Voters' choices include more than main parties

By Ryan Sotomayor
OPINION

The election is all anyone is talking about these days, aside from Justin Timberlake refusing to marry Cameron Diaz and Mary Cheney's sexuality. But many UAS students and Americans are frustrated that the two main presidential candidates resemble each other so similarly. Perhaps, those who are upset can turn to a third party candidate.

Eugene Debs once wrote, "I would rather vote for something that I want and not get it, than vote for something I don't want and get it." This quote was attached to many pro-Ralph Nader emails this Whalesong writer received before the election of 2000. Nader, attention graber and presidential candidate is running again, by the way, as an Independent.

An Alaskan named Gene Amondson is running for President under the Concerns of People (Prohibition) Party with Leroy Platten as his Vice Presidential Candidate. The Green Party claims David Cobb and Pat LaMarche from California and Maine respectively, as their runners.

The right and the left are well represented. On the right wing there are the Libertarian Party, the Prohibition Party and The Christian Freedom-Minnesota Party.

On the left wing are the Socialist Party, the Socialist Workers Party, the Workers World Party, the Green Party and the Socialist Equality Party. These parties include people of color - meaning that they are not Caucasian - and women. A good way to protest the presidential election is by voting against the two-party system, in which there are no people of color or women, thus non-representative of the American people. Eugene Debs was a Socialist party presidential candidate way back in history when a third party had a good chance of swaying an election. That was different than the 2000 election. The Ralph Nader haters swear that he lost the election for Gore in 2000, but in actuality it was Al Gore, the Supreme Court and the shady dealings of vote rustlers in the not-so-great state of Florida.

Other opportunities for voting include a protest by mailing in a blank ballot. A voter could vote for whom they think would make for the best Saturday Night Live sketches. This writer did just that in 2000 by voting for W in Oregon where Gore was going to win anyway. (In his defense it should be stated that his friend Jared voted for Pat Buchanan and another one of his friends, who would like to remain anonymous, voted for Pat Robertson, for Saturday Night Live skits, mind you.)

David Cross, the infamous Bush-hating comedian, made a poster for *Under the Radar* magazine with a quote from John Ashcroft claming that America has no king but Jesus. One option could be to vote for Our Lord. The band 'Bright Eyes' drew a poster for the same magazine that called for a president who can read. Under this idea, almost anyone born in American over the age of 35 would work out. This writer is voting for his parents. So, there are other ways to vote, if one is so inclined.

There are many opportunities for voting, either on the left or the right. Or the middle, if you don't find yourself on any political spectrum. As Sam Bean, central member of the band Iron and Wine drew on his poster for *Under the Radar*: Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote! Vote!

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That "growth," in light of our red-ink economy, is about as shallow as the almost heretical attacks on John Kerry's Vietnam War heroism by members of the draft-evading experts in the entire Bush Administration. Whereas Kerry fought for his nation in medaled honor, even reenlisting knowing full well in his heart this was an unjust war yet one in which American men and women were being killed—killed by actual enemy fire and not by military mishaps or friendly fire which is happening all too often in Iraq. This didn't stop the "Republican attack dogs" who were shameless enough to publish the prevarication Kerry had acted insubordinate in Vietnam. The Iraq mistake, tax cuts for the wealthy railroaded through Congress, a ballooning debt for our children on top of a "February surprise" for Social Security benefactors (as the ranking house Democrat Nancy Pelosi forewarned last month), lying to voters for private gain and public-purse giveaways like the "taking of our (im)permanent fund and the Halliburton-Bechtel mismanagement charade, are all in store with another term for G.W.

Let's show both these supercilious administrations we can't be so easily duped by the Bush-oholic—Murkowski-olism scam next month. Vote for the real heroes. Vote a straight "Democrat ticket."

Marijuana plant's historical roots reach far

By Thane Kelly
WHALESONG REPORTER

With the upcoming November elections, it is wise to explore the larger context of ballot initiative two from a historical and utilitarian perspective. There are many moral arguments for and against cannabis, as well as human rights issues around prohibition in general. However, there is not much focus on the utility of Cannabis Sativa, and the extent to which it was once used on a worldwide scale.

The best reference book availabie is Jack Herer's book, *The Emperor Wears No Clothes*, which is often referred to as the cannabis bible due to it's wealth of historical information, all completely documented and referenced. Herer writes, "All of my information about CANNABIS/HEMP/MARIJUANA has been taken from Federal and State Department of Agriculture reports, articles from Popular Mechanics, Popular Science, Pulp & Paper Magazine, Scientific American, entries from encyclopedias and pharmacopoeias, and studies from all over the world during the last 200 years. This is all public information".

A few interesting points:

- Cannabis used to make over 25,000 products before it was outlawed in 1937.
- 125 years ago, 70 to 90 percent of all rope, twine, cordage, ship sails, canvas, fiber, cloth, etc., was made out of hemp fiber. In 1937, it was replaced by DuPont's newly discovered petrochemical fiber, known as nylon.
- Cannabis was the number one annually renewable natural resource for 80 percent of all paper, fiber, textiles and fuel, from 6,000 years ago until about 125 years ago.
- Cannabis was used for 5 to 50 percent of the food, light, land and soil reclamation, and even 20 percent or more of all medicine.
- Prior to the 1800s, hempseed oil was the number one source for lighting oil throughout the world.
- Until 1937-38, even paints and varnishes were 80 percent hempseed oil.
- Hempseed oil is non-toxic and has been used to make high-grade diesel fuel, oil, aircraft and precision oil.
- The pulp from hemp is the most efficient sustainable source of plant pulp for biomass fuel to make charcoal, gas, methanol, gasoline and electricity in a natural way.
- Nutritionally, hempseed is the most perfectly balanced and highest source of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids.
- Cannabis can be cultivated anywhere in the world, and is the healthiest plant for the soil, due to its root system, which penetrates up to six feet deep, aerating the soil and leaving a large amount of organic matter to recycle nutrients back into the land.
- As it fertilizes the soil, it also increases soil stability. In fact, cannabis was used for land reclamation until 1915.
- Cannabis cloth is 4 times softer than cotton, 4 times warmer, 4 times more water absorbent, has 3 times the strength, is much more durable, and flame retardant.
- Fifty percent of all pesticides are used on cotton, yet cotton uses only 1 percent of the farmland in the U.S. Cannabis requires no pesticides or herbicides for cultivation.
- There have been 13 million arrests for Cannabis within the last 30 years in the United States.

For more facts and references, visit:http://www.jackherer.com/