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NEWS

A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

op-ed

Polls/predictions – beware

By Allan Munro

As this is written, June 26, 2020, things look very good for the Democrats' presidential candidate. "Biden Gains Lead in Key State as Trump Loses White Voters" reads a New York Times front-page headline. Overall, Joseph Biden has a 14.2 point lead. Prediction: Biden will win, probably in a landslide.

Not necessarily so.

In 1988 Michael Dukakis had a 14 point lead following the Republican National Convention in August. George H W Bush was saddled with the scandals of the Reagan Administration, particularly Iran Contra. Bush had said he was "out of the loop" on Iran Contra. Nobody really believed him. (I still don't.)

Eleven weeks later Bush won the election with a decisive victory.

What had happened?

Answer: Lee Atwater, Bush's campaign strategist had organized a massive negative campaign against Dukakis, playing the race card (Remember the Willie Horton ads?) and accusing Dukakis of inept governance (pollution of Boston Harbor). These are examples of negative campaigning that were based upon lies. Dukakis's message was overwhelmed by the slanders of the Bush campaign.

Atwater, now dead, was a political cohort of Paul Manafort and Roger Stone of Trump campaign fame. It appears Stone is still advising Trump, notwithstanding his conviction.

Trump has an incredible war chest to finance such a campaign.

What to look for:

1. An attack that plays the race card: Black revolutionaries, hoards of Central Americans, Muslims and East Africans, illegal immigrants.
2. Something dramatic engineered by Attorney General Barr. A special prosecutor's report on Biden's involvement in the Ukrainian debacle. Maybe an indictment of Hunter Biden on some Trumped-up (excuse the expression) theory.
3. Intensified, well-financed efforts at voter suppression in swing states.

There are reasons for optimism. Biden, is better known than Dukakis was. The coronavirus will still be a big threat in November. But, optimism, which engenders complacency, is counterproductive.

My message: Ignore the predictions of victory. Brace yourself for one of the bloodiest campaigns in US history.

As Yankee philosopher Yogi Berra said: "Predictions can be very difficult, especially when they are about the future."

Dump Trump shirts

MDC member Dan Fievez has announced that he is selling blue polo shirts that say "Go Blue – DUMP TRUMP for \$15. These come in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes. To order, call Dan at (206) 382-6087 or email him at operadaniel40@gmail.com.

MDC Zooms

No date has been set, but Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle's President Jack Whisner says that he will be setting up a Zoom meeting soon. The topic under discussion, as requested by several MDC members, will be primary endorsements. Discussing whom to endorse for public office is an important part of the MDC culture, they said, and as meeting in person is not an option this year, this tradition can be carried on through electronic communication channels.

The MDC's primary endorsement ballot is included with this newsletter and can be referenced along with the Chautauqua Afternoon event program, also included. The vote this year will be entirely by mail. Ballots are due postmarked no later than July 24. Members are eligible to vote if their dues have been paid in full at least 30 days prior to July 29. Results of the vote will be announced July 29.



Letters to the editor

Re: Lynne Dodson

Dear Editor

This is not exactly MDC News, but maybe Lynne still has friends there who will be interested in her new job. She will start July 6th as Director of the United Food & Commercial Workers union. She hopes to begin some work force development. My son, Richard Burton, continues with the American Federation of Teachers. They live in Astoria, Queens NYC.

Joan Burton

From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contribution are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

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