

Chelsea Miles

COMM 340

March 15, 2012

Editorial

The Candidate Cookie

In the art of baking, there is a fundamental rule: Do not leave out any of the core ingredients. If you are baking cookies and you forget an ingredient, the cookie will not turn out right. Leave out flour, the cookie doesn't rise; Leave out sugar, no sweetness; Leave out the baking soda, no perfect brownness to the cookie. You also don't add too much of an ingredient. If you do, it doesn't look, smell or taste right.

Just as you wouldn't leave out or double an ingredient when baking cookies, you shouldn't leave out or completely home in over core characteristics when choosing a candidate to vote for.

When talking to BYU—Idaho students about which candidate they will vote for in the presidential primaries, the majority respond by saying Mitt Romney.

This makes sense when we look at our campus and the general population who attend here. Generally, BYU—I students are not only LDS, but also conservative. It is understandable that people of a certain faith would choose to vote for a candidate who is also of that same faith.

It is understandable, but it should not be the entire basis for voting for that candidate. Instead, a voter needs to look at all of the candidate's characteristics and stances, especially when voting for a potential president of our country.

The president has to deal with many different issues when running a country, and he will have many different stances and ideals to fit those issues. Just because this president has certain religious beliefs, it does not mean his religious beliefs will influence every single decision he makes for the country.

Although a person may share core religious beliefs with a candidate, it does not mean that person will agree with that candidate's stance on economics, war, education, and other political areas. Just because you vote for a candidate from a certain religion, it does not mean you are voting for that religion.

Looking at past presidents, it is possible to see that those who had strong religious or moral backgrounds had successes during their candidacy based on those beliefs. Our country was founded from religious and moral men. Without those beliefs, the decisions could have gone in completely different directions and our America would look different from how it looks today.

But there are other past presidents who had success as well, even though their morals or religions weren't the first priorities in their lives.

When choosing a president, people should not be completely focused on one aspect of that candidate's life, such as his religion.

Voters have done this with Rick Santorum. In a recent poll by the Pew Research Center, only one-third of Republican voters knew that Santorum is Catholic. His popularity comes not from being of a certain faith, but from his political stances.

As Romney has run for office, members of the LDS church wish that voters would look at Romney not just as a Mormon, but as a potential presidential candidate. We as members should be doing the same thing. We have to look past the fact that he is LDS and looking at his core stances and see if we really agree with him, or if a different candidate fits our political ideals.

It may be difficult at first, but looking at the whole recipe for a candidate will help determine whether his entire political and moral makeup will bake into the best possible president.