



Future Plans

by August Davis

From the Desk of the Editor

Register to vote



Austin Hornbostel

While most Truman students were ending the first weekend of February refreshed after a couple days off from class, I was playing catch-up after spending half of my waking hours driving more than 900 miles across the state of Iowa. On the other hand, I guess I shouldn't complain — while my fellow students were reading about the Iowa caucuses on the Internet, I was running around experiencing it as it happened, up close and personal with potential presidential candidates.

For a journalism nerd like me, the communication department-sponsored Iowa caucus trip was a dream come true. I've been fantasizing about go-

ing on this trip since before I even enrolled at Truman — communication department chair Jay Self gave me a tour during February of my senior year of high school and mentioned a course that prepares students for a trip to the caucus every four years to either report for Truman's student media or conduct political research, and I was sold. I was incredibly excited for even the slightest possibility of covering the caucus, and that dream finally became a reality two weeks ago.

Going on this trip made me feel like a bonafide professional journalist. My credentials allowed me to wander around rallies as if I owned the place — sort of — and I had the opportunity to rub shoulders with professionals from the Associated Press, CNN and even news outlets from countries such as Japan and Brazil. I could be spotted snapping photos of presidential candidates at rallies across the state, my favorite of which was the Hillary Clinton rally in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, that allowed me to take photos from the press bubble a mere five feet away from the woman herself and her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

I ramble on and on about the amazing opportunity I was granted by Truman's communication department not because I was starstruck and ecstatic to be close to these major players in the current political landscape but because I never would have felt so inclined to become civically engaged if I had missed out on this trip. Sure, the professional opportunity was great — it'll certainly be an awesome résumé builder — but attending rallies in person and seeing the environment beyond the political rhetoric you hear on television really can open your eyes to a politician's character. I was much more at home at some rallies than others, and it's these feelings that make me want to pay more attention and actually register to vote.

Really, I can't say this enough — if you haven't already, you should register to vote. I know I'm going to. I've had professors harp on me for almost three years about how students should be more civically engaged, and it's true. We spend nine months of the year living in Kirksville, and being registered in Adair County can allow us to have a real voice in the community. Even more than this, just the simple action of registering can allow us students to do more than just talk about how much we "feel the Bern" or want to make America great again, because then we have the chance to vote in the primary and contribute to changing the landscape of the presidential race.

The last day to register for the Missouri primary is Feb. 17. That's right, next Wednesday, less than a week from today. The primary itself will take place March 15, and I can't urge you enough to take the time to have a voice in the political process. I registered to vote online as I was writing this column and it took less than five minutes. It's really that easy. You can register online at sos.mo.gov or you can mail or submit in person a paper copy of your application to your county clerk. Our generation, the millennials, are the most notorious group out there for not showing up to vote, and if we all take just a little bit of time, we can be more civically engaged and have a real voice in the political process.

Austin Hornbostel is a senior communication major from Kansas City, Mo.

Personality quizzes are all in good fun



Trevor Hamblin

When I first arrived at my residence hall for the semester, I was greeted by a large chart on the wall where the 16 Myers-Briggs Type Indicator personality types were matched up with "Star Wars" characters. The idea was to have hall residents write their name on a paper lightsaber and stick it to their MBTI type. For those who are curious, I'm an INTP — introverted, intuitive, thinking and perceiving — with Kylo Ren instead of Finn. I'm not bitter. The concept for the board wasn't really a surprise. "Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens" only recently had come out to theaters, after all, but I found the idea mildly interesting. There are so many different kinds of personality typing systems — MBTI, Eastern and Western zodiacs, blood type, and even Hogwarts houses — it's no wonder people love them so much. And while some might condemn them as fake, there's perhaps some value in personality types.

There are some who truly believe in the power of the zodiac to determine their demeanor and path through life. I am not one of those people, but it's still fascinating to see what the zodiac has to say about me. For example, it is a popular trend on websites such as Tumblr to assign each of the signs random things, like flowers, pizza toppings or quotes from popular TV shows. These tend to take a simplistic approach to the star signs, breaking them down into character traits to assign them items or characters. It's interesting to see if you agree or disagree with your zodiac designation. Either way, it gets you to discover something about yourself.

Some of these systems are more subjective than others. For example, Hogwarts houses and how fictional characters relate to them have led to heated arguments between my roommates. There's no real-world basis for this system, but people have become attached to it largely because it resonates with them. The houses become a way for people to understand themselves and those around them, which, in a way, was the purpose of the houses. Those who resonate with the values of Ravenclaw — logic and reasoning — inherently have a different view of the world than those who resonate with the values of Gryffindor — courage and heroism.

A point arguably more relevant to the discussion of personality types is that they're entertaining. Reading about what you supposedly are can

be a fun distraction. After all, it doesn't really matter what dish soap your sign is, but it's fun to see what people connect to these ideas and how these connect to you. Similarly, the use of fictional characters in personality types — such as the "Star Wars" chart — can make for interesting conversation. Is this character an INTP or an INFP — introverted, intuitive, feeling and perceiving — and in what ways are they similar to or differ from characters with the same typing? Are they a Virgo or an Aries, and how might this affect their actions? Questions such as these can be enjoyable for those who, like me, love examining characters just for the sake of it.

While there isn't any inherent value to personality typing, there is something to be said for how we use it today. It is a form of self-identification that allows us to understand others, highlighted by where it differs from reality. Its use as a form of recreational expression is important, and for that reason I stand behind personality typing — even if I did get Kylo Ren instead of Finn.

Trevor Hamblin is a freshman English and communication major from Moberly, Mo.

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✉ index.editor@gmail.com

☎ 660-785-4449

@ tmn.truman.edu/theindex