



Susan Carrabis' From the Crofter's Loft

Sarah Palin

I've had a few days to think about the Republicans choice for a VP. This whole campaign has been about firsts and if nothing else has been interesting. Col-leagues I've talked with share my opinions. They and I think that if it was done to draw the disgruntled Hillary votes then we hope that the Republicans have greatly misjudged the voting women. We vote on more than the gender of a candidate. If the candidate feels the same way we do on issues and happens to be female, all the better. To think that the women voters would then switch to another candidate just because she is a woman and ignore the issues is shortsighted and not understanding women.

Men, As Usual, Are Voting Based on Which Way Their Best Friend Is Pointing

A few men I spoke with said that they'd vote for her just because of the way she looked, former beauty queen and all; then hastily said that they were kidding. Unfortunately, I realize that there are many who will vote only based on gender, race, looks or one issue. I think this was what started us down this current path. They couldn't do anything to punish President Clinton for things they didn't like, so they punished Candidate Gore by voting for Candidate Bush. Let's also remember that this President was *selected for his first term by the Supreme Court, not elected*. I'm still amazed that he was then elected to a second term.

Sarah is not Hillary

Hillary and Sarah have very different positions on the issues and I won't go into them here. I don't think that to describe someone as a "Trout fishing, moose hunting, and pistol packing mother of five" is a flattering way to get my vote. I know this may appeal to some, but not to me and those in the Northeast. I've had enough of this current administration's "My way or the highway" attitude towards foreign policy. She has a great pioneer mentality that we needed in the old west days but I don't think it plays well in a global society. Our current administration has alienated enough foreign leaders already and we don't need any more people in the White House with ties to big-"O" oil. We need forward thinking people who won't try and solve our nation's problems with the same rhetoric.

Hillary's Silence Is Hurting the Democrats

I also feel that Hillary's silence is hurting the Democrats' chance to win this fall. She needs to come out strong and point out that just because she and Sarah share the same gender does not mean that they share the same values and positions on the issues. Unfortunately if Senators Obama and Biden say this the media will jump all over them as sexist and attacking her as a woman. Hillary needs to come out fighting and soon.

I always find it amusing when politicians, or any one for that matter, have the "do as I say, not as I do" attitude. The Republicans were brow beating Senator Obama on his lack of experience. Most thought Senator Biden was a good choice as a running mate, a nice balancing. Then the Republicans elect a Governor from Alaska as a VP choice. She's not been in the position for 2 years yet. Her experience with foreign policy is very limited. She's supposed to uphold the Republican ideal of family and abstinence,

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yet her 17yo daughter is pregnant and the father said on his web page he doesn't want children, his close friends say they had no idea that they were planning on getting married. Interestingly enough that web page was hastily taken down. It will also be interesting to see if the weddings still takes place if the Democrats win in November.

Back to experience, the Republicans at the convention were bemoaning the fact that Senator Obama has no business experience; he's never run a government nor a business. Let's look at the current President's experience, every business he ran, including being Governor, went bankrupt. He's got our nation going that way as well. It seems that his business experience did us a lot of good (*wink wink nudge nudge*). Deciding someone either lacks or has experience seems to come and go with the candidate. As I recall President Reagan and others only had minimal experience when they were elected. Experience is only an issue when someone thinks they have more than somebody else. Then the question has to be "Who benefited from that experience?"

Only a little while to find out if the Republicans choice was a good one or an interesting experiment.

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