



Dissecting Hillary Clinton

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
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WASHINGTON — No matter what Barack Obama does, he cannot escape the shadow of his former political opponent.

Hillary Clinton, back from her global travels visiting places and peoples hardly heard of on this continent, is stealing the spotlight without even touching the stage.

President Obama visits the Middle East, makes history as he speaks war to Syria and Iran, and peace to Israelis and Palestinians, and the talk back home circles The Big Question: Will Hillary run?

The former first lady, the former senator and now the former secretary of state is everywhere — and nowhere to be seen. Sent away by this president upon his unlikely victory in 2008 against the Clinton machine and the inevitable first woman president, Hillary is back.

Few people — and far fewer women — have attracted so much attention as Hillary Clinton. She carries the unique burden of being something to everyone: Loved, despised, admired, feared, a role model, a terrifying omen, politician, mother, wife, nemesis, scold, muse. She is a conundrum of one.

And she *is* running for president. Isn't she?

No sooner did Obama raise his right hand to begin his second term than the whispers began. This is true for Washington, at least, if nowhere else. With Clinton out of the public eye for the first time since she and her husband occupied the Arkansas governor's mansion, all eyes turned to find her.

Whether to run again for the highest office is surely on Hillary's mind — searing and torturous. It was always *the* question. Her inevitability is legend. The erstwhile valetictorian who became the wife of Bill Clinton was bound for her own glory, in her own time, eventually.

Then came the most unexpected thing of all — this man Obama, this deus ex machina who descended from some distant star to blind the masses with his light. His destiny, alas, was greater than hers and so, once again, Hillary had to wait.

Will she go for it again? Will she seize her destiny? Or is it her fate to fade into the pages of missed opportunities, bad timing and broken promises?

I've asked a half-dozen close Clinton associates if



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she's running and they all say the same thing: "I have no idea." I suspect this is true and that Hillary doesn't really know. Except that she does know, and all her colleagues really do know, and we all know. Really, don't we? How does Hillary Clinton walk away from the job that was meant to be hers? Forget fate. What about duty? Doesn't the first woman who has a real shot at becoming president of the United States have a duty to run? And win?

It would be exhausting. Time wears us down and Hillary would be 69 in 2016. The past four years have been brutal and she shows the effects of constant travel, immense pressure and a rather noble lack of attention to her vanities. A presidential campaign, though more familiar, would be worse. So much engagement, so many bad meals, a terrible pace for anyone of any age, but especially for a woman who may be musing about grandchildren and doting.

Then again, Hillary is no cookie baker, as we know. And the timing, finally, is right. Her popularity is at its highest level ever. She is admired around the world. She has earned her chops not by inheritance (married to Bill) but through her own sweat and, yes, tears. She has managed through hard work and quiet rectitude to erase most memories of her earlier years as first lady and of the woman who did, indeed, stand by her man when most wouldn't.

Not incidentally, the women's vote is hers. Even Republican women would find it hard not to cast a ballot for Hillary. If not her, then who? And when? The Republican bench may be full, but, with the exception of Jeb Bush, it seems full of vice presidents rather than presidents. A Bush-Clinton contest might drive the country into dynastic delirium, but there would be a certain poetic symmetry: Finally the right Bush and the right Clinton.

Clearly, the Hillary Clinton for president proposition poses more questions than answers. But the calculus comes down to this: She has been working toward this moment essentially all her life, diligently clearing away the brush blocking her path. The zeitgeist is ready for a woman president. Most important, she can win — and few think the country would be worse for it.

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A Case Of Tax And Steal

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

So my vacation plans to Cyprus have been canceled. Something about the government there seizing everybody's wallet because the country is bankrupt. Another nanny state bites the dust. When will they ever learn?

Never.

Here in the good old USA, there are 76 members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus — folks such as Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, New York Rep. Charles Rangel, California Rep. Maxine Waters and Florida Rep. Alan Grayson. Sanders is the only honest one in the bunch. He comes right out and admits he's a socialist. He'll take all your stuff while telling you tales of Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys.

The CPC recently released their budget vision. They want a 49 percent income tax rate for the nation's highest earners — half of the take. They also want to eliminate most deductions for the rich, and when they die, the progressives want 65 percent of what they leave to their families.

Sound reasonable? Sure, if you're Joseph Stalin.

Of course, the CPC wants to couple their onerous taxation with even more spending. To them, Barack Obama is Jack Benny. Look him up.

Yep, despite the nearly \$17 trillion debt, the progressives want an additional \$2.5 trillion for "job creation." That means giving tax money to folks they like. It doesn't matter what kind of jobs are created. If you have anything to do with fighting global warming, the progressives want to send you a check.

The CPC also wants an additional \$2.2 trillion to spend on science and technology, the environment,



Bill O'REILLY

income security (that's direct welfare payments), and of course that time-tested money pit "education."

I love the education deal. The USA now spends more money per student than any nation on Earth — but it's not enough. It will never be enough. Kids can't learn without more money. Don't you know that?

Flashback: Eighth grade, 1963. St. Brigid's School, Westbury, N.Y. One nun against 60 working-class kids. Every kid could read, write, do fractions and diagram a sentence. Everybody knew what Congress was and how Kennedy beat Nixon. Nobody had any money. Sister Martin worked for free. I ate tuna sandwiches and apples. So did everybody else. Somehow the nuns educated even the dimmest kids. And I can attest to that, as I was beyond dim.

But back to the CPC.

They do want to cut one bit of federal spending: defense. They want to go back to the 2006 spending levels. Never mind that ardent Democrat and former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta says that would put the nation in peril. The CPC doesn't care. To them, members of the military are imperialists.

The truth is that the CPC doesn't like America. Capitalism is bad. Share the land. Take from the rich. Power to the people. Abbie Hoffman would have loved these folks.

But they are entrenched on Capitol Hill. Voters put them there. That's democracy for you. Pinheads can achieve power. And the rest of us suffer.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

gay marriage, euthanasia, etc. They want him to make this legal and OK in the eyes of the church. He can't and won't change God's law. Maybe we are the ones who should change. Most of the media that has interviewed anyone look for the most liberal persons they can find. It seems we as the people don't want to take responsibility for our own actions. When we sin, forgiveness is there from God. We should not expect God to change to our selfish ways. We should always seek the truth.

For those who believe, no explanation is needed! For those who don't believe or don't want to believe, no explanation is possible!

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Tribes Show Wisdom In Forming Group

ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (March 11): Sometimes history is in the present.

That's how one tribal leader sees a recent meeting between representatives of four Sioux tribes recently in Rapid City. The Oglala Sioux Tribe hosted Standing Rock Sioux, Rosebud Sioux and Crow Creek Sioux representatives, an event that hasn't happened in more than 100 years, according to Bryan Brewer, president of the Oglala Sioux.

While that certainly appears historic, more history seems ready to be made as well. The 60 people who attended the meetings agreed they wanted to work together and wrote a set of bylaws to do so. They also plan to meet again in April and say that 22 Sioux tribes are eligible to join them.

While they've talked about it and dreamed about it, they see this as a chance to work together as one nation.

Working together with one voice holds the promise of more attention being paid to issues and needs of the Sioux tribes. In many ways, they share the same fight and similar problems and challenges. As a people, they understand those struggles and might have similar ideas how to best handle them.

Even if each tribe continues to have individual issues it seeks to solve, unity might make them stronger and help smaller tribes, in particular, be heard.

We applaud the tribes and encourage the effort, one that could have great results.

Changing The Tax Discussion

THE NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH (March 13): This doesn't come as much of a surprise: We agree with Gov. Dave Heineman. We seem to say that often, and with his dissent of LB 104 (later replaced by LB 501), we say it again: Heineman's view that this bill is a mistake is correct.

LB 104 was advanced from the Legislature's Revenue Committee and would allow renewable energy companies tax breaks under the Nebraska Advantage Act. According to a story in the *Lincoln Journal Star* Thursday, the bill is directed at wind energy development. However, the bill could benefit solar, geothermal, hydroelectric or biomass energy. But for the sake of argument, Nebraska can count on wind, and lots of it.

We have been less than enthusiastic about wind generation in Nebraska. Our position is driven by the stated public opinion of Nebraska Public Power, and that opinion is less than enthusiastic about wind energy. In fact, NPPD has discouraged wind energy development due to capacity issues as well as use issues. One of the main reasons cited by NPPD is that peak use for energy is the time when there is the least amount of wind.

That would be a little like using nocturnal knights attempting to save diurnal maidens.

Heineman is quoted in the *Journal Star* as saying, "The Revenue Committee's priorities are misguided. Instead of carving out an exemption for out-of-state special interest, the Legislature should be working to lower the taxes of Nebraska citizens who continue to bear the burden for special interest tax breaks."

We have maintained that the market should determine energy use as it should with other industries. For instance, the development of abundant natural gas has sufficiently lowered the price to allow for efficient electricity generation.

Offering tax incentives for one sector creates false economies that will eventually affect the consumer. In Nebraska, the subsidies provided for ethanol development at least can be argued as a boon for Nebraska agriculture. However, the government attack on coal and the government engineering for alternative sources can affect economics that already exist here. At the very least, it may behoove those lawmakers so inclined to incentivize alternative energy projects to visit the Golden Spike Tower and count the coal trains going through Bailey Yard.

In addition to the dubious nature of the incentives, there is a concern that advancing this bill could open the session to other tax changes. The Revenue Committee had agreed to put on hold tax changes this session to allow time for the state's tax code to be studied.

Among those who voted against advancing LB 104 was Sen. Tom Hansen of North Platte. Sen. Hansen is an excellent barometer of a bill's effectiveness. Once again, it isn't surprising he is on the right side of this issue.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, March 25, the 84th day of 2013. There are 281 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Passover begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 25, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led 25,000 marchers to the state capitol in Montgomery, Ala., to protest the denial of voting rights to blacks.

On this date: In 1306, Robert the Bruce was crowned the King of Scots.

In 1634, English colonists sent by Lord Baltimore arrived in present-day Maryland.

In 1776, Gen. George Washington, commander of the Continental Army, was awarded the first Congressional Gold Medal by the Continental Congress.

In 1865, during the Civil War, Confederate forces attacked Fort Stedman in Virginia but were forced to withdraw because of counterattacking Union troops.

In 1894, Jacob S. Coxey began leading an "army" of unemployed from Massillon (MA'-sih-luhn), Ohio, to Washington D.C., to demand help from the federal government.

In 1911, 146 people, mostly young female immigrants, were killed when fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist Co. in New York.

In 1947, a coal mine explosion in Centralia, Ill., claimed 111 lives.

In 1957, the Treaty of Rome established the European Economic Community.

In 1963, private pilot Ralph Flores and his 21-year-old passenger, Helen Klaben, were rescued after being stranded for seven weeks in brutally cold conditions in the Yukon after their plane crashed.

In 1975, King Faisal of Saudi Arabia was shot to death by a nephew with a history of mental illness. (The nephew was beheaded in June 1975.)

In 1988, in New York City's so-called "Preppie Killer" case, Robert Chambers Jr. pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the death of 18-year-old Jennifer Levin. (Chambers received a sentence of 5 to 15 years in prison; he was released in 2003.)

In 1990, 87 people, most of them Honduran and Dominican immigrants, were killed when fire raced through an illegal social club in New York City.

Ten years ago: The Senate voted to slash President George W. Bush's proposed \$726 billion tax-cutting package in half, handing the president a defeat on the

foundation of his plan to awaken the nation's slumbering economy. Former Waterbury, Conn., mayor Philip Giordano was convicted by a federal jury of violating the civil rights of two preteen girls by sexually abusing them. (Giordano was later sentenced to 37 years in federal prison.)

Five years ago: The Defense Department said it had mistakenly shipped electrical fuses for an intercontinental ballistic missile to Taiwan. (On the error was discovered, the military quickly recovered the four fuses.) Herb Peterson, the inventor of McDonald's Egg McMuffin, died in Santa Barbara, Calif., at age 89.

One year ago: President Barack Obama arrived in South Korea, where he visited the Demilitarized Zone separating the South from the communist North, telling American troops stationed nearby they were protectors of "freedom's frontier." Pope Benedict XVI, on his first trip to Latin America, urged Mexicans to wield their faith against drug violence, poverty and other ills, celebrating Mass before a sea of worshippers in Silao.

Today's Birthdays: Modeling agency founder Eileen Ford is 91. Movie reviewer Gene Shalit is 87. Former astronaut James Lovell is 85. Feminist activist and author Gloria Steinem is 79. Singer Anita Bryant is 73. Singer Aretha Franklin is 71. Actor Paul Michael Glaser is 70. Singer Elton John is 66. Actress Bonnie Bedelia is 65. Actress-comedian Mary Gross is 60. Actor James McDaniel is 55. Former Sen. John Ensign, R-Nev., is 55. Rock musician Steve Norman (Spandau Ballet) is 53. Actress Brenda Strong is 53. Actor Fred Goss is 52. Actor-writer-director John Stockwell is 52. Actress Marcia Cross is 51. Author Kate DiCamillo is 49. Actress Lisa Gay Hamilton is 49. Actress Sarah Jessica Parker is 48. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Tom Glavine is 47. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Debi Thomas, M.D., is 46. Singer Melanie Blatt (All Saints) is 38. Actor Lee Pace is 34. Actor Sean Faris is 31. Auto racer Danica Patrick is 31. Singer Katharine McPhee is 29. Singer Jason Castro ("American Idol") is 26. Actress-singer Aly (AKA Alyson) Michalka is 24. Actor Kiowa Gordon is 23. Actress Seychelle Gabriel is 22.

Thought for Today: "In every person, even in such as appear most reckless, there is an inherent desire to attain balance." — Jakob Wassermann, German author (1873-1934).

FROM THE BIBLE

Remember Jesus Christ ... for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! 2 Timothy 2:8-9. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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YOUR LETTERS

Who Should Change?

Tom Jaeger, Platte

I am appalled at most national news media's talk, to change with the election of our new Pope Francis. The Pope stands in for the Lord, dating back to St. Peter the first Pope who walked on this earth after Jesus died for us. The Pope's duties are handed down to him from Christ and what was the teachings then will always be the teachings because the Pope is the Christ for all of us here on this earth.

Most news media are so set on having Pope Francis change or try to change the following: abortion,