

# Fire And Brimstone



PHOTO/SUSAN MAYER

## Rush Limbaugh Burns Liberals At The Stake

BY MATTHEW BUDMAN

Within the constraints of the rated-PG promotional tour, Limbaugh lived up to his fire-and-brimstone, Morton Downey-ish reputation. "I will make some graphic statements tonight. I will speak bluntly," he said, but at one point he apologized for uttering "the S-word."

"I try to get through these appearances without getting profane," he said. "It slipped out, and I'm sorry." In lieu of profanity, Limbaugh didn't hesitate to use "activist" as a derogatory term and perform an obscene

Radio personality Rush Limbaugh chats with one of hundreds of adoring fans who came to Filco Discount Center Friday afternoon to get autographs and shake hands with the talk-show host, who spoke that evening in Chico State's Laxson Auditorium.

microphone pantomime during a Barney Frank routine.

While taking on liberals at every opportunity, Limbaugh carefully avoided offending the audience's one or two minorities—though the Japanese took a beating—and was particularly cautious on the subject of women.

Quoted extensively as having said, "Feminism was established so as to allow ugly women easier access to the mainstream," Limbaugh made a halfhearted effort to ameliorate the criticism, not that he really needed to—at least a quarter of the audience consisted of women.

"I am not a sexist chauvinist pig," he said, "but I do like sexist humor." He suggested that it would be appropriate for women to fight in combat only if at the time they were suffering from PMS. "It turns a woman into a hellion," he said.

Journalists got a tongue-lashing, and in accordance with Limbaugh's contract, two

reporters with cassette recorders were threatened with removal from the theater by Chico State officials. A reporter from the Chico Enterprise-Record was nearly arrested by university police when he refused to give up his recorder.

"Kick 'em out," several people yelled. The reporters eventually gave up and returned to their seats sans recording equipment.

In keeping with his billing as a "political satirist," Limbaugh distilled most issues into a liberal vs. conservative battle of philosophies.

"No liberal's dumb enough to want to live under the rules they tell us to live by," he said. "They're full of hypocrisy, and it's easy to catch them on it."

Limbaugh had some choice terms for activists and environmentalists: "misfits; kooks; weirdos; useful idiots; long-haired, lice-infested maggots; empty shreds of discarded debris."

America's activists, he said, aren't even loyal to particular causes. "They just go from march to march," he said. "They're all the same people. They all have the same agenda: trying to chip away at the free-enterprise system and institute a more socialist system. They are attacking the institutions that make our country great."

Getting into the swing of things, helpful audience members enthusiastically pointed out the sole Earth Firster in the group.

Limbaugh managed to stay stimulating even when the performance took on a more serious tone, exploring his vision of America's future. "This culture war is going on because the mainstream—people like us—are finally fighting back."

"This country is basically conservative," he continued. "People are finally getting fed up with seeing their children's futures add up to nothing." He went on to predict an Eastern European-style revolution in the United States.

On a somewhat lighter note, Limbaugh spent a disproportionate amount of time on the subject of animal rights. "Animals don't have rights," he said. "Does it ever occur to you that maybe we're spending too much time and money worrying about a bunch of dumb animals while our own society is going to hell in a handbasket?"

"We've evolved past animals," he continued. "If they can't adapt to us, screw them."

By evening's end even the few stone-faced skeptics in attendance were smiling, albeit grudgingly. You had to admit the guy was entertaining.

Only time and fickle radio audiences will tell if Limbaugh goes the way of Morton Downey and Wally George, once-popular talk-show hosts whose outlandish conservative views quickly became ludicrous.

For now Limbaugh is capitalizing on his act, which grossed more than \$18,000 in Chico—of which CSUC kept \$2,500, the rest going to Limbaugh for speaking fee and expenses—and is just one of many stops Limbaugh is making this summer.

Upon Limbaugh's farewell wave and attempted bow, Jerry Askey was one of the first to rise for the evening's second standing ovation. "It was everything I expected, and a lot of fun," he said. "He's real entertaining as well as factual." □