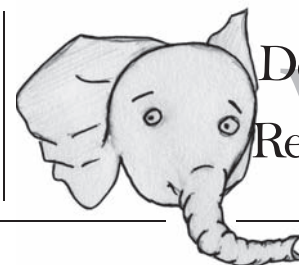


Samuel L. Jackson
in
Longview
for Obama

On the Campaign Trail

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THE FLARE

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The Award-Winning Newspaper of Kilgore College — Established 1936

Aging one leap at a time

Student turns 9 today

ANNA KATZKOVA
Page Editor

Some of us love them, some hate them, but we all have them every year – our birthdays. And there are some who are fortunate to be young all their lives. Charles McDonald is one of those people. He has been living for 36 years, but because this is a leap year he is going to celebrate his ninth birthday today, Feb. 29.

"I haven't reached voting age yet," he said smiling.

He grew up in the small town of Kelsey, about five miles west of Gilmer and attended Harmony School there.

"It's interesting to be born on the 29th, but when I was younger it wasn't as much fun," McDonald said. "Other kids thought it was strange. They couldn't understand it, since everybody else had a birthday every year."

The astonishment others have toward his date of birth has continued into adulthood.

"When I was in a hospital once, a nurse refused to register me on the 29th," he remembered. "She did not believe me, even though it was on my license. She did not know there was a February 29th."

Usually he celebrates on the 28th, but this year he actually gets to have a party on the right date.

"People look at you like you sound crazy," McDonald said and laughed. "I always get those strange reactions when I tell them I get to have a birthday this year."

Regardless his birth date being different he loves it.

"It is a distinguishing fact, a unique definition," he said. "And I'll be young forever."

McDonald is also hoping to soon have another reason to celebrate. For the past few months McDonald has been studying Bulgarian, because he and his wife are considering adopting a Bulgarian child.

"I met Vince (KC student from Bulgaria), I liked him and we discussed adoption," McDonald said. "He told me about the orphanages in Bulgaria, how bad the situation is and how overcrowded they are."

McDonald wants to be able to adopt



Lynn Ezell/THE FLARE

Charles McDonald, Gilmer freshman, is celebrating his ninth birthday today. He was born on a leap year so despite the life experience he may gain, he will remain forever young.

an older child if an infant is not possible.

"I figure the odds are the child is not going to speak English," McDonald said.

He enjoys learning the new language.

"Spanish is difficult, but Bulgarian comes easy. Maybe because I have more desire to learn it," he said.

He dropped out of high school in the ninth grade, taught himself and earned his GED. After working in construction in the oil field for 14 years he is back in school.

"After an injury in 2003 and a wreck on the

job in 2007 I could not do any more physical work," he said. "I think I'm too young to go on disability, so I came to school."

Now, he is an occupational safety and health major and hopes to help people, while working as an inspector for the oil field. Even at nine he has had quite a bit of life experiences.

"I got two on-the-job injuries, that could have been prevented," he said. "It is easier to show someone after what happened to me and teach people how not to get hurt."

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Grad deadline March 1

MEGAN O'CONNOR
Page Editor

March 1 is the deadline to apply for May graduation. Whether a student wishes to participate in a ceremony or not, the student must apply for graduation.

Students can apply by going to www.kilgore.edu and logging on to "Campus Connect". Once logged in, the student should click on the "student information" tab. The "graduation application" link will be toward the bottom of the list.

According to Staci Martin, registrar, if the application is not turned in by March 1 the student will not receive a degree or certificate for this semester and will have to wait until May 1 to apply for Summer graduation.

oconnmeg6052@go.kilgore.edu

Go Green meeting March 4

SARA KNIGHT
Executive Editor

KC is on the green trail. Jeff Howell, Kilgore city manager, will speak at an "Operation Go Green" meeting 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4, in the Devall Room, in the Devall Student Center.

This is the second "Operation Go Green" meeting that KC has held so far. The topic is Mission 002: Paper. Howell will discuss forming a city/college partnership in the battle against paper waste on campus and around Kilgore.

According to Lee Littlefield, graphic artist and Operation Go Green creator, one goal is to make KC a recognized green institution in the next 10 years.

The meeting will start by investigating what KC can do in the battle against paper waste, then what the city of Kilgore can do. Those in attendance will also discuss getting a grant to purchase recycling receptacles or institutional sized bins, finding ways for KC to create a paper-waste management system, and building a partnership between Kilgore and the college that can benefit both.

Littlefield said the meeting is open to all who wish to attend, and any contributions to the discussion will be welcome. All who come should bring their own lunches.

knigsara3010@go.kilgore.edu



Adrienne Ballow/THE FLARE

From left: KC employees Jackie Fout, Sharlene Robinett and Cecelia Sanders are retiring today. They all said they have no regrets and will miss KC.

Three employees bid farewell

Three KC employees are retiring today after 60 accumulative years of service to KC. Jackie Fout is leaving after 27 years of working in KC, Sharlene Robinett after nine and Cecelia Sanders after 24.

Jackie Fout

Jackie Fout began work at KC in 1981, in the Registrar's Office, where she was in charge of student records for 10 years. She spent three years working as the test administrator and lastly she worked in purchasing. In between those jobs, she took a four-year stint in a job outside of KC.

She said that watching the advancement of the college has been one of the most rewarding things in her life, other than her husband and children.

"I've seen it (KC) come from the dark ages almost to where it is all computer oriented," Fout said as she laughed.

Her daughter graduated from KC in 1990, followed

by her son in 1991.

Fout will miss most the people she works with and the students.

"I have made so many friends and worked with so many great people," Fout said.

Fout feels good about the work she has done here.

"Even though I don't teach, I indirectly help with students' education. I supply the teachers with the materials they need to teach," she said.

After she retires, Fout plans to travel to England to visit her mother's family she has not seen in 20 years. After that, she will spend more time enjoying being a grandmother.

Fout also plans to stay involved in the community. One big thing that she is involved with is the Relay for Life. She is the co-chair of the event. This is the sixth year that Kilgore has participated in the Relay. The past five have raised about a half million dollars for the American Cancer Society, according to Fout.

See Retirees, Page 2



Tyler Bond
Palestine freshman

Major: General studies
Favorite Web site... youtube.com.

If I had \$100, I would... buy groceries.

If I had 24 Hours to live... I would go to New York to see a Broadway musical.

If I could change one thing about myself it would be... my hair to be straight, since now it is very curly.

Three things I would take to a deserted island are... knife, i-pod, Bible.

If I could travel through time I would go to... before I went into foster care.

In 10 years I will... be a music producer with a

Face in the Crowd

A weekly glance at a person on campus

degree from KC.
My advice to everyone is... be happy with yourself, never let others put you down.
My hidden talent is... I can sing and am in the KC choir.
A defining moment that changed my life is... when my sister and I split up and I went into foster care.
Right now I would rather be... with my sister in Needville, Texas.
If I could have a super power, it would be... to fly.
One person I talk to every day... my sister through MySpace or text message.

Say when?

Feb. 29 -
March 7

Friday, Feb. 29

- Happy Leap Year
- Cecelia Sanders retirement party 2-3:30 p.m. in Devall Room
- UIL One-act play clinic 2-5 p.m. in Dodson Auditorium

Saturday, March 1

- Graduation application deadline online at the campus connect on kilgore.edu
- Keyboard Orchestra concert 7:30 p.m. in Devall Student Center Ballroom
- Runnin' Rangers vs. Navarro 4 p.m. in Corsicana

Monday, March 3

- Last day for refund, scholarships, pell grant checks available in Cashier's office. Checks mailed after this date.

Tuesday, March 4

- PTK Meeting 12:30 p.m. in SS215
- Operation Go Green meeting 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Devall Room
- Lady Rangers vs. Lon Morris College 5:30 p.m. in Masters Gym
- Runnin' Rangers vs. Lon Morris College 7:30 p.m. in Masters Gym

Thursday, March 6

- KC Jazz Ensemble concert 7:30 p.m. in Devall Student Center Ballroom

Friday, March 7

- Next Issue of THE FLARE

UIL one-act clinic Friday

MEGAN ARMS
Staff Writer

Nine area high schools will be on campus Friday, Feb. 29, for a UIL one-act preparation clinic. This clinic serves as the entry point for the schools' one-act teams into UIL competition. However, the clinic is not a competition, but a chance for the students to hone their performing skills,

and be critiqued by Kathy Barber, theatre instructor.

After performing the UIL-approved plays, students and other representatives from the school will be able to ask questions on performance aspects and Barber will give her professional opinion and advice.

KC theatre students will also be involved. They will run the theatre area, unload

production items and set up before each performance. About half of the current theatre students participated in the clinic last year as visiting high school students. After visiting the campus they decided to attend KC and pursue theatre. According to Barber, the clinic being a great recruitment tool is another reason KC will continue to host it.

"It's necessary for Kilgore College to do anything to support local high school programs, and help them grow," Barber said. "Plus, we get to share our enthusiasm for theatre with these young people."

The entry fee the participating high schools pay for this clinic generates income for theatre scholarships minus the critic's fee. But this year, Barber is the

lone judge and she will not charge a critic's fee, instead appropriating all the proceeds to scholarships.

Since the clinic proves beneficial to the theatre program and the high schools involved, Barber invites all local high schools to attend the clinic next year.

For more information, contact Barber at 903-983-8126.

armsmega2464@go.kilgore.edu



Students practice fencing in Kathy Barber's kinesiology class. The class meets 9 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Turner Physical Education Building.

Revels tickets go on sale March 26

Rangerette Revels tickets go on sale March 26. The theme for this year is "Lost in the Library."

Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, April 9-12 in Dodson Auditorium. Tickets can be purchased from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday the Rangerette Revels Box Office located on the first floor of the Rangerette Gym at the south entrance.

Students can attend the Wednesday night performance for free, with a current KC I.D. They can either pick up a ticket at the box office or in Dodson Auditorium the night of the Wednesday show.

Rangerette Revels is the annual variety show that showcases the 70-member dance/drill team.

Tickets are \$20 each and all seats are reserved. To purchase tickets by phone (with a credit card), call 903-983-8179.

-Lana Phillips
phillana3875@go.kilgore.edu

Keyboard orchestra hosts free concert Saturday

LANA PHILLIPS
Staff Writer

The KC Keyboard Orchestra is having a concert 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1, in the Devall Student Center Ballroom. The

performance is free and open to the public.

The keyboard orchestra will feature some of its own arrangements. The group will be under the direction of Sandra Siler.

Works of composer, Dennis Mauricio of Chula Vista, Calif., will also be featured in the concert.

Mauricio specializes in technology arts and teaches at Hilltop High School. Mauricio

has taught numerous courses involving the combination of music and technology. He is an author, composer, arranger and teacher.

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Retirees From Page 1

She is president of the Kilgore branch of the American Cancer Society, which raises money for patient services, cancer education, research and other things to make dealing with cancer as easy as possible for the patient.

Fout said that cancer treatment is getting better. She survived cancer about 20 years ago.

"It is not easy today, but it is still better than what it was," Fout said.

Her work with the American Cancer Society is personal for Fout. She has lost her mother, grandmother, and four friends from high school to cancer.

"I have three granddaughters. I don't want them to have to go through that," she said.

-Megan O'Connor
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Sharlene Robinett

Today is full of mixed emotions for Sharlene Robinett.

She is retiring after working for 27 years in education including the nine years that she spent in KC as an administrative assistant to the president.

"I don't have any regrets. I love my job; I love the people I work with," Robinett said. "It feels good (to retire), but it's also a little scary. It was a hard decision to leave. Everything

about my job is good. I will miss the people and my beautiful office."

Robinett's favorite part of the job was making sure the office ran smoothly, and interacting with the nine members of the KC Board of Trustees, the public, students and staff.

Robinett has enjoyed every aspect of her job, except for perhaps one thing.

"Filing is my least favorite thing; I always put it off till last," she said with a laugh.

Robinett has many plans for the new chapter in her life.

She and her husband, Bart, also have a home in South Fork, Colo. Since they both have their pilot licenses, they fly their Bonanza, four and one half to five hours, to Colorado when they have a few days off.

"Flying is my hobby, my passion. I love it!" she said.

They plan to stay in Colorado four to six months of the year now that Robinett is retiring.

Another big change in her life is a career in real estate.

"Real estate is something I have always been interested in and wanted to do, but I never wanted to quit my job in order to sell real estate," she said.

Robinett recently received her real estate license in Colorado and is working toward getting her real estate licence for Texas within the next few months.

"I'm just opening a new chapter in my life and doing something I've never done

before; therefore, it is an exciting time in my life," she said.

-Chelsea Almeter
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Cecelia Sanders

Cecelia Sanders, administrative assistant to the vice president of student development, has devoted her time and energy to KC and its students. In 1984, she began working with the student housing department.

She worked there for 11 years until she moved to student services, where she has spent the remainder of her time at KC.

"I have no regrets, but I am going to miss this," Sanders said.

Sanders has made many friends during her time here. She has seen some of those friends leave for other professions or retire, but she has left positive impressions that will never fade.

"A greater friend and companion during my time at KC I will never know. I will always cherish our times together and will be able to look back and say what a great friend I have in Cecelia Sanders," said Barbara Bass, former KC employee and retiree.

In 1984 Sanders was looking for a job that would allow her

to spend more time with her family. She had to raise three young sons on her own when her first husband, Jim, died after a stroke.

"The students and the time I could spend with my family are what not only brought me here, but also kept me here," Sanders said.

She has had many memorable experiences at KC.

"The Hall of Fame activities are probably some of my favorite experiences, but my all-time favorite would have to be the UIL basketball tournaments that KC would host. Unfortunately they are no longer hosted here," she said.

Sanders said she has also had a lot of fun here.

"Although those were my most memorable, the most fun I have ever had was when I went with Rangerettes to Ireland and New York. Now that was a memorable experience."

After retiring Sanders plans to enjoy life.

"I plan to spend time with my children and grandchildren, and do all the things that I have been wanting to do as frequently as I can. But first I need to clean out my closets," she said. "Though the hardest is going to be leaving my KC family and all the great friends I have made here."

A retirement reception for Sanders will be held 2-3:30 p.m. Feb. 29 in the Devall Room.

-Cameron Johnson
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Ag Club fundraiser a success

The annual Ag Club auction and barbecue on Feb. 23 was a success, surpassing the amount of funds raised last year.

Kendall Koch, Ag Club president, was elated at the results.

"I am very proud of how hard my fellow officers, as well as myself, worked to make this auction possible," she said. "I'm also very thankful for all the generous donations that were made. Without them, our auction would not have happened."

Under the direction of Bob Young, Ag Club sponsor, the organization raised just over \$5,000 in 2007 and over \$7,000 this year.

On Feb. 25, they hosted Texas Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples, who toured the agriculture facilities in Overton.

"This was a great opportunity for our Ag Club, as well as for the farm itself," Koch said. "It's great to be able to show someone like Mr. Staples how we run things and how hard we work to gain the reputation we've earned over the past 15 years."

Staples later spoke at the Area VI FFA Convention held in Dodson Auditorium.

Kendall and Hannah Bryce, Ag Club secretary, will travel to Texas A&M University on Feb. 29, to meet with other junior college ag departments. The summit is taking place to plan the Texas Junior College Agriculture Association Convention, for which Koch serves as second vice president.

The Ag Club Show Team will also attend the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo from March 3-6.

"This is the last show that the team will attend for this year, so I hope to go out with a bang," Koch said.

The Ag Club will also cater meals for the Region XIV Basketball Tournament on March 7-8.

-J.C. Derrick
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'Boom' musical tickets on sale

Ticket sales are steady for Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation's March 8 production of "BOOM" at the auditorium in Kilgore High School. They can be purchased at KHS, Kilgore National Bank and Texas Bank and Trust in Longview, at the corner of Whaley and Green streets.

"BOOM" is a musical comedy based on the history of Kilgore, an oil boom town. Real history is represented through a few characters who are based on real people from that time. It is an original play written by Dr. Dottie Lipscomb Guttry.

About 10 reserved evening seats, priced at \$20 each, remain: four at Kilgore High School and six at Kilgore National Bank. All three locations have general admission tickets, \$10 each, for both the 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday performances.

Anybody interested in a discounted price can attend a dress rehearsal for \$5 at the door. The rehearsal will be uninterrupted, and held the evening before the scheduled performance, 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 7, at the same location.

For more information, e-mail boominkilgore@aol.com.

-Megan Arms
armsmega2464@go.kilgore.edu

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

McCain makes stop in Tyler



A supporter reacts with a thumbs up for Sen. John McCain.



A spectator uses his cell phone to snap a picture of McCain.

★★★★★ STORY BY J.C. DERRICK Staff Writer ★★★★★ PHOTOS BY JACOB ADKISSON Photo Editor ★★★★★

TYLER – East Texas voters were again courted by a major presidential candidate when Sen. John McCain made a campaign stop on Wednesday, Feb. 27, at the Rose Garden Center in Tyler.

McCain gave brief remarks before taking questions in a town hall meeting with those in attendance, which numbered about 1,200 according to the Tyler Fire Marshal's office.

State Sen. Kevin Eltife, a Tyler native, introduced McCain, who took the stage just after 9 a.m. The Arizona Senator loosened up the crowd with a couple of jokes, but quickly set his sights on Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama.

In a Feb. 28 debate with Sen. Hillary Clinton, McCain said Obama indicated he (Obama) would send troops back to Iraq if Al-Qaida attempted to set up a base there after a troop withdrawal.

"I have some news. Al-Qaida is in Iraq. It's called 'Al-Qaida in Iraq,'" said the incredulous McCain. "My friends, if we left, they (Al-Qaida) wouldn't be establishing a base. They'd be taking a country, and I'm not going to allow that to happen."

Terrorism was a recurring theme for McCain, a decorated Vietnam War veteran, throughout the meeting.

"I think it would be nice for President Bush to get a little credit that we have not had another terrorist attack," McCain said to applause. He went on to state his main reason for being in the race was "because we are in a transcendent struggle" against Islamic terrorists.

"Senator Obama and Senator

Clinton said the surge would not work. They were wrong," McCain said. "Setting a date for withdrawal is raising the white flag... I've said many times that I would rather lose an election than lose a war."

McCain answered questions ranging from the economy to immigration to genocide in Darfur, Africa.

He also took a strong stance against nationalized health care.

"I am against mandatory health care," McCain said, inducing more applause. "If you want to know about mandatory health care, go visit with our friends in Canada."

The senator said he wants to, among other things, reward results while emphasizing wellness and fitness.

In response to a question about Ralph Nadar's impact on the presidential race, McCain drew laughter from the crowd when he said he was just happy to no longer be the oldest candidate.

McCain appeared to connect well with the conservative crowd by using his wit, including one time in regard to his military service.

"It doesn't take a lot of talent to get shot down," he said. "I was able to intercept a surface-to-air missile with my own airplane."

Charles Carver, wearing the Purple Heart he earned in Vietnam, was the first person to ask McCain a question at the meeting. Carver said the senator has the experience to get the job done.

"We need someone with solutions to problems and he's the only one that has any solutions. Everybody

else is just bickering, moaning and whining," said Carver, a 65-year-old Tyler resident. "I have fought for my freedom and so has he (McCain)... I want to see a guy that knows what he's talking about."

McCain said this town hall meeting was one of more than 100 in which he had participated since last year, allowing him to hear "the hopes and dreams of Americans."

The format has been credited with reviving his campaign, which many gave up for dead in the summer of 2007 due to serious financial and staff issues.

The 71-year-old senator is now riding a wave of support, which has catapulted him to the verge of locking up the Republican nomination.

Gov. Mike Huckabee, who is still in the race, and Gov. Mitt Romney, who has endorsed McCain, have combined to claim more than 500 delegates. McCain needs 1,191 to win the nomination outright, a number which will be difficult to reach without the 141 delegates at stake in the Texas primary on March 4.

"Texas is a very important state (and) we're still running a hard race," said McCain's national press secretary Brooke Buchanan. "We're going to be campaigning all over the country, but Texas is an important stronghold for Republicans and we need to continue to keep it red."

McCain is currently leading in the polls against Huckabee and Ron Paul, both of whom had supporters waving signs outside the event.

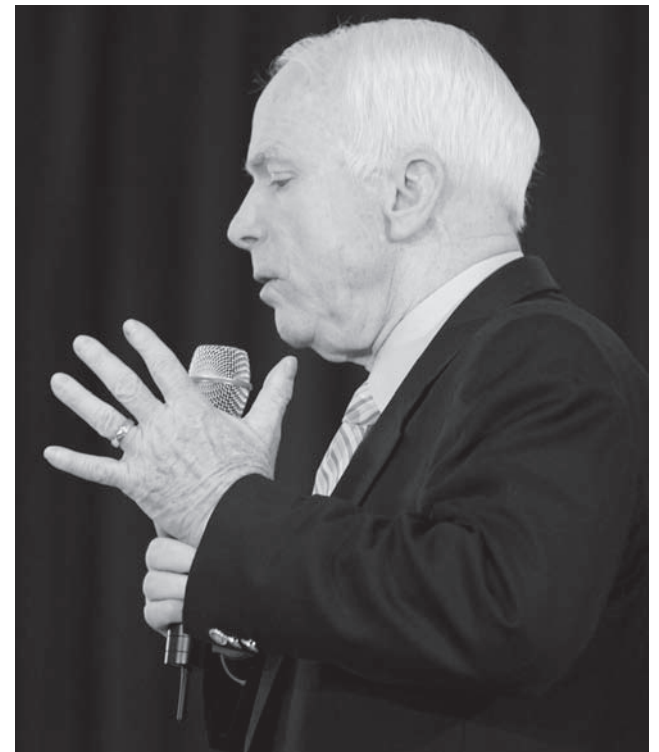
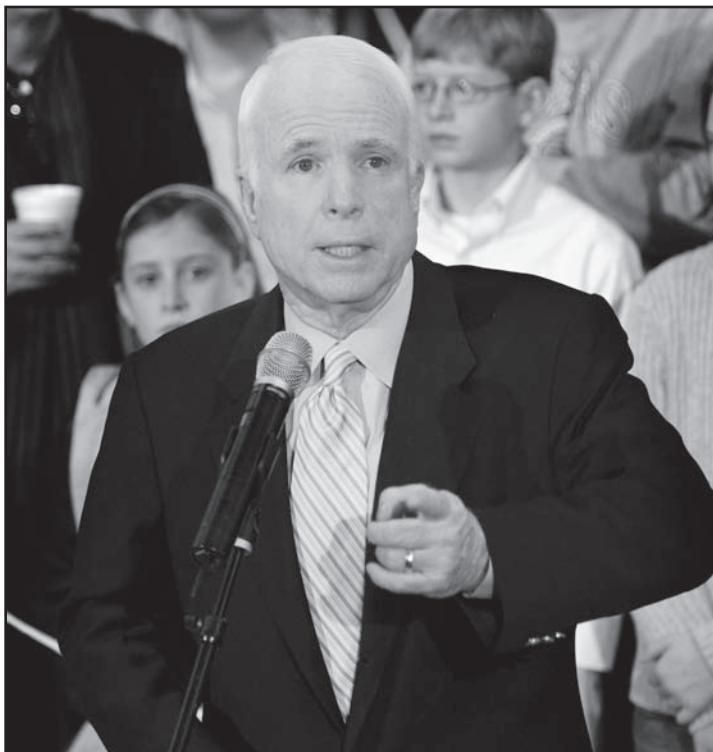


Charles Carver supports McCain as a fellow Vietnam veteran.



A child waves Old Glory at the rally.

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Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain answers questions from the crowd in Tyler on Wednesday, Feb. 27. About 1,200 supporters greeted McCain at the town hall rally.

Samuel L. Jackson rallies for Obama



ABOVE: Actor Samuel L. Jackson speaks to the crowd on behalf of Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama in Longview on Sunday, Feb. 24. Jackson spoke to about 400 people at Obama's campaign headquarters in Longview, located at Eddie Towles Telephone Repair Service and Phone Center.; TOP RIGHT: Jackson shakes hands with an Obama supporter.; BOTTOM RIGHT: A supporter raises a sign endorsing Obama.



SPORTS

4 Friday, February 29, 2008 / The Flare

Rangers' tourney hopes fade away; women lose to Fillies

MEN LOSE 85-78 CONTEST TO PONIES

KYLE SHIPP
Sports Editor

The KC Runnin' Rangers' hopes of reaching the Region XIV Tournament and playing in front of a home crowd were officially shattered Wednesday night as KC lost

an 85-78 contest to the Panola College Ponies in Carthage.

The Rangers refused to concede to the Ponies, cutting into to large Panola leads many times in the game. However, KC was never able to gain the lead, and in the end fell seven points short of the

Ponies.

Panola got off to a very hot start in the contest and led by as many as 17 in the first half, but a strong finish to the first half saw the Rangers only trail by margin of four, 44-40, at the intermission.

In the second half, the Rangers played the role of the annoying bug that just won't go away. The Ponies stretched their lead up to 10 with just over 13 minutes remaining, but an 11-5 run by KC made the score 65-61 in favor of Panola. Panola answered with a small run of its own, and looked like it had put the nail in the coffin with three minutes remaining when Elijah Cotton nailed a jump shot to put the Ponies up 74-65.

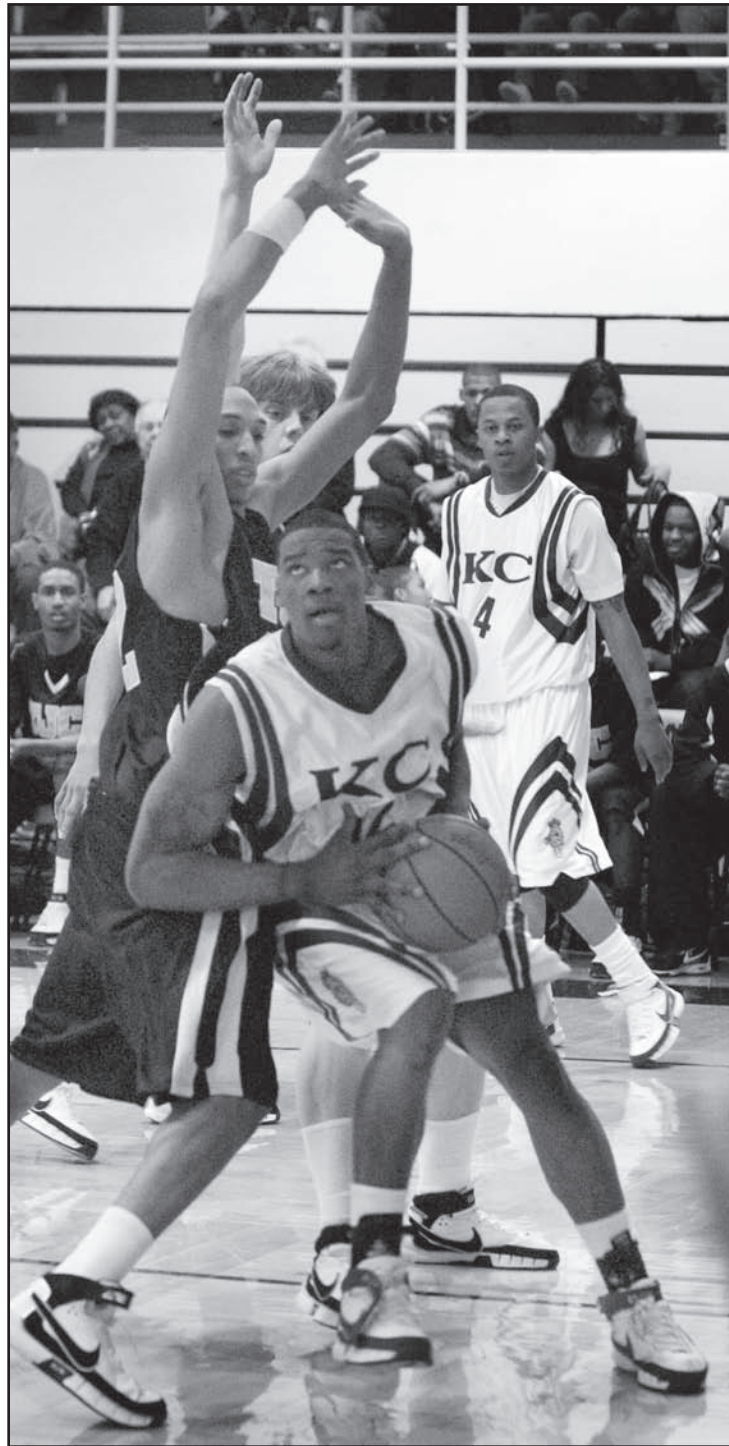
But just like before, the Runnin' Rangers came back swinging over the final minutes. Maurice Foster hit a bucket with 1:28 to cut the Panola lead down to three. Four Panola free throws put them back up head by seven, but an old-fashioned three-point play by Ridge McKeither put the Rangers back into the game once again.

However in the end, Panola's success from the free-throw line sealed the deal, as the Ponies nailed five shots from the charity stripe in the last 20 seconds, winning the game 85-78.

Foster was the leading scorer for KC with 24, while McKeither added 16 and Omar Thomas improved upon his strong play as of late with 14. For Panola, Chris Jones had 22 points, while Justin Dennis helped out with 15, Pappa Oppong with 14 and Cotton with 12.

The Runnin' Rangers now hold a 6-14 conference mark, and have one more road game before finishing the season at home. At 4 p.m. Saturday March 1, KC will travel to Corsicana to take on the Navarro Bulldogs, and then will come back home 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, to host Lon Morris to finish the season.

shippkyle4017@go.kilgore.edu



Jacob Adkisson/ THE FLARE
Ridge McKeither fights through an Apache defender in KC's two-point loss to Tyler Junior College last Saturday, 69-67.

LADIES DROP 74-57 CONTEST TO PANOLA

KYLE SHIPP
Sports Editor

Despite the Lady Rangers being eliminated from playoff contention after last Saturday's loss to Tyler Junior College, the women still had plenty of pride to play for as they traveled to Panola Wednesday night to take on the Fillies. Unfortunately, a second half surge by the Panola Fillies gave the Lady Rangers their fourth straight loss, as they fell 74-57.

The Fillies used an all-out air attack on the Lady Rangers, nailing 13 three-pointers on 37 attempts, with Jasmine Brown hitting seven of the shots from behind the arc.

Brown led the Fillies in scoring with 23 points, while Kim Edmondson had 21 points,

nailling five three-pointers in the process.

Denetra Kellum continues to prove why head coach Roy Thomas is excited to have her return next year, as she led the Lady Rangers in scoring with 19. Nakazi Glover pitched in with 13 points, but they were the only two Lady Rangers to score in double-digits.

In the first half, the Fillies looked like the might pull away from KC early with a 30-20 lead with just a few minutes remaining. However, the Lady Rangers answered with an 11-5 run to end the half, and trailed 35-31 at the intermission.

In the second half, the Fillies' success from three-point range proved to be too much for KC to overcome. Panola's first four buckets of the second half were

from behind the arc. With the Lady Rangers down 41-33 with over 16 minutes remaining, Brown nailed one of her many three-pointers on the night to give Panola a 44-33 lead. The Lady Rangers were never able to get back within single digits.

The Ladies' largest deficit came in the final minute, as a Panola bucket gave them a 74-57 lead, which proved to be the final score.

The loss moved KC's conference record to 4-13. The game was also KC's last road contest of the season, and the Ladies will wrap up their season at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, in Masters Gymnasium.

They will take on Lon Morris, who defeated the Lady Rangers 66-60 earlier this season.

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Jacob Adkisson/ THE FLARE
Nakazi Glover puts up a jump shot in KC's overtime loss to Tyler Junior College last Saturday, 64-63. Glover had 18 points in the game.

Region XIV Men's Standings

TJC	18-2
Paris	16-4
San Jacinto	15-5
Angelina	11-9
Panola	10-10
Blinn	10-10
TVCC	10-10
Navarro	10-10
Lee	7-13
KILGORE	6-14
Jacksonville	5-15
Lon Morris	2-18

Region XIV Women's Standings

TVCC	16-1
Blinn	12-4
Angelina	11-6
Tyler	10-5
Panola	9-7
Jacksonville	6-9
Lon Morris	6-10
Paris	4-12
KILGORE	4-13
San Jacinto	3-13



BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT Kilgore, Texas

March 7-10 at Masters Gymnasium

\$8 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, and KC students and faculty
For more information, visit www.kilgore.edu/xivtournament.asp

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Don't float your votes on shallow seas

The informed voter. A hundred years ago that statement would have been redundant. Sadly, today that statement speaks of an endangered species.

Recently I was at the Longview Trade Days and overheard a woman campaigning for her candidate of choice. As she spoke to this one particular older man, he said, "I am for (Sen. John) McCain. I just think, after all he went through in Vietnam as a prisoner of war, he deserves a shot."

Statements like this drive me positively mad. Don't get me wrong, I have the utmost respect for everybody who has paid the price for my freedom, and especially one who has endured as much as John McCain did. But making a judgment about the next president based solely on his military record is ridiculous.

But the madness doesn't stop there. Other people will vote for Sen. Barack Obama because he is black, Gov. Mike Huckabee because he is a Christian, or Sen. Hillary Clinton because she is a woman.

While there is nothing at all bad about any of these things, but in no way do they make a person ready to lead one of the world's remaining superpowers.

Recently I read an article about a campaign stop by Hillary Clinton in the San Antonio area. A woman was quoted as saying, "I'm not going to lie. It's time we had a woman in there."

I'm telling you, there is a copious amount of these people out there. After all the progress this country has made in the area of eliminating prejudices, it amazes me that we still have so many citizens who would make judgments about a candidate based on something so superficial. Am I the only one who has a problem with that?



J.C. Derrick
Staff Writer

The sad fact is that somewhere along the line we lost common sense in the voting process. People go to the polls based more on how the "feel" rather than their own conviction on the issues of the day.

To be honest, I'm really tired of hearing the old "just go vote" mantra from both sides of the political aisle. I would like to issue a plea: If you don't know what you're talking about, please do *not* go vote!

It makes me sick at my stomach when I hear of people going to the polls without a clue about where the candidates stand on the issues. I'm sure you have heard the same stories as I have about people actually flipping a coin at the polls to determine their vote.

Have we reduced democracy to a coin flip? People have *died* to give us the right to vote.

While I do not completely endorse all the positions held by any of the remaining four mainstream candidates, I do think each of them brings positive and very different things to the table. Obviously, some bring more positives than others. I'm of the opinion that a candidate should have demonstrated the ability to effectively run and lead *something* before running for president.

However, I'm perfectly aware that many disagree with me. Some folks just like the idea of higher taxes, amnesty for illegal aliens and bigger government, so they will vote for a different candidate than I will.

Regardless, the March 4 Texas primary looms ahead. This will probably be one of the only chances in our lifetime for the Lone Star

State to have such a large say in both primary races.

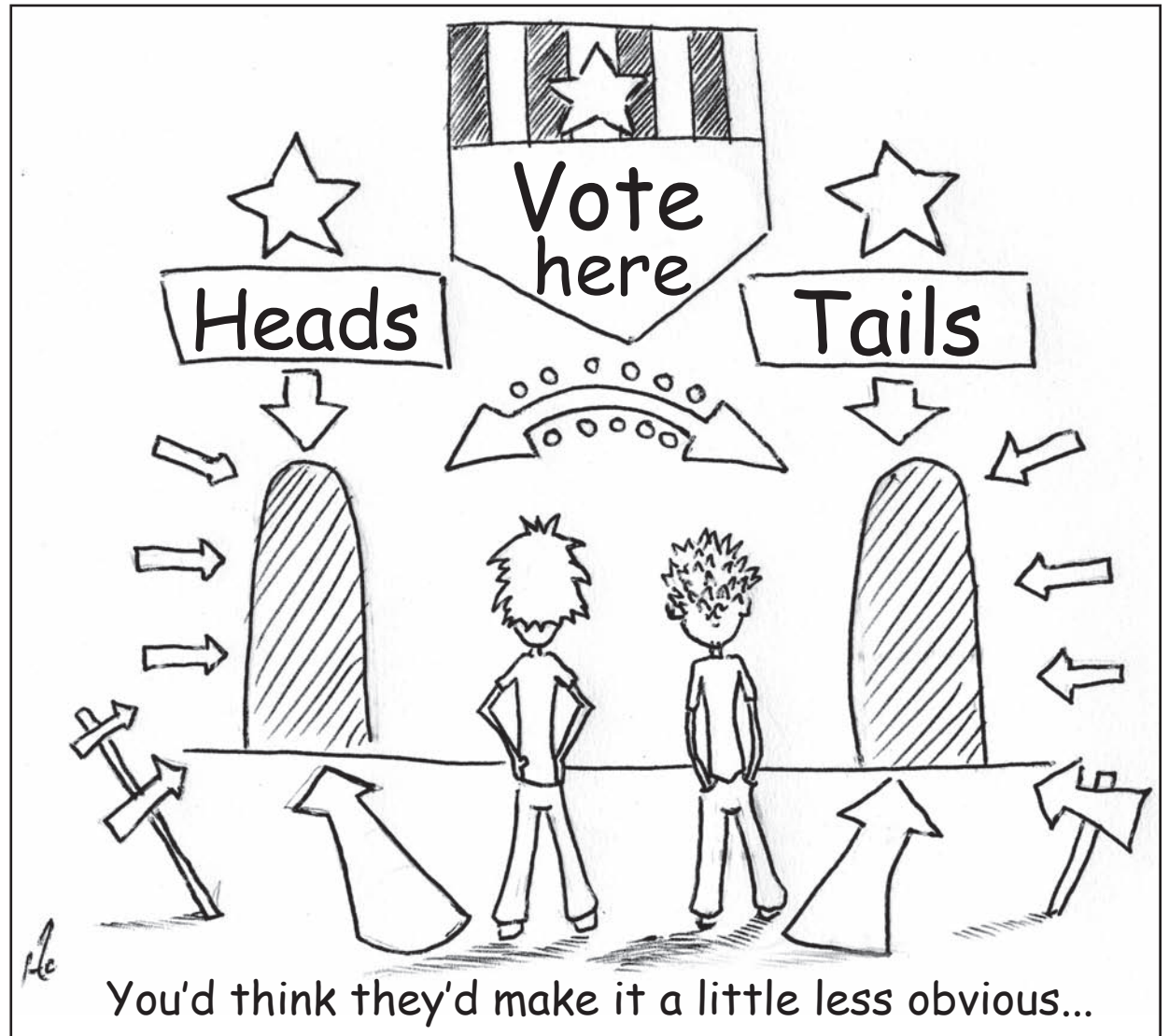
Let's not waste the opportunity. By all means, pick the candidate you like the best, and go vote.

Just do me a favor and know *why* you are

doing it.

J.C. Derrick is a freshman journalism major from Longview.

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Andrew Cantrell/THE FLARE

Our View — Desire to be Enlightened

In this day and age, there is simply no excuse for making uneducated decisions, especially when it comes to selecting a new president.

A massive amount of resources are available for people who want to know any candidate's stance on any issue, but no amount of advertising, no in-depth polling or carefully honed argument can make people "want" to be educated.

We must find within ourselves the desire to seek, and spur ourselves toward understanding the reality of our nation's problems outside the earshot of political spin and bias.

Politicians are infamous for clouding issues with shrewd words and vacant promises and a vast number of U.S. voters are just as infamous for voting for a candidate based upon the labels they assume, rather than the voting records they have accrued.

With the invaluable tool known as the Internet, political research and education require slightly more effort than it takes to toast a bagel, and the benefits of an educated vote are far more bountiful than those of temporary sustenance.

Ontheissues.org is an excellent Web site for researching the official voting

records of any candidate on any issue.

When we open our eyes to the unfolding reality in the world around us, in all of its glories and injustices, it is inevitable that our hearts, long enslaved to the brilliant glow of political façade and entranced by the pleasant distractions of lesser things, will begin to beat again.

The only way that hope in a brighter future will become more than a shiftless dream is when we decide to stop scorning our individual freedom by casting an uneducated vote. We must learn to care, and when we care, vote.

Your View — 50 students polled

Which vote is more important to you?

American Idol 3
Primaries 47



NIKKI EVANS
Burnet
sophomore

“Primaries. It has a lot to do with our future. We have bigger problems than the next best singer.”



BILL ALEXANDER
Arp
sophomore

“Primaries. It actually makes a difference to vote for Presidential primaries.”



KEVIN MITCHELL
Longview
sophomore

“Primaries. The candidates are more encouraging this time.”

Photos by David Wooten/THE FLARE

Education: the answer to stomaching politics

As I watch the news, I constantly feel the bombardment of politicians imploring me to give them an opportunity to run this country.

I feel like I want to vomit, not from anger or disgust over the candidates, well, perhaps some, but I live in America. I understand the political process.

I feel nauseated because every four to eight

years we get tired of one party running things and want to try our fancy at the "other" party.

How long will these endless cycles continue? There are four to five candidates challenging each other and claiming that they are all different, but all we are doing is choosing between a Republican or a Democrat.

If you are comfortable with gay marriage, abortion on demand and someone looking out for the working class, you may want to look at the Democratic candidates. However, the last Democratic candidate cared so much about sustaining his

approval rating that he let a blood-thirsty terrorist go free.

If you desire a party that will be one of principle, unflagging and relentless in its pursuit of morality and traditional marriage, you may want to consider voting for a Republican. However, before harboring right-wing sentiments, consider the recent revelation of shady campaign financing in the Republican ranks.

The point is, every political party has its platform, but how are we to make a wise decision on who we will elect to run this country? Should we vote people in to office because

of their unrelenting loyalty to their party or on the content of their character? When it comes down to it, none of these candidates will stick completely to their party's agenda. They will all enter office and make the same legislative decisions they have made in the past.

The crazy part is no one really knows who this person is. We are giving a complete stranger the freedom to make decisions for our lives. The majority of us will never meet, much less have a conversation with the person we hope becomes the next leader of the free world.

So, what is the best way to

determine who to vote for?

All we can do is critically view what we know about each candidate, regardless of party and, while controlling our gag reflex, make our decision.

To make this process easier for you we have listed the candidates running for office and their platforms on Page 6.

John Eisenring is a freshman communications major from Longview.

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Disclaimer

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The FLARE welcomes any letter to the editor and encourages all readers to use this as a sounding board to express thoughts and opinions on current campus-related topics. We also welcome news or feature ideas. Due to space limitations, letters should be as concise as possible and may still be edited for space. Letters must be signed and include an address and telephone number so that we can verify their authenticity. Letters should be delivered to the newsroom in Communications-Automotive Building, Room 125, mailed to The Flare, 1100 Broadway, Kilgore, TX 75662 or e-mailed to: kc_flare@yahoo.com

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on the Web at www.kilgore.edu/theflare.asp



Information gathered by J.C. Derrick, John Eisenring and Julie Hodnett.

ABORTION: "I support and have always supported passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the right to life. My convictions regarding the sanctity of life have always been clear and consistent, without equivocation or wavering. I believe that Roe v. Wade should be over-turned."

ECONOMY: Supports the Fair Tax, a plan that would eliminate the IRS and replace it with a consumption tax based on wealth. "As Governor of Arkansas, I cut taxes and fees almost 100 times, saving the taxpayers almost \$380 million. I left a surplus of nearly \$650 million, which I urged should go back to the people...Our massive deficit is not due to Americans' being under-taxed, but to the government's over-spending...I support making the Bush tax cuts (set to expire in 2010) permanent."

EDUCATION: "We need to judge the success of our schools by the results we obtain, not the revenue we spend. I have been a strong, consistent supporter of the rights of parents to home school their children, of creating more charter schools, and of public school choice...We need a clear distinction between federal and state roles in education. While there is value in the "No Child Left Behind" law's effort to set high standards, states must be allowed to develop their own benchmarks."

GAY MARRIAGE: Supports a constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

HEALTH CARE: "We don't need universal health care mandated by federal

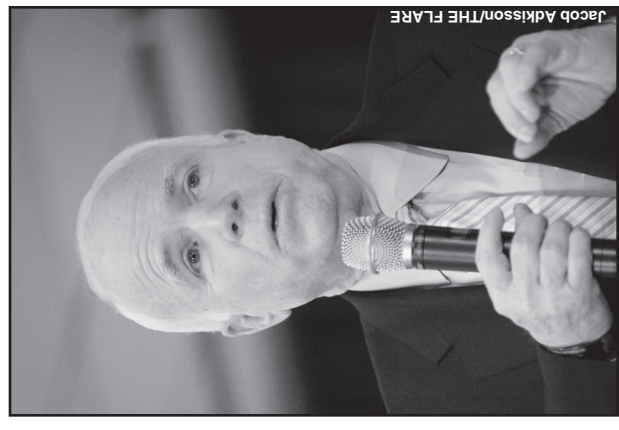
John McCain

ABORTION: McCain plans to reverse Roe v. Wade as one step toward ending abortion. He believes the pro-life movement has done tremendous work in building and reinforcing the infrastructure of civil society by strengthening faith-based, community and neighborhood organizations that provide critical services to pregnant mothers in need. "At its core, abortion is a human tragedy. To effect meaningful change, we must engage the debate at a human level."

ECONOMY: McCain will permanently repeal the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) saving middle class families nearly \$60 billion a year. He believes entrepreneurs should not be taxed into submission, and will make the Bush income and investment tax cuts permanent, keeping income tax rates at their current level. McCain believes it should require a 3/5 majority vote in Congress to raise taxes. He wants to keep the Internet free of taxes and will seek a permanent ban on taxes that threaten this engine of economic growth and prosperity. He will prohibit new cellular telephone taxes.

EDUCATION: No Child Left Behind has focused our attention on the realities of how students perform against a common standard. John McCain believes that we can no longer accept low standards for some students and high standards for others. McCain believes parents should be empowered with school choice to send their children to the school that can best educate them. McCain will pursue reforms that address the underlying cultural problems in our education system.

GAY MARRIAGE: McCain believes the family represents the foundation of Western Civilization and civil society and that the institution of marriage is a union between one man and one woman. He believes that only this definition sufficiently recognizes the vital and unique role played by mothers and fathers in the raising of children, and the role of the family in shaping, stabilizing, and strengthening communities and our nation.



Jacob Adkisson/THE FLARE

Mike Huckabee

edict. We do need to get serious about preventive health care. I advocate policies that will encourage the private sector to seek innovative ways to bring down costs. When I'm President, Americans will have more control of their health care options, not less. As President, I will work with the private sector, Congress, health care providers, and other concerned parties to lead a complete overhaul of our health care system."

IMMIGRATION: Wants a border fence completed by July 1, 2010, increased border patrols and a crackdown on businesses which employ illegal immigrants. "I oppose and will never allow amnesty (for illegals). I opposed the amnesty President Bush and Senator McCain tried to ram through Congress this summer, and opposed the misnamed DREAM Act, which would have put us on the slippery slope to amnesty for all."

WAR IN IRAQ: The surge is a military means to achieve the political end of sectarian reconciliation among the Iraqis. Setting a timetable for withdrawal is a mistake. According to Huckabee, this country has never declared a war to end on a particular date; we have always declared war until victory. I am focused on winning. Withdrawal would have serious strategic consequences for us and horrific humanitarian consequences for the Iraqis.

All data and photo from: www.mikehuckabee.com

Hillary Clinton

ABORTION: Hillary has been a leading advocate for the right of every woman to make the most personal of life decisions for years. She believes the right to privacy is a fundamental right, and that abortion should be safe, legal, and rare.

EDUCATION: Hillary will make college more affordable and accessible by: 1) Lowering the cost through a \$3,500 tuition tax credit, enough to cover more than 50% of the cost of tuition at the average public institution. 2) Increasing the Pell Grant. 3) Strengthening community colleges and training programs. 4) Improving college graduation rates. 5) Providing additional aid for people who do public service. 6) Simplifying student aid. 7) Providing clear information about the real cost of college well in advance to help families plan.

ENVIRONMENT: Hillary believes in a cap and trade system for carbon emissions which will reduce green house gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050. Her plan will also reduce America's reliance on foreign oil by cutting foreign oil imports by two-thirds from 2030 projected levels. She will transform our economy from carbon-based to clean and energy efficient, and start research and development through a \$50 billion Strategic E n e r g y Fund. She will double investment in basic energy



On the Issues

Republicans VS Democrats

Illustration by Henry McGehee/FLARE

ABORTION: Obama has been a consistent champion of reproductive choice and will make preserving women's rights under Roe v. Wade a priority.

EDUCATION: Obama will create a new American Opportunity Tax Credit which will ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university. He will make the tax credit fully refundable, and ensure that the tax credit is available to families at the time of enrollment by using prior year's tax data.

ENVIRONMENT: Obama supports a market-based cap-and-trade system to reduce carbon emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. His system will require a 100 percent auction ensuring that all polluters pay for every ton of emissions they release, rather than giving these emission rights away to coal and oil companies. Some of the revenue generated by auctioning allowances will be used to support the development of clean energy, to invest in energy efficiency improvements, and to address transition costs.

GAY MARRIAGE: Obama believes federal hate crimes law should include crimes perpetrated because of sexual orientation or gender identity. He also believes the Employment Non-Discrimination Act should be expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity. Obama supports full civil unions giving same-sex couples equal legal rights and privileges, and believes in fully repealing

research and also spur the green building industry by funding the retrofitting and modernization of 20 million low-income homes and take steps to reduce electricity consumption.

GAY MARRIAGE: Hillary will work with the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) community to change laws. She supports civil unions and will work to ensure that all Americans in committed relationships have equal benefits. She disagrees that people can be fired because of who they are or who they love. Hillary believes that hate crimes undermine the fundamental principle upon which our nation was founded. She will strengthen law enforcement and prosecution against discriminatory acts of violence against gays, lesbians, and transgender individuals by signing the Matthew Shepard Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law. Hillary believes the military is discharging people with vital skills because of sexual orientation and intends to address this issue.

HEALTH CARE: Hillary's American Health Choices Plan will secure, simplify and ensure choice in health coverage for all Americans. It covers every American with no overall increase in health spending or taxes. For those with health insurance, the plan builds on the current system to give businesses and their employees greater choice of health plans while lowering cost and improving quality.

IMMIGRATION: Hillary has consistently called for comprehensive immigration reform that respects our immigrant heritage and honors the rule of law. She believes it must have a strengthening of our borders, greater cross-cooperation with our neighbors, strict but fair enforcement of our laws, federal assistance to our state and local governments, strict penalties for exploiting undocumented workers, and a path to earned legal status for those who are here, working hard, paying taxes, respecting the law, and willing to meet a high bar.

WAR IN IRAQ: Hillary will end the war. Her three-step plan would bring our troops home, work to bring stability to the region, and replace military force with a new diplomatic initiative to engage countries around the world in securing Iraq's future.

All data was taken from: www.hillaryclinton.com

Barack Obama

the Defense of Marriage Act and enacting legislation to ensure that the federal legal rights and benefits are extended to same-sex couples and other legally-recognized unions. He voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment, which would have defined marriage as between a man and a woman. He believes in repealing the "don't ask, don't tell" policy and that the key test for military service should be patriotism, a sense of duty, and a willingness to serve. He has also been a global leader in the fight against AIDS.

HEALTH CARE: The Obama plan will create a National Health Insurance Exchange to help individuals who wish to purchase a private insurance plan. The Exchange will help reform the private insurance market by ensuring fairness and to making individual coverage more affordable and accessible. Insurers will have to issue every applicant a policy, and charge fair and stable premiums that will not depend on health status.

IMMIGRATION: Obama supports additional personnel, infrastructure and technology on the border and at ports of entry. He believes we must fix the dysfunctional immigration bureaucracy. He will remove incentives to enter the country illegally. He supports allowing undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens. He believes we need to do more to promote economic development in Mexico to decrease illegal immigration.

WAR IN IRAQ: Obama will immediately begin to remove our troops from Iraq one to two combat brigades each month, and have all combat brigades out of Iraq within 16 months. He will not build any permanent bases in Iraq but will keep some troops there to protect our embassy and diplomats; if al-Qaida attempts to build a base within Iraq, he will keep troops in Iraq or elsewhere in the region to carry out targeted strikes on al-Qaida.

All data from: www.barackobama.com and photo from: www.flickr.com/photos