

THE BENEFITS OF BEAUTY

- 72.32% Chance an attractive person will receive a callback after an interview
- 62.02% Chance an unattractive person will receive a callback after an interview

ATTRACTION WORKERS EARN ON AVERAGE 10% MORE THAN THEIR UNATTRACTIVE CO-WORKERS

average lifetime earning difference: **\$230,000**

Average salary for someone who was 6' tall at age 18 = **\$51,880**

Average salary for someone who was 5'1" tall at age 18 = **\$40,000**

*according to: American Psychological Association, Smart Money and Princeton University

Overreacting to elections shows disrespect



Robert Overmann

I hear it every four years, especially right before and right after the election cycle.

Supporters of the presidential candidates swear that if the opposing candidate is elected, they'll flee the country to avoid the impending tyrannical rule. This year was no exception. My Facebook news feed was flooded with petty declarations that the poster would be moving to Canada if their chosen candidate lost.

Let's be honest. I highly doubt any of those making such claims actually are packing their bags, buying a plane ticket, obtaining a visa and leaving the nation. Invariably, others chime in, claiming they'll do the same, and everyone in the situation knows nobody has any intentions of leaving the country regardless of which candidate is elected. Not once have I known anyone to follow through with these ridiculous claims.

We in the United States are lucky enough that, regardless of who is elected, a cultural genocide will not take place. Mass murders eradicating those with a certain political view don't happen. Anybody claiming to leave the nation because a particular politician is elected is being utterly disrespectful to the countless millions throughout history who have fled persecution by a political leader. Neither Mitt Romney nor Barack Obama were about to enact manslaughter on a massive scale. Neither Romney nor Obama were going to persecute others based on cultural background, political views or religious beliefs.

It's fine to be dissatisfied with a particular politician and it's fine to oppose their political agenda. Nobody's going to stop you from leaving the country if you so choose. But the masses that make such empty threats will likely mope about their candidate's loss for a few hours, and then promptly return to trivial concerns of who the next American Idol will be and ignore the political arena for the next four years. Instead of claiming they plan to expatriate—which, ironically, would lessen opposition against the other candidate — why don't these individuals become involved with their local Republican or Democratic Party chapter?

Claiming one plans to leave the country if a particular politician is elected simply shows political ignorance. Each nation's politics are intricate and nuanced — these individuals would undoubtedly find an issue that they were upset by no matter where they chose to emigrate to.

During a time when politics regularly cross national borders, there's also the question of whether leaving the nation would matter. Especially concerning a nation that is a major world power such as the United States, politics are a multinational affair. The decisions a president and a Congress make have ramifications for countries throughout the world.

Furthermore, threatening to leave the nation because of the election of a particular president makes little sense. It would make more sense to threaten leaving the nation about the election of a local politician. Politics at the local and state levels have far more impact on everyday life than politics at the national level. The decisions of a president rarely affect our day to day activities — sure, a president can declare war and issue executive orders, but these pale in comparison to state tax propositions, local ordinances, and the actions of our city, county, and state officials.

We often take for granted the greatness of our nation's political system. We have the ability to elect a new president every four years. We have a system of checks and balances to ensure that we never have a chief executive who actually gives us a reason to flee the nation. We have a system that allows us to impeach a president who abuses his executive powers. To want to flee a political system that so ingeniously protects our individual and political freedoms is asinine.

So please, stop the foolish talk of fleeing the country if your chosen candidate isn't elected. In another four years, you'll be able to once again contribute to choosing our nation's chief executive. And, if the elected president does throw the nation into chaotic disarray, you might be able to cast your ballot even sooner.

Robert Overmann is a junior English major from Cape Girardeau, Mo.

Good looks increase success



Lacy Murphy

When purchasing a product, have you ever made a choice based purely on the attractiveness of its packaging? It is characteristic of the human species to want the most attractive-looking product and to make judgments based on looks alone. However, we'd rather not admit to this seemingly shallow trait.

While we are brought up to never judge a book by its cover, we still make decisions based only on the desirability of something, whether it's as trivial as which piece of pizza to eat first, or far more serious decisions, like whom we want to marry. It plays into all parts of our lives. During past elections, many people unintentionally have allowed this preoccupation with "looks" to play a role in their decision-making, but it seems this was not as a great of an issue this year.

Daniel S. Hamermesh, author of "Beauty Pays: Why Attractive People Are More Successful," has studied a similar trend throughout the business world. His research concluded that

companies tend to hire more attractive people because they are more likely to earn more money. Hamermesh found more attractive candidates earned 3 to 4 percent more money and received promotions faster, as well. One possibility for this conclusion is beauty seems to go hand-in-hand with self-esteem. People who seem self-confident become more desirable candidates. This principle also can be applied to politics.

If we look at some of the matchups throughout past campaigns, we can see this theory illustrated. John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon opposed each other during the 1960 presidential race. This election occurred simultaneously with the increase of televised political events. Don't try to tell me the youthful and handsome Kennedy and his picture-perfect family didn't make him a more desirable candidate than the older and more stern-looking Nixon. We began to see a rise in the importance of the "presidential look."

A more modern example is the 2008 race between John McCain and Barack Obama. The white-haired and jowly McCain paled in comparison to the handsome and confident Obama. A more youthful candidate like Obama seems more dominant, competent and approachable. This is a desirable appearance for young voters. Citizens also are more likely to forgive a better looking person. This makes political gaffes less condemning to a campaign.

Another study conducted by Dr. Caitlin Milazzo at the University of Exeter came to a similar conclu-

sion. Milazzo used photos of 75 pairs of same sex, same race candidates from past elections and conducted a "beauty test" by asking who was more attractive. She then compared the results of the beauty test to the actual results of the elections. Milazzo found that slightly more than half of the results were the same and that in closer elections, 72 percent of the results were the same. Milazzo concluded that while the competency of the candidate seemed the most significant factor, attractiveness played a role during the undecided voter's decision-making.

Mitt Romney and Obama arguably are more comparable in the looks department during this election than Obama and McCain during 2008. Applying the theory that voters' views of candidates can be distorted by physical appearance, it's plausible that voters this year were less distracted by looks and made decisions based on who they thought would do the best in the presidency.

While unattractive candidates are not un-electable, studies show that many voters allow extraneous factors, like the attractiveness of a candidate, to meddle with their voting. Voters should make the conscious decision to separate looks, which have no effect on competency, from their decision forming entirely. Having better looking features does not entitle anyone to higher status roles.

Lacy Murphy is a sophomore French major from Springfield, Mo.

What role do looks play in an individual's professional success?

"As long as you try to look professional, it'll work itself out."

Eric Volstromer
senior



"I would say that being attractive by our culture's standards is beneficial to success."

Lizzie Salsich
junior



"People don't want to say it plays a role, but it probably does."

Liza Mann
freshman



"I think that when looks are polished on the outside, they're polished on the inside as well."

Kacie Isaccson
freshman



AROUND THE QUAD

The Bible should not be used to discriminate



Garrett Kelsey

Many people are excited that the election is finished. It is a wonderful victory to have Obama in office again. But that isn't what I'm most excited about after this November 6th. What I'm most excited about is the election of Sen. Tammy Baldwin.

The reason Tammy Baldwin's election to the Senate is significant is because she is gay. Though there have been openly gay senators in the past, Baldwin is the

first openly gay senator to have ever been elected according to a Nov. 7 CNN article.

This is a landmark for gay rights and, the rights of people all across the country. We've come a long way from the days of blaming gay men for the spread of AIDS and the days of brutal murders like Matthew Shepard. While these terrible crimes and horrendous acts do still occur and the struggle of LGBT rights is far from finished, sometimes we need to stop and recognize a victory.

While we celebrate the victory of Baldwin's election, we must look at why there is such discrimination against gays in the first place. Examining history shows that many well-known figures were thought to be gay. The basis of many arguments against gay rights, in the West anyway, comes down to a few sentences found in the Bible.

Leviticus 18:22 says, "You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an abomination." Leviticus 20:13, also says "If there is a man who lies with a

male as those who lie with a woman, both of them have committed a detestable act; they shall surely be put to death. Their bloodguiltiness is upon them" Directly quoted from the King James Bible.

Indeed the Bible clearly states that homosexuality is a sin and even says that offenders should be put to death. But here's the part where I blow your mind: who cares.

Put down your pitch forks and listen to me. The Bible is antiquated and out of date. Many of our ideals are drawn from it, and that is great. But, there is no book in all of history that has justified as much pain, death and torture as the Bible. These small phrases in a 2 millennia old book are preventing good people from living out the dreams or goals that they want to achieve.

Take a moment to examine this situation objectively. If two men came up to you and said, "we're getting married." Do you actually contemplate saying, "My 2000 year old book, written by men, and changed countless times throughout the ages says

you can't. Also you need to die."

That sort of thinking is ludicrous. Most people wouldn't take it to such a degree, but if one were to follow the Bible to the letter, that would be their realistic response.

It is vital to examine the mistakes of our past, and look at why the election of a gay senator is important. So the next time you think about using the Bible to restrict the rights of another, try to think about it objectively — maybe everything in the Bible isn't relevant to our age, that maybe we should just take the good and ignore the bad and bigoted parts. Hopefully soon the election of a gay senator will not be a big deal. I want to see a world where I can get just as annoyed with a gay senator as with a straight one, because they'll be equals in the eyes of society.

Garrett Kelsey is a freshman linguistics major from O'Fallon, Mo.