

Opinion

Students apathetic to RNC and McCain

by Jay Moore
Staff Writer

As the Republican National Convention kicked into gear in muted fashion this week due to Hurricane Gustav, Brevard College students began the second week of the semester with the long days of summer a distant memory. With the naming of Alaska Governor Sarah Palin last Friday for Vice President, John McCain and crew were hoping to shift the country's attention back in their direction after a historical Democratic National Convention. Unfortunately for McCain, if Brevard College students are any indicator, the youth of America has a message for John McCain that reads, "We don't care"

Since the convention began Monday many Brevard College students attitude toward watching was a mix of apathy and general malaise. Responses to the inquiry were one of two types. Obama supporters seemed to shrug off the question when asked, frequently turning the conversation to the revelation this week that Sarah Palin's

seventeen-year old daughter was five months pregnant and that her husband had previously been a member of a group that advocated the secession of Alaska from the United States as recently as 1994. The responses from McCain supporters.....there were none to be found. The closest response to actually watching the convention went something like this, "I am pretty busy this week, but if I happen to be watching the television and there is nothing on, I might watch a few minutes".

An Obama supporter myself, I have been tuning in. Curious about Joe "Traitor" Lieberman's speech and President Bush's address via satellite, I could not help myself. Inspired by the words "Keep your friends close and your enemies closer" written by Sun Tzu from the book The Art of War, tuning in seems necessary. However the question begs to be asked, "Why is McCain having such trouble with young voters?". The answer probably has more to do with Obama's perceived celebrity than McCain

himself. Although anybody who admits to having to ask his wife to help him work "the e-mail" needs a major public relations overhaul with the generation of today.

All stories for *The Clarion* will be handed in by the time Governor Palin takes to the stage Wednesday night to introduce herself to the American people, and McCain will not accept the nomination until Thursday night, so any suggestion that I might make that Brevard College students should tune in live will be too little to late. However, I would beg all students during their downtime this week to go to what Senator McCain would probably call "the YouTube" and watch these clips. To the Obama supporters my reason would be to clarify what exactly it is that you are voting against. In this day and age it is easy to forget that the news we watch has become pandering opinion, and that it is crucial to get information from primary sources. And since I found no McCain supporters, perhaps those of you without opinion may find your voice.

Read this article: it's for your own good

by Joseph Chilton
Editor-in-Chief

I love campus security. Almost everything they do endears them to me. I respect how they are able to control the chaos at Brevard College while still allowing students to have their fair share of fun. I find the "cool uncle" persona that the security guards emit pleasant, and are astounded at the willingness they have to engage in conversations with students, treating us as peers, and sometimes even old friends. But most of all, I love how no matter what time of the night I walk out of my room, walk four steps, and then scream out a four-letter word because I realize that I have left my keys in my room, campus security is there to bail me out.

That is why I was so chagrined this year to learn that there will be a \$5 fee for summoning security to key into a dorm room. I am one of the most absent-minded people ever to exist, and frankly, I don't have the

kind of dough in my bank account necessary to offset this unexpected cost.

Therefore, I will not be calling security to open my door. Instead, I will be forced to find other ways into my room. The only alternative I have so far been able to conjure up during brainstorming sessions, however, consists of leaving my window unlocked and then scaling the exterior wall of Jones Hall in order to climb into my third floor window. This whole process seems to undermine the purpose of campus security, as their aim is, in fact, to make the campus safer for all of us. Shimming up the columns of Jones Hall, however, is unquestionably the antithesis of safe. But hey, they left me no choice.

At a meeting for all residential students last Wednesday, a representative from Campus Life told students that this fee was "aimed to make you more responsible." The representative even used the classic, "this is for your own good" line.

I'm pretty sure that was the same thing my father told me in high school when he took my car away after I wrecked it. And

again when he stopped paying for my school after my second transfer. Considering the number of speeches I have listened to from Campus Life in which they swore they were not trying to be the surrogate parents of students, this was truly an unfortunate choice of words.

From now on, Campus Life should abandon the surreptitiousness of their agenda, and just be forthright with their parenting policies. If a student is being disruptive in the dorms, how about taking away their meal plan, thus making them go to bed without dinner. If a student forgets their student I.D. and wants to get into the caf, take away their right to have a car on campus, effectively "grounding" them. If a student is caught smoking outside of a designated smoking area, sit them down and make them smoke the entire pack.

All of these proposed policies would teach students to be more responsible. They would be for the student's own good. But then again, I don't see any of these parental strategies being implemented on campus, since they don't produce any income.