

OUR VIEW

The Democrats are ready to rock

Well, they're all lining up to challenge Hillary Clinton for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination, and look at this, a bunch of them are minorities.



Jim Heffner
Guest Column

Let's see now, first there is Hillary, and she, of course, is a woman. At least I think she is. I haven't seen her wearing a dress in the last 10 or 12 years. But, for the sake of argument, let's all assume she is a woman.

Next there's the Democrat token black candidate. This one is Obama Yomama or something like that. He's black. At least I think he's black. He may also be a

Muslim, or at least he went to a Muslim school as a youngster. One thing we know for sure is that he is a liberal.

Then there's little Johnny Edwards from South Carolina, who claims he's from North Carolina. He is a minority in that he is a failed vice presidential candidate who thinks stem cells will repair a separated spine and cure paraplegics.

Although he's not a minority, Dennis Kucinich is unusual to say the least. He looks like a dried up 98-year-old woman with a mouth full of alum. During the 2004 Democratic primaries, Kucinich sometimes generated 10 or 12 votes in some states. As Mark Levin said on TV the other night, who is going to stop the Kucinich juggernaut?

Don't forget perennial candidate Joe Biden of Delaware. Biden wants to partition off Iraq into several sections. That way more sects can get in on the killing and maiming. Biden is an idiot with a silly grin on his face most of the time.

I suppose Al Sharpton will get into the race before it's over. Sharpton never saw a TV camera he wouldn't pose for. How are we supposed to vote for this man for president when he can't even get his friend James Brown buried? The Godfather's body remains sealed in its coffin in Brown's living room in South Carolina.

I wonder why some of these people find it necessary to run for president, when they don't have the slightest chance of winning.

Usually, it's to build name recognition and funds for the next election, but such is not the case with Edwards, Kucinich, Biden and Sharpton.

Biden has been running for the office for 20 years, and he still refuses to believe he is unelectable. Most people would rather vote for a dime store dummy.

Edwards is an enigma. He couldn't even carry the state where he was serving as senator in 2004. I cannot find anybody in North Carolina who even likes Edwards.

Kucinich, I can't figure at all. How he continues to get reelected to the House by Cleveland area voters is a mystery. Dennis is a strange dude.

Sharpton is easy. He likes the spotlight and he likes all the free meals he gets as a presidential candidate.

But, just you wait. They'll never beat Hillary. Obama Yomama could have a chance if the news media keeps pushing him. The liberal press loves Obama, never mind that he has never done anything of significance.

It looks like Hillary will be the Democrats' choice. Frankly, I think she should have gone on to the NFL when she was a first round draft pick by the Green Bay Packers.

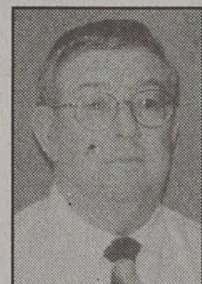
Just think, if she gets elected, ex-President Fuzzy will become First Gentleman. Oh no, that can't be true. Bill Clinton, loose in the White House among all those interns with nothing to do? He'll be in hog heaven, and the poor man will probably kill himself.

Jim Heffner is a writer for the Belmont/Mt. Holly bannernews and a longtime columnist for The Herald.

LOOKING BACK

Phil' It's spring Harold: no way

As day broke Friday morning with the temperature in the high 30s, the previous day's wintry mix wasn't that big a concern to the folks tuned in to the early morning TV weather report.



Gary Stewart
Editor

Knowing slick roads that were abundant the day before were now a thing of the past, they were more concerned with what that infamous groundhog in Pennsylvania named Punxsutawney Phil was going to say about the next six weeks.

You know or have heard some form of the groundhog superstition. If he sees his shadow there will be six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't, there will be an early spring.

When he came out of his winter's slumber he didn't see a shadow and made the prediction most of us would like, especially following several days of colder than normal weather and part of a day of snow, sleet and cold rain. Spring is here!

It was cloudy in Pennsylvania - and in Kings Mountain - when Phil came out, although I don't see how he couldn't have seen his shadow with all those TV lights glaring and cameras flashing.

But, I'm just wondering. If Phil comes back out of his hole later in the day and the sun is shining and casts a shadow, does that prediction change?

Back in the olden days, some folks used to say that if the groundhog sees his shadow before noon there will be six more weeks of winter. Others said if he saw it at any time during the day there would be six more weeks of winter. I don't know about Pennsylvania, but here it was cloudy all day.

I'd love for spring to be here because I'm ready to get outside and see some good baseball and girls softball, do a little fishing and get a few things planted in the garden. But, really, Pennsylvania is a long way from here and I don't know how much we can depend on a woodchuck from there to tell us what we're in for in good ole KM.

So, I decided to consult Phil's cousin from Canterbury Road, a squirrel named Kings Mountain Harold who lives in the pine trees out here behind the big log cabin.

Even though his nest is running short on nuts, winter is not over yet, Harold said, still shivering from Thursday's wintry mix and begging me for the peanuts I was pouring into a Diet Pepsi.

Harold says he sees some warmer days ahead, and apologies to Al Gore, ex-VP turned movie maker, but they won't have a thing to do with global warming; it will just be Mother Nature teasing us a little bit like she always does this time of year. There will also be some white stuff on the ground and some icicles hanging from the houses, and some more cold nights. And, he says he's sorry but much of it will occur around the start of baseball and softball season.

In case I doubt it, he says I can either verify it with that woolly worm up in Banner Elk or I can find a Persimmon seed and cut it open and it will tell me the weather. You see, inside that seed is the shape of one of three utensils we use every day - a fork, a spoon and a knife. If you find a fork, it means we'll have a mild winter. A spoon means we'll shovel a lot of snow; and a knife means we'll have a lot of cutting winds.

Since most of the Persimmon trees around here have been cut into firewood and I usually squash woolly worms, I'm just taking Harold's word for it. Regardless of what that woodchuck in Pennsylvania saw Friday morning, don't plant your garden yet. Maybe May Day.

But if you want to see some good baseball, turn the tube to one of the many sports stations that cover college baseball. The ACC must believe in Punxsutawney Phil because they started their season on Groundhog Day. Of course, those games were in Florida and Floridians probably getting their information from a gator.



This picture supplied by Grace Talbert is of Allen's Flower Shop on East King Street in Kings Mountain, which opened in February 1946. It is a reproduction of a photo that appeared in the Kings Mountain News in 1952.

Allen's Florist, Bennett Brick opened in '46

From the February 7, 1946 edition of The Herald.

C.T. Bennett, well-known Kings Mountain contractor, announced this week formation of Bennett Brick and Tile Company which he hopes to have in operation here within two months.

Misses Grace and Selma Allen of Kings Mountain are announcing this week the opening on Monday of Allen's Flower Shop on East King Street.

W.L. Plonk, chairman of Kings Mountain's Victory Clothing Collection, announced this week that a total of 8,002 garments had been given by citizens of the community and area, and that the garments had already been shipped to this state's receiving station for sorting and shipment to needy people of other nations.

J.E. Honeycutt and Harry Page, members of the Kings Mountain Kiwanis Club, have been appointed to membership on Kiwanis district committees by District Governor Jasper B. Hicks of Henderson.

Jimmy Dickey, son of Mrs. Bessie Dickey of Kings Mountain, has re-entered Catawba College following his recent discharge from the Marine Corps. He was a star guard on the 1942 Catawba football team.

Bob Neill was hot as a firecracker at the high school gym last Friday night, and the Kings Mountain High School basketball star tossed in 20 points to pace the Mountaineers to a 45-37 win over their arch-rivals, the Shelby Lions. Kings Mountain's girls lost 30-24. Martha Hicks of Kings Mountain led all scorers with 14 points.

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