

# FACE OFF: clear: It's Bush Not again, America!



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tion is over and the majority of voting Americans have spoken: Bush has been re-elected president of the United States. As a writer did not vote for Mr. Bush, I can see the advantages of a commander-in-chief put back into the Oval Office for four years and here is the main reason.

The United States is currently conducting military operations in Iraq, in an attempt to see that those countries stay on a path towards democracy. Although our initial reasons for going to those countries remains a little vague, we are now in the end and will remain so for quite a while. Though it really remains what will happen in the end, changing the leadership of this time may have had disastrous results for our men and women and John Kerry been given the keys to the White House.

Military, above anything else, needs consistency in leadership in operations against a stubborn enemy. A changing of the top would have thrown a large monkey wrench into that consistent military engaged in combat is a weak one. Look at the United States. The U.S. military won most of the major battles, but ultimately lost the war because the civilian leadership made too many of the decisions that should have been made by the generals on the battlefield.

The principle could be applied to the current conflict in Iraq. A change in the presidency, and thus a change in wartime leadership could spell disaster for American and allied forces on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. Although the reasons for going to war are not clear, our continued involvement in this war is better left to a president and an administration that have the inside scoop on the current operations. Fortunately, in this case and no other, it is George W. Bush.

The passage of Ballot Measure 36, although a pretty bad idea, is a truly fickle bunch of people. It really is a change of the two states that we live in. You have the Portland area that is clearly anti-establishment in almost all of its collective decisions, and the rest of the state of Oregon, which is as conservative as anywhere in this great country of ours.

Measure 36 was pretty cut and dried in its explanation and its meaning. It stated that, if passed, one man and one woman legally constitute marriage in the eyes of the State of Oregon. Unfortunately, this statement was written into the Oregon Constitution, where it will be difficult to repeal, without another vote of the people of this state.

The sponsor of this measure, the Defense of Marriage Coalition, is focusing on the true opponent of marriage in this country: our astronomically high divorce rate. The slogan, "One man, one time" came up more than once in this political season and it is what the Defense of Marriage Coalition should be focusing on: whether two people who love each other, who are of the same gender, should have the legal right to marry.

After a disappointing victory, Bush has stolen another four years in which to give money to the rich, fight unjustified wars, take away civil rights, and in general, rape, pillage and destroy our homeland. Enter "Captain Bush," his brother the hacker, and his whole fleet of pirates.

Democrats all across the country felt the same moment of fear as presidential candidate John Kerry conceded the race the morning following the election. With what is now appearing to be the smallest margin of victory, with only three million votes, and leaving many voters with the rumor that their vote was in vain anyways. Ohio being this election's Florida early on, has provided proof that there has been fraud in the computerized ballot casting in that state, and left only questions of why Kerry gave in so early before inquiring the truth.

President Bush has promised many things before and during his victory, saying that he will give more support to families, increase health care benefits, reform the education system and among many other things, of course, defend American lives. But why should we believe him this time around? While President Clinton was in office our nation had the best economy it had had in a long time, and President Bush has gone way further than just depleting that budget, but has created a huge debt in order to destroy and then rebuild a country that we should have never bothered in the first place.

Being strongly supported by the rich and the religious, Bush has made it openly clear that he is not only against abortion, but also against same-sex marriage. Why does he, or anyone, have the right to make such decisions for a person? With the topic of pro-choice being such a controversy, you have to question and think what will happen if that option is taken away from women. The answer is simply that, yes it will still be done, only in another country, like Canada, or in much less sanitary and more dangerous situations, since it will be an illegal act.

With the decision long ago being made that church and state would be separate, why then does religion have so much influence in our government? Even if God and the Bible decree such things as marriage being a sacred union between a man and a woman, and that same-sex marriage is unholy, that shouldn't give it any weight when it comes to our constitution and what is legal.

In the midst of passing of Measure 36, not only are many Oregonians being discriminated against, but they are also losing many very basic, sometimes life-saving rights. Now that same-sex marriage will no longer be honored in Oregon, partners have lost nearly all rights when it comes to making decisions for their loved ones in times of emergency. Their families are also affected in the sense that they may lose out on health care and other government support.

So when the history books of our future generations are written, and the chapters of 9/11, our historic war waged on terrorism, and all the other chaos and destruction that will be blatantly apparent in the Bush years, the 2004 election will be in the section titled, "Come on America, AGAIN?"

## STUDENT POLL:

What is your reaction to last week's election?



"Disappointment. I feel like blind conservatism won George [W.] Bush an election that will hurt the very Americans who voted for him."

**Michael Schott**



"Bush sucks. There's words I want to use but I can't. He's a liar. Kerry sucks too, though, don't get me wrong."

**Brandon Nickles**



"To be honest, I was surprised that Bush won. I didn't think that he had as much support as he did."

**Travis Younkin**



"I was pretty pleased overall. I was disappointed with the protests in Portland afterwards."

**Lisa Ludwig**



"After I stopped crying? Personally, I was really disappointed in the American people. I was also disappointed that Measure 36 passed."

**Naomi Marshall**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

defies definition  
opinions vary

"Values" is the big post-9/11 buzzword but it is meaningless in this context, since every-thing according to their moral ways. Americans simply have no unified definition of morality that substitutes the moral posi-

tion. For some, moral values mean killing innocent fetuses. For others it means "no innocent Iraqis." For some, moral values mean discrimination is the only way. For others it is defining as heterosexual. For some, moral values mean bringing God into the political arena. For others moral values mean religious tolerance by not interfering in politics towards our government.

If we were all to agree on moral values, the "moral values" would be preventing abortion—moral codes demand different things. For some the moral

choice would be voting for the man who is "pro-life." For others it would mean voting for the man who is "pro-family planning." And for still others, who simply notice that abortion rates went up significantly under Bush's leadership, morality would require voting for his opponent.

The point is everyone votes according to their moral values. Calling moral values the unexpected player, or saying their appearance in the exit polls gives the president a clear mandate, is bologna!

*Erica Bollinger is a student at CCC*

**Cross country team deserved better coverage for amazing win**

Yesterday morning something strange happened to me. I was overcome, overwhelmed almost, by the urge to protest. I felt the desire to make a very obvious statement. I wanted to make a

stand, stand up on something even, and voice my qualms with the world. It would be a hell of a show: pyrotechnics, vicious haiku contests, possibly even an interpretive dance troupe.

Now you might think that the recent voter turnout had gotten this into me. It's pretty phenomenal, you know. Or maybe it was the election itself. That's something to whine about, really. Maybe, it was even the fact that my cross country team won Southern Regionals by 30 points. That's a whole freaking lot of points. You would be mistaken, though, because in fact, it was this paper that did me in.

Yesterday wasn't a particularly happy day, not because of John Kerry's concession, or the fact that now I can't marry that gorgeous girl in my Bio lab, but because I turned anxiously to the sports section hoping for maybe a headline, a full article, a celebratory team shot... And you had a picture of my friend John Butkey crossing the line.

That was it. Just John's face

smearing across the bottom 1/8th of the page.

It's a great shot. It's a really great shot. It's full of action, suspense and intrigue.

But hey, a crapload of other people ran. And we didn't have nearly as many articles of clothing on. And it was some kind of cold. And we won too.

But instead of mentioning that, there were articles about how to get to Canada. And cartoons without punchlines. And phonebooks for frustrated masturbators. Those are nice, and good, and maybe even funny, but really, kids.

Furthermore, I offer a vicious haiku to the two entrepreneurs who made [those] clever [Measure 36.5] t-shirts:

Your vital proteins  
Are in serious danger,  
Run to Canada

Thanks for taking the time to read my unjustly harsh criticisms.

*Samantha Cox is a student and cross country runner at CCC.*

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