

POLITICS CIRCA 2008

By Don Lein

It's a tossup whether the big story of 2008 will be what happened in politics or what happened to the mainstream media. It's eye-opening but somewhat painful to see the Gray Lady that I used to read faithfully on my commute to work lose the last faint vestiges of objectivity it heretofore possessed and feature a half dozen hit pieces on the same candidate in one weekend. It is equally painful to see what Newton Minow once characterized as a "vast waste-

land" deteriorating further with Charlie Gibson castigating a candidate because she couldn't read his rather vacuous mind. It is also interesting to note that the local organ featured hit pieces on the same candidate while leaving the shenanigans of the Governor, his wife and the myopic attorney general alone. On to the good stuff...

OPINION

National Elections

In one of the more unscripted comments by Barack Obama, he commis-


erated with the Iowa farmers by saying "Anybody gone into Whole Foods lately and see what they charge for arugula?" He certainly knows how to reach out to us common folk. His running mate was also very candid when he told a group of North Carolina voters that "Electing a Black will be very transformative." Indeed it might, but for better or worse? Former Democratic Vice Presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro has indicated that the only reason he was nominated was because he is black. Will the campaign get beyond this? Is there anything beyond this? Clearly 70 percent of people in polls want real off-shore drilling, others want tax cuts to stimulate the economy - will they be heard, or will we simply be asked whether we wish to assuage our collective guilt - shades of Shelby Steele? In actuality, if Obama's projected ultra-left policies and their consequences were clearly articulated and understood, he would lose in a landslide - so superficiality and attack ads will reign.

State Politics

It's difficult to focus on the candidates while the Katzenjammer Kids, Easley and Cooper, engage in pure theater. The rest of the country was suffering from Ike, but we had to suffer while Mike and Ol' Roy were rewriting the law of supply and demand and the role of prices in that

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