The good, the bad, and the odd

BY ERIC DI VaLL
Griffin News Reporter

If nothing else, Election 2000 has already reserved its place in Political Science textbooks heretofore. It may be as long as 7-10 days after the polls have closed before we have a definitive winner of the Presidential race.

In Missouri, a deceased governor, Mel Carnahan, has won a seat in the Senate. That has never happened before. Gov. Carnahan, a Democrat, was killed in a plane crash less than one month before his hotly contested election with Republican incumbent John Ashcroft by a mere 50,000 votes (one percentage point). His widow will take the seat.

Lastly, in our home state of New York, Hillary Rodham Clinton has become the only sitting First Lady in history to win an official political office. She beat her Republican challenger, Long Island Congressman Rick Lazio, 56% to 44% (approximately 600,000 votes). All three events are either rare or unheard of.

The Presidential race has come down to one state, Florida, to decide the winner. The race is so close, a mandatory recount is required by law. In the first count, Republican candidate Texas Governor George W. Bush won by the slimmest of margins, about 1,500 votes. There are still approximately 3,000 absentee ballots not counted. Most of those will be arriving from Americans overseas. The ballots had to be post marked by Election Day (November 7, 2000). It could take up to ten days to get all of the remaining absentee ballots in and tabulated.

Given that there are about 3,000 ballots still floating around, it could turn the tide to Gore’s side. If he can pull more than half of them, he could take the state. Florida’s 25 electoral votes are the only ones still undecided. Who ever wins Florida will be over the 270 minimum electoral votes required to win the Presidency.

Never before has a Presidential election come down to the final overseas absentee ballots to

See Election page 3

AMA chair lectures on health and politics
BY JAMES WALKER, Griffin Features Editor

Viewed as an inspiration to aspiring Pre-Medical students, Dr. Ted Lewers, M.D., Chair of the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association, spoke to a Canisius audience about “American Medicine in the 21st Century” Wednesday night. His lecture was made possible through funding from the Dr. George E. Schreiner Pre-Medical Center Distinguished Speakers Series.

Lewers addressed the increasing paranoia and politicking that stigmatizes our current health system by proudly heralding some “good news.”

"Rediscovering the value of ethics and the wise council of physicians," he said, "is what the 21st century is all about."

Today’s foremost concerns among patients and physicians alike, according to Lewers and the AMA, include congressional approval of a patient’s bill of rights.