

Meredith students speak out about information provided pre-election

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"I'm humbled by the trust and the confidence of my fellow citizens," re-elected President Bush said to his supporters after his victory was determined Wednesday. "With that trust comes a duty to serve all Americans. And I will do my best to fulfill that duty every day as your president."

Bush's remarks followed opponent John Kerry's concession speech in which the senator told democrats, "We cannot win this election." One focus of the 2004 election was raising the youth vote. MTV's effort, the Choose or Lose Campaign, set a goal of 20 million young voters be-

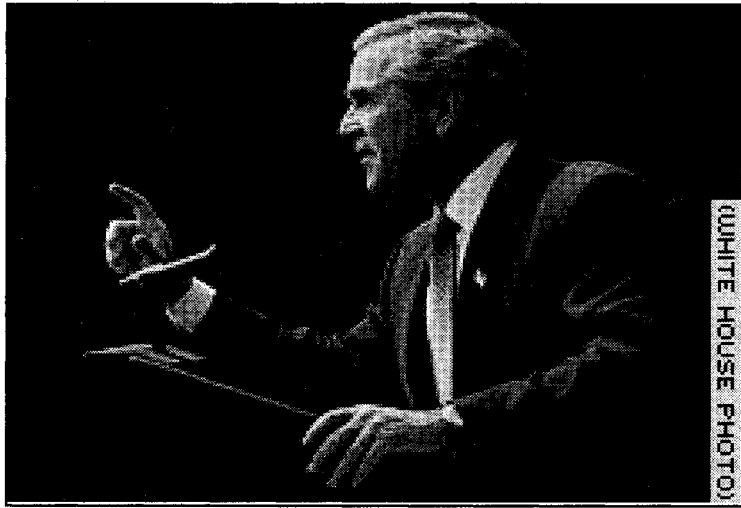


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President Bush addresses the public in a speech this week.

tween the ages of 18 and 30. It's an age group in which the voter turnout has been declining in the past decade. The youth vote total came

in at over 21 million, according to CBS News analysis, and voter turnout was up to 52 percent in the 2004 election from 42 per-

cent in the election is 2000.

Meredith students had strong opinions about the way the college handled the election. Senior Kristin Smith said, "I do feel that the Meredith Votes program that Dr. Frazier led was imperative, and that the faculty did encourage us all to vote." When asked whether she feels Meredith provides adequate information regarding the election, Smith said, "I don't think that they were. Very few of my professors did a decent job of even keeping their own preferences hidden. I feel that if the college is going to emphasize the importance of voting and try to be informative, it should do so in an unbiased way."

Senior Tiffany Barnes agrees, "There could [have been] a little more information" about the election available to students. Smith, emphasizing the importance of the individual being heard, said, "Voting isn't politics. It's a personal preference as to who you want to lead you and your country for the next 4 years."

President Bush is already making plans for his second term. "Americans are expecting bipartisan effort and results," President Bush said in his weekly radio address Saturday. "My administration will work with both parties in Congress to achieve those results and to meet the responsibility we share."

World News in Brief

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Afghanistan: The three hostages that were taken from Kabul, Afghanistan are still being held by Jaish-al-Muslimeen (the Army of Muslims). The Army of Muslims is believed to be an offshoot of the Taliban and they have issued a list of demands.

President Karzai made his first speech since the election. He has promised to combat private militias, narcotic production and poverty. In his second term he hopes to unify his people and include his political rivals in his government.

China: An ethnic conflict between Hui Muslims and Han Chinese erupted in the central province of Henan. The state-controlled New China News Agency reports seven dead and 42 injured. However, they are well known for understating the severity of such incidents. It is possible that as many as 30-100 people died in the clash that was sparked by a traffic accident.

Two Chinese officials in

Hong Kong have been sent to jail after they were convicted of spying for Great Britain. Wei Pinguan was an official in the Chinese embassy in Hong Kong and he was sentenced to life in prison. Cai Xiaohong was secretary-general of Beijing's liaison office in Hong Kong and he was sentenced to 15 years. Another official is waiting to be sentenced. Great Britain had no comment.

European Union: Dutch police are investigating links between the death of filmmaker Theo van Gogh and the bombing of the Eindhoven on November 8. The Eindhoven is an Islamic school. It is suspected that Theo van Gogh was killed by an Islamic radical and so it is possible that the bombing was a revenge tactic. No one was hurt although several mosques have been the targets of vandalism and arson.

Three teenage Sikh boys have been suspended for wearing under-turbans at Elysee Louise Muchel in Bobigny. They are the first Sikh's to be punished for violating France's new laws banning conspicu-

ous religious head coverings. Several Muslim girls have already been expelled for wearing headscarves. The boys say that although they have fallen behind in their schoolwork they want to remain in the public school system.

Iran: If Iran does not change its nuclear plans it faces possible UN sanctions. After a weekend meeting in Paris, officials are optimistic and speaking hopefully about Iran's cooperation. If an agreement is reached before the next International Atomic Energy Agency on November 25th, Iran will probably not be reported to the UN Security Council.

Iraq: Hungary has announced that it plans to remove its troops from Iraq in March of 2005. Four other nations also have plans to leave the country in 2005. So far eight nations have already pulled their troops out of Iraq since March of 2004, but America and Great Britain plan to stay in the country for now.

Four people were kidnapped in western Baghdad last week. The kidnappers

were armed with AK-47's and rocket-propelled grenades. An Iraqi guard and an attacker died during the incident. The hostages, two Arabs, a Nepali, and an American, work for the Saudi Arabian Trading and Contracting Company.

US led forces have invaded the city of Falluja, in central Iraq, which has served as a stronghold for insurgents. Falluja is a predominantly Sunni Muslim city and has been a hotbed for resistance since the occupation began. American and Iraqi soldiers have seized control of two hospitals, two bridges, and one railway station.

Israel/Palestine: The senior Israeli army commander in Gaza has resigned his post. Brig Gen Shmuel Zakai is said to have told reporters that Prime Minister Sharon ordered an operation in Gaza that the army thought was unnecessary. Another reports said that he failed a polygraph test during an investigation to find where press leaks were coming from.

The Israeli Knesset has given initial approval to a bill to compensate settlers leaving Gaza under Sharon's withdrawal plan. It also predicts that settlers who refuse to leave will be punished. The bill was approved 64-44.

Sources continue to be conflicted over the condition of Yassir Arafat. Sources in the defense department say that on Tuesday Arafat will be disconnected from life support. The former Palestinian Prime Minister, the current Palestinian Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister were supposed to leave Sunday to go to Paris. It is expected that they will announce the death of Arafat. However, Arafat's wife claims that he is doing well and he is going home. She lashed out at Arafat's top lieutenants Monday for attempting to bury him alive. She claims that the Palestinian officials going to Paris are trying to usurp Arafat's position. An aide to Mr. Arafat said that he was not in a coma but he remained in intensive care. There is increased tension and uncertainty over who will succeed Arafat if he dies.