

The Young Democrat

Our Members Speak Out

Delegates; Super and Otherwise

By Lisa Messineo

In order to win the Democratic nomination, a candidate must win 2,025 delegates out of the 4,049 total Democratic delegates at the Democratic National Convention in August. Barack Obama is currently leading in the delegate count, but Hillary Clinton is a close competitor. The exact delegate count is disputed, but the New York Times reports it as 1,117 delegates for Obama and 1,112 for Clinton. The Associated Press reports a wider margin, with 1,351 for Obama and 1,262 for Clinton.

There are two types of delegates: pledged and superdelegates. Pledged delegates, who make up the majority of delegates, determine who they will vote for through their states' primary or caucus. Superdelegates, or unpledged delegates, are not constrained by primaries or caucuses; they can vote for any candidate they wish. Superdelegates are members of the Democratic National Committee and some Democratic elected officials, including all Democratic members of Congress and all Democratic governors.

There has been a recent debate over the role of superdelegates—if their votes do not reflect the choice of the voters, does that mean that the nomination process is less democratic? There are 796 superdelegates, a number large enough to make a significant impact in a tightly contested race. In response to this debate, some superdelegates have pledged to vote for the candidate that has greater support among the pledged delegates. However, the issue over their role remains, and will continue to be debated throughout the coming months.



Senator Barack Obama and Senator Hillary Clinton exchange pleasantries before preparing to debate each other on MSNBC.

Moving Forward

By Shawn Davis

To think that America would ever see a black man or a woman contesting for the Democratic nomination for President of the United States was unimaginable until now. To this point presidential politics has been an institution dominated by old, white men. The current situation defines the Democratic Party; one of progress and social adaptation. The Democratic Party is symbolic of the ever-changing and socially progressive world today.

Historically, America has moved slowly towards granting civil liberties to groups other than white males. It was not until 1920 that women gained their suffrage, and not until 1964 before legislation was passed to protect African Americans from being discriminated against. These were major accomplishments, but Americans desire much more. They garner hope while watching Senator Clinton and Senator Obama campaign for the Democratic nomination. America has not seen this type of diversity in a presidential election in our history. It is evident that our party is moving forward. We are the party who will elect the first black man or woman as our nominee for President of the United States. That is progress, and that is the essence of the American dream.



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Change We Can Count On!

By Jeffrey Sheridan

I guess universal health care is an awful idea to many Americans; the sheer notion that every American would have access to the same health care insurance that members of Congress and their staff receive would be absolutely awful.

A complete failure to utilize any form of diplomacy in the past eight years has shattered America's image abroad, so obviously we should demonize Senator Hillary Clinton for her plan to repair our image in the international community. This absurd plan would be executed by talking to world leaders; friends, allies, and adversaries – BUT, with an agenda that would be the basis for dialogue. Not only is this plan intelligent, but realistic as well. You cannot enter into dialogue without a basis for discussions.

A recession looms over America like a dark cloud; home foreclosures are being predicted at over one million for the coming year, college students are accumulating tens of thousands of dollars in debt before they graduate, and the middle and working classes in America are being trounced upon. So, absolutely America, do not elect a candidate that has an already proven and successful record pertaining to the economy. No America, do not elect the candidate who says that she will eliminate the Bush tax cuts for the elite, or the woman who says she will raise Pell grants and provide a tuition tax credit to college students. Electing her would be ludicrous.



Bush Vows To Make it Up To Country Somehow

WASHINGTON—Amid allegations that his thoughtless and insensitive decisions have damaged his relationship with the nation, President George W. Bush vowed Monday that he would, starting now, "make everything better."

"This time I'm serious," Bush said. "I am ready to make a fresh start if we can just put the past behind us. I promise."

An estimated 35 million citizens listened to the president's televised remarks while silently crying behind locked bathroom doors...for more visit www.theonion.com



The Young Democrat

“Yes We Can”

By Jeffrey Walker

After careful consideration, I have decided that it is Barack Obama’s time to become America’s next President. There are many things that drove me to this decision, one of which being his ability to unite Americans. If you happen to catch an Obama rally, you will see young and old, Caucasians, African-Americans, and Latinos, women and men, all of whom are energized about the possibility of “change.” Barack Obama has the ability unite Americans behind common cause; one to create a better America. As America continues to divide as a result of harsh economic conditions and clashing ideologies it is important to know that Obama has been uniting and creating hope since long before his time in Washington. Senator Obama matured as a public servant while working as a civil rights attorney in Chicago for the poor

It is not only Obama’s ability to unite Americans that drew me to his campaign, but his policies. Currently, our image abroad has deteriorated, and we are in need of someone that will repair America’s stance in the global world. Everyday we attract more enemies, and Obama has said that he is ready to talk to our enemies, because not talking makes us look “arrogant.” We have seen how “Cowboy diplomacy” has worked out for us in the past eight years.

Barack Obama was one of the few people who came out in opposition to the Iraq war, which has to date cost us trillions of dollars. Not only did the senator oppose the war from the beginning, but he now has a plan to get us out of it. This plan includes, withdrawing troops over a 16 month period -- one or two brigades at a time. This is crucial, because there are so many soldiers, machinery, and weaponry in Iraq, which would need to be moved out safely and not too fast.

As education costs continue to rise, Obama has a plan to give each student a \$4,000 tuition credit each year. This credit would not be free; rather the student would have to give back to America in order to receive it. Obama has proposed that this “giving back” might include a few hours at the Warming House, serving with the Peace Corps, or joining the Foreign Service. This plan does not only benefit the student, but the community and the country as well.

All of Obama’s plans are created to help America succeed as a nation once again. They are in place to move America toward a safer, more competitive, and more efficient nation. Do not get me wrong, I have no problem with Senator Clinton, I just feel that she may be a bridge back to the 1990’s. The 1990s were great, but everything has changed drastically since then. We need someone that is ready for the ever-changing world of the 21st century.

I wish luck to both Democratic candidates, but I am putting all of my efforts into a notion of change and an “audacity of hope.” Take some time to watch an Obama speech, browse the websites, and then vote for change. Oh, and p.s.- “Yes, We Can!”

*People say I am ruthless. I am not ruthless. And if I find
the man who is calling me ruthless, I shall destroy him.*

~ Robert Kennedy



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Blogosphere

Frat Boys Giving Life to the Stereotypes

Obtained From an Anonymous Internet Blog:

I was attending an event for Sen. Clinton last night at the Lisner Auditorium at the George Washington University (my grad school) and while waiting outside to go through security a bunch of white, frat like boys were outside protesting and campaigning for Obama. This would be fine--vote/campaign for whomever you want--except that the signs that they were holding were pretty obnoxious.

- 1) "Bros Before Hos--Vote Obama '08"
 - 2) Hillary Clinton "Vote For Me-I'll Cry-"
- and some other very, very unprintable things.

At one point the guys got some girl walking by to hold the sign "Bros before Hos" which infuriated a GW female professor standing next to me and she crossed the street and asked the girl why she would hold up something so demeaning to women. The girl just stammered that she didn't really think HRC was a whore....that the boys had just asked her to hold the sign.

Honestly-one of the most irritating displays of "political activism" I've ever seen to have these privileged college students holding up these signs and yelling at the women lined up to go see Sen. Clinton saying she was going to lose etc. The boys were so proud of themselves too and told some 30ish year old guy to "f*#% off" when he asked them to stop holding their signs and to instead use more positive signs for Obama (like the pre-printed ones).



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Blogosphere

The Dark Side of Coors Light

The Coors family has been supporting conservative causes for decades.

By Annika Carlson

February 1, 2008

Annika Carlson is Special Assistant to the Director of Campus Progress.

<http://campusprogress.org/rws/2471/the-dark-side-of-coors-light>

Coors Light may [have been] the official beer sponsor of the National Football League at this year's Super Bowl, but for years it has been the unofficial sponsor of right-wing causes across America. The company has a shady past, from the owners offering grants to rightwing organizations to policies of screening potential employees for communist sympathies. Lately Coors has been trying to make up for its checkered past, but it's time for a trip down memory lane.

Coors' works hard to maintain a pearly, progressive sheen to hide its deep, conservative pockets. It was one of the first corporations in America to offer same-sex partner benefits, and it makes corporate donations to a variety of African American, Asian American and Hispanic organizations. This makeover, however, does not obscure Coors's minority-hating past.

While the corporation itself doesn't directly fund the massive right-wing infrastructure, Coors family members make donations with their beer-fed fortunes. The Coors family tree reads like a who's who of conservative philanthropy—nearly all the men in the family work for the company, and nearly all share the same right-wing ideology. Adolph Coors, the founder of Coors Brewing Company, passed it down to his grandsons, brothers Joseph and William Coors. Joseph's five sons—Joe Jr., Pete, Jeff, Grover, and John—all work in the Coors Empire. All of them are self-described born-again Christian fundamentalists. William's son Scott also works for the family business.

Joseph Coors, family patriarch, has funded the Council for National Policy, a secretive enclave in which influential conservatives discuss the future of conservatism in the United States.

Joseph and several members of the Coors family regularly attend CNP's meetings, rubbing elbows with the likes of Jerry Falwell and Phyllis Schlafly. [Joseph] donated an airplane worth \$65,000 to the Nicaraguan Contras. In fact, it's hard to avoid Coors money in the conservative movement: The foundation funds the John Birch Society, the Landmark Legal Foundation (aka the Ronald Reagan Legal Center), and Pat Robertson's Regent University, among many others. Despite his legacy of supporting socially conservative causes, Joseph had a fairly public mistress throughout the late 1980s—an indiscretion that eventually led him and his wife to separate, according to his son Jeff Coors. So much for family values.

So when cracking open a cold one, remember to toast the things that make the Coors family great: union-busting, lie-detecting, Heritage-funding, double-talking and, of course, its beer.



The Young Democrat

RFK Jr. At Stella Niagara

Reported By Zachary Vogel

Robert Kennedy Jr. will be giving a lecture at Stella Niagara on Saturday April 26th. The event will begin at 3:00 pm. The Sisters at Stella Niagara are celebrating their Centennial year and Robert f. Kennedy Jr. is one of the many attractions. The Sisters draw their inspirations and teachings from Saint Francis. Saint Francis was renowned for his great care and stewardship for the earth and the environment. A leading environmentalist, Kennedy Jr. is scheduled to speak regarding his lecture series "Our Environmental Destiny." He is one of America's leading authors and was named as Time Magazine's Leading Heroes for the Planet. This attribute was in wake of his work with River keepers in cleaning up the Hudson River. This wonderful event is open to the public and tickets are free, but required for admittance. To reserve your tickets you can call Stella Niagara at 716-754-2193.



List of remaining primaries and caucuses: (can we add how many delegates up for grabs in each?)

March 4: Ohio, Texas, Rhode Island, and Vermont
March 8: Wyoming
March 11: Mississippi
April 22: Pennsylvania
May 3: Guam
May 6: Indiana, North Carolina
May 13: West Virginia
May 20: Kentucky, Oregon
June 3: Montana, South Dakota
June 7: Puerto Rico

Reported By: By Lisa Messineo



"Mr. Rove arrested for high crimes and malfeasance."

*Niagara University Young Democrats
Club Meetings held on Mondays at 12:30 in Vini 311
Club Moderator: Dr. Jamie Pimlott
President: Jeffrey Sheridan
Layout & Design: Shawn Davis & Jeffrey Sheridan
Want to join the club? Or Write for the next newsletter?
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