

# southview speaks



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## What did you think of Coming Home?

The battle for presidency in the United States is beginning to dominate the headlines of news networks and newspapers. Barack Obama attempts to retain his position as Commander-in-Chief while Republicans Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum fight for party nomination. President Obama failed to deliver on his campaign promises and the country remains in a state of depression. The American public has a responsibility to elect a new President to lead the country to an era of prosperity. The Republicans base their attack on the Oval Office around economic, foreign, and energy policies.

Under President Obama's leadership the unemployment rate has increased .5% and the

national debt continues to climb. Both Republican candidates wish to reduce spending. Romney with a plan to reduce spending by \$500 billion a year and Santorum with a larger \$1 trillion dollar a year reduction. The Republicans make fiscal responsibility a mainstay of their campaigns in an attempt to drastically reduce national debt and stabilize the economy. In 2010 the American government spent just under 40% of national GDP. Romney and Santorum will both cap government spending at 20%. The American debt will not decrease if the government spends such a large fraction of the budget. Only through Republican spending plans can the national debt be reduced. The economic troubles

of the United States remained throughout the Obama administration and show little sign of stopping unless a new President injects stiffer economic limits. The roots of President Obama's foreign policy failures lie in the Middle East. He has allowed Iranian influence to cause the death of Syrians and threaten the stability of Iraq. The loss of American lives during the Iraq War will have happened in vain if the government allows Iranian backed political parties to gain control of the Iraqi government. Republican candidates will help maintain and create a democratic Middle East through economic sanctions, diplomatic pressure, technical assistance, and military maneuvers. President Obama's

shortcomings in foreign policy also exist in the Western hemisphere. Latin American security and stability is rapidly decreasing. Romney will keep anti-drug pressures up and implement democratic governments throughout the region. The Republicans wish to spread democracy through the world and help protect oppressed civilians in foreign countries. With gas prices expected to balloon well over four dollars/gallon the American government must focus on energy policies. President Obama has invested in "green" energy, promising a decrease in energy costs and an increase in "green" jobs. Obama failed to deliver on this promise and the American public has paid for it. America's bountiful

domestic energy has remained untapped and government has failed to find a cheaper foreign option. President Obama's rejection of the Keystone XL serves as the prime example of poor energy planning. The pipeline would bring valuable Canadian oil to the United States but instead the oil will most likely go to another foreign country. President Obama rejected the pipeline because of pressure from environmentalists despite findings from the State Department that dismissed threat of environmental harm. Governor Romney and Senator Santorum both strongly supported the creation of the pipeline because it would create a substantial amount of American jobs and create a cheaper and more reliable source for energy.

### PRO

COLIN LEE  
Staff Writer

### The Crossfire Election Season Begins

### CON

TREVOR KANWAL  
Business Editor

Every week the headlines of the major media outlets say the same thing, "Obama's approval ratings lowest in months," or "Approval ratings show serious decline." The people of the United States remain dissatisfied, despite the progress our government has made in four years. While of course America's economy continues to suffer from a severe four year recession, President Obama deserves more credit than many often give him and a reelection.

While assessing the reelection of Barack Obama, everyone must remember more than his last four years alone. Obama inherited the recession that officially began in late 2007 from the Bush administration, and his policies did not cause the mess America lingers in now. Some of the biggest banks on Wall Street experienced dramatically from the quick depreciation of the stock market and housing market. The \$787 billion stimulus package signed by the newly inaugurated president prevented a much more

severe economic crisis by propping up banks and protecting the collapse of the financial district.

Also to stabilize the spiraling American auto industry during the start of the recession, President Obama granted the Chrysler and GM corporations millions of dollars to avoid bankruptcy. More innovation and a new direction for their companies with the help of the stimulus money, American car sales reached new highs in 2011 and are projected to increase to even higher levels in 2012. Without this federal aid, Chrysler and GM would have defaulted and thus closed many more American factories, potentially losing hundreds of more jobs across the heartland.

Obama fixed more than just the auto industry. In recent years, the rate of healthcare costs rose to three times the rate of inflation, placing a burden on families struggling to pay the medical or insurance payments. Obama's health care bill helped many middle class Americans with

these costs, despite fierce opposition. The law brought down premiums for small businesses as well as citizens, and did not allow insurance companies to deny coverage to those suffering from pre-existing conditions or unexpected illnesses. The health care providers such as insurance companies or hospitals suffered minimally, showing the overall success of the reform act.

As well as domestic success, Obama has made significant achievements overseas. He effectively ended the unpopular war in Iraq as promised in order to transition the new democracy to the control of the Iraqi government and military. To address the persistent threat of Al Qaeda, Obama moved troops out of Iraq to Afghanistan. This war is worth the cost of millions of dollars, whereas invading Iraq with full force due to false information on their nuclear armament cost too many American soldiers' lives and an estimated \$800 billion dollars. His broader

plan is to refocus the effort to those who attacked us in 2001. Then, after eight months of planning and tracking, the most elite Navy Seals successfully killed Osama Bin Laden following the President's high risk decision to send in the troops. Deemed a major success by the American people and leading politicians, Obama proved his leadership in the killing of a mass murderer that escaped us for ten years.

The lingering criticism that President Obama continues to endure is the blame for high oil prices plaguing Americans. According to a recent CBS poll, a majority of people in the United States believe the president has control over gasoline prices. This is, however, largely untrue. Regulation and government subsidies do have a small effect on gasoline prices, but the real reasons behind the spike in prices are first supply and demand, as well as oil speculators fearing a shortage from other countries or from natural disasters. For

example, oil prices rose after Hurricane Katrina, the BP oil disaster, or Iran's threat to block the Strait of Hormuz. Republicans now blame the high prices on Obama for blocking the construction of the Keystone Pipeline. This pipeline, which would not open until 2014 and would have no effect on this year's prices, would be detrimental to the environment and would be used strictly for exports for refinement. Only Obama's support of modern innovation and alternative energy policies will help America end its strong dependence on foreign oil, not allowing drilling here in America.

The few setbacks of the Obama administration pale in comparison to the success of his policies and America's comeback. Just like how Obama rallied the activists of the nation four years ago with the famous line, "Yes We Can," the President is now able to hold his head high and proudly say, "Yes We Did."

## Letter to the Editor: Concern about liberal bias

Dear Editor,

As an Alumnus from the class of 2009 I still have much passion for Sylvania Southview, and always will. Over the past few months, it has come to my attention and concern that Southview's student media The Catalyst has been plagued by the cancer of liberalism. This is evident in every publishing. From hit pieces against Ohio Proposition Two, that were clearly underwritten by the AFL-CIO (December 16, 2011 Issue 4 Page 2.)

To a hit piece poll against the Republican candidate for president Mitt Romney; on the basis of his Mormon Religion (February 10, 2012 Issue 6 Page 10). To an appalling gesture of publishing an article entitled "What your zodiac sign says about you" (January 13, 2012 Issue 5 Page 7.) This article was a clear promotion of the antichristian religious cult known as Astrology.

Such erroneous propaganda should find no comfort in the bed of student media. Parents,

teachers, administration, community members, fellow alumni, and current students should stand up and demand an end to this liberal-fascist anti-God propaganda being spoon-fed down their throats.

Thank you and good day,  
Nicholas Jablonski

## Letter from the Opinions Editor

Mr. Jablonski:

We appreciate the input from a former alumnus. The Catalyst is an open forum for this school and this community. We have reviewed the allegations you made in your letter.

First, issue 4 page 2. You claim our coverage of Ohio Proposition Two was clearly underwritten by the AFL-CIO. This accusation is false. *The Catalyst* obtains all of its funding through the sale of advertisements. Our

partners that help fund this newspaper in no way receive special treatment, and we should point out the AFL-CIO is not an advertising partner with us.

Second, issue 6 page 10. After reviewing what we had published about Mitt Romney in our Republican candidate article, we find your claim nearing insult. The article informed students about all the prospective Republican candidates on the basis of their policies. It was stated that Mitt Romney was Mormon and nothing more. Just like responsible journalists, we use facts to write our articles and not subjective editorializing. We also do not omit information that is important to our readers.

Third, issue 5 page 7. You saw the piece entitled "What your zodiac sign says about you" as Anti-Christian and appalling. This said piece is found on the entertainment page of our newspaper. The piece was made for entertainment and in no way was intended to promote astrology as better or more reliable than any other religion. If you are looking for a declaration that Christianity is the only acceptable religion, then please look elsewhere because *The*

*Catalyst* is a forum for all individuals at this diverse school.

Also, you make the claim that we have a liberal fascist agenda. That in itself is an extremely contradictory statement. Fascism's general definition is extreme right wing authoritarian with intolerant opinions, while liberalism is an ideology based on individual liberty and social reform. It is unclear what you are attempting to express when you categorize us as liberal fascists because of its nonexistent meaning.

This response is written by a student to represent the students' part of this publication. Please recognize that these are our thoughts and not spoofed rhetoric from an advisor, whom we find to actually be quite conservative. I hope we addressed all your concerns and continue to read *The Catalyst*. Go Cougars!

John Collier  
Opinions Editor

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