

## Q & A With A Golden Ignatian

Q: What were your feelings immediately following your win?

A: I was obviously in shock after the win, but more than anything I was afraid of the consequences of having a gold medal. After I settled down a bit though, I just wanted something to eat, and ended up going to McDonalds.

Q: What did you do in the days following the win?

A: I didn't really get a chance to relax. I was up for two days straight for interviews and drug tests. The time I did have I enjoyed with my family.

Q: What did you think of the atmosphere in Athens?

A: I never felt in danger at anytime. Everyone was really great and hospitable. There was so much excitement for the Olympics. I actually roomed with "Helmet Man," Toby "Crash" Stevenson, who got the silver.

Q: Did you get to meet anybody interesting?

A: The coolest guy I met was the Prince of Monaco. He was just a relaxed guy. I had lunch with him and we just casually chatted. I also got to meet famous athletes like Maurice

Greene and LeBron James.

Q: Did you ever picture that you would be an Olympic gold medalist in high school?

A: No way. I never expected this. My pole-vaulting career started slow at Ignatius and gradually developed through college.

Q: What were your best memories at Ignatius?

A: Ignatius was a lot of work for me. It was a real struggle, and I consider it an achievement that I made it through. I wouldn't have changed anything though.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher?

A: Fr. Ober. He was one cool guy.

Q: Any advice for Ignatians?

A: You have to create your own reality. If you really want something, you have to spend the time on it. If you don't have faith it can be a long road.

Q: What's next?

A: Winning the gold has guaranteed me financial security for the next four years. I am now paid just to attend competitions. I will probably train for Beijing, and maybe even try to break the 20 feet barrier.

## Dark Horse

Alex Bakale

With the Republicans and Democrats in fierce competition for the presidency, Ralph Nader is leading a serious third party campaign. Nader, the presidential candidate for the Green Party, and his running mate, Peter Camejo, both intend to address many issues if elected. One issue that interests the country is how he plans to deal with the war and occupation of Iraq. Nader opposed the invasion of Iraq in the first place and still does. He strongly believes that US troops should be pulled out of Iraq and replaced with a UN Peace Keeping Force and Humanitarian Assistance to stop US soldiers' casualties. His belief is that persistence in Iraq will only lead to more deaths and a drain in the US economy. Nader thinks that we should not spend time trying to control Iraq's economy when we can't even control our own.

Though Nader's solutions will affect everyone in the country, some will particularly affect the futures of Ignatian students. One such issue is that of jobs, since we all eventually search for an occupa-

tion in life. However, there is a growing fear that there will be no jobs for the young of society and that the unemployment rate will soar. Since January 2001, 2.7 million jobs have been lost, more than 75% of them being of high wage and high productivity. Nader believes that we can save and establish millions of new jobs by investing in local labor-intensive public works, producing a new renewable energy efficiency policy, and by funding education to its fullest. Another issue that Nader tackles concerning our future is education. Nader believes that stress on high-stakes standardized tests can have a negative impact upon schooling. He believes that these tests can result in excessive amounts of time devoted to confined test subjects, de-enrichment of the curriculum, equity and racial bias, and exhaustion of resources for testing. Nader wants federal law to show support for a school's teachers and students and not for tests and punishment. He also wishes for schools to blend civic courses with classes to give examples on how to use classroom skills in the real world. Nader is a man ready to effect serious change in our

c o u n t r y .

S. Knezevic

In these hectic times approaching the presidential election, there is a lot of talk and debate about the two candidates, George W. Bush and John Kerry, including their running mates Dick Cheney and John Edwards. Much has been said on these men, but I and many other fellow Republicans have noticed that it has been a little left sided. Even the Wall Street Journal has brought up that the election is no longer between two individual candidates, but rather between George W. Bush and the Liberal media. The Republicans of St. Ignatius, those who are undecided and the opposing Democrats should have the chance to be properly informed on the real issues at hand.

The War on Terror is the largest issue in this race for the white house. The American people know, or should know, that president Bush will continue on with the world-wide coalition to fight terrorists abroad. His first priority over everything else is the protection and safety of the American people, and that can be seen through the tremendous progress made in homeland security since the tragedies of 9/11.9

President Bush is also big on

## Bush/Cheney 2004

the idea of making health care more affordable and accessible to every citizen of the United States. To achieve that goal he has created new health care clinics, created a prescription drug benefit under Medicare, and in general has strengthened Medicare.

On the issue of small businesses, Bush is all for them. He is helping them band together to provide more affordable healthcare for employees.

President Bush believes that we need to explore new ways to ensure that Social Security remains strong and financially secure. He guarantees no changes in benefits for current and new retirees, and is giving the opportunity to younger workers to use their Social Security payroll taxes to build a nice nest egg for retirement.

One more of the larger issues in this election is the matter of jobs and the economy. President Bush will provide \$500 million for jobs for the 21st century, which will help educate and train high-skilled American workers in schools and community colleges.

The economy is now also very strong and getting stronger, money is now in the pockets of American families, and a foundation for robust growth and creation has now been set and will

remain for years to come.

The competition, John Kerry of the Democratic Party, is no match for George W.

Bush. Kerry has no real plans and ideas for the future of this nation and is not suitable for the presidential position. Through his heavy emphasis on his Vietnam experiences, which he uses to cover up his lack of plans and knowledge on the real issues at hand, it can be seen that he is not fit for the office and not a true leader.

George Bush's plans for the future clearly make him the better candidate in the 2004 November elections. He is a strong man of excellent character who is deserving of the trust and the vote of the American people.

www.georgewbush.com

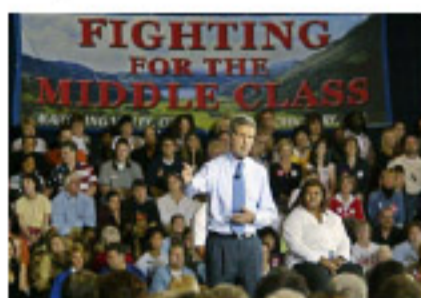


## Kerry/Edwards 2004

by Krishna Swamy

With the election less than a month away, and two nationally televised debates completed, the Kerry Edwards team is working hard to win the key battleground states of America. So far in October, Kerry has visited Florida, Ohio, and New Hampshire. Gallup Poll results from October 1-3 have the candidates dead even at 49 percent a piece. In Ohio, the poll has Bush leading 49 percent - 47 percent, with a 4 percent margin of error. Historically, Ohio has been essential in determining the outcome of presidential elections. Scrapping furiously for the Midwest swinger, Kerry and Edwards will need an especially large turnout of urban voters.

The Democratic nominees' book, *Our Plan for America*, outlines their basic goals for the country. They believe there are four great challenges before us: "First, to win the global war against terror; second, to stop the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons; third, to promote democracy, freedom, and opportunity around the world, starting by winning the peace in Iraq; fourth, end our dependence on Mideast oil."



As seen in the first presidential debate, the "war on terror" as well as the ongoing crisis in Iraq are surfacing as the focus of the election. In dealing with the threat of terrorism, Kerry and Edwards plan to maintain and reestablish global alliances, forming a "coalition of the able." They aim to modernize the military and to embrace foreign intelligence. Regarding the environment, Kerry-Edwards plans to free America from dependence on Mideast oil. The team also aims

to "expand the supply of natural gas, assure that twenty percent of electricity comes from renewable sources by 2020, and make clean coal part of our energy solution."

Through investment in health care and education, Kerry and Edwards plan to strengthen the middle class by providing relief for middle class families. Their proposed health plan will take care of the full cost of more than twenty million children using Medicaid. States, in exchange, will automatically enroll every child. The plan, they say, will reduce health care costs by "cutting administrative costs, waste, fraud, and abuse; enhancing dis-

ease management efforts; and reforming malpractice insurance."

The Kerry-Edwards economic plan will end tax breaks for companies taking away American jobs. This money will then be used to reduce the corporate tax rate by five percent. A Kerry-Edwards administration also promises to secure jobs for the future through investment in research in technology.

In education, Kerry-Edwards will fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act, allowing students smaller classes and more textbooks. The plan will invest in after school programs as well in order to provide safer and more secure after school areas for children. They also hope to improve professional development while also creating rigorous new qualification tests for teachers. Ultimately, the goal is that every young person graduates, since currently three in ten do not complete their high school education, half being Hispanic, African American, or Native American. To find out more about the Kerry-Edwards campaign, visit www.johnkerry.com. To stay informed about the Democratic Party and election in general, stop by Bob Corrigan's room on the third floor of the science building, and join D.I.O.P., Tuesdays after school.

www.johnkerry.com