



# Quail Creek Republican Club



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## Quail Creek Republicans

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## Quail Creek Republican Club

### President's Message

Labor Day is the traditional start of the political season for the upcoming election. Well, we are a year ahead of ourselves and things are already happening. In QC we will start meeting again on Friday, September 21 at 9 AM in the clubhouse. Speaking will be Doug Sposito, a candidate for Legislative District 30, and another speaker who is a representative from the Mitt Romney campaign. Early in the month on September 6 our Program chair, Darren Venters, will be hosting a get together for State Senate President Tim Bee who has formed an exploratory committee for a run in Congressional District 8. Also, it has been reported that Frank Antenori, a QCR favorite, has filed his papers to run as a candidate for State Representative for LD 30. Don't sit idly by; there is already much to do, so get involved. I'll see you on September 6 and September 21.

For the Michael Moore Democrats, a word of advice: Be careful of what you wish for. Below is an interesting piece from the Arizona Eight blog (<http://arizonaeighth.blogspot.com>). This is the likely scenario that may occur with Ds in control in 2008. Beware!

#### Cuba, the Next Health Care Paradise?

Today I listened to Canada's version of "All Things Considered" highlighting the inaugural speech given by Dr. Brian Day, the new chief of the Canadian Medical Association. In his speech, he said that the National Health Care Act that was "created when the Berlin Wall was being built" is outdated and needs to be revamped. Day backed his calls for change with studies showing Canada to be 30th in health care quality—the bottom of developed countries—and at the top in terms of costs. He said that the government wait list system causing people to wait months for tests and simple procedures was unacceptable to Canadians and the doctor shortage caused by the government system had to change. He also pointed out that 70% of the population had access to private care leaving the 30% without it forming a lower class of citizens. His calls for greater privatization were overwhelmingly supported by the association. The fact that the Canadian system was a bad one has been well-known for decades by anyone living close to our northern neighbors. People waiting over a year for CAT scans and other common procedures seemed to end up in the USA when they decided it was either go to a private system or die. So now where will Clinton, Obama, and Edwards turn when pushing their various forms of Hillary Care? Now that Canada admits its system is broken, will Cuba become the next health care paradise for Democrats?

John Chernoski, President

## **August News Recap**

### **Herald Tribune August 3**

WASHINGTON: The State Department has a message for White House candidates wanting to expound on sensitive diplomatic issues: Shut up.

Traditionally silent during presidential campaigns filled with divisive foreign policy debates, the department on Friday delivered a rebuke to would-be nominees of both parties whose recent comments have complicated U.S. efforts to overcome deep suspicion about the war on terrorism in the Muslim world.

"Those who wish to hold office can speak for themselves and whoever is elected in 2008 and comes into office in 2009 will then be in a position to talk about what they intend or plan to do," said deputy spokesman Tom Casey, a career foreign service officer.

First it was Barack Obama's talk of dialogue with dictators and invading Pakistan to kill Islamist militants, then it was Hillary Rodham Clinton refusing to rule out the use of nuclear weapons to that end. Now, the Democratic front-runners have been joined by radical Republican Rep. Tom Tancredo, who threatened to bomb Muslim holy sites to stop terror attacks.

The State Department had hoped to steer clear of controversy, complaints and public protests sparked by Obama and Clinton, but Tancredo's comments bumped up against the limit of diplomatic patience.

Casey had unusually harsh words for Tancredo, who said this week that if elected he would threaten to bomb the Saudi cities of Mecca and Medina, Islam's two holiest sites, to deter attacks on the United States.

"It is absolutely outrageous and reprehensible for anyone to suggest attacks on holy sites, whether they are Muslim, Christian, Jewish or those of any other religion," a clearly agitated Casey told reporters, shaking his head in disgust.

"To somehow suggest that an appropriate response to terrorism would be to attack sites that are holy and sacred to more than a billion people throughout the world is just absolutely crazy," he said, denouncing "any suggestion that the defense of the American homeland or the defense of American interests would ever justify attacking holy sites."

Tancredo's suggestion to bomb Mecca and Medina came as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Robert Gates were on a sensitive mission to the Middle East that included a stop in Saudi Arabia.

Tancredo told about 30 people at a town hall meeting in Iowa on Tuesday that he believes a nuclear terrorist attack on the U.S. could be imminent and that the U.S. needs to hurry up and think of a way to stop it.

"If it is up to me, we are going to explain that an attack on this homeland of that nature would be followed by an attack on the holy sites in Mecca and Medina. Because that's the only thing I can think of that might deter somebody from doing what they otherwise might do," he said.

Despite his fringe status in the presidential race, Tancredo's statement prompted angry reactions among Muslims in countries deemed critical to the fight against Islamic extremism, notably Pakistan, where U.S. intelligence believes al-Qaida has regrouped.

In Pakistan, the country's Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Sher Afgan said Friday he would open debate next week on recent criticism of Pakistan from several quarters in the U.S., including remarks by Senators Obama and Clinton and Tancredo.

It is a matter of "grave concern that U.S. presidential candidates are using unethical and immoral tactics against Islam and Pakistan to win their election," he said.

Obama said last week he was willing to sit down with pariah leaders like North Korea's Kim Jong-il and Iran's Mahmoud Ahmedinejad and on Wednesday said he would send U.S. troops into Pakistan after Osama bin Laden and other extremists.

On Thursday, he ruled out the use of nuclear weapons in Afghanistan and Pakistan but was quickly derided by Clinton, who signaled she would keep the option on the table.

At the State Department, diplomat's fear that Tancredo's remarks, coupled with those of Obama and Clinton, will be seen as a broader trend of animosity by U.S. politicians to Muslims, especially in Pakistan, officials said.

In 1979, rumors that Israel was going to bomb Mecca and Medina led to the storming of the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed in European publications prompted violent protests two years ago.

## Evans-Novak - August 10

### Republicans 2008

Ames: The Ames, Iowa, straw poll Saturday, August 11, revolves around former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, as former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R) and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) will not take part.

Romney is the hands-down favorite. His early popularity there was enough to scare away the other top contenders. Romney is the favorite in the straw poll for many reasons. First, he is generally strong in Iowa. He leads in most statewide polls, recently exceeding 25 percent and leading runner-up Giuliani by double-digits.

Second, the straw poll, to an even greater extent than the caucuses, is a test of organizational strength. Romney, by far, has the best organized Iowa campaign -- a symptom of his being the most organized of the candidates. A former consultant and corporate manager, Romney understands management.

Third, more than management, the "organizational strength" required by the straw poll means mostly money. Romney is the GOP leader in that field, with \$44 million raised at the end of the second quarter. With Giuliani and McCain not playing in Ames, Romney is orders of magnitude richer than his nearest competitors.

The potential dark horses to watch in Ames are Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.), former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee (R) and Rep. Ron Paul (R.-Tex.). While the straw poll holds "make-or-break" promise for Huckabee and Brownback, it's not clear what result would "make" either of them and what result could "break" them.

Paul has garnered excellent spontaneous grassroots support at every turn, but this hasn't turned into more than a blip in polls or in media coverage. His fundraising, however, is surprising, and his breadth of support on the Internet is impressive. If he shows well in Ames, he could start garnering real media attention. However, campaign organization is not Paul's strong point, making the straw poll a less-than-ideal venue for him to break out.

Brownback's campaign has dedicated itself mostly to chipping away at Romney's support among pro-life Christian conservatives (see discussion of the debate below). This is Brownback's base, and Romney currently occupies some of it (though he is inhibited by anti-Mormon bias). Simply within that base, Brownback could have a strong showing.

Huckabee, however, has similar plans. He is trying to portray himself as the candidate of evangelical Christians -- the most celebrated bloc of the GOP base. Fiscal conservative discontent with Huckabee's Arkansas tax hikes has created something of an anti-Huckabee push -- an extraordinary burden for a second-tier candidate to bear.

A third-place finish for Brownback could be the end of the road for him, especially if it is paired with a robust Romney showing that demonstrates his support within the pro-life constituency. All of Brownback's eggs are in the Iowa basket -- his neighboring state.

If Brownback comes in a strong second, blowing away Huckabee and pocketing a respectable portion of the vote, he could give his candidacy a boost. The same is true for Huckabee.

Romney, as long as he wins as expected, cannot really suffer. A blowout win, however, would make him the undisputed front-runner in the nomination battle. A loss would be a very bad break.

Des Moines Debate: The Des Moines debate last Sunday had no drama and no serious missteps. Nobody did anything to hurt himself, and nobody stood out and shined.

The best line of the night was Romney's quip that Sen. Barack Obama, by expressing his willingness to use U.S. troops in Pakistan without Pakistani permission, had "gone from Jane Fonda to Dr. Strangelove in one week."

This critique resonated with the perception that Obama is in over his head on many issues. Still, however, Republicans are at a major disadvantage on foreign policy as long as they feel wedded to Bush's policies. Because all Democrats -- both those initially opposed to the Iraq invasion and those who supported it -- have flexibility on the issue and license to attack Bush on foreign policy, any Republican will face an uphill climb on this issue (barring a dramatic change in circumstances).

The GOP back bench tried to make a splash, especially with some of their hopes pinned on the Iowa straw poll on August 11. Brownback directly targeted Romney's main weakness among conservatives -- his total switch on the abortion issue. Huckabee and former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson (R), who months ago indicated he thought he would win the Ames vote, showed some spark.

Perhaps the most important exchange of the debate -- especially if it is a harbinger of things to come -- was not a spat between candidates, but Giuliani's challenging Des Moines Register political columnist David Yepsen on one of his questions. Yepsen asked Giuliani if he was willing to raise gas taxes in order to improve bridges (referring to the Minneapolis bridge collapse), and Giuliani rejected the "liberal assumption" of his question. This contrarian streak and self-confidence was part of what New York conservatives loved about Mayor Giuliani, and it's something many conservatives have appreciated in President Bush. Especially with the threat of a Hillary Clinton presidency, Giuliani's combativeness and willingness to challenge the media could be his ticket to the GOP nomination.

Sen. John McCain still appears to be regrouping. In Des Moines, he did not yet seem to have caught his second wind.

Democrats 2008

Overview: Democrats debated over the weekend in Chicago, at an annual convention hosted by the influential and wildly popular left-wing blog DailyKos.

Hillary Clinton received a round of boos after she refused to reject lobbyist money. This was a poignant moment in the tense dynamic between the "Net Roots," who appear to have risen in influence in 2006, and the Democratic Party establishment. First, Clinton has many critics among the bloggers; online organizers and grassroots leaders who helped push Democrats to victories in 2006. For the Net Roots, opposition to Iraq is the most important issue, and a harsh critique of Bush is the most important message. Clinton's mixed message on the war irks these Democratic activists.

More importantly, the Net Roots are trying to position themselves as the new power base in the Democratic Party. They see that money talks, which is why many of these websites have turned into small-dollar fundraising machines for electable candidates who may not be liberals, but who oppose the war and are often populist in tone. In other words, they see the battle for the heart of the party as a fight between the lobbyists and the people. Hillary explicitly sided with the lobbyists.

Barack Obama has had trouble recently, as his inexperience and naivety has shown through, as was inevitable. The perception that he is too green or hasn't done his homework is just beginning to stick. If this perception catches on in Iowa and New Hampshire, it will be a tough climb for the junior senator from Illinois, however strong his national poll figures, fundraising and name recognition are.

Former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) continues to show well in Iowa polls. His populist message strikes a nerve with many of the red state voters who switched to Democrats in 2006. Even if he is relegated by the media the back seat in these early days, he has a chance to be the nominee.

### **The Shape of a Hillary-Rudy Race - August 14**

Current national polls show both Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani with solid leads for their respective party's nominations. Clinton holds about a 20% lead over Barack Obama in national polls, and is rated by London odds-makers a near 60% probability to be nominated. Obama has faded a bit as a serious contender despite his early fund-raising success, following a series of what appeared to many to be naïve and contradictory statements on foreign policy issues.

Giuliani's lead for the GOP nomination over still unannounced candidate Fred Thompson has grown to about 10% in recent weeks. The London odds-makers give Rudy a near 40% shot at the nomination, with Mitt Romney second at 23%. Romney's strength in Iowa and New Hampshire means he is likely to be in the race for the duration, and given his substantial personal financial resources, he has a decent shot to be nominated. Thompson does not lead in any of the initial state contests and could fade as quickly as his star rose a few weeks back. I think the national surveys in coming weeks will show an up-tick for Romney and a decline for Thompson, a trend that began in the past two weeks. On the other hand, if McCain falls out of the race at some point, much of his support will go to Giuliani.

In head-to-head polls for the general election, Giuliani runs better than any other Republican against possible Democratic nominees (McCain runs second best and Romney the weakest) and he and Hillary are approximately tied when they are paired in the polls. Rudy's national strength as a candidate is one reason why liberal media outlets such as the New York Times and Washington Post have started to rough him up a bit. In the case of the Times, Giuliani weathered this for 8 years as mayor, so it is nothing new. The Senate duel between Hillary and Rudy in New York that never happened in 2000 due to Giuliani's prostate cancer may instead play out on a far bigger stage next year.

John Edwards, who has almost no chance to be the nominee for the Democrats, and has gone the farthest in pandering to the left wing activist base of the Democratic Party in an attempt to gain some media attention and traction against his celebrity opponents for the nomination, runs better in head-to-head races against the GOP candidates than either Hillary or Obama. Could it be that a white male is a safer bet than a woman or African-American for the Democrats?

The 2008 Presidential contest is shaping up to be similar to the 2000 and 2004 races. Those two races had very similar red - blue maps. In 2000, Bush won 30 states (including all the states in the South), and in 2004 Bush won 31 states. He picked up Iowa and New Mexico in 2004, in each case winning by less than 10,000 votes, after losing both states by similar narrow margins in 2000, and Bush lost New Hampshire in 2004, after narrowly winning the state in 2000. This was similar to the pattern in the 1992 and 1996 races, when but 5 states changed from one election to the next (Clinton gaining Florida and Arizona in 1996, and losing Colorado, Montana and Georgia that year). Clinton won 32 states in 1992 and 31 in 1996. The big shift was from 1996 to 2000, when the GOP picked up 11 states it had lost in 1996: Ohio, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Florida, Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky, Nevada and Arizona.

Looking at the map for 2008, Giuliani would bring strength to the GOP in the northeast (where it is now weakest), and maybe the Midwest region among suburban voters, and would likely run weaker than Bush did in the South (where the Party has been the strongest) and Southwest. In 2004, Bush won Iowa, New Mexico, Nevada and Ohio by less than 3%, and Florida and Colorado by 5%. All six states will be very competitive in 2008. John Kerry won New Hampshire, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania by less than 3%, and Michigan, Minnesota and Oregon by 3 to 4%. All six states are likely to be competitive, with the possible exception of New Hampshire, which is trending Democratic. Giuliani probably puts New Jersey and its 15 Electoral votes in play. On the other side, Virginia (13) and Arkansas (6) are the most winnable Southern states for the Democrats (other than Florida), and Missouri will likely be a close race as well (Bush won by 7% in 2004).

As in 2000 and 2004, the election race is likely to be played out in about a dozen states, at most probably 15-16. Each party starts with similar numbers of seemingly safe Electoral College votes (183 by my count for the GOP, and 167-171 for the Democrats, depending on whether New Hampshire is still competitive).

This is where the VP selection can matter to each party. The Democrats can improve their chances in one or two states by selecting a Southerner for the number two spot. In particular, Mark Warner could be a big help in winning Virginia. While the Democrats won the Governor's race and the Senate race in Virginia the last two years, in the 2004 Presidential race, Bush carried the state by 9%. Governor Phil Bredesen might make Tennessee more competitive but native son (of sorts) Al Gore could not win the state as the Presidential nominee in 2000.

If Senator Bill Nelson of Florida were the number two pick for the Democrats that would improve the Party's chances of winning the state's 27 Electoral College votes. Bush won Florida by 5% in 2004, and in an otherwise bad year for the Republicans, Charlie Crist won the open seat Governor's race by 7% in 2006. The GOP starts out as the favorite in both Virginia and Florida in 2008.

On the GOP side, assuming the nominee is Rudy Giuliani, he could improve his appeal to social conservatives and Southerners by picking for his VP nominee a candidate such as Mike Huckabee of Arkansas. That would likely secure that state's 6 Electoral votes, and might enhance his margin in other Southern states as well. But the GOP nominee will be favored in all the Southern states to begin with.

A more strategic choice might be to pick Governor Tim Pawlenty of Minnesota, who survived a re-election race last year when his party lost badly in the state's other races. Pawlenty could help Rudy in Minnesota and Wisconsin, which Bush lost by a very small margin in 2000 and 2004, and also in Iowa, which leaned to the Democrats in the 2006 election. The GOP has scheduled its nominating convention for the Twin Cities, suggesting a push for the Upper Midwest.

Another possible number two pick could be a Midwestern congressman, such as Mike Pence of Indiana, or Rob Portman, the current US Trade representative and former Ohio Congressman, who might help the ticket in Ohio, which might be the toughest state for the GOP to hold in 2008, after the Republicans were routed in all statewide races in 2006.

There are of course potential wildcard nominees on both sides. If Hillary were nominated, she could pick Obama. But I think having two national ticket nominees who were first-of-a-kind may be too much of a risk for the Party, especially since both Hillary and Obama have appeal to the same groups. Bill Richardson of New Mexico, on the other hand, would help the Party in the very competitive heavily Hispanic western states of New Mexico (42%), Colorado (17%) and Nevada (20%). Richardson may have hurt his chances, however, with some unnecessary whoppers on the campaign trail (e.g. that he is both a Yankees and a Red Sox fan).

On the GOP side, the Party might want to make a wild card pick of someone\* like Michael Steele of Maryland or Ken Blackwell of Ohio, African-Americans who lost statewide races in 2006. If the GOP were to increase its share of the African-American vote from 10% to 20% from such a selection, it could improve the GOP's chances in several close states with significant African-American population, such as Ohio (11%), Pennsylvania (10%), New Jersey (13%), Michigan (14%) and Florida (14%).

It seems likely, though not certain at this point, that the Democrats will hold control of both the House and Senate after the 2008 elections, and could enlarge their majority, especially in the Senate. The Presidency, however, is very much up for grabs and with it the President's potential ability to appoint a few Supreme Court justices in the next few years. I think we are headed for a fierce, bitter, extraordinarily expensive fight ahead.

