

OPINION

THE TEEN APPEAL

Giving truth to Memphis youth

October 2008 Issue Contributing Reporters and Photographers

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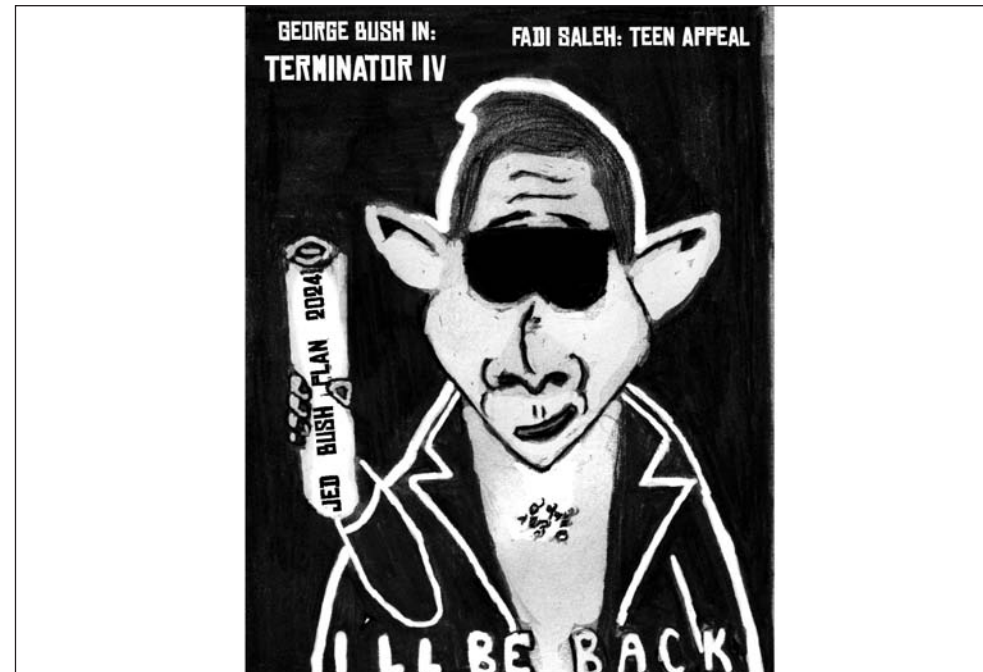
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Political Cartoon | George W. Bush



Fadi Saleh, White Station

Student reporters need respect

By Marcus Matthews
Teen Appeal Coordinator

Lil Wayne rapped “get back to the money,” decades after Elvis sang “Money Honey” in the 50s.

Donna Summer’s hit “She Works Hard for the Money” was popular long before Gangsta Boo asked where dem dollars at or Cyndi Lauper sang “Money Changes Everything.”

Money has been a theme in music and life for centuries, and students want details about how education dollars affect them.

It’s good that MCS students want to understand the decisions made and how those decisions impact them. This newspaper is the No. 1 forum to address MCS students.

Teen Appeal stories are written by MCS students, and high school students district-wide have access to The Teen Appeal.

While several TA staff reporters want to report on budget issues, hiring and firings within the system and where money is going, I spoke with principals who said they were afraid to be quoted about deficiencies their respective schools face.

Teachers have shied from interviews as well.

Rock of Gibraltar-like job security crumbled Monday night to a point where teachers didn’t know if they would have a job Tuesday morning due to low enrollment and budget cuts.

And, if I thought my job might be at risk from an interview with a student I could just shrug off, I might shy away too.

Maybe I’m naïve, but I don’t think saying, “Since my class is short on books (many MCS students don’t have books to take home) I make copies of assigned reading for the students to take home,” is cause for termination.

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2008 candidate comparisons

By Joe Guyton
White Station High School



It is that special time in America again that comes around every four years. A time when America’s core principle, giving a voice to the people, is brought to the limelight during the presidential election. Perhaps no other election has brought as much media attention or public interest as the election of 2008.

People across the United States are focusing on the ideals and values of two colossal candidates, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain, to determine who they will support as the president.

Even though the majority of high school students will be ineligible to vote, many students are nonetheless interested in the candidates. Many students show a strong favoritism towards the Democratic Party’s nominee, Illinois Senator Obama. Students are attracted to his fresh new take on the American government and the youth and vitality that he promises to bring to the Oval Office.

A recent poll by the Pew Research Center for People and the Press found that about 59 percent of voters ages 18-29 favor Obama, while 32 percent favor McCain.

While Obama maintains that race should not be a factor in politics, many feel differently — and not in the negative sense. Teens are excited with the prospect of Barack Obama becoming the first African American to serve as President of the United States.

White Station Senior Nathan Hanks said, “I don’t feel that Obama’s race should be a deciding factor in anyone’s vote for president. However, there is no doubt that if he is elected it will be a monumental event in

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