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# Hollins Columns

October 13, 2004

Hollins University

Volume 77, Issue 3

## 2004: Year of the informed voter



[www.johnkerry.com](http://www.johnkerry.com)

The following are brief summaries taken from CNN on Bush and Kerry's positions on what the Columns feels are the top issues affecting the Hollins community. For more

### Gay Marriage:

Bush: backs Constitutional Amendment banning same-sex marriage

Kerry: Against gay marriage but opposes a Constitutional ban.

### Patriot Act:

Bush: supports the Patriot Act.  
Kerry: Supports letting the Act expire without Congressional approval.

### Abortion

Bush: opposes abortion; has signed a bill panning Partial Birth Abortion.

Kerry: supports a woman's right to choose.

### Affirmative Action:

Bush: has both opposed and supported affirmative action policies.

Kerry: supports affirmative action policies.

detailed information, please visit [www.georgebush.com](http://www.georgebush.com) or [www.johnkerry.com](http://www.johnkerry.com). Ralph Nader is not included because he is not on the Virginia ballot.

### Tax cuts:

Bush: signed two tax cuts so far; more cuts are unlikely

Kerry: repeal tax cuts for the wealthy; increase child tax credit

### Irag

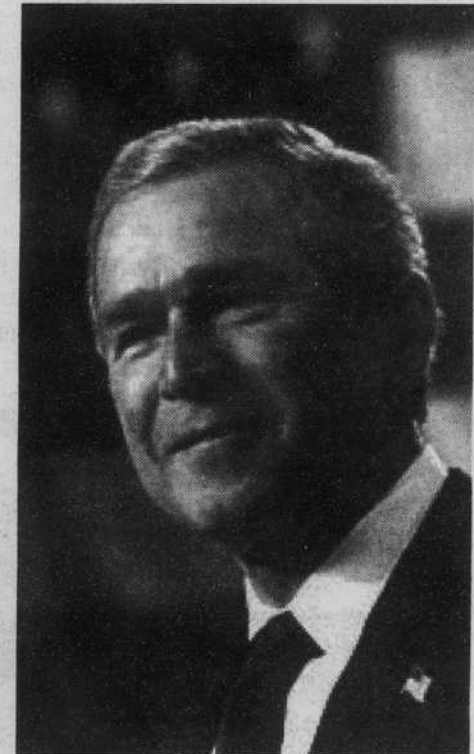
Bush: authorized war to oust Saddam Hussein.

Kerry: Vote for the war; now thinks Bush "misled the nation".

### Death Penalty

Bush: supports the death penalty; Texas led the nation in number of inmates executed during his tenure as governor.

Kerry: opposes the death penalty.



[www.georgewbush.com](http://www.georgewbush.com)

### Oil Drilling:

Bush: favors opening Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for gas and oil exploration and drilling.

Kerry: Opposes exploration in the refuge.

## What issues are most important to you in the election?



"Homeland security and the war on terrorism is most important to me" -- Kristin Bradford '07



"I would like to see a debate on health care and see a plan where everyone has access to it." -- Gwen Fernandez '06



"I'm voting for Nader...but I would like to know more about policies with drug companies and the distribution of drugs for the AIDS crisis." -- Irene Farrow '06

# Kerry doesn't rock my vote because...

BY ASHLEE NEAL, HOLLINS  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE REPUBLICANS

I would like to start by saying that I am not trying to criticize anyone who supports John Kerry. One of the things I love the most about Hollins is our diversity and open-mindedness, and I think it's great that there is such a diversity of opinions on campus.

I am writing why I personally am choosing not to vote for Kerry, and ask that you remember that I am entitled to my own opinion, just as much as you are entitled to yours while you read this.

First and foremost, I feel that Kerry's stance on foreign policy is weak and unsubstantiated, full of comments and criticisms uttered only to differentiate himself from his opponent. When a plane crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001 it wasn't just an image on the TV for me. My neighbor's office was located in the E-wing section of the building destroyed.

I saw all the pain and destruction caused by Sept. 11, and I will not support a candidate who doesn't

look out for our best interests at all times, even if it makes him unpopular.

While war is evil, vile and horrible, unfortunately it is sometimes necessary to ensure the safety and protection of our country's citizens. When a person is charged with being the leader and protector of millions of American citizens, they should act proactively, just as a parent looks out for their children.

Kerry often criticizes George W. Bush for riding around in bullet proof vehicles while the troops in Iraq drive vehicles without armor. Kerry voted in favor of the war and yet voted against

ing out for the citizens of their country?

Granted, I am not an economics major, but my opinion is based on my experiences, and I feel that Senator Kerry's plan for economic growth would actually weaken our fragilely recovering economy. Too much is already taken out of my paychecks for taxes, and more taxes and social programs are not the solution to the problems facing our country.

In the last 20 years, Kerry's voting record has shown tremendous support for the funding of social programs, however every one of those programs increases our taxes a little bit more. While I do feel there is a necessity for goals such as ending poverty and the dependence on welfare, I think we need to explore more efficient ways of accomplishing these objectives, such as providing government funding to non-profit organizations that seek to provide similar services.

Kerry has often been quoted as criticizing the incumbent president for offering tax breaks that only benefit the wealthy, however, the wealthiest people in the country pay most of the taxes, so it makes no sense that tax breaks will benefit them the most.

I must now admit that I am, in fact, uncertain on where Kerry really stands on certain issues. Don't

get me wrong, I am not an uneducated voter. I've read all the literature available on both candidates' web sites and watched all the debates so far. However, I feel that Kerry's actions are incongruous with his words.

In America, we vote for a candidate, not against one- and I think Kerry should focus his campaign more around what he plans to do, what his vision is for our country, not what he feels is wrong with the incumbent's plan.

And, if Kerry wants to be elected to serve the people- then why

has he been absent from 98 percent of Senate meetings since beginning his campaign? Kerry tells the troops overseas that "Help is on the way", yet votes against providing them with the resources they need? Kerry wants to cut our dependence on foreign oil, yet he does not support drilling in Alaska and drives a gas-eating Chevy SUV?

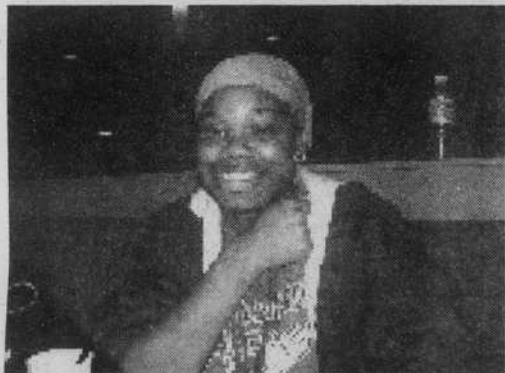
In my opinion, a president should do whatever it takes to look out for the best interests of the citizens of his country.

Before you vote this Nov. 2, ask yourself, would John Kerry do whatever it takes? Or would John Kerry do whatever it takes to get himself elected?



supplying the military with the necessary funding to protect their members- is that how you want a president look-

## What issues are most important to you in the election?



"More on public education" -- Stephanie Coston '07



"I wish they would focus more on environmental issues. They seem to dodge it." -- Carrie Spruill '06



"I care about health care and also how they feel about religion in the government" -- Amanda Range '05

All pictures taken by Jen Spelkoman '05

# Anyone but Bush. Really, anyone.

BY JULIA KNOX, HOLLINS  
UNIVERSITY YOUNG DEMOCRATS

Anyone who's ever had a political conversation with me or passed by my presidential character and leadership class knows I'm a Democrat.

Whether it's in class, in Moody, or in my room, I can be heard spouting off against Bush every chance I get. I'm one of those "damned liberals" extreme right-wingers hate. I would vote for my six-year old cousin before I voted for another four years of this administration.

I honestly don't get how anyone could vote for Bush. Seriously, do you feel safer now that we've bombed the hell out Iraq, the country that didn't attack us on Sept. 11? Do you feel better knowing that your right as a woman to choose what to do with your body is at risk? Are you looking forward to trying to find work after Hollins, with the job market the worst it's been in 75 years?

If he wins, I will honestly spend Nov. 3-10 locked in my room, drinking myself into a stupor to try and forget that we're stuck with his administration for another four years.

Let's take a look at some of the things our esteemed president has done while in office:

- Attacked and took over two

countries

- Spent the surplus and bankrupted the treasury, shattering the record for biggest annual deficit in history in the process

- 2 million Americans lost their jobs in his first year in office, yet he still cut unemployment benefits

- Created the most hostile Israeli-Palestinian relations in at least 30 years with his policy of 'dis-engagement'

- Restricted more freedoms and civil liberties for us than any president in recent U.S. history (Patriot Act, anyone?)

- In a little over two years created the most divided country in decades, possibly the most divided the U.S. has ever been since the Civil War

That's not meaningless rhetoric, people. Michael Moore didn't write that. This is real. The man who somehow clawed his way to the top of the U.S. government has done this.

Bush likes to portray Kerry as a flip-flopper (despite the fact that he himself has changed positions quite often. "No nation building," anyone?). However, which is worse – to realize you were wrong and try and correct yourself,

or stand by the same position even after you know you messed up? Sure, Bush has stuck by his decision to invade Iraq. But was it the

right decision to begin with? (This is where I would go into a rant about how Iraq and 9/11 weren't connect-



ed, but you don't need to hear that).

Besides the war in Iraq, the main problem I have with the Bush administration is their constant attempt to limit our rights and civil liberties. I am against abortion. But who am I to tell someone what they can and can't do with their body? The fact that an old white guy is trying to tell me what I am allowed to do with my body, when he's never had to worry about getting raped a day in his life, disgusts me.

It's almost as disturbing as the fact that Bush thumps his Bible – the same Bible that tells us to love thy neighbor as thy self – when attempting to tell two people in love that they can't legally express it. Dick Cheney, Bush's own vice-president disagrees with him on the issue of gay marriage. Could it be because Cheney looks at his lesbian daughter and her long-time partner and realizes that hey, they're not so bad after all?

I also find it despicable that the Bush camp is attempting to turn Kerry's war service against him.

So Kerry thought the Vietnam War was unjustified – does anybody actually think that war turned out well? And at least we know Kerry actually served. Did anybody see Bush anywhere? Better to have done something on a Swift Boat in Vietnam than nothing at a party in Alabama.

I'm sure any conservatives who made it past the first paragraph probably have a headache from rolling their eyes so hard. If that's the case, feel free to stop by West 308 and

chat. I am capable of having an intelligent, open-minded debate. I'd like to point out that I do not dislike all Conservatives, nor do I despise Bush himself. In fact, it is not Bush that I have most of my problems with, but his administration. If he got rid of Cheney, Rumsfeld and Ashcroft... well, I still wouldn't vote for him, but I might at least let the thought cross my mind.

I try and tell myself that even if people vote for Bush, at least they're voting for something. Then I realize, and accept, the fact that I'm a hypocrite, hoping against hope that all of apathetic America is a Republican and they stay apathetic until Nov. 3.

And remember, it actually is important to exercise your right to vote. Women didn't fight so you could be apathetic. So watch the debates, read up on their positions, and on Nov. 2, go out and vote (for Kerry).



# Does W really stand for women?

BY LAURA SMITH

The first time I saw the slogan "W'04" I had no idea what it meant. Perhaps it stood for White House 2004. Or President Bush was separating himself from his father by using his middle initial as a new slogan. When I heard that the W stood for Women - a platform by Bush used to say that he understands the needs and rights of Women, I became indignant.

What has Bush ever done for us?

Let's take a look:

## His own Administration Enforces the Unfair Wage Gap

Women working in the white house make roughly \$59, 917 on average compared to the men who make roughly \$76, 624 - making those women worth only 78 cents for every dollar that Bush's men earn. According to the Census Bureau the Wage Gap has widened since 2003 - with women now earning only 75.5 cents to every man's dollar. Sources: "Leaked Salary List Shows Bush's Highest Paid Staff Mostly Male," Dana Milbank, The Washington Post, July 13, 2004

## Bush has Unemployment Benefits that do not Favor Women

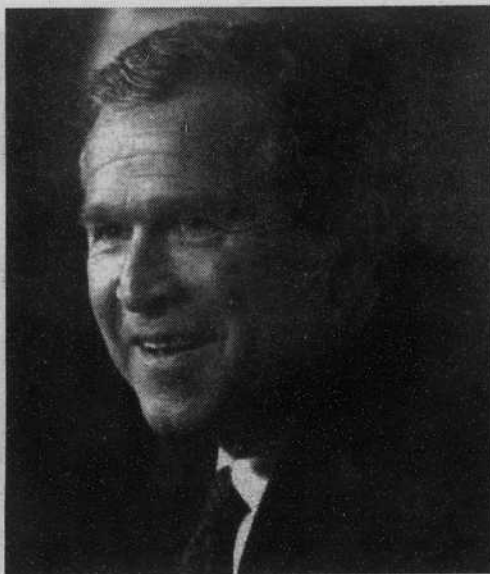
According to the Economic Policy Institute, the United States has had the highest amount of sustained job loss since the Great Depression. Bush's policies have cut over 1.3 jobs since 2001, making the economy one of the worst in history. Women are having problems finding jobs in a country over 7.4 trillion dollars in debt. Sources: <http://americaforsale.org>

## Bush Not Over-the Counter Emergency Contraception Friendly

On May 6, 2003 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the help of conservatives made Emergency Contraceptives (also

known as "The Morning After" pill) illegal without a prescription.

Source: <http://www.anairroads.org/politics>



## Bush Against Women's Rights

Bush enacted a law against Partial Birth Abortions in November 2003 marking a new era in governmental power: when governmental hierarchies rely on their own religious bias to make decisions over women's bodies. Scary, huh? What's even scarier is that this is only the first step. Bush's eventual goal is to overturn the landmark Supreme Court case Roe vs. Wade, a case that protects women's right to have an abortion. Doctor's who practice these partial birth abortions face a maximum of two years in prison.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com>

## Bush Enforces Global Gag Rule with Negative Results

Let's talk about Bush's interference in the United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA). In 2002 the House of Representatives voted to block \$50 million dollars used for "international family funding" to the UNFPA. Every year, the UNFPA provides childcare practices to destitute women in over 150 countries worldwide, including China.

The Bush administration said that the UNFPA was supporting abortion through China's one-child per household policy, but according to the Washington Post, the UNFPA responded that they did not promote abortion, and upon investigation made by the Bush Administration no evidence was found to support their claims. UNFPA funding was withdrawn in 2002 and they have not received funding since. With the loss of funding it is estimated that this "will translate to two million more unwanted pregnancies, 800,000 more abortions, 4,700 more dead mothers and 77,000 deaths of children under five."

Sources: "U.S. Withdraws Millions from the UN Population Fund Over China Program," Stephen Collinson; Women's eNews, "Report: Global Gag Rule Spurring Deaths, Disease," Washington Post, "House Blocks Family Planning Funds," Juliet Eilperin.

## Bush's real "Family Time Flexibility Act"

Bush's "Family Time Flexibility Act," enacted in his first year of presidency, was advertised as being a policy that would allow working mothers to have more flexibility in their work hours. Upon scrutiny however, this act has many negative effects. Those employees who work more than forty hours per week are no longer subject to time-and-a-half overtime pay.

Instead they their employers give them a sort-of "IOU." It works like this: employees forfeit their overtime for a promise of an eventual time off sometime within their next thirteen months of work. This time-off is given at their employer's discretion. Doesn't seem very family-friendly to me.

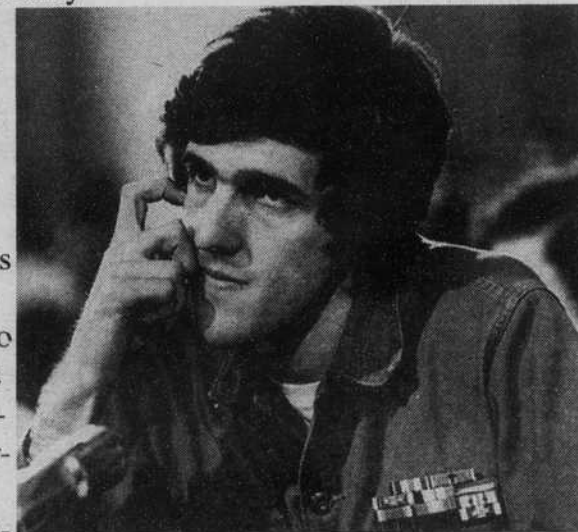
Sources: <http://womensissues.about.com>; [www.now.org/issues/economic](http://www.now.org/issues/economic)

## Bush Not Attentive to Violence Against Women

In his 2004 budget Bush refused funding to the "Violence Against Women" program that included funding for shelters against domestic abuse, and crisis centers.

According to an article titled "Protest Nancy M. Pfotenhauer's Appointment to the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women" on the National Center for Poverty Law's website, Pfotenhauer was quoted as saying, "the battered women's movement has outlived its useful beginnings' and the [Violence Against Women's Act] 'is based on ignorance, non-facts, and wishful thinking about the power of the federal government to curb violence between intimate partners.'"

Bush worked with Pfotenhauer when he asked her to join the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women. Funny how



this committee rolled back funds, creating an opportunity for more violent acts toward women in the future. Not Funny: One in five women will be a victim of rape, or attempted rape, sometime in her lifetime. Source: <http://www.povertylaw.org/advocay/womanview>

Still think George W stands for Women?