

Analy Independent

Analy High School
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The "Race to Replace" Draws to a Close

Let's see how far we've come.
Elizabeth Rosen

It's been over a year since we began to follow the "Race to Replace," as some have now dubbed it. Senator John McCain of Arizona, Mike Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas, and Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, were hardly surprising as the Republican party's strongest potential nominees, so the real shock to the status quo came when a woman, New York's Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, and an African-American, Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, emerged in a dead heat for the Democratic nomination. Now, with the most historic election in our nation's history taking place in less than a week from today, it seems like the right time to look back on all that has happened, gather our thoughts, and prepare ourselves as much as possible for November the 4th, 2008.

We watched anxiously as the primaries approached. Once again, the Republicans proved predictable in their backing of well-known "aisle crosser" and Vietnam veteran/prisoner of war McCain. The Democratic candidates, on the other hand, fought a virtually neck-and-neck battle for months, inviting speculation as to who would earn the support of the "super delegates," minorities, and various interest groups. Although it seemed for some time as if Clinton had the upper hand, the tide turned in June of this year when Obama emerged from the primaries with roughly 54% of the delegates (and nearly all of his former opponents) behind him.

The conventions, debates, and vice presidential selections have come and gone, leaving us with a Democratic ticket of Barack Obama and Joe Biden, a seasoned and well-respected senator from Delaware, and a Republican ticket of John McCain and Sarah Palin, the inexperienced and unknown governor of Alaska and former mayor of the town of Wasilla.

This race has been extremely unusual for a number of reasons. For the first time ever, a major party has nominated an African-American for president (Obama). For the second time ever, a major party nominee has selected a female running mate (Palin). Only one of the major party nominees (Palin) has executive experience—all of the others (Obama, Biden, McCain) are known for their experience in the legislative branch. Senator McCain is the second oldest first-time nominee at age 72, and if elected, he will be the oldest first-time nominee to become President. On the other hand, Obama, if elected, will be one of the youngest Presidents at age 47.

Our world is in quite a state right now: we are currently experiencing the largest economic decline since the recession that ended in 1982, a force which has already left many nations and individuals in financial ruin; the Iraq War has been going on for five and a half years with no certain end in sight; and a combination of increasing population density, lack of alternative fuel usage, and destruction of the natural environment are leading up to what could, if unchecked, become the worst climatic and environmental disaster in human history.

Those who have been given the opportunity to vote on Tuesday absolutely should, but not before doing the research and making an informed decision. The election is near, the stakes are high, and the fate of the world could very well be in the hands of the American voters.

No pressure, or anything.

Club Updates: Interact

Matt Raymond

Hey kids! October is coming to a close, and Analy Interact is fully under way. Though we have already begun our events, it's never too late to join Interact if you're interested in volunteering and making valuable connections in the community.

Following our orientation and beach cleanup/party on October 11, Analy Interact worked at the Rotary Great Getaway Lobster Feed on October 18. The club bussed tables, prepared and served food, and raised \$900 by selling club-made greeting cards. This money will go to Analy Interact's international project—aiding a suffering village in Uganda through Rotary International's Adopt-a-Village program. We intend to improve medical care and educational standards there, as well as provide consistent access to potable water.

Coming up on November 14, Analy Interact is hosting one of its bi-annual Middle School Dances for students from Brook Haven, Twin Hills, Hillcrest, and Willowside. The dance is yet another opportunity for would-be Interactors to learn more about the club and become orientated. Middle School Dances are always fun, and this dance shall be no different—come watch 7th and 8th graders interact awkwardly and dance to the music served up fresh and crispy by the internationally respected Riley Daly (hereto after known as DJ RJD).

Don't forget to bring in canned goods for the food drive this week! Food for Thought is a great organization dedicated to helping terminal AIDS patients in Sonoma County. We need spaghetti sauce, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, and breakfast cereal, but anything non-perishable is great!



Analy and El Mo football players battle once more for the Apple.

Spirit Week 2008: Planet Earth

Annual class spirit competition a great success, culminates with Apple Game between Analy and Elmo.

Jessica Skinner

They came from around the world. Some rushed through Earth's atmosphere at the speed of light; others trekked through thick underbrush of the countryside. Some fiercely hunted their way through the wild dangers of the African jungle, while still more, draped from head to toe in thick fur and wool, daringly crossed the icy Atlantic. Their destination: the neutral grounds of Analy High School. Their challenge: spirit. Their goal: to win.

The freshmen aliens came in peace. While zooming through their corridor, one could spot bright stars creatively adorned with the names of their people. Upon continuing up their stairwell, one could hear the call of a journey into the outer limits of space. These strangers put forth effort all week in the race for the most spirit, and they should be congratulated on their ability to adapt not only to a foreign planet, but to the pressures of Spirit Week, a challenge they've never before been asked to face.

The sophomore country folk moseyed in from the wide prairies. Their hallway looked mighty green and downright purdy, it was only deservin' that they won themselves first place. Them sophomores were thinkin' right good with that piñata waggery at lunchtime, and many were heartily impressed by that there funny video starring Cooper Maloney. The sophomores really raised the bar, metaphorically speakin' o' course.

From the thick trees came the sharp cry of vicious predators. They charged toward the school with faces distorted by ferocity and spears in hand. They were.... the juuuunioooors! Their essence was left behind in the stairwell nearest the basement, where baboons hung from rope swings and authentic jungle scents wafted through the air. All were invited to join the barbarity when these bloodthirsty savages performed their tribal dance at the Spirit Rally on Thursday, October 9th. These fierce primates carried with them a competitive spirit that, like a tiger, could not be tamed, and it was this intensity that won them first place overall.

Some say they come from the Arctic. Others say they're descendents of the sharks. Only the students of Analy High School know... they're both. They are the sharctic seniors! Their icy stairwell sent shivers through the surrounding halls, and their video, a chilling story of a shark serial killer, was only the tip on the iceberg.

All this madness lead up to none other than the Apple Game, the annual football game between two great rivals: Analy and El Molino. Students poured into the stadium by the dozen, clad in blue and white and full of school spirit. Cheers and shouts rang out from the Analy bleachers all evening, and the spirit only increased when our strapping football players ran onto the field. It was a close game, a truth which became apparent during the crowd's intense, watchful silence. For three hours our worthy players endured a tough game, exerting every effort to make us proud. In the end, although Elmo came out with the higher score, we came out with more pride in our hardworking team, because they never gave up. Our relatively little school is not so little in spirit, which has truly shown through this year. All four classes showed fervent class spirit during Spirit Week, and then we followed it up at the end of the week with powerful, exciting, uniting school spirit.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 ... Decision 2008 Recap, Spirit Week, Interact
- 2 ... Homelessness, How to be Stress-free, Movie Reviews
- 3 ... Interview with Melissa Harrelson, Travels in India, Dear Brooke
- 4 ... Interview with Cisco Adler, Remembering Che Guevara, Candi date Profiles

LIFE AS WE KNOW IT

Homelessness: Everywhere, Everyday

Christie Noe

"Have any spare change? Any spare change, ma'am?" A man, around 20 years old, unshaved and wearing a ski cap, asked me for change on the busy streets of San Francisco. He pleadingly held out a McDonald's soda cup, with only a few crumbled dollar bills inside. He was what the general public would call "homeless." I plunked a few quarters in his cup and hurried on, excited to be shopping in San Francisco. I didn't stop to consider the hardships that he must have been through, and I probably should have. I wonder how he's doing now... does he have a job, or is he still on the streets asking for money? Does he have a bed or apartment, or is he sleeping on a park bench? Unfortunately, these questions will go unanswered, but I have some questions for you.

Have you ever walked down the streets of Sebastopol or Santa Rosa, and seen people sitting on a corner or under a door hang, looking in need of food or money or even a bath? And have you wondered why those people don't have food, money, or good hygiene? Well, maybe it's because they have more worrisome things to think about. I mean, that half-eaten pizza crust you just tossed in a trashcan could actually be a meal for someone! People who don't have a home sometimes don't have time to find a job, or some steady source of income. Often times they are busy just trying to find food or a warm place to sleep at night. Some of them are trying to get away from a really bad situation at home, and try to fix their lives by running away, rendering them 'homeless.' Sometimes, people get down on their luck and their homes are absolutely destroyed, by a fire or earthquake. Then what will they do? They don't have anywhere to go! So, just for a second, put down that video game controller or those shopping bags a listen to me.

Those "homeless" might consider them selves extremely lucky to have what you or I take for granted. The sandwich or huge bag of Doritos

you were eating yesterday? That might be a nice meal for someone who maybe eats once a day. I'm not trying to make you feel guilty about what you have, just aware of the homeless people in or county and all over the world. Want to hear something I learned a few days ago? An adult I know told me about experience she had about a year ago. She went through a broken marriage and put her house up for sale. On the day she actually sold her house, she also lost her job. So she had money, but she had no job and no place at all to call her home. She told me, sadly, that she'd never dreamed of ever actually being homeless. She was eventually able to stay with some of her friends, for a couple months. She was really lucky to have people she could go to for help. Then, when she had straightened her life out, she got a job and eventually a new house. The reason I'm telling you this is because only 10% of homeless people are "chronically homeless," and that 10% have drinking or drug problems, or mental illness, but the other 90% of homeless people are people who maybe lost their job due to lay-offs, or lost their home. They are simply down on their luck.

Homeless people aren't seen by a lot of the general public. We turn our eyes away, although most of them just need help getting their life back in order. A man told me a few days ago that when he went to a bad neighborhood he saw people out on the streets, alone. As he walked along, he saw a mentally ill woman out in the middle of the road, walking along in a haze. Another homeless woman directed her away from the dangerous road and brought her to the safety of the curb. These people who have no home create a community among themselves, bring themselves together to help them through the hard times. Maybe we could learn something from them, how to lift each other up during times of hardship. Maybe we could learn that the less fortunate need our help. Maybe we can realize and act on the realization that the homeless are people too.



Stress-free in a crazy world

Hannah Maschwitz

Stress. It's likely that this has become as normal to you by now as Tim, the homeless guy in Sebastopol with the boom box and the roller skates. Maybe you've made friends with it. Maybe you've even stopped noticing its presence. Now, when you're chest tenses up, you have a skull-splitting tension headache, or the knots in your back are as tight as Arnold Schwarzenegger's abs, you don't even blink. These days, life is so busy, that hanging out with friends has become a rare thing indeed.

Students of Analy High School, I have epic news, and that is that you can have as much stress in your life as the mysterious roller skater. Just one catch: you have to take my advice.

Connect. Think of the people in your life that you're drawn to like the sun's warmth, the people that make you laugh and boost your confidence. Surround yourself with these passionate, loving people. (It's okay if it's your mom, just don't tell anybody.) Create strong bonds with these heroes and notice how you feel more positive and relaxed every day. If you just can't seem to make friends and no one will talk to you, a dog will do just fine.

Laugh. Never miss a chance to giggle at the absurdities of life. I'm sure you've all experienced the frustration when you leave your homework on your messy bedroom floor or in the printer, like I do. Having a sense of humor about the struggles life throws at you will rescue you from your own anxiety.

Beauty. Remember a time when you were looking at a breath-taking view. Maybe you were star-gazing, watching the sun set, or just staring into Mr. Webb's dreamy eyes. Seeing something pleasurable sends the mind into a deeply relaxed state, crushing the feelings of stress and angst caused by life's everyday blunders. Pay attention to how your frame of mind changes when you simply flip through the pages of a magazine. All those colorful ads with pretty pictures can do more than just sell products.

Move. If you think you're gonna stress less by sitting on the couch watching Wife Swap, you are sorely mistaken. Even though when you feel anxious, all you want to do is "veg out," it only makes everything worse. Go for a walk, or even better, a run or a swim. Endorphins will leave you with a healthy glow and a happy spirit.

Breathe. Close your eyes and inhale deeply. Exhale. Concentrate on how you feel taking in the oxygen that is so necessary for your existence. This simple act forces your mind and body to become in tune and serene.

Sleep. Getting ZZZZZs is crucial to keeping a calm demeanor. When it's one of those days where everyone around you, even your best friend, is getting under your skin, lack of sleep is probably behind it. Once your head hits the pillow, let the drama of the day slip into the night and allow sheep to lead you to good dreams.

Refuse. If someone or something is stressing you out then just say "no." Life is full of obligations, but more than anything you are obliged to yourself. Life is short; save your precious time for things and people that matter to you.

Relax. Turn on your favorite music and enjoy the sound. Take a bubble bath. Stretch your weary muscles. Take five minutes to just sit and do nothing. Give yourself the break that you deserve, without any guilt.

Accept. Most things in this world you, unfortunately, cannot change. The day that you embrace this, you will truly have no worries. The reality is that not everyone is going to like you, and some people will actually have the guts to criticize and gossip, but the only one they're hurting is themselves and it's in your best interest to "refuse" to care.

Have the wisdom change what you can and the courage to let everything else go. Most importantly, always accept who you are.

Movie Reviews Straight from the Source

Peter Ryzanych

Disclaimer: I am a 16-year-old male, so I have certain movie preferences that might not apply to everyone. I work at the Rohnert Park movie theater, so I see many movies and will do my best to review each one, first objectively and then subjectively.

First, we'll start with Beverly Hills Chihuahua. I know that people have preconceived notions about this movie, and they probably all say the same thing. However, I'm here so say it isn't as bad as it seems. The story follows Chloe, a pampered Beverly Hills Chihuahua, trying to find her way back to her home when she gets lost in Mexico. She eventually ends up allying with a German shepherd and a thousand Chihuahuas, with a mean Pitbull on her tail. The movie has a few "that was kind of funny" moments, but the true fun comes when a large group, with the theater all to themselves, sits there and ends up mocking the movie the whole time. Large groups should give this movie a shot; otherwise, skip it. Everyone else will.

I give Beverly Hills Chihuahua a 1.5 / 5.

Let's move on to City of Ember. It's based on a bestselling novel that I have never read, so I went into it blind, without preconceptions or expectations. The movie was surprisingly decent; the acting was good, and it had a solid story, but it lacked everything else. There was no suspense, no action, and no romance; it was a dry movie, but somehow entertaining nevertheless. It follows Lina and Doon on their quest to save their underground city from its impending doom by following a 200-years-old escape plan created by the city's builders. This movie is good for family outings, but otherwise I would wait for the DVD release.

City of Ember gets a 3 / 5.

Finally, a must-see movie: Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist. This is the new Michael Cera movie that follows Nick, an indie rocker nursing a broken heart with the help of his band (The JerkOffs, later to change names multiple times), and the one crazy night in New York City during which the entire movie takes place. I highly recommend this movie for couples or massive groups of couples, especially considering the highly romantic final 20 minutes. It is a chick-flick and romantic comedy, but it skips over most of the idiocy involved with others of its kind. I suggest everyone sees this movie before it exits theaters.

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist gets a 4 / 5.

Paris and Nicole take Analy by storm

Melissa Harrelson wins Homecoming Queen 2008

Megan Hobbs

How did you feel when you first found out you were homecoming queen?

When they announced my name I was in complete shock. Being crowned homecoming queen didn't feel real. I was very excited, and when it was all over I felt accomplished.

As a freshman, did you ever see yourself becoming a nominee for court?

I remember seeing my first homecoming queen rally, and it seemed like the most fun experience a girl could have—I never thought I would actually go through with it, though.

What activities are you part of in and out of school?

My activities are basically based on sports, mainly softball. I plan on playing in college, so that's my focus. I play for the high school team, and during Summer and Fall I play on showcase teams. These teams travel around the United States to tournaments where hundreds of college scouts go to recruit players. I've also been trying to volunteer at a local elementary school with my kindergarten teacher, because I plan on majoring in child development. This is hard to do right now, with school and softball taking up most of my time, but once Winter comes around that's what I'll be doing.

What was the best part of running for homecoming queen?

The best part about running was when my escort and I made complete fools out of ourselves in front of the school. And, of course, being crowned queen.

What were your biggest fears going into the race?

I was more nervous than scared. My Escort, Ren Cassidy, and I



"It's worth the hard work, time, and embarrassment. It's a memory that you will have for the rest of your life."

made a pact that if I threw up, he would throw up too. When it came to the rally I just hoped people would laugh. I was scared that an awkward silence would happen... that's when you know you didn't do a good job.

Why Paris and Nicole?

The theme was the hardest part. We originally wanted to do the movie Knocked Up, but it wasn't appropriate for school. Ren and I are both blond and decided that it would be funny if he dressed up as a girl. Between you and me, our decision was made two days before the rally.

Any advice for the underclassmen or future queen candidates?

If becoming homecoming queen is something you dream about, don't let this opportunity pass you by, and don't ever be afraid to show your true colors. It's worth the hard work, time, and embarrassment. It's a memory that you will have for the rest of your life.

How did you choose your escort?

It's actually a very funny story. Ren and I have been friends since freshman year, but not best friends. Our conversations were pretty much artificial ones—the classic, "Hey, how are you?" type of questions. I was kind of going through an escort crisis, because I'd lost my first escort due to a vacation. Then, someone told me to get Ren as my escort, and I couldn't pass him up. I honestly couldn't have asked for a better escort.

Favorite part of the entire experience?

The experience as a whole. There isn't just one part that I could say was my favorite.

Travels in India

Max Scheder-Bieschen

"We are going to India!" my mother announced last year as we sat around our dining room. My sisters and I were excited and started asking, "When? Where? For how long?" A pained look appeared on my mother's face. "I'm sorry, I should have made it clear. Your dad and I are going to India."

I was greatly disappointed. Since I was very young, my family has not only loved traveling but also believed that it is a valuable learning experience. When I was four years old, my parents moved our family from New York to Frankfurt, Germany. We traveled all over Europe, the Middle East, South America, Africa, and as close to India as the Maldives. Seeing different people in different parts of life, with varying cultures and liberties (or lack of liberties) was very eye-opening for me. In 2004 my parents decided we would "take a year off," and we spent the year traveling around Australia and New Zealand. After moving to California, my family visited China. But India! I hadn't been there yet, and now my parents were going without me. I wanted to see the colors, feel the heat, and get to know this exotic place that I could only imagine. I was truly jealous. I was now 16 and about to start my last year of secondary school – once I started at University, it might be more challenging to arrange such a trip!

My parents went to Mumbai and stayed with friends in Delhi, where they did some sightseeing. They came home and showed us their photos, described their new friends, and shared some of the great stories and history of India.

"Please, isn't there a way I can go?" I begged. My parents said they would work on it. One of the families that they'd befriended was the Mecheri family. Rajeev and Rinku offered to let me come visit them and to help make the visit a memorable learning experience. My parents told me about this opportunity, but now, my emotions were conflicted. I was both excited to be going to a place I had never gone before, keen on seeing how people lived and to learn about their culture. At the same time, I was nervous, because I had never traveled so far away and stayed with a strange family for a whole month, all by myself. However, time passed, Mr. Mecheri and I spoke on the phone a few times and exchanged emails, and he tried to learn what I would be interested in. The day I got on the plane, I was nervous, but I knew that once I got there, it would be fine.

Three planes and 25 hours after I left San Francisco, I was in Chennai, getting off a plane and looking for someone who I had only seen in a photo – Rajeev. He brought me to his house and introduced me to his wife, Rinku, and his young sons. Homes in India have much higher traffic flow than in Europe and the US, but I soon became comfortable and could recognize all those friends, neighbors, and business associates who dropped by the house.

The week I arrived, I spent touring the city of Chennai and learning about India and my host family. The children's schooling is more intense than what I grew up with. I spent the next three weeks visiting different automotive factories, getting tours and learning about both the engineering and the management aspects of the job. I am very interested in studying engineering at University, with automotive design and engineering as a specialty. (Also, my father owns a company that is working on electric off-road vehicle development.). At the first factory I went to, Ashok Leyland, I met Sanjay and Vishal. Sanjay and Vishal were both born in America but have lived mostly in India. We instantly became friends and decided to work our schedules so we could visit other factories together. We visited Lucas TVS, Elforge, Park Sheraton, and Rane TRW. In our free time, Sanjay and Vishal introduced me what teenagers do in Chennai when they are not studying.

One of the things my parents felt was important for me to do during this trip was to visit a non-governmental organization that is providing services for the disadvantaged. With all the blessings that I have, it is important to remember to help others. Rajeev helped arrange for us to visit The Banyan, an organization that helps mentally unstable women get treatment and, if possible, rehabilitate them. It was a very moving experience to visit the facility and get involved in the work being done there. Language was not a barrier here as it occasionally is in other circumstances. The women got all they needed from a soothing voice and a nice smile. They really needed the attention and we could see the joy that we brought to them. Near the end of my stay, the Mecheris brought me to an event that their club was hosting. The Chief Minister of the State of Gujarat speaking about issues facing his state and much of India. I found this speech very intriguing, because he spoke mostly about what he did different that lead to his state being the most advanced and most stable state in all of India. Soon, however, it was time to leave the Mecheri family, my new friends, and India. Reflecting upon my visit to India, a few things stand out. First, I appreciate how a good impression can lead to bringing people together from all over the world—the Mecheri family did a wonderful thing in opening their house to me, going only on the knowledge that my parents were nice people. The companies that I visited were also very generous with their time so that I could learn. Secondly, although I have not been a vegetarian most of my life, I enjoyed the Indian diet for the month that I was there. Lastly, I saw for myself that while I have been around much of the world and always enjoy seeing the similarities and differences among cultures and places, India is a land that is like no other. The people, history and beauty are astounding.



Dear Brooke,

My boyfriend and I broke up a couple weeks ago. He seems like he's totally moved on, but I'm not! I still like him so much, but I'm afraid of losing him as a friend. What should I do? Help!

Not So Over It

Dear Not So Over It,

He might not be quite as over it as you seem to think he is. He's still hurting too, but be careful. Just because he's not over the relationship doesn't mean he wants to get back together with you.

Give it time. Either you will find that you both want to get back together, or you will have moved on. Time will also give you the chance to repair your friendship.

Love, Brooke

Dear Brooke,

I started hanging out with this new group of kids over the summer. But now I'm finding that I'm in way over my head. Not only do I find myself in trouble, but that I just don't like these kids very much. But I'm afraid that if I stop hanging out with them everyone will hate me.

In Over Her Head

Dear In Over Her Head,

These people are obviously not good for you. Avoid a confrontation, but just slowly extract yourself from them. People drift apart all the time. Find friends who love and respect you for who you are. If you avoid a fight with them, no one will hate you.

Love, Brooke

Dear Brooke,

I'm dating a good boy. I'm falling for a bad boy. What should I do?

Torn

Dear Torn,

The real question here is, who do you actually like? If you don't feel the same way about your boyfriend anymore, it's not fair to stay with him. You need to let him go if you don't want to be with him anymore. As for the bad boy... Isn't high school the time to go outside your comfort zone? But be careful, and don't give away your heart too fast.

Love, Brooke

If you'd like to ask Brooke an anonymous question and see its answer in the next edition of the newspaper, email it to askbrooke@gmail.com.

An Interview with Cisco Adler

Meg Burton

MANY OF you may know Cisco Adler either as Mischa Bartons ex-boyfriend, or as a member of the band Whitestarr. He has begun to prove himself to be more than just a kid with famous parents, starting his own record label and making a name for himself in the music industry. Cisco was nice enough to allow me an interview about both his high school experiences and his upcoming projects.

MEG: HOW would you describe your music?

CISCO: I would say it's all over the board, so as far as a genre I can't really define it... I produce and write with so many artist in every type of genre. How about organic? Haha.

M: YOU recently started up your own record label, Banana Beat Records, featuring artists such as Shwayze and America's Next Top Model contestant Lisa D'Amato. Is your future solo album going to be on your record label? What is the sound going to be like?

C: JORDAN Schur gave me a label through Suretone/Interscope. Lisa was the first artist, and my solo record is in the works. In fact, I'm just starting to get all the material together, sift through, narrow it down, and shape it into an album. It'll be genre-bending—I'll tell you that much. It's kind of a pop-stew with a pinch of everything I've ever done thrown in. I'm putting a bunch of demos on myspace so people can hear the progress. Banana Beat is our whole crew, and we've got more artists on the way.

M: YOUR father, Lou Adler, is a music producer and director. Did he influence you at all or make it easier for you to get into the business?

C: HE made it easier in the sense that I grew up around the business and learned a lot from him. But it also hurts, because people tend to second guess you and doubt your talent when you have famous parents. I've been at this for eight years, an it's never been a walk in the park. My father definitely influenced me, though. He's my hero.

M: WHAT do you think about the upcoming elections?

C: I think the world is at a crossroads, and unless we all choose to go in the right direction it is only going to get worse. To me, Barack Obama is the only candidate that looks like he has change in mind. The others are just members of the same old club that is pulling the wool over our eyes as they make their pockets (and most Americans) fatter. I think we have to come together beyond politics and try to use our hearts and heads to create a paradigm shift towards the positive. It's either that, or stand by as the world as we know it deteriorates both physically and spiritually. Politics is just a Horse and Pony Show.

M: WHAT was your high school experience like?

C: AMAZING! I loved high school, because everyone I knew was there everyday. I'm sort of a social butterfly. I went to a little school on a hill in Maui, Hawaii with 350 kids from 6th grade to 12th. It was straight out of Dazed and Confused with a little bit of North Shore mixed in. Haha!

M: WHAT advice do you give teenagers today?

C: HAVE a lot of fun and experience everything you can while the consequences are minimal, but also wise up and keep your eyes and ears open. The more you know, the more you can do.

M: TIMELESS question: if you could meet anybody, alive or dead, real or fictional, who would it be and why?

C: I would probably hang with Benjamin Franklin, because he thought outside the box and was responsible for a lot of our modern technologies and traditions. He also knew how to have a good time!

M: HAHA. Thanks very much! Good luck with Banana Beat.

C: THANK you. Have a good one.



Remembering Che Guevara

Mitchell Davis



"Shoot, coward, you're only going to kill a man." These last words were a fitting end to the life of the man known as Che Guevara. This past October 9th was the 41st anniversary of his death, and as such, I would like us to remember Che as the humanitarian he was. He was a rebel, yes, but one who sought to create turmoil as a means, rather than as an end. He fought to establish freedom he though would stand the test of time.

To briefly recount his tragically short life, Che was born on June 14, 1928, in Rosario, Argentina. Being of Basque and Irish descent, he excelled as a child in rugby, and was an avid fan of chess and poetry, and in 1948 he enrolled at the University of Buenos Aires to study medicine. In 1951 Che took a year off from school to travel through South America via motorcycle with his friend, Alberto Granado, with the final goal of volunteering for a few weeks at the San Pablo Leper colony, located on the banks of the Amazon River in Peru. During that trip, Che noticed the poverty gripping the region and decided that he would abandon his potential future in medicine to improve the lives of the people he encountered. Alongside a younger Fidel Castro and others, he led a revolution in Cuba to overthrow the then-dictator Fulgencio Batista. Initially a medic on the battlefield, he eventually picked up a fallen comrade's gun, fought in his place, and followed the path of the soldier. Most of his men were killed at first, but he eventually proved to be an excellent leader, if not something of a risk-taker. Che led his men to victory

in a series of attacks on Havana and Santa Clara, and on January 1, 1959, Batista fled to the Dominican Republic.

In 1964 Che became head of the Cuba delegation to the United Nations, where he continued to rally for his cause. Later that year, he also appeared on CBS' Face the Nation, where he met Malcolm X, who later called Che "one of the most revolutionary men in this country right now." Eventually, Che and Fidel became divided by ideology and support of other Communist groups; Castro was an advocate of the Soviet Union, while Che supported Chairman Mao's work in China. However, the two still worked together until Che decided to sever all ties with Cuba to extend the revolution abroad. He helped lead unsuccessful revolutionaries in Congo and Bolivia. The latter proved his undoing when, with assistance from the CIA, Bolivian officials captured and executed him by firing squad.

Che Guevara was not a perfect human being. When faced with deserters during the Cuban revolution, he would treat them as traitors and have them hunted down and killed. He authorized death by firing squad to hundreds of captured Batista loyalists. When faced with the choice of diplomacy or force, he often opted for the latter. However, he also literally sacrificed his life to improve the lives of impoverished people living half a world away. That is not something most can claim, to have given up their lives for what they saw as the greater good. From the cradle to the grave, Che Guevara was a man of the people.

CANDIDATE	TOPIC	PLATFORM
 <p>Senator Barack Obama (D-IL)</p>	Budget & Economy	Middle class needs a rescue package with tax cuts. Bailout will unfreeze credit and allow businesses to function. Release people in bankruptcy due to health care problems.
	Education	Invest in early childhood education and higher education. Pay for college education for those who commit to teaching. Cut banks out and add \$4.5 Billion to college loans.
	Energy & Oil	\$15B to free us from foreign oil in 10 years. Nuclear power ok, as one component of energy mix. More Alaska oil & gas leases, plus new gas pipeline. \$150B over 10 years to establish a green energy sector. \$150B investment over 10 years to reduce oil use by 35%.
	Environment	Voted YES on factoring global warming into federal project planning. Willing to suspend ethanol subsidy to keep food prices down. Government should invest in clean energy & green jobs.
	Foreign Policy	Important to undo the damage of the last eight years. \$50B annually to strengthen weak states at risk of collapse. Moral obligation to intervene in Darfur to avoid spillover. We must be tough with Pakistan & stop coddling Musharraf. Willing to meet with Fidel Castro, Kim Jung Il & Hugo Chavez. Strengthen NATO. U.S. needs to ameliorate trade relations with China.
 <p>Senator John McCain (R-AZ)</p>	Budget & Economy	Energy independence & tax cuts for all. Loss of economic strength leads to losing military strength. Specified cuts are \$10B. Stabilize mortgage industry so people stay in their homes.
	Education	Pay bonuses to teachers in the most troubled schools. Target funding to recruit top graduates as teachers. Teaching creationism should be decided by school districts. Voted NO on shifting \$11B from corporate tax loopholes to education. Voted YES on \$75M for abstinence education.
	Energy & Oil	All of the above: nuclear, wind, tide, solar, gas, coal. Build 45 new nuclear power plants by 2030. Job creation program with alternate energy & nuclear power. Oil independence within 25 years. In favor of cap-and-trade. Voted NO on Bush Administration Energy Policy. Voted YES on banning drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
	Environment	Voted NO on reducing funds for road-building in National Forests. Voted NO on continuing desert protection in California.
	Foreign Policy	Ukraine now in Putin's sights; penalize Russian aggression. Nuclear Iran is an existential threat to Israel. Sit down with any leader, but only with pre-conditions. Overthrow "rogue" governments to keep Americans safe. Let Ukraine & Georgia enter NATO.

Current Events
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