

## Tea Time with Obama, Romney and Me

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Staff Writer

While third-party candidates are also in the running for presidency, the Republicans and Democrats are the two major political parties that dominate the upcoming 2012 presidential election. Though Democrat nominee President Barack

Care Act (Obamacare) is perhaps the closest we'll ever get to providing health benefits to all citizens. The basis of Obamacare is for all Americans to be able to live their days without fear of sickness or injuries. There are people who need life-saving treatments and Obamacare will not deny the people coverage.

who they're allowed to marry? And what is happiness when you cannot take vows with the one you want to be with for the rest of your life? I believe in "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" and, similar to Obama's stance, marriage is between any two individuals. Everyone, including homosexuals, should have

grants and due to the current economic constraints, the United States cannot provide amnesty for all immigrants. Studies have shown deportation to be a very expensive process, so instead, the United States should increase border security and implement new reforms, giving rights to certain undocumented

should be made by the one carrying the fetus. If anyone was ever placed in the situation without rights to make their own decision and is being mandated by the government, that is a violation of natural human rights.

### ENVIRONMENT

For the past two centuries, we have experienced

sources like wind and solar which will not harm the environment. Though the initial cost is higher, the free source of energy will be cheaper in the long run.

Both candidates offered their respective plans, but there are numbers of issues that many Americans do not agree with from either candidate. If I called myself



Obama and Republican nominee Willard "Mitt" Romney both intend to lead the nation towards the right direction, their ideals on specific issues are not in sync with the average American's lifestyle.

### HEALTH CARE

As a supporter of Universal Health Care, I think that Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable

However, Romney's plan of changing Medicare into voucher-based programs would hurt the average seniors, because they will not have the resources to purchase today's level of coverage.

### MARRIAGE EQUALITY

What is life when you cannot marry the ones you love? What is liberty when the law is telling people

the right to marry; however, it should not be the state's decision because this is a matter of equality throughout the nation.

### IMMIGRATION

America started out as a nation of immigrants and we all came here for one reason: a chance for a better future. However, there is a line between documented and undocumented immi-

aliens who meet certain requirements.

### ABORTION

I am pro-choice and I believe all women have the rights to their own body. While Romney makes a logical argument opposing abortion with the exception of rape, incest, or danger to the life of the mother, politics should not interfere with the decisions that

growth in our society that has impacted us both positively and negatively. Our natural resources are dwindling so it is time for us to lessen our dependency on fossil fuels. so research on renewable energy is crucial. The use of coal as an energy source only further worsens the looming global warming problem. We have renewable energy

a Democrat or a Republican or even a Libertarian, it does not necessarily mean I have to believe every aspect of that party's ideology. They each have their own strong points in terms of what they want best for the nation, but it is time for them to actually step out of their comfort zone and take into consideration their opponent's plan.

## Bright Eyes



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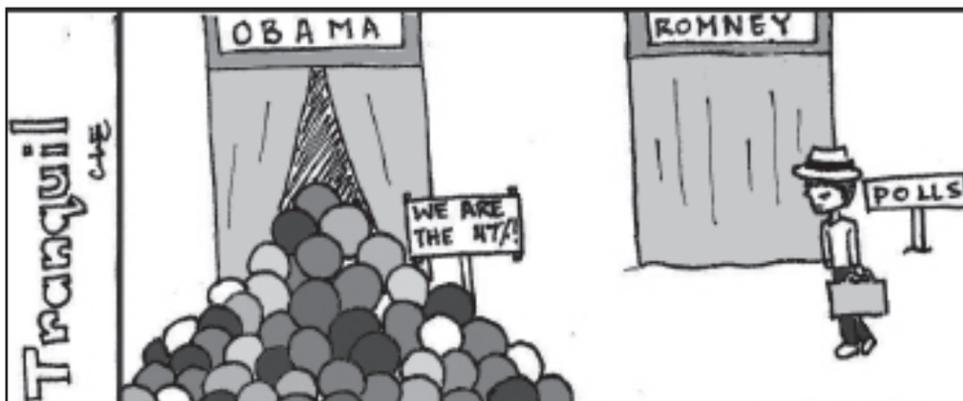
### Proactivity is Key

It's already October. As a senior, the month marks the beginning of what can potentially become college application hell. As a student, I'm starting to get a little uneasy about looming semester finals in two months. One of the more overlooked topics of discussion, by students and young adults alike, is the 2012 presidential elections.

(Hopefully) most of us know who's running, and a fraction of us already know who we would or will vote for. However, how much of the student body actually knows about each of the candidate's policies?

"What's Obamacare?" "What's that '47 percent' thing I keep hearing about?" Most students don't follow politics, and that needs to change. All pressing topics affect students, directly or not. We can all take part during this momentous time.

One way to get involved is by volunteering at a polling station. A volunteer could immerse themselves in the atmosphere of an intense political party headquarters. Watching the three presidential debates are also effective ways to learn about the candidates. By simply seeking minor ways to help in the election, as well as educating ourselves about the candidates, we have the potential to make quite a difference as young adults.



## Don't Stake Until You See the Whites of Their Eyes!

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My block is a battlefield. No, really, it is. Instead of swords, guns and nuclear bombs, my neighbors decided on a more symbolic weapon of choice: yard signs.

The tensions began after the Republican National Convention, when an empty chair and a "Vote Romney" sign suddenly appeared on the corner house lawn in a lone tribute to the Republican candidate. Other lawns saw it as a declaration of war and Obama's white-teeth visages soon began popping out of grass—like daisies!

As Election Day nears, the signs inch closer and closer to each other, as if representing their owners in this political stare down. What was initially a merely innocuous way to express political opinion has now become artillery in this quasi-war.

However, as much as the bodiless conflict represents larger issues at hand of how Romney's conservative values or Obama's liberals might govern America by 2013, I cannot help but chuckle and remember Hugh Neutron and Ebenezer Wheezer in "Lilliputian vs. Blefusudian" warfare over crabgrass.

## Policies on Education: Democrats vs. Republicans

### Democrats



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Nov. 6 is an important day for all American citizens, including students. Education, a highlighted issue of the 2012 election, has become the number one priority of the presidential campaigns, specifically the Democratic platform.

According to President Barack Obama, in order to prepare Americans for jobs and restore middle class security, we have to out-educate the world by starting with strong education systems. Knowing that more than half of Americans are middle class, he first focuses on helping them afford college. So far, he has kept his promise by expanding federal support and tackling rising college costs. As a result, a large investment in students' aid has occurred, as well as the implementation of a more effective system.

However, Republican candidate Mitt Romney does not waste an opportunity to attack Obama's ideas on education by making empty promises. By stating that the use of tax money should go to tuition for private schools, it only proves that our country's investment in such ventures will continue to damage our economy and drain the resources from public schools. In addition, Romney plans to eliminate Obama's college tax credit and veto the Dream Act.

President Obama offers a promising future for the students of America. The improvement of this system will not only facilitate the chance to go to college, but improve America as a whole. America's future is at stake on Nov. 6 and we have a choice on how to move forward.

Administrators, parents and teachers are all connected by a need for accountability. With trust, they are able to rely on one another so that the students are able to receive the best education possible.

The Republican Party's view on education holds improvement in our national school system as a very important issue so that each student can have the ability to choose from schools that have the same quality, to see which one best fits their needs. With higher standards, all students can be pushed to reach their full potential. Only with accountability, implementation of rigor in the fundamental class courses, and innovation to adapt to their students' needs can schools provide students with a higher level of education.

Unlike the Democratic view of education, which involves heavy government power, the Republican Party believes that Americans need to keep to the idea of limited government. The only time when government should interfere with where students go to school is not to tell them where to go, but to give them the option to go wherever they want.

America doesn't need the government to become overly involved in the school system. Really, it is up to us, the people, to decide what we want to do and how we want to do it. We cannot depend on the government to give us achievement but to give us power to achieve. All that is needed from the government is for them to support and to make the pursuit of schooling attainable for students.

### Republicans



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