

# The Living Room Times

## NHS JOURNAL

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## Debating the Issues



When they face off in Sunday's debate, Clinton and Dole will discuss the issues that they hope will help them politically. But where do they stand on the things that really matter to you?

### Survey shows crime is top concern of NHS students

Economy, Drugs close behind

#### NHS students' top five issues

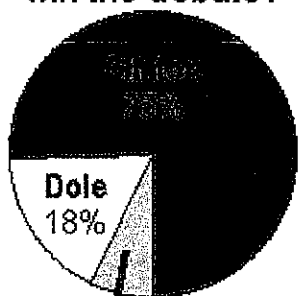
- Crime
- Jobs/Economy
- Drugs
- Abortion
- Taxes/Spending

A *Living Room Times* survey of more than 150 Newington High School students indicates that crime is the most important.

(Continued on page 2)

Where do Clinton and Dole stand on those 5 issues? see pages 3-4

### Who will probably win the debate?



don't know/other 7%

### Presidential Debate Sunday in Hartford

Bushnell prepares for event

*The Hartford Courant*—When Bill Clinton and Bob Dole take the stage at The Bushnell Sunday night, a lot will be hanging over their heads.

A 13,000-pound truss laden with television lights and micro-

(Continued on page 2)

## Newington football ends losing streak

Indians beat Glastonbury, 30-21

Tomorrow at 10:30 AM at Bulkeley High School the Indians go for their second win in a row!



Finally. Fans of Newington football finally have a reason to cheer. *Finally.* Last weekend, the football Indians ended their 22-game winless streak with an impressive comeback victory

(Continued on page 7)

## Forced busing?

School desegregation panel announces it's still an option

The panel of experts charged with the task of devising a solution to the unconstitutional segregation of Hartford schools—a solution which would likely also effect students in surrounding towns such as Newington—announced last Thursday that forced busing of students from one town to another is one of the many options

(Continued on page 7)

## NHS students pick crime as top issue

*Times* survey also shows most won't watch debate

*(Continued from page 1)*

tant campaign issue to students at NHS, with the economy and drugs close behind.

The survey also shows that most NHS students believe Sunday's Presidential debate in Hartford *should* include independent Ross Perot—which it will not. And the vast majority of the students surveyed think Bill Clinton will do better than Bob Dole in the debate.

When asked if they plan to watch the debate, 100 voters out of the 163 surveyed said they did not, and another nine left the question blank. 52 said they would watch it, while two others weren't sure.

On the "issues" portion of the survey, students were asked to choose the five issues which they think are the most important, and rank those selected issues in order of importance from 1-5. A first-choice vote was worth 5 points, a second-choice vote was worth 4, and so on. Crime was chosen as the most important issue, receiving 334 "points" to the 293 "points" for Jobs and the Economy. 99 of the 163 students cast some kind of vote for crime.

After second-place Jobs/Economy came Drugs in third place (266 "points"), Abortion in fourth (213), and Taxes/Spending in fifth (207).

**For a look at where Bill Clinton and Bob Dole stand on the Crime, Jobs and the Economy, Drugs, Abortion, and Taxes and Spending, see page 3.**

**More detailed results of this *Times* student survey, as well as a second survey which we will be conducting next week, will be printed in a future edition of the *Times*.**

## Bushnell prepares for Sunday debate

### Clinton, Dole to face off in Hartford

*(Continued from page 1)*

phones, for instance.

And an air-conditioning duct that is as wide across as the average first-grader is tall. It has 21 individually controlled vents and is linked to a 25-ton air conditioner to keep the stage a cool 62 degrees. (The target audience temperature is 65 degrees.)

Details, details and more details.

The venerable Bushnell - every inch of it - is a set under construction. Every employee, from stagehand to secretary, has a role. The phones never stop ringing.

But production pressures, petulance, egos and drama are at home here.

"This is what we do - live theater," said an undaunted Doug Evans, executive director of The Bushnell. "We have no mixed feelings about it. It's an honor - 100 percent. We're all doing everything, from painting doors to planting mums."

The first 1996 presidential debate is The Bushnell's biggest production ever, and in many ways more complicated than "Phantom of the Opera."

Stagehands and other Bushnell staff members have been toiling round the clock this week to transform the theater into a glorified television studio.

Four scheduled performances had to be postponed or canceled. About 300 seats had to be removed from the mezzanine level; in their place, anchor booths and camera platforms have been constructed for six television networks.

Bushnell administrators are sharing their offices with a cast of characters this week. Staff from the Dole and Clinton camps stroll through. Network producers breeze through. Secret Service agents stride through. And everyone is polite.

Evans and Managing Director Ronna Reynolds said the job descriptions of everyone at The Bushnell were tossed in the wastebasket when news of the debate was announced. After the regular workday is through, staff members go home, change and come back to polish and paint. They see their theater as Sunday's leading lady.

"It's as if royalty were coming to your house, and you're doing everything you've wanted to do for the past five years," Reynolds said.

*(Continued on page 4)*

Voters in *The Living Room Times's* student survey chose five issues that were the most important to them: Crime, Jobs and the Economy, Drugs, Abortion, and Taxes and Spending. But where do the candidates for President stand on those critical issues?

## CRIME

**President Clinton** boasts of pushing "the toughest and smartest crime bill ever" through Congress in 1994. The bill pledged to put 100,000 more police officers on the street by the year 2000. It also provided funding for 100,000 more prison cells, and expanded the death penalty to include drug kingpins, cop killers, terrorists, and 60 other kinds of violent felons. Clinton wants to enforce a "Zero Tolerance" policy for guns in schools, and he has encouraged schools to adopt school uniform policies "to help reduce violence while promoting discipline and respect."

**Bob Dole** supports expanding the death penalty to include international drugs traffickers, and imposing limits on death row appeals. "It is dead wrong that we must wait 8,9, or even 10 years before a capital sentence is actually carried out," he has said. He wants to appeal the ban on assault weapons. In a campaign speech on April 10, 1995, he said, "We should put an end to parole for violent offenders. Put limits on the endless and often frivolous appeals clogging our courts. Remove teenagers who commit serious, violent crimes from juvenile courts and try them as adults. We should be more concerned with the rights of victims than the privileges of criminals."

Sources: *PoliticsNow, Clinton/Gore 96 Online*

## DRUGS

**President Clinton:** In campaign ads, Clinton takes credit for appointing a four-star Army general as Drug Czar, while criticizing Dole for his voting against even creating the office of Drug Czar in 1982. On position papers, Clinton says that he developed a National Drug Control Strategy "that will reduce illegal drug use through law enforcement, prevention, treatment, and interdiction." He supports school drug counseling and drug testing of high-school athletes.

**Bob Dole:** "Bill Clinton has surrendered the War on Drugs," Dole's campaign declares at the top of the position paper. In TV ads, he criticizes Clinton for an appearance on MTV four years ago, when Clinton joked that he would have inhaled marijuana if he could have back in the 60's. In addition to blaming Clinton for skyrocketing drug use rates among teens, Dole pledges to cut teen drug use in half by the year 2000. How will he do this? Well, Dole says he will use the "Bully Pulpit" of the Presidency to condemn drug use, encourage Hollywood to promote an anti-drug stance, and ensure "adequate funding and staffing" for the Drug Czar's office. He also states that the federal government along can't solve the problem—they must work with local and state authorities.

Sources: *PoliticsNow, Dole 96 Online, Clinton/Gore 96 Online*

## JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

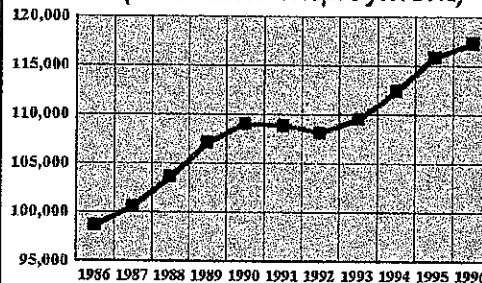
*Most economist agree that the government has little effect on the capricious economy. But that sure doesn't stop Clinton and Dole from trying...*

**Bill Clinton:** In addition to his support for the raise in the minimum wage, Clinton wants to expand job training programs to help unemployed and under-employed workers. Clinton opposes Republican attempts to roll back the earned-income tax credit for the working poor which he championed. He wants to simplify job training programs. But for the most part, Clinton's economic position is that he's done a good job, the economy is going well, and there's no need for a major change. "Our economy is the healthiest it has been in three decades," he says. Unemployment and inflation are down, industrial jobs are up, and small business is booming, says Clinton.

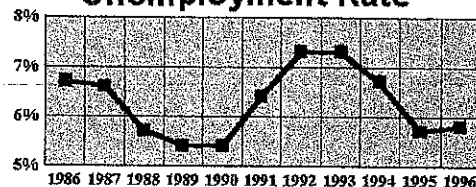
**Bob Dole:** But Dole couldn't disagree more. "When Bill Clinton came into office, the economy was growing at 4.3 percent," he says. "Now we're lucky if it hits a fast crawl. American can do better." He wants to vastly simplify the tax code—"end the IRS as we know it," as he has said—and scale back other government regulations, as well as government in general. He favors free trade and a "simpler, flatter" tax system.

Source: *PoliticsNow*

### Jobs (non-farm employment)



### Unemployment Rate



Voters in *The Living Room Times's* student survey chose five issues that were the most important to them: Crime, Jobs and the Economy, Drugs, Abortion, and Taxes and Spending. But where do the candidates for President stand on those critical issues?

## ABORTION

President Clinton favors abortion rights. "I think there are too many abortions in America. I have always believed that abortion should be rare, but that they should be safe and legal until the third trimester," Clinton has said. "I think that leaving the decision to the woman and her doctor, and whoever else she wishes to consult, I think on balance is still the right decision in our country." In April, he made a very controversial decision to veto a bill which would have banned certain rare late-term "partial-birth" abortions. Clinton says he vetoed it because the bill didn't make exceptions if the health of the mother is jeopardized.

Bob Dole opposes abortion rights, except in cases of rape, incest, or if the mother's life is threatened. He supports a constitutional amendment to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, although whether he supports a constitutional amendment to actually ban abortion is questionable—his position on that has wavered back and forth. He supports requiring parental permission for minors to have abortions, favors the vetoed bill which would have banned late-term "partial-birth" abortions. He opposes using taxpayer money for abortions.

Source: PoliticsNow

## Hartford takes center stage in Campaign '96

### Debate comes to Bushnell

(Continued from page 2)

A presidential debate is not a pre-packaged road show. Bushnell electrician Tom Burns and Stage Manager Mike Sivo - critical players in pulling off the debate - readily attest to that. They made "Phantom of the Opera" work. THAT was easy.

"Phantom is a well-oiled machine, a traveling show," Burns explained. Sivo said Phantom came as a prefab package deal. The criteria for the presidential debate stage have been dribbling in in bits and pieces; the 38-inch ductwork for the air-conditioning system arrived virtually unannounced.

The federal Commission on Presidential Debates hired its own rigger - J.R. Cassidy of Long Island - to construct and hoist the trusswork. He has been rigging trusses for rock concerts and presidential inaugurations for 22 years; this assignment doesn't faze him a bit.

(Continued on page 9)

## TAXES AND SPENDING

The real Bill Clinton?

A real spend & tax liberal.

PAID FOR BY DOLE/KEMP '96

Dole's Plan: Raises taxes on working families

PAID FOR BY CLINTON/GORE '96 GENERAL COMMITTEE, INC.

Clinton, Dole, and the Republican Congress all want to balance the budget by 2002, but they haven't agreed on a plan.

**Bill Clinton:** Clinton favors what he calls a "targeted" tax cut which he says would lower taxes on working families. Clinton calls Bob Dole's 15% across-the-board tax cut "too risky." He opposes a balanced budget amendment, and favors more spending on education and the environment than Dole does.

**Bob Dole:** Dole supports a balanced budget amendment, or constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. He wants to cut taxes 15% on everyone and still balance the budget, but has not offered a specific spending plan on how to do this.

Source: PoliticsNow

# NHS life

IN WORDS  
AND  
PICTURES

## The Scarlet Letter: A Great Debate

In Mrs. Perkins's fifth-period English class Wednesday, students played the roles of characters in the Nathaniel Hawthorne classic novel *The Scarlet Letter* as they argued which of the three main characters—Hester Prynne, her husband Roger Chillingworth, or the Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale—was the most sinful person in the story. In the story, Arthur slept with Hester in what was then a criminal act of adultery, and they conceived a child, named Pearl. To pay for her crime, Hester was forced to wear the Scarlet Letter 'A' knitted on her clothing ('A' for Adultery) as a reminder of what she did. Arthur didn't admit to his part in the crime until just before he died, but Roger figured out that he was the one who slept with Hester, and he made Arthur pay for it by subjecting him to constant psychological torture, making him feel so terribly guilty for what he did that he eventually became physically ill and died as a result. In class Wednesday, Carrie Ripley played the part of Hester, Tim Stevens was Roger, and Todd Stigliano was Arthur. Evelyn Ni was Pearl, and Sara Colpitts was Arthur's lawyer. The debate produced several amusing moments. Below are a few of the highlights.

*Carrie, playing Hester, accuses Roger (Todd) of being a worse sinner than she. The dialogue:*

"Arthur also is more deserving of shame than I, for while I admitted my sin and took my punishment, he did not. Therefore, he added the sin of hypocrisy to the sin of adultery.... When he chose a life as a minister, he gave an oath to the church, and that oath was broken when he committed adultery."

—Carrie (Hester)

"Are you saying you didn't want it?" —Todd (Arthur)



*Tim Stevens plays the part of Roger, who is a hunchback. Tim later bowed his head in mock shame when Carrie was asked why she, Hester, had married Roger, and said, "I know he's ugly and stuff, but..."*

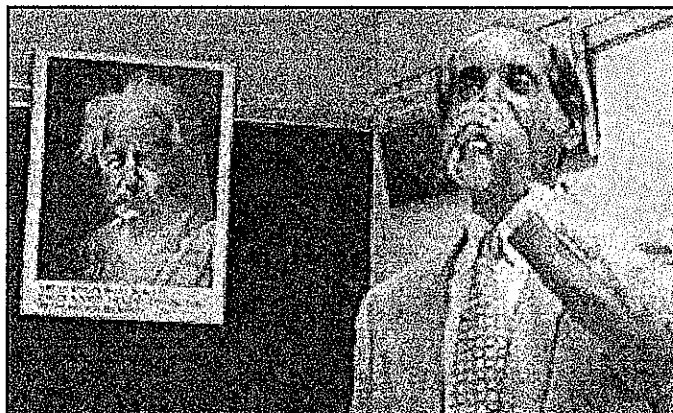
For more pictures and quotes from the *Scarlet Letter* debate, see the next page.



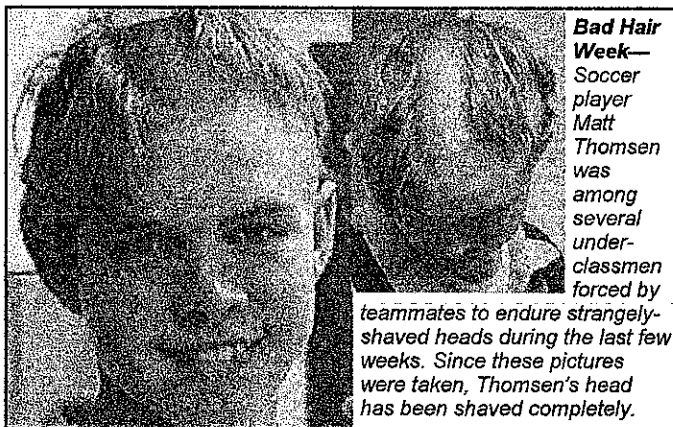
*Above: Mike Duensing was lucky this car stopped before driving off—with him in tow—into Willard Avenue on September 19.*

# NHS life

IN WORDS  
AND  
PICTURES  
(CONTINUED)



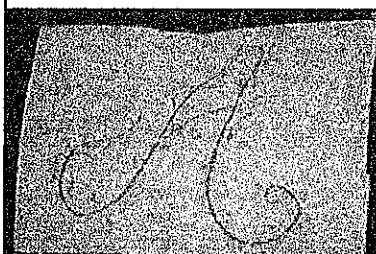
**Lou, Al, and Pete:** Above, Lou Ruggiero drinks something out of an aluminum can (soda or beer?—you decide) with a fellow math genius, Albert Einstein, looking on in the background. Below, Peter Huybrechts uses his rag to take a swipe at a student who came into his classroom.



**Bad Hair Week—**Soccer player Matt Thomsen was among several underclassmen forced by

teammates to endure strangely-shaved heads during the last few weeks. Since these pictures were taken, Thomsen's head has been shaved completely.

## Scarlet Letter stuff (continued)



**Symbol of the Story:** This letter A, worn by Carrie Ripley as she played Hester Prynne, is based on the knitted 'A' that was the symbol of the story.



**Above:** Carrie (Hester) points an accusing finger at Todd (Arthur) when Tim (Roger, not shown) said that the act of adultery was Arthur's fault because he seduced Hester. **Below:** Todd (Arthur) consults his lawyer, played by Sara Colpitts. "She's leading the witness!" yelled Sean Vivier.



"I would not have had to commit my sin if the sin of adultery had not been committed in the first place." —**Tim (Roger)**  
"So, three wrongs make a right?" —**Kate Harbeson (in audience)**  
"Yes." —**Tim**

## Newington High quotes

"Ruggiero rules! Ruggiero runs the world through his drunken stupors." —**Dan Screment**

"I wanna be a football player! They won a game! They won their first game in 77 years! I wanna be a football player!" —**Todd Stigliano, speaking sarcastically about the 1-2 NHS football team**

"So, they had the Short Parliament and the Long Parliament. Which one lasted longer?" —**Mr. Aros**

"Long Parliament." —**most of the students in the class, all speaking simultaneously**

"Ah, the children of this class are brilliant."

—**Mr. Aros**

# Football Indians end winless streak

## QB Trevor Fisher plays big role in breakthrough victory

(Continued from page 1)

at Glastonbury. The win was the Indians' first since November 25, 1993, when they defeated Wethersfield on Thanksgiving. Since then, they had gone 0-21-1, including 0-15 in their last fifteen games. Newington went through 1,062 winless *days* starting November 26 and going through last Friday.

At first, it looked like Saturday would be Day #1,063 in a row without a win. Newington trailed Glastonbury 7-0 at halftime, 14-0 at with ten minutes left in the third quarter, and 21-8 with five to go in the third. But then the Indians came storming back.

Newington advanced 87 yards in 11 plays on their next drive, and with 2:55 to go in the third quarter, Robert Post caught a 31-yard TD pass from Trevor Fisher which cut the lead to 21-14 Glastonbury. Newington's 2-point conversion attempt failed.

Then, after a fumbled kickoff return by Glastonbury, Newington scored again with 1:02 left in the quarter on an 11-yard touchdown pass from Fisher to Chris Michol which brought Newington within one point at 21-20. The Indians then tried a two-point conversion again, and this time, it worked, as Fisher dove into the end zone to give Newington a 22-21 lead. They added another TD with 2-point conversion in the fourth quarter for a 30-21 victory.

Coach John Ludko said the players and coaches were "overwhelmed" with joy after their victory. "It was a big relief off our heads, breaking that spell...It was a team

that really wanted to win badly, and everybody was very emotional."

Act who were key players in the game, Ludko said, "Every player was a key player in this one."

But there is no doubt that quarterback Trevor Fisher was a star in the game. He completed 13-of-25 passes for 191 yards, including 11-for-15 in the third quarter for 159 yards. He threw three touchdown passes, one two-point conversion pass, and rushed for one two-pointer.

When asked whether he thinks the win will "improve people's impressions of Newington football," Ludko replied, "I think that the impressions of Newington football were never down. I think we're just going through a spell. We're going through that cycle. This is like when I first started coaching here in 1964. We went—I don't know how many years—without winning a game...It's just a cycle that we're going through. I think people still have a high regard for Newington football."

Maybe so, but the football Indians have been the butt of many jokes over the past few years, and even after they ended the losing streak, that didn't change.

"I wanna be a football player! They won a game! They won their first game in 77 years!" soccer player Todd Stigliano chanted sarcastically on Monday. "I wanna be a football player!"

"At least now we know it's possible," said Dan Seremet, a member of the NHS marching band. By "it," of course, he meant a Newington football victory. He continued: "It's not probable, but at least it's possible."

## Sheff vs. O'Neill panel says busing is on list

### Announce it's still a possible option

(Continued from page 1)

which are still being considered.

Although this certainly doesn't mean busing is the most likely option, it's placement on the list is news because Governor Rowland and other state officials have pledged that forced busing is not a possibility.

Last Thursday, the Sheff vs. O'Neill panel said they beg to differ. "With all due respect to the governor and attorney general, I think busing has to be on this list," said Craig Toensing, chairman of the State Board of Education. "We must deal with it here. We can't just set it aside."

The panel will meet again next Wednesday, and they are supposed to recommend a solution by January 22. Now that busing—which has always produced emotional reactions from both sides—is on the list, the debate over the future of Connecticut schools is sure to be a lively one.

# SUMMER NIGHTS

Come to the  
dance next  
Thursday

at 7:00 PM!

Tickets are \$4,  
on sale in lunch.

**TOP TEN SIGNS  
THE NEW TRIAL  
ISN'T GOING  
WELL FOR O.J.**

10. His new alibi: "I must have eaten a bad clam"
9. He's getting most of his legal advice from old episodes of "Matlock"
8. Strict new judge demanding that this time the jury at least glance at the evidence
7. He's so nervous, he's down to just 36 holes of golf a day
6. His lawyer keeps saying, "If it doesn't fit...Oh, screw it"
5. When the courtroom air-conditioner broke, the judge asked O.J. to go bang on it three times
4. His defense team also thinks Bob Dole has a chance
3. He was heard muttering, "Who do I have to kill to make this thing go away?"
2. Judge asked him, "How do you plead, you guilty-ass bastard?"
1. His new dream team: Jacoby & Meyers

*"Late Show"—Worldwide Pants, Inc.  
Wednesday, September 18, 1996*

**LATE SHOW  
TOP  
TEN**

**TOP TEN SIGNS  
YOU'VE BEEN  
IN OUTER SPACE  
TOO LONG**

10. Your entire body is a fluorescent shade of Tang orange
9. You can't wait to get home and see what's happening on the CBS TV show "Central Park West"
8. The last time you changed your space suit, Bob Dole was in high school
7. You find yourself staring directly at the sun for hours
6. You just informed NASA of your plans to do a "Mach 4 Macarena"
5. You and your fellow astronauts just spent the last 3 months doing each other's nails
4. You've been sitting around so long your ass is the size of Jupiter
3. You just lost your 5 millionth game of tic-tac-toe
2. You're getting tired of "tinkering with the Hubble telescope" if you know what I mean
1. You're so dizzy from weightlessness, you're planning to vote for Perot

*"Late Show"—Worldwide Pants, Inc.  
Thursday, September 19, 1996*

**TOP TEN SIGNS  
YOU'RE NOT ONE  
OF THE WORLD'S  
MOST ELIGIBLE  
BACHELORS**

10. Every piece of clothing you own bears the Spiderman logo
9. Even on a first date you make the woman pay her own bus fare
8. The most intimate question a girl has ever asked you: "Would you like fries with that?"
7. The video you sent to the dating service shows you holding up a 7-Eleven
6. Your E-Mail address: "www.troubled.loner.com"
5. The ladies seem to be frightened off by your nickname, "The Suicide Doctor"
4. You can't walk into a room without someone saying, "Who's frying bologna?"
3. Sy Sperling gets most of his transplant hair from your back
2. Your friends tell you that if you lost 50 pounds, you'd look just like Wilfred Brimley
1. Your last 3 girlfriends have been inflatable

*"Late Show"—Worldwide Pants, Inc.  
Monday, September 23, 1996*



# Bushnell readied for Sunday's big debate

*(Continued from page 4)*

"We do millions of pounds of trusses each year, and we hang them over people's heads," Cassidy said. "There's no secret. It just has to be perfect."

The truss was raised Wednesday, clearing the way for "set construction" of the actual debate stage and podiums. Cable will be run to connect the stage with network production trucks outside and, through them, the world. Rehearsals (minus the candidates) will be held early Saturday - the shakedown cruise for what could prove the pivotal moment of the campaign.

"It is, and always has been, a TV event," said Joseph Fazzini, corporate communications manager at the ITT Hartford, now on loan to the local Debate '96 Committee.

Maureen Connelly of West Hartford, who makes her living pulling off extravaganzas that her business card describe as "high impact events," is in charge of all the details that will link the network television media at The Bushnell to their production trucks and staff across the street at the State Office Building, and the 750 media representatives corralled in the Exhibition Hall at the Civic Center.

"The biggest nightmare is this splitting of sites," Connelly said. When the television networks insisted that their production trucks had to be contiguous to The Bushnell, and the production staffs had to be close at hand, Connelly commandeered the ground floor of the State Office Building. She is in charge of "venue" - getting sign permits, building permits and obstruction permits (when a road is closed) and satisfying state and local fire marshals.

The media center at the Civic Center will have 729 chairs, 243 tables, 30 television monitors, two phone jacks for each reporter, about 1,200 shared electrical outlets. That sounds awesome but actually pales in comparison to the computer shows the Civic Center frequently hosts.

The Bushnell, on the other hand, seldom gets quite this degree of a makeover.

"We usually have a sold-out house of 2,800," said Reynolds. "We're going to have a sold-out house of 90 million. That is so exciting."

The third level, or balcony, of The Bushnell will be given over to lighting. Any seats left in the mezzanine will be behind the television cameras - obstructed view only.

(The 300 removed seats will be reinstalled Monday, under even more intense deadline pressure, as Connecticut Opera arrives at 8 a.m. to begin setting up for that evening's performance.)

The Bushnell's "green room" - where actors and actresses wait to go onstage, and its neighboring dressing rooms, were off-limits to all visitors as of Tuesday. Bushnell staff explained apologetically that they were striving for their own "peace of mind" on the security front.

Evans and Reynolds have no idea where, if at all, they will be in The Bushnell debate night. "We may be watching it on TV." Not Burns, though. He will be in his lighting booth, stage-left, under the loge.

"They pay me to come," Burns said with a grin. "I even have my very own Secret Service agent in [the booth] with me."