
THE HOYA

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FEATURES

Politics Should Match Easygoing Nature of Subway Series



Well, the World Series is over, and the Yankees continue to march forward on their grim quest toward world domination.

Within a few years, the leagues and teams will consolidate into one super-powered Yankees team, which will only play scrimmages against itself, so that no matter what, it will be a Yankees year. Although non-New Yorkers tended to be less than thrilled about the series, everybody knew that there was something special about a Subway Series. Even though my White Sox were cleared out early in the postseason, I admit I was watching the games and enjoying them.

Here's what I love about baseball - intelligent discussions can spring from serious disagreements and disappointments. Even the most loyal Yanks fan will admit that Roger Clemens' bat-throwing episode was bizarre, and even the most strident Mets fan has to concede that Derek Jeter is hot.

Not many people, however, ever threaten to leave the country if the Yankees win again.

This is why I love baseball, and why I don't like politics.

Georgetown is known as a political school, and I guess I knew that applying here, but I was oh-so-naive. As an 18-year-old whose birthday falls in April, I did not vote four years ago. (This is my first time! Please be gentle with me.) My primary knowledge of Washington politics rested solely on the movie Dave, and I was excited for the 2000 election only for the remote opportunity to attend the Inaugural Ball.

Fast forward four years, and here we are. I can't wait for it all to be over. I'm sick of cringing every time my friends, family and professors bring up the evils of Democrats or Republicans. It boils the blood, and nothing makes me more uncomfortable than boiling blood.

Let me pause briefly and attempt to deliver myself from the helping hands of those who accuse me of being a bad citizen. If the Georgetown mail service can get it together enough to put my absentee ballot in the correct mailbox, I will be voting in this election, and my mind has been made up (so I would appreciate it

if all my friends would stop forwarding me propagandist e-mails, from both camps).

I do think that refusing to vote is a foolish decision, because it does not prove a point, although one might think it does. Don't get me wrong - I am not slobbering in love with either contestant, er, candidate.

I say "either" candidate, because, although I would be happy if he did, I don't think that Nader is really going to play a major role in this election. I hope that he garners enough votes to prove that it's time for more than two parties, but for now, we are stuck with two white male candidates who come from wealthy southern political families. Neither of them seems entirely comfortable with himself, and both of them have some hypocritical beliefs and actions under their belts. Gore is trying to be a tougher Democrat and Bush is trying to be a more compassionate conservative. As is stated in the Rage Against the Machine video (doesn't it seem like I always reference Rage Against the Machine in my columns?), "They speak as two but act as one!"

However, people have to choose, and most people are passionate about their decision, which is a wonderful and understandable thing. What upsets me, however, is how it really, and I mean really, gives the American people a chance to hate each other for a while. What's the point? In the end, we're all going to have the same president, like it or not.

Returning to baseball, you would never stop being friends with somebody after realizing that he or she was an Atlanta Braves fan (usually). You realize where their passions lie, and that they have the same feelings about their team that you do about yours, and you respect them (after you taunt them).

However, in politics, I know of people who, upon finding out the political orientation of a longtime friend, will shake their heads, bewildered, and say, "I had no idea," and erase the now-evil Democrat/Republican/Green/Commie's number from their Filofax.

International spies have been better received.

By the way, I do realize that the election of the leader of the free world is slightly more important than the winner of the World Series, but I think the passion is nearly the same. Besides, didn't Bush own the Rangers? See, they are connected. So there.

I don't like to talk about politics too much right now because I don't like to raise my voice. I think breaking down the issues and discussing them intelligently is one thing. All Republicans aren't rich, gun-waving homophobes, are they? All Democrats aren't p.c., abortion-loving media whores, are they?

However, broaden a political discussion too much, and suddenly it is one of those arguments where your opponent is trying to change your mind for you. What ever happened to our Miss Manners etiquette rules, where, upon disagreeing, you listen politely to your co-arguer, then say, "I see what you are talking about, but ..." Instead, it is a race to say the most incendiary thing possible so that your opponent can only say "Huh?" and change the topic for fear that he or she will sound like a jerk in contradicting you.

This probably makes me sound uneducated and wishy-washy, but I hate that politics has become a polite conversation no-no, since with most people, it's impossible to end a political discussion without an awkward silence. It's getting to the point that when somebody starts badmouthing a candidate, I do this

childish devil's advocate thing, and secretly start thinking that he must not be that bad. Oh yes, I do this when my parents talk about Bush, and when my boyfriend talks about Gore, so I'm being immature in favor of both candidates.

If you think I'm being silly, go back to the first debate and check out Al Gore's pumpkin face makeup or how many times Bush uttered the phrase "fuzzy math." And you guys really love these characters so much?

I'll be ready to discuss the election when I can find people who can talk about politics like baseball.



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