

Politics: What makes a Democrat?

By: Stacey Williams
News Editor

This year's presidential election has been full of possible firsts. We could have had the first female president this year. Barack Obama could be the first African-American president. Maybe, the United States will have its first female vice president or the oldest president in our nation's history. Some people may have decided to vote based on these factors alone. Others may vote simply because of the way their parents voted. No matter the reason behind a vote, it is important that one be well informed on political parties as well as the candidates.

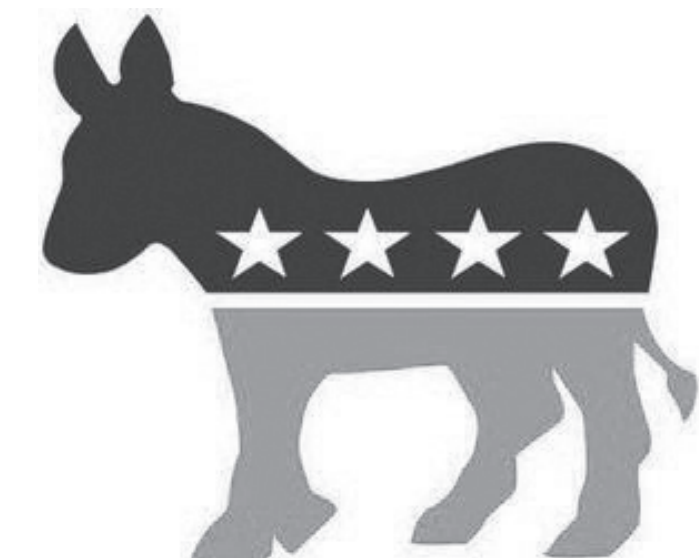
This month's issue will focus on the Democratic Party, its policies and the candidate for this year's presidential election.

Some may ask what exactly the Democratic Party is. The Democratic Party is the oldest existing political party in the U.S. today.

"The Democratic Party is the party that is willing to address those issues and problems confronting our society that individuals are unable to address on their own," said Wyatt Moulds, faculty advisor of JCJC's College Democrats. "We're the party of inclusion. We believe that American civilization functions best if all of us are involved in it."

The public often perceives Democrats as being more liberal, while viewing Republicans as more conservative on most issues.

"I don't follow the crowd and I think for myself," explained



Bre Saliba about why she is a Democrat. "I agree with all of the policies and we're in need of a change."

She feels that there is a misunderstanding in the way non-Democrats view Democrats.

families are the result of having a sound economy, a safe environment, affordable health care and affordable education," he explained.

Additionally, Moulds said that Democrats work to enhance the lives of common, ordinary United States citizens.

"Democrats have always been proponents of social programs which have daily impact on the average citizen and improve the quality of life," said Moulds. "(These would include) Medicare, students loans, minimum wage, eight-hour workdays, social security, civil rights, workers compensation programs, safe work environments, clean water, clean air, and safe food."

Today, the Democratic Party's platform calls for ending the Iraq war, providing every

American access to affordable health care and making ethics reform a priority in Washington.

The economic standing of the U.S. is also a big concern for many.

"Whoever (is) elected, Republican or Democrat, if they don't do something about our economy things are going to get worse," said Bobby Shows (D-District 89) of the Mississippi House of Representatives. "They need to realize that and take action."

Democrats are less likely to believe in laissez-faire (let it be) economics.

"Democrats believe in an economic policy that builds from the bottom up, not from the top down," said Moulds.

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Online enrollment increases

By: Terrisha Buckley
Features Editor

With all of the demands of school such as tests, getting to class on time, and making good grades, most people know how stressful life is for college students.

However, individuals can control many of the daily stresses of a college student through a little organization and time management. There is one stressor that is absolutely uncontrollable for students: the ever-increasing price of gas.

In previous years, there was not always a big difference in the lives of dorm students and commuter students other than sleeping accommodations. With gas prices on the rise, that has changed. Commuter students have had to alter many things in order to afford gasoline and continue as a college student. Among those adjustments are when to take classes and whether to take the classes online or in a classroom.

One of the major effects of high gasoline prices has been the increased demand for campus housing.

"We have had the most applications since Hurricane Katrina," said Jim Kelly, vice president of instructional affairs.

The number of applications for dorms has increased by at least 100 this year. This makes sense because dorm students have the option of not getting caught in traffic every day, get gas every morning, and wake up earlier just to make it to an early class.

Another area affected by the price of gas is the huge increase in online class enrollment. In the fall of 2006, 5010 students enrolled at JCJC, 641 in online classes. For the fall of 2008, 5448 students enrolled here, 1625 in online classes.

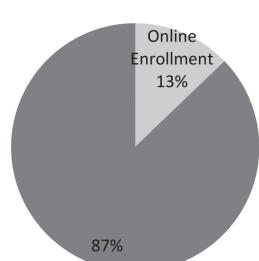
There has also been a decrease in night class enrollment. Night classes were usually composed of commuter students that may have had jobs during the day or students with jam-packed day schedules that prevented them from taking a certain class during the day.

The high price of gas has also increased the prices of other goods and services. This, too, has taken its toll on college students.

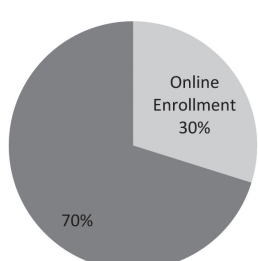
Gas prices affect the cost of books, meal plans and even clothing and entertainment. For some students rising costs will be a hindrance to their education. Some people had to face the issue of putting off their education due to the fact that

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Percent Online Enrollment for 2006



Percent Online Enrollment for 2008



Drama department to hold auditions for 'Beauty and the Beast' musical

By: Jennifer Holifield
Staff Writer

Two years ago, Greg Smith decided to step down as drama director for Jones Junior College, leaving it in the hands of Nikki Johnson. Johnson was very excited about taking over where Smith left off.

"When I was a student here, (Smith) was the director here and gave me my first theater experience at Jones," Johnson said. "So, it has come full circle, me being one of his theater students. Now, I'm in the same position."

Johnson enjoys being in charge of the drama group and recently chose 'Beauty and the Beast' for the spring musical, to be performed on April 3-5, 2009.

"I wanted something that could appeal to small children," she explained. "Last year, we did a racy, adult show and it was not intended for children. This year, I wanted to do something the very opposite."

Johnson said she hopes to start a fire for theater in the young children.

"Children don't get to see a lot of live theater," she said. "They are always watching television."

Most people are familiar with 'Beauty and the Beast' because of the animated Disney movie. Individuals interested in auditioning for lead roles in the stage production must possess some of the same qualities as those characters.

"Well, Belle is our young, beautiful, princess-type character in the story," Johnson said. "She has

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Text

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cancelled through not only the news and the radio but through text messaging and, for many, even the e-mail system.

Bad weather is not the only way that the text messaging

system will affect students. Dangerous situations on campus do not only come in hurricanes. The alert system will alert people of any dangerous system on campus at any time of the day.

"If there is a dangerous situation that students need to avoid, a message will be sent to inform students to stay away from that situation," Jones explained.

This text system is only the beginning for JCJC. The

administration at Jones Junior College is constantly trying to find ways to communicate with the students in every way possible. A tornado alarm is already on campus and college officials are considering the installation of a loud speaker as an added precaution.

"In everything that we do here at Jones Junior College, our main goal is to keep the students here safe," said Jones.

Cafeteria

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will cater to all students and to the public."

For one price of \$5 plus tax, diners in the new cafeteria can enjoy "all you can eat" from the various stations.

Breakfast, however will be served the same as in previous

years. It will still be "all you can eat."

As for the JCJC Grill, it is now located at the old Katie's College Café on Highway 29 on the west side on the main campus. Renamed Bobcat Grill, this eatery offers all the traditional foods one is used to finding at the grill including hamburgers, chicken strips and French fries. At Bobcat Grill, students will soon be able to use Bobcat Bucks. As for now, Bobcat Grill is only accepting cash.

When renovation is complete in the C.L. Neill Cafeteria, a Sub Connection will be built in the Museum Room located downstairs in the Terrell Tisdale Library. Students will also be able to use Bobcat Bucks, cash and debit cards. No meal plans will be offered with Sub Connection.

"I think it will be really good, and the fact that there will be a lot more options for all of the different students at Jones," said sophomore, Heather Elmore.

Art gallery features Andrews

By: Stacey Williams
News Editor

During the weeks of October 6-31, the works of William Pittman Andrews will be in the Eula Bass Lewis Art Gallery on campus.

"I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to show in the Eula Bass Lewis Gallery and I'm looking forward to meeting with the faculty and students," said Andrews. Andrews is a graduate of Mississippi State University, where he is also the

Gallery Art Director in the College of Education, Art and Design. All of his exhibition works will be drawings done in various media.

"I have always thought of art as a process by which to participate in the perpetual nature of the universe," said Andrews. "This drawing exhibit is meant to acknowledge a parallel response to that constant call. I seek in my work to blend aspects of drawing and painting, surface and image, individual

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College emphasizes Blackboard use

By: Stacey Williams
News Editor

Since 1999 when the Internet came in full force to the JCJC campus, technology use has continued to increase each year. This semester, technology has stepped up another notch as students and faculty members alike are now utilizing the Jones eLearning Program.

The program, called Blackboard is the leading provider of e-education software. Founded in 1997, Blackboard is now a worldwide company helping colleges and schools offer online services.

"Blackboard is a critical tool for our college to host online classes," said Academic Dean Shannon Campbell.

At the beginning of the school year, all teachers were required to post their syllabi on Blackboard and all students were required to log into Blackboard to retrieve them. In the past, instructors gave students a 'hard' copy of the syllabus. Now, however, if a student misplaces his or her syllabus or any other important information, he or she can simply log into Blackboard and print another copy instead of having to ask the instructor for another copy.

"Blackboard keeps materials accessible for students 24/7," said eLearning Director Jennifer Powell.

Students can also use Blackboard to take quizzes, tests, read announcements posted by their instructors

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Walk

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faculty to sell the most hearts, at a cost of \$1. The winner will receive a prize in the form of a reserved parking spot for the rest of the year.

All proceeds go to the American Heart Association.

There is a \$10 registration fee to walk, which will include a donated JCJC Heart Association T-shirts.

"We just want to encourage people to come out on the 25th of October and have a great representation of JCJC," said

Herrington.

Although preregistration was encouraged, walkers can sign up and participate the day of the event. For more information on the Heartwalk, contact Herrington at 601-477-4089 or Katie.herrington@jcc.edu; or Joanna Newcomb at 601-477-4022 or joanna.newcomb@jcc.edu.

Fitness

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with friends will help keep students motivated to go. Step aerobics, kickboxing, and spin classes are great and fun ways to exercise with a group of friends. The weight and cardio rooms are also available.

Members have the option to sit down with an exercise physiologist to consult fitness goals and a

personalized exercise routine.

A tour will be given and the members will be shown how to work each machine. If participants have any questions regarding their exercise routine someone is always available to answer them.

It is important for students to perform some form of exercise even if he cannot make it to the fitness center for his regular workout.

"Work out for at least 30 minutes, and do something you enjoy such as walking around the

track or playing basketball," said Jones. "Do anything to get your heart rate up."

Preventing the "Freshman 15" can be done in several ways. It all depends on how much a person is willing to sacrifice. Resist that double cheeseburger and work out every now and then.

"Trying to eat healthier food and committing to an exercise program will be the hardest thing to do, but it will all be worth it in the end," said McLaurin.

Freeze

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soft drinks, will be available for purchase.

Treats in the Streets allows children from all over town to come and enjoy Halloween in a safe and fun environment.

Parents will be able to bring their families to participate in games, contests, and eat great food and candy. All the campus clubs set up booths along a trail through the center of campus so children can play games and receive candy and other treats.

"This is a great opportunity for everyone to come together and have fun," said Rebecca Patrick, event coordinator. "This is a place where parents will feel comfortable taking their children Trick or Treating."

Along with having a safe environment for children to have fun on Halloween, this is a great way to get parents interested in JCJC for their children's future education.

"Treats in the Streets brings

hundreds of people on campus who otherwise have no occasion to come here," Patrick said. "It's a great opportunity to showcase our college while providing a service to the community."

There will also be a costume contest for different age groups ranging from birth to college students.

Treats in the Streets is a great way to get the students involved with the college.

"I want to teach students to get involved with not only the community inside the college but outside the college as well," said Rick Bedwell business instructor. "It is fun and enjoyable to work and do activities with students at Jones as well as young children." Students are highly encouraged to join clubs and be involved with JCJC. Treats in the Streets is one of many ways to be active with the college.

Haunted House

JCJC's annual Haunted House is another huge event that takes place on the same night as Treats in the Streets. The Haunted

House will be from 8-10 p.m. so Treats in the Streets will be over in time to enjoy the scary tour.

"It is going to be a bunch of fun this year," said Sonya Davis, SGA sponsor. "We have a huge group of students who are beyond excited about this year's house."

"Old School" is this year's theme.

"The committee wanted to get back to scary basics," Davis explained. "All those things that frightened us as children, things that go bump in the night, things that grab us in the dark and things that hide under the bed are all going to appear during the Haunted House tour."

It will take place in the D. O. Thomas P. E. Building. Admission is \$3. Sponsored by the Fall Freeze/ Spring Fever Committee of the Student Government Association, The Haunted House will be old school scary. It is not recommended for children under the age of 12.

For more information on these events contact Patrick at 601-477-4109 or Rebecca.patrick@jcc.edu or Davis at 601-477-4229 or sonya.davis@jcc.edu.