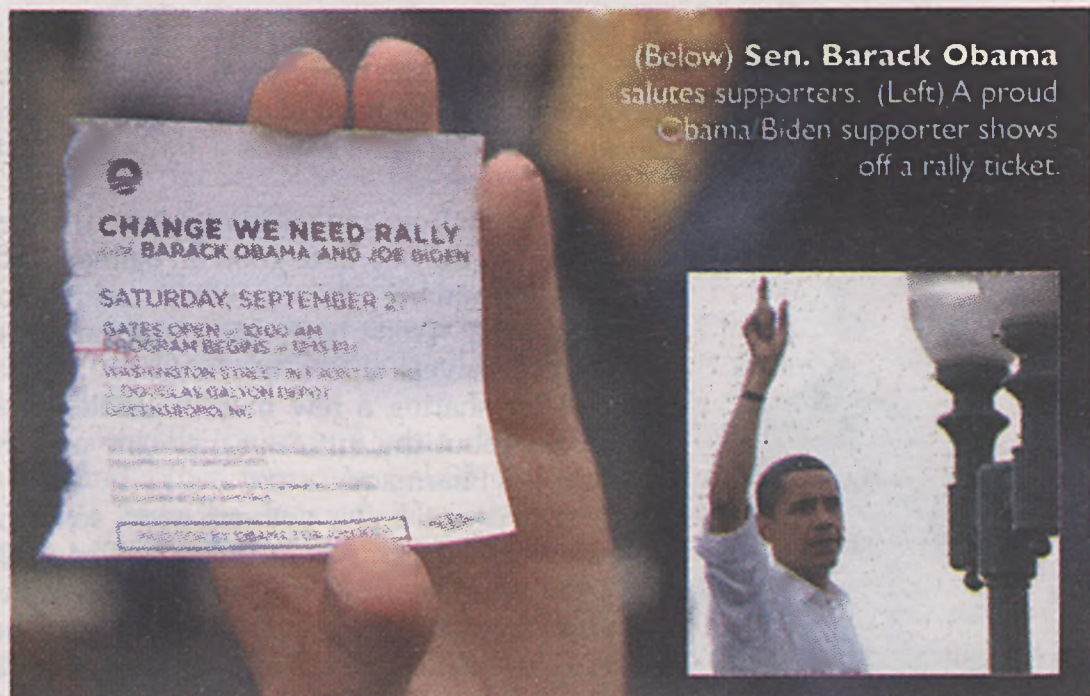


GUILFORD'S 2008 PRESIDENT



(Below) Sen. Barack Obama salutes supporters. (Left) A proud Obama Biden supporter shows off a rally ticket.

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stage, members of the University of North Carolina A&T drumline played.

At around 12:20 p.m., Biden and Obama emerged from the train station to a roaring crowd with their rally signs.

Biden opened his speech by talking about the symbolism of having the speech at train station.

"He is going to put us back on track," said Biden in reference to Obama.

Biden went on to reflect on the previous evening's debate. Biden claimed that while Sen. John McCain, the Republican presidential nominee, is known for his foreign policy, Obama held his own on this issue during the debate.

As Biden introduced Obama, the crowd erupted into mass hysteria, cheering and taking photos. Obama paused to take it all in before he began his speech.

Obama focused the majority of his speech on issues like the economy, healthcare and taxes. He talked about how McCain ignored the middle class during the debate.

"Through 90 minutes of debating, John McCain had a lot to say about me, but he had nothing to say about you ... He didn't even say the words 'middle class.'"

Obama then talked about the major issue affecting the United States — the economy. Obama stated his tax plan would offer three times more tax relief for the middle class compared to McCain and provide tax cuts for 95 percent

of working families.

"The current economic crisis was one topic that I felt that Obama and Biden were most eager to discuss, and the one that received the most passionate response of approval from the crowd," said Dean.

At one point, a child in the crowd fainted, causing Obama to quickly pause his speech in order to get medical attention for the boy. Obama then continued, claiming that the middle class has to help each other get back on their feet.

"Destiny isn't written for us, but by us," said Obama. "The dreams of American people can't be in danger anymore. We are going to put people back to work."

He also stressed that he is a man of change compared to McCain who has recently said that he is for change. Obama accused him of stealing his phrases.

"Pretty soon I'm going to have to

start saying I'm a maverick," said Obama, making the crowd laugh before furthering the notion that McCain is similar to President George W. Bush. "George Bush has dug us into a deep hole and John McCain was carrying the shovel."

Obama finished his speech confident in winning North Carolina on the Nov. 4 election with the help of people who showed up to the rally.

"I was completely overwhelmed by the entire experience: the fantastic crowd, the call for a renewal of morality and the sincerity that resonated with the voices of both Biden and Obama," said Dean.

"The atmosphere was an ambiance of people that were all focused on unity of change and brotherhood," said Faye Jones, an Obama supporter from Raleigh. "As a person that is very strong in my faith and spiritual being, I truly felt that God was the architect of that day and meeting."



PHOTOS BY JACK SINCLAIR/GUILFORDIAN



(Left) Sen. Barack Obama cheers on running mate Sen. Joseph Biden. (Right) An Obama Biden supporter reads coverage of the previous night's presidential debate in the News & Record.

Debate by proxy

SUPPORTERS OF EACH CANDIDATE ANSWER THE QUESTIONS YOU WON'T HEAR IN A PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

By Jeremy Bante
PHOTO EDITOR

The Commission on Presidential Debates screens questions based on a series of sober, politicized and opaque criteria I couldn't care less about. Between the Commission and the security, I won't get to ask either mainstream candidate my questions, so I asked some of their supporters instead.

Just about everyone will agree that informed voters are better for the country than uninformed voters, but our reality is that not everyone eligible to vote is well informed. Which is better for the country: uninformed voters, or uninformed non-voters?

Pat Whitty (M): I think it's much better that you realize you'd make a bad decision and stay home.

Matt Clausen (O): If you choose not to vote, that's your prerogative, and I'm sorry that you feel that way. If you do choose to vote, and you choose not to learn about the candidates ... I don't think that that's a relatively healthy way of voting.

Tommy Barham (M): If you do not vote, you should not complain either way who gets elected, since you did not partake in the election.

Sean Miller (O): It depends on what the country wants, and to be honest with you, we can't determine what that is because we can only determine what the country wants by their vote.

Dana Hamdan (O): Everyone's entitled to vote, and that's why it's the government's responsibility to educate people about voting so we won't have this problem in the first place.

How is McCain going to follow-through with the goals of his platform with a Democrat-controlled Congress?

Jason Rainwater (O): I don't really think he's going to get much accomplished at all.

Jeffrey Meyer (M): I think some issues, such as environmental awareness ... are more non-partisan issues that both parties agree need to be changed. I think he'll probably stick with things that are less controversial or things that both Republicans and Democrats can agree on.

Matt Clausen (O): There's no way possible he could. ... His first two years are just going to be do-nothing years. ... Democrats are a lot more partisan than they used to be.

Zach Lynn (M): If McCain is elected president, I feel that he is able to compromise on enough issues and create a platform that would be sustainable to both parties and possibly reclaim Congress in the next election for the Republicans. ... The Democrat Congress is also running into some problems; people don't feel that they've done enough.

President George W. Bush's expansion of executive powers is one of the most significant aspects of his legacy. What's to stop Obama from expanding executive power even further?

Jason Rainwater (O): Especially with a Democratic Congress, he could make a lot of beneficial changes. ... There's nothing really stopping him. ... I think if it was the best call, he would.

Tommy Barham (M): I think it would be catastrophic if you had all three major leadership positions in one party. ... There would be no one to stop them

Dan Jimenez (O): It's a matter of checks and balances. That's why we have the judiciary.

Pat Whitty (M): Public opinion. He wouldn't necessarily be a candidate for change if he continued to expand the powers of the executive branch, because that's all George (W.) Bush did.



Dan Jimenez
Senior
Obama Supporter (O)



Jason Rainwater
Junior
Obama Supporter (O)



Dana Hamdan
Sophomore
Obama Supporter (O)



Jeffrey Meyer
Sophomore
McCain Supporter (M)



Matt Clausen
Sophomore
Obama Supporter (O)