

# If you didn't vote, you have yourself to blame

By Maria Singleton  
ARGUS FEATURES EDITOR

I have yet to see an election pass without someone vowing never to vote again because they didn't like the way that the election turned out.

Take for instance the presidential election of 2000. After George W. Bush "secured" the presidency, there was an overwhelming number of people claiming that their vote didn't count, so they wouldn't vote again.

The fact of the matter is that the people never elect the president, the Electoral College does, but with the Supreme Court's decision to disregard the Florida ballots, Bush was declared the winner.

My point is that for

every person who refused to vote in last month's election because of hurt feelings lingering from the past presidential election, or any other for that matter, give yourselves a hand.

Before Nov. 5, Bush was not in the position to pass legislation through Congress (its powers were formerly balanced between the Democrats and Republicans) at his discretion because he didn't have full party backing from Congress. Now, however, Bush is virtually able to do whatever he wants since his party basically controls the House and Senate.

The Democrats can still veto any bill before it is passed into legislation, but it would require that they initiate a filibuster (at

least 41 Democrats to strike down the bill), which would mean almost complete unity on their part.

Although, with cold weather quickly approaching, I wouldn't bet my winter coat on it. Especially when the Republicans were able to win the state of North Carolina where over half of the registered voters are Democrats.

It is true that the Democrats did not do an impressive job of campaigning for the election, but regardless, being a Democrat in name does not make one a Democrat if ballots are cast for straight Republican tickets. I'll grant that not every registered Democrat will vote a Democratic

ticket, but for any party to take a state in which they are a minority to the degree as the Republicans were/are in North Carolina is questionable, bordering on miraculous.

The people who purport to be supporters of a party need to get their acts together as well. Yes, it is up to the party members to promote themselves and their campaigns, but research never hurt anyone.

Regardless of what anyone says, a person should always be willing to go back and check out the facts for themselves.

I suggest that from now on, we all take a closer look at what's going on in the economy, who's running it and the potential consequences of their

actions. Especially when it comes to our civil rights and liberties as Americans (check out the positions of certain elected officials in regards to terrorism, abortion, affirmative action, etc.).

Finally, I hope that students and citizens will take initiative when it comes to voting. The commander-in-chief can only go as far as Congress will let him. It doesn't matter that we do not have the power to choose the president (if more people thought that it did the Electoral College would have been inactivated a long time ago), because we can choose the senators and representatives who he has to answer to. What could be more important than that?

## WORDS

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to the person spoken about, will it be twisted or will it be the truth. In a worst case scenario the person might confront me, or have someone else which might even lead to a physical altercation. All of this because of what was twisted and turned into something juicy.

The power to cause you emotional damage can be caused by words. The key is whether or not you allow the words to harm you is your choice.

You will not be loved or liked by everyone this is just a simple fact. You have the power to control what can or cannot hurt you when it comes to words.

You have choices that you must make; you can either confront the person or move on.

Relationships and friendships are often destroyed due to twisted words spoken. If you confront someone, are you mature enough to rationally talk it out like two mature adults?

The other option is to smile and look that person in the face and move on. It matters not if you are trying to keep it real.

The better person will always win in the end because words don't necessarily have to hurt.

## Music industry is still mourning loss of influential Jam Master Jay

By Safari Jefferies  
ARGUS SPORTS EDITOR

More than a month later, the hip-hop world is still mourning the lost of Run-DMC's DJ Jam Master Jay. Authorities confirmed that the suspects fatally shot Jay inside a recording studio. Another victim, Urieco Rincon, was shot in the leg.

To say the least, a lot of people are wondering, why Jam Master Jay?

I would have expected controversial individuals such as 50 Cent or Shyne to be the act of such a heinous crime.

Well what's next?

A source at Allhiphop.com said that the authorities have a lead in the case.

Jason Mizell was a New York kid who brought the style and the beat to Run-DMC, the group that took hip-hop music to the world.

Mizell was born in Brooklyn in 1965 to Connie and Jesse Mizell. The family moved to Hollis when he was 10. At around this age he started playing the drums and bass, but was soon captivated by the art of deejaying. As a teenager he formed a couple of groups and would often set up in Hollis' Two-Fifth

Park, where his future partners Run (Joseph Simmons) and DMC (Darryl McDaniels) would come to rap over his music. He was never the so-called "problem kid," that most rappers have claimed to be. His biggest brush with the law came when he spent four days in the Spofford Juvenile Center in the Bronx after a friend broke into a house and he was busted as an accomplice.

Mizell earned his high-school equivalency diploma and focused on music until Run-DMC hit it big.

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## Campus Voices

### Do we too often take things for granted?

"I feel that we take family for granted, because when I was in high school, I was in a near-death accident with my older and little sisters. Knowing that I almost lost them opened my eyes."



Chester Beamon  
Freshman, undecided

"Yes, we take life for granted because we think that we will live to see another day when it is not granted to us."



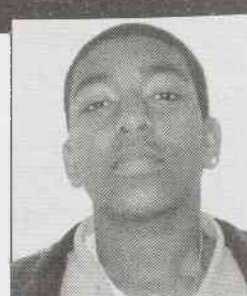
Stacy Jones  
Sophomore, elem. education

"Many times we take the little things for granted that means the most like such things as food, clothing, friends, family even smiling at a stranger. Those are things that we should be most thankful for."



LeKeisha Braxton  
Junior, special education

"I think we take things for granted because so many things are basically give to us. A long time ago, black people, especially, had to fight for the right to vote. Now we have the right to vote and most of us still won't."



Marcus Smalls  
Sophomore, mass comm