

OPINION

Issue In-Focus: Presidential Campaign

What's been your response so far to the presidential campaign? Which candidates interest you most?

Joyce Collins

As far as the presidential campaign is concerned, I am ready to register and vote. The candidate that I'm most interested in voting for is Senator Barack Obama. I'm most interested in him because not only is he a Democrat, but he is an educated black man! And let's not forget that he is from my hometown, CHICAGO, IL! He is currently U.S. Senator for Illinois, and has done an excellent job with the state by creating job opportunities, cracking down on violence, and having more youth programs to keep kids off the streets, to name a few things. His background includes being a community organizer and a civil rights lawyer. He has the potential to efficiently run the United States of America. If he does not win the election then I hope the title would go to Hillary Clinton. It would be interesting to see the world being run by a woman who possesses so much drive to help people. I'm praying that people do not elect another idiot into office!

"No Place Else to Go..."

**By Jessica Autumnne Smith
Decree Senior Staff Writer**

I know it has been several months, a summer break, maybe even two semesters, since the grill was moved from the Hartness Center to the Cafeteria. If this editorial seems a bit behind the times, than so be it...

The grill is no longer a grill; a place to hang out, socialize, and relax. (When I say the grill I'm usually referring to the old location and not to the restaurant.) It is now a computer lab. Now, like the library, classrooms, and other computer labs it is a place of learning, another place of work. Being a commuter, I don't live in or have access to the dorms. The only place I really had to go on campus, when not in class, was either the library or the grill. Now, the grill is gone...

Let's be honest... Well, I'll be honest; I did not go to the grill for the food. To me, the menu seemed limited, and I have had better elsewhere. (I'm personally just a picky eater.) However, none of that mattered. I went to the grill for its atmosphere. It was a quiet spot where students could just hang out, relax, and visit.

The Hartness Center is great, but it is usually crowded, and the cafeteria

Jenna Davis

I haven't been following the presidential campaign very closely. I do know that the Democrats have Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama as their candidates, and I know that Mayor Giuliani is one of the Republican candidates. I'm not a big fan of any of the candidates really, but if I had to choose one, I guess Giuliani would be the one that interests me most. He did a great job of bringing New York out of all the turmoil of 9-11, and I respect his leadership qualities, which are needed in the President's position right now. However, I don't know much about any of the candidates, so it would be hard for me to choose. I'm just not really interested in the presidential race because I think once again we don't have much to vote for.

Jade Johnson

I believe that the presidential campaign is starting off well, being that the election is about a year away. It was very useful for the American public to see the Democratic debate that was

is just that – a cafeteria. The ambiance is completely different... Sterile, industrial; not inviting, cozy. And you're not exactly "supposed to" hang out in the library... that too is a place of study, and you are constantly aware of disturbing other students when you laugh just a little too loud at something a friend said. But with the grill gone, where else is there to go?

I guess I'm just confused as to why the grill got moved in the first place. I feel we've lost something that has no real substitute... Students, especially commuters, need a place to call their own. The Hartness Center is great, but it's not the same. It would be nice to have the grill put back where it used to be, but that is probably too much to ask.



sponsored by YouTube and broadcast live on that site. It gave people who normally wouldn't tune in to those kinds of things more interest in it. I feel that Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton are getting the most attention out of all the candidates because they aren't what the American people are used to seeing when talking about a presidential candidate. I think that more women and African Americans will be voting if one of these candidates makes it on to the Presidential ballot. I would be voting for former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani based on his response to the attacks on September 11, 2001. I think that the things that Giuliani said and did after 9/11 brought more comfort and hope to America than any words that were spoken out of the mouth of President George W. Bush.

Ken Kornegay

It seems that the next Democrat that will be running for presidential office will get the vote. I'm interested in Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

Hillary Clinton is known for being the wife who stood behind her husband, William "Bill" Clinton, while he went through the Monica Lewinsky scandal during the last year of his second term as president. Let's not forget she is also the first woman to run for office, so that's getting a lot of attention.

Obama is receiving recognition because, let's face it, he's the first black, or African American—as some would say—to run for office as a serious candidate.

I'm not the best person to tell anyone about politics because I know very little about the matter. But I do know that people like other people or things that resemble themselves. With that being said, the African Americans will most likely vote for Obama, while Hillary will carry Bill Clinton's supporters and the feminist vote.

If either Clinton or Obama is elected into office, there will always be those doubts about how they actually got elected. Did Hillary get a majority of the vote because she is a woman and the wife of a former president? Did Obama win the election because he's black and that was the extra edge that he needed?

Those questions will really be asked if Clinton or Obama is accused of bad decision making and not having a clue as to what is going on. Only time will tell.

Chris Ochoa

Honestly, the most I've seen of the presidential campaign was on Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" with Jon Stewart. I saw Senator John Edwards announce his candidacy on the nationally

televised show. I've noticed that there are more Democrats running for office than Republicans. At the same time I've noticed that more and more Americans are starting to look past political parties and examine the issues and solutions that each candidate proposes.

I recognize that the candidates' campaigns are targeting my generation more than they have in previous years. For the first time ever, a presidential hopeful announced his candidacy on a comedy show! Also, I've been hearing the same proposals about bringing our troops home and stopping the war in Iraq. This tells me that the candidates are trying to please the American people, which is a good way to be elected. The only thing I'm sure of is that I'm not voting for Hillary Clinton. It's not because she's a woman; it's because she has jumped back and forth with the war and is not consistent with her policy. I will vote for the candidate that best represents my views and will stay true to his word.

James Randolph

Eh...I know this may seem very irresponsible, but I really have not taken the time to look in depth at the plans of any current presidential candidates, and to be perfectly honest, I really haven't made an effort. I've heard Senator Clinton and Senator Obama speak a few times but other than the two Democratic favorites, I haven't really given much attention and thought to the presidential potentials despite the relative closeness to election time. It hasn't been an intentional thing; I mean I don't turn off the TV or burn the newspaper; it's just I haven't really taken the time to sit down and analyze the position of any candidate.

I've vaguely heard about former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani running a campaign for the Republican Party and I've encountered even less information about any other Republican candidates. I think that with Clinton, Obama, and Giuliani possessing as much "celebrity-status" as they do, it will be difficult to sort through the media attention surrounding their individual personalities as opposed to their serious political agendas...that is until we get closer to elections. Again, we have to take the time to do the sorting... but I don't think I'll be moving my schedule around anytime soon.

Sean Riccio

The Presidential campaign season is kind of like Christmas to me: when it starts (earlier and earlier each time), you get all excited and hopeful, imagining all the wonderful things in store this time.

Half way through, after being beaten about the head and shoulders with the iron pipe of marketing and the outright lies every waking moment, you start to get sick of it. And when the day finally comes, you almost never get what you really want; you just grin and bear your awkwardly knit sweater with a quiet dignity. A few months later it's all forgotten, and when the season rolls around again, hope wells up. This time it's going to be different.

By the time we get to the actual primaries, it's largely been decided for us by the party uppers and the press who is going to get a nomination because we are morons who cannot possibly be trusted to make the right decision on our own. Did any Democrat seriously want John Kerry to run in 2004, with all the vigor and temerity of steamed broccoli? If Bush wasn't shoved down Republicans' throats, would there have been a chance of his running and winning. His victory was the equivalent of your junior high gym teacher becoming superintendent. The fact of the matter is that by the time the primaries come around, these people are focus-grouped and streamlined to within an inch of their lives and we have very little say in the process.

The fact that the process has been jump-started even earlier this cycle doesn't help either. We are still more than two months away from the New Hampshire primaries, and the campaigns on both sides of the party line have been in full swing for almost a year now. The pool of candidates is still huge, and it's largely anybody's race (except for a few so-far-of-an-outside-shot-they're-orbital folks like Tancred and Gravel). Personally I'm leaning toward the Democrats, as I usually do, but I have some favorites there. An Edwards/Obama ticket would be the best of both worlds, though I don't know if the current lethargic American public would be ready for quite that level of reform and turnaround.

There are a few candidates that I just dread winning, though, and most fall on the Republican side of the fence. You've got Rudy Giuliani, who is essentially George W. Bush with a 120s-range IQ; Mitt Romney, who wants to run the United States like a turnaround business venture, apparently; and Fred Thompson, who, I'm fairly sure, thinks he's only auditioning for another role as President. About the only person in the GOP who doesn't make me want to start looking for property in Canada is John McCain, only because he seems like he'll be a return

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alum Says Students Have Ruined NCWC

I am completely discouraged by what I have just read in the October 12 issue of the Decree. You all, the students of NC Wesleyan College, should be ashamed of yourselves! You have ruined the school that gave me so much in the form of academics, social life, and leadership. Even worse, you have ruined the school that could have given you all of those things and even more. You have ruined your chance to add to your personality, your creativity, your leadership skills, and your brotherhood and sisterhood. You have ruined the school that could have given you so much now so that you could earn so much more in the future.

In case you don't know who I am, I am Brandon G. Cyrus, Class of 2004. Many of you may know me as your Admissions Counselor when you were first accepted to this school. During my years at NCWC, I was President of CAB (2003-04), VP of CAB (02-03), double major in Computer Info Systems and Business Administration, selected to Omicron Delta Kappa as a junior, Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor in 2003 for Bishop Theatre, co-founder of the Cinematography Club, and even the mascot for two years. When I entered NCWC, I was a preppy kid with no friends and no idea how to make any. I wore nothing but polos and khakis, with the polo tucked in, of

course. When I left NCWC, I left with more friends than I could keep up with, a personality that allows me to make even more friends without even trying, and academic and social skills that have allowed me to build my career to what it is today. I am now a 25 year old Software Support Analyst for Benchmark Systems, an information systems provider to healthcare facilities across the United States, earning more money than I could have possibly dreamed of making at this point in my life. I would not be at that stage if it weren't for NC Wesleyan College.

I challenge all of the student body to rise up and build the school that you want. I want you all to help build the school that you deserve. I want you to motivate each other to do whatever it takes to get the school back to where it was before even I came to school there. Believe it or not, the reputation of NCWC used to be "Little Duke." Many people believe it still is. I am sure it would break their hearts to find out that the students, of all people, were the ones that allowed the school to fall from its ranks. NC Wesleyan has the faculty in place, the staff in place, and, even though many of you may not believe it, you have the administration in place that can help you to bring your thoughts and ideas to reality.

I would also like to issue a challenge

to your new Director of Student Activities, Jennifer Evans. Jen, I single you out because you and I are good friends from our days as students sharing time together. On stage, in clubs, and at the Caf, we were good friends. We remain friends to this day! I challenge you because I know for a fact, from personal experience, that you are able to rise to this challenge. Motivate these students! Let them know that they have a voice! Let them know that this school can help them in ways they can never imagine. I also challenge you to fight for them. Do not allow the administration to say "No" to their demands. Sure, you are going to lose some of the battles, but you cannot allow yourself and the students to lose the war. The students deserve more than that. And in the end, when the smoke settles, and the students, YOUR students, are able to have their voice heard and, most of all, have their voice respected, you will know that you were the one that helped it become a reality.

If anyone should want to discuss this article, please feel free to e-mail me at bc160628@mail.ncwc.edu. I will help anyone that would like to discuss how he or she can take the initiative, and help build a better Wesleyan. Best wishes to all of you in this journey.

—Brandon G. Cyrus, Class of 2004