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## Dole, 'Meet the Press' Give Russell a Whirl

By ALBERT LIN

People filled the auditorium of Ruppenthal Middle School today to attend the live videotaping of NBC's "Meet The Press," which will be televised at 8 a.m. CDT, Sunday, April 16.

During the program, Kansas Sen. Bob Dole was questioned by moderator Tim Russert, David Broder of The Washington Post and Lisa Myers, Capitol Hill reporter for NBC.

Videotaping was from 11 a.m. to noon.

Dole and the panelists sat at a table on the auditorium stage.

Audience members described their feelings as they waited for the program taping to begin.

Richard Eggert of Russell said, "It's nice to see the community with a positive attitude. It's nice to see everyone with a smile."

As far as expectations, he said that he was "expecting the media to tell everybody to be quiet. We're going to have a show here."

Eggert's expectations were fulfilled. During the half hour before taping, Russert explained the rules against heckling, the need for quiet, and the ban on using cameras or other devices that would make unwanted sound.

Vernon Radke of Russell described his feelings as "Wonderful

I feel fortunate to have gotten a ticket. (I am) looking forward to this thing."

John and Sharon Fox of Stafford talked about their feelings and expectations.

Sharon Fox said, "This is really something: We get to have this 'Meet The Press' program in Russell."

John Fox said he hoped that the people on stage might talk about the interest which the senator has expressed in giving government back to the people. He also hoped that they would discuss keeping United States troops under the command of the U.S. instead of the United Nations in future military actions.

### Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 at Fossil Lake

The public is invited to an Easter Sunrise Service at Fossil Lake at 6:30 a.m., hosted by The First Christian Church, First Baptist Church, Cavalry Chapel and First Southern Baptist Church.

In case of bad weather, the services will be held at the First Southern Baptist Church, 386 S. Fossil St.

"We need our soldiers fighting under the United States flag and not under the United Nations flag," he said.

On the issue of gun control, Dole said that he favors a computerized system which would allow instant background checks on gun purchasers.

Dole said such a system would help to prevent the purchase of guns by people with criminal records, while allowing gun purchase by those with clean records.

Such an instant check system would reduce the need for gun bans, which Dole said are not very effective in keeping guns out of the hands of criminals.

Dole said he favors efforts to balance the federal budget by the year 2002.

The senator refused to comment much about abortion, preferring to wait until after the presidential nomination. Dole said that making statements now on the issue could divide the Republican Party.

After being interviewed, Dole left the table, and a few audience members asked questions of the three panelists.

One audience member asked who decides how much media cov-

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## Tim Russert, 'Meet the Press' Moderator, Visits The News

By IRENE H. JEPSSEN

"A deal's a deal. You may think I may be one of those Washington media types, but I keep my word and I'll be in Russell, Kansas," Tim Russert, moderator for NBC's "Meet The Press," said Friday during an interview in The News of-

ice. And Russert was in Russell, with an entourage of 22 crew members that also included David Broder of The Washington Post, Lisa Myers, NBC's Capitol Hill reporter, cameramen, sound producers, lighting technicians, and logistics experts. Many began arriving in Russell on Thursday and attended the public pancake feed in Bob and Elizabeth Dole's honor Friday morning.

"The deal" was made 27 months ago on Sunday, Jan. 31, 1993, during a Meet The Press broadcast with Senator Bob Dole as the guest.

Russert and Dole got into a short discussion that it was Super Bowl Sunday and the following exchange ensued:

Russert: "Senator Dole, today is Super Bowl Sunday. Who do you like?"

Dole: "Well, the Chiefs (Kansas City), but since they're not playing, I'll take the Cowboys."

Russert: "I'll take the Buffalo Bills (New York), and if the Bills win then you have to spend a weekend in New York with me."

Dole: "If the Cowboys win, then you will have to spend a weekend in Russell, Kansas, with me."

The bet was on. "Well," Russert told The News, "the Dallas Cowboys 'snuck' by the Bills, 52-17."

"The next day, Senator Dole called me and asked, 'When are you coming to Russell?'"

"When are you running for president?"

"We'll see about that," Dole said.

On a February 1995 broadcast, Dole was again the guest and told Russert he would be in Russell on April 14.

"We'll (Meet The Press) be there," Russert said.

This morning, the show was taped live at Ruppenthal Middle School's auditorium. It will be aired at 8 a.m. (CDT), Sunday,

April 16, on NBC.

"This will be the first time a Meet The Press show will be taped in front of a live audience," Russert said Friday.

The panel interviewed Dole for about a half-hour, and the floor (Continued on Page 5)

### Tim Russert —

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was then opened for questions directed to Russert, Broder and Myers.

"After an interview, normally a Washington-columnists round table discussion is held. But, because we'll be in Russell, people in the audience will be invited to ask questions for discussion," Russert said.

The show's agenda was 35 minutes with Dole, 10 minutes of questions, the Meet The Press Minute, about three minutes of videos showing John F. Kennedy, then Lyndon B. Johnson answering a Meet The Press question: "Why should you be president," and, of course, commercial breaks.

This was the show's 53rd appearance for Bob Dole.

"He (Dole) has been on the show more than any other person in America. Second is Hubert Humphrey," Russert said.

The importance of Bob Dole in Washington throughout the years accounts for Dole's frequency on Meet The Press.

"On the first question, Senator Dole always thinks about what he is going to say. After that, he opens up a little more.

"He is a very good guest and understands the format."

Yes, Bob Dole can be blunt, Russert said, "and it is his nomination and his election to lose. He must maintain his focus and discipline. He has a very good chance to be

the next president."

When Russert asked Dole if he could control himself, Dole answered, "I am at peace with myself."

Russert has been with NBC 11 years and moderator for Meet The Press for 3½ years.

Meet The Press is 47 years old, the longest running TV program in the world.

"It is the most watched Sunday morning program in Washington, and the most quoted network interview program in the world (according to Nexis)," Russert said.

Russert also is an analyst on NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw (viewed here at 5:30 p.m.); has the Tim Russert Show on Mondays, a call-in show on CNBC (7 p.m. to 8 p.m. CDT); and is featured on the beginning segment of The Today Show every other Wednesday.

During this morning's broadcast, Russert alluded several times to how much he liked the people of Russell and said there are similarities between them and the people of Buffalo (Buffalo, N.Y., is Russert's home town).

He is a lawyer by training and has eight years in government.

His wife is a writer for Vanity Fair and uses her maiden name, Maureen Orth, as her by-line.

"I also have a 9-year-old son, Luke, and I'm third-base coach for his baseball team," Russert said.

The best way out of difficulty is through it.



CONFRONTING THE ISSUES — Bob Dole, left, shares a laugh with host Tim Russert of NBC's "Meet the Press" after the filming of the show at Ruppenthal Middle School Auditorium today. The panel of interviewers, which also included David Broder of the Washington Post and Lisa Myers, NBC's Capitol Hill reporter,

asked Dole tough questions about gun control, abortion, censorship and whether he will continue to be the "warm and fuzzy Bob Dole." The show, which will be aired at 8 a.m. Sunday on NBC, also included a Q & A session with people in the audience and the panel. (Staff Photo)

### Dole, 'Meer' —

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erage each presidential candidate receives.

Russert said that coverage can be improved by stationing reporters in key states and assigning groups of reporters to cover specific national zones.

He also said that candidates should go on alternate news shows, such as Rush Limbaugh. Every time people see a candidate, Russert said, they learn something about him.

Broder said the media should put more emphasis on making known the views of voters.

Another question dealt with the media's coverage of politicians' personal lives.

Myers said that a factor to be considered is whether the particular personal aspect to be covered has a bearing on the candidate's



'MEET THE NEWS' — Tim Russert, moderator for NBC's "Meet The Press," relaxes during an interview Friday at The Russell Daily News office. (Staff Photo)