

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

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ONCE AGAIN... THE GOP TURNS TO "FEAR" AS A TACTIC

EVER SINCE NIXON'S 68 CAMPAIGN THE GOP HAS ALWAYS USED FEAR... BUT THEY NOW DESCEND TO A NEW LOW...



The Republican debate Tuesday night at Sheldon Adelson's bordello-like casino in Las Vegas was the most shameless combination of geopolitical ignorance, exploitation of the fearful, and demagoguery, that I have witnessed in the nearly fifty years in which I have been obsessed with politics.

For weeks... CNN had been pumping up the debate with commercial spots similar to those used for boxing matches on HBO.

"TRUMP! CRUZ! CARSON! BUSH! RUBIO!.... WHO WILL KEEP US SAFE?"

NONE of these folks I'm afraid.

It is hard to believe that after starting out with an unprecedented 17 candidates... NONE of them have the dignity, experience, or basic intelligence of a Mitt Romney, John McCain, or even George W. Bush. Jeb's exclamation point should be changed to a question mark.

Today it looks like Trump's polls will go EVEN HIGHER as most people declared him the "winner" as he keeps crashing his way through the ceiling after each act of what would normally be unpardonable behavior.

Trump is getting the nomination. It's done.

In 1968... the first presidential election year after Lyndon Johnson's voting rights act... the Nixon team knew that they didn't have to fear new African American voters in the south as they could burrow into the fears of white voters over these recent changes in equality to swing the traditionally Democratic states to the Republican party.

It worked... and the South has been Republican ever since.

After the election of our first black President in 2008... the GOP nurtured this same dark underbelly of American racism into the "astro-turf" movement of white America's tea party organizations.

Keep them ANGRY... AFRAID... and most of all... VOTING!

And in the 2010 mid-term elections it worked... as President Obama's agenda... and the entire U.S. government... ground to a halt through their ignorant destructive obstructionism.

It hasn't mattered WHAT the issue has been... if Obama was for it... they were against it... as they also blocked appointees at an unprecedented rate (including high level

military positions like the head of the army in a time of war) as they also brought the world economy to the edge of collapse over their quest to deny Americans health insurance coverage by private companies in a plan originally developed by Republicans.

The GOP establishment created this racist monster to give them the voting support for their work behind the scenes to drive forward their REAL agenda of less regulation... lower taxes for the wealthy... and a continuing "war time" economy driven by the never ending expense of a military industrial complex that probably has Dwight Eisenhower spinning in his grave. All while now necessary groups like "Wounded Warriors" valiantly BEG for money on TV.

"Support the troops" indeed... as the wasted money on the B2 bomber alone could totally cover our troops healthcare costs. And the B2's replacement will cost FAR more.

But NOW the "chickens have come home to roost"... as this GOP "base" has risen up against them... is now "stealing the ball"... and running down the field with a modern day mutation of Mussolini, Huey P. Long, and P.T. Barnum.

Trump and Cruz seemed to have obviously cut a backroom deal to NOT attack each other on Tuesday night and it makes you wonder if a Trump/Cruz ticket is a possibility. Which I realize sounds like a floating gold-plated vomitorium on the high seas... God help us all!

While Trump and Cruz acted like newly reunited frat brothers warming up for a "date-rape" spree... Cruz attacked Rubio... Trump went after Jeb... and the others floundered around in staggering displays of factual ignorance and carefully rehearsed catch phrases. It was "Bumper Sticker" politics.

The Cruz/Rubio conflicts were interesting as they each went out of their way to prove which second generation Hispanic American would be more "bad-ass" toward future Hispanic immigrants. Have they NO shame?

And anyone that thinks their Cuban American heritage helps their chances with Latino voters... doesn't really know Latinos.

Cuban Americans were encouraged to come to America and many even got financial assistance as refugees from communism when they arrived. The majority of Hispanics today are from Mexico.

People keep saying that CNN did a good job.

But then why did Wolf Blitzer let them get away with saying so many ridiculous things.

When Trump was asked by conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt about our "nuclear triad" of weapons (land based missiles... subs... and aircraft)... Trump had no understanding of the question and simply mumbled about the dangers of a nuclear middle east. The man KNOWS NOTHING!

When speaking about the Middle East... the verbose Chris Christie bellowed...

"When I stand across from King Hussein of Jordan and I say to him, 'You have a friend again sir, who will stand with you to fight'."

When King Hussein of Jordan has actually been DEAD for seventeen years! OOPS!

Christie also accused President Obama of "inviting Russia into Syria"... when Russia has had close ties to Syria... and a major Mediterranean naval base there... for over forty years now. OOPS again!

And then we have Carly Fiorina... who definitely gets my "lying sack of shit" award for her lie about witnessing a fictitious abortion video in a previous debate that most probably contributed to the terrorist attack in

Colorado Springs. But it worked and helped move her up from the "kids table" debate to the "grown-up" stage.

Also in a previous debate Fiorina stated that she had once had a "private meeting with Putin"... when in fact it was only a brief passing in a "green room". Which was actually a little closer to the truth than Trump's earlier statement that he had also met Putin in a "green room" on Sixty Minutes when in fact they were filmed on two different continents.

This time around Fiorina claimed to personally know several generals who were dismissed because of statements made with which President Obama did not agree...

"Petraeus, McCrystal, Mattis, Keane, Flynn, every single one of these generals I know... every one was retired early because they told President Obama things that he didn't want to hear."

When Petraeus was actually promoted to being the head of the CIA before losing the gig due to an extramarital affair and his giving confidential documents to his lover/biographer... McCrystal was fired over his inappropriate interview with Rolling Stone magazine... and Keane did not even serve under the Obama administration. If she actually KNEW Keane... wouldn't she know that he had retired before Obama took office?

And she definitely gets the "heart strings exploitation" award for bringing up that she was a cancer survivor... had lost a child (to drugs)... and had started out as a "secretary".

At least the first two were actually true... the "secretary" stuff is total bullshit.

And then we have Ben Carson... a man floating around in the thin vapor of his temporary rise to the top of the heap... now vanishing under the exposure of his staggering lack of geopolitical knowledge.

When speaking about Syria he described the geography of the country in a way that sounded like it came right off of Wikipedia.

And Carson's starting out his introduction by asking for a moment of silence to honor those killed in San Bernardino had me falling out of bed in astonishment at the brazen exploitation and the false "sincerity".

Carson voters have moved on to Cruz.

Meanwhile... Jeb(!) is proving the Bush family to be a bit like old analog recordings or Xerox copy technology... where you lost clarity and resolution with each new generation. His grandfather Prescott Bush would have most probably been a Democrat in today's climate with his support of Planned Parenthood and his father would have certainly been dismissed today as a bleeding heart liberal. The family is DONE.

Incidentally... Jeb has spent \$50,000,000 already... with Trump at \$250,000.

Money for nothing and the votes for free!

While Jeb's brother George displayed incredible courage and understanding by visiting a Muslim community center after 9/11 to clearly state that we were NOT at war with Islam... THIS debate had a section where the candidates were actually arguing about whether or not we should target and kill the families of terrorists. Unbelievable.

Ted Cruz defended and tried to "walk back" his campaign trail statement that he would "carpet bomb" Syria by saying that he wouldn't bomb the cities... "just the places where their military was located". He must have some really weird looking carpets in his house. As if Isis is all gathered together out in the desert with a target painted on them.

It is hard to find ANYONE who likes Cruz as even his college roommate is in the press with statements of extreme condemnation.

When asked for his opinion on Cruz... John Boehner simply "shot the bird" at the camera.

The fact that Cruz is the NUMBER TWO candidate (how appropriate!) is truly horrifying the "party elite".

It is believed that they actually hate Cruz more than Trump. They are totally screwed!

So what goes round... comes round...

As the GOP's courtship with America's racist/nativist fringe comes back to bite them on the ass.

Karma can really be a bitch!

Gilbert Hetherwick

A "FOX REPORT" ON PAGE 3! >>>>

I WATCH FOX... SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO!

Whenever a major news story breaks I usually run to the DVR to record both Fox News and CNN. And then I go back later to compare the coverage between the two.

When the "radical CHRISTIAN terrorist" attacked the Colorado Springs abortion clinic... the news at first was bit murky... as no one knew anything yet.

And Fox was QUICK to say... "We don't know if it had anything to do with the Planned Parenthood location".

And when it was learned that the shooter was INSIDE the clinic they pronounced... "This may have started outside of the clinic and he may have run in there for cover".

And then for days they kept repeating that they "didn't know the shooter's motive".

AS IF!

I'm sure Fox was praying that it wouldn't be a conservative anti-abortion protester who had killed the local policeman and two others.

Thankfully for Fox... within five days... ANOTHER attack happened in San Bernardino which they were quick to call an act by "Radical ISLAMIC terrorists" as soon as they learned the names of the two involved.

And they have ridden the story into infinity with the PERFECTLY timed "fear factor" that was so much needed to replace the economy as the central issue of the campaign (as the economy is looking relatively good).

Fox reported on a "massive arsenal of weaponry" the two jihadists had obtained and questioned how they could have gotten the money to pull off the attack.

When the couple had TWO rifles and TWO hand guns... and with his job as a health inspector the attack was easily affordable.

The mystery to me is that we don't have attacks like this every week (the way we do mass shootings in America). Fox has barely ever mentioned Colorado Springs or the CHRISTIAN shooter again.

It will be awhile before we all know what really happened in San Bernardino. But the fact that Syed Rizwan was radicalized years ago... but never acted on it until his co-workers pissed him off at an office Christmas party... says a lot. They have not yet found ANY connection to over seas organizations and his philosophy was more in line with Al Qaeda than Isis.

You would think that any serious jihadist would have picked either a politically symbolic target or one that could result in a much larger body count than shooting up the staff Christmas party.

Fox has actually been questioning whether it was BECAUSE it was a Christmas party. Which fits right in with their insane never-ending narrative of a "War on Christmas".

Just after the Paris attacks we had the Macys Thanksgiving day parade. I recorded the coverage leading up to that as well and Fox was continuously pumping up the fear factor and almost salivating at the thought of it becoming a major media story. Stock footage of police with military weapons alternated with shots of parade balloons.

New York City is estimated to be the home to between 600,000 and 1,000,000 Muslims. One in ten school children are Muslims.

AND NOTHING HAPPENED!

Then on the day of the debate Fox and the GOP got the "gift" of a hoax bomb threat closing all of the schools in Los Angeles.

The closing of the schools was mentioned by at least THREE of the debaters that night... even though by then everyone knew it was a hoax. It was just one more "log on the fire".

Americans are obviously terrified of terrorism at the moment with a Gallup poll this week showing that 47% of Americans fear being killed in a terrorist attack while only 38% fear being killed by a non-Muslim mass shooting. Which is odd when you consider that only 19 people have been killed by radical jihadists in America in 2015 while 457 have been killed in mass shootings.

Not since William Randolph Hearst helped start the Spanish American War has a news organization so shamelessly stoked the fires of American nationalism and war.

The exploitation of fear is once again driving us down a very dark road.

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Fact sources available on request.

See interesting analysis below by Politifact of leading politicians and their lies over the past 10 years.

DO YOU NOTICE A PATTERN HERE?

