

THE Women's Center

Trinity College

Fall 2004 Edition

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NEW
VOTERS PROJECT



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Green Party Platform



Ten Key Values of the Green Party

1. GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY Every human being deserves a say in the decisions that affect their lives and not be subject to the will of another. Therefore, we will work to increase public participation at every level of government and to ensure that our public representatives are fully accountable to the people who elect them. We will also work to create new types of political organizations which expand the process of participatory democracy by directly including citizens in the decision-making process.

2. SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITY All persons should have the rights and opportunity to benefit equally from the resources afforded us by society and the environment. We must consciously confront in ourselves, our organizations, and society at large, barriers such as racism and class oppression, sexism and homophobia, ageism and disability, which act to deny fair treatment and equal justice under the law.

3. ECOLOGICAL WISDOM Human societies must operate with the understanding that we are part of nature, not separate from nature. We must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet. We support a sustainable society which utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit and not suffer from the practices of our generation. To this end we must practice agriculture which replenishes the soil; move to an energy efficient economy; and live in ways that respect the integrity of natural systems.

4. NON-VIOLENCE It is essential that we develop effective alternatives to society's current patterns of violence. We will work to demilitarize, and eliminate weapons of mass destruction, without being naive about the intentions of other governments. We recognize the need for self-defense and the defense of others who are in helpless situations. We promote non-violent methods to oppose practices and policies with which we disagree, and will guide our actions toward lasting personal, community and global peace.

5. DECENTRALIZATION Centralization of wealth and power contributes to social and economic injustice, environmental destruction, and militarization.

Therefore, we support a restructuring of social, political and economic institutions away from a system which is controlled by and mostly benefits the powerful few, to a democratic, less bureaucratic system. Decision-making should, as much as possible, remain at the individual and local level, while assuring that civil rights are protected for all citizens.

6. COMMUNITY-BASED ECONOMICS AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

We recognize it is essential to create a vibrant and sustainable economic system, one that can create jobs and provide a decent standard of living for all people while maintaining a healthy ecological balance. A successful economic system will offer meaningful work with dignity, while paying a "living wage" which reflects the real value of a person's work. Local communities must look to economic development that assures protection of the environment and workers' rights; broad citizen participation in planning; and enhancement of our "quality of life." We support independently owned and operated companies which are socially responsible, as well as co-operatives and public enterprises that distribute resources and control to more people through democratic participation.

7. FEMINISM AND GENDER EQUITY We have inherited a social system based on male domination of politics and economics. We call for the replacement of the cultural ethics of domination and control with more cooperative ways of interacting that respect differences of opinion and gender. Human values such as equity between the sexes, interpersonal responsibility, and honesty must be developed with moral conscience. We should remember that the process that determines our decisions and actions is just as important as achieving the outcome we want.

8. RESPECT FOR DIVERSITY We believe it is important to value cultural, ethnic, racial, sexual, religious and spiritual diversity, and to promote the development of respectful relationships across these lines.

We believe that the many diverse elements of society should be reflected in our organizations and decision-making bodies, and we support the leadership of people who have been traditionally closed out of leadership roles. We acknowledge and encourage respect for other life forms than our own and the preservation of biodiversity.

9. PERSONAL AND GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY We encourage individuals to act to improve their personal well-being and, at the same time, to enhance ecological balance and social harmony. We seek to join with people and organizations around the world to foster peace, economic justice, and the health of the planet.

10. FUTURE FOCUS AND SUSTAINABILITY Our actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. We seek to protect valuable natural resources, safely disposing of or "unmaking" all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival. We must counterbalance the drive for short-term profits by assuring that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions.

*For further information on the 2004 Platform, visit:
<http://www.gp.org/platform/2004/index.html>*



Democratic Party Platform

Top Ten Reasons why students stand with Kerry-Edwards and the Democratic Ticket

10. **Advocate for working Americans** by increasing the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.00.
9. **Free America from its dangerous dependence on Mideast oil** by exploring and developing new energy sources, investing in new technologies, and ensuring that resources such as coal and natural gas are used more efficiently and cleanly.
8. **Fight for a cleaner, safer environment** by vigorously enforcing rules to keep air and water safe, protecting natural resources, and cleaning up toxic waste sites.
7. **Expand opportunity in jobs, education, and health care** through an agenda that will benefit all Americans, not just the very wealthy; rigorously enforce our Civil Rights laws; appoint judges with a record of enforcing that nation's civil rights and anti-discrimination laws; support civil unions, end discrimination, and protect Gay and Lesbian families.
6. **Trust women to make their own decisions** about reproductive health care; stop blocking access to family planning; and protecting Roe vs. Wade.
5. **Ensure access to affordable health care** for every American by cutting family premiums and expanding coverage; giving tax cuts to 98% of all Americans and shifting cuts to middle-class families who need it most rather than the wealthiest Americans.
4. **Keep families safer at home** by supporting our first defenders, securing our ports and borders, and keeping us safer abroad with real alliances and better intelligence.
3. **Launch and lead a new era of alliances** to better respond to the threat of terrorism; modernize the world's most powerful military to meet new threats; and deploy all our diplomacy, our intelligence system, our economic power, and the appeal of our values and ideas to make America more secure and prevent a new generation of terrorists from emerging.

Information provided by the Trinity College Democrats.



2. **Create good-paying jobs** by cutting taxes for businesses that create jobs here in America instead of moving overseas; make Washington live within a budget to prevent young Americans from having to pick up the tab later on; invest in high-tech jobs of tomorrow and in training our workers to fill them.

1. **Expand access to higher education** and make it easier for students to afford college by offering fully refundable College Opportunity Tax credit on up to \$4,000 of tuition for every year of college and offering aid to states that keep tuitions down.




Republican Party Platform

The Republican Party believes in the moral vision and personal responsibilities set forth by our founding fathers. Republicans sponsor a very specific long term agenda: reducing the size of government and instilling personal responsibility and morality in our citizens. While this is the most general picture of the Republican platform we feel that the following details exposed in President Bush's agenda "A Plan for A Safer World and More Hopeful America" will accomplish the end goals we seek. The President seeks to achieve the goals of limited government and personal responsibility through a carefully constructed agenda for the 21st century. The highlights of the agenda are as follows:

Creating Opportunity for America's Workers

- **Reforming Americas High Schools:** President Bush will provide \$250 Million annually to extend state assessment of student reading and math skills
- **Jobs For the 21st Century:** President Bush will provide \$500 Million for Jobs for the 21st century, which will help educate and train high-skilled American workers in schools and community colleges.
- **Tax Reform:** President Bush will again work to make the tax code simpler for taxpayers, encourage savings and investment, and improve the economy's ability to create jobs and raise wages.
- **Opportunity Zones:** President Bush will create new Opportunity Zones, which will encourage public and private investment and provide priority consideration for Federal benefits to communities that are under economic hardship






Helping American Families in a Changing World

- **Helping the Working Uninsured by Expanding Health Savings Accounts:** President Bush will propose a tax credit for Health Savings Account contributions to help individuals and families who work for small business fund their Health Savings Accounts. In the long term the decrease in government involvement created by Health Savings Accounts will lead to better more affective private healthcare.
- **Make Health Care Accessible:** President Bush calls for a community health center in every poor county in America.
- **Promote Comp-Time and Flex-Time:** President Bush will work to enable employees to choose paid time off as an alternative to overtime pay and to give employees the option of shifting hours during a pay period.
- **Crack Down on Drugs in Schools:** President Bush will increase funding for school drug testing to help students resist peer pressure and help parents intervene with students in need.

Promoting an Era of Ownership

- **Homeownership:** President Bush will provide assistance to help America to meet his new goal of creating 7 million new, affordable homes in 10 years.
- **Social Security Reform:** President Bush will strengthen and enhance Social Security through privatization and encouraging personal responsibility, thus guaranteeing no changes in benefits for current retirees and near-retirees, while giving younger workers the opportunity to use their social security payroll taxes to build a nest egg for retirement that can be passed on to their families. By taking the responsibility of retirement nest eggs out of the hands of the government and putting it into the hands of our countries citizens President Bush will help prevent the impending financial crises caused by poor government management of the social security slush fund.
- **Helping Small Businesses:** President Bush will help small business in a number of ways, including allowing them to band together to provide more affordable health care for their employees through Association Health Plans.

Defending American Lives & Liberty

- **Fight the War on Offense:** President Bush will continue to lead a worldwide coalition to fight terrorists abroad so we do not have to face them here at home
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- **Intelligence Reform:** President Bush will work with a new National Intelligence Director to improve the quality and quantity of our intelligence and our ability to disrupt and prevent terrorist attacks.
- **Troop Redeployment:** President Bush will restructure American forces overseas to use existing forces more effectively and to support servicemen, servicewoman and their families more efficiently.

Supporting our Communities and Honoring American Values of Compassion and Service

- **Judges:** President Bush will continue to appoint to the Federal courts well qualified judges who share his commitment to a strict interpretation of the law and constitution thus taking decisions out of the hands of activist judges intent on side stepping democracy to put in place opinion as law.
- **Welfare Reform:** President Bush will continue to press for reauthorization of welfare reform and to build on its successes, strengthen families and helping more welfare recipients achieve independence through work thus bringing to an end the free rides given out at the expense of hard working citizens.
- **Faith Based and Community Initiatives:** President Bush will continue to support the good work of community and faith-based groups and help ensure that these charities can participate in Federal, State and local programs without discrimination.

*Information provided by Trinity College Republicans.
For more information regarding the Republican 2004
Presidential Platform, please visit:
www.GeorgeWBush.com, www.SwiftVets.com,
www.ScaryJohnKerry.com, www.GOP.org*

Ralph Nadar's Platform



Nader's position on the issues:

Death Penalty

Opposes the death penalty, saying it is used disproportionately against minorities and the poor and that it does not deter crime.

Economy

Increase taxes on corporates and the wealthy. Institute reform that would first tax behavior society favors least – such as alcohol and tobacco consumption, gambling and pollution – rather than work and consumer essentials like food, furniture and clothing.

Education

Wants to change federal government's emphasis on standardized tests, which Nader says wastes valuable resources and leads to a "de-enrichment" of the curriculum.

Environment

Invest in renewable energy like wind and solar power. Push for the manufacture of more energy efficient automobiles.

Farming

Shift government policy to favor family farms over agribusiness corporations. Promote organic farming and insure open markets.

Gay Rights

Nader supports the right to gay marriage

Health Care

Single Payer system covering all Americans

Iraq War

Opposes the War. Supports replacing US Troops with UN Peacekeeping forces

Trade

Supports trade agreements that protect the environment, labor rights, and consumer standards.

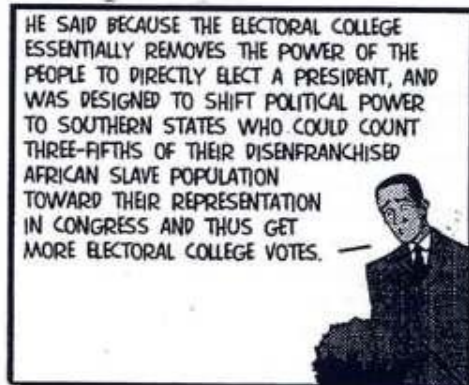
Ralph has continued to speak out on all kinds of issues:

1. The many reforms that need to be made in the electoral process, including, the corrupt funding of public campaigns, the disenfranchisement of voters, and the vote-counting machine deficiencies
2. The quagmire wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
3. More corporate-managed globalization
4. Corporate war profiteering
5. The corporate crime, fraud and abuse crime wave
6. The need to send corporate crooks to jail
7. The need for integrity in accounting
8. The mad cow disease and food hazards generally
9. The annual Congressional pay raises while the living wage is nonexistent for 45 millions workers
10. The ill-suited appointments by the Bush Administration
11. The exclusionary Commission on Presidential Debates
12. Low income neighborhood redlining, payday loans and rent to own rackets and other predatory lending;
13. Lead contamination and record rates of asthma in children
14. The subordination of sustainable economic and technological solutions to environmental devastation and government indifference
15. The criminal injustice system and the need to open wider the civil courts to defrauded or wrongfully injured people presently denied justice
16. The need for more consumer health, safety and economic protection.

Information provided by Boston.com and
www.votenader.org

On A Lighter Note...

The Boondocks By Aaron McGruder





Mission: Educate!

Article by Mary Jane Frisbee

"Voting is essential to the integrity of our, and future, generations."

I must admit, I have never had much interest in politics, if any at all. Growing up, my family was never inclined to discuss political matters over our nightly dinner gatherings, or avid watchers of political news programs on TV. When it came to presidential debates and the like, I accepted my parents' point of view and happily agreed with their stance, as long as I didn't have to sit and watch the hours of debates that cut into my 'Saved by the Bell' time. I am almost ashamed to admit that I did not vote in the last election, even though my age proved me eligible. "What's one vote?" I thought, justifying my actions with a somewhat relevant excuse: I simply wasn't knowledgeable enough to make an educated decision.

Naive I might have been, but as an older, wiser twenty-one-year-old, I find my former actions undeniably pitiful. I am surely not the only over-18 year old that feels this way. Most of my friends did not vote in the last election either, and were in the same boat when it came to accepting their parents' political views. Facts have shown that only 34% of 18-25 year olds voted in the last election, an astonishing, if not embarrassing, reality. It is relevant to say that the presidential candidates rarely speak of issues

that concern our age group, yet with numbers like that, who would waste the precious campaign time? Candidates would rather focus on more burning matters such as senior health care, and other issues that concern our elder, voting conscious generations.

Recently, I have made it my mission to become a more politically educated American, and an active one at that; one that is proud to voice her opinion, no matter how elementary it might be. Now that I am a college student, and have had time away from the nest, I have discovered that I can honestly take a look at issues that matter to me, and not necessarily to my parents. It is empowering to know that I have the ability to make a choice that has an impact on the future of my country; who could pass that up?

It is not without help that I have come to this realization. As an avid MTV watcher, the encouragement to vote, "for something, anything," has made quite an impact. It is with such advertisements, and the *MTV Choose or Lose* campaign, that such messages have reached our generation. What better way to target college students than through a powerful source of entertainment that encompasses the majority of their free time: TV? Recently, I found myself enthralled by an MTV special featuring Christina Aguilera. The show highlighted the opposing views of women's issues in the current presidential debate, taking an instinctual and personal, twenty-something approach to the issue of abortion. An hour later, it became obvious to me that they were doing something right, because I had just been unknowingly enlightened... and amused at the same time. Although becoming more knowledgeable is not always this transparent, MTV is certainly


taking the right approach. With people like me, MTV will make a big difference in numbers of registered young people, 20 million being their goal. It is essential to the integrity of our, and future generations, that the importance of voting be heard, and the issues that concern such age groups be made public.

Voting In Style

Article by Kathryn Hurley

Just the other day, on Hartford 95.7, I heard a public service announcement from the station asking listeners a simple question: "You vote people off *Survivor*, you vote for your favorite *American Idol*, so why wouldn't you vote for President?" While my roommate was watching "Must See TV" one night, Jennifer Aniston reasoned with viewers that if we don't let others choose our husband, or even our "friends," why would we let them choose our President? These questions, catch phrases, and witty puns are beginning to fill 30-second spots during commercial breaks in an attempt to reach the general audience, the apathetic voters, if you will, and bring them to the polls.

Voting for the U.S. President is really a simple concept. Once every four years, we stand in a line for maybe ten minutes, have the opportunity to catch up with neighbors and friends in our district, and are granted the opportunity to actively contribute to our country's political system. However, voter apathy is becoming too much of a trend across the charts in this country while the media is doing everything to find a viable solution. Celebrities are taking an active role in our government, both by running for office, and by



using their power for a greater good. We are hoping this fusion of Hollywood and Washington D.C. will bring more people to the polls come November 2nd. But studies show that numbers are down and interest is out. In 2000, nearly 22 million single women decided not to vote.

So where do we go from here? A look at the glamorous world of magazine poster girls and designer labels may clue us into our country's next possible step toward curing the disease of poor voter turnout. Vogue's reporter Mimi Swartz examines "Why Women Don't Vote and Why They Should," and recognizes the massive voting drought from single women, aged 28-29. Swartz notices that women tend to vote on local issues, concerning their town and even their states, while neglecting to vote for their country's leader. She finds that many of us feel underrepresented on the national level, but urges to remind us that all politics is local. Later in her article, she asserts "Their numbers represent an enormous bloc – the largest group of nonparticipating eligible voters – that could have changed the fate of the 2000 election, altered the current status of health care, child care, job creation, and educational legislation, shifted the taxes of war on terror and perhaps avoided entirely the very existence of the war in Iraq." Although this bold statement may make readers more skeptical of her argument, Swartz says clearly it could be turnout alone, and not issues at hand, that will decide the upcoming presidential election. The small number of women who have been politically active in the past around our country are stepping up and stepping in where they see fit. Women's organizations have already begun hosting "Kerry-Okes," serving "bushtinis" and coming up with other ideas to

to discuss national politics on a more intimate level, in the comfort of their homes and with the pleasure of their friends, hoping to draw a larger audience with such tactics.

While Kerry and Bush race around our country, making speech after speech, shaking as many hands as humanly possible and then some, their campaign managers, special teams, and marketing specialists are seizing the opportunity to reach more people than ever before. Leave your traditional buttons and bumper stickers at home. We're witnessing political marketing on a whole new level. Every act of political involvement now comes with a never before seen barrage of campaign paraphernalia. Because political pride can't come in the way of a woman's outfit, can it? Suddenly, voting is becoming stylish.

"Leave your traditional buttons and bumper stickers at home. We're witnessing political marketing on a whole new level."

In *Self* Magazine's September, 2004 issue, actress Drew Barrymore spoke out excitedly to women and men about "getting involved" in the election process. The article details her efforts and speeches urging everyone to register, while admitting that she did not know much about politics before she decided to dig into the dirt of this year's election. Now, she is meeting politicians and candidates on the road, trying to understand the reasons they present each idea on their platform, while preaching the good word to women and men everywhere. Barrymore is using her popularity for the benefit of the nation, and as she said in the article, it is "incredibly worth it."

In *Marie Claire* last month, the Mind, Body and Soul section devoted pages to a "Vote for Your Future" campaign that couples registering to vote with an Armani T-shirt, costing only 20\$. It is short-sleeved, light blue and reads, "Think fashion makes a statement?" on the front, and "Try Voting" on the back. Actress Ashley Judd, a vocal political advocate, has been modeling the shirt, and is working with *Marie Claire* and other magazines to bring young women to the polls. Other organizations realized how powerful Judd's image was, and began to come up with similar tactics to increase the political movement among these women. An online voter initiative called *Declare Yourself* works with similar magazines and corporations to appeal to the masses and get them to the polls. Other than Judd's signature T-shirt, the organization also features T-shirts made by Isaac Mizrahi, Todd Oldham, and Richard Tyler, all displaying non-partisan messages in regards to voting. Quoted from an online West Coast newsletter, Christy Calcido is working for *Declare Yourself* in Beverly Hills California, and motivating young people to vote. Calcido states, "Fashion is one area that appeals to young people. We wanted to reach this audience in a variety of ways by combining entertainment, pop culture and fashion with technology and education. More than ever, this audience is online."

October's *Elle* profiled the Kerry-Heinz siblings in their efforts to help stepfather (and for some, real father) John Kerry, Democratic Presidential candidate. In the same publication, a "Shop the Vote" piece, from their Global-Fashion-News section, displayed trendy mesh hats and baby T-shirts for women to wear in support of their respective parties' platforms.





Clothing websites exhibit pink T-shirts reading "My Bush is Pro-Choice," and blue baseball jerseys with the team "No Child Left Behinders." If I have sparked your interest, more information, and many more catch phrases can be found at www.clothingoftheamericanmind.com. Meanwhile, www.kerrygear.com and www.georgewbushstore.com are teeming with articles to buy and wear proudly.

Although a few of these ideas may seem superficial and only profitable to those who market the item, it is helping our country and our causes in many more ways. Those of you who have chosen not to vote simply due to lack of information and therefore lack of interest are now being lured with shirts and hats, having nothing to do with the election, and everything to do with its appeal. The focus on fashion that these campaigns managers have taken is an attempt to turn the numbers around. Will these tactics work? It may be too early to tell. So head to the polls on the 2nd of November, and dress the part in the "Kerry-Edwards" fleece or a "W'04 Farm Ranch Team" sweatshirt. Because if you're going to vote, why not do it in style?

Abortion Rights

Article by Stefanie Lopez-Boy

The strides in abortion rights that began with Roe vs. Wade are in peril of being chipped away if President Bush is elected for another term. In the hopes of promoting what he has called "a culture of life" in the presidential debates, he vied for and passed through Congress the "Partial Birth Abortion Act of 2003." The bill, which Senator Kerry voted against, has no provision for the life and safety of the mother.

Perhaps what is more disturbing about the legislation than its passage is the wording of it. Let's begin with the title. "Partial birth abortion" is the name 'commonly given' to the procedure, but it is by no means the medical term for it. In fact, 'partial birth abortion' is pro-lifer propaganda term meant to invoke a sense of murder from the procedure. The Supreme Court in the case of Stenberg vs. Carhart had overturned a law from the state of Nebraska that did the same thing as the federal law, because it argued that the definition of 'partial birth abortion' was so broad that it could be construed to mean other forms of abortion performed during earlier stages of the pregnancy. The medical term for this procedure, as it was used in that case is dilation and extraction (DNX). The court also struck down the bill because there was no provision in it to account for the health of the mother.

The bill passed under President Bush's administration is equally vague. The opening lines say the following about DNX: "A moral, medical, and ethical consensus exists that the practice of performing a partial-birth abortion—an abortion in which a physician delivers an unborn child's body until only the head remains inside the womb, punctures the back of the child's skull with a sharp instrument, and sucks the child's brains out before completing delivery of the dead infant—is a gruesome and inhumane procedure that is never medically necessary and should be prohibited." Indeed, much of the language of this piece of legislation is centered on the *moral objections* to DNX and does not take into consideration the possible medical necessity of the procedure.

The bill fervently argues that the procedure is *never* necessary and that even

physicians who perform abortions object to the procedure. The problem with couching the bill in moral terms of course is that it sets a precedent for future legislation about abortion and morally 'sticky' issues like it. Moreover, one of the fundamental provisions delineated in Roe vs. Wade is that any legislation created about abortion *must contain an exception for the health and safety of the mother*. The underlying assumption of the "partial birth abortion" bill is that the fetus has rights that overrun those of the mother because of the absence of the crucial exception for the mother's health. Senator Kerry's responses to the questions concerning this issue were very tasteful and diplomatic. Part of the problem with the abortion debate is that people forget to separate the problem of faith and religion from that of constitutional law. In fact, these two concerns collapse into one issue, as they have in this federal ban, which only serves to muddy the debate. When asked about the issue of abortion in the third presidential debate Kerry responded: "I believe that I can't legislate or transfer to another American citizen my article of faith. What is an article of faith for me is not something that I can legislate on somebody who doesn't share that article of faith." Indeed, the President's role is to defend and protect the rights found in our Constitution, not to preach from the pulpit.

"Part of the problem with the abortion debate is that people forget to separate the problem of faith and religion from that of constitutional law."

Wake Up and Smell the Coffee

Article by Kate Metzler

When recently asked, "Do you consider yourself a bisexual?" I said yes. I was in a serious relationship with a woman for almost a year, and then a serious relationship with a man for about 8 months. In both cases, I was in love. The strength of love was no different in each relationship; it came from the bottom of my heart. I can honestly say that I had dreams of marrying each of them (when it was appropriate), therefore I had to do a lot of thinking about gay marriage. So often, people talk with authority about controversial issues that they have not experienced first hand. Many gay rights activists are only concerned with supporting their image, and rely on stereotypes as a basis for their argument. In terms of gay marriage, people say that it is "wrong" and "immoral," which couldn't be farther from the truth. Gay men and women should have the same rights as any other American citizen, and that includes their freedom to express their love through marriage, and the possibility of creating a family. In a world like ours, it is important that this kind of union be made legal for a number of purposes. In the case of hospitalization and visiting rights, for example, it is illegal for a partner to visit those hospitalized because they are not deemed the same visiting rights as a "wife" or "husband." Technically, under law, a gay partner is considered a friend, not a spouse. In my opinion, the United States government needs to catch up to speed and realize that there is a large population of gay men and women in this country. They need to appreciate the fact that homosexuals are not just for comic relief on "Queer Eye

We are not all stereotypically dancing around Provincetown in drag. Even if that was the case, who's to say that this kind of lifestyle doesn't deserve the same equal rights that this country is supposed to stand for? There is an argument that straight couples feel that gay marriage will take away from the legitimacy and integrity of their heterosexual marriages. Wake up and smell the coffee! Did you hear about Britney Spears getting hitched in Las Vegas, then annulling the marriage the next day? This country's divorce rate is at its highest, and continues to rise. The sanctity of marriage is already inevitably tarnished, but I guess that's human nature. We act on emotion, and therefore we make mistakes. Gay men and women are no different than straight ones, and they deserve equal rights. If you don't believe in gay marriage, then you might as well not believe in inter-racial ones either. And if that's the case, then you need help.

"The sanctity of marriage is already inevitably tarnished, but I guess that's human nature. We act on emotion, and therefore we make mistakes."

Voices from the crowd

Students vocalize their thoughts about the first debate...

"I thought it was great that the Trinity community got together to watch the debate. There was a lot of laughter and comments. Both candidates did a good job although it wasn't as eloquent as we hoped. Kerry was good, and since it was live, he didn't flip flop" - Emily Maletta

"Both sides had valid points, but they didn't specify how they would accomplish them"

-Ram Purushotaman



"It was great theater...Bush was pretty entertaining"

-Kevin Keating and Bailey Triggs



"I was really opposed to Kerry before the debate. I agree with some of his viewpoints but I don't think he will be able to carry them out."

-Katie Cerrone



"I would like a debate that doesn't talk about war. I also think that Bush is a d__k"

-Erin Kinney





What do They Know?

Article by Abigail Jackson

Surely we all remember those days back in elementary school when we couldn't choose our classes. We had to sit through all of them, even those we hated and had no interest in. There was always that one class that we hated going to, that no matter what, we couldn't get. It was too boring. Old crotchety Mrs. So-and-So hated us. We just had no interest in it and therefore failed to pay attention and didn't do well.

"I have never voted and, to be honest, I don't feel compelled to at all."

Perhaps some of us have taken the approach to that dreaded class and applied it to our opinion on politics. We have no real interest in the things that don't interest us, or more accurately, don't reflect our own interests. Now that we are adults and don't have to listen to old Mrs. So-and-So anymore, we can simply omit this "class" from the focus of our attention. It is most likely due to the increasing pressure on all of us to maximize the efficient use of our time, to ensure the financial security of our families, or what have you. Can learning about how people in Harlem or Roxbury live help me to maximize my retirement funds? If I take the time to learn about the tax system for a purpose other than to try to get a bigger refund for myself will that make my 401K worth more? No? No?? Then why would I want to do that? I'm busy with other stuff anyway.

that's not a very responsible mentality. As students it was acceptable for us to focus our courses of study to a narrow concentration, a specific major, just as long as we got a diploma. As adults, however, and especially in these times, we can no longer afford to be that shallow, not globally, and certainly not nationally. As election time creeps ever closer, Americans become more and more separated precisely when we should be getting more cohesive. How can anyone make a truly informed choice as to who should basically rule the world if we don't know how our guy measures up to the needs of *everyone* who lives here, not only to the rich or college graduates or working stiff?


Over the last four years, the actions and attitudes of President Bush have mirrored that of a college fraternity brother. He flexed his proverbial muscles by dropping bombs, giving his rich contemporaries a tax break and going to war. We are spending enormous amounts of money on defense and arms, and the joke is that no one really knows what is going on. The common man justifies it by saying the president thinks it's a good idea. That certainly isn't good enough for me. Although I don't know all the details, the sheer notion that the real purpose of this war is to secure our investments in the Middle East makes it fair for us to say that this is an instance of a gross misuse of power. The issue of money and how it relates to politics in this country is the reason for all the dissent we are dealing with in America. The top one percent of the people who live here are the ones that have a real say in the decisions being made, and that is reality. The people with money are the people with the power. However, this process has gone unchecked

since the nineteen eighties, and the result is that some groups feel so powerless that the voting system itself is collapsing.

It has been heard countless times on radio and television that black people complain about everything, but never do anything about it. If they don't like what's going on in the White House, then why don't they vote? Simple, right? Wrong. As a black woman who grew up in a poverty-stricken neighborhood, I can't blame these people for not voting. Ever since I can remember, no matter who was in office and who was running the show, there was never any change. Poverty, murder, theft and depravity still exist today. How are the people who have to live in that environment everyday supposed to take that? In a neighborhood full of children we couldn't even get speed bumps put in on our street to keep cars from speeding down it all day and all night. Signs saying "Mayor Thomas Menino: Project Clean" or the slogan of the month are everywhere. These signs stand in run-down parks and empty lots full of garbage for months and even years and nothing happens. So now it's an empty lot with a sign in it.

"As a black woman who grew up in a poverty-stricken neighborhood, I can't blame these people for not voting. Ever since I can remember, no matter who was running the show, there was never any change."





**"We are not at war;
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I have never voted and, to be honest, I don't feel compelled to at all. I've always thought it was a scam and, in light of the series of fiascos occurring during the last four years, it seems that I am right to feel this way. It makes no sense to vote if it's all for show anyway. The black politicians don't represent the black community. They get their paychecks and say what their bosses want them to say. Bush has spoke in different communities and that has to be counted towards his efforts to get a pulse of the nation, but I'm pretty sure he wouldn't be caught dead in Compton, Harlem or any other neighborhood where investment bankers don't live. Kerry is no different. He's not venturing into the dark corners of society, either. The point that I'm trying to get across is that everything is selective and prepared. Things are planned and revamped to paint the prettiest picture possible and, more importantly, to create an illusion of democracy and freedom and the right to choose. Bush isn't really running the show anyway. He is a figurehead, the fairy tale leader of a fairy tale country. Dick and Daddy Bush are the ones in charge. They set up their circle of friends in the early nineties then sat back and watched the money come rolling in. We the people lose sight of the issues that need to be dealt with in a cloud of circus smoke.

My father was a marine and went to Vietnam, and he seems to think that Bush is doing

a fantastic job. When we get into a conversation concerning politics and the war he asks me questions like: Do you enjoy living in a democracy instead of a dictatorship? Do I enjoy the ability to get an education, drive the car I want to drive and wear the clothes I want to wear? Who doesn't? When I say yes, he can't understand why I disagree with him. "We're over there to protect all those things that you enjoy and all the things that you enjoy as an American citizen that people who live in dictatorships like Iraq don't have." Sure dad, that is all true. But it's also true that just because the United States government is a democracy doesn't mean that a select few can't use it as a



dictatorship unbeknownst to John Q. Voter. It also doesn't mean that we are suffering over here because of this war. Gas prices are high, but so what? Instead of tanks I see cars with five and six figure price tags. There are no bombs exploding in the distance, and my friends and family aren't being kidnapped in the middle of the night. Look around. All the latest gadgets and technology are only a click or call away, and people of all ages are picking out clothes from wardrobes that cost three and four times as much money as the majority of people in the world will ever see in their entire life. We are not at war; we are in business negotiations that happen to involve guns and bombs.

One could say that Bush is a lot better at psychology than he is at politics. He is good at

clouding the issues at hand by making us forget about them. The man is in the public eye at all times, and he takes full advantage of it. When Saddam Hussein was finally captured, I found myself celebrating for a few minutes before it came to me: what ever happened to Osama Bin Laden? Bush was in our faces almost every day during that whole time talking about Saddam Hussein this and Saddam Hussein that until he had us all thinking that Saddam was really the one we needed to get. Our military is fighting in Iraq, but what about Saudi Arabia and Al Qaeda? The only thing we're doing is protecting the Bush/Saudi business partnership. But, imagine the scandal – the President throwing his country into a war in one country to keep the heat off his money-makers in another country. Well, that's what is happening.

How can the government legitimize these actions? They can, through the politically created fear that grips the nation. Simply put, if we believe that America is at serious risk for another huge attack then we will leave the President to his own devices trusting that he will lead us through this uncertain time. America has spiraled down to a dangerously low level of respect for the working people – the people who get up at five to work crappy jobs for crappy money. All the platform promises that were made during rallies and speeches, under bright lights and fanfare, have been quietly and tactically abandoned to make way for the all-powerful dollar. After all, America is the land of dreams and opportunity, as long as you have the time, money and power to take advantage of it.





THE "W" YEARS: IMPACT ON WOMEN

Male White House employees earn an average of \$76,624/year; women \$59,917 on average. White House female employees are paid about .78 for every dollar that men earn. U.S. wage gap: White men: \$1; Black men: 78.2 cents; White women: 75.6 cents; Black women: 65.4 cents; Hispanic women: 54.3 cents. (www.infoplease.com)

Women workers lost more than 300,000 jobs between March, 2001 & March, 2004.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration rejected over-the-counter sales of emergency contraception (EC), prompting NOW (National Organization for Women) & other critics to accuse the agency of responding to political pressure from the Bush administration.

In the 2002 budget, Bush proposed eliminating required contraceptive coverage for female federal employees and for federal employees' dependents.

The Bush administration has quietly deleted and altered information on women's issues from government agency websites. According to the National Council for Research on Women (NCRW)'s report, released in mid-April, the deletion of information on subjects including pay equity and childcare was "apparently [done] in pursuit of a political agenda." At least 25 publications were removed from the website of the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau alone.

As of March, 2004, Attorney General John Ashcroft had failed to conduct and publish a study required under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) to investigate discrimination against domestic violence victims in getting insurance.

George W. Bush signed into law the most significant restriction on abortion in the 30 years since Roe v. Wade. Bush delivered what House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) called "a slap in the face to women across America" by signing the "Late-Term Abortion" ban.

Salon.com reports that "some nonprofit organizations that don't agree with the Bush administration's 'abstinence only' philosophy" have been "repeatedly investigated by the government, while faith-based groups get a free pass."

Bush issued an executive memorandum expanding the global gag rule to include family planning funds administered by the U.S. State Department. The "global gag rule" is a policy that denies United States family planning funds to any international organizations that perform abortions or refer patients to abortion services, even with their own funds. Women's eNews reports that the global gag rule "has led to closed clinics, cuts in healthcare staff and dwindling medical supplies, leaving women, children and families without access to vital healthcare services."


Championed by Bush, the U.S. Constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage, failed in the Senate. Bush is urging the House to take up the matter.

"Iraq is not a safer place for women. According to an article in the Houston Chronicle. 'Since the end of the war and the outbreak on anarchy on the capital's streets, women here have grown increasingly afraid of being abducted and raped.'" - from *Off Our Backs*, Sept/Oct 2004

Bush supports the policy that prohibits military women serving abroad, and their dependents, from obtaining safe medical abortions at military hospitals, even if they pay with personal funds. Servicewomen must travel long distances for an abortion or have a local abortion, which is extremely dangerous in some countries. They must also obtain permission from their commander in order to take leave for the procedure.

Nearly all 51 of Bush's federal appeals courts nominees pose a threat to privacy rights. (NARAL Pro-Choice)

Source: <http://www.truthaboutgeorge.com/women/index.html>





A Note From the Editors...

As election tensions rise on The Trinity Campus and throughout our nation, The Women's Center is both proud and excited to present to you the first newsletter of the year! From our first planning meeting, our goal was to present The Trinity community with the facts needed to make an educated vote in the upcoming 2004 presidential election and urge everyone who are eligible to head to the polls and cast their vote. As you all know, the voting process is essential in maintaining the integrity of our, and future generations, so please get out there and vote!

We have included the 2004 platform and facts for each nationally recognized political party, as well as Ralph Nader's platform, so please use this newsletter as a resource for information. We also hope you'll find the various articles interesting and thought provoking. The views presented in the articles are those of the writers': our job is to present you with their varied opinions to help you reach your own conclusion. If you would like to contact the Women's Center regarding the newsletter, or request information regarding future publications, please send questions or comments to us via email: Kathryn.Hurley@trincoll.edu, or MaryJane.Frisbee@trincoll.edu.


We want to thank Abigail Jackson, Stefanie Lopez-Boy, and Kate Metzler for their written contributions. We truly appreciate your talented work and diverse opinions. Great work, girls! We also want to thank Laura Lockwood, head of the Women's Center, for her constant support and guidance. Organizing, writing and editing this newsletter has been both a fun and rewarding experience, and we hope you enjoy reading it as much as we did assembling it! Most importantly, we want everyone to make an informed vote on November 2nd!

Enjoy!

Kathryn and MaryJane

Where to Vote on Election Day...

Voting for the Trinity Community will take place on November 2, 2004 from 6am to 8pm at the Blackbox Theater at The Learning Corridor on Washington Street.



WOMEN'S CENTER STAFF

Director: Laura R. Lockwood, '95

Director's Assistants: Liz Perrella, '06; Rhonda Duggan, IDP; Anita Gooding, '07

Anti-Violence Coordinator: Abi Moldover, '05

Newsletter/Feminist Scholarship Review Editors:

Mary Jane Frisbee, '05 & Kathryn Hurley, '05

PHAB (Promoting Healthy Awareness of the Body)

Coordinator: Erin Kinney, '05

The Women's Center is a welcoming space for all members of the Trinity community, regardless of gender, race, background, gender identity or political bend. We are a place of change - our goal is to create a more positive Trinity experience for all. We are a place of safety - a secure space on campus for women and men seeking short-term counseling, referrals, and resources. We are a place of fun & activism - a space to bring your energy, creativity, spirit and humor:) Please check out our website for upcoming events, programs, student groups and more! www.trincoll.edu "A-Z" - W

The Women's Center office is located on the second floor of Mather Hall, behind the Washington Room. To make an appointment with the Director or to use the Library/Lounge (next door to the office), please call Laura Lockwood at x2408, or email Laura.Lockwood@trincoll.edu.

WOMEN'S CENTER MISSION STATEMENT

"The Women's Center is a place of advocacy, support and welcome for all members of the Trinity community. Through educational, social and cultural programming, it seeks to promote women's self-determination and empowerment; awareness of women's rights and issues; redress of gender inequities; understanding among women of different economic classes, cultural backgrounds, and gender identities; and the creation of a campus environment conducive to respectful interaction between men and women."

"FEMINISM IS THE RADICAL NOTION THAT WOMEN
ARE HUMAN BEINGS." - Cheris Kramerae

*** PEACE IS PATRIOTIC***