

In Presidential Race

Ky. really only has one choice



If you want to get a rise out of most people around me, mainly family members, just tell them you are considering voting for Al Gore in the Presidential race.

So far, my son has threatened to move out, my mother has threatened my job and some advertisers who support George Bush have threatened to stop advertising in the Signal.

My sister even told me to stop hiding behind my voter registration and go ahead and register Democrat.

Keep in mind that I never one time told any of them that I was going to vote for Gore, only that I might and that I really hadn't made up my mind.

I will admit at first that I was somewhat undecided because I think that Bush is driven by big money special interest and I don't think that the common man or woman has much say in the national Republican party.

Of course, if you look at the national Democrat party, you probably will find the same thing.

One thing is certain, big money and only a handful of people decide who will be the presidential candidate in both parties.

The primary elections are set up so that each party can pump millions of dollars into small states.

Hundreds of campaign workers and the massive amounts of money for the chosen candidate make it very difficult for anyone to defeat the chosen one.

For example, I think John McCain was the better of the Republican candidates and I truly believe that he had more overall support than Bush, but the big money wore him out week to week.

In an effort to fairly choose a candidate from each party that is truly the choice of the majority of that party, the primary elections for President should be held across the nation on the same day, just as the General

Election is.

A lot of factors go into why you should or shouldn't vote for a particular candidate and I have never been one to vote for a candidate simply because of his or her party affiliation. Although some readers I'm sure would disagree.

In Kentucky it is pretty simple. The Clinton and Gore Administration have totally dismantled the farming economy in this state and their actions have caused rural Kentucky many problems.

Their blatant attack on tobacco has for the most part seriously damaged the family farms in this state and it appears as long as there is a Democratic administration there is no end in sight.

If you care about this state - then in good conscience you cannot vote for Al Gore.

Although I think they could have done more, our Republican Senators and Congressmen have fought the White House in the past eight years to try and save the tobacco program.

While the Democrats brag about the national economy being in better shape than it has ever been, they fail to mention that in many parts of this state that is not true.

When the President visited Eastern Kentucky last year he himself admitted that portions of Kentucky had been left out of the economic revival in this country.

If Gore is elected, tobacco farming will be gone - no doubt.

That may not be a good enough reason for some to vote for Bush - but it is good enough for me.

One of our readers, Jim Norton, has accused me of not printing any letters concerning the Democracy party or their views.

That simply isn't true. We will print any and all letters that are not libelous even if we think some of them may not make sense or even if we don't agree with their content.

Send us those letters to Mt. Vernon Signal, P.O. Box 185, Mt. Vernon, Kentucky 40356 or e-mail us at MVSIGNAL@sun-spot.com. Letters must be signed and we must be able to verify the author. We also reserve the right to edit letters. In most cases letters should be limited to 300 words.

have to make a point of ruining my supper every single day of the week.

Yes, they did call on Sunday even though they want you to believe that they are Church goers of the highest caliber. I reckon they want to get in one last call before evening services but I don't know why they single me out for the message.

They want to know if I am affiliated with a political party.

The answer is none that I care to admit in public.

But I am going to vote.

If I have to limp to the polls. If I have to have an ambulance to get me there, I'm going to go vote against the constitutional amendment that would convene the Kentucky State Legislature every year instead of every two and add 30 days for the deadheads to sell us off to the highest bidding special interest group or sneak around to see if they can get a state road built through their family farm so they can subdivide and sell it off for \$400,000 an acre.

I believe the State's best interest is in danger when the Legislature convenes at all. Kentucky is on or near the bottom of every list in the country that gauge things like quality of education, poverty, health care, environmental protection, etc. and we have our elected officials largely to thank for that.

While, in their right mind believes that enabling the State Legislature be required to take and pass the standardized test given to our fifth graders each year. That ought to eliminate half of them in one fell swoop.

I also believe that they ought to be required to write their own press releases. That would eliminate another large block.

It is patently dishonest to put one photograph beside a newspaper story and like credit for writing it when one probably could not spell several words in said story without asking for help. And when you see such a story about all that he has accomplished purportedly written by one of your Senators or Representatives, the chances are excellent that the story is also news to him or her.

Not only that, but if you go down the road to the next county seat you can find the same story, verbatim except that it will have a different photograph and a different story. Put enough effort into it and you can find the same story, word for word, written by 75 or so different people all of whom are members of the State Legislature.

The truth of the matter is that the Legislators have created a few jobs for writers and they use your tax dollars to pay them salaries to polish up bank and publish it in their newspaper to make them look good.

Once the big lie is perfected they will be ready for writing it. And country newspaper editors ought to be ashamed of themselves for ever letting it get into print because they know how it was written as well as I do.

Let one of the aforementioned sixth graders turn in a paper written by someone else and get caught at it and he get a failing grade. Let a college student do the same thing and they kick him out of school. But in Kentucky a State Legislator will claim credit for good weather and blameworthy on the other party. And they expect you to believe it.

If you are fed up with the meddling that's going on in this election, please don't let that stop you from voting. Go to the polls and vote No on the Constitutional Amendment.

If you don't feel like there's a good candidate running for the official positions, try to figure out which one will do the least harm.

Write your Legislator a letter and tell him or her that they are willing to commence dealing with real issues like the predatory lenders who loan poor people money at 400% interest and when they start putting some of these check cashing schemes out of business and when they are willing to start doing something about the garbage that litters our roads and streams you might be willing to okay a stay in the state capital.

But don't expect any of that to happen. There's no shrimp and good whiskey supporting it.

medical costs? Will it build more schools to take care of the crowded classrooms, and raise teachers salaries so we can keep the best in Kentucky? Will it raise the wages of the working men enough so women can stay home and care for their own children? Will hospitals be funded sufficiently so nurses and care-givers have more time for the sick and dying and allow aides to return to their job of non professional work? If that is true I am all for it.

Or, should we trust the one who is known to exaggerate and tell a few little white lies? One who apposes oil drilling in Alaska when we are in dire need of more fuel? But if oil drilling is allowed the sea of ice beneath the surface will be broken and other serious problems will have to be taken care of. And the oil companies get the cream and we get to pay the bills. I have been to Prudhoe Bay and visited the site where the oil was pumped and prepared for the huge pipes that transported it to Valdez, one of the prettiest little towns I have ever seen, perched on the Bay where oil tankers were waiting in the harbor to fill up and stand off. And tall snow topped mountains taking guard close by. A curved statue was mounted in the center and flowers were blooming. (Would you like me to tell more about the trip to Alaska and the many things I learned while there, or get back to my original theme, Who do we vote for?)

The other of whom I am speaking supported Bill Clinton when he defiled the honor of the White House? Also the one advising him and standing by while the economy grew to its highest level in history. And stood by when oil prices did the same thing? He honored his position as Vice President being loyal to his oath and being available when he was needed. Now we, the voters have to decide which of these two "scalawags" should clean up the White House and lead the country into the next century with high schools graduating classes of young people who can read and write.

Do calculations, know about chemistry and have a smattering of other

subjects worthy of those educated in the schools of the U.S.A. If each of these candidates had kept their mouth shut about their opponent's faults and spoke of the problems facing us, such as how we can improve education. Should we build more and smaller community schools? Should the best teachers be used to teach the third grades of school so the children would have a headstart on reading, writing and math when they reach the fourth grade. Or what we can do about the aging populace? How can they be cared for when they can no longer care for themselves? What arrangements can be made for insurance they cannot afford? Should we let them die or force the pharmacies to lower the price of medicine? Also there is a problem with transportation that needs attention and plans made to correct it. That hasn't never been mentioned. It could be a part of the conversation problem that has been mentioned. There are so many things we have in the dark about it will be hard to vote for either one unless they give us some answers to the real problems. One of the biggest problems facing the most people is the economic gap between the rich and poor. The executives and members of Congress get big raises, those on S.S. get little. The workers at the lowest level, work for less an hour than a lb. of good steak costs. Has either of these candidates lived on \$500 dollars a month and paid living expenses, including telephone, insurance (health, house, car), taxes, heating fuel, water, electric and have anything left for food and medicine? I think not. So how could he talk about something he knows nothing about. That hasn't answered my concern has it? Which one is the closest to what we think we need? Will either one be willing to sit down a delegation of ordinary "poor" folks and work toward some answers? If so I would like to be invited to sit in.

Mull over our choices, they, the candidates, have done the dirty work and told you about the honesty, character and quality of who will be occupying the White House in 2001. Whichever one gets the coveted seat - Remember - I Told You So!

Sweet and Sour

By Zi Graves



Politics - war and peace And the world came tumbling down.

A familiar quote, "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men" must have no meaning to the men bowing in prayer, on public streets, while at the same time their sons are throwing rocks or harassing and killing the sons and daughters of their neighbors across the street. And all because of a difference in their belief in God. The Creator of all things, great and small. I won't dwell on their differences for I know not what they are, but I do know, my God, The Author of "Peace on earth, goodwill to man" is a loving God and can pour oil on the troubled waters and calm the raging sea of hatred if He is called on to do so. Confrontation is not Christianity, it is only a word to identify oneself from the unbeliever. These two seem to have become enemies by a misunderstanding of those two words, religion and understanding. I had better stop before I get over my head in theology.

Right now, Peace on earth, good will to man, must be far from the minds of those being bruised and killed by stones thrown by youth on the other side of the street, possibly by ones they have been playing with a short time ago. So, gunfire is returned instead of the other cheek and war has begun. If a peacemaker isn't found who can calm the troubled waters and create an atmosphere of understanding and tolerance between the leaders of those who think their cause is just.

Now for a few problems here at home that needs a little attention. By now, since we have seen all the babies kissed, and held in the arms of squirming office seekers, and children read to by stranger they had never seen before and probably would never see again, heard promises made to the poor and elderly, that help was on the way, along with promises of tax cuts that would help everyone, we know from past performances most of it is political hogwash with no intention of being able to live up to it. The debates have been a waste of time for the listeners.

After all the talk of the weakness, chicanery and lack of integrity of the two candidates who would like to be selected as an insider in Washington so he could live in The White House and clean it up, leaves the voter puzzled as to which candidate is fit or capable of taking on the responsibilities of The President of the United States of America. We know neither is any good because each candidate has talked about the weaknesses, faults and lack of accountability of his opponent. Therefore leaving the voters with no honest and trustworthy candidate to vote for. So, we must decide which one of the scoundrels is the lesser of two evils. Do we want to trust the one who believes a tax cut for the wealthy will also cut the tax of the working class? And will the rickling down of what is left save social security and medicare? Will it lower

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Points East

By: Ike Adams

I'm scared to answer the phone anymore because I've run out of cuss words for the bleepy, bleepy, air headed politicians who call several times a day in an effort to influence my vote.

They start out asking how I feel about guns or abortion or social security, or health care, or prescription drugs or health insurance and I tell them that it's none of their bleepy business and I won't know why they

Notice

Applications for paper absentee ballots must be received in the county clerk's office by October 31, 2000. These applications must be made by phone, fax, mail or in person and can be obtained by the voter or the spouse, parents or child of voter.

Absentee voting for voters who will be absent from the county on election day but are not allowed to vote by paper absentee ballot will be conducted in the county clerk's office beginning October 23 through November 6. The hours for voting will be Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. till 12 noon.

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