

Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

2015-2016 Issue

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

March 17, 2016

Find Your Four-Leaf Clover

Linda Fitzpatrick, Senior
Editor-in-Chief

When I think of Ireland, I think of my great grandfather. I'm not sure why he is the person who comes to mind since he wasn't any more Irish than my grandparents. Perhaps it is because he was the oldest in the family; his blood the farthest back to our heritage. Nonetheless, when I think of my great grandfather, who died a few years ago at the age of one hundred, I think of a dream of his fulfilled, and one that our whole family was able to experience. I think of April 14, 2012, when my great grandfather threw the first pitch at Fenway during the stadium's 100th Anniversary weekend.

This was a dream that had been talked about for years. In a way, it became as much a dream of mine as of his. I grew up imagining the day he would stand on the mound. The idea brought such hope to my imagination and to my understanding of dreams. In the weeks leading up to April 14th, my great grandfather practiced with a personal trainer regularly, but, when the big day was seemingly in reach, he became ill. My whole family was concerned, would he make it to the mound? He was determined. Nothing was going to take him away from Fenway Park on his 100th birthday.

That day was crazy. Dozens of my family members gathered at the field in celebration. My great grandfather ended up throwing two pitches, after being dissatisfied with his first. On that day, he taught me something wonderful about life. That dreams and family matter, and that nothing, nothing happens just out of luck. No matter what we go through in our personal journeys, we should never give up.

There's a very famous plant that has taught me a similar lesson. When I think of Ireland and my great grandfather, I likewise think of the four-leaf clover. This plant is popularly known as a symbol of luck, presumably because it is incredibly challenging to find. It is said that there are 10,000 three-leaf clovers for every one four-leaf clover. Four-leaf clovers can also stand for hope, faith, and love — each leaf symbolizing one of these qualities. But I believe this "lucky" plant means even more, just like I believe my great grandfather's life and Fenway extravaganza means more than simply a dream come to life. They're both about purpose.

Four-leaf clovers are about finding fulfillment in our lives, which allows us to then pass this gift along to another. This is exactly what my great grandfather has done for me. He lived his life with purpose and in the only way he knew how, and somewhere along the way, he influenced how I want to live mine. Yes, there is a great deal of luck wrapped up in our lives and it's true that sometimes you just have to be in the right place at the right time for miracles to occur, but I don't believe that luck is always random. I think four-leaf clovers reveal themselves out from among the 10,000 three-leaf clovers for specific people. For those individuals who have or are still discovering their purpose. For the dreamers, the lost, the lonely, the hopeful — the people who take the time to look, which has become a rarity in our fast-paced, technology-addicted lives.

Today, as you wear your green attire and celebrate Saint Patrick, lie down in the grass. Let your fingers trace the plants. Focus on the green in front of you and let your mind wander through the many thoughts that drift to your attention. Take a much-needed pause from the crazy rush of the 21st century. Live like a child for a moment — with quiet wonderment and true freedom. Don't stop. Your luck, faith, hope, love, and purpose will come. And as you become a great grandparent yourself, keep looking for four-leaf clovers, in the grass at your feet or among the individuals in your family. Luck, faith, hope, love, and purpose can be found in all shapes and sizes, just as long as you open yourself to the possibility of discovery. Your four-leaf clover is waiting to be found. I now realize my great grandfather has been mine all along.

***** Happy St. Patrick's Day! *****

A Foreign Perspective on U.S. Politics

Giulio Angius, Senior
Guest Reporter

The first thing that a foreigner notices when he moves to the United States is how, every four years, people break their very own routines and turn on their televisions for the ritual carousel of the presidential primary elections.

American politics is certainly an extremely interesting and quite amusing part of the local culture, but we have to admit that this year, the situation in the Republican party is almost disastrous.

Just a little bit of information: The Chief Executive of the nation and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces has very few requirements: he must be a natural born American citizen, at least 35 years old, and spent at least fourteen years living within the nation. Therefore, because of these few requirements, the list of the major parties' candidates is varied, with some results that nobody would have ever predicted.

The lead candidate in the GOP party is Mr. Donald Trump, a successful businessman with an impressive record of four bankruptcies during his business career. He has no political experience but an obscenely large net worth that allows him to say whatever he wants, without any Super-Pac control, making all of the American citizens who usually don't vote move from their chairs, giving the people a utopistic view of America that is constitutionally impossible! His flagship is a hypothetical one-hundred foot tall wall paid by our Mexican neighbors. Donald Trump may want to build a wall across the U.S. southern border to keep Mexican migrants out, but don't expect Mexico to pay for it, former President Felipe Calderon told CNBC. The successful businessman is winning in all the red states, because well, he himself is a shade of red.

As Mr. Trump is seen as a threat for the political stability of the United States, his election would be extremely satisfying for the Italian people. You may ask yourself why: the answer is that, after countless years, 60 million Italians could finally drop the Olympic torch of political silliness given to us by the infamous Ex-Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, and finally pass it to our conquerors, but this is a story for another day.

Following in an unstable second place is Senator Ted Cruz, a conservative, evangelical pro-life/pro-gun candidate, who ironically didn't even win the evangelical vote in a conservative red state with 33 percent evangelicals. He is most known for filibustering in the Senate floor for 21 hours, most of which he spent reading books to his daughters, who I really think would have rather seen the bill passed.

In third place is the Florida senator with a clear absenteeism problem: Marco Rubio. He is the youngest candidate who, for a small period of time, gained support as the best compromise in a really bad situation, even if he had some horrible debate performances and a political resumé close to nonexistent.

The last noteworthy candidate is John Kasich; no one really knows what his political project is because, well, who is John Kasich? The Ohio Governor is only known for his promise of reuniting Pink Floyd in the case of his winning, which is also the only reason why he is being mentioned.

Already forgotten is Doctor Ben Carson; his SNL stand-in has talked more than him on national television. We have to admit that with his usual readiness, he saw his campaign changing direction from leading candidate to Santorum's desk mate at the GOP debate and he dropped out with perfect timing. Well, maybe not. At least he has been pro-life, regarding the wallets of his contributors. Many people, after he endorsed Trump, are probably thinking that a neurosurgeon should be able to recognize someone without a functioning brain.

A special mention is owed to Jeb! Bush, who, after spending over 150 million dollars in political ads and small marine turtle figurines to give during his rallies, dropped out before Super Tuesday. Kasich and Rubio will take the majority of his supporters. I agree that another Bush wouldn't be the smartest choice ever made, but his political project was accurate enough and precise. Please clap.

The actual situation is not one of the brightest. If Donald Trump gets the GOP nomination, it is reasonably assumed that the Democrats will win in a landslide in November, and if the New York native businessman doesn't get the nomination, he will most likely run an independent campaign, considering the actual momentum and number of hardcore supporters he has. In both cases, not many Democratic votes will go to either the GOP or Trump, leading the DNC nominee to a fairly easy win.

Dear GOP, did you lose a bet?

The Stop Donald Trump Party

Luc Wortman, Freshman
Reporter

Who has been the biggest bully in politics? Who has sounded like your grandfather giving you a lecture about the top 1%? Who sounds like your mother yelling at you to take out the garbage? These people would of course be: Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton. Over the past few weeks, one of the craziest political seasons since 1968 has been going on, at least according to my parents. With the news networks jamming coverage down your throat I'd be surprised if you haven't noticed all the massive backlashes, fighting, and disagreements going on. A lot of the chaos has begun to form at the actual political rallies themselves, as well as on the many debate stages.

Within the GOP, we are now down to "just" four candidates, and the wave of insults has dropped from a level of 4th grade material to a level of 3rd grade play. There was even an incident between Rubio and Trump where Rubio implied that Trump has "small hands," if you know what I mean. The four candidates still standing include "The Donald," "little" Marco Rubio, the most hated of them all, Ted Cruz, and the quiet Governor of Ohio, John Kasich. Let's start my analysis of the political landscape with the results of the first "Super Tuesday," held a few weeks ago on March 1st. The momentum ordained upon Donald Trump continued its streak when, "The Donald" won 7 out of the 11 states that were up for grabs. Whether you find this good or bad is dependent on your political leaning. It could definitely be considered good for the democrats because it seems (according to the latest national polls) as if Trump would lose to Hillary or Bernie if either one of them were the DNC nominee. It could also be considered bad for the Republicans, specifically Rubio. Marco only managed to win one state — Minnesota. Cruz on the other hand received 3 states, which has now propelled him to the proverbial second place spot.

Now let's move on to "Super Tuesday #2" which was held on March 8th. Another nice day for Mr. Trump. Wins in Mississippi, Michigan and, of course, the most important, Hawaii, worth a whopping 19 delegates. On the Democratic side, something unexpected happened, and Bernie Sanders won the crucial state of Michigan, home of the Wolverines. But

it was a close win of 50% to 48%, so the delegates were essentially split 67/60. At least Bernie got the title of "winner" of the state of Michigan.

Back to the Republicans, Rubio won Washington D.C. on March 12th, a good 10 delegates for him and 9 for the second placed Kasich, with Trump and Cruz sharing none of them. Also, Cruz won Wyoming and received a nice 9 delegates for it. Still Trump has a 90 delegate lead over Cruz, and a hefty 297 delegate lead over Rubio. This week is big. On March 15th "Super Tuesday #3" already will have occurred by the time this goes to print. Florida, Rubio's home state, and Ohio, Kasich's home state, being a winner-takes-all state are the focal points of the day. Florida is worth a substantial 99 delegates, while Ohio will award 67 delegates to the winner. Rubio has made the contest quite interesting by urging Ohio voters to vote for Kasich to help stop Trump from winning and expanding his almost unconquerable lead over the rest of the GOP. It may not seem like the Republican party is unified, but I can definitely tell you that they are a united "stop Donald Trump" party! The GOP should reconsider that as a name for their party. The DNC runs a bit contrary to the GOP. Florida and Ohio are not winner-takes-all states for the Democrats, but they are worth many more delegates.

In conclusion, as Trump states, "it's over" if he wins Florida and Ohio, is truly not an inaccurate statement. On the other hand, Trump not getting any delegates from Ohio and Florida means Rubio and Kasich would have won each of their home states. Despite Cruz currently being in second place, he has a very little chance of winning either state. Therefore, Rubio getting a 99 delegate bounce would be huge, excuse me, "huuuuge" for him. Rubio would most likely swing some "Marcomentum" onto his campaign and gain himself some serious traction. It would help him stop Trump from running off happily into the GOP convention in Cleveland with his hair flying in the air, if it can even do that. With this big day coming up, there is a lot of pressure for the other GOP candidates to start to heat up the race. Can the "Stop Donald Trump" political party be successful? Whether it's the Democrats or the Republicans, only time will tell. See you in Cleveland.

Headlight Staff 2015-2016

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Linda Fitzpatrick, Becky Twaalfhoven

REPORTERS IN THE FIELD: Kathleen Alexandrou, Amber Born, Alicia Katz, Jacob Keller,

Jack Krivit, Ginny Naughton, Abby Schalck, Matthew Messinger,

Emma Szalewicz, Lilly Tapper, Kyra Veprek, Jake Emerick, Luc Wortman

WEB MASTER: Aaron Terentiev ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR: Maeve Reilly

FACULTY ADVISOR: Thomas Higgins