

OPINION

National Insecurity: what all the elitist kids are doing President's Corner.

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The responsibility that falls on this article is enormous. During my one issue sabbatical (which translated to almost two months) Pennsylvania has shot to the front of the national stage, gaffs have been made by both presidential candidates as they crisscross every Pennsylvania location except Penn State Harrisburg, and John McCain has apparently fallen off the face of the earth.

On top of all of that this will be the last issue for the year and the next time I have the opportunity to write, both parties will have a nominee and the general election will be well under way. Looking all of this in the face the only thing I really can do is write an article with some shelf-life and make some real political predictions. Keep in mind that I am an amateur at this, but with the help of polls and history these should hold some water.

Getting directly to the point: Barack Obama will be the Democratic nominee; however, there are still several steps between him and the general election.

First is our own state of Pennsylvania. With the long seven week wait finally ending tomorrow all indications at press time point to a victory for Hillary Clinton, albeit an almost insignificant one. Even with Obama recently reminding central Pennsylvanians and rural Americans everywhere of their excitement over religion and their affinity for guns, Pennsylvania polls barely moved. This could be for one of two reasons. My preferred explanation favors the idea that Clinton was the only offended person in the state by a solution that is both simple and short-termed. Unfortunately, such a statement would indicate a rather sizable inconsistency in Clinton's record. As far as guns are concerned, she has voted the typical Democratic line favoring a 10 year expansion of the assault weapons ban, raised age limits, and voted in favor of giving the Consumer Products Safety Commission control of gun sales. On the topic of religion, again Clinton totes the Democratic Party ideology of almost never mentioning it. When confronted about the last time she went to church, she shrugged it off by saying it wasn't "relevant". If anything, Obama's statement reflected the same sentiments held

by Clinton - he just let them slip.

In the 2002 and 2006 gubernatorial elections Ed Rendell only won 18 and 33 of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania, respectively. Such deficits in counties, yet victories in two consecutive state-wide elections are a result of the large central area lovingly known as Pennsylvania. Rendell took the denser populations of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh while the Republican took the rest. This area is a Republican stronghold and the location of those Pennsylvanians who, according to Obama, are so bitterly gripping their Bibles and shotguns. Because of Pennsylvania's closed primary in which only pre-registered Democrats and Republicans can vote for their own party ticket, almost none of the people who would be offended by Obama could vote for Obama anyway. This is the unfortunate scenario because these voters will be able to vote for McCain in place of Obama come November and McCain isn't going to help them forget these comments.

So this brings us to tomorrow, the Pennsylvania primary. While Obama has been able to make tremendous progress in closing what was once a 20 point gap, he will most likely fall short. Clinton will win the popular vote but by such a small margin that it will not make a significant dent in Obama's delegate lead and there is even the remote chance that, as happened in Nevada, Clinton will take the popular vote and Obama will net 1 or 2 delegates from the more populated areas where he polls well. Without the landslide victory Clinton so desperately needed the only option will be to drop out - but a victory is a victory, especially in a state like Pennsylvania which allows her to argue that she won all the big states needed to take the White House in November.

The next two states, Indiana and North Carolina, will vote on May 6. This provides an opportunity to look an interesting ability Barack Obama has and Hillary Clinton does not. Once Obama actually starts to campaign in a state, his numbers jump. This jump can be seen in South Carolina where he took a 55% to 26% victory after trailing in the mid 20's only a few weeks before, Iowa where he jumped nearly 10 points to take an 8% lead and his first victory, and even Texas where he lost the primary by a narrow margin but ultimately won the state by netting more delegates from the caucuses.

Indiana will be where he will need to focus this energy in order to overcome Clinton's current lead in the state while he already leads by double-digits in North Carolina. If Clinton can take wins in either state they will be minor victories. Every state holding a primary after May 6th does not have enough delegates to swing the race and Obama will be in the lead. Clinton will not be able to reach the nomination, forcing her to drop out.

The Spoiler: Superdelegates. Clinton can pull out a victory only with the help of superdelegates deciding that it is the best interest of the party to overturn the popular and pledged delegate votes to oust Obama and

favor Clinton. Republicans like Rush Limbaugh and the Fox 'News' team drool over this possibility as it would destroy the party in a way that would take years to recover from, not to mention the probable loss of the 2008 election. I do not think any party elite would see this fate as the most productive path for the Democrats and so I see the likelihood of this occurring as very small although we will only be sure in September when the real campaign can finally begin.

Autor's Note: So that ends the first year of National Insecurity, or as my critics know it as "That leftist bullshit that takes up most of the opinion page" and to everyone else, "National Insecurity? Isn't

that that Donald Rumsfeld guy or something?"

I would like to thank those that have been loyal readers throughout the last year as I am convinced there are one or two of you out there. Writing this piece has not only been fun for a political nerd who gets off to poll numbers, but it has also given me an excuse to spend long hours, days after deadline, staring at those numbers late into the night. More importantly it has given me the opportunity to research and learn more about the history and current events of our country. I hope that I have sparked an interest or conversation somewhere on campus and I hope that everyone has a great summer vacation watching C-SPAN.



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Time to throw in the towel, Ron Paul

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As you're driving down any Pennsylvania highway, you'll see a few common features: green grass, tall trees, probably a cow or two; oh, and don't forget the multitude of Ron Paul signs.

Yes, Ron Paul signs are all over central Pennsylvania, some official and some homemade that declare a "Ron Paul Revolution". A quick visit to Paul's campaign website makes it look like he's still in the running for the 2008 election, and clearly, he is not.

All these ridiculous Ron Paul signs make me wonder what his deal is, and why on earth he's still in this race. Even former Pastor Mike Huckabee realized he was beyond a miracle after he stayed in the presidential race a beat too long. But Paul has to be breaking some sort of record as most pathetic candidate in the history of the Republican party.

So how does he justify his unrelenting, paltry campaign? On his website, a press release states, "Dr. Paul is continuing his bid for the Republican nomination in order to spread the message of constitutional government and personal freedom, take the GOP back to its traditional roots, and continue the grassroots activism his candidacy inspired."

Personal freedom and

constitutional government. Don't we learn about that in elementary school? I'm not sure I understand the necessity of spreading that message, and I don't consider myself politically inept either. Going back to GOP roots makes sense, especially considering the far right's previous rejection of McCain and his moderateness, but if it hasn't worked for him yet, it's not going to. Grassroots activism, which is typically considered the lowest link on the political chain, isn't going to put Ron Paul in the White House, even as an intern.

The same press release talks about his campaigning in Pennsylvania. Apparently, he drew a crowd of 450 at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and 700 at University of Pittsburgh. These numbers hardly compare to the 22,000 Obama drew at Penn State, University Park. Paul will also be appearing on April 11 at Gettysburg University and Penn State University. While Obama crowded Old Main, I doubt Paul would even crowd Penn State Harrisburg's campus.

Even Paul's appearance bothers me. I find his goofy little grin troublesome and when he wears a sweater under his suit and over his tie, he reminds me of a priest, but not a priest you lovingly call Father. Instead he reminds me of a priest with whom you don't leave your children alone.

In addition to his creepy vibes,

Ron Paul's entire campaign is lame and unoriginal. His few supporters are referred to as Ron Paul Republicans, a phrase not unlike Reagan Republicans or Reagan conservatives.

His campaign slogan is even less creative. "Hope For America" not only represents a theme politicians have used and reused to death, but it is pretty much Obama's successful slogan. Not to be immature and play the game of "I found it first!" but if another politician successfully utilizes a theme and yours is only a lack-luster version, find a new one. But clearly Ron Paul has not concerned himself with success or any type of change that may bring more success.

The press release quoted earlier shed some light on Paul's refusal to bow out gracefully. He has written a book, "The Revolution: A Manifesto", that will be released April 30. While Paul gets nearly no publicity or media attention, he is still getting more than if he dropped out of the race. And with the doctorate's book coming out this month, why not exploit the little media coverage he's receiving to boost sales.

Any way you look at the hundreds of Ron Paul signs, he's a joke, staying in the Republican race for publicity or even just for kicks. Who knows and frankly, who cares? I just can't wait for this election to be over so the Ron Paul right wings can take down their signs.

Don't be bamboozled by Obama

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Attracting thousands of passionate veterans of the political process, as well as, energizing a substantial following of first-time voters to his camp, raising an unprecedented \$193 million in campaign contributions purely from average Joe's, and promising to unite and heal the irreconcilable wounds of an ever-growing divided within the country, the man, many herald as a political godsend, may well in fact be the next president of the United States.

Amidst the hoop-la of the 2004 Bush/Kerry presidential race, it's inconceivable to think that a relatively unknown (at the time) and inexperienced freshman senator from Illinois would rise out of obscurity and be well on his way to seizing the reins of the 2008 Democratic nomination for president.

Now, four years later, Barack Obama's humble ascension into a pop-culture familiarity with a transfixing speech at the 2004 Democratic convention has evolved into a full on revolution, entrancing an audience of malcontents, impressionable college students, and seasoned voters, who are all

yearning for political change in Washington.

Akin to the preteen hysteria generated by the success of the Disney Channel sensation Miley Cyrus/Hannah Montana, Obama's rock star persona has driven his campaign to the forefront of popular culture and has ingrained the public with a constant barrage of messages of hope, change from business as usual, and the pledge to bring a newfound optimism to America.

This political rhetoric seems hunky-dory on the surface. Charismatic, articulate, and, well educated; outwardly Obama may seem like the total package worthy of the highest office in the land. However, his inescapable flaws far outweigh the façade of glitz and glamour synonymous with the Obama campaign trail.

Inexperience alone has shown its inconvenient head numerous times throughout the course of the campaign. Blatant foreign policy snafus pertaining to his inexperience are peppered throughout some of Obama's ill-conceived statements and off-the-cuff remarks, and they should leave prospective supporters with a sense of apprehension and caution before casting their ballots.

The cornerstone of Obama's

foreign-policy, from what I can gather, is to legitimize rogue dictators, alienate our allies, and retreat from Iraq only to inevitably redeploy our troops at a later date.

These scathing accusations are more than just speculation, but they will become realities if Obama is elected president. Obama has stated numerous times that he wants to open dialogue with Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

When he is not making passionate ploys to wipe Israel off the map, denying the inhumanity and reality of the Holocaust, or having his name subjected to ridicule at the hands of Jimmy Kimmel, Ahmadinejad enjoys providing insurgents in Iraq with IED's, ammunition, and other explosive devices that have maimed and killed our brave men and women in uniform fighting overseas.

Bamboozled into bargaining with Iran, the United States would not only be legitimizing the state-sponsored terror exported by Iran since the 1970s and continuing today, but the ensuing propaganda would incite a sense of victory and accomplishment throughout the Islamic world (well the fundamentalists anyway).

By proposing a moratorium on US trade agreements, most specifically NAFTA, as both senators Obama

and Hillary Clinton have contended, the United State's relationship with Canada, Mexico, and other South American countries would be greatly compromised.

In a maligned and concerted demagoguery of the issue, Obama, like much of the Democratic Party today, blames a loss of manufacturing jobs in Ohio on trade agreements like NAFTA. However, that couldn't be further from the truth.

According to the American legislative exchange Council, most of these plants and corporations fleeing the state are doing so out of fear of taxation, and they are relocating to more business friendly states in America. Ohio ranks 47th out of 50 in economic competitiveness, and has the third highest corporate income taxed in the country of 10.5% and the six highest personal income tax at 8.87%. It's ironic that the same self-righteous, political hacks denouncing the loss of factory jobs, the opportunists, blaming George Bush for such dire economic straits, are the perpetrators of policies unfavorable to job creation.

Throw into the mix a racist Pastor Wright who could barely restrain his jubilation after the deplorable and haunting attacks of September 11, and Obama is on the road to

self-destruction. Keep the mind that Obama attended this church for 20 years and conveniently, was unaware of the unabashed anti-American sentiment that reverberated throughout the belfries in his place of worship every Sunday.

This Harvard graduate. This astute rouge scholar. The man who was supposed to bring back competence to the White House. The embodiment of the anti-George Bush was simply impervious to the hate filled ranting of a loon trapped in the 1950s? Likely story.

Obama and the canonization of his campaign are the political equivalents to the stardom of Miley Cyrus. Both are young, likable, and offer an uplifting message (in Obama's case selling an empty commodity of hope), yet, they lack any substance and their generic rhetoric will not bring change.

Of course we all want change from the bureaucracy, corruption, and pork-barrel spending that took place the last eight years. However if the change means higher taxes, compromising our national security, retreat from Iraq, and an obtrusive government run health care system, you can count me out.

A campaign that will live in infamy. A general election Obama will not win.

Finally! It's nice outside and this campus is turning into a real "college campus." Students are coming out of their hibernation and are being spotted everywhere, like a rare endangered bird it is so exciting to see life on this campus! This will be my last article for the president's corner. The president-elect along with the new administration will be taking office on April 24th a wonderful occasion for so many people. Personally I am excited to see the new ideas that will be brought to this campus. I also am extremely thankful to this Student Government Administration they all did a wonderful job! I feel that with the circumstances that arose we did a great job picking things back up and making important dents to this campus. I hope that through out the years that the Student Government really does become 100 percent the voice of the student body and that the Student Government will be able to create immediate change to this campus. I have to say it has been a roller-coaster ride this year and I am both glad and sad to see it come to an end. I really cannot find anything to say and I have to write 600 words... I do have to say is that never miss the present. If you get to caught up in looking way to far into the future you will drive you self insane...(it is like looking down a path that never reaches an endpoint)...it is true what "they" say it's the journey not the destination itself. I know everyone is so excited for summer to arrive. I have been counting down since Thanksgiving break. Hopefully for the majority it's either lying by the pool, beach... any body of water really (even a kiddie-pool works), filled with travel and excitement, or just being a bum for three months. For those of you who are stuck in my situation where we have the wonderful pleasure (totally being sarcastic) of summer courses, to you I say enjoy the one or two weeks of summer you have in May just make sure you take a breather so you don't go completely crazy. If you are already at the crazy point I'm sorry there is no way to go back to being normal ever, then again who wants to be normal in the first place... it's so overrated. If you graduate this Spring Congratulations! If you come back in the fall make sure to check out the clubs that are on this campus during the club fest in the fall! Join a Club that interests you...like the WPSH radio station, or even the Capital Times. Meet new people and start an awesome fall semester. Don't forget to check out the hang out in the wonderful town of Middletown. They have a Hardee's, they totally deliver to your table its awesome, or even the quaint Brown Stone Café located in the heart of Middletown, does Middletown have a heart? Well, that is a question for another day! To leave you with some cheesy words of inspiration: Grasp every moment and every opportunity and never turn back to regret something. Never lose your passion, your drive, or your motivation in life, for these are the things that pick you up when you feel like you have reached rock bottom. And one last thing before I end this article, good-luck to everyone on your finals! And life has a weird way of working itself out. Peace!