

Polls find strong support for Kerry among students and staff

By Jason Campbell
& Matt Popilowski

Senator John Kerry has opened a big lead over President George W. Bush among likely student and staff voters who have made up their minds, according to a poll that was conceived, conducted, tabulated and interpreted by the Making of the President 2004 class.

Sixty-nine percent of likely voters surveyed said they supported Kerry while 28 percent said they backed Bush. Three percent of those polled were undecided, or said that they would vote for Ralph Nader.

The poll of 293 likely voters, made up of 58 percent female and 42 percent male respondents, was conducted October 18-19 in the Bart Luedeke Center and Dalys. Eighty-nine percent of the respondents were students and 11 percent were staff. Eighty-seven percent of the respondents were under the age of thirty and 89 percent were registered to vote, while 11 percent were not.

The war in Iraq was the

most important issue in the election by 58 percent of the respondents. Health care came in a distant second with 14 percent. The economy was third at 13 percent, education fourth at 8 percent, followed by abortion, gay marriage and stem cell research. Other topics of concern included a possible draft, jobs, Israel, the environment and the Patriot Act. Fifty-two percent said they were more comfortable with Kerry in preventing another terrorist attack.

Dr. Frank Rusciano, professor of political science, conducted a poll with very similar results. It found that 82.4 percent of Rider students plan to vote on Election Day and their overwhelming choice is Kerry.

Rusciano has conducted five election polls and in three of them, students sided with the winner, choosing Bush in 1988, and Clinton in 1992 and 1996. However, Rusciano said that it does not ensure that students will do the same this year.

"Our students preferred Al Gore over George W. Bush in 2000, and while Gore won the

popular vote, he lost the electoral vote," said Rusciano.

This year, 73.5 percent of students say they intend to vote for Senator Kerry and 25.8 percent prefer President Bush, a three to one ratio.

Kerry's strength among undergraduates at Rider is strong across all demographic groups. He runs equally strong among male and female students and wins every racial grouping, garnering 100 percent of African-American votes, 70.8 percent of white votes, 90.0 percent of Latino votes, and 75 percent of Asian votes. Students of all religious backgrounds chose Kerry over Bush by either 40 percent or more. The campus is split along partisan lines as strongly as the country appears to be. While Kerry leads among Democratic students 98 percent to 2 percent and Independents 71 percent to 24 percent, Bush leads among Republican students 92 percent to 8 percent.

Democrats outnumber Republicans on Rider's campus by 2 to 1. Further, a mere 61.3 percent are dissatisfied with the direction of the country. Also,

REPUBLICAN COLUMN 1	DEMOCRATIC COLUMN 2	NOMINATION BY PETITION COLUMN 3
REPUBLICAN GEORGE W. BUSH DICK CHENEY	DEMOCRATIC JOHN F. KERRY EDWARDS	SOCIALIST PARTY USA WALTER BROWN MARY ALICE HERBERT
		GREEN PARTY DAVID COBB PATRICIA LA MARCHE
		GREEN PARTY MICHAEL A. PEROUTKA CHUCK BALDWIN
		SOCIALIST COUNTY PARTY BILL VAN AUKEN JIM LAWRENCE
		LAWRENCE PARTY MICHAEL BADNARIK RICHARD CAMPAGNA
		SOCIALIST WOMEN PARTY ROGER CALERO ABBIN HAWKINS

Photo by AlVieda

Students favor Kerry over Bush for President, polls found.

of the four issues that students considered most important, the students felt Senator Kerry would handle all but terrorism better by margins of 20-50 percent. Bush rated higher among students only on the issue of terrorism, and that advantage was only about 6 percent.

Researchers are predicting a surge in turnout among college students and they expect over half of all college voters to hit the polls, up from 42 percent who voted in the 2000 election.

There are over nine million college students in the U.S., and according to researchers their votes will matter this year, especially in swing states.

Like most young people this year, students at Rider University are more engaged than in the 2000 election; in that race, 64 percent of Rider students intended to vote, as compared with 82.4 percent this year. The increase in voter participation appears to help the Democratic candidate.

"The interesting question is whether, and how much, increased voter participation among college students, and young people in general, will affect the election," said Rusciano.

Contributing reporting by Cara Latham

WCC students now able to receive degrees in American Studies

By Stephanie Mostaccio

Students at Westminster now have the opportunity to either major or minor in American Studies.

For the first time, Westminster students can choose to have a double major or minor in American Studies. This is in addition to their declared major at Westminster, in which they will attain a Bachelor of Music or a Bachelor of Arts in Music. Students will be able to take their required courses at Westminster and also take American Studies at the

Lawrenceville campus.

Dr. Jack Sullivan, the director of American Studies, is now in the process of arranging to have classes for this course moved from the morning to either the afternoon or evening to accommodate the Westminster schedules. A bus service will also be provided, which will enable the Westminster students to travel from campus to campus. In doing this, the students will be able to both expand and diversify their college education.

"This academic opportunity will allow the students to have a broader college experi-

ence instead of a conservative one," said Sullivan.

However, this will also connect the two campuses both academically and intellectually. Integration between the two campuses has been attempted on a smaller scale in the past. For example, the American Studies Department sponsors a jazz trip that many Westminster students take each year as a three-credit course. The American Studies course has also been offered at Westminster since 1992. However, it was only offered as an elective and not as a major or minor.

Sullivan believes that offer-

ing this course as a major or minor is a much more comprehensive effort to integrate the two campuses. He also believes that this academic change was needed in order for the "intellectual community" to have a stronger connection.

"Unless this is done in the intellectual community, it will never happen," he said. "People tend to resist change, but I think that the students at Westminster really want a broader education."

Many Westminster students are excited about this new opportunity. Several students have already signed up to take

classes on the Lawrenceville campus in response to an advertisement put up by Sullivan only two weeks ago.

Joseph Woodhull, the SGA president at Westminster, is one of the students who feels strongly about this.

"Having cross-campus majors and minors is a wonderful idea and a long time coming," said Woodhull. "The possibilities are pretty much endless, and it's a wonderful way for students to broaden their college education by taking classes on two campuses."

Students lobby in Trenton for financial aid

By Randy Townsend

Members of the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey (AICUNJ) convened on Monday at the State House in Trenton for Leadership Day, an event that teaches students how to increase funding for education.

A delegation of Rider students, led by accounting major Robert Fink, who attended Leadership Day last year, represented the university and took part in the half-day event that thanked state legislators for current funding and made a case for increased financial support.

"There is a multi-million

dollar bond referendum that is coming up for vote this spring," said Fink. "This will be money for all colleges and universities in New Jersey, not just private institutions."

In the spring, the AICUNJ will meet again in Trenton to lobby for the referendum to pass and increase financial aid opportunities for college students throughout New Jersey. The association is the public relations, research and government liaison organization for 14 privately-supported institutions of higher education in New Jersey. Members include non-profit, four year undergraduate, graduate and professional schools accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools licensed

by the state of New Jersey.

The students' focus was on getting more financial aid for the colleges and universities. This includes everything from Pell Grants to TAG programs.

"All of the students of New Jersey and all of the citizens of New Jersey are fighting for the same amount of money," said Fink. "You're grateful for whatever you get."

Having the opportunity to lobby for more financial aid options gives students the chance to go to the elected officials and let them know what else is needed.

"I know students who are working two jobs supporting themselves to go through college," said Fink. "There should be some funding for them."

'PARKING'

Continued from page 1

a long term plan has been tough, according to Perry.

Currently, the Princeton Borough has issued an ordinance which created permit parking for both residents of the area and students of the high school, which is a major part of the parking problem.

However, Perry said that Westminster students can park on the south side of Hamilton Street immediately on the South edge of campus.

"It is always open and I wonder why no one parks there," said Perry. "Students come to me practically having a heart attack, saying, 'I can't find a parking spot!'"

Students like Woodhull

said they waste a lot of time finding parking.

"I lose about a half hour that I should be spending on observing my elementary practicum trying to find a spot early so I'm not late for symphonic choir," said Woodhull.

For the time being, the students of WCC will have to accept the current situation, according to Perry.

"There are more vehicles fighting for fewer spaces and that's a problem," he said.

'There are more vehicles fighting for fewer spaces.'
- Dean Perry