

# the Seahawk

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## Ben Jones

VIEW FROM THE SPORTS EDITOR'S DESK

### Who came up with "The lesser of the two evils"?

I do not know how to decide who I want to become president. In this day and age of media biased reporting, I find myself in search of the "true" facts coming out of the political parties. What are the candidates' platforms?

This search for the knowledge makes me feel like the people in search of answers in the "Two-minute Drill" commercials on ESPN. The answer-seekers are running after the little answer-gnomes, which are chanting their prized knowledge.

In search of these answers, I suppose I must first try to answer the following questions. Do I stay with my current affiliated party? How about a pro/con list to decide who gets my endorsement? Alternatively, maybe I should focus on one debatable issue and pick the corresponding candidate.

Let's start with death. I do not think humans should have the choice whether or not to kill another human being. Therefore, I could not choose Albert Gore because he sides with the pro-choice division concerning the issue of abortion. Wait a minute... I cannot pick George W. Bush either then because Mr. Bush is a significant contributor to the death toll of the State of Texas, via capital punishment.

Skip death then. What about taxes. Nobody really likes them, so let's try to reduce the extortion. Maybe we can elect a group of efficient leaders who can work with less to gain more. I know, I am dreaming.

How can we as Americans raise our level of education and health welfare for all citizens without money? Oh yeah, no need to worry about that when it comes to our president-elect. Based on our Founding Fathers and the Constitution, those issues are state-level responsibilities. No federally-elected official will ever be able to make a difference about a state-controlled plan.

The big questions are directed individually at each of our leading candidates. Mr. Bush, are you just a puppet that says what the men behind the curtain tell you to say? Mr. Gore, are you a liar who will say or do anything to become our president?

Based on my findings thus far, I have no candidate. No one will get my vote this election, unless there is a drastic change over the next few hours.

After spinning in these questions on numerous issues, where can I turn? Who has the answer? Question is, am I seeking a chanting gnome?

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Seahawk encourages all readers to submit letters to the editor for possible publication. Please limit correspondence to 300 words. The Seahawk may edit letters for space. The Seahawk reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter. Libelous, false and misleading material will not be considered for publication. All letters must be signed by the author. Letters to the editor are the individual opinions of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Seahawk staff or the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Letters can be submitted in person at the Seahawk office, University Union room 205E; by mail at The Seahawk Newspaper, 601 S. College Rd. Wilmington, NC 28403; or by email at [shkeditor@hotmail.com](mailto:shkeditor@hotmail.com).

## Editorial Viewpoint

### Our Edorsement for President

Today, students will vote in one of the closest presidential races in our country's history. At press time, polls showed Al Gore and George Bush deadlocked with approximately 45% of the popular vote apiece.

Unfortunately, the two candidates are not tied because they are equally qualified. Instead, it seems that the similarity between these two candidates and the catch 22 of choosing between a "liar" and an "idiot" accounts for the quandary.

Considering our coverage of election 2000, the Seahawk editorial board endorses Al Gore for president. Gore's notable intelligence and experience combined with his solid stance on the issues of abortion, foreign policy, the environment, surplus spending and education make him the stronger candidate.

While this choice does not reflect a "lesser of two evils" decision, it is not wholehearted. The controversy stirred during the debates combined with claims of Internet invention, misquoted figures, bad grammar, and DUI's have blurred the issues in this campaign and each candidate seemed to grow less appealing as the process progressed. These distractions have left many voters basing their choice on the vices of an opponent rather than the virtues of the candidate they support.

Unfortunately, Bush is a nice guy. Hell, he'd be the clear choice if we were deciding who to invite to an upcoming keg party. But the thought of him serving as the leader of our country is scary. Granted, the coherency of his speeches should not be the main deciding factor in whether he is elected, but when one combines his numerous vocal slip-ups with the vague nature of his answers during the debates (what exactly is "affirmative access" anyway?) it is difficult to determine the extent of his knowledge on the relevant issues in the campaign.

It is even scarier to examine the issues where Bush's stance is clear. It is hard to imagine any woman casting a ballot for a candidate whose pro-choice stance under-

mines a women's right to choose. This issue is especially important considering the likelihood the next president will appoint Supreme Court justices who have the authority to alter *Roe Vs. Wade*.

Additionally, Bush poses a potential threat to minority voters considering his vague stance on affirmative action and his refusal to sign the hate crime bill designed to impose strong penalties on perpetrators of crimes that are motivated by prejudice.

Aspects of Bush's terms as governor of Texas also cause concern as the state has consistently been rated as the worst state in terms of pollution and 134 people have been executed thanks to Bush's firm stance on the death penalty.

Ultimately, Gore seems like a much more solid candidate who has a true passion for the issues he supports.

He is very concerned with investing in the future, which is enticing to college students. His stance on environmental issues and push for a worldwide effort to halt ozone layer depletion, show a strong concern for future generations of the world as a whole. Unlike his opponent, Gore does not want to spend the surplus, and he has made early education programs such as Head Start a key component in his educational goals. Gore has also confirmed many times that he is in favor of affirmative action and a woman's right to choose and has taken a proactive stance on issues of both media violence and censorship.

Gore entered this campaign with several factors working against him. He was widely known as a boring, vanilla politician whose experience as vice president were discounted in light of the fact that he served during a presidential term dominated by moral corruption. However, Gore has emerged from this campaign as a dynamic individual; a moral advocate who maintains a clear stance on the issues affecting the country today and generations to come.

