

The Grouse House Gazette

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

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HOW IN THE HELL DID WE GET TO THIS POINT?

THE “NEW IMPROVED” PRIMARY PLAN FROM THE GOP AND THE DEMOCRAT’S “SUPER DELEGATES” ARE DELIVERING TWO CANDIDATES TO US WITH THE HIGHEST OVERALL DISAPPROVAL RATINGS OF ALL...

Sometimes I really hate it when I’m right.

Last summer everyone thought I was crazy when I was telling people that Trump had a very real shot at the nomination.

Then in late August... as the GOP leaders saw Trump’s emerging strength... they became VERY afraid that he would leave the GOP... form a third party... and destroy their chances for the 2016 election.

So they came up with a “pledge” for all of their candidates (though clearly directed at Trump) that everyone would STAY in the party and support ANY candidate that the Republicans nominated in 2016.

I described this at the time as if the party was committing suicide by making EVERYONE ELSE pledge to ALSO support TRUMP’S candidacy and policies if HE won.

But of course NONE of them could ever believe that such a thing could ever happen. Trump as their candidate? Lunacy!

So much to the pleasure of the GOP leaders... Trump SIGNED the pledge and proudly waved it in front of the media cameras.

And the GOP establishment THOUGHT that THEY had won!

I immediately wrote a [Gazette piece](#) on September 8th stating...

“Party traditionalists THOUGHT this would make it impossible for Trump to LEAVE THEM... and go third party.

But Trump IS leaving... and he is taking their ‘party’ with him!”

Which is of course... EXACTLY what happened.

And once Trump started gaining momentum he took to DESTROYING all of the establishment candidates in his first political panzer raid through their “three ring circus” of so called political “debates” of increasingly juvenile ineptitude.

Trump is a MASTER at media manipulation.

So how did we get to this point where the two highest polling candidates (Trump and Clinton) are also the ones with the two highest “negative” ratings? It is our current ridiculous system.

As Sanders has the highest “positive” rating of any candidate!

In either party.

Unless Kasich wins in Ohio next Tuesday... and then explodes rapidly... which IS possible... Trump will pretty much have the race nailed down in just a few days from now.

But at least the endless debates will stop!

While Sanders is rising with his win in Michigan... after being down in the final polls by 20%! People are starting to listen.

And Sanders is polling better against Trump than Clinton.

Also... the first states that Hillary has won have mainly been “red” states across the South that will never go Democratic in November while Sanders is doing better in the blue and the all important “swing” states. Don’t let the losses across the South fool you... Sanders has stronger performances on the horizon.

AND Sanders is raising A LOT of money. And with the average donation being around \$28 (with NO Super PAC) his followers can continue to send him money for a long time. Whereas deep pocketed contributors and corporations are limited by the maximum amount they can give and many are already maxed out for Clinton. So don’t rule Sanders out... he has a REAL shot.

But the “process” by which both parties are administering the primaries and caucuses is really screwing the whole thing up.

On the GOP side it has to do with recent changes in the primary /caucus system and calendar to try to avoid the chaos and madness of their “clown car” primary of 2012. Which stretched on seemingly forever with a different lame front-runner every two weeks or so. Perry, Cain, Bachmann, Gingrich, Santorum and Paul... inevitably “settling” on the establishment’s choice of Mitt Romney.

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In the GOP's tradition... it was "his turn".

But I would take Mitt Romney TODAY in a "heart beat"!

After their disastrous 2012 election... the GOP redesigned their primary/caucus calendar and system to allow for a strong candidate to rise to the top much more quickly.

The theory was that this would end the months of front-runner changes and in-fighting that proved so damaging and embarrassing for the party in 2012.

AND... their plan worked.

But unfortunately... the candidate that has risen quickly to the top... is the GOP's WORST nightmare... Donald J. Trump!

But then again... IF the GOP had administered their current primary/caucus system in 2012... we might today all be trying to dig our way out of what would probably have become known as... "The Great 999 Depression"... But I digress...

Today the race IS narrowing on the Republican side as Marco Rubio's transformation into an insulting juvenile "Mini-Trump" has backfired and knocked him clear out of the ballpark.

Rubio will lose in Florida and he will be gone.

The party establishment's last hope.

Unless they get behind Kasich. Which they SHOULD... quickly.

Seeing the horrific display of insults and insinuations about penis size by Rubio and Trump on the debate stage before the ENTIRE WORLD for a "job interview" for THE MOST POWERFUL JOB ON THE PLANET... was like seeing Donnie Osmond going on stage with James Brown's Famous Flames.

Rubio had absolutely NO GROOVE!

He blew it... and since he is NOT running for Senate at the same time... that's it... he's done. And he deserves it after that debate performance. Even his kids said they were embarrassed for him.

And it was also EASILY the lowest point in American politics in my life time... and that is saying a lot! Penis size? Really?

I am sure that the entire world is now praying for the Democrats.

So John Kasich is now passing Rubio as people have started figuring out that not only is he "the only adult in the room"... but that he is also the only one that seems to have a brain.

And the endorsement from Schwarzenegger didn't hurt.

I'm sorry... but I don't care how many "Ivy League" degrees Ted Cruz has or how much Supreme Court work he has done... the man is a COMPLETE IDIOT!

And how is it that the Supreme Court is perceived to be some kind of font of wisdom and integrity? Clarence Thomas anyone?

Ironically... polls show that Kasich has the best chance of beating Clinton and Sanders has the best chance of beating Trump. So we are in a totally upside-down political world.

Everything comes down to NEXT Tuesday the 15th with the Florida and Ohio "winner take all" primaries. So far they have been splitting delegates usually based on voting percentages but sometimes by strange cryptic formulas that I can't figure out.

This was just as the GOP election process had been planned.

With the BIG WEEK happening early in the spring so that they could start early on their November general campaign.

On Tuesday we have the heavily populated "swing" states of Florida and Ohio. And for the first time... WINNERS TAKE ALL.

Trump will win Rubio's Florida and "Little Marco" will go home.

BUT... if Trump ALSO wins Kasich's Ohio... then its GAME OVER (but at the moment Kasich is ahead).

Sanders also has problems within the Democratic Party's primary / caucus system... making it harder to overtake Clinton.

As the Democrats (unlike the Republicans) have so-called "Super Delegates" that can vote for ANYONE without regard for any "real people" having voting for them... and their votes also count a lot more. And they are ALL from the party "elite".

ALL of the Democrats currently in Congress... and ALL of the governors... plus the usual "back room" movers and shakers.

When Obama ran against Hillary he had a good bit of mass party support from his earlier convention speech. And then once Ted and Caroline Kennedy's kids persuaded them to endorse Obama... he was "in" with a lot of the "super delegates".

But Sanders has always been an independent... and not an actual part of the party until this election. So he's going to have a lot more trouble pulling these votes away from Clinton.

However... many believe that if Sanders has a huge groundswell within the next couple of months... it would be hard for "super delegates" to vote against their constituents' preferences.

Of course... the "super delegate" system is all set up to give the TRADITIONAL Democratic candidates a clearer path to a fast coronation... and it also keeps the party's "left wing" in check.

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It was funny recently to hear Republicans WISHING that THEY had "SUPER DELEGATES"... as they would maybe have a chance at stopping Trump if they used the Democratic model.

The GOP "Elite" are terrified... and watching some of them now falling in line behind Trump is absolutely HORRIFYING!

In a [Vanity Fair "profile" from 1990](#)... we learn from his first wife that Trump kept copies of Hitler's speeches by his bed side.

And he recently tweeted out a cute quote from Mussolini...

Whom he resembles more than anyone. Just Google it!

The New York Daily News ran a cover saying that he's Hitler!

Now... I don't know if Trump IS "Hitler"...

BUT I think that there's a good chance that he wants to be.

When Trump has recently held his rabid "monster-truck-rally" fans entranced within his "SPELL" by combining P.T. Barnum and Huey P. Long... he is actually asking them to salute him and take an "oath" to "Vote Trump" in the coming election.

Hands outstretched before them. Hmmm...

Now... Joe Scarborough and many on the right have been quick to say that progressives were reading into this as "crazy Nazi paranoia" from the left... but I think there is something to it.

As Trump seems to WORSHIP both Hitler's speeches and mass media attention... wouldn't he LOVE a raised hand salute?

But even if the "salute" IS totally innocent...

Isn't the "ritual" just a bit frightening? An "Oath"?

The Vanity Fair piece was written at the time that Trump was breaking up with his first wife Ivana... before shacking up with his second... with whom he had a child "out of wedlock"... before marrying her. [Marla Maples](#)... now residing in the "where are they now file" (THANK YOU Rob Reiner!).

At the time... Trump explained WHY the tabloids like The New York Post had such a fascination with his recent "ex" Ivana...

"When a man leaves a woman, especially when it was perceived that he has left for a piece of ass—a good one!—There are 50 percent of the population who will love the woman who was left."

Nice huh? What a GUY! And possibly our NEXT President!

In one of his books he describes his visits to Studio 54 and watching guys sniffing coke off of the asses of "high-end" fashion models... only the MOST "classy"... Oh what it IS to be RICH!

Hillary Clinton IS getting a hell of a lot better as a candidate... with a couple of her recent speeches actually being sensational.

I turned around quite a bit by watching ALL of The Benghazi Hearings. You can watch it yourself at [THIS LINK](#).

And her speech about "love" was BRILLIANT! After all of the pain... ignorance... and embarrassment coming out of the top three Republican candidates... it is the perfect "angle".

Whether it's her... or a team of Hollywood "stunt artists" and writers doing it.... I DO think it is beginning to work.

But I still can't stand her personally.

And I couldn't care less about the EMAIL server.

It was a stupid paranoid move. But it is actually kind of understandable after everything that the Clintons went through in their publicized private lives. I'm sure that ever since they have wanted to control EVERYTHING around them. I get it.

When her emails started surfacing did we really have to hear Fox News commentators making fun of her lack of knowledge of how to use a Fax Machine? I've had one for 20 years... and I STILL have to get out the manual every time I use it... and Clinton's machine was a particularly complex very secure set up.

It was funny last week to find out that there was [NO EVIDENCE](#) of the Clinton private server being "hacked"... despite what Fox News has been reporting with no evidence whatsoever.

But the REAL irony is that we DO KNOW that both the State Department and the Pentagon servers [HAVE been hacked](#).

So Clinton's emails may have been SAFER on her own server!

If THAT isn't irony...WHAT IS?

Meanwhile... Trump is almost certainly further to the left on military issues and involvements than Clinton.

Clinton is almost within "John McCain/Lindsey Graham" territory.

Everyone's favorite "Power Foggy Bottom Couple"!

And she made some bad calls as Secretary of State.

This along with her Wall Street connections... history of supporting employment killing trade deals... and voting for the Iraq War... disqualifies her for me personally.

What an AWFUL choice these organizers of our two political parties have given us... as these faceless back-room party bureaucrats... on BOTH sides... have set us up for a slow motion political train-wreck in November the likes of which we haven't seen in our lifetimes. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 4**

Most Americans probably think that the whole primary/caucus system is something going back to the birth of our nation.

But it is actually a relatively new process... totally determined by the political parties... and it has NOTHING at all to do with laws... the Constitution... and certainly not our "founding fathers"... who were mainly eighteenth century "one percenters" to whom the thought of "the people" choosing their party candidates would have most certainly been deemed ludicrous.

Candidates for the first 134 years of America's history were simply chosen by committees or party leaders without input from the public as elections had obviously very complex physical issues in earlier days.

Then in 1910... Oregon became the first state to hold a presidential primary.

And then only two years later in 1912... for the T. Roosevelt, Taft, La Follette, "three-way" presidential race... there were 14 primaries... out of 48 total states.

But the early primaries were not "binding" and were usually considered "shows of preference" for the party bosses to still make the final decisions.

It was only after the disastrous Democratic Convention of 1968 that the parties decided that the country needed a NATIONAL primary or caucus system to be determined by ALL of the states according to their own preferences. The idea being a system to "guide" the process and voting.

When people remember or read in their history books about the infamous Democratic Convention in Chicago... most only remember the hippies getting their skulls cracked by Mayor Daley's cops in what would later be legally described as a "police riot" in Chicago. That year was a complete horror show.

LBJ had dropped out early due to his unpopularity over the Vietnam War... and there was a general feeling that the country was falling apart. It was a VERY bleak year.

And then Robert Kennedy was on his way to the nomination when he was murdered in Los Angeles after winning the California Primary. If he had lived the next two decades would have been a very different world. It is absolutely tragic.

But also in the 68 election... further on the left in the Democratic Party... was the brilliant and courageous candidacy of Eugene McCarthy... who... like Bernie Sanders... built a fanatical following in the first American political movement primarily spearheaded by young people. The "baby boomers" had arrived.

It was the days of "flower power"... "peace"... "love"... and unfortunately a totally illegal war which Americans were deceived into fighting. Sound familiar? It should!

So this was the backdrop as the Democrats went into total chaos at their 68 convention in Chicago... with no clear candidate.

It was known as an "open convention".

With the "peace" side of the party led by Eugene McCarthy and many of Kennedy's former delegates moving to the party boss's anointed candidate of choice... Hubert Horatio Humphrey.

A man of strikingly lacking charisma, grace, and presence.

Even through "the people" seemed to prefer going with McCarthy... the Democratic Party bosses decided that he should "bow out" and America ended up with a Democratic candidate for president being chosen without a single primary vote.

Setting up a general election between TWO "war" candidates.

While out in the streets... all hell was breaking loose with understandably pissed off young protestors facing an army of VERY tough Chicago police. The young people LOST that fight.

When the tear gas cleared from Chicago... the idealistic "baby boomers"... and also a lot of African Americans... who had rallied enthusiastically behind either Robert Kennedy or Eugene McCarthy... were sent "home" in total political disillusionment.

And they STAYED home in November.

And what did America end up GETTING in 1968?

Richard Nixon.

The most disturbing aspect of the recent primaries and caucuses is that the Republican turn-out has been HUGE... with unprecedented numbers of new... mainly male... white... and VERY ANGRY voters that have been hiding on the sidelines of American politics for years.

But they are now lining up to take their new "TRUMP OATH".

And it is a HUGE movement.

The reason I felt as early as last summer that Trump had a real shot was when I realized that it wasn't about Republicans or Democrats... as the Trump people are NOT about PARTY at all.

They hate the Republican Party as much as the Democratic.

Keep in mind that our Republican Congress has an approval rate that has hovered for years between 7% and 9%.

Compare this to President Obama's low point of 41%.

And TWO of the top GOP Candidates are IN THAT CONGRESS!

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The Trump movement... like many other demagogue movements of the past... is obviously laced with racially charged hatred and bigotry mixed with nationalistic fury and spite.

AND... the Democratic voter turnout for the primaries and caucuses has been WAY DOWN!

Despite the HUGE Sanders rallies and major signs of genuine enthusiasm from the left.

WHERE ARE THE DEMOCRATIC VOTERS?

This means that Trump has a VERY REAL shot at winning the whole thing. People need to wake up and realize this.

I have openly supported Sanders... as he lines up perfectly with my beliefs. I've considered myself a "socialist" for decades and was an independent voter until eight years ago when I registered as a Democrat so I could take part in the primaries.

And if through the antiquated mechanizations of Democratic Party politics... or simple math... the nomination swings to Clinton... I will most certainly give her ALL OF MY SUPPORT!

As the alternative of Trump is simply too terrifying to imagine.

And if our young people and minority voters STAY HOME in November over their possible ultimate disillusionment over the winner NOT being Sanders... then they will carry the burden of a Trump presidency on their backs as it infects their everyday lives for decades.

And if Clinton DOES win the nomination it will not mean that all of the hard work, contributions, and support for Sanders has been in vain. As the Sanders supporters have succeeded in pulling the Clinton platform much further to the left... and the needs of the American middle class and workers.

And MAYBE... peace.

Bernie Sanders could still pull off a miracle.

ANYTHING could happen in this election.

But please keep in mind...

In 2010 the Democratic turnout with young people and minorities was VERY LOW... as it was a "mid-term" election and there wasn't the "sexy" Obama name on the ballot. These voters stayed home and turned their backs on President Obama and his agenda that they had fought so hard for two years before.

And the racially motivated and hate-filled voters on the right ALL turned out for revenge....

AND THEY GOT IT!

And what did WE get?

We got the "Tea Party"... AND the near total take-overs of state and local governments across the country by moneyed interests and Republicans... AND a hostile take-over of the House.

We also got abortion clinic closings... discriminatory voter repression laws... relaxing of environmental protections.... AND a Federal Government that has all but CEASED to function.

Good job everyone!

Let's not make the same mistake the country made in 1968.

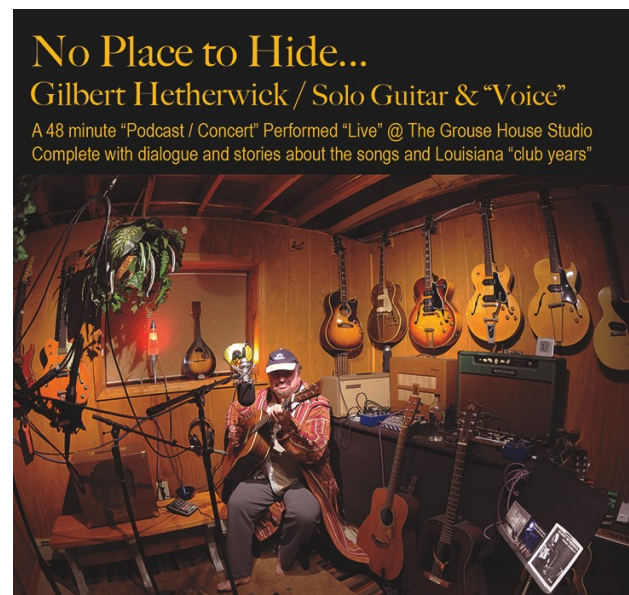
Or in 2010... Or in 2014.

Sanders OR Clinton... EVERYONE NEEDS TO VOTE!

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