Bush’s activist role in labor issues a contrast from earlier GOP leaders

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

As he ends his first 100 days in office, President George W. Bush has proven surprisingly interventionist in domestic matters—especially in labor-related issues that Republican presidents have typically steered away from. "There is a strong Republican tradition, dating back to Dwight Eisenhower, of not directly intervening in active labor disputes," Michael H. LeRoy, a UI labor-law professor, said. "This included Richard M. Nixon, who had many political allies in organized labor, and Ronald Reagan, who in spite of his decision to fire federal air traffic controllers who went on strike, took an overall non-interventionist approach."

President Bush, on the other hand, has moved swiftly to make his mark in this area, mostly by overturning rules that were established by the Clinton administration. He has repealed four Clinton executive orders, including one that allowed unions to divert nonunion workers’ representation fees to political causes without their consent. The White House also teamed up with Capitol Hill Republicans to overturn workplace ergonomic rules that required employers to reduce repetitive-stress injuries. "The ergonomic rules were the result of 10 years of government study starting with the administration of his father [George Bush Sr.]," noted Michelle Kaminski, a UI professor of labor and industrial relations. Kaminski said some of the actions are "payback" for the AFL-CIO’s vigorous support of Democratic candidate Al Gore, while others reflect what she called the "pro-corporate bias" of the new administration. "Repetitive-stress injury isn’t something that comes from opening and closing a briefcase."

The next political battle, predicted Ron J. Peters, head of the UI’s labor education program, will involve officials appointed to the Department of Labor positions and vacancies on the National Labor Relations Board. "Already the administration has signaled its intention to name Eugene Scalia to be the U.S. Labor Department’s solicitor, or top legal officer," Peters said. Scalia, a labor lawyer and son of the administration will involve officials appointed to the Department of Labor positions and vacancies on the National Labor Relations Board. "Already the administration has signaled its intention to name Eugene Scalia to be the U.S. Labor Department’s solicitor, or top legal officer," Peters said. Scalia, a labor lawyer and son of the National Labor Relations Board. "Already the administration has signaled its intention to name Eugene Scalia to be the U.S. Labor Department’s solicitor, or top legal officer," Peters said. 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Emergency fund seeks donations

“I am very grateful to have been told about this program by a co-worker. I will always remember that this program helped me when no other services were available. Overall, words cannot express my appreciation.”

“I didn’t know that my house fire would even be considered for assistance. Since we lost everything, the help we received was used to replace my wife’s glasses and contacts.”

Although each person’s story is different, the financial assistance provided by the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund always is a welcome relief at a time of great stress as demonstrated by the comments from people who received funds during the past year.

Established in 1992, the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund assists employees and their families during times of financial crisis. The fund has assisted employees with a rent or mortgage payment, utilities, medical or medical bills, and food or clothing during times of crisis such as a serious illness in the family or a house fire.

Funded fully by donations from faculty and staff members to help colleagues in need, volunteers currently are encouraging donations during the program’s annual fund drive.

In the past year, the fund has provided financial assistance to more than 30 employees with one-time grants of up to $400. Contributions of any amount are encouraged. Donations are accepted by payroll deduction, checks or cash.

Donations should be sent to: UIUC Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund, 400 University Place Christian Church, 403 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Application for assistance is made by contacting the Faculty/Staff Assistance Program, which administers the grants if approved. A committee confidentially reviews each request for assistance prior to approval. Employees working 50 percent or more for at least six months may apply for crisis assistance at any time of the year. If you or someone you know might be eligible and are in need of assistance, call 244-5312 or write to Faculty/Staff Assistance Program, 121 Observatory, 901 S. Mathews St., MC-190.

Contact a member of the committee to learn more about the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund.

Verna Beckum-Martin, 73, died May 6 at the Carle Arbour. Savoy. Beckum-Martin was formerly a secretary in the UI department of psychology. Memorials: Provena Covenant Hospice Care Program.

Stanley Allen Chapman, 84, died April 28 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Chapman retired from the UI in 1980. He had worked as a volunteer at Huff Gym for 22 years as a locker-room attendant.

Martin James Cox, 85, died April 27 at ManorCare Health Services of Urbana. Cox was a driver for the Division of Rehabilitation-Education Services for 23 years. Memorials: American Heart Association.
HiDee Ekstrom holds an associate's degree in liberal arts and sciences from Parkland College, Ekstrom has worked at the University of Illinois for 15 years. She moved here from Oregon where her husband is working on a Ph.D. They're great people to work for. I can't imagine working for anybody else.

The job has really evolved. ...Now the professors do a lot of their own typing, so I do a lot more formatting of manuscripts, personal correspondence. I also handle three chapters that they have through the university. I place all the orders for the labs -- anything from tissues and paper towels to computers to equipment. I order all the office supplies for the department and maintain the storeroom. I also do desktop publishing for the monthly newsletter.

Unofficially, I've been the departmental secretary for the Dairy Club for several years. I work closely with them when they have their banquet, which we just had. I work with the Illinois 4-H Foundation to ensure the scholarship donors' accounts are up-to-date. I notify the winners and make sure they're coming to the UI.

What else can you tell me about your job? We field a lot of phone calls from people with different questions, some of them pretty off-the-wall. Every once in a while we get a call from someone who wants to see the fistulated cow. And everybody's under the perception that this cow has a Plexiglas window in its side. We get calls from [people at] preschools to colleges wanting to tour the farms but right now the biotechnology issues are a big deal, so they're not doing much of that.

What do you like best about your job? I like the variety. I get to work with the students a lot, which I really enjoy.

What's the most challenging part of your job? Determining what takes priority. It's interesting to juggle what comes first and what's not going to rake anybody's feathers. So that's the most challenging part.

"Today you're number one, tomorrow you're not!" They're all really good about it and about letting me know when they need something urgently. I like that my professors rely on me. They trust my judgment on things, especially on the layout of documents, how things should be put together.

What do you do in your spare time? I read a lot. It's my dream to be a romance writer. I belong to a romance-writers group in town called Prairie Hearts. I'm actually one of its founders, and we have two newly published authors in our group. It's an inspiration to the rest of us.

What got you inspired to found the group? I read a lot. It's my dream to be a romance writer. I belong to a romance-writers group in town called Prairie Hearts. I'm actually one of its founders, and we have two newly published authors in our group. It's an inspiration to the rest of us.

Tell me about your job. I work for four faculty members: three daily professors and one writing poetry and short stories when I was a kid. I've always enjoyed reading romances. I guess I'm just a romantic at heart. I read some novels than that. Famous last words!

Division of Campus Rec
‘Water Fun Day’ is May 23
UI’s Division of Campus Recreation and the Champaign Park District will host Water Fun Day from 9-11 a.m. May 23 at the IMPE outdoor pool. The event will focus on basic water and sun safety and include water games, “Whale Tales” vid- eos and more. Children also will have the opportunity to meet and get their photo taken with Dale the Whale.

Participants do not need to wear a swim suit or get into the water to take part in activities. This free event is open to the community. For more information about Water Fun Day or for complimentary tick- ets, call 333-3510 or visit the Web at www.campusrec.uiuc.edu.

Deadline changes announced
CAS application deadlines
The Center for Advanced Study has changed the deadline structure for several of its programs. Upcoming deadlines:
• CAS Release Time Appointments: The application deadline for both CAS fel-lows (non-tenured faculty members) and CAS associates (tenured faculty mem- bers) is Dec. 3. (Fellowship competition is no longer held in the spring.)
• CAS/MillerComm2002: The applica-tion deadline for fall 2001 is May 29 and the deadline for spring semester 2002 will be Oct. 8.

CAS also is making changes to the ap-plication guidelines for Center for Advanced Study programs. Go to www.cas.uiuc.edu or call 333-6729 for current information about application procedures.

Kranzett Center for the Performing Arts
Summerfest announced
The UI department of theater’s annual tradition of presenting a summer repertory season continues this year with three com- edies and two benefit performances during June and July.

Summerfest 2001 includes “Born Yes- terday,” by Carson Kanan, a classic Ameri-can comedy and political satire; “Murder by the Book,” by Duncan Greenwood and Robert King, a British mystery/comedy; and “Servant of Two Masters,” by Carlo Goldoni in a new version by Tom Cone, a classic 18th-century comedy in the commedia dell’arte tradition. Two special performances of the two-character play “Love Letters,” by A.R. Gurney, also will be presented as a benefit for Summerfest Internship and Apprenticeship Programs. In the first performance July 17, Kathleen F. Conlin, dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Henson Keys, chair of the department of theater’s acting program, will be directed by Daniel Sullivan, UI Swalland Chair and four-time Tony Award-nominated director. On July 24, Anne Shapard Kears, an MFA graduate of the department’s acting program, and Gary Ambler, a highly admired local actor, will be directed by UI graduate Mark Brokaw, a New York Drama Desk Award-winner.

Summerfest 2001 opens at 8 p.m. June 15 “With Born Yesterday”; the three plays proceed in rotation through July 29. The performances take place in the Studio Theatre of Kranzett Center for the Performing Arts; performance times are 8 p.m. on week- nights and Saturdays, and 7 p.m. on Sun- days.

For more information, contact the Kranzett Center ticket office, 333-6280, or visit KranzettCenter.com.

Fun in math, engineering and science
GAMES camp is for girls
The Women in Engineering Program will host a one-week residential camp for girls who will enter seventh or eighth grade in the fall. The goal of GAMES (Girls’ Adventures in Math, Engineering and Sci- ence) is to provide academically talented girls the opportunity to explore math, engi- neering and science through demonstra- tions, classroom presentations, hands-on experiments and contact with professionals in the field. Campers will reside at Hendrick House.

For more information, visit www.engr.uiuc.edu/wie/games, e-mail wie@uiuc.edu or call 244-3517. Registra-tion deadline is June 15; fee is $550, with a $100 discount for daughters of UI employ- ees. Sponsors of the GAMES Camp are Ford Motor Co., Alcoa, John Deere, Lucent Technologies and Motorola.

For members or non-members
Credit union workshops
The UI Employees Credit Union is of- fering the following free financial services workshops to UI employees (credit-union members and non-members).

June 7: Long-term Care June 28: Annuities
July 26: College Funding Aug. 16: Long-term Care
All workshops begin at 7 p.m. at the Credit Union, 2201 S. First St., Champaign. Reservations are required. Call 278-7768 or e-mail membfin@uiuc.edu. Regis-tration also can be done on the Web at www.uiec.org.

Fiscal year 2003-2001
Amended campus holidays
There has been one change in the sched- ule of holidays previously released by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Adminis-tration and Human Resources for fiscal year 2001-02 for the Urbana-Champaign campus. The revised schedule: July 4: Independence Day Sept. 3: Labor Day Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Day Nov. 23: Designated holiday Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Dec. 26: morning only/designated holi-day Dec. 27: New Year’s Day Jan. 1: New Year’s Day Jan. 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day May 27: Memorial Day
The half-day designated holiday on Dec. 26 was moved from the afternoon to the morning to give employees as long a break as possible from their campus responsibili-ties, according to Charles Colbert, vice chancellor for administration and human resources.

SEE BRIEFS, PAGE 4

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Job brief notes

On the Job

HiDee Ekstrom

Tell me about your job. I work for four faculty members: three daily professors and one writing poetry and short stories when I was a kid. I've always enjoyed reading romances. I guess I'm just a romantic at heart. I read some novels than that. Famous last words!

What got you inspired to found the group? I read a lot. It's my dream to be a romance writer. I belong to a romance-writers group in town called Prairie Hearts. I'm actually one of its founders, and we have two newly published authors in our group. It's an inspiration to the rest of us.

The freedom to create: to come up with characters, to come up with ideas and to have fun with it. I have too many ideas, and I always think of them on the way home, and I don't have any way to write them down when I'm driving. So my husband got me one of these little tape recorders.

--- Interview by Sharita Forrest

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Prospective employees and students can receive academic openings that can be reviewed during
The Available: Aug. 21. Contact University Office for Academic and/or research experience in higher education required. Bachelor's degree in computer science, management information systems or related field and two years' experience. Available immediately. Contact Debrah Swear, 244-9742, d-swear@uiuc.edu. Closing date: May 22.

Computing and Communications Services Office. Network analyst. Bachelor's degree or relevant experience in programming and conference operations planning and coordination. Available: July 30. Contact Stanley Appelson, 335-1766. Closing date: June 1. Coordinator, Communications/Networking. Research Programmer. Minimum requirements: bachelor's degree in computer science, engineering or a related scientific field; master's preferred. Available: June 30. Contact: Elizabeth Donovan, 333-7776, 244-6055@uiuc.edu. Closing date: June 4.

Cooperative Extension Service Division, Visalia. Assistant the local Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline with at least three years' management experience; developing business, fiscal, personnel and general organizational responsibilities required. Available immediately. Contact Gail Steiner, 335-9840, 335-9817@uiuc.edu. Closing date: May 29.

Educational Technologies. Research programmer. Bachelor's degree or higher with at least one year's experience in education and training. Available immediately. Contact Mary Kate Wood, 244-1776, 244-0987 (fax), k-wood@uiuc.edu. Closing date: June 11.

Business Information Unit, Assistant director. A bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline; 2 years' experience in computer systems or related field and two years' experience in data analysis, design and implementation of complex database systems required. Available immediately. Contact Carolin Pate, UI Alumni Association, 272 Illini Union, 140 W. Green St., MC 380. Closing date: May 31.

Office of Academic Human Resources. Network/communications specialist. Bachelor's degree and a minimum of two years' experience in client/server and/or mainframe environments and excellent project management and communication skills required. Available immediately. Contact N. Taylor, 333-9635, taylor@hrdev.uiuc.edu. Closing date: May 29.

Conference Services Housing Division, Office of Coordinator for conference services and special events. Minimum requirements include a bachelor's degree, plus two years' experience in programming and conference operations planning and coordination. Available: July 30. Contact Stanley Appelson, 335-1766. Closing date: June 1.

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