

The Meredith Herald

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45th President of the United States Is...

Emily Chilton, Editor in Chief

College students this year, including those here at Meredith, experienced the first presidential election in which they were eligible to vote. As it came closer to the election, many older adults expressed regret that all of us had such terrible candidates to choose from in this new experience. One of the oft-repeated sentiments of this presidential race was how universally disliked both candidates were; somehow, the two major party nominees were not the ideal candidates when the majority of

the country's opinion was taken into account. In addition, a wide range of possible Republican party nominees split what may have otherwise been a united party.

Both candidates were forced to rehash and debunk multiple scandals that took place before they even made it near the White House. It has been one of the most polarized, weird, and emotional races in the 228 years that America has been electing presidents under this Constitution. While all United States elections are

historic, the country knew going into this election that it would be one for the record books.

In an election that was wrongly predicted by almost every major news outlet, Donald J. Trump has been voted in as the 45th president of the United States. In addition, Congress has remained majority Republican. Doubtless, the road that led to an electoral college swing unexpected by anyone would take books to analyze and assess. For now, here are the facts: Donald Trump won with a majority of

electoral votes and over one million more popular votes than Hillary Clinton. He took several swing states, including North Carolina, Florida, and Ohio, which arguably began the trend of surprising results throughout the night. Responses to the result have been varying, and a breadth of them would take many more words than this front page will allow.

Stay tuned to the Meredith Herald website, meredithherald.wordpress.com, for continuing election coverage if differing results develop.

Stars Hollow Votes

Teresa Berton, Staff Writer

As this election season comes to a close, we have seen our nation split down the middle, leading to utter turmoil and extreme headache. But now that it's all said and done, we couldn't help but wonder how this the election would have played out in our favorite television town, Stars Hollow, from the popular series *Gilmore Girls*.

To determine the results of the *Gilmore Girls* election, we assembled a panel of aficionados and selected 50 prominent members of the *Gilmore Girls* community as representatives of the population. When contemplating the implications of the current Stars Hollow population, we believe that most demographics were accurately represented, including those who would have recently come age, like

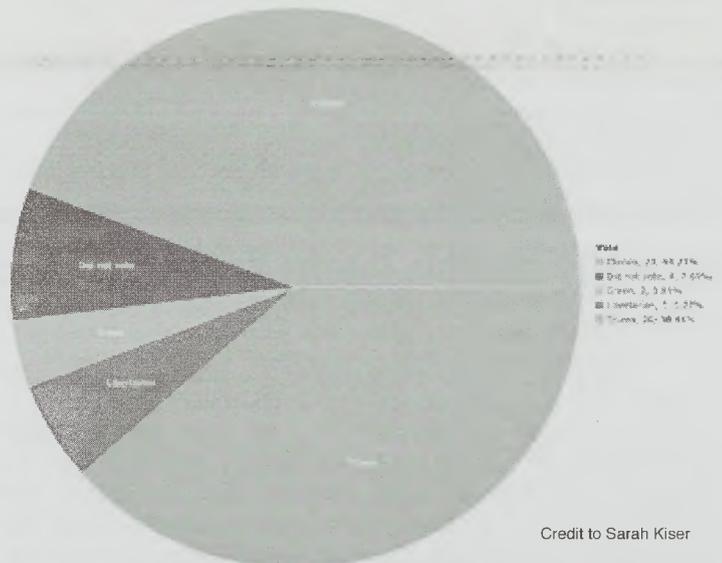
April Nardini. After our final tally, we foresaw Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate, taking 4% of the vote; Libertarian Gary Johnson taking 12%; Republican Donald Trump taking 38%; and finally, the Democratic Party candidate Hillary Clinton winning Stars Hollow with 46%, assuming 8% of the population would not vote.

When speculating on the political landscape of the *Gilmore Girls* universe we found the majority of our Trump voters hailed from the wealthy families of Connecticut. We assumed that the majority of the wealthier citizens would be supportive of Trump's tax breaks, being in favor of 'Trumped up trickle down economics.' Yet, we found an outlier in Emily Gilmore; it seemed likely that after the death of her husband seems

to have found new sensibilities and would have been swayed to the Clinton cause.

While these election results were not reflective of the national election, we hope

that these speculative results of the Stars Hollow election keep you in high spirits as we look onward to the next four years and what they may bring to Stars Hollow and our nation.



Credit to Sarah Kiser

A Letter From the Editor

My dear Meredith sisters, faculty, and staff:

I write this with a heavy heart. I would like to preface this by saying that I am in no way representative of the views of this paper as a body, which has striven to be non-partisan and only publish opinions when they were clearly marked as opinions of individuals. This letter is truly my opinion, which I feel justified in giving as the editor-in-chief.

We as a nation have made a grave mistake. I am perfectly aware of and even understand many of the reasons to have voted for Donald Trump, and those to

not vote for Hillary Clinton. To be very personal, although I am registered unaffiliated, many of my personal beliefs lean decidedly conservative. Regardless, I am bewildered by the justifications made by many in order to vote for Trump. The world that Donald Trump has proposed for Americans to live in is only safe and welcoming to the white, male, Christian population of this country. Specific suggested policies of his have targeted the LGBTQ+ community, the Hispanic population, African-Americans, and Muslims. His words and actions have threatened and degraded women and the

disabled. Survivors of the Holocaust have noted his similarity to Hitler. He has only reluctantly disavowed the support of KKK leaders. He has ties to Russia and Putin that cannot be denied. I could go on.

My fellow Americans, I am saddened. I am disappointed. I am scared, not even for myself, but for those who could possibly be affected by the policies that could be put in place by a Trump presidency with the support of a Republican congress.

This is a call for grace and understanding on the part of our community for those who voted for either candidate.

In the coming weeks, I am begging you to be open-minded, to have empathy for your fellow human beings. I implore you to be ready, beginning in January of 2017, to recognize policies and initiatives that may threaten the natural rights of others, and protest them if they come. For the country's sake, be willing to see and empathize with the experiences of those around you. I am at a loss for more words, so please consider these from a beloved Disney princess: "Have courage and be kind."

Yours truly,
Emily K. Chilton