

Kerry or Bush? Candidates Prepare for November Decision in Divided Nation

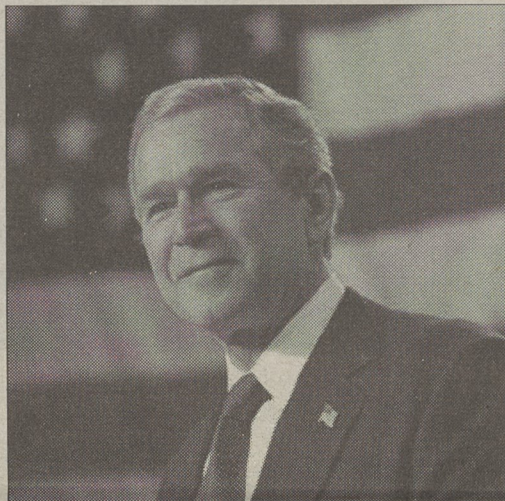
Travis Johnson

Somewhere, as you read this, President George W. Bush is campaigning for his re-election to serve a second term in the White House. Meanwhile, Massachusetts Senator John Kerry can be found in another location, speaking to the masses in hopes that his platform will appeal and win him the Presidency.

Formal campaigning began with the Democratic and Republican National Conventions late this summer. Held in Boston and New York respectively, conventions attracted party supporters and critics alike.

President Bush, the incumbent Republican nominee, alongside Vice

President Dick Cheney is focusing his campaign on the war on terror, his resolve in removing Dictator Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq, and his unyielding stance on the economy. The administration insists that his



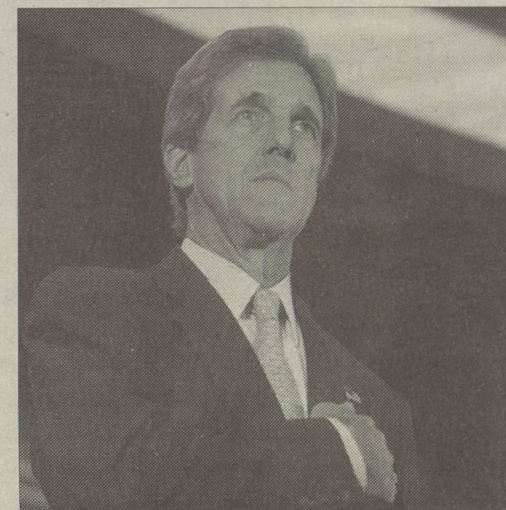
policies on job creation and tax cuts have boosted the lethargic economic growth.

Senator Kerry, with running mate John Edwards

by his side, is also an advocate of job creation and economic growth. He has continually blasted the President, highlighting key evidence such as the growing national deficit estimated at 422 billion dollars, and record unemployment rates across the nation. Kerry claims that once in office, he will cut the deficit in half by reducing Bush's tax cuts. He has also stated that he will create more jobs by offering incentives to workers and by making health care more readily available.

Kerry has criticized Bush's policy on Iraq. A former veteran of Vietnam, Kerry strongly recommends the gradual removal of troops from the newly liberated country and greater international involvement. Bush has remained unmoving on his Iraq policy, insisting that the job isn't finished.

In response to Kerry's criticism of the Bush economy, the current administration states that job growth is now becoming evident and the economy is improving as a result of tax cuts.



President Bush claims that his administration's war on terror has made the world a

safer place for the U.S. and its allies. He also states that Kerry has been a "flip-flopper" when it comes to national security and would not provide protection for the American people.

Senator Kerry believes the war on terror could be handled better. He has continuously said the Bush administration acts without the world's consent, causing other nations to resent our involvement in Iraq.

In this important election, feelings of safety and security at home have become a priority for

some voters when considering the candidates. For others, the state of the economy is foremost on their minds. We will all know the outcome late at night on November 2 – that is, barring any unfortunate events such as the election fiasco four years ago.

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unless you plan to travel home on Election Day. Some states have restrictions such as requiring new voters to cast their votes in person, or restricting those who register by mail from receiving absentee ballots. Check with your local voting officials to see if any of these restrictions apply to you.

In most states, absentee ballots must be completed thirty days before Election Day.

Check out www.vote-smart.org or www.npr.org/politics/issues/2004 to find out about this year's candidates and what they have to say about issues that affect all of us everyday.

Why are you voting for that candidate?

- "I think they are both idiots and I personally wouldn't vote for either"
- "Go vote!!!"
- "Bush rules"
- "I would vote for John Kerry because he will create jobs, money for social security and healthcare, and bring the surplus back up"
- "I think John is the best man for the job"
- "This is a key election for our future as college students These men and the people under them will effect the rest of our future"
- "George Bush is the Devil's Minion"
- "No real reason (they both suck). I know what Bush has done and I know where he sands on terrorism"

[27.5% of respondents claimed they were voting for the party, 50% because of certain issues, 22.5% other]

Survey by Tamara Clark

SGA Supports Student Interests

Josh Klenzing

The Student Government Association (SGA) is a student run organization that supports the student body, its clubs, and campus activities; it is the voice of the student body.

Transitioning into college life is difficult for any student. SGA is here to support students as they settle in to their new roles. Incoming freshmen have to become acquainted with the campus, clubs, activities, and their new roles as college students. Returning students can act as role models for new students.

A group of student leaders, including SGA officers, attended the Penn State Annual Leadership Conference last August. There they met Tony D' Angelo, a motivational speaker, who contends that "Most college students get a

degree, but not an education." Extra curricular activities and involvement in the campus community are part of that education.

Your 2004-2005 SGA Officers are: President, Matthew Hass (mch214@psu.edu), Vice President, Josh Klenzing (jlk482), Communication Coordinator, Megan Kuhn (mlk290), Treasurer, Andy Hess (ajh274), CAMP Chair, Tim Gaines (tgg112), Freshman Representative, Kristin Nielsen (kbn5003), Senator, Leah Mattei (lmm345), Senator, Ian Moore (icm111), Senator, Nolan Fontaine (nlf135), and Senator Ian Wintermyer (irw101). The group is advised by Andrea Christopher, Director of Student Affairs.