

This Week in Politics

- Amber Born

Two of my favorite political moments of the 2016 campaign season so far happened this week. First, Jeb Bush announced his new campaign slogan, “Jeb Can Fix It.” I assume he meant that he can fix America, but there are a plethora of other things he should be fixing, like his poll numbers. And he might want to fix the problem of having a staff full of people who either didn’t notice or didn’t mention to Jeb that his slogan sounds an awful lot like something Bob the Builder would campaign on. Many people have also facetiously written that “Jeb Can Fix It” refers to the 2000 presidential election, something Jeb should probably never speak of. I’d like to suggest a new campaign song for Jeb, which fits with his accidental Bob the Builder theme: “Jeb the third Bush, can he fix it? Jeb the third Bush, no he can’t.”

Ben Carson has done lots of questionable things in his quest for president, but his absolute best (worst?) decision so far has been to run an ad that tries to appeal to black voters with the power of rap. I mean, it’s not like this is the first time anyone has tried to do this...actually, yes, it seems to be the first time that a reasonably popular candidate has tried to reboot his campaign with rap. But it’s not so far-fetched. Andrew Jackson distilled the election of 1824 into the slogan “John Quincy Adams who can write, or Andrew Jackson who can fight,” which, aside from making Jackson sound illiterate, is basically a rap battle waiting to happen. Carson is just taking the idea of political slogans to their logical conclusion. I doubt it won him the black vote, but maybe it won him the rap vote.

In the continuing saga of unusual presidential candidates, I’d like to introduce you to some third party candidates. There are apparently lots of other political parties, and I’m not talking about independents. I was scrolling through the complete list of candidates on politics1.com and was shocked to see some of the parties. I was hoping for a Whig or a Federalist, but I had to settle for Transhumanists and CherryPickers. Here are some of the more interesting third-party candidates that I found:

1. J.D. Criveau is a Constitutionist from Virginia. I watched part of his 2016 “LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FOR PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN,” and apparently he received over 8 million write-in votes in 2008, but I guess his career has been declining lately, because the video had 22 views. His website contains what is one of the greatest things I have ever read. There are lots of gems on Criveau’s website, like on the top of his homepage, where he writes that there are several people copying him by saying they are running for president, but my favorite thing he said is this: “I have shown you that yes I am a very strong leader, I also have shown to all that I will keep my word, by several actions on the internet, and you all know I do not make promises unless I can keep them, **THOUGH YES I AM A TERRIBEL SPELLER.**” That’s the kind of honesty America needs, though I worry about what his educational policies would look like. Or should I say EDUCATIONEL POLICES?

2. My last article about this profiled candidates from Idaho, Nevada, New York, and Florida. If you thought Massachusetts was beyond this sort of political ridiculousness, you thought wrong.

Here comes Frank DeCota, an independent from Massachusetts. He does actually have a specific plan for what he will do if elected, though some ideas are a little vague. He wants to end most foreign aid, eradicate American homelessness and poverty, and end participation in the UN. He will “ride into Washington DC on a bike named Accountability,” because it’s “all about ACCOUNTABILTY.”

3. “Santa” Roy Clark is an Independent from Kentucky. Yes, Kentucky, there is a Santa Claus, and he could be president. Clark’s top two goals, according to his website, are to run a social media campaign and to utilize the government’s assets, in that order, so he has good priorities.

4. Joseph Bannerman is an Independent from Alabama. He says he’s an ordained minister and he has won several awards, like the MVP award for Academic Bowl and the All-A-Honor Roll. Also, he’s a high schooler. He forgot to finish making his website, so his “List of Issues” contains topics like education, healthcare, and the environment, but underneath them are default paragraphs reminding him to add his own text. I’m not mocking Bannerman, though. If he wins, I’d like him to consider me for Secretary of State, since apparently we’re not doing the whole “you must be thirty-five in order to be President” thing anymore.

5. Zoltan Istvan is a Transhumanist from California. Oh, you’ve never heard of the Transhumanist Party? Well, Istvan says that the goal of transhumanism is to conquer death. His policies are based on science and technology, with his platform including ideas like implementing a Transhumanist Bill of Rights, “real-time democracy” and “mandatory preschool and college education in the age of longer lifespans.” He also wants to reboot the space program, so if elected, he can probably put a man-robot on the moon.

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