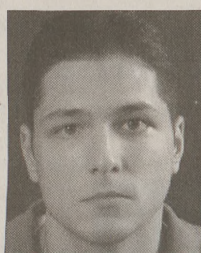


First-rate disgrace

Heinz Kerry's public behavior would cause embarrassment for White House



GEORGE DEUTSCH

Mercifully, the dog-and-pony show that was the Democratic National Convention is finally over, and as all the television ratings indicate, it was a sleeper. Ben Affleck and the rest of the Hollywood elite preened, John Kerry was wooden in a 50-minute speech that addressed his senatorial career for only 26 seconds and Teresa Heinz Kerry, well, she was there too. Surprisingly, though, Heinz Kerry didn't embarrass the Kerry campaign in her speech as she has done in literally every other public speaking engagement she has had. She doesn't see it as being embarrassing, but rather, "speaking her mind." But make no mistake: Heinz Kerry will continue to say and do stupid things along the campaign trail, indirectly affecting the election and helping to guarantee that George W. Bush spends four more years in the White House.

Former Texas Gov. Ann Richards remarked at the 1988 convention that George H. W. Bush "was born with a silver foot in his mouth." The remark got laughs from the liberal audience, but wasn't very fitting.

It does, however, fit Heinz Kerry like a glove. She's nothing but a liability for the Kerry campaign. There is no filter between her mind and her mouth, and as if that weren't enough, she isn't the ideal first lady.

A far cry from John Edwards' good ole boy "son of a mill worker" upbringing, Heinz Kerry was born the daughter of a wealthy doctor in Mozambique. Her full name, counting her high-dollar marriages, is Maria Teresa Thierstein Simoes-Ferreira Heinz Kerry, which in no way rings of pretension, really. She met her first husband, ketchup heir H. John Heinz III, while receiving posh schooling in Switzerland. So, clearly, she shares the common man's values and can relate to anyone, whether a billionaire or a mere millionaire.

Interestingly, the billionaire Heinz went on to become a Republican senator in Pennsylvania. Heinz Kerry was a registered Republican too, changing her party designation to Democrat only last year. While a Republican, Heinz Kerry made some damning remarks that could now work to dampen her husband's unrealistic presidential aspirations. And so it begins.

In a 1975 book entitled "The Power Lovers: An Intimate Look at Politicians and Their Marriages" by Myra MacPherson, Heinz Kerry railed against her current political party. "The Democratic machine in this country is putrid," Heinz Kerry said. She went on to call Sen. Edward Kennedy a "perfect bastard." While her remarks have a ring of truth to them, they don't exactly jibe with her new political leanings. It is, therefore, quite ironic to consider that Kennedy and Heinz Kerry spoke on the same night of last week's convention, though neither was as lively or rousing as Dennis Kucinich.

Appallingly, Democrats want to disregard these remarks because they were made nearly thirty years ago. Kerry adviser Marla Romash said that "a lot has changed since then." But when it comes to her husband's war service, they want to ride that boat all the way into Boston Harbor. Anyone who saw Kerry speak Thursday had the unfortunate burden of witnessing his gooey 'Band of Brothers' entrance. He was practically draped in an American flag and running laps around the FleetCenter screaming "U.S.A., U.S.A." It was a production straight out of Hollywood. In case anyone hadn't heard yet, Kerry apparently served in Vietnam.

But it gets better. According to Newsweek, a campaign worker in Chicago told Heinz Kerry "I have ADHD, but I'm working my tail off for your husband." She replied, "But you're focused now, right?" She told Newsweek reporter Melinda Henneberger that her husband has "some movements he makes that are very inviting and some that are forceful, (like) Hitler." As Henneberger said, she broke "one of the simpler rules for political wives: never mention your husband and the Fuehrer in the same sentence."

By now, everyone has heard that she told reporter Colin McNickle to "shove it" after he confronted her about remarks she'd made in an earlier speech. But knowing the context of the exchange is crucial. She was giving a speech on how politicians and the media need to be more civil to each other and called such feuding "un-American." Not only that, but she denied to McNickle and the world that she said things she is clearly on tape saying. Then she told him to "shove it."

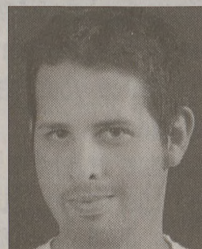
Interestingly, the Kerry camp hasn't made any attempt to explain why Heinz Kerry lied about her remarks; they've just tried to brush the whole nasty incident under the rug. What happened? Did she forget? Was she medicated or drunk? Maybe this is just more of that "nuance" her husband swears he's full of.

Whatever the case, the "THK" show isn't over yet, and there will be plenty more road stops before November. And while Heinz Kerry's convention speech was tame, the sparks will fly again. If the Kerry campaign hasn't learned by now to rein her in, it won't by Nov. 2.

George Deutsch is a senior journalism major.
Graphic by Rylie Deyoe

Despite Kerry's criticisms, war in Iraq was last resort

By now many Aggies are probably tired of seeing yet another Iraq opinion article in the back page of The Battalion. Yes it's true that Iraq is a salient current topic — the United States still has soldiers fighting in Iraq and with it being an election year, its handling and its very existence as a current American engagement is in question. But a remark by the Democratic Party's Presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry gives Aggies the opportunity to learn something about political and military ethics.



MIKE WALTERS

what point do you throw your hands up and say "Well, all we can do is declare war"?

The answer: Whenever you personally lose faith in peaceful resolution.

Obviously, Bush reached that point. For Americans with short memories, recall that for more than a decade, Saddam's regime had stubbornly tried not to allow inspectors into its country and had occasionally violated no-fly zones. His forces fired missiles during the last invasion that they weren't even allowed to have.

By no definition did it quietly follow the conditions that the United Nations set up regarding its surrender after the first Gulf War. But all of that is insignificant compared to the biggest thing Americans seem to forget: Saddam killed his own people by the thousands. His sons personally raped, tortured and murdered innocent people. Minions such as Chemical Ali used weapons of mass destruction to commit genocide against the Kurds. They're still finding Sarin gas warheads in the Middle East, despite the liberals' cry of "Where are the WMDs?"

But forget about the murder, tyranny, WMDs and crimes against humanity. One could certainly argue that such things happen in African warlord-controlled countries, and we do nothing about them. Why Iraq?

Tyrants oppress their own people, yes, but international law is broken when this violence spills over into other countries. Saddam didn't just want to kill his own people — he financially encouraged suicide bombings in Israel and invaded Kuwait in the 1990s. So when he was proving to be a nuisance

regarding weapons inspections, and was suspected of aiding terrorist organizations, Bush asked himself, "How long before he does something again?" As the old saying goes: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

Saddam refused to fully comply with the terms of his surrender and U.N. resolutions, and continued to oppress his people. This had been happening for a decade.

Bush broke no promise when it came to pledging to approach war as a last resort. The problem with crying, "Not the last resort!" is defining what that point is.

There isn't an objective point, it's merely when the leader decides enough is enough. But can anyone reasonably claim that a decade wasn't long enough to wait?

Philosopher John Stewart Mill once said, "War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse."

Every American wishes the tragedy of Sept. 11 never happened, and Americans could live in peace again. Peace is a wonderful thing, but no one should be willing to have it at any price. Bush believed he was making Americans and the world safer by removing any potential threat Saddam posed, and he had given him every chance to avoid war, including a month's warning prior to invasion. There are many valid criticisms of the Iraqi war, but given the facts, criticizing "last resort" doesn't seem like an intelligent argument.

"Bush broke no promise when it came to pledging to approach war as a last resort."

Mike Walters is a senior psychology major.

MAIL CALL

Kerry's abortion stance is appropriate

In response to Joshua Dwyer's July 29 column:

John Kerry is not hypocritical nor just trying to get votes. He believes, as most pro-choice people believe, that, until birth control methods work 100 percent for everyone and are available to everyone, no one has the right to tell any woman that she must give birth to a child. No one has the right to tell a woman that she must give birth to a child with disabilities. No one has the right to tell any woman what she has to do with her body.

The effects on a family that is forced to bring a child into the world that wasn't planned for can hurt the child. Children bring can bring joy, but they also bring huge amounts of stress. I know. Many years ago, I had decided that I didn't want children, but, guess what? I couldn't find a doctor who would do a tubal ligation on a woman in her twenties. And, of course, I got pregnant. Birth control is not 100 percent effective. I thought it over long and hard because abortion had just become legal the year before. I decided to have the child. I was depressed for the next year and a half. Having a child I didn't really want put unbelievable stress on me and my marriage. The price of raising a child these days is unbelievable and, if your child is disabled, even more unbelievable. If you think abortions are wrong, then don't have one, but don't presume to tell someone else that because you think abortions are wrong, they have to have a child.

The fact is that abortions have been around long before they were made legal. Even if you manage to make it illegal again, it won't go away. It will simply go back to women who will die of infections and botched procedures. Do you really think that women should be subject to back alley abortionists because your beliefs are more important than theirs?

Instead of trying to outlaw abortions, maybe drug companies should come up with more effective methods of birth control and representatives should seek funding for birth control for poor women. There are better ways to ensure that all children are wanted children.

Carol McNamara
Research assistant

