

Operation: Vote

THE RACE FOR THE WHITE HOUSE GETS INTENSE

Laura Silvey

This November will be one of the biggest elections in history. The question captivating Americans' minds is whether Bush will make it for another four years, or will John Kerry be able to upset the Republicans?

Let's not forget the fact that 12 years ago, the elder President Bush was running for a second term when President Clinton stepped in and won.

Mrs. Carol Gosney, social studies teacher, has her own opinion of why she thinks John Kerry should be elected. "Bush is a good leader, but I feel like we need new ideas for the war on Iraq. I think Kerry can give us that."

Former Vice President Al Gore's words of wisdom to John Kerry: Every vote counts. John Kerry, a democratic senator from Massachusetts is the official democratic-party nominee for this year's election.

He started his career in the government by being elected into the Senate in 1984. He has been successfully reelected three times since. His wife, Teresa Heinz-Kerry, successor to the Heinz Ketchup fortune, is the chairman of The Howard

Heinz Endowment and the Heinz Family Philanthropies.

Mrs. Heinz-Kerry recently told a reporter to "shove it" after claiming a reporter misquoted her.

Although she may be a pistol, many are commending her for standing up to the



media. Some have even compared her to Hilary Clinton, a former first lady herself and now a Democratic senator from New York.

Kerry is running on a standard Democratic platform. He plans to win the peace in Iraq, secure chemical plants against terrorist attacks, defeat global terrorism, and strengthen America's military.

He will also push to strengthen the middle class, stand up for workers' rights, and create good-paying jobs.

Kerry wants to strengthen

Medicare and Social Security, support stem cell research, and join in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

For his education plans, he wants to reform K-12 schools by adding more resources, expanding college opportunities, and working on after-school and childcare programs.

Junior Ashley Hoelsing has a strong opinion towards Kerry becoming our next President. "With Kerry, there are different perspectives, different ways of doing things." Hoelsing said that America is in need of improvement and believes Kerry could get the job done.

Hoping to illustrate a fine line between him and his father, President Bush will represent the GOP. During the last four years, the President has worked hard for his country through difficult times including the September 11, 2001 attacks and a great recession in the economy.

Bush stands on a basic Republican platform. Bush wants to create opportunity for American workers by reforming America's high schools, provide \$500 million for jobs for the 21st century, reform taxes, and create "opportunity zones"

which will encourage public and private investment and provide priority consideration for Federal benefits to communities that are under economic hardship.

He would like to help American families in a changing world by helping the working uninsured by expanding health savings accounts, making health care accessible, and cracking down on drugs in schools.

Bush wants social security reform to help and promote an "Era of Ownership", referring to homeownership.

considers Bush to be a, "godly man, who supports my similar interests." She also comments that the war has always been around, and it will be around for a long time. It is better to deal with it now rather than later.

Having now been "briefed", as the modern lingo of the White House staff appears to be, it is time for everyone to decide whom they think will make the nation a better place, not only for the Americans who live here, but for the rest of the world as well.

Young voters are being pushed as far as possible to vote this year, with many big names and faces in the media encouraging eligible voters to make the quick trip to the nearest polling place on Nov. 2 and vote.

According to Network calculations, 31 Marian students will be 18 by Nov. 2, therefore making them eligible to cast their votes.

Wondering how to register? Visit or call the Douglas County Courthouse to request a voter registration sheet. Who knows, it could come down to only one vote this year.

"Bush is a good leader, but I feel like we need new ideas for the war- on Iraq. I think Kerry can give us that."

-Mrs. Carol Gosney

As far as defending American lives and liberty, he plans to continue the fight against terrorism, reform intelligence resources, and instill troop redeployment.

Senior Maribeth Johnson

VOTE: IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Andrea Myhra

Why should I vote? Does my vote even matter? Many young people ask these questions about voting.

Statistics show that young people, ages 18 to 35, don't know these answers. Only 37 percent of young people voted in the 2000 election. This has decreased from the 50 percent that voted in 1972.

Voting is a way to make your voice heard. While every vote is not a tie-breaking vote, it is one more added to the numbers of young people who vote. The higher the number of voters, the more the politicians focus on that group.

Mr. Mike Sporcic, American Government

teacher, agrees. "If all of the youth voted things would be different in this country, and they could stop complaining."

If the number of young voters is low, the politicians do not feel a need to address issues concerning that age



group, because they assume those voters will not turn out to vote for them. The politicians are focused on who will help them in the

polls, and in the end, vote for them.

The effort to get youth involved in this upcoming election is extensive. There are many organizations traveling around the country trying to rouse the interest of young people through the media.

Rock the Vote is one of these organizations. Its goal is to get young people involved in politics and increase voter turnout. The group travels around the country holding registration drives, voting events and voter education efforts. Their website, www.rockthevote.com even allows online voter registration.

Another organization is MTV's Choose or Loose, 20

Million Loud. This campaign defines itself as "a national campaign of organizations mobilizing more than 20 million adults age 18 to 30 to vote and be a deciding factor in the 2004 presidential election."

Its website, www.mtv.com/chooseorloose contains polls, the election issues, and other voter information. This organization uses the music entertainment aspect of culture to reach the young people.

These are two of the many organizations out there trying to spark voting interest in young people, and get them involved. There are many more organizations including Declare Yourself, Project Vote-Smart, and Smackdown Your

Vote (WWE organization).

You can register to vote at the DMV, the Courthouse, or online at www.rockthevote.com. "The youth should take part in something that governs them," said senior registered voter, Laura Brannen. "Get out there and vote for something. It's your right to vote and your responsibility."



PROFILES IN LEADERSHIP: CLASS OF '05 COME ALIVE UNDER CLASS OFFICERS

Kristen Brockman

Six seniors + one teacher + one class + lots of activities = Class Officers!

Serving as a class officer is one way for students to get involved at Marian. Chosen by their classmates at the end of the previous school year, the class officers have duties that range from planning class masses, helping choose Field Day themes and colors, to boosting the spirit of the class.

Six girls who bring diversity and creativity to their roles are the senior class officers.

Under the guidance of class moderator Ms. Megan Piernicky, seniors Katie Powers, Erin Holtmeyer, Jay Warren, Michaela McGill, Mo Lathrop, and Mairead Townley are set to lead the class of 2005.

This group of girls may seem familiar because they have been working together since sophomore year. Vice president Lathrop has had the privilege of serving the class of 2005 all four years. Although there are no new officers, first time class moderator Ms. Piernicky is very optimistic. "I'm new [to this]. I have high expectations for these girls, and full faith that they'll be awesome."

On the first day of school, the senior class was greeted by the decorations adorning senior hall. They included posters on the walls, streamers draped across the ceiling, and pirate-themed signs on each

locker. "We hope to make it the best senior year as possible, but to not make it a typical senior year," said secretary Warren.

With a lot to do throughout the year, the girls that are called class officers are never bored. Treasurer Holtmeyer said the best part is "being involved with the class, having an influence over what goes

but I could tell that she [Lathrop] was a part of it."

The task that the class officers face every year is promoting participation in some of the school's organized events, mainly Walk-a-Thon and Field Day. According to McGill, the girls' biggest goal is, "to lead our class to success in organized events, but to have a great senior year."

Another task every year is brainstorming new, enticing ideas.

President Powers knows that this presents a challenge.

"We're trying to do different things with birthdays, different things for the class, different things for

the holidays." These girls know that new, creative ideas are key to infusing class spirit.

Over the last four years, the class of 2005 class officers have accomplished many things. Whether it is boosting class spirit throughout the year, making every girl feel welcome in the class, or showing organization during Field Week by walking around with walkie talkies and wearing hard hats, these girls always find ways to show their dedication. Townley sees the officers greatest accomplishment as "getting our class excited for things that other classes see as boring."

Leadership is essential in order to be successful. Now that you have met the senior class leaders, look for the Junior edition of "Profiles in Leadership" next month.



Senior class officers Katie Powers, Erin Holtmeyer, Mairead Townley, Jay Warren, and Michaela McGill practice their Walk-a-Thon skit. Photo by Kristen Brockman

on, and skits!"

The annual Walk-a-Thon skit is where the girls's creativity can really shine. This year's skit showcased the "Walk-a-Thon" version of Radical Youth Invasion.

Warren said that the group "got the idea during a summer meeting." These girls worked long and hard for weeks rehearsing and making sure everything was perfect. On the day of the kick off block there was one element missing-Mo Lathrop, who was away on college visits. This was different for the other five officers, who, in the past, have always had everyone present.

Warren noted the difference. "It is easy to feed off of each others' energy. I was not there when they [the other officers] wrote it [the skit],

Mini School Night: Behind the Teachers' Eyes

Kayla Walsh

The prayer and pledge are said, announcements are read, but it's not students sitting in the desks, it's their parents. It is Mini-School Night.

For as long as most teachers can remember, this night has been a standard activity on the first Wednesday night of September. This year it was Sept. 3. The evening began with a new parent meeting and then homeroom.

Most teachers prepare for Mini-School Night by printing handouts, making copies of the class policies, setting out their books, explaining the course, as well as making their contact information available to the parents.

During the night, most teachers go over the class policies so they can double check that the students actually showed them to their parents.

Spanish teacher Sra. Deisy Nicholson's favorite part of the night is the look on the parents' faces when they try to understand her accent. Even so, Sra. Deisy said the evening went very well. "The parents had a lot of confidence this year on their face."

Maybe too much confidence because the parents were breaking rules left and right. Many would be found answering their cell phones

while walking up the stairs and causing worse stairway jams than the students do.

When a student had study hall, parents would venture down to the quad for free cookies and punch.

History teacher Mrs. Kim Remmick said, that is her favorite part of the night. With a little laugh, Remmick said she thought the freshmen parents looked just as confused and uncertain as their kids.

English teacher Ms. Megan Piernicky loves meeting the parents, "The Marian parents are so involved with their daughters," she said.

Piernicky said the night went fast because the parents only spend 10 minutes in each class as opposed to the normal 40 minutes. She enjoyed doing it because the parents always bring a smile to her face just like her students.

This year, Student Board offered babysitting services for teacher's kids for the first time. Junior Lauren Larsen was one of the babysitters. "The teachers work really hard at this night and it was nice to give something back to them," she said.

The final bell has rung and there is a mad dash for the leftover cookies and a race out the door to be the first out of the parking lot. Mini-School night is over.



English teacher Ms. Megan Piernicky "teaches" parents at Mini-School Night. Photo by Kayla Walsh

OMAHA Then and Now

CZECH IT OUT

BEHIND THE MUSIC AT SOKOL OMAHA

Maggie Berigan

Jill Weber

What has leotards, emo(-tional rock), and Czechs all over? Sokol Auditorium!

While most students know Sokol as the unique concert venue on 13th and Martha streets, fewer are familiar with the origins of this hip hangout.

Omaha's Sokol Auditorium started in the 1860s as a gathering of local Czechoslovakians to foster their heritage and build "physically fit, mentally alert, and culturally well-developed citizens to form a healthy, strong nation."

Although the vivacity of the Czech culture in Omaha

has waned as its people have adapted to American life, the roots planted by the original members have been cultivated by a community eager to share its mission.

Over time, the Sokol mission has dispersed throughout the Omaha community and has not only attracted Czechs, but also a variety of people from different backgrounds.

Sokol continues to sponsor events such as the Poker-Hall-of-Fame and the Czech Festival in the spring, but the predominant activities offered at Sokol are gymnastics and calisthenics. Tumbling and martial arts are also available.

Omaha Sokol's vice president, Gary Masek, said that gymnastics has been offered for over 125 years and is funded by renting out the hall for banquets, receptions, meetings, and concerts. Exercise activities and headlining concerts are held in Sokol Auditorium on the main floor, while most concerts are held at Sokol Underground in the basement.

Concerts are perhaps the most well known activity held at Sokol, and they are well-attended by Marian students. "I like how [Sokol is] personal. There is no assigned seating which makes it a relaxing atmosphere," said junior Gianna Procopio.

Sokol showcases much of Omaha's local talent and attracts music listeners because of its distinctive performers.

"My friends and I went to see Bright Eyes last December at Sokol. I'd go to another concert

at Sokol if I liked the band," said freshman Holly Hibbard

Although Sokol has come a long way from its Czech roots, it has continued to flourish in its mission and has remained

a stronghold in the Omaha community. Whether visiting Sokol to brush up on a back handspring, or rave to the Faint, make sure to Czech it out! www.sokolomaha.com



Sokol Auditorium located on 13 and Martha. Photo courtesy of www.sokolomaha.com