Well, we cast our votes last week. The first round is done. Now things are just going to get worse.

As if the campaign ads for the primaries weren’t bad enough, we all know that the actual campaign is going to inundate every TV channel, every magazine, and every website short of, I don’t know, pornhub. Then again, I wouldn’t be surprised if a political ad showed up there too...

The point is that the ads become ubiquitous, almost omnipresent. They’re flooded into our lives so that favorable thoughts of the candidates might seep into our skulls. Mixed with the increasingly slanderous rhetoric, the heated “debates” between voters that never have a good result, and the incessant media coverage, I’m going to be glad to get out of here for the summer.

Yep. That’s right. I’m gone. July hits, and I’m over the Atlantic.

It is my duty as a citizen to vote and to stay educated about the candidates, but that doesn’t mean I have to suffer what my father refers to as our “gargoyle vaudeville.” Don’t know about you, but that seems pretty accurate to me.

I’m not interested in being brainwashed by ads from either party or watching our national leaders act like children. I want to watch the debates, research policies that the candidates have supported in the past, and base my decision on what I discover. All advertisements are inherently biased, so it’s unreasonable to give them any attention.

As a thinking college student with a stake in our country’s future, if you want to be an informed voter, do yourselves a favor and save a few brain cells by skipping the ads.

Don’t be the guy who votes for someone “because I feel like I’d want to share a beer
with them.” Seriously. That doesn’t even make sense. Sharing a cold one with someone and electing them to lead your nation are on slightly different scales.

- Watch the debates. If you have the stomach for it and/or don’t laugh too much, you might glean some useful information.

- Check the candidates’ political history. You can’t trust what any of them are saying at the moment. I mean, come on, they’re politicians.

- Don’t get sucked in by flashy ads.

- Don’t bother debating with others. You’re not going to change their mind and at least one of you is probably going to be spewing propaganda rather than facts. Not productive. Not healthy.

- Try not to burn effigies of Trump/Drumpf. The radicals will just consider it martyrdom. I know. It’s tempting.

For your entertainment and information, you might also want to watch John Oliver’s [video about Donald Trump/Drumpf](https://www.honors.umass.edu/blog/mhlady/love-old-man-gargoyle-vaudeville). It’s enlightening and hilarious. What more could you ask for?

My next post will feature a far less serious topic. Trust me. Until then, try to enjoy a respite from the political frenzy. Like a distant tsunami after an earthquake, we haven’t even seen the worst of the madness yet.

Take care and work those brains!

Song of the Week: “[American Idiot](https://www.honors.umass.edu/blog/mhlady/love-old-man-gargoyle-vaudeville)” by Green Day. I mean, come on! How could I not?

**Blog Column:**

Love, The Old Man

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