

# opinion

**EDITORIAL BOARD:**

NICOLE OCRAN, *Editor-in-Chief*  
 KERRY SHEATS, *Copy Chief*  
 SHERELL WILLIAMS, *Managing Editor*  
 ARTHUR GAILES, *Opinion Editor*  
 NOAH MARTIN, *News Editor*

All unsigned staff editorials are written to represent the view of the *Broadside* staff; a diverse set of opinions determined by the members of the editorial board. Letters to the editor, columns, artwork and other commentaries strictly represent the opinions of the authors and do not represent the official opinion of the newspaper.

**CONTRIBUTE:**

Want to share your opinion? Submit your letter to the editor or artwork to:

E-mail: [opinion@broadsideonline.com](mailto:opinion@broadsideonline.com)  
*Broadside*  
 George Mason University  
 Mailstop 2C5  
 4400 University Drive  
 Fairfax, VA 22030  
 Phone: (703) 993-2950  
 Fax: (703) 993-2948

Letters to the editor are welcome and are printed on the basis of space, quality and timeliness. All submissions are the property of *Broadside* and may be edited for brevity, clarity and grammar. Material containing libel, racial slurs, personal attacks or obscenities may be edited or rejected. The author's name, class year (and/or title where appropriate), major and daytime phone number must be included for verification of authenticity. The deadline for submission is Thursday by 10 p.m.

## BROADSIDE

George Mason University's Student Newspaper

NICOLE OCRAN, *Editor-in-Chief*

SHERELL WILLIAMS, *Managing Editor*  
 KERRY SHEATS, *Copy Chief*  
 NOAH MARTIN, *News Editor*  
 SONYA HUDSON, *Asst. News Editor*  
 ARTHUR GAILES, *Opinion Editor*  
 EMILY SHARRER, *Style Editor*  
 MICHAEL COPPINGER, *Sports Editor*  
 BRIAN CHAN, *Asst. Sports Editor*  
 TEODORA BLINDU, MARY KATHERINE  
 COURTNEY ERLAND, *Student Media*  
*Photography Manager*  
 TEDDY MEYER, *Asst. Photography Editor*  
 REEM AWAD, ELAHEH FARMAND,  
*Copy Editors*

ELIZABETH BIONDI, PETER FLINT, LAURA  
 FOLITZ, JOSHUA GRISET, MAHMOUD LABABI-  
 DI, MATT L'ETOILE, RUBY LYON,  
 MOLLY MADDRA, BRITTANY ROUSE, RANDY  
 URICK, CHRIS WHITE, *Photographers*  
 BRANDON COSBY, MICHAEL GRYBOSKI,  
 SCOTT MASON, ANDY MINOR, *Staff Columnists*  
 SARAH LEON, *Advertising Representative*  
 KRISTINE LEWIS, *Advertising Representative*  
 JACQUES MOUYAL, *Business Manager*  
 KATHRYN MANGUS, *Faculty Adviser*  
 CHRISTIAN YINGLING, *Asst. Student Media*  
*Adviser*  
 DAVID CARROLL, *Tech Adviser*

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

The letters, columns and views expressed on this page are solely those of the writers. They do not reflect the views of *Broadside* or its staff, unless otherwise noted.

Letters to the editor and commentary from our readers are welcome and are printed on the basis of space, quality and timeliness. All submissions are the property of *Broadside* and may be edited for brevity, clarity and grammar. Material containing libel, racial slurs, personal attacks or obscenities may be edited or rejected. The author's name, class year (and/or title where appropriate), major and daytime phone number must be included for verification of authenticity. Submissions will only be accepted via e-mail to [opinion@broadsideonline.com](mailto:opinion@broadsideonline.com) (no attachment files will be accepted). The deadline for submission is Thursday by 10 p.m. Letters to the editor and commentaries strictly represent the opinions of the authors.

*Broadside* is a weekly publication printed each Monday for the George Mason University and surrounding Fairfax community. The editors at *Broadside* have exclusive authority over the content that is published. There are no outside parties that play a role in the newspaper's content, and should there be a question or complaint regarding this policy, the editor in chief should be notified at the information given above.

*Broadside* is a free publication. Limit one copy per person. Each additional copy is 25 cents.

*Broadside*  
 George Mason University  
 Mailstop 2C5  
 4400 University Drive  
 Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: (703) 993-2950  
 Fax: (703) 993-2948

© 2008 by *Broadside*. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written permission of the editor-in-chief.

# Mason's Services Are Too Inconsistent



I hold George Mason University very dear to my heart. I've had some of the best experiences of my life here. I've had great relationships, both professional and personal, and the professors that give their valued insight and time to teach us are truly worth the whole of my tuition. However, the services provided by the university are, to say the least, inconsistent.

While Southside just opened and now provides great food to those who frequent the Fairfax campus, the luxury comes with a cost. Anyone who has eaten there at dinner knows that the cost is outrageous: over \$9 with tax. Food prices have shot up all over campus, and both of the convenience stores' prices seem higher than ever.

As a vegetarian who has eaten at Southside, food can be

pretty sparse in regards to true vegetarian options, often earning strange looks from those preparing food when you ask them, "Please, no meat on my sandwich." There are no veggie-burgers available either, and all too often the cooks what's in the food is sometimes difficult due to language barriers. I'm certainly not against them because I can't understand them; however, as someone who takes care to pay attention to the food I eat, it's just very frustrating. Now, there are things that people who have dietary limitations can eat, but it can be hit or miss.

That's my main criticism: inconsistency. Food quality and food options can be stellar one day of the week and deplorable the next—not only at Southside, but all over campus. The feeding of over 17,000 undergraduate students is no small task, but consistency in service is something I think is attainable.

There is no reason why my friends' chicken nuggets from Chick-fil-A change size depending on the day of the week, or that you have to show up for breakfast an hour before it's actually over to be able to eat breakfast food.

The quality also fluctuates. It was undoubtedly better this past week, because it was Family Weekend and the service must impress those paying the tuition and meal plans.

Further, Parking Services can go weeks without ticketing someone for illegally parking behind Fenwick Library, and then in one day everyone who dares to park there will receive citations. I am sure that many have also received parking tickets when they either forgot to hang their permit or because Parking Services didn't bother to look for a parking sticker. Perhaps Parking Services just "missed" their hang tag altogether. It's ridiculous that we have parking attendants who one day won't hesitate to give us a ticket and then gloss right over the person parked right next to us.

Mail Services is one of the bane of my existence. They have gotten much better over the past year. The days of waiting until Friday to get a package that was delivered on Monday are over. However, many of us have had our mailboxes changed on us without our knowledge. Sometimes a slip does not make it into the right box. The fact that you cannot buy stamps or postage supplies with a debit card is preposterous. It feels as if one moment they are working for you and the next against you.

Lewis Black, the comedian who was here on Saturday

night, was in the movie *Accepted*, a movie that challenges the traditional role of college in a young adult's life. It claims that college is first and foremost a service industry and they need to "serve us." My professors are outstanding. I know without a doubt that they are preparing me for the world outside of Mason, and thus serving my need to be educated. But how are the stringent judicial/police policies, spotty food services, the inconsistent enforcement of parking policies by parking officials, irregular mail and other inconsistencies serving our needs as students? Why can't we just have consistent food and enjoy ourselves on weekends without the fear of losing our entire shot at higher education?

I'm not saying we should all quit Mason and go create a school like in *Accepted*, but we need to become more active in working for the change in policy we wish to see on campus. There is no reason why we can't. Anything we can do will help; get our families who came to Mason this weekend involved, talk to your student senate, write letters to the editor, write to the Virginia House of Delegates that give us funding—there is so much that we can do that will change how things are done at this university. It's about time we as students did it.

# Religulous Is Ridiculous



Bill Maher's *Religulous* treats American filmgoers to yet another vitriolic denunciation of all things religious. Maher, host of left-leaning political shows like *Politically Incorrect* and *Real Time*, attempts to expose the absurdities of spiritual belief by talking with crazy individuals and alluding to religious extremism. Maher's documentary is not alone, but rather part of an apparently growing industry of anti-religious material, including books by religion-haters like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens. Yet all of this seems a bit aloof intellectually.

One wonders what they are trying to prove, be it Maher's *Religulous*, Hitchens' best-selling book *God is not Great* or anything written by Dawkins. Perchance they are claiming religion is fundamentally harmful. After all, they can point to real life examples, which is what Maher did in his film. But what does that really prove? History is laden with figures that were destructive and hated religion just as much as Maher, Dawkins, Hitchens and their compatriots. Examples abound: Joseph Stalin, a man who believed religion was an opiate, killed people by the millions in Russia. Mussolini, another atheist, crushed political dissent in Italy and had

his armies commit several massacres in Ethiopia. Closer to home, the shooters at Columbine High School in Colorado were non-theists, with one of them wearing a shirt that read "Natural Selection."

What about these people? None of them were religious believers and yet they did awful things. If asked about these telling examples, Maher would most likely ignore them. Describing these people as proof that atheism is inherently immoral would be simple-minded since these people represent only a minority of the atheist population. This point could be very well argued by Maher, but it would lead to another question. If the likes of Stalin, Mussolini, and the Columbine school shooters cannot be used as proof that atheism is wrong, then why then should the people Maher interviews for his documentary be used as examples that theism is wrong? Using the most extreme examples of any group of people as their representatives isn't only misleading, it's malicious. It represents a deliberate attempt to smear that group of people.

A more campus-related example can be used to reflect how Maher went about gathering evidence for his theory that religion is stupid. Although some time has passed, most certainly we Mason students can recall Brother Micah, whose vitriol and inflammatory rhetoric drew large crowds by the statue of our university's namesake. Maher, had he been in attendance, would have looked at the screaming preacher and seen him as proof for his religion-is-stupid thesis. But what would Maher say about the many Bible-believing Christians, who came out and did their best to counter Brother Micah, either via direct verbal confrontation or through attempting to direct people away from the sight so as to better dialogue on matters of spiritual truth? Does that one

bad example negate all those good examples? In the mind of Maher, the answer would most likely be yes.

So, if we can agree on the obvious, which is that every ideology, religious and secular, has its rotten apples, let's return to the question: Why would people like Maher make a documentary that generalizes religious believers and ignores the countless examples of atheists and agnostics who have caused harm sometimes on an astronomical scale? My personal opinion is it must be frustration.

Atheist missionaries like Bill Maher have to be frustrated. It is exasperating to them that even in Great Britain, a nation where the General Theory of Evolution is perpetuated as true in every institution, less than half the population polled by the British Broadcasting Corporation said they believed in Darwin's theory. It is frustrating to them that despite every possible effort to "enlighten" the populace, a Pew Research Poll in 2008 found that 92 percent of Americans believe in a Supreme Being and 80 percent believe in miracles. This frustration is only destined to get worse. Whereas *Religulous* earned \$3.4 million dollars for its opening weekend, the pro-Christian evangelical-themed film *Fireproof* earned \$6.8 million, double its ideological opposite.

Maher's documentary, along with the books of Dawkins, Hitchens, and others, really proves nothing about which is better, religion or irreligion. If the best Maher can do is point to the extremist fringe as proof that religion is wrong, then he is no better than people who claim that all Arabs are terrorists or all Hispanic immigrants are illegal. Bill Maher and those like him are judging the religious as a whole by the worst of us, and it's a shame that some will take him seriously.

HPV FACTS: #10

YOU CAN GET HPV AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT

HPV.COM

## Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down



Lewis Black, T.I. and T-Pain all performed at the Patriot Center last Saturday and Sunday. Mason's continued efforts to bring us the best events possible are much appreciated.



Mason Madness kicked off basketball season for us at the Patriot Center. It's that time of year, and *Broadside* will continue to be your source for all sports news. Go Mason!

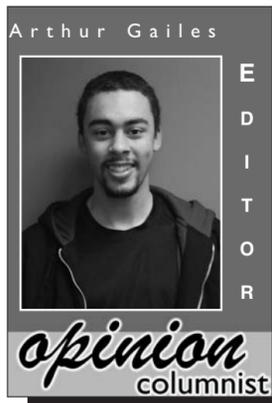


The Red Cross Blood Drive comes back to Mason on Wednesday, Oct. 22 just outside the Johnson Center on the North Plaza. Come by and donate blood to save lives.



The final presidential debate was as underwhelming as the rest, reflecting the increasingly negative turn the entire campaign has taken. Hopefully, both candidates will develop real plans to help us out of our current economic crisis before Election Day.

# Final Presidential Debate Shows More of the Same



The three presidential debates in the past month have shown us one thing: neither candidate is all that different from the standard politician. While we suffer from an economic crisis, the drain from conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a government more concerned with Wall Street than those of us caught in its downfall, our presidential nominees are more concerned with attacking each other and rhetorical fluff than telling us exactly how they can help us. Most polls have shown that people think Senator Barack Obama, D-Illinois, performed better in all three debates, which is not particularly surprising. Obama is a great

performer. He's a brilliant speaker, and he carries himself extremely well. Better yet, he seems to have a genuine understanding of the issues that probably surprised people who thought of him as nothing but an entertainer.

As smart as Obama clearly is, he's not any different from any other politician. When he gets on stage, he's immediately connecting Senator John McCain, R-Ariz., to President George W. Bush and "eight years of failed policy." When he's not attacking McCain, he's talking about helping us in the most general terms possible. We know that presidential candidates are going to propose to cut taxes for the middle class, give us cheaper energy prices, and make our credit problems go away.

But Obama doesn't tell us how he's going to do it. He's been asked time and time again what he's going to cut to pay for our \$700 billion bailout plan, or how he's going to get us out of our record deficit. It's important for a president to be able to adjust to the different crises we go through, but Obama hasn't changed his campaign lines any to account for our current economic crisis.

What's worse to his supporters is Obama's willingness to shade the truth in his attacks. We expect for there

to be some negativity in any presidential race, but Obama is running as somebody who is above the misleading tactics we see in politics so often. Instead, he makes claims that 100 percent of McCain's campaign ads are negative, that vouchers are the centerpiece of his academic plan, and that McCain's health care plan would cost most taxpayers \$7,000 per year.

McCain hasn't been any better. He came into the first debate attacking Obama and never stopped. He's been down in most polls for nearly the whole campaign and he's been trying to use these debates as an opportunity to pull himself up. So he smirks whenever Obama talks, makes fun of his opponent, and tries to make Obama look bad at every opportunity.

And McCain's attacks are just as obviously stilted. He's made false claims that Obama will fine small business that don't follow his specific health care plan, that Obama voted to increase taxes 94 times in the Senate, and that Obama would force people to buy into a federal health care system. It's been a sleazy campaign and it's no surprise that the debates have come to reflect that.

If McCain is going at these debates from a different angle, he's getting the same result.

Where Obama hasn't given any details, McCain has been throwing bad ideas around and hoping on sticks. He's proposed to buy all bad mortgages at full price, something that has the ability to completely destabilize the market. He also debuted the idea for an all-out government spending freeze (except for military and entitlement spending) in the first debate. The latter is ridiculous—there are a great many government programs, like education, that we simply can't afford to cut. McCain knows this, but he's been fishing for ways to come off as the leader when put side-by-side with Obama, so he eschews what's reasonable for economic punch lines intended to get votes.

There's never been a time where this kind of immaturity has been acceptable from presidential candidates, but at this point, it's shameful. We are struggling, and the people who might run this country are busy taking potshots at each other. We need a real leader right now, and neither of them has proven that they are anything but standard politicians out to get more power for themselves. Going into the debates, we were promised by both candidates that we'd see some real change. So far, neither candidate looks any different from politics as usual.

# McCain Encourages Hate

## *The McCain Campaign's Dangerous Rhetoric Provokes Xenophobic Paranoia and Racism*

JOHN KOBLAN  
Staff Writer

Recently, there has been a lot of hateful venom coming out of the McCain-Palin campaign. On Oct. 6, Republican Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin was at a campaign rally, where she proceeded to fire up her supporters by blaming Katie Couric for her "less-than-successful interview with kind of mainstream media." *The Washington Post* reported that "at that, Palin supporters turned on reporters in the press area, waving thunder sticks and shouting abuse. Others hurled obscenities at a camera crew. One Palin supporter shouted a racial epithet at a black soundman for a network and told him, 'Sit down, boy.'" It gets worse. On Oct. 7, a rally attendee shouted "treason" after Palin accused Democratic Presidential Nominee Barack Obama of not supporting the troops.

Republican Presidential Nominee John McCain was speaking about Obama's tax plan Oct. 8. At one point, a man could be heard yelling "off with his head." Last Friday, a woman at a McCain rally, said to McCain, "I don't trust Obama. I have read about him. He's an Arab." The woman's shocking display of ignorance and racist xenophobia is disturbing. McCain responded, "No, ma'am. He's a decent, family man, a

citizen that I just happen to have disagreements with on fundamental issues and that's what this campaign is all about."

McCain supporters have been booing any attempts by McCain to get them to control their bloodthirsty urges for decapitation, their ultra-nationalist calls of treason, or their assertions that Obama is an Arab just because his middle name is Hussein.

It gets worse. *Time* magazine's Karen Tumulty was in Virginia on Oct. 11 when the Chairman of the Virginia Republican Party, Heffrey Frederick, hit a new moral low. With so much at stake, and time running short, Frederick did not feel he had the luxury of subtlety. He climbed atop a folding chair to give 30 campaign volunteers who were about to go canvassing door to door their talking points—for instance, the connection between Barack Obama and Osama bin Laden: "Both have friends that bombed the Pentagon," he said. "That is scary."

Tumulty, in her article, went on to say, "It is also not exactly true—though the distorted reference to Obama's controversial association with William Ayers, former '60s radical, was enough to get the volunteers stoked. "And he won't salute the flag," one woman added, repeating another myth

about Obama. She was quickly topped by a man who called out, "We don't even know where Senator Obama was really born." Actually, we do: it's Hawaii. Frederick clearly used fear tactics to incite people to xenophobic racist anger."

One would think that Frederick would apologize for this. But that would be assuming that Frederick has a conscience. He's not sorry. "It is just the hard facts. It's terrible that it can be said, but it can," Frederick said. "It's shocking. Here is a guy who is one step away from the presidency, who is one step away from being commander in chief, who has a friend who bombed the Pentagon. It's just shocking to me." He said, "And there is no denying that Osama bin Laden had a role in bombing the Pentagon."

Palin also expressed no remorse to conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh. She stated "that she had nothing to lose by attacking Obama." She's wrong. There's a Bible scripture that I find relevant; "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?" Palin is willing to stir racial anger and put America in dangerous footing for personal gain.

Recently, Congressman John Lewis, D-Ga., one of the elders of the Democratic Party, decided enough was enough. "The Republicans are 'sowing

the seeds of hatred and division," Lewis said. "During another period, in the not-too-distant past, there was a governor of a state of Alabama named George Wallace who also became a presidential candidate. George Wallace never threw a bomb. He never fired a gun, but he created the [conditions] that encouraged vicious attacks against innocent Americans who were simply trying to exercise their Constitutional rights." Yes, comparing this to the atmosphere of hate that led to the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham.

McCain and Palin would be wise to heed the congressman's warning. They are currently stirring up dangerous emotions and tensions in this country. The United States Secret Service is investigating these cries of "Kill Him" at McCain rallies. McCain himself should be applauded for trying to referring to Obama as a decent family man and someone who we should not fear to have as our president, but he needs to apply those same standards to his entire campaign. Palin especially should take note of his efforts to be positive, rather than continue her sad charade as the pitbull in lipstick. It will soon be too late for the McCain campaign if they keep letting "traitor" and "off with his head" define their campaign.

**DO YOU  
HAVE  
AN  
OPINION?**

ABOUT  
THE  
ELECTION,  
RELIGION,  
SERVICES ON  
CAMPUS  
&  
ANYTHING  
ELSE...

E-MAIL

OPINION@BROADSIDEONLINE.COM

**Finally!**

**Eyeblast.tv**

LETTER FROM OUR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

How University Life at Mason Has Improved



PHOTO BY COURTNEY ERAND PHOTOGRAPHY MANAGER

Over the last several years we have seen our university grow in many ways, but one area where there has been highly visible growth is in University Life. Realizing that to build a strong university community we needed more events on campus, more traditions, and more activities on the weekends, our student organizations, Program Board, Student Government, and University Life administrators have worked hard to offer students more options in activities and programs on campus. Creating a sense of excitement is one way to improve

university life and build a strong campus community. Brining celebrities to campus is how Mason has tried to create that sense of excitement. Last weekend's Lewis Black show and next Thursday's OneRepublic concert are recent examples of George Mason University's efforts to bring celebrities to campus for events that create a sense of excitement. An area that needed improvement several years ago was weekend life. Last year Mason started the weekends.gmu.edu Web site so that students could easily find activities on the weekends. This year Mason has plenty of weekend entertainment to keep students on campus during the weekends. Upcoming events include Mason Idol, a Battle of the Bands with RockBand, and the Rock the Runway Fashion Show at the Fall Festival. These new programs and activities have significantly improved weekend life in a short period of time. Another way that our university life at Mason has improved recently is in creating new traditions that increase school spirit. Increased publicity and free gifts for *Broadside's* Game of the Week has brought more students

out to support Mason athletics and build school spirit. The Game of the Week has helped get students to attend sporting events that they might otherwise not attend. It also helps bring crowds to games other than baseball and basketball. It is important for us, as students, to get out and support our new programs and activities. A lot of time and effort has been put into planning new events and improving campus life, and if we want to continue to see a growth we need to make the most of what we have now. Finally, if you find yourself unhappy with what we have to offer for programs and activities, go to the Student Activities office, the Program Board office, or the Student Government office and voice your concerns or offer your ideas. One of the best parts about going to Mason is that everyone here wants to help our university grow, so if you have an idea or a goal there are many people at Mason who will help you make it happen!

Zack Golden  
Student Body President

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Moment John McCain Lost My Vote

I am a Ghanaian-born American citizen who has lived in this country for 12 years. I have a great love and passion for politics, which stems from having grown up in a very political family. I also have a great love for this country and the many great opportunities it has offered me ever since I set foot here. Growing up in Ghana, I always spoke with admiration of democracy in America and having lived here for all these years, I say to my American friends that for all of this country's imperfections that they like to point out to me, no one ever goes to bed worrying whether the country will still be a democracy the next morning when they wake up. I acquired an American citizenship three years after attaining eligibility status. As passionately as I have been about political issues, there is one great joy the acquisition of citizenship brought to my heart—the chance to vote. I always vowed to myself that there were two things I was going to do immediately upon acquiring citizenship—register to vote and apply for an American passport. I have been counting the days to the 2008 presidential election since March 30, 2005, the day I became an American citizen.

president in 2000, I cheered him on, although I could not vote. I can remember all the long conversations and arguments with my college Republican friends who were supporting President George W. Bush. In the end, McCain lost the primary, but still had my greatest admiration and respect as being a decent, truthful and honorable public servant. When McCain declared he was running again in 2008, I got excited, although I will admit that the passion I saw in McCain in 2000 is not the same passion I see in him in 2008. Nonetheless, I made a donation to his campaign and continue to encourage my friends to vote for him. At home, I can always be heard yelling, "My Man," when McCain appears on the news. My two-year-old daughter has learned to say "Daddy, my man."

During the second presidential debate, "My Man" broke my heart. In his discussion about an energy bill he said and I quote, "It was an energy bill on the floor of the Senate, loaded down with goodies, billions for the oil companies, and it was sponsored by Bush and Cheney," McCain said. "You know who voted for it? You might never know. That one (referring to Senator Barack Obama, D-Illinois). You know who voted against it? Me."

Politics is tough business and I have always argued that you cannot always play nice

with your political opponent if you really want to win. I have been in the business long enough to also know that name calling is nothing new in politics, but McCain's demeanor as he pointed to Obama and said "that one" was quite unsettling. I am sure politicians have said worse things about each other since the beginning of time, but I have also come to realize that in politics, losing a voter occurs sometimes over the oddest moments or over the smallest issues that can be conveniently overlooked. I wish I could ask McCain for an explanation and elaboration on that remark. The remark was very disrespectful in tone, but most importantly it came across to me as dehumanizing. I have followed McCain closely over the years and this is not the McCain I have come to admire and have been supporting over the last year.

And so after waiting patiently to become a citizen and to vote in my first U.S. presidential election, I feel robbed of that great opportunity by a man I have admired for the last 12 years. Perhaps I should forgive McCain and view this as common political rhetoric and still vote for him. But the more I replay that moment in my head, the more I am resigned to the idea of not voting for McCain.

John Osae-Kwapong,  
Political Science

Sarah Palin: a Step Backward for Women's Rights

SABRA HAYES  
Staff Writer

Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin is the first woman to be nominated by the Republican Party for the vice presidency, but she will be the downfall of many women's rights if her party wins this election.

Palin holds values that contradict the rights of women, such as believing that life begins at contraception and that abortion is murder. "In times like these with wars and financial crisis, I know that it may be easy to forget even as deep and abiding a concern as the right to life, and it seems that [Senator Barack Obama] kind of hopes you will forget that," Palin told a crowd in Johnstown, Pa. "He hopes that you won't notice how radical, absolutely radical his idea is on this and his record is, until it's too late."

Palin makes no apologies for her beliefs. Unless the mother's health is in jeopardy, she believes that a woman should be forced to carry the child to term. Even Senator John McCain, R-Ariz., makes the exception for cases involving rape and incest. Forcing a woman to give birth to a child is criminal. The female victims of these crimes would go back to requiring back-alley abortions to terminate the pregnancy, which many women did not survive due to lack of medical care. Palin has no concerns for respecting privacy and a woman's bodily integrity.

Even worse Palin has a history of billing rape victims for rape kits. This act is socially, politically and ethically wrong. The usage of the police force and of medical staff to take care of victims of rape is a necessity that should be a free service to catch the criminal, not a way to make money off the misery of a female citizen. According to an article posted by *ABC News*, Palin's "really done a lot of work on oil and gas, but when it comes to violence against

women and children . . . we haven't been on her radar as a priority," said Peggy Brown, executive director of the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

In an article printed on Sept. 6, *Newsweek* discovered that the funding for Covenant House was cut by 20 percent while Palin has been governor. Covenant House is a program that helps low-income, rural and teen parents adjust to their new roles as mothers. Palin is sending mixed messages to the community that a woman should carry the child to term and then not have anywhere to turn once giving birth.

According to the same *Newsweek* article, "Palin trimmed by \$1.1 million funds the Alaska legislature had allocated for Covenant House Alaska this year for a capital construction project. Palin voided \$15,840 the legislature had allocated for a Women, Infants, Children. The WIC Program, would have provided additional breastfeeding and nutrition support to low-income rural women."

Palin has no respect for the private lives of women. The proof is in her ignoring the Supreme Court's decision *Roe v. Wade*. Her decisions to cut the funding for these programs are especially surprising since the news that Palin's 17-year-old daughter has since become pregnant.

The rights of choice should never be stripped away from a woman. Pregnancy should be not become something that is viewed as a punishment. Not only has Palin begun to show plans to violate the basic human rights of women, but she is also behind a ticket that has a history of supporting inequality for women in the right to choose, domestic violence, and equal pay.

Palin is in support with McCain's views of unequal pay for women in the United States. Palin's spokeswoman Maria Comella issued this response to

an interview with Obama posted by MSNBC, "For Barack Obama to accuse Gov. Sarah Palin of opposing equal opportunity for women, when she actually opposes the trial lawyers' effort to overturn the longstanding statute of limitations in America's courts—is not only an absurd accusation, it's a disgrace." However, according to this statement Palin is in support with the Supreme Court's 5-4 majority decision that invalidated Lily Ledbetter's equal-pay lawsuit.

The inequalities for women are just outrageous. Palin has been hailed as being a step forward for women and as being a feminist for being the first woman on the Republican Vice Presidential ticket. Palin is not a step forward or a feminist. Her ideologies are fuelled strictly by her running mate and by her belief system, not by what is right for equality for every citizen. Palin will be a downfall to equality for women and the proof is in the record.

EXPRESS YOUR OPINIONS  
**BROADSIDE IS HIRING WRITERS OF ANY MAJOR**  
 APPLY TODAY  
 OPINION@BROADSIDEONLINE.COM