

# VOTE

## OliverSturns

**RISD**  
*School board Trustee*

Saturday, May 10, 2008

## EDUCATION



### Finish Strong!

by Krystal Ward

Carter- I'm sure the education articles from here to May are going to seem like I'm singing to the choir, but this is one of the most critical points in your preparation for

college. You've come too far to be distracted or procrastinate. Needless to say, the semester is half over. There are so many distractions right now with track meets, prom around the corner, sports banquet, senior portraits, and cool events for the seniors. However, don't let the senior bug get you now, time is of essence and there is plenty to do before the end of the school year.

1. Get help Completing FAFSA: Don't make the mistake of putting off applying for financial aid: the earlier you apply the more you may receive. FAFSA: Free application for Federal Student Aid. With this application the government collects information used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid programs like grants, loans, and work study. Check out this web site [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) to fill out the application online or print an application to do on paper. Remember in order to complete this you will need your social security number, your driver's license (if you have one), your 2007 W-2 forms and other records of money earned, and bank statements. If you need help doing this please contact someone you know that is in college, contact your guidance counselor or go to the nearest college campus. How can you get help if you don't ask? Don't let this opportunity pass!

2. Send transcripts to schools: Ask your guidance counselor to mail all first semester transcripts to the schools that you have applied. Then remind them again in May to send your final transcripts to the college you will attend. Crucial, although this doesn't happen too often if you were borderline being accepted into that school or falsified your GPA on your application they can deny you acceptance into the school. That would be humiliating, so please be honest on your applications and don't let your grades drop-only 3 more months!

3. Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll: If you haven't had the opportunity to visit the colleges you applied to do it now-use those excused absences to visit the colleges. I suggest going during the week, during a school day and observe the campus, the students, the dorms, the cafeteria, and even sit in on a class. There is no better way to know if you like a school or not than visiting the campus. Plan to contact the school's admission office and they will provide a campus guide (person), that can show you the campus and answer any questions you may have.

4. Decide which college to attend, and notify the school of your decision. This may be one of the toughest decisions you have ever made about your life and future up to this point, but you're prepared to make it right? By this point you have researched the schools you're interested in, visited the campus, talked with students that have attend the school, and made sure the school had a major that you're interested in. Of course, no school is perfect, but if you can't stand cold weather it would not be a wise decision to go to school up North, right? Seriously, think about these kind of things which environment do you learn better in? Would you prefer a large campus or a small campus? Do large lecture halls seem like an inviting place to learn? Would you prefer a college town-where the town evolved around the school and students? Would you prefer going to school where there is more to the city than the college? Are you going to like community showers or sharing a room with someone? These are all the questions you need to ask before you decide to go to school, trust me! You want to be in an environment that will allow you to

## Michelle Obama to speak at U T Tyler Rally Monday

Michelle Obama, the wife of Senator Barack Obama will appear at a Stand for Change Rally in Tyler, Texas, Monday March 3rd at the Herrington Patriot Center, 3900 University Blvd. Tyler, Texas.

The event is free and open to the public. Tickets are not required, but an RSVP is strongly encouraged. Space is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For security reasons, do not bring bags. Those attending are asked to limit personal items. No signs or banners are permitted. Doors open: 12:15 p.m.

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