



Republican primaries brought out the patsy in most GOP governors

by DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — The full roster of 1980's political winners and losers is yet to be filled. But it is not too early to guess where the champion clumps and patsies of this campaign saga will be found. Just call the Republican Governors Association and ask for its membership list. Among those 19 names are many that would qualify for inclusion in a new edition of Profiles in Pusillanimity.

From beginning to end, the GOP governors have scaled new heights of political ineptitude, missing countless opportunities to exert leadership that could have given decisive direction to their party's presidential nominating process.

Were they a bunch of hacks, their performance could be dismissed as routine. But because they are talented and ambitious men, who see themselves as shapers of their party's destiny, their mishaps and misjudgments this year are deserving of special recognition.

One could start with the senior member of the club, Iowa's Robert D. Ray. He wins the Timex Award for the Sense of the Strategic Moment by delivering an earnestly sought endorsement to presidential hopeful Howard H. Baker, Jr. — 17 days after the Iowa caucuses had been held. His prize is a braile calendar.

Ray was too much of a free spirit to qualify for the second category of competition. He was disqualified for backing the man who finished fourth in his state's contest.

To be eligible for the trophy in this second category, a replica of the famous sculpture of "Portly Politician With Ear to Ground" by Praxiteles Gallup, the governor must have solemnly vowed to endorse anyone, regardless of views, who won the presidential primary in his state. The joint winners of the 1980 Spineless Cup, as it is known, are Otis Bowen of Indiana, William P. Clements of Texas and Lee S. Dreyfus of Wisconsin.

The Cordless Telephone Trophy to winners of the "Don't Call Me, I'll Call You" Division this year goes to David Treen of Louisiana and Vic Atiyeh of Oregon, both of whom boldly said they would support the Republican nominee after the convention makes its decision.

Charles Thone of Nebraska and William Janklow of South Dakota are co-winners in the Predictable but Dull category. They endorsed Reagan early in the year and will see their states send Reagan delegations to Detroit.

The Red Caboose award for governors who almost — but not quite — missed the train is given to Pierre (Pete) duPont of Delaware, James R. Thompson of Illinois, Albert Quie of Minnesota, Robert List of Nevada, James A. Rhodes of Ohio, Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and John N. Dalton of Virginia. They came out for Reagan — after he had beaten the competition in New Hampshire, the southern primaries and Illinois and was obviously the heavy favorite for nomination.

The judges had great difficulty deciding how to award the Utter Futility Trophy, a Jimmy Carter doll, but they settled it this way:

Second runner-up goes to Jay Hammond of Alaska, who endorsed George Bush on Nov. 31, 1979, and re-endorsed him on May 16 of this year. The Alaska delegate count stands Reagan 19; Bush, 0.

First runner-up is Richard A. Snelling of Vermont. Snelling launched a Draft-Jerry Ford movement in 1979, only to have it rebuffed by its intended beneficiary. He later threw his considerable political force behind Baker, who promptly finished fourth in the Vermont primary and withdrew. Snelling then invited other Republican governors to help draft a no-longer-reluctant but eagerly panting Ford, and had to cancel the meeting when only five governors agreed to show up.

But the winner of the Utter Futility Trophy, the Jimmy, is a new member of the club, Dick Thornburgh of Pennsylvania. Despite strong pressure from his own leading backers to endorse Bush before the Pennsylvania primary and despite a confessed "communication problem" with Reagan, Thornburgh chose to remain officially neutral in the contest. But on the eve of the primary, he introduced Reagan to the Philadelphia Republican City Committee as a man whose nomination would lead to victory, "as night follows day."

What actually followed was this: Thornburgh was almost booted off the platform by the patronage-starved Philadelphia Republican organization henchmen, while a boggle-eyed Reagan watched. And Reagan was soundly beaten by Bush in the Pennsylvania preference primary.

Just to show it was no fluke, Thornburgh also backed a candidate for the U.S. Senate nomination, who lost, and a candidate for vice-chairman, who lost.

That leaves only one Republican governor without a trophy — the black sheep of the fraternity, William G. Milliken of Michigan.

Milliken did something unconscionable. He gave Bush a ringing endorsement at a time, before Pennsylvania, when the Bush campaign was on the ropes. He then went to work in his own state, turned loose his organization, and campaigned unstintingly with and for his candidate. When Bush beat Reagan, 57 to 32 percent, in Michigan last Tuesday, an impressed Reagan complimented Milliken for what he had done on behalf of Reagan's opponent.

All the other members of the association agreed that Milliken was a disgrace to the lodge. If his example had been followed by others, not only might the course of this year's politics have been different but the Republican governors could have lost the reputation they have so richly earned as Everyone's Favorite Patsies.

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Surprise! Most casinos don't cheat; it's they who get cheated

by CY RYAN

United Press International

CARSON CITY, Nev. — Cheating Nevada's casinos is big business.

Contrary to public belief, most scams in the card and dice industry are plotted against — not by — the clubs. Estimated losses by the gaming business annually range from \$10 million to a high of \$25 million.

Nobody knows the exact amount because the casinos may never find out they've been taken. But recent examples include:

— A team of three or four players, using marked cards, reportedly swindled the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas of some \$100,000 in the Baccarat game.

— Eight persons, including two employees, were arrested at the MGM Grand Hotel in Reno, allegedly in an elaborate plot to cheat the 21 game.

— State officials are investigating whether a \$25,000 win in the Keno game at the Cal Neva in Reno may have been rigged.

The casino industry is attractive to gangs of thieves because it deals in a commodity — cash. There are no fences or middlemen to barter with, once the caper is successfully pulled off.

"They are learning something new every day so we can't stop watching," said Warren Nelson, co-owner of the Cal Neva and a veteran of some 40 years in gambling.

The biggest target is the "one-armed bandit." Using magnets, hairspray, strings and wires, slot machine cheaters are able to hit a casino and disappear before the management ever finds out.

Through the years there have been a number of slot machines developed which have been billed as "cheat proof." But Jack Stratton, the oldest member of the state Gaming Control Board which regulates the industry, is skeptical of these claims.

"I don't think any of them are cheat proof," he said. "Given enough time they can all be broken."

One of the easiest ways to bilk a slot machine is to drill a small hole in a strategic place in the machine and then use wires or other gadgets to trip the machine into paying off. Handy men, armed with miniature drills, visit the casinos, quickly bore the small holes, cover them with shoe polish and then disappear. They then sell the location to gangs of slot cheaters who enter the casino, make a quick hit and depart.

The cheaters also try to gain keys to the machines so they can be opened. A few years ago, one enterprising man made impressions of the locks on the slot machines, then went outside to his van and made the keys.

Ninety percent of his time, Stratton said, is spent trying to prevent or contain the cheating. It's also spent in trying to outfox the foxes.

In the arrest of the eight persons at the MGM Grand in Reno, state agents played a cat and mouse game with the suspects. The alleged plot was scheduled to be pulled off when one of the gang recognized an undercover state agent.

The scam was quickly called off. But the quick-thinking agent made a phony arrest on a nearby FBI man and took him outside the casino.

Members of the gang, feeling it was safe to go ahead, started their act but were then quickly arrested by other undercover state officials.

Nelson says the clubs are working more closely than in the past and this is helping cut down ripoffs. The state is now requiring every new casino to have an "eye in the sky," a one-way mirror stretched through the ceiling of the casino so every part can be under surveillance.

Many clubs have television monitors, which have helped in getting convictions of those who are caught. And local prosecutors are bringing more of these cases to trial. As Nelson says, "These guys don't like to go to jail."

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

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Anderson set to challenge foundering political parties

He began as dark as a darkhorse can get. A moderate in a party filled with reactionary conservatives, he challenged frontrunners Ronald Reagan and George Bush for the Republican presidential nomination. Now he has broken away from the GOP to offer himself as an alternative to Reagan and to Jimmy Carter.

He is John Bayard Anderson, U.S. congressman from Illinois. But just what are his chances?

Anderson has picked an opportune time for a third party candidacy, perhaps the ripest in the nation's history. Politicians and pollsters have found this election year to be the Year of the Unpredictable. The only thing they know for certain is this: voters are finding it hard to stomach choosing between Reagan and Carter.

Certainly, history does not favor a third party candidacy. Theodore Roosevelt's Bull Moose campaign in 1912 succeeded only in taking the GOP out of the White House and putting the Democrats in. George Wallace's 1968 American Party folded in the wake of the Nixon campaign's assertion that a vote for Wal-

lace was a vote for Humphrey. The 1976 independent candidacy of Eugene McCarthy set new standards for failure.

But Anderson, by chance or choice, has emerged in a year when both parties are rapidly losing support, especially from the young vote. He speaks well. He gives precise answers to questions. He seldom deals in generalities. He seems to be presidential material.

But, again, what are his chances?

No one can answer that now. Anderson will have to survive in inevitable propaganda that vote for his candidacy is a wasted vote. The Democrats and the Republicans sense the ground shifting beneath their feet, and they are scared. They will expound the virtues of the two-party system, while ignoring its obvious failures, particularly in recent years.

Surviving this onslaught will remain Anderson's biggest challenge. But if the two parties can't find anyone to replace their frontrunners before the summer conventions, the American political structure may be in for an overhaul.

— Rusty Cawley

Mountain's magma is nothing next to D.C.'s buildup of blurb

by DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Renewal of rumblings on Mount St. Helens in the Pacific Northwest has created a heavy flow of explanations as to how volcanoes are formed and what makes them erupt.

Everything you always wanted to know about geology came sliding down the mountain and great globs of elucidation shot high into the air.

Although damage was minimal, there were reports that an entire village was inundated by cutaway drawings, complete with arrows pointing in the direction the molten rock was moving underground.

Natural phenomena of this sort inevitably leave a few questions unanswered, however. The latest mystery is "bulging and tilting" on the north ridge.

Geologists theorized the swelling was caused by magma, which you and I know as hot rock. But they weren't certain whether the magma was rising or at rest.

Seeking further clarification of the situation, I paid a call on one of the nation's leading volcanologists, Sam McGlone of the Bureau of Strangely Acting Mountains.

McGlone has devoted virtually his entire career to a study of the stratigraphical aspects of Capitol Hill, a majestic pinnacle that rises to a height of several dozen feet above the tail of General Grant's horse.

For years, Capitol Hill has been bulging and tilting, well as spewing hot gases. So I asked McGlone whether he had learned anything that might provide a clue as to what was happening inside Mount St. Helens.

"Most volcanoes are formed by collisions of the large rigid plates that make up the Earth's outer shell and the drift about over a layer of molten rock," he replied.

"By contrast, it appears that Capitol Hill was formed by layers of old campaign promises.

"Analyses of sediment unearthed during excavation of the Rayburn Building parking garage suggest that residue of political oratory kept piling up until it eventually accumulated into the mound now occupied by Congress.

"It may be a mistake to assume that the bulging and tilting on Mount St. Helens was caused by magma pressure. Our studies of Capitol Hill show that other types of pressures also can produce bulging and tilting.

"Present indications are that President Carter's handling of the Iranian crisis has started Teddy Roosevelt spinning in his grave.

"The subterranean vibrations from that source caused the release of hot gases and other results similar to the impact of terrestrial plates.

"However, one can't necessarily judge Mount St. Helens by appearances on Capitol Hill. Half the time you can't tell whether Capitol Hill is really inactive or merely extinct."

Sex may be key to runoff election for Texas criminal appeals court

by ANN ARNOLD

United Press International

AUSTIN — Tom G. Davis, a nine-year veteran of the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals who has yet to win an election for his court seat, faces Austin attorney Edith P. Roberts Saturday in a run-off contest that may well turn on the sex of the candidates.

Roberts, 47, is making the most of her gender in a campaign to oust Davis, 58, from the \$56,700-a-year court seat.

"I am the first woman ever to run for the Texas Supreme Court or the Court of Criminal Appeals," Roberts said at one campaign appearance. "We've got 18 men and it wouldn't be unfair to have one old, fat woman there."

Roberts said she could bring a different perspective to court deliberations and contribute from her experience as an attorney for 15 years defending accused criminals and handling child custody and divorce cases.

"I think women do look at issues a little differently," she said.

Roberts, for example, thinks the court should limit the length of opinions handed down in criminal appeals cases and would like to see the system changed to make verbal rulings at the time a case is argued before the court.

"They have limited lawyers to 50-page briefs. I think the judges ought to limit their own opinions — quit messing around," she said. Roberts said the 20-month lag time between the time a case is submitted to the court and a decision is reached is "ridiculous."

Davis agrees the delay in deciding appeals is "much too long," but said it would be unwise to set any arbitrary limit on the length of an opinion.

Davis was a district judge for 12 years in Vernon and Haskell County attorney for 10 years before he was appointed as one of two commissioners to the Criminal Appeals Court in 1971.

The commissioners, originally named to help the high court reduce a huge backlog, eventually were made full members of the court by a constitutional amendment expanding the size of the appeals court from 7 to 9 members in 1978.

Davis points to the overwhelming endorsement — more than 4-to-1 over Roberts — he received in the State Bar poll as evidence lawyers favor him.

Roberts contends no woman would win the lawyer poll because of discriminatory attitudes among many male attorneys.

"Those men just aren't going to vote for a woman," she said.

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