

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

The Grouse House Gazette

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SPECIAL GROUSE HOUSE GOP 1ST DEBATE GUIDE!

Sit Back In Your Favorite Chair Thursday Night To Watch What Continues To Be The Greatest Show on Earth!

I have to admit that I'm like a "kid at Christmas" waiting for the Thursday night debate. My guess is that Trump will keep his cool and it will be a bore. What a shame if that turns out to be true.

After the 2008 election, and all of the Sarah Palin stuff, I really didn't think it could get any stranger. But then after the election of our first black president, the tea bagger movement was born in 2010 as a protest by older white folks still watching "Gun Smoke" on their "TV"s... when they were not cowering in fear in front of Fox News... at both the content and all of the Big-Pharma ads. They wanted THEIR COUNTRY BACK... from this IMPOSTER... who was so obviously a constitution shredding Muslim militant.

The Tea Baggers made 2012 feel like 2008 on steroids! From Bachmann's "history" lessons... Cain's "9-9-9" insanity... Rick Perry's "oops"... and Newt Gingrich's claiming that "if Obama is reelected gas will go up to "six or seven dollars a gallon"!

Eventually... the weakest possible older traditional "white guy" was "shoehorned" into the candidacy. The establishment Republicans were still just barely in charge and in the end they got "their man"... or at least the "best" choice among their "clown car" participants.

But now for 2016 the "crazies" (to quote war hero John McCain) look like they have the numbers. I realize that polls are silly at this point and at this same time in 2008 Rudy had the same kind of lead that Trump does now... BUT... the polls are forming some interesting patterns.

Although mainly pulling from High School educated white people... Trump is showing gains with others. He TIES "Jeb" (who doesn't use his last name so why should I?) in people describing themselves as Republican

"Moderates". And most importantly... if you take ALL of the "protest the establishment" votes polling for Trump, Cruz, Paul, Carson, and possibly Huckabee... you easily get up above 50% and beyond.

So whomever these "protest voters" eventually fall behind together... will probably get the nomination. And it could VERY WELL BE Donald Trump! (Please hold your emails on this... I realize no one believes me!).

On "Morning Joe" this week, Joe Scarborough stated that eventually Trump will fall due to a mistake or scandal of his own making. But after slagging off prisoners of war... calling Mexicans rapists... and having rape allegations of his own cropping up from sworn testimony by his first wife... what could the man POSSIBLY do to offend people more?

Maybe fly to Amsterdam and spit on the Anne Frank monument and call her a "loser" because he "prefers people who don't get captured"? Now THAT might work.

But let's start at the bottom and work our way UP to the top of the current polls for a quick look at ALL of the candidates.

As decided by Fox News (who are now apparently in charge of the GOP's election rules), only ten candidates will make the "big stage" Thursday night while the bottom seven will "sit at the kids table" in the afternoon.

#17. Little Bobby Jindal

The word "delusional" gets loosely passed around a lot lately when discussing presidential candidates... but nowhere is it more apt than with Jindal.

He has a lower approval rating in the state of Louisiana than President Obama and when he held a rally to announce his run for the

Presidency... he only drew around 1,000 people... in the same facility that would later draw FOUR TIMES as many (4,000!) for a rally by "Socialist" Bernie Sanders!

A lot of delusional candidates run so that they can maybe land a book deal... a shot on Fox News... or maybe a right wing radio talk show on Sirius someday. The most delusional are usually the governors... as they have nowhere to go BUT "up" to a presidential run. And their egos won't allow them to easily return to "normal every day person" status.

But Jindal has what one might call a "face for radio" as far as a possible television show goes... but with his voice I would think he might consider "voice over" work for an animation company. Mice and midgets?

#16 Lindsey (Blanche DuBois) Graham.

His rating below 1% is pretty good proof that Americans are sick of war. It's all Graham talks about. If by some magnificent act of a vengeful God he should become president... he would be the first one to be "single" since Grover Cleveland. Rumors that John McCain might "step in" to serve as "first lady" have not been confirmed.

#15 Somebody named "Gilmore"

Who the fuck is THAT?

#14 Carly Fiorina

After being fired from Hewlett Packard after the company's stock lost half it's value... she went into politics by running for Senator against the popular Barbara Boxer in California. She lost by ten points. And other than having a shit-load of money... that's about it. Oh... and she's a woman too.

Shouldn't her theme be "You're So Vain"?

#13 George Pataki

Ex-Governor of New York (95-06).

I was living in Manhattan at the time and I don't remember a single thing he ever did. But I do remember shoemaker Kenneth Cole putting up a great billboard on the West Side Highway with just the feet of a person in rubber boots and the slogan...

"The next time you hear George Pataki speaking... May we suggest a pair of footwear?" GREAT STUFF!

#12 Rick Santorum

Heeeees Back! The man that is not only against abortion under any circumstance... but also against birth control! What a wonderful world THAT would be! He came in second last time... which was when ALL of the rest of the "numb nuts" supporters folded in behind him as the "last man standing". Huckabee has the same followers in a slightly more presentable "package". And...

It is FINALLY safe to "Google" "Santorum"!

#11 Rick Perry

He's back too... And to be fair he was on pain meds for a lot of the last campaign and isn't probably quite as stupid as most of America thinks. But he really destroyed public services and schools in Texas big time.

Perry REALLY got screwed yesterday by Roger Ailes at Fox News. Fox had claimed that they would use the LAST FIVE national polls this week to get an average to determine who would be in the FINAL TEN.

One of the five most recent polls was by NBC & The Wall Street Journal... and if it had been used... it would have put Perry in the top ten and knocked John Kasich down to the "kids table". So Ailes (a known Kasich supporter) determined that the NBC/WSJ poll "wasn't properly administered"... and they went with a SIXTH poll from earlier... screwing Perry.

And this week, Fox had the nerve to accuse Jon Stewart of being a propagandist!

#10 John Kasich

Ex popular governor of "purple state" Ohio Kasich is a late entry into the race. But he has quickly shot up as people figure out that he is actually a fairly reasonable and sensible guy. At one point he even said that he thought that Obamacare was here to stay and that we should all "move on". But of course he's changed his mind now that he's heading toward Iowa. If we had to get stuck with ANY of these guys... this is the one to hope for... he's sort of "your father's Republican".

Which is also why he will lose in the end.

#9 Chris Christie

Oh, what that walk on the beach with Obama cost the "big man". He had to wait a few more years to run and by that time his whole state was in a shambles and no one could stand him.

65% of people living in New Jersey believe he would make a bad president.

Whether or not he personally blocked the George Washington Bridge on the first day of school or not will probably never be known... but he certainly surrounded himself with people who would do such a thing. His shutting down of the Hudson River railway tunnel project will long be known as one of the worst infrastructure mistakes in modern history. Just ask anyone waiting for a train in North Jersey these days. He's a famously HUGE Springsteen fan... but now that he's running for president... he's now with Bon Jovi. He also seems like a complete asshole...

#8 Mike Huckabee

Ex-Governor of Arkansas and Fox News white geriatric talk show host. He was once the "warm and cuddly" conservative but developed a sharper meaner edge while working in the Fox Evil Empire. The best moment of his show was when he backed up serial animal slaughterer Ted Nugent on bass as Ted sang these actual words to the aging Fox News audience... I nearly fell out of bed!

*Well, I make the pussy purr
With the stroke of my hand
They know they gettin' it from me
They know just where to go
When they need their lovin' man
They know I'm doin' it for free*

#7 Dr. Ben Carson

This is the guy that slammed Obama at a White House prayer breakfast... and he's also the GOP's token black guy. So the far right in the party have grabbed on to him with gusto.

Ok... so he's supposedly a brilliant doctor and all... but does he have ANY idea about managing anything beyond an operating room?

His followers will all end up with Trump.

#6 Rand Paul

I actually thought he would be doing a lot better... but unfortunately there is NO money flowing his way. All that libertarian crap has also flown out the window quite a bit as he tries to adjust his image. An announcement speech in front of an aircraft carrier? Could he try ANY harder? And now his Dad is out shilling for Porter Stansberry in all of those "end of the world" ads. Stansberry has been running these ads with different themes FOR YEARS now... "The End of America"... "A New Crisis Is Coming". Stansberry's

following grew out of a newsletter preaching doom and gloom for America and he continues to rake in the bucks. Despite being found guilty in 2003 of defrauding the public with a scam against his subscribers. Also... all of his predictions have been wrong too. So sad about Ron...

#5 Ted Cruz

Ted's father is an infamous "birther"... which is funny because Ted was born of an American mother and a Cuban father in the country of Canada. So even if Obama WAS born in Kenya... by the same rules as Ted he could still be president today. Cruz's father considers himself to be a great American "patriot" today. So much of a "patriot" that he waited until 2005 to become a citizen.

Trump has stolen all of Cruz's mojo.

But he's STILL got BIG money from fracking backing him. So he's here to stay for a while.

#4 Marco Rubio

This is the guy that lied about his biography as a way to get in with the Cuban side of Floridian politics in his first election. Claiming his parents came over at a slightly later date... Making his family "refuges" from Castro... rather than people who had the sense to split a lot earlier. An important issue with Floridians of Cuban descent. He's a good candidate for a V.P. slot but his inexperience will shine through in the debates.

#3 Scott Walker

Is it just me or is this guy really stupid? His state is a mess... schools... roads... just ask Donald Trump... who spelled it out really well. But he "took on the unions" and is a Koch brother's friend. So he will hang in there till the end. But Trump will steal his thunder. He also seems like an asshole...

#2 "Jeb" BUSH

I always heard that Jeb was "the smart one" but now I'm having my doubts. His early answers on Iraq were shocking and he has surrounded himself with many of the same "re-treads" that gave us these endless wars and the collapse of the economy. Can someone explain to me why we should give this guy a shot? He has the charisma of a cinder block!

#1 Donald Trump

No agenda... no preparation... no written speeches... no real plans... Just a massive bloviating personality of barking and insults...

JUST WHAT AMERICA NEEDS!

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Sources available upon request...**

To hear my new album go to www.HETHERWICK-MUSIC.com