

ELECTION

age," Preda said of Obama. "He is the first candidate since Reagan who is appealing to some young people. Young voters since 1980 tended to lean toward conservatives and Republican presidential candidates."

Preda said Obama has demonstrated personal stability throughout the campaign, while the press has often portrayed McCain as "jumping all around, going from one issue to the next."

"He says he's a maverick," Preda said. "I think that he is no longer a maverick. The maverick label that he talks about was the previous John McCain before he began his presidential quest."

Obama also wants to end the war in Iraq and emphasizes positive social change, such as his plan to guarantee health insurance for all Americans.

Duff has a more favorable view of McCain.

"There's one key difference between Obama and McCain and it has to do with their world views," Duff said. "They have starkly different world views and it's rooted partly in the difference between liberals and conservatives in general."

Duff said that McCain sees the world from a relatively moderate conservative point of view where if you work hard you can succeed and achieve the American Dream, while Obama subscribes to the "typical liberal world view" where there are roadblocks that prevent people from attaining that dream and the government should step in and remove those roadblocks.

"Obama's world view is that people who are more fortunate and who have more money should give back to people who are less fortunate," Duff said. "And if they aren't going to do that, the government should come and take their money and redistribute it."

Duff considers Obama's strength as his ability to inspire people. Obama also represents the opinions of many anti-war Americans. But he has his weaknesses.

"His number one weakness is that he's inexperienced," Duff said. "He has had absolutely no executive experience whatsoever. He hasn't even served a whole term in the senate yet. He's never really had any test."

His number two weakness,

according to Duff, is that he's "by far the most liberal of the Senate."

"It makes his claim that he's reaching across the aisle rather unconvincing," Duff said. "I think that's a rather considerable weakness."

The country's recent economic troubles will factor greatly into how people vote.

"There is no way to predict how the economy will be different under each one as president," Preda said. "Presidents like to take credit when the economy is good. Presidents say 'don't blame me' when the economy is bad. But they don't control the economy."

Duff isn't sure that the economic policies would be too different, regardless of which candidate takes office.

"McCain's economic stances are a little bit left of Bush's," Duff said. "He's not as die-hard into the 'cut taxes' world as the Bush administration was. He believes in providing incentives like tax cuts to businesses to spur economic growth."

When it comes to climate change issues, however, McCain supports putting caps on carbon emissions, which Duff says is different from Bush policies.

The candidates differ on the war in Iraq as well. Obama supports a definite timetable to withdraw troops, while McCain refuses to set an end date.

Selection of a running mate has been a topic of contention between the two parties throughout the campaign, particularly McCain's choice of Alaska governor Sarah Palin.

Preda doesn't see Palin as qualified to be president.

"I just see her as a liability to McCain," Preda said. "She doesn't seem to pass the test. I think that Palin was pushed on him by the party base and he accepted her without sufficient vetting."

Preda considers Senator Joe Biden a stronger choice.

"Biden has strong foreign policy credentials," Preda said. "He has the knowledge, the experience of having had contact with leaders in this government and in other governments in other countries. (Obama) picked Biden because he couldn't pick Hilary (Clinton)."

Duff thinks that Palin was chosen because of her appeal to

the voters on the far right, who might have seen McCain as too moderate.

"She appeals to the 'Joe Six Pack' conservative base," Duff said. "She hunts and she fishes and rides snowmobiles. She's pro-life and pro-traditional marriage and I think that's why he picked her. In that way, she's been an asset."

Duff said Palin draws more people to her rallies than McCain, but at the same time the media has ridiculed her.

"They make fun of her being stupid and that she'd unprepared and not experienced enough to be president, and I think she's hurt him in many ways in his dealings with the press," Duff said.

"Based on just experience alone, I'd say that Palin is probably not qualified to be president - yet," Duff said. "Biden's been in Congress since dinosaurs walked the earth, so I would say that if that was the only factor, yeah, he's probably more qualified than she is. The irony of this is both of them are more qualified than Obama."

The country is currently divided almost equally between the two candidates, and Preda said that there are several lines along which the country splits.

"The country is divided, but it's really divided between central city vs. suburb and rural," Preda said. "It's still divided geographically, sociologically, economically by income—the rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer."

Duff has a different perspective on the country's political divisions.

"Some would argue that it is in fact divided between red states and blue states, liberals vs. conservatives and red and blue states fighting it out every year," Duff said.

However, he cites a book called *Culture Wars* by Morris Fiorina, which concludes that the political views of Americans on individual issues tend to be more moderate.

"When we poll people on major issues that you think would split people, like abortion and gay marriage, people pretty much fall along a bell curve, where you have some people on the extreme ends and most everybody else distributed in the middle," Duff said.

It is actually his, she said. It's also hard to find evidence of thefts without video proof.

Students are becoming more wary about where they leave their things in the library, Latham said. Sometimes students can be careless with their possessions. "They're aware there may be a problem," she said. "Students are being more cautious."

Chris Henderson, electronic media access librarian, said this is the worst series of thefts he's seen at Moffett since he started in 2002.

"It's a nightmare," he said. "You get up to go to the bathroom or to get a book and when you come back, your stuff's gone."

Henderson said the robberies hurt not only the victims, but the library too. If people are worried about their personal effects being taken, they might stop coming to Moffett.

"That's the stuff that makes you feel unsafe," he said. "It

thought I wanted to know," she said.

Dean of Students Dail Neely said he would not comment on an ongoing investigation.

The MSU police incident report listed what happened as "hazing by ritual act only."

Texas law forbids hazing. According to the statute, "Hazing means any intentional knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off the campus of an educational institution, by one person alone or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers the mental or physical health or

continued from pg. 1

He said the division that seems so evident is really created by the media and politicians who see that splitting people up benefits them.

The country is, however, clearly split on which candidate to vote for. Polls are pretty evenly split between McCain and Obama, though Obama has maintained a slight lead.

"It's going to be a close race," Duff said. "It's close right now. If you average the poll numbers, it's pretty clear that it's getting closer."

Duff said that the narrow distance between the candidates is surprising.

"Usually when a president of a particular party has considerably low approval ratings, his party doesn't do well in the next election," Duff said.

Duff mentioned that the Bradley Effect, which states that voters will often respond to polls in favor of a non-white candidate in order to avoid being perceived as racist. This might skew the numbers in favor of Obama.

Preda doesn't think that the Bradley Effect will be a factor in this election.

"As political scientists, we base our judgment on statistics, and the numbers are in Obama's favor at the present time," Preda said. "From everything I've read lately, it seems like (The Bradley Effect) is probably over. Over time there are more whites who have publicly stated that they are supportive of him."

According to Preda, Obama has also garnered significant international support, and is preferred by many other countries over McCain.

Whichever candidate is elected will have a significant impact on the future of the United States — an impact college students will feel, if not immediately, then upon graduation.

"Politics affects everyone in important ways," Duff said. "When it comes to taxes and spending and how much money comes out of your paycheck, who is in office is going to affect you in a big way, whether it's McCain or Obama."

Duff said the decision comes down to whether or not you agree with how Obama's or McCain's plans are going to affect you.

"Either way, they are going to affect you in your pocketbook, in your home, in your ability

Campus briefs

• Oct. 29 The Juanita Harvey

Art Gallery Dedication; Fain Fine

Arts Main Gallery; Wed. 3:30 p.m.

• Honorary Art Fraternity Reception;

Juanita Harvey Art Gallery; Wed. 6

p.m.

• Oct. 30 Athletics luncheon;

Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU;

video replays, coach updates; Thurs.

12 p.m. to 1 p.m.; cost \$6

• Phi Alpha Theta Bake Sale; CSC;

Thurs. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

• Multicultural Services: Gay Mar-

riage; CSC Wichita I & II; Thurs.

11:30 a.m.

• Oct. 31 Opening Reception:

30 Year Selective Retrospective;

Fain Fine Arts Main Gallery; Fri. 6

p.m. - 8 p.m.

• Nov. 1 Priority Application for

Spring Admission Deadline

• Nov. 3 Residence Hall Associ-

ation Blood Drive; CSC; Mon. 12 p.m.

- 4 p.m.

• Nov. 4 sss & CMC; Ultimate

Money Skills; CSC Shawnee; Tues. 7

p.m.

to do certain things," Duff said. He cited the economic bailout as an example of the pervasiveness of politics. "It's going to affect getting car loans and mortgages."

"College students are the ones in five or six years who are

going to be starting families and jobs and buying homes," Duff said. "The next four years of the presidency while they're in college will have a vast effect on what happens when they're out of college."

continued from pg. 1

THEFTS

ent men, that is — was the person of interest.

Head Librarian Dr. Clara Latham and Hagy have been discussing installing a security camera system to dissuade would-be robbers. The two are consulting a contractor about pricing for the system.

An eight-camera system, such as the one in Clark Student Center, costs about \$9,000, Hagy said. A system with four cameras, which is usually the smallest, would be about half that price.

"The price really depends on what you're looking for," he said. While one camera might be used to monitor a whole room, a different camera might be required to properly capture a suspect's face.

Latham is currently considering installing two cameras inside the library, but none outside. She said she doesn't think students will feel that their privacy is

being violated by this measure.

"Most of the students are appreciative that we're being cautious," she said. "There are people who will try to take advantage of other people when they aren't looking."

Latham said the library has formerly had problems with thefts of textbooks and calculators, but nothing like this. When the first laptop was stolen Sept. 28, library workers searched the bags of the people who were in the library.

The search — in which participation was voluntary — turned up nothing.

"They're not forced to show their possessions," Latham said. That would require a search warrant. "But they'll feel more protected that we're monitoring who's coming and going."

Latham said she doesn't plan on conducting any more random searches. It's too easy for a thief to just claim that a stolen item

DRINKING

Helen Aycock told *The Wichitan* she got a call from the hospital later that morning about her son.

"The last thing my son remembers, he was drinking whiskey," she said. "Someone dropped him off at the hospital. When he arrived, he had absolutely no gag reflex and he was not breathing on his own."

She said an ambulance was not summoned. Nurses told her that her son would have died if he hadn't been taken to the hospital.

"He would not have survived

it," she said.

Nicholas was discharged from the hospital the following morning.

Hostetter said that Cain was discharged as well.

Later that week, Helen Aycock said she contacted the dean's office at MSU.

"They said they were investigating," she said. "The fraternity has been at least temporarily suspended."

She said she also contacted the administrative offices of Kappa Alpha.

"They told me everything they

Sept. 30. The felony theft case is still active.

These incidents — and the fact that all the cases are still unsolved — might lead some students to question their security on campus.

About 25 percent of MSU is currently monitored by surveillance cameras, Hagy said in an email to *The Wichitan* in March.

The Dillard building, where nearly half of the thefts have occurred, uses 29 cameras. This is more than any other building.

Killingsworth dorm is equipped with 12 video cameras. Pierce Hall has 11. Sunwatcher Village uses 10 cameras, but four of those are in the office. Clark Student Center has eight cameras.

"Cameras are not required or mandated; however, I believe that they serve a major role in the perception of safety," Hagy said. "A video surveillance system

goal is to allow you to have video in the event of an incident so that you can re-construct the incident and determine what might have taken place."

Hagy said MSU is trying to include the cost of installing video cameras in all new construction projects, but the cost of retrofitting old buildings is more.

"The cost of a single camera is anywhere from \$49 to \$2,500, depending on the camera," he said. "Some cameras are designed to take pictures in total darkness, while others require a good amount of light. Some cameras have a zoom capability and others are fixed."

Each location with a camera system is responsible for maintaining its own surveillance equipment, Hagy said.

"I disagree with providing bad guys with the exact locations as it will not make our student body any safer," he said.

continued from pg. 1

ment in a small space, calisthenics, or other activity that subjects the student to an unreasonable risk or harm or that adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student; any activity involving the consumption of a food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, liquor, drug, or other substance which subjects the student to an unreasonable risk of harm or which adversely affects the mental or physical health or safety of the student; any activity that intimidates or threatens the student with ostracism that subjects the student to

extreme mental stress, shame, or humiliation, or that adversely affects the student from entering or remaining registered in an educational institution, or that may reasonably be expected to cause a student to leave the organization or the institution rather than submit to acts described in this subsection; any activity that induces, causes, or requires the student to perform a duty or task which involves a violation of the Penal Code. Sec. 4.52.