

Scenes from Hofstra

Scenes from Hofstra University on Long Island before the final debate between Barack Obama and John McCain:

Obama Girl makes rounds on campus

Outside the library, a girl's squeal went up: "Oooh, it's Obama Girl!" **Obama Girl**, also known as **Amber Lee Ettinger**, was a YouTube sensation with her sultry song about her crush on the candidate. Ettinger, 26, had her own "news crew" doing man-on-the-street interviews for Spike TV. Obama Girl has



Ettinger

been an amazing experience, she said. "It's opened a lot of doors. I never would have expected to be invited to the White House Correspondents dinner." But it comes with a cost - Obama Girl kept putting her jacket over her face because she was being trailed and incessantly videotaped at close range by "a really creepy guy."

Matthews' 'Harball' table manners

MSNBC's **Chris Matthews** downed a pasta lunch in the Student Center Cafe, and didn't pick up after himself. His 12-ounce



Matthews

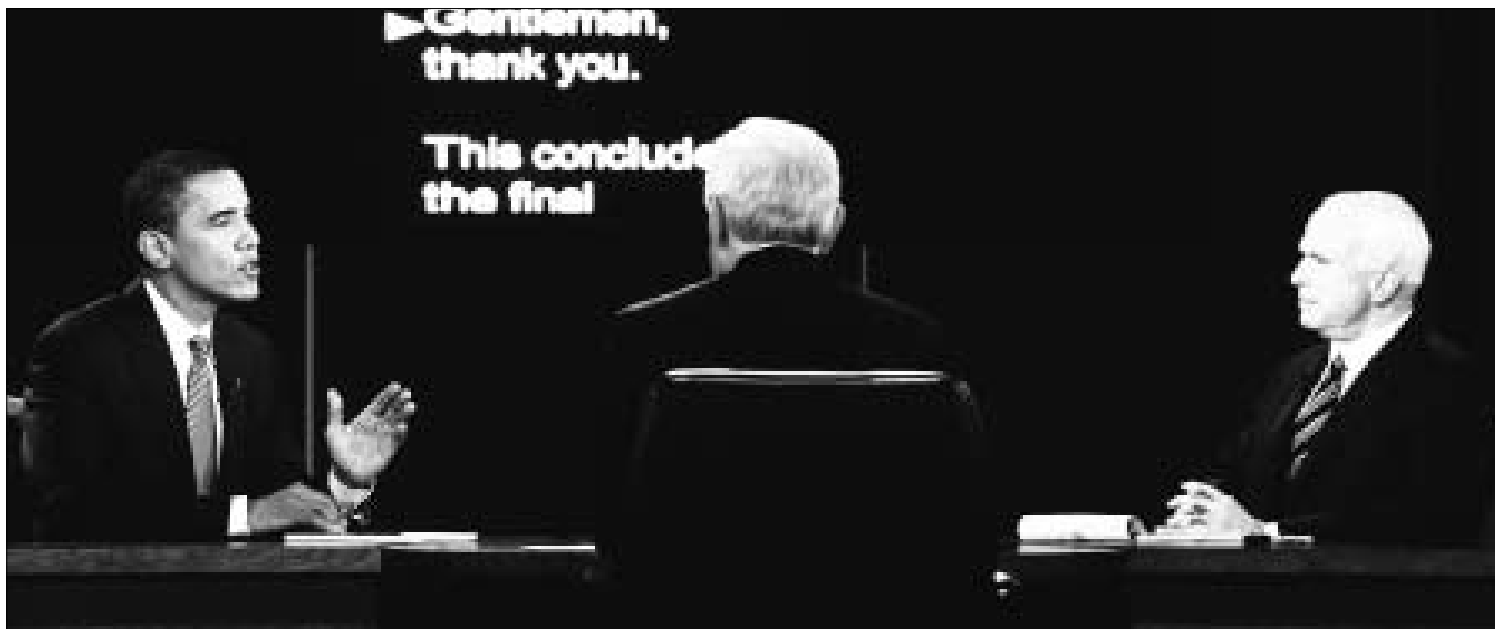
Coke Zero is still sitting at his table, half full. Later on, Matthews scoured the crowd here during commercials looking for people to put on camera and give him "a nice 20 seconds." He just told someone to be "true to your school." While holding the microphone for someone, he warned, "To use a '60s term, don't Bogart it."

'Rednecks for Obama' out in full force

One of the more popular demonstration groups on campus had perhaps the most provocative name - "Rednecks for Obama." Tony Viessman, a self-described redneck and the three-member group's leader, was handing out stickers and posing for pictures. He said he supports Obama because "he'll take care of the working class better."

No arrests, one injury outside Hofstra gates

At least one antiwar protester was injured in a brief scrum with mounted police outside the Hofstra University gates. The protesters wanted the police to admit antiwar veterans group to the debate. One protester fell to the ground in the commotion and appeared to be stepped on by a police horse. (NEWSDAY)



Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain are grilled by Bob Schieffer of CBS in the candidates' final debate last night.

(GETTY)

Mac goes on the attack

Grapples with Bam on smears

John McCain assailed Barack Obama's character and his campaign positions on taxes, abortion and more last night, hoping to turn their final presidential debate into a launching pad for a political comeback.

"You didn't tell the American people the truth," he said.

Unruffled, and ahead in the polls, Obama parried each charge, and leveled a few of his own. "One hundred percent, John, of your ads, 100 percent of them have been negative," Obama shot back in an uncommonly personal exchange.

"It's not true," McCain retorted.

"It is true," said Obama, seeking the last word.

McCain is currently running all negative ads, according to a study by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. But he has run a number of positive ads during the campaign.

The 90-minute face-off at Hofstra University on Long Island was their third debate, and marked the beginning of a 20-day sprint to Election Day on Nov. 4.

Obama called out on Ayers, ACORN

McCain played the aggressor from the opening moments of the debate, accusing Obama of waging class warfare by seeking tax increases that would "spread the wealth around."

The Arizona senator also demanded to know the full extent of Obama's relationship with William Ayers, a

Senator Obama, I am not President Bush.

—John McCain

1960s-era terrorist-turned professor, and about the Democrat's ties with ACORN, a liberal group accused of violating federal law as it seeks to register voters.

He also pressed Obama to disavow last week's remarks by Rep. John Lewis, a Democrat, who accused the Republican ticket of playing racial politics along the same lines as segregationists of the past.

McCain distances himself from Bush

Struggling to escape the political drag of an unpopular Republican incumbent, McCain also said, "Sen. Obama, I am not President Bush. ... You wanted to run

against President Bush, you should have run four years ago."

Obama returned each volley, and brushed aside McCain's claim to full political independence.

"If I've occasionally mistaken your policies for George Bush's policies, it's because on the core economic issues that matter to the American people - on tax policy, on energy policy, on spending priorities - you have been a vigorous supporter of President Bush," he said.

Touting their Veep picks

Asked about running mates, both presidential

candidates said Democrat Joseph Biden was qualified to become president, although McCain added this qualifier: "in many respects."

McCain passed up a chance to say his own running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, was qualified to sit in the Oval Office. Obama sidestepped when asked about Palin's qualifications to serve as president, and he praised her advocacy for special-needs children. (AP)

Who is 'Joe the Plumber'?

Joe Wurzelbacher, an Ohio man looking to buy a plumbing business, came to symbolize the middle class during last night's debate.

Days earlier, Joe told Obama that his tax plan would keep him from buying the business. McCain cited his comments and Wurzelbacher's name came up numerous times last night. Joe watched the debate and said he still thinks Obama's plan would keep him from buying the business. About McCain: "He's got it right as far as I go." As for his vote: "That's for me and a button to know," he said. (AP)



Wurzelbacher

Grading the last debate

3 communications coaches rate Obama and McCain's performances

	RUTH SHERMAN		TJ WALKER		DIANE DIRESTA	
	Obama	McCain	Obama	McCain	Obama	McCain
Substance	A	A-	A-	A	A	B
Presidential poise	A	A	A+	A-	A-	B
Delivery	A+	B	A+	A-	B+	B-
Appearance	A+	A	A+	A+	A	B-
Overall	A+	A	A	A-	A-	B

Obama put in a more relaxed and confident performance. McCain did well, too, but it was not enough to overcome the deficit he had going in.

Obama nailed it. He hit his message points out of the park. "McCain is like the golfer who shoots 6 under par and still loses to Tiger Woods by 2 strokes.

Both did a good job at discussing the issues. McCain did not whip his "you know what" as he said he would. Obama looked, sounded very presidential.