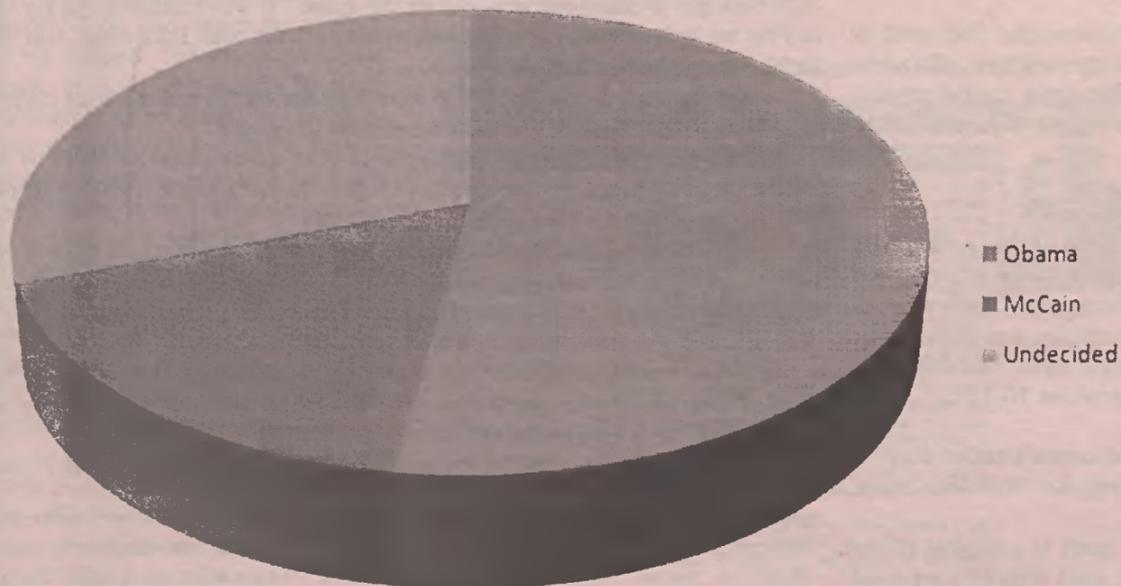


Random Sample Shows NCSSM Students Prefer Obama

Presidential Candidate Preferences of All Polled



What Do Students Think About the Presidential Election?

By ERICA VENNING

NCSSM students were polled Wednesday October 8th at Happy Half concerning the candidates of the upcoming presidential election.

For the most part, NCSSM is on par with current national polls in predicting who will be the victorious presidential nominee. Of the twenty-three juniors and seniors polled, twenty predicted that Barack Obama would win the election. According to Gallup, Obama has the vote of fifty percent of registered voters, whereas John McCain has forty-three percent as of October 15th.

NCSSM students polled predicted that Obama would win the presidential election. However, when it comes to the actual preference of candidates, much more disparity is observed. Out of the juniors polled, seven preferred Obama, two preferred McCain, and one declared themselves undecided. Of the seniors, five preferred Obama, two preferred McCain, and six were undecided. Although the seniors had more replies of "undecided," it was not because of apathy.

Most of those who did not pick a candidate gave their answer much thought and either chose a third party nominee or simply was unmoved by any of the running candidates. But no matter what their preferences, only two of the polled students will be eligible to vote in November.

Among males and females, the males seemed more certain, with a one hundred percent prediction of Obama winning the election. Of female students polled, six predicted Obama and three predicted McCain. The voting preferences of both sexes, however, accurately represented the preference of the entire population polled.

The fact that the plurality of NCSSM students preferred the Democratic candidate is in sync with Durham County. Durham County generally votes more Democrats than many of the hometowns of students. This change of environment and the added freedom of opinion found at this residential school may explain the collective more liberal views of students here.

"Jack's Mannequin" Releases Moving New CD

By BROOKE WOLFORD

Jack's Mannequin's last album *Everything in Transit* was released in 2005. What was front man Andrew McMahon doing during this three-year hiatus? He was battling cancer. Now McMahon returns with the spirited and colorful *The Glass Passenger*. His sophomore attempt opens up with the fast-paced and bass drum driven "Crashin'," introducing the upbeat rhythmic theme found throughout the album.

The diverse nature of the album is showcased in the heartfelt piano ballad "Hammers and Strings," the 80's synth-pop accented "American Love," and the hypnotic "Annie Use Your Telescope" which features an orchestra and unique percussion ensemble. The standout track is "Swim," McMahon's anthem for his struggle against acute lymphoblastic leukemia. McMahon's voice glides effortlessly through the melody as he passionately belts, "I swim to brighter days/Despite the absence of sun/Choking on salt water/I'm not giving in." The album closes with seven-minute epic, "Caves."

It begins with a crooning piano-voice duet, climaxes with a full band integration, and ends with the rustic piano note sequence found in the beginning of the song. *The Glass Passenger* is a much-welcomed record with a vibrant array of catchy tunes and inspirational ballads laced with genuine lyrics.

