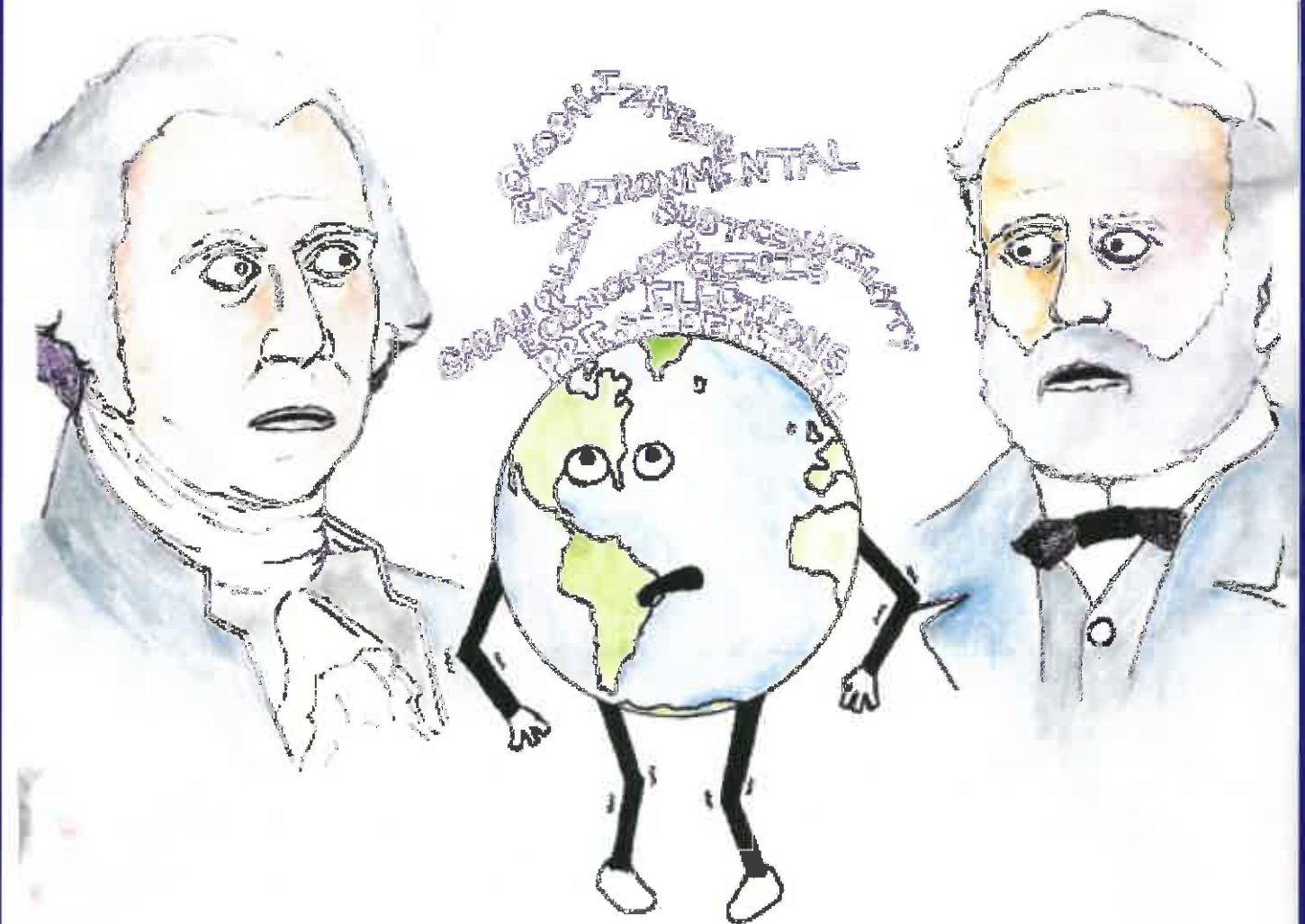


WASHINGTON AND LEE SPECTATOR

THE Student Journal of Fact and Opinion



THE STRUGGLE FOR BALANCE

Welcome to the Fall 2008 issue of the Spectator; I trust you will find it commensurate with our usual high standards. In this issue, we explore perhaps the greatest challenge facing our student body, our community, and our nation: the tension between our commitment to tradition and the inevitability of change. Change has been thrust upon us.

In a few short weeks, we will see the advent of a new government, and with it the potential for a drastically different society. Our economy is spiraling downward, and the global arena is marked with increasing instability. On an institutional level, a variety of campus initiatives, from reducing our carbon footprint down to our very nomenclature - how we define ourselves - have marked this semester. And I cannot recall a time when the Greek system wasn't in flux.

How do we as a campus and as a nation face this impending, perhaps unwelcome, change? The answer is not in abandoning our heritage and our traditions - the very foundations that have made us strong. Nor is it in our best interest to ignore the positive aspects; we are an evolving society, and within that, change is inherent. Instead, on an individual level, and on community and national levels, we must strive to discover a balance that both administrator and student, politician and constituent, can accept.

As always, we welcome your comments, questions, and concerns at spectator@wlu.edu.

Jennifer Sanow - Editor in Chief

WASHINGTON AND LEE SPECTATOR

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JEN SANOW
Editor-in-Chief

MATHEW O'SULLIVAN
Managing Editor

Writers/Contributors:

JACKIE DIBIASIE
DAVID KRONENFELD
STOCKTON BULLIT
JARRETT BROTZMAN
SHREYA DURVASULA
ART ROA
WILL HENSON
ROSS ISBEL
ALLISON CHOPIN
GRANT RUSSELL
CECILIA WHITEHURST

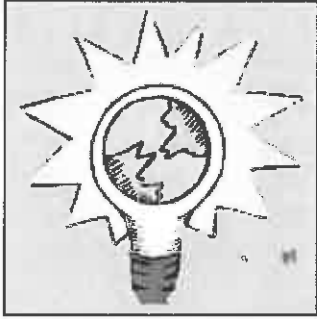
MISSION STATEMENT

The W&L Spectator is a non-partisan publication dedicated to promoting the free exchange of ideas in an environment where meaningful debate and ideological diversity are often lacking. We, as a staff, seek to serve the W&L community by infusing it with the ingredients necessary for a balanced educational experience. These ingredients include conservative, libertarian and classical liberal thought. We believe that peace is best achieved through strength, that utopia is nowhere, and that true equality is blind to race, creed, sex, and sexuality. We take it as our mission to expose the inadequacies of the non-traditionalist ideas that do not understand and fail to work with our student body. We strive to adhere to the beliefs of the student body that the administration often overlooks. We invite the active participation of any student or alumnae who shares our vision and would like to join our movement.

DISCLAIMER

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE ARTICLES HEREIN ARE SOLELY THOSE OF EACH RESPECTIVE AUTHOR. THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINIONS OF ANY OTHER STAFF MEMBER OR OF WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY.

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PICTURES COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

HOW MUCH WILL YOU PAY?

THE ECONOMICS OF W&L'S TRAY-FREE INITIATIVE

It's another day in the dining hall. You get in line, swipe your card, and nose your way to the counter where a delicious bounty awaits. You reach for a tray... but wait... there are none to be found. Your stomach grumbles as you anxiously ponder how much you can carry without your beloved tray. Your plate fills quickly with a sandwich and some fries. Cleverly, you balance a bowl of soup on top of the sandwich, stuff a banana in your left pocket, silverware in the right, and grab a Mr. Pibb in your free left hand. Suddenly you realize that the only healthy part of lunch, your salad, will now be forgotten because you cannot hold it and going back through the line again for a salad seems hardly worthwhile.

Although your stomach (and day) seems a little emptier, you find solace in knowing that you are helping the environment. I will ignore that dining hall conveniently embraces the green movement when it allows them to downgrade our meal quality without compensating us, and instead focus on the figures. According to University of Cincinnati's news website, the reductions in waste due to tray-free dining are appreciable. The first savings comes from a reduction in food waste, estimated at "1.2 to 1.8 ounces per person per meal." Let's call it 1.8 ounces to be generous. Additional savings comes from a reduction in water used to clean trays, estimated "200 gallons of water a day per 1,000 meals served." For all the English majors reading, that boils down to 200 over 1000, or .2 gallons per meal.

I will now calculate savings in dollar terms. Let us start with food savings. I will assume that the 1.8 ounces of wasted food is representative of the entire meal, and calculate costs based on lunch, which is priced in the middle. The USDA suggests that the average American consumes 4.7 pounds of food per day. We will remember that most college kids skip breakfast, so we will split this between 2 meals. The cost of waste can then be calculated as percentage of meal wasted times price of meal. Because Politics majors might be reading, I will do the math here for you. The total is $1.8/37 * \$7.34 \Rightarrow \0.36 . Note, the actual cost is much lower because people will leave behind the lower quality food, college kids eat a lot, and the lunch price \$7.34 reflects much more than food costs. To this \$0.36 we should add water costs. Considering that tap water costs less than one cent per gallon and each tray wastes less than one gallon, this savings is negligible. This leaves us with savings per consumer of something less than \$0.36 per person per meal. This \$0.36 savings is offset by some unknown amount, x , the reduction in quality of your meal.

Now, when it comes to determining an efficient outcome, the hard part is determining exactly what that x is. Due

to the inconvenience and extra hunger felt, I would personally pay up to 0.50 extra per meal to have a tray. Providing me a tray at that price would be mutually beneficial. Because I am willing to pay for the tray, I clearly benefit from the exchange. The dining hall experiences something less than \$0.36 in expenses due

to that tray, but are compensated \$0.50, allowing them a profit of \$0.14 (you're welcome History majors). This optional tray purchase plan clearly provides a more efficient outcome.

Better yet, this plan would provide the marketplace a rare opportunity to leverage price discrimination and more properly charge its customers. Customers who are interested in eating lots and



those who enjoy the "true d-hall experience" will pony up for a tray. Those willing to eat without a tray will be either budget conscious or light eaters. While some might believe that this all sounds strange, consider a normal trip to the local cineplex. Everyone entering to see a movie is charged a flat fee. Those who want popcorn, however, are taken to the cleaners. This is not because popcorn costs a lot to make (trust me, its cheap), but rather because those who really want the full cinema experience are willing to pay extra and the cheapskates out there can still afford a movie. So, if the marketplace is interested in maintaining its profitability despite rising food prices, using trays as an instrument for price discrimination offers a much more effective means than degrading meal quality across the board.

Now for the environment. Forcing a few thousand people to eat less will not save the planet. Eating local foods will not save the planet; in fact, eating local is a terrible idea. Non-local food is cheaper for a reason; it can be produced more cheaply elsewhere. Although consuming local foods reduces oil consumption, it inefficiently increases consumption of high-skilled American labor. The real answer is forcing firms and consumers to internalize the external costs of their decisions. This is why we pay for water and trash disposal. This is why the smarter members of congress understand and support a proper carbon tax. This is why Economists worldwide have signed on for Greg Mankiw's Pigou Club, embracing smarter green policy. If food waste is a problem, let the big eaters enjoy their tray for a small premium. Problem solved.

PAUL DISMAL IS BUSY INVESTING IN A TRAY. HOWEVER, THE STAFF OF THE SPECTATOR WELCOMES COMMENTS AT SPECTATOR@WLU.EDU.

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

A SATIRICAL LOOK AT WASHINGTON AND LEE'S FUTURE

North Nelson Street Design Organization
666 N. Nelson St.
Lexington, VA 24450
Phone: 1-800-YES-HOPE
Fax: 1-800-4CH-ANGE

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the North Nelson Street Design Organization (NNSDO) and have been authorized to extend you an offer of employment. We have been retained by Washington & L-- University to design a new graphic identity for the school as well as bring its name and other associated traditions into the 21st century. Below, I have laid out each design element and task that must be achieved in order for us to fulfill our contract. Quality is not nearly as important as assisting Washington & L-- in whitewashing its past and moving it into the 21st century. Two dead white guys are not a good selling point for a school in today's world, 2008 CE, as discovered by the focus groups we have run in places as diverse as Hyde Park and San Francisco.

Name:

Before we can design a graphic identity, we must confer a new name upon Washington & L-- University. Below are some of the suggestions that have run well in focus groups.

Swarthmore of the South
Washington University in Lexington
Lexington Liberal Arts University
Williams with Wonderful Weather
Chavis University
University of Richmond: Lexington

Remember that we must account for the University's poor location (the South) as well as its retention of the Greek System (to be addressed below).

Graphic Identity:

Unfortunately for our employer, Washington & L-- has been plagued with perceptions that it is a school stuck in the 19th century, and thus any new graphic identity must seek to remove this stigmatism. Stuffy words like honor, tradition, heritage, etc.

must be replaced with hope, change, egalitarianism, cooperation, mutual respect, tolerance and collectivism. Thankfully, our work for Senator Obama has aided us in this area. Fortunately, because this isn't a political campaign for the unwashed masses, we can rid ourselves of the red, white, and blue schtick that is so grossly jingoistic, patriotic, and nationalistic. In re-inventing Washington & L--'s identity, I suggest we use the colors green (for love of the environment and the verdant hills surrounding Lexington), red (for the collectivist nature of the school which we shall create and because President Ruscio will love seeing his school colors on display), and black (to show that Washington & L-- is no longer a racist school, but represents the trampled on black man). Also, the background should include a multi-colored rainbow to emphasize our openness to all relationships. We have not progressed any farther than a selection of colors and general idea about background, so I suggest that you devote as many billable hours as possible to this task. Remember that your hourly rate is \$250 and that Washington & L-- has a significant endowment from snookered white alumni that will pay for our work.



Academic Initiatives:

The next area that we must advise Washington & L-- on is that of the academic initiatives that must be implemented to reverse the backwardness displayed by the University. Thankfully, the poverty program adopted several years ago has helped rectify some of the idiotic economic beliefs held by the rich white kids who attend. Also, an African-American studies program has been incorporated into an interdisciplinary form of study. This is not enough, though, and we urge W&L to create a Poverty department. Newcomb Hall looks to be a great choice of location with that abomination Dr. J.D. Futch's office as ground zero. Also, there is currently no Mestizo Studies program, American Indians Studies program, or Oppressed People's of the World program. W&L must create these, not just as programs, but as legitimate majors. Additionally, an Associate Deanship should be created to head each of these programs. We will need additional programs to suggest to W&L, and you can never have enough deans, so please begin working on other ideas.

Social Initiatives:

The Greek System must be abolished. In its stead we will help W&L create themed housing that will help to collectivize the student body and move them to the hope and change that we (and soon they) want to see in the world. Examples of themed housing include- Hispanic Lesbian Women's Housing, Environmental Housing (students will maintain a zero carbon footprint- although this will be a school-wide initiative in our next project), Yes We Can Housing (students will brainstorm slo-



gans and collectivist projects to better the world), International Housing (at least one student must be an exchange student from Hamas and another from Al-Qaeda so that we can show them how love and hope can change the world), etc. More ideas are needed so as to fill approximately 20 empty houses.

Another program that we must encourage is Homeless Housing whereby 30 students are selected each semester to panhandle on the streets of Lexington and live off of the proceeds. We must teach these rich white kids what it feels like to be so oppressed, mistreated, and abused.

I look forward to working with you in the coming months as we seek change at Washington & L-- University. Just remember- "Yes we can." Yes, we can change a backward school. Yes, we can end conservative ignorance. Yes, we can fix silly 20th century traditions. Yes, we can change the world. I invite you all to join me in this exciting new journey to a better Washington & L-- University.

Sincerely,

David Kronenfeld
CEO North Nelson Street Design Organization
Co-Chair Lexington for Obama PAC

P.S. I know Nelson Street runs east-west, but it just fit so well, that I decided to ignore the facts...

DAVID KRONENFELD NEVER STOPS ACTING
IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF HIS ALMA MATER.
HE CAN BE REACHED AT DAVIDKRONEN-
FELD@GMAIL.COM.

FUNCTIONALLY ILLITERATE? CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A
COMMA AND AN APOSTROPHE? LIKE MAKING OFFENSIVE COMMENTS
WITH LITTLE SUPPORTING EVIDENCE?

If you answered yes, or grunted in assent, to any of the above questions, then the Spectator is the place for you! We need obnoxious, inflexible, and frustratingly dense writers to compose articles - and by articles we mean political diatribes - for the magazine. Contact us at spectator@wlu.edu or come to our next meeting if you are interested.

VOTE OR DIE?

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE EDUCATED VOTER

It is a newsworthy time in America's history. The economy seems to vacillate on the brink of destruction every day. And no issue looms larger than the election. Only one month separates the American public from a new president (hold your applause). One demographic that seems particularly targeted to vote this election is our generation. The Census Bureau's Current Population Survey November Voting and Regulation Supplements showed an 11% increase in ages 18-24 voting in the 2004 election from the previous election. Several subgroups of youths including women and African Americans showed a particularly noticeable increase in voter turnout.

There is also a large difference in voter turnout between college educated youth and not college educated. But the question remains, are American voters really educated enough about the issues to cast their vote responsibly? Recent cam-



paigns have stressed voting to young voters, appearing on TV stations such as MTV and Vh1. Some entertainment moguls have adopted an extreme position to increase young voter turnout. Sean Combs, or Diddy for short, and 50 cent sponsored their own campaign, "Vote or Die." Ironically, 50 cent was ineligible to vote because of a felony charge. Unfortunately, the campaign did not emphasize education about the issues or logical decision making for a candidate as much voting for its own sake. Some praise the campaign for increasing the amount

of youth taking advantage of their right to vote. Others disagree because the campaign neglects to educate its target audience. Voting based entirely on party affiliation isn't enough.

An opposition campaign, Dontvote.org, takes the opposite extreme view. Their mission is to, "combat the "Get out the Vote" movement that is pushed by organizations that would like to increase the number of uneducated voters to help their cause." *Editor's Note: Democrats.* Their website states that "DontVote.org encourages people to Vote, but only AFTER they have educated themselves on the policies and individuals for which they are voting. Voting should be considered a privilege and exercised with responsibility and discretion." In the name of science, I took their "should you vote test?" I consider myself an educated, intelligent American. I scored a C, and should, "avoid voting until you update your knowledge on contemporary issues." Ouch. Which makes me think, if I- someone who writes for the Spectator (and am obviously thus marvelously intelligent) - cannot pass their test, what percentage of American voters can? Dontvote.org estimates that nearly half of the people who take their test are unfit to vote. So who should vote? Sure, it's every Americans right. But with such a right comes responsibility. Each individual that votes is casting a ballot that will determine the course of an entire nation. Just because we're old enough to drive doesn't make it okay for any 16 year old to get behind the wheel. Proper instruction, driving school, and a driving test ensure that adequate preparation has been undertaken for such a privilege. Not with voting- that onus falls on each voter. It is the responsibility for each voter to educate themselves about the candidates, about the issues, and about their informed vote.

Should you agree with me? Well that's up to you. I won't be voting in this election, informed as I am, because I didn't get my absentee ballot sent in on time. Take that Diddy.

JACKIE DIBIASIE IS LOOKING TO ESTABLISH A MODERATES PARTY, PROBABLY FULL OF NON-VOTERS. CONTACT HER AT DIBIASIEJ@WLU.EDU IF INTERESTED, OR WITH QUESTIONS.

SARAH PALIN

REVITALIZING THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

It's been a long time since we've seen a dark horse candidate to rival this one.

Before being named as John McCain's Vice-Presidential candidate, Governor Sarah Palin was almost completely unknown outside of her home state of Alaska. The announcement took the political world by surprise, leaving commentators and pundits scrambling for information on the new arrival. Yet despite the intense media glare, the speech at the Republican National Convention, the interviews, and the avidly watched Vice-Presidential debate, many Americans still wonder: who is Sarah Palin, and where did she come from?

and joining with Alaska Democrats to force the resignations of several key Republican officials involved in conflict of interest disputes related to the commission. In 2006 Palin ran for governor, winning the Republican nomination against former Senator and incumbent Governor Frank Murkowski and winning the general election against Democrat Tony Knowles.

It was from this position that she was selected as the Republican Vice-Presidential nominee, in August 2008. Palin was not the most widely-discussed candidate prior to the announcement, and was, in fact, not considered a likely contender, leading to a media frenzy as the history, positions, and personal life of Alaska's first female governor came under scrutiny. From all of this a more detailed portrait of Sarah Palin has emerged.

Palin made her reputation as a tough-minded reformer who was not afraid to take on her own party and purge its more corrupt elements. In fact, Palin's election as governor was largely due to her reputation as an opponent of governmental corruption, unafraid to challenge her own party on issues of ethics. With ethical scandals engulfing not only Alaska Republicans but the national GOP, this reputation is a priceless addition to the presidential campaign. Moreover, in terms of political convictions, Palin is a welcome balance to McCain's moderate positions, which has been a source of tension with his supporters.

Palin's record is far more palatable. She is ardently pro-life, a member of Feminists for Life, and recently chose to deliver her fourth child despite knowing he would suffer from Downs Syndrome, making her a heroine to pro-life advocates. She is a lifelong hunter and member of the NRA. Palin strongly



Sarah Louise Heath Palin is a relative newcomer to politics on any level, beginning her career at a local stage by running for city council of Wasilla, Alaska in 1992. She held a position on the council until 1996, when she successfully ran for mayor of Wasilla, remaining in office for two terms and stepping down in 2002. Later that year, she sought the nomination for Lieutenant Governor of Alaska on the Republican ticket, coming in second in a five-way race. From 2003 to 2004, she chaired the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Committee, resigning in 2004 to protest unethical conduct among other Republicans

supports Second Amendment Rights, unlike Obama, whose record suggests that if elected, he will be one of the most anti-gun presidents this country has ever had. Also appealing to a nation facing economic crisis, Palin is fiscally conservative, known for doubling Alaska's revenue while decreasing state demands for federal funding. Finally, Palin is a proponent of drilling for oil in the ANWR: all solidly conservative positions.

Let's examine the charges against her. The Obama campaign was swift to accuse Palin of a lack of experience in major governmental roles. Palin herself referred to her



a reformist has been called into serious question by the affair the media has dubbed "Troopergate." In July 2008, the governor dismissed Public Safety Commissioner Walt Monegan, citing performance-related issues. At the time, Alaska State Trooper Mike Wooten was involved in a custody battle with Molly McCann, Palin's sister. Monegan claimed that pressure had been put on him to fire Wooten, and that his reluctance to do so cost him his job. Palin continues to deny this charge. After an investigation authorized by the Alaska Legislature, the Branchflower report was released on October 10, expressing the investigator's conclusion that Palin abused her power as governor by firing Monegan. While stating that she had the right to remove the Commissioner from office, the report found that Todd Palin, the

inexperience during her debate with Joe Biden, remarking that she had only been part of the McCain campaign for some five weeks. Yet as the overview of her career illustrated, Palin has been in politics since 1992, serving four years on a town council, six years as mayor, one year on a state regulatory commission, and two years as governor. In comparison, Obama has been in politics since only 1996, with eight years in the state senate and two years in the federal senate before embarking on his campaign. In terms of both time in office and diversity of experience, Palin finishes first.

Palin's inexperience in the field of foreign policy has drawn fire from both sides of the political aisle, including voices from her own state.

However, though Alaska seems to be at the end of the earth to most mainlanders, it plays an important role in global politics, particularly when compared to Illinois. Unlike Obama, Palin has experience negotiating deals with Russia, Japan, and Canada regarding several trade issues. As governor, Palin was regularly briefed on the activities and well-being of Alaskan troops fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Finally, Alaskan troops are responsible for running and maintaining the Ground Missile Defense System, fundamental in protecting the west coast. Obama's record of foreign policy is unimpressive when compared to Palin's, and invisible when compared to McCain's.

Perhaps most damaging for Palin, her reputation as

governor's husband, was given access to government resources and allowed to search for material damaging to Wooten, and that the governor's actions in the case were unethical. The

WITH ETHICAL SCANDALS ENGULFING NOT ONLY ALASKA REPUBLICANS BUT THE NATIONAL GOP, THIS REPUTATION IS A PRICELESS ADDITION TO THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

McCain campaign has pointed to threats Wooten made towards the Palin family and the refusal by the Alaska Legislature to endorse the Branchflower report as support for Palin's continued denial of the accuracy of the findings.

Added to this is Palin's persona and colorful personal history: a self described "hockey mom", a former beauty queen who eloped with her husband and was nicknamed "Sarah Barracuda" for her aggressive athletic performance in high school. She plays to her reputation as a Washington outsider with a down-to-earth, plebian style, and has become the subject of perhaps more than her share of late night entertainment parodies. In the end, Palin brings more than her fair share of

energy and humor to the campaign. And as numbers of newly enthusiastic Republicans attest, her excitement is contagious.

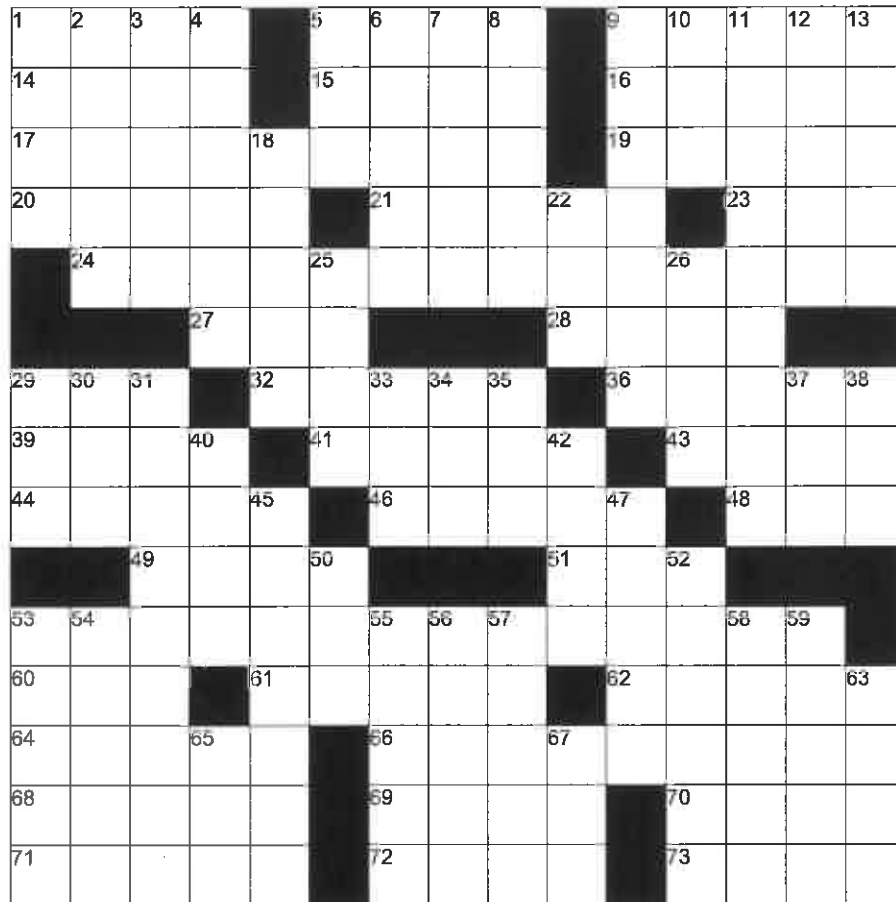
In 1982, Sarah Palin captained her high school basketball team, leading them to win the state championships. In 1979, Obama warmed the bench of his. Who sounds like a better leader?

ART ROA IS DOING HIS PART TO EDUCATE POTENTIAL VOTERS AND WELCOMES COMMENTS AT ROAR@WLU.EDU.

Neville L. Fogarty

ACROSS

- 1. Hits Ctrl+X
- 5. Latin infinitive
- 9. Lofty club?
- 14. Brother of Cain
- 15. Pro ____
- 16. Penn and others*
- 17. "Cold as Ice" band
- 19. Depends (on)
- 20. Let up
- 21. What to do in water
- 23. "American ____"
- 24. Proponents of tradition
- 27. Caribou kin
- 28. Buds
- 29. Pokemon protagonist
- 32. Colony member
- 36. Awls and planes
- 39. "Iron ____"
- 41. Where to find a turkey?
- 43. Pesky insect
- 44. Dabbling ducks
- 46. Holding one's piece
- 48. Bond, e.g.
- 49. ____ ex machina
- 51. Lingerie item
- 53. Proponents of change
- 60. "____ to Billie Joe"
- 61. Electric dart shooter
- 62. Island west of Maui
- 64. Japanese-American
- 66. Leaves Wal-Mart without paying, perhaps
- 68. Irk
- 69. Marine eagle
- 70. Barber's job
- 71. Stafford, once of "Wheel of Fortune"
- 72. Litigant
- 73. Without



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DOWN

- 1. Van Gogh's "____ Terrace at Night"
- 2. German sub
- 3. Brusque
- 4. Place for your arm
- 5. Fraction of a joule
- 6. Winter visitor
- 7. "King of All Media"
- 8. Like cornstalks
- 9. "High School Musical" mascot
- 10. Plumb of "The Brady Bunch"
- 11. Some organ stops
- 12. Those like Einstein
- 13. City near Düsseldorf
- 18. Pastoral poem
- 22. Band aid?
- 25. Barely manages, with "out"
- 26. Wooden shoe
- 29. Make a scene?
- 30. "____ Loves You"
- 31. Car parts for comfort and safety
- 33. Class-conscious grp.?
- 34. Screw up
- 35. Aries, e.g.
- 37. Drink from a dish
- 38. Mud hole
- 40. Red Hot Chili Peppers bassist
- 42. Jack who played Joe Friday
- 45. Type of cup
- 47. Whimsical
- 50. Genre of Reel Big Fish
- 52. Looks for
- 53. Water pipes
- 54. "Farewell, mon ami"
- 55. Boobs
- 56. India's first prime minister
- 57. Stingless bee
- 58. Prefix for red or structure
- 59. Dine at home
- 63. Schools of thought
- 65. Pilot's announcement, briefly
- 67. Apiece

MUSICAL CAMPAIGNS

UNDERSTANDING THE RHYTHM OF AN ELECTION

A fantastic campaign manager, a witty catchphrase, and an eloquent speechwriter are key ingredients to winning the election, but nothing sends your message out to the people like the songs used in your campaign. Whether it's the 30-second intro before your speech at the National Convention, or the tune subtly underlining your campaign video, what does the music say about you? Barack Obama: The main songs used in his campaign were Move On Up – by Curtis Mayfield and City Of Blinding Lights - U2

More than any other candidate, Senator Obama uses soul, jazz, and R&B in his campaign. The featured artists range from young singer-songwriters (John Mayer, Dave Stewart), to classic rock bands that have been around for ages (U2). Senator Obama also uses more African-American artists, and musicians from a variety of backgrounds and musical genres. We get it, Obama. You're black, you're hip, you're cool. However, using "Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours" was a bold, and presumptuous move. Apparently, Senator Obama took a cue or two from Senator Hillary Clinton. The Obama-Biden campaign actually has a promotional CD out, "Yes We Can: Voices of a Grassroots Movement". Pretentious, much?

Other Songs Used:

Think - Aretha Franklin
 (Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher And Higher - Jackie Wilson
 Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours - Stevie Wonder

The primary songs used in McCain's campaign were Johnny B. Goode - Chuck Berry and Take A Chance On Me - ABBA. At first, Johnny B. Goode seems to be an appropriate choice for a presidential candidate until halfway through the first verse - "There stood a log cabin made of earth and wood/Where lived a country boy named Johnny B. Goode/Who never ever learned to read or write so well". Maybe a song more appropriate for George W, but not really the message you want to be sending voters today. And ABBA? Really, Senator McCain? They're not even American. And they conjure up an image of glittery pantsuits, not something ideally associated with a dignified presidential campaign. McCain does make an attempt to reach out to the youth of today, with tracks by The Fray and Black Eyed Peas. Unfortunately, the songs were overplayed and out of style, hardly sentiments one would want to associate with a message of change.

Others Songs Used:

All At Once by The Fray
 Let's Get It Started - Black Eyed Peas
 Theme From Rocky - Bill Conti



Both Senator McCain and Governor Sarah Palin have gotten into trouble for their music choices. Sarah Palin, known as "Sarah Barracuda" in high school, walked on stage at the Republican National Convention with "Barracuda" by Heart playing. The band condemned the usage of the song, and Universal Music Publishing and Sony BMG sent a cease-and-desist notice to the McCain-Palin campaign. Senator McCain used a tune from the videogame Medal of Honor: European Assault. Christopher Lennertz, the piece's composer, was offended by the use of his composition since he is an Obama supporter. Lennertz issued a statement saying he was "dismayed that [his] music has been used to promote [McCain's] platform".

There are still voters who are unable to tolerate "America" by Neil Diamond after the Dukakis campaign, and Democratic Bruce Springsteen fans who cringe after they hear "Born In the U.S.A." thanks to the Reagan re-election rallies. Whatever happens on November 4th, let's hope that the unceremonious uses of great songs by both campaigns do not ruin them forever.

SHREYA DURVASULA IS ORDERING OBAMA'S CD AND CAN BE REACHED AT DURVASULAS@WLU.EDU.

NATIONAL
POINT

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY:
A REALISTIC APPROACH TO GEOPOLITICAL POLITICS

Since the beginning of American history, we have acted in our best interests. George Washington, in his Farewell Address in 1796 declared, "It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world," and it has been our policy ever since. The uniquely American mix of democratic-republicanism and capitalism has resulted in diverse methods of managing conflict on the international stage. This manifests itself in very flexible and realistic approaches to conflict by using all aspects of "political, diplomatic, economic, and, at times, military" power – changing the colors of policy to fit current situations. Although uninformed observers view America's actions overseas as a liberal crusade for democracy, the truth is that American foreign policy is an advanced realism; self-interest rightly understood that uses both soft and hard power to accomplish the ultimate goal of self-preservation and the expansion of power and influence.

American foreign policy follows the realism school of international politics, "aimed at the realization of the lesser evil rather than the absolute good." However, this realism does not maintain a single lasting and guiding ideology. Simply put, America adapts to each individual situation.

One example of this is the American response to the U.N. National Security Strategy of September 2002. In this doctrine, the U.N. Security Council acknowledged "the need to promote democracy as a means of fighting terrorism and promoting peace." Adjusting to effective methods of progressing American influence and control, part of U.S. foreign aid is allocated based on "how well countries improve their performance on several measures of democratization and the rule of law." Liberals will be quick to point out that this is not in accordance to traditional realist action. However, this observation fails to acknowledge that realist power and influence can be spread through the promotion of U.S.-friendly governments and trade partners. In recent history, this has taken the form of NAFTA and the U.S. embargo on Cuba, both promoting U.S. interests by curbing other countries' international power without expensive or intrusive force. By utilizing these economic and diplomatic tools, America is able to become more powerful without firing a bullet.

As world markets become freer, so do people. Accurately realized by Ronald Reagan, "governments founded on a respect for individual liberty exercise 'restraint' and 'peaceful intentions'

in their foreign policy." Democracy, though sometimes initially messy, (American revolution, Iranian revolution, Operation Iraqi Freedom, etc.) provides the best method of diluting the power of autocratic regimes- regimes not keen on American interests in their sphere of influence. As James Madison illuminates in Federalist #10, democracy invites discord and factions simply by the different opinions that individuals develop and hold. In authoritarian societies, these factional relations can easily degrade into suppression and instability. However, as democratic nations mature, the ability of democracy to mitigate the "spill-out effects" of these regimes increases, and the safety of American security and interests grows. The added security from the powers of democracy is the driving force behind American efforts such as the state-reconstruction of Iraq. Because it was in U.S. interests, President Bush's foreign has shifted from a position of anti-state building, to instigating regime change and completely reconstructing an entire nation. Promotion

of global democracy is in America's best interests and will continue to be a central tenet of our foreign policy.

This central pillar of American foreign policy has resulted in the support of democratic movements and the progression of open market economic structures. It is not for some liberal principles, but rather the realization that this is the best policy to follow in order to most efficiently expand our circle of strategic democratic allies. These allies have not been selected at random. Condoleezza Rice describes American allies helping to "advance the goals we share." She goes further by stating, "our relationships with Russia and China

have been rooted more in common interests than common values." Clearly there is no ideology, this is power politics at its finest.

If it were true that we are bound by some ideological dogmatic doctrine, our foreign policy would not have been as fractured and inconsistent as it has been. But American history is littered with realist action, always promoting U.S. interests abroad. International ideologies are never absolute. American foreign policy is realistic, always fluid and changing. As Washington urged, we will never seek permanent alliances. America answers to no one.

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JARRETT BROTZMAN IS POLISHING HIS GUN.
HE WELCOMES COMMENTS AT
BROTZMANJ@WLU.EDU.

NATIONAL

COUNTERPOINT

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY: WHY "COUNTRY FIRST" WILL LEAD TO AMERICA LAST

A few weeks ago I swung by Lee Chapel to see Congresswoman Constance Morella give a brief lecture on global expectations for the next presidential administration, during which she provided her insight on a topic often discussed amidst the current election: why is the United States losing its influence, and how can we get it back? Her sentiments resembled those of countless concerned journalists, politicians, and political scientists who recognize our dwindling level of clout on the world stage. We have become "the arrogant warrior"—short of allies and overwhelmed by adversaries. The only way to repair our condition is to reconstruct our position in the international community. It is for this reason that on November 4th my vote will be riding on the issue of foreign policy above all others, and my vote will be in favor of Barack Obama.

Many may find this to be ignorant, perhaps even inconsiderate of the current array of domestic issues facing us today. I would like to point out that while I do recognize the barrage of crises here at home (the economy, our education system, etc.) I still believe that the geopolitical repositioning of our country over the next four to eight years will have greater long-term implications than any other topic faced by our executive branch.

Mistakes made by the next president regarding diplomacy in the Middle East, alliances in Europe, development in Africa, economic partnerships in Asia, or investments in South America could possibly bring the United States from Number One in the world to Number Three—falling behind the European Union and China. That is, if we haven't fallen already.

I find it utterly disappointing that John McCain has failed to publicly confront this crucial subject. His political platform doesn't even officially assess the topic of foreign policy as a whole—instead, when it comes to global affairs, he simply focuses on a few separated topics: Iraq, Iran, and National Security. Here lies Senator McCain's problem. International Relations cannot be divided and conquered, and if we are to legitimately tackle issues like terrorism or Middle Eastern stability, then we have to recognize the interplay between all elements in the global arena—elements that go far beyond McCain's few hot-button issues. National security, for example, calls for the cessation of militarist-diplomacy, the reduction of our armed presence abroad, the opening of accessible American consulates throughout the underdeveloped world, and greater investment in cultural outreach programs and State Department activity. Yet under the McCain plan, the size of our armed forces would be dramatically increased in order to facilitate a greater military presence abroad, and diplomatic action would most

likely receive little attention. Another disappointing move by the McCain campaign was the adoption of Sarah Palin as their vice presidential candidate. Her presence brings truly nothing to the table on the topic of foreign policy and fully illustrates McCain's pandering to his neoconservative base—a political constituency with absolutely no comprehension of rational global engagement.

True, Barack Obama does not have as much experience as John McCain when it comes to the handling of international issues. Yet the young senator from Illinois makes up for it by providing thorough attention to the subject of foreign policy. Throughout speeches and press-releases, Obama has continuously reiterated his focus on diplomatic revitalization, specifying that he intends to open U.S. consulates "in the tough and hopeless corners of the world," double annual foreign assistance to fifty-

billion dollars, and pursue the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals adopted by the United Nations in 2000. This is how the United States can reinvent itself for the 21st Century—by conveying to the world that America is a force to be embraced rather than a force to be reckoned with. The selection of Joe Biden as the Democratic vice presidential candidate reaffirms this commitment to international affairs and asserts that an Obama-Biden

White House would be one of international cooperation.

As mentioned earlier, the actions of the next president will ultimately determine the geopolitical success of the United States in relation to rising global powers like China and the European Union. While John McCain's campaign slogan, "Country First", is lovely sounding, it ultimately fails to accept a massive shift in international relations that Senator Obama has learned to subtly understand: the United States does not come first anymore. Sorry. Only through the facilitation of global development, stability, and cooperation can the U.S. truly prosper on the world stage. Time has come for us to put away our trophies, swallow our pride, and take a real look at how we're seen by everyone else. Barack Obama, in my opinion, is the only candidate willing to do that.

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MATHEW O'SULLIVAN IS ON THIN ICE. HE
WELCOME COMMENTS - AND SUPPORT - AT
OSULLIVANM@WLU.EDU.

CHICKS, POLITICS, AND LIBERALS

ONE WEEK IN DENVER

Right after Obama calmly stated, "Let us keep that promise—that American promise—and in the words of scripture hold firmly, without wavering, to the hope we confess," there was a soft lull over the crowd. Obama paused, I rose to my feet, and finally, he softly spoke, "Thank you, God Bless, and God Bless the United States of America." While the crowd erupted, I was already in full sprint. I hadn't even made it to "God Bless." I had a plane to catch.

The 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado this past August was defined by lulls and rushes. Either I was running around developing blisters in dress shoes, being yelled at by multiple bosses, or discovering the finer points of the applications on my cell phone.

My first day started off exactly like this. I was told to be at orientation before 9 am at the Denver Convention Center the Saturday before the convention started. By 7:15, I was ready to go in a newly-ironed suit with my average tie and my dress shoes. All I knew was that I was going to be in the group that dealt with celebrities and that I was not going to get paid for this gig. I happily dreamt about getting more nachos for Michael Moore, more alcohol for Angelina Jolie, or extra diapers for Jennifer Garner as they slipped me their numbers

and told me to call them if I ever had trouble getting into a club. This was all well and good, but as I approached the Pepsi Center (where the convention would be held) the volunteers I expected to see were replaced by secret service agents with AK-47s. I asked them if this was where volunteer signups were, and they told me that it couldn't be anywhere else, but that they hadn't seen anyone who resembled a volunteer. I called the only DNC phone number I had, but my contact did not pick up, problematic as the secret service agents would not let me in without credentials.

For the next hour I would snoop around the vicinity looking for something that resembled a volunteer entrance. I accidentally stumbled into the security briefing room, awkward since I was the only one there below forty and unarmed. By 8:20, I was helpless and beginning to panic. I finally discovered that I was supposed to report to the Convention Center, a mile away. Even though I was already sweating profusely, I sprinted the entire mile, arriving just to find out that I was one of the first ones there and that check-in would only last

45 minutes, and would be followed by 12 hours of boredom.

However, there were some perks to the situation. My group technically was in charge of celebrities (the section was called IGA and was responsible for anyone famous who was not a delegate), and there was this girl who was going to Harvard and was the only person my age in the whole department (the other factions ranged from the 20-year old quasi-stoners from Tufts to the gay lawyer couple both named Dave from San Francisco). Her name was Liz, and she was something I could believe in.

Monday was not the most exciting day in the world. I found out very quickly that I was at the very bottom of a very long totem pole. Within the IGA department, there were the experts and executives (older people who do this for a

living), professionals (just as old people who do not do this for a living but have enough connections to sound like they do), interns (college graduates who feel way too important), and volunteers. Within the volunteers, young and without connections, I was at the bottom, which had both good and bad implications. The bad news was that nothing I did was remotely exciting, meaningful, or easy. My morning job

was running errands (getting credentials, buying coffee, or taking care of the 15-year-old daughter of a New York congressman), and my afternoon job was standing at a security checkpoint making sure nobody had any problems. The good news was that this left me plenty of time during the evenings to follow the convention dialogue, finding out what was truly going on.

The first night, I was able to listen to Ted Kennedy and Michele Obama. I had not seen Ted speak before, so hearing his first speech under the circumstances – he had flown in from Boston despite having brain cancer – was pretty moving. He definitely speaks like a true Kennedy – good, old fashioned, idealist rhetoric (or as Republicans call it, 20 minutes of nothing) Michele basically said, "I'm still Jenny from the block," and, depending on your political view, either passed or failed. However, her nine-year-old daughter stole the show afterwards, hogging the microphone and talking to her daddy, while Barack attempted to address the Convention crowd.



For Tuesday and Wednesday, I and most Democrats in Denver completely forgot who was running for president; the Clintons were still in power. Obviously, there were tons of protesters at the Convention. The Westboro Baptist Church people were an interesting novelty, the abortion and Jesus is Republican people were cute, but the Hilary fans for McCain were downright annoying. In fact, any Hilary fan was annoying. Talking to them is like talking to New England Patriots fans last spring. No matter what you told them, their team was simply better, even if numbers and facts suggested otherwise. I saw Hilary talk at the Convention and snuck into the room where she officially released her delegates to vote for Obama. It seemed as though Hilary herself had managed to accept her defeat, although after hearing her talk, she really liked winning votes. Her fans could not accept that the Iowa Caucus were over. Some of her delegates literally booed her request to vote for the winning candidate. It does not say much for the unity of the Democratic Party.

The other two Clintons dominated Denver's attention the next day. First Chelsea showed the world what a fine young woman she had developed into, and then Bill did exactly what Bill does best: charmed the crowd. Say what you want about his politics, but after seeing him speak, I realized not even Ann

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Coulter could resist his allure. While working in the office, I overheard a 23-year old intern who shook hands with him right after his speech. Bill squeezed her hand, essentially bit his lip, and winked at her. A decade after Monica Lewinsky, and Bill was still laying down game. God, I miss the nineties.

The whole week came together nicely when Obama



spoke at Invesco Field in front of about 70,000 people. Even though Obama did not speak until 8:15, there was an endless line by 12:30. Imagine a political Woodstock with only four entrances, and you'll have a pretty close idea as to what waiting in line to get into Invesco was like. The local Coloradans there who had bought actual tickets came from about every demographic possible, and the line ended up looking sort of like a carnival. Once Obama took the stage, I felt like I was in a crowded bar in 1980 watching the Olympic hockey game between USA and the USSR. The entire stadium did the wave ... a few too many times, repeatedly shouted "USA" like Mike Eruzione had just scored against the Soviets, and never stopped pounding our "Change" signs. Now, this isn't supposed to pump you up about Democrats or even politics for that matter, but that scene was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I was sitting next to an Italian newsman, who, amid the hysteria, did part of his telecast. "Here is the change that Obama has been talking about," he said. "I am here at the Democratic National Convention in America where Barack Obama is about to talk and the crowd here in Denver is already inspired." No one will remember what Obama said that night. We will remember the power that only 70,000 people with one goal can provide.

STOCKTON BULLIT ADMIRES CHELSEA CLINTON FOR HER PERSONALITY, HE PROMISES. HE WELCOMES COMMENTS AT BULLITR@WLU.EDU.

FROM THE RUNNING MATES

Sarah Palin:

"The difference between a hockey mom and a pitt bull? Lipstick."

"And though both Senator Obama and Senator Biden have been going on lately about how they are always, quote, "fighting for you," let us face the matter squarely. There is only one man in this election who has ever really fought for you ... in places where winning means survival and defeat means death ... and that man is John McCain."

On her plethora of media sources:

Sarah Palin: *I've read most of them, again with a great appreciation for the press, for the media.*

Katie Couric: *What, specifically?*

Palin: *Um, all of them, any of them that have been in front of me all these years.*

Couric: *Can you name a few?*

Palin: *I have a vast variety of sources where we get our news, too.*

"There is much to like and admire about our opponent. But listening to him speak, it's easy to forget that this is a man who has authored two memoirs but not a single major law or reform — not even in the state Senate."

Joe Biden:

"John McCain is a personal friend, a great friend, and I would be honored to run with or against John McCain, because I think the country would be better off, be well off no matter who..."

Assessing Obama and Clinton:

"The more people learn about them (Obama and Hillary) and how they handle the pressure, the more their support will evaporate."

About Mr. Obama:

"I mean, you got the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice-looking guy. I mean, that's a storybook, man."

