



The Blue Jay



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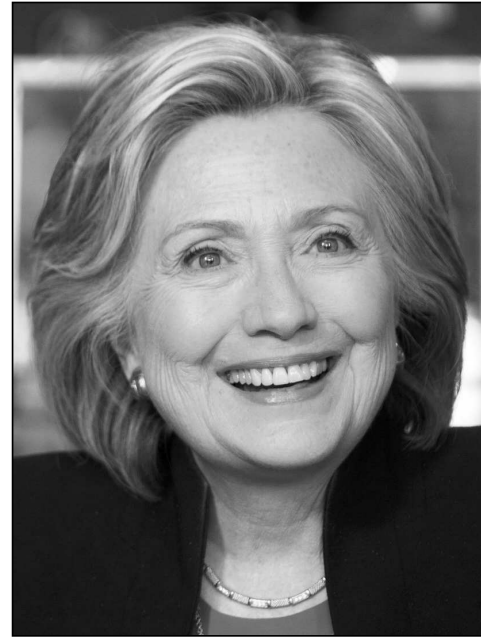
TRUMPED!

Jesuit straw vote picks GOP tycoon over Hillary Clinton for president



Schoolwide
results:

Donald
Trump
75%
Hillary
Clinton
25%



But many decide not to vote

By an overwhelming margin, Jesuit High School students selected New York businessman and reality TV star Donald J. Trump over former Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton, in a presidential straw vote held in homeroom on Oct. 21.

Of the 1,206 students who cast legitimate ballots, Trump scored 916 votes (76 percent) to Clinton's 290 (24 percent).

While about two dozen students cast invalid ballots, 130 (approximately 11 percent of those present) chose to abstain from voting.

Similarly, only 23 members of the faculty and staff voted, favoring Clinton by a margin of

65 percent to 35 percent.

The often ugly campaign, in which both Trump and Clinton have been dogged by scandals, has left much of the electorate across the country likely agreeing with Fr. Anthony McGinn's assessment at last Friday's forum as a choice between "two thoroughly disappointing candidates for president."

Trump received his strongest show of support from seniors, some of whom have already turned 18 and are eligible to vote on Election Day on Nov. 8. Nearly 78 percent of the Class of 2017 voted for Trump.

Although Clinton failed to win at any grade level, her strongest show of support came from the junior class, with more than 26 percent favoring her candidacy to Trump's roughly 74 percent. Trump won among freshmen (74.7 percent), freshmen (77 percent) and sophomores (76.5 percent).

Local legislators make case for candidates at forum

By Jonathan LeBrun
News Editor

Blue Jays and faculty entered the Birdcage hearing patriotic tunes, setting the mood for the Jesuit's 2016 Presidential Forum.

Taking on the feel of a national political convention, the gym was decked out in streamers and bunting of red, white and blue, with signs from each presidential campaign spread throughout the bleachers, touting either the Democratic ticket of Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine or the Republican nominees Donald Trump and Mike Pence.

A pair of Louisiana politi-



Senior Jacob Acosta poses a question to Rep. Cameron Henry, who was standing in for Republican candidate Donald Trump.

Staff photo by Richi Fernando

cians – both Jesuit graduates and current members of the state Legislature – represented each of his party's candidates in the town hall-style forum, held Oct. 20,

addressing questions posed by students. Rep. Walt Leger spoke for the Democratic ticket, while

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Forum stays focused on the issues

Forum

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Rep. Cameron Henry made the case for the Republican ticket.

The afternoon assembly began with an appropriately patriotic tone as the MCJROTC Honor Guard presented the colors and the Blue Jay Band played the national anthem.

In the late afternoon humidity, the air in the gym may have been indicative of the heated campaign, now heading into its closing phase before Election Day.

In his opening remarks, Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J., accurately described the campaign noting the high disapproval ratings each candidate receives nationally.

"Disappointments are not catastrophes," the Jesuit president said. "We have two thoroughly disappointing candidates for president, neither of whom possesses the character of who we would want to have in our president."

Nevertheless, he noted, the disappointing choice is not a catastrophic one. Citizens have a responsibility, he said, of looking beyond the various character flaws in either candidate and focus on the important issues that we face today.

Fr. McGinn's comments drew the strongest applause of the afternoon.

Leger opened the forum urging the assembled citizens "to depend on critical thinking," particularly that learned at Jesuit. "Acting with your conscience will never let you down," he said.

In speaking for Trump in his opening remarks, Henry delivered the candidate's basic stump speech, speaking directly as Trump himself. He emphasized the nominee's promise of safety and security.

"As a businessman, I will make America Great," Henry quoted Trump as saying. "My plan will put American first."

Senior Palmer Montalbano asked Leger a question of utmost concern to soon-to-graduate seniors – what would Clinton do to relieve student debt and cut the cost of college?

Leger described Clinton's



The Birdcage took on the look of a political convention as Jesuit held its quadrennial Presidential Forum. Republican Rep. Cameron Henry, at the podium, and Democratic Rep. Walt Leger, seated to the right of Fr. Anthony McGinn, S.J., presented each of his candidate's stands on a variety of subjects, answering questions submitted by students.

Staff photo by Richi Fernando

"New College Compact." In it, "everyone does their part." The plan has several steps: The federal government will make major investments in higher education. States will equally invest in higher education. Colleges will keep costs down and create high quality programs so students have high quality jobs after college. It also includes a work-study aspect. Students would work at least 10 hours a week to help cover tuition.

"(The compact) would give any family with combined income of less than \$125,000 a year free college tuition," Leger said.

Noting the diversity of the student body at Jesuit, senior Blake Parenton asked Henry about immigration and Trump's much-discussed plan to build a wall at the border between the United States and Mexico, and having Mexico pay for it. Parenton asked, "Is this goal realistic?"

"Building a wall is realistic," Henry said. "Mexico needs access to our market more than in reverse. Mexico is bringing ille-

gal drug trafficking to our country, and they are taking American jobs. We have the access and will to win the negotiations."

(For a fuller breakdown of the candidates stances on other points that Jesuit students asked Henry and Leger about, see the issues story below.)

Leger's closing remarks noted Fr. McGinn's description of the difficulties voters face.

"This is not an easy election," he said, but added that Clinton has the experience in national security to keep our country safe.

He also urged the students to stay optimistic. "You are the future," he said. "Hold yourself to a high standard."

Henry wrapped up the forum with a similar message of hope for the future of the country. Trump has the business experience to grow our economy and put people to work, he noted.

"Trump will make America strong again, make America proud again," he said, closing with the tycoon's signature phrase, "We will make America great again."



**Rep.
Cameron Henry Jr.**
Republican
La. House Dist. 82

Education
Jesuit High School
Class of 1992

Political science degree,
LSU, 1997
MBA, Tulane, 2004

Assumed office
Jan. 14, 2008



**Rep.
Walter J. Leger III**
Democrat
La. House Dist. 91

Education
Jesuit High School
Class of 1996

Political science degree,
LSU, 2000
JD, Tulane Law, 2003

Assumed office
Jan. 14, 2008

In scandal-driven campaign, Jays want real answers

By Mac McCabe
Staff Writer

In Jesuit's Presidential Forum, students submitted questions reflecting what they consider to be the key issues of the 2016 campaign.

Representatives Cameron Henry and Walt Leger, of the Louisiana Legislature, summarized the stances on these matters on behalf of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, respectively.

Here is a summary of the stated platform points from each campaign regarding the issues over which Blue Jays have shown the most concern.

Foreign policy

Both candidates share a desire for peace with our foreign neighbors. However, they differ in how to attain this peace.

Clinton, the former secretary of state, is a proponent of peace with diplomacy taking the lead. She believes that we should maintain good terms with our current allies, while keeping ties open to others. In the Middle East, she has stated her desire to protect Israel's ability to defend itself, while also supporting efforts to bring about a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. She has also been vocal on her ideas to bring the country closer to Cuba, and is a proponent for fully lifting the embargoes against the

Communist island nation.

Trump believes in peace by first strengthening our military. He has stated that his main priority is in rebuilding America's military and cyber capabilities, and his policies generally show military power at the forefront of his foreign policies. Also, Trump has made clear that he opposes using U.S. troops to force regime change and nation-building. The core philosophy behind any foreign policy, he has said, is to keep the national interests of the United States foremost in any decisions.

Terrorism

According to their policies, both candidates seem to have similar basic ideals on how to deal with terrorism abroad:

expand military power, work with our foreign allies, and offer no quarter to our enemies. Both Clinton and Trump express desires to cooperate with allies abroad in the destruction of ISIS, but the two have different ideas on how we should handle terrorism on the homefront.

Each also has said it would be good for the American people to learn more about Islam and its culture. Clinton's goal is to emphasize learning about the culture in order to understand that the radical elements are not the sole voice of Islam. She wants law enforcement to build trustful and strong relationships with American Muslims, needing she said, every commu-

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Students paid close attention as their classmates posed questions to two Louisiana legislators at this month's Presidential Forum. The town hall-style event allowed Rep. Walt Leger to speak on behalf of the Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine ticket, while Rep. Cameron Henry represented the campaign of Donald Trump and Mike Pence.

Staff photo by Richi Fernando

College costs, life issues among Jays' chief concerns

Issues

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nity invested in this fight, not fearful and sitting on the sidelines.

Trump wants to use that understanding to better identify terrorists among us, and to work at defeating the ideology of radical Islamic terrorism, using the same approaches that he said won the Cold War. He also wants to establish new screening procedures and strengthen immigration laws to keep terrorists from entering the United States.

Immigration

While both want more scrutiny to be put on immigrants, and have called for reforms of our integration system, Clinton has generally been lax in stating precisely what improvements she'd make, other than various degrees of amnesty for current immigrants here illegally.

Trump takes a hardline approach, stating that he would temporarily halt immigration from countries known to be sources of terrorism. In addition, he has made building a wall along the southern border a chief rallying cry of his campaign.

High cost of college

Both candidates recognize the challenges faced in getting a college education without incurring crippling levels of debt.

Trump has called for congressional reforms to ensure that universities make efforts to reduce tuition costs, by offering both federal tax breaks and tax dollars. He also has proposed an increase in vocational and technical education, through both two- or four-year college programs, enabling more students the ability to pursue a trade and gain skill sets that are easier to access, pay for and see through to completion.

Clinton has proposed making college completely debt-free by implementing programs to allow students from families with incomes up to \$125,000 to pay no tuition at any in-state public institution. All community colleges also would be tuition-free.

She also has called for a \$25 billion fund to support historically black colleges and universities and other minority-focused institutions.

In addition, she has called for refinancing plans for those already burdened with such debt, including full debt forgiveness in certain cases.

Gun Control

Trump has been an ardent supporter of the Second Amendment and the unrestricted right to bear arms. Rather than introducing more restrictive laws, he has said current laws should be enforced, and problems should be fixed to allow better vetting of records in databases of past offenders.

Although Clinton has stated that she does not want to gut the Second Amendment, she has called for an expansion of restrictions on gun sales, particularly to those who are mentally ill or have a history of abuse. She also has called for increased regulatory control and the banning of so-called military-style assault weapons.

Life issues and abortion

Perhaps the most dramatic differences between the two candidates regard abortion.

While Trump has in the past expressed favoring abortion rights, he now says that he is firmly pro-life and would appoint pro-life justices to the Supreme Court, with the goal of reversing the *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion. He has said that he believes the government's primary job is to protect its citizens, including the unborn, and that the greatest right is to life itself. He is opposed to any government funding of abortion, including to such agencies as Planned Parenthood.

Clinton has throughout her public life been an adamant supporter of abortion rights, claiming it is a woman's absolute right to control her body and reproductive choices. She has committed to appointing liberal justices to the Supreme Court and the rest of the federal judiciary, and has said that unborn children have no constitutional rights, even moments before exiting the womb.

Supreme Court picks the most lasting legacy

By Reed Darcey
Staff Writer

Elections have consequences.

That maxim is most vividly evident with the U.S. Supreme Court. Serving lifetime appointments, the justices appointed by any president could have a continuing impact on the country literally generations after a term in the White House ends.

Whoever is elected as president next month will enter office having to immediately fill a vacancy on the court. Since Justice Antonin Scalia's death in February, the court has been split with four liberal jurists, three conservatives, and one swing vote, Justice Anthony Kennedy, the sole appointee left from Ronald Reagan's presidency. He took his seat on the court in 1988.

While President Barack Obama has nominated federal Judge Merrick Garland to Scalia's seat, the Republican-controlled Senate has blocked moving forward on the appointment in hopes that a win for conservatives can solidly reestablish their control of the Supreme Court.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell favors "letting the American people make this decision by electing the next president, who will fill this vacancy next year."

In addition to Scalia's seat, the next president will most likely name at least two additional justices, with the expected eventual retirements of liberal Justice

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 83, and Kennedy, 80.

The race between GOP businessman Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton, the former secretary of state, is more than a decision between two people; it is a choice that will shape our nation's highest court for potentially decades to come.

In the final presidential debate, the primary two issues the candidates discussed regarding the Supreme Court's impact were abortion and the Second Amendment.

Legalized abortion originates from the 1973 Supreme Court case *Roe v. Wade*, which ruled unconstitutional a state law that banned abortions except to save the mother's life.

In the final debate, Hillary Clinton said that she "will defend women's rights to make their own healthcare decisions." She does not believe that the government should be making these "most intimate, most difficult in many cases, decisions about [a woman's] health care that one can imagine."

Donald Trump said that it is completely unacceptable to "take the baby and rip the baby out of the womb of the mother just prior to the birth of the baby." He said that if he is elected, *Roe v. Wade* will be overturned because he would nominate pro-life justices so that the issue "will go back to the states, and the states will then make a determination."

On the other hand, Clinton's nominees would reflect her own beliefs and uphold all current rights established in *Roe v. Wade*.

Another hot topic this election season is the debate over the limits of the Second Amendment, which asserts a citizen's right to bear arms. Both candidates say they have no plans to attempt to abolish the constitutional right.

Where they differ is the regulation of the Amendment. Clinton advocates "comprehensive background checks, [the] needs to close the online loophole, [and] close the gun show loophole" in order to reduce the "33,000 people a year who die from guns." She described not wanting "people who shouldn't have guns to be able to threaten you, kill you or members of your family."

Trump, however, said such gun laws as Clinton has proposed fail to prevent such deaths. Specifically, he said, "Chicago, which has the toughest gun laws in the United States [also has] more gun violence than any other city." He said he would nominate justices "that will feel very strongly about the Second Amendment," while Clinton's nominees, she said, would impose "common sense" gun control.

While these are two of the more prominent, compelling issues, there are many more matters that the Court will decide, including some that have been postponed until its bench is complete again. In the next president's term, the balance of the Supreme Court will most likely shift dramatically one way or the other, influencing many issues of the utmost importance.

This election could change the course of American history.

'The mighty, mighty presidents'



The Jesuit Philelectic Society got into the campaign spirit with its fall semester show presented this month, the revue '44 Presidents,' written by Andy Bayiates, Sean Benjamin, Genevra Gallo-Bayiates, Chloe Johnston and Karen Weinberg. Using a variety of music ranging from ballads to rap, the show offered an abridged and quite entertaining history lesson on the American presidency, from George Washington all the way to Barack Obama. Here, donning the star-spangled coat that indicated which actor was portraying the president in each scene, junior Will Hite plays Franklin D. Roosevelt. He was joined onstage in the scene by junior Bo Bell and Sarah Schuler, a senior at the Academy of Sacred Heart. Director Kate Arthurs-Goldberg's staging was clever and swiftly moved through each presidential term with much humor, and some unexpectedly touching moments. Sylvia Owen's stylish choreography drew nice moves from the cast.

The Choice

Blue Jay writers weigh in with their decisions

For Clinton

By Jaime Colón
Staff Writer

This election year, voters across the United States face the frankly bleak choice of selecting either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton as their next president.

This campaign cycle has been, at best, bizarre and often disastrous. Both candidates have been embroiled with controversy and scandal since the moment they accepted their respective nominations.

Voter must revert to the issues and ask which candidate's agenda is more likely to benefit the most Americans? Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's policy proposals on immigration, globalization and domestic spending are ultimately better suited to ensure America's prosperity and ability to lead the free world.

On immigration, Clinton has proposed granting a pathway to citizenship to the more than 11 million undocumented immigrants who are living in the United States. Conservatives often argue that granting such amnesty causes more illegal immigration and would be unfair to those who try to come here legally. However, Clinton is advocating raised border security through added funding. She also is advocating that immigrants who are granted amnesty must pay back taxes and a fine, taking both a humane and pragmatic approach to solving this key issue.

Most conservatives also will argue that migrants are a drag on the economy. The truth appears to be more complicated for several reasons. First, job loss and lowered wages brought about by illegal immigration are simply not proven. George Borjas of Harvard University found in a 2006 study that American wages were not depressed by immigration between 1980 and 2000. Secondly, illegal immigrants are not a drag on public resources since, even when legalized, they must wait for more than a decade to qualify for means-tested welfare. Thirdly, granting them citizenship will create massive economic gains through their contribution to the economy.

A 2010 study from the University of Southern California, for example, estimated that California missed out on a total of \$310 million in income taxes in 2009

alone, while the federal government missed out on \$1.4 billion nationally.

Considering these factors, the approach to immigration that will foster the most economic prosperity for Americans is not mass deportation but instead giving the undocumented amongst us an opportunity to better themselves and further this great nation.

Stark differences also are seen in their agendas over globalization and free trade, again in Clinton's favor. Recently, America has felt a wave of anti-globalization sentiment that has caused even Clinton to abandon support of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a global trade deal that she helped negotiate. However, this shift was borne more out of political expedience than ideological opposition. In fact, Clinton is extremely pro-trade and pro-globalization, favoring an increasing interconnectivity of the world economy through reducing the hoops that companies must jump through to do business internationally.

Opponents of free trade with nations like China argue that trade equates to jobs being shipped overseas and spells nightmares for the American economy. However, most economists seem to disagree for one reason: comparative advantage. Comparative advantage is the idea that different economies are more efficient at creating different types of goods.

Finally, Clinton plans on spending \$275 billion over five years on a series of projects that will upgrade America's crumbling infrastructure. First, we must understand the problem. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, all levels of the government must spend \$3.6 trillion by 2020 to update the system. In its latest report, the group gave our infrastructure system an overall D+, and marks of D in aviation, roads, transit, dams, drinking water, hazardous waste, levees, wastewater, energy, and schools. Clinton's plan will be a step on the path to solving America's this crisis without resorting to irresponsible levels of spending.

The decision that our country will make on Election Day will prove to radically shape our lives and our republic for the next four years. We must weigh our vote on the policies each candidate supports. When we look to the effects of Clinton's policy proposals, we can have confidence in their positive impact to our economy, our country, and our future.

For Trump

By Peyton Touns
Staff Writer

The United States of America was founded on the principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Because, in essence, he wants American citizens to live in freedom, integrity, and truth, businessman Donald Trump best fulfills the founding principles by supporting the pro-life movement, advocating for the right to bear arms, working to secure our borders, and seeking to make our economy great again.

Trump supports the most fundamental right of all of humanity, a right that transcends race, gender, and nationality: life itself. For years, he had said that he was "pro-choice," but in 2011, a personal experience led him to a change of heart.

One of his friends had contemplated whether to have an abortion after an unexpected pregnancy. Fortunately for her and her child, she did not, and the child grew up to be a wonderful person. Trump then realized what people lose with each abortion.

He is now rallying against Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest provider of abortions, and has pledged to appoint pro-life justices to the U.S. Supreme Court to end our current legacy and heritage as the human race — tyranny against the unborn generation.

Trump also supports the right to protect one's life. He seeks to help us defend ourselves against domestic enemies by supporting the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

The Constitution allows us to keep guns in our homes and on our person with proper licensing, but that right is under attack more than ever. Trump advocates for this constitutional right so those who are most vulnerable to violent crime and robberies can defend themselves.

Everyone has the right to self defense, and taking away firearms solves no problems.

Thirdly, Trump is committed to keeping America strong, secure, and safe. Our armed forces have been reduced over the past eight years to the lowest numbers since World War II.

He will reinstate the funding to rebuild our military.

The Army currently is below the number of active duty soldiers needed to adequately defend our country. Trump will make sure that the Army is adequately prepared to fight the nation's enemies. To meet the realistic goal of a 350-ship Navy, he will fund a buildup. The Air Force, as well as the Marine Corps, will be expanded, growing to 36 battalions.

Trump will see to it that all of this is provided for. More than just boosting the number of weapons, planes, ships and troops within each military branch, he will place an emphasis on cyber warfare and make investments in a missile defense system that will surpass that of our adversaries.

As he has repeatedly said, Trump "will build a wall" to protect America from outside threats so that citizens may live safely and securely.

To put it plainly, finally, Trump will fix our economy. He will reduce government interference by lowering taxes for all Americans.

This will promote growth in jobs and incomes as more money will flow into private business than Washington. He will minimize and get rid of government waste, overspending, and excessive, often crippling regulation.

He will also institute an "America First" trade policy designed to fight for free trade and eliminate the multitude of trade deficits that plague the nation.

He also rejects the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would allow our foreign competitors to export cheap goods into our country, while blocking U.S. exports to their shores.

Trump's ideal is to create jobs in America and not in other countries. Trump, in short, will make the economy as strong as possible.

The Republican presidential nominee's flaws cannot be ignored.

He is not a career politician, he speaks off the cuff, and he creates unnecessary issues for himself.

All candidates, however, are human and imperfect. Americans should instead focus on each candidate's policies, and Trump's platform is the only one that will strongly support the pro-life movement, advocate for the right to bear arms, secure our borders, and make both our economy and America great again.

Other options? At least third parties draw laughs

By Donald Barrett
Editor-in-Chief

The polls are out, and they do not look good. Both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have the highest disapproval ratings in modern history. Throughout the past year, nearly 60 percent of registered voters have routinely said they do not like or trust either candidate.

According to the Public Policy Polling organization, 18 percent of Americans believe that Clinton has ties to Satan; and Russia has lower disapproval ratings than Trump.

While polls do not always paint an accurate picture of the

voter sentiment, they certainly indicate that many Americans wish they had more options. As a result, third parties have gained more attention than usual in this presidential race. Here are just some of the *true* events that have happened through this lengthy campaign season.

Harambe the gorilla was killed in a Cincinnati zoo on May 18, after a child fell into his enclosure. Since his death, the gorilla has gained fame through countless Internet memes. Thousands have expressed solidarity by signing petitions to erect statues in the gorilla's honor, change the name of Cincinnati to "Harambe City," and put his face on the \$50 bill.

While he may not have

excelled in his interactions with people while alive, the gorilla has gained extensive public support for his presidential campaign. According to the PPP, Harambe was at 5 percent in a Texas poll at the end of July.

He has since dropped to 2 percent. In other words, he is still tied with Green Party candidate Jill Stein. (With disapproval ratings of only 27 percent, Harambe is still more popular than both Trump and Clinton!)

Vermir Supreme has run for office a total of seven times. Although he does not appear in the polls, Supreme made a strong fourth-place showing in the New Hampshire Democratic primary. Donning his boot hat, Supreme has brought attention to four

important issues. He seeks to implement a mandatory toothbrushing law because "gingivitis has been eroding the gum line of this great nation of ours for long enough." A supporter of the tech industry, he is advocating for increased funding for time-travel research. He is also planning for future problems such as the zombie apocalypse and global climate change. In an effort to kill two birds with one stone, Supreme plans to "protect America from the imminent zombie invasion" by using the undead to "create electric energy utilizing the latest in giant-hamster-wheel technology." Finally, Supreme believes that each American should be given a free pony, and the federal government

should establish an official pony identification system.

Gary Johnson launched his presidential bid with the Libertarian Party. To show how serious he is about his bid, he "has stopped using marijuana" since May to focus on his campaign, even though the drug does not "make you stupid." Clearly, his lack of knowledge on subjects such as Aleppo and his inability to name a single global leader are completely unrelated to his pot smoking. Johnson supports the legalization of marijuana, and cutting the military.

So, we are not limited to two candidates this year. There is a platform out there for everyone.

Even those who love free ponies.