



THE ORATOR

HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Special Presidential Election Issue

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FREE

Trump Wins!

America Divided

CHRISTOPHER G. RODGERS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Billionaire tycoon Donald J. Trump shocked the world Tuesday night, with a stunning upset of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on way to becoming the 45th President of The United States of America. Mr. Trump dominated Mrs. Clinton in the battleground states and found multiple cracks in the proverbial “blue wall.” At press time, Mr. Trump had 289 electoral votes to 218 for Clinton. The popular vote, which may end up in Mrs. Clintons favor when all is said and done, was extremely close at 47.7% for Mr. Trump to 47.5% for Clinton. This has left America and its electorate deeply divided. Now, after an 18 month long campaign fueled by personal attacks, sexist and racist remarks, intolerance for others and bullying, America will have to watch in awe as the Presidential baton is passed from one of our greatest Presidents Barack Obama, to one of our most controversial in President elect Donald J. Trump.

Mr. Trump, a true outsider, amazingly becomes the first person elected to the presidency that has never held a prior position in the government or the military. His lack of political experience was a prime concern for voters and his performance moving forward should be sharply scrutinized as a result. Mrs. Clinton on the other hand, somehow lost to Mr. Trump while being a known commodity in politics with over 30 years of experience including her own eight-year stay at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

After securing surprising wins in the battleground states of Florida and North Carolina, Trump’s plan to capture the “Rust Belt” states began to come to fruition with wins in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and eventually Michigan. Trump found a way to connect with working class white voters, men and women, like no candidate has since Ronald Reagan in 1980. Also, he has done surprisingly well amongst Latino and African



American voters much to the surprise of many political analysts. By this time Mr. Trump’s lead began to seem insurmountable but Mrs. Clinton won Virginia and the traditional west coast blue states to surge late. But after a long hard fight and many long hours of waiting at approximately 2:45 am Hillary Clinton personally called Donald Trump to concede the victory. Less than 30 minutes later Donald Trump was on stage at Trump campaign headquarters in Manhattan delivering his first speech as President elect where he said, “I’ve just received a call from secretary Clinton, ... She congratulated us—it’s about us—on our victory, and I congratulated her on a very hard fought campaign.” Mr. Trump is scheduled to take his oath of office on January 20, 2017 at noon on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C.

Photo Courtesy of Gage Skidmore via Wikipedia

Cashing in on the Presidential Election



JONNATHAN RIERA
PRODUCTION-EDITOR

One of the benefits of running for United States President in the 2016 Presidential campaign was the perk of being able to take advantages of the mass number of Americans now using digital outlets like Facebook. According to Statista.com, during the 2012 presidential campaign, only 56% of Americans were using social media. As of 2016, 78% of Americans are now on social media. With the power of increased potential reach over the internet, both the Trump campaign, and the Hillary campaign, used popular social media outlets like Google, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube to reach out to the maximum number of people.

Although Presidential merchandise is nothing new, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton took full advantage of the large number of Americans on the internet to sell merchandise online. The Trump Make America Great Again committee set up an online store, shop.donaldjtrump.com, to sell Trump presidential merchandise like hats that say “Make America Great again”, and badges that say “Hillary for Prison”. The Hillary for Victory Fund set up online store, shop.hillaryclinton.com, to sell Hillary presidential merchandise like “Love Trumps Hate”, and badges that say “I am with her.” With e-commerce software widely available, it’s never been easier to sell merchandise online across the country.

The Federal Election Commission restricts candidates from using presidential merchandise for personal gain, it requires that 100% of the revenue from merchandise sales are to be used as a campaign contribution. Therefore, a hat that costs \$5 to make, and is sold for \$20, results in a \$20 donation to the candidate’s campaign. According to businessoffashion.com, Donald Trump had spent over \$4.7 million and Hillary Clinton had spent \$1.4 million, on investments for campaign merchandise. According to campaign officials, Trump had raised more than \$6 million, and Bernie Sanders raised about \$12.8 million in gross revenue, in gross revenue from merchandise sales by May 2016. The Clinton campaign has not released any numbers related to her merchandise sales.

Who Will End Social Injustice?

ADAMA HUCHARD
STAFF WRITER

This year’s presidential election is a tricky one for the simple fact that it’s a presidential election, and also because the two candidates of the United States’ two biggest political parties have extremely different views on almost every issue you could think of. This is especially true when it comes to social issues regarding institutionalized racism.

Being a strong supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, I was very interested in what both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump had to say on the matter when it was brought up during the first presidential debate in September. Indeed, moderator Lester Holt asked the two candidates about their views and solutions regarding issues on race relations and the relation between the police and African Americans specifically, given the numerous shootings we’ve had recently. The two candidates both answered the question taking completely different approaches. Mrs. Clinton talked about institutionalized racism in jobs, in housing, and in the police and education systems, while also covering racial profiling and police brutality. Mr. Trump spoke on the violence in African American and Hispanic inner cities and the important role that guns play.

Donald Trump’s response felt incomplete; a huge portion of the question remained unanswered. He didn’t mention the prejudice people of color are subjected to. He didn’t mention police officers displaying implicit bias, nor the fatal shootings some of them are responsible for. Although he was asked about these issues directly by the moderator, he just couldn’t acknowledge them.

I don’t see a way out of institutionalized racism if Donald Trump gets elected. If he cannot even see the problem, we obviously shouldn’t expect any solutions from him. Of the two, Hillary Clinton seems to be the only one with a clue. She knows many institutions aren’t fair towards people of color, and wants to address and solve this issue. She actually came up with reforms in the criminal justice system that she believes will help. Unlike her opponent, Mrs. Clinton believes something’s not right and cares enough to take action.

I feel good about the fact that at least one presidential candidate is willing to fight for justice and equality. But to be completely honest, I’m not expecting much to change just because someone new is moving into the White House. For a significant change to take place, the will must come from the people. This issue has been too divisive, and the only way to solve such division is through togetherness. Because our power isn’t only in who we elect as our leader; it’s in our will, and through unity. Us, the people—that is whom I’m putting my faith in.

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Meetings:
Tuesdays from 4 to 5:30 PM

Election Day Selfie with The Orator Staff



Photo by John Cantana

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION 2016 ELECTORAL MAP



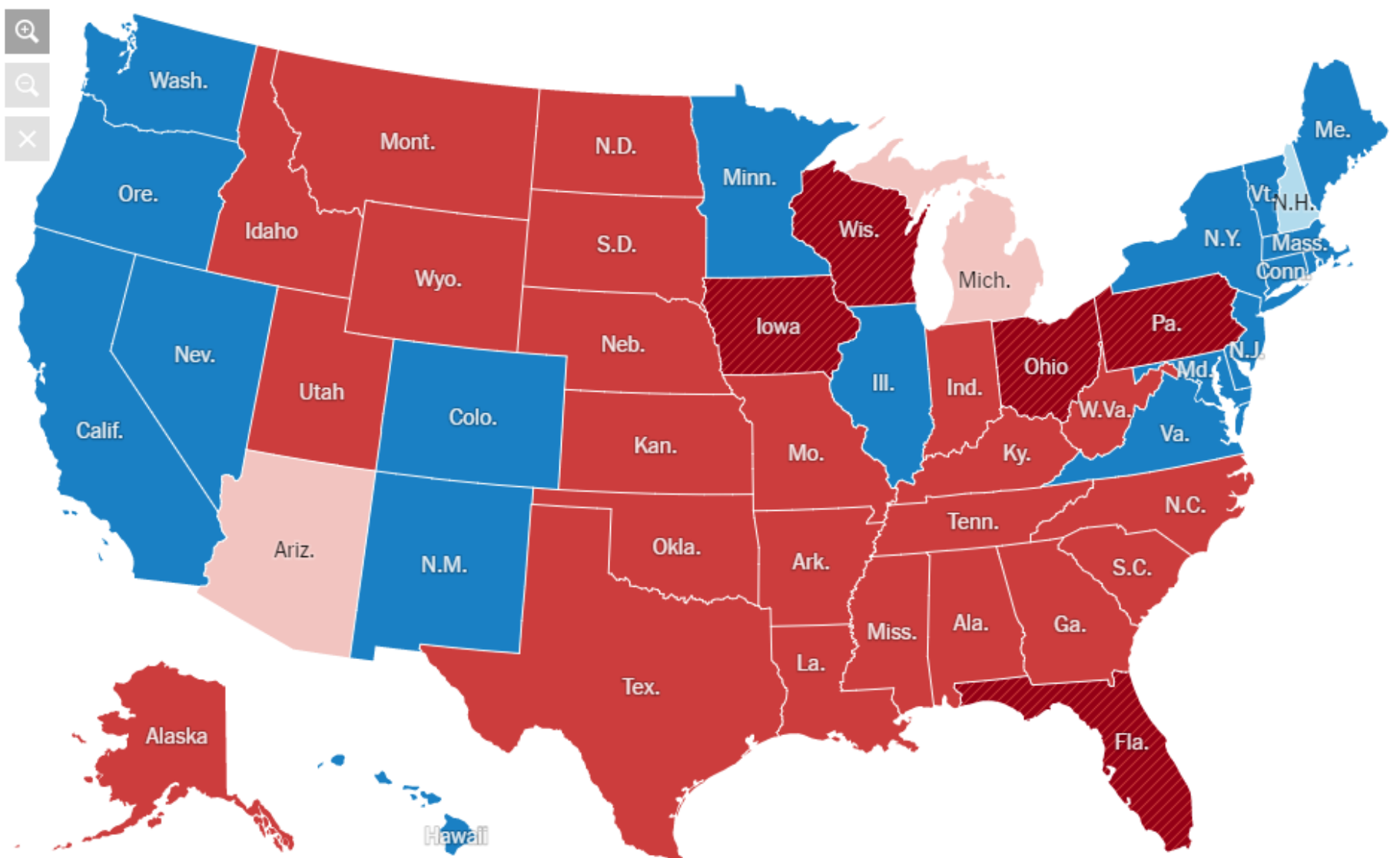
228 Hillary Clinton

279 Donald J. Trump

59,601,974 votes (47.7%)

270 to win

59,395,614 votes (47.5%)



Results as of noon 11/9/16 Photo Courtesy of New York Times.

Professor Dorothy Anderson on the Presidential Election

“My Greatest Concern Is the Apathy”

NATALIE FELIX
STAFF WRITER

This year’s presidential election has been one of the most controversial elections in the history of this nation. Much was called into question during the race to the Oval Office: Democratic Nominee Hillary Clinton’s reported mishandling of classified information, allegations of sexual harassment by Republican President-elect Donald Trump, both candidates’ age, and their history of outspoken racial prejudice.

What sure would seem like a landslide between the former Secretary of State and the renowned entrepreneur has instead left on-edge feelings of where this country is headed. Among citizens there have been expressions of frustration, and possible actions for the voting amid “the lesser of two evils.”

One particular idea that has stood out is not voting at all, an idea that HCCC’s own Professor Dorothy Anderson, instructor of history, is alarmed by. “My greatest concern is the apathy,” Prof. Anderson shared, which is something her students have shown. “People of my generation take this stuff seriously,” she continued. Prof. Anderson is from a family with southern roots who have had their own trying experiences with voting--her grandmother was not permitted to vote and her great great-grandfather voted

in the first election in 1868. With a majority of Black Americans not being allowed to vote until 51 years ago, one can see where her disappointment may lie. “I won’t forget and won’t allow other people to forget. That’s why I teach history,” she said. Anderson has held discussions in her courses where she discovered some of her students do not fully understand the importance of voting. “I think students think that their voices are not going to be heard, that no one listens to their concerns.” As for herself: “I just can’t imagine my Blackness in a Trump World,” she said with a grim expression at how far Trump has made it, and even more with the endorsement from the infamous Ku Klux Klan. “As long as I have lived on this planet--race and fear--it works every time.”

Prof. Anderson notes although she doesn’t “have a dog in the fight,” at the end of day she has to come to a decision for presidency. She reminds her students that the right to vote was not afforded to everyone, which holds true for many other countries where it is illegal for certain groups to vote.

“I ask my students what kind of nation would they want to see,” which made her recognize that her students’ diverse cultural backgrounds affect their worldviews and their thoughts on the purpose of voting. “Teaching young people about the history is important,” she said. “The hope is the younger, the more educated one will step up to make a change. That is my hope.”

Some of Prof. Anderson’s own students have recently become citizens, and they couldn’t wait to vote. “I was thrilled and helped them get registered,” she shared. On the other hand, she points out, “People embrace citizenship but don’t embrace responsibilities that come with it,” which holds true for the many American born who have chosen not to participate in past elections and opted not to cast their vote this year. “If a student doesn’t take the time to research, maybe it’s best that they don’t vote.” She encourages her students to become educated instead of criticizing the candidates. “If you don’t understand the history of where this nation has been, how can you push this nation forward? Start separating fact from fiction. Ask more questions. Read more. Listen more,” she stated.

The option of not voting has been seen through social media and interacting with other members of the student body. Although the presidential election is every four years, there are local elections that can be affected with this same attitude. It is encouraged to learn how the politics affect your community and it is encouraged to understand how it will personally affect you. “If you don’t know you, how can you choose a leader of this country?” Prof. Anderson questioned. “Unless you’re comfortable to self, you’ll be unable to make tough decisions.” Voting is a right for all citizens and should be exercised. Casting your vote is not just going through the motions--it is your voice that you want heard.

An Editorial

By Christopher G. Rodgers

My Opinion on President Trump

Mr. Trump must repudiate the remarks he has made that disparage women, Latinos, African-Americans, Muslims, The LGBTQ community, and people with disabilities. This must be done before he can fix the division his election has created. Mr. Trump’s win and Mrs. Clinton’s loss also perpetuates the existence of the glass ceiling as our country is obviously ready to elect an African-American president but not a woman. It is scary that our country may have a bigger problem with sexism than racism. President-elect Trump said in his first speech, “I will be president for all citizens.” His tone had changed and was much more subdued. He seemed more presidential or scared or both. One thing is for sure though: He is still tweeting. At 6:55 a.m. Trump wrote, “Such a beautiful and important evening! The forgotten man and woman will never be forgotten again. We will all come together as never before.” This may be true that we all need to work together in harmony now that this divisive election is over, but in my opinion, Mr. Trump should deliver an incredible apology to the American people before we can even get started.



My First Time Voting

JONNATHAN RIERA
PRODUCTION-EDITOR

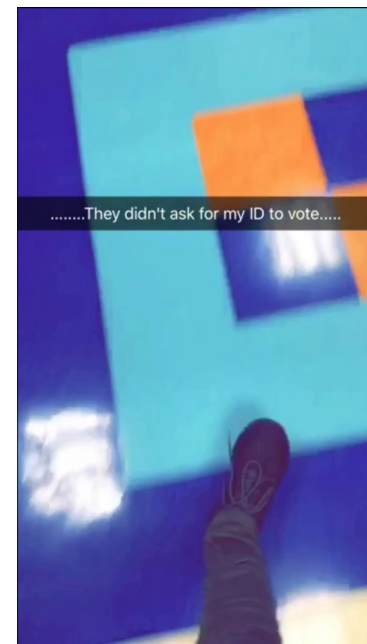


Photo credit to Jonnathanrocks via Snapchat

All the build up for this presidential election has been incredible, and it has had me very excited to go out and vote. Friends, family, celebrities, politicians, and the media have been holding Americans in a great suspense. It’s a true privilege that Americans have the right to choose their political leaders. On the early morning of November 8th, I went to a voting center in Union City, NJ to vote for the first time. I was 16 during the 2012 presidential election, so being able to vote for the first time for our next president has been a really new and honoring experience for me. For the past few weeks I was on the fence. I wasn’t sure if whether I should vote for Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton. Without a doubt, I knew that both candidates were strong but had their faults.

When I showed up to the voting center, I was welcomed in Spanish by volunteers happily helping out their fellow American citizens. Some of them did not know English, but that was okay because I know Spanish. Thankfully, there was no long line, just two or three people ahead of me. When I got to the front, the lady at the desk asked for my last and first name, and asked me to sign my signature next to my name. I was surprised that she did not ask me for any form of identification. I let it slide, thinking that maybe I will be asked for it before I entered the voting booth. I waited a minute on another line to enter the voting booth, I got inside, and was presented with a panel to select X on the candidate of my choice. I will admit, it took me a minute to figure out how to work the machine. I expected it to be more clear, modern, and straight to the point.

After hitting the big red button to submit my vote, part of me left disappointed. After waiting for years to finally vote, it was not what I expected. I thought it would be more special, in terms of the experience. It felt like an “In and Out” situation. I went in there, signed my name, voted, and left. After learning that in the state of NJ, there is no requirement of an I.D to vote, it left me thinking how unsecure these elections can be. Anybody could’ve voted for me. I had in mind that it would be more secure since President Obama and the rest of our government had me thinking that we have the most secure voting system. However, I understand that not everyone has a government I.D.

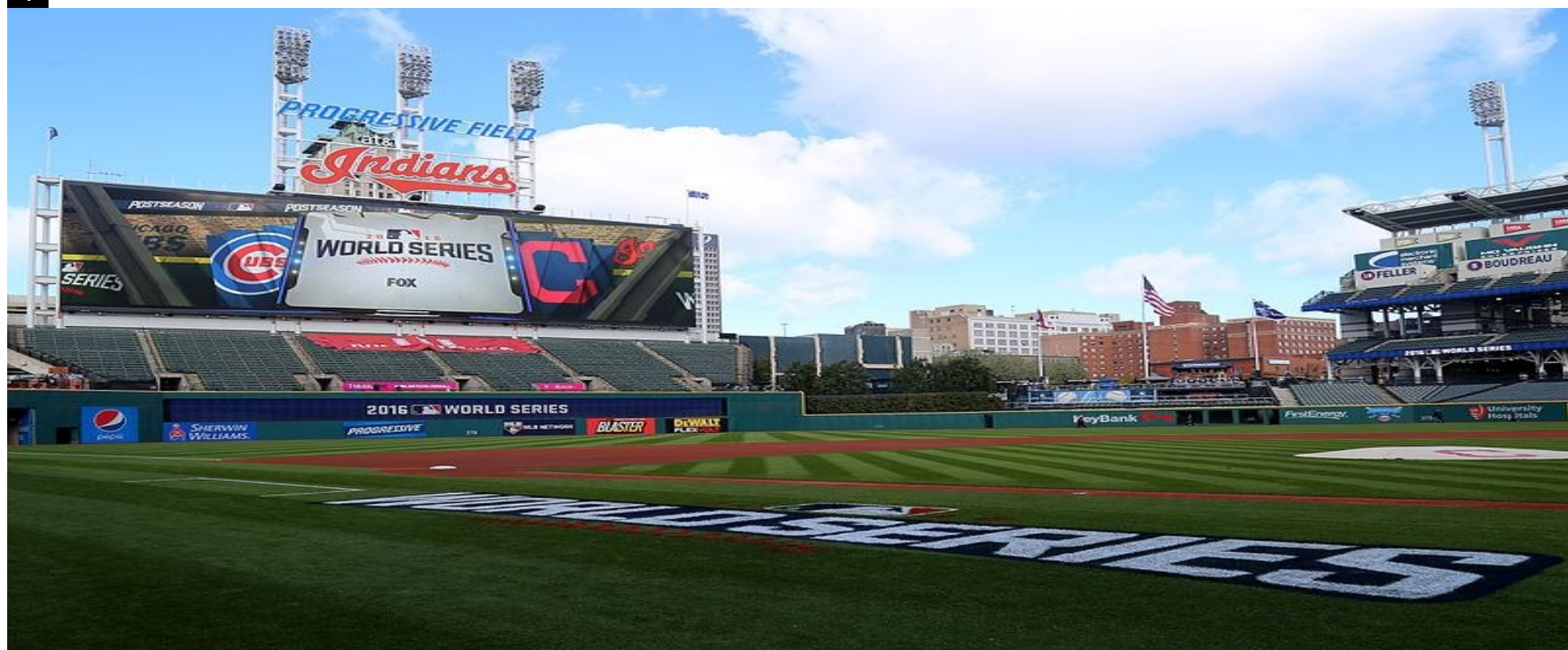


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The Cubs are World Series Champions!!!

MICHAEL PARDAL
STAFF WRITER

This year's World Series is arguably one of the greatest World Series of the 21st century. On one side, the Cleveland Indians have not won a World Series title since 1948 and last appeared in the series in 1997 losing to the Florida Marlins in 7 games. Cleveland sports fans have had a lot of misery during the past several years as they are known for having losing sports teams for that time since the Cleveland Browns won the NFL Championship in 1964 before the Super Bowl era. This year everything changed for Cleveland as the Cavaliers defeated the Golden State Warri-

ors in 7 games ending the dreadful losing streak for Cleveland. On the other side are the Chicago Cubs. Baseball fans should know already why this was important for the team as they have not won a World Series title since 1908 making it a 108-year drought for them and their last appearance was in 1945.

The Chicago Cubs came back from a 3-1 series deficit to beat the Cleveland Indians making them the first team to do so since the Kansas City Royals in 1985 and ending their 108-year title drought in the process. Trailing 6-4 at the bottom of the 8th inning, Rajai Davis of the Indians entered with a man on second with 2 outs and tied

the game with a 2-run homerun to left field. The game ended up going to extra innings but was stopped by a 17-minute rain delay before the top of the 10th. It wasn't until after the rain delay when the Cubs' Ben Zobrist and Miguel Montero hit clutch RBIs that gave Chicago the lead. Mike Montgomery closed out the game, solidifying the Cubs' victory that fans have been waiting many years for. The prestigious World Series MVP was given to Ben Zobrist with his play in the series batting .357. Longtime Cubs fans can finally sleep in peace and tell themselves "the curse of the Billy Goat is finally broken." Indians' fans should not feel discouraged because they played one hell of a game. They will be a good team for the next couple of years.

St. Louis Cardinals Recap/Offseason Checklist

BRANDON CAULEY
STAFF WRITER

In 2015, the St. Louis Cardinals embarked on a 100 win season--tops in the MLB. However, their season ended at the hands of the Chicago Cubs in the National League Division Series. After the loss, questions began to surface as to whether the window of success of the Cardinals was closing after losing to an upstart division rival. In the offseason, the Cardinals addressed a starting pitching need in acquiring Mike Leake after Lance Lynn underwent Tommy John surgery. They also acquired Japanese import Seung Hwan Oh (RHP). Those acquisitions still did not sit well with Cardinal fans, as they failed to sign top flight free agent such as David Price, Johnny Cueto, Jordan Zimmerman, etc. The level of concern in St. Louis was growing, as their main rival, the Chicago Cubs, improved drastically with the signings of Jason Heyward and Ben Zobrist.

Throughout the season, the Cardinals were a model of inconsistency. They got their ace Adam Wainwright back from an achilles injury, but he was ineffective for the most part of the year. He went 13-9 with a 4.62, but his home/away splits were very alarming. At home, he had a 3.20 ERA, while on the road, he had a 6.18. Also, the rotation struggled some outside of Carlos Martinez. Mike Leake was very inconsistent throughout the year, Michael Wacha had an injury and struggle riddled campaign, and Jamie Garcia fell from the face of the earth. Combined with all of that, closer Trevor Rosenthal's chronic ineffectiveness caught up, which led to him getting replaced mid season by Seung Hwan Oh. The pitching was a huge disappointment, coming off a season in 2015 where they led the MLB in ERA by a wide margin.

One of the biggest concerns about the Cardinals coming into this season was hitting. The Cardinals acquired Jedd Gyorko via trade, and signed back up catcher Bryan Pena, and the moves left a lot to be desired of. A lot of people, like myself, believed the Cardinals would struggle scoring, I, and a lot others were wrong. There were a lot of times during the year where the Cardinals bats did not show up as they batted a .255 as a team, but they did lead the National League in home runs. Six players hit 20 plus home runs, including Matt Holliday, Matt Carpenter, and Stephen Piscotty. Jedd Gyorko led the team in home runs with 30. Hitting was still an issue for the Cardinals, especially batting in runners in scoring position, but Cardinal fans should be excited with the power showed throughout the year.

The Cardinals battled for the second wild card up until the last day of the season but were eventually eliminated. For the eighth straight year, the Cardinals finished with a winning record, so that is something to be proud of.

However, making the playoffs is a staple for St. Louis baseball, so it's time to make the offseason checklist to make it back to the postseason in 2017:

First off, acquire an outfielder via trade or free agency. Matt Holliday's days as a Cardinal are numbered, so that leaves a huge void in the outfield. Randal Grichuk and Stephen Piscotty have the two corner outfield positions clamped down already. Three options I have in mind are the following: either sign Josh Reddick, break the bank for Yoenis Cespedes, or acquire Athletics LF Khris Davis. The most likely of the three is signing Josh Reddick, but adding a bat like Cespedes in the lineup would give an immediate boost to the Cardinal lineup.

Secondly, extending Carlos Martinez is an absolute must. This is a no brainer at this point as Martinez has progressed well over his career. By far, he was the best Cardinals pitcher, going 16-9 with a 3.04 ERA with 174 strikeouts. I don't think more needs to be said about Martinez, other than he is the best pitcher in the Cardinals rotation.

Lastly, trade Jhonny Peralta and Michael Wacha. This hurts me to say about Wacha since he was a personal favorite of mine, but it is time. The injuries have led to his ineffectiveness, and this makes me wonder if he'll ever regain his 2013-early 2014 form. With the Cardinals farm system being rich for talent, Wacha can find himself lost in the shuffle. As for Peralta, he may be lost in the shuffle in the Cardinals infield. Jedd Gyorko hitting 30 home runs, and Alemdys Diaz had an incredible breakout season to solidify the shortstop position. Peralta is 34 years old, which is alarming for an infielder, but an American League team cannot deny the pop his bat brings from possibly a DH spot. With that said, putting these two in a package for a starting pitcher or an infielder, maybe along the lines of Zack Greinke or Carlos Gonzalez, could possibly strike, but I won't count on it.

No, the Cardinals window for a championship is not closing. However, the Cardinals brass needs to show a sense of urgency to not fall far behind in the National League. With the Cubs in the World Series this year, this offseason has to be a busy and productive one, because the city of St. Louis is hungry for championship number twelve.