

County Undersheriff speaks about immigration

By Korie Hawkins
Staff Reporter

Don Read, Cowley County Undersheriff Officer, was invited to speak to students Feb. 12 about immigration. The presentation was sponsored by SC Republicans.

His topic mainly focused on immigration in Cowley County and in the nation.

Read's areas of expertise about immigration include personal experience dealing with immigrants and research he has done in the past few weeks. A lot of the sheriff's information dealt with statistics and his views on the issue.

Read opened with a reading, which many commonly would know if they have visited the Statue of Liberty. It is a poem that explains the foundation of

our country, and the feeling of knowing you are a citizen of the United States.

There are four different types of immigrants. Family, refugee, diverse lottery, and employment. All of these are generally considered legal as long as they undergo the process of legalization, and leave when their term is up if one is set, Read said.

Anywhere from 25 to 30 million illegal immigrants live in the U.S. Economics is the reason, money is the issue.

He continued to say that American employers fail to realize is that Americans pay taxes for illegal immigrants to stay here. We employ them thinking it benefits us, but really it does not because of the money they earn. That money is then sent back home to take care of their families.

Kansas does not have an immigration law. Steve Ruggles, computer lab supervisor, asked why? Read said, "A lot of states don't, but the topic will be brought up at the Topeka session."

Oklahoma passed a law stating no illegal immigrant can live or work in that state without proof of citizenship. This makes it hard on Kansas because all the immigrants do is move to another state.

Some statistics read off how many illegal immigrants impact our country. More than 22.2 billion are on medical, food assistance, housing, and imprisonment.

Elyse Achenbach, undecided freshman, asked, "If they are not citizens how are they allowed all these rights?" The courts determine their rights. If they are

here they still have to be treated as though they are Americans, Read said.

Immigrants are dealt with on a federal level, so at the state level there isn't much that can be done.

There is the choice to call Immigration and Naturalization Services, which deals with illegal immigrants. Most of the time they do not respond and the jails have to let them go.

Kansas is finding ways to put a stop to illegal immigrants. Every citizen will have to show proof of citizenship in order to retain their license. The question is does this cause more problems than resolve them?

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Kristy Gordon/Collegian photographer
Don Reed, Cowley County Undersheriff, spoke about illegal immigration on Tuesday in Pound's Lounge. The event was hosted by the SC Republicans.

Superdelegates help select Democratic nominee

By Peggy Williams
News and opinion
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It is difficult to follow what is going on with the presidential race if you don't understand the political process, or the words used to describe it.

It may seem like the people involved in politics use words and methods specifically designed to make it difficult for Americans to comprehend.

And sometimes it seems necessary to translate the political jargon into words that everyday Americans are capable of understanding.

If you've been watching any of the broadcasting networks, or read-

ing any of the political articles, you have surely heard the word "superdelegates" thrown around.

It may conjure up images of a superhero speaking to a presidential candidate, but in all reality, it is just a word for an important delegate.

In the Democratic Party there are two different kinds of delegates, pledged and unpledged which are also known as superdelegates.

When you go to a caucus and vote for a Democratic candidate, you are actually voting for the number of pledged delegates who will be able to vote for the candidate you chose. The delegates will be able to cast their vote at the National Democratic

Convention.

This is where the final decision is made as to who will run for president for the Democrat.

So whichever Democratic candidate receives the most votes at a caucus gets the most delegates to vote for them at the Democratic Convention.

Superdelegates are taken from the Democratic National Committee, and are important political figures such as former presidents, vice presidents, and members of Congress.

They have been around since the 1980's. Superdelegates only hold sway in the Democratic Party, and their votes will only affect the race between Clinton and Obama.

There are currently

somewhere around clear winner.

796 superdelegates, and you don't have a say in who they will vote for, they get to choose for themselves. And that is why they could end up deciding who the Democratic candidate will be for the 2008 elections.

The reason that you're hearing so much about the superdelegates during this election year is that this is the first time there has been talk of them being a deciding factor since 1984.

They may end up being important in the race between Clinton and Obama because both Democratic candidates are currently neck-in-neck.

After tallying up the votes from the states that have caucused there is no

In order for there to be a clear winner, one of the candidates would have to win 2,025 out of 4,049 delegates. And that has yet to happen.

If the pledged votes are still too close for there to be a clear winner by time for the Democratic National Convention, then the unpledged or superdelegates will end up deciding between the Democratic candidates for the first time in history.

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(Sources: www.CNN.com; www.poynter.org.)