In Memory of Former Guidance Counselor Ira Morgan

"He just had a passion and a love for working with youth. He liked to help young people succeed. He wanted to help them to reach their potential to let them know they could be successful."

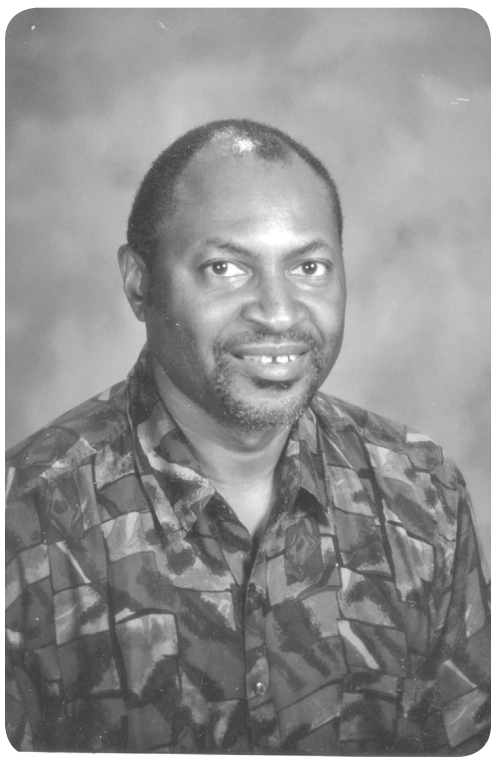
-Bertha Morgan

"People will remember him as a caring individual who valued education. He believed in giving students every opportunity, and he believed that every child could learn."

-Bertha Morgan, wife of 38 years

"The way I remember Ira is that he was a good example of a father, husband, and a grandfather, and an excellent role model. He was a minister, a man with very strong faith and family values."

-Business Education Teacher Sue Mills



During his 15 years as a guidance counselor at Loy Norrix, Ira Morgan made an impact on many students lives. He dedicated most of his life to helping others.

Reverend Ira Deville Morgan Jr. was born on July 18, 1947 in Jackson Tennessee to Ira Morgan and Alberta Butler, and passed away on November 2, 2007 at Bronson Hospital.

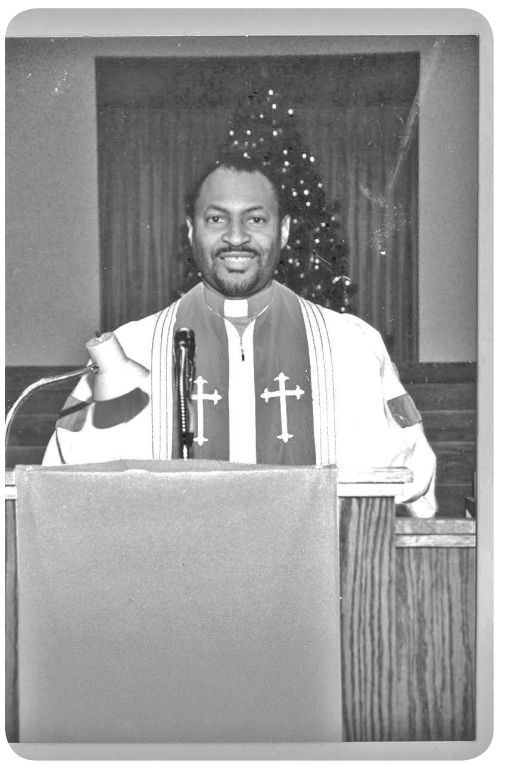
During his life Reverend Morgan was very involved with his family and church and dedicated 15 years of his life to his work as a guidance counselor at Loy Norrix High School.

Ira D. Morgan Jr. graduated from Merry High School in Jackson, Tennessee. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee and earned an advanced degree in Counseling from Western Michigan University in addition to his Masters Degree in Religious Education from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. He devoted 39 years of work to public education, 38 of these years in the Kalamazoo Public Schools. He retired from his career as a guidance counselor at Loy Norrix at the end of last year.

In his spare time Reverend Morgan loved to play golf, travel, and watch his children and grandchildren participate in their many activities. He was also a musician, enjoying all kinds of music and playing the tuba, organ and piano. Not only did he dedicate himself to his family, but he was also always looking to help others who needed help or guidance. He coached many youth sports teams such as little league, rocket football, and track at Milwood Middle School. He was also very active at Second Baptist Church where he fulfilled the role of Associate Minister.

Those who knew him as a guidance counselor also recognized his dedication to helping other people. He served as the department head of the guidance office for years, where he worked to ensure that each student had an educational development plan. He was very organized and did a lot for many students concerning scholarships. Morgan was also involved with the YWCA and in teaching students how to protect themselves against domestic violence.

Morgan is survived by his devoted wife of 38 years, Bertha Etolia Hamlett Morgan, six brothers, five sisters, two daughters, two sons, four grandchildren, five brother-in-laws, a sister-in-law, and a host of aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, cousins, colleagues, students, and friends.



Morgan was an active member, at Second Baptist Church where he served as Associate Minister. He was very involved with church throughout his life.

"There was always a real sense that we were a team. We had total respect for one another."

-Guidance Counselor Rebecca Learner

The team of Guidance counselors that Ira Morgan worked with at Loy Norrix: Susan Benton, Ira Morgan, Rebecca Learner and Stephen Diehl. Rebecca Learner said, "As a unit we had something very unique. We all could talk from the heart when we were together."

"He wanted the best for people, he was a very wise man."

-Freshmen Academy Counselor Susan Benton

Morgan was very involved with his family, and cared a lot about them. Pictured above is Ira with his granddaughter Daneya Morgan.

"Morgan helped people in making decisions that would be relevant to their life. He imparted information and helped students make decisions that would allow them to be what they wanted to be."

-Physical Education Teacher Ted Duckett

Ira's wife, Bertha Morgan said, "You can see his legacy through his children. They reach out, have high expectations, and value education just as he did." He devoted his life to raising his family and serving other people. Pictured above is Ira with his wife Bertha Morgan and all of their children and grandchildren.

2008 Presidential Election Brings Odd Cast of Characters

Sean Stoto
A & E Editor

This coming 2008 will be the 55th quadrennial US presidential election, and while voters are usually presented with the typical Blue Left-Winger against the typical Red Right-Winger, there are front-running candidates with views, tactics, and personal qualities not often given mention in popular media. Media, though, is changing, giving new ways to research each candidate's stance on different issues.

With the flux of internet use in modern times, facts, myths, stories, and ideas about the different political parties and individuals are easy to access for just about everyone. Between the plethora of news websites (each with a separate bias), blogs, and discussion forums, not a single candidate goes unchecked.

Even with all of this information so widely available, the poll results thus far have been rather surprising. Barack Obama, though the democratic candidate of choice for much of America's youth, is falling 15% behind Hillary Clinton. This could be attributed to the polls being aimed at the older population of the US via magazines such as "Newsweek," which still has nostalgia for the days of former president Bill Clinton. Hillary Clinton currently reigns with 39% popularity.

On the republican table there is a bit more variety to the popularity polls. Former New York City mayor Rudi Giuliani is leading the way with a popularity of about 30%, followed by scattered numbers among other candidates such as John McCain and Mitt Romney.

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The republican candidate Ron Paul is making a bit of a splash this year. Paul, a congressman from Texas, ran for president back in 1988. At the time he was running for the libertarian party, which naturally did not get a good public response, being a third party candidate, or a candidate representing a party other than that of the democrats or republicans. Now that he is running in the republican party his response (especially among youth and grassroots groups) has skyrocketed.

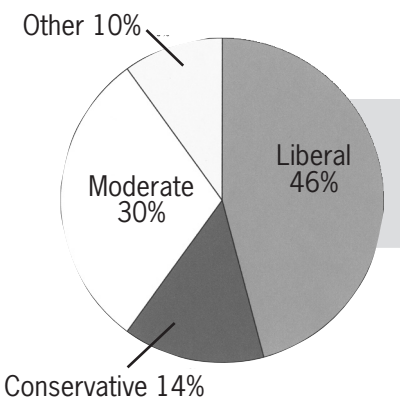
Though he changed his party affiliation, he has not changed his beliefs or standpoints on any topic, such as voting at a state level and distaste for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

While public opinion usually sways in one political direction or another, there has been a consensus among some that does not hold loyal to one political affiliation or another. Much discussion around internet forums, such as the Yahoo! News forums, has produced a common opinion that any candidate will be fine once George W. Bush is out of office. That being said, there are some candidates who are using tactics that have been frowned upon since decades ago.

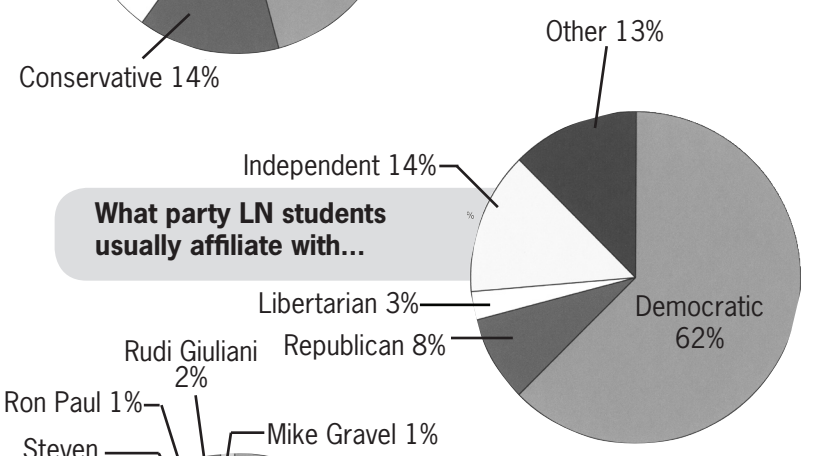
All presidential candidates use different tactics to gain support. One candidate is using scare tactics in his campaign commercials. Colorado republican representative, Tom Tancredo, recently released a campaign short in Iowa that depicts a hooded man with a backpack swiftly walking around a downtown area.

The narrator begins, "There are consequences to open borders beyond the illegal aliens who have come to take our jobs. Islamic terrorists now freely roam US soil." At the end of the ad, the hooded man leaves his backpack in a train station, the screen goes black, and you hear a large explosion. The words "Tancredo, Before it's too late," flash across the screen. This produces the fear that without Tancredo in office terrorist activity will be rampant.

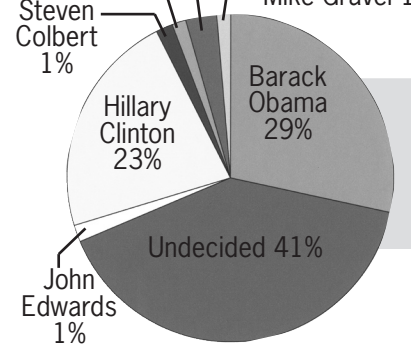
The presidential primaries are set to start on or around February 5, 2008. This leaves plenty of time for supporters of any party to gather information about their respective candidates before it comes time to cast the first vote of the election.



LN Students weigh in on what stance they hold when it comes to politics...



What party LN students usually affiliate with...



And what candidate LN students will be or would be voting for in this upcoming presidential election.