



## Palin visit stirs emotion

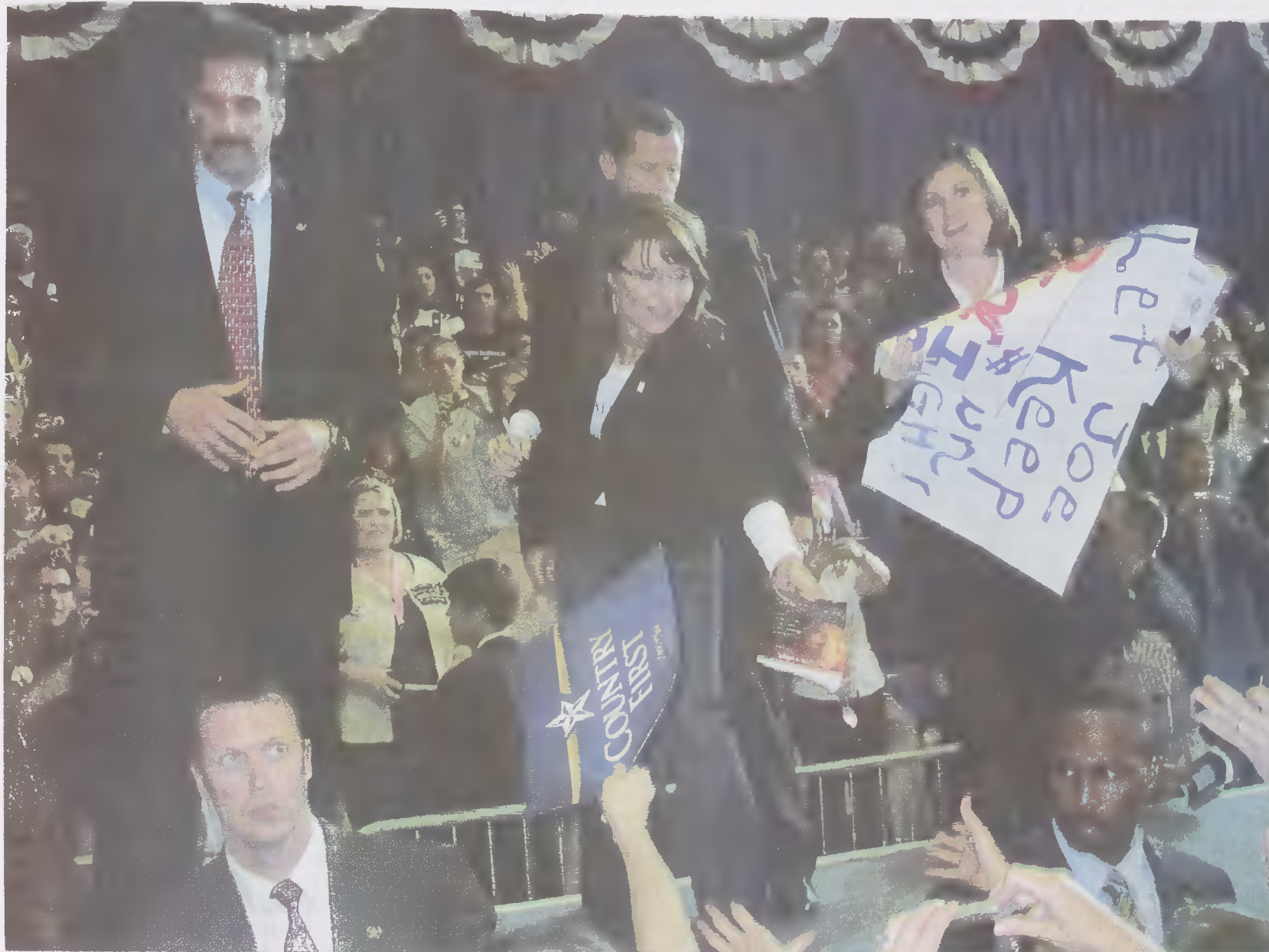
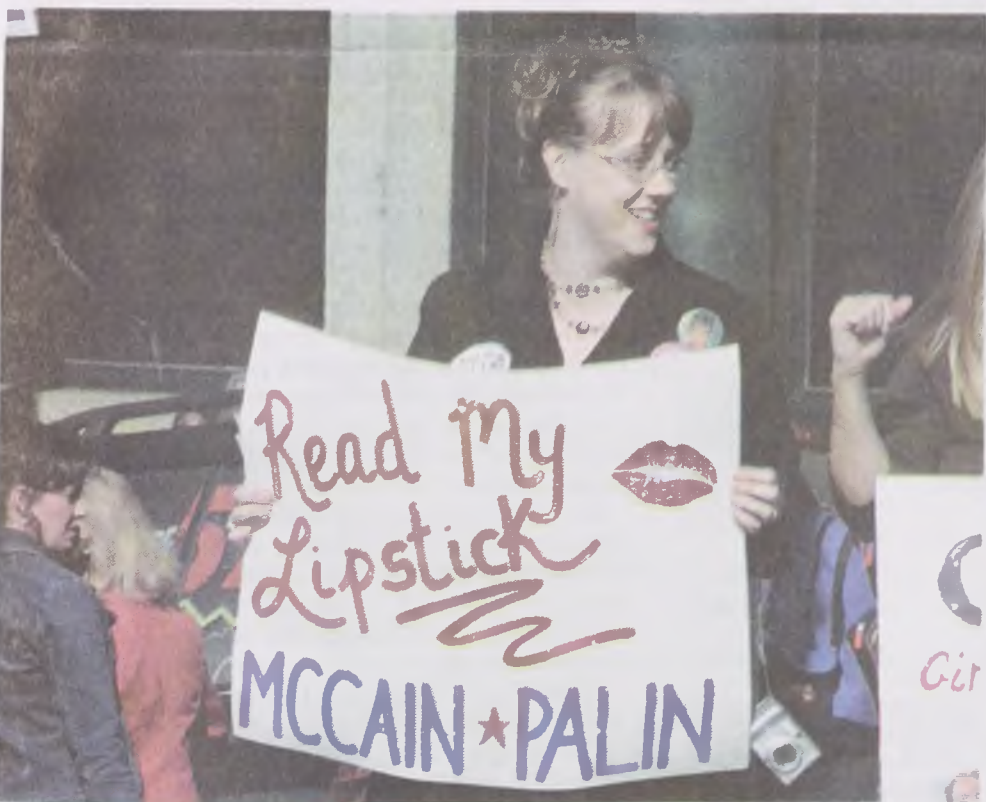
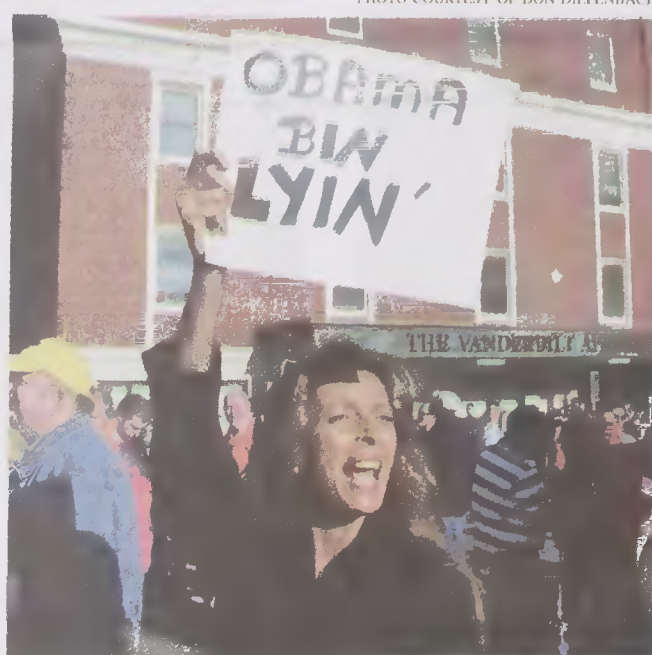


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JONATHAN WALCZAK - NEWS EDITOR



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Gov. Sarah Palin, above, signs autographs after speaking to an about 8,000 supporters. Palin supporters, below, wait for the candidate to arrive. Tensions ran high at some points between Palin supporters and Obama protestors.

### Election captivates foreign students

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Studying abroad is not only about learning and attending classes not offered at home. Far more important is the cultural experience – and American campaigning and elections are a culture shock for many international students studying at UNC Asheville.

"In France, nobody would wear a T-shirt with a politician's name on it, except at political meetings. But I had some crazy friends who did it anyway," said Alice Brisson, a student from the Université Catholique de l'Ouest in France. "The French have no political signs in their front yards, no stickers all over their notebooks."

From May to September, Gallup conducted polls in 70 countries to determine the preferred candidate and how much people think that the American elections matter in each respective country. Obama was the clear favorite in most.

The polls showed that South Americans generally felt the outcome of the elections would not affect them much. Paul Espino-

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### Campus Republicans find place at UNCA

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It is often difficult to express conservative views at a liberal campus like UNC Asheville, according to campus Republicans.

"Some are (willing to listen) and others are just immediately turned off. If you say you're voting for Obama, I want to know why. I will disagree and argue, but I respect your decision," said Julian Caudill, a supporter of Sen. John McCain. "(Being on a liberal campus) allows me to view other peoples' opinions, and see the other and half of everything," Caudill said. "I respectfully disagree."

Youth voters comprise somewhere between one-third and one-fourth of the electorate, statistics show. According to statistics provided by the Young Democrats of America, young supporters of Sen.

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### Palin speaks in Asheville before 8,000 supporters as historic election nears

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Gov. Sarah Palin spoke in Asheville Sunday, evoking passionate emotions from both her supporters and detractors.

While a majority of McCain-Palin supporters were civil, several cried out "Vote McCain, not Hussein," a reference to Sen. Barack Obama's middle name, and held signs associating Obama with Osama bin Laden.

On the other side of Haywood Street, Obama protesters yelled at McCain supporters waiting in line at the Asheville Civic Center, where Palin spoke before a crowd of about

8,000 people.

"I think this is the most heated election in years, and I've never seen so many people involved," said Teresa Prick, a saleswoman from Asheville. "I think it's a great thing, and freedom of speech is good. It can sometimes get a little ugly, but I think everybody has a right to what they believe."

Palin's visit came nine days before the election. All four presidential and vice presidential candidates campaign in North Carolina this week, a sign of its newfound significance as a battleground state.

Brandon Searcey, a 2007 UNC Asheville graduate and cofounder of the campus chap-

ter of the College Republicans, said he supports Palin because of both her personal and professional achievements.

"Palin has five kids, she raised them all, she came from nothing to running for office," Searcey said. "She's made a huge name for herself and I just respect her a lot."

Searcey also said he opposes what he referred to as Obama's socialist policies.

"If you look into his background, there are a lot of ties that are Socialist," Searcey said. "It's almost as if he was groomed for this position, to bring Socialism to America. It's not fair for people who work hard for their money and

make responsible decisions to pay taxes for those who didn't."

Many McCain-Palin supporters echoed Searcey's sentiment, with some yelling "communists" and "socialists" toward Obama protestors.

"I think that when we spread the wealth around, it's good for everybody," Obama said while campaigning in Ohio Oct. 11.

Joe Wurzelbacher, a plumber who Obama made the comment to, questioned Obama's proposed tax policy of raising taxes on small businesses making more than \$250,000 a year.

The Obama campaign stated recently that the remark was

overblown and taken out of context.

John Underwoods, a 42-year-old plumber from Candler, wore a T-shirt that said "I am Joe the Plumber."

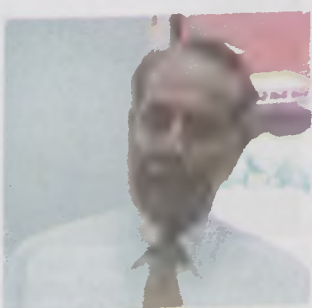
"I'm Joe the Plumber because I'm one of the people," Underwoods said. "I'm one of the ones who are paying for all these bums who are out here doing nothing and I'm tired of it."

When asked why Palin draws such strong emotion from both her supporters and detractors, Underwoods cited her religious beliefs.

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Bob Dole talks to the Banner



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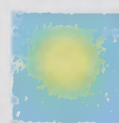
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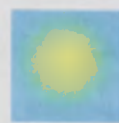
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