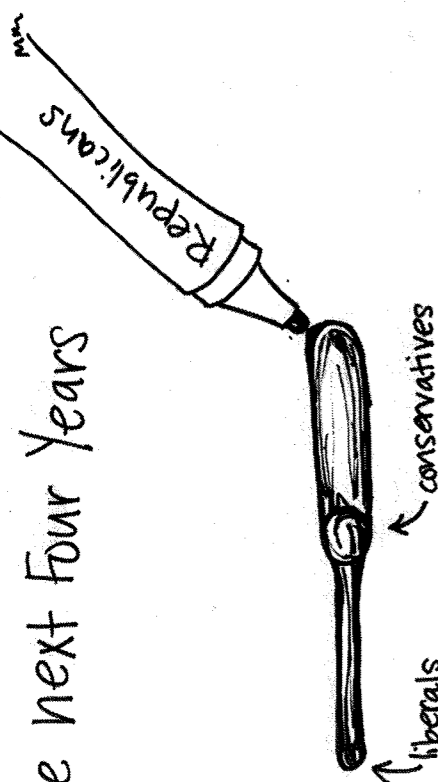


The next four years



Long road ahead

I certainly has been a long, bitter campaign, but the next four years are going to be longer and more bitter than the previous four years.

With George W. Bush in office for a second year, political pundits wondered whether it would be a moderate term, to preserve legacy, or a more radical term, with a so-called electoral mandate.

But Bush, it sure is a mandate—it's the first time he's ever been elected to the presidency.

It is a radical term, with a mandate that we're already used to. John Ashcroft, the attorney general, just replaced the attorney general, Albert Gonzales, is the man that presided over the group that issued the torture memos.

These are the memos that legitimized the behavior at Abu Gharib. In Ashcroft, the attorney general who replaced the Constitution with a new piece of legislation known as the Patriot Act, we see by civil rights activists as the most serious of two great evils in this situation.

At the Geneva Convention? Gonzales is not that the Bush ad-

ministration has a sparkling record when it comes to following the rules of war, but dismissing one of the most important human rights documents ever created as 'quaint' is a new low for the neo-cons and the moral majority.

The harsh irony in all of this is that the moral majority elected Bush. I doubt it was morals that made the once-a-week churchgoers vote for the man who put guns made to kill people on the street and, according to the iraqbodycount.net project, caused the deaths of between 14,304 and 16,439 Iraqi civilians. Disagree with my source? Fox "News" sure isn't reporting any civilian casualty lists.

This "moral majority" is the section of Americans that voted for the party boy over the soldier, the drunk over the scholar, the executioner over the senator. Fantastic choice, America. But it is a democracy, and we get what we voted for.

And we got George Bush.

George W. Bush is a conservative chauvinist who masquerades his bigotry as resolve. It is ignorant to assume that the Bush administration will attempt to unite the nation, despite his promises for the previous two elections. Bush will use his political capital to divide a nation along ideological lines and enforce a fundamentalist, theological agenda. The next four years sure are going to be fun.



DEPTH EDITOR



STAFF WRITER

Liberal: an insult? Conservatives want 'liberal' to be hurtful but it's actually a compliment

During the election, I was talking to some friends about why I supported Senator John Kerry.

One said, "You liberal!"

The word "liberal" spewed from his mouth like being a liberal was like being the son of Satan himself. It was then that it dawned on me. How has liberal become the new F-Bomb? Why are conservatives making those who are politically to the left feel like they are unpatriotic and anti-God?

During the presidential debates, I constantly heard President George W. Bush making the point that Kerry was a liberal. Bush made it clear that if Kerry was elected, the country would fall due to his beliefs.

But what's wrong with being a liberal? If you look up the word "liberal" in the dictionary here's what it says: "tolerant of views differing from one's own; broad-minded. Also, favoring reform or progress, as in education, religion, etc; specifically favoring political reforms tending toward democracy and personal freedom for the individual; progressive. Giving freely; generous." I'm not sure why anyone would be threatened by liberalism as defined by the dictionary.

But the word "liberal" has taken on a negative connotation. It is often linked with the term "bleeding-heart," that refers to one who is naive and stupid. Liberalism has been beaten up so badly over the years that many left-leaning people consider themselves "closet liberals," bowing under pressure to leave their perfect dream world of freedom and equality for all. The time has come for a re-assessment of what

Without liberals, the civil rights movement wouldn't have been as strong as it was. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction. The Civil Rights Act prohibited discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin. The law provided the federal government with the powers to enforce desegregation.

Without liberals, common sense protections for people that are now taken for granted, would scarcely have seen the light of day. These are such protections as social security and health care.

Being a liberal should be something you're proud of, not embarrassed about.

I am a liberal and I'm proud to be one. I am also an American and still get moved when someone sings "God Bless America," or when a fellow American is being awarded a gold medal at the Olympic games and the National Anthem is played while the American flag is raised. Being a liberal doesn't mean I'm against this country in any way or against God. I just want what's best for this country through reform, progress and broad-mindedness.

Doctors using euthanasia must stop

Assisted suicide not an option for doctors, patients

It has killed more than 170 people in Oregon. And it was perfectly legal...until now.

Thanks to the Bush administration, the Supreme Court is now reviewing an Oregon law that allows doctors to help end the lives of terminally ill patients, according to the Associated Press. Oregon is the only state to have a law enabling doctors to carry out assisted suicide

I see the other side of the argument. I understand that patients pay for hospital stays and they should be able to spend their money however they want. However, they do have the choice to stop spending their money at a hospital when all hope is lost. It doesn't make any sense to pay for death. A patient should just live out the rest of his or her life or continue treatment for his or her illness to aid in lessening the suffering and not have death as a

Therefore, under no circumstance is a person ever competent enough to say they want to die.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

or euthanasia.

The law is designed for each patient to have complete independence in his or her decision to end his or her life. Under for a patient to receive an overdose of federally approved drugs under the Death With Dignity Act they have less than six months to live, have two documented confirm a diagnosis, and be proven to be mentally competent, according to the Associated Press.

Outgoing attorney General John Ashcroft's decision the law reviewed makes perfect sense. In fact, it would be repealed and all doctors practicing euthanasia assisted suicide should be cited for malpractice. A doctor should not be put in the position where his or her option to care for a patient is to essentially stop caring. A doctor's job is to help a patient, to look at all possible solutions to any type of illness, regardless if it's terminal or not. And, as ambiguous as that may seem, does not include ending the life of a patient.

solution. Patients almost always have the option to go through treatment to lessen their suffering, but it's their choice to be treated.

A patient can be bed-ridden in a hospital and unable to perform any type of mundane activity, but it's still not the doctor's job to end the patient's life. Also, when a person wants to die, that is a terse definition of being suicidal. And according to the dictionary, there is no way for an individual to commit suicide and be mentally stable, *psychiatrically speaking*. Therefore, under no circumstance is a person ever competent enough to say they want to die.

Besides the moral issue of whether or not the Oregon law should be in place, there is also the legal issue of whether or not the Supreme Court be allowed to review the law. Most people will say that it's the state's right to carry out and administer the law. However, because the doctors are using federally controlled drugs that are handled by the Food and Drug Administration the federal government has every right to dictate how the drugs should be used or decide if they are being used in an ethical way. Even if the doctors weren't using federally controlled drugs, the government would be able to challenge the law because there would be a good chance of malpractice involved in the assisted suicides, and tort reform is a responsibility taken on by the government.

Oregon is the first state to succeed in passing attempted suicide laws in 1998, but several states, such as California and Washington, have tried numerous times to pass such legislation, according to ERGO, the Euthanasia Research and Guidance Organization. Also, the case is going to the Supreme Court while Chief Justice William Rehnquist is undergoing treatment for cancer and can retire at any moment. His retirement will mean a new chief justice for the Supreme Court, giving President Bush the opportunity to appoint a new judge. Hopefully this will lead to a stronger conservative opinion on the issue of euthanasia and Oregon's Death With Dignity Act will be repealed.

With continuing advances in medical technology, terminal illnesses will be less of a threat upon Americans. But terminally ill patients need to realize that doctors are doing everything in their power to find cures for illnesses such as cancer, AIDS, and other terminal illnesses. In other words, they're doing their jobs. Euthanasia should