



MEREDITH HERALD

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Educating Women To Excel

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ON THE INSIDE:

Faculty Profile Page 2

Campus News Page 3

World News Page 4

Campus Features Page 5

Environment News Page 7

Campus Opinion Page 8

Meredith's Weekly Weather

THURSDAY

Rain
High 60/ Low 46

FRIDAY

Mostly Sunny
High 62/ Low 35

SATURDAY

Sunny
High 58/ Low 48

SUNDAY

Mostly Sunny
High 64/ Low 43

MONDAY

Partly Cloudy
High 59/ Low 42

TUESDAY

Partly Cloudy
High 55/ Low 34

WEDNESDAY

Mostly Sunny
High 58 Low 36

Four more years for President George W. Bush

CHRISTY KIMBALL
Managing Editor

After a long night of varying margins in the electoral vote and hope in the battleground states, Senator John Kerry conceded the election yesterday. He took 238 electoral votes while President George W. Bush took 274, exceeding the 270 electoral votes needed to win. Bush also took the popular vote at 51%, surpassing Kerry by almost 3.6 million votes.

It was a disappointing outcome for Kerry supporters across the country and an anticipated victory for Bush supporters. Republicans also celebrated maintaining the majority in both the House and the Senate. Another blow to the Democrats was losing Senate minority leader, South Dakota's Tom Daschle, who lost on Tuesday to Republican John Thune.

Kerry's concession came as a surprise to many Democrats. Many supporters were hoping that Ohio's provisional ballots would win Kerry Ohio's electoral votes. Kerry decided not to take legal action in Ohio.

However, on Tuesday night, the owner of the Boston Red Sox had a private jet ready to take lawyers to Ohio at a moment's notice. Kerry cited that his reasoning for not pursuing legal action in Ohio is due to the great divide in the country. Kerry telephoned Bush on Tuesday and addressed him as "Mr. President" at his Oval Office desk about 11:02 a.m. ET, White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

The Bush camp was fairly confident throughout the election about its candidate's win. Bush became the first U.S. presidential candidate since his father to win with more than 50% of the vote. Bush said in his acceptance speech, "America has spoken, and I'm humbled by the trust and the confidence of my fellow citizens." He also reached out to Kerry supporters by saying, "I will need your support".

The youth vote was a sought-after demographic this year. There was a surge in voting drives targeting 18-24 year olds. This year, voter turnout for 18-24 year olds was similar to the turn-



Photos courtesy of msnbc.com

President George W. Bush greets supporters Wednesday. Vice President Cheney, left spoke to crowds, while First Lady Laura Bush, right, looks on.

out in the 2000 Presidential election. The total voter turnout was the largest it has been since 1968. At least six states including Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, and the District of Columbia set new voter turnout highs this election year. Kerry snagged the 18-29 year old, female, African-American, Hispanic, and cities with populations exceeding 50,000 demographics. Bush snagged the 30-60 years and older, male, Caucasian, suburb, and small town/rural demographics.

Kerry voters cited education, Iraq, economy, and health care as the issues that mattered most in this election. Bush voters cited taxes, terrorism, and moral values as the issues that mattered most in this election.

Check local listings for more results on other national and local races. See page 6 for North Carolina election results.

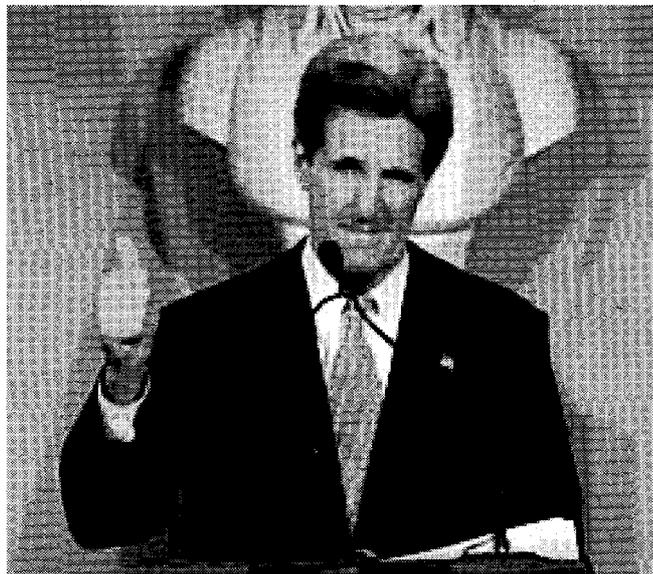


photo courtesy of wral.com

Senator John Kerry resilient during his concession speech Wednesday, 2 p.m.



photo courtesy of cnn.coms

President Bush waits for results Tuesday evening with daughter Barbara, wife Laura and parents George Sr. and Barbara Bush, right.