

WIAA Boys Tournament Today's the day!

DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

Division 1 8:15 p.m.
Milwaukee Washington
vs.
Sheboygan North

Division 3 1:45 p.m.
St. Croix Falls
vs.
Auburndale

Division 2 6:35 p.m.
Baraboo
vs.
Rice Lake

Division 4 12:05 p.m.
Cassville
vs.
Wausaukee

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MADISON, WISCONSIN ★ ★ ★ THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 20-21, 1993

50¢

Fur flies over Dems' south-side showdown

By Todd Moore

Special to The Capital Times

Democrats are a lot like cats: When they're howling, it's tough to tell whether they're fighting or making love.

So it was when Dane County's Democrats this week kicked off their new program of endorsing candidates in non-partisan local races.

The highlight came Wednesday night as fiery south-side Ald. Tim Bruer apparently blew his cool when party leaders chose to endorse his opponent, David Taylor.

Taylor regards the evening with amusement. Bruer grudgingly concedes that he

District 14 endorsement sparks uproar

might have lost his temper, characterizing his stance as "assertive." Intertwined in all of this are personal, professional and political intrigues going back for years.

The race for the City Council's 14th District seat marks the second time Bruer and Taylor have squared off, not counting other political battles where the two men and their supporters found themselves at the same end of the political spectrum but on opposite sides of the fence.

The 14th District is curious territory, covering the demographic spread from

mean streets to satin sheets, stretching from the low-cost housing of Broadway-Simpson to the twin sets and pearls of Arbor Hills.

When the Democrats met at the Inn on the Park, the concept was simple enough: Party leaders would vote to endorse candidates in the upcoming local elections. By doing so, they would inject a strong dose of politics into a traditionally non-partisan election season.

Two criteria are needed for the nod — the candidate must be an active member

of the Democratic Party and must actively seek the endorsement. Both Taylor and Bruer considered themselves Democrats. Both wanted the endorsement. Taylor was a member in good standing. Bruer had not been an active Democrat for years.

The Democrats had several options — they could endorse one candidate, endorse both candidates or decline to make any endorsement. County party co-chairman John Horn had contacted Bruer and told him that if he renewed his party membership he would be considered for the endorsement. Even Taylor conceded that Bruer might have had a shot had he signed up.

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Court nominee must support abortion rights

By John King

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton promised Friday to choose someone with good judgment and "a big heart" in making the first Supreme Court appointment by a Democrat in a quarter-century. He also has said the nominee must support abortion rights.

Clinton was notified of Justice Byron White's retirement plans early Friday and immediately scheduled a meeting for today with top advisers to begin his search.

"I think that there are few decisions a president makes which are more weighty, more significant and have greater impact on more Americans than an appointment to the Supreme Court," Clinton told reporters. "And I'm going to try to pick a person that has a fine mind, good judgment, wide experience in the law and in the problems of real people and someone with a big heart."

Clinton refused to be drawn into the speculation that immediately engulfed Washington as Democrats and liberal interest groups delighted in the prospect of a Democratic appointment that would begin to reverse the court's Reagan-era conservative shift.

Republicans, meanwhile, suddenly found themselves in much the same position occupied by Democrats during the Reagan and Bush years: cautioning the White House to steer clear of using abortion as a litmus test for high court picks.

"If the president nominates someone who will follow in the common-sense tradition of Justice

White, he will be doing the nation a great service," said Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas. "But if the president nominates a 'litmus-test liberal,' all bets will be off."

As a candidate, Clinton repeatedly said ideology would take a back seat to excellence in his court picks, but also acknowledged any Supreme Court nominees would have to share his support of abortion rights. He also promised to appoint more minorities to the federal bench than any past president.

"It makes me feel uncomfortable," he said of his abortion litmus test during the campaign. But he said it was necessary because of the court's erosion of abortion rights during the Reagan and Bush administrations.

On Friday, Clinton chose not to answer directly when asked if abortion was the crucial test. He said only, "Do I believe that there is a constitutional right to privacy? Yes, I do."

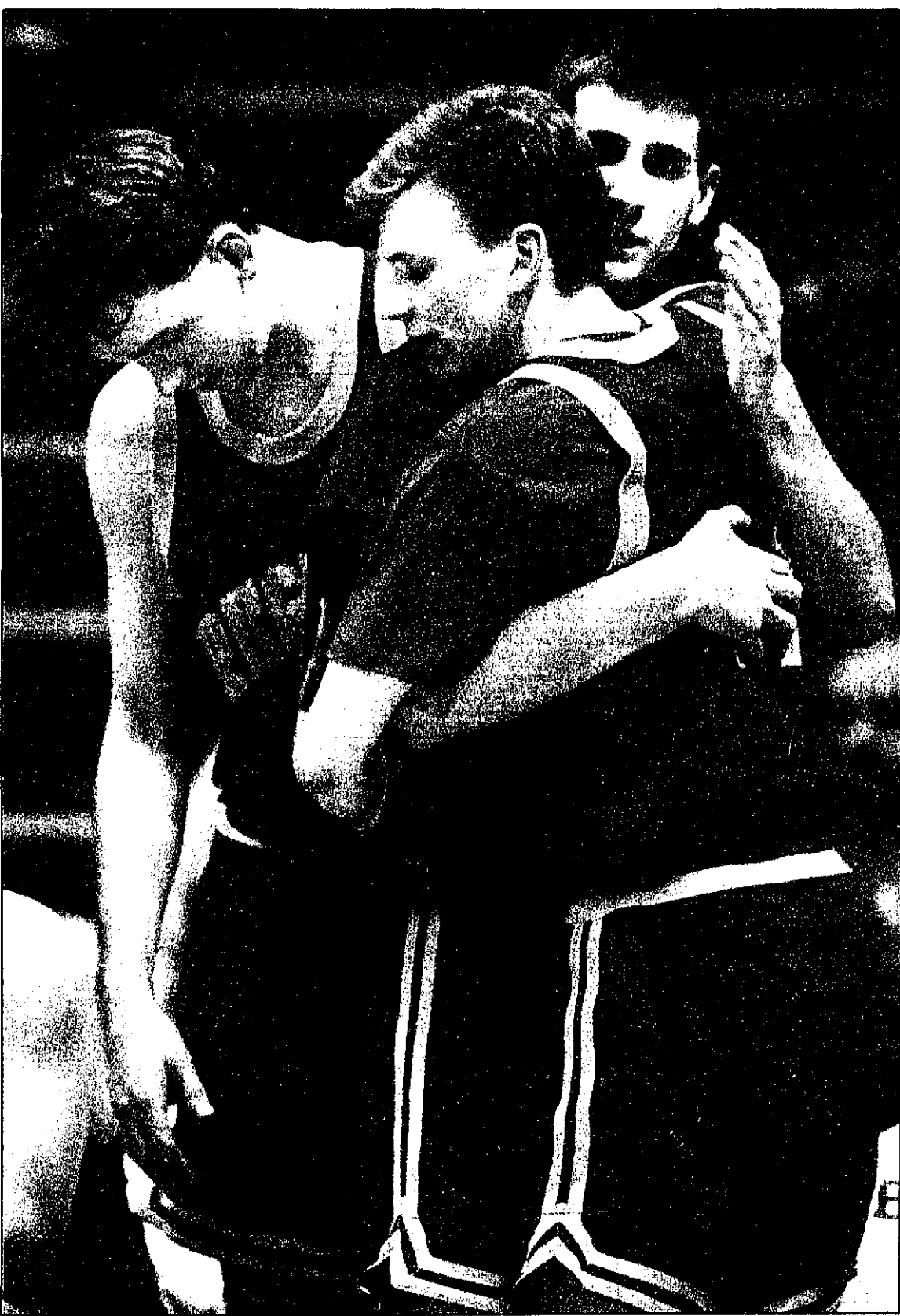
Only once during the campaign did Clinton attach a name to his discussions about the Supreme Court, calling New York Gov. Mario Cuomo "qualified beyond question."

Those often mentioned as potential nominees in a Clinton administration include federal Circuit Court Judge Richard Arnold of Little Rock, a longtime Clinton friend. Also, federal judge Amalya Lyle Kears of New York. She was on Clinton's early list of attorney general candidates. Judith Kaye, recently confirmed as New York state's top judge, is another attorney general contender who could be considered for the high court.

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■ Nation/World: White's successor likely to shift high court. 1C.

Tough loss



■ West High School teammates Erik Stacey (right), Bryan Weber (center) and Alec Moeser console each other after their 53-40 loss to Milwaukee Washington Friday night in the WIAA Boys Division 1 Basketball Tournament at the University of Wisconsin Field House. Details in Sports, Page 1B.

Unusual political ideas find favor, poll shows

By Richard Morin

Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The calls continue for political change, but even Ross Perot might find *fascinating* the results of a new national survey that suggest many Americans are open to ideas that would transform politics-as-usual into the politics of the unusual.

Take this novel way to retire the national debt: Auction seats in Congress to the highest bidders.

When asked in the survey, one out of six respondents liked the idea, and an equal proportion had no strong objections to merchandizing House and Senate seats.

Or what about making Congress really representative of the American people — by selecting members of Congress randomly from lists of eligible voters? When poll-takers asked, half of those interviewed said that didn't sound like a bad idea.

Almost everybody's talking about term limits for lawmakers, but Americans also are not averse to limiting the service of lobbyists and federal bureaucrats. Two out of three would not object, the survey suggests.

And if you can order a pizza or a 20-carat zircon ring over the telephone, why shouldn't Americans be able to vote by phone? Four out of 10 voters surveyed said it wouldn't be a

Four out of 10 voters surveyed said it wouldn't be a bad idea to allow voters to call in their votes.

bad idea to allow voters to call in their votes after, of course, "identifying themselves in the same way shoppers do with a credit card or driver's license."

Even those who conducted the poll acknowledged they were surprised by some of the results.

"I don't think I've ever tested any ideas that were so extreme," said Alan Kay, the survey sponsor and founder of the nonpartisan Americans

Talk Issues Foundation, which has conducted 20 national surveys since 1987. "But the results do confirm that there is a lot of alienation out there."

"It may show that dissatisfaction with Congress is so great that some people are really ready to throw the dice," said Fred Steeper, former president George Bush's pollster, who worked with Kay and Democratic pollster Celinda Lake to design the survey.

If the researchers were surprised, some longtime observers of politics were at once amazed and dismayed by the findings, and by the survey itself.

"Unbelievable," Thomas Mann, director of governmental studies for the Brookings Institution and a specialist on congressional reform, said with a chuckle.

But he cautioned that such surveys of public attitudes on such complex and unfamiliar issues as congressional reform may confuse more than enlighten. "This is one of those cases where public opinion polling does more harm than good,"

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WEEKENDER

LATE NEWS

UPDATE

DeanCare profits soar

DeanCare saw its profits rise nearly 75 percent in the first nine months of 1992. One public member of the DeanCare board says he would like to see at least some of the profits used to help reduce the cost of premiums for consumers next year. 3A

Health care limits OK

Two-thirds of Americans think a national health program should allow people to choose their own doctors, but just as many are willing to accept some restrictions to hold down costs, an Associated Press poll has found. 1C

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WEATHER
Becoming partly sunny, high 41. Fair tonight, low 20. Increasing clouds Sunday, high 44. Details, Page 2A.

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