



The Betty Newsletter

ELECTION '08

Issue #19



Students Changing the Game: In Politics

Election 2008

This issue of The Betty addresses the very important election on November 4, 2008. You will read about the candidates and propositions on the upcoming ballot.

We in SAFCS asked for students to contribute their thoughts and feelings on these sensitive topics. CSUN, SAFCS, its members or advisor cannot claim to support or oppose the opinions in this issue.

As the editor, I published each article that I received, whether or not I agreed with the points of view. I am eternally thankful for each contribution.

Please remember to VOTE in our upcoming election.

~Valerie Yu



I would imagine that in the past, when considering whose opinion carried more weight; politicians placed students, or the age bracket of "18-25," at the very bottom. Far below Gen X'ers, Baby Boomers, corporations, and of course seniors aka "The Mature

Market" aka the loudest voting block! And who could blame them?

Consider this, we students, are typically broke, thus we can not contribute money to their very expensive campaigns. We typically do not vote, even if Mr. Puff Daddy/ P. Diddy/ Sean Combs, or whatever his name is now, is telling us to "Vote or Die!" We have been more concerned with whom Lauren from "The Hills" is dating and his credentials than with the credentials of this woman from Alaska, Sarah Palin, who could potentially be THE FIRST WOMEN PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!!! Scary.

Do not be disheartened because the one thing that we do have, which is what they fear the most, is "The Numbers!!" In California alone there are approximately, 3.1 million students. If you understand the power of that number, you get that, we alone, could have terminated "our" terminator from the gubernatorial seat. Students or the youth vote has been a sleeping giant for a while, but be assured that things are changing.



This newsletter was named 'The Betty' after the Betty Lamp: a symbol adopted by Family and Consumer Sciences representing joy, knowledge, fellowship, cooperation, service, achievement, and the light of home and mind.



see student on page 2



STUDENTS continued from page 1

Students across the nation are re-organizing and awakening, maybe not like the sixties or seventies, but we are making our own kind of an impact. Across the nation, we are registering ourselves to vote. For example the UCSA (University of California Student Association) sent its student out with one mission: register other students to vote. Their outcome was over 10% of all students in the UC System; 21,486 new registered student voters. I am sure that 21,486 votes might put a damper in any politician's election. We are educating ourselves, not door-to-door but via text messages, Facebook-to-Facebook, Myspace-to-Myspace, and through Hip-Hop. Even before Obamamania students were getting it together and getting on the bus! In 2003 and 2004, over fifteen thousand California community college students jumped on buses and rode through the night to our state capitol to the "March in March" where they demand lower tuition. Tuition went down the following year. On April 21st 2008,

students across all three higher education systems, for the first time in history put their differences aside and under a unified message "Marched for Higher Education" from San Diego to Sacramento. In Sacramento, over 4000 angry students showed up at the capitol foot steps. Students are now being consulted in budget and policy discussions. The model of unity set by the students paved the way for the systems administrators to do the same. The CSU system, for example, was saved from \$96 million dollars in previously proposed cuts.

Politicians are realizing who their new audience is, as reflected in political ads popping up in video games and such types of media. It is these types of examples which excite me about the power of students, the youth vote and the power of unity. We are changing the way the game is played, and they are playing by our rules. If we continue moving forward, we will soon enough be electing our own candidate for president. Hopefully she'll be a senator from New York but in the mean while Obamonos!

-Dina Cervantes

2008 PROPOSITIONS: AN OVERVIEW

Most of you, if you are a registered voter should have received a copy of the official voter information guide in the mail. If you have not received it then you probably are not registered, and if you have received you have probably discarded it with the junk mail like most registered voters. Listed below are the summaries of each proposition as listed in the information guide. Know what you are voting for and the consequences of each proposition.



PROP 1: HIGH SPEED RAIL BONDS

This act provides bonds for the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act. The purpose is to reduce traffic on highways and roadways and upgrade commuter transportation. The bonds will total \$9.95 billion of taxpayer's dollars.

PROP 2: STANDARDS FOR CONFINING FARM ANIMALS

This act will require certain farm animals, for the majority of each day to be able to fully extend their wings or limbs, stand up and lie down and turn around. This is in regards to the confinement of calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens and pregnant pigs. (Please read an opinion piece on 4.)

PROP 3: CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BOND ACT. GRANT PROGRAM

This act will authorize \$980,000,000 in general obligation bonds for the remodeling, construction, renovation, expansion and furnishing of eligible children's hospitals. It will be your tax dollars and will cost the state about \$2 billion over 30 years.

see propositions on page 3

**PROPOSITIONS** continued from page 2**PROP 4: WAITING PERIOD AND NOTIFICATION BEFORE TERMINATION OF MINOR'S PREGNANCY**

Aka, "Sarah's Law". This will change California's Constitution by prohibiting abortion for unemancipated minors until 48 hours after the physician notifies minor's parent or legal guardian. (Please read an opinion piece on 5.)

PROP 5: NONVIOLENT DRUG OFFENSES. SENTENCING, PAROLE AND REHABILITATION
Allocates \$460,000,000 annually to improve and expand treatment programs. Limits court authority to incarcerate offenders who commit certain drug crimes, break drug treatment rules or violate parole. Saves about \$2.5 billion.

PROP 6: POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDING. CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND LAWS

This act requires a minimum of \$965,000,000 of state funding each year for police and local law enforcement. Makes approximately 30 revisions to California criminal law. Increased net state costs exceeding \$500 million due to increased spending.

PROP 7: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION

This requires government-owned utilities to generate 20% of their electricity from renewable energy by 2010. Renewable energy consists of solar and wind power. It also raises requirements for all utilities to 40% by 2020 and 50% by 2025.

PROP 8: ELIMINATES RIGHT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES TO MARRY

Changes California Constitution to eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry. Marriage would only be allowed between a man and a woman and recognized in California. (Please read an opinion piece on 6.)

PROP 9: CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM. VICTIMS' RIGHTS. PAROLE

This requires notification to victims and opportunity for input during phases of criminal justice process, including bail, pleas, sentencing and parole. In other words it gives convicted criminals generous rights. Crime victims don't have similar protections.

PROP 10: ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

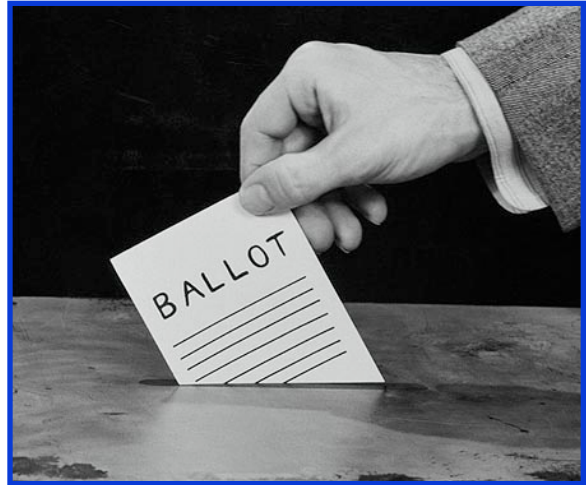
Authorizes \$5 billion in bonds to help consumers and others purchase certain vehicles, and to fund research in renewable energy and alternative fuel vehicles. It gives rebates to purchase clean alternative fuel vehicles. It also gives away \$10 billion in taxpayer dollars.

PROP 11: REDISTRICTING

This changes authority for establishing state office boundaries from elected representatives to commission. In other words, the district boundaries would be drawn by a new commission made up of California registered voters.

PROP 12: VETERANS' BOND ACT OF 2008

This act provides for a bond issue of \$900,000,000 to provide farm and home aid for California veterans



For more information about the propositions you can visit www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov

Also pick up the California General Election Official Voter Information Guide where explanations are more thorough, along with a list of pros and cons for each proposition.

-Jenny Sehenuk



PROPOSITION 2: A TINY FOOTSTEP

There is a sickeningly large amount of animal cruelty in the United States. Most of these cases can be witnessed in the treatment of farm animals intended for food. In an attempt to acknowledge this mistreatment, California has proposed a statute for the November election that would regulate the confinement of certain farm animals. The initiative would require that calves raised for veal, pregnant pigs, and egg-laying hens be provided confinements that allow them to lie down, stand up, turn around, and extend their limbs freely.



This is meant to be the groundbreaking change to fix our nation's moral problem? This is a very small step. It only affects a finite amount of livestock, and it only pertains to those lucky few animals' age size. There are many issues going unnoticed. The egg-laying hens will benefit from more space, but there is still the issue of forcibly laying 250 eggs per year each. They commonly contract fatty liver syndrome and osteoporosis. Often time these hens get spent from laying so many eggs. At this point some force a last egg-laying cycle by starving the hen, denying it water, and keeping it in the dark for up to 18 days. Another incident is tossing the hens into a wood chipper when they cannot produce anymore.

Impregnated pigs do not have it much better. They give birth to up to 20 piglets a year. The pigs are violated into impregnation. They are then left to give birth, have their piglets taken away to be fattened and impregnated again. Once a pig is no longer a productive breeder, she is slaughtered. The piglets are mistreated also. Notches are cut out of ears to facilitate easier identification and their tails are cut off to eliminate tail-biting. These mutilations are done without any anesthesia. They are then kept in areas with polluted air, commonly suffering respiratory disorders. At about six months of age, they are sent to slaughter. They are then hung upside down by their back legs, stabbed, and boiled. If the stabbing does not kill them, they are boiled alive. Calves sorrowful short-lived lives are not any brighter.

These are only a few incidences of farm animal cruelty, and these are only detailing two animals with their own farm-raised intentions. Proposition 2 neglects all other farm animals and all other concerns other than confinement issues. It is not even strict in this area. There are confinement "exceptions made for transportation, rodeos, fairs, 4-H programs, lawful slaughter, research and veterinary purposes" according to the voter guide information pamphlet.

As humble as this small step attempt may be, there are still those who oppose it! There are concerns that this might make the products more costly. All the farmers need to do is provide more space for the animals,



and they are being given until the year 2015 to prepare for these changes. This should be ample time for them to set up a manageable budget to accommodate these changes. If they do pass along costs to the consumer, it might decrease the fatty meats being purchased by the American population, meaning less fatty consumption. This would be a healthy and positive life change anyways. Proposition 2 might be a small step, but it is in the right direction. How can you be unsure about this win-win situation?

Information from ca voter information pamphlet and farmsanctuary.org

-Tracy Smith



SARAH'S LAW: YES OR NO?

As a young voter I often read through my sample ballot very briefly and then would go vote on my quick decisions. However, in this years election I am doing my reading and research to see what proposition are best for me and our state's economic status. When I got to proposition 4, I was not sure whether to vote yes or no. So what exactly is prop 4? Proposition four as stated in each person's sample voter ballot is, "Waiting period and parental notification before termination of minor's pregnancy. Initiative constitutional amendment. Changes California Constitution, prohibiting abortion for unemancipated minor until 48 hours after physician notifies minor's parent, legal guardian, or in limited cases, substitute adult relative. Provides an exception for medical emergency or parental wavier. Fiscal impact: Potential unknown net state costs of several million dollars annually for health and social services programs, court administration and state health agency administration combined."

So now that you have all the real definition let's it put my own words. Currently, in the state of California minors can have an abortion with out their parent or legal guardian's consent. Proposition four, if passed, will not allow a minor to have an abortion without parent or a legal guardian's consent. I

looked at this proposition from both sides. Women have the right to choose what we want to do in the situation of an unwanted pregnancy. Why shouldn't a young girl? If she wants to have an abortion then she should have that right to decide with out other's



permission. Women have worked so hard for their freedoms, let's keep it up. Then, I looked at it from the parents side, and thought if I was a parent I would want to know what is going on in my daughter's life, especially as something as drastic as an unwanted pregnancy and a possible abortion. I would want to be there for my daughter and help guide her to the best solution for her and her future. In addition to putting myself in the parent's perspective, I also looked at the perspective of

families that were victims of sexual abuse, where the abuser had taken the victim to a clinic to have an abortion to cover up his crime. While doing my research about this proposition I read a story about a 13 year old girl who had been taken by her assailant to a local clinic to have her pregnancy aborted and her parents and family had no idea until years later. That made my stomach turn and my heart ache for her and other victims like her. Sexual abuse to children and young adults is a crime that is continuing to rise in the United States and in California. If prop 4 is passed it might help lessen the amount of sexual abuse amongst our children. I have done my research and am in support of yes on proposition four. I feel completely confident in my decision because I took the time to carefully read through everything I am voting on. I think it is extremely important as a voter to read through all the propositions and measures and make the best decision for you, don't just skim over it and make a quick decision. YOUR VOTE DOES COUNT!!!!

-Taryn Burns





SHOULD I GET MARRIED?

This is something that I have been thinking about for the last couple of months since the passing of the legalization of same sex marriage in our wonderful state of California. About five years ago in the city of San Francisco they legalized same sex marriage for about four months. It was interesting because couples from all over the state and neighboring states were pouring in to get married!! The lines were huge and the waiting list to get into city hall was outrageous to get married. My partner at the time asked me if I wanted to get married and I agreed without really give it that much thought. After that I really did not think about it. I was too busy with school and work. At the time, I was finishing my last course in my undergrad studies here at CSUN in FCS. To my surprise in the month of March one evening after school we took off to the great city of San Francisco, just the two of us. He stated that was business related. Well the very next day we had an appointment at City Hall and my best friend Lisa and our son 4 year old son, Danny, joined us there. I



I was in shock and overwhelmed with excitement and emotions. The experience was great! However, the very next day the city stopped processing all the marriages. And now, once again, I ask myself the same question? Would I get married again? And the answer is No!! Not because I am not in love, but because I would like to wait and see how in this crucial important election if this measure gets passed in legalizing same sex marriage. Then I would really have to reconsider if I would get married again. In my heart I was married once in San Francisco and I would like to remain that way.

-Joe Vega

FACT V. FICTION: PROP 8

Don't be misled. Oppose Prop 8. Proposition 8 puts discrimination into our Constitution. It would inject government into our private lives. It undermines equal protections under our laws. The court ruled that the state constitution does not tolerate a distinction between unions of opposite-sex couples and those of same-sex couples. And we don't believe that voters should, as a matter of equity, fairness and decency, go out of their way to rewrite the constitution to create such a distinction. This nonsense of our schools teaching children they can marry the same-sex because "King and King" did is completely ludicrous. Children and adolescents will be who they are going to be. It is the parents (if they vote yes on Prop 8) who teach discrimination. Sacramento Superior Court Judge Timothy Frawley has already ruled that this claim by Prop 8 proponents is "false and misleading." The Orange County Register, traditionally one of the most conservative newspapers in the state, says this claim is false. So do lawyers for the California Department of Education. Currently, California law clearly gives parents and guardians broad authority to remove their children from any health instruction if it conflicts with their religious beliefs or moral

convictions. Should we not allow African Americans and Whites to marry? That would be discrimination and so is voting yes on Prop 8.

If you are a homophobic bigot and believe that we should discriminate against certain individuals, feel free to vote yes on Prop 8 but before you do read what is fact and fiction. Regardless of how you feel about the issue, we should not eliminate fundamental rights for ANY Californians. Please vote NO on Prop 8.

All information cited from: <http://www.noonprop8.com/>

-Anonymous





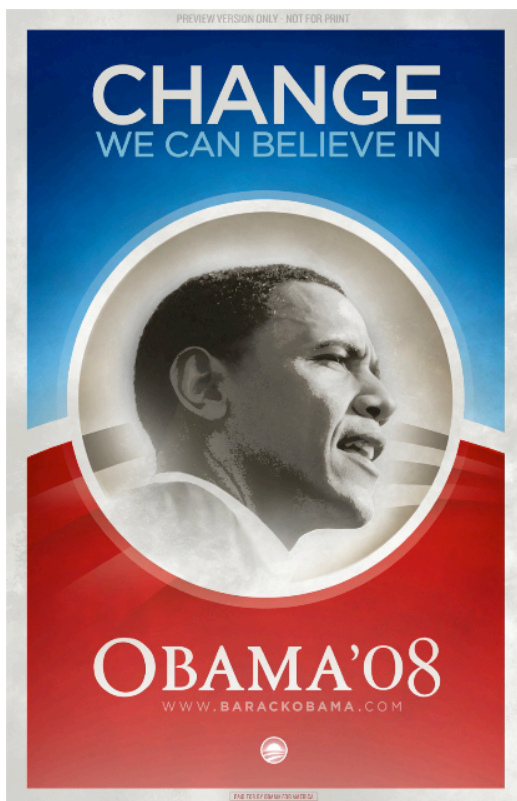
OBAMAMANIA: THE RIGHT CHOICE

It's amazing how much can change within a year. In 2007, the controversy was about oil, how we can get more of it, who do we invade to control it, and how can we bring the costs down. The general public had no discernment over the economy back then, and now it is a focal point in this year's presidential race. I believe Senator Obama would make an excellent president because of his genuine middle class background. For years, President Bush has justified his tax cuts to the rich by stating that the money "will trickle down." Senator McCain also has that same diluted mindset, that if the rich have it easy, so will everyone else. Senator Obama, on the other hand, strives to make genuine change by balancing out the overall money pie, by favoring the middle class. His tax plan seems genuine and fair, which favors people that make under quarter million dollars. During the Clinton administration the country had a surplus, and now that Bush took office we are now pushing a 10 trillion dollar debt, and are facing one of greatest economic crisis in recent history. The rich got exponentially rich, and oil companies' profits are near a trillion dollar mark, while the middle class and poor are left killing each other to get whatever meager piece of the financial pie is left. Senator McCain stated that Senator Obama wants to balance out the financial pie by giving more to the struggling, while he seeks to make the pie bigger. Senator McCain did not say how he was going to make a bigger pie, nor does he



realize that the financial pie is overtly bloated, and needs to be padded down to make a more stable pie. It was that mindset that instantly made Senator Obama a winner in my book. I feel that Senator Obama would make a great change in general for the country. I'm not alone on this. A few days ago Colin Powell, Bush's former Secretary of State and a die hard republican, stated that he also believes that Senator Obama is what America needs, a break from usual, and a face that will put America on the good side of countries around the world.

-Adichtain Lira



“ I will be voting for Obama even though Republicans claim he does not have any experience in foreign affairs. I have experienced in my career life that job tenure does not necessarily equate with job quality, creativity and intelligence. I think Obama is a very intelligent man who will be smart enough to choose the best people for his cabinet to lead our country with success and prosperity.”

~Vilma Hernandez



WOULD TINA FEY MAKE A BETTER VP?

Before you all rush to the polls next month, or for some reason change, or alter your vote to the McCain/Palin (merely because she's a woman, and a pretty one at that) ticket let me share a bit of history with you. Sarah Palin is not the first woman to be in the Vice President spot on the election ballot. The first woman, who we did not vote for to hold office as this country's vice president, was Geraldine Ferraro in 1984. Kudos to mothers in this country however, at what point did it become required to be a mother in order to govern a state? The three things I constantly hear about Palin, as if they were written on her back are—she is a woman, a mother, and in the workforce. In my opinion that is that statute of most women in the work force today. Should my mother be nominated into the VP slot because she fits the criteria?

According to the New York Times reporter, "Her ability to mix church, family and politics is part of the draw." Why do we want someone who mixes church and politics? Are church and state not separate entities?

A poll conducted by The New York Times and CBS News revealed that 77% of Republicans have a positive opinion of Palin. However, the top five reasons that those surveyed gave for favoring Palin were that she is honest, tough, caring, outspoken and fresh-faced. Are these really characteristics and attributes vital to the position of Vice President? Many Republicans also feel that McCain chose Palin as his running mate in order to help with his own election and popularity, not because of her not so impressive qualifications. Many Republicans have also expressed concern if Palin were to actually have to serve as President of the United States.

Now, here is how Sarah Palin falls on the issues at hand. The following information was compiled as an overview of many important issues in this coming agenda. More information is available at the website www.ontheissues.org.

Abortion: Supported bills to outlaw late-term abortions and to require parental consent for abortions in Alaska. However, Palin gave birth this year to a son with Down syndrome, her fifth child, saying that she had known about the disability beforehand but would not abort the pregnancy. Palin is a member of an anti-abortion organization called Feminists for Life.

Death Penalty: On her campaign Web site, Palin said, "If the Legislature passed a death penalty law, I would sign it. We have a right to know that someone who rapes and murders a child or kills an innocent person in a drive-by shooting will never be able to do that again."

Energy: Palin favors drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, saying that Alaska was brought into the United States for its resources; Mr. McCain has opposed drilling. Palin signed a bill to create a "Renewable Energy Fund" in Alaska, where residents are heavily dependent on fossil fuels.

Same-sex marriage: Palin supported a 1998 Alaska constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

Gun Control: Palin is an avowed supporter of the right to bear arms, and is a member of the National Rifle Association and a rifle hunter of Alaskan game.

Health care: Palin supports competition in health care, and laws allowing patients access to better information about prices. In 2008, said she was considering incentives for employers to provide insurance, based on the free market. Palin says that reform must also include, "Alaskans choosing to take more personal responsibility" to be healthier.

Immigration: nothing. **Iran:** nothing. **Iraq:** nothing. **Judicial nominations:** nothing. **Social security:** nothing. **Wiretapping:** nothing.



- Dena Ciolfi



WHAT DOES VICE PRESIDENT REALLY MEAN?



With the ongoing advertising for the upcoming election there's been so much information, statistics and viewpoints thrown at the people of the United States that many don't know which direction to take. Some individuals who'd sworn themselves to be from a specific political party have shifted to the opposite direction, and we ask ourselves why? Why this whole presidential election process has to be so darn complicated? Why do politicians change their minds whenever they feel they're not at the winning end of the stick? If we don't find ourselves really convinced by the official candidate we tend to look at

the second runner up to cast our vote; the Vice Presidential candidate.

But what are the duties of the Vice President of the United States? According to the United States Constitution, the vice president is the first runner up to the presidency in case the President was to be diseased, resigned or was taken out of office. Also, the Vice President is considered the President in the Senate and may vote to break a tie. Technically, the Vice President is the President's right hand, but is not given any executive powers by the Constitution. Unless assigned by the President himself the Vice President may not be assigned to any other duties. In order for an individual to run for the vice presidency, he or she must be a natural born citizen of the United States and cannot be younger than 35 years of age. Unlike the Presidency, there are no limitations to how many terms a Vice President can serve in office.

In making our choice for the upcoming election it is very important to consider the views of the Vice Presidential candidate as much as those of the Presidential candidate, because in reality the VP candidate may very well be a heartbeat away from the presidency. It is crucial for the candidate to have the experience and to be equipped with the knowledge necessary to lead this nation with dignity, courage, and intelligence. We need to move forward and make progress in our domestic and international relations; we've already had eight years of disgrace let's not continue embarrassing our nation.

-Isabel Mendoza

Contributors

VALERIE YU



Valerie is a family studies major and registered independent.

ERIN MATTHEWS, M.S.



Erin is an FCS Professor and the advisor for SAFCS.

ADICHTAIN LIRA



Adichtain is a consumer affairs option.

TRACY SMITH

Tracy is a Junior in the family studies option.

ISABEL MENDOZA

A senior, Isabel is a consumer affairs option.

JOE VEGA

Joe is a graduate student with an option in family studies.

TARYN BURNS

Taryn is a graduating Senior with an option in Consumer affairs.

JENNY SEHENUK

Jenny is a CSUN graduate and an honorary SAFCS member.

DINA CERVANTES

This is Dina's first Betty article.

DENA CIOLFI

Dena is the president of SAFCS and a nutrition option.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!



It is EXTREMELY important to us in SAFCS that we highlight each option, discussing current issues, trends or just fun things to know. Please, write for the Betty. Your major is important, LET'S HEAR ABOUT IT!!!! The editor can't write it all. SHE NEEDS YOUR HELP! NOW!

Send an article to the editor, Valerie Yu, at valerie.yu.17@csun.edu and watch for it in the following issue!

Submit your article with your full name, major and option, and a picture of your pretty face.