

BROADSIDE

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Obama Wins Historic Election

Students Share their Opinions on the New President of the United States of America



President-Elect Obama spoke at a rally on Nov. 1 in Manassas.



Students gathered in the Johnson Center to find out the election results.

DAVID PIERCE
Broadside Reporter

Students reacted Wednesday afternoon to Barack Obama's historic victory as the first black president-elect of the United States.

Most of the students interviewed were happy, many ecstatic, with the announcement Tuesday night that Obama would be the 44th president.

"I can't begin to explain the joy and the pride that I feel about President-elect Barack Obama! I can't even believe I can say that; President Obama—Wow!" said Anthony Taylor, a sophomore medical technician major. Freshman Yalda Moslehian, a communication major, agreed with Taylor, and felt relieved that McCain lost. However, Senior Nick Bukowski, an economy major, thought the country would be going in the wrong direction with Obama's victory.

"I think the whole country is going to hell," Bukowski said, adding that Obama, as president, would shut down the economy. He also believed the main reason Obama was elected was due to a "cult of personality," blaming it on the media coverage of the elections.

"The media is in the bag with [Obama]," Bukowski said.

Senior Mohad Mohamed, information systems major, said that Obama's opponent, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., lost the election because of the current financial crisis on Wall Street. Junior Ahmed Fateh, a psychology major, agreed with Mohamed and added that McCain hurt his chances of becoming president when he temporarily suspended his campaign by helping fix the financial crisis in Washington. Masters student Jon Ruark, an information security and assurance major, believed McCain lost due to his lack of Internet presence with young voters.

"[McCain is] still part of the Republican 'old boy' network," Ruark said. Moslehian said some Republicans considered McCain to be too moderate and that his choice of Sarah Palin as his running mate was a big factor in his loss, too.

Obama's claim to bring change to America was a highly debated issue among the students. Ruark said that Obama, while trying to be bipartisan, would not bring enough change to the country. Moslehian believed Obama would bring change by doing what many Republicans believe to be "distributing the wealth," by rolling back the Bush tax cuts on the wealthy. Bukowski, a pro-life student, was concerned Obama might nominate a pro-choice justice to the Supreme Court if the need arose.

Obama won the presidency with 364 electoral votes to McCain's 162 votes, with 11 electoral votes from Missouri still too close to call by press time, although McCain had a slight lead over Obama. Moslehian attributed Obama's victory to a political change in America.

"Obama winning shows that the country is ready, is progressing, and is more diversified now," Moslehian said. Bukowski said that unintelligent people would find Obama appealing.

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Students gathered at the George Mason statue and chanted "No More Bush!" after the election results were announced.



People celebrated the announcement of Barack Obama as the next President on the streets in Washington, D.C.



The Hubbard Street Dance Company performed last Saturday at Center for the Arts.

Check out Style | 9 for the review!

PHOTO BY RANDY JURICK

Mason Goes Green

University Strives to Reduce Waste

JARED TRICE
Staff Writer

With its newly opened Southside dining facility, George Mason University has shown significant concern towards efforts to embrace the environmentally-friendly movement.

Opened on October 6, the Southside dining facility replaced Ciao Hall as the main dining facility on campus. According to Michael Galvin, the marketing and community affairs manager for Dining Services, Southside boasts an impressive menu of recipes that are "delectable and high quality."

This new dining facility makes campus dining a more pleasurable experience and at the same time, Southside will aid in Mason's efforts to reduce its impact on the environment. As a result, Southside has introduced a new practice: it has eliminated dining trays.

As an "all you can eat facility," this elimination prevents students from overloading their trays with more food than they can consume. Experts agree that the absence of trays will reduce food consumption and will eliminate an estimated 30 percent of excess food.

Not only will the elimination of excess food university save money, but it is expected to save the facility thousands of gallons of water every day.

The Southside dining facility also plans to implement a pulper, a composting machine and eco-friendly chemicals. When available, the facility also plans to purchase goods from local vendors.

Mason's concern with the environment has also been taken to the classroom. The education departments have begun to incorporate environmental awareness into the student curriculum.

These courses began popping up within the university's catalog in the spring 2008 semester, reflecting a growing trend within universities to bring the green movement into the classroom.

Andrew Wingfield, an assistant professor at Mason and a supporter of this university movement states, "I think what it all leads towards is a shift in perspective that will ultimately become a culture shift."

The year 2008 also provided colleges with an additional ranking system—a "green" report card.

Earlier this year, The Princeton Review released the nation's top green universities. Topping the list is the Georgia Institute of Technology, followed by Emory University and Harvard College.

Receiving the highest green score is no modest task. Georgia Tech not only offers students over 100 courses in sustainability, but also has 21 endowed chairs and 23 research centers that include significant sustainability components.

This focus on environmentally-friendly initiatives reflects a growing national trend throughout many university systems. Within the past year, some 586 campuses made a pledge to reduce their greenhouse-gas impact.

To their surprise, many of the universities are realizing this can be difficult to accomplish. In order for campuses to achieve zero impact, it is necessary to understand the causes.

These causes often involve the analyzing of tedious data that then leads to the necessary campus reform. Sept. 15, 2008 marked the date for the first deadline submissions for the zero-impact achievement. From the original pledged campuses, only 190 have been submitted with another 90 schools requesting extensions.

Mason's efforts are not going unnoticed. Many students have seen the recycling bins placed throughout the university's facilities or even the "conserve energy, turn lights off" signs within the university's stairwells.

Although Mason did not make the list of the 11 universities that received the highest green rankings, its proactive initiatives and reforms certainly place the university on the right path.

