

# WestWord

## Students and faculty share ideas on candidate pool

**W** Bridget Van Der Bosch  
Staff Writer

Senior Alex Zasso said, "We need a change and I feel that Obama has some out of the box thinking that can be [beneficial] to our country." The majority of Niles West students and faculty have expressed their opinions as to why Barack Obama would be best for the position of President of the U.S.

Conversely, math teacher Robert Nortillo says that he will vote for McCain. "I typically vote for Republicans because the Republican Party, at least in theory, aligns itself with the idea of keeping government small."

According to the Cable News Network, as of Tuesday, Sept. 31, Obama has 47% of the vote, four points above McCain's 43% of the vote. Obama and McCain have been very close throughout this year's polls. Weeks ago, Obama had a nine point lead on McCain, which is the biggest separation between the two this year.

Many students, including seniors Ashley Menardo and Fred Choute, said that Obama is a good choice because having a minority president would create change. Choute said, "I am voting Obama because I would really like [to have] a [minority] president. It would be something different."



Obama and McCain will contest the 2008 presidential election.

Photo courtesy of ASNEKRT Campus.

Senior Danika Meyheux said Obama is the best choice because he does not back down and that is why she will be voting for him. "If people tell him he can not do something, he does it 10 times better than he promised."

Some faculty members have also stated they would be voting for Obama. Maria Perez, part of the Textbook Center staff said, "He represents everything I believe in."

Many staff also agreed with students. Anthony Serafini agrees with Zasso, by saying that we need someone with a new perspective and that he believes Obama can give our country a different viewpoint.

Though there are many Obama supporters, a fair share of faculty and staff agree with Nortillo. Security guard, Renee Hasnas will also vote for McCain. Hasnas says that Obama seems to be in line with Cook County politics and Hasnas disagrees with a lot of Cook County policies.

Math Science Resource Center clerk Andrew Erikson is on the fence. "I am up in the air, but am leaning towards McCain because I tend to align with Republican values more than Democratic," Erikson said.

One thing on which all respondents agreed is the need for change, which both candidates have promised. Though it may seem that Obama is leading this election based on the information from the seniors and faculty, the race for the Presidency is neck and neck.

Regardless of political standing, voting is one of the only ways to exercise choice. In Illinois, the deadline for registering to vote is Tuesday, Oct. 7.

## Recent Georgian province conflict has roots in states

**W** Suhail Ansari  
World Editor

"I feel worried and I hope that it stops there especially because my aunt is in Georgia [right now]," junior Maximilian Vikhter said, who hails from the Russian Federation. Vikhter's aunt is married to a Georgian man and lives near one of the disputed regions of Georgia.

"This comes down to a personal level. My grandmother tries to communicate with her because they have shut down all the phone lines. She can only communicate with text messages once in a while. My aunt is stuck with her [child] there, and they cannot get to the major airport because you have to drive through the disputed region," Vikhter said.

"I am from Ukraine, and we kind of do not like Russia. I can understand [the Russian] point but a lot of people in my family are against Russia. Russia did a lot for [Georgia] since Georgia asked to be [a part of Russia] several hundred years ago and now they broke away. I think Georgia is sucking up to the West and saying Russia is the big bully," said junior Ilya Raskin.

According to *The New York Times*, Russia invaded two disputed provinces of Georgia after Georgia made a military attempt to take those provinces for themselves in late August of this year. There are many interests in the region, with major oil pipelines that run through the disputed regions that supply much of Eastern Europe and abroad. This involves the U.S. because one of the pipelines was established by U.S. interests.

Vikhter said that Western media only show the Georgian point of view. "[Those news channels] only show [the Georgian] official going on his rants [for international help]. They are only giving you one side and kind of misinforming the American people" said Vikhter. Vikhter stressed that the media did not tell that Georgia took military action first.

Junior Dmitry Ramirez is from Ukraine and Peru and agrees with Vikhter. "It is a very tense situation with hostilities on both sides, but you see all these channels in the U.S. showing only the Georgian side. Georgia allowed Russian peacekeeping officers and other military in the disputed regions, and when Georgia attacked first, those some of officers and [military personnel] were killed," Ramirez said. He went on to state that Russia has been cast in a bad light.

AP European history teacher Chris Schwarz said that when a situation like this erupts, both sides usually claim media bias. Schwarz said, "You have two regions that were part of Georgia, which is a young country which has over time aligned itself with the west. The Georgian government, within the last few months, has sought to keep these two regions as part of the Georgian state. This act of trying to keep them within Georgia caused Russia to invade to prevent Georgia from occupying those regions that were actually Georgian territory. Essentially Georgia tried to keep [those regions] as part of Georgia and Russia saying that they had no right to occupy those territories."

Raskin agrees with the sentiments of the Russian side but believes that every sovereign state like Georgia and Russia should have the right to have internal affairs. Raskin thinks that the situation has received more international attention and scrutiny than it should have.

Schwarz said, "The massive Russian invasion was over done and Russia will come out like the bad guy." Schwarz went on to say that the conflict is not in anyone's interest and that cooler head will prevail and that things need to develop first before all of the future ramifications can be known.



1. Whose record did Michael Phelps break?
- A. Mark Spitz
  - B. Mark Spitz
  - C. Mark Spitz
  - D. Mark Spitz
  - E. Mark Spitz

2. How many Canadian provinces are there?
- A. 4
  - B. 8
  - C. 8
  - D. 10
  - E. 10

3. What is the largest bone in the body?

- A. Spine
- B. Spine
- C. Femur
- D. Femur
- E. Femur

4. Who wrote the *Twilight* saga?

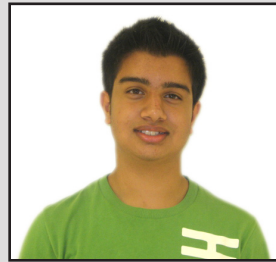
- A. Stephen King
- B. Anne Rice
- C. Stephenie Meyer
- D. Stephenie Meyer
- E. Stephenie Meyer

5. Which NFL quarterback is Jessica Simpson dating?

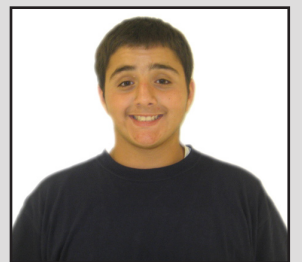
- A. Tony Romo
- B. Tony Romo
- C. Tony Romo
- D. Tony Romo
- E. Tony Romo

6. Of what state is Vice President candidate Sarah Palin the governor?

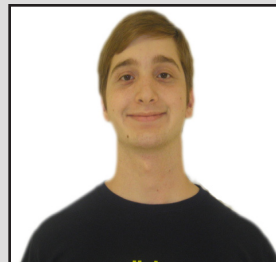
- A. Nebraska
- B. Alaska
- C. Alaska
- D. Alaska
- E. Alaska



A. Freshman - Zahid Majeed



B. Sophomore - Hormiz Eshoo



C. Junior - Paul Domer



D. Senior - Alyssa Lee



E. Faculty - David Klingenberg