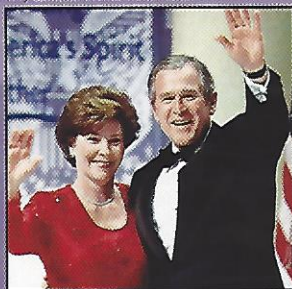


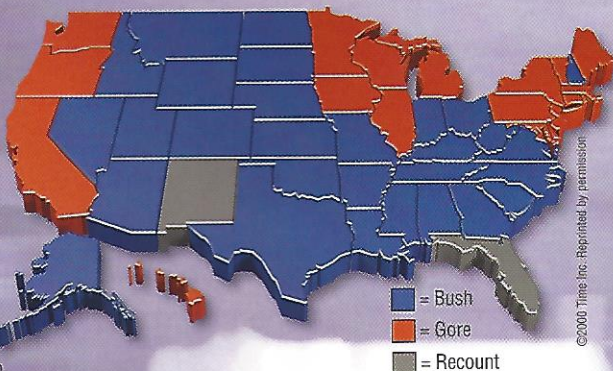


Amy Sancetta/AP/Wide World Photos



▲ In the closest presidential election in more than 100 years, Republican George W. Bush of Texas beats Democrat Al Gore from Tennessee. The race isn't decided until 36 days after the popular election, when Florida's hotly contested 25 electoral votes are awarded to Bush.

✓ On December 4, 2000, the U.S. presidency remains in limbo as both Florida and New Mexico officials recount ballots to determine who will win their state's electoral votes. New Mexico goes to Gore. Ultimately, Bush wins Florida which gives him a narrow victory.

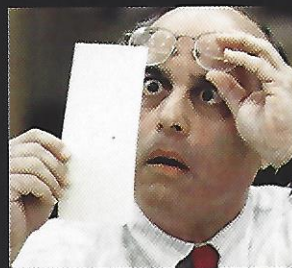


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FLASH >>>

On election night, several TV networks prematurely declare Al Gore the winner in Florida, only later to reverse themselves, twice. The fiasco confirms many Americans' distrust of polling and early "calling" of elections.

In one of his first duties as President-elect, George W. Bush nominates Colin Powell to be Secretary of State. The four-star Army General becomes the first African-American in history to serve in this role.



▲ Chads, dimpled chads and butterfly ballots become common terms during the election as Florida officials assess voter intent. The confusion generates national discussion for uniform methods of voting.

▲ The U.S. Supreme Court casts the deciding vote in the nation's election. The court ends the Gore-Bush legal battles in Florida by stopping all recounting, an action that effectively gives Bush victory.

▲ In a fiery and highly publicized political battle, Hillary Rodham Clinton beats Republican Rick Lazio decisively to become senator from New York. She is the first first lady to be elected to public office.

▲ Missouri Governor Mel Carnahan is elected to the Senate days after he dies in a November plane crash. His widow, Jean Carnahan, agrees to serve as senator in his place.



▲ In October, the USS Cole is bombed while refueling in Yemen. A number of terrorist groups are suspected of the blast that kills 17 sailors and injures 39.

✓ The Federal Trade Commission charges the film, recording and video-game industries with marketing violent and adult-rated materials to teens. The entertainment giants are requested to stop the practice or face legal intervention.

