



The Cavalier Daily Election Edition

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The Cavalier Daily

"For here we are not afraid to follow truth wherever it may lead, nor to tolerate any error so long as reason is left free to combat it."

—Thomas Jefferson

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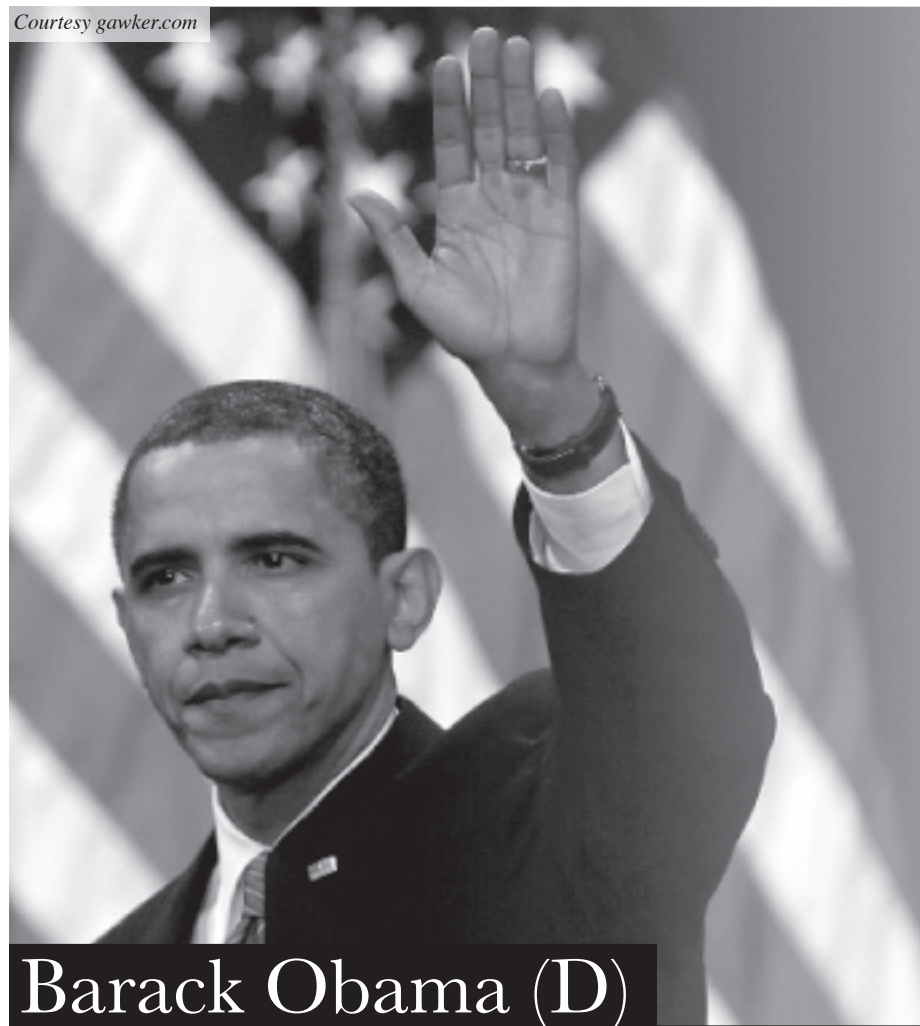
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Courtesy gawker.com



Barack Obama (D)

Candidate Profiles

Jobs

When President Barack Obama took office, the country was experiencing the deepest economic crisis since the Great Depression, with an unemployment rate just under 8 percent. Within the past two and a half years, the country has seen increases in fields such as manufacturing, creating nearly half a million jobs (politifact.org). Obama aims to strengthen the economy and promote job growth by ending tax loopholes for corporations, providing tax cuts to small businesses, investing in clean-energy, and rebuilding the country's infrastructure (democrats.org).

GOP candidate Mitt Romney links job growth to economic growth, advocating tax reform that will benefit small businesses, reduced government spending and a competitive promotion of U.S. companies and products in the world market (GOP.com). He has said his policies will lead to \$5 trillion in tax cuts and end the deficit.

Taxes & the Economy

President Obama seeks to increase taxes on the wealthiest Americans, specifically those with an annual household income exceeding \$1 million, as well as invest in the middle class by cutting taxes for working families and small businesses. His plan will also attempt to reduce the deficit by \$4 trillion within the next decade (democrats.org).

GOP candidate Romney's tax plan includes lower marginal tax rates on individuals and cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent (mittromney.com). His plan to cut the deficit includes spending cuts, structural reforms and long-term government downsizing (gop.com).

Energy Policy

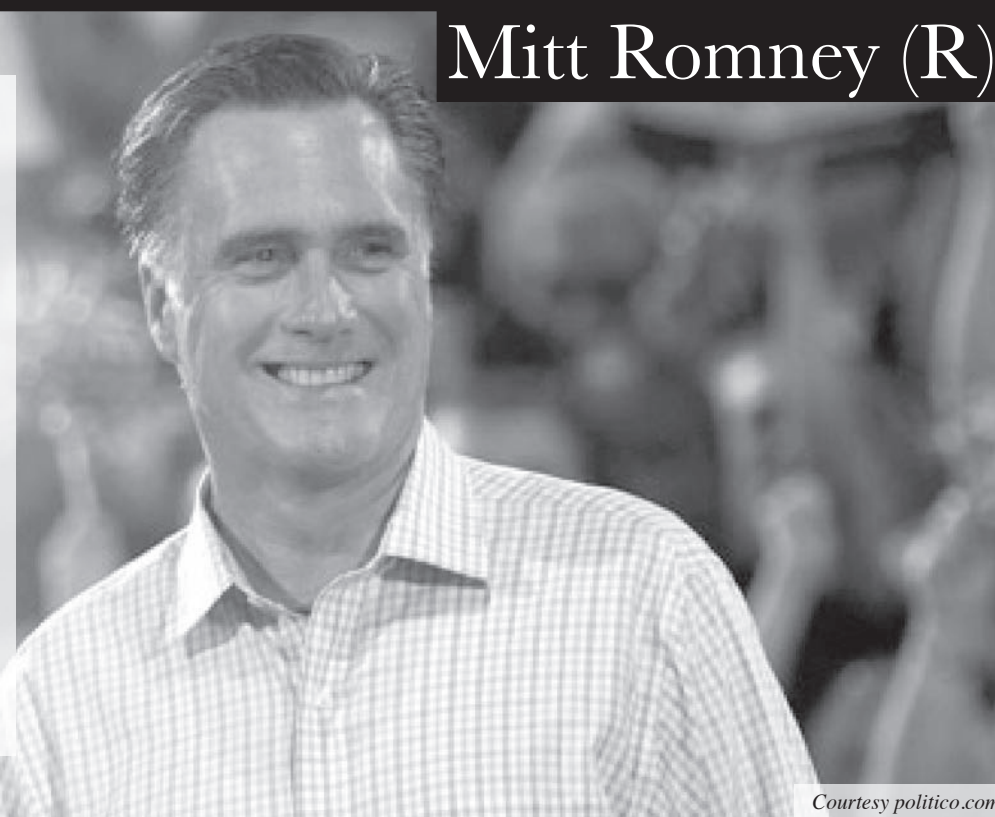
President Obama has largely been a proponent of clean energy as a means to energy independence. He has invested in wind, solar and clean coal energy. Obama's plan would also include domestic natural gas and oil production (barackobama.com).

GOP candidate Romney advocates domestic energy independence by proposing state-controlled onshore energy development, open offshore areas for energy development and promoting private-sector-led new energy developments (mittromney.com).

Health Care Policy

President Obama supports the Affordable Care Act, which seeks to end insurance company abuse as well as strengthen Medicare (barackobama.com). It also allows patients under age 26 to remain on their parents' health insurance.

GOP candidate Romney strongly criticizes the Affordable Care Act and seeks to repeal it if elected president. In place of the bill, Romney would pursue policies that put the responsibility of health care reform in the hands of the states (mittromney.com; gop.com).



Mitt Romney (R)

Courtesy politico.com

Tim Kaine (D)

Jobs

One of the key points in Tim Kaine's economic plan is the need for the United States to be a "Talent Society." Kaine also sees improved education as a means of promoting economic and job growth. Kaine looks to small businesses for job growth, and as governor saw that more state contracts were made with small businesses. He also helped maintain "The Best State for Business" four consecutive years as governor, according to Forbes.com. (kaineforva.com)

George Allen, as governor, decreased Virginia's unemployment rate from five percent to 2.9 percent. Allen seeks tax reform and to end the "Death Tax," or estate tax, thereby seeing that small business owners and farmers can pass along assets to their children in an attempt to promote job investment.

Taxes & the Economy

As governor, Kaine approved nearly \$3.1 billion in general fund spending cuts. As a senate candidate, he proposes targeted budget cuts, particularly reduced spending in the military. He also supports tax reform, reducing loopholes while allowing the Bush tax cuts to expire as planned. (politifact.com; kaineforva.com)

In his economic plan, Allen proposes the reduction of federal tax on small business



Courtesy mysanantonio.com

George Allen (R)

to 20 percent. He also supports the "Freedom to Choose" Flat Tax for individuals, allowing Americans to decide between keeping the original tax code or a flat-tax alternative. (georgeallen.com)

Energy Policy

As governor, Kaine put in place a state energy plan for Virginia that would utilize the commonwealth's energy sources, including coal, natural gas, oil, nuclear, biodiesel, wind, and solar. Kaine advocates the need for a national energy policy that works to promote energy independence. (kaineforva.com)

Allen promotes energy independence by advancing renewable energy, pursuing onshore and offshore development and decreasing restrictions on the creation of efficient nuclear power. (georgeallen.com)

Health Care Policy

Kaine supports the Affordable Care Act and advocates preventive care, the use of technology in health care and the reduction of defensive medicine and high malpractice premiums. (kaineforva.com)

Allen advocates the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, replacing it with affordable health insurance and options for personalized Health Savings Accounts. (georgeallen.com)

John Douglass (D) vs. Robert Hurt (R)

Jobs

John Douglass advocates the training of the U.S. workforce in areas such as health, IT and clean energy as a means of reducing unemployment, as well as increasing the Small Business Administration lending limit. (johndouglassforcongress.com)

Robert Hurt founds his economic policies on the principle that limited government policies will lead to more job opportunities. Specifically, in the past he has voted in favor of the JOBS Act, legislation that would reduce requirements and regulations for small businesses, easing access to capital. (roberthurtforcongress.com)

Taxes & the Economy

Douglass supports the Fair Labor Standards Act, as well as the "Buffett Rule" that would impose a minimum tax rate of 30 percent on people making more than \$1 million per year. (johndouglassforcongress.com)

As Congressman, Hurt has co-sponsored and voted for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and has supported H.R. 3521, The Expedited Line Item Veto, which would allow the President to cut unnecessary spending by

vetoing specific items within bills without vetoing the entire act. (roberthurtforcongress.com)

Energy

Douglass supports the growth of small farms with regulatory relief that will allow for increased land use, including energy storage, investment in natural gas, wind and other power sources. (johndouglassforcongress.com)

Hurt has voted for and co-sponsored bills that would prevent the EPA from implementing an energy tax, and he has supported offshore energy development in Virginia and the Keystone Pipeline. (roberthurtforcongress.com)

Health care

John Douglass promotes the removal of laws that impede the negotiation for cheaper prescription drugs for Medicare beneficiaries and has advocated stem-cell research. (johndouglassforcongress.com)

Robert Hurt voted against government-run health care and supports health savings accounts and increased competition between insurance companies to bring down health care costs. (http://hurt.house.gov/index.cfm/health)



Courtesy godanriver.com

Searching for Mr. Right

*The Managing Board endorses Barack Obama,
Tim Kaine and John Douglass*

The diversity of opinion on Grounds shows that the political views of college students cannot be taken for granted as belonging to a typical creed. There are activist students advocating for the candidate of a traditional political party; many denounce the lack of transparency in the process altogether, or call for additional options. “Bipartisanship,” what is normally a laudatory term, can also be a slogan well worth dethroning. Indeed, groups such as The Commission on Presidential Debates – the bipartisan organization that hosts the presidential debates to the exclusion of third parties – prevent many from ever engaging with alternative candidates in a mainstream televisual format. Voting students should not take this as an excuse to neglect their potential array of options, such as Green Party nominee Jill Stein or the Libertarian Gary Johnson. Should students examine the issues that will impact them most immediately – including financing in higher education and matters of civil liberty – we believe the most promising choice is the incumbent, President Obama.

What Obama has already done for students should not be overlooked. Passed in 2010, the Affordable Care Act allows dependents to retain their parents’ health insurance until their 26th birthday. Obama also became the first sitting president to openly come out in favor of same-sex marriage: a notion Mitt Romney forthrightly disagrees with. There is no cogent argument for why same-sex couples be denied the right to marry besides prejudice masquerading as religious or moral sentiment. Romney not only supports the Defense of Marriage Act – which would make marriages in one state potentially invalid in another – but also wants a Constitutional amendment that defines marriage as between a man and a woman, and thus the ratification of bigotry.

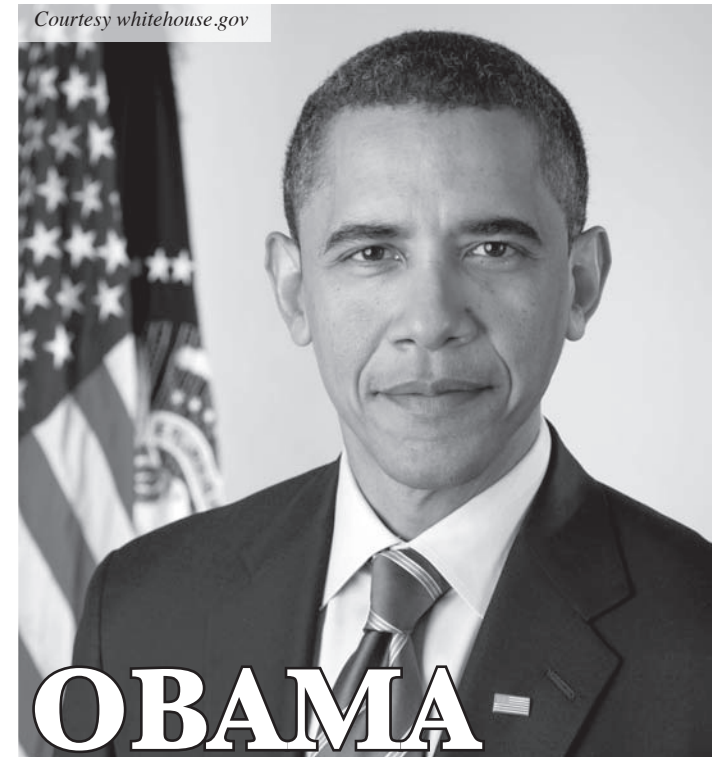
The two candidates deserve credit for making higher education issues a mainstay of their political platforms. But in the exam on collegiate topics Obama outperforms Romney. The president signed a law this summer that extended decreased interest rates on federal student loans. His most sweeping student loan reform he passed in 2010, as part of the Affordable Care Act. With that, Obama removed banks from the student loan process, thus eliminating the expensive subsidies the federal government was expected to pay to banks for handing out loans, which came at a cost to the taxpayer. Romney wants to repeal such reform by reintroducing banks as the primary arbiter of loans. His running mate, Paul Ryan – in the national budget he presented to Congress in 2012 – moreover proposed to reduce the funding and make it tougher to qualify for Pell grants, a chief source of federal aid. The Republican ticket also opposes the “gainful-employment rule” created by Obama’s Department of Education. The gainful-employment rule aims to regulate for-profit colleges, and potentially withdraw aid from those for-profit schools by tracking the income and debt of their students.

In the race for the U.S. Senate seat in Virginia, former Gov. Tim Kaine outpaces former Gov. George Allen in the issues of education. Both candidates have done well by vouching for low interest rates on student loans; both, too, have warned against increasing tuition. Yet Kaine has succeeded by articulating ways in which the state could help keep tuition down by increasing student assistance. Allen, meanwhile, has only promised a freeze on tuition rates without outlining how universities would replace the lost revenue.

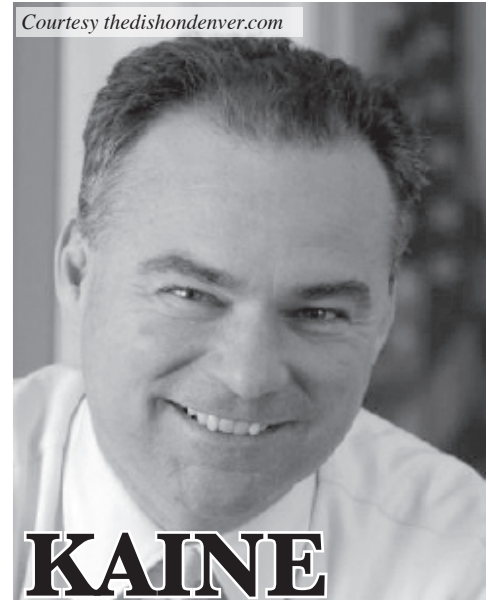
In Virginia’s Fifth District, Democratic congressional candidate John Douglass wants to create a “Direct Loan Program” which would decrease interest rates and expand the size of Pell Grants to account for the rise in tuition. “Education” is the top issue on Douglass’ website, under the “Policies” heading. Less is known about his opponent’s plan as Robert Hurt’s website asks those interested in his views on education to contact his Washington office.

Next Tuesday is the date of a national election foregrounding Virginia as a battleground state – it is also the date for second midterms in courses of numerous disciplines. If students are concerned about making it to the polls on Tuesday, they can still vote in-person with an absentee ballot at the Charlottesville or Albemarle registrar’s office 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Although we’ll never advocate skipping classes outright, neither should eligible students miss out on the equally educative act of voting in a national election.

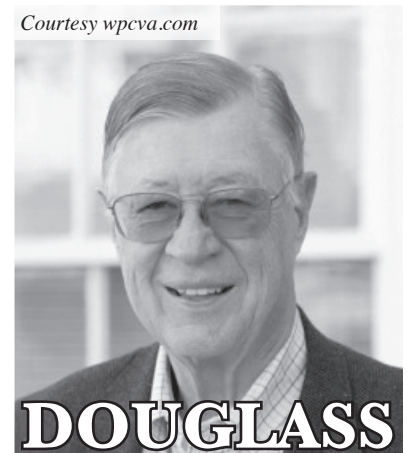
Courtesy whitehouse.gov



Courtesy thedishondenver.com



Courtesy wpcva.com



Sabato's Crystal ball

Political pundit deems presidential race too close to call, gives Democratic senate candidate Tim Kaine slight edge

Politics Prof. Larry Sabato released his "Crystal Ball" election predictions Thursday declaring the 2012 presidential race "too close to call" while tentatively handing the Senate to the Democrats. The model also said former Gov. Tim Kaine, a Democratic candidate for Virginia's U.S. Senate seat, is more likely to win the election than his Republican opponent, former Gov. George Allen.

The national polling average reveals a dead tie between President Barack Obama and GOP candidate Mitt Romney, according to Real Clear Politics, an online political news source that aggregates polls for races across the nation.

The president has a very narrow polling edge in most key swing states, Center for Politics spokesperson Geoff Skelley said. But the Real Clear Politics average shows Romney ahead in Virginia by half a percentage point.

Sabato will peer back into his magic "crystal ball" Monday to update the report with final electoral college predictions as is his custom the day before the election. He and his team will look for key polling reports Monday about reactions to any significant weekend events, Skelley said.

What might sway undecided voters between now and then? Today's unemployment report could play a role, Sabato said in his predictions. Critical battleground states include Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin. All states except Wisconsin, a recent addition because of the selection of Wisconsin native Paul Ryan as Mitt Romney's vice presidential running mate, have been at the forefront of the crystal ball for more than a year now.

But the famed crystal ball is not as

elusive as it sounds. The analysis team primarily uses a mathematical model that predicts the popular vote. The model created by Emory University Prof. Alan Abramowitz takes into consideration three main factors: an incumbency advantage, the change in GDP in the second quarter of the election year, and the incumbent president's approval rating in June.

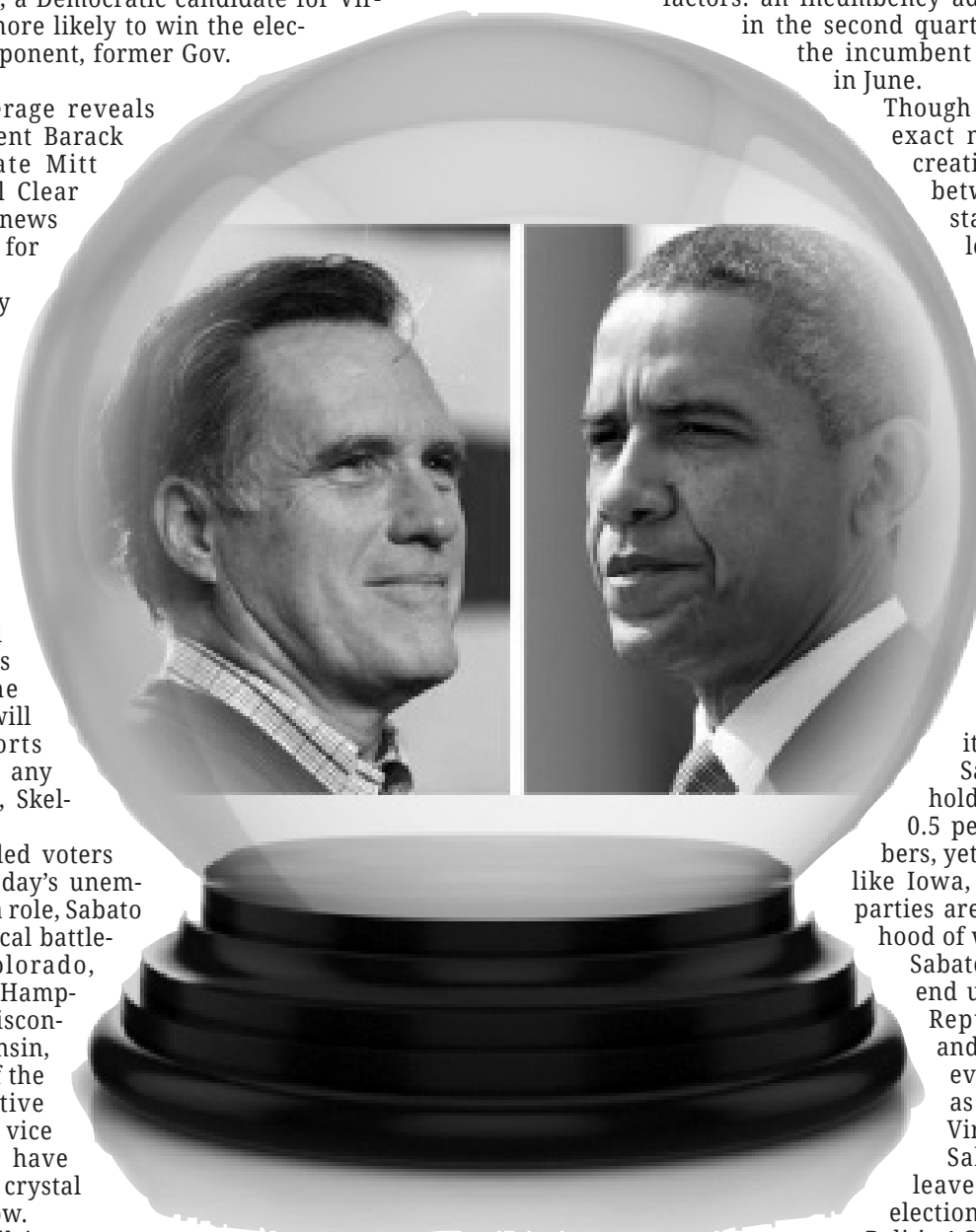
Though the center does not use an exact mathematical method when creating maps and distinguishing between "likely" and "leaning" states, for example, the team looks at polls and significant events such as the recent Des Moines Register endorsement of Mitt Romney, which was the first time the paper had endorsed a Republican candidate since Richard Nixon in 1972.

Although press endorsements often make little difference, Skelley said, the timing and simultaneous ground developments of Republicans closing the gap combine to make Iowa a "toss-up" rather than a "leaning Democrat" state as it is traditionally labeled.

Sabato's report shows Romney holding a slight lead in Virginia, 0.5 percent according to the numbers, yet the state is labeled a toss-up, like Iowa, because sources from both parties are emphatic about their likelihood of winning.

Sabato projects the U.S. Senate will end up with 52 Democrats and 46 Republicans, counting Arizona and Wisconsin as toss-ups; however, he categorizes 12 states as truly competitive, including Virginia.

Sabato has been on academic leave this semester covering the election for the University Center for Politics' Crystal Ball website.



Courtesy media1.policymic.com

The Obama Ticket is Not “Mr. Right”

Official response of the College Republicans at UVa to The Cavalier Daily's 2012 endorsements

THERE is only one sentence in The Cavalier Daily's endorsement editorial which we agree with: “What Obama has already done for students should not be overlooked.”

The economy is the fundamental issue to voters. Students about to graduate should not overlook the fact that they will be searching for a job when in the labor force with the smallest participation rate since 1981. They should not overlook the current unemployment figure of 7.8 percent, which is no lower than when President Obama took office. Nor should they overlook the fact that unemployment among young adults is twice as high as the national average, and that, as a result, four out of ten students will be moving back in with their parents when they graduate, either unemployed or underemployed.

Unable to make the most of their college degree, young graduates are overburdened with record high college debt.

The president promised to slow the rise of the oceans, yet he has not been able to slow the rising costs of college education and has accelerated the growth of federal deficits he once called unpatriotic. Even worse, the United States has experienced its first credit downgrade in the nation's history. Today's college graduates could be the first generation in U.S. history to inherit a country worse off than the one of their parents' generation, burdened by college debt and their share of a \$16 trillion-and-growing national debt, and hindered in opportunity by a contracted economy and a United States that has lost its place of leadership in the world. How can this ever be right?

Two years after the implementation of Obamacare, Americans have seen an increase in their health care costs. After helping to make the case for the president's health plan, MIT economist Jonathan Gruber now admits, “59 percent of the individual market will experience an average premium increase of 31 percent.” Forcing a business to provide services it wouldn't ordinarily provide causes it to increase its prices to make up for lost revenue. Furthermore, when small businesses are forced to provide more services for workers, as Obamacare stipulates, they will hire fewer workers, disproportionately hurting first-time entrants into the labor force.

On May 23rd, Romney introduced a policy paper titled “A Chance for Every Child,” wherein he pledged to consolidate federal education programs in the Department of Education in order to provide students and families with the best information and resources, partner with the private sector to optimize financial resources, and ensure funding is sent to the states in the form of block grants, a method that both Repub-

lican and Democratic governors agree is best. The liberal-leaning Center for American Progress found that “the vast majority of the general public does not know what opportunities for aid exist, how to access the various programs, and what one can expect to receive,” resulting in many who would qualify for funding failing to even apply. This is one of the problems Mitt Romney's reforms specifically addresses.

Increased federal spending on education has not only failed to stop rising education costs, but also has accelerated it by artificially increasing demand. Increases in federal higher education funding only offer a short-term fix for a long-term problem. For every dollar increase in student loans, net tuition was found to increase by \$1.42 at public schools and \$1.68 at private schools.

President Obama boasts of his more than \$40 billion increase in Pell Grant spending, but who has benefitted? Mitt Romney wants to implement policies that will actually help our students directly by increasing competition within the student loan market, thus lowering interest rates and costs.

Virginians face an important choice for the Senate. During Tim Kaine's governorship, education costs continued to rise as they do now. On the other hand, George Allen was the first governor in Virginia to put a freeze on college tuition, resulting in a decrease in the cost of in-state tuition.

Months ago, Democratic congressional candidate John Douglass made headlines when he struck a young cameraman filming a public event. This shows a general inability to serve in public office.

Congressman Robert Hurt has shown strong support for pro-growth policies that will get Virginians back to work. He has spoken to UVa students on several occasions and has made himself available to community residents across the 5th district.

The Democratic policies have failed, but the Republican ticket of Mitt Romney, George Allen, and Robert Hurt has what it takes to get this country moving again. Conservative policies will enable present and future generations to secure an affordable education, a job, and the wealth of opportunity that has always made the United States great. If young Americans are searching for Mr. Right, they won't find him on the Left.

“The Democratic policies have failed, but the Republican ticket of Mitt Romney, George Allen, and Robert Hurt has what it takes to get this country moving again.”

Peter A. Finocchio is the College Republicans Treasurer.

A vote of confidence

Students too often cite a false sense of knowledge or ignorance as an excuse not to vote

OVER THE last couple months it is likely you saw students standing around Grounds trying to register voters. With political disinterest common among the 18 to 20 year old demographic, these students' initiative to become part of the political process made me regain hope for our country.

According to the United States Census Bureau, roughly half the 18 to 20 year old population registered for the 2008 election and an even lower percentage actually voted. This is why seeing a student registering others students is so impressive to me. It makes me think that our demographic is starting to care after all. Yet, I still find myself dubious that the newly registered voters will actually turn out on Election Day.

It is all too common in modern society to hear recently of-age voters talking about how they "refuse to vote in this election" or "don't really care" about the election. This frustrates me to no end. Turning 18 is a huge milestone for U.S. citizens, and it marks our constitutional right to begin voting. We can make decisions regarding the leaders of our country, and our voices count now. Many teenagers in the 18 to 20 year old demographic, though, seem to think their voices do not count and therefore are planning on not participating in this election.

This strange phenomenon of disinterested, newly of-age voters can be attributed to low political efficacy and also lack of political knowledge. When a person has little faith in his government and believes his participation will not make an impact, this low political efficacy results in low voter turnout. I have heard many students utter the words "my vote doesn't count," proving just how doubtful they are of the significance of their role in the political process. However, they are wrong. Our voices are all important and what we say and how we vote is essential to the development of our country. By going to rallies and sharing our opinions we are able to participate in the election and to help ourselves and others become more knowledgeable. Knowledge is another reason our age demographic does not vote, with problems arising from both a lack of knowledge and also a false sense of knowledge. A false sense of knowledge is something that plagues college students and also other demographics. This type of knowledge stems from a belief that we know plenty about politics and the candidates' stances and tend to think of ourselves as above the political process. I have heard people say that they are very informed and do not agree with either party platform and as a result are not voting. While these types of people are

essentially making an "informed" decision by deciding not to vote, it seems irrational to say you do not believe in either party's platform. Although there may be some things in both platforms that you disagree with, one of those candidates is ultimately going to be your president, so it is better to vote for the one who you agree with more.

The second form of knowledge is a lack of knowledge, where we feel we do not know anything about politics and therefore do not think we should vote. It seems rational not to vote if you are uninformed, but there is no excuse to be uninformed. Disinterest and lack of knowledge is largely a result of lack of participation, therefore it is incredibly important that we newly of-age voters become a part of the political process and learn about it whether by watching the news or reading the newspaper. It is so easy to fall victim to dissension where voting is a turnoff because you either do

not think it matters or you just do not know enough about it, but if our 18 to 20 year old demographic took the time to educate itself, it would realize that every vote really does count.

A couple of weeks ago I sat down to watch the vice presidential debate, and for a seemingly electorally unimportant event, the debate was quite insightful and entertaining.

I thoroughly enjoyed watching Vice President Joe Biden and Congressman Paul Ryan talk about important issues our country is facing today. I also laughed at inappropriate times due to Biden's toothy smirk and words like "malarkey" being used. But I digress. The debate overall was informative, and it was incredibly easy to take a couple hours out of my night to watch it. There is no excuse to be uninformed with televisions and newspapers so easily accessible here at the University. So I implore all of you 18+ year olds to watch the news and read the newspaper and learn a little about the candidates. Make an informed decision and feel good about who you vote for, and do not throw away your constitutional right to vote. I highly discourage not voting because in three years, when we are all looking for jobs, you will have wished you took the time to have learned about the candidates and voted accordingly.

Meredith Berger's column normally appears Mondays in The Cavalier Daily. She can be reached at m.berger@cavalierdaily.com.

MEREDITH BERGER
OPINION COLUMNIST

"If our 18 to 20 year old demographic took the time to educate itself, it would realize that every vote really does count."

Mad political scientists

The intellectual blemishes of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology reflect poorly on the whole country

ALMOST all of the major issues facing our country today are related to science, which is of the utmost importance to our future, whether it be through technological innovation fueling our economy, medical research improving health care or superior identification of natural disasters. So it would stand to reason that our representatives in government should be well-informed and able to talk intelligently about important scientific issues, especially if they serve on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Yet a startling number of congressmen who serve on this committee hold views that are not only unfounded and unscientific, but dangerous to the well-being of this country.

FORREST BROWN
OPINION COLUMNIST

The chairman of this committee is Ralph Hall (R-Texas). He has stated that he thinks the fact 97 percent of climate science researchers agree human activity has contributed to global warming is due to a conspiracy for research money, although he, by his own admission, has “no proof” of this. His vice-chairman, Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.), also denies global warming and is heavily invested in oil companies. Sensenbrenner has also made the claim that global temperatures have not surpassed those from 1998, when the last 12 years have actually included 9 of the 10 hottest years ever recorded. The fact these two are the most powerful members of a committee that was created to address scientific issues illustrates the larger ignorance of our current government, where unfortunately the majority of Republican congressmen have similar views, making it almost impossible for significant action to be taken to reduce human impact on the environment.

Other members of the committee include Todd Akin (R-MO), who recently made headlines for claiming women who are raped cannot become pregnant, and Paul Broun (R-GA). Broun has also been in the news recently after a video surfaced in which he claimed that evolution and the big-bang theory are “lies straight from the pit of hell.” Broun is not only a member of the committee, but a medical doctor, making his statements even more shocking.

There are obviously a lot of reasons that the prevalence of these beliefs in Congress is a problem. For starters, they are wrong. Not just a little wrong, or mixed up, but completely incorrect. They are speaking against not general opinion, but overwhelming scientific evidence, which they are aware of and choose to ignore or dismiss. While I do not have enough space to fully explore the depths of their misguidedness, I will try to explain briefly some of the facts they are ignoring. As stated above, 97 percent of climate science researchers agree global warming is caused by humans, and an inter-governmental panel of scientists backed by the United Nations has come to the conclusion that human activity has directly contributed to the steady rise in global temperature over the last 100 years. Akin’s comments have been well corrected already, but the

over 30,000 rape-induced pregnancies each year in the United States make it clear he was wrong as well. Broun’s comments about evolution are contradicted by a wealth of evidence found in the fossil record, comparative embryology, genetics, comparative morphology and biogeography, while the Big-Bang Theory has equally strong evidence in an analysis of the structure of the universe, the development of galaxies and the age of stars, to name a small fraction of the relevant information. If any of this is confusing to you, I am sure an astrophysics, environmental science or biology professor could give a more in-depth explanation. It is always a problem when elected officials are willing to be so blinded by their ideologies that they ignore facts, regardless of the issue. The importance of having well-informed representatives is compounded when the issue is one that must be a cornerstone of our economic recovery, is crucial to the health and well-being of the general population, and enables us to predict and address potentially catastrophic issues before they become damaging.

Not only are these men setting our scientific policy, they are the image we, as a country, are presenting to the world on these issues. In a global economy, we need to attract innovators in science and technology from around the world to do their work

“So please, when deciding who to vote for this election season, make it a priority to research positions on science.”

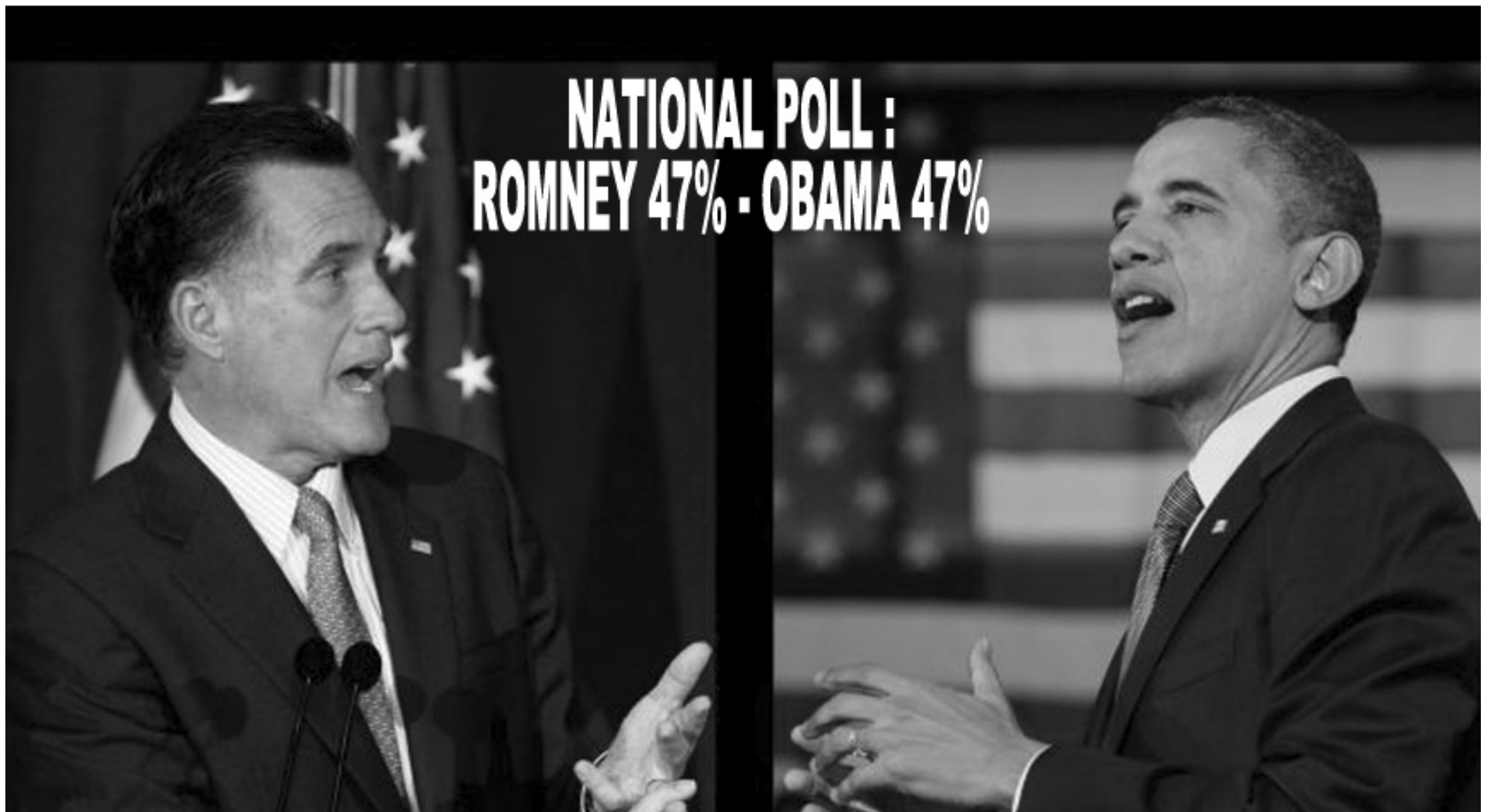
in the United States and to hire Americans to work with them. Giving an impression of ignorance and stupidity will do the opposite.

An even bigger problem than the current scientific beliefs of many members of our legislature is the general apathy of the public to environmental issues. The economy and health care are the two biggest issues in this election and most people do not see the perspective of a candidate on climate change or evolution as important to these issues. Until there is pressure from the voting population for candidates to be informed and educated, we will continue to have representatives decades and centuries behind modern scientific research. And as long as this is the case, scientific innovation in this country will suffer. This will affect the economy, especially in fields like manufacturing and technology. It will affect health care through diminished medical research, which will make care more expensive and less effective. There is almost no facet of everyday life that is not influenced by advances in science, or a lack thereof. So please, when deciding who to vote for this election season, make it a priority to research positions on science, not just for the headline races for Senate or president but for local government as well. We cannot afford to ignore reality any longer.

Forrest Brown’s column normally appears Thursdays in The Cavalier Daily. He can be reached at f.brown@cavalierdaily.com.



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