he said. "Our strategic interests are more important."

Using Bolivia as an example, Bush called Carter's human rights policy destructive because it encourages potential friends to establish stronger ties with the Soviet Union.

"The U.S. sits back with this holier-than-thou attitude and allows a friend to move toward the Soviet Union," he said.

Bush defended the alliance of the Republican Party with fundamental Christian groups like the Rev. Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority although he said he is "concerned about the separation of church and state."

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR SPECIAL EVENTS
Monday & Tuesday, Oct. 13 & 14

Monday, Oct. 13
Last date for Nov. graduates to submit camera-ready theses manuscripts to Thesis Office.
Black Studies Symposium, "South Africa in Southern Africa", 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., HUB North Lounge.
Alard String Quartet recital, 12:45 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
University Scholars Convocation, 4:15 p.m., Schwab, Ernest L. Boyer, The Carnegie Foundation, speaker.
Shakespeare film, Williamson, Hamlet, 6:30 p.m., Room 101 Chambers.
France-Cinema, The Tall Blonde Man, 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
HUB Craft Center Open House, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Room 312 HUB.
University Readers, auditions for Brecht's *Socrates Wounded*, 7:30 p.m., Room 227 Sparks.
Black Studies Lecture, 8 p.m., Room 105 Forum, Richard M. Moose, Asst. Sec. of State for African Affairs, on "The Carter Administration in Southern Africa."
Colloquy Lecture, 8 p.m., Schwab, Frank Vogl, economist for The Times of London, speaker.
Raymond Brown, bass baritone, and Phyllis Triolo, piano, 8:30 p.m., Music Bldg. Recital Hall.
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 7 p.m., Eisenhower Chapel.
Pre-Vet Club meeting, 7 p.m., Room 301 Ag. Admin. Bldg.
Society of Physics Students meeting, 7 p.m., Room 105 Osmond.
Women's Collective meeting, 7 p.m., Room 323 HUB.
Soil and Water Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 111 Tyson.
Students for Anderson meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 267 Willard.
Aikido Club meeting, 8:30 p.m., IM Wrestling Room.

Tuesday, Oct. 14
Black Studies Symposium, "South Africa in Southern Africa", 9 a.m.-4 p.m., HUB North Lounge.
Gallery Talk, 10:30 a.m., Museum of Art, Carl Dauterman, curator emeritus, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, on "The Rebellious Rococo."
CDCP Seminars: "Resume Preparation," 3rd period; "Interview Skills," 4th period; "Choosing a Major," 5th period; "Looking for a Job," 6th period, Room 321 Boucke.
Comp. Lit. Luncheon, 12:15; talk, 1 p.m., Room 203 HUB, Philip Radcliffe, Univ. of Manchester, on "Drama and Its Public Image."
Kern/AVS, Connection series, "Thunder in the Skies," 12:15 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
Shakespeare film, Williamson, Hamlet, 6:30 p.m., Room 101 Chambers.
Comp. Lit. Film Series, *Death of a Bureaucrat*, 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
Sports: soccer vs. East Stroudsburg, 7:15 p.m.
Artists Series film, Bolshoi Ballet, *The Little Humpbacked Horse*, 8 p.m., Eisenhower Auditorium.
IAHS/History Panel Discussion, 8 p.m., Room 102 Forum, Eugene McCarthy, former U.S. senator and presidential candidate in 1968 and 1976; Frank Freidel, Harvard Univ.; Robert Murray, American history; and Eugene Goodwin, journalism, moderator on "The Modern Presidency: Past Experiences, Future Prospects."
Bread for the World meeting, 6 p.m., Room 312 Boucke.
GSA Council, 6:30 p.m., Room 101 Kern.
Star Trek Club, 6:30 p.m., Room 304 Willard.
Alpha Phi Omega, 7 p.m., Room 267 Willard.

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