

# Election 2004

## The hot topics in this year's election

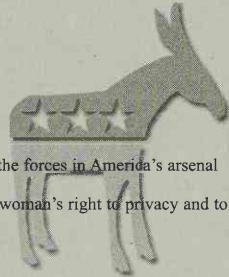
Abbie Crago  
Pilot staff

With the third and final debate over, the margin between President George Bush and Senator John Kerry has narrowed. As if the smearing TV ads aren't enough, the political chicanery of both parties often leaves voters wondering who to believe. Although the art of politics lends itself to riding the fence until the election, voters are often left without real answers on the issues that matter to them. After hearing accusations of job outsourcing and inconsistent voting records, it's time for the facts.

However ambiguous they might be, both Bush and Kerry have outlined their plans for America's future on their campaign Web sites. The Web sites also give insight into the personal lives and beliefs of each man.

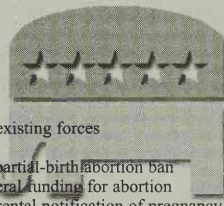
**Issue**

**Kerry**



- Security
  - deploy all the forces in America's arsenal
- Abortion
  - supports a woman's right to privacy and to choose
- Education
  - fully refundable College Opportunity Tax credit
- Economy
  - offer aid to states to keep taxes down
  - cut taxes for businesses
  - cut the deficit in half in four years
- Environment
  - reduce mercury emissions
- Women
  - supports Title IV
  - believes in equal pay in workplace
- Judicial Appointments
  - judges with a record of enforcing civil rights and a respect for a full range of constitutional rights
- Marriage

**Bush**



- restructure existing forces
- defend the partial-birth abortion ban
- prevent federal funding for abortion
- supports parental notification of pregnancy of minors
- increase student financial aid to help more students afford college
- enhanced pell grants
- reform student loans
- \$500 million for jobs
- dedicated \$40 billion over a decade
- believes in creating strong, faith-based home systems
- appoint judges who strictly interpret the law
- fix broken nomination process
- pursue federal marriage amendment
- protect the Defense of Marriage Act

We want to know: "Who you are voting for and why are you voting?"

I am undecided because I don't feel like I know enough to make an educated decision but I plan to learn more.



— Kyle Loughran, junior

I'm voting for Kerry because as a graduating



biology student, I'm searching for a job and (because of) environmental protection. So, I'd have to say my main concerns are our economy and the environment in this election to oust W.

— Dave Merryman, senior



I'm voting for Bush because I believe in what he stands for.

— Courtney Cline, junior

## Topic: Who will make the better president?

During the debates, Bush announced a plan to create 1.9 million new jobs. By what? Having Americans build war supplies. Oh, I forgot, Vice President Dick Cheney already benefits from that.

Jennifer Menster  
Pilot editor-in-chief

Let's face it. Ralph Nader is not going to win the 2004 presidential election. So that leaves America with two choices: current President George W. Bush or Senator John Kerry.

According to the latest CNN poll, Bush has 52 percent of the vote, Kerry 44 percent.

Come on America. Are we really going to re-elect Bush? Let's look at his track record.

This budget year marked the highest national deficit ever and the biggest shortfall since World War II, according to a CNN story. The department of treasury announced in late September that the \$413 billion federal deficit sets a record. When Bush came to office in 2001, he announced his plan to create a \$5.6 trillion 10-year surplus. Many say that his "plan" itself has turned into deficits estimated at \$2.3 trillion. Yeah, that really helps us, Mr. President.

And what about this economy? How is he going to fix it? During the debates, Bush announced a plan to create 1.9 million new jobs. By what? Having Americans build war supplies. Oh, I forgot, Vice President Dick Cheney already benefits from that.

With Bush, it's about the rich getting richer. What about the middle class and the poor people? John Kerry wants to raise taxes on the upper class. What's wrong with that? They make thousands and thousands more dollars than your average working Jane. They should have to pay more.

Bush said that his 2001 and 2003 tax cuts have "kept our economy going," (quoted from CNN.com). Well, that's funny considering our deficit, increasing inflation rates and a high 5.4 unemployment rate, with nearly 8 million people without a job in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

During the second debate,

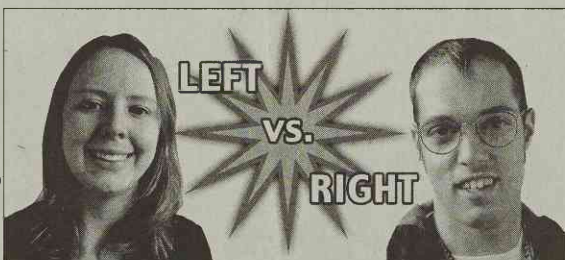
Kerry said that he plans to give tax benefits to companies that keep work in America rather than take advantage of Bush's loopholes for companies that move work across seas.

The biggest issues are the war on terrorism and Iraq.

Bush himself said during the debates that America would never be safe from terrorists. Then why are we killing our soldiers fighting a winless war? We all know he went into Iraq to finish his daddy's work and oust Saddam.

Kerry has several plans to help combat terrorism without killing thousands of American troops and volunteers. Kerry wants to destroy terrorist networks, cut off terrorist financing and restore alliances to combat terrorist networks across the globe.

It's time to put someone in office who is not living in his daddy's shadow and who can make America a better place to live.



Here is my prediction of what will happen if John Kerry gets elected. America will turn into the international country of pancakes... [and] lessen his environmental stance just to get enough syrup.

Jacob Conley  
Pilot staff

With election day fast approaching, I decided to share my thoughts about the race for the White House in 2004.

After weighing the two debates and trying to figure out the politicians' stand on particular issues, voters will have to make a choice of who will be the next leader of the free world.

Here is my prediction of what will happen if John Kerry gets elected. America will turn into the international country of pancakes, because there will be so many waffles that Kerry will have to lessen his environmental stance just to get enough syrup from trees to put on them.

If Bush wins, we will have four more years of hilarious and completely nonsense sayings such as, "stratergy" and "internets."

But I can live with that. I'd rather have a president who says something definitive in a slow southern drawl, than one who says nothing at all. When Kerry finally does say something it is usually about the economy. One of his favorite sayings is, "This is the first

administration that lost jobs since Herbert Hoover." However, many economists will tell you that the current economic situation in America is due to the previous president's term in office — William Jefferson Clinton.

Four years ago, during the last election, I was a junior in high school. As a class project for my U.S. History class, I was required to color in the different states in an electoral map. I fell asleep about 1 a.m., and Florida was still changing colors. Shortly after the last election, officials from Florida took a replica of the ballot to an elementary school and asked fifth graders if they could understand the ballot and punch out a certain chad, which they did 95 percent of the time.

Since I am a competitive person by nature, I treat the election like a sporting event. So on Nov. 2, I will sit in front of the TV with my Pepsi and cheese doodles and cheer like a maniac whenever a state turns red and sink into a deep depression when it is blue. But no matter who wins the election, I will still voice my opinion in this column and around campus to help move America in the "right" direction.

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