



# THE COUNTY ASS

Baltimore County  
Young Democrats

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*VOTE NOVEMBER 2!!!!!!*

## An Obvious Choice

By MARK LUNDQUIST

On the last day of September John Kerry showed himself to be the fighter we all knew he was. Before the first debate that night both campaigns had been taking great pains to portray their candidate as the underdog, setting the bar of expectations as low as possible. Well John Kerry cleared his bar and then some, while George W. Bush looked like he wished he were at a bar instead of a debate.

After showing his true class by sympathizing with the struggles that have recently been facing the residents of Florida, John Kerry came out strong on his first question and outlined how he would make America safer than the president has in the last four years. He emphasized the need for strong alliances, fighting a smarter war, halting the nuclear progression of countries like North Korea and Iran, and securing the loose nuclear material from the former Soviet Union. Surprisingly, Bush countered these necessary plans for making America safer with "I don't think we want to get to how he's going to pay for all these promises. It's like a huge tax gap"

The president however, seemed content to promise more of the same while trying to paint John Kerry as an indecisive leader. The debate ended up being the John Kerry show. John Kerry would say how he would lead the nation better in times of trouble and outlined a plan to do so, while the President said it was better to follow the path we were on instead of changing our minds. Fortunately for this country, John Kerry's performance that night changed a lot of minds about who should be elected president in November.

### Is Bush Bringing Back the Draft?

Few things put chills down the spines of young Americans more than those two little words: The Draft. Those two words bring up images of our country's best and brightest being sent to fight in a war they don't believe in, and sent by people who haven't served in the first place. The Bush administration has denied that they have plans to bring back this terror, but there are enough facts out there to support a whispering campaign among the youth of America that is becoming harder and harder to ignore.

The first hint came last year, when notices were put up online to find local community members to fill spots on the draft board for their area. The Bush administration claimed this was perfectly innocent at the time, but the question remains, "why fill the spots if they are committed to an all volunteer army?" Next, there are the army *[see Debate, pg. 2]*



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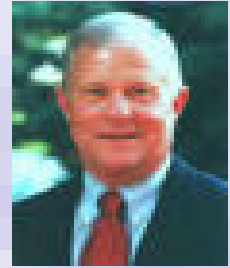
### What They're Saying

**"I am excited about the new leadership in the Young Democrats of Baltimore County. I am confident that their energy and commitment will advance our work for progressive values."**

**— Elijah Cummings  
U.S. Congressman**

# The Youth Vote

By COUNTY EXECUTIVE JIM SMITH



From the time I was very young, I have always been interested in finding ways to serve my community. I participated in service groups, I worked as a public defender, I volunteered at my church.

Working with volunteer groups, it seemed like there was one organization I was guaranteed to run into – government. It wasn't always a bad thing, and I realized that our government could be a powerful tool to help people, and to strengthen communities. That is what brought me into politics, a little over 26 years ago.

I still believe government can help build stronger communities. If you look around Baltimore County, you'll see proof. I am happy to see so many young people interested and involved in politics and government. You have a chance to do great things.

One of the most important things you can do, is reach out to other people your age. Elections, especially at this point in history, are about the future. Who we elect as president for the next four years could determine if Social Security will be around for your generation. It will decide whether the America of your future is stronger, or weaker on the international stage.

Still, in 2002 only 38 percent of people in your age group registered to vote and less than 18 percent of young people actually voted.

I can encourage young people to vote, but it works better if you encourage other young people to vote. You've been warned your whole lives about peer pressure, now it is time to exert some. You can help excite people about the Democratic Party; you can show them that our party is the party that looks forward, that will build a stronger economy, a stronger education system and a stronger defense against terrorism.

You can show young voters that the future you inherit can be better, and you can do it better than I can.

I thank you for your commitment to the Democratic Party, and with your help we can take our government back.

## Debate offers clear distinction

*[Debate, from pg. 1]* commanders who tell us of the over-extended army. The stop-loss orders that keep soldiers and their units in combat far longer than they are supposed to be. Stories of soldiers near the end of their service told to re-enlist in their non-combat units or they will be sent to Iraq. And finally, there is Republican senator Chuck Hagel pushing for the return of the draft saying, "Why shouldn't we ask all of our citizens to bear some responsibility and pay some price?"

While I agree that is the responsibility of all citizens to band together in the quest to end terrorism in our world, I do not believe that it should fall upon the youth of America to pay the price for President Bush's colossal errors in judgment. However, if it is the case that the draft is necessary for the safety of our country, I'll sign up to be whatever stateside unit the Bush twins are in, because that will be the safest place in the nation.



# Vote For Opportunity

By BETSY FOX

Today, the reality is that when students are considering whether or not to continue their education pursuits they are faced with the daunting question, "Is it really worth it?" Is it really worth taking out all the loans to pay tuition? Is it worth incurring large amounts of debt? Is it worth knowing that a large percentage of my future paychecks are going to be earmarked for loan repayment? The questions go on and on, but they are questions students must ask themselves before taking on such a financial burden. It has become increasingly imperative that students have the ability to benefit from Federal Student Aid Programs and Grants.

Federal student aid programs have the ability to benefit millions of students per year. These programs can make the difference when you are asking yourself all the questions you need to when planning for your educational future. However, our federal government is failing. They are not investing in our federal aid programs enough. In fact, many federal aid programs that benefit students have been frozen for the past 3 years. In addition to lack of federal funding, State budget cuts have forced colleges and universities to continually increase tuition. This formula of lack of funding for federal student aid programs and increasing tuition costs results in the fact that higher education is just becoming unattainable to many Americans.

Even if a student decides to take out loans and make the commitment to their educational goals, they are leaving college with 2 things, a diploma and debt. The debt an average student leaves a 4-year higher education institution with is close to \$20 thousand. According to a recent Nellie Mae study, 40% of college graduates report that they decide not to pursue a graduate degree because they are afraid of increasing their debt liability. Additionally, 40% of students reported that they had to delay buying a home because their debt. The fact is, college debt results in fewer students having access to graduate degrees and fewer students being able to contribute to the economy after graduation.

The Bush Administration has continued to inadequately fund higher education. It is clear that the current administration has failed American students and families by not funding the federal student aid programs necessary to allow our Nation's students access to an education. In order to cure the years chipping away at our Student Aid Programs, students need to vote for a candidate who will reinvest in education and allow students the ability to pursue education pursuits without asking, "Is it really worth it?"



# BCYD Profile: Dulaney Young Democrats

Founded this past summer by Seniors Diana Fakhouri and Alissa Dutrow, the Dulaney High School Young Democrats are the newest members of BCYD.

Even though they will be unable to vote this November, the Dulaney YD's are working hard to support John Kerry's campaign in any way possible. In an effort to raise awareness among students, their plans for the school year include hosting and participating in voter registration drives, organizing a school-wide mock presidential debate, inviting speakers to weekly meetings, and assisting the BCYD.

In just a few short weeks, the Dulaney YD's have made a huge impact at their school. After forming the club, a group of conservative students formed a Young Republicans group in retaliation. "Our goal is primarily to spread the ideals of the Democratic Party among our peers," says Fakhouri, "but we are also strong advocates of political discussion from both Democrats and Republicans." This belief drove the YD's to challenge the Young Republicans club to participate in a debate, but according to Fakhouri, "they unfortunately declined."



**Co-President** – Diana Fakhouri, senior *President of Youth and Government, Features Editor of school newspaper, hopes to attend College of William and Mary in the fall*

**Co-President** – Alissa Dutrow, senior *Editorials and Opinions Editor of school newspaper, hopes to attend Princeton University in the fall*

**Secretary** – Morgan Drzewicki, senior *President of History Club, Editorials and Opinions Editor of school newspaper, plans to attend St. Mary's College of Maryland in the fall*

**Treasurer** – Lindsey Gottschalk, senior *Treasurer of History Club, hopes to attend either Yale University or the University of Pennsylvania in the fall*

**YD Advisor** – George Greene, foreign language department chairman

**Pictured** — Seniors Morgan Drzewicki, Alissa Dutrow, Diana Fakhouri, and Freshmen Emily Dutrow and Emily Kelley





# How the Educated Vote

By DAN MARTIN

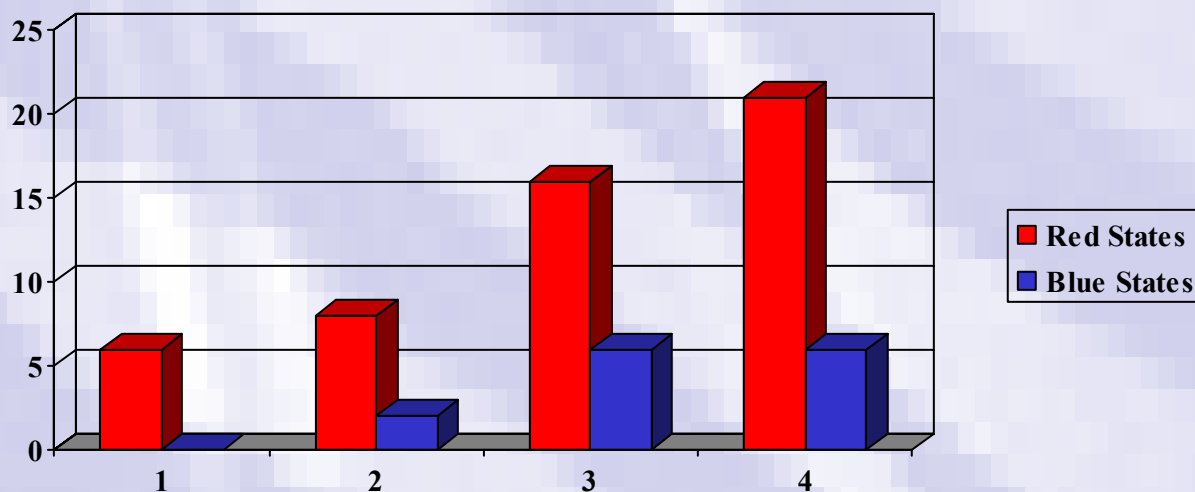
What makes someone vote Republican? What makes a state 'red'? What makes someone choose to get his or her news from the notoriously right-leaning Fox News? I will submit to you that it is a lack of education.

It appears that the citizens living in the 'red states' vote with their hearts instead of their heads, mostly because there is not much in their heads. Data shows that the people in these states are vastly undereducated when compared with their 'blue' state counterparts.

The high school graduation rate in states that voted for George Bush in 2000 is far lower than those that voted for Al Gore. That year, there were six states that reported fewer than 80% of their students had graduated from high school. All six went to Bush.

Of the students that did graduate, the ones that reside in 'red' states are less likely to take a standardized test such as the SAT to move on to a higher education. In 2000, the national average of high school graduates that also took the SAT test was 45%. That year, 27 states reported an average below that. Bush took 21 of those states.

George Bush talks a lot about making sure everyone gets a good education and it is obvious that the people living in the heartland are in dire need of one. As the data suggests, however, once someone is educated it is unlikely they will vote for a Republican. Maybe that's why he has yet to fully fund 'No Child Left Behind.'



**1** States in 2000 that reported a high school graduation rate under 80%

**2** States in 2000 that reported a high school graduation rate under 81.6% (national average)

**3** States in 2000 that reported less than 20% of their high school graduates took the SAT

**4** States in 2000 that reported less than 45% (national average) of their high school graduates took the SAT



**Baltimore County  
Young Democrats**

## About BCYD

*Young enough to be young  
Republicans, but old enough to  
know better.*



**[www.bcyd.org](http://www.bcyd.org)**

**To Our Readers:** The County Ass welcomes letters from readers. All letters become the property of The County Ass, which reserves the right to edit them. Letters should include your name and address, along with day and evening telephone numbers. E-mail letters to: [communications@bcyd.org](mailto:communications@bcyd.org).

### Preamble Statement

As Marylanders, we take great pride that the Democratic Party is the Party of the People. We value a fair and responsive government and the merits of an active citizenry. As Baltimore County Young Democrats, we recognize the need to actively participate in the political process and encourage all people to become informed and involved in public decision-making. We promote social awareness, community involvement, and political activism as a means to achieve a more fair and just society.

### Mission

To encourage young people to become active members of the Democratic Party, to support the ideals of the Democratic Party at all levels of government, to elect Democratic candidates, to stimulate in young people the values for which the Democratic Party stands, and to provide young people with the skills and experiences they will need to lead our nation into the future.

### Vision

We share a Democratic vision of a future where the rich care for the poor, where minorities are given the same rights as the majority, and where the government sits with the people and not above them.