

# The Grouse House Gazette

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Thoughts and Observations on Music, Nature, and **Politics**, from the Catskill Mountains

## THE SURREAL STATE OF “REALITY” IN AMERICA TODAY...

**MORE AND MORE... AMERICA IS LIVING IN A “BUBBLE” OF FALSE INFORMATION, DECEIT, AND REALITY MANIPULATION**



It doesn't take a lot of detective work to figure out how America has gotten into such dismal shape as regarding our citizens' perceptions of current day reality.

As we are in a new age of “non-scientific” beliefs that are based on anything but “reality” and stem from a hurricane of digital information and deceit with the power to “move the masses” into believing the unbelievable... accepting the most horrifying conspiracy theories about just about anything... and voting regularly against their own self interest in our elections (which is of course the ultimate goal of those propagating this “reality”).

Today... NOTHING in any of the “old media” is to be believed or considered... as EVERYTHING IS “SUSPECT”.

I admit that right-wing radio plays a big part and that it's an “old” medium.

Infamous anti-Semitic broadcaster and Catholic priest Charles Coughlin spread vicious lies about Jews in the 20s and 30s across America at a time when similar things were happening in Germany. Fortunately America didn't follow Germany down that road.

Coughlin “set the bar” for exploiting the American airwaves with extreme hatred and his legacy carries on today through Rush Limbaugh and dozens across America spewing forth incendiary racism and nativism to those too ignorant or lazy to seek out the actual truth on their own.

But “traditional” television advertising seems to now be over... as all of America fast-forwards through the commercials or watches programing online.

Job! has spent something like fifty million dollars on television so far... and yet he is still polling at only 4%. Removing his family name from his campaign's marketing hasn't helped either.

WHY is he still in the race?

Because he has a LOT of Money!

“Citizens United” may have not been a success in buying the effectiveness of unlimited television advertising... but it HAS been a success in keeping failing candidates in the race long past their “expiration dates”. They can continue to wander aimlessly through the process.

And within our twisted world today of Internet pontificators and talk radio there seems to be a “conspiracy theory” for just about everything.

Donald Trump recently praised the right-wing radio broadcaster (whose name I will not honor by printing it here) who has been broadcasting that the Newtown Connecticut school shootings were faked by the Obama administration to take everyone's guns. He has even taunted the children's families.

He also claims the same conspiracy was behind the Boston bombing. Obama is behind it all! Lurking in the shadows!

And you know... “It MIGHT be true”!

Trump also re-tweets complete racist lies sent to him by his followers.

Source: <http://www.motherjones.com/mojo/2015/11/most-fascinating-thing-about-donald-trumps-racist-tweet>

And keep in mind that 43% of Republicans believe that Obama is a Muslim and not from America. Which means that by obvious connection... nearly half of the Republican Party believes we are being governed by a foreigner whom they also undoubtedly believe is an ENEMY of the United States. This is SCARY stuff.

Source: <http://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/253515-poll-43-percent-of-republicans-believe-obama-is-a-muslim>

As Republicans continue to ask... “Why won't Obama call it ‘Islamic terrorism’?”

To which Trump frequently adds...

“Something is going on here...”

As his loyal cap-wearing idiot disciples hear straight through to the “dog whistle” of his unspoken “message” that President Obama is “NOT one of us”... an outsider... an enemy of “the real” America.

In my home state of Louisiana A THIRD of registered Republicans blame President Obama for the Hurricane Katrina response.

SOURCE: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/21/obama-hurricane-katrina\\_n\\_379612.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/08/21/obama-hurricane-katrina_n_379612.html)

And WHERE do these crazy theories and beliefs come from which so obviously corrupt a huge chunk of America's current unfortunate excuse for an electorate?

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You may think that it is Fox News...

And sure... Fox helps in a big way...

But Fox really only exists as their supposedly "legitimate" news outlet... from which they can spew out talking points and spin stories to lead their lemming viewers in the "proper" direction.

Stories about the low price of gasoline don't mention that this is basically a big pay raise for lower and middle income Americans... but rather concentrate on the loss of fracking jobs from the downturn in North Dakota and Texas as their own "drill baby drill" energy philosophy collapses.

Fox is the Republican's own "main stream media"... with ratings now at the top of the outlets where Americans get their news.

When The New York Times pointed out that Ted Cruz had not disclosed loans for his Senate campaign from Goldman Sachs and Citi Bank... Cruz simply brushed it off by saying... "It's THE NEW YORK TIMES!" As he spit out the name as if it were being summoned up from the depths of hell itself. It couldn't possibly be true!

Fox also gives Republicans a "safe" channel and outlet for their well-choreographed debates. Although I admit that the first Fox debate was the hardest hitting of any "staged" so far by the GOP. Which I'm sure is why they moved future debates to their business channel... where the most recent one presented Fox correspondents tossing one piece of "red meat" after another as "set ups" to begin the next tired endless tirade against Obama... Hillary... or "the government".

But the REALLY "bat-shit-crazy" stuff is coming from the Internet and talk radio.

Which are FAR more powerful than Fox in both their reach and extremism.

Fox doesn't call Obama a Muslim... and they wouldn't come close to a story about Newtown being an Obama conspiracy.

It's all coming from anonymous email strings and web sites where ANYONE can say ANYTHING about ANYONE at ANYTIME... It's a fact-check free-for-all!

Unlike traditional news sources that at least TRY to maintain some sense of ethics when it comes to fact-checking... the Internet sites can proclaim crazy stuff like Newtown and the Boston bombing being government plots built around the central fear that Obama is "gonna take our guns!"

While the GOP candidates all line up to declare that the "illegal" (and unfortunately mild) executive actions announced by President Obama would all be reversed on

their first day in office. I presume... by more "illegal" executive actions planned for THEIR OWN future administrations. So I guess executive actions are only legal when you are a Republican.

And all of the "gun talk" simply drives ignorant gullible socially-challenged idiots to line up to buy MORE guns "before Obama takes em all away!" AS IF!

Stock for Smith and Wesson has doubled in the past year alone and worth EIGHT TIMES it's value since Obama took office.

**Smith & Wesson Holding Corp**  
NASDAQ: SWHC - Jan 15 4:00 PM EST



You can draw a pretty clear line between the growth of misinformation in our society and the rise of extremist elements on all sides directly to the Internet's explosion.

The far right is simply WAY BETTER at exploiting the Internet than the left... and while the right has talk radio the left has nothing like it to convey their message.

And local newspaper "facts" can also be easily manipulated.

I reported in a recent Gazette that my local sheriff had achieved a stunning 97% approval from my town of Saugerties in his urging of my neighbors to all "pack heat" anytime they head out for groceries.

When a local county official read my piece, he wrote me to say that it was a voluntary Internet poll in the paper... and that the local gun clubs had all urged their members to go online and vote. Which is journalistic bullshit if I've ever seen it. Not exactly "scientific" polling... but then again... science seems to have little place in our current society. But at least now I know that this wasn't a clear picture of my neighborhood. Shame on the local paper!

But the point is... that gun control supporters don't have the organization at the local level like the gun clubs or the national level like the NRA.

And to see just how "dumbed down" our culture has gone to "kow tow" to the lowest sub-denominator of the population... you need to look no further than the ever changing world of cable TV channels and the rise of "reality" shows.

Where stars are made out of total nobodies whose father helped O.J. get off after cutting off his wife's head!

What a "culture" we've developed...

Like something in a petri dish?

Channels like "The Learning Channel" started out as one of cable TV's answer to PBS with programing of documentaries and educational material... and now it is the home to "Honey Boo Boo"!

Far worse is "The History Channel"... and although I used to joke that the "H" in the corner of the screen stood for "Hitler"... at least the shows had a connection to history.

NOW... it is flooded with shows about pawnshops... flying saucer bullshit... and supposed paranormal activity! Really... check out their schedule sometime.

The worst thing about this programing crap is that people are actually believing it.

I can't imagine growing up in the sixties and seventies having shows claiming that ghosts were real and that we are regularly being invaded. But then again... ours is no longer a "science" based world.

Meanwhile... all of the Hitler stuff moved over to "The Military Channel"... which then soon became the "American Hero Channel" after they started running a bunch of nonsense about Jesus a lot of the time.

Jesus? On the MILITARY CHANNEL?

I acknowledge that Jesus could indeed be a "Hero"... but is he an "American" Hero?

And of course nothing fits "the moment" better than the possibility of a "reality" star becoming our next President of the United States! And it could actually happen.

Just about everything about Trump's life is a lie. He is a "favorite" of Evangelicals who had a child with his second wife out of wedlock before marrying her. But then again... that probably happens in THEIR families a lot too. But did they walk away from their children? When was the last time you heard anything about Tiffany Trump? I'm just saying...

I was going to write about the recent Fox debate but as I watched and took notes... I realized that I couldn't write my standard correction of the facts... as it seemed like practically EVERYTHING being said was in some way false. They were like Borscht Belt comics in their last days that had delivered the same tired act for years and were now reaching back for ANYTHING to throw at Obama and Clinton.

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There were mentions of the fake scandals like “Fast and Furious”... and they even reached back to “White Water”!

To read the REAL story about “Fast and Furious” check this out from Fortune...

<http://fortune.com/2012/06/27/the-truth-about-the-fast-and-furious-scandal/>

It was a sad desperate parade of bankrupt ideas from political fools trying to drown out the outrage of their competitors.

“Dignity” had no place in the surreal event.

And speaking of not seeming “real”...

There was something odd in the audience responses... and if you recorded it... go back and check it out.

After ANY candidate landed a vicious verbal blow or aggressive SLAM... the audience reaction seemed to ALWAYS be the same. The same “hoots”... and applause... no matter who spoke the words.

All with a similarity in volume and dynamics.

Was each candidate allowed to bring the same amount of supporters to the event?

I’m NOT going to imply that Fox “sweetened” the broadcast audience response... but as one that has done that for radio shows... the weirdness of the consistency of the audience reactions did seem odd. And I’m NOT a conspiracy theory guy. I think Oswald acted alone!

And as far from “reality” as Donald Trump seems to be... there is actually no candidate less “authentic” than Ted Cruz.

Cruz is REALLY unbelievable.

Recently the “Duck Commander” from “Duck Dynasty”... yet ANOTHER “reality” TV show... endorsed Cruz with their own Super PAC ad proclaiming him to be “just like them”.

The show is on the channel “A&E”... which originally stood for “Arts & Entertainment” back when the world seemed to still have a moral compass.

Now I’m not sure WHAT it stands for.

Assholes and Evangelicals?

“Television” is splintering so quickly in so many directions that it’s hard to keep up.

The “Duck Commander” made a fortune off of his invention of a duck call. These “backwoods” Louisiana millionaires parlayed the whole business into their VERY successful “reality” show.

But unfortunately the “Dynasters” didn’t really “look the part” that the network envisioned when the show was pitched.

## “DUCK DYNASTERS” BEFORE AND AFTER



So they got out their old ZZ Top album covers and came up with a “look” that could be far more attractive within America’s new pop cultural abyss.

If you think about it... Cruz really is just like them. He’s just as big a phony with the duck hunting videos of him firing a shot gun after graduating from Ivy League Princeton... moving on to Harvard Law School... and Supreme Court clerking.

At Harvard Cruz refused to study with anyone that was NOT from the Ivy League.

Cruz also financing his “Tea Party” Senate campaign with money loaned from those deviant purveyors of “New York values”... Goldman Sachs and CitBank. And before becoming a “good ole boy” he was pulling in attorney fees of over one million a year.

Yep... Ted’s just like those guys! GH

## FACT CHECKING OF THE RECENT GOP DEBATE FROM FACTCHECK.org

This is all from FactCheck.org. A much needed organization that unfortunately is not read enough by Americans...

*Sen. Ted Cruz, who was born in Canada, said the law was “quite clear” that the “child of a U.S. citizen born abroad is a natural-born citizen” and therefore eligible to be president. Legal consensus is on his side, but the issue isn’t settled and could require a Supreme Court ruling.*

*Sen. Marco Rubio and Cruz disagreed over whether Cruz’s tax plan, which relies on a 16 percent tax on businesses, was a “value-added tax” or VAT, as Rubio said. Rubio is correct.*

*New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie repeated his claim that he “didn’t support” Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. But in 2009 he said, “I support her appointment,” and he urged the Senate to confirm her.*

*Businessman Donald Trump described the Syrian refugees as mostly “strong, powerful men.” But most of the more than 4.6 million refugees registered with the United Nations are women and children.*

*Cruz repeated his claim that the Senate immigration bill that Rubio cosponsored would have given the president power to admit Syrian refugees “without mandating meaningful background checks.” The bill would have made it easier for members of certain groups to qualify as refugees, but they would still have background checks.*

*Christie also repeated his claim that “we double tax” U.S. companies with overseas operations. The U.S. tax code provides a foreign tax credit to avoid that.*

*In the earlier debate, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum claimed 2 million manufacturing jobs had been lost under Obama. The number is actually 230,000 jobs lost. The total number of all jobs added in Obama’s terms is close to 13 million in the private sector.*

*Businesswoman Carly Fiorina said of the September 2012 Benghazi attacks: “When you do not say the United States of America will retaliate for that attack, terrorists assume it’s open season.” The president repeatedly vowed to bring the killers to justice.*

Read the complete details at this link... <http://www.factcheck.org/2016/01/factchecking-the-sixth-republican-debate/>

Fiorina also delivered the most sexist comment yet in a group that includes Donald Trump... when she stated in her opening remarks that she was the ONE female candidate that actually likes spending time with her husband. But what does Fiorina really know about the lives of the Clintons? And would anyone say something like that about a male candidate and his wife?

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