

Lunch with the president

I went to the West Tampa Sandwich shop one Saturday. I was eating when these guys came in and they were dressed casual so I didn't pay any attention to them. But, that was before they put on their earpieces and surrounded the restaurant. Then one of them said "Everyone needs to stay seated from now on" and I was thinking 'I'm going to be robbed.' I was really scared. Then cops started coming in with their German Shepherds and checking under the tables for bombs and stuff. Everyone was watching. Anticipating.

I found out that Obama was coming because this old couple asked one of the police officers. The officer said he couldn't tell them who it was. The couple replied by saying they didn't want to be there if Obama was coming. When the officer told the couple they better leave, I knew. His car pulled up soon with the presidential seal on it and everyone, including me, was really excited.

I was sitting at the table right next to the door when he came

into the restaurant and was the first person he met. I was in shock. He said, "Hi, how are you?" and I got goosebumps. He asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up and I told him I wanted to be an actress. After, my mom told him how she was a single mother who migrated from Venezuela and she was so thankful for what he's been doing for her.

He wasn't even there for a speech or anything, he was just buying sandwiches. It was so weird, because I never thought I would see the President of the United States buying sandwiches in the middle of Tampa but there he was buying a bunch of Honey Cubans and café con leche. Apparently this restaurant has been visited by other celebrities too which I didn't know, but it was just so shocking to see him there. Later, Obama filmed a commercial while at the sandwich shop and you can see me in the commercial. It was just so amazing; I still get shivers thinking about it.

by Lexus Rodriguez,
as told to Nico Tavella



The road less traveled

Despite statements by some that voting for a third party candidate equated to throwing away one's vote, some students held strong to their belief that voting for a lesser-known politician during the 2012 election. Senior Kaitlin Fosse was one of these proud voters. "My vote will still be part of a percentage."

Fosse, a registered Republican, voted for Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson. "I want my vote to tell the Republican Party that I'm not pleased. I'm not going to throw away my vote on a candidate I don't like."

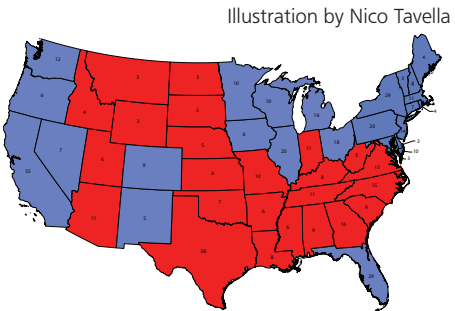


Proud of where they stand politically, Richard Pastore and Kaitlin Fosse smile about their vote for Libertarian Gary Johnson. (Photo via HHS Red & Black)

Fellow senior Richard Pastore agreed with Fosse on what throwing away a vote really meant. "I wish people would stop voting for the lesser of two evils, and start voting for who they really want...not who they thought would win," Pastore explained.

Fosse and Pastore, along with a few other students, were strongly supportive of their third-party votes and had no regrets. "My vote will still be seen," Fosse said.

by Nico Tavella and Samantha Votzke



States that voted for President Obama
States that voted for Governor Romney
Source: www.usatoday.com

Obama wins second term

President wins 2012 election with 303 electoral votes and a narrow popular majority

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