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Sons and dads of pregnant chads

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With the inauguration fresh in the nation’s mind, the American public has seemingly accepted its new president after a tumultuous round of electoral scandal. George W. Bush was lead through the streets of Washington, D.C. - tear gas wafting behind his motorcade, while many stood outside in shock and awe. The winner of this political contest was declared barely a month earlier, more than thirty days following the election without a victor. Throughout this ordeal, the electoral process was exposed greatly. Several states came under the media’s scrutiny for the first time more so than the state of Florida.

Washington, New Mexico, and even Wisconsin contained a hefty amount of voting problems. Nevertheless, Florida has managed to obtain the title of extraordinary idiocy due to its election procedures. How can one proclaim such a statement? Being a Miami native, I feel obligated to inform the public about the corruption and dishonesty that pervades my state. Further, a certain fiduciary Florida politician has a habit of backward and bizarre thinking by its natives.

The illogical politicking of the powerful Cuban minority illustrates this altered thinking. Most of us are too embarrassed by Cuban descent treat their vote during elections as a weapon of revenge since the Kennedy Administration against who, and why? The Democratic party, for past operations done by its leaders against the Cuban nation. John F. Kennedy and the horrible Bay of Pigs episode, and the recent unnecessary events concerning the future whereabouts of young Elian Gonzalez. The Cuban vote has remained Republici,

can go to a party that strictly enforces immigration laws and is lengthy faced with immigration prob-
als. A minority supporting the Republi-
can Party? Only in Florida.

Another example of that ridicul-
ous month in November is the
eventual winner of the Palm Beach
county: Pat Buchanan. How could a
county that is predominantly full
of senior Jewish retirees elect a man
once termed as anti-Semitic? The
Jewish vote has staunchly stuck to
the Democratic Party; Buchanan
is even further right than his Republi-
can brethren. This absolute immobi-
liness in the political realm only be-
came reality in Florida. Leaving the
court of our dorm rooms confused and frustrated by the sup-
posed complicated ballots that the
election issued- the complex mecha-
nism of punching holes bewildered them.

At this moment, I would like to
hazard a personal comment: I had
the benefit of voting in the 1998
election for the governor of Florida
before this whole mess. I can assure
you that all my chads were fully
punched yet another Republican
vote election - the notorious choice of George W., Jeb Bush. Now, being
of sound mind and faculty, I was able to
fully comprehend the task. I simply had to punch one indicated hole to vote for my chosen can-
didate. I am convinced I performed
decently enough to achieve this goal. The Democrats managed
to lynch a unsuspecting state offi-
cial who took a sample ballot in his hand during the recounts; sus-
gestions were made that he chased the poor man into an elevator.

With such generalities now cov-
ered, I would like to highlight my
own county of residence and its cat-
astrophic involvement in the elec-
tion: Dade County. This county
contains the traditional images of Miami - South Beach, Ocean Drive,
and Biscayne Bay. It was one of the
most densely populated and along with Palm Beach and Broward, which necessi-
tated a ballot recount due to the
close results. It is certainly a place of
luxury, a destination on the tourist
map, where pleasure is to be had and
cares forgotten.

It is ludicrous that such a place
unfortunately had a key role in the
election; most people only care where
their next drink is coming from in
Miami, not their next presi-
dent. For example, the Dade offi-
cials misplaced eleven ballot boxes -
they just conveniently disposed in route to their rendezvous point to the
different counties. Even when these boxes were recovered; it makes one ponder,
how many more could have gone missing, been tampered with, and so on? Dade, the essence of Miami, has been firmly torched by the media’s glare now. Little Elian had lit the place alight earlier in the year when his escapades. Ex-
hausted by all this drama, I wonder
what the New Year holds for my
county.

The turbulent action that has sur-
rounded Bush during the checkbox
election even here on Mount St.
James by Floridians natives. Sean
O’Higgins ’03, a Florida Miami and
Governor of Florida.

’ve discovered at least one ab-
dent of Florida.

What conclusion, if any, can one
make about the election? I believe I
have discovered at least one ab-
solute truth concerning the past few
months: voting unfortunately be-
came a fraud, a ruse that was very
evident in Florida, due to the inad-
equacies of both candidates. People have been left bickering due to the
inconclusive results.

Nonetheless, is there a silver lin-
ning to this political cloud? Certain-
ly, in my short life so far, I have never
witnessed such action and could
be the American youth to raise awareness. Our society is ultimately affected
for the better. An opportunity stands before us - a chance to create some-
thing greater for our government to
achieve.

We should never settle for the
inapropos mediocrity that both Bush
and Gore brought to the table. An
election is never for the imperative
"of people," but rather for it, we
whoever we may be as individuals.
Respect your chance to vote as a
privilege, neither as a burden nor re-
ponsibility. Such an attitude could lead to a more acceptable result as
well as a more united nation.

KARA LAMB
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Over the past few weeks the news has been filled with images of the Clinton Administration preparing to leave office. The Clinton’s personal belongings were moved to their new house in New York, papers were sent to Arkansas for President Clinton’s library, and all the offices of the White House were completely cleaned out. After eight years of living in the White House with a myriad of staff, cars and anything else at his disposal, President Clinton left Saturday to become “Citizen Clinton” and begin living again in the real world.

In many ways, we seniors will soon have a similar experience to that of President Clinton. While we won’t leave Holy Cross with Secret Service agents to protect us, we will be leaving the pretty sheltered and very comfortable world of Holy Cross to enter into the proverbial real world. Many of us have had the support of our parents and families, of having our meals prepared by Kimball and our dorm rooms cleaned. The gates of Holy Cross have often sheltered us from what is going on in the outside world, and we often seem to be living in a bubble.

Yet, just as President Clinton clearly had the time of his life being president, as evidenced by the multitude of books and projects of us, the past four years have been the time of our lives so far. We have had the chance to make amazing friends, to experience life abroad or in Washington DC and New York City, to learn both inside and outside of the classroom. Naturally the past four years have
had their ups and downs and no doubt some will be very happy to leave. But, in May we will celebrate one last time as a class with the Bac-
caleauriate Mass, Ball and Commencement. After that we will no longer return in September to the fa-
miliar dorms, apartments, class-
rooms, and routines. Instead we will begin a new phase of our lives, at grad school, working, in service projects, out in what so many of us noticeably describe as “the real world.”

Already the process of cleaning out the dorms and organization has begun for many of us. Job search has been filled, applications have been filled out and mailed. In regards to life on campus, there is the realization that we have just completed our last add-drop ever. There is the hanging over the regimes all the of the many organizations that we are all in

and organizations that we are all in-
volved in. There is the realization that there is only about 40 days left until spring break, and that we soon will be celebrating 100 days until graduation. Unlike in the White House, there is much that we will leave behind for our fellow class-
amates, as we have hardly sat around for the past four years.

Next semester the juniors will be
cast into the same role as our new
President George W. Bush, thrust into the real world. We will have to deal with many things that most of us have never had to face before. Yet while it is still not clear whether or not Presi-
dent Bush will be successful in his new office, there is no doubt that each one of us will be successful in whatever fate we undertake. Before we get to that point though, this next se-
semester is ours to savor. We will have much to celebrate in the next few months and much opportunity to celebrate it. Much like President Clinton did in signing last minute bills and giving a false rally tour around the country, we still have plenty of time to complete our lega-
cy, and to enjoy our last months in style.

Cartoons are needed. Drop off any cartoons in the Opinions box inside the Crusader office.