

THE ROUNDUP

BY AND FOR THE STUDENTS OF HALF HOLLOW HILLS HIGH SCHOOL WEST

#LI Primary Location

Written by Lilly Milman & Designed by Lexi Gevisenheit

It is a commonly known fact that New York is a Democratic state. In fact, it has not voted for a Republican candidate since the election of 1984. Yet, this has not stopped popular presidential candidates from campaigning in the state and, specifically, on Long Island. On Monday, April 4th, Republican candidate John Kasich came to the Paramount Theater in Huntington, NY in an attempt to gain some momentum before the upcoming primary on April 19th.

It has not been an easy road for Governor Kasich, as he has been trailing behind more popular candidates like Ted Cruz and Donald Trump. This is evident in the delegate count, as Trump is the clear winner with 737, while Cruz takes second place with 475, leaving Kasich with 143. At first glance, it is difficult to see what differentiates him from the other two candidates; he has a lot of political experience, he is a beloved governor, and his humble roots result in

him being seen as "a president you can have a beer with." However, this is just not enough to win a nomination anymore.

During the speech, I found myself sitting behind Hills West seniors Sam

Leifer, Sarah Kaplan, and Elizabeth Georgekapoulis. Not long after they sat down, the latter two were subsequently granted permission to sit on the stage during the speech. This made me realize one crucial and often-overlooked aspect of a successful campaign: effective communication with enthusiastic young voters. When I asked Leifer his thoughts about how the course of this election, he responded, "With the advent of social media, we can see much more of the candidates than young voters during earlier elections." Although this seems rather obvious, he elaborated by explaining the insidious effects of the Internet Age, "Quite honestly, I think the influence of social media is detrimental with young voters because qualified candidates that don't get along with social media can be beaten by tech-savvy candidates that are less qualified." His comment rings true with the Republican candidates, as Trump and Cruz constantly receive national attention for their sensational mud-slinging, while Kasich is better known for holding his tongue. Even though this resonates well with the older demographics, many of which applauded him on his "restraint" and "self-discipline," it results in a disconnection with the youth as we live in a world where sound-bites and retweets are worth their weight in gold.

Be that as it may, Kasich came to the Paramount with the intention of taking this bull by the horns. Throughout his speech, he targeted the younger crowd by stressing themes of individualism and unity. "I happen to believe that everyone is made special," is a sentiment that echoed through the room more than a few times, as he constantly emphasized the importance of telling the youth that they "matter" and that their opinions "count". He coupled this idea—which can be seen in other quotes, such as "all you've got to do is do the best you can"—with his "go fix it" attitude, giving the speech the effect of a call to action. At certain points, his speech was not dissimilar to a war cry as exclamations such as "We'll march together to get this done... are you with me?" were followed by triumphant shouting and booming applause.

Other key points of his speech included his desire to create

a cooperative bipartisan system, implement an economic plan similar to the one he used to balance the budget of Ohio, cut taxes, protect small business, and to "simplify the system." In his own words, the three things that he "doesn't care

for" are "big government, big corporations, and big unions," and he is promising to address all of them if elected.

Finally, he is hoping to instill morals into the younger generations as well. He referenced religion multiple times throughout the speech, beginning by attributing all the good in his life to "the grace of God" and ending with a "God bless you." Additionally, he expressed that he is willing to take a backseat during the more scandalous moments of the race in order to teach the youth that "you don't have to go low to change the world." Whether this will be effective in the long run is unclear, as it is possible that the ferocity of Trump or Cruz's campaigns will smother Kasich's mild manner in the election. What is clear, however, is the gravity of the situation. In Kaplan's opinion, "Reaching the support of young voters is very important for a candidate's success. Although the youngest registered voters are the fewest present in terms of representation, acquiring their support is greatly beneficial for any candidate."

As the parties come closer and closer to picking their nominees, speculation on the winners is coming from all directions. At this point, only time will tell which candidate is not only the most qualified, but also the most accessible to the general public.



Kasich speaking at the Paramount in Huntington Village, NY on April 4.

TRUMP

MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!

Written by Tanner Asadorian & Designed by Lexi Gevisenheit

On Wednesday night, the Republican front runner, Donald Trump, made an appearance on his home-island. He packed the Grumman studios, with thousands even overflowing outside the venue. This was not without protest, as secured behind barriers (about a half a mile down the street) were about a thousand protestors from multiple groups, in allegiance against the business mogul. The line stretched about a mile if unraveled around the studio lot and outlying streets. Many were wearing the notable hat entitled "Make America Great Again," a slogan Trump coined on his first day of the campaign trail. After getting into the building, we were scanned through body-scanners similar to those in an airport, and were staffed by TSA along with Secret Service employees. Following the security line, the crowds shuffled into the larger studio building.

I was in my spot in the building at about 4:20 p.m., after waiting in line from 3:45 p.m.,. Situated about forty feet back, I had a clear view of candidate and the huge screens promoting his social media handles, and some occasional video clips. On loop was an interesting collection of songs, ranging from that of Pavarotti to Elton John. The waiting game was the game of circumstance from 4:20 p.m. to 7 p.m., as there was not much else to do other than stand. Once Trump came on stage, the crowd yelled and cheered enough to make the building shake. Trump was in true form, saying "It's good to be home." He also made use of some hometown applause in mentioning his roots in Queens. Trump did not end his New York appeasing with the queens shoutout, but continued to speak about his favorite (and the famous) Bethpage Black Golf Course, to which he recalled "getting up at 2am" to get to the course. He also recounted the time at the debate when Ted Cruz smeared New Yorkers for their "New York Values," a moment that brought on a large collective boo.

Despite the subtle New York spirited undertones, he was much himself. He mentioned his "love" for the Hispanics and Mexicans. A chant that made its way through the crowd on numerous occasions was "Build the Wall," to which Donald Trump asked the crowd "Who will pay for the Wall?" to which the rally-goers yelled "Mexico!" Immigration was a large part of

his rally speech, supposing that companies who move to Mexico be tariffed at 35% for all of their imports. This also led into his domestic economic policy, to which "win" was a common term.

A somewhat lesser-known fact about the rally was the large amount of teens and young adults in the audience. Trump mentioned the enormous crowd, stating that the press never shows the vast numbers of attendees. After hearing this, the rally-goers turned to the cameras and with thumbs down, booed. The Donald left the stage at about ten minutes to 8pm, completing the 40 minute long speech with an "I love you guys." Being that I was in the front of the crowd, it took about 40 minutes to get to the shuttle buses, which took me to my off-site parking location. The rally, in conclusion, was relatively peacefully; there were only a few protestors, who were escorted out in a relatively

calm fashion. The message that Trump left was not unlike his other public speeches; childish behavior with plans that many think outweigh the immaturity. The amount of young attendees solidified the importance of being an educated voter. Like Trump or not, his ability to draw large crowds is step in bringing true understanding to candidate's policy and personality.

I will close with a recount of a true interaction I witnessed in front of me while I was waiting on line. Two middle-aged caucasian women were waiting in line behind

two African-American women who were decked out in fur coats, patriotic attire, and holding signs that I saw were clearly pro-Trump. The two Caucasian women were obviously unaware of the message on their signs, but immediately considered them to be rabble rousers and encouraged that I share in their disgust of the two African-American ladies. It was a sorry sight; I knew these two white women were racially profiling the ladies with the signs, considering them to be, as they said, and I quote "obviously with that radical Black Lives Matter group."

While I most certainly cannot say those two women embody the "Trump voter," I cannot say I felt his rhetoric at the rally was any less divisive.



Trump speaking in Bethpage, NY on April 6.