

THE THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION ISSUE

SOU'WESTER



An exclusive interview with a fifth of Old Crow!

See Page 6

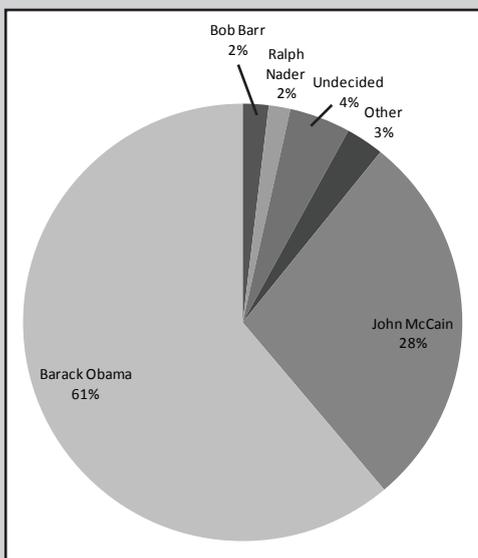
October 29, 2008

The Weekly Student Newspaper of Rhodes College

Vol. XCV. NO. 6

Obama wins mock election

How Rhodes Voted:



Votes collected in response to the question "If the 2008 presidential election were being held today which candidate would you vote for?" See Page 5 for more mock election results as well as more details about how the survey was administered.

Candidate	Number of Votes
Barack Obama	409
John McCain	187
Bob Barr	13
Ralph Nader	11
Ron Paul	8
Hillary Clinton	3
Other	7
Total Voters	670

Demographic breakdown among voters:

Voter Category	John McCain	Barack Obama	Other	Undecided	Total
Staff	16	50	3	5	74
Faculty	8	51	3	1	63
Students	161	306	36	25	528
Male	75	155	30	12	272
Female	109	253	12	18	392

Classroom politics

By William Bruce
News Editor

Expressing political beliefs in the classroom is a complicated subject over which many educators disagree. Although Rhodes College has a liberal policy on professors expressing their ideas, many colleges and universities are enforcing more strict guidelines.

Several college professors believe that expressing political views is a necessary component of their lesson plan.

"If I'm trying to generate interest in Latin American history, it's important to show students where my interest comes from," said Michael LaRose, an associate professor of Latin American History. "I don't hide my political expressions; it'd be irresponsible to do so."

Currently, Rhodes has no policy that prohibits professors from expressing their political views in or out of the classroom. Rhodes policies do, however, encourage professors to be sensible when expressing their beliefs.

"The policy respects an individual's right to express his/her opinion," said Michael Drompp, Dean of Academic Affairs. "That being said, the policy also encourages faculty to be judicious in their exercises of free speech."

In spite of the liberal policy, many students cannot recall a time when a professor asserted their political beliefs in class.

"I've never seen a professor directly advocate their political beliefs," said Rachel Hickey, a sophomore. "I feel like I would remember something like that."

In several cases, professors will inject their political views simply as a means of stimulating interest in the subject.

"I'm not trying to convince students of a political position," said LaRosa. "I'm trying to get students

excited about learning."

Although many professors choose not to advocate their beliefs in the classroom, some students feel they can still perceive where they stand politically.

"I can get an idea of where my professors fall," said Adam Joplin, a sophomore. "In a classroom you can pick up on vibes, but I don't feel those vibes affect my learning."

Other students, however, feel their professors are less subtle in expressing their political beliefs.

"Some professors allude to their stances on policies and politicians," said Joseph Crone, a senior.

"I've had professors openly admit which candidate they support in an election, and even which policies they support," said Jennifer Gaffney, a senior.

Most students agree that professors should not be prohibited from expressing their political beliefs, but that the classroom is not the place to do it.

"I feel like expressing their political beliefs could distract from their teaching," said Hickey. "You shouldn't have to smother your beliefs if you're a professor, but you do have certain responsibilities once you step into the classroom."

"If a professor does express their viewpoint in class, it could have consequences," said Joseph. "It might make students more hesitant to speak out about certain issues."

There are a few students who do believe professors should be allowed to express their views in a class setting.

"They should be allowed to express their beliefs," said Gaffney. "As long as they make it clear that the classroom is a place where discussions can happen, and they do so in a respectful and productive manner."

Across the country, some col-

Political, continued on Page 4

College Democrats and Republicans

By NeNe Bafford
Staff Writer

This November, both major parties are represented on campus by the Rhodes College Democrats (RCD) and the Rhodes College Republicans (RCR). While the two groups may hold different political views, they both agree that students should be educated about the voting process.

"The most important thing is to keep people informed because a lot of people don't understand where their political affiliations lie," said Scot Allison, President of RCD.

"A lot of Republicans and Democrats think that they are the minority on campus and we want to make sure that people are confident in expressing their views," said Clarke Wise, President of RCR.

Even though both groups share this common goal, they have different aspirations and ideas.

RCD has focused on building their active membership.

"I have been a member of the group since my freshman year and it has never been an enormous, actively involved group," said Allison, a junior.

"There has always been a large demonstration in interest, but not active participation," said Courtney Eskew, who is the secretary of RCD.

"We held a debate party last week and we had about 10 to 15 people show up, that was pretty big for us," said Eskew.

With limited active participation, RCD still manages to meet their goals.

"Our goal is not about spreading political ideology because being a Democrat cannot be defined," said Eskew.

"Instead, we try to help each individual person understand their beliefs," said Allison.

Allison believes that the 2008 election has caused the group to increase their activities.

"It has increased our activities because it has increased students' interest," said Allison. "In non-election years, it is hard to get involvement. We may not hold many events, but I have had so many people email me and ask questions like, 'How do I register to vote?'"

While RCD has had trouble with active involvement, RCR has

had trouble remaining in existence on campus.

"We used to be a pretty strong group, but 2 years ago someone stopped filing it as a student organization," said Wise. "This year, with elections being held, I decided to re-file the group as a student organization. Now we are now nationally recognized by other College Republicans."

RCR now has 95 members and 65 of those members are active.

The main goals of RCR are to present ideas about the Republican Party to students. Right now they are focusing on educating students on voting for John McCain.

Both groups are planning on participating in a Rock the Vote party that will also be sponsored by Rhodes Student Government, as well as another political group on campus, Rhodes College Students for Barack Obama.

"Rhodes College Students for Barack Obama is more active via facebook; it is more of an interest group," said Allison. "They share

Student Groups, continued on Page 4

Look inside for more on the upcoming Presidential Election!

Page 2: The Sou'wester editorial endorsement

Page 5: More results from the Mock Election

Staff Editorial

Students, we hope that you have enjoyed and savored the last two months of the presidential election. Since most college students graduate in four years and Americans have a chance to choose their president in the same time span, this is the only presidential election you will experience as a Rhodes College student.

Since the hot, dog-days of August when you first came back to school you've had the chance to spend long nights arguing politics or to discuss the issues in your classes. This has been a chance to analyze the presidential candidates in an academic setting, surrounded by one's peers and professors.

Most importantly, in an environment that is dedicated to pursuing truth and knowledge, this is a chance to ignore all the political jabber, punditry, false attacks, and rumors that have appeared during this heated, and extremely significant, presidential race.

We have also taken advantage of this atmosphere to discuss our choice, and we believe that the best candidate for president is Senator Barack Obama.

The strength of his policy initiatives, his ability to inspire and the leadership and integrity he has demonstrated on the campaign trail show that Obama has the ability to lead America out of the quagmire of economic, military, environmental, and health-care related problems that we currently face. In his book, *The Audacity of Hope*, Obama offers his compelling philosophy combating the cynicism of modern-day America towards government by offering a profoundly genuine desire to improve this great nation without respect to political affiliation.

In addition, we see Obama as the only chance for America to recover its waning status in international affairs. By concentrating on Afghanistan and encouraging Iraqis to take responsibility for their own country through a phased withdrawal, Obama will put American priorities in the right place and stop American bloodshed and wasting resources in Iraq. His popularity abroad coupled with Joe Biden's

experience as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee will improve our standing among allies who have grown disillusioned with the current administration.

Finally, we have been extremely disappointed with Senator Obama's opponent, Senator John McCain. The Arizona senator's well-deserved reputation as a politician with integrity has taken a severe hit during his campaign. Not only are many of his policies a continuation of the past eight years, he has run the majority of his campaign in a way that convinces us he is not fit to be president. His negative campaigning, attack ads, politically motivated "campaign suspension" in late September that some of his fellow politicians believed to have obstructed the push for a bailout, and his decision to choose Governor

"We firmly believe that Obama is the best candidate for president and he offers a vision of positive, constructive change for America's future.. "

Sarah Palin as his vice-president all show that he is more concerned with winning the election than helping the American people. Instead of choosing runner-up Mitt Romney, a politician well-versed on economic affairs, he chose someone who, like himself, has been officially censured for ethics violations. Such abuses of power have been especially prevalent in Washington for the past eight years and have caused general distrust and cynicism with our government.

We firmly believe that Obama is the best candidate for president and he offers a vision of positive, constructive change for America's future. But regardless of your political affiliation, we encourage you to vote and enjoy what will most likely be the only presidential election that you will witness as a Rhodes student.

Staying principled worth the price

By Will Smith
Staff Writer

With less than two weeks until Election Day, most people have made up their minds about their vote. Most will vote for either John McCain or Barack Obama, but there are some, including myself, who will be voting for a third party candidate. Supporters of third party candidates are mocked, belittled, and criticized for "throwing their vote away." Maybe we are tilting at windmills, but one thing is for sure: the vast majority of us will be voting based on actual support for a candidate, as opposed to an attempt to game the system. That said, all voters, but particularly supporters of third parties, encounter an extremely difficult choice between "strategic voting" and "principled voting."

A "principled vote" is based on agreement with the candidate's views and a belief that they are the best suited for the job; a "strategic vote" is a vote for a candidate based not on actual support, but on strategic considerations.

The classic example of strategic voting is when you forgo voting for the candidate you like and instead vote for someone you somewhat support just because they have a better chance of winning. Take my situation: I really like Bob Barr's views and proposals, and I completely disagree with almost every one of Obama's proposals. I am no fan of John McCain, but I prefer him to Obama. Realistically, McCain has

a much better chance of defeating Obama than Barr does. Given that, would it not be smarter for me to bite the bullet and throw my support behind McCain? The strategic voting answer would be yes.

There are two major problems with this answer. First, no one vote will turn the tide (that said though, aggregate individual votes definitely matter). The sec-

ond problem is that strategic voting itself is a corrupt practice. It's understandable that people hate to vote for a loser, but voting is ultimately about supporting who you think is the best candidate.

The dilemma of who to support is undeniably tough for supporters of third parties, not just in the presidential election but in general; indeed, there are exceptions where strategic voting is acceptable. The system is rigged by the major parties to make it almost impossible for third parties to compete.

By protecting their hold on power and denying the people real choice, they

inflict a great injustice on us. Since members of the major parties are not going to do anything to decrease their power, there is really no way this will change. The only four things that would bring change would be a major party split, a third party becoming extremely popular, a movement demanding reform, or a revolution. None of these things are likely to happen any-

"It's understandable that people hate to vote for a loser, but voting is ultimately about supporting who you think is the best candidate. "

time soon.

When you go to vote, regardless of who you vote for, make sure you base your vote on actual agreement with the candidate, not because you think they are more likely to win or beat the other guy. As for those who will vote or are considering voting for a third party candidate, do not feel like you are throwing your vote away. A principled vote is never a wasted vote. Cast your vote proudly and confidently, for regardless of whom you vote for, if your vote is based on actual support, you have made a legitimate choice.

THE SOU'WESTER

Editor-In-Chief
Daniel Jacobs
Managing Editor
Avery Pribila
News Editor
William Bruce
Opinion Editor
Paul Yacobian
Entertainment Editor
Ralph MacDonald
Sports Editor
Onalee Carson
Layout Editor
Lee Bryant
Copy Editor
Suzi Van Sickle
Photography Editor
Noelle Smith
Business Manager
Jamie Young
Executive Assistants
Anna Meyerrose
Jerica Sandifer

How to Reach Our Authors and Us

As the official newspaper of Rhodes College, *The Sou'wester* is produced entirely by students on staff. It functions independently of faculty and administration. The newspaper is published weekly throughout the fall and spring semesters, except during exam periods and breaks.

The Sou'wester is a member of the Student Media Board, a consortium that includes the editors of all student media outlets, class representatives, and at-large representatives from the student body.

All staff editorials published in *The Sou'wester* represent the majority opinion of the Editorial Board composed of section editors and executive editors. Opinions expressed in opinion columns and letters-to-the-editor do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *The Sou'wester* Editorial Board. Letters-to-the-editor are encouraged, but cannot exceed 350 words; all letters must be signed and will be edited for clarity.

Reaching *The Sou'wester*

Phone: (901) 843-3402
Fax: (901) 843-3409
E-mail: thesouwester@gmail.com
Address: Rhodes Box 3010
The Sou'wester
2000 North Parkway
Memphis, TN 38112-1690


ASSOCIATED
COLLEGIATE
PRESS

How the election outcome will affect Rhodes students

By Nick Carlson
Staff Writer

Students at Rhodes College have two outlooks on this election: on the one hand we are voters and have a great deal of idealism; however, at the same time we are human and thus have innate greed. The question then becomes: how will our vote benefit us personally. Both candidates have pledged to do more to make life easier for college students. The political boxing match stacks up as thus.

In one corner we have Barack Obama who is promising a \$4,000 tax credit for most families with someone in college provided that the student completes 100 hours of community service at approved tasks. I use the term most because the benefits will be tested and not available to wealthier families. This tax credit would replace the HOPE and Lifetime Learning tax credits. It would also be a refundable tax credit so that a poor family that didn't make enough to be able to cover the full deduction would still be able to get the money back, in the form of a direct check. The Obama campaign has stated that the total cost of this tax credit would be 10 billion.

John McCain has stated that he will retain the HOPE and Lifetime Learning tax credits but that no new tax credits will be created. The campaign has pledged to massively simplify the process of claiming the tax credits in order to encourage more families to make use of them. Douglas Holtz-Eakin, a senior policy adviser to McCain, said, "We don't have any new college proposals in terms of massive expansions of funding. There is a budgetary reality; we have enormous spending pressures already. It would be irresponsible to go to every interest group and promise them lots of money. The other campaign does that. We don't."

Obama also has pledged to expand the Pell grant program, a system of financial grants to help students from families below \$50,000 a year pay for college tuition. The program has been rather successful but has not had enough money to fund every application it has received in the last few years, due to rising college costs. Obama has pledged to index the programs funding to the cost of tuition. This is expected to mean a 50% increase in spending and translate to an extra 6 billion a year. Holtz-Eakin stated that McCain would increase

the Pell grant budget if the federal budget allowed, but the campaign wouldn't promise to do so until it had seen what direction federal spending and tax flow takes in the

Obama has pledged to end the practice of federally backing student loans and instead only make loans directly. Obama's campaign has stated that this will cut out the middlemen of the banks and save the government money.

John McCain has pledged to retain the two option system, while at the same time expanding funding for both loan programs. The campaign states that this will increase competition between the two lending groups and decrease the price for students. It is unclear what the costs of the two different plans will be since it is extremely difficult to predict what the general interest rates and debt risk ratings will be when the loans start to be made and repaid.

Both plans promise relief to students struggling to pay for college, but the most important point to consider is how realistic they are. Barack Obama's plan has a stated net cost of 16 billion a year excluding the cost of the student loans, while John McCain's plan has no additional cost aside from the student loans. I believe that John McCain's plan is far more realistic and practical.

"John McCain has pledged to retain the two option system, while at the same time expanding funding for both loan programs"

coming years.

The two candidates' plans diverge completely in the area of student loans; currently, students can borrow money either from federally backed student loans or from the government directly. Barack

The Palin pick, a reflection

By Ryan Costello
Staff Writer

The pick of Sarah Palin as McCain's running mate has been at the center of controversy for the Republican ticket. Matt Damon went on the record to criticize Palin's inability to lead the country due to her lack of experience. Rosie O'Donnell, Jada Pinkett Smith, and many other celebrities have sounded off about their dislike of the pick.

With all the negative controversy surrounding her, one may wonder why McCain selected her in the first place. Is the Palin pick essential or detrimental to the McCain campaign?

To begin, I must say that I cannot see the pick as being detrimental. At the time of the pick and even today, McCain is trailing in most polls. If McCain was trailing before Palin was announced as Vice-President, how can she be responsible for a McCain defeat?

I think Palin will be a young politician that will be able to handle the stress of the job with little prior political experience. The outlook of the election looks very bleak for Republicans. The general level of support for the Democratic Party far exceeds that of the Republican Party. It will take more bold moves like this to keep a Republican in the Oval Office.

Sarah Palin, Alaska's governor, does have little political experience. She was the mayor of a small town called Wasilla and has been a governor since 2006. To me, this story sounds all too familiar. Last time I checked, we actually have a Presidential candidate with little political experience, just like Palin. If Palin is cited for inexperience and people say she is not ready to be one heartbeat away from the Presidency, how is the alternative considered better? In the other party, the Presidential candidate lacks experience and not the Vice-President. Therefore, why is Obama able to escape the media's

scrutiny of inexperience while Sarah Palin is forced to confront it head on?

Sarah Palin does bring energy to the table though. This is obviously a characteristic upon which the Democratic Party has capitalized. Sarah Palin is a fresh face to the Republican Party and has the potential to revitalize Washington. She is not simply a Washington insider like Obama's pick. By bringing her looks, sex,

"Many times she has attracted larger crowds than... John McCain"

and age to the table, Palin has been able to attract large crowds to her speeches and has attracted a large viewing audience on television.

Many times she has attracted larger crowds than even the Republican Presidential nominee, John McCain. This tremendous energy and youthfulness has brought some of the excitement of this election over to the Republican Party.

While many political analysts believe the Palin pick was just a desperate attempt to attract Hillary voters, I do not think this is true. Palin and Clinton disagree on most issues and the only reason they are compared to one another is because of their gender. McCain instead picked her for her potential to turn the tide in his favor through energy. Who knows, if a McCain defeat is inevitable, the United States could be looking at Palin for President signs in the 2012 election.

University of St. Thomas School of Law



We prepare students to practice law at the highest levels with

- a mission that integrates faith and reason
- a rich curriculum and exceptional faculty
- a nationally recognized mentor externship program
- a quality of life students placed in the top two in the country for the fourth year in a row, according to the Princeton Review

Now is the time to consider the
University of St. Thomas School of Law.

**Apply online by December 31, 2008
and pay no application fee!**

For more information or to schedule a campus visit:
(651) 962-4895 • (800) 328-6819, Ext. 2-4895

**lawschool@stthomas.edu
www.stthomas.edu/law**



UNIVERSITY of ST. THOMAS
MINNESOTA

Q&A with Prof. Marcus Pohlmann

Dr. Marcus Pohlmann is a seasoned political science professor. He did his undergraduate work at Cornell College and his graduate work at Columbia University. He has taught at Rhodes since 1986, coached the college's highly competitive mock trial team, and chaired the political science department for 16 years. He is the author of several books including: *Black Politics in Conservative America*, *Landmark Congressional Laws on Civil Rights*, and *Governing the Postindustrial City*. He currently teaches courses on Constitutional Law, Trial Procedures, United States Politics, and African-American Politics.

William Bruce: Why do we still have the electoral college?

Dr. Marcus Pohlmann: There's a philosophical reason and then there is a practical political reason. The philosophical reason is the same reason we've had since the country was founded. That is that it protects small states from being dominated by larger states in national elections. I don't know if that is as strong a reason as the partisan reason now, and that is the Republican party holds sway in more of the less populated states, and as a result has more to lose by abandoning the electoral college. So, the fact that partisan politics has become intertwined with the philosophical issue means that it's not going to be changing anytime soon. Unless, we have a string of elections like 2000 in which the candidate wins the popular vote, but not the electoral vote, or if we have a couple of elections in which there is a huge difference, 3 or 4 percent, in which they win popular vote, but not the electoral college vote.

WB: In past elections black candidates have been ahead in the polls, but ultimately lose the election. Do you think we might expect this in the upcoming election?

MP: Referred to by social scientists as "the Bradley effect," people are afraid to admit that they are going to vote against someone because of their race. We don't know if this is going to happen for sure because this is the first serious black candidate we've had for president of the United States. My position, and it will remain until election day and I'm proven wrong, is that yes there is probably some of that, but I get the feeling that most of the people that truly would vote against someone because of their race would not be voting Democratic anyway. There are few Bill Clinton supporters that might fall in that category, but I think those few are far outweighed by the number of voters who are going to be positively affected by Barack Obama's race. These could include other minorities, especially Hispanics and a higher African American turnout. The fact that the Democratic party has put up an African American candidate, I think that that energizes the liberals in the party. The effect of people voting against Obama because he's black will be outweighed by the number of people who are going to vote for him because he is black or positively influenced by his race.

WB: What are some pros and cons of being a less experienced candidate? Elected official?

MP: At the presidential level you're hiring policy advisors who are experienced, although there may be some disadvantage in a debate format. I think some inexperienced candidates might not realize the rigors of running in a campaign. It is very physically demanding to hop all over the country and live off of coffee and donuts and four hours of sleep a night. It's going to wear on you, and you have to really want the office that you're seeking.

Once you get into office you also have advisors. If you pick them well, you're going to have

people who are going to do the research for you, who share your values, and who suggest to you what position would be consistent with your values even if you don't have very good sense of the legislation or you may not have kept track of an issue that has developed. I think in some ways one should probably look at examples of judgment, such as who they picked as their advisors or their vice presidential candidate, or how they have reacted to crisis. These could serve as indicators as to how well they're going to do in office. If they have never confronted a major foreign policy crisis, and few people have, are they surrounding themselves with people who can give them the proper historical perspective they need in order to make a proper decision? I guess the long and short of both is that it doesn't have to have much effect at all if you surround yourself with good people and listen to them. I think the latter can be a problem. President Bush surrounded himself with good people, but didn't always listen to them. Whether the person is experienced or not, do they listen to their advisors, or do they have the tendency to charge off on their own because of a personality flaw?

Student Groups, continued from Page 1

the same goals as RCD, but they are kind of a side group. While we are indirectly for Barack Obama, they are technically for Barack Obama."

This party will be held to inform students about voter registration, absentee ballots, and other relevant issues related to the voting process.

RCD is also planning on having a watch party on the day of the election.

"We will also have a campaign on election day, making sure people get out there and vote. If they need a ride to the polls, then we will make sure that they get a ride," said Eskew.

RCD is hoping to host a speaker in the

Political, continued from Page 1

leges and universities have recently begun to enforce stricter policies on political expression. In New York City, the Department of Education Chancellor announced that teachers are no longer allowed to wear campaign buttons at work. At the University of Illinois, the ethics office stated in its newsletter that faculty are

spring.

Along with the Rock to Vote Party, both groups have t-shirts that are available for students who are interested.

These two groups may share different ideas, but they both are glad that the other exists.

"I think that it is great, it was kind of funny that for awhile that every year at the SACK fair, we didn't have an RCR booth. I would have people come and ask me where the RCR booth was because they were Republican and wanted to have a group," said Allison.

"I am glad we have two sides to be presented and that Rhodes respects our freedom of speech," said Wise.

not only barred from wearing campaign buttons in the classroom, but also from putting political bumper stickers on their cars and attending political rallies on campus.

In response to the ban on educators wearing campaign buttons, the United Federation of Teachers, on October 10th, filed a lawsuit, claiming the ban violated their right to free speech.

Student Voice

How do you feel about politics on campus?



"Students are really into politics right now because of the election and also because Obama tends to excited younger people. However, when there isn't a major election going on, I think that students, in general, are apathetic about politics."

- Thorne Maginnis ('09)



"A lot of students are just voting for whoever their parents are voting for, but they don't really care about the election. I don't think that most really know or understand the issues that the candidates represent."

- Erica Murrell ('09)



"I think that students have strong political convictions, yet they are afraid to voice their opinions. Even though Rhodes is generally thought of as a conservative environment, there seem to be a lot of Obama supporters; therefore, I think McCain supporters are reluctant to voice their opinions because they feel like they are the minority."

- Mack Zalin ('09)



**We know what you're craving...
Big Eat, Tiny Price!**

PZONE ONLY \$5.99 ^{2 for} \$10.99 377

Choose from 3 flavors:
CLASSIC, MEATY or PEPPERONI

OR

Mia

3 OR MORE MEDIUM
1-Topping Pizza Mia™ Pizzas

For Only **\$5 EACH**

EVERY DAY

Delivery/Carryout

901-362-3333

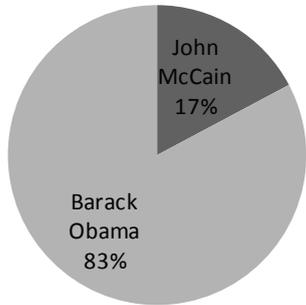
Order online @ www.pizzahut.com

Limited Time Offers. Limited delivery area. Delivery minimums and charges may apply.
© 2008 Pizza Hut, Inc. RPCG2420_RHODES

Mock Election Results

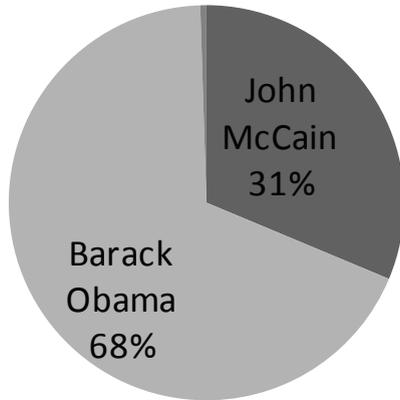
In response to the question "Which presidential candidate do you think the majority of voters at Rhodes College will choose?" the campus as a whole said:

Respondents who voted for John McCain said:



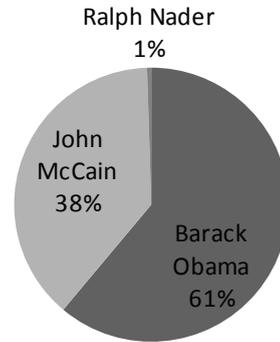
Numerical Breakdown
 Respondents who voted for John McCain and believed Barack Obama will win the majority of votes on campus: 154
 Respondents who voted for John McCain and believed John McCain will win the majority of votes on campus: 32
 Total number of respondents who voted for John McCain: 186

Ralph Nader
1%



Numerical Breakdown
 Respondents who believed Barack Obama will win the majority of votes on campus: 450
 Respondents who believed John McCain will win the majority of votes on campus: 206
 Respondents who believed Ralph Nader will win the majority of votes on campus: 3
 Total number of respondents: 659

Respondents who voted for John McCain said:



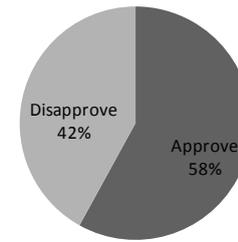
Numerical Breakdown
 Respondents who voted for Barack Obama and believed Barack Obama will win the majority of votes on campus: 245
 Respondents who voted for Barack Obama and believed John McCain will win the majority of votes on campus: 154
 Total number of respondents who voted for Barack Obama: 401

Approval ratings for President Bush

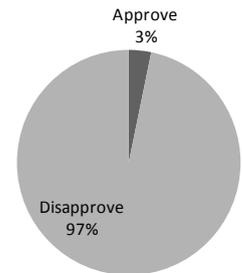
In response to the question "Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as President?" these results were collected:

	Approve	Dissapprove
McCain Voters	101	73
Obama Voters	13	389
Other Voters	10	62
Total	124	524

Approval ratings for Bush among respondents who voted for McCain:



Approval ratings for Bush among respondents who voted for Obama:



The Methodology for the Mock Election

The Sou'wester 2008 Mock Presidential Election was conducted with the assistance of the Rhodes Information Services Department. The mock election was administered through Survey Monkey, an online polling site. The link to the mock election was sent out through email to entire student body as well as all faculty and staff members. The survey was open from 10:30 a.m. on 10/23 to 11:59 p.m. on 10/28.

Anonymous responses from the survey

In response to the question "Why did you choose to vote for your particular candidate?"

- A female professor who voted for John McCain wrote, "views on abortion; views on the need for a spending freeze; views on the war in Iraq; experience level and overall true patriotism- unlike osama."
- A female junior who voted for Barack Obama wrote, "Americans wish the nation would head in a different direction and Obama can get us there."
- A female senior who voted for Barack Obama wrote, "I'm a conservative, but I just don't trust McCain to follow a truly conservative agenda. Obama is in no way shape or form a conservative either, but Bush is the antithesis of what true conservatism is. Obama seems at least benign and I trust that he will do the most good and will stop the country from going in the current direction."
- A male sophomore who is undecided wrote, "I don't like either viable candidate, and I really dislike their VP choices. National Security and Iraq are important to me as an ROTC cadet who will be personally affected by Iraq policy and other wars we decide to start."
- A male senior who voted for John McCain wrote, "Because he is a seasoned veteran, not a rookie."

ATTENTION CLASS OF 2012!



- Want to take on a campus issue?
- Want to develop leadership skills hands-on?
- Want to get to know other like-minded Rhodes students?

Then **ENVISION 2009** is for YOU!

For more information and applications:
 Student Affairs Public Folder in the Student Community File Server

Applications due Friday, November 14th, 2008
 Interested in being a mentor? E-mail selea@rhodes.edu

Memphis Literacy Corps



Individualized, fast-paced tutoring to help overage for grade elementary students reach reading proficiency on TCAP

- Tutoring Dates:** February 2-April 17, 2009
 *Excludes Spring Break March 16-20
- Tutor Pay:** \$10.00 per hour, 6 hours a week, for 10 weeks
- Training Dates:** January 20 or 21, 3:00-6:00 pm
 January 17 or 24, 8:30-11:30 am
 East High School
 *MLC Tutors choose one session to attend.



Barbara Dawson, Memphis Literacy Corps
 2597 Avery Avenue, Room 208, Memphis, TN 38112
 (901) 416-5732 Phone or (901) 416-5880 Fax

Memphis City Schools does not discriminate in its programs or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, handicap/disability, sex or age. For more information, please contact the Office of Equity Compliance at (901) 416-6670.

An interview with a fifth of Old Crow (Medicine Show)

Bassist Morgan Jahnig of Old Crow Medicine Show was kind enough to take some time after the Thursday's show to sit down and answer some of my questions.

Ralph MacDonald: How long have you been together?

Morgan Jahnig: We're going on ten years.

RM: Any new albums coming out?

MJ: Well the new album came out last month and it's doing great. We're really proud of it; it's probably the most creative album yet. All but one of the 13 songs are original songs, which is new for us.

RM: So what were your thoughts on the crowd, I'm sure y'all are used to bigger crowds than this. Any disappointment at all?

MJ: I mean 1200 people go here? We're used to a heavy drinking crowd and we come into a place serving virgin daiquiris. We were a little concerned about it but the crowd had a great time and we had a great time and there was never a time during the show that we were worried about it.

RM: Everybody wants to be a rock star, so give me a typical day for a rock star.

MJ: Typical day in a rock star's life is not glamorous. Usually the bus rolls at 10 o'clock and we're on it. Usually we get to the next town around 1:00, get to walk around town for a couple of hours, sound check, eat dinner, play the show, back on the bus, on to the next town.

RM: Any plans while you're in Memphis?

MJ: Actually we're rolling at three o'clock tonight. We need to be in Covington, Kentucky tomorrow. That's how it's usually done, roll all night, wake up in the next town. We see a lot of dumpsters behind clubs, a lot of alleyways. If there's a dumpster behind a club in this nation, we've probably smoked a cigarette by it.

RM: So what has your tour been like?

MJ: We started off, did the Northeast. This October has been just little three day pops and then we go out West in November for about two and a half weeks. Then the whole music industry kind of shuts down for the winter, kids are away from schools, it's too cold for music festivals, and people are spending all their money on Christmas. Not a lot of touring. But next year we're doing Florida and Texas in the spring, we're going to Australia for the first time. Maybe go back to Europe. That's a little glamorous...

RM: Where are you all from?

MJ: We're from all over the country. I'm from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Ketch is from Virginia, Gilbert's from Louisiana, Willie's from New York State, Kev's from Massachusetts?

M: Do you have a wide variety of musical influences?

MJ: Just whatever a 13 year old growing up in the 90's would listen to growing up...

RM: Nirvana?

MJ: Nirvana, AC/DC, a little bit of everything. Prince, Michael Jackson, everything's in there. I think we all got turned to country at some point and followed those roots back to the string band music and minstrel music of the early American folk scene and before. Fiddles and banjos and how all that music has influenced today's music more than anyone would ever believe. That's why one of the reasons that we play it, to remind people that



www.googleimages.com

all this music that is on old 78's and lost in people's basements and lost on people's porches we get to breathe a little more life back into it.

RM: So you would classify yourselves as country?

MJ: I think so. I mean American roots music, there's definitely some country but there's also some blues, and there's also junk band music and fiddle tunes. It's all in there.

RM: Would you consider that your main message, trying to bring back this music?

MJ: It's part of that. I think it's more about that these old themes of drugs and heartbreak and drinking and traveling, railroads, all these beautiful American images that have permeated American literature and music and poetry since our beginning. Those things are all still relevant. You listen to the cocaine songs of the 20's, we sing those songs. There's a song on our new album called "Methamphetamine," about the meth labs that are basically the new moonshine of the South. None of these ideas ever go away, they just get re-written and re-interpreted. It's important not to forget these things and they come up a little less in popular music.

RM: So despite some Northern roots in your band, you seem to sing primarily Southern songs.

MJ: Well I think that the reason behind that is the fact that the South is kind of unique in its point of view. It's a little more straightforward and a little more laid back. So while we're not necessarily singing Southern songs, you go up to hills of New York State you will hear the same stuff that you'll hear in Alabama. It's about the common man and the music that it represents, the actual people.

RM: Do you consider yourselves political?

MJ: A bit. We all definitely have opinions and we're definitely for certain things but we don't try to push anything on anyone.

RM: Well it's a political issue we're about to put out so go ahead and push for a second if you don't mind.

MJ: I think young people are going to get out and vote more than in any election in the past fifty years. I've already cast my ballot since I'm not going to be in Nashville on

election day and I strongly urge everybody to get out there and make sure we don't have another 8 years of the same bullshit that we've been going through. I think it's really important for everybody to have an opinion and to get out there and voice that opinion, whether you're a steel worker or a banker.

RM: Usually the South is very conservative so I'm actually pretty surprised to hear your endorsement...

MJ: I think what it is, is that...I mean, the South is pretty middle class outside of Atlanta. It's not really the high money and the high interests in the southeast. You get a lot of iron workers, it's all work-

ing class. There's a specific candidate that's speaking to the middle class.

RM: It's amazing how that has kind of reversed in the last couple years.

MJ: It is. If the election swings the way I want it to, it's really going to wake up the conversation in America. For the first time

ever, we're going to have a black person in the White House. I think if that happens then there are so many disenfranchised people of all races who will feel empowered and will have to change the way they think because it's not just some rich white guy telling them what to do anymore. I hope it changes the conversation, and I hope it makes people proud again. I think that's something we've lost, the right kind of pride. After 9/11, and after everything that happened and we pulled together, for something to so unify a country and then almost immediately pulled it apart—not only here but in the eyes of the world. That's astonishing that we allowed that to happen...it is a time of hope, a time when if things go the way I want them to go...I don't really know where to go with that.

RM: Maybe I can help, I read about the how people around the world are stunned that a black person has a chance to be the President of the United States because they see black people as almost second-class citizens in the U.S. It really changes how they see the United States.

MJ: It should. It should bring up our street cred big time. I've absolutely had that thought. It's not going to change the conversation in America but all over the world about what America means and what it always has meant and what we have lost sight of.

"I DON'T WANT TO RISK GRADUATE SCHOOL ADMISSION OR LANDING A GREAT JOB!"

FACT: 87.7% of Rhodes students have never been in trouble with police, residence hall or college authorities as a result of drinking or drug use

Core Alcohol and Drug Survey, Fall 2007 n=554

Religulous preposterous

By John Bryant
Staff Writer

There should be a comfortable distance between my critic's eye and my religious heart. But while I watched Bill Maher's *Religulous*, a documentary that insists what I hold dear to be ridiculous, I found the two uncomfortably colliding. Now, I do not mind dissenting opinion. I cherish debate and discussion. If my worldview is worth keeping, then it will not crumble under dispute and criticism. But what I find odious, positively putrid, is the outright dishonesty of this movie, the self-satisfied smugness that invades the film and eviscerates the possibility of true discussion among the opposed. Bill Maher's *Religulous* is the worst kind of documentary, posing itself as an inquiry and discussion of religion but inevitably betrays itself into the hands of stale rhetoric and distortion. But lest I fall into the same hole, I am bandaging up my wounded religiosity and will, calmly as I can, tell you why *Religulous* is not an assault on religion, but an assault on the viewer's intelligence.

Bill Maher's companions on his journey are rationality and doubt. They are the products he markets, weapons he totes with him. In a constantly looping chorus to the audience he calls his the religion of "I don't know." Now that is a noble goal, to disarm religion with rationality, doubt, and discussion, and if he had held to these precepts I would have been more open to the movie's message. But by the movie's end, these noble goals are revealed to be a dishonest charade, a thin guise for the reality of Maher's belief that religion is stupid and that God does not exist. Such opinions are fine, but he should have made them apparent

at the beginning, rather than having them bleed through in his smug, ironic disdain for everyone he encounters. The unique cadence of his interviews destroys his claim of "discussion" and "rationality." He begins his interviews with various religious leaders with a sickening innocence, saying "I just want to ask a few questions." The interviewees, unaware and unprepared for his deception, are baited by a few simple questions, and are caught off-guard and skewered by Maher's acrid wit. He preys upon the unprepared religious zealot's answers and, with the help of sneaky de-contextualized edits, reveals them to be fools. By disarming unprepared minds, he assumes that since they cannot give a reliable answer, a reliable answer must not exist. If he had really wanted the answers to the questions he would have sought those who could answer them, not the radicals and the uninformed he interviews. In choosing to interview these radicals operating on the periphery of mainstream religion, he assumes that in attacking religion's fringes, he has struck religion's heart.

But given the movie's serious theme, the tone is remarkably light-hearted. It is a comedy, made by the same people who gave us *Borat*. Yet the ending assumes too much of itself. It employs a jarring switch in tone (in which a sweeping montage of destruction to the background of some generic dirge suddenly plummets the movie into ultra-seriousness) and Maher begins a rant with a self-righteousness that is unearned. He has not really mounted an attack on religion, merely menaced and chided a few religious caricatures and assumed that the rest is as equally grotesque.

Even nature says
it's time to change colors.



Midtown
2111 Madison Avenue
Overton Square
901-276-1405
Monday thru Friday: 9am -8pm
Saturdays till 6pm

Highlighting

\$72.00

Starting At
Fantastic Sams

Longer hair extra.

Designer Cut & Style

\$23.99

Precision Cut
Fantastic Sams

Longer hair extra.

Fantastic Color

\$52.00

Certified CHI Colorists
Fantastic Sams

Longer hair extra.

Fantastic Sams
HAIR SALONS

Most salons independently owned and operated. (SM)2008 Fantastic Sams Franchise Corporation www.FantasticSams.com

Halloween just got **trickier.**

Black — Cat Bash —

10.31.08

7:30 to 11 p.m.

\$13 per person

Ages 21 & over only

Must present valid I.D. upon entry

**Halloween night starts at the Memphis Zoo.
Join us for a frightfully fun night under
the stars.**

- Costume contest
- DJ provided by DJ Dingo Entertainment
- Wine & beer for purchase

Tickets are limited. Buy tickets online at memphiszoo.org.



A plea to the BCS

By **Ralph MacDonald**
A&E Editor

A plea to the BCS feels a little like a plea to a phlegmatic little man behind a curtain of massive revenue; however, the way the season is beginning to unfold is starting to make me fear yet another uncompetitive championship game.

That being the case, here are the rules I would like to see enacted in the BCS for this year and beyond. While some of these rules may seem impracticable, I feel they, at very least, make sense theoretically.

1. No Big-10 allowed. Sorry Penn State, but the conference has fouled up the last two championship games to an unforgivable extent. Furthermore, the Nittany Lions' non-conference schedule was horrendous and their one big win is going to be a fourth-quarter comeback against OSU. If history has taught me anything, it's that championship-caliber teams kick the crap out of Tressel's group of choke-artists.

2. One loss in the Big 12/SEC > One loss for USC. Due to the quality of their schedule, Texas and Alabama are in constant danger of falling. And, both will have to play an additional conference championship game that USC gets a pass on. Even if USC did have to play a championship game, it would be against a second-rate team in a conference that has been embarrassed by opponents in the Big 10, SEC, ACC and, most extensively, the Mountain West Conference. Besides, the one big win is against an Ohio State team that, again, is known for crapping the bed in big games.

3. Throw a monkey wrench into the whole

damn system. It is ridiculous that the weaker Big 10 and Pac 10 conferences do not have to play a championship game while the ultra-competitive conferences like the SEC and Big 12 do. The chance for an extra loss against a guaranteed tough opponent should not be limited to the conferences that already have a plethora of tough games.

4. Go ahead and throw another wrench—the Big 10 needs a twelfth team in order to have a championship game, and I would like to nominate Notre Dame. Watching the Irish coast into the Sugar Bowl two years ago with nine non-quality wins was disheartening, and it hurts the credibility of college football when they allow tradition to play such a large role in the bowl selection process.

5. Disenfranchise the Big 10 and Pac 10 commissioners. The best way to fix the BCS is to destroy it and replace it with a play-off. But, the commissioners of two of the weakest BCS conferences are against such a plan. Why? Because it would destroy the traditional and historic rivalry between the Pac-10 and Big-10 in the Rose Bowl, by using the Rose Bowl as a play-off game and rotating it with the other BCS games. That, at very least, is the stated objection. The real objection is that BCS games are a guaranteed seven-figure payday for the schools, and the conference as a whole gets a cut of the bowl profits. The end of a Pac-10/Big-10 rivalry bowl means non-deserving teams like Illinois will not get paid big bucks to go get clobbered by legitimate programs.

The new Gators

By **Zack Walker**
Staff Writer

It has always been a well-known fact that Florida's Percy Harvin is near unstoppable—but who knew Florida had four Percy Harvins? Just a few weeks ago, Coach Urban Meyer didn't even know it.

In the Gators shocking loss to Ole Miss, the real Harvin, the only one anyone knew about, was dazzling. He zigged and zagged for 82 rushing yards, 186 receiving yards, and two touchdowns. Unfortunately, he was the only one zigging and zagging. The other three Harvin clones—Brandon James, Jeffrey Demps, and Chris Rainey—looked on from the bench. The trio had only five touches combined.

The moral of the story was clear: you can't win a National Championship, or maybe even an SEC championship, with only one Percy Harvin. Lucky Gators...they had three more lying around.

The sting of the embarrassing loss must have sharpened Meyer's senses. At some point during practice that week, he had an epiphany. He decided to experiment against poor Arkansas—he would unleash his other three Harvins.

As a result, Rainey had 10 carries for 103 yards, Demps had seven carries for the same amount, James got a few carries and caught a few passes, and the real Harvin was brilliant, as usual. The Gators routed the Razorbacks 38-7. But more importantly, a new team was born.

These new Gators have since gone on to pulverize two more opponents. The first one is particularly painful for me to write about—they embarrassed my Tigers 51-21. Prior to the game, LSU had allowed a total of only 276 rushing yards. The Harvin, Demps, James and Rainey Gang rung up 265.

To save Kentucky fans the embarrassment, I won't even mention the score of that match-up. If you don't know, trust me, it was bad.

The bottom line is that this new Florida team is unstoppable. Speed is everything in football, and they have more than they know what to do with. The Gators won't lose another game, and if they get the chance to play in the national championship—it's theirs.

Trick-or-treating for hunger

By **Onalee Carson**
Sports Editor

Monday, October 27th, the Football team embarked on their "Trick-or-Treat for Hunger" campaign, benefiting the Memphis Food Bank. "We all load up and go door to door in the neighborhood to collect food cans," said co-coordinator and senior defensive end Jonathan Holt.

"Trick-or-Treat for Hunger" is part of what Holt calls the Football Philanthropy Organization. The Football Philanthropy Organization was established three years ago by one of the senior football players in an effort to involve the team in the local community, engaging them in opportunities to assist the less fortunate. Under this name, the football team coordinates several community service projects each year including work in the Hollywood-Springdale area.

"The reason we like doing [Trick-or-Treat for Hunger] is because, as football players, we don't have that much free time between the frequent practices and meetings with coaches; we have power in numbers. With so many guys, we can hit a whole neighborhood in thirty minutes," said Holt.

Just because the guys may not have as much time to participate in a more time-consuming project doesn't mean they don't take this trick-or-treating seriously. Participating in the project is on a strictly volunteer basis, and the team was definitely not lacking in man power.

"It was our day off so we knew [the players] could do it. If they couldn't make it, we asked that they contribute some cans on their own. Everyone was pretty willing to help," said junior defensive back and co-coordinator Andy Boucher.

The team's strength in numbers truly paid off. The team will be donating 736 cans to the Memphis Food Bank as a result of Monday's trick-or-treating. If you are interested in increasing the donations for the "Trick-or-Treat for Hunger" campaign, you can contact Jonathan Holt (holja@rhodes.edu) or Andy Boucher (bouab@rhodes.edu) or you can place your nonperishable in the drop-off box by the Rat's front entrance.



Onalee Carson/The Sou'wester

The Rhodes Football Philanthropy Organization helps tackle hunger in the community.

The Firebird
The Orpheum Nov 1-2

Just for Rhodes students, faculty and staff—purchase up to two \$35 tickets for only \$7 each when you call the Box Office at 737-7322.

BALLET MEMPHIS
SEEING IS BELIEVING

FedEx AutoZone
balletmemphis.org 901.737.7322