

BARE AND VALENCED

A 15 minute Political Précis

By
Stuart Caldwell

160 W. 16th Street
Apt. 3G
New York, NY 10011
(212) 627-5343
scald2034@aol.com

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Cast of Characters

DONKEY : Dressed in a dark blue suit with a white shirt and a red tie bearing a slight resemblance to Bill Clinton

ELEPHANT : Dressed in the same dark blue suit with a white shirt and a red tie bearing a slight resemblance to George W. Bush

THIRD PARTY : An old man dressed only in a green diaper, save for a beanie

GAS STATION ATTENDANT : Dressed in a white uniform with white cap and very white skin

AME : (pronounced Ah-MEH), which are the first three letters and first two phonemes of America. She is dressed in a star-spangled banner bustier, Joisey teased-high hair and “fuck me” pumps. What else could she be, but that multiple personality, Janus-faced wench of a cuntry.

TIME : Always and Immemorial

PLACE : America the Beautiful and free

(three chairs represent the front and back seats of a car. ELEPHANT: is in the driver's seat, DONKEY: is on the passenger side and THIRD PARTY: is in back. They drive for a moment. When they drive, they smile happily, even idiotically as placid automatons)

ELEPHANT: The economy.

DONKEY: Healthcare.

ELEPHANT: The military.

DONKEY: Social security.

ELEPHANT: National security!

DONKEY: The environment!

ELEPHANT: Life!

DONKEY: Choice!

ELEPHANT: *Tax reform!*

DONKEY: *Tax reform?!*

ELEPHANT: Yes, tax reform!....What?

THIRD PARTY: Corporate loopholes!

ELEPHANT: *(turning to THIRD PARTY:) SHUT UUUUUUUUUUUUP!*

(pause)

DONKEY: Tax reform.—Healthcare, education, welfare, national security, *tax reform?!*....How about subsidies?

(ELEPHANT: slams the breaks and all are thrust forward. After each of his responses, ELEPHANT: barely starts to drive forward, but stops abruptly when DONKEY: answers)

ELEPHANT: Subsidies?!

DONKEY: For the poor!

ELEPHANT: Handouts!

DONKEY: Assistance!

ELEPHANT: LARGESS!

DONKEY: AID!

(pause as they remain stopped)

ELEPHANT: Tax breaks?

DONKEY: Lower class.

ELEPHANT: Estate taxes!

DONKEY: Unwed mothers!

ELEPHANT: Capital gains!

DONKEY: WELFARE RECIPIEEEEEEEEENTS!

ELEPHANT: *(a cry of pain as they share the "e")* EHHHHHHHHHHH!

(pause)

ELEPHANT: Tax *incentives*.

DONKEY: Middle class.

ELEPHANT: Small business.

DONKEY: And minority ownership.

ELEPHANT: Agreed.

THIRD PARTY: *Corporate polluters!*

ELEPHANT: SHUT UUUUUUUUP!....Congressional pay raise?

DONKEY: Absolutely.

THIRD PARTY: Avarice.

(they smile happily to each other and drive on for a while)

DONKEY: Education.

ELEPHANT: Charter schools.

DONKEY: More teachers!

ELEPHANT: Vouchers!

THIRD PARTY: Class warfare!

ELEPHANT: SHUT UP!....English only.

DONKEY: Bilingual.

ELEPHANT: Pledge of Allegiance!

DONKEY: Ebonics!

(ELEPHANT: slams the breaks and burns with fury)

ELEPHANT: Prayer in schools!

DONKEY: Separate church and state!

ELEPHANT: The Ten commandments!

DONKEY: A Godless society!

ELEPHANT: Never!

DONKEY: Arch neo-con!

ELEPHANT: Bleeding-hearted liberal!

DONKEY: Newt Gingrich!

ELEPHANT: Teddy Kennedy!

DONKEY: Trent Lott!

ELEPHANT: AL SHARPTON!

DONKEY: STROM THURMOOOOOOOND!

(pause)

ELEPHANT: Yeah, okay.

DONKEY: Sorry.—Too far.

THIRD PARTY: Political stooges.

ELEPHANT: We all have our crosses to bear.

DONKEY: New York senator, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

ELEPHANT: Yeah.—Just what them Yankees deserve.

THIRD PARTY: *Political dynasties!*

ELEPHANT: THANK GOD!....National testing.

DONKEY: Remedial instruction.

ELEPHANT: Congressional pay raise?

DONKEY: *Hallelujah brother!*

(and the car drives on for a few moments and then slows to a stop)

ELEPHANT: Gas.

DONKEY: A necessary evil.

ELEPHANT: The essential!

DONKEY: Fundamental!

(GAS STATION ATTENDANT: comes out to the car)

GAS STATION ATTENDANT: What can I do for you?

ELEPHANT: Filler-up.

GAS STATION ATTENDANT: Will that be hard money or soft?

(simultaneous) ELEPHANT: Soft. DONKEY: Hard.

(simultaneous) ELEPHANT: Soft. DONKEY: Hard.

DONKEY: Soft?

ELEPHANT: Soft.

DONKEY: No regulations.

ELEPHANT: No congressional oversight.

DONKEY: Unlimited contributions.

ELEPHANT: Unregistered contributors.

DONKEY: Free drugs!

ELEPHANT: Free hookers!

(to the GAS STATION ATTENDANT:) ELEPHANT: Soft! DONKEY: Soft!

GAS STATION ATTENDANT: Alrighty, we've got plenty of that! Be right back!

THIRD PARTY: Corporate fat cats!

ELEPHANT: AMEN!

(smiles and high fives all around. They drive on)

DONKEY: Tax and spend.

ELEPHANT: Spend and cut.

DONKEY: Creates jobs.

ELEPHANT: Creates entitlements.

DONKEY: Creates a safety net!

ELEPHANT: Unfunded liabilities!

DONKEY: Public works!

ELEPHANT: Dependencies!

DONKEY: The Great Society!

ELEPHANT: Welfare state!

DONKEY: SOCIALISM!

ELEPHANT: OH!

DONKEY: No-no.

ELEPHANT: Oh-oh-oh!

DONKEY: No-no-no!

ELEPHANT: You said it!

DONKEY: I didn't mean it!

ELEPHANT: You said it!

DONKEY: I didn't mean it!....Did I?

THIRD PARTY: Communism!

ELEPHANT: DIIIIIIIIIIIEEE!

(pause)

DONKEY: Medicaid expansion.

ELEPHANT: Later retirement age.

DONKEY: Cost of living increases.

ELEPHANT: Slower rates of growth.

DONKEY: Agreed. Congressional pay raise?

ELEPHANT: *Big fuckin' time!*

(they drive on for a while, then slow to a stop. Each gets out of his side of the car. With one going one way and the other going the other way, they change seats)

(simultaneous) ELEPHANT: Election. DONKEY: Election.

THIRD PARTY: Campaign finance reform!

(simultaneous) ELEPHANT: SHUT UP! DONKEY: SHUT UP!

ELEPHANT: Oh-oh-oh!

(ELEPHANT: points to DONKEY: who shrugs guiltily. They drive on with DONKEY: at the wheel. After a while, ELEPHANT: starts to giggle to himself)

DONKEY: What? *(ELEPHANT: waves him off)* C'mon, what?

ELEPHANT: Judges. *(he laughs harder)* Recess appointments.

DONKEY: *(beginning to chuckle along)* Yeah, that is funny....The Ninth Circuit court.

ELEPHANT: *Ha!*

(now DONKEY: and ELEPHANT: are laughing fully together)

ELEPHANT: Faith-based initiatives!

DONKEY: Universal healthcare!

ELEPHANT: Marriage constitutional amendment!

(they are hysterical)

THIRD PARTY: Term limits.

(instantaneous while laughing) ELEPHANT: Yeah! DONKEY: Yeah!

ELEPHANT: THE V CHIP!

DONKEY: DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL!

(they both fall out of their seats with the last one)

THIRD PARTY: All the same....You are all the same.

ELEPHANT: That was a good one.

DONKEY: Don't I know it!

ELEPHANT: That one, that was really....

DONKEY: Thank you. I was proud of that one.

(they drive on, then slow to a halt. Ame struts on. DONKEY: and ELEPHANT: sit up straight and take notice)

ELEPHANT: Ame.

DONKEY: Ame.

ELEPHANT: You want her?

DONKEY: I've had her.

ELEPHANT: Me too!

(they high five)

THIRD PARTY: Pimps and whores.

(simultaneous) ELEPHANT: Thank you! DONKEY: Thank you!

(AME: struts to the other end of the stage)

DONKEY: Patriotic duty.

ELEPHANT: Only one we've ever done.—In my old days....

DONKEY: You bet.

ELEPHANT: I don't even remember.

DONKEY: Oh yeah, right, me neither. *Smart.*

ELEPHANT: No, really. I don't remember. (*ELEPHANT: indicates drinking, snorting*)

DONKEY: Oh. Right.

(*Ame struts off, the misleading brazen hussy she is*)

ELEPHANT: Still married well. Money. Class.

DONKEY: It's important.

ELEPHANT: Better polling numbers.

DONKEY: The female vote!

ELEPHANT: And loving!

DONKEY: Uh....

ELEPHANT: Nurturing and caring....

DONKEY: Um....

ELEPHANT: Forgiving even.

DONKEY: No.—Forgiving of indiscretions? No bubba, not ever.

(*ELEPHANT: nods understandingly. They drive on a while*)

ELEPHANT: Values.

DONKEY: Values?

ELEPHANT: Yes, values.

DONKEY: I can talk values.

(the car comes to screeching halt)

ELEPHANT: You can't talk values!

DONKEY: I can talk values!

THIRD PARTY: Poseurs!

(simultaneous) ELEPHANT: OF COURSE! DONKEY: OF COURSE!

ELEPHANT: Moral integrity.

DONKEY: Honesty and sincerity.

ELEPHANT: Family cohesion!

DONKEY: Forthrightness and candor!

ELEPHANT: Waffler!

DONKEY: Aggressor!

ELEPHANT: Appeaser!

DONKEY: Invader!

ELEPHANT: Philanderer!

DONKEY: Deceiver!

ELEPHANT: Cheater!

DONKEY: BAD VERB CONJUGATOR!

ELEPHANT: FAT INTERN FORNICATOR!

(pause)

DONKEY: Is....is qua is....as....was....Was the only issue that she was an inter—

ELEPHANT: FAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAT!....She was fat. It depreciates the office....Is and was are related?

DONKEY: God help us. I'm moving to Paris.

ELEPHANT: No flag burning.

DONKEY: Defense of children.

ELEPHANT: Agreed. Congressional pay raise?

DONKEY: Are Jews and Blacks my base?!

ELEPHANT: *Fuck yeah!*

(they high five and start to drive on)

THIRD PARTY: Congressional pay cuts!

(DONKEY: slams the breaks. With the car stopped, both DONKEY: and ELEPHANT: get out of the car, move to the back, open the side doors and begin pummeling THIRD PARTY: As they beat, THIRD PARTY: screams out various tenets. "Outsourcing. Pollution. Loopholes." This goes on for a while, then they move back to the front seats)

ELEPHANT: Politics.

DONKEY: It's a tough business.

ELEPHANT: Someone's gotta do it.

DONKEY: Thank god we enjoy it.

(they high five and drive on for a while)

DONKEY: Oh.

ELEPHANT: What?

DONKEY: Uh oh.

(DONKEY: slows the car to a halt)

DONKEY: Do you know where we are going?

ELEPHANT: Where we're going? How the hell should I know? Do you?

DONKEY: Know where we're going, no.—I've never known.

ELEPHANT: Me either.

(they look afraid, they look very afraid for a moment, then ease into smiles again)

DONKEY: You too?

ELEPHANT: Yeah.

DONKEY: It's okay.

ELEPHANT: Sure.

DONKEY: *Good* even.

ELEPHANT: Good, *great!*

DONKEY: I was scared.

ELEPHANT: Nah.

DONKEY: No?

THIRD PARTY: (*meekly*) Regime change.

(*pause*)

ELEPHANT: Four more years?

DONKEY: Four more years.

(*simultaneous*) ELEPHANT: Four more years. DONKEY: Four more years.

Fade to Black