THE ELECTION OF 2008, A RE-CAP

If the writers at Common Sense had to choose one word to describe the 2008 election, it would be “history.” For the first time in the United States we could have ended with either a female Vice President, or an African American President. The road to the White House was a fierce competition between presidential candidates Sen. John McCain and Sen. Barack Obama.

Common Sense decided to investigate and see what HSAS thought about the two candidates running for president.

Ryan Alison’09 supports Barack Obama. He stated that, “in this case symbolism matters; Abraham Lincoln, FDR, JFK, and Barack Obama represent watershed and new ages of politics, and it is important that we capitalize on the opportunity to be a part of this historical event.”

Senior Ariel Amaya’09 shared that, “there are various reasons why I support John McCain, but the main reason being I hate Barack Obama.” He continued to say that “Obama claims McCain represents Bush, yet he (Obama) wants to increase government spending, up to $800 billion.”

Ariel worries that “Obama’s a four year junior senator with no experience.”

Brenden O’Brien’10 supports neither candidate, telling Common Sense that “there are serious problems with the American political system. We have an oppressive bipartisan political system that’s wattering out (down) our government.”

Brenden added that, “we should have a pluralist party like England. There would be more to choose from instead having to choose from the lesser of two evils.”

Isaiah Ogilvie’12 supported Barack Obama “because he’s a guy who’s going to make history if he wins, and a person that makes history is a someone in my book.”

Keenan Thon’12 shared that “each candidate has their pros and cons, and a person that makes history if he wins, and a person that makes history is a someone in my book.”

The election of 2008, a re-cap (Continued on page 2)

HSAS TELLS ALL ON REPUBLICANS

By Thomas Mason’09

Whether you happen to agree with their policies or not, the attention the Republican Party has been receiving from students is undeniable. With the often generously described “tenure of President George W. Bush” coming to an end, the Party and its members have had a negative reputation.

Unfortunately for Republicans, there isn’t much support to be found from students at the High School of American Studies. Opinions, especially those of the underclassmen, generally ranged from hardcore Democratic beliefs to slightly moderate.

Nina Gershiovitz’12 who is not only among the most liberal of the students of the High School of American Studies, but possibly of America was asked about her respective political party of choice. She proudly exclaimed with a smile that reached from ear to ear, “Democrat all the way.”

According to her, “the whole ‘Wall Street being more important than Main Street’ is just plain stupid,” a reference to the current (Continued on page 2)

HSAS MADE THEIR PREDICTIONS, THEN

By Dennis Golin’09

As of two weeks before Election Day, polling data and the students of HSAS, even among many McCain supporters, predicted an Obama victory. According to polling site www.fivethirtyeight.com, Obama had a 92.5% chance of winning the presidency, taking in a predicted average of 344 electoral votes, not far from his actual winning count.

In such a good position so close to the election, Obama seemed poised to have an effortless victory.

“Obama’s lead in the polls should hold until election day” predicted Harry Divack’10.

“I think it will be a landslide victory for Obama,” said Kiran Chapman’11 just days before the vote. He added then that, “most undecided and independent voters will vote for him, but McCain will work until Election Day to discredit him.”

Kiran touched upon a belief that many Obama supporters worried that the election will be closer than they once thought.

Tim Wong’10 gave his prediction before the election: “Obama’s got the upper hand from the debate, and most Clinton supporters have swayed to him, but I think it will be very close, even closer than the 2000 Bush-Gore election.”

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DEMOCRATS AT HSAS TELL ALL

By Z Chen’09

For over a century, two political parties have dominated the government: Republicans and Democrats. Both parties have their own set of ideals and beliefs on governing the country. The question is which party does the High School of American Studies support? Common Sense investigates.

Our Common Sense survey was able to conclude that about 8 out of 10 students support the Democratic Party. Many people believe that the Democratic Party is our last hope to pull the country out of the so-called Second Great Depression.

When asked whether or not he supports the Democratic Party, Troion Marshall’10 replied, "The Democrats seem like the best party to get the country out of the current economic crisis." Others like Robert Gong’09 believe that the Democratic Party represents the “average Joe,” whether he is a plumber or not.

Kiran Chapman’11 also believes that the “Democratic Party stands for the common (Continued on page 2)