

OCTOBER

What's going on at Mason this week?

MONDAY 20	TUESDAY 21	WEDNESDAY 22	THURSDAY 23	FRIDAY 24	SATURDAY 25
<p>NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK Oct. 18 - 22. University Life, (703) 993-8760.</p> <p>STD & HIV AWARENESS MONTH Oct. 1 - 31. University Life, (703) 993-8760</p> <p>PREJUDICE REDUCTION WORKSHOP Multicultural Research and Resource Center, (703) 993-4003, mrrc1@gmu.edu. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Johnson Center, Room 239A</p> <p>Library Workshop Introduction to Library Research. For Mason students. Register online at the IT Training website. Free. Johnson Center Library, (703) 993-9070. 1 - 2:30 p.m. Johnson Center, Room 228</p> <p>KRASNOW MONDAY SEMINAR Free. Krasnow Institute, (703) 993-4333. 4 - 5 p.m. Krasnow Building, Room 229</p> <p>LIBRARY WORKSHOP SiteSeeing (Mason Libraries overview). Free. Fenwick Library, (703) 993-2238. 4 - 5 p.m. Fenwick Library, Main Circulation Desk</p> <p>CELEBRATION OF SCHOLARSHIP College of Humanities and Social Sciences, (703) 993-8720. 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Mason Hall, Atrium</p> <p>CAREER SERVICES WORKSHOP Resume & Cover Letters. Free. Career Services, (703) 993-2370 5:30 - 7 p.m. SUB I, Room 348</p>	<p>OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CEREMONY Human Resources, (703) 993-2600. 9 - 10 a.m. Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall South</p> <p>NATURALIZATION CEREMONY U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services, (800)375 5283. 10 a.m. Concert Hall, Grand Tier III</p> <p>GRANT SEMINAR Preparing Grant Budgets. For Mason faculty, staff, and doctoral students. Peter Barcher, (703) 993-9705, pbarcher@gmu.edu. 10 - 11 a.m. Research I, Room 161</p> <p>LECTURE Bill Howell, will discuss the state budget crisis and the upcoming legislative session. Free. Jim Greif, (703) 9939118. 12 p.m. Research I, Room 163</p> <p>HUMAN RESOURCES WORKSHOP Y-ME Breast Health Awareness Program. Register online at the HR Training website. Free. Robyn Madar, (703) 993-4180, rmdar@gmu.edu. 12 - 1 p.m. Johnson Center, Northwest Lounge</p> <p>LUNCH & LEARN Breast Health Awareness Program. Register online at the HR Training website. Free. Robyn Madar, (703) 993-4180, rmdar@gmu.edu. 12 - 1 p.m. Johnson Center, Northwest Lounge</p> <p>BILLIARDS TRICK SHOT CHAMPIONSHIP EXHIBITION Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman. A chance to play against the WPA World Artistic Pool Champion or see him in action. Mecca Marsh, (703) 993-2921, mmarsh3@gmu.edu. 12 - 6 p.m. SUB I, Game Room</p> <p>LECTURE Impacts of Risk Assessments on Environmental Decision-Making Environmental Protection Agency. Free. Jonathan L. Gifford, (703) 993-2275. 7 - 9 p.m. Research I, Room 163</p>	<p>CONFERENCE Global Unaccompanied Minors & Trafficked Children. Oct. 22 - 24. Diversity Research & Action Center, (703) 993-3941. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall</p> <p>FREE MAMMOGRAMS George Washington University Mobile Mammography Program. Free. Danielle Lapierre, (703) 993-3690, dlapierr@gmu.edu. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Johnson Center, North Plaza</p> <p>BLOOD DRIVE Red Cross Blood Mobile. Red Cross, (800) 448-3543 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Johnson Center, North Plaza</p> <p>SUPPORT GROUP FOR WORKING MOTHERS AT MASON Heather Aleknavage, (703) 993-2295, haleknava@gmu.edu. 12 p.m. Johnson Center, Rm 240</p> <p>MASON MILITARY OUTREACH Returning Veterans: Implications for Higher Education. Free. Office of Disability Services, (703) 993-2474. 1 - 3 p.m. Innovation Hall, Room 103</p> <p>MRRC WORKSHOP Controversial Issues. Free. Multicultural Research and Resource Center, (703) 993-4003, mrrc1@gmu.edu 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Johnson Center, Room F</p> <p>MEN'S SOCCER Mason v. Hofstra. \$5; \$2; Mason students free w/ID. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 7 p.m. George Mason Stadium</p> <p>CONCERT Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. \$15; \$10. Center for the Arts Box Office, (703) 993-8888. 8 p.m. Concert Hall</p>	<p>GMU PLAYERS MAINSTAGE SERIES Shakespeare in Hollywood. Oct. 23 - 24, 8 p.m.; Oct. 25, 2 & 8 p.m.; Oct. 30 - 31, 8 p.m.; Nov. 1, 2 & 8 p.m.; Nov. 2, 2 p.m. \$12, general admission; \$8 students, faculty, staff & seniors. Center for the Arts Box Office, (703) 993-8888. Performing Arts Building, Theaterspace</p> <p>WORKSHOP IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS & ECONOMICS The Venturesome Economy: How Innovation Sustains Prosperity in a More Connected World Free. Peter Boettke, (703) 993-1149, pboettke@gmu.edu. 1 - 2:30 p.m. Enterprise Hall, Room 318</p> <p>FLU SHOTS Wear short sleeves. \$20 for faculty and staff; \$15 for students. Student Health Services, (703) 993-2831. 1 - 3:30 p.m. SUB I, Patriot's Lounge</p> <p>BIODEFENSE LECTURE Future of Chemical and Biological Defense. Free. Public & International Affairs, (703) 993-1400. 5:30 - 7 p.m. Mason Hall, Room D3</p> <p>CINEMA SERIES Hellboy 2: The Golden Army. Showings at 6 & 9 p.m. Mason students w/ID, free; Mason faculty/staff w/ID, \$1; general public, \$3. Student Activities Programming, (703) 993-1702. 6 p.m. Johnson Center, Cinema</p> <p>VISUAL VOICES SERIES A Printmaker's Voice: the Art of Karen Kunc, presented by Karen Kunc. Free. Art & Visual Technology, (703) 993-8898. 7:30 p.m. Harris Theatre</p> <p>CONCERT One Republic. With guests The Spill Canvas and The Hush Sound. \$30; \$20 for Mason faculty and staff; \$10 for Mason students. Patriot Center, (703) 993-3000. 8 p.m. Patriot Center</p>	<p>GMU PLAYERS MAINSTAGE SERIES Shakespeare in Hollywood. Oct. 23 - 24, 8 p.m.; Oct. 25, 2 & 8 p.m.; Oct. 30 - 31, 8 p.m.; Nov. 1, 2 & 8 p.m.; Nov. 2, 2 p.m. \$12, general admission; \$8 students, faculty, staff & seniors. Center for the Arts Box Office, (703) 993-8888. Performing Arts Building, Theaterspace</p> <p>VAN DRIVER FAMILIARIZATION CLASS Applications due 48 hours in advance. Captain McCall, (703) 993-2824, jmccall@gmu.edu. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Police Building</p> <p>WEIGHTWATCHERS AT WORK Fridays, June 20 - Oct. 24. Eligible faculty and staff may qualify for a 50% discount. \$196. Lori Ann Roth, (703) 993-2621, laroth@gmu.edu. 11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Mason Hall, Room D3</p> <p>LIBRARY WORKSHOP Leave Not Stone Unturned! Overview of Journal Article Search and Retrieval for Music Scholars (Drive-By Musicology Series, Program 2). Free. Johnson Center Library, (703) 993-9060. 2 - 2:55 p.m. Johnson Center, Room 228</p> <p>MATH COLLOQUIUM Larry Washington, University of Maryland. Free. Mathematics, (703) 993-1460. 3:30 - 4:20 p.m. Science & Tech I, Room 242</p> <p>AMERICAN RED CROSS CLASS Water Safety Instructor. \$275; \$250. Aquatic & Fitness Center, (703) 993-3939. 5 - 9 p.m. Aquatic & Fitness Center</p> <p>CINEMA SERIES Mama Mia. Showings at 6 p.m. & 9 p.m. Mason students w/ID, free; Mason faculty/staff w/ID, \$1; general public, \$3. Student Activities Programming, (703) 993-1702. 6 p.m. Johnson Center, Cinema</p> <p>WOMEN'S SOCCER Mason v. William & Mary. \$5; \$2; Mason students free w/ID. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 7 p.m. George Mason Stadium</p>	<p>GMU PLAYERS MAINSTAGE SERIES Shakespeare in Hollywood. Oct. 23 - 24, 8 p.m.; Oct. 25, 2 & 8 p.m.; Oct. 30 - 31, 8 p.m.; Nov. 1, 2 & 8 p.m.; Nov. 2, 2 p.m. \$12, general admission; \$8 students, faculty, staff & seniors. Center for the Arts Box Office, (703) 993-8888. Performing Arts Building, Theaterspace</p> <p>PLAYERS TOURNAMENT Table Tennis and 8 Ball Billiards. Register before Oct. 23. \$5. Game Room, (703) 993-2864. 12 - 7 p.m. SUB I, Game Room</p> <p>FOOTBALL Mason v. Radford. \$5; students free w/ID. Football Office, (703) 993-3467. 5 p.m. Robinson Field</p> <p>CINEMA SERIES Mama Mia. Showings at 6 & 9 p.m. Johnson Center, Cinema</p> <p>CONCERT Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Angela Cheng. \$55; \$45; \$35; \$25. Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, (703) 563-1990. 8 p.m. Concert Hall</p>
					<p>SUNDAY 26</p> <p>MEN'S TENNIS Mason vs. Hofstra. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 11 a.m. Tennis courts by PE Building</p> <p>WOMEN'S TENNIS Mason vs. Hofstra. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 12:15 p.m. Tennis courts by PE Building</p> <p>WOMEN'S SOCCER Mason v. Old Dominion. \$5; \$2; Mason students free w/ID. Athletic Ticket Office, (703) 993-3270. 1 p.m. George Mason Stadium</p> <p>CONCERT Luis Miguel. \$98; \$83; \$68. Patriot Center, (703) 993-3000. 7 p.m. Patriot Center</p> <p>CONCERT Firefighters Benefit: The Ballamy Brothers. Music Department, (703) 993-1380. 7:30 p.m. Concert Hall</p>



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news

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- Read This Week in Finance to follow the continuing financial crisis. **News | 6**

POLICE FILES

October 13	<p>Hit & Run Lot R Complainant reported parking her car on October 10 and returning on October 13 to find an unknown person(s) had struck her vehicle and fled the scene. Damage estimated at \$500. (56/Lighthiser)</p>
October 14	<p>DUI Patriot Circle/Rivanna River Way Daniel Patrick, 21, of Herndon VA, (GMU student) was arrested for DUI. He was transported to Fairfax County ADC. He was held until sober on \$1000 unsecured bond. (54/ Galle)</p> <p>DUI Roanoke River Way/Braddock Road Amanda Whalen, 21, of Annandale VA, was arrested for DUI. She was transported to Fairfax County ADC. She was held until sober on \$1000 unsecured bond. (39/Ortiz-Duran)</p>
October 15	<p>Information Only Mason Pond Drive Complainant stated that a tube and upright string bass were missing. Loss estimated at \$9,500. (53/Pierce)</p> <p>Larceny Sandy Creek Deck Complainant reported that while parked in the Sandy Creek Deck someone took a parking decal from his unsecured vehicle. Loss estimated at \$400. (31/Stein)</p>
October 16	<p>Suspicious Person Innovation Hall A GMU student reported that an unidentified male was looking up her skirt while she walking up the stairs. Investigation continues. (48/Millan)</p> <p>Credit Card Fraud HQ Complainant stated that an unknown person(s) placed unauthorized charges on his credit card (10/06/2008). This case is under investigation. (29/Aman)</p> <p>Simple Assault HQ Complainant stated that he was assaulted by a GMU student. Complainant stated that the assault happened a couple weeks ago. This case is under investigation. (40/Ross)</p> <p>Medical Assist Johnson Center Officers responded to a call for an intoxicated subject. After locating the subject and speaking with him it was determined that the subject had taken an overdose of medication. EMS was called and the subject was taken to Fairfax Hospital for evaluation and treatment. (24/Ewald)</p>
<p><i>Police Files are taken verbatim from www.gmu.edu/police. Broadside does not make any changes to public records such as these files.</i></p>	

Stop Sexual Violence Clothesline Project Visualizes Words of Victims



The Mason community decorated T-shirts around SUB I and the grove next to Harris Theatre honoring victims of sexual assault.

SONYA HUDSON
Asst. News Editor

T-shirts decorated by the George Mason University community, honoring victims of sexual assault, lined the quad in front of Student Union Building I and the grove (the area between Harris Theatre and SUB I) from Tuesday through Thursday during Turn Off the Violence Week.

The clothesline project was an attempt to raise awareness about the severity of sexual assault, rape, domestic and sexual violence. Sexual Assault Services provided plain white T's for members of the Mason community to decorate, voicing their opinions, concerns, fears and condolences.

Rachel Lindsey, the Outreach Coordinator for Sexual Assault Services explained, "The Clothesline Project is a collection of T-shirts that honors victims of violence," said Lindsey.

Students, faculty and staff can "make T-shirts for themselves, friends, loved-ones or just a generic one that

conceptually supports victims," said Lindsey. Every T-shirt is not specific, but all the T-shirts have similar effects and support the same cause.

The shirts conveyed various messages. Some were personal, some generic, some graphic and others tame. All conveyed the severity of sexual assault and the frightening situations women find themselves in.

Mason celebrates Turn Off the Violence Week in association with the independent organization, Turn Off the Violence, an independent, non-sectarian, charitable organization. This organization has no paid staff. Even the co-founder, Sheila Miller, volunteers her time.

According to its Web site, Turn Off the Violence's goal is that, "Some day together we

may reap the harvest in a world that thinks of violence only as the last resort, not the only option, ... or the best."

"Our mission is to educate and inspire people to prevent violence in their homes, schools, workplaces and communities," as stated on the site.

The second Thursday of every October, Domestic Violence Awareness month, is the official Turn Off the Violence Day, as proclaimed by the Turn Off the Violence organization. Mason extended the national day celebration to a week with the clotheslines hanging project.

The T-shirts lining the trees show Mason students' support.

"It's a great way for people to speak their minds in a safe way," said senior Ebony Jeter, a

sociology major. Jeter explained that the clothesline project offered an anonymity in which students felt free to express their opinions and emotions openly.

The T-shirts offered a visual impact that served to educate the Mason community on sexual assault and violence. The t-shirts created a personal aspect to the broader problem of violence against women.

"It is a visual way to show the campus, people care in general," said senior Tiffany Reeves, a sports management major. Reeves said that the visual aspect of The Clothesline Project is more memorable than simple conversation, a feature previously provided.

For more information on the organization, Turn Off the Violence, visit www.turnofftheviolence.org.

For more information on sexual violence on campus, visit the Sexual Assault Services office in SUB I or visit the Web site, www.gmu.edu/facstaff/sexual.

“It is a visual way to show the campus, people care in general.”

-Tiffany Reeves

Students Rally Behind Assault Survivors

ADAM SYLVAIN
Staff Writer

The Take Back the Night Rally has a 19-year history of raising support and a wider knowledge of sexual assault. It is largely student-driven.

The event took place Tuesday evening, Oct. 14. Acknowledging Turn Off the Violence Week, the rally was conceived as a way to include all people, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation in becoming an avenue of support and part of the solution to sexual assault.

The Feminist Ninjas, a student activist group which approaches a variety of issues from a feminist perspective, began organizing this year's Take Back the Night Rally last May with Sexual Assault Services. Since that time, the group spent considerable time structuring the event in a way that unified and empowered the campus community against sexual assault. The message they created, which they proudly displayed on white T-shirts: Unite. Express. Inform, resonated loudly with the student body.

The rally drew a diverse set of the campus community. Among them was Chen Shen, a freshman majoring in business, who explained her reasons for attending the rally.

"I noticed the crowd as I was walking by, and because I am from China, I'm interested in learning more about the events here. I also was interested in getting more information on how to prevent rape and how to help others," said Shen.

Before the rally began, over 100 students gathered at North Plaza, as student organizers distributed glow sticks, and upbeat music was played to set the tone for the evening. Members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity gave each student a candle to hold in recognition of assault and rape survivors.

Connie Kirkland, director of Sexual Assault Services, shared her thoughts on the importance of the rally and what it hoped to accomplish.

"The goal of the event is really to bring men and women together so that everyone can gain a better understanding of sexual violence, how to be supportive and how together we can stop future assault," said Kirkland.

She also commented on the student attendance at the rally, adding, "The attendance tonight certainly shows interest in supporting fellow students. By being here, listening to the speakers, students are likely to remember what was shared, and to pass along what they heard to friends and family members. I am also surprised and impressed at the number of men that are here. This event has always been open to men and women, but typically about two-thirds of the [200] to 300 students are women."

Kirkland also stressed the university's commitment to offering support for assault survivors.

"Sexual Assault Services was created fifteen years ago, and George Mason University is still one of only a few universities in the area with an office specifically for offering

support for sexual assault," Kirkland said. "It really shows the university's commitment to the issue, from the very top."

A number of speakers offered support and wisdom in dealing with sexual assault through both personal and professional experience. Survivors of assault were encouraged to gain power back by standing up to the injustice that had affected them. Emphasizing the need to seek support in dealing with the trauma that accompanies rape and assault, one student affirmed Sexual Assault Services as an invaluable resource. As each speaker approached the microphone, and often as they left, the audience let out a chorus of support, sent forth by whistles given out before the rally.

"All people, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation, are affected by sexual assault," said Melissa Krauth, president of the Feminist Ninjas. "It is important to let people know and to receive support. Men and women can both also be offenders of assault and rape. So we [the Feminist Ninjas] encourage everyone to be involved."

Many in the audience seemed greatly moved during the rally when students were invited to speak out to the crowd and share their personal experience with assault. Brave students took the microphone, one after another, to seek support, vent inner hurt, or for some; to honor a loved one's experience.

For senior Michelle Parker, double majoring in Spanish and



This past Tuesday night, Take Back the Night raised support for a solution to sexual assault.

French, these actions were particularly valuable. "I think it is really important to spread awareness about assault. By everyone sharing their experiences; it puts a face on the issue," said Parker.

Junior Megan Cipperly, a conflict analysis major and women's gender studies minor, had a similar visual reaction.

"It was good to see support from classmates and a reality check to see and hear people share their personal stories. We hear about all the statistics but knowing the issue, personally, really brings the statistics to life," said Cipperly.

Freshman finance major, Greg Harris, talked about what he took away from the rally.

"I'm here because I have a lot of friends with experiences in dealing with sexual assault. So I wanted to show support for them and listen to anyone who wanted to let people know about their experiences," said Harris.

To conclude the rally, the majority of the audience participated in a march around Patriot Circle. Marchers held their candles and made each step a statement of perseverance and tribute for all those touched by sexual assault.

In previous years, the

march had been excluded from the event because it was considered disruptive to classes, but it was important to members of the group to reinstate it into this year's rally.

Following the rally and march, students were invited to gather again at North Plaza, share food and drinks, and dance to music provided by a DJ.

The after-party was new to this year's rally and was created as a way for students to wind down, mingle and just relax after an emotional evening.

Criticizing the Past

Obama's Policy Adviser Speaks Out

DAVID PIERCE
Staff Writer

Sen. Barack Obama's, D-Ill., senior foreign policy adviser, Susan Rice, visited George Mason University's Prince William Campus in Manassas.

Rice, joined by retired Navy Rear Admiral Jamie Barnett, spoke to a group of 30 people about her candidate's foreign policy views on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Rice, a former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs during President Clinton's second term and a foreign policy expert, said that Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has cheer-led every President George W. Bush foreign policy decision, while Obama disagreed with them. Rice also spoke about national and domestic policies under Bush.

"Obama understands that we've basically driven our national bus into a ditch," Rice said, adding "McCain (was sitting) next to the driver of the bus, cheering along as we went into the ditch."

Redeploying our combat forces from Iraq to Afghanistan was the first thing Rice believes Obama should do if elected. She said the redeployment would encourage Iraqi leaders to stabilize their country. Rice claimed that Bush's, as well as McCain's, solution would be to instead remain in Iraq indefinitely.

"We've been in Iraq longer than World War II already," said Rice. She explained that Obama prefers a timetable for withdrawal, which would allow our combat brigades to be out of Iraq in 16 months. Gainesville resident Sandra Pollock, a McCain supporter, was concerned about the William Ayers scandal. When asked about Obama's legitimacy for leading our efforts on the War on Terror in relation to being linked to radical William Ayers, Rice disputed the claims.

"[The allegations are] a very dangerous, dishonorable and dishonest attack from the McCain campaign," said Rice. She explained that Ayers was involved in domestic terrorist acts while Obama was eight-years-old, and that they served

30 years later on two nonprofit boards in Chicago that were funded and supported by prominent Republican Walter Annenberg.

Rice said that securing loose nuclear materials was an important issue for Obama. She believed that there are unsecured nuclear facilities in 40 countries around the world that terrorists could get nuclear materials from and harm Americans.

"Obama (will) lock down this loose nuclear material, and he will get it done within the first four years of his administration," Rice said, adding that this was part of Obama's nuclear nonproliferation agenda.

Prioritizing U.S. efforts to broker a lasting peace between Israel and Palestine was also important to Rice. She said that Bush waited seven years to pay attention to the situation.

"If you wait until the last minute when you are a lame duck [president], you are harming all of us," said Rice.

Rice discussed her views on energy security and climate change. She believed the country's dependence on fossil fuel has weakened our national security, made our economy dependent on resources that are not sufficiently produced at home and is destroying the planet.

"This has got to fundamentally change," said Rice. Pollock believed both candidates' energy policies were similar.

"I haven't seen anything different in either candidate's plans," said Pollock. Rice disagreed with Pollock and noted the difference in the candidates' energy plans. She said Obama's energy plan allows \$150 billion to be invested for green economy, while McCain did not have a comparable commitment. Rice commended McCain for being, in her opinion, one of the only Republicans who acknowledged that climate change is man-made, but she believes his plan was far less ambitious than Obama's.

Barnett, a 32-year Navy veteran and former Deputy Commander of the Navy

Expeditionary Combat Command, outlined why he believed Obama, who has no military experience, would be the right choice for president. When asked about Obama's lack of experience, Barnett explained that in the past it was easy to assume anybody with military experience could lead the nation, but that has changed now.

"Bush had military experience, and it has led us to failed policy and to mistakes," said Barnett. Additionally, he believed that McCain, with military experience, would provide a presidency much like Bush's due to their agreement on many issues.

"As a military person, given the choice between military experience and good judgment, I'll take good judgment every time," said Barnett.

Barnett also supports Obama because of his temperament.

"Obama has the temperament to be commander in chief [and can] make decisions about when we go to war and how to deal with other nations," said Barnett. He said that McCain still had what he believed to be the same erratic judgment he had after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, citing McCain's views on attacking Syria, Iran and Iraq. Pollock disagreed with Barnett.

"I wouldn't trust Obama to make any decisions where our nation's security is at stake because he just talks about ending the Iraq War to get votes," said Pollock.

Obama's judgment on issues affecting the Middle East was the most important factor for Barnett's support. He said Obama took a stance against the Iraq War after Sept. 11 when it was unpopular, while he believed McCain was one of the biggest supporters of the war. Vernesse Roberts, a Manassas resident and Obama supporter, believed McCain and Bush's judgments were dangerous.

"I really believe Bush and McCain hate us," said Roberts.



Sophomore Scott Rowe, sophomore Frenanda Ferreira, and sophomore Courtney Diggins all volunteered at the CAA Blood Drive Challenge this past Wednesday, Oct. 15, in Dewberry Hall.

Students React to Final Presidential Debate

DAVID PIERCE
Staff Writer

Over 200 students attended the Debate Watch Party in the Johnson Center to see the final presidential debate. The 2008 presidential nominees met Wednesday, Oct. 15, at Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. for the final debate before Election Day.

Student reactions were mixed at the conclusion of the debate. Freshman Asya Rojas believed Obama won the debate. She also had some concern about McCain's behavior.

"McCain was way too negative [in the debate]; Obama was more respectful," said Rojas. Freshman Samantha Aviles, psychology major, believed McCain won and referred back to McCain's criticism of Ayers as her reasoning.

"I agree with McCain that we need to know the full extent of the relationship between Obama and Ayers," said Aviles.

Mason Votes, the African American Research and Resource Center and the Peer Empowerment Program were sponsors of the Debate Watch Party. Ruthledge Dennis, professor of sociology and anthropology, and Bassam Haddad, assistant professor and Director of the Middle East Studies program, offered commentary prior to the debate in the JC.

Dennis spoke about Obama's historic nomination.

"Never did I imagine, in my lifetime and at my age, that I would see an African-American as a serious candidate for the presidency of the United States," said Dennis. He also talked briefly about the current economic issues and hoped that the candidates would continue to address their opinions to the public in the remaining weeks of the presidential race.

Haddad said that Mason students' excitement and involvement in the election process was promising and was at an unprecedented level. He felt, though, that the foreign policy issues debated in this year's election were narrow and almost embarrassing. Haddad

believed that one of the candidates wanted more troops in Iraq, while the other wanted more troops in Afghanistan.

"[It's as though] the rest of the problems that are taking place in the Middle East and in the rest of the world are somehow less important."

The crisis on Wall Street took center stage early in the debate. Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., expressed his concern with the economy, calling it the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression. Even after supporting the \$700 billion financial rescue plan, Obama still believed more could be done.

"We haven't [seen a] rescue package for the middle class," said Obama. He also believed Sen. John McCain's, R-Ariz., tax breaks would benefit wealthy corporations and oil companies, but not the average American. McCain claimed that Obama would raise taxes.

Obama believed America could reduce its dependence on foreign oil within 10 years. He also said that the country should look at offshore drilling, but it would not be the answer.

"We can't drill our way out of the problem," said Obama. McCain said we could reduce our dependence on foreign oil by building 45 new nuclear power plants, as well as drill offshore for oil.

"We will reduce the cost of a barrel of oil because [we will] have a supply of our own," said McCain. Party allegiances were questioned by both candidates. McCain claimed that unlike himself, Obama did not stand up to fellow party members on certain issues. "I've fought against spending [and] special interests," said McCain. Obama disagreed with these assertions citing issues such as clean coal technology and school vouchers about which he disagrees with his party. He felt that McCain was a vigorous supporter of President Bush.

"I am not President Bush," McCain told Obama. "If you wanted to run against President Bush, you should have run four years ago." This exchange resulted in gasps and laughter from the Debate Watch Party

audience. "I've got the scars to prove it," McCain said, in regards to disagreeing with his own party leaders as well as the Bush administration.

Lemma Ibrahim, a senior government and international politics major, criticized McCain's voting record.

"McCain votes with President Bush on everything," Ibrahim said.

The candidates were asked to address their campaign's behavior in light of negative advertising.

The candidates were asked if their viewpoint on the Roe v. Wade case, which legalized abortions, would affect their possible Supreme Court Justice nominations. McCain believed Roe v. Wade was a bad decision; however, he wanted abortion laws to be handled at the state level. With the possibility of Roe v. Wade being overturned depending on future justice nominations, McCain did not think the nomination of new justices should be based on their beliefs.

"I would consider anyone in their qualifications; [I] would not impose any litmus test," said McCain. Obama said he prefers that women, in consultation with their doctors, religious advisers and their families, should decide abortions.

"[Abortion laws] shouldn't be subject to state referendum, any more than our First Amendment rights are subject to state referendum," said Obama, adding that he, if elected, would look for justice nominees who have an outstanding judicial record, and a good sense of issues that affect the real world.

Both candidates also talked about issues raised at the previous debates, including healthcare and education.

Senior Lara Ek, English major, felt that the repeated mentioning of Joe the Plumber in the debate was absurd.

"I disliked the phrase; it was annoying to hear it fifteen times," said Ek. Even with her objection of the phrase, Ek did not believe either candidate's repeated use hurt their credibility.

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Uniting Residential and Commuter Students

RACHEL PALTING
Broadside Correspondent

The 29th Student Senate met Thursday to discuss upcoming events such as Witch Watch and Night Walk. Student Body President Zack Golden also presented the Student Government Strategic Plan, which covered possible improvements for the George Mason community.

Golden presented a series of proposals which included strengthening relationships between residential and non-residential students through a university life hour, during which students could unite daily, and more study rooms in residential areas that are accessible to non-residential students. Due to the increase in residential students, Golden also proposed a 24-hour library and dining area as well as more outdoor tables.

"I think it's important for us to have several key goals that we want to accomplish here, stuff to improve the Mason community," said Jeremy Miller, Speaker of the Senate. "We want students to be able to look back and see what Student Government has done for them than before they came here," said Miller.

Golden suggested an improvement in graduation advising because students have trouble understanding general graduation requirements. He proposed working with the advising offices to make sure

faculty advisors are well versed and able to assist students in graduate on time.

"I'm a big fan of changing academic advising," said Anthony DiCarlo, Speaker Pro-Tempore of the Senate. "Personally, I've had trouble with academic advising and being a double major. The coordination isn't always there between the two different schools," said DiCarlo.

Senate members who had not had negative experiences with advising were equally eager about reforming advising.

"I'm excited about the academic advising. I have some friends whose advising, sometimes, isn't the greatest. And I want them to be able to enjoy the same thing I enjoy with my advisor and I think that's great that you can have someone to go to. We're all students here, that's why we came here first, to go to Mason and get an education," said Miller.

After Golden's presentation, the Student Senate discussed two bills concerning the allocation of funds for Witch Watch and Night Walk. The Senators passed Bill 9, concerning Night Walk on Nov. 6. Bill 13, concerning food for Witch Watch, was also passed.

"The most pressing issue was just trying to get these bills passed. Witch Watch is two weeks from Friday, and it was important to get Bill 13 passed now so we aren't allocating funds at the last minute," said

Miller.

"Witch Watch is more for the Mason community, and Night Walk is more for students at Mason," said Mhehvis Khan, a junior majoring in psychology and the Clerk of Student Senate. "What Night Walk does is that we walk around campus and see unsafe spots, things where it's too dark at night or lights are out. We walk around with the police department and show them areas that are unsafe and put a call box there. Both are really important. Just one is inside campus and one is outside campus."

DiCarlo proposed Resolution 10 at the end of the meeting, which states that the Student Senate support the efforts of Student Activities and University Life for promoting the upcoming Lewis Black and the OneRepublic Concert. The resolution was passed.

"It's important we recognize that the university is trying to do stuff better for the campus, for the people that live here and the non-residential students," said DiCarlo. "We can't always say that the university doesn't do stuff for us. I just want people to know that the university is doing stuff for us, and they should be recognized for it."



Upcoming events such as the Witchwatch and Night Walk were discussed at the Student Senate meeting this past Thursday.

Class Connection Provides Material and Collaboration

MARY CARPENTER
Broadside Correspondent

For those who wish to become a tutor or need one for a class, theclassconnection.com might help. The Class Connection began at the University of Wisconsin when two students decided to create a Web site to make it easier to study for exams and prepare for classes. Christopher Klünder, the CEO and president, Hicham Bouabdallah, the chief technology officer, Ben Jedd, the chief communications officer, and Eric Wuebben, creative director, now make this Web site possible.

The Class Connection is available to numerous colleges across the United States. Though the new Web site is just starting out, it is already filled with helpful information to help students study for exams. On the Web site, George Mason University students can search notes and textbooks for their classes, as well as for other schools.

Because this is new to Mason, there are only seven members, so there is not much information about university classes. However, students can still search for textbooks and notes from other colleges. If a student is new to the Web site, there is an option to login as a demo user to see all the features offered. First time users must register in order to access all the tools.

To register, give an e-mail address, make a password and provide school information. After registering, the Web site prompts you to add classes of your own. Then you can add notes and make flashcards, make study groups or become a tutor. Also, you can add friends or invite people to join, send messages to each other and post comments, similar to Facebook.

Not only does it help students study, but the Web site also has access to Google, Wikipedia and an online dictionary. Users can make a study sheet from their own notes or from other notes found

online.

The Class Connection lets students buy textbooks, look up summaries and find notes from other students studying the same subject. And not only can users get notes that are posted by students, but also notes that are posted by professors.

The site has resources to help get organized with work and help set up different ways to study, which will help in preparation for classes. While The more students join the Web site, the more beneficial it will become for all Mason students.

This is a great way to get group projects done as well. By using the study group tool on Class Connection, students can post any information about a project, talk to group members and post times and places for the group to meet. Tutors can be sought through this Web site. Also, there is a calendar tool where schedules can be written, such as due dates. It is a great way to stay organized, and it saves all old class notes.

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News in Brief

Speaker of the House of Delegates Coming to Mason

Bill Howell, the speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates, will be coming to George Mason University on Tuesday, Oct. 21, to speak to students about the state budget, an issue that will affect students in the near future. Howell will be speaking in Research 163.

ITU Project Briefing

The Information Technology Unit will host a briefing to inform students about current and upcoming technology projects on George Mason University's Campus. The briefing will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 22 in Research 1, room 163 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. ITU invites all students and faculty to come discuss issues or concerns related to IT on campus.

The briefing is presented by ITU Project Management Office. For more information, contact John Prette (jprette@gmu.edu) or Robert Nakles (rnakles@gmu.edu).

National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week

The third week in October is National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week. College students are encouraged to reflect on the physical and psychological consequences of excessive drinking.

According to the Inter-Association Task Force on Alcohol and other Substance Abuse Issues, "this week gives campuses the opportunity to showcase healthy lifestyles free from the abuse or illegal use of alcohol and to combat negative stereotypes of college drinking behavior."

Fairfax County's Budget

Fairfax County is implementing cost cutting measures to handle the ever worsening outlook of this year's revenues. The county will ask employees to all take one unpaid day off in January, it has suspended construction projects, suspended the purchase of new county vehicles and will vote in the near future about whether to withdraw \$25 million from its reserves, money tapped into during times of financial need. Fairfax County officials are also considering a reduction in campus police officers.

County officials are projecting a \$58.2 million shortcoming in projected budget revenues and up to \$500 million by 2010. The budget crunch is exacerbated by the cut in funding from the state level to local municipalities.

The board of supervisors is currently conducting a thorough review of county assets and reevaluating their revenue projections. The county will hold town hall meetings in which officials will solicit feedback from concerned citizens.

Virginia's Economy

The ripple effect from the national budget crisis hit home this week with an announcement by Virginia

Governor Tim Kaine that there would be major cuts in the state budget. The state will fall short by almost \$1 billion this year, requiring the downsizing of 570 government jobs, postponement of employee raises and a hiring freeze on over 800 employment positions. The cuts will also affect college funding.

The Housing Market

Stocks continued their downward turn as companies' earning reports showed less than adequate performance and the housing profile from September showed construction nearly ground to halt. Housing starts fell from 872,000 to 817,000 units. Those were the same numbers reflected by the commerce department when the U.S. market was going through a housing price readjustment back in 1991.

Housing prices are set to fall steadily through 2009 and into the future according to economists. It seems to be caused by a domino effect; banks and homeowners bet that the price of housing would continually rise—that's logical, a rising population requires more housing, more construction and great real estate investment. Defaults on mortgages rose simultaneously making banks with large reserves in

mortgaged backed securities more and more insolvent.

Interest rates on mortgages continue to rise, reflecting fears that the United States Treasury will have to borrow heavily to finance the banking sector rescue. Unoccupied home numbers are as high as they were 50 years ago. Unemployment is on the rise while those who retain their jobs have seen wage increases barely commensurate with inflation making people wary about purchasing new homes.

Oil

Prices fell below \$70 a barrel for crude oil for the first time in 14 months, making gas prices for the consumer more affordable. The price drop caused the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries to call an emergency meeting to discuss the price drop after months of rising prices. There has been a more than \$40 a barrel price drop in the past three weeks.

OPEC is expected to curb production of oil in order to halt the sharp fall in prices. Many of the oil producing nations that comprise OPEC require high oil revenues to balance their national budgets.

Some economists view the drop in oil prices as a stimulus

for unstable economies, making it cheaper for consumers to fill up at the gas tank, keep the extra cash, and spend it elsewhere. Some economists predict that oil prices will drop below \$50 a barrel in the coming months. The drop in price will lower gas prices this winter.

The Bailout

Bush defended federal intervention in the financial markets at a press conference on Friday, Oct 17th. He claimed that the bailout package was necessary to stave off a wide scale financial meltdown but would take time to fully take effect.

Federal intervention began back when lender giant Countrywide announced that a large portion of its holdings were in high risk subprime mortgages. At that time the Federal Reserve brokered an agreement between major banks and Countrywide. The larger banks would absorb the subprime mortgages at a reduced cost to lessen the liability acquired on their balance sheets.

On Sept. 7 the government extended \$200 billion to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, purchasing unsecured debt and keeping the organizations solvent. Freddie Mac and

Fannie Mae own or back \$5 trillion in mortgage debt, half of the countries total mortgage debt.

Later in September, the government was unmoved by cries of help from Lehman Brothers trading company.

The government took a 79.9% stake in insurance company AIG, through two extensions of credit, \$85 billion on Sept. 26 and \$37.8 billion on Oct. 8 for a total of \$122.8 billion.

Bush emphasized in the press conference that government intervention would not be a nationalization of the banking system but simply a tax payer investment in the banking system.

Compiled by Noah Martin, News Editor

Information compiled from The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN.com, and other wire sources.

This Week in Finance

Ellmore Wants More Out of Congress

SONYA HUDSON

Asst. News Editor

Congressional hopeful Mark Ellmore spoke to a small group of the College Republicans about campaigning techniques, campaign strategies and college students' involvement in campaigns.

Running against Democratic incumbent Jim Moran, Ellmore, a self-proclaimed conservative right-wing candidate seeks election to Virginia's 8th Congressional District.

Ellmore discussed his grass roots campaigning techniques.

"We're at Metro stops at 6:30 in the morning and at grocery stores in the evening," said Ellmore. He talked about the importance of speaking one on one with potential

constituents about his values and views.

Ellmore explained his campaign strategy is not to promote negative ads but to let voters know where he stands on the issues.

The pro-life candidate, who opposes gay marriage and is a member of the NRA explained, "We need to stand on principle, stick by Republican views and values."

Ellmore encouraged Republicans college students to help any Republican candidate in Virginia campaign.

"We're in the last two minutes of the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl," said Ellmore. "You can either pitch the tent and sit in it or get off the bench and get in the game."

Ellmore encouraged young people to get involved in

campaigns and politics. The congressional hopeful discarded bloggers as people afraid of getting in the game. "Talk is cheap, work is harder," Ellmore said. "You have got to get up and get the ball." He also urged the College Republicans to get involved in local politics.

"Show me, don't tell me. Go hard or go home. Do you want to be part of the solution or part of the opposition?"

"You guys are the difference makers," said Ellmore, speaking of the young Republicans.

"Jim Moran is the reason we have so much corruption in my district," said Ellmore of his opponent.

He exuded confidence in his half hour with the College Republicans, "We are going to crank the dial on Election Day. I will get more votes than any

candidate in history running against Jim Moran," Ellmore said.

In regards to Ellmore, Joshua St. Louis, the second vice chairman of the College Republicans said, "he proved to us that he has a challenging race ahead."

Jennifer Zakarian, the College Republicans' treasurer and a junior double majoring in government and international politics and English, noted that Ellmore emphasized activism, campaigning rather than just talking and a positive campaign strategy and the lack of negative ads.

"He's doing his best to reach out to everyone," said senior Matt DeLeon, government and international politics major and the first vice chairman of the College Republicans.

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