

Get involved

Cast Your Vote

Forgot to register? Online registration is a breeze.

By Tamar Maor



Election time is just around the corner and that means you need to register to vote. If you're not into politics you probably don't even know what Bush's stand on the defense policy is, let alone who's running for county sheriff or railroad commissioner. The Internet has a solution for those of you who don't have time to read the politics section of the paper every morning.

Registering to vote could never be easier once you visit Democracy Net (democracynet.org) and click on "register to vote." Your computer will automatically download a printable version of the voter registration application complete with instructions and deadlines for your state's absentee ballot. (The application is in PDF format; if you don't have Adobe Acrobat Reader you can download it for free at adobe.com.) Once you mail that envelope in you are ready to participate in the 2000 elections.

If you don't want to send in an absentee ballot, or you're not registered at home, register to vote as a resident where you attend college. The Democracy Net PDF lists voter eligibility for each state. Some states have registration deadlines, so check soon.

Before you find yourself voting for the guy with the cooler name, you might want to become a little more informed on the candidates in your area. Once again go to Democracy Net and enter your zip code. A list of your candidates will appear along with their stand on popular issues. A little time surfing this site can make you a much more informed voter and a much happier citizen.

These sites all have links to register to vote and provide a wealth of information on candidates and issues.

Voter.com

Voter.com lets you register to vote, check out what the candidates stand for and track campaign contributions in your state.



Rockthevote.com

This is the official site of the perennial MTV campaign. It covers the standard issues as well as which music artists are rocking the vote and how you can get involved.

Opensecrets.org

Opensecrets posts how much each candidate (presidential and congressional) has raised and where the money comes from. Enter your zip code to find out who is making big donations in your area.

Vote-smart.org

This ambitious site aims to track every person holding office or up for election in the U.S. It provides lists of campaign contributors, voting records and interviews every candidate filing for office on the issues they are likely to face for their constituencies. Take their test to see which candidate comes the closest to matching your views. •

Freshmen Stats: What They Do

In the past year...

- 81.9% attended a religious service
- 26.0% discussed religion
- 45.9% participated in organized demonstrations
- 74.2% performed volunteer work
- 62.9% read the editorial page in the daily newspaper
- 14.0% discussed politics

Source: *The American Council on Education and the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute.*

Behind the site

Angry Little Girls

Lela Lee, the mind behind Angrylittlegirls.com, is a cartoonist, actress and writer in Los Angeles. The site is a collection of comic strips and short movies about Lee's posse of underdogs: six girls from different ethnic backgrounds, all of whom have problems and aren't afraid to show it. Visitors can ride to school with the girls, participate in a chat room and buy T-shirts on Lee's site.

A sister site, Angrylittlesiangirl.com, was launched in April 1998, but the seeds of the animated cartoon were planted in 1994 while Lee was a sophomore at UC-Berkeley. She attended an animation festival with a friend and realized she didn't relate to any of the cartoons there.

"I was angry at the cartoons' subject matter. Most were male oriented with male humor about feces, women's humiliation and drug trips," said Lee.

So she stayed up all night with a box of crayons, drawing the first strip in the series, which now can be seen online in animated form.

"Alag" is about a little Asian girl and—of course—her anger. Anger at her mother, her classmates, prejudice and just about everyone and everything that crosses her path.



STS: What was your site launch like?

LL: Building the site was an enormous undertaking. I thought it would be simple but it proved to be complicated especially since I knew nothing about computers. The amount of emails and hits I got was amazing. I guess I hit a nerve.

STS: Do you have help?

LL: I only have help when I really need it. It's really still like a hobby for me, it's out of my apartment so I try to keep it small.

STS: What's your hit count?

LL: I don't know and I don't care!

STS: What kind of feedback do you get?

LL: It's usually positive, occasionally I get a person who doesn't get what I'm angry about.

STS: Do you have another job?

LL: I'm an actress too, and have appeared in several independent films and television shows. —Molly Delano

