

September 2008

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What a difference a day makes!

*Barack was a Saul Alinsky social worker who rustled up food stamps. Sarah Palin kills her own food.*¹
--Patrick J. Buchanan

Talk about bringing new energy to a campaign! Until a few weeks ago, the GOP campaign strategy seemed more like that of a last-man club. Just outlast your opponents. But that was before daybreak on August 29 when a Kirkland-based charter jet was reported on its way from Anchorage to Middletown, Ohio, very near Dayton, where Sen. John McCain was expected to introduce his mystery vice-presidential running mate. By dusk, millions of hollow-eyed, passion-starved conservatives, had been introduced to an entirely new campaign strategy—*Sarah Palin!*

A day earlier, the media was confident that McCain and fellow Republican candidates across the country were merely on life support waiting for retirement in November. But a well-delivered 40 minute speech by a sassy, classy young half-term governor from Alaska virtually put the McCain camp, the Republican Party, and discouraged social conservatives back in the hunt. Said one enthusiastic conservative commentator of the beauty queen turned political reformer, “Sarah Palin is, is...is Ronald Reagan—in a dress!”

Said *TIME*; “Sarah Palin has done for the gop what 10 male candidates, nearly two years and \$300 million had failed to accomplish; she has boosted excitement, crowds and campaign coffers virtually overnight. She has lifted McCain in the polls, has put Obama into confusion and is living out a Cinderella story unlike any other in recent political history, though the ending is still a slipper of uncertainty.”²

But to activists in the leftist environs, Palin is no Cinderella. She is Cruella De Vil! Polls, however, indicate that efforts to demonize Sarah the wife, Sarah the mother, and Sarah the governor are clearly not working. The fall-back tactic by the Obama camp, evidently, is to at least plant doubt in the minds of swing voters when they mark their ballots in a few short weeks. Surely an energetic, athletic, moose hunting 44-year-old former mayor with five children and only two years on the job as a governor can't be ready for the big top?

At the turn of the last century, an exceptionally energetic person much like Sarah with strikingly similar interests and life experiences, was likewise, summoned to presidential-level politics. A well-rounded home school education had prepared him for Harvard where he edited a student magazine and excelled both in sports and academics—achieving second-place in a boxing championship and graduating magna cum laud.

This man was interested in big city politics until his wife died two days after giving birth to their first child. Later that day, his mother also died—in the same house. Shaken and needing some time away, he moved to Dakota Territory where he learned to ride, rope, and hunt along the banks of the Little Missouri. As a deputy sheriff, he personally tracked down and captured three outlaws who stole his river boat. Fighting the inclination to hang them on the spot, he went forty-hours without sleep while bringing them to Dickinson for trial.

Following one unusually harsh winter that claimed most of his investment in livestock,

this young man returned to his home in New York City to run for mayor, intending to deal with massive police corruption. He was branded “The Cowboy of the Dakotas” and came in third. But, soon after, he was elected to the New York State Assembly where he earned notoriety for writing more bills than any other lawmaker during his tenure.

Following his election, he married his childhood sweetheart. While honeymooning in Europe, he led a party to the summit of Mont Blanc. This led to his induction into the British Royal Society.

Accepting an appointment by President Benjamin Harrison to the U.S. Civil Service Commission, this person was able to expose good old boy networks in his home city, later earning himself a spot as president of the New York City Board of Police Commissioners. During his tenure, he pressed fellow commissioners to adopt many reforms. The history division of the NYPD records that he was “...an iron-willed leader of unimpeachable honesty, [who] brought a reforming zeal to the New York City Police Commission...”³

An appointment as Assistant Secretary of the Navy opened new doors for this man as war with Spain became likely. After organizing a voluntary cavalry regiment, he resigned his high government post to help command the *Rough Riders* during the Spanish-American war. Earning distinction by leading his men at the decisive battle at San Juan Hill (Cuba), he was eventually awarded the Medal of Honor, America’s highest military honor. He returned home a popular war hero and was elected Governor of New York, serving two years in office before being tapped to be President William McKinley’s second-term running mate.

Problem. Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt was only two years on the job as governor, he had made enemies in his previous posts, and, he was a 42-year-old family man still raising six children. Was he really ready to assume the presidency if necessary? That question was never asked but was certainly answered when President William McKinley was assassinated a few months into the new administration.

How does history remember America’s youngest president? Was he a reformer, a trust buster (breaking up over 40 industrial monopolies), a conservationist, or the political architect of the Panama Canal? Was he a Nobel Peace Prize winner for mediating the Russo-Japanese War, or that chiseled granite face alongside George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Abraham Lincoln at Mount Rushmore? Yes and yes. But Roosevelt was known and admired in his generation for something more. He was a loving husband and father, and a man of impeccable moral character.

Visitors to the White House were often invited to join “Teddy” as he led his children in games of hide n’ seek and exercise romps through the quarters when weather was too cold to be outside. But close friends did ask the president if he could rein in his oldest daughter Alice (17), who had a tendency to be controversial. Roosevelt said, I can be President of the United States, or I can control Alice. I cannot possibly do both.” (His children said he could, and did)!

Does Sarah Palin have similar character and leadership qualities? Does she have the desire and the courage to right public wrongs? Has she made tough executive-level decisions earning political scars to prove it? Will voters consider her a loving wife and mother; a woman of impeccable moral character who is born to lead and ready for the big top?

John McCain thinks so. And so do we.

Please remember your obligation on November 4. We’ve learned what a difference a vote makes!

Rick Forcier

¹ Patrick J. Buchanan, One of Them and One of Us, *HumanEvents.com*, 9/9/2008

² Michael Scherer/Lebanon, The Sarah Show, *TIME*, 9/11/2008

³ Theodore Roosevelt, *Wikipedia.com*