

Carrie Burdzinski
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Letter to the editor
Untitled

A Gazette news brief from Thursday states, “If you’ve ever wondered why Americans seem so arrogant, it may be because they believe they are actually God’s chosen people.” While I recognize such a generalization may have humorous intent, I certainly wasn’t laughing.

I have found that those who tend to criticize the United States usually know very few Americans and have spent very little time there. Still, denouncing America seems to be a favourite past time of many students (and professors) here at Western. Perhaps many Americans are arrogant, but that pride is justified. America was the first country founded on the rational principle of individual rights— a beacon of prosperity and freedom surrounded by a world contemptuous of that achievement.

The U.S. has historically proven itself a progressive, just, and generous nation. It is important to note that George W. Bush’s decisions are not consistent with America’s founding ideology and are not reflective of much of America. Being “God’s chosen people” has nothing to do with America’s status. Its greatness was achieved and is maintained by the hard work of free, individual, proud American minds.

Am I an American? Yes. Am I arrogant? Probably. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are no humble matters.