



# The Riot!

**Elections Issue!**



A National E-Newsletter from the Self-Advocate Leadership Network @ HSRI

## What's Inside

- Julie's Jive.....2
- Vote Now .....2
- Presidential Comparison .....3
- Commentary Cartoon.....4
- Riot! International.....5
- Horoscopes .....6
- Jack and Jill .....6
- Elections are Fun Too .....7
- Puzzle, Poll Results.....7
- Joe's Sports Zone .....8
- Riot! Fun Page.....8
- Craig Says, Cartoon.....9
- Riot! Action Page ..... 10

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*The Riot! is more accessible!*  
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# Time To Vote!



November 4th is Election Day in the United States. We get to vote for who we want to be President. The main choice is between John

McCain, the Republican from Arizona and Barack Obama, the Democrat from Illinois.

People will also make their choices for other elected offices too. At the national level, Senate seats are open in 33 out of the 50 states. The House of Representatives is also up for grabs with all 435 seats being contested.

At the local level, depending on the state, voters will choose governors, legislators, judges, mayors and other officials.

People say that this is the biggest election in a long time! This is

because people are worried about their jobs and losing the money they have in the bank.

They are also worried about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the price of gas, getting good healthcare and education for children.

Maybe YOU are worried about disability services!

Don't let November 4th go by without being heard! It's time to VOTE.! Trust us. You will feel mighty strong after you vote!

## Who Will You Vote For?



John McCain

or



Barack Obama

**Go to The Riot website to cast your vote and let us know!**

[www.theriotrocks.org](http://www.theriotrocks.org)

## Tropic Blunder

On August 13th, many self-advocates across the nation protested against the movie Tropic Thunder. Why? Well, if you haven't heard, this movie uses the "R" word. Most teenagers already think it's cool to use the "R" word. People who are labeled with the term say it's NOT cool!

Some people say, "What's the big deal? It's only a 60 second scene." No, it is not. It is saying it is ok to use hate speech against people with

disabilities.

A coalition of national organizations has formed and come together over this blunder of a movie.

The coalition is striving to educate the studios in Hollywood through a studio summit/conference, but nothing has been set in stone. Nothing is funny about hate speech.

Keep the campaign going! Respect and dignity for all! [www.r-word.org](http://www.r-word.org)



## About The Riot!...

The Riot! is produced by the Self-Advocate Leadership Network at the Human Services Research Institute.

We work together with self-advocates to develop and write each issue.

Here's who "we" are:

### Chief Editor

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## My Voice, My Vote

Introducing a new website for young adults with disabilities who want to learn about the voting process and make a difference in their communities.

The site includes resources for voters and what it means to be a good citizen.

The website also includes an open-captioned video on the voting process.

Please visit:

[www.myvoicemyvote.org](http://www.myvoicemyvote.org)



## Julie's Jive

Self-Advocates of Indiana revved the 9th SABE National Self-Advocacy Conference in Indianapolis. In September, over 1,000 self-advocates from all over the nation attended the conference.

They felt the fever of the movement, made new friends, attended workshops and had fun partying too!

Some of the workshops included: Journey to Self-Advocacy, Sheltered Workshops: Shut 'em Down, My Own Home, and there were more! People from across the nation have still been telling me "the conference was great!"

Every year at the conference we elect new board members and new officers. It was my time to pass on the torch, but I am still involved with SABE on a few committees.

The SABE officers elected in Indiana are: Chester Finn, President;

Tia Nelis, Vice-President; Victor Robinson, Treasurer; Cathy Enfield, Secretary; and Ricky Broussard, Sergeant at Arms. Congrats to the new SABE Officers!



Julie Petty

The national SABE conference is held every two years. The location of the 2010 conference has yet to be announced. When The Riot knows, we'll let you know!

Well, if you are not registered to vote by now, you are too late for this election! This is the election issue of The Riot! I met some self-advocates recently, (I won't say from where) who felt their vote did not count! Imagine if ALL people with disabilities felt that way. We would not have a voice!

Come on my fellow Americans with disabilities! Let us show the power of the disability vote!

## Vote Now or Forever Hold Your Peace



Andy Imparato, President American Assoc of People with Disabilities Washington, D.C.



It's always interesting at a wedding when the official presiding says that if anyone in attendance knows a reason why the couple should not get married, they need to speak up or forever hold their peace. I think the same thing can be said about why we need to make our voices heard in every election.

If we don't vote, then we should not complain when the next President cuts funding for home and community-based services then expands funding for institutions.

If we don't vote, then we should not expect members of Congress to listen to us when we ask for changes in Medicaid or the

Developmental Disabilities Act.

If we don't vote, then we should not wonder why our issues are not addressed by the candidates in their speeches and television ads.

In short, if we don't vote, we don't count.

Voting is our responsibility as Americans, self-advocates and participants in the great American democracy.

Simply put, we vote because we care. We vote because we matter. We vote because we have a right to be heard. Be sure that you, your friends and family vote on November 4th.

## How Do the Presidential Candidates Compare on Disability Issues?

Election Day is on November 4th, about two weeks away. It is time to speak up. This time with our vote. To vote we must know the issues. Especially the candidates' positions on disability issues because these effect our everyday lives. The Riot! has put together the positions of the two leading Candidates on some important disabilities issues. We scored each candidate by giving them 1 point if they supported an issue and 0 points if they did not support an issue.



McCain Obama

Issue	Proposal	John McCain	Barrack Obama
Community Services	<u>Community Choice Act of 2007</u> to provide equal access and resources to services for persons eligible for institutional services, but who choose to live in their communities		
	<u>Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act of 2007</u> to create a national insurance program funded by voluntary payroll deductions to give cash benefits to adults with disabilities	No Position	
Health Care	<u>Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007</u> to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to increase access to healthcare for uninsured children living in homes earning up to 3 times the federal poverty level		
	Ending the <u>Medicare Waiting Period Act of 2007</u> to remove the 2 year wait for Medicare Coverage for persons who become disabled and qualify for SSDI	No Position	
Education	Fully fund the <u>Individuals with Disabilities Education Act</u> to provide 40% federal support for free and appropriate education		
	<u>Higher Education Act</u> to expand post secondary and higher education opportunities and assistance	No Vote	
Rights	<u>Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008</u> to revise ADA's definition of disability to extend protections beyond limitations required in recent Supreme Court rulings, especially for people whose conditions are fully or partially managed by medications or assistive devices		
	Fully fund the <u>Help America Vote Act of 2002</u> to ensure that the voting process and polling places are accessible and that election officials and poll workers are trained in promoting access and participation of persons with disabilities		
	<u>UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities</u> to include the US in an international treaty recognizing human rights for persons with disabilities	No Position	
<b>Total Score on Disability Issues</b>		<b>3 out of 9</b>	<b>9 out of 9</b>





Once upon a time there was a...

# TROPIC BLUNDER



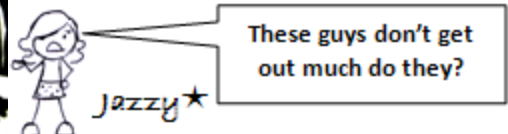
1. There was a dude from Hollywood who made a movie in the jungle with his pals.



2. The losers messed up by using the "R" word and making fun of self-advocates. It ticked off a lot of people.



3. Self-advocates got mad and then got even!! Did the Hollywood dude and his pals learn their lesson?



## People with Intellectual Disabilities Vote for the First Time in Kosovo

*The following article was written by Mental Disability Rights International in Washington, DC, on February 6, 2008.*

In an effort to build upon the self-advocacy movement of persons with disabilities in Kosovo, Kosovo Mental Disability Rights Initiative (K-MDRI) recently assisted "Ne Per Ne" peer support group members in fully understanding and participating in Kosovo's historic winter elections to choose national and municipal assembly members and mayors. "Ne Per Ne," which means "We for Ourselves," is Eastern Europe's largest peer support group for persons with intellectual disabilities, started by MDRI.

In preparation for Kosovo's November elections, the peer support groups invited and welcomed representatives of the major political parties to discuss the importance of the elections, the work of the parties, and the issues that would affect them. Participants were able to ask questions of the candidates such as "what are you going to do regarding jobs for people with disabilities?"

"My vote made a difference. I thought it wouldn't count, but it obviously counted; I'm very happy MDRI helped me realize that." - Avni (Kacaniku Peer Support Group)

"I thought I couldn't vote because I don't know how to read; I didn't know I could bring people with me who could help me." - Laura (Peja Peer Support Group)

"I would get so upset at my peers during the peer support group meetings when they would say that they don't know how to go to the voting place; it's very easy, think ahead and plan transportation before hand. I asked my father to take me and he was happy to do that. They could ask someone too. 'I don't know how' is not a valid excuse." - Gazi (Kamenica Peer Support Group)

Kosovo Mental Disability Rights Initiative (K-MDRI) is an initiative of Mental Disability Rights International as a result of our 2002 report, "Not on the Agenda: Human Rights of People with Mental Disabilities in Kosovo."

MDRI is an international human rights and advocacy organization dedicated to the full participation in society of people with mental disabilities worldwide.

**For the first time in their lives, approximately 90% of the peer support group members voted in Kosovo's elections.**



## Did you know?



In Pristina, Kosovo, youth ages 10-15 participated in a photo contest to help raise awareness of environmental issues. The best photo reflected the environment around them. This photo reflects trash and glass being burned in an open field. Children talked about how they could help the environment around them.

Kosovo children perform Albanian traditional dance during a show to mark International Children's Day in Kosovo.



Flija, is a specialty of Kosovo that is made with layers of pastry that is brushed with cream, fat and oil. It is served with Kaymak (creamy dairy product), cheese, or honey.

# Horoscopes

By Self-Advocates: Katie, Doille, Tim and Tina in St. Paul, MN



A horoscope predicts the future based on the position of the planets and your birthday. Find the sign that fits with your birthday. Then read what's in store for you!

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Let no one put you down. You're worth a lot more than you know!

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make room for fun and let no one tell you any differently. You deserve it this month!



**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): Listen and learn from someone today. It will be a good thing.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19): Good things come to people who wait. Be patient and your turn will come soon.



**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): Today is your day to have fun. Go with the flow of life and don't leave the hard times get you down.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20): Look and you'll find joy in your life where you least expect it. Do something nice for someone and you'll feel great.



**Cancer** (June 21-July 22): Happiness comes and goes where ever you are. Keep your chin up, learn from your mistakes and move on!

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): Be yourself and don't let anyone tell you to change. People like you for who you really are.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep learning every day and enjoy life. Don't slow down. Keep going!

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Go to a costume party and have fun! October is your month to shine!

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let the good times roll! Whether you're around friends or family, you're the life of the party.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make something worthwhile happen in your life today. You won't regret it!



## Need Romance Advice?...Ask Jack & Jill

Dear Jack and Jill,

I live in a group home and I want to go on a date but the staff wants to come along. How do I get rid of the chaperone?

Dear Reader,

Transportation is a problem for people with disabilities all over the world. Getting to and from dates is no exception.

Talk to the staff in a nice way and tell them you only need their assistance getting to and from your date. Remind them that you are both over 21 and should be treated as adults.

Make sure you know how much it will cost so you don't have to rely on them to bail you out which could mess up the date.



Other than that be careful, safe and have fun.

~ Jack

Dear Reader,

This is a tricky one. Your staff may not understand that you don't need a chaperone. Explain why you appreciate their concern but that you are capable of making this decision for yourself and that this is private.

In case of emergency, let your staff know where you will be. Make sure you have your home telephone number and address on you, in case you need to explain to someone how to get to your house.



These things will show the staff that you are responsible and can handle going out on a date on your own. Most importantly, once you do go out on that un-chaperoned date, HAVE FUN! ~ Jill

Email your romance questions to Jack & Jill at:  
**theriotrocks@hsri.org**



# Elections Are Fun Too!!

A convention is a big meeting that is held every four years. People decide who will be their Presidential candidates at this meeting. It is a fun event where people meet to celebrate their choice of a candidate.



be with thousands of people who share your energy and excitement was amazing. I think one of the coolest parts of the experience was going to the stadium and seeing the crowd that was there. Old and young people. People from every background imaginable.”

Barrack Obama was chosen as the Democratic candidate with Joe Biden as his running mate. Republicans chose John McCain and Sarah Palin as their Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates.

The Riot! also spoke to supporters of McCain and Palin. Eric Treat, an Arkansas Republican, said he thought McCain had a great chance to unite the country and thinks he will be a good President.

The Riot! asked self-advocates who support Obama and Biden about their experiences at the convention. Ben Borrel, a Colorado Democrat said, “I have never seen so much excitement from the Democratic party as I saw there.” He said the experience was awesome!

Kenny Stallings, a North Carolina Republican, feels McCain has answered every question put to him about disabilities. He believes McCain will bring change for the better.

Rebecca Cokley, from Washington, D.C. said, “To

Conventions are important and fun to attend. But speaking with your vote is even more fun. So don't forget to vote!



November 4<sup>th</sup> is right round the corner.

## Results from Online Riot Poll

The Riot had an online poll recently that asked: On a first date, who should pay? The guy, the gal or should they split the cost? Here's what YOU said. Break out those wallets!



The Gal - 6%



The Guy—49%



Split the cost—45%

Log onto [www.theriotrocks.org](http://www.theriotrocks.org) for our next question.

Who do you want to be our next President? Barack Obama, John McCain or someone else?



### Voting Power Word Find Puzzle



Each of these words are hidden in this puzzle. Can you find them? We did one for you so you can get the idea. Look up, down and side to side to find the words. See if you can find them all.



- |             |            |            |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| Independent | Vote       | Republican |
| Democrat    | Hillary    | McCain     |
| Election    | Accessible | Rally      |
| Poll        | Support    | Power      |
| Survival    | Win        | Lose       |
| Primary     | Rights     | Ballot     |
| Register    | Official   |            |

i	r	e	g	i	s	t	e	r	p	n	l
s	r	i	p	s	u	p	p	o	r	t	t
d	e	m	o	c	r	a	t	f	i	t	l
f	p	c	w	r	v	e	l	f	m	t	n
a	u	c	e	i	i	l	r	i	a	a	y
i	b	a	r	g	v	e	a	c	r	b	h
h	l	i	a	h	a	c	s	i	y	a	i
w	i	n	w	t	l	t	o	a	e	l	l
a	c	c	e	s	s	i	b	l	e	l	l
r	a	l	l	y	v	o	t	e	i	o	a
n	d	e	p	e	n	d	e	n	t	r	
p	o	l	l	o	s	e	e	l	i	a	y



# JOE'S SPORTS ZONE

WRITTEN BY JOE MEADOURS



## Home Run or Striking out?

### Sports figures who have gone into politics.

Sports players can be competitive, strong, and fun to watch, but, have you wondered how they would do in politics?

One famous sports figure to politician has been Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (The Govenator). He is also well known as an actor, but before he was the Terminator, he was a professional body builder. Schwarzenegger took office as the 38th Governor of California in 2003.



Though he has done an alright job, I think that there is always room to improve. I feel that it has been difficult for him to understand disabilities policies. Luckily, he is married to Maria Shriver, who is a Kennedy. She has helped him

understand more about self-advocacy. She is a smart lady.

Another strong guy who made it into politics was

Governor Jesse Ventura of Minnesota. You may have seen the Governor throwing people around the ring in professional wrestling.



He also threw ideas around hoping to make things better, but in the opinion of Elizabeth Koltes, a self-advocate from Minnesota, Governor Ventura didn't do a very good job working with people who have disabilities. She says he only worked to raise taxes to help fund services.

Finally, we looked into Representative Steve Largent from Oklahoma. Largent wasn't always trying to score touchdowns in Washington. He served 8 years in the House of Representatives and also played professional football for the Seattle Seahawks for 12 years! He was a pretty good wide receiver. Largent left football and went into politics where he worked as a supporter of republican policies.

Largent left the House of Representatives to run for Governor of Oklahoma, but lost and quit politics soon after.



## Welcome to The Riot Fun Page!

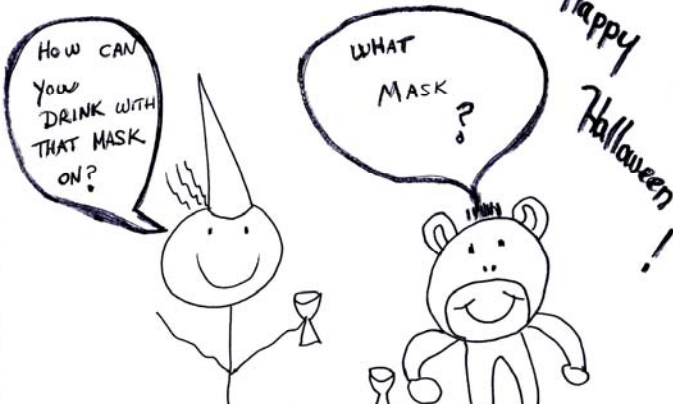
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**DO ZOMBIES EAT POPCORN WITH THEIR FINGERS?**

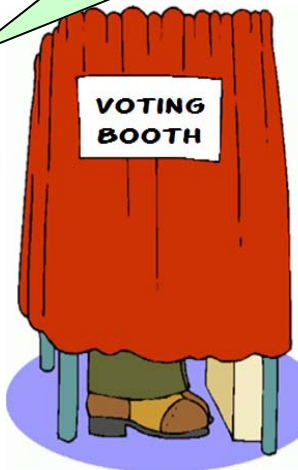
**NO! THEY EAT THE FINGERS SEPARATELY!**

Squiggly by Jeff Ladd



**SELF-ADVOCACY MAN SAYS...**

Voting is power so use your **POWER** and vote!





**Craig Says...**  
**“Jobs Stink...Work Stinks”**



Everywhere I go people are talking about this election. Who to vote for? Obama or McCain? Democrat or Republican? Green? Libertarian? I don't vote. Why don't I vote? Why should I?

I don't like making decisions, because, well when you make decisions, you're responsible for whatever you decide. Responsibility is a curse word to me.

I don't like being responsible for doing things. I don't want to work. I don't want to go to school. I don't want to go out and meet people (I don't really like people anyways), so why should I vote? It's not like anyone listens to me anyways, except for those of you who read this article. I just want to be me. Craig. Voting doesn't help me be me, does it?

A buddy of mine came up to me at a barbecue last week and told me that he's afraid he's going to lose his house with all this mortgage mess. I actually like this guy. He owns a comfy couch and a big screen TV. I can't imagine not being able to go hang out at his house anymore! It's not fair!



The politicians should be helping him but they don't care. I want to do something to help him but I don't know where to start. He suggested I call my congressman, but if I don't vote what good will it do?

Maybe I should register to vote. If my friend is going to lose his house, how much longer will it be before someone tries to take my stuff away? I like my stuff. I like my (few) friends. I like living my life the way I want to, and I don't want ANYONE messing with it.

As much as I complain about life, I guess it could be worse if I don't use my vote to let politicians know how I feel. What if some genius in Washington created a couch tax that would tax me every hour I sit on my couch instead of working? That would be horrible!!! Maybe I should **VOTE**.

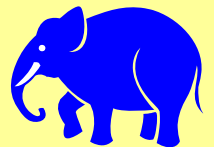


Jazzy ★

She made her decision and voted! How about you? Will you take charge of YOUR life and vote?



**VOTE!**



Make your voice heard!



Voting Power Word Find Answers

i	r	e	e	g	i	s	t	e	r	p	n	l
s	r	i	p	s	u	p	p	b	r	t	t	
d	e	m	o	c	r	a	t	f	i	t	l	
f	p	c	w	r	v	e	l	f	m	t	n	
a	u	c	e	i	i	l	r	i	a	a	y	
i	b	a	r	g	v	e	a	c	r	b	n	
h	l	i	a	h	a	c	s	i	v	a	i	
w	i	n	w	t	l	t	o	a	e	l	l	
a	c	c	e	s	s	i	b	e	l	l		
r	a	l	l	y	v	o	t	e	i	o	a	
t	n	d	e	p	e	n	d	e	n	t	r	
p	o	l	o	s	e	e	l	i	a			



# The Riot! Action Page



## Self-Advocates Speak Up! and Speak Out!

### Speak Up With Your Vote!

Self-advocates have the right to vote whether they are their own guardians or not. But, we are often told we cannot vote because we have a disability. This is simply not true! I would say that many of us are well informed .

No one can tell you how to vote. Voting is about your opinions and decisions. This is why it is important to know the issues and candidates.

When I was old enough to vote, I voted the same way my family did because I didn't understand the issues. When I learned about the issues and that I could make my own decisions, I changed parties.

How can you do this? You've got to ask for help. Staff and family can help us without influencing our decision. We can help each other too.

How can you help other self-advocates in your group to vote? Here are three things you can do.

- Talk about the issues that are important to you in your meetings. This will help you decide who to vote for.
- Learn about the voting process such as completing a ballot so you know what to do on November 4th.
- Try to find ways to get to the voting booths. You may take the bus together or one of you may drive a car and take others with you.

Self-advocates who understand their right to vote treasure this responsibility. It is a privilege!



**Talk it up...  
Have yourselves a regular Riot!!!**

## From the Self-Advocate Leadership Network...

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**Working Together  
for Change**



**Using Medicaid to Fund  
Trainings for Self-Advocates**



**This is  
really Cool  
Stuff!  
Look for  
yourself!**