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When Least Worst Isn't Good Enough

By Joe B.

Another presidential election year is upon us, and once again we are faced with choices. Some of us will examine the two major party candidates' ideas, speeches, rhetoric, debates, etc., make a selection on November 8, and feel that we have made an "informed" choice of the person who should "lead" the country for the next four years. Others will do the same; however, the decision we make will be based on the assumption that one or the other candidate will represent the lesser of two evils. A small percentage will vote for a third party candidate, a write in or will not make a selection in the presidential slot. Still others perceive ourselves to be, or actually are disenfranchised and will not vote at all.

It is difficult to believe that the first course of action is a viable alternative, considering the fact that one of the major party candidates is doggedly trying to dump the "dreaded" label of liberal while the other has press agents scrambling to get him portrayed as "macho", as if this is an admirable quality for a national leader.

The second group, those attempting

to choose the lesser of two evils, might fair slightly better in making a logical choice. On the one hand, we have a right-wing conservative ex-CIA director with a horrible record as vice-president who chose as a running mate a person who in another time and place might have been a member of the Hitler Youth. The campaign staffs of these two, it turns out, include neo-nazis. On the other hand, we have a slightly less homophobic quasi-conservative candidate who has as a running-mate a wealthy conservative who ideologically resembles the other side.

Not surprisingly, the last group comprises a startling majority of people in this country. It is safe to say that a significant percentage of this majority feel that the present system of government, not only in this country but in countries worldwide, needs to be revamped entirely. The political situation in this country seems to be characterized by a polarized core of essentially well-off individuals; at one pole, we have liberals who seek bureaucratic solutions to deep-rooted problems, and at the other we have the New Right whose politi-

cal agenda seeks to limit individual rights and police peoples private lives' while increasing the scope of freedoms for corporations, and privileges of the wealthy. The myth of equating prosperity with continued expansion of the military-industrial complex must be shattered. This expansionist attitude has brought the earth to the brink of ecological collapse: we are altering the world's climate, disrupting food chains, destroying forests as we create deserts, and irreversibly poisoning our air and water.

For meaningful change to take place, we must all become aware of the profound interdependence of all living things that cohabit this earth. Ignorance, apathy and avarice have been the norm, particularly in the past eight years. We must begin to question all aspects of our present way of life and eventually shift the terms of social and political debate. Haven't you heard enough about the Pledge of Allegiance in the past month? It is absurd that this is an issue considering the present state of the earth.

Sound hopeless? Perhaps it is, but if one's conscience survives beyond this lifetime, it would be a hell of a thing to drag with you to another life, that you were party to the destruction of an entire world. What to do, you ask? Well if you feel that voting is important, by all means, indulge yourself; however don't count on it to change the status quo. Get informed and plant the seeds of insurrection among those "less" informed. Obtain news from sources other than the mainstream media, which are essentially controlled by the military-industrial complex. Look into alternate political ideologies such as Eco-feminism, Anarchism and the Greens to mention just a few. Above all, get involved in local grass-roots politics and be a part of the restructuring which must begin at the local level. Stay tuned for a reading list in the next issue.

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gent of N.Y.C. Gay and Lesbian Police to a legendary Wall Street broker who races around the March in drag on roller skates. There were scantily-clad people and dykes on Harleys in full leather.

This event was strongly affirming, joyful, light-hearted, yet with a solid message to each of us, gay and straight alike; we are all one and we need each other, in love and kindness, in mutual acceptance and assistance. It is well for each and all to remember this often.



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