

2016: The Invisible Candidates

- Amber Born

Do you have any idea how many people are running for president right now? The Democratic Presidential Debate happened last week. Everybody knows Clinton and Sanders by now, but there were also three other candidates at that debate: Lincoln Chafee, Martin O'Malley, and Jim Webb, as well as the podium that CNN provided in case Joe Biden decided to join the race at the last minute. I found a website called Politics1 which lists 109 other Democratic candidates who have declared they're running. On the Republican side, there are so many candidates that the GOP debates so far have been split into two sections, one for the top ten (or eleven) and one for those who aren't polling much above 5% but still have slightly more support than say, Scott Olewine of Puerto Rico or Princess Oawlawolwaol of California (I'm not kidding, but the Princess might be). During a recent episode of "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," Colbert promised an audience member a hundred dollars if she could name a presidential candidate from his picture. She could not. It was Jim Gilmore. But he probably didn't mind, because now everyone who watches The Late Show has heard of him. And most discussions of how many people are running for president don't even take into account candidates from other parties. But shouldn't we know these people? One of them might be the leader of the free world (probably not Jim Gilmore, but still...). If you know who they are now, you can say later that you had heard of the President before it was cool. So here are four presidential candidates who are polling so low that they aren't even included in polls at all. Maybe if you like some of them, you can support them and double their respective fanbases. All quotes come from the candidates' websites; I didn't make any of this up.

1. Who: Raymond Miller, a Republican from Idaho

Pros: He is "not a political cronie like all the rest." He wants to bring all of the United States' troops home alive and well.

Cons: His entire website was written with caps lock on. He wants to "return our military to maximun standing." I don't know what "maximun" is, but it seems like a bad thing.

2. Who: Edie Bukewihge, a Democrat from Nevada

Pros: She uses smiling emoticons on her website. If you invite her to an event and get over seventy-five people to show up, she will bring cake, coffee, and lemonade.

Cons: She says she flirts with danger because we live in a dangerous world, which seems like a potentially problematic approach to...everything. When she was running for governor of California, she wrote on her Facebook page that she wants, "the Chinese Wall on our borders, one that has a transition center for those who want to come in legally," which I can only assume means she wanted to protect her state from the influx of illegal immigrants from Oregon.

3. Silvia Stagg, a Republican/Independent from New York

Pros: She's running as a write-in candidate for "president-vice president," so she probably has cloning technology. Vote for her because if you don't, "Republicans & Democrats will Forever Give You Death and Taxes!" Stagg says she has Elizabeth Warren's support to be president-vice president, so she seems to be reaching across the aisle.

Cons: She says that Marco Rubio, Rand Paul, Paul Ryan, and John Boehner were altered by Obama and the Pentagon's "Microwave Brainwave Alteration Device," because they're trying to torture "Especially The White Christian European Descent Race," which doesn't explain what they were doing with Rubio and his Cuban Descent Race.

4. Don Hackett, Jr., a Democrat from Florida

Pros: His website has been viewed 2,254 times. He advertises his candidacy online, on shirts, and on signs on his van. He is trying to end the rating of American citizens as subhuman (which I didn't know we were doing, but good for him for trying to stop it). He's selling his motorcycle for campaign money.

Cons: He spelled his own last name wrong on his website. He thinks that the Democratic Party's current objective is to elect the first female president and this is "pre-determined Sexual Discrimination." He thinks that America is now the Fourth Reich because of the Republican Revolution (which I suppose would explain why we've had a Democratic president for the past eight years).

Trump doesn't look so bad, now.

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