



**SPECIAL
ELECTION EDITION**

THE MESSENGER

**Barack Obama Defeats
John McCain
In College International's
Mock Election...**



Election Results

By: Chelsea Blair

The votes have been cast and tallied - it is official Barack Obama has won the mock U.S Election at College International.

The staff at The Messenger, in conjunction with the U.S Campaigns and Elections Class, organized their very own 2008 U.S Presidential Election.

The polls were open over last Tuesday and Wednesday and ballots were available to all nationalities, all students, faculty, and building staff. There was even an exit poll distributed to the voters which was produced by the

Campaigns and Elections class. The poll was conducted to determine the habits of those who voted - why they voted the way they did and what issues were important to them. The results of the poll will be analyzed by the Campaigns and Elections class.

The voters at College International certainly favored the junior Senator from Illinois, as Obama prevailed in a landslide victory taking in 93% of the popular vote.

Thanks to all the people who participated in voting and in the polls, and to all the volunteers who helped out. The event was a first for College International.

A Mock Election in Perspective

By: Jenai Towuru

The College International Mock Election proved, beyond a reasonable doubt, the existence of two disparate political attitudes with regards to the right to vote—the first being the rational tendency to consider the right to vote as an obligatory civic duty and the second the irrational tendency to assume that the right to vote is somewhat inconsequential and thus has no leverage in the political process.

While this premise is disputable, one cannot ignore the basic fact that at least the right to vote is reasonably guaranteed. One can only assume that those who failed to cast their ballot did so conceding the fact that this was only a mock election. Even so, it is almost impossible

not to conclude that their actions transcend this irrational tendency, and is perhaps a true reflection of the indifference that many, especially the youth, have shown towards voting.

The reasons why the youth deliberately turn a blind eye to the voting process include, for example, the notion that their voice(s) will not be heard due to the general characterization of politicians as out of touch old fashioned greybeards who are not at all familiar with the new-wave pop-culture popularized by the youth. Therefore, the youth see themselves as outsiders in a political process, a process to which they feel drawn to. As valid as these reasons may seem, it should not serve to fuel this lackadaisical political attitude.

What the youth of today fail to recognize is the political power they wield as a voting bloc. We are after all

the future of tomorrow so why choose to absent ourselves from a political process that inevitably shapes and defines our future. Irrespective of our almost naïve beliefs about politics, we cannot afford to throw away that inalienable right to vote.

“Bad politicians are sent to Washington by good people who don't vote.”

William E. Simon— 63rd Secretary of the Treasury

Maybe now you feel guilty for failing to cast your ballot- and you should. Not to sound patronizing but at least you can take solace in the fact that this was only a mock election. However, you will at some point be required to perform your civic duty—the right to vote—and assuredly it will not be a mock election.

Commentary: Last Days of the Actual 2008 Presidential Election

McCain Campaigning Till the Very End

By: Clare Farrell

John McCain has been campaigning for almost two years. He will finish his campaigning by making stops to Florida, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, New Mexico, and Nevada to influence the voters as much as possible before Tuesday's election. McCain's campaign manager, Rick Davis, his campaign manager, told reporters that he is confident that "the race is still

winnable." He argued that many voters have yet to make up their minds, and that national and state polls are tightening.

Just like the election in 2000 between George Bush and John Kerry, Ohio will once again be a crucial state in determining who will win the 2008 election. Because of questionable vote counts in the 2000 presidential election, lawyers will be monitoring to try to ensure correct vote counting. CNEWS reported that "teams of lawyers for both the Democrats and Republicans are heading to key battleground states to

keep a close eye on the polls on election day."

McCain remarked why he is finishing his campaign in Arizona; "Prescott, Arizona's territorial capital, occupies a special place in the history of Arizona, and in the Goldwater legend. As everyone familiar with Arizona politics knows, Prescott is where Barry Goldwater formally began his Senate campaigns and his campaign for the presidency on the steps of the Yavapai County Courthouse. As his successor and in deference to his tradition, I have ended all my Senate campaigns here."



The Push for the White House

By: Jason Norton

The final days are here! The U.S election is upon us and Senator Barack Obama is poised to become the 44th President of the United States, and the first African-American President. Both he and John McCain have been campaigning for over a year, and their work will now culminate on November 4th. Barack Obama has been enjoying a comfortable lead in the polls since the recent economic crash in the U.S, but he and his large team will be busy up to election night.

On Friday October 31 Obama held campaign rallies in Des Moines Iowa and Highland Indiana, while his Vice Presidential nominee Joe Biden held rallies in Newark Delaware and Kettering Ohio. Over this last weekend Obama made stops in Nevada and Colorado, while Biden was in Indiana. Hillary Clinton made two stops in Ohio

and Obama's wife Michelle joined him for a rally in Colorado. These stops were particularly important because they are all states that are considered "swing states" and could possibly determine the next president. Obama will hold an event on election in his city of Chicago Illinois.

With only a day left until the vote there is realistically little that either Obama or McCain can do to drastically swing the electorate in either of their favor. Both of these candidates at one point were in a dead heat according to the polls, although following the Republican convention John McCain experienced a brief lead. Since the economic meltdown, that lead has evaporated, as polling suggests, voters have more confidence in Obama's ability to handle economic issues.

John McCain did not help himself when his advisors reported that he would try and steer clear of any discussion about the economy and focus on attacking Obama. According to NBC

news polling the economy is the number one issue for more than 50% of Americans. John McCain may have been wise strategically to change the subject, as Obama's strategy was to pin the economic problems on President Bush while implying that John McCain would follow suite, but the McCain campaign has appeared unorganized at times in their focus, which may have helped their strategy backfire. The only realistic hope for McCain at this point would be a major blunder from Obama, where he would do or say something up until the election which would change the mind of voters.

With only a day left expect more of the same from the Obama campaign and for it to be relatively low key, except at their rallies within their scheduling. He will continue to lay focus on his central message of change, and saying McCain will be four more years of Bush. With this said, one can reasonably expect Barack Obama to be the next President of the United States.

