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OPINION

Let's talk politics
Covering both sides of the
political fence, presidential
candidates and the
environment.
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This weekly column will feature confessions of a Southern religious studies major. Each week, Jonathan will offer a light-hearted look at the little things in life that can make a big difference.

IT'S THE *Little* THINGS...

My letter to the world

"A tyrant must put on the appearance of uncommon devotion to religion. Subjects are less apprehensive of illegal treatment from a ruler whom they consider god-fearing and pious. On the other hand, they do less easily move against him, believing that he has the gods on his side."

- Aristotle

Jonathan Chapman
Columnist

I'm a religious studies major. Assuming you read the cute little introduction to this column, you probably already knew that. I suppose that means that by default I would be less concerned about such worldly things as politics and the election. However, friends, I am afraid that being human, I am but innately imperfect, and thus extremely concerned with the current political spectrum and events.



Jonathan Chapman

Beyond my wordy attempt at anything hardly representative of my theology, I have realized that as much as I crave the division between religion and politics to be forever focused and crisp, there is hardly such a reality present in this world.

This ever-present gray area is why it scarcely surprises me that we, as humans, have now assigned God a political party. Perhaps I missed the memo, but apparently God has spoken and thrown his support behind the Republican Party and its candidate for president, George W. Bush.

Clearly the God that we worship here in America is politically biased to the right. He has chosen to support the one true country (America), citing our supreme presence throughout Iraq and the world as reason enough to make us the only country worthy of his support and works. The key to making God proud is military power—like Jesus said, 'Warriors are to earth what saints are to heaven.' What? No. Of

course not. So where do we find the confidence to claim we are so very connected to God through war when other conflicts in the world might be condemned?

Where exactly does God (taking this from a Judeo-Christian standpoint) say, "Hey, war is good. Go kill one another"? I'm not sure.

We often see bumper stickers exclaiming "God Bless America!" Yes, God, please do bless America, but I should hope that anyone believing in this God wouldn't limit his glory to a single group of people, to a single country. How dare we be so bold?

It's at times like these that I am reminded of a past trend. It is a simple bracelet with four letters: WWJD?. They used to be all the rage. I think that now, however, it is more critical than ever for me to ask my Christian peers that question. What would Jesus do?

God is neither a Republican nor a Democrat, black nor white, male nor female, straight nor gay, American nor French nor Iraqi. God is all of these together and more.

By claiming that God is on the side of one party or the other, we classify him in human terms. Is that our place? By defining morality through the eyes of God in our government, are we not limiting him to trivial boundaries? God is God. Any further classification is an insult to His very existence.

We are coming to a crucial time in our history. Whatever the future holds may be uncertain.

My request is simple. God bless the whole world.

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Athletes have no time for work, they need some source of income

Jeremy White
Columnist

For a while now, it has been debated on whether college athletes should be paid for their sport. Some would say they are being paid through a means of scholarship.



Jeremy White

Well, let's look at the scholarship issue for a moment. Some come in with full scholarships, others partial, and yet some come in because they walk on the team. Not everyone is

being "paid" the same amount of money in these cases. It seems like the people who get the scholarships really need it. Granted, there are some people whose parents could pay for college without getting a full ride, but in some cases, parents or students cannot. For those students, how will they be able to get extra money for miscellaneous items such as detergent, toothpaste, or even going out to get something to eat once in a while? Even though some have a full ride they barely have time for a job. Where is their "pocket change" coming from if they do not have the means to get it?

It seems to me like the NCAA is greedy. The NCAA makes so much money year after year from television contracts, the actual athletic games, and not to mention the video games. According to The Kansas City Star, the NCAA's money making has gone up 8,000 percent in the last 23 years! Also adding to this, it has a \$1.7 billion television contract. If the NCAA is making all this money, how come the athletes cannot get a piece of it? I'm not asking for millions of dollars, I just feel that they should get at the very least \$700 a semester for pocket change. Also, all athletes should be paid the same, not

on a talent basis, because even if you are benched during the games, you do most of the same work as the starters in practice. With that kind of budget the NCAA could easily afford this. The university is paying for some of the scholarships, but I feel the NCAA could contribute to the athletes. At the very least give them more incentives than just money.

If you work hard, and you have no time to do anything other than school, work and your sport, wouldn't you want a bit of compensation?

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What do *you* think?

Should college athletes be paid?

- All college athletes should be paid whether or not their sport generates revenue.
- Only athletes who play revenue-generating sports should be paid.
- No college athletes should be paid.

Send your responses to opinions@elon.edu or send this form to CB 7012. The results will be published in next week's issue.