

'ELECTORAL' FROM PAGE 9

267-244.

There's still a lot of controversy around Florida. Namely because Florida was called for Gore and then for Bush by his cousin on Fox News (a strictly right wing conservative network). The Supreme Court ruled against recounts in Bush's brother's state instead of the House, who should have made the ruling as stated in the constitution. Independent recounts were done and Gore won by 5,000 votes. It has also been reported that 27,000 African-American votes were missing in various counties and in Palm Beach County, the ballot was designed so that people were voting for "another candidate" when they were intending to vote for Gore. In the end, Bush won Florida by 537 votes thanks to the Supreme Court and won the Electoral College 271-267.

If the problems in Florida were addressed, all the votes would have been counted and it

would've been a fair election. Looking at it on a smaller scale, Gore won Minnesota by 126,696 and collected 10 electoral votes. Bush won Ohio by 117,857 and collected 21 electoral votes. More people voted for Gore but Bush "is winning the election."

Hillary Clinton tried to get legislation passed in the Senate to make the election based on popular vote, but it didn't pass. The creators of the constitution were concerned that the public wouldn't be properly informed about candidates from other states in the new republic. This was mainly because small states were concerned that voters in big states would have too much power.

These are different times and America needs a change. However, for this election we must vote, wait as the results come in and hope we'll know who our President is "fair and square" on November 3, 2004.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Under democracy one party always devotes its chief energies to trying to prove that the other party is unfit to rule — and both commonly succeed, and are right."

- H.L. Mencken

Lacey Logic:

America: A textbook example of repeating history

Rebels built this nation. They fled to America in search of freedom because England was being a big bully. You've read the textbooks.

It would be a lie to say that this country has not done some bullying of its own since then. Slavery and the red scare are good examples of this. Eventually, the U.S. was able to get back on the right track. Though it has taken time, the nation has always seemed to overcome its own internal mistakes. Bullying other countries, however, is another story.

When you're a kid, you learn that America is always the good guy. It only dabbles in other countries' wars when it is absolutely necessary and, in those cases, of course, America ends up saving the day and looking like everyone's hero. Well—there are only a few exceptions—like Vietnam, but, from that experience, the U.S. learned not to engage itself in wars that can never be won.

Over the past four years, America has become one of the bad guys. As it turns out, imperialism is not a good way to make friends. It is a fact that right now the U.S. has more enemies than it does allies. America may have been chuckled at toward the end of Clinton's time in the White House, but it was not hated. There is quite a difference between the embarrassment of a presidential sex-scandal and the shame of

a presidential 'Oops, I attacked the wrong country' war scandal.

On top of all of that, America has declared war on terrorism, which is a nice idea except that it is an impossible war to win and has, so far, only caused an increase in international terror-

ism. I agree that terrorism is a very bad thing that needs to be dealt with, but waging war against it is like making a promise to defeat murderers, hatred and meanness everywhere.

Now, we are the ones telling other countries how to live, making up lies so that we can take over their territories and making mistakes that we have already made in the past. Today the stakes are higher.

The sad part of all of this is that I am America. This country's only claim to existence is in the people that make it up. I have always hated bullies, but this administration has turned me and every other American into one. I am curious to see how America will attempt to justify its recent behavior later on in our children's textbooks.



Lacey Korevec

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY ...

Oct. 29, 1929

The Wall Street stock market crashes, signaling the beginning of the Great Depression.

Oct. 30, 1938

Orson Welles and the Mercury Theater broadcast *The War of the Worlds*. The program was so realistic that many people thought that Martians had invaded New Jersey.

Oct. 31, 2004

Happy Halloween!

Nov. 1, 1952

The U.S. tests its first H-bomb.

Nov. 3, 1992

Bill Clinton is elected president of the U.S.

First Impressions:

Politics are a farce

I find the campaigning and the many political debates featured in the media for the upcoming election this November to be very disheartening. Anyone can run for president and claim to believe in something, but that doesn't necessarily mean that he or she will stand by those beliefs once elected. Of course, one could say that about almost anything, but I feel that there is often a lack of consistency on the candidates' part in politics.



Jenny Stanwix

Former President Bill Clinton was thought to be an upstanding citizen, before having an affair and, more importantly, lying under oath about his "sexual relations." So, if the President of the United States can't be honest, what kind of world does that leave us in? Should a man like that be running the country?

John Kerry prides himself on his service during the Vietnam War, but was also a member of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. This is another example of a lack of consistency.

The campaigns this year make me wonder if what I'm hearing is a set of conflicting theories and beliefs, or merely an advertisement to win votes. After all, the goal of any presidential candidate is to appeal to a certain group of people in order to win their support. So, maybe it's plausible to say that what they are expressing really has no meaning.

Then there are the activists like Michael Moore who are fervently expressing their opinion (i.e. *Fahrenheit 9/11*). This has definitely affected people's opinions on the war and of President Bush, which worries me. This is because anyone with that amount of hatred and jealousy makes me wonder whether what he's saying is valid.

President Bush often makes religious references in his speeches and is trying to ban gay-marriage, despite the fact that it is unconstitutional to legislate morality. I believe that our president should be more well-versed with our constitution.

I've lost faith in politics for these reasons. So, I'm glad I'm 17 and won't have to make such a hard decision this year.