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health care program.

Steckol said she plans to discuss the possibility of graduate student health insurance with Lynda Gilbert, interim vice president of Financial Affairs, at their committee meeting in December.

Holt said the Benefits Committee has not discussed graduate student health care. Faculty Senate President John Mason said the Graduate School administration is thoroughly researching the possibility of having student health care.

Holt said the Faculty Life Committee will research methods to potentially save faculty members money on health insurance.

The Faculty Life Committee is drafting a resolution to request that the University fund a wellness program to cut health care costs through disease management, Holt said. Holt also said he will research outside insurers, such as the Public Employees Health Insurance Program, to see if they would be a viable alternative to the current system, under which the University is self-insured.

Mason said the Senate would continue to address health care concerns throughout the next few months.

"Health care issues here will not go away," he said.

on the



Cartoon symposium highlights role of editorial cartoonists

By VICTORIA GREFER
Staff Reporter

An arrogant and corrupt emperor walks through the streets, adorned in clothing two newly hired tailors have made especially for the occasion. The people stare in wonderment as he passes by, walking regally in procession. They are silent and dumbstruck. Finally, a brave child has the courage to yell, "He's not wearing any clothes!"

Most people are familiar with the children's story of "The Emperor's New Clothes," but few could compare the job they hold in adult life to the function

the child plays within that society. However, Scott Stantis, editorial cartoonist for The Birmingham News, can.

"My job is to be a provocateur," he said Tuesday night. "I need to engage you."

Stantis was a member of the "Cutting Edge Art: Inside the World of Political Cartoons" symposium Tuesday night at the Alabama Museum of Natural History. Joining him were, among others, Charles Brooks, former editorial cartoonist of The Birmingham News, and J.D. Crowe, editorial cartoonist of the Mobile Register.

Brooks agreed with Stantis' evaluation of his job

in conjunction with politics and elections.

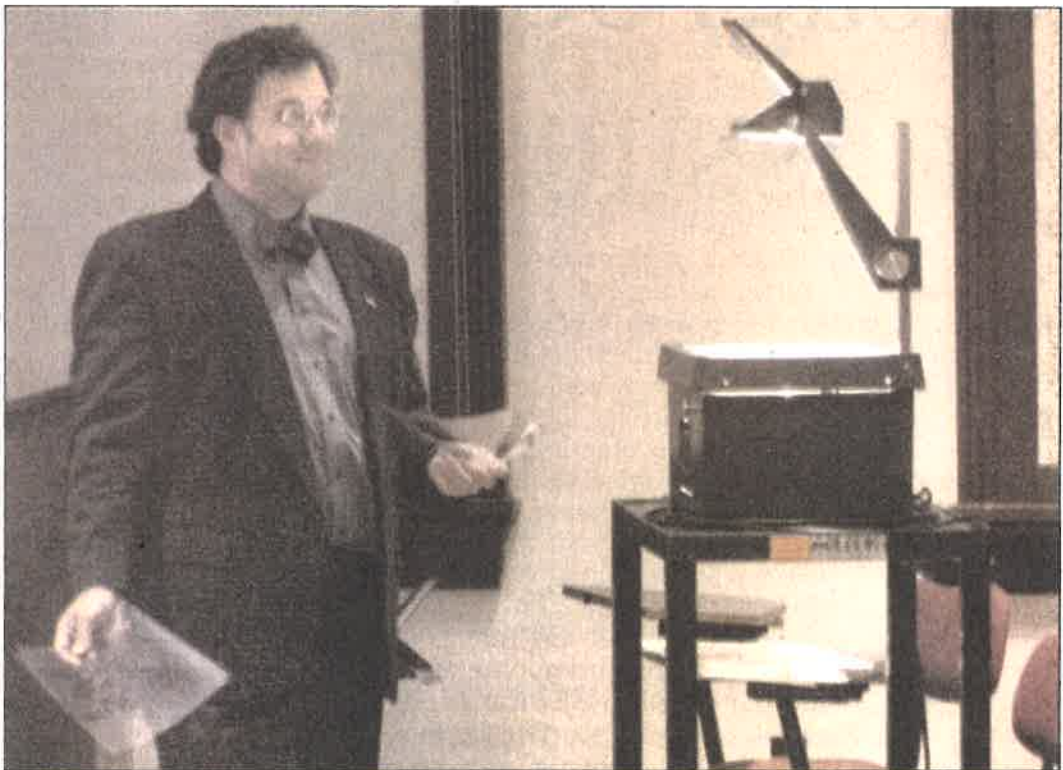
"[I wanted to] get my ideas to the audience of who the best man is," Brooks said.

He said his goal is not to make his readers like him but to wake people up and make them think.

In this election year, Crowe said it his responsibility to spread his ideas throughout the newspaper community, but he said he is only "one brushstroke on the canvas of public opinion." And though he said he often uses humor to make his point, he said he takes his job seriously.

Stantis said one cartoon

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GW/ Jessica Maxwell

Scott Stantis, an editorial cartoonist for The Birmingham News, speaks Tuesday evening about political cartoons. "I've worked in places where politicians were stupid. I've worked in places where politicians were corrupt. Alabama has both," Stantis said. The symposium, which also featured Bob Blalock, editorial page editor of The Birmingham News, and J.D. Crowe, an editorial cartoonist for The Mobile Register, is part of an exhibit at the Alabama Museum of Natural History.



do what they do best. Blalock said he plans to vote for Bush in November.

Bobby White, a sophomore journalism and political science major and self-described Republican, said before the debate that he has a great respect for Dole.

"I want to see how Republicans and Democrats

presenting their views well and without taking sharp jabs at each other.

"It's good to have politicians that aren't cutthroat that'll work with the other party to get things done," Franklin said.

Meghan King, a junior majoring in public relations,

the debate, Brinkley Serkedakis, SGA vice president of external affairs, said she felt the event turned out a "great success."

"I'm so proud of our campus for hosting this," she said. "This is the biggest [elections] event the SGA has done in quite some time."

CARTOON

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can rarely change public opinion. His job, he said, is to grab the reader's attention and offer his thoughts about a given issue.

Janis Edwards, associate professor of communication studies and author of "Political Cartoons in the 1988 Presidential Campaign," said editorial cartoons serve another purpose in the community. Edwards said cartoonists reveal a great deal about the values of society because they have to appeal to the audience's base of common knowledge if they are to be successful. She said cartoons are "windows into a

culture" and a "creation of social memory."

She cited the example of masculinity in political cartoons. Edwards said society might not yet be willing to embrace a female chief executive. Though some might claim they would vote for a female presidential candidate, she said, editorial cartoons show "expectations of political leadership are masculine."

Other issues discussed by the panel included syndication and the importance of local as well as national topics.

"If you don't have the local voice you lose so much," said Bob Blalock, editorial page editor of The Birmingham News.

Startis said though he is nationally syndicated, 60 percent of his editorials have local topics.

"My first instinct," he said, "is to see what engages me locally first."

Crowe said there is an average of two editorial cartoonists per state. Blalock said syndication is to blame for the low numbers. It is much cheaper to syndicate national cartoons than to hire a local cartoonist, he said.

The cartoon symposium coincided with an exhibit of editorial satire of the tobacco industry curated by Dr. Alan Blum, director of the UA Center for the Study of Tobacco and Society. The exhibit can be viewed in Smith Hall.

board said. Most students do not pay the full sticker price. If they were to get the same level of student aid as last year — those figures are not yet available — the average student would pay about \$8,000 at a public four-year college this year. For students paying only tuition, the average net cost is

DEBATE

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including the military and schools — paid for with federal dollars.

"Where would we be without the pure Food and Drug Administration?" he asked, joking that the answer could be: "If it's not clean enough, boil it."

"Most of what the government does is very valuable," McGovern said. "That's why we have a government. Don't think that because the government taxes you that the money is wasted in Washington."

When asked how students should become more involved in elections, both

men said the Electoral College ought to be ousted and popular vote used in determining the chief executive.

"The Electoral College now is obsolete," McGovern said. "It's a threat to our democracy."

Both McGovern and Dole, when asked about the recent polls mostly showing Bush ahead, agreed that the media place too much emphasis on the "horse race" aspect of the election.

Dole said media outlets are often wrong about polls, citing a New York Times poll in 1996 that rated him at 19 points behind President Clinton, before losing the race by 8 points.

"New York Times — my dog

doesn't even like it," he said. "They ought to report to the FEC [Federal Elections Commission] like everyone else who makes a [campaign] contribution."

Dole went on to say that almost all journalists, when polled, said they would be voting for Kerry.

"They all think alike," he said. "They don't use the word 'conservative' — [to them] we're right-wing nuts."

McGovern said the media should spend less time being "obsessed" with polls. "The media should give more attention to substance... what they stand for, what they believe."

The "horse race," he said, "is of secondary importance."



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