

Commentary

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"...I'M BEING FOLLOWED BY A MOONSHADOW... MOONSHADOW, MOONSHADOW..."

BRET FURTWANGLER | GRAPHICS EDITOR

In my opinion

NEED ELECTIONS ANSWERS? TAKE A NUMBER

Today at Further From Perfection, we're accepting questions from anxious University of Oregon students regarding the upcoming presidential election:

As a queer woman, I'm especially interested in what the candidates have to say on issues pertinent to my social situation. Who do I vote for?

— *Unsure Student*

Dear Unsure: I absolutely recommend the casting of a ballot for Mr. Bush. Sure, searching for the phrase "civil liberties" on his official campaign Web site produces no results, but don't let that fact prevent you from supporting a candidate that is so obviously the one for you.

And sure, Georgie has plans to write discrimination into the Constitution by banning gay marriage, but really, who wants to get married anyway? Wouldn't you rather just be single and promiscuous for the rest of your life? I know I would.

And about Bush's connections with Schwarzenegger, even after his heterosexist "girlie men" comment? Well, I say Ha Ha! We should all congratulate the governor of California on his witty remark. Making fun of men's masculinity in order to threaten them — what a novel idea!

In terms of women's rights, there is no better choice than Bush. The W stands for women. And if Bush had been born with a different middle initial, he would have changed it to W; that's how much he cares about women. Even if he does wish to stick his head up into the vaginas of pregnant women and make completely uneducated decisions about their

fetuses, or prevent women overseas from gaining access to birth control, the W in his name sure does make up for all that.

My refrigerator makes a dripping sound in the middle of the night, which keeps my pet ferret, Killer, awake and running around noisily until 3 a.m. How can I stop this racket?

— *Nicolas Corlett, Client #664*

Dear 664: I see the inherent question that you're getting at. You're really asking, "What smart decisions can I make in this election that will ensure Killer and I can sleep well at night?"

Two important issues to watch out for include our current military action in Iraq and the debate over the economy.

President Bush made the decision to "rub out" Saddam Hussein because deductive reasoning clearly indicated a link between the Iraqi leader and the men involved in the 9/11 terrorist attacks — consider their suspiciously similar skin tones and foreign-sounding names.

If Bush leaves office, can the occupation continue properly? Kerry has shown himself to be a steadfast supporter of the war ... well, not of giving so much money to assist in the

effort ... but yeah, the war was definitely a necessary measure after 9/11 ... although, if he were in office, he would have waited for United Nations approval ... (cough) Geneva Accords ... (cough, cough).

Maybe we should move on to the economy, stupid. If you are rich, I suggest voting for Bush, as he gave the greatest tax cuts to the wealthiest tax bracket. I guess Dick Cheney's multimillion dollar nest egg was getting lonely. If you are poor, I suggest voting for Kerry, as he promises to revoke said tax cuts and give more to lower income citizens.

If you are unsure of your economic class, I still suggest voting for Kerry, because, sorry Reagan, trickle down economics is still a sham. The wealthy won't stimulate the economy if they receive more money, they will hoard it along with all their other millions of dollars. The poor, on the other hand, will actually use unexpected money, and therefore benefit the economy. Duh.

Which candidate was the most best-est in the Vietnam War?

— *J.D. Everyguy*

Dear J.D.: Television commercials are making it increasingly clear that neither Bush nor Kerry fairly served in the war. Bush was still doped up and surviving on daddy's money, while Kerry was busy forging photographs of himself with the men who are now part of the Swift Boat Veterans For Truth. If you deeply care about the candidates' war service, I suggest that you promptly stop giving a rat's ass.

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Editorial

U.S. action imperative in Sudan

Two minutes of the 90-minute presidential debate on Thursday were dedicated to the genocide taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan — not nearly enough time, given the scale of the tragedy, but more time than we anticipated, quite frankly.

We were glad that both candidates used the word "genocide" to describe the actions of the Sudanese government and the Arab militiamen known as Janjaweed, who are killing Darfur's non-Arab population.

But we were disheartened that neither candidate is in favor of sending troops to stop the genocide, which by all accounts is ongoing.

An estimated 50,000 have been killed and 1.3 million have been driven from their homes, according to Reuters. Women are being raped and villages are being destroyed on a daily basis. Yet the world is dragging its heels. The African Union only has 300 troops on the ground, according to The Washington Post, and the United Nations is taking its sweet time dotting every I and crossing every T.

Sudan's only hope is for America to take the lead by ramping up pressure on the international community, helping to provide the peacekeeping infrastructure (i.e. money) and sending in U.S. troops, if necessary — and it will be necessary. All of this should have been done months ago.

As Samantha Power recently reminded us in Time magazine, past presidents have been reluctant to use "the G-word" to describe genocide: For example, Jimmy Carter with the Khmer Rouge, Ronald Reagan with Saddam Hussein, the first George Bush with the Bosnian Serbs and Bill Clinton with Bosnia and Rwanda.

This time around, our leaders have provided the appropriate international context, but, as Power says, using the word genocide is only a small, first step. Now we must take action. We must not allow ourselves to be trigger-shy due to the reaction over, and casualties in, Iraq. What some would suggest is America's greatest failing — a rash, unilateral foreign policy — can now be utilized for the good of humanity. The controversial "doctrine of preemption" has the potential to do what no other country is able to do: Preempt further genocide.

However, in a political year dominated by Iraq, nuclear weapons and terrorism, Africa and the terrorism of genocide have been rendered invisible. This is an issue that should transcend politics, yet neither candidate has made it a priority. Democrats and Republicans must find a way to come together and take action to help the Sudanese people without it dissolving into further partisan mudslinging. But that might be too much to ask.

ONLINE POLL

How easy is it for you to buy textbooks for college courses? Visit www.dailyemerald.com to vote.

1. Very convenient. Every book I need is in stock at the campus bookstore.
2. Somewhat convenient. I just log on to the Internet and click, click, click.
3. Somewhat difficult. I don't have a car/bike, and the instructor uses a store across town.
4. Very difficult. The book list for my class wasn't provided in advance, and now I can't afford the books.
5. This issue doesn't affect me.

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