

The Mount Observer

"A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College"

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SPECIAL EDITION

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SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION!

What Now?

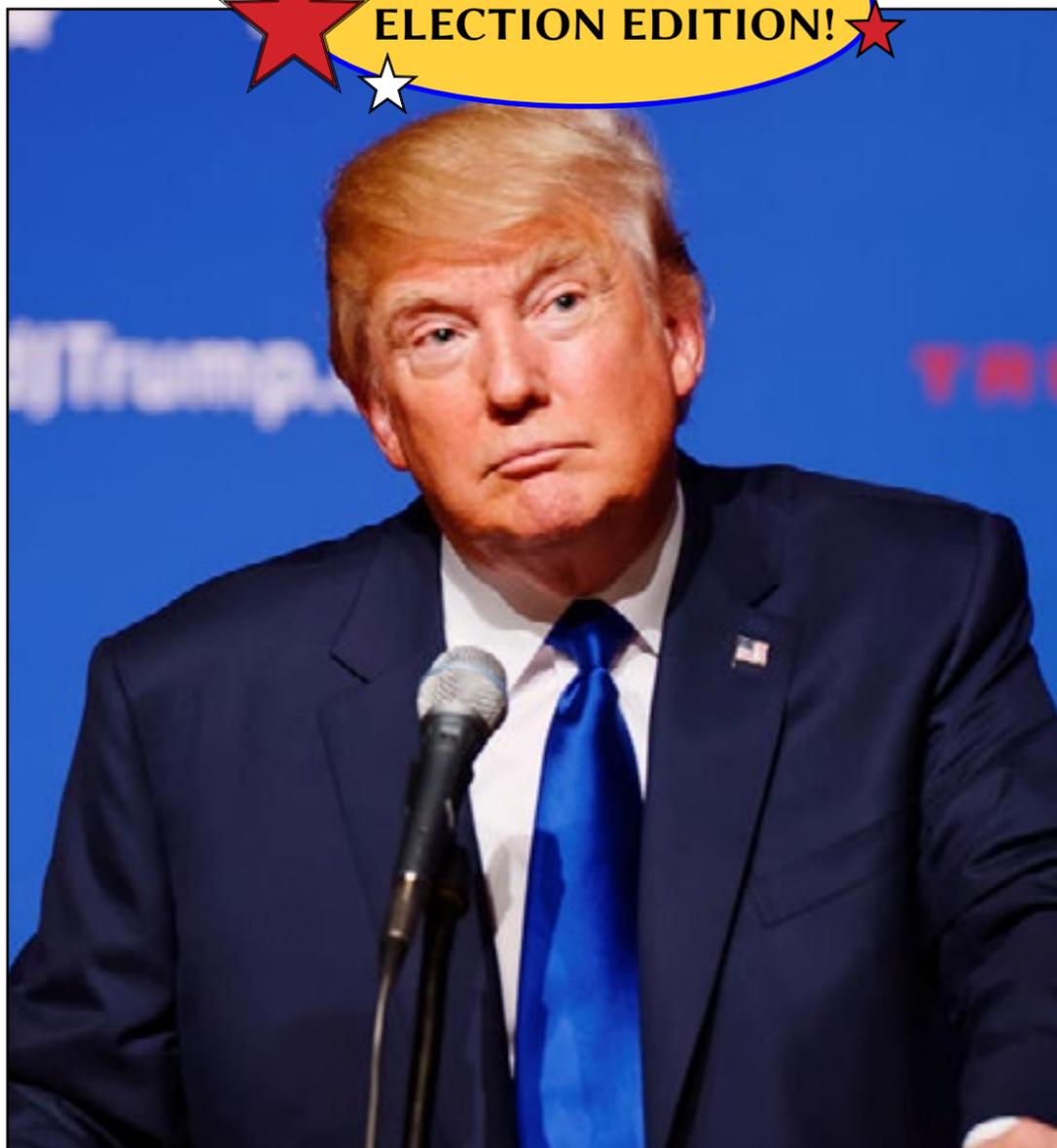
How to Accept the Election

By Jamie Parker

Our country is going through a major shift right now. The results of Tuesday's election have left about half of the country with a feeling of defeat, and even fear, while the other half is left with the feeling of exuberance. Regardless of your feelings towards the decision made, this is the reality. On January 20th 2017, Donald J. Trump will become the 45th President of The United States of America. This is the most important time for our country to come together and show the world that we ARE the "United" States of America.

For those who "lost:" I'm sorry. I'm sorry that you are feeling these things. But like I said earlier, this is reality. No one is telling you to stop believing or fighting for what you believe in. If anything,

this should spark your drive to continue doing just that. However, rioting, and protesting are not the answers right now. Burning the flag of *your* country isn't making the statement you want it to. Now is the time for you to spread more love than you ever have before. It is crucial that you don't let this defeat you. Not every single Donald Trump supporter, supports his nastiness. Like a good majority of you, they voted for the candidate that in their eyes was the better of a bad situation. The only real difference between the two of you is that their candidate won. So go out and shake their hands, for they are just as much a part of this country as you are. The pain of defeat will subside and a new day will always be on the horizon. This is your country



Donald Trump won the 2016 Presidential Election last Tuesday, November 8th.

Photo courtesy of Michael Taddon https://www.flickr.com/photos/80038275@N00/20172466936/



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Hillary Clinton speaks at AIPAC

and – after January 20th – he is your President, regardless of what you chant in the streets. So work to spread the message of love, and peace. That is the only way you can expect to receive it back.

For those who "won:" First, I'd like to congratulate you on a hard-fought for win for your candidate. I know Donald Trump supporters range from "he's the lesser of two evils" supporter all the way up to the full blown "Make America Great Again!" supporter, but you are all breathing a sigh of relief. Now that your candidate has won, what are you going to do next?! Here's what you are going to do. You need to open your arms to those in this country who are afraid. These people are experiencing something right now that you aren't, in an election like none before

it. I understand that you are happy right now, and that is absolutely fine, and completely acceptable! But you need to understand is that the other half of the country needs reassurance from you that you will not spread the hate that they fear, to the rest of the country. Mocking the people who lost this election shows a very ugly side of individuals that are kind, loving, and good people. So instead of shoving your victory in the face of those who aren't in the same state of mind as you, how about sit down with them and have a conversation. Talk about how we as a nation are going to move forward, and how we will overcome hate.

For Everyone: As I've been saying, it is time to come together. This is The United States of America. We will get through this, but

we have to do it together. Do not let them divide us further. Regardless of who you voted for, this will be an interesting four years for us. I truly hope Donald Trump does what is best for our country, and *all* of its people. I hope that in four years, all those who were doubtful – like myself – can sigh in relief knowing that our country is in a better place. I hope all of those who voted for Donald Trump were right, and that he does a great job at making The United States of America great.

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Post Election Thoughts From An Unsuitable President

Professor David Wyman

By Nicholas Velillari

On the morning of November 9, Donald Trump became the presidential elect of the United States, leaving many Americans shocked while others were cheering.

Election night went on to become increasingly nerve wracking as a once leading Hillary Clinton lost in the electoral college 228-279, even though she won the popular vote. Associate English Professor at MWCC, David Wyman, had a few comments on a Trump victory.

"The first thing that came to my mind... was violent protest demonstrations in the streets all across the country," stated Wyman, "riots, like the '60s. I don't think people are going to accept it. I could even see Trump declaring martial law to put down the demonstrations."

There was also a surprise with how inaccurate the polls were. Days before the election Hillary had a slight edge over Trump with an average 4 point lead. The results of Trump's victory suggested that he had much more support all along.

"I think the polls were very wrong this year," stated Wyman. "That might be because they still only call landlines and hardly anyone has one of those anymore. I honestly can't believe that Trump had as much support as the polls said he had."

Many people also see this as a hugely missed opportunity for the nation's first female president. The results for female voters were in Clinton's favor but a hefty amount still devoted themselves to Trump.

"Clinton had the chance to be a historical president," said Wyman. "The first woman elected ninety-six years after women finally got the right to vote in this country."

As numbers came in overnight, swing states were teetering back in forth before any final counts were made. However, the state that really tipped the balance in Trump's favor was Florida, making some people angry at the electoral college.

"I think these voters don't see Trump as an agent of change but as an agent of chaos," said Wyman. "Like Heath Ledger's version of the Joker, he just wants to blow everything up."

By Nicholas Velillari

The morning of Tuesday, November 8 started off with optimism for presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, but by the early hours of Wednesday morning a new reality set in: Donald Trump won, and that is frightening.

The Electoral College selected a person totally inept and unqualified to lead. He ranted on building a wall between the US and Mexico, making fun of the disabled, bragging about sexually assaulting women, and proposing to ban an entire religious group of people from the US. These are all things that America should be fighting against.

It's clear that Trump's demographic, middle class white males, were fed up with the Obama administration. Now with Republicans controlling most of the government, a new conservative backlash is seriously going to hurt everyday citizens.

Obamacare has the risk of being damaged, leaving some of the population without affordable healthcare. Roe v. Wade is also being threatened, which could leave women without proper medical care when it comes to pregnancy, and immigrants are under the fear of deportation.

The reputation of the country also dropped because of this man. Russia, being accused of trying to disrupt the election to make Trump win, has celebrated his victory. Even US citizens are protesting across the country, showing a clear sign that people don't have any trust or support for a person with a horrible track record.

This was by far one of the most disgusting and appalling elections in US history. These two candidates sparred for over a year about the fate of the country. Hillary Clinton was surrounded by scandals, with Trump making derogatory comments and offending nearly everyone in the process.

It's likely going to be a tough four years for the American people, but the immediate response to such an election is astounding. Demonstrations have already taken place in major cities like Seattle, New York and Boston. An overwhelming amount of Americans are making their voices heard and they're not happy with this result.

Trump once said that he was, "going to make America great again", but that's a job best left for the American people.

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue of *The Mount Observer* is breaking new ground! The editors here at the *Observer* office have never seen an election season quite like the 2016 Presidential Race. To mirror this unique occasion, *The Mount Observer* is proud to present to you its first ever Special Issue; *The Election Edition!*

Election Analysis and Advice from Dr. John Fielding

By Courtney Wentz

Doctor John Fielding, who teaches history and human resources management at Mount Wachusett Community College, said this was the worst election he has ever seen.

Fielding has his Bachelor's in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations from UMass Dartmouth, his Master's in Public Administration from Rhode Island University, and his Ph.D in Managerial Ethics from Salve Regina University in Rhode Island. He started working at MWCC in 1998 and retired in 2008 as Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs. He is now an adjunct professor.

Fielding wasn't surprised with the results of the election because "many people were (and are) angry at the elites of both parties and how they feel they were being ignored."

Fielding mentioned the Super Delegates pushing Clinton wasn't fair to Bernie Sanders, who was attracting the younger generation and may have had a better chance against Trump, as plenty of millennials didn't vote. He also brought up that the Democrats

are the only party with Super Delegates and how people feel the traditional Republicans haven't been representing the people.

Half joking, Fielding stated it would have been better if the Vice Presidents had been running for President, since they are more traditional. Kaine doesn't have Clinton's reputation and Pence has a better image.

Also, according to Fielding, people usually want to know how the President us going to make things easier, but we should really be asking what kind of opportunities will our young have.

To millennials, Fielding said, "You should not attack a man (or woman), but attack the content of their argument. Understand your opponent's argument, as by doing so you will be better able to counter that argument. Bottom line to everyone, whether a young Democrat or Republican, don't despair. There's another election in four years. Stick by your principles and hone your argument and stay away from personal attacks. Live to fight another day. The country won't disappear despite who is elected."

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Students Speak on the 2016 Election



Mark Ramos

By Mike Augustus

Mark Ramos, 32, has now voted in four presidential elections. This time was the most embarrassing election that he has voted in. "Bitter sweet" are the words Ramos used to describe the election results.

Ramos did not vote for Trump or Clinton, but decided to vote for Jill Stein. What she offered during her election run was more appealing to Ramos than what Trump or Clinton offered. It was a bitter sweet election for Ramos because he did not want Clinton in office, but kind of wanted Trump to win. However, once Trump won he didn't get a good feeling for what the next four years will bring.

Ramos could not vote for either of the main candidates because he noticed that the candidates were always going at each other's throat during the live debates, trying to one up each other. "To me, those are not presidential qualities, so I voted for the third party," Ramos explained.

Majoring in the field of Communication allowed Ramos to notice the impact social media had on this election. From the get go, Ramos was able to see that people were very divided on who they wanted to be the next President. He saw that even the news stations were much divided as well.

"People need to give this man a chance; he hasn't even taken office yet," Ramos said when asked about the protests happening across the country. "We need to come together in this time of difference and learn from everyone."



Chynna Figueroa

By Scott Mellecker

Chynna Figueroa, like many others, sees the next few years as a deterioration of the United States. But Chynna doesn't view how this will happen as many others see it. "Our country will slowly deteriorate, but it won't be because of Trump, it will be from the people's reaction to it," said Chynna.

Although she is not entirely in favor of the outcome, she feels that the media did a poor job with this election. Chynna stated, "Trump has not been perfect, but I believe the election was rigged to make Trump look like an ass. The media did a poor job with this election, and I think it has escalated many feelings."

Chynna was also not in favor of the protesting, "By protesting, you are making the opposing side look stronger." She talked how peaceful protesting is okay, but the vulgarity of these protests are getting out of hand.

When asked about what she sees the next four years will be like, she said, "I think the racist, sexist people are going to start coming out. The country will slowly divide until there is mass chaos. I almost see it turning into Nazi Germany, where people are going to be put in chains and gassed."



Robyn Nix

By Kelly Cacciolfi

Robyn Nix is doing fine a few days after the election, however, she was surprised who won. Nix didn't follow too much of the process but she did vote. There hasn't been any problems with her friends as some were shocked while others very excited.

Rebecca Gilbert said "her group of friends mostly wanted Trump to win and have a rule if you didn't vote, you do not get a say." Gilbert didn't follow much of the process of this election season, however, she did vote. Gilbert said she was "surprised that Trump swung Florida and swept most of the Midwest." She also felt that the emails were released at the perfect time, making that information about Clinton put questions in some of the voters mind.



Tim Sullivan

By Tyler Morgan

Students are confused as to how Trump even made it this far and are scared to see what is going to happen. Tim Sullivan said, "Walking out of the poll, [I thought] this guy is going to win, I did my part but this guy is going to win."

At one point Trump was down and Clinton was up, which gave many anti-Trump supporter's hope, but when he won, that's when most went into shock. Trevor Cumberbatch said, "I was just glued to my screen thinking to myself, there is just no way he's going to win and after he won Florida, I just said well, that's it, it's over." When the students were asked what they thought was going to happen, they simply responded with, we don't know and that's the scary part.

By Joshua Needham

Days after the election for President of the United States has come to a close, MWCC students are still showing their concerns for the future. The general feeling wasn't centered around whether or not the election was rigged or fair, but rather about concerns for human rights and our generation's part in building the future.

"I think people are upset with politicians," said Jason Greenough, an editor for *The Mount Observer*. Greenough expressed that he's not happy with the election results, but doesn't feel that there was any foul play. He believes that this new administration will cause the American people to have to fight for their rights again, something he doesn't feel they should have to do, but something he believes could be good for the people as a whole.

Chris Ouellet, another student attending MWCC, expressed that he wasn't happy with the election results. He spoke of rumors about protests in Boston and Washington, DC, as well as a Facebook rumor that Trump had died of a heart attack. Ouellet feels he will be alright during the following four years and doesn't plan to pay any more attention to politics than he does now.

By Nicholas Cherico

"Angry" was the first thing that came out of Theresa Moreno's mouth when asked about the new president. She feels that Trump is "just power hungry, and it hurts" but she is "trying to accept it because he is who our country voted for."

Taylor Atkinson was also upset with the results. She said "the first thing I did when I found out was cry for our country." She also feels that everything that our LGBTQ community has worked towards in this country is going to be gone.

Mikayla Deltoro said that it is "really ****ed up" and while she was not for Trump or Clinton to become President, she felt that Trump was by far the worst option. She also stated that she feels that "he bought his way through the election". While she was obviously very upset, she did have a bit of positive light to shed and that was "maybe this could be good because it could bring us all together and help America fight against him."



Taylor Atkinson



Mikayla Deltoro

By Santiago Ferreira Vila

Besides fear and loathing towards president-elect Donald Trump, many Mount Wachusett students share their opinions on the broken election system that practically chooses the fate of the country. "It's an old broken system," said student Aiden Horrigan, towards the Electoral College system that the U.S. has been using for years. Hillary Clinton has won the popular votes in the states yet Trump was still given the victory.

"I think the popular vote should be the one counted," said MWCC student Eddie Vargas. Even though such a candidate like Trump has won the power ball position, some students look optimistically. "I was surprised by the turnout but I look forward to the future" says Horrigan.

By Bryon Harris

MWCC student Aaron Kenney said, "I didn't think he [Trump] even had a chance," which is how it seemed many felt going into this election.

Kenney was still in disbelief that something like this could happen in our country. There was an overwhelming feeling of dread that swept over not just Kenney, but what seemed to be a large number of the student body. In the next four years, Kenney is worried that there will be a lot of regression happening, especially in LGBTQ rights.

On top of these feelings, there seems to be some level of frustration about how some people used their vote. More specifically, Kenney was upset about the amount of voters who wasted their power as citizens voting for Harambe, the dead gorilla.

By Mariah Boisvert

Jay Pereira's reaction to the election is that she is terrified for the country, especially for the LGBTQ community. Being a male to female transgender, queer, and a minority, and with a conservative President, House of Representatives, and Supreme Court, she is afraid of the right of her and her community being denied. She explains how the LGBTQ community is terrified and that in just the two days since the election, suicides among them have already been rising.

MWCC Law Professor Weighs In On Election

By Jamie Parker

This election was surely one for the books. For professors that teach at MWCC, each field of study sheds a different light on this election. I had the privilege of conducting an interview with Law Professor, James Korman. Professor Korman has been practicing Law in Massachusetts since 1992, "I primarily did criminal and civil litigation. However, I did a fair amount of general practice work as well: Divorce, Real Estate, Contracts and Estate Planning." Over email, Professor Korman explained how his field of study influenced his opinions this election, his feelings on both candidates' claims towards the Supreme Court, and his overall feel about this election.

How do you feel your subject area influences your opinions on this election?

"Well, I'm extremely conscious of the role legislators and the executive (Governor and President) play in the creation and implementation of law. All elections potentially impact the role government plays in our lives and our institutions"

How do you feel about both candidates claims towards the Supreme Court?

This has been a hot topic for this election. Especially with Donald Trump's claims on the type of person he would appoint to the late Justice, Antonin

Scalia's open Supreme Court seat.

"One of my major considerations when voting for a president is the type of judge they might attempt to appoint to the Supreme Court and all the lower federal courts as well. There is some belief that Clinton will nominate more liberal appointment's and Trump more conservative in their judicial temperaments. However, there are major political constraints upon appointing any judge that appears extreme or voices strong partisan philosophy. In addition to political restraints, all presidential judicial appointments must pass a Senate vote. Presidents often calculate the likelihood of senate approval and political fallout prior to selecting a judicial appointment.

The senate will not hesitate to reject an appointment that they find unsatisfactory as part of our "Checks and Balance" protections built into our governmental framework via the constitution. Neither candidate has omnipotent authority to make judicial appointment decisions

Any other words you have for the election?

Like myself, Professor Korman was a Bernie Sanders supporter. He – like many others – believed that Sanders was the progressive thinking, genuine candidate that this country really needed. After the disappointment of the primaries, he had some similar feelings as the rest of Bernie supporters. "This election has

been one of the most bizarre and disturbing campaigns that history has ever witnessed. Throughout history, we have had "negative" campaigning and periods of vitriolic antagonism between the parties and the competing candidates. However, this campaign has taken the bizarre, unpredictable and negative campaigning to new and unprecedented heights to most everyone's disdain and disappointment. Both candidates remain widely unpopular and many American's are simply disgusted with the cesspool that this election has deteriorated into. Let's hope that the rule of reason and congeniality emerges quickly after this election comes to a close and we might aspire to be the "United" States of America again."

Michelle Valois says Raise Taxes on 1%

By Rebekah Chiasson

Just one day before the election, Democrat and professor at MWCC, Michelle Valois feared internal conflict within our nation if Trump were to be elected. According to ABC, CNN, USA Today, her fears came true with nation-wide Trump protests felt in California, Chicago, and Washington just days after the election of future President Trump. Valois explained, "I am very nervous for the poor and working and middle class, but I am more nervous for Muslims, Mexicans, all people of color, immigrants (legal and illegal), the LGBTQ community, especially trans youth," and added, "If Trump cannot pass legislation that adversely affects their lives, I fear that his supporters might feel that it is now okay to harass and hurt these most vulnerable and marginalized people."

As an educator, Valois believes education is the key to success. In order to improve the public education systems, Valois proposed tax dollars need to be generated from our wealthiest 1% instead of the working middle-class folk. "It's too bad that we don't recognize that the real problem is economic inequality," Valois explained, "If poor and working people of all colors and races got together, then maybe real change would happen. We need to fight the rich, not each other."

Even with the turmoil felt within our borders, Valois said she is confident "If any generation can solve these problems, this generation can." Valois compared our young generation to that of her grandparents who survived the Great Depression. "People call my parents the 'Greatest

Generation,' Valois claimed, "But young people today, the grand and great grandchildren of this Greatest Generation, will meet the challenges that faced them head on and do amazing things, too."

Valois said as a child, she asked her grandmother, Mai Mai, whether she was a Democrat or Republican. Mai Mai, who as a female did not have the right to vote at age 18, told Valois, "People like us have no business being anything but a Democrat."

As Valois matured, she learned "People like us" meant middle-working class citizens. Valois professed, "It never ceases to amaze (and trouble) me that working-class and middle-class people vote Republican. Why? Hilary Clinton, like Obama before her, wants to increase taxes for the wealthiest Americans." Valois

thinks raising taxes on the upper class "is what is needed to right our country."

Valois hypothesized that because President Reagan lowered the taxes on the wealthiest American's in the 80s, the US is "still feeling the effects" today. Back in the 1950s and 60s, Valois' father who had only an 8th-grade education, was a veteran of WWII, and learned a trade, was able to put six children through college, four of which went on to get master's degrees. Valois argued, "He was able to do this because the rich paid their fair share of taxes" and added, "schools were stronger and public higher education was affordable."

Valois was also fearful Trump would overturn Roe v. Wade, claiming it would be "devastating" to take away from safe and legal abortions. Obama has already

taken preventative action to protect these rights according to the Huffington Post with the proposition of the Title X program which will provide basic preventative health care and family planning services for 4 million low-income Americans. According to the Huffington Post, Planned Parenthood would receive \$70 million annually with the Title X program.

Valois voted for Hillary in honor of her Mai Mai and all women who were historically denied the right to vote. However, she originally rooted for Bernie Sanders during the primaries and still reps a big "Feel the Bern" poster in her front porch window.

Shivers trembles with Uncertainty about Trump Presidency, Remains Hopeful

Can we persevere? Yes We Can-dace!

By Jason D. Greenough

For some, it has been a tough week following the Presidential election. The atmosphere surrounding the results that brought Donald Trump into the position of commander in chief has been filled with varying amounts of fear, anger, sadness, and uncertainty, throughout different demographics of the American populace.

Here at MWCC, Students and faculty alike are trying to sort through their own feelings on the events that transpired on November 8th, with some feeling what they can only equate to grieving, others feeling frustrated and perplexed at how their country has come to this, and others who are cautious, yet hopeful, that the 45th President of these United States will change his ways from the behavior we have witnessed throughout the last 18 months. Candace Shivers, Associate Professor of Human Services and Sociology here at the Mount, has something to say about the effect that a Trump presidency might have on college students, such as commuting costs.

"Students can barely afford to pay for their classes, so if you add on a road tax, or a road levy, [students] might be thinking 'now I can't afford to go to Mount Wachusett because I have to pay for this and this, and now I have to pay for this extra thing,'" said Shivers. "So

I think about how this would affect not necessarily the UMass student, but our [MWCC] students," she continued. "If there isn't an influx of money through financial aid, pell grants, and stuff like that, it will mean, let alone me not having a job, there are going to be students who won't be able to come here."

"If this country becomes a country where the almighty dollar is more important than it already is, students that go to not just Mount Wachusett, but to any other community college, will be negatively affected. I'll be alright, in the sense that I have a decent paying job, I have my education, but anyone who tries to get their education at a community college may not be monetarily taxed, but they'll be taxed in the sense of more hoops to jump through."

As a professional Educator, of course Shivers would be concerned with what might happen in her field of work if President-Elect Trump's promises going forward are anything like the proposed policies showcased along the campaign trail.

"Looking back on the campaign trail, I can't think of one social issue that Trump has talked about that I could get on board with," said Shivers. "I mean, where does he even stand on Human Services? If you watch videos of him, you might say he doesn't care about people who are dis-

abled, given the fact the he made fun of them," she continued. "Now, Hillary didn't exactly hit home runs for people, but in terms of education, she talked about education, maybe due in part to Bernie Sanders, during most of her campaign, while I haven't heard a peep from Trump about education."

"I'll be honest. I'm not sure what he could have said that would have made me vote for him. Well, he could've said that we were going to fully fund higher education, we're going to put money into the military, and by the way, we are going to support Human Services and try to help students get jobs out of college. But there's nothing about education or Human Services. It's 'make America great again, make America great again.' What does that even mean?"

Shivers has been an avid Hillary Clinton supporter, through and through, for years. But, even with her dedication to the former First Lady, and the confidence she had in her to be our commander in chief, a party loyalist is something that Candace Shivers is not.

"I am not always going to vote the party line. For instance, to be honest, Deval Patrick screwed education over, and I really had to think about whether I was going to vote for him or not, but I wasn't going to just vote for him because he had

a 'D' next to his name," said Shivers. "He made the teachers' union re-open their contract after we had already agreed upon something, and he tried to screw us over with our raises, and we took him to task against Charlie Baker, because we knew what Patrick had done, so it was a feeling of 'let's just see what this Charlie guy can do,'" she continued. "Although [Charlie Baker] put a member of the Teachers' union on his transition team, he screwed us over too, but let's not get into that," she said with a laugh.

Shivers continued: "Hillary has worked for kids almost her whole life, and while I'm not sure if it was merely politically driven or if she really has a heart for kids, I do know that she has a platform. If she got in, and screwed over Bernie Sanders' ideas, she wouldn't get re-elected. She would be haunted by not only Bernie Sanders, but everyone that took his word to vote for her. She was put between a rock and a hard place. Trump has no one holding him accountable on anything. With students, with education, with anything. As far as I know, he sounds more like a Dictator than a President. It's 'I'm gonna do this, I'm gonna do that', instead of 'We are going to do this and that', and that is dangerous."

As evident, Shivers is passionate about what will happen with education, but that

doesn't mean she is shutting herself off from the other pressing issues going on around the country. When it comes to race relations around the country, the Assumption College graduate wants to remain positive about what Donald Trump will do as President to make certain that justice is being served to the right people, but doesn't necessarily see it happening.

"Maya Angelou has a saying, 'when people show you who they are for the first time, believe them'. Trump can talk a good game about how he loves Mexicans, how he's there for the African-American community, blah blah blah, but that's all after the fact now," said Shivers. "When your resolve for showing people that you connect with the black community is Omarosa, or Dennis Rodman, black people are really in trouble."

As with so many others, Candace Shivers is uncertain about what is to come over the next four years, and that uncertainty enflames her loyalty and trust in Hillary Clinton that much more.

"I'm not sure what Hillary would do with education, but at least we would have had a shooting chance at getting something done. Truthfully, I don't know what Trump is going to do, and that level of uncertainty is scarier than most other things."