



Angus Stakes

by Shauna Rose Hermel, editor

I've never been prouder to be an American

Last night, for the first time since the campaigning began, I felt proud to be an American.

I hate politics. The negative campaigning, the personal assaults that prevent some excellent leaders from running for office, the sucking up to certain groups or states that can help ensure a win, the campaign faces built by political strategists, the empty promises . . . They make a mockery of our political system and the intelligence of the American people. This year's campaign seemed to be the *crème de la crème*, especially with the added weeks of hoopla.

Last night — Dec. 13, 2000 — two candidates made a huge step toward making the U.S. government respectable again. One a victor, one gracious in his concession, President-Elect George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore finally showed the true character that would make either man worthy of support.

With the world watching, our democratic form of government was put to the test. Could we stand up to ourselves? Would Americans be their own undoing? It'd be interesting to hear what other countries,

especially those not founded on democracy, have said about us. Certainly a division within the world's most powerful nation would spell opportunity for some nations, while dashing the hopes of others.

Gore summed it up well when he said the strength of democracy is shown in the difficulties it can overcome. I don't think any of us would have expected him to agree with the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court, but his gracious acceptance of the outcome is solid testimony for the strength of the political system.

What could have led to civil war, violent protests or political exile in other countries instead ended in Gore's call for all Americans to unite behind their new president and with pledges from both men to work together toward reconciliation.

Though they have different ideas of how to achieve the same goal, both parties have the nation at heart. The campaign is a two-year debate to reveal whose priorities and whose tactics are most accepted by the nation. We're lucky to be able to voice and to hear differing political opinions. Surely that makes for better decisions when the

campaign is over and the victor can take into consideration opponents' viewpoints. The alternative is fear of presenting an opposing view and blindly following someone — right or wrong.

It's critical to our nation that our political leaders make good on the promise of reconciliation and bipartisanship. Gridlock and political maneuvering lead to poor decisions that hurt Americans.

Of course, it's harder to make good on a promise than it is to make it — and there are a lot more people involved than Bush and Gore. It's time for all political figures to start thinking about the good of the people instead of the good of the party.

Sound bites from Bush's acceptance speech are encouraging: "I have faith that, with God's help, we as a nation will move forward together. . . . I was not elected to serve one party, but one nation. . . . I will work to earn your respect."

Most encouraging were his final comment, "God bless America," and his promise to spend his first day as president-elect in church, beginning his presidency in prayer. Maybe there is hope for this nation.

Association announces personnel changes

Casey Worrell has been named the American Angus Association regional manager in Texas and New Mexico. His responsibilities will include serving members and representing the Association and Angus Productions Inc. (API) at Angus shows, sales, field days and events.

He most recently worked as a certified ultrasound technician with Pride Livestock Co., where he worked closely with cattle producers throughout the United States and with the Centralized Ultrasound Processing (CUP) laboratory at Iowa State University. He had previously been a territory manager and sales representative for Vet Alliance and worked as a cattle manager with TD Cattle Co.

Worrell is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he was a member of the national-champion intercollegiate meats-judging team and was named outstanding member of the beef cattle show team. He also was involved in the Saddle & Sirlain Club, Collegiate FFA and the Horseman's Association. He and his wife, Erin, live in Austin, Texas.

He succeeds **Matt Perrier**, who moved to Saint Joseph to assume his new duties as the Association's assistant director of commercial relations on Jan. 1. Perrier had served as a regional manager since 1997.

In the Commercial Relations Department, he will assist in the planning and execution of the Association's strategies relative to the commercial cattle industry.

Perrier is a graduate of Kansas State University, where he earned a degree in animal sciences and industry. He served as chairman of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and was raised on a registered Angus ranch in southeast Kansas.

Other news ...

The correct URL for the Animal Genetics Laboratory at Ohio State University is www.ag.ohio-state.edu/~ansci/angenlab. At press time, the site was under construction, but we have been assured it will be functional by the time you receive this issue.

Last month we promised to publish in this issue the new Association rules reflecting the change to DNA-marker-typing for parent verification. However, the change affected wording throughout the rules, which we will publish in their entirety in the March issue. Until then, address questions to Don Painter, director of member services, at (816) 383-5100.

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