

CALLING ALL DEMOCRATS

He said his tax cuts would reduce the deficit; that we couldn't afford Social Security while cynically adding a costly prescription drug benefit to Medicare; that Iraq had WMDs; and "Mission Accomplished." He was oblivious to the threats of al Qaeda before 9/11, the Iraqi insurgency, and Hurricane Katrina. Other concerns, such as threats to our environment, have been ignored, even mocked.

Meanwhile we're spending \$2 billion a week on a war that was supposed to showcase America's military might but due to poor judgment and planning ended up demonstrating our limitations, thereby *weakening* our standing in the world. And now the only options out are bad ones.

A reasonable person might conclude gross incompetence, and not a little deceit.

Five years ago, George Bush was handed a country that was in pretty good shape: budget surpluses, an effective military, strong relations with our allies, low fuel prices. Bill Clinton said the presidency is about making decisions... what decision has W. made that's turned out to be a good one?

Nonetheless, one thing the President, his party and their supporters are unquestionably good at is campaigning: raising money, stifling the opposition, and winning elections. We are up against a determined bunch, determined to hold on to power now that they've got it.

Voting isn't enough anymore; every Democrat needs to contribute however they can. It doesn't necessarily have to cost you anything: if you can't afford to volunteer money or your time, you can contribute just by talking to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, raising awareness, writing letters to the editor. Show your support. Every bit helps. Doing nothing hurts.

Fragile though it is, this is still a democracy. As Democrats we won't always win, but by participating your democracy always wins.