

The Alternative Vote

by Alicia Hartman

The Collegian

ATTENTION

- 1) All those registered to vote and do vote
- 2) All those registered to vote and don't
- 3) And anyone else who cares (just a little; not too much) about

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our country.

Yes, it's that time again when we get to pick the next PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

I sincerely believe that this presidential election is a REAL race. George and Bill both have things favoring and opposing them. The public is unsure who to vote for. The only things I don't like about this campaign are the debates about beaten down pulp, same, how many times can we possibly scream and stomp our feet over, topics. Actually,

the candidates don't even debate. It's prime time to make fun of each other, call someone a few choice words, and see who can make the most wisecracks in an hour.

I think there's been enough "talking." It's time for ACTION. That's right, George and Bill. The American people don't want to talk about their problems, we want something DONE about them. And since you two aren't doing much, Alicia is here to offer the American an alternative view. (Even if it does last only ten minutes.)

First of all, why do the people who buy a used car have to pay sales tax? The person who bought the car brand-new paid tax on it, so why should the succeeding owners have to pay tax also? What are you doing with all of this "extra" tax money? And you cry that the government has no money?! You pay tax on a roll of tissue when you first buy it, so does that mean that you should pay tax for each time you go to the bathroom and use tissue?

Who pays for the president's food and toiletries? Is money for food taken out of his salary? Does he just whip ten bucks out of his wallet and tell Barbie to take a walk down to the supermarket? Do the maids shop for George or is everything brought in from an order? Our tax dollars

aren't just going down the drain, they're going down Bush's camode.

Why do we people receive money for doing absolutely nothing? I love welfare. What other system lets you sit at home on the couch and pays you for



Alicia Hartman

watching "The Price is Right"? Sure, maybe the people on welfare have children and have to take care of them. So you take them to the daycare center, which is staffed by other welfare mothers who have children also. The

government is giving these people money and there are tons of things that they could do. They could construct daycare centers for other working parents. They could build housing for the homeless. The materials for these projects would be engineered by other welfare recipients. Look at how many jobs have just been created and these employees are already being paid.

As for education, if kids don't want to go to school, don't make them. Too much time is wasted on kids who are a constant disruption in the classroom. If they don't want to go to class, fine. There are kids that want to learn and want to be successful. I believe our country needs to experience a slump and be the bottom power for awhile in order to make people aware just how important education is.

The economy. It will eventually be on the upside again. It's just a cycle that has its ups AND its downs. I wish everyone would quit pointing their fingers at presidents during the time of a depression. It's not their fault. They didn't purposely go out and hit the "down button" on the economy. They just happened to be in office when the economy took a turn for the worse.

Isn't the race for president just a popularity contest? Who has the best image on T.V.? Who can keep their cool? Who can relate

best to the American people? Too much fuss is made over the president when he doesn't even dictate our lives anyhow. Congress does. Congress makes the laws, remember? Not the president. He just signs a few papers here and there.

Does it really matter who the president is? You usually end up

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disliking him for one reason or another by the end of his (or her) four years. Popularity eventually wears low. Don't vote image; vote action. Your alternative: me, Alicia Hartman. I was going to be the first woman president of the United States, but I've decided to take charge of the media instead. Thank goodness.

Alicia Hartman is a first semester communications major. Her column appears every third week in the The Collegian

Sensible Eating: We can learn a lesson on diet from toads

by Dave Barry

WE can learn a lot about proper eating habits by watching the behavior of wildlife creatures. Take toads. You don't see toads fluctuating wildly in weight and obsessing about food and constantly going on ineffectual diets and then sneaking into the kitchen at 2 a.m. and consuming an entire Sara Lee banana cake (serves 12).

No, when a toad gets hungry, it simply flicks out its tongue and snares--NOT a cheeseburger; NOT a bowl of Lucky Charms breakfast cereal--but a natural, high-protein, zero preservatives, low-fat moth. The toad gulps the moth down whole, and bang, just like that, it's finished with the whole eating thing. Freed from the tyranny of food obsession, the toad can now get on with other activities, such as pondering the fact that there is a whole live moth in its stomach.

This is why toads always look vaguely worried. They have live disoriented insects tromping around inside them, and they (the toads) are thinking that maybe they should chew their food before they swallow it, except that--Nature can be cruel--TOADS DON'T HAVE TEETH. This problem led to a groundbreaking 1982 experiment at the

University of Wisconsin, wherein biologists, using a \$7.3 million federal grant, fitted a group of toads with dentures, then observed them closely over a five-year period, at the end of which they (the researchers) reported that the toads "seemed to be in a good mood," adding that "there's really no way to tell."

So we can see how important it is to have a sensible, long-term eating regimen and realistic dietary goals. I myself was on a sensible long-term eating regimen until nearly 10:30 this morning, when I finally achieved my dietary goal of locating where my wife put the box of Cheez-Its. These are my favorite snack crackers because they contain "riboflavin" and have a radioactive orange color that makes them easy to locate in the dark. Plus they're good for your heart: Like every other product now sold in the United States, including Drano, they come in a package marked "LOW CHOLESTEROL." Heart care is a top priority with me, so I ate the whole box (serves 20).

The problem with doing this is that Cheez-Its also contain calories, which our bodies turn into fat. Of course it could be worse. Imagine if our bodies turned them into, say, linoleum, or surplus body parts:

BOB: Hi, Frank!

FRANK: Hi, Bob! Say, I notice you have eight noses.

BOB: I know. I gotta go on a diet.

When Bob (not his real name) does go on a diet, chances are he



Dave Barry

will eat at salad bars. I eat at salad bars constantly, because that way I can put a little lettuce on my plate and cover it with enough cheese, bacon, pasta,

potato salad, Roquefort dressing, etc., to rectify the nutritional shortfall in Somalia, and still be able to say that all I ate for lunch was a "salad."

The problem is that I keep getting stuck in line behind Salad Scientists. These are people who make a salad as if it were some kind of nuclear-fission experiment, subjecting each leaf and sprout to intense scrutiny. The worst is when you're behind TWO of them, because then they have to DISCUSS everything:

FIRST SALAD SCIENTIST (picking up a string bean): Look. String beans.

SECOND SALAD SCIENTIST: I don't care for string beans in a salad.

FIRST SALAD SCIENTIST: I like string beans in a salad, but I don't like the looks of this string bean.

SECOND SALAD SCIENTIST: No, that looks a little pale to me. But then I don't care for string beans in a salad.

FIRST SALAD SCIENTIST (picking up another string bean): Now THIS string bean looks a little better to me.

SECOND SALAD SCIENTIST: Well, if you ask me, it's a little on the brownish side. But then I don't caAA-IEEEEE (sound of me stabbing the second scientist with a pair of

coleslaw tongs).

FIRST SALAD SCIENTIST: I don't care for coleslaw in a salad.

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Another problem is that many diets simply don't work. Statistics show that people who go on gimmicky or "crash" diets will gain all the weight back within a year; whereas people who follow realistic, long-term diet regimens will never lose any weight at all. That's because they're all eating so-called "frozen yogurt," which I strongly suspect is a fraud.

Ask yourself: Does "frozen yogurt" taste anything like regular yogurt? No, it does not. Regular yogurt tastes healthy, by which I mean, bad. It tastes like something you might use in the field of tent repair. Whereas "frozen yogurt" tastes good. I'm positive there if you dug beneath a "frozen yogurt" store, you'd find large hidden underground pipes leading directly to a Dairy Queen. Think about it! I'd think about it myself, but this riboflavin is starting to kick in.