

Since this is a special issue of *Golfdom* devoted to the critically important topic of putting surfaces, it only makes sense that I'd write my column on ... the presidential election.

First, a little confession. You may be shocked to hear that I'm a lifelong Democrat.

Yup, it's true. For 20 years, I've been a card-carrying member of the party of FDR, Harry Truman, John Kennedy and Tip O'Neil. I even voted for Clinton, for God's sake. I'm essentially a liberal mole who burrowed my way into the largely conservative golf business.

So, I'll be voting for Gore in November, right?

Let's put it this way: If Big Al showed up here in person at *Golfdom's* World Headquarters and offered me a million bucks and the Ambassadorship to Pinehurst in exchange for my one little vote, I'd tell him to shove it. Why? Let me count the ways.

(It'd be way too easy to throw in some jokes about the generally sleazy stuff that's gone on in the Clinton/Gore White House for the past eight years, so I'll just focus on the things that matter to the golf industry.)

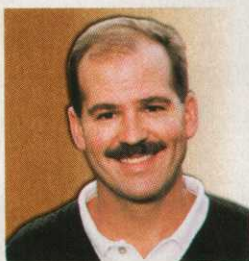
1. Earth in the Balance: If you haven't read Gore's famed environmental tome, I'll save you the trouble with this synopsis: "Industry bad. Wacky eco-ideas good." Even if Gore actually believes half of the stuff he wrote, this book should scare the crap out of you. I'm too cynical to think that Gore would have the political courage to implement all of his crackpot ideas, but do you really want to give him the chance?

2. Carol Browner: Even the remotest possibility that Gore would retain this granola-brained excuse for an EPA administrator should be enough to make you write a big, fat contribution check to the GOP. This woman hates most development and all pesticides. She took a relatively harmless law – the Food Quality Protection Act – and brazenly turned it into an unscientific witch hunt designed to bully the chemical companies into dropping proven products.

Forget the fact that billions have been spent to test and approve them — she says they're not "natural" and therefore must be

Just Say No To Al, Carol and Joe

BY PAT JONES



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harmful to children (particularly at exposure rates thousands of times higher than in the real world). I'll be blunt: Browner has to go.

3. Joe Lieberman: Gore's running mate, Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman, is also no friend to those who rely on pesticides to do their jobs.

In a series of congressional hearings he co-sponsored in the early 1990s, Lieberman made it clear that he has no tolerance for urban pesticide use on golf courses or anywhere else. If a newly elected President Gore turned this veep loose as his environmental pit bull, there'd soon be a big hole right where our industry's ass used to be.

So, I simply can't stomach voting for a party that promises to destroy my business. The alternative, of course, is George "Dubya" Bush, who comedian Dennis Miller describes as "20 gallons of dumb in a 10-gallon hat." Well, his old man wasn't exactly MENSA material either, but he was smart enough to surround himself with people who were. I'm pretty confident that even Junior couldn't sink the ship of state with guys like Dick Cheney and Colin Powell returning to seats around the Cabinet table. And I'm completely confident that our industry (and my wallet) will be better off under a Bush II administration.

Speaking of which: I wonder who Dubya might tap to replace Browner at EPA? Any old political crony would probably do fine, but I still like the deliciously nasty idea of appointing Newt Gingrich (who actually has a Ph.D. in environmental science). Wouldn't that be fun? I've already thought of a motto for the Newt-improved EPA: "Goodbye FQPA! Hello DDT!"

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