

In 2000 the votes in Florida that went to Ralph Nader were over 50,000, while the final warped tally gave the state to Bush by about 500 votes. Clearly, few people voted for Nader who would have dreamed of voting for Bush. Nader cited many other factors in Gore's loss, many of them correct. The fact remains that had he not been in the race, Al Gore would be our president today.

This year Nader was not a factor. Indeed, it could be that he got a fair amount of his paltry totals from disaffected conservatives this time. Many factors have been cited for this year's loss. Nevertheless, reading the analyses of the loss, it's clear that there was a spoiler this year too. His name is Gavin Newsom. Like Nader, he's a political activist with good intentions. He's been a remarkably successful mayor of San Francisco (see New Yorker Oct 4, 2004) and is to be commended for a job well done.

Nevertheless, by deciding to issue marriage licenses to homosexuals in the run-up to this election, at a time when the economy is a shambles, the Bill of Rights is being torn up, we're engaging in an unprovoked invasion of another country costing billions of dollars and thousands of lives, and as we are moving rapidly to become a model fascist state, he has created an issue/non-issue which has animated the conservative masses and which has given the election to an unindicted war criminal and mass murderer, in the name of "moral values".