

It's All POLITICAL

Political organizations help inform Williamsburg citizens in historic election

With the 2008 Presidential Election marking the first semester, political organizations were particularly busy. The College Republicans and Young Democrats both helped to promote their respective parties in the 2008 Presidential Election. After the election, the groups stayed active, as participants were able to congregate and enjoy sharing the same political values.

Both the College Republicans and the Young Democrats began by spreading awareness about their parties' candidates and attended major organization meetings. The College Republicans attended the Americans for Prosperity Defending the American Dream Summit in Washington, D.C. where they got a chance to meet a variety of elected officials and party members. The Young Democrats attended the Virginia Young Democrats convention, an annual event.

Being a part of a political organization made students feel like they could

have a big effect on their government. "It is critical for people to act on their views rather than simply having them," Alex Kashurba, member of the College Republicans, said. "Then they can make a difference in the community."

Also, being informed about U.S. politics was the focus of many political organizations on campus, including Americans for Informed Democracy and Students for a Democratic Society. "Being in a political organization is a great way to get involved, but it is not the only way," College Republicans Secretary Eileen Bartolozzi said. "What is most important is being an informed voter and an active citizen."

With voter registration drives and extensive campaigning, the political groups focused much of their efforts on the Presidential Election. However, being an politically active and aware citizen was their ultimate goal.

>Jessica Miller



The Young Democrats show off their Club of the Year award at the Virginia Young Democrats Convention. The Young Democrats go to the convention every year to meet with other clubs around the state like their own.

represent



Maya Sapiurka makes a banner for the Crim Dell Bridge for election day. On election day, Young Democrats started putting up door hangers at 4:30 A.M., and promoted their candidates Barack Obama and Joe Biden all day, ending with a result-watching party later that evening.



College Republicans volunteer for FreedomWorks during the November election. Members helped distribute flyers and door hangers informing Williamsburg citizens about the election.



The College Republicans show up in the early morning hours to support John McCain at the "TODAY Show" in Colonial Williamsburg. The "TODAY Show" hosted an episode in Williamsburg on September 24th as a special on battleground states in the election.



Kristin Coyner, Brandon Luebbers, Garret Girmus, Kelly Tsipsis, and Derick Arbaugh pose in front of the Capitol Building. The College Republicans visited Washington, D.C. after attending the Americans for Prosperity Summit.

In an open discussion hosted by Americans for Informed Democracy, professor Lawrence Wilkerson answers questions about the use of torture in the War of Terror. Attendees also screened the Academy Award-winning documentary about torture practices *Taxi to the Dark Side*.