

# Eye on Our Generation

## Youth...

### The Deciding Factor: Election 2008

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Youth, ages 18 to 29, came out by the masses in this election to make their mark in history. In the past the youth vote was never something to be feared until the 2008 election. Barack Obama centered a large portion of his campaign to young people. In understanding that youth tend to vote largely democratic, Obama appealed to education and the job market as a concerning issue. Obama's campaign trail included many college visits; in our area he made a stop at Widener University which had a huge youth turnout.

According to the Washington Post the issue on the minds of young voters is the economy. Students are worried most about financial aid were as college graduates are worried about the job market. These issues were the force that brought this large group to the polls. In an article by Harvard University's Institute of Politics the youth vote was said to be a "civic reawakening of a new generation."

More than ever technology has been the media of choice for young people. With motivation from MTV's Rock the Vote, and Facebook and MySpace groups it was a nationwide campaign to rally young people for this 2008 election. Blogs, forums, video diaries, etc. have empowered many to share their views and concerns about the economy and the election. In the end the youth choose the best candidate for the issues. President Elect Barack Obama successfully won the vote of the "new generation".



President Elect Barack Obama speaks to thousands of people in Denver this past October. (photo courtesy of [www.flickr.com/photos/barackobama](http://www.flickr.com/photos/barackobama))

## I'm Right Behind You:

### Stalking, Violence, And What You Can Do

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College holds many promises and opportunities. One of these is freedom, the freedom to choose between a large amount of majors and classes that will shape the career that you are aiming toward. This freedom can be liberating and enjoyable in so many different ways, it should certainly be taken advantage of, but in the same instance it is easy to take this freedom and make it something sinister. Some of these harmful deeds include stalking, domestic violence and sexual assault. While laws have been put in place to curb the major elements of these misdoings, it is quite simple to do these things while avoiding any real consequence in some cases, but this does not make them any more right in their

nature.

Whether the perpetrator is mentally disturbed, out for revenge or just looking for "a good time", these are serious problems that must be dealt with in the strictest of ways. Any person who has felt the impulse to follow, hurt or demoralize someone should seek immediate help whether it is through counseling or self help seminars. It is important for victims of these crimes to understand that they are not hopelessly trapped within the confines of their predators.

In next semesters' issues I will be exploring each of these issues and how their threat has become even more potent with the new age of technology and social degradation.

### Tips For Dealing With A Stalker

**Seek help.** This is a very serious matter. Avoid denying the problem or keeping it to yourself.

**Remove yourself from the stalker's reach.** This should be your first priority. Cut off all communication with the stalker. Avoid responding.

**Get a new phone number and make sure it's unlisted.** Keep the old phone number; leave that particular phone hooked up to an answering machine.

**Block your address at school, the department of motor vehicles and voter registration office.**

**Get a cellular phone and keep it with you at all times, even inside your home.**

**Document everything.** Keep answering machine tapes, letters, gifts and logs of suspicious happenings.

**Make several left- or right-hand turns in succession if you think you're being followed while in your car.** If the other car continues to follow you, drive to the nearest police station - never home or to a friend's house. Sound your car horn to attract attention.

**Consult the local police if you receive a threat.** Do not hesitate.

**Get emotional support from the numerous Internet resources and from family and friends, neighbors, co-workers and victim support groups.** Take care of yourself as best you can.