



November 10, 2003  
Donald B. Crawford, President

**THE STAND**  
**BUSH THE MAN**

The Washington Times, a fair and balanced newspaper which many think conservative, too conservative, published the results of a poll taken by no less than Harvard University Institute of Politics, Harvard no less. The poll was conducted with college students and the results were fascinating.

66% of all such college students polled said they trust President Bush as much today as they did a year ago, that is before the war in Iraq. Two out of three college students believe in the credibility of George Bush and the Republicans.

Another fascinating finding. 88% of the students describe themselves as patriotic. In short, nine out of ten students describe themselves as red-white-blue patriotic, believing in America and all that it stands for.

More. The conventional view in America is that the majority of America's college students are Democratic, liberal, and care little about politics. This poll proves all such assumptions dead wrong. Survey director, Dan Glickman, said that the poll is a warning shot to all candidates and political parties that it will be critical to engage the nine million college students in America with sound programs and ideas, or "watch them vote for your opponent."

Even more. 39% of all college students said they would vote for George Bush while 34% said they would favor a Democratic candidate. 9% said they would vote for an Independent candidate and 18% were undecided. Mind you, this poll was conducted with 1,202 students October 3-12, 2003 and even with a margin of error of plus or minus 3%, the results were fascinating to Republicans and conservatives.

Perhaps most importantly, the polls found that 72% of all college students are registered voters, and that 82% or more expect to vote in the 2004 presidential election, believing that their vote will indeed make a difference in that election. Eight out of ten even knew the location of the polling place where they would vote!

86%, or almost nine out of ten college students, believe that political engagement is effective in solving community problems and that the practice of politics should be proactive at that level.

60% of such students said that they are more politically involved than their parents. That is encouraging for America.

But they want reality, integrity, truth and the facts. These college students want to cut through the sound bites, the talking points and even the debates themselves to hear something truly genuine from the candidates. They want to know that the candidates really understand the issues and will bring character and integrity to political office if elected. They want to know, as the poll says, of their reaction to candidates “who this person really is.”

Interestingly, the college students wanted to know that the candidate was practical, a doer, someone who would make things happen. The most important characteristic, they felt, was LEADERSHIP. That was critical. The next was experience. The third, most interestingly, was directness, forthrightness, straight-shooting and integrity. The fourth, a firm, clear and predictable stance on the issues. Most interesting, even shocking, was the fact that college students rated concern by the political candidate to the problems of the young as dead last.

Another somewhat startling finding. 31% of the respondents were Republicans. 27% were Democrats, and 38% Independent or unaffiliated.

The college students were concerned about post-war Iraq. Almost 50% felt it was time to withdraw troops, but at the same time, continue the rebuilding process.

Finally, seven out of ten, almost 70% were concerned about the economy, and even more so their ability upon graduation to find a job. If not a good job, then any job. 30% however believe the economy was improving, and that a good job, even the right job for them would be available upon graduation.

Fascinating facts and information. How good to hear rock solid thinking and responses from the future of America. Sooner than they know, it will be their country. Hopefully, they will work for and cherish the America so many of us older folks love and cherish. It is, after all, a nation one of a kind.

I suspect after reading the results of this poll that so much of the radical and liberal drivel from college professors which masquerades as education goes in one ear and right out the other. Maybe, after all, college students really do know how to think for themselves!