

Paper: News & Observer, The (Raleigh, NC)
Title: Cheney makes return N.C. visit to help Burr campaign
Date: May 3, 2004

Vice President Dick Cheney is expected to return to North Carolina this month to boost the U.S. Senate campaign of Republican Richard Burr.

Cheney is scheduled to attend a fund-raiser in Winston-Salem on May 17 to help Burr's bid to win the seat now held by Democratic Sen. John Edwards. The vice president was in Raleigh in September and raised \$250,000 for Burr.

The White House helped recruit Burr to run as part of its effort to cement Republican control of the Senate.

Burr, a five-term Republican congressman from Winston-Salem, is making some changes in his campaign. He has hired Doug Heye, a spokesman for the U.S. Small Business Administration and a former press aide to Congressman Richard Pombo of California, to be his communications director. He succeeds Stephanie Hawco, a former WRAL-TV reporter, who is shifting to other duties in the campaign.

Bowles buzz

Democrats are touting a recent poll that shows Senate candidate Erskine Bowles leading Burr by a 47 percent to 38 percent margin, with 14 percent undecided.

The survey was taken by Bennett, Petts & Blumenthal for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. The survey of 600 likely voters was taken March 30 to April 1 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Bowles' campaign is also touting a letter from U.S. Sen. Byron Dorgan. In it, the North Dakota Democrat said he plans to offer as an amendment part of Bowles' campaign jobs plan that would close a tax loophole for companies that ship jobs overseas.

"I know if you were here, you would help us make that case on the floor of the U.S. Senate," Dorgan writes.

Ballantine shake-up

GOP gubernatorial candidate Patrick Ballantine has replaced his campaign manager, James Earp, three months before the July 20 primary.

Ballantine, a former state Senate Republican leader from Wilmington, made the change about the time he resigned his Senate seat.

"All I can say is, this is in the best interests of the campaign," Ballantine said. "I don't need to go into a lot of detail."

Earp was an aide in U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole's campaign. Taking over some of his duties, said Ballantine, is Bob Rosser, his political director and a veteran of former Sen. Jesse Helms' political organization.

Cobb cash

Last week, Michael and Deborah Weisel of Raleigh held a fund-raiser for Agriculture Commissioner Britt Cobb. More than \$10,000 was raised. **Michael Weisel** is a Raleigh lawyer and former Wake County Democratic chairman. Cobb faces former state Rep. Tom Gilmore in the Democratic primary.

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POLITICAL SCORECARD

UP: BOB JORDAN: A section of N.C. 24/27 in Moore County was named for the former lieutenant governor and 1988 Democratic nominee for governor.

DOWN: LUMBEE INDIANS: Despite the support of U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole, the prospect for Congress giving the tribe full recognition this year is looking dicey, in part because some fear that could bring a casino to Robeson County.

UP: GENERAL ASSEMBLY: When they hit town next week, they will face a budget surplus rather than a deficit for the first time in five years.

Caption:
Burr

Correction: A "Political Scorecard" item in the Under the Dome column Monday incorrectly located the section of N.C. 24/27 named for former Lt.Gov. Bob Jordan. It is in Montgomery County.

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Section: News

Page: B5

Column: Under the Dome

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