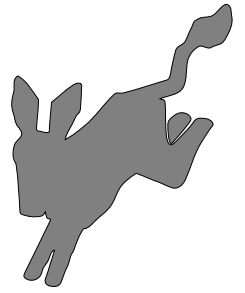




Oktibbeha Democrat



A Quarterly Newsletter of the Democratic Party in Oktibbeha County, Mississippi
Volume 11, Fall, 2004

Democratic Party Headquarters

As always during a presidential and a statewide campaign, local Democrats have a headquarters which serves as the place to coordinate the Democratic effort in the community. This time around, Oktibbeha Democrats are working hard to elect John Kerry, president of the United States, and John Edwards, vice president, and specifically to win in Oktibbeha County.

The headquarters is located on Main Street just across the street from the old Electric Company building. It is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5:15 p.m., and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The place is also buzzing many evenings, but there is no set schedule for night time activities.

Playing a particular key role in the headquarters are the MSU College Democrats. Former President Daniel Melder is headquarters coordinator, and the rejuvenated College Democrats are often there in large numbers. Members of the Oktibbeha County Democratic Executive Committee and the Oktibbeha County Federation of Democratic Women are also very much involved in headquarters activities.

The headquarters has yard signs, buttons, and



bumper stickers. Also available are position papers on a variety of major issues in the campaign.

The high point of headquarters activity so far has been the debate parties sponsored by the College Democrats. An overflow crowd has each time watched the debates and shared in the elation over our candidates' excellent performances.

Any Democrat willing to work is welcome at the Oktibbeha County Democratic Headquarters. Call Daniel Melder or stop by and sign up for an allotted time. Closer to the election, volunteers will be needed to call Democrats to make sure they vote. On Election Day, more volunteers will be needed to drive people to the polls. We need you, and we want as many people as possible to participate



John Kerry Must Become Our Next President

We have heard, over and over again, that this is the most important presidential election in our lifetime, but how many of us have thought about what that statement really means? What will it mean to the world, our nation, and our families if George W. Bush is re-elected and has four more years in office? What if, instead, John Kerry becomes our president? Will it make any difference? YES, IT WILL.

When George W. Bush became president, the nation had a surplus as far as the eye could see. President Bill Clinton's wise stewardship of our nation's financial resources had resulted in turning around a deficit that had been growing enormously under the previous President Bush and even earlier under President Reagan, and he and the Democrats turned it into a surplus. What happened when George W. Bush took office? He passed an unwise tax cut for starters and, before we knew it, our nation's surplus had become the worst deficit in American history. And who's going to have to pay that deficit? It will be our children and our grandchildren. Does anyone

of us in any family want to burden our grandchildren for our foolish spending habits? Of course not. Yet this is precisely what George W. Bush has done. Imagine what a financial mess he will be able to make if given four more years.

When Democrat Bill Clinton was president, he received thunderous welcomes anywhere he traveled in the world. Under his leadership and that of most previous American presidents, the United States was admired for the good it was doing throughout the world. On 9/11 the terrorists slammed airplanes into the Twin Towers in New York, and the world responded with heartfelt sympathy and support. Today, our president can not travel anywhere without facing huge protests. What happened? George Bush alienated the world by telling it that it either had to agree with his preemptive and unilateral invasion of Iraq or be considered irrelevant. It had to buy into his ill-conceived foreign policy or be considered unfriendly to the United States. Previous presidents dealt with disagreement through diplomacy. George Bush has not used diplomacy

to win over others, he has arrogantly told them they are wrong and better get out of the way. The result is an Iraqi crisis that goes from bad to worse. Imagine what a foreign policy mess, George W. Bush will be able to make if given four more years.

Talk to teachers about the so-called "No Child Left Behind" and its underfunding, ask veterans who have been injured in combat or simply need the medical care they were always promised, take a look at the depleted air and water and forest standards, consider what gas is costing you at the pump and imagine what gas, and propane, and electricity will cost this winter. Look at where we are as a country, and just imagine what a further mess George W. Bush will be able to make if given four more years.

We can not let this happen. John Kerry was an early supporter of a balanced budget; he will reach out to other world leaders; he will fulfill the promise to veterans that they deserve; he will make sure education bills are funded as promised; he will insist that our society adheres to proper environmental standards; and he will make sure we pay a fair price for our energy needs.

We must elect John Kerry so our nation can get back on the right track again. This is the most important election of our lifetime. Our world, our nation, and we ourselves can not afford four more years of chaos. VOTE FOR KERRY-EDWARDS, and make sure your family and friends do the same. Let people know how you feel, and you will be pleased to learn how many people agree with you.

Friends of the Democratic Party

Please send to:

***Oktibbeha Democrat*, P.O. Box 1900, Starkville, MS 39759.**

Yes, I would like to help the Democratic Party in Oktibbeha County by being a Friend of the Democratic Party. I have enclosed my annual dues payment of \$10.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City, state and zip: _____

I think the person listed below might be interested in the *Oktibbeha Democrat*. Please send him or her a sample copy.

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City, state and zip: _____

The *Oktibbeha Democrat* is published quarterly by the Oktibbeha County (Mississippi) Democratic Party Executive Committee, P.O. Box 1900, Starkville, MS 39759. The editorial board is composed of: Bennet George, John Marszalek, Brandon Bogard, Stephen Williams, Jeanne Marszalek, and Daniel Melder.

The Oktibbeha County Federation of Democratic Women

The Oktibbeha County Federation of Democratic Women opened its 2004-2005 year on August 23rd with a "Bring a Dish and Bring A Friend" dinner meeting. There was a large crowd including many new members and great enthusiasm for the upcoming presidential election and the John Kerry-John Edwards ticket. Kerry-Edwards bumper stickers and buttons were available, and plans for the year were discussed.

September 27th was the day for the annual Salad Luncheon, this year held at the AmSouth Bank on Main Street in downtown Starkville. One of

the largest crowds ever to attend the luncheon enjoyed a variety of delicious salads and the enthusiastic talk of Kelly Jacobs, our guest speaker from Hernando. Bedecked in a leather tunic covered with campaign buttons and holding signs proclaiming: "Fire Bush" and "Bush Lied," Kelly urged everyone to become actively involved in the presidential campaign and especially to urge young women to vote. Everyone left the luncheon fired up and ready to work. Many people, in fact, signed up to work at the Democratic Party Headquarters. The next day's newspaper story about

Kelly and her message attracted so much attention that local Republicans could only complain in response.

Future meetings of the Federation include "Election Analysis" in November, and the annual "Legislative Forum" in January. Watch the newspaper for date and times and for other upcoming activities.

For further information on the Oktibbeha Federation of Democratic Women, call President, Jeanne Marszalek, 323-8068; Vice President, Carol West, 323-8568; Secretary, Angie McGinnis, 323-1356, or Treasurer, Gloria Conley, 323-6715.

Mississippi State University College Democrats

The College Democrats at Mississippi State have had a great experience so far this school year. We have seen record numbers at our meetings, nearly doubled our membership, sold twice the number of T-shirts we ever expected, and had successful debate-watch parties with huge turnouts. Political involvement, especially student involvement, is typically higher in presidential election years. This is a given. However, no one in our organization expected the turnout, involvement, and enthusiasm we have seen this school year. I believe this goes to show that students are becoming more aware of the dangers Mr. Bush poses to their futures, as well as the negative impact a Republican governorship has had on higher education here in Mississippi.

I hope that as the up-coming election passes and we move onto a calmer, and hopefully more peaceful, time that students maintain their involvement in our organization so that we can work towards other goals such as addressing specific issues in our community. The College Democrats will do everything we can in the spring semester to keep political activism alive.

Our successful debate parties held at the County Party Headquarters were a great time for the County Party and

College Democrats to come together for some fun. We ordered pizza, had refreshments, and simply had a good time. We also participated in MSU's annual homecoming parade this year, with a float designed as a White House - Kerry impersonators and all. Another event coming up on October 27 is the College Democrats' movie night. The College Democrats will be showing a screening of Fahrenheit 9/11 to anyone who can come - admission is free. This event will be held in Lee Hall Auditorium on campus and starts at 7.

The College Democrats have also revamped their website at www.msstatecd.org to include more features - such as online contributions, ordering T-shirts online, a calendar with events listed for the semester, and a picture section that is more frequently updated. Anyone who wishes to keep up with the College Democrats' activities or see pictures of things we've done is encouraged to visit our website.



The success of the College Democrats thus far this year is the result of the combined efforts of our active members, helpful school administration, and the loyal support of the Oktibbeha County Democratic Executive Committee. I personally look forward to working alongside the County Party for the rest of the year - through Kerry's Presidential victory and onto whatever else might lie ahead.

Brandon Bogard
President

**We're Proud to Be
Mississippi Democrats**

The Chair's Column

Stephen Williams



By the time you receive this newsletter, the presidential election will only be days away. It is urgent that we work diligently to make sure that John Kerry and John Edwards win Oktibbeha County. Below is a three step process that will help us meet this objective.

First, remind your friends and family that Tuesday, November 2 is Election Day.

In doing so, ask them if they need a ride to the voting polls.

Second, remind them what has happened in the last four years under a Republican president. Some helpful examples are a net loss in jobs, increasing U.S. financial debt, America's loss of respect around the world, rising health care costs, lack of funding for the federal No Child Left Behind Act, no exit strategy for Iraq, and increasing

gas prices.

Third, tell them what John Kerry and John Edwards want to do for the United States over the next four years. A few examples are raising the minimum wage, creating 10 million new jobs, reducing the deficit, make health care affordable, reestablishing relationships with foreign countries, providing additional funding for education, establishing peace in Iraq by creating alliances with other countries, and decreasing our dependence on oil from the Middle East. If you need additional information, it can be found at www.JohnKerry.com.

Please remember that our campaign headquarters is located across the street from the Starkville Electric Department. Yard signs, bumper stickers, and one page issue summaries are available. If you would like to volunteer, call the headquarters at 338-0016, or come by and sign up.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has given time and money to the Oktibbeha County Democratic Party in recent months. Your contribution has made it possible for many people in the community to learn about John Kerry and the Democratic Party. We are forever in your debt.

If anyone has comments or ideas you would like to share, please feel free to call me at 320-4480.

**Oktibbeha
Democrat**

P.O. Box 1900
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