

Election

2004

A Special Section of The Flat Hat

The power of the spoken word

BY ANDY ZAHN
THE FLAT HAT

This year, the two sides agreed to three debates — one on foreign policy, one on all issues and one on domestic policy. There was also a vice presidential debate that covered all issues.

The first debate on foreign policy, held in Miami, Fla., was moderated by Jim Lehrer from PBS.

In the first question, Kerry voiced his concern over President George W. Bush's handling of foreign policy and explained that he believes that the country is best off "when we are leading the world, and we are leading strong alliances."

Both men emphasized the need for a plan in Iraq. Kerry said he has a plan that will work, while saying that Bush's plan is "more of the same." Bush said that there is a plan working now to train Iraqi troops.

In the end, polls showed that voters felt that Kerry won the debate by large margins, placing 16 points ahead in the Gallup poll.

The vice presidential debate, held in Cleveland, Ohio, was moderated by Gwen Ifill, also of PBS. The debate covered all issues, with questions ranging from the domestic issues of the economy and healthcare, to Iraq and homeland security, to Vice President Dick Cheney's involvement with Halliburton.

Controversial during the debate was

Cheney's attack on Sen. John Edwards's attendance record, saying, "I'm up in the Senate most Tuesdays when they're in session. The first time I ever met you was when you walked on the stage tonight." Many analysts have shown that the two had met at least once before.

An ABC News poll taken right after the debate showed Cheney was the winner, while a CBS News poll of undecided voters indicated that Edwards won the debate.

The second presidential debate, held in St. Louis, Mo., was conducted in a town hall format, moderated by Charles Gibson of ABC with the audience asking previously selected questions.

Kerry pointed to deceptions in which he claims the Bush administration has engaged for political gains. Kerry also emphasized that he has a plan for America, while he views the Bush plan for a second term as "more of the same." Bush emphasized that it is important to stay the course in Iraq and said that he has the best plan to succeed.

The candidates showed a divide on domestic social issues such as stem cell research. Bush continued to be wary of increasing stem cell research. Kerry said he "respects" religious beliefs but they should not be legislated.

Kerry pledged not to raise taxes on the middle class. Bush countered that Kerry has voted numerous times to raise taxes and said that raising taxes on those making

over \$200,000 per year could affect hiring of small businesses.

A Gallup poll conducted directly after the debate showed Kerry with a statistically insignificant lead of two points. That was a marked improvement for Bush over the first debate; however, polls conducted at later times showed Kerry's lead had widened.

The third debate, held in Tempe, Ariz., covered domestic issues, with Bob Schieffer of CBS moderating. The candidates built on themes from previous debates, with Kerry largely saying that the country is moving in the wrong direction and Bush saying the opposite.

Kerry said he planned to extend health care coverage to millions of uninsured while Bush argued that Kerry's policies are fiscally irresponsible.

On Social Security, Bush argued for the partial privatization in order to meet impending demand on the system, while Kerry said that such action would be an "invitation to disaster."

Comments by Kerry about the sexuality of Cheney's daughter were also controversial.

Kerry said, "And I think if you were to talk to Dick Cheney's daughter, who is a lesbian, she would tell you that she's being ... who she was born as."

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll indicated that Kerry won the third debate, with respondents favoring Kerry by a 13 point margin over Bush.

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Bush's Style:

★ The southern drawl: in a country wary of slick politicians, Bush knows some southern hokiness will go a long way. He wants to keep it simple to reaffirm his "regular guy" persona.

★ Pausing: Bush will often wait half a beat just before using a large word, like he's apologizing to the audience for having to slip into political jargon.

★ Fingertips on the chest, head forward, pained smile: an attempt to hide the fact that he feels he's being unfairly criticized.

★ Not likely to admit mistakes: he'd do it again even knowing what he knows now. Redirects attention by to Kerry's flip-flopping on the Iraq war.

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Kerry's Style:

☆ Likability problem: especially in front of large groups, trying to shed his rigid façade, working on smiling more.

☆ Lingering handshake on the stage: emphasizing height difference between the 6'4" Kerry and the 5'11" Bush.

☆ He's a Vietnam veteran: Kerry's knee-jerk reaction when Bush questions his credentials to fight terror.

Partial to describing Bush's handling of Iraq as "mised, miscalculated and mismanaged."

☆ How are you doing: likes to ask town-hall questioners about themselves in order to show he's just a regular caring guy.

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Information from Oct. 4 issue of Newsweek

Electoral college faces reforms in coming election

BY DOROTHY PARK
FLAT HAT STAFF WRITER

When the nation goes to vote Nov. 2, residents of Colorado will also decide whether or not to accept Amendment 36 to their state constitution. Amendment 36, which would take effect immediately, would divide Colorado's electoral votes based on the percentage of votes each candidate wins. For more information, see "The Florida of 2004?" in the Oct. 18 edition of Time Magazine

If Amendment 36 had been in effect in Colorado in 2000 Former Vice President Al Gore would have won the White House.

2000 electoral-votes result

Bush	Gore	Nader
271	266*	0

With Amendment 36 in Colorado

Gore	Bush	Nader
270	268	0

* One Gore elector cast a blank ballot in protest

While the U.S. Constitution of 1787 does not mention an "electoral college," it allows for "electors" that select the president. The founding fathers took the idea of electors from the Holy Roman Empire (962 AD-1806) and its concept of princes of German states who had a right to partake in the election of the German king: in this case a "college" refers to a group of citizens that acts as a unit selected to vote for the executives. Not until 1845, though, was the electoral college written into federal law, according to the National Archives.

The electors are chosen by state law, but in accordance with Article II, section 1, clause 2, "no Senator or Representative, or Person holding an Office of Trust or Profit under the United States" may be appointed an elector.

According to the National Archives, the 538 electoral votes are divided among the states so they correspond to the number of congressmen each state sends to Congress. For each of its Representatives, every state gets one electoral vote, and each Senator gets one vote. In this, the U.S. Census Bureau is crucial, as the proportion of representatives for the states generally changes every ten years, and the votes are reapportioned accordingly.

Yet opposition to the Electoral College, considered archaic by some, is very prevalent. The main criticisms are as follows, according to www.electoral-vote.com. Why have a Electoral College at all if there is a popular vote? In fact, it is the electoral vote, not the nation-wide popular vote, which elects the president. Not only does the popular vote have no legal significance (of course, it is very significant within each state), the voters actually vote for a larger group of electors pledged to a specific candidate.

Couldn't the winner-take-all character be modified? If Florida's votes had been split, Al Gore would be president now. And, then there is the issue of the faithless elector, who is not bound to vote for the candidate selected by the people. Eight examples exist in U.S. history, according to The Green Papers, the most recent in 2000, when Gore elector Lett-Simmons of D.C. cast a blank ballot. In a close election in the future, a faithless elector could decide the vote. Making any amendments to the Constitution is quite laborious, requiring two-thirds majority votes from Congress and three-fourths from the states' legislatures. What change is possible through the state laws is the winner-take-all basis, which is not mandated by the Constitution of Nebraska and Maine give each congressional district winner one elector, and the state winner two more electors.

Depending on which state the elector is from, he or she may be bound to legal requirements or pledges. As of November 2000, according to the Congressional Research Service, twenty-four states do not require its electors to vote for who the people elect. The other 27, D.C. included, are bound by the law to vote for a specific candidate. The consequences for not doing so range from replacement to fines.

This year, some changes to the 2004 Electoral College include eight states, including key-state Florida, with more votes; and 10 states with fewer votes, three of which are swing states, according to CNN.

Coloradoans find themselves in the political spotlight, as they vote to change the state constitution from winner-take-all to proportional allocation, on Nov. 2, according to MSNBC. Under such a system, a candidate with 53 percent of the popular vote would be allocated five of the nine electoral votes; the other candidate with 46 percent of the popular vote would be allocated the four votes. An affirmative vote for the change could lead other states to follow suit, leaving the U.S. Constitution untouched.

Up-hill battle for close Senate elections

Betty Castor vs. Mel Martinez

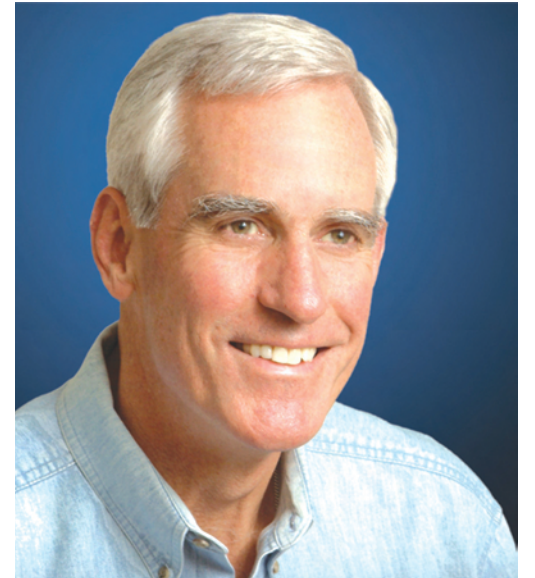
The hurricanes that hit Florida this fall weren't the only storms to create a stir in the state. The effects of the close Senate race of Betty Castor (D) and Mel Martinez (R), like the hurricanes', won't be clear until it's all over. Castor was the first female president pro tempore of the Florida Senate, Florida Commissioner of Education, and University of South Florida President. Martinez, a Cuban immigrant, is the George W. Bush-appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. One of the hot issues of the campaign has been accusations that Castor did not do enough to oust tenured professor Semi Al-Arian from the University of South Florida during her presidency after he was accused of aiding terrorists. This campaign has been one of the most costly in the country, with total fundraising nearing \$30 million. The Senate seat is currently held by Senator Bob Graham (D).



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Ken Salazar vs. Pete Coors

"We all know Peter Coors from his beer ads – but what do we really know about his agenda for the U.S. Senate?" This message is what Colorado Attorney General and Senate hopeful Ken Salazar (D) sent to the people of Colorado just last week in an embittered Senate election pitting Salazar against beer mogul Pete Coors (R). Peter Coors is the great grandson of Adolph Coors, founder of the Coors' Golden brewery in 1873. Last week, Coors gave a personal donation of \$500,000 to his own campaign, angering many



COURTESY PHOTO + WWW.PETESOORSFORSENATE.COM

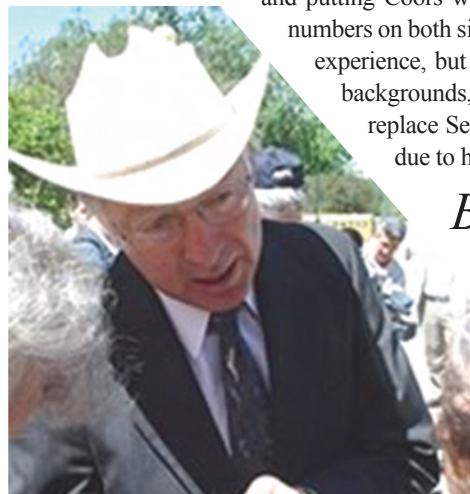
and putting Coors well over the threshold limit of \$571,000. Despite the high fundraising numbers on both sides, the race remains close. Many criticize Coors for his lack of political experience, but he maintains that the Senate is in need of more people from business backgrounds, rather than lawyers, such as his opponent Salazar. The winner will replace Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R), who is not running for re-election due to health problems.

Barack Obama vs. Alan Keyes

Although the media and the general public itself seems to forget, next week more leaders will be chosen than just the President of the United States. In Illinois, the hot race is the Senate election pitting incumbent Senator Barack Obama (D) against Republican ex-ambassador Alan Keyes. Obama is the heavy favorite in recent polls, but Alan Keyes is considered by many to be a strong match to the current Senator. Keyes only joined the Illinois Senatorial race in August – abandoning his bid for a Senate position in Maryland to take the place of Illinois



COURTESY PHOTO + WWW.MELFORSENATE.ORG



COURTESY PHOTO + WWW.SALAZARFORCOLORADO.COM

Senatorial candidate Jack Ryan who left the race in June. Jack Ryan left the race after embarrassing sex club allegations were revealed through divorce papers. Keyes is a former ambassador and U.S. Presidential candidate. Whichever candidate wins this election will be the only

Tom Daschle vs. John Thune

The Senatorial race in South Dakota between Senator Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D) and South Dakota Congressman John Thune (R) is so close that no one can guess who will come out the winner until the last ballot is counted. Thune represented his state as its lone representative in Congress for three terms and two years ago, very narrowly lost the election for South Dakota's other Senate seat to Senator Tim Johnson. Despite the notoriety of Daschle and his three-time incumbent status, this election could prove to be as close as Thune's last Senatorial bid (he lost by 524 votes). If Daschle loses the election, it will be the first time since 1952 that a party leader was unseated. A victory for Thune would be a huge gain for the Republican Party - Daschle is a strong Democratic leader and believed to be one of the greatest hindrances to advancing Republican policy in the Senate.

— compiled by andrea smith



COURTESY PHOTO + HTTP://DASCHLE.SENATE.GOV AND WWW.JOHNTHUNE.COM



COURTESY PHOTO + WWW.OBAMABLOG.COM AND WWW.KEYES2004.COM



African-American serving in the U.S. Senate and only the fifth in the country's history.

Residents of Commonwealth eligible to vote for Congressional delegates in upcoming election

★ First District

Jo Ann Davis (R): <http://joannDavis.house.gov>
William A. Lee (I): www.leeForva.org

★ Second District

David B. Ashe (D): www.davidasheforcongress.com
Thelma D. Drake (R): <http://thelmadrake.com>

★ Third District

Robert C. Scott (D): www.house.gov/scott
Winsome E. Sears (R): www.winsomesears.com

★ Fourth District

Jonathan R. Menefee (D): www.menefeeforcongress2004.com
J. Randy Forbes (R): www.house-gov/forbes

★ Fifth District

Al Weed (D): www.alweed2004.com/index.htm
Virgil H. Goode (R): www.house.gov/goode

★ Sixth District

R.W. Goodlatte (R): www.house.gov/goodlatte

★ Seventh District

Eric I. Cantor (R): <http://cantor.house.gov>
Brad Blanton (I): www.blantonforcongress.com

★ Eighth District

James P. Moran, Jr. (D): www.jimmoran.org
Lisa Marie Cheney (R): www.cheneyforcongress.com
James T. Huryz (I): www.jh4congress.us

★ Ninth District

Rick Boucher (D): www.boucherforcongress.com
Kevin Triplett (R): www.kevintriplett.com
Seth Davis (I): www.freewebs.com/sdavis2004

★ 10th District

James R. Socas (D): www.socasforcongress.com
Frank R. Wolf (R): www.house.gov/wolf

★ 11th District

Ken Longmyer (D): www.kenlongmyerforcongress.com
Tom Davis (R): <http://tomdavis.house.gov>
Joseph Oddo (I): http://votejoinrun.us/_wsn/page2.html

— compiled by jill clare

The Candidates

George Bush

Bush served as governor of Texas in 1994 and was reelected in 1998. He won the presidency in 2000 in a very tight race. Before these political years, Bush served as a fighter pilot in the Texas National Guard, for which he has received criticism due to apparent gaps in his attendance record. After graduating from Yale, he worked in the energy industry, and later served as managing general partner of the Texas Rangers until he was elected governor.

ISSUES:

Terrorism: Bush and his administration have intensified the war on terror since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Bush feels that the best way to safeguard the homeland is to spread democracy abroad. "We will either fight the terrorists abroad, or face the consequences at home," according to his website, georgewbush.com.

National Security: Bush has a plan to strengthen intelligence-gathering capabilities by creating a National Intelligence Director who will principally advise the president. Bush also plans to strengthen border security and expand biometric identification at the top fifty land entry ports.

Economy: Bush plans to make his tax cuts permanent; in hopes of stimulating the economy. Bush plans to cut the deficit in half over the next five years by supporting budget enforcement legislation that will restrain

— compiled by jill clare

the growth in spending that Congress has seen. The president also plans to reform federal job training programs to double the number of workers trained.

Environment: Bush plans to promote drilling in part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which he says could provide oil to the country and still remain environmentally sound. Bush also supports the Clean Air Interstate Rule, which requires steep emission cuts for shipping vehicles.

Education: Bush plans to strengthen Head Start programs through giving priority in funding to states with early childhood plans. He plans to provide \$250 million annually to high schools to extend state assessments of mandated skills.

Abortion: Bush has said, "I will lead our nation toward a culture that values life — the life of the elderly and the sick, the life of the young, and the life of the unborn." However, he has not indicated whether or not he will necessarily appoint pro-life judges to the Supreme Court.



COURTESY PHOTO + GEORGEWBUSH.COM

Gay Marriage: Bush supported the Constitutional Amendment to ban gay marriage recently in Congress, and has expressed his wishes to protect marriage from activist judges trying to redefine it.

Gun Control: Bush generally supports Second Amendment rights, and although he said he would back renewing the Assault Weapons Ban, it never came before him. He supports background checks and said the best way to protect citizens from guns is to prosecute those who commit crimes with them.

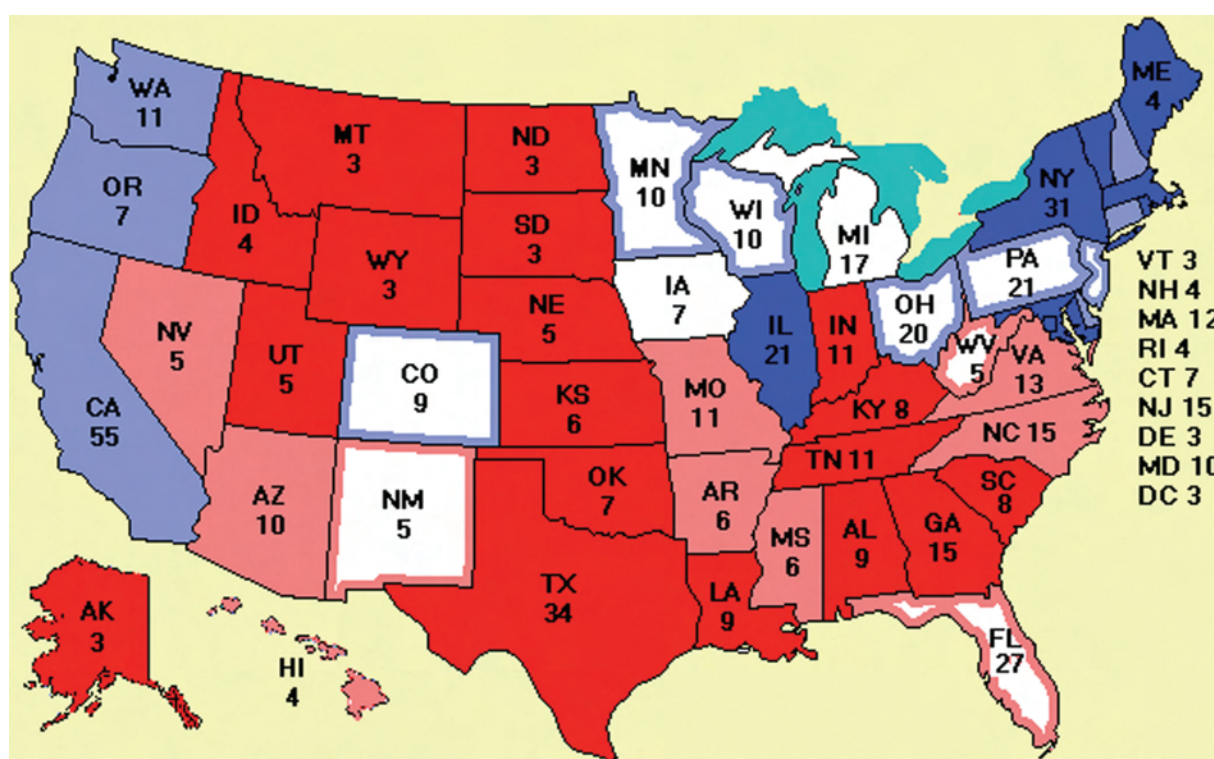
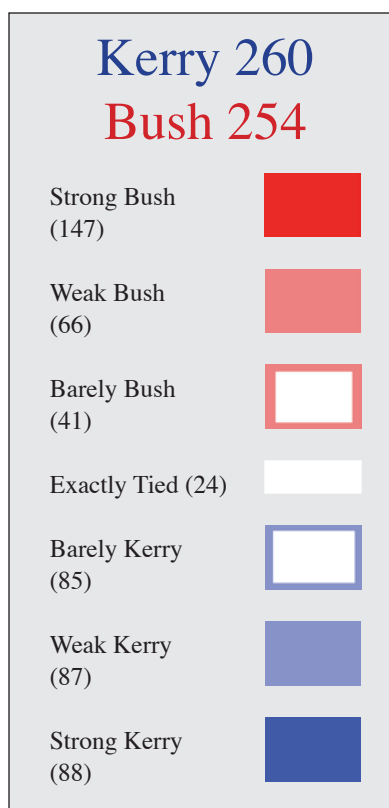
John Kerry

Senator John Kerry has years of political experience. He served as Lt. Governor of Massachusetts in 1982 and served four terms in the Senate. Before this, he served in Vietnam and was awarded three Purple Hearts, a Bronze Star and a Silver Star, which he has emphasized heavily in his campaign, despite criticism from a group called "Swift Boat Veterans for Truth." During his 22 years in the Senate, Kerry served on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for 19 of those years.

ISSUES:
Terrorism: Kerry has called for a more aggressive approach to handling terrorism, including what he has called "a more aggressive approach to the war on terror." He has also called for a more aggressive approach to handling terrorism, including what he has called "a more aggressive approach to the war on terror."
National Security: Kerry has called for a more aggressive approach to handling terrorism, including what he has called "a more aggressive approach to the war on terror."
Economy: Kerry has called for a more aggressive approach to handling terrorism, including what he has called "a more aggressive approach to the war on terror."



COURTESY PHOTO + WWW.JOHNKERRY.COM



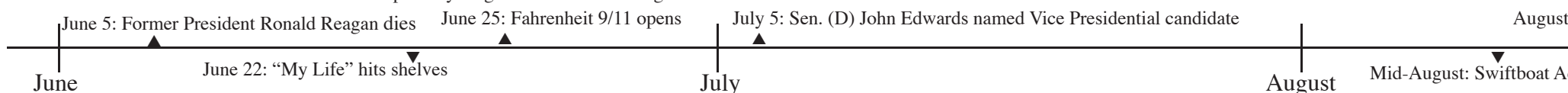
COURTESY GRAPHIC + WWW.ELECTORAL-VOTE.COM

This map was taken from www.electoral-vote.com Oct. 28. Check for updates and explanations of polling processes.

Florida
 Electoral Votes: 27
 Gov.: Jeb Bush, R — Fla.
 State Legislature: House (R), Senate (R)
 2000 Election Results: Bush ★ Florida is one of two states in which Bush's margin of victory was less than the number of votes for Nader.

New Mexico
 Electoral Votes: 5
 Governor: Bill Richardson, D — N.M.
 State Legislature: House (D), Senate (D)
 2000 Election Results: Gore ★ Al Gore carried New Mexico in 2000 by 366 votes, a margin of 0.13 percent.

Election 2004 Media Time Line — compiled by meghan shea and carl siegmund



Terrorism: Kerry strongly speaks against the way that George Bush is conducting the war on terror. Kerry opposes the "unilateral" nature of the war in Iraq, and he plans to form new alliances with old and new allies to help reduce the cost of the war.

National security: Kerry has recently raised concerns with border security after 9/11. He plans to increase security in these areas in an attempt to prevent terrorists from entering the country, and also has planned to further fund first response teams in the country. He also emphasizes the importance of good intelligence to stop terrorists before they strike.

Economy: Kerry heavily criticizes Bush's handling of the economy. In the second presidential debate, Kerry directly promised not to raise taxes on the middle class, but he does intend to roll back Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy. Kerry has

also emphasized his plan to eliminate tax breaks for companies that outsource jobs.

Environment: Kerry has a plan to protect the environment that includes plugging what he calls "loopholes" in the Clean Air Act, and ensuring that all waterways meet the standards set in the Clean Water Act.

Education: Kerry plans to increase funding for No Child Left Behind even more than Bush has, and wants to establish a National Education Trust Fund to ensure that schools always receive necessary funding. He has also presented a plan for a College Opportunity Tax Credit for up to \$4,000 for every year of tuition.

Abortion: Kerry supports a woman's right to choose. In the second debate, he openly expressed his conviction that he will appoint judges to the Supreme Court who have a history of defending abortion rights.

Gay Marriage: Kerry is against homosexuals being married, but he does support civil unions, which will extend full spousal rights to homosexual couples, including inheritance rights and adoption rights. Kerry opposed the Defense of Marriage Act in the Senate.

Gun control: Kerry says generally supports Second Amendment rights, as he owns guns himself. However, he urged President Bush to renew the Assault Weapons Ban this year, and has voted for mandatory trigger locks and background checks.

Ralph Nader

Ralph Nader, the Independent running for president this election, ran in 1996 and in 2000 as the Green Party nominee for president. In 2000, he won close to three percent of all votes cast. Nader began his political career as a lawyer who advocated strongly for the rights of consumers and citizens. He played key roles in the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Nader attended the Woodrow Wilson School for International Affairs at Princeton and graduated magna cum laude.

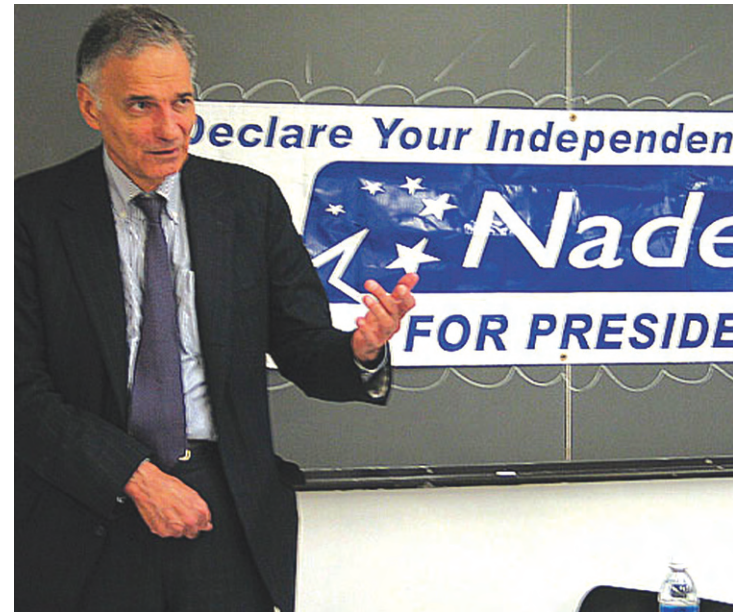
ISSUES:

Terrorism: Nader opposes the action in Iraq, and has called for the "responsible withdrawal" of the U.S. military from Iraq within six months. He proposes an internationally supervised election in Iraq without an outside military presence. Nader has accused Bush of "acting, in effect, as a selected dictator," in regards to Iraq.

National Security: Nader is concerned that the USA PATRIOT Act has eroded civil liberties, and he has called for the act to be repealed. Nader has claimed that he can cut the defense budget by \$62 billion without any drops in the level of national security.

Economy: Nader has proposed creating millions of new jobs by requiring equitable trade, fully funding education, and redirecting large bureaucratic expenditures toward health care. Nader calls for a complete change in the system of taxation, "starting with the principle that taxes should apply first to behavior and conditions we favor least, and pinch basic necessities least." That is, he calls for higher taxes on tobacco, alcohol and extreme luxuries rather than on food, clothing, or books.

Environment: Nader heavily emphasizes the importance of environmental protection, calling for increased investment



COURTESY PHOTO + WWW.NADER.ORG

in renewable energy sources, and making better use of the tax code to reward energy efficient industries.

Education: Nader is opposed to systematic standardized testing, and has proposed that investing sufficiently in primary education will reduce poverty levels. He believes that education should be primarily the responsibility of state and local governments, but the federal government should ensure that all children receive the same educational opportunities.

Abortion: Nader supports the National Organization for Women — platform, which includes absolute support for reproductive rights.

Gay Marriage: Nader supports full equal rights for homosexual couples, including the right to marry. He believes that the only way to ensure equal rights is through guaranteeing marriage rights.

Gun Control: Nader has said that he supports "thoughtful, carefully considered" gun control. He supports mandatory trigger locks, mandatory licensing, and he supported the renewal of the Assault Weapons Ban.

Colorado
Electoral Votes: 9
Gov.: Bill Owens, R — Colo.
State Legislature: House (R).
Senate (R)
2000 Election Results: Bush
★ Colorado was one of only three states to support Bill Clinton in 1992, but oppose his reelection in 1996.

Pennsylvania
Electoral Votes: 21
Gov.: Ed Rendell, D — Pa.
State Legislature: House (R).
Senate (R)
2000 Election Results: Gore
★ Pennsylvania has voted for the Democratic nominee for president in every election since George H. W. Bush.

Nevada
Electoral Votes: 5
Governor: Kenny Guinn, R — Ky.
State Legislature: Assembly (D) Senate (R)
2000 Election Results: Bush
★ Nevada has supported the winner of the past six presidential elections.

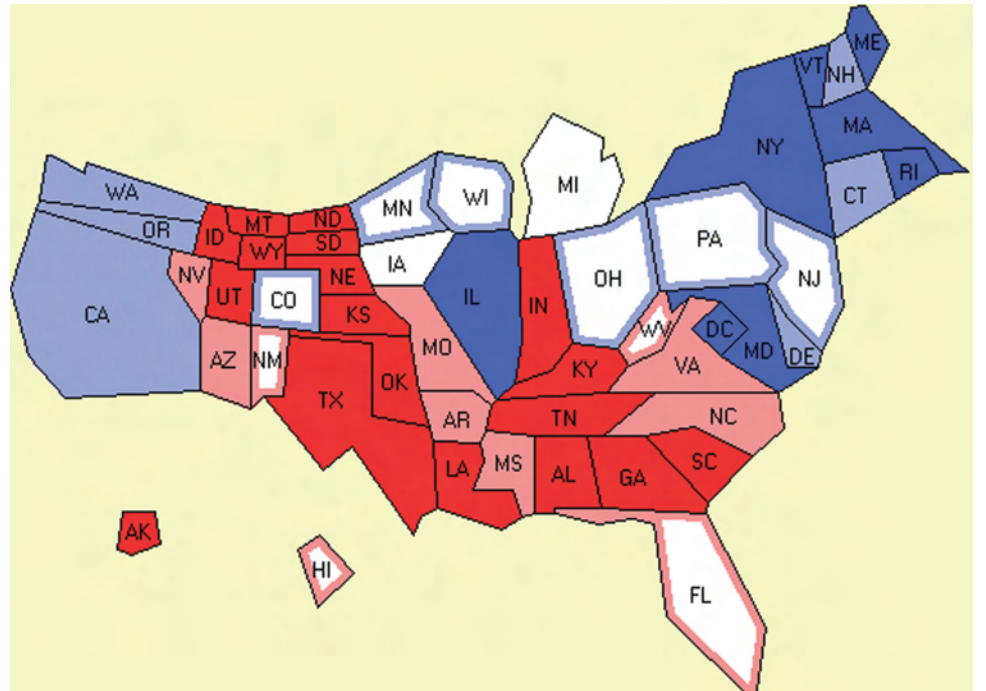
Wisconsin
Electoral Votes: 10
Governor: James Doyle, D — Wis.
State Legislature: House (R).
Senate (R)
2000 Election Results: Gore
★ Wisconsin lost an electoral vote in the 2000 census redistricting.

Michigan
Electoral Votes: 17
Gov.: Jennifer Granholm, D — Mich.
State Legislature: House (R).
Senate (R)
2000 Election Results: Gore
★ Michigan voted for Al Gore 51 to 46 percent in the 2000 election, a 5-point margin.

Minnesota
Electoral Votes: 10
Governor: Tim Pawlenty, R — Minn.
State Legislature: House (R).
Senate (D)
2000 Election Results: Gore
★ Minnesota has the longest streak of voting Democratic of any state in the country.

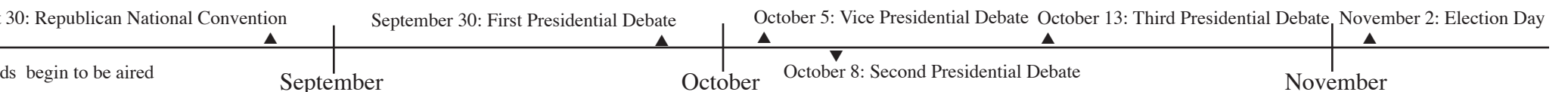
— compiled by sara slater

Chartogram of the 2004 Electoral College



COURTESY GRAPHIC + WWW.ELECTORAL-VOTE.COM

A chartogram alters the size of the states to reflect their relative weights in regards to their electoral votes. The colors correspond with the key for the electoral college map.



Virginia21 getting word out to young voters

BY CAITLIN WEBER
THE FLAT HAT

The 21st century Virginia Coalition, also known as Virginia21, is a group dedicated to involving young people in the political process. With groups on college campuses throughout the state, Virginia21 has had great success in registering young voters as well as raising awareness about issues that are especially relevant to young voters.

In an election as close as this year's presidential race, it isn't surprising that efforts would be made to engage voters generally not well represented at the polls. A wide range of groups have been focusing on young adults, particularly on college campuses throughout the country. What makes Virginia21 different, according to their website, is that, "Rather than focusing only on civic education, youth get-out-the-vote, or issue advocacy, we unite all three."

The organization began several years ago at the College, as the Students of William and Mary Political Action Coalition. After successfully encouraging students to vote and lobbying for several education reforms, the organiza-

tion grew and eventually expanded to include chapters at colleges across the state, according to the Virginia21 website.

Although the organization has grown a great deal since its conception, it is still largely controlled by students. Several William and Mary students and graduates are actively involved, including Brian Cannon, '04, who is secretary of the organization. Most funding for Virginia21 comes from businesses and private donations.

Through their website at www.virginia21.org, students are able to register to vote, request absentee ballots, and learn about the issues important to the upcoming election as well as read about the candidates. Recent statistics on their website report that as of Oct. 20, more than 19,000 absentee ballots have been requested and 4,746 students have used the site to vote.

Throughout the state, 21 percent of Virginian undergraduate students, and 19 percent of students at the College have either registered to vote or have requested an absentee ballot through Virginia21 according to their website.

Besides the obvious emphasis on the presidential election and encouraging young voters to have their voices heard, members of Virginia21 have shown their interest in local campaigns



STEPHEN CARLEY ♦ THE FLAT HAT

Brain Canon, '04, with Virginia21 presented 200,000 pennies to the Virginia State Treasurer.

and issues, displaying their concern for state politics and their relevance to young voters.

As stated on their website, one of the major goals of Virginia21 is "to form a youth coalition to impact public policy on issues important to young adults: education, economic opportunity and quality of life."

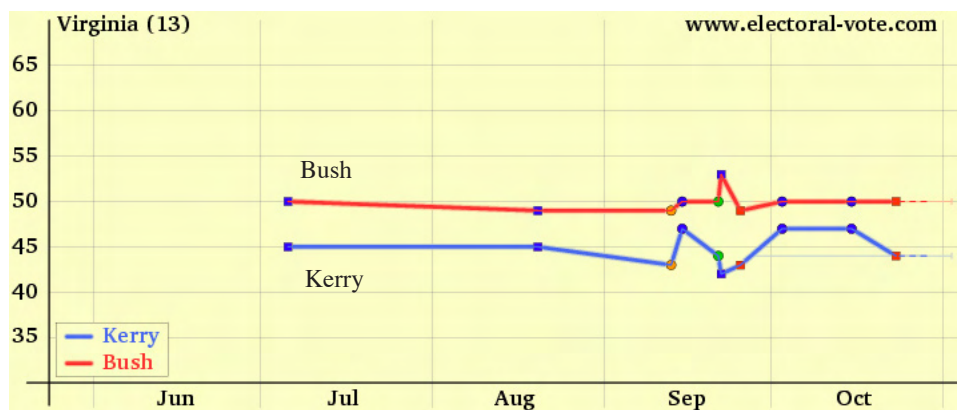
In order to do this, members attended the 2004 General Assembly session on education, lobbying for increased funding for public colleges in Virginia, according to the Oct. 22 edition of the Roanoke Times.

In further attempts to interest young voters in local issues, Virginia21 hosted a conference in September featuring both nominees for Gov-

ernor of Virginia, Lt. Gov. Tim Kaine and Attorney General Jerry Kilgore, according to the Sept. 24 edition of the Daily Press.

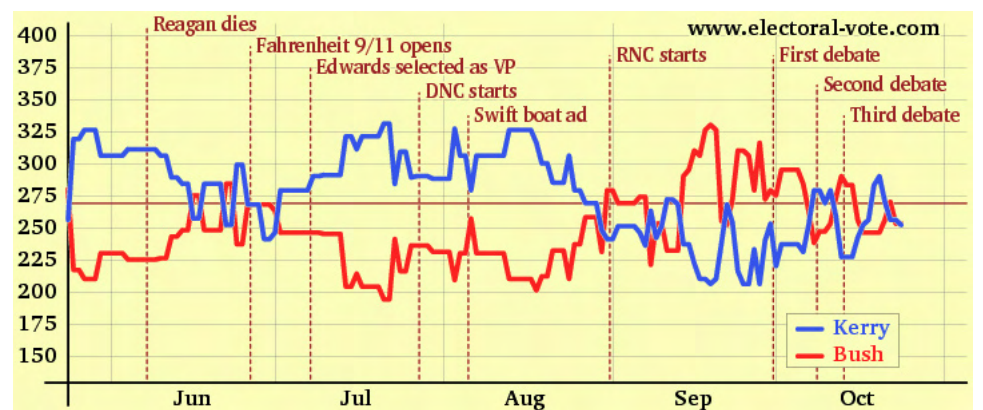
Through their presence at events such as these, members hope to show candidates that college students can be an important voting bloc, and that they are aware of the issues that will impact them.

Virginia21 sees youth as being consistently under-represented in the political process and seeks to change this through encouraging education as well as action. Their belief in the power students have to bring about change is reflected in their motto: "Act today. Shape tomorrow."



COURTESY GRAPHICS ♦ WWW.ELECTORAL-VOTE.COM

Polling trends in Virginia and the nation throughout the course of the 2004 campaign. The polls have fluctuated national for the candidates while in Virginia Bush has remained ahead.



From the Battleground: Student groups at University of South Florida prepare for elections

BY CHRIS O'DONNELL
THE ORACLE (U. SOUTH FLORIDA)

(U-WIRE) TAMPA, Fla. - They don't agree on the issues, they don't even agree on how best to work with their respective parties' campaigns. But they do have common ground: The University of South Florida campus.

With the 2004 presidential election less than a week away, both the College Democrats and the College Republicans are gearing up for a frantic conclusion to the campaign.

While the College Republicans are largely taking their cue from the Republican Party of Florida, their Democratic counterparts prefer to devise their own campaign strategy.

"We have a cooperative effort, not a coordinated effort," College Democrats president John Duddy said. "We're not

registered with the College Democrats of America, so we have more flexibility with whom we can deal with and whom we can't."

By contrast, the College Republicans' campaign activities are more likely to be coordinated with the Republican Party of Florida, a factor that College Republicans chairman Matt Strength said makes their efforts more effective. ...

"We are independent of them and we can do what we want, more or less," Strength said. "We take cues from them because they have strategies they see from Washington; you don't want to be counterproductive."

During this campaign members of the College Republicans have volunteered to work phonebanks at the local Republican office in Carrollwood, Fla., hand out absentee

voting info sheets and promotional material and check admission tickets at recent visits to Florida by both President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. ...

Duddy said he prefers College Democrats to use the Democratic Party campaign as a support network for events the group organizes on campus. The College Democrats have worked with the national Democratic campaign to bring Leonardo DiCaprio and the children of Kerry and running mate John Edwards to campus. While Duddy organizes venues and coordinates the events, the national campaign publicizes the events through phonebanks. ...

With only 36 percent of people 18 to 24 voting in the 2000 presidential election and voter turnout among young people declining over the past 30 years, political parties are

reluctant to devote too many resources to college campuses, often assigning first-time political interns to oversee them. ...

For both groups, Election Day promises to be frenetic.

The College Republicans will have 50 to 75 members walking door to door to encourage Republican voters to visit the polls, Strength said, while other members will assist in a variety of ways. ...

Across the campus' political divide the activity will be no less hectic. Duddy said members of the College Democrats will conduct phonebanking, cell-phone banking and sending e-mails to reach potential voters. ...

Only once the polls close at 7 p.m. can both groups find out if they have made a difference. ...

Students on campus get involved in national politics

NATE JOHNSON
THE FLAT HAT

Young Democrats

The William and Mary Young Democrats have come together in this election to promote candidates in a state that is geared towards the GOP. President Joelle Gotwals, a senior at the College, reported that “membership has increased three-fold this year.” The Young Democrats boast a list-serve 700 strong and an average of 50 members at each meeting.

“People are concerned about this election,” Gotwals continued. “There is a lot less dissension” within the party, and there has not been “division over [Ralph] Nader.”

“Last weekend we participated in a state wide campaigning effort by Virginia Young Democrats. We were in the third district in support of Bobby Scott,” Gotwals said.

Other campaigning activities have included “literature drops, walking around James City County to distribute in Williamsburg and phone banking.”

Gotwals said that it is “entirely possible [for



LAUREN PUTNOCKY AND LAUREN BRYANT • THE FLAT HAT

The Sons of Liberty (above) protest the College's affirmative action policies last November. The Young Democrats (below) discuss issues at a panel debate earlier this month.

Kerry to take Virginia], but the polls show him behind in Virginia. I think if we can turn out... previously unregistered voters then [Kerry could] definitely [take Virginia].”

The Young Democrats meet in Blair 205 Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

College Republicans

Chairman of the College Republicans Michael Lukach, a senior at the College, said he thinks that “Bush has [Virginia] sown up.” The College’s chapter counts 120 students among their ranks, and has been traveling all over the state and beyond to promote Republican candidates.

“Last weekend we went to Pennsylvania to work for GOP headquarters. We went door to door, made phone calls, and we are going back again this Saturday and Sunday,” Lukach said.

“We’ve been doing stuff with the local area Republican party, which has seven or eight offices in this area,” Lukach said. “We’ve been doing work ... helping with phones twice a week.” The College Republicans’ local focus has been on races for the legislature. They have traveled Virginia aiding in Republican bids for Congressional seats.

“We went to [Virginia] Tech to help Triplet defeat Oucher,” Lukach said.

“Most of the people I’ve called or gone door to door have been pretty positive for Bush,” Lukach said. “I think that Virginia is a state which the party needs to keep an eye on, but as the polls I’ve seen indicate, Bush will have it in this election.”

The College Republicans meet in Blair 205 Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Sons of Liberty

Sons of Liberty founder and president Will Coggin, a sophomore at the College, is not particularly fond of either candidate. Sons of Liberty is 15 members strong. It arose

on campus last year and was surrounded by controversy (the Affirmative Action Brownie Sale).

“We’re a Libertarian organization,” Coggin said. We have not officially endorsed [Libertarian party candidate Michael Badnarik] as it stands right now. Most of us support and are voting for him.”

The Sons of Liberty are considering events to satirize the political positions of the two major candidates.

“[We will probably] do one for Kerry, just about his policies, the way he tends to waffle... just mocking him on those grounds,” Coggin said.

“I have to say the lesser of two evils would be Bush,” Coggin continued. “I also think he is going to win because he is more [appealing to] plain spoken Americans ... and he will squeak by.”

Coggin finished by saying “We are against the War in Iraq, but on the whole Kerry is just a big government liberal and Bush is for going back to Constitutional restraint on government. Bush has expanded government, but Kerry would push it a lot farther ... [his plan for the] socialization of health care comes to mind.”

The Sons of Liberty meet in Washington 304 on Tuesdays at 8 p.m.

Students for Kerry

Students for Kerry is a new political organization on campus this semester. It is 730 list serve members strong, but will dissolve after Nov. 2.

“I wanted to give the students a chance to get out there for John Kerry” Chris Lyons said, second year graduate student in the College’s public policy program and founder of Students for Kerry.

“Students for Kerry is for those students who do not support a political party.” Lyons went on to explain that “we are targeting students who want to see Kerry get elected; including Republicans who want to vote for Kerry or others who do not fit in to other [campus political] organizations.” Lyons said that they have reached out to other student organizations which are themed in ways that suggest support for Kerry, including “those who support the



LAUREN PUTNOCKY • THE FLAT HAT

College Republicans face opposition from other campus political groups

environment, women’s studies, and gays and lesbians.”

The primary goal of Students for Kerry has been to distribute information about its candidate. “We’ve been canvassing in area neighborhood,” Lyons said, “talking up Kerry.” This coming weekend will be designated John Kerry weekend, during which Students for Kerry will engage in a variety of activities.

“We are going to have a party, do more canvassing and have a rally on campus” Lyons said. “There is going to be an information drop where we tape details about information on mailboxes and doors. Finally we are going to screen a documentary on John Kerry’s life entitled ‘Going Up River.’”

When questioned if this was in response to the Swift Boat advertisements, Lyons responded that this was being produced before that controversy arose but stated simply that “It works.”

Students for Kerry also participated in the Denby Day’s Parade in Denby, Va. “We were very pleasantly surprised by how warmly we were received. Everyone at the parade was cheering for us. There were two old ladies giving us a ‘thumbs down,’ but I have seen so much support for Kerry. There are Kerry yard signs and bumper stickers everywhere.”

“Of course I have seen Bush support too, but I have noticed much more for Kerry,” Lyons added.

“I think Virginia is definitely winnable,” Lyons concluded. “The polls I have seen show Bush at 50 percent and Kerry at 47 percent, and three percent is nothing. Will we win? I have no idea, but Virginia has not been won by a Democrat since the 1960s, and I think it is more of a possibility now than it ever has been before.”

Bush big-bully-tactics fail to win foreign support

The upcoming election is unprecedented in American history; it is the first where the most important issue is foreign policy. It is true that there are many other important



Sherman Patrick

issues in American politics today, but the Bush administration has turned 2004 into a referendum on its foreign policy strategy. Throughout the campaign trail and the debates, President George W. Bush has repeatedly brought up the War on Terror — with which he has

now made the Iraq war synonymous — even when discussing topics as removed as tax cuts (disbelievers are encouraged to peruse the contents of the White House website archives).

Bush's approach to foreign policy has been revolutionary in that it relies entirely on the unilateral exercise of American power. Despite late-campaign rhetoric, Bush has always favored a policy that believes where America goes others will follow. The

emphasis is on the resoluteness of American intentions with the assumption that once the United States takes actions others will fall in behind. And action is Bush's key ingredient for resoluteness. Not since our own Chancellor was National Security Advisor has America had such an ends-justify-the-means foreign policy.

The problem is while Bush relies on Machiavellian means he seeks Wilsonian ends. He believes that all nations have the same interests, that is, the spread of freedom and the ability to popularly elect rulers — or at least pick electors in a complex system that sometimes gives the election to the second most popular candidate. It is this assumption that leads him to the conclusion that once the United States starts a parade of freedom, other nations will quickly be inspired and fall in step.

This is an inherently flawed assumption. Even crediting the naïve belief that every people want freedom most, this worldview fails to acknowledge that states may have interests besides spreading freedom or even that they may have significantly different views of how freedom is spread. Bush and his administration have ignored this and it's

guaranteed to hurt America in the long run. Here's why:

All nations have interests, or goals they attempt to achieve. And every nation seeks to help others meet their goals. By disregarding all interests but America's desire to promote American freedoms America's way, the United States is acting a bit like the big kid in no-teams dodge ball. Sooner or later, though, the little kids realize what is happening and will team up.

This was precisely Sen. John F. Kerry's point in the first debate when he said America was overextended, though perhaps not in terms Bush could so easily comprehend. As long as America pursues American interests based on American power, other nations stand to lose by associating with the United States. Great Britain, Poland and Spain were among the major powers associating with the Coalition of the Willing in Iraq. Events have already proven to be against the interests of the Spanish and their support has been withdrawn. It's only a matter of time before American interests are no longer British or Polish interests and they too leave the coalition.

And this is the ultimate fallacy of Bush's foreign policy. It relies entirely on nations to follow America's resolute pursuit of American goals rather than the natural behavior of states to seek their own interests. Freedom, human dignity and justice may be interests of all humanity, but the instances of their violations on which Bush has chosen to act have been chosen entirely based on what is best for America. The method of pursuing these interests has been America leads and others will be inspired and follow.

Let's make sure we have that support from the beginning instead, lest we be overwhelmed later. Let's make sure we have a Coalition of the Permanent, nations that have similar long-term goals and with whom we're willing to compromise to ensure long-term reliability rather than ad-hoc alliances that break-up when nations become unwilling. Let's make sure we vote down the Bush referendum and reject a foreign policy that is doomed by the laws of common sense.

Sherman Patrick is a senior staff writer. He thinks the Red Sox winning the series, the lunar eclips and the possibility that Bush could win on Tuesday as a sign of the Apocalypse.

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Republican congressional hopeful faces difficult race against incumbent

"An older white guy, religious and generally southern," is junior Mark Riggelman's first thoughts on the type of person who's a Republican. It's also a perception 40-year-old Winsome Sears changing in her



Stephen Braunlich

race to represent Virginia's third Congressional District. Sears, a former member of the House of Delegates, was born in Jamaica, raised in the Bronx and, if elected, would be the first black Republican to serve in Congress since J.C. Watts retired two years ago.

Her opponent is six-term incumbent Robert "Bobby" Scott, a Democrat who ran unopposed in the last election. Like many of Virginia's congressional districts, the 3rd was redrawn by the Republican-controlled state legislature following the 2000 Census to favor the incumbent, making this an uphill race for Sears.

But if there is a candidate positioned to knock Scott off, it would be Sears. Both candidates are black and the district was redrawn to be majority African-American.

While there are tremendous benefits to being an incumbent, Scott's voting records plays to Sears' favor. The Virginia Pilot, which endorsed Scott, acknowledged that he is "occasionally out of step with ... parts of his district" because of his far-left voting record.

During his 12 years in office, he has opposed the Marriage Protection Amendment and school vouchers, both of which are popular among African-Americans voters. Scott also voted against a ban on partial-birth

abortion except to save the mother's life. According to a Zogby poll taken earlier this year, 62 percent of African-Americans are pro-life. He also voted against tax cuts for small businesses which could have helped stimulate growth.

In contrast, Sears is running on her record. As a delegate she sponsored legislation banning cross-burning, strengthened laws banning the distribution of drugs near schools and rec centers and made in-state education more affordable for children of Virginia's public school teachers.

Recently Sears has been targeted by literature passed out by liberal extremists. According to the Daily Press, the flyers read, "Winsome Sears wants to take away our rights," and shows photos of Hitler, Sears and Bush. It also reads, "Tell the people you know that BOBBY SCOTT is for us." Backlash to the flyers could work in Sears' favor.

Finally she benefits from being who she is. A veteran of the Marine Corps, her military experience is an asset in a district that encompasses Ft. Eustis, the Navy town of Portsmouth and whose economy is heavily dependent on the Newport News shipyards. She is also determined. The Virginia Pilot called her "an extraordinary campaigner," a fact corroborated by her 2000 run for State Delegate in which she defeated a 20-year incumbent.

Perhaps the largest hurdle between Sears and Congress is the disparity in fundraising. According to opensecrets.org, Scott has raised over \$336,480 and has \$63,437 cash on hand. In comparison Sears has raised only \$157,297 and only had \$36,353 as of Oct. 13th. Scott voted against bans on soft money.