

Editorial:

Change must wait four more years

So much for change. Despite the best efforts of the north-eastern and western states, America has been sentenced to four more years of war, depression and "morality." President Bush is back in office.

This year the circumstances of Bush's election cannot be called into question. He has won both the electoral vote and the popular vote, making him the people's president. Even the most adamant anti-Bush protestor must recognize him now. Bush is a force to be reckoned with and he has the majority support of America. He is our president fair and square.

However, we still have a lot to be worried about. Bush is not changing his policies. In fact, he now has a license to do essentially anything he wants. With additional Senate seats falling into the hands of Republicans, including that of former Senate minority leader Tom Daschle, Bush can pass just about any law his heart desires. Granted, there are still plenty of Democrats to challenge these Republicans, but the president's job just got a heck of a lot easier.

So, now that Republicans have tightened their strangle hold on the Senate and the House, we'll have to rely on the Supreme Court to check Bush's power. Oh wait, he gets to appoint at least three new justices to the court during this term. Call me silly, but I predict that those justices will be Republicans who share Bush's political views. So what do we have now? A fiercely republican president, a republican House and Senate and now a republican Supreme Court. Pray for our Constitution.

Bush also doesn't have to worry about reelection anymore. He has succeeded. He has done what his father could not and he has done it decisively. So what's to stop him from putting into effect some of those controversial actions that would have infuriated a huge section of the voting population? Nothing. There's nothing standing in the way of a military draft, nothing to prevent additional wars and nothing to save non-Christians from the legislation of "morality." We, the people, are powerless. Whereas our opinion was a limiting factor over the last four years, it now counts for less than the northeast vote.

Rider students, listen up because this concerns you. Who do you think will be the first people sent to war if the draft is reinstated? "Not us," you may say. "College students are exempt." You'd be wrong. Dead wrong. The draft has changed and now, instead of being immune, we are the first to go. Not only that, but how do you expect to get a job upon graduation when our president is the first in 75 years to actually lose them? Sadly, we were all warned of these things. We have heard all about the draft and the economy during the campaign and the northeast came down strongly against both. It's too bad that the entire south can be swayed by a local accent.

It's over now. We tried, we failed and Bush is our president for four more years. To the Republicans amongst us, good job. You have the power and you won it fairly. To all the Kerry supporters and Bush haters, good job. We did all that we could and made this a close one. Now all we can do is sit back and hope for the best.

This weekly editorial expresses the majority opinion of The Rider News editorial board and is written by the Opinion Editor.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When trouble arises and things look bad, there is always one individual who perceives a solution and is willing to take command. Very often, that person is crazy."

- Dave Barry



Letter to the Editor:

The reflections of a registered voter

I constantly try to reassure myself that I'm not *that* old, but when you start referencing the year, it gets harder and harder to convince yourself. Maybe my memory's going because just today I mentioned to someone that the first time I voted in a presidential election was when I was eighteen and Ronald Reagan was running for his second term. I was yammering on about how I first felt guilty, and how I have continued to feel guilty for years about that misguided vote. Oh, the guilt was true, but humorously enough I didn't actually vote for Reagan.

I went home and Googled the 1986 election thinking that elections are always in even years, and I was 18 in 1985, so that election had to have been in 1986. But, of course, I was wrong. The second Reagan election was in 1984 when I was only 17, so there's no way I could have voted contrary to popular republican belief that the ineligible can vote numerous times.

So, I called my mom because no matter how old you get, sometimes you've got no other option in finding the truth about your past. It wasn't that I'd voted for Reagan, she told me, but the April after his re-election, I had actually registered for the first time—as a Republican. Being raised in a poor, single parent, southern

home, my mom had always assumed I'd just follow the family and register as a Democrat. I hadn't though, because I'd gotten tied up in the flag waving and country music of our first Hollywood-like campaign. I don't really remember any of the issues. Probably the most substantive thing I do remember is that the Iran hostages were released the same day Reagan took office the first time and most of the country looked to Ronnie as a hero rather than as an aging movie star. What I remember absolutely clearly is my baby sister, a quadriplegic from birth, got a notice in 1986 that her supplemental security insurance was being cut from \$313 a month to \$142 a month, and that she was on "limited" Medicaid. My mom worked two jobs to try and support her three girls, but her secretary's salary of \$14,000 a year, even in the south, wasn't going to cut it when it came to wheel chairs and medication. Reagan was famous, or infamous, for his "pie" mathematics, but my family didn't merit a piece. My sister didn't receive a new wheelchair for almost six years because of Reagan cuts. We honestly held the old one together with duct tape. I also remember clearly having to pay for the "Star Wars" program from the moment I

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