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Environment Matters

By Jennifer Colletti
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Scientists agree that the environment has reached a critical point in history, and that it's fate hangs in the balance as we decide how to conduct our lives in the 21st century.

Everyone seems to agree that protecting our environment and improving many of its current conditions will be necessary for the planet's future health and happiness. After all, who wants to be breathing polluted air or drinking dirty water? But what is the best way of undertaking such a vast problem?

Al Gore and George W. Bush both agree that the environment needs help and protection, but they differ greatly in their approaches.

Bush favors increasing state control over environmental policy and creating "conservation partnerships" between federal and state levels in order to meet environmental standards. In contrast, Gore favors federal funding towards land and water conservation and federal tax cuts to people who partake in land conservation.

Bush supports the improvement and repair of the nations

existing public lands, whereas Gore supports federal spending to create new national park lands and to help cities and states create public parks.

Bush supports the moratorium on new leases for oil and natural gas drilling off the coasts of Florida and California, but would consider the plausibility of individual cases. Gore supports a complete ban on all offshore drilling of new leases off the Florida and California coasts.

With gasoline prices soaring, energy has been a hot topic lately. This relates to the environment directly since we derive our energy sources from the earth in ways that can be harmful, yet we must find ways to meet the growing energy needs of our population. Chiefly, the two candidates disagree on how to best provide for our nation's energy needs.

There is the question of whether or not to explore for oil and natural gas in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge. Bush supports such exploration, whereas Gore opposes it.

Bush is in favor of increased oil exploration on federal lands and constructing new pipelines. Gore responds to the energy problem by proposing to tap the Federal Oil

Reserve in order to alleviate shortage and stabilize oil prices.

Bush opposes this action except in cases of national emergency. Gore proposes tax cuts and credits to those who use solar energy, make their homes more energy efficient and who purchase more fuel-efficient cars.

Both candidates support electric utility deregulation.

In summary, Bush wants to improve existing energy technologies such as clean coal technology and hydroelectric power. Gore wants to encourage the adoption of newer clean energy technologies such as solar power.

Bush pushes for increased oil exploration in all areas of the country, whereas Gore favors protecting some areas from oil exploration.

Their overall approach to the environment differs in that Bush favors environmental controls at the state and local levels, whereas Gore supports federal funding and programs.

So which methods will be most effective and at the same time most environmentally friendly?

You be the judge, remembering that what we decide now will effect us for decades to come.

Abortion Issues

By Anne Zahran
Staff Writer

When deciding which presidential candidate to vote for on Nov. 7, it is important to know where the candidates stand on the issues that matter to us.

On the issue of abortion, George W. Bush and Al Gore could not be more different.

It is not enough to simply know that Bush is pro-life and Gore is pro-choice. Each one of these terms are so much more than the sum of their parts.

George W. Bush supports the bill to ban D and E, dilate and extraction, abortions also referred to as partial birth abortions. (This procedure involves pulling the fetus out of the womb feet first, puncturing the skull, and suctioning out the brain so it can be removed without harming the mother. It is used when the mother's life is in danger because of the fetus and used in late term pregnancies after 20 weeks). He also opposes using tax dollars to pay for abortion.

As support of Texas, Bush supported and signed a parental notice law the

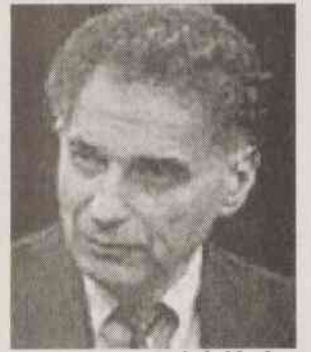
required a parent to be notified before a minor received an abortion. Bush was not in favor of the approval of the abortion pill RU-486, which was recently allowed for medical use in the United States. Bush's running mate, Dick Cheney, had a 100% pro-life voting record during his years in Congress.

Al Gore opposes the bill to ban partial-birth abortion. He supports legalized abortion on demand and has said that he would do nothing to undermine the Roe v. Wade decision. He also supports using tax dollars to pay for abortion.

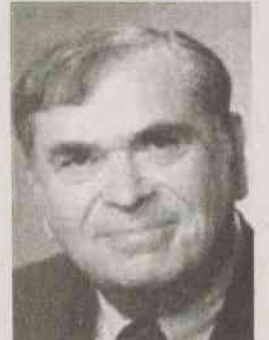
Gore voted 31 out of 33 times with the pro-abortion side during his 8 years in the Senate. His running mate, Joseph Lieberman, voted pro-abortion 66 out of 67 times during his 12 years in the Senate. He also voted against parental notification for minors wishing to have an abortion.



Harry Browne



Ralph Nader



Howard Phillips



Al Gore



Pat Buchanan



George W. Bush



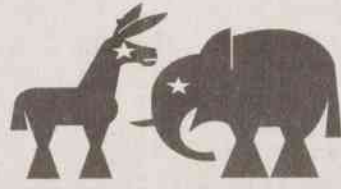
John Hagelin

Photos Taken From www.election2000.aol.com



SHOW EM WHERE YOU STAND

Vote



ELECTION 2000: WHAT IS YOUR VOTE?

By Amanda Garcia
College News Co-editor

By now it should be obvious to everybody that there is a presidential election on Nov. 7. What may not be so obvious is for whom you should vote.

Seven candidates are recognized on at least twenty state ballots. In alphabetical order they are: Harry Browne, Libertarian Party; Pat Buchanan, Reform Party; George Bush, Republican Party; Al Gore, Democratic Party; John Hagelin, Natural Law/Reform Party; Ralph Nader, Green Party; and Howard Phillips, Constitution Party.

It is an integral part of our democratic system of government to have more than one or two candidates. Most media focuses on the Democratic and Republican candidates.

What are the major issues for this year's election? If you ask ten people what they feel the major issues are, they will all give you different answers. Issues are a personal thing. What do you feel convicted about? What is important to you?

There are several options to chose from. Abortion, individual rights, education, crime, gun control, foreign policy, health care, welfare and poverty, taxes, political reform, and environment all are examples.

Where do the candidates stand on these issues? To answer this question, it is necessary to break each issue down into its subcomponents. From these subcomponents, the highlighted issues will be those in which Governor Bush and Vice-President Gore greatly differ.

These are just some of the issues involved in this election. Each one of you probably has your own issues that you feel are important, but were not highlighted in this article.

Voting is the way to make your voice heard. Each and every election is important, but who is to say that this one is not the most important?

It is possible that with this election the path of America's success or decline is in our midst. What is your vote?

Education

Al Gore

-Opposes school vouchers for private, religious, and home schools.

-Supports national education standards.

-Proposes a 401 (j), Life-Long Learning Account, which takes invested monies and spends it tax-free on the development of further education. Also, would fund a 50% tax reduction.

-Proposes the creation of a National Tuition Savings Program, which would assist in sending students to universities and colleges outside of their home state.

-Proposes mandatory teacher testing for all new teachers, followed with evaluations after granting their licenses.

-Supports raising teacher pay and hiring teachers to decrease class sizes.

-Supports increasing federal funds for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

George W. Bush

-Supports state's rights to set the educational standard.

-Supports developing charter schools with \$300 million investment. Three billion loan guarantee for 200 new charter schools.

-Supports "charter education" by tripling federal funding.

-Supports transferring Head Start to the Department of Education for expansion in research.

-Proposes the establishment of a "Math and Science Fund" to strengthen educational excellence.

-Supports providing money for the establishment of after school programs.

-Supports providing \$1 billion (over five years) to increase Pell Grants (\$1000) for high school students wishing to take college level math and science courses.

Health Care

Al Gore

-Supports increasing the federal children's health insurance program to include those within 250% of the federal poverty level.

-Supports allowing senior citizens to buy Medicare.

-Supports the Patients' Bill of Rights legislation, which includes the right to see specialist, go to the nearest Emergency Room, choose providers, and appeal a health plan decision.

-Supports a tax credit for long term care.

George W. Bush

-Proposes returning the children's health insurance program to the original blockgrant program, which gives states the money to distribute to the uninsured.

-Supports medical savings accounts to all Americans.

-Supports prescription drug subsidies for low-income seniors.

-Supports limited patients' rights (ability to sue HMO's over denials).

-Proposes providing families unable to receive Medicaid, a \$2 thousand health credit.

Civil Rights

Al Gore

-Supports Affirmative Action.

-Supports allowing homosexuals in the military.

-Supports the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (prohibits the termination of employees based on sexual orientation).

-Supports tougher penalties on hate crimes.

George W. Bush

-Opposes Affirmative Action.

-Supports the "Don't ask, don't tell" policy of homosexuals in the military.

-Opposes the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

-Opposes tougher penalties on hate crimes.

International Policy

Al Gore

-Supports permanent trade relations with China.

-Opposes the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act.

-Supports the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

-Supports payment of United Nations dues in full.

-Supports embargo on Cuba.

-Supports peacekeeping efforts in Kosovo led by NATO.

-Supports current economic sanctions and "containment" of Iraq.

-Supports NAFTA.

-Supports current position of freezing North Korea's nuclear weapons program, but provide fuel and oil to and constructs civil nuclear reactors for that country.

-Opposes moving the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem during peace negotiations.

-Supports engagement and cooperation with Russia.

-Supports Kyoto global warming treaty.

George W. Bush

-Supports permanent trade relations with China.

-Supports Taiwan Security Enhancement Act.

-Opposes the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

-Supports payment of United Nations dues if the U.N. bureaucracy is reduced and the U.S. share of the total cost is reduced. Promises never to place U.S. troops under U.N. control.

-Supports moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem.

-Supports the embargo on Cuba until there are "free elections, free speech, and freedom for political prisoners."

-Supports the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Kosovo, transferring leadership to European Allies.

-Supports economic sanctions against Iraq. Also urges for increased support for opposition forces seeking overtake Hussein. Supports air strikes against mass production weapons sites in Iraq.

-Supports NAFTA expansion throughout the Americas.

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