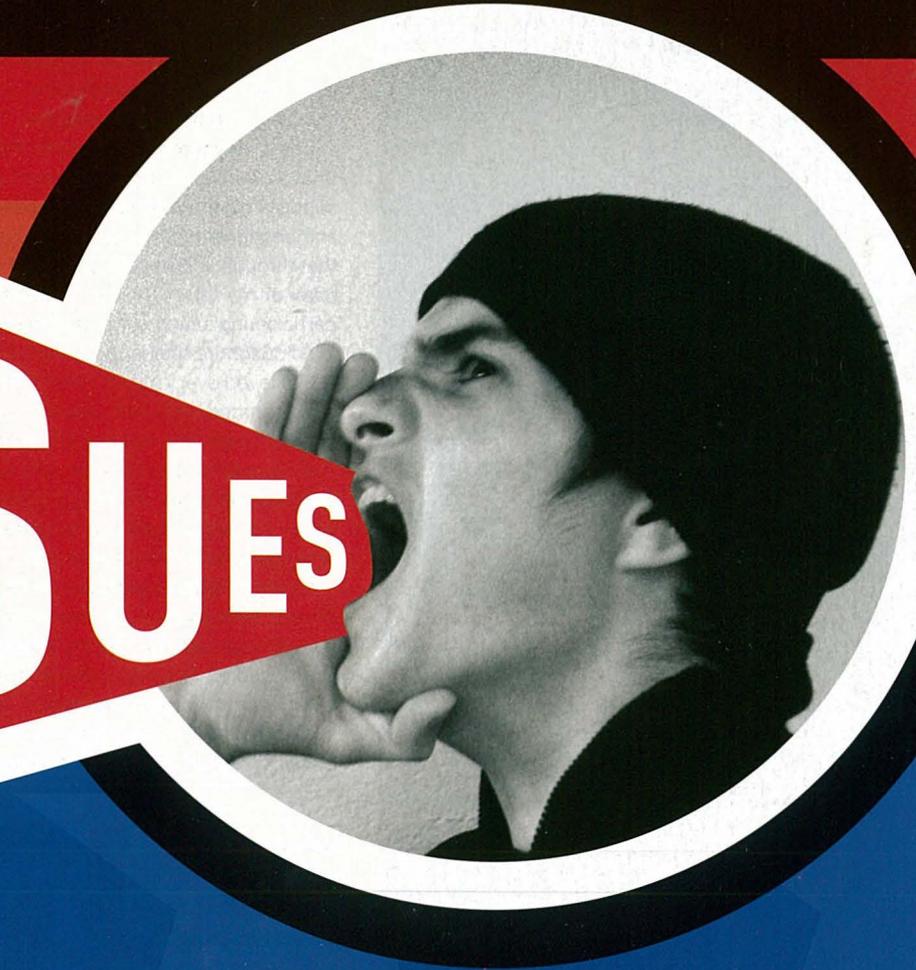


# REPORTER

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## POLITICS

# ISSUES



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# EDITORIAL

## Not a Stump Speech. I Promise.

I can't remember a time when I wasn't highly interested in politics, when I wasn't in tune with what was going on in the world.

This could be for any number of reasons. It could be because I grew up in a military family and the decisions made by the government impacted my family and friends of my family. It could be because a decent part of that upbringing occurred in the shadow of Capitol Hill, as we lived just outside of Washington D.C. during some of the more formative years of my life. Politics came with breakfast; they were what I read in passing as I sifted through *The Washington Post* every morning on the way to the sports page and absorbed in unnumbered trips through the Smithsonian museums. It could be because I've always been surrounded by individuals most concerned with current events, whether it be certain teachers who filled their classrooms with newspapers, filtering magazine clippings and spirited discussion into the routine whenever possible—or my own parents, who rarely miss the nightly news and even at an early age would encourage me to write letters to the President of the United States (It's true, I've written letters to every administration in place since I was old enough to write a letter at all). It is said that children are a product of their environment and so all of these are perfectly logical reasons for my status as a bit of a civic nut.

Mostly, though, I think that I am the way that I am because politics appeals to the part of me that likes a lively debate—that even, truth be told, enjoys a good argument from time to time. This is the part of me that, like the area of politics itself, I find most often gets in the way or gets me into trouble from time to time.

This year's Presidential election is the first that I will participate in as a newly registered voter and I have taken this especially to heart. I've gotten completely absorbed in and emotionally involved with this year's election.

I have devoured and reacted viscerally to every bit of right-wing and left-wing rhetoric that I have been able to get my hands on in an almost carnal way, and there's been no shortage of supply. I have treated each presidential debate like my own sort of Super Bowl—I've kept score and engaged in yelling at the television in support and scorn, hanging on to every word, hoping that through some magical form of osmosis, my comments will reach the candidates through the glow of my television set. I have treated the last several months like an open-opinion season, participating in and starting debates, at times finding myself lost, wading through the molasses-filled quagmire that is the American political system.

I've loved every part of it in an almost-guilty sort of way. I have. I've been like a kid at a circus—so fascinated with and taken in by everything going on around me that I know that whatever happens next will pale in comparison.

And now it's almost over and soon I'll be left with the same sort of sad displacement that children feel when the circus is over—prepared for the inevitable but no less disappointing day when the circus packs up its glitter and color and moves on to make room for the important, if less glamorous, acts of every-day-life.

Fitting metaphor because that's exactly what the past several months have been—a media-driven, ever-present, consistently-growing political circus. Every time I have flicked on my television or sat down at my computer I've been met with political discourse and imagery. I've overdosed on all things political, I've lost my head, and I've fallen in love with all of it.

I know that come November 2, I'm either going to be left with a broken heart or a soaring one. In the meantime, the wait is excruciating. I guess its not called suffrage for nothing—a short prayer on behalf of somebody or something important that sounds like it should hurt a little.



Ren Meinhart

Editor in Chief

NOTE: The magazine that you're holding in your hands is a RIT student's guide to enjoying and understanding this political circus in its final days. We stayed as far away as possible from offering our own opinions on the candidates and the issues, allowing for the candidates themselves and our student peers to be the main voices in the issue. Enjoy.

cover design by Joseph Guzman

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Staying informed.

Tuesday, November 2nd

**Vote  
2004**

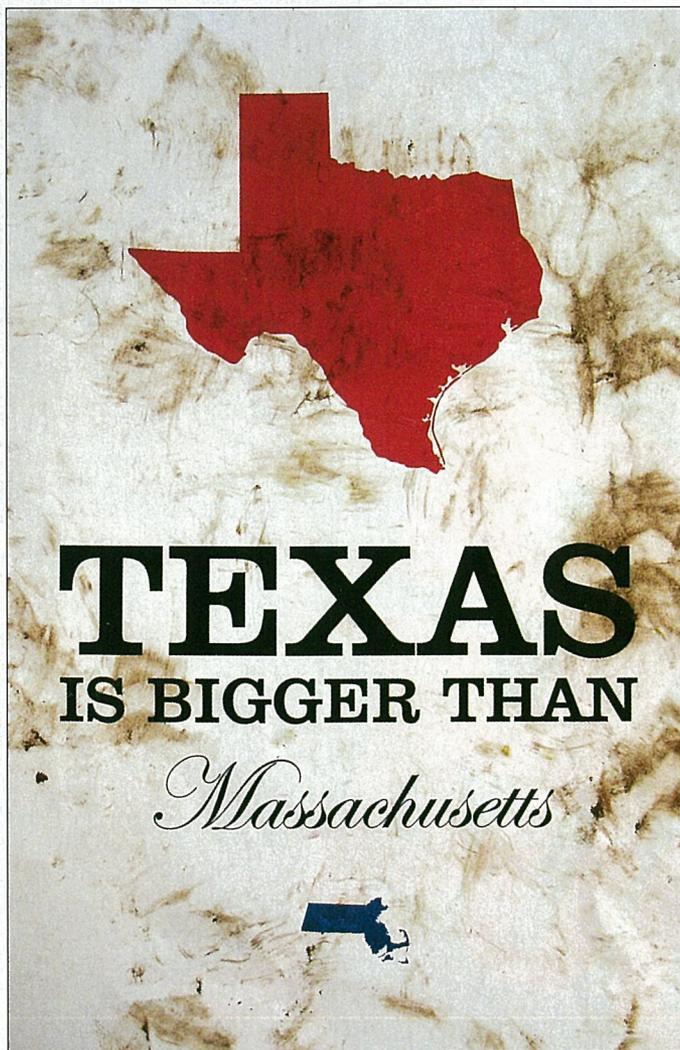
# POLITICAL

## We live in an increasingly visual society.

So much of politics, like everything else these days, is based on image—what each candidate is able to project to the American people. Political agendas are reduced to snippets of sound bites and flashes of television advertisements as each candidate decides what aspects of their persona and ideals they want stuck in every citizen's mind when they enter the voting booth on November 2.

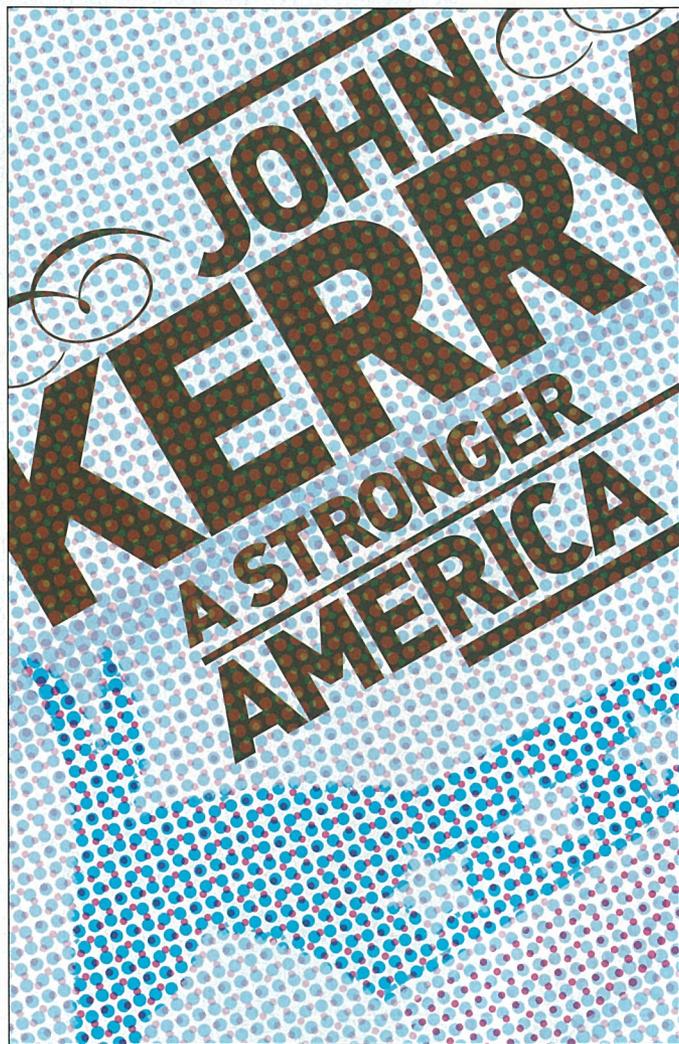
Why then, is so much of political design today void of engaging images, of personality? *Reporter* asked these RIT designers to create political art and design that they'd like to see the candidates take a chance on.

*NOTE: Posters do not necessarily reflect the political affiliation of the designer.*



**Alex Cheek | Fourth Year Graphic Design**

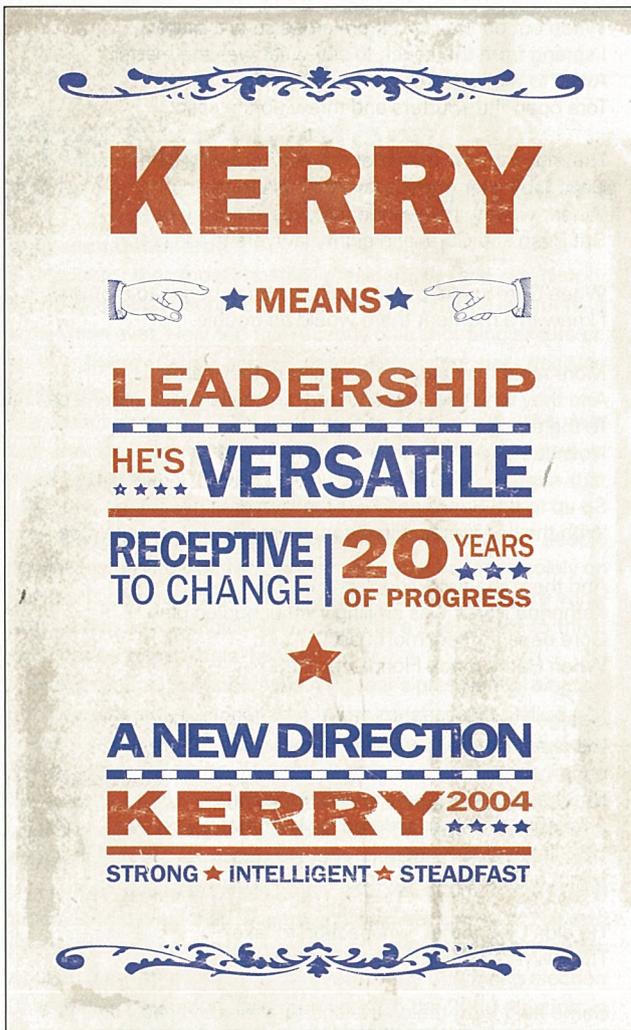
This is my "Jon Stewart approach" to campaign politics—silliness. We're all used to the usual campaign rhetoric of why one candidate is better than the opposition, so I just stated the very obvious and gave it a little touch of graphic design panache and authentic Texas attitude. So saddle up for another four years.



**Joseph Guzman | Fourth Year Graphic Design**

My poster incorporates two important poster features: striking imagery and a deeper meaning. The background texture is made up of red and blue dots on a white background, representing patriotism. The dots are separated to illustrate the divided America we live in today, and the democratic donkey is seen in dots of a higher concentration of color to add a touch of visual complexity. When every color that exists is mixed together, brown is the result, and so I used brown to represent the unifying presence Kerry would have on the country. The big bold typography is eye-catching, rising upward for progress.

# BYDESIGN



Cheena Jain | Fourth Year Graphic Design

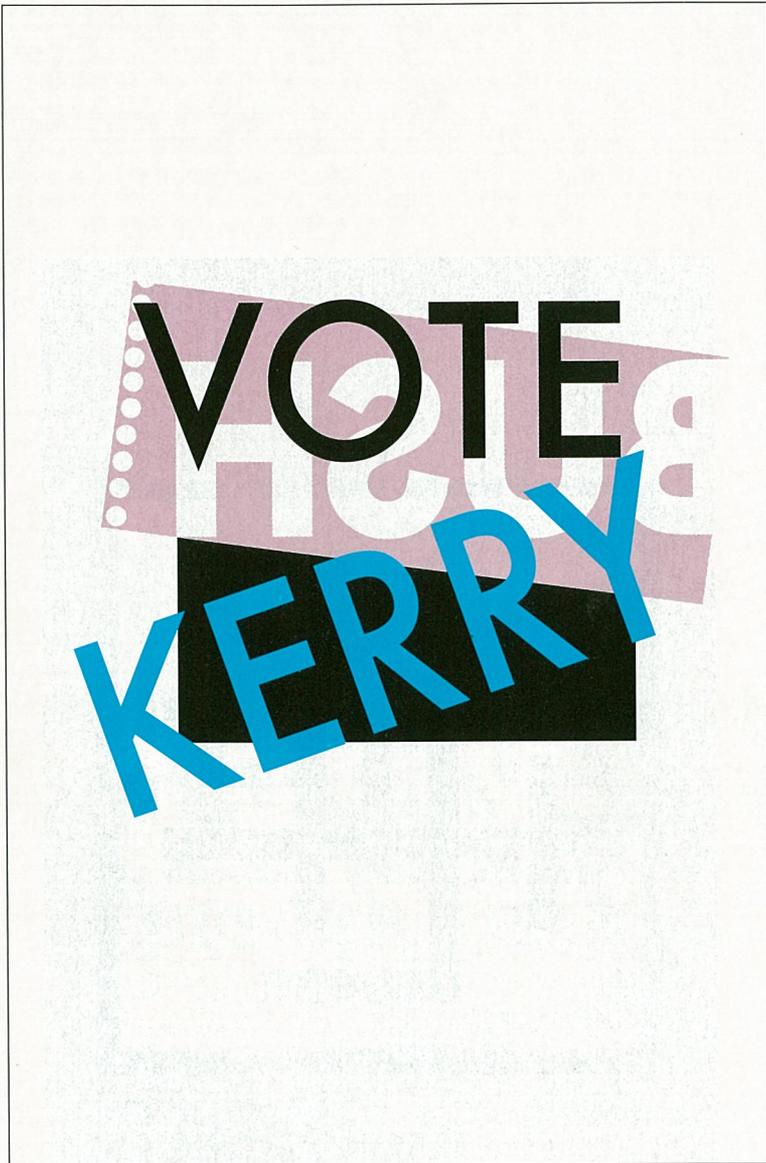
Most people say they will vote for Kerry because they hate Bush. I, however, needed to create a poster that highlighted positive traits about Kerry. I surveyed about fifteen to twenty people and asked them to tell me what they liked about John Kerry. I wanted to express peoples' replies to my questions and depict Kerry as a man who stood for the people and was their voice. I decided to highlight things that the majority of people liked about him. I found that people thought Kerry was more human. The element of texture symbolically represents a man who has had his fair share of ups and downs, but is still dynamic and the best candidate.



Ren Meinhart | Fourth Year Visual Media

I wanted to create a poster that would engage the viewer and require his or her active participation, much like the American political system. I felt that using an All-American game like Scrabble would not only speak to Bush's focus on family values but would also underscore his straight-forward, spell-it-out- clearly approach to political rhetoric. I built all of the words on the Scrabble board (each one of them a point of value for Bush) off of the phrase "In the Right." I felt that this play on words not only emphasized Bush's place on the political spectrum, but also his steadfast resolve and his confidence in the decisions that he has made for America.

# POLITICALBYDESIGN CONTINUED...



**Heinz Klinkon**  
**Design Professor**

Kerry's blue color name is shown on the rise, whereas Bush's name is on the back of a descending pink slip.

## THE NIGHT BEFORE THE election

submitted by **Ben Leven**

'Twas the night before the election, when all through the state  
Not a politician was stirring, not even a running mate.  
The ballots were stacked in the districts with care,  
In hopes that voters soon would be there.

The candidates were nestled all snug in their beds,  
While visions of the presidency danced in their heads.  
And mamma watching Hardball, and I C-SPAN,  
Had just settled down to watch the newsman.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the couch to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-growing palm trees  
Gave the luster of mid-day to all this frenzy.  
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But Bush and Gore, and eighty lawyers to the rear.

When Gore spoke of recounts and Bush began to mumble,  
I knew in a moment there would be trouble.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,  
And they whistled, and shouted, and called each other a bad name.  
To the top of the courts! We'll show that screwball!  
Now sue away! Sue away! Sue away all!"

So up to the Supreme Court the lawyers flew,  
With the briefcases full of documents, and George W. too.

And then, in a twinkling, I saw on TV  
Katherine Harris was smiling with unbridled glee.  
Gore began to feel mortified,  
When Harris made Florida certified.

George W—How he twinkled! His dimples, how merry!  
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!

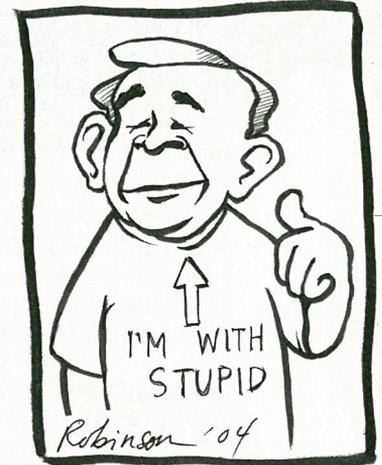
But then he grimaced and could not speak,  
A recount had been ordered for later that week.  
His slim lead reduced,  
Might a Gore victory produce.

He didn't want that, what action to take?  
The lawyers needed to find him a break.

Some help from the courts and a pat on the head,  
Soon let him know he had nothing to dread.  
He got the recount stopped with time to spare,  
And soon his presidency he could declare.

And laying his finger aside of his nose,  
And giving a nod, to the White House he rose.  
He sprang to his limo, to his team gave a whistle,  
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight,  
"MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL,  
DID IT COME OUT ALL RIGHT?"



cartoon by William Robinson

## The Non-voters

### Why Some are Choosing to Block the Vote

by Brenna Cammeron

In arguably the most hostile presidential race in history, emotions against people that choose not to choose are running higher than ever. I learned this recently on a shopping excursion, as my friend Laura and I were discussing her decision not to vote.

"You aren't voting?" The sales clerk, oblivious to the fact that she had just butted in on our conversation, stared at Laura in disbelief. "How can you do that? Dude. People that don't vote *suck!*"

Thus began my journey into the world of non-voters—people that are increasingly ostracized from our society based solely on their decision not to vote. Their reasons for not voting are wide-ranging, but our politically-charged culture's response to them could not be more single-minded.

By all accounts, it appears that this year's presidential election will be an incredibly close race. In the most recent Gallup poll, President George W. Bush had a slight lead over John Kerry with Bush having 52 percent of likely voters and Kerry garnering 44 percent of the vote (Ralph Nader, although shut out of debates and other mainstream political coverage, has managed to gain approximately 1 percent of our nation's votes).

In a time when potentially every vote will count, more young people are voting than ever. According to a recent Harvard survey, 82 percent of young people ages 18-24 stated that they would "definitely" or "probably" vote in the upcoming election. Only 42 percent in this age group voted in the 2000 election, in contrast to 70 percent of the general population.

So what's the reason for this exponential rise in voting amount our nation's youth? Much of the interest arises from avoiding a conundrum like the one that arose during last year's election, in which George W. Bush won Florida, and the presidency, by a margin of only 537 votes. In addition, our nation's youth feel especially motivated to vote when faced with volatile issues such as the Iraq war. Among rumors of an impending draft (some of which is encouraged by MTV's recent Rock the

Vote public service announcements), young people have become much more involved in the voting process than ever before.

Despite all of the political fervor, a few holdouts refuse to vote in the upcoming election. These people—the non-voters—have incredibly varied responses when asked why they don't plan on voting. Interestingly, several of the non-voters who were interviewed requested that their names not be put in this article, perhaps due to the social stigma that is so quickly becoming associated with not voting.

Despite this, the non-voters reasons for voting are surprisingly well thought-out. One student, a second year Computer Engineering major who preferred to remain anonymous, said, "I'm not voting because I feel that I know little to nothing about the candidates and would like to make an informed decision...from what I do know, I don't really like either one." When asked if he would vote if he felt more strongly about one of the candidates, he said, "Possibly. If I thought it would matter."

This sentiment is shared by many non-voters. Other common reasons for not voting include a general dislike of the bitterness of this political race, as well as a general sense of apathy for the entire process. Mike LaBarre, a fourth year Packaging Science major, echoes this sentiment. According to LaBarre, "I'm just too lazy to get the information to make an informed decision...I feel it doesn't really affect me."

Dr. John Murley, the head of RIT's Department of Political Science, has his own take on non-voters. "There are lots of reasons why people don't vote. One, they feel alienated, for whatever reason. Two, they think their vote doesn't count. Three, they may not know who to choose, so they think that somehow they'll be taken care of and are better off not participating...all of these are bad reasons not to vote." According to Dr. Murley, college students have a special set of reasons for not voting. "They're busy, they don't have any property, they earn little money, and don't have to deal with taxes or families—they think that their parents are going to take care of them."

Regardless of their reasons, those who choose not to vote are forming an extremely quiet minority in this presidential race. Amidst all of the political uproar – and a campaign that is almost intolerably negative – one can't help but wonder if these non-voters are on to something. But you know what?

I'm voting anyway. •

# Political Documentaries

illustration by William Robinson

**Movies:** Everyone loves them, but there is a certain genre that's often underrepresented: documentaries. In light of the upcoming election, we found it appropriate to review some of the latest political documentaries that have been released in the past several months. *Enjoy.*

## **Fahrenheit 9/11: Cooling Off or Heating Up?** by Casey Dehlinger

Clearly, Michael Moore's incredibly successful film *Fahrenheit 9/11* has grabbed a lot of attention and turned a lot of heads, sparking up the most controversy this side of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. The Cannes Film Festival's most prestigious award, the Palme d'Or, is a huge accomplishment. However, criticisms of the film are not entirely without merit. Despite agreeing with the purpose of this film, I cannot fully endorse it because of its tendency to open cans of worms it is not willing to close.

Michael Moore brings up lots of really fascinating facts, but leaves them underdeveloped and undercooked, never exploring them with the balanced view required to make an effective documentary. By no means am I suggesting that Michael Moore should compromise his political views for the film. It would be difficult for an unbiased person to be passionate about a given subject enough to make an engaging documentary about it. In a lot of Michael Moore's arguments, though, he doesn't provide the supporting details necessary to win over his audiences. For example, Moore hacks away at Bush for allowing Bin Laden's

family to leave the country via plane when all other aircraft were grounded. This is all well and good, but many questions remain unanswered here—was Bin Laden's family even involved in the attack in any way? Had Moore spent a little more time explaining why Bin Laden's estranged family was a real threat, perhaps he would've won over a greater percentage of his audiences. Instead, Moore moves on to accuse Bush of having strong business ties with the Bin Laden family, and although he provides some evidence, he merely flashes it on the screen. I, for one, was terribly interested in this facet of the film and wanted to see more. Instead, Moore dropped the case like a penny off the Empire State Building.

This pattern is repeated all throughout the movie: can of worms is opened, Michael Moore tells us how terribly wrong the situation is, evidence is flashed across the screen for about three seconds, and then the can opener is pulled out for Moore's next point. This is mirrored when the issue of Bush's tainted election win is brought up. Moore points out that Al Gore, who presided over the Senate, had to turn away activists who attempted to challenge the vote because they couldn't get a signature from a single member of the Senate. All of the activists knew that they needed such a signature, but none of them could so much as walk to the nearest chair of a liberal senator and ask "excuse me sir (or madam), could you sign this, please?" This fascinated me. But Moore never went in-depth to provide an explanation as to why none of the senators would sign.

Also, Moore left out much of his witty "Tom Green with a cause" comedic activism that supersaturated the more accurate and astute *Bowling for Columbine*. This is understandable, as he wanted to steer away from this approach and make a serious documentary. It's still enjoyable and loaded with laughs derived from his sarcastic commentary and Bush's highlighted idioms. The score and montages are impeccable, and all in all, it is two hours that will keep you interested. As is the case with nearly all films though, *Fahrenheit 9/11* has its strong points and its weak points. Its weakness definitely lies in its terseness—its failure to justify all the "facts" it presents. The film has its strengths too, most notably that it simply pissed people off and forced them to have an opinion. After seeing *Fahrenheit 9/11*, you can hate Moore or hate Bush (or maybe even both), but you can't remain neutral, and it's controversies like these that get voters to the booths.

## **Control Room: The Greatest Documentary You've Never Heard Of** by Casey Dehlinger

My personal pick for best documentary is *Control Room*, directed by Egyptian filmmaker Jehane Noujaim. Shot in Iraq at the controversial news network Al Jazeera, *Control Room* displays poignancy far surpassing all



other documentaries this year, political or not. This inside look at Iraq provides an enlightening perspective of an incredibly obscure and isolated conflict affecting everyone. Just reading the subtitled comments of the Iraqi news editors is enough to elicit a terribly humanistic take on the people who are truly affected by this crisis. Bloody times of revolution happen in these people's back yards. They don't even need to look at a screen to watch the bombs fly; they just need to look out the window. To watch them go about their everyday lives and then see the terribly ethnocentric views of the troops occupying the area is enough to make the veins pop out of your neck.

The film follows the plight of a news station that goes out of its way to broadcast honest news. Often accused of committing crimes and being biased, Al Jazeera is constantly in conflict with forces like the US government. When the station decided to show footage of POWs (which, by the way, is against the law) the great forces of the world screamed up a storm, but the people of Iraq got a glimpse into the war that allowed them to form legitimate opinions. When the US said they were in Baghdad, Al Jazeera was the station that stood up, looked all around Baghdad, and said "Well, United States, you're actually not here, and we checked out the places you said you were, and you're not there, either." It goes without saying that our military wasn't very happy. We also see scenes in which the station takes time to talk to US troops—sometimes just to make it aware to them that the people of Iraq are, of course, people as well. Al Jazeera's station editor seems to desire to tell his audience both sides of the story—although one can't help noticing the bias with which it is often done. Is Al Jazeera trying to balance out the other news stations of the world?

*Control Room* provides some insight into rather shocking actions taken by the US Military. What I found most repulsive was the death of an Iraqi anchorman who, along with Al Jazeera, decided to favor citizen interests as opposed to the heavy-handed "suggestions" of our military. Essentially, news stations provide the military with precise coordinates as to where they will be located, and the military makes sure not to bomb those spots back to the Stone Age. However, one day it was decided that one of these news zones should be bombed. Our military wouldn't even say it was an accident, but tried to flip the blame onto a deceased news anchor, pulling the classic "well, he shouldn't have been standing there" excuse. *Control Room* truly is an incredible documentary, despite how it leaves the audience feeling rather dead inside. When a film can play an audience's emotions that well, it is only a sign of success. It may be a difficult movie to find, but it is well worth the search.

### **Outfoxed: A Documentary That Won't Claim It Is Without Spin**

**by Andrew Brooks**

Whether you watch *The Daily Show* or the Fox News Channel as your major source of information, *Outfoxed* by Robert Greenwald, will change the way you look at broadcast journalism. While the movie focuses mainly on Newscorp, owned by Rupert Murdoch, the documentary does leave you with a sense of caution and a need of active listening to be applied to any source of news.

*Outfoxed* not only makes you more aware of the fleeting existence of "journalism" on television, but it also clearly explains how and why news outlets under the control of Rupert Murdoch supposedly distort the facts, if any are gathered. By displaying interviews with previous Fox anchors and executives alongside many statistics and data, the documentary shows itself to be a well-developed and researched film. The most damning evidence shown is from the Fox broadcasts themselves. This includes a hilarious segment showing Bill O'Reilly shouting "Shut up!" at least 20 times.

On a sadder note, it also shows O'Reilly harassing the son of a port authority worker who was killed in 9/11, simply because he was against the war, which differed from O'Reilly's "independent" views. The film also achieves a tone of warning against the concentration of wealth and power—especially in news, where companies can spin events to fit their own agendas. *Outfoxed* will expose problems of the current media to you and provide a strong argument on why America's mainstream news must be changed.

### **Super Size Me: One Man Almost Becomes a Martyr for Social Change**

**by Andrew Brooks**

Have you ever felt powerless or misrepresented in government, without an ability to change things? Morgan Spurlock's *Super Size Me* will help change your mind. It follows an ordinary man who performs an experiment on himself with the intent of proving that McDonald's food is responsible for health problems in people who eat there.

This movie was in response to a lawsuit against McDonald's that needed proof that the food could be solely responsible for weight gain (among many more serious health problems). The film compares the fast food industry to the cigarette industry in that they both sell harmful products to make large profits.

It does more than shock you with evidence of liver and mental health problems; it also examines how fast food has changed the American lifestyle into something consisting of gigantic portions and high calorie counts. *Super Size Me* can definitely open more eyes up to the growing problems of obesity and eating habits, which are constantly underestimated in America. In the course of showcasing problems of society, the film is constantly shows one man's effort to change it.

While the lawsuit was dismissed, many changes took place because of Spurlock's documentary. Before it was even released in cinemas, the film helped push McDonald's to stop "Super Sizing." It also caused both fast food chains and catering services, like those that serve public schools, rethink and offer healthier options to their customers. While a salad can turn into one of the unhealthiest items on the menu, depending on the toppings used, it is still a shift toward more conscientious eating.

*Super Size Me* was not only effective in changing the world, but it also is effective as a documentary—because it argues with facts from a wide range of sources, encouraging viewers to become activists too. •



# POLITICAL BLOGGING

by Sean Hannan | illustration by Brittney Lee

It is rather impossible these days to be a functioning member of society without having heard the term "blogging." But for those of you caught in some sort of cultural vortex, here's the skinny: Recent advancements in web technologies have allowed even the most technologically inept of us to publish web sites. Most often these sites mimic the format of a diary, with entries listed by date and the most current entry at the top of the page. Authors of these "weblogs," or "blogs" as the kids call them, have complete control over the content of these sites. While one blog may contain intense analyses of the latest innovations in science and technology, another is just as likely to contain a graphic depiction of a sailing vessel that is made entirely out of genitals.

Okay, got it? There'll be a quiz on Thursday.

Initially relegated to the rants of web-savvy geeks and emotional teenagers, blogging gained credibility in the mainstream as a political tool, courtesy of Howard Dean. He raised significant funds and kept his supporters up to speed through his BlogForAmerica.com website. Dean's digital grassroots efforts gave him the early lead and hefty press coverage. The mainstream media was initially skeptical about the lack of journalistic standards and integrity that political blogs posed, but it is hard to deny the resonating impact of a medium such as the web.

These days, blogging has gained a certain amount of respectability—or at least novelty—among mainstream media. At the recent Democratic and Republican conventions, a surprising number of ring-side seats were reserved specifically for the laptop-toting, hyper-opinionated trendsetters.

That having been said, let's take a look at some of the more popular political blogs to see what all the fuss is about.

**Wonkette ([www.wonkette.com](http://www.wonkette.com))**

**Slant: Left-leaning, but gossip on both sides is tons of fun for everyone!**

Ana Marie Cox, the editor of Wonkette, aims her site to be both entertaining and informative. That is, of course, if you consider beltway gossip to be informative.

The tone of the writing elicits an image of those two girls from Sir-Mix-A-Lot's Baby Got Back video. "Oh. My. God. Becky, look at that girl's butt..." One thing's for sure, Cox embodies that catty, high school girl ethos—a voice, I must say, that is sorely missing in today's political commentary.

When it comes down to it, Wonkette is the *People* magazine of political blogging: light on insightful commentary, but did you see how trashed Jenna Bush looked in that picture?

**Daily Kos ([www.dailykos.com](http://www.dailykos.com))**

**Slant: Leftish but not proselytizing or fanatical.**

Markos Moulitsas, the publisher of this fine website, is also the man responsible for turning Howard Dean onto digital publishing. This forward-thinking media man can also talk the talk because he has walked the walk: he has undergraduate degrees in political science, philosophy, and journalism, as well as a law degree with a focus on trial litigation. Kos is definitely someone that you don't want go toe to toe with in Spin Alley; he will rip off your logic and beat you to death with it. When he's not being an overachiever and an intellectual thug, he also writes an insightful column for the Guardian Unlimited.

Probably due to his academic background, Moulitsas does not spout off vitriolic personal opinions on this blog. Rather, he posts excerpts from the latest stories coming down the wire and frames them in such a way that facilitates rabid discussion (in his 'Comments' section) from both sides.

### Talking Points Memo ([www.talkingpointsmemo.com](http://www.talkingpointsmemo.com))

**Slant: Dead center. Maybe some slight teetering after a couple of scotch and sodas.**

Talking Points Memo's author, Josh Marshall, is another member of the multiple-degree-flaunting blogger set. When he's not writing for *The New Yorker*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The New Republic*, or appearing on *Hannity and Colmes*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, or *Crossfire*, he's making about 15 posts per day on Talking Points. What a go-getter.

The ads on Talking Points actually convey more information about the site's politics than the content itself. After all, who would display ads for both Ann Coulter—the liberals' antichrist—and a site that sells "Drop Bush Not Bombs" t-shirts? Well, a greedy money-grubbing freak, but that's beside the point.

Stemming from Marshall's professional political commentator connections, Talking Points occasionally offers "insider" political views on what is currently happening in governmental affairs. While he provides more personal commentary than most of the regurgitative blogging world, fear not, he knows how to properly cut and paste, too.

### Redstate ([www.redstate.org](http://www.redstate.org))

**Slant: Right. Anything less would be uncivilized.**

Redstate is interesting in this cross-section of political blogs because it is not the personal viewpoint of one author, but rather a collective effort amongst determined Republicans. You've got to hand it to the Republicans for their organizational skills; all of those MBAs sure are paying off.

The content of the blog is fantastically stereotypical of right wing politics. It's all facts and figures and "reasonings." Where's the fun in that? What are you going to do—dazzle me with your logic? The contributors to Redstate aren't even playfully snarky! Congratulations Redstate; you continue to perpetuate the image of the Republican Party as a group of humorless wankers.

### The Volohk Conspiracy ([www.volohk.com](http://www.volohk.com))

**Slant: Rightish, but not a dick about it.**

Eugene Volohk, the proprietor of this fine Conspiracy, takes a refreshing stance on political blogging in that his posts are both insightful and copious. With new posts coming in at just about every hour of the day, there's always something new with a correspondingly interesting spin to it.

The computer-programmer-turned-lawyer Volohk certainly has an eye for exciting political insights, but he definitely lacks an eye for aesthetics. Come on Gene, learn what fonts are! And the orange and black text with green? Good God! You'd think a colorblind person came up with this design.

With the nature of blogs being so personal and transient, it's often hard to find just one site that jives with your particular worldview. Perhaps you are looking for a convenient amalgam?

The politics section of Technorati ([politics.technorati.com](http://politics.technorati.com)) tracks the blog chatter about particular issues and presents it in an up-to-the-second Letterman-esque top-10 list. It's a great way to see what the big fuss is about. Technorati also offers a convenient way to see all of the most recent posts from political bloggers based on their particular liberal or conservative background. It's a great way to see both sides of a common argument. Or maybe it's just plain fun to scream at your computer about how wrong the other side is. •

# Historical Poli-Fun

by Brian Garrison

## Notable Presidents:

Martin Van Buren, #8 (1837-41)  
Bald + sweet mutton chops

William Henry Harrison, #9 (1841)  
President for a month

John Tyler, #10 (1841-45)  
Portrait gives appearance of third leg

Franklin Pierce, #14 (1853-57)  
Tried to buy Cuba

James A. Garfield, #20 (1881)  
Attended Western Reserve Eclectic Institute

William McKinley #25, (1897-1901)  
Highest mountain (base to peak) named after him

Warren G. Harding, #29 (1921-23)  
Cool name

## Political Ideologies for Famous Personages:

Napoleon: Democrat  
Genghis Kahn: Republican  
Confucius: Independence  
Buddha: Green  
Socrates: Prohibition  
Henry David Thoreau: Libertarian  
e.e. cummings: Reform  
Hitler: Nazi  
Gandhi: Pacifist  
Jesus: Family Values

THE DAILY SHOW WITH JON STEWART PRESENTS

# AMERICA

(THE BOOK)

\*\*\*

A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction



With a Foreword by Thomas Jefferson

## American "Democracy" 101 with Jon Stewart

by Lisa Hawver

With a foreword by the extremely late Thomas Jefferson, which includes the ex-president begging for a date with Halle Berry, **America: A Citizen's Guide to Democracy Inaction** by Jon Stewart, et al, is sure to be a bestseller. Laid out as a textbook, **America** is a college student's dream for a required history book—too bad that will most likely never happen. Oh well, we can all dream can't we? From the beginning, the book is crammed with profanity, sarcastic diagrams, and crude pictures—Alright!

If you tried to pass this book off as an actual educational resource, you wouldn't be stretching the truth too far.

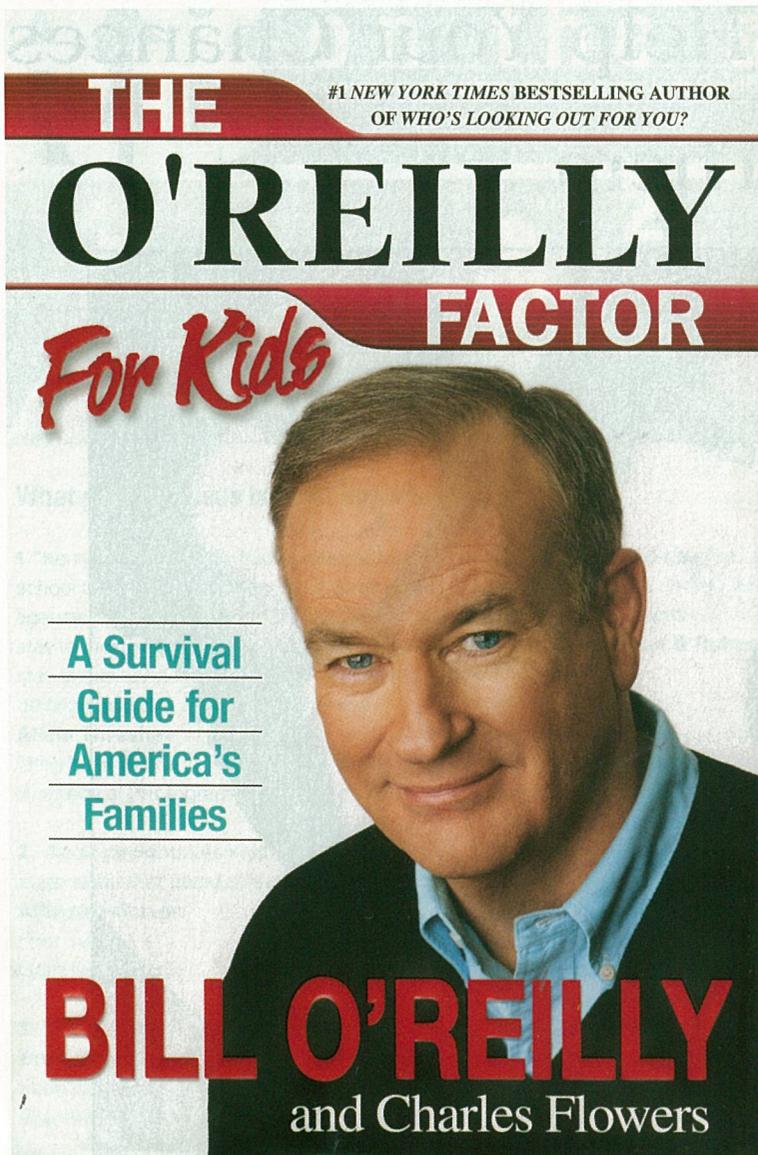
Surprisingly, the book has much validity to it, only with Stewart's twisted humor added on. The chapter about the president explains many of the duties of our commander-in-chief, and the limitations the president has in the lawmaking process. In this same chapter, there is a chart outlining the positions in the President's cabinet and what they do. For example, the Secretary of Defense "... initiates the chant 'Fight! Fight! Fight!' [and is] also in charge of kicking sand in the face of Secretary of State." Not your typical definition, but it's not necessarily false either.

However informational it is, Jon Stewart's main goal of writing **America** was to tell us all that he thinks the American government is hypocritical, ironic, and just plain wrong. Merely saying that wouldn't add up to the 300 pages that he wrote, though. No, nothing would have been more sufficient than Jon's sarcastic and hilarious guide to how and why America's government is so messed up. After reading this book, I now know what the Supreme Court justices look like—naked. I also know the true breakdown of those \$2000.00 a plate campaign fundraiser dinners—About \$1,937 of it goes towards negative ads about the other party's candidate. What else could Americans possibly need to know?

There are also numerous comical games to play in this book. One of them involves CSPAN (I will say no more), and yet another involves color-by-number with the U.S. Senate. If you're feeling really ambitious, break out some dice and pawns from a Monopoly game and play the "Game of the Presidency!" Be careful not to land on "scandal" or "assassination attempt" on your way to the big prize, the "post-presidency" golfing green.

Complete with a pullout wall poster, certificate of completion, and 2004 election guide, **America** is worth the twenty-five dollars. Not only do you get complete customer satisfaction, but you also get a little piece of Jon Stewart's heart sealed with a kiss in a little envelope on the back cover. Okay, so you only get the poster. Better luck next time. •





# The O'Reilly Factor for Kids: A Survival Guide for American Families

by Dieter Laskowski

When you think of people who would write advice books, you don't think of Bill O'Reilly, the opinionated host of Fox News' *The O'Reilly Factor*. You especially wouldn't think of him as the author for a new advice book for kids.

Bill O'Reilly's *The O'Reilly Factor for Kids: A Survival Guide for American Families* is the fifth book written by O'Reilly. It covers a variety of subjects, ranging from bullies, parents, and siblings, to death, god, and politics. O'Reilly inserts his own personal anecdotes, speaking of his childhood hardships. We discover that he scrounged for hockey gear when he was a kid

because he couldn't afford it, and was involved in a painting accident after which he and his friends had to sneak back during the night and cut down a bush.

O'Reilly also includes, at the beginning of every chapter, mail that he's received from teenage viewers of *The Factor*, depicting their personal struggles and framing the chapter to come. Most surprising in the book are the "Instant Messages," which are reminiscent of Goofus and Gallant from the children's magazine *Highlights*. Instead of those two characters, we are presented with O'Reilly's "Pinhead" and "Smart Operator." O'Reilly expresses Pinheads as people who try to impress their friends by doing something stupid, while Smart Operators always keep their word and take responsibility for their actions. These Instant Messages include acronyms, presumably the ones teens use, although I've only heard of one that he uses (TTYL). No worries for adults though; O'Reilly realizes that adults don't "instant-message with quite the same ease or frequency" as teens do, so he's included a glossary at the end of the book. TUFGB0 (Thank you for the glossary Bill O'Reilly).

Despite his somewhat ineffective attempt to connect with teens on the instant messaging level, O'Reilly has some very good advice for today's youth. He identifies many real problems, gets to the root of them and explains that "not everyone is having sex" or "you're not cool if you do drugs" to get the point across. Some of O'Reilly's advice is very questionable, though. According to him, if a friend lies to you it's "poison to the friendship" and to Bill O'Reilly, once is too much. "If a kid lies to his parents, he will lie to you; if a classmate cheats in school, he or she will cheat you," etc.

The friendship issues aside, if today's teens picked up on at least half of his lessons, America would be a better place. But if they picked up on all his lessons, the world would be a scary place. The advice I'd give with this book is to be careful what advice to take. Bill O'Reilly gets a lot right, but he still has some work to do himself. •



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376 Jefferson Plaza (Next to the Halloween Shop)

# WORLD on the street

compiled and photographed by Jodi Goldberg



## Q: What political issue is most important to you?

**1** "Kerry is offering that if you graduate high school and work for some type of government agency, their college would be paid for if they stay in their own state. Students do not always stay in their own state, this concept needs to be planned out in a more efficient way."

**Alicia Thresher**

Third Year  
Biomedical Photography Communications

**2** "Abortion rights. As a young female, it is a huge issue that could affect us greatly."

**Allison Johnson**

First Year  
Graphic Design

**3** "I think political issues are BS."

**Ernie Roszkowski**

Fourth Year  
Graphic Design

**4** "The way in which gay marriage issue is resolved shows how a politician will react to most other political issues."

**Joe Kardamis**

Third Year  
Computer Science

**5** "Character. George Bush knows where he stands. He is a man of character and a strong leader. John Kerry is on every side of the issue, he has no true vision or plan."

**Tim Wicks**

Fourth Year  
Applied Networking System Administration

**6** "Gay rights and abortion. Everyone should have equal rights and do what they want without harassment."

**Katie Henderson & Rebecca Howe**

First Year  
Photography

**7** "Social programming, such as welfare and government funded healthcare; instead of taking away from needed programs."

**Kris Amar**

Second Year  
Micro Electronic Engineering

**8** "Whether the draft is really true or false, I have heard so many rumors both ways."

**Sara Stryjewski**

Third Year  
Graphic Design

"Bringing the troops home—they are dying for a useless effort. They need to come home."

**Mogogo Ermis**

Fourth Year  
Business

"Stem cell research. There is so much untapped potential there, besides the unethical issues, it could change our world greatly."

**Alex Popkin**

Fourth Year  
Illustration

"The war in Iraq. It is not a war anymore, it is an occupation."

**Rahul Gupta**

First Year  
Micro Electronic Engineering

"Social Security. Being in college, I have to go into the real world soon, so I need to be aware of my future."

**Joanna Dobeck**

First Year  
Undeclared Engineering

"Economic issues. They affect me and my country especially. As an international student from South Africa, it is important for me to understand the economic decisions made."

**Janak Chhita**

Fourth Year  
Graphic Media

"The United States becoming more isolationist, the US is projecting its power ignorantly ruining our standing in the world."

**Jared Albright**

Third Year  
Graphic Media

"The draft. It could mean that I have to go to Iraq."

**Brooks Przybylek**

First Year  
Mechanical Engineering

"Gay marriage. Having a lot of gay friends, I don't understand why they cannot get married—it is their happiness that is most important."

**Jessie Mazzocchi**

First Year  
Graphic Design



# PLATFORMS

## WHAT DO THESE GUYS STAND FOR?

compiled by Frances Cabrera, Lauren Dellaquilla, Brian Garrison, and Erhardt Graeff  
illustrations by Michael Norton



**Badnarik**

### **Abortion**

#### **Badnarik**

- Opposes government control over abortion.
- No tax funds to pay for abortions.
- Abortion can be made illegal, but leave it to the states.
- Streamline the adoption process.

#### **Bush**

- Opposes all forms of abortion except in cases of rape, incest or to spare the mother's life.
- Seeks to ban abortion.
- Wants to put an end to taxpayer funding of abortion.
- Will allow federal funding of research using existing stem cell lines.

#### **Kerry**

- Supports abortion rights.
- Will not change or try to overturn Roe v. Wade.
- Using embryos in stem cell research is valuable to our country and should continue to be utilized as a means of research.

#### **Nader**

- Supports a women's right to choose and does not want the government to be involved.
- Let women privately decide.

### **Budget & Economy**

#### **Badnarik**

- Base currency on gold to avoid inflation and dissolve the Federal Reserve.
- Eliminate minimum wage laws, creating viable entry-level jobs.
- End federally mandated minority set-asides. Eliminate deficit spending.
- Veto any unbalanced budget.
- Eliminate corporate welfare.

#### **Bush**

- Stimulate job growth through tax cuts and breaks to businesses.
- End the double taxation corporations experience by ending the taxation of dividends that stockholders receive.
- Extend expired unemployment benefits and create a program that gives Americans access to job training.
- Call for the jobless to get up to \$3000 for help with job searches and other expenses, in return for going off unemployment.

- Reduce deficit by holding spending increases to four percent.
- Make his \$1.7 trillion tax cut permanent and review how to simplify the tax code.
- Cut the federal deficit in half in five years.
- More free-trade pacts.
- The benefits of economic openness outweigh the costs of jobs lost through outsourcing.

#### **Kerry**

- Repeal tax cuts for wealthy.
- Increase child tax credit.
- Undo deficit trend with eye on corporate loopholes and spending.
- Restore 1990s tax rates for those earning more than \$200,000, but make other tax cuts permanent.
- Cut taxes on businesses by five percent.
- Alter corporate taxes to discourage offshore outsourcing.
- Raise the minimum wage to \$7, and index it to inflation.
- Spending on schools and non-oil energy sources will help create 3 million jobs.
- Halve the deficit in his first term.
- Invest in new technology-based jobs.

#### **Nader**

- End huge corporate subsidies and military budget waste.
- Focus on job creation, equal pay for women, and living wages for all workers.
- Stop exporting jobs.
- Increase corporate taxes.
- Tax stock and bond sales.
- Retain estate tax.

### **Crime**

#### **Badnarik**

- Require offenders to compensate their victims.
- Eliminate federal crime laws leaving state and local police departments to do their jobs.
- By executive order on the first day in office, he will instruct the DEA to cease the persecution of medical marijuana users.
- Will advocate that all states legalize medical marijuana.



**Kerry**



**Bush**



**Nader**

- Pardon all persons incarcerated for non-violent drug offenses.
- Begin a policy of dismantling the War on Drugs and establish policies that take drug abuse out of the realm of law enforcement and treat it as a health problem.
- All law enforcement should be local; treason and counterfeiting are the only true federal crimes.

#### **Bush**

- Supports the death penalty as a deterrent to crime.
- Has given \$23 million for more drug testing in schools.
- Reduce illegal drug usage by 10 percent over two years.

#### **Kerry**

- Opposes the death penalty "other than in cases of real international and domestic terrorism."
- Fund drug rehabilitation programs.
- Has "zero tolerance" of gang violence and plans to create a better enforcement surrounding the growing problem.
- Is a supporter of the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms, but believes that regulations need better enforcement, and that we need to "close down gun show loopholes."

#### **Nader**

- Opposes the death penalty, as it kills innocent people and does not deter criminals.
- End corporate crime, as it has a large economic impact on the country.

### **Education**

#### **Badnarik**

- Deregulate schools so private solutions can work.
- Federal government should not be involved with education.

#### **Bush**

- Passed his No Child Left Behind Act, which increased testing of third–eighth graders.
- Supports vouchers to allow students from low-performing schools to go to private schools.
- Budget proposal would increase spending on poor school districts and children with disabilities.
- The plan would cut spending on vocational education, family literacy programs, arts in education, dropout prevention, and more.
- Budget proposal, if passed, will mark a 43% increase in federal education spending since Bush took office.

#### **Kerry**

- Establish \$3.2 billion community service plan for high school students that would qualify them for the equivalent of their states' four-year public college tuition if they perform two years of national service.
- Provide a tax credit for every year of college on the first \$4,000 paid in tuition (credit would cover 100 percent of the first \$1000 and 50 percent on the rest).
- Opposes private school vouchers.
- Too much emphasis is placed on tests for measuring student achievement, when there are additional factors such as attendance and parental satisfaction that should be examined.

#### **Nader**

- Teach civics, not occupation.
- Less Standardized testing in K–12.
- Let people choose schools.

### **Environment**

#### **Badnarik**

- Strict "polluter pays" policies.
- Eliminate EPA permits to pollute.
- Hold both government and corporate polluters responsible and individually liable.
- Protect the environment by defending property rights.
- Allow private groups to acquire and preserve federal land after securing legal agreements to preserve and protect them.
- Oppose the use of "eminent domain" (taking of private land by force).
- Promote the development of alternative fuels, recycled products, and environmental innovation by allowing a responsible free market to thrive.

#### **Bush**

- Supports oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- Opposes the Kyoto Protocol.
- Gave \$1.7 billion to make hydrogen cars common by 2020.
- Supports 1.5 mpg increase for SUVs, light trucks by 2007.
- Provide \$4 billion in tax incentives for new energy technologies and conservation.
- Favors more logging on federal lands to create jobs and prevent fires.
- Favors storing used reactor fuel from commercial plants in Nevada bedrock.
- Seeks a "Clean Skies Initiative" to cut power plant emissions.

#### **Kerry**

- Opposes oil exploration in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- Promotes clean, renewable fuel sources, especially ethanol.

- Push new gas requirements and push hybrid cars and hydrogen fuel.
- Set goal of 20 percent of energy supplied by renewable sources by 2020.
- Invest \$10 billion in automobile fuel efficiency, \$5 billion in hydrogen research, and \$10 billion in clean coal.
- Favors clearing brush and timber only around communities to prevent fires.
- Voted against Kyoto Protocol, but wrote legislation to cut greenhouse gas emissions.
- Favors keeping used reactor fuel at commercial plants.
- Pledges tougher enforcement of air pollution laws.
- Would lead a "Restore America's Waters" campaign to protect rivers, lakes, and reservoirs.

#### **Nader**

- Opposes oil exploration in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- Invest in renewable energies such as wind and solar power.
- Do not subsidize energy interests, but rather promote sustainable energy.
- Strengthen toxic standards.
- Move away from fossil fuels.
- Push for more efficient automobiles and energy sources.

### **Gay Rights**

#### **Badnarik**

- Marriage is a contract between individuals in which government should not interfere.
- Supports the right of all individuals to enter into contracts of their choosing.
- Will oppose and veto any federal legislative attempt to prohibit gay marriage.
- Government should not interfere with, or prevent companies from offering benefits to same-sex couples.

#### **Bush**

- Favors a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages.
- Supports "Don't ask, don't tell" policy in the military.
- Opposes gay adoptions.
- Opposes expanding federal hate crime legislation to cover sexual orientation.

#### **Kerry**

- Believes being gay is not a choice.
- Against gay marriage but backs benefits and rights for gay couples.
- Opposes constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

- Supporter of partnership rights, including property and hospital visitation rights of same-sex partners.
- Favors allowing gay men and women to serve openly in military.
- Supports adoption by gay men and lesbians.
- Wants to expand federal hate crimes legislation to include sexual orientation.

#### **Nader**

- Get rid of gay discrimination completely.
- Backs same sex marriage.
- Favors allowing gay men and women to serve openly in military.
- Supports strengthening hate crimes legislation to include sexual orientation.

### **Government Reform**

#### **Badnarik**

- Cut operations, cut taxes, and cut spending.
- Every regulator we fire creates 150 new jobs.
- Feels campaign finance reform is incumbency protection.

#### **Bush**

- Signed into law the "Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002," which prevents unions and corporations from making unregulated soft-money donations to national political parties, raises individual donation limits from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and places restrictions on special interest television advertisements in the final days of an election season.

#### **Kerry**

- Believes there should be a national holiday for Election Day.
- Ensure that every vote be counted through new polling technologies.
- Against "soft money" within the government systems.

#### **Nader**

- Abolish Electoral College.
- Put a "None of the above" selection on ballots.
- Get citizens more involved in government.
- Publicly finance elections.
- Give third parties more ability to participate.

### **Gun Control**

#### **Badnarik**

- Uncompromising support of individuals' right to keep and bear arms.
- Repeal all unconstitutional gun laws.
- Law-abiding gun owners are vital to our nation's freedom and self-defense.
- Opposes the renewal of the assault weapon ban.

#### **Bush**

- It is an individual's right to own a gun.
- Believes in restrictions on gun control within reason.
- During his term, the assault weapon ban expired and was not renewed.

- Protect gun makers from lawsuits.

#### **Kerry**

- Close gun show loophole by requiring background checks.
- Make child safety locks a requirement.
- The Democratic Party should not be supporting the NRA.

#### **Nader**

- Supports trigger locks.
- Seeks to license gun owners.
- Supports bans on certain weapons.

### **Healthcare**

#### **Badnarik**

- Tax credits for personal Health Savings Accounts.
- Healthcare is not a responsibility of federal government.
- End excess regulation of pharmaceuticals, healthcare providers, and insurance companies.
- Physicians will be held liable for malpractice, but not for problems beyond their control.

#### **Bush**

- Extend healthcare to 17 million of 45 million uninsured Americans by allowing them more opportunities to choose their plans and providers.
- Advocate health savings accounts that allow people to choose a low premium, high-deductible plan joined with tax-free savings.
- Give incentives to small businesses to offer private health plans to employees instead of government plans.
- Believes Americans should take a larger decision-making role in choosing healthcare that specifically meets their needs instead of using the same government plan for all Americans.
- Supports reducing drug costs for low-income patients.
- Wants to place a limit on patient lawsuits against HMOs.

#### **Kerry**

- Wants to close loopholes and offer financial incentives to lower drug costs.
- Allow patients to sue HMOs and collect money for damages.
- Tighten rules on drug companies and focus on getting seniors and veterans prescription drug benefits.
- Fund national healthcare by letting people buy into the government system, rescinding tax cuts, and cutting waste.
- Plans to let people choose their own plan.
- "Healthcare is a right, not a privilege."
- For legalizing the importation of less expensive drugs from Canada.
- Believes the system needs a reevaluation and wants to eliminate wasted costs within the system.

#### **Nader**

- Challenge drug industry and negotiate for cheaper drugs.
- Move toward universal healthcare.
- Healthcare as it is now is just wasting time and money excessively.
- More funding.
- Control medicine prices.
- Supports a single-payer program with full coverage for all.

### **Homeland Security**

#### **Badnarik**

- Mideast hatred comes from US actions, not US lifestyle.
- Bring home all US troops from all countries.
- Foreign policy should be one of national defense, and not international offense.
- Under no circumstances can "homeland security" be legitimately construed as a reason to violate basic rights or civil liberties.

#### **Bush**

- Has tripled the department's budget.
- No draft will be reinstated.
- Supports missile defense.
- Bush has increased military pay by 4% per year starting in 2003, and has allocated funds to improve military housing.
- Has created centers to collect and analyze threat information, and created stricter laws regulating ports.
- After the U.S.'s intelligence agencies came under attack, Bush called for a reorganization of the FBI.
- Strongly supports the Patriot Act.

#### **Kerry**

- Backs letting the Patriot Act expire without congressional approval.
- Reform domestic intelligence.
- Start targeted-alert system.
- Track and stop terrorists.
- Protect our borders and shores without intruding upon personal liberties.
- Harden vulnerable targets, including nuclear plants, trains, and subways against possible attack.
- Improve domestic readiness and ensure that first responders have everything they need to protect their communities.
- Protect our personal liberties as well as our personal security.

#### **Nader**

- We can cut military spending without affecting national security.
- Stop work on the missile defense system.
- Repeal the Patriot Act in order to restore and expand civil liberties.

## Immigration

### Badnarik

- Eliminate restrictions on work permits.
- No welfare incentives for immigrants.
- Those who are not criminals or terrorists should be free to enter the US at any Customs and Immigration station.

### Bush

- Bush is in favor of giving immigrants temporary worker cards but does not agree with giving immigrants amnesty.
- Believes immigration is good for the economy.
- Proposes increasing the budget used to enforce immigration laws.

### Kerry

- Supports temporary workers and earned amnesty.
- Immigrants can earn their legalization, even if they enter illegally.
- Any immigrant in America for over 5 or 6 years who "stays out of trouble" and pays taxes should be granted American citizenship.

### Nader

- Guest workers are good.
- Remove the quota discriminations.
- Support democracy abroad to decrease need to immigrate.
- Opposes open borders.

## Foreign Policy/Relations

### Badnarik

- No more interventionist foreign policies.
- Opposes foreign aid of any kind as unconstitutional.
- Withdraw from the United Nations and evict them allowing for self-determination in all nations.
- End the war in Iraq and bring troops home.

### Bush

- The spread of nuclear weapons is one of the largest threats against the U.S.
- Hopes to deal with the North Korean nuclear program through multi-party talks instead of bilateral talks.
- Does not agree with a "global test," or getting UN approval before using military action.
- Believes in preemptive action.
- Believes in an aggressive attack on terrorism that relies on offense instead of defense.
- Supports free trade if it means giving American products an advantage overseas.
- Repealed the steel tariff he imposed in 2002 and supports the World Trade Organization's decisions.

### Kerry

- Supported decision to go to war, but now says he did so based on faulty U.S. intelligence.

- Replace U.S. provisional authority in Iraq with U.N. leadership.
- Boost number of Americans in uniform worldwide by 40,000.
- Put Saddam Hussein on trial in Iraq before a combined Iraqi-international tribunal.
- Plans to win the global war against terror; stop the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons; and promote democracy, freedom, and opportunity around the world by winning peace in Iraq.
- Plans to launch new alliances in order to use every resource to defeat terrorists before they strike again.
- Believes we need to modernize America's military to meet newer threats of terrorism and proliferation.
- Believes it is necessary to free America from its dependence on Mideast oil by growing our economy and protecting the environment.
- 120-day review of all free-trade agreements.

### Nader

- Spend less on Armed Forces.
- Stop supporting oligarchs, dictatorships, and authoritarian regimes.
- Invest in diplomacy to prevent and resolve conflicts before they become violent.
- Share our technologies abroad to help end hunger, malnutrition, environmental abuse, AIDS, etc.
- Withdraw from Iraq in six months. Hold internationally supervised election in Iraq.
- Bush and Cheney should be impeached for the "five falsehoods" of the Iraq war.
- World Trade Organization fosters managed trade, not free trade.
- Import tariffs make American consumers suffer.
- End all trade restrictions for real free trade.
- Peace and free trade are mutually dependent.

## Social Security

### Badnarik

- Let workers manage their own retirement accounts.

### Bush

- Allow young workers to opt not to put money in social security accounts, but to put it in their own personal investment accounts.

### Kerry

- Opposes privatizing Social Security, extending the retirement age, and cutting benefits.

### Nader

- Opposes privatization, stating that Social Security will not run out of money.

## Tax Reform

### Badnarik

- Eliminate the IRS and all individual taxes.

### Bush

- The 2001 tax cuts equaling \$1.3 trillion over the next 10 years should be made permanent.
- The tax cuts will be paid by closing corporate loopholes and not by cash.

### Kerry

- Plans not to raise the taxes of people earning less than \$200,000, but will raise the taxes of those earning above \$200,000.
- Strengthening and protecting the financial state of the middle class is a high priority.
- Increase child tax credit.

### Nader

- Remove corporate loopholes.
- Tax necessities less, and potentially harmful luxuries (like alcohol and tobacco) more.

## Welfare & Poverty

### Badnarik

- Hand over all welfare to churches.
- Communities don't have rights, only individuals.

### Bush

- Bush believes charities and community service can best help those in need.
- One of the first actions he did while in office was establish faith-based initiatives.

### Kerry

- Supports the raising of minimum wage to \$7 an hour by 2007.
- Wants to create more affordable housing for lower and middle classes.

### Nader

- Ending poverty should be a priority.

just the

# FACTS

## Setting the Facts Straight Between Bush and Kerry

compiled by Mike Eppolito

### Tax Cuts Under Bush

53 percent of the tax cuts went to the highest earning 10 percent of the US population.

The most affluent Americans got an average tax cut of \$7661.

The bottom 60 percent got 13.7 percent of the tax cuts.

The top 20 percent now pays 63.5 percent of the total federal tax burden.

The top 20 percent pays 81 percent of all federal income taxes.

### Pell Grants Under Bush

The number of Pell Grants has increased from 3.9 million the year before he took office to 5.1 million for the most recent academic year.

Funds used for Pell Grants have grown from a little less than \$8 billion in the academic year that was underway when Bush took office to nearly \$12.7 billion three years later.

During Bush's presidential campaign in 2000, he promised to increase the maximum size of Pell Grants to \$5100 for first-year students, but the maximum is currently at \$4050.

### Loss of Jobs Under Bush

1.6 million private sector jobs have been lost.

2.7 million manufacturing jobs have been lost.

As of the release of the most recent figures in August, the net loss in total employment has been 913,000.

1.7 million jobs have been added to the economy in the past year.

It is likely that Bush will become the first president since Hoover to end his term with payroll employment below what it was when they took office.

### Casualties in Iraq

According to **CNN.com** 1066 US servicemen and women had died from hostile action and other causes during the Iraq operation as of Oct. 5, with a total of 1205 for all coalition countries. Just over 88 percent of the coalition deaths have been American.

An estimate of deaths suffered by Iraqi Security forces, reported by both the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*, puts the figure at 750.

The current cost of the war in Iraq is just over \$120 billion.

### **Kerry's Voting Record**

**Bush originally accused Kerry of voting "for tax increases" 350 times but the number has recently been reduced to 98 times. 43 of those 98 votes were for budget bills to set target levels for spending in the coming fiscal years, and did not raise taxes. A majority of the 98 votes were on procedural measures, such as votes to end debate or votes on amendments, and not on the passage of the measure. In more than once instance, the 98-vote total counts multiple votes regarding each bill.**

**It has been claimed that Kerry voted "to raise gas taxes ten times," when in fact five of them were votes on a single measure, which resulted in an increase in gas prices back in 1993. Four of the others were against a vote to repeal the increase in 1993. The tenth vote was against temporarily suspending the entire federal gas tax during a period of high prices in 2000.**

### **Kerry's Plan for Healthcare**

Kerry's healthcare plan will not cover all Americans; several million will still be left uninsured. His plan increases coverage from the current 84 percent to an estimated 92 percent to 95 percent.

### **Kerry's Tax Plan**

Kerry's tax increase would affect approximately 471,000 small employers.

Kerry blames Bush for taking a \$5.6 trillion dollar surplus and turning it into a deficit, when in fact the figures Kerry is basing that statement on is a 10-year projection.



Campaign Finance Totals according to the Federal Elections Commission, as of 8-31-04

**Bush** - \$258,939,099

**Kerry** - \$233,985,144

## **THE RIT "GALLUP" POLL**



**compiled by Jon Bove, Brenna Cammeron, Dieter Laskowski, Andrew Brooks, and Ren Meinhart**

*Reporter surveyed 175 random students on both the academic and residential sides of campus, keeping to public, not-college-specific areas such as the Library, the Student Alumni Union, Gracie's, The Quarter Mile, and the Infinity Quad to name a few. We asked each individual who they were voting for in the upcoming election and which specific issue was most important to their decision-making process. More interesting will be finding out, come November 2, if this RIT sample matches the nation's verdict.*

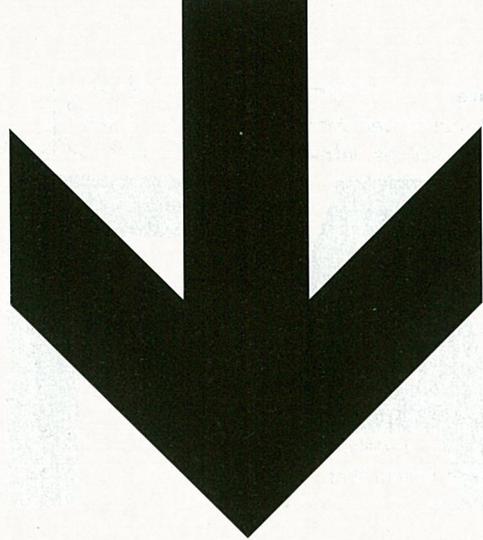
### **THE RESULTS**

Kerry/Edwards: 87  
Bush/Cheney: 52  
Nader/Camejo: 6  
Badnarik/Campagna: 5  
Undecided: 21  
Not Voting: 4

### **Issues Most Important to Surveyed Students**

War In Iraq: 43  
Foreign Policy: 30  
Economy: 22  
Character: 13  
Healthcare: 10  
Civil Liberties: 8  
Homeland Security: 8  
Women's Rights: 7  
Gay Rights: 6

Less frequent responses included: stem cell research, the environment, education, immigration Issues, taxes, Christian values, welfare, social security. "Not Bush" and "Not Kerry" were also mentioned.



# Three Rounds for President:

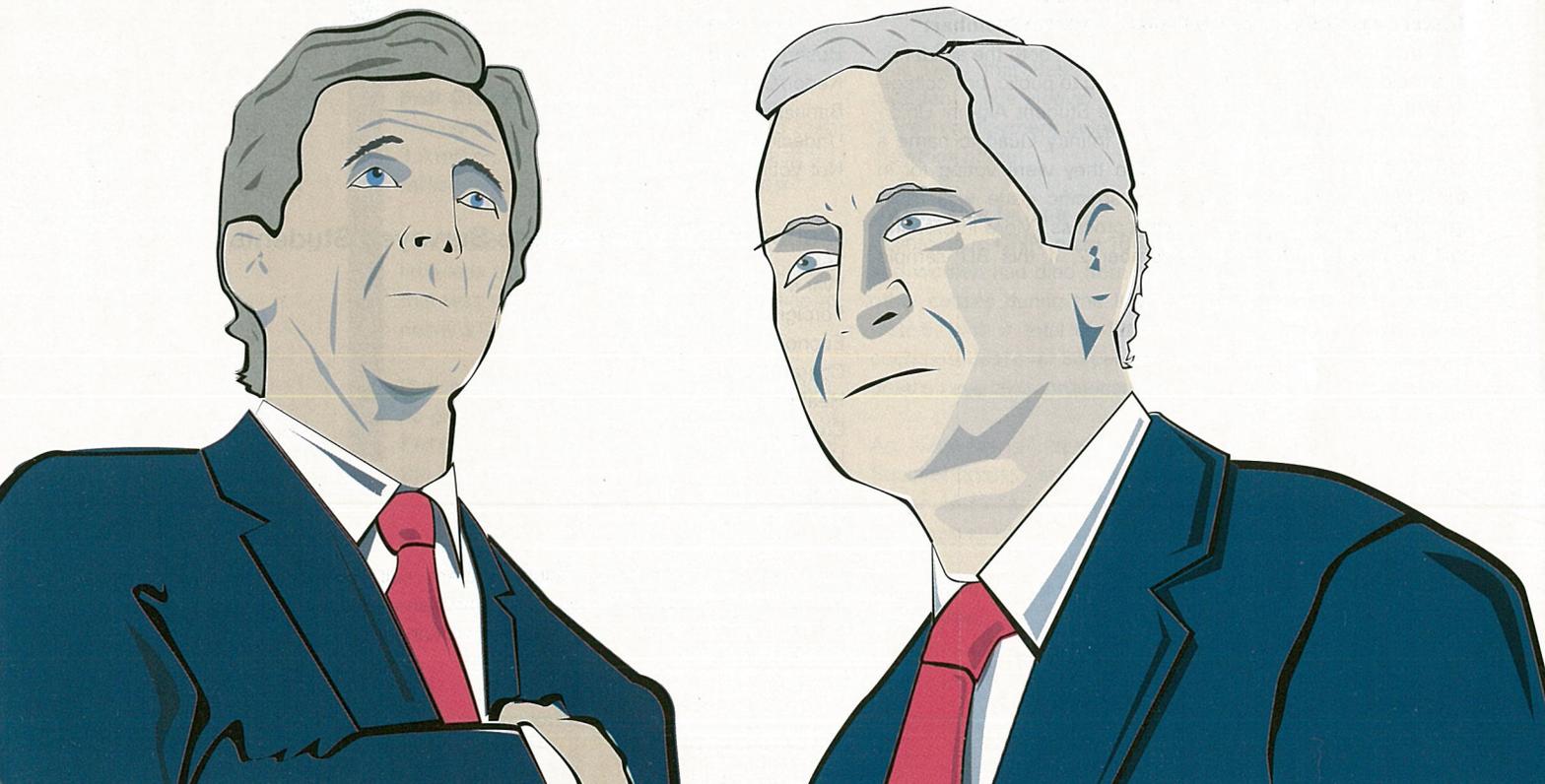
## A Recap of the Presidential Debates

by Bryan Hammer | illustrations by Joseph Guzman

Some might say that it will be one of the most important presidential elections in American history. With the two major candidates having major opposing views, the outcome of this election will no doubt create unique legislation. It is the privilege of American voters to influence the events to come in the next four years.

Most presidential elections are determined by a few undecided voters. This population of undecided voters is usually roughly twenty percent of the voting population, and the presidential debates are one of the most common resources that this population uses to determine which way their vote will swing. Candidates are under the most pressure during this time, because so often the outcome of the debates determines the outcome of the election. If you missed the action, here's a recap of some of the main points the candidates made.

**The first debate** concentrated on the war in Iraq and the war on terrorism. Senator Kerry emphasized throughout the debate that his main goal would be to repair world alliances that President Bush has "left in shatters". His ideas for holding summits with leaders of the world to discuss the problems in Iraq seem to indicate that he places a great deal of importance in creating a community among world leaders and dealing with problems that arise as a world community. However, so many times Senator Kerry described his plan as "better," without citing specific reasons why it would be better. Kerry called for stronger alliances and military, and more aggressive funding for the war in Iraq, and more efficient training of the Iraqi military forces. Kerry believed that Osama Bin Laden should have been more important than Saddam Hussein, and attacked the



president for diverting troops to Iraq. Kerry's stance on the war on terrorists is directed toward Al-Qaeda, although he agrees that we now have to solve the problems of Iraq. Some of these things like strengthening the military seem a bit odd, because America already spends more on our military than anyone else. It would have been nice for him to elaborate on some of his points for making things "better". How are we going to train the Iraqi military more efficiently? What is better, and why? These are the areas where Kerry seemed to come up short.

President Bush responded with items like "Seventy-five percent of Al-Qaeda's leaders have been killed or captured," showing his commitment to a strong attack on terrorists. Bush places his emphasis on his belief that free countries will resist terror, this being one of his reasons for validating the war on Iraq. Bush is also confident that sticking to his beliefs and showing the American people what he believes is the best way to win this election. He admits that many people have not agreed with his decisions, but they are ones that he stands behind. The president struggled for much of the debate with his words, and failed to be able to confidently ward off some attacks made by Kerry. Bush validated his decisions and his mistakes with the comment that being president is "hard work." It was a phrase he used some fifteen times, but by itself it hardly gave any real validation to some of his actions.

**The second debate** began with Kerry defending the accusations of him being a "flip-flopper." He called this a deception by the Bush campaign, trying to turn the spotlight away from the Bush administration's failure to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and on to him. He used the example of the Patriot Act, stating that he is for the act; however, he does not agree with how it has been applied by the current administration. This seemed to be a strong point for Kerry; because it was probably the first time he confronted and gave specific reasons why he believed the attacks against him were incorrect. He went on to attack Bush's failure to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act, and the loss of jobs that America has faced. Kerry emphasized throughout the debates his plan to roll back tax cuts for people making over \$200,000 a year, and using that to fund his programs.

Bush responded immediately, attacking Kerry's decision not to vote to approve more funding for the war, after he voted for the war. Kerry responded by saying he thought Saddam Hussein was a threat, but he didn't agree with how Bush had dealt with the invasion because of his lack of involving the United Nations. Kerry also attacked the lack of planning for reconstruction as one of the main reasons we are facing so much conflict now.

Bush consistently brought up Kerry's record of voting for tax increases, saying that rolling back the tax cuts for people making over \$200,000 would hurt small businesses. Bush was asked about his validation for the war on Iraq despite the failure to find weapons of mass destruction, and the fact that some of the criteria he used to go to war with Iraq could be

applied to many other nations. He responded in his steadfast way, saying that because of the events of 9/11, America had to confront possible threats. Bush was consistent on this point and promised never to waver when it comes to confronting the threats of terrorism on America. However, he failed to comment why he chose Iraq instead of another threatening country. Bush was critical of Kerry's attitude on the war in Iraq, noting that not taking our current allies seriously is an insult, and stating that calling the war in Iraq wrong and a disaster is not a way to encourage people to help out. Bush pointed out that both men believed that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction before the war started, but Bush still failed to take responsibility that it was his administration that produced the incorrect intelligence, misleading Congress in their decision to go to war.

**In the third and final debate**, the emphasis was switched to more domestic issues like healthcare and gay rights. Senator Kerry identified that America is one of the richest countries in the world, yet so many are still without healthcare. Kerry advocated making healthcare available to everyone, a defining characteristic of his campaign. Kerry argued that giving everyone healthcare will allow people to get illnesses discovered and cured earlier, therefore reducing costs of treating serious illnesses.

Bush discussed his plan to bring healthcare costs down by using new technology, and to reform medical liability laws to reduce the amount of malpractice lawsuits. This, he says, will help people afford insurance, and will reduce Medicare costs.

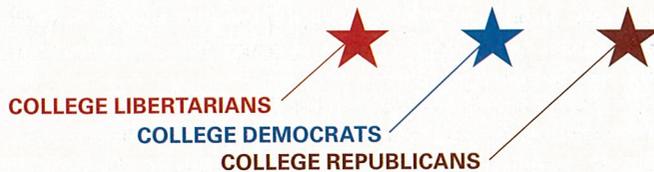
Gay rights and marriage laws were also an important topic in this debate. While both candidates oppose gay marriage, they have different ways of dealing with the issues and concerns of the gay community. President Bush advocated for a Constitutional Amendment to define marriage as an institution between a man and a woman. He said that this is to keep state courts and judges from defining marriage, and in turn forcing other states to accept such rulings. Senator Kerry, while agreeing that marriage is between a man and a woman, made the point that America has to respect gay partnerships. Kerry expressed his support for partnership rights in certain conditions that remain unclear, and said that states have been able to govern themselves well enough in regards to such issues, so he wouldn't want to create federal legislation to control them.

Many times it is difficult to see who is right and wrong, and sometimes there is no right or wrong—just different ways of dealing with a situation. Full transcripts of the debates can be found at [www.cspan.org](http://www.cspan.org). Often in these public arenas, candidates and other politicians will report incorrect information. To check facts, and to see who lied about what, go to [www.factcheck.com](http://www.factcheck.com). To really get to know the candidates, you have to be proactive. The most important thing is to stay educated, and to research your own answers. •



(from left) Joe Pawelski, President of the College Democrats, Anastasia Margolina, and Luke Carter meet (right) Samera Barend at her campaign headquarters opening in Chile, NY. Samera is an Independent running for U.S. Congress. If elected, she would be the youngest woman elected to Congress. Kim Weiselberg/REPORTER Magazine

# STUDENT DEBATES



On October 21, representatives from the College Republicans, College Democrats, and College Libertarians met for a debate in the *Reporter* office. While invited, representatives from the College Socialists were unfortunately unable to attend. The following is an edited transcript of that debate. It is intended to offer a student perspective on the important issues facing our country as well and a look at each student's opinions of the candidates and the political parties they represent.

### Jon Bove (Reporter Sr. Editor, Moderator)

Can you each discuss your party's stance in regards to the balance of civil liberties and national security?

### Jason Marini (College Republicans)

Things like the Patriot Act do suspend some liberties that we had before. I think the Patriot Act provides police officers, the FBI, and the intelligence agencies a lot more freedoms than they had before. Whether those infringe on our personal liberties is kind of subjective.

### Tim Wicks (College Republicans)

All it does is provide the authorities with more, with a consolidated power to do the same things they have always done, and legally be able to do. We still have to bring up things to a judge. Judges are still involved. I don't think either candidate is trying to take away personal liberties. It is kind of a question of how much authority do we give our law enforcement.

### Kevin Tierney (College Democrats)

The Democratic position has always been that we need to find some way to protect our country from terrorists and suspending liberties is not the way. The Patriot Act does some great stuff; it does give freedom to police officers and the FBI. There are some things that just do not need to be there: private search warrants, being able to look at what library books you have taken out. I mean, that is just not necessary. We can still protect our country without knowing what someone took out at the library. Or without having private search warrants. We always have to keep that in mind, that these organizations don't always have people that we can trust. And the Democratic position here is that we need to find a balance between not losing all our liberties and ensuring that they can do their job.

### Joe Pawelski (College Democrats)

95 percent of the Patriot Act is good. Kerry voted for the Patriot Act. The FBI and the CIA having exchange of information definitely need to be there but there are some basic infringements on our rights that go against the Constitution and we should not go down that pathway.

### Dawn Pepin (College Libertarians)

Parts of the Patriot Act definitely violate the Constitution, and the Constitution backs our government. If we do not have that, the lawmakers can start eroding other liberties. That is just something the government cannot do. The government cannot make laws that go

against its own fundamentals. Libertarians run on a very strict policy of small government and so do the Republicans. Yet every time they are in power, they create something else like the Department of Homeland Security.

**Tim** | The only issues that I have heard are that there is a problem with the private search warrants and looking at library books. If you are a suspected terrorist we should be able to find out what you have been reading. I don't want people to know that we are investigating the terrorists. It would let the terrorists know what we are doing. We have always been doing things in secret. It is not going against our liberties; it is actually smart law enforcement.

**Joe** | To add to that, you know, people got arrested after 9/11, after the Patriot Act was drafted. Americans that were law abiding citizens were arrested because of silly things; were turned in for saying stuff. That is pretty good evidence of liberties being taken away. And also, it prevents us from protesting. That is unconstitutional. We should not allow that.

**Dawn** | Absolutely.



**Jon** | What steps does your party advocate to ensure that another terrorist attack like 9/11 does not occur?

**Kevin** | Well, Kerry has a lot of great plans. First, for example, the Department of Homeland Security currently is under-funded. It needs about twenty something billion dollars more and Kerry will ensure that that money goes to it. In addition 95 percent of the cargo coming into our ports isn't even checked. Kerry wants to make sure that everything coming in is checked.

Kerry also wants to secure our borders more. We really need to close the gaps in our security that Bush has left open.

**Joe** | We out-sourced the job of catching Osama Bin Laden in Afghanistan, and we can see how Osama Bin Laden has still not been captured.

**Dawn** | Terrorist attacks can never be 100 percent prevented. Taking away our civil liberties is not the way to do it. But, we do have to protect our borders. We will never be able to check 100 percent of the cargo. It is not realistic, so we need to think of other ways than checking everything that comes into the country.

**Jason** | Ok, I got a good way: defeat the terrorists before they attack us. Which is what President Bush is doing worldwide. 18 out of the 19 ways that Kerry suggested to prevent another 9/11 or to protect the homeland have already been implemented by the Bush administration.

**Tim** | Right now there is more funding than ever before in our history going into homeland security. We have an increase in the border patrol combining that with new technology that they have never had before. Spreading the freedom of democracy across the world is what is going to put a large stop to the terrorist organizations.

**Kevin** | Well, the Libertarians mentioned it is not realistic to check 100 percent of the cargo, well anything is better than 0-5 percent. If we are not checking any of it at all, then we know that it is an easy avenue for them to take. It is not easy to stop an ideology. You can protect against it with homeland defense but even if we are going out there chasing them that will never truly stop them.

**Tim** | We still need to stay on the offensive no matter what. In any game you play with even the strongest defense and [your opponents] are still going to score points against you.



**Jon** | On to the topic of foreign policy, comment on your party's stance on the use of preemptive strikes. In what situations those types of strikes would be justified?

**Dawn** | We do not believe in preemptive strikes, we do not believe in war as a whole, especially over something that we cannot prove. Simply put, it is not our job to go around policing the world. We cannot go around blowing up countries because we think they are going to attack us, or we think they might, or we do not like the way their government is run. I love democracy, but we cannot force every other country to love democracy.

**Tim** | I think all people yearn for freedom. The fact is, we should be able to preemptive strike if there is a growing threat. We cannot continue doing the same things we have always been doing – diplomatic pressure, economic sanctions.

People are mad at us because they think we defied the UN. Well, there are countries, out there in the Middle East, who have been defying it for years. Why are they mad at us,

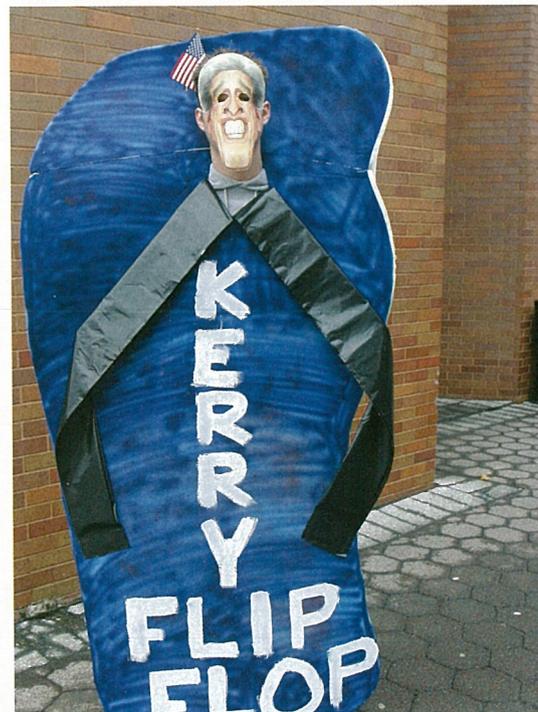
for actually doing something people have been trying to tell these countries for years?

**Jason** | That is one of the reasons I really like our president right now because if he gets a threat he responds to it. He is not going to let anyone mess with his country. I think intelligence suggested Saddam Hussein was a threat to the country. And Kerry believed that. They both looked at the same intelligence. We did not go up and blow up a country; we went and removed a dictator from power. Especially since we were threatened, with the intelligence as it was, it was the right course of action.

**Joe** | Kerry did vote for the war. Who wouldn't have voted for the war with the intelligence that was out? Kerry has not flip-flopped on that issue at all. Now that we are in Iraq, clearly the direction we are headed is not the proper one. We will not win this war the way we are going, and we not preventing terrorism. We are creating more terrorists.

**Kevin** | The Republicans attacked the UN about how sanctions did not work. Well, let's see, we have not found any weapons of mass destruction. Leading experts in the world say Saddam was likely trying to get sanctions removed so he could actually have a country again, and stopped making weapons of mass destruction because of that. So I say, sanctions were quite effective. It is just that President Bush did not want to see that.

**Tim Wicks of the college Republicans stands outside the library in a flip flop costume wearing a John Kerry mask. He was able to get a rise out of the democrats who were also campaigning.**  
Jodi Goldberg/REPORTER Magazine





(back) Bob Cook, Democratic candidate for County Clerk, talks to the College Democrats about his current campaign & Clerk experiences. Kim Weisberg/REPORTER Magazine

The neo-cons have had this idea that the UN is evil for a while. They don't like this whole idea of world government. Unfortunately you cannot go around doing what you want, and expect to remain a world power, and expect to remain a respected country in the world.

**Dawn** | I complete agree with what you said as far as people don't want world government. They make incredibly terrible rules. They don't want world government. They barely want a national government over there. They rely on a much different ideology than us. We have to understand that and respect that. And we need to leave Iraq immediately.

**Tim** | I want a president who's gonna protect American security. That's one reason I'm voting for Bush. He did go to the UN and it stinks that 15 nations on the UN Security Council have governments that are dictatorships. Dictators get to decide what is the international consensus.

**Kevin** | You're talking about all these dictatorships on the UN security council, but they are sovereign nations, and if we do not let them have a say in the world then they are just going to feel alienated and lash out. The fact that they do have a say prevents a lot of violence from them.

**Joe** | The biggest difference between the two candidates is the fact that, yes, with the intelligence information, going to war in Iraq seemed like a good idea and it seemed like a good reason for the preemptive strike. Our candidate believes that now that we know our information wasn't accurate it wasn't a good idea to make a preemptive strike, George Bush still thinks it was.



**Jon** | Let's move to the economy. Let's begin with something you brought up. What programs do you believe are essential, that your party has proposed in order to ensure the continued welfare of our people?

**Kevin** | Let's see, essential programs, some of the key points that Kerry is proposing, maybe not so much programs, but for example, if we are on the topic of the economy not giving tax credits to companies that out-source overseas. Not giving tax cuts to the richest Americans. Those are two of the key points for Kerry on the economy. Also, the amount of jobs that get shipped overseas is actually quite high and they are very high level jobs and the new jobs being created are on average \$8000 less in payment.

**Joe** | Kerry's main programs would be in energy. His main program is a push for energy independence. We have become the super power that we are because of the innovation of Americans. We have the ability to become an energy independent nation. Kerry is proposing a tax incentive for energy efficient cars to cut out the Middle East as far as oil. We can increase jobs in the United States; high tech jobs, jobs that people are forced to be educated about, you know, go to college for these things.

**Dawn** | The economic stance of our party in general is that the government is not incredibly good at running things like this. It should all be left up to the states. Nowhere in the Constitution does it say we need to provide economic solvency for these people, or anything like that. If Libertarians were in power federal taxes would hardly if at all exist. We don't believe in a lot of basically bureaucracy funding. Things like welfare should be run by the states. As far as No Child Left Behind, Libertarians do not believe in having a Dept. of Education. Public schools are not the way to go. They indoctrinate children more than anything else.

**Jason** | For the most part I'm going to agree with most everything she said...when the Democrats were talking about jobs earlier they said 1.6 million jobs had been lost total. Actually the net total is one half million. You can check that on factcheck.org. It's not President Bush's fault a lot of economic issues are not left up to the president. He did what he could by cutting taxes.

**Tim** | It's funny because we actually created 1.9 million jobs in the past 13 months. John Kerry and his liberal allies have blocked our energy plan multiple times. They blocked the drilling of our own oil in our own country. We must continue education, smart education, with accountability and standards. We should continue a limited welfare program

**Joe** | Number one; every war in our history except for this one has actually promoted our economy so why this war is being detrimental or why George W Bush is saying the war is making the economy bad is kind of confusing. I think the major point here is that we are sending funding right now under this administration to textile workers, factory workers, and laborers. We are not going to make money in pillowcases. The money is in technology and we've seen that. We don't need to split jobs and cut salaries to make more jobs. That's what the Bush administration has done.

**Jason** | George Bush is in support of technology to improve the economy and things like the environment. He is not in favor of restriction and litigation on things like drilling in Alaska and he is also funding a zero emissions power plant that is fueled by coal. The question was why isn't there a boom in the economy and that's because the attack was on our soil not somebody else's.



**Jon** | The next two topics are national healthcare and education. You may comment freely.

**Tim** | Privatization is the best way to market anything cheaper and of higher quality. With education we need to provide a school choice program. There are a lot of private schools and they are the most successful schools in America. We need to provide school choice so that people in a public school can provide the same exact tax money they were using for that public school to go to a private school.

**Jason** | On education there are two ends, the Democrats and the Libertarians. We are

halfway in-between. We think their should be some private vouchers and we do think there should be public education for those who cannot afford it because public education is the only way that poor people are going to advance in society. Otherwise, I would agree it could be all privatized.

**Joe** | First off, Kerry's health plan costs a lot of money, however George Bush's proposal is two trillion dollars higher than Kerry's proposal. Where is this money going to come from? That's a good question. The Bush administration took the name No Child Left Behind, a basically good bill supporting public schools, and tagged it on to their own bill, which has some flaws. It reduces funding based on test scores, so basically what's happening is that schools that are in inner cities, schools that have minorities, might perform differently. Our candidate believes the public should be educated and everyone has a right to the best education possible.

**Kevin** | Privatization is not the cure-all for everything. Just look at what happened in California with energy deregulation. You had people getting price gouged, and the state wasting millions of dollars.

**Dawn** | Privatization and capitalism is always the answer. I personally agree that the Republicans idea on education is a good first step; that somehow fostering competition in education is the way to get our children the best educated at the least cost. However, Libertarians in the future would like to see more of a push for privatization. We would hope to see corporations and other things like churches giving money to fund things like schooling. That would move us to privatized education where people could send their children to schools in which they believe in the ideologies being taught not something indoctrinated from the state.

As far as healthcare goes, it is not the federal governments business to provide health care. If we allow the government to fund health care, then we give them the right to say, well you cannot smoke, you cannot eat fatty food, because they are paying for it. That will chip away at our everyday common liberties.

**Tim** | The fact remains that the difference between Kerry's plan and Bush's is that Kerry wants healthcare government run. Their plan is a form of socialism and we disagree with that.

**Joe** | Even if we privatize health care, people who are sick still cannot be denied health

care. Someone who is very sick goes to the hospital; they are still going to be treated no matter what, and who pays for that? We are going to have to pay for it at some level. That's the advantage of public healthcare.

**Dawn** | Well, we don't have to pay for it. That's a totally socialistic plan. They don't get treatment unless they really need it. There are other philanthropic causes to get money for them. It doesn't need to be run through the government.

Democrats just love to say that every other first world nation has national healthcare. But why is every single great doctor from Europe and Canada is coming here? Why are all the European pharmaceutical companies merging with companies here?



**Jon** | Final question: In your mind what is the single most important issue facing voters for the upcoming election, and as a result of that issue, for whom should they cast their vote?

**Joe** | I believe historically America became a super power by being the innovators of the world. We are a melting pot of all kinds of people and are therefore able to produce the smartest combination of people. Stem Cell research is a major issue right now. I mean stem cell research could prolong life. It could be a cure all for a majority of sickness. George Bush has drawn an arbitrary limit on stem cell research.

Energy is another issue. We have an opportunity to be the leaders in fuel-efficient cars. Kerry is promoting a plan to bridge the gap between what we have right now and fuel cells.

**Kevin** | Just remember we have a major foreign policy issue. We got Iraq, and people need to

decide who is going to solve the issues there and Bush has failed for the last two years.

**Dawn** | There does not always need to be two parties. If you feel like you are voting for the lesser of two evils, do your homework find out where you really stand. If you believe that the government should stay out of your life and that the government should follow the simple rules it laid out in the Constitution, then vote for Badnarik. You really need to vote on where your beliefs really stand and become educated.. Do your homework, and vote for what you really care about.

**Tim** | I believe the single most important issue has almost come down to character. We need to pick a man who has the plans who has the vision who has a stance on something. Unfortunately, we really still do not know what John Kerry will do if he becomes president. He thinks he has a plan in Iraq, but I don't even think he can explain it to us. I kind of feel bad for the democrats, I really hope people who see John Kerry as a weak character vote for the third party so they can get federal funding so that there are more voices in the next election. There are a lot of people out there who are convinced that Bush is an evil man. It's untrue. They've been convinced by the last four years of negative media coverage.

**Jason** | I believe that the issue is our safety. Without our safety we cannot guarantee anything else including the economy or environmental issues. I believe that George Bush has showed tremendous leadership in that regard. Bush sticks to his guns we know what he believes in and he sticks with it all the time. •

Tim Wicks talks about upcoming events for the week during the RIT Republicans weekly meeting on Tuesday, October 19. Jacob Hannah/REPORTER Magazine



# By the People: Deliberation Day at RIT

by Jon Bove

On Saturday, October 16, hundreds of area residents visited the RIT campus to participate in "By the People: Deliberation Day," as part of a national conversation on election issues.

"By The People" allowed local Rochesterians who were part of a randomly selected sample to participate in discussions about homeland security and international economics. Rochester was one of twenty cities that participated in the event. This event was the second of its type to be held at RIT. The first took place last January.

The Center for Deliberative Democracy at Stanford and the Institution for Social and Policy Studies at Yale sponsored the project, initiated and supported by PBS's *MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour*. The goal of the day was to generate a public discourse on two topics discussed by the citizens. A film crew was from WXXI was on hand throughout the day taking shots for a PBS special on the event.

Citizens spent the morning in small groups of eight to twelve, discussing the topics of national security and the global economy. Moderators drawn from the local community and student volunteers helped keep the

participants on task as they generated topical questions for the afternoon forum.

After a brief lunch, a plenary session was convened in the Golisano Auditorium where the participants gathered for the chance to ask local Democratic and Republican leaders the questions that their group had decided upon during the morning session. President Albert J. Simone moderated the session, which included the following expert panelists:

- Molly Clifford: Monroe County Democrat chair and delegate at the Democratic National Convention in Boston.
- Bill Smith: Monroe County Legislature majority leader and delegate at the Republican National Convention in New York City
- Professor Nabil Kaylani: History and International Relations.
- Professor Robert Manning: Economics
- Professor David Reid: RIT Center for International Business

The event was a stunning display of citizenship on a grand scale. If the group involved is truly representative of Rochester as a whole, then voter turnout should be no problem come November 2. •



Professor Nabil Kaylani makes a point during a panel discussion about the upcoming election, titled "By the People." Michael Sperling/REPORTER Magazine. •

## Honors Literature Combines More Media than Time Warner

by Casey Dehlinger

Students enrolled in RIT's Honors Program were in for a real treat this semester. In light of the election, Honors Literature focused on political coverage.

Taught by the charismatic Professor Amit Ray, Honors Literature provides these students with all the facts and lies of this year's hot presidential race. Ray's students are supersaturated with media, from news articles, to photographs, to online games where President Bush stalks around the Middle East knocking out terrorists with an AK-47.

What do online games have to do with media and the actual race? Explaining that connection is the part of the point of the class: to get the students to realize that anything that gives information or evokes an opinion is indeed, media.

Ray's class notes that Jon Stewart is as likely to influence our vote as Bill O'Reilly; that we are as likely to watch a Jibjab.com cartoon

as we are to actually read all of Bill Clinton's *My Life*.

Ray encourages students to look at all the political media they can get their hands on in order to look at all media with a full perspective. How relevant is the information it provides? Why doesn't anyone ask about Bush's relationship with Ken Lay, the former Enron magician who made so many workers' money disappear and reappear in the pockets of the rich?

Another major point that Honors Literature brings to the minds of its students is this: to what extent is the public pulled or pushed by the physical appearance of a candidate? Although its importance has been demonstrated since the presidential race between Kennedy and Nixon, in the current election, such factors are not as readily apparent.

Most importantly, Ray keeps students involved. His students stay committed to their

obligation as citizens to keep informed about the issues and facts.

This class is truly remarkable; but don't take Ray's word for it, listen to the students themselves. Adam Bosen praised Honors Literature, "I love this class, it's great. Professor Amit Ray really makes it interesting. He's one of the best teachers I've ever had. He makes us think; he really keeps up engaged in the discussion, he asks people questions and encourages us to debate with one another, which is really cool."

Unfortunately, Honors Literature is only open to Honor's students, and, keeping in step with the presidential elections, is only offered on the leap years. However, participation in discussion is open and encouraged on the Honors Literature forum, located at [http://www.dxd.org/wiki/index.php/Main\\_Page](http://www.dxd.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page). Keep an eye out for Ray's posts, signified by a peculiar icon of a little crying devil. •

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# ISSUES