

Bristol Palin enough already

Who among us didn't at least empathize with Bristol Palin when she was paraded before millions of strangers at the 2008 Republican National Convention, along with her hockey player boyfriend who had gotten her pregnant months earlier?

Not pity. Not sympathy. Just a feeling that it was too bad that a girl from Wasilla, Alaska was being exposed as an unwed, expectant mother at 17 years of age.

In its own peculiar way, her noticeable pregnancy completed the Sarah Palin mosaic. A mother who had been selected as John McCain's running mate at a time when 98% of American people couldn't have picked her out of a lineup. A father who raced "snow machines" and field dressed big game. An older son in the military who would ship out to a combat zone after the spectacle on television. Two younger daughters, one cute and precocious and one verging on striking. And a baby brother who would face challenges all of his life.

Bristol had the baby and dumped the father. Most Americans felt, "good riddance" as he had spent most of his time trashing the Palin family and the rest posing for Playgirl magazine or cavorting with the likes of Kathy Griffin.

As though Bristol Palin were the first semi-attractive young girl of conservative parents to have gotten pregnant as a teenager yet to marry, speaking bureaus sought her out and offered her large sums of money to tell about her new commitment to abstinence before marriage to others she might impress. Speaking fees as high as \$30,000 an appearance were suggested. Not because she was Bristol Palin but because she was Sarah Palin's daughter. She didn't consider it exploitation. But it was. In the worst form.

Then she hooked up with the same slug who got her pregnant the first time. And she has announced her engagement to this parasite - a guy who, without the celebrity attached to the Palins, couldn't make a living - and plans to marry him in six weeks. Her mother doesn't approve, Bristol says. No kidding. While Bristol may prove to be no catch herself, she is not marrying upward if she ties the knot with that knucklehead. About all she's done is to confirm the unfairness in life. Most unwed teenage mothers have to struggle to survive. Unfairly, she doesn't.

Rita Meyer does best against Dems

Wyoming will not contribute to "the year of the woman" in politics if the state's two largest daily newspapers have anything to say about it.

Republican women across the nation are doing well in elections and polling this election season. And that sticks in the craw of the liberal mainstream media. Liberals are convinced that it is their divine right to have only women candidates win elections if they have a "D" behind their name.

Here in Wyoming, the Casper Star-Tribune and the Wyoming Tribune-Eagle editorialize as though they favor equality between genders but they do little to prove that claim. As has been pointed out on these pages, the WTE rails about Cheyenne Frontier Days lacking a woman committee chairman at the same time they do not have a woman on their editorial board. In fact, the only time in recent memory the WTE has allowed a woman on their editorial board, it was in an effort to shame CFD into naming a woman committee chair. After they both had women in those positions for a short time, they each reverted back to the testosterone-only crowd, as it remains today.

While the newspapers' endorsements for governor will not have been made public by the time of printing this issue, it is widely believed that both papers will choose Matt Mead. If they do, they will be in interesting company. The Democratic governor himself, Dave Freudenthal, is said to support Mead over either of the Democratic candidates. Just as Dave protected his standing as the state's "top Dem" by withholding real and active support of Gary Trauner in 2006 when Gary had a real chance to win the U.S. House seat over Barbara Cubin, by remaining virtually mute, he refused to use his immense popularity to help a fellow Democrat. So, it should come as no surprise that his choice to succeed him is another former U.S. Attorney who happens to be a Republican rather than one of the two Democrats, neither of whom ever worked in the U.S. Attorney's office.

The state seems to be very fortunate this election cycle - on the Republican side for Governor at least - in that there are four capable candidates. Ron Micheli did some damage to his standing with his

ill-timed and poorly chosen words of support for a violent rapist simply because the criminal is a member of the same religious faith as Micheli. That aside, and no one knows how voters will treat Micheli's misstep, each of the four major Republican candidates could probably do as good a job as governor as the incumbent has. None are likely to be as good a politician as Dave has become but each should be able to fulfill the function of being governor at least as well as Dave.

Little credible polling is done in Wyoming. Candidate's polling results are just a little more reliable than tea leaves or crystal balls. Results always seem to favor the one who paid for the poll. Go figure.

Rasmussen Reports does some polling in Wyoming but when it doesn't support the leanings of the WTE or CST, those results are ignored by the newspapers.

For example, Rasmussen Reports released results of polling done for them on June 22, 2010. And, frankly, whichever Republican candidate is favored by the daily newspapers, they had no reason to withhold the results even though Rita Meyer did slightly better against either of the leading Democratic candidates (Leslie Peterson and Pete Gosar) than did the other candidates.

and either Democrat a dead heat, if the Democrat picked up the lost support. Even if they didn't, each race would be within ten points. Republicans shouldn't "take a chance" when they have at least two candidates who appear to be far ahead of either Democrat in the primary.

If, as expected, both larger (no newspaper in Wyoming can be considered "large") state newspapers endorse Matt Mead because of personal friendships with him, what effect will those endorsements have on voters? Well, Matt is not a dynamic campaigner and his personal wealth may be having an impact on the race but it is doubtful the dailies endorsement will. And, will the timing of such endorsements dilute any benefit they might otherwise have for Mead? Too close to the election will get lost in the shuffle of television and print advertising.

Rita Meyer presents the best bet to take this seat back to the "R" column. Not that they all wouldn't defeat the chosen Democrat but Rita has done best in the two Rasmussen Reports surveys released. Will voters in this "[In]equality State" set aside their biases and vote for a woman? Not just any woman but a qualified woman? No one should ask voters to cast a vote for any candidate on the basis of gender, faith, alma mater, profession or

Pulse Opinion Research Poll for Rasmussen Reports, June 22, 2010 Survey of 500 Likely Wyoming Voters					
Rita Meyer vs Leslie Peterson	51% to 23%	+28%	Rita Meyer vs Pete Gosar	52% to 23%	+29%
Matt Mead vs Leslie Peterson	49% to 22%	+27%	Matt Mead vs Pete Gosar	51% to 23%	+28%
Ron Micheli vs Leslie Peterson	47% to 27%	+20%	Ron Micheli vs Pete Gosar	46% to 28%	+18%
Colin Simpson vs Leslie Peterson	44% to 28%	+16%	Colin Simpson vs Pete Gosar	51% to 24%	+27%

It would be more informative to have a poll comparing the four Republican candidates but this is likely all we'll get from an independent source.

In each matchup, about one fourth of the voters either preferred another candidate or "did not know" at the time of the poll.

If the methodology provided any real value to Republican voters, it would probably be that there are two most electable candidates in the race - Rita Meyer and Matt Mead - and they are almost co-favorites. While all of the four Republicans are favored to defeat either of the two Democrats, Rita Meyer surveys the strongest against both Peterson and Gosar, with Mead close behind. The only matchup wherein Colin Simpson comes out well is against Pete Gosar.

Micheli's less than stellar showing came before his letter of support for a convicted rapist. It is highly likely his support has fallen off somewhat. It's anyone's guess as to the severity of the drop - it would not surprise this writer if it were up to 10% which would make a race between Micheli


lineage. Candidates for governor must convince voters that they deserve votes based on qualifications, experience, leadership and ability to handle the job and represent the State of Wyoming and its people well. No one is "entitled" to the job.

All four of the leading Republican candidates could probably satisfy those requisites. Rita Meyer has been in state office for almost four years. She presents the best proof of an ability to be governor.

It is shameful that the mainstream media chose to dilute news that is favorable to Rita or to ignore it completely. With so little polling data about Wyoming races, why not provide the information to voters and let them make what they will of it? Why not? The only reason is that the controlled media do not want to chance voters reaching their decisions from facts other than those represented by that medium. In 2006, only the Riverton Ranger carried the Herald disclosures about Jim McBride's failed tenure in Bennett, Colorado. Look what that got you. Do you want to be in the dark on the 2010 governor's race? Let's hope not.

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