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LOYOLA LAW STUDENTS SPEAK OUT ON THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

It's All A Matter of Choice

by Gregg Reisher, first year evening

No, I am not suggesting that this election will be won or lost on the issue of choice. But, I do believe the issue of choices is the most important one we should be concerned with in the final weeks of the first presidential election of the new century.

First, let’s look at the clear choice of the candidates. On the one side, you have a two term Governor of the second largest state in the union. On the other side, you have a two term Vice President and two term Senator and before that a member of the House of Representatives for eight years. Did I mention that that Governor of the second largest state has the least constitutional power of any Governor in the country? And, did I mention that the Vice President has been called the most effective Vice President in our nation’s history?

Okay, so now on to the real choices in this campaign. Choice

While I said that this election wouldn’t be won or lost on the issue of choice, it has definitely become a more prominent issue over the last week. The FDA approved the use of the French abortion pill RU-486. This is sure to become a thorn in the side of George W. Bush’s. He has tried to skirt the issue throughout the election, making it a mere afterthought at the Republican Convention in Philadelphia. But now, as Bush tries to court the moderate women vote, he has to break his silence on the issue. Don’t be fooled – the Bush Cheney ticket is anti-choice – always has been, always will be.

Since winning the White House, the Clinton Gore Administration has been the strongest supporter of a woman’s right to choose. Bush, the elder, was the one to slow the approval of RU-486, and approving it was one of the Clinton’s first moves made after his inauguration in 1993.

School Choice

One of the prominent issues of this campaign is school choice. Heightened by the fact that California has it as one of its infamous ballot initiatives, school choice is see GORE, page 3

George W. Bush and Al Gore are not perfect candidates. They, like us, possess weaknesses as well as strengths. We are not likely to agree with them on every issue. In determining whether Bush or Gore is more worthy of our vote, we should tune out the political spin. In an attempt to gain an advantage over the opponent among potential voters, both political parties and many special interests have tried to marginalize Bush or Gore as holding views out of the “mainstream”.

In the interests of civility, intellectual balance and honesty, this journalist (who supports Bush) will not assert that Gore is an extremist out of touch with ordinary voters or smear Gore’s character, integrity, or intentions. Gore, like Bush, is a decent family-oriented man committed to improving the country with the visions held by him and his political party. Instead, the focus is on addressing and debunking several untrue myths regarding Bush and making a case why a Bush presidency would be good for America.

Some in the Gore camp say their man is supremely qualified to be President, while Bush lacks experience, is not intelligent, and is unqualified. The claim that Bush does not have the requisite experience to be President is unwarranted. Bush has served as Governor of the second largest state in the U.S. for the past six years, has seventeen years of private sector experience (managing general partner of the Texas Rangers; CEO of an oil and gas company which he founded), and has five years of military service. Both the State of Texas and his private sector organizations have prospered under Bush’s leadership.

Perhaps those Gore supporters who discount the level of Bush’s experience do not consider Bush’s private sector employment as legitimate experience. However, this limited definition of relevant experience does not recognize that the government benefits from leaders who have worked outside of Washington, D.C., understand how to build effective organizations, challenge the status quo, innovate, create prosperity, and challenge individuals to reach their full potential.

Both Bush and Gore have the necessary experience to be an effective President. The primary difference between their resumes is that a significant portion of Bush’s experience is in the private sector, while Gore’s is near see BUSH, page 3

Some Election Predictions

(These are NOT endorsements of any kind)

President – George Bush

A close race, as we all have heard ad nauseum. Gore should take California, but Bush’s leads in key swing states will give him an electoral plurality. Key fact: In races this close this late, the party NOT holding the White House wins every election for the past forty years.

US Senate, New York – Hillary Clinton

A Clinton will still be prominent on national political scene next year.

US Senate, California – Dianne Feinstein

Feinstein should win in a walkover. If Gore loses, look for a Democratic ticket featuring at least one of our Statewide Electeds next time around. Davis-Feinstein in 2004?

US House, Pasadena/Glendale/Burbank – Adam Schiff

The incumbent Congressmen from this district, House Impeachment Manager James Rogan, has consistently voted more to the right of Jesse Helms. This means he is slightly more conservative than Arthur, and it will cost him his Congressional seat this election.
A Message from The Editor

This issue of the Loyola Reporter, the first of the new school year, is dedicated almost entirely to this week's election. This is no accident. Our decisions this week at the polls will impact our lives profoundly - as individuals, as students, as members of society. As many pundits have commented, including one in this newspaper last week - the person we elect President next week will appoint between one to four Supreme Court justices.

I hope you read each article advocating for the election of either George W. Bush or Al Gore. Incidentally, we asked Ralph Nader's camp for a submission but they did not send the deadline. I hope you realize the implication that this may have declined to overt state. I hope you get pissed off at some of those implications.

Then I hope you do not vote. That will mean your vote counts even more. And when you hear the results of the election on television Tuesday, I hope you think about all the implications that pissed you off about either George W. Bush or Al Gore victory. And I hope you realize that guy who wrote the article praising that candidate you dislike so much he voted for you.

Perspective on Law School

This Issue’s Perspective: Cheryl Chan

Being at Loyola bills you into a false sense of superiority. The certainty of school causes an insecure bubble. For me, the singular focus in life is education. The minor exaggeration of life like work and paying for things does not register on most students' radar. What is it that these Myers are for, right?

The fantasy would be nice. Four-year students are consumed and driven with the notion that they are going to be the top student in their class. They believe that this is accomplished with all of the free and fertile time that is thrown at their feet. If you are one of the "chosen ones," if you are one of these, congratulations, a world of opportunity is open to you. The bad reality is the great majority will be beaten when first-year grades are announced. Accept it and move on.

All is not lost though. Grades do not make the person and are not an indication of how good an attorney a person is going to be. Robert Shapiro, for example, got average grades. Grades are subjective and while they do reflect your level of analytical ability, they are not the hallmark of a competent lawyer. More people are notрезерв for what their cumulative GPA was once they graduate. Nor will most people care.

Every law student needs to keep things in perspective and prioritize their conflicting obligations. I almost decided to pursue something on my legal education because my younger sister was diagnosed with cancer two months before school started. I thought I would be distracted and would not be able to keep up with the demands of school, work and my advanced family commitments. Ironically, she is the one that convinced me that there is never an appropriate time to do anything else. You may as well make the best of the situation.

Wherever I get self-shocked about how difficult my studies are, I am reminded that many other people have it worse than I do. There are students that work and go to school and are married and have kids and drive incredible distances to get here. To be here in a privilege. But it is these other things in life like family that we are working for.

As important as we think the tedious studying and analysis of all of these cases and so, do not forget there is a world out there. Even though part of GPA time is spent here, time does not stand still. You do not get those days back, ever. I already went through this law school from the other perspective, being the significant other of someone in law school. I will not lie to you, it is hard and it is the most toxic of the relationships. My relationship with law school is over. There will be no... But you sure are not helping your cause if you hold up in the library twenty-four seven. There is no satisfaction at the end of your law school career if you do not have someone close to share it with.

In summary, I am sure that you are going to enjoy your legal career. You don't have where they are going to end up in five years. And don't forget, you are nice to those in your life (family, friends) who have stuck with you through this experience as we call Law School. Remember for them is the reason we are here.

Humor Page, Continued

Top Ten Reasons to Live in the Valley

10. No building above three stories; great cell phone reception.
9. If it's 104 in the city, it's 114 here.
8. Cool insider pronunciations that fool visitors: Cahuenga is pronounced "co-wen-juh," with a long "e" sound, and "go" pronounced with a "gah" sound.
7. The addresses (e.g. 27479 Ventura Blvd.) confuse your East Coast friends.
6. Learn LA History with streets named after local robber barons —oops, pioneers Van Nuys, Lankershim, Mulholland.
5. Dedicated homeowners groups always trying to rename your section of Reseda "Valley Glen."
4. The Original Jerry's Deli — four separate locations!
3. Can ask your Los Angeles friends if Hancock Park is "the ghetto."
2. Overall flat geography, did we mention the cell phone reception?
1. It's like, you know
It's All A Matter of Choice

Gore Continued...

bound to be the next great political battle in the nation. California's Prop 38 would give approximately $4,000 in tax breaks for each child they choose to take out of the public school system and spend in private schools. I don't know why they're concerned about this proposal raises. First there is the abysmal failure of the public school system. If Bush can find $4,000 for every student attending a private school, what's the importance of the public school system? And second, is a government tax program that attempts to entice parents and start giving teachers the resources they need in order to succeed in private school. Those schools look, better facilities. Bush has vowed to make school choice a priority if elected. He suggested that schools that fail to show an increase in their student's academic performance would lose federal funding. Well, that's the way to deal with the problem! Let's just continue to make money away from the people that need it.

The second issue with school choice is the constitutional debate. Most private schools are religious schools. To take public money for private education, to send their children to private religious schools breaks one of the fundamental principles this country was founded on - separation of church and state. The Anti-Defamation League has reported that in some parts of the country, private schools would be used in religious schools.

The choice for schools should be a tough choice for the judicial and legislative system. The only reason our public school system may be failing is because we have failed it. Fix it, or form it, but don't abandon it. The Supreme Court.

The pendulum go back and forth on the issue. First they say it's not an issue that resonates with the public; that we can fix it. Then they say it's an issue of the importance of the Supreme Court. Gore's argument is that this argument doesn't hold. They differ on how many appointments the president might make - a median justice, 27 will it be 37, will it be 47? For the sake of argument, let's just assume that it is one. The next president will make one appointment to the Supreme Court. How important is that one choice? In the last month of the Court's last session, they delivered two 5-4 decisions. Two critical decisions that cut on each side of the political spectrum. In the first decision, on late term abortions, the Court struck down laws in 31 states banning them. In the second decision, on welfare, the Court held that the Boy Scouts of America to ban gay leader. One choice from either candidate could swing the court in any one direction.

Bush is on record saying that his favorite justices are Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. Gore is pro-choice. Gore says that you how far right those two justices are viewed on the political spectrum. Gore on the other hand has accused the judicial role model is Thurgood Marshall. Who do you want to make the choice? The next justice could be a justice who is retrained to entrench affirmative action or write it up; uphold school choice for religious schools or rule them unconstitutional; expand abortion rights or reinstate late term abortions.

The Final Choice

Let's look at the choices that our two candidates have so far. Gore made history by nominating the first Jew to a major party ticket. He nominated a well-respected Supreme Court Justices, a moderate; a man who could bring experience and a sense of bi-partisanship to the White House with him. He also appointed Donna Brazile to head his campaign efforts. Brazile is an African-American Jewish — again showing that Gore supports and embraces the diversity of this country. Bush, on the other hand, has given the opportunity to put his money where his mouth is. With all of his talk of compassionate conservatism, Bush chose an associate of George Miller's, (D-CA) assertion from the matter of Education, the U.S. Tanked

Vote Bush!

Bush continued.

ly exclusively in the public sector. Gore, unlike Bush, has had two terms as a managerial private sector experience. He has twenty-four years of public sector experience and twelve years in the private sector. Gore's private sector experience primarily consists of work as a newspaper reporter. Gore's limited private sector experience and Bush's limited public sector experience relative to each other would not impair their ability to effectively perform the job functions of the Presidency. The nature of the experience does, however, reflect the different philosophies, visions, and policies of the candidates (i.e., government versus free market approach to addressing the nation's problems).

The claim that Bush is less educated than Gore is also without merit. Both men are highly educated. Bush cannot be named his bachelor's degree by Harvard, while Gore holds a B.A. from Harvard and attended (but did not graduate) from Vanderbilt University's law and divinity school.

Another myth is that Bush is outright hostile to the idea of helping women, African-Americans, non-Cuban Hispanics, Jewish-Americans, and poor people. This is as ridiculous as saying that Gore is hostile or insensitive to the concerns of men, Caucasian-Americans, Asian-Americans, African-Americans, married persons, and religious persons. Neither Bush nor Gore is hostile or insensitive to groups that are not a part of his professional field. They simply have different visions, ideas, and priorities about how best to advance the interests of everyone in the country.

For example, Bush's view against the legalization of partial birth abortion is not proof that he is pro-life. Bush, like many women and men, is troubled by the trivialization and "aborting" of pre-born human life with distinct human features, human body and brain activity by the judicial andexecutive branch of government. Bush's pro-life beliefs are consistent with the view that the innocent living being of legal protection is female. Bush's adoption policy in Texas is pro-women in that he doubled the number of adoptions of girls and boys of un-owned and neglected children. He has established group homes for unwed mothers run by faith-based and other private groups. Gore's pro-choice position would reduce the tax burden on all women small business owners. Bush's education policy would empower mothers (as well as fathers) to hold the sub-par public schools of their daughters and sons to higher levels of performance and accountability. Vouchers would enable girls and boys (and children) to attend better schools that are able to provide a quality education.

Bush's support of Supreme Court Justices Scalia and Thomas is proof that Bush is not anti-minority. Bush and Thomas believe that the most effective and equitable way to improve the economic performance of all Americans is to promote the growth of high and uniform workplace, educational, and personal responsibility standards. Bush's support of English immersion programs for Spanish-speaking immigrant children is a policy intended to ensure that every child is equal educational opportunities and higher educational opportunities in an increasingly competitive economy. Under Bush's leadership, student test score improvements in Texas were the highest in the nation, especially for African-American and Hispanic students.

Aside from English immersion and vouches programs, other components of Bush's education policy include establishing merit pay programs for teachers, requiring states to test student achievement for all public school students, increasing classroom sizes, and closing the economic and reading gaps. Bush has put in place a plan to encourage qualified candidates to teach in high-need schools, increasing college grants for college freshmen, expanding education savings accounts tenfold from $500 to $5,000 with a provision for tax withdrawal options, and halving expenses from kindergarten through college and graduate school, supporting character education, and procuring juveniles who bring gins to school and adults who provide the goods to minor.

No doubt many Americans, including George W. Bush, agree with Congressman George Miller's (CA) assertion that the Clinton Administration's (GA) notion of the Clinton Administration is one that Bush has failed to do enough to address the nation's education needs (11/96). The Clinton and Gore Administrations have had eight years to reform the educational system in the U.S. but have not done so. Their campaigns have heavily relied on support from teacher's unions, which adamantly oppose changes such as the introduction of competition from the private sector. Furthermore, many teachers and politicians who oppose private sector competition with public schools send their children to private schools. The hypocrisy has been a long-time companion of politics. According to the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. ranked 19th in the 21 industrialized countries surveyed in Math. In addition, the Clinton and Gore Justice Department only prosecuted 13 out of 3,093 students who were expelled under the Gun Free School Zone Act in 1997.

Many, if not most Americans, agree with the Republican Party's assertion in its platform that "the federal tax code is dysfunctional. It penalizes hard work, marriage, thrift, and success - the very factors that are the foundations for a prospering society. Federal taxes are the highest they have ever been in peacetime. Taxes at all levels of government absorb 36 percent of the net national product. When the average American family has worked more than four months out of every year to fund all levels of government, it is time to change the tax system, to make it simpler, flatter, and fairer for everyone. It's time for an economics of fairness rather than one where the government takes some of the hard work people keep more of what they earn and accelerate movement up the opportunity ladder." Despite his war rhetoric from Democrats that Bush's tax plan would primarily benefit the rich, the Bush plan in fact ensures substantial tax relief to all taxpayers and specifically targets low-income work force.

Bush supporters ought to be encouraged by recent polls. By a two to one margin in a recent A.C. Washington Post poll, voters said they favored a smaller government with fewer services over a larger government. In addition, Bush's support has even surpassed that of the Clinton and Gore Administration in his home turf. Bush is ahead of Gore in Tennessee (46% to 43%) and Arkansas (45% to 47%) according to polls conducted by the Mason-Dixon Polling & Research Inc. and published during the first week of October by the Chattanooga Times-Free Press and the American Democrat-constituent, respectively. While the poll results are within the 4% margin of error of each poll, the fact that so many residents from the home state of the Vice President and President support Bush is astonishingly good news for him.

More and more voters are realizing that Bush's vision, ideas, and priorities including higher performance and accountability standards for government and schools, lower tax burdens on workers and their families, and a greater emphasis on civility and personal responsibility, would strengthen the nation and its people.
Being in law school, I am sure almost everyone has been posed the question at least once of, "Why?" "Why do you want to go to law school?" I am sure we are all quite tired of this by now, so I thought I would give a little insight as to why I am absolutely certain we are all here. Besides the obvious for myself, that I have been lying and arguing with everyone in my life for 24 years, and I might as well finally get paid for it, there are many underlying reasons why we are all here.

First, I am sure we all need to get beyond those do-gooders in class that say they really want to help people and they don't care where they are ranked. Everyone, and I mean everyone is here to be ranked as high as possible, so the next time that some one tells you they really don't care, just understand that you are being lied to and that this person is most likely practicing now for the straight-face test they will have to pass with a judge during litigation. There might be one exception to this rule, and that is those just here for their Mrs. degree, but we'll save that discussion for another day, because I would never want to offend anyone.

Now that we have established that we are all little ambitious future esquires, let's figure out just what we work, but lets not forget the all encompassing person on their cell phone who has their head in the clouds just here for their Mrs. degree, but we'll save that discussion for another day, because I would never want to offend anyone.

Now that we have established that we are all little ambitious future esquires, let's figure out just what we are ranking. Everyone, and I mean everyone is here to be ranked as high as possible, so the next time that some one tells you they really don't care, just understand that you are being lied to and that this person is most likely practicing now for the straight-face test they will have to pass with a judge during litigation. There might be one exception to this rule, and that is those just here for their Mrs. degree, but we'll save that discussion for another day, because I would never want to offend anyone.

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"Some of the worst people I have known are those who know the truth and are afraid to tell it."

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"Some of the worst people I have known are those who know the truth and are afraid to tell it."

"Think about how many people would die for money."

"It is interesting that the most powerful person in the world is not the one who is best loved."

"It is interesting that the most powerful person in the world is not the one who is best loved."

Now some of you might be asking, “What about lethal injection?” and I will ask you, “this guy just killed someone in 1997, 1998, or 1999, why should we care about the method of execution?” I will ask you, “this guy just killed someone in 1997, 1998, or 1999, why should we care about the method of execution?”

"I wish I could say that I was already out of law school already, so as to give this country a good, decent, honest, law abiding (She told me she was 18...your honor, I swear) candidate. We could bring morals back into politics and inspire the young. We could actually do good for this country, instead of passing bills and statutes which never make a difference. We could become as great as the statesman Jesse Jackson (by making up words and confusing our opponents), and rule this country, making it what it should be, a place for all to prosper, enjoy life, eat, and be merry. But if you can successfully, then you are well on your way to becoming a perfectly good liar, (ooppss), I mean lawyer.

Brad Halaska is a first year evening student.