



In Real News

INDIAN SUMMER FALL 2016 EDITION

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CUBPOCALYPSE!

If you cannot stand the heat, stay out of the dugout. Diehard Cub fans had been in their own baseball Hell for generations. But on a warm night in Cleveland, the Devil taunted them in a Game 7 for the Ages with heavenly highs and purgatory lows.

There was more drama than a presidential election. There were more heroes than pending goats. There was a glimpse of a glorious future while releasing the demons of past futile seasons.

The Cubs came back from a 3-1 Series deficit to win three games in a row to take their first championship in 108 years. (One week later, in front of 62,300 spectators in Soldier Field, the Irish rugby team reversed their 111 years of losing to the infamous New Zealand All-Blacks team.)

There is significant change taking place. Shamans portend that major, usual milestones signify destructive change to the status quo. A new evolution will be reborn. In the baseball world, the Cubs are now the premiere franchise. Everyone will be coming after them. The lovable losers are no more.

Baseball is a means of escape from the troubles of daily life. In this series, generations pulled together by their loyalty to the Cubs, brought waterfalls of tears when they could finally say, "the Cubs are World Champions." The emotional bond between Cub fans and team is almost cult-like status. It blanketed the nation's attention away from the foreboding prospect of either a Clinton or Trump presidency.

A LETTER FROM THE PUB CUBBERNAUT ARRIVES IN PROMISED LAND

During the Cubs weekend World Series home stand, I spent 20 3/4 hours watching the games in Chicago bars. I have not spent that much continuous time in a bar since college. Fittingly, it was in the company of college friends.

In college, I used to organize my “Marty’s Safaris,” which was rounding up the newsroom to go open the nearby bar at 11 a.m. to stake out large tables to watch Cub-Cardinal baseball games. Eastern Illinois sits on the front line of the baseball civil war between Cub and Cardinal fans. Day games meant a day of drinking, yelling, swearing and having a good time.

Now, a generation later, Cub fans have equal footing with their championship peers at the bragging bar stools. I am glad the wait is over for so many long suffering people. People who maxed out their credit cards, took off work, burned vacation days with family, and traveled long distances just to be part of this sports history.

By midsummer, I was convinced that the Cubs were the best team in baseball. The lack of major pitching injuries and young hitters building on last year’s success drove me to state over and over that 2016 was World Series or Bust. I expected the team to win the World Series (I said in 5 against the Indians).

Even when the team was down three games to one, I did not panic. I saw the Cubs starting pitching matched up well against short rest Cleveland. The Cubs would start to hit a second time around. I knew the Cubs won three in a row five times during the season when Lester-Arrieta-Hendricks pitched.

My only concern was whether Joe Maddon would overmanage games to cause defeat from victory. He was going to get new goat antlers if the Cubs did not pull out Game 7.

When the last out was recorded, I did not jump from my chair, scream or show any pent up emotion. I had left cynicism and doubt at the doorstep before the series started. I was glad the Cubs won. It was a monumental accomplishment. Something I thought would never happen since the dark days of 1969 when I sat in the back row in school next to a transplant New Yorker who loved his Mets. That was an awful, bitter fall.

I observed that the amount of angst, fear and panic a fan had during the game was proportional to their volcanic release of emotion when the Cubs won the Series. The Cubbernaut (a word I used in 2015 to describe the new winning team) has reached the promised land. Everyone has a full year to savor this year.



After Game 5, fans began writing in chalk on the Wrigley outfield brick walls. Most were encouragement and memorials to loved ones who never had a chance to participate in a Cub World Series. A week after the victory, the team said it will erase these memories as the next phase of construction begins around the ball park.

That may be the lasting legacy of the Cubs season; the reconnection of past family memories to the present.



There will be for the next year some boastful pride, gloating, large smiles and snide remarks from some Cub fans. The expectation for 2017 cannot be any higher than 2016. The novelty of not winning is gone, and so is part of the reason of being a Cub fan.

WORST. ELECTION. EVER.

How did America become so distracted not to realize that their choice for President is between a self-absorbed, blowhard, idiotic bully and a self-centered, sociopathic liar?

It is like turning over General Motors to the Kardashians, who would turn all the assembly plants into production of motorized hand bags.

Why America? Why? The choice is not between just Two Evils, but a voter's decision between choosing a firing squad or the gallows.

Hillary Clinton is a monster. The Wikileaks email disclosures show that she is not going the people's business, but ringmaster of a global pay



to play scheme that burns the bridges between public service and private gain.

Donald Trump is a delusional low budget television celebrity who has leveraged his fame to spout lunatic ravings to the disillusioned middle class.

In September, The Economist's American correspondent remarked that he viewed this election as a mirror of the Brexit Vote. Staying with the European Union was a foregone conclusion by the last poll until the actual votes were counted. It brought down the government.. No one real-



ized that citizens were voting against the out-of-control government bureaucrats. When political insiders cannot figure out Trump's last surge in the toss up states, a few are seeing the light of an American Brexit.

The "leftovers" are people who have been displaced by globalization, plant closings and government fiscal bankruptcy. Former Democratic-union strongholds in Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin have not recovered since 2008's implosion. They are the voters who can hold on to a single issue to cast their vote: such as fair trade, re-do on NAFTA, penalize companies who move jobs overseas, populist protectionism tariffs. they don't want entitlements, they want their jobs back.

Trump has a clearer message (without specifics) to hang on to these voters, as well as the Second Amendment gun owners and the small government small business owners.

If Libertarian Gary Johnson was a better candidate, it could have been a real Change election. But he stumbled out of the gate and the national media refused to cover him.



The national media had called this Election cycle wrong from the very beginning. How could a Democratic gulag fringe player like Bernie Sanders take Hillary Clinton, the queen in waiting, to the wire at the convention? How could a washed up reality TV smuck vanquish 16 party line GOP candidates in the primaries?

The Democrats have perfected Chicago machine politics at a global scale. The Clintons have been the conduit for all things political money and favors.

The Republicans opened their tent for new, grass roots voters. Little did they know the new Trumpsters were barbarians at the gate.

In the end, America has a choice of two evils (and not the

lesser of two.) On the eve of the election, 64% of voters believe Hillary is untrustworthy and 60% feel the same about Trump. They are both horrible candidates and lousy human beings.

Experts believe voters should not psychoanalyze candidates, but at the same time the character, temperament and trustworthiness are all voters can use to make their decisions.

Trump is a classic megalomaniac; a psychopathological condition characterized by delusional fantasies of wealth, power, or omnipotence. Or, an obsession with grandiose or extravagant things or actions.

Clinton is a sociopath, a person whose behavior is antisocial and who lacks a sense of moral responsibility or social conscience.

Antisocial personality disorder is defined by a pervasive and persistent disregard for morals, social norms, and the rights and feelings of others. Individuals with this personality disorder will typically have no compunction in exploiting others in harmful ways for their own gain or pleasure, and can be manipulative and deceitful towards other people, achieving this through wit and a facade of superficial charm, or through intimidation and violence. They may display arrogance and think lowly and negatively of others, and lack remorse for their harmful actions. Irresponsibility is a core characteristic of this disorder: they can have significant difficulties in maintaining stable employment as well as fulfilling their social and financial obligations, and

people with this disorder often lead exploitative, unlawful, or parasitic lifestyles.

Both candidates share Narcissistic personality disorder (NPD). It is characterized by exaggerated feelings of self-importance, an excessive need for admiration, and a lack of understanding of others' feelings. People affected by it often spend a lot of time thinking about achieving power, success, or their appearance. They often take advantage of the people around them.

Individuals with NPD display the following traits:

1. Grandiosity with expectations of superior treatment from others
2. Fixated on fantasies of power, success, intelligence, attractiveness, etc.
3. Self-perception of be-

ing unique, superior and associated with high-status people and institutions

4. Needing constant admiration from others

5. Sense of entitlement to special treatment and to obedience from others

6. Exploitative of others to achieve personal gain

7. Unwilling to empathize with others' feelings, wishes, or needs

8. Intensely jealous of others and the belief that others are equally jealous of them

9. Pompous and arrogant demeanor.

The Wikileaks disclosures shed light on Hillary's sense of plotting entitlement and abuse of the system for personal gain. Many stories relate how badly she treats her secret service details. She believes that she has

the answers to everyone's problems but in fact is telling different positions to different interest groups, often mocking one against the other in order to pander support.

Trump's idiocy is that he spouts his grandeur, arrogance, abuse and stupidity in public or on live television. He thinks he is the only thing since sliced bread. He is above everyone because he believes bully meanness equals intelligence.

No matter the result, the system will be irrevocably broken like Ozzie Osbourne attempting to sing the 7th inning stretch at Wrigley Field. Clinton will be under a cloud of indictment or impeachment while Trump will have to put in a gag and straightjacket. Welcome to the End of the American Century.

