



ROBERT BEHRE/STAFF

Former Louisiana Gov. and GOP presidential hopeful Buddy Roemer makes a point during the College of Charleston's Bully Pulpit series on Monday.

## Roemer attacks 'political corruption'

BY ROBERT BEHRE  
rbehre@postandcourier.com

If you go

Former Louisiana Gov. Buddy Roemer said Monday his presidential campaign in South Carolina "is not as healthy as it ought to be," and he was unsure whether it will pay the \$35,000 filing fee due today to get on the state's Jan. 21 primary ballot.

Having limited himself to taking no more than \$100 from any donor, Roemer said he has raised only \$250,000 and is focusing on New Hampshire in hopes that a good showing there will kick his campaign into a higher gear.

He said if he isn't on South Carolina's GOP ballot, he might try to run here as an independent in November.

Roemer spoke just after appearing at the College of Charleston's Bully Pulpit series. About 40 people attended and asked him about tax reform, amending the nation's campaign finance laws and how he would communicate as president.

Roemer criticized the size of the national debt and its recent deficits, its trade imbalance and its lack of an industrial or energy policy.

"Federal spending is out of control by any measure," he said. "We're Greece on steroids."

Roemer said the real issue in the campaign is the "institutional corruption" involved in politicians seeking money. He noted the nation's tax laws are drafted by lobbyists and that General Electric was able to avoid paying any U.S. taxes last year on \$5.4 billion because it could deduct foreign taxes paid.

Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman will be the next GOP presidential hopeful to appear in the College of Charleston's Bully Pulpit series. He is scheduled to appear at 5 p.m. Wednesday at Randolph Hall. These forums are free and open to the public.



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"You pay more taxes as a student with a part-time job than GE paid," he said. "Washington, D.C., is a scam. I call it the capital of corruption."

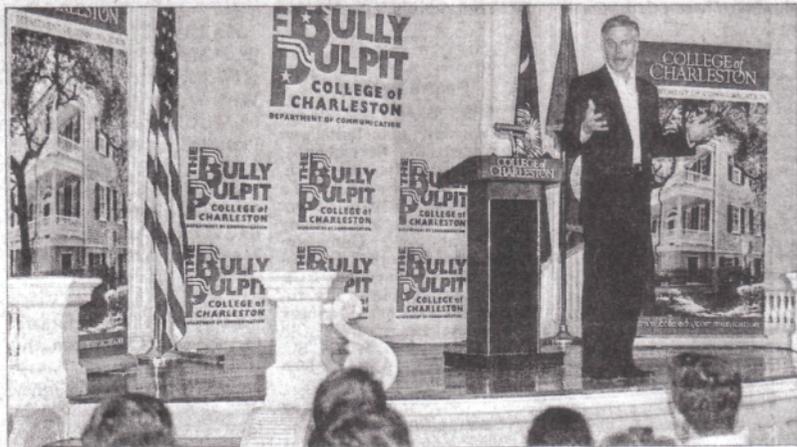
Roemer said he favors changing federal election laws to require reporting within 48 hours and for criminal prosecution for those who break the rules.

If elected, Roemer said his communication style would emphasize listening and working in a bipartisan way, through poker games, for instance.

Roemer declined to comment on allegations that his fellow GOP presidential hopeful Herman Cain engaged in inappropriate behavior with two female employees of the National Restaurant Association in the 1990s.

Roemer said he had not heard of the story, which was first reported by Politico this weekend.

"Let's get the facts," he said. "I hope that's wrong."



ROBERT BEHRE/STAFF

Former Utah Gov. and GOP presidential hopeful Jon Huntsman talks Wednesday to about 200 gathered at the College of Charleston.

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## Huntsman in pulpit

2012 hopeful spotlights underdog status at C of C

BY ROBERT BEHRE  
rbehre@postandcourier.com



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Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman told about 200 people inside the College of Charleston's Randolph Hall that if elected, he would focus on restoring America's manufacturing and its place on the world stage.

Afterward, Huntsman said he didn't have all the details regarding women's claims of inappropriate treatment from his GOP rival Herman Cain, "and it would be in his interest to get them out in total as quickly and as comprehensively as possible."

Unlike Huntsman, Cain is one of several Republican candidates who have topped the polls in the run-up to the party's 2012 primaries and caucuses, but Huntsman said he is happy with the role of underdog.

He noted he soon will hold his 100th campaign event in New Hampshire, and he hopes an impressive showing there on Jan. 10 will send him South with new momentum when

South Carolina Republicans go to the polls 11 days later.

The second candidate in the C of C's Bully Pulpit series, Huntsman said his No. 1 goal would be to rebuild U.S. manufacturing muscle, primarily by focusing on tax reform, improving the regulatory environment and pushing for energy independence.

He said his next overarching goal would be to restore the nation's role in the world, and he said the country no longer needs to work on nation-building in Afghanistan, nor does it need 50,000 troops in Germany. "The Russians aren't coming any more, folks," he said.

In response to a question, Huntsman said he favored civil unions for gay couples but also supports traditional marriage.

Lawrence McMahon of West

Ashley, a Vietnam vet, asked Huntsman about his plans for pulling out troops, and Huntsman replied by talking about the accomplishments in Afghanistan and how Iran's emerging nuclear arsenal will become the transcendent foreign policy issue.

McMahon later said that while he likes Huntsman's economic plan, he didn't like how his question was answered. "I felt his address was a downer," he added.

Grace Evelyn, a College of Charleston senior, said she attended the talk to get material for a writing assignment, adding that many students who packed the hall were there to get extra credit for class.

But Huntsman did greet fans, such as Alison Guerriere of Mount Pleasant, who said she admires his economic policy — praised by the Wall Street Journal — and his foreign policy expertise.

"I also think he's the kind of person who can unite the different parties in office and get things done," she said.