

NEWS & OPINION

Issue In-Focus: Who's Your Pick for President?

This semester Dr. Cameron Matthews is teaching Political Science 495, a course focused on the 2008 presidential election. On October 13, his students were asked by *The Decree* to endorse a candidate. Of the 20 students, five students voiced their support for Senator John McCain, while 15 endorsed Senator Barack Obama. Here are their comments:

James Beale: I am going to vote for Obama, because most of his views are geared towards helping out the middle-class Americans. Being that my family is in the middle class, he's got my family's votes.

Steven Burant: I believe that John McCain should be elected for a number of reasons. First, he has an extensive career in the Senate and knows what it takes to deal with Congress and get issues passed. Second, he doesn't get caught up in partisan politics as much as do other politicians, especially Obama. And third, Obama's plan to recover the economy will involve an increase of taxes that will cripple the middle class even further, not rescue it as he claims. McCain may be Republican, but he is a far cry from George W. Bush, so the comparison is an unfair one that shouldn't drag him down.

Tiara Cromartie: We Need Change! Barack Obama is the first presidential candidate that I will be voting for. I have never been so involved with politics until this election year. I feel that Obama is the best presidential candidate for the following reasons: His issues, his reliability to the people, and his experience yet inexperience at the same time. Barack is the only candidate that I feel is going to bring about the change that America is finally ready for. He relates to the everyday American, but also relates just as well to high-end society. He is the fresh new hope that America needs in such a trying time as this. Barack is also a great candidate because he isn't focused on what his opposition is doing but instead on what he plans on doing once he wins this 2008 Presidential Election. As Barack said, "I'm

asking you to believe, not just in my ability to bring about real change in Washington...I'm asking you to believe in yours." Vote for change on November 4th!

Ahmad Crudup: I feel that Barack Obama should be our next president. Millions of Americans are going through hard times, with people losing their homes, having to choose what bills they can skip in order to afford gas for the week. And now there's one of the biggest economic crises we've seen in recent years. We need a leader that will focus on pulling this nation out of this recession and making the American people trust their government again.

Clifton Edmundson Jr.: I think that Senator Barack Obama should be the president of the United States because the nation is in need of change. I believe that Senator Obama has the best chance of helping our economy, and bringing our nation back to the way it used to be. Senator Obama has great leadership and I know that people will support and follow him in the decisions that he makes.

Lawrence Frazier: The 2008 Presidential candidate that will receive my vote, with unwavering assurance, is Barack Obama. Understand that race and ethnicity have no role in my decision. I was convinced to vote for him because he appeals to the everyday individual. I cannot vote for a man, McCain, who speaks on poverty or talks about change when he was never poor, or lived below the poverty line or had to endure through the hardships that people like me have faced our entire lives. It is true that McCain and Obama have some similar goals but there are far more differences in their campaigns. For example,

gas prices, retirement benefits, Medicare and school funding are the important things to the less privileged, and McCain is not talking about these things because they have no effect on "his world." People of lower or no wealth are affected directly by those things that I listed and should be frontline topics in every debate.

Michael Grooms: The candidate that I am supporting is Illinois Senator Barack Obama. For the past four years, the country has been going downhill, thanks to the Republican agenda. Gas prices are at an all-time high, the economy is going downhill, and soldiers are dying every day for a war that does not need to be fought. It is time for change and Barack Obama is a change that I can believe in. Barack Obama is the change that can make a difference in this country and bring the USA back to the global powerhouse of its golden age. He plans on helping the middle class, finding a feasible solution to the war in Iraq, and making good education and good health care available to every American. I am tired of a Republican in the White House. Eight is Enough. Obama/Biden 08!

Rachel Hernandez: I believe that Obama should be president because he has a sound economic policy, which includes equal pay for men and women, lower gas prices, and a tax break for families whose annual income is under \$250,000. Under an Obama presidency, health care would become more affordable as well as stable and there would be a measurable plan to vacate Iraq and turn the responsibility over to Iraq, which is experiencing a financial surplus and has hundreds of thousands of American-trained troops. Our country will become more secure, safe, and financially stable to provide for a better life for American citizens. Obama provides a realistic plan of action to bring this country back on track.

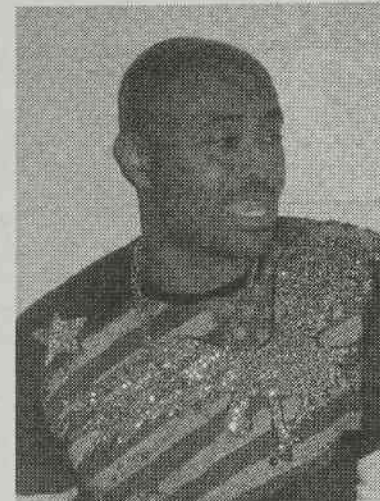
Brandon Long: I am writing this endorsement in favor of Barack Obama for reasons that are far from any racial reason(s). If there was a different Democratic, such as Hillary Clinton, I would hypothetically vote for that person. I feel this way because the Republican Party has been in office for the past eight years and the Republican Party's actions have driven America into the ground in every way possible. Obama is an intelligent man and great speaker. I truly believe that Obama will be a great president because he has been on both sides of the economic spectrum. This makes him more of a well-rounded person because he can truly relate to the struggles of the poor Americans and the values of the wealthy Americans. He understands that the costs of college tuition, gas, and food are out of control, so he has plans to help fight our problems. America is in a critical state right now and needs a change from the Republican/Bush-based policies that Senator McCain agreed with far too often. We need change and OBAMA IS THE ANSWER!!!

Melissa Mangum: The 2008 Presidential Election is by far the most important election we have had. Right now, the United States is looking for "change", and I definitely believe Barack Obama has proven himself capable of making those changes. Our economy is undeniably out of sync, and I do not believe that John McCain can fix a lot of problems that we are having. I say this because picking McCain for our president is like reelecting Bush, something our economy does not need. Though I agree with a few concerns McCain has, the concerns that Obama has are more important to me. They include healthcare, taxes and the current economic crisis.

Alyssia Martinez: I think that Barack Obama should be the next President of the United States. I have decided to vote for Obama because a lot of the issues that he discusses, I agree with. I think that although a lot of things he has promised to do will be hard to accomplish, at least he is trying to get things done. I can't see myself living in the United States with another President—aka John McCain—that acts just like George Bush. I also believe that vice presidents have an impact on who people vote for. I feel that Sarah Palin doesn't really know what she is getting into and she never really seems to answer the questions that she is being asked. That shows me, personally, that she may be able to lead the people of Alaska, but she cannot lead the people of the United States.

Ashley Meadows: The presidential candidate I am endorsing is John McCain. I am endorsing this candidate because of his experience in a war. The experience this candidate provides is exactly what the people need to support America, especially since we have so many troops in other countries. McCain also portrays the kind of experience that the current president has been lacking. America should put aside how the Republican Party has been represented by President Bush and open themselves to a new candidate, who has had a fundamental amount of experience and is ready to take on people who want to bring the country further down.

Whitney Moshier: I support McCain in the upcoming election. I support him because I agree with his conservative views, and I don't trust Obama. I do think the country needs change, but I don't think Obama is the change we need. McCain has the experience and intelligence needed to run this country and will make a fine president.



MTV star Syrus urged Wesleyan students to vote in the upcoming presidential election. "We have to find things in both these candidates that we like," he said "But if we have another four years like the last eight years we got a problem." Syrus, a cast member in "The Real World: Boston," made a stop at the Dunn Center as part of national tour. Photo by Joyce Collins.

Shannon Pugh: I believe that Barack Obama should be the next United States President, not because he is black, but because of his stances on the issues. Obama's plans will help college students in so many ways. How about those high tuition bills and all this money that college students pay out each year? Really out of the two candidates, who is there to help us? When it comes to the Medicaid policy, Obama is the man who is willing to look out for those of us who do not have all the money in the world to spend on medical bills. When it comes to health care, he will not look the other way. More than his opponent John McCain, Obama can identify with the issues most important to me.

Brooke Richardson: I would like to see Barack Obama win the presidency. I think that Obama has a lot of good ideas for this country, ideas of change that could help our economic situation and also get our troops out of Iraq in a safe and orderly fashion. Obama stands for the majority of our citizens, the middle class, and under his presidency I feel that a lot of policies will be changed for the better.

Makeda Rose: I strongly believe that Barack Obama should be the 44th president the United States. He is one of the only senators who has addressed the fact that our troops are fighting and dying in a war in Iraq that had nothing to do with Bin Laden or Al

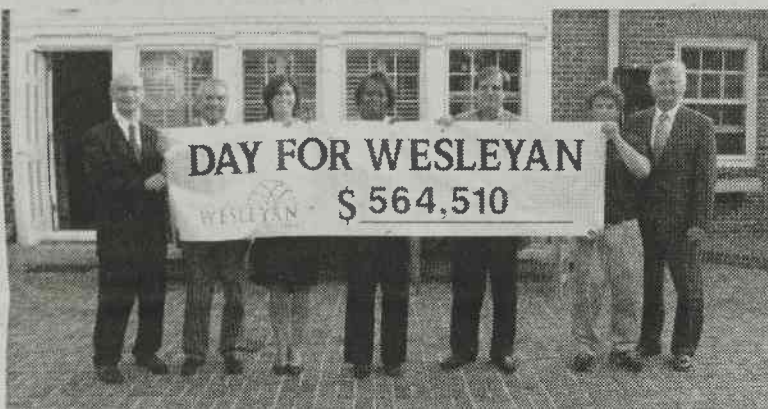
Qaeda. After the September 11th attacks, Americans were promised that who so ever committed these wrongs against our country would be punished and that has yet to happen. Our military's efforts should be concentrated on protecting us from those who have and who are seeking to harm us. Senator Obama has created a stratagem which includes a timeline that will get our troops home to their families. This is not promised by Senator McCain and is one of my major concerns with his current policies.

Ashley Smith: My endorsement goes to Barack Obama. This country has voted Republican in the last two elections and nothing has improved for American society. It is time for change and I think Barack Obama can bring about the change the country needs. As a college student, I like that Senator Obama is trying to make college more affordable. As a future teacher, I commend him for efforts to give teachers the pay and respect they deserve and for trying to retain good teachers for today's youth. He has big plans for this country and I believe that if people give him a chance, the sky is the limit for America.

Gregory Viggiani: I will be voting for John McCain in the upcoming presidential election. I like the way that McCain is running his campaign. He is following the foot steps of George W. Bush and I think Bush did a great job in the way he handled our country after September 11, 2001. I support the war 100 percent and I do not like how every time I hear Obama speak he is talking about ending the war and pulling our troops out. If we pull our troops out, it will show nothing to other countries except for America giving up and not fighting for what we believe is right. John McCain came from a background of military service; he understands the strategic plans and way to encounter our enemies. He is a leader and I support him to lead our country as president.

William A. Whitehead: America is going through a difficult time right now. During this time of crisis, our country needs a leader that is experienced, a leader who has proven that he is capable of handling similar critical situations. That is why my endorsement is going to John McCain, because now is not the time to be handing our country over to someone who has little experience to help get us out of this economic situation. Instead we should give it to a proven war hero, who is used to making the critical decisions that will help America get back on the right track.

Milani Wilson: I am endorsing Barack Obama. I've made this choice because he is the candidate who has addressed the issues that affect my day-to-day life and he wants to make the changes that will affect me in a more positive way than John McCain. After all of the debates and ad campaigns, McCain has given me a lot of reasons not to vote for Barack Obama, but he hasn't given me any reasons to vote for him. "Why should I vote for you?" McCain hasn't answered that question and I am voting for the better candidate. Barack Obama will win this election because he focuses on the issues and the people. So, if you don't know, "Yes," I'm voting for THAT ONE! LOL



The "Day for Wesleyan," the college's annual fund-raising event, netted \$564,510. Pictured left to right are Interim President Dr. Stanley Caine; Michael Pratt '66, community chair of this year's event and headmaster at the Rocky Mount Preparatory School; Jessie Warren, staff chair and director of the Internship and Career Services Program; Dr. Patricia Brewer, faculty chair and assistant professor of education; Wayne Autrey, '99, of Embury; student Taylor Huffman, president of the Future Alumni Association; and Malcolm Woodall, vice president of development. PR Photo

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Editors, Sports & Activities

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Senior Editor

Jessica Smith

Cartoonist

Lorenzo Whitley

Faculty Advisor

Dr. William Grattan

171 Braswell • Phone: 985-5336

Email: WJGrattan@ncwc.edu

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