

April 20, 2015

John Hinderaker posts on John Dickerson who CBS has picked to anchor Face the Nation.

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In McLean, Va., in the 1970s, the suburban clusters had names written in script at the entrance gates, but my house was the only one I knew that had a name of its own. When my parents gave parties, it was my job to open the door, look each new arrival in the eye and say: "Welcome to Merrywood."

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More from Ed Driscoll. As Glenn Reynolds says; they're not journalists, they're partisans with bylines.

John Dickerson, replacing Bob Schieffer as the new host of Face the Nation, will continue the same level of objectivity that CBS has brought to viewers for half a century. In 1964, when CBS was one third of all television news, Walter Cronkite and Daniel Schorr repeatedly smeared Barry Goldwater as a crypto-Nazi. His successor, Dan Rather, blew himself up in spectacular fashion with RatherGate in 2004, as dissected by all those bloggers in their Pajamas, to coin a Website name. ...

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Dickerson is merely being Dickerson, and there's no doubt he speaks for legions upon legions of those in the media today. ...

Turning our attention to Hillary Clinton, John Fund says she has serious problems. *In the run-up to Hillary Clinton's presidential announcement, a lot of commentators dismissed criticism of her or suggested it would boomerang against Republicans. Her former consultant James Carville accused MSNBC's Joe Scarborough of "scandalmongering." On Sunday, Chuck Todd of NBC's Meet the Press, speaking to radio talk-show host Hugh Hewitt, expressed his skepticism of Republican efforts against the Clintons: "I look at sort of an obsession on the right of beating Obama and beating Bill Clinton over the years . . . is there a point where you do this too much?"*

But clearly many voters disagree. A new Bloomberg poll finds approval of Hillary at 48 percent in the wake of her e-mail scandal. The poll finds 53 percent of Americans believe "she purposely withheld or deleted some relevant e-mails from a private account and home server she used while in office." Just 29 percent of respondents think she is being truthful.

"Voters do think she is a strong leader — a key metric — but unless she can change the honesty perception, running as a competent but dishonest candidate has serious potential problems," concludes Quinnipiac's assistant polling director Peter Brown. His firm's new polls find majorities in the swing states of Colorado, Iowa, and Virginia don't believe she is honest or trustworthy. ...

Charles Krauthammer writes on the "Marie Antoinette tour."

See Hillary ride in a van! Watch her meet everyday Americans! Witness her ordering a burrito bowl at Chipotle! Which she did wearing shades, as did her chief aide Huma Abedin, yielding security-camera pictures that made them look (to borrow from Karl Rove) like fugitives on the lam, wanted in seven states for a failed foreign policy.

There's something surreal about Hillary Clinton's Marie Antoinette tour, sampling cake and commoners. But what else can she do? After Barack Obama, she's the best-known political figure in America. She has papal name recognition. Like Napoleon and Cher, she's universally known by her first name. As former queen consort, senator and secretary of state, she has spent a quarter-century in the national spotlight — more than any modern candidate.

She doesn't just get media coverage; she gets meta-coverage. The staging is so obvious that actual events disappear. The story is their symbolism — campaign as semiotics.

This quality of purposeful abstractness makes everything sound and seem contrived. It's not really her fault. True, she's got enough genuine inauthenticity to go around — decades of positioning, framing, parsing, dodging — but the perception is compounded by the obvious staginess of the gigantic political apparatus that surrounds her and directs her movements. ...

Seth Mandel thinks Clinton is terrified of people and wonders if that will matter to voters.

If, as a child, you expressed fear of a certain kind of insect, or a dog or a cat perhaps, you were probably told by an adult to buck up because “it’s more afraid of you than you are of it.” If so, you might find it endearing to learn that the same could probably be said about Hillary Clinton. It’s true that she seeks to punish dissent, embraces Nixonian power lust and rule breaking, and is even willing to support amending the Constitution to trash free-speech protections if it means keeping a negative movie about her out of theaters. But as we’re learning this week, as creepy and destructive as her view of government is, she’s almost certainly more afraid of you than you are of her.

IJ Review has a fun side-by-side comparison of what happened when the entertainment-news site TMZ attempted to question Marco Rubio in an airport, and what happened when TMZ tried to corner Hillary Clinton in an airport. Rubio walked over to the cameraman smiling, and chatted for a bit about his campaign, music, and even gracefully handled a question about his wife being an ex-cheerleader. He never looked uncomfortable, or bothered by the questions.

The video of Clinton consists entirely of her walking away in silence, hearing but ignoring the cameraman.

You may think that if there’s any fear at play in that video, it’s fear of the media or of accountability. And that’s surely true. But Hillary’s campaign rollout is revealing that it’s a more generalized fear than that: the woman who wants to be the next president is terrified of people.

...

According to **Jonah Goldberg**, Clinton is the candidate of yesterday. For proof he points out she was the only candidate who supported the war in Iraq.

... Personally, I don’t think support for the war should be disqualifying. And I have no doubt that most anti-war Democrats will nonetheless work through their cognitive dissonance and vote for Clinton. They hardly put up much protest when anti-war Obama selected Clinton, Joe Biden, and John Kerry, all of whom voted for the war, as his top foreign-policy gurus.

Perhaps this generational wave of post-Iraq Republican politicians says something interesting about the GOP? Likewise, perhaps Clinton’s support for the war — until she apologized in her 2014 memoir — says something about her? Reasonable (and unreasonable) people will differ on all that.

But Clinton’s support for the war underscores a broader vulnerability. Unlike her probable opponents, she’s truly a creature of yesterday’s battles. From the fight over “Hillarycare,” to the endless scandals of her husband’s administration, to the ugly brawls over the Iraq War, Hillary Clinton has been a partisan fixture of Washington at its most exhausting and ugly moments. A Midwestern road trip in a van dubbed “Scooby,” even one punctuated by burrito breaks, won’t make people forget that, nor will defensive outbursts from her supporters stop her critics from pointing it out.

And the NY Times reports Clinton was asked about her emails two years ago. *Hillary Rodham Clinton was directly asked by congressional investigators in a December 2012 letter whether she had used a private email account while serving as secretary of state, according to letters obtained by The New York Times.*

But Mrs. Clinton did not reply to the letter. And when the State Department answered in March 2013, nearly two months after she left office, it ignored the question and provided no response.

The query was posed to Mrs. Clinton in a Dec. 13, 2012, letter from Representative Darrell Issa, the Republican chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Mr. Issa was leading an investigation into how the Obama administration handled its officials' use of personal email.

"Have you or any senior agency official ever used a personal email account to conduct official business?" Mr. Issa wrote to Mrs. Clinton. "If so, please identify the account used." ...

Pajamas Media

[New Host of Face the Nation Advised Obama in 2013 to 'Destroy the GOP'](#)

by Ed Driscoll

John Dickerson, replacing Bob Schieffer [as the new host of Face the Nation](#), will continue the same level of objectivity that CBS has brought to viewers for half a century. In 1964, when CBS was one third of all television news, Walter Cronkite and Daniel Schorr repeatedly [smeared Barry Goldwater as a crypto-Nazi](#). His successor, Dan Rather, blew himself up in spectacular fashion with RatherGate in 2004, as dissected by all those bloggers in their Pajamas, [to coin a Website name](#). In 2007, Rather's successor, Scott Pelley, violating 32 flavors of Godwin's Law in the same fashion as Cronkite, "was asked why he refused to include global warming skeptics in his reporting. He responded, 'If I do an interview with [Holocaust survivor] Elie Wiesel, [am I required as a journalist to find a Holocaust denier?](#)', as *NewsBusters* noted.

All of which is why, as John Nolte wrote in 2013 at *Big Journalism*, ["Reading the Left's fevered desires over at Slate isn't anything new:"](#)

Not even articles breathlessly titled and subtitled:

[Go for the Throat! Why if he wants to transform American politics, Obama must declare war on the Republican Party.](#)

Not even articles that read:

The president who came into office speaking in lofty terms about bipartisanship and cooperation can only cement his legacy if he destroys the GOP. If he wants to transform American politics, he must go for the throat. ...

Obama's only remaining option is to pulverize. Whether he succeeds in passing legislation or not, given his ambitions, his goal should be to delegitimize his opponents. Through a series of clarifying fights over controversial issues, he can force Republicans to either side with their coalition's most extreme elements or cause a rift in the party that will leave it, at least temporarily, in disarray.

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And just in time for the 2016 election, Dickerson will be the host of *Face the Nation*. What could go wrong?

Power Line

[Face the Far-Left Nation?](#)

by John Hinderaker

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The president already appears to be headed down this path. He has admitted he's not going to spend much time improving his schmoozing skills; he's going to get outside of Washington to ratchet up public pressure on Republicans. He is transforming his successful political operation into a governing operation. It will have his legacy and agenda in mind—and it won't be affiliated with the Democratic National Committee, so it will be able to accept essentially unlimited donations. The president tried to use his political arm this way after the 2008 election, but he was constrained by re-election and his early promises of bipartisanship. No more. Those days are done.

The entire piece is a fevered recitation of Democratic Party talking points. Dickerson was fired up about gun control, global warming and immigration. He saw the GOP as more or less on its death bed, completely failing to foresee that two years later it would control the Senate and have more House members than at any time since 1928, not to mention 31 governorships and two-thirds of state legislative bodies. (Please, let's have more gun control, global warming and immigration!)

Most professional news people are, as Glenn Reynolds puts it, Democratic Party operatives with bylines. But Dickerson is an extreme case. His appointment raises once again the question, why should Republicans go on television programs that are nothing but partisan left-wing operations? Why grant them that apparent legitimacy? Dickerson is on record as wanting to destroy the Republican Party, so why play his game? In my view, any Republican who goes on *Face the Nation* at this point is foolish.

Bear in mind, too, that in all election cycles prior to this one, hostile "journalists" like John Dickerson presided over GOP presidential primary debates. Their objective was to make all the Republican candidates, and the party as a whole, look bad. Reince Priebus has, I hope, finally put that practice to rest (although leftists will still preside over the general election debates). But incalculable damage has been done, over the years, by Democratic Party activists masquerading as objective journalists. Once they have been unmasked, there is no reason to cooperate in their efforts to, as Dickerson put it, "destroy the GOP."

National Review

The Dirty Business of the Billary Machine, Again

“Ambitious” is an understatement, and the public is wary.

By John Fund

In the run-up to Hillary Clinton’s presidential announcement, a lot of commentators dismissed criticism of her or suggested it would boomerang against Republicans. Her former consultant James Carville accused MSNBC’s Joe Scarborough of “scandal mongering.” On Sunday, Chuck Todd of NBC’s *Meet the Press*, speaking to radio talk-show host Hugh Hewitt, expressed his skepticism of Republican efforts against the Clintons: “I look at sort of an obsession on the right of beating Obama and beating Bill Clinton over the years . . . is there a point where you do this too much?”

But clearly many voters disagree. A new Bloomberg poll finds approval of Hillary at 48 percent in the wake of her e-mail scandal. The poll finds 53 percent of Americans believe “she purposely withheld or deleted some relevant e-mails from a private account and home server she used while in office.” Just 29 percent of respondents think she is being truthful.

“Voters do think she is a strong leader — a key metric — but unless she can change the honesty perception, running as a competent but dishonest candidate has serious potential problems,” concludes Quinnipiac’s assistant polling director Peter Brown. His firm’s new polls find majorities in the swing states of Colorado, Iowa, and Virginia don’t believe she is honest or trustworthy.

Reams of copy have been written by reporters about Hillary’s lack of warmth, her secrecy, and her belief in hand-to-hand political combat. But what seems to bug voters I speak with is the sense that she is mostly a pure political animal. *New York* magazine reported that “in the Senate, [her Democratic colleague] Chuck Schumer used to tell aides that Clinton was ‘the most opaque person you’ll ever meet in your life.’” He would then add, “If [I’d] lived her life, I’d be that way, too.”

But the life she and Bill Clinton have led includes a degree of ambition and tactical ruthlessness that is remarkable even by Chuck Schumer’s standards. Jeff Gerth and Don Van Atta, two Pulitzer Prize winners formerly with the *New York Times*, wrote in their 2007 biography of Hillary, *Her Way*, that in the early 1970s, she and Bill had “made a secret pact of ambition.” They would “embark on a political partnership with two staggering goals: revolutionize the Democratic party and, at the same time, capture the presidency for Bill,” they wrote. “They called it their ‘twenty-year project.’” Indeed it took them only two decades until Bill was elected in 1992. “Once their ‘20-year project’ was realized, their plan became even more ambitious: eight years as president for him, then eight years for her. Their audacious pact has remained a secret until now.”

Apologists for the Clintons have attacked Gerth and Van Atta’s account, noting that their source for the his-and-hers White House plan is former *New York Times* reporter Ann Crittenden and her husband. They in turn heard it from historian Taylor Branch, a friend of the Clintons. After *Her Way* appeared, Branch reversed an earlier statement he had made to one of its authors, saying “I don’t remember” the conversation about a pact. But “I’m not denying it,” he also stated. When contacted by the *Washington Post* in March 2007, Branch said, “I never heard either Clinton talk about a ‘plan’ for them both to become president.”

But the accuracy of their original “20-year project” citation hasn’t been challenged. Gerth and Van Atta say their source was none other than Bill Clinton’s White House chief of staff, Leon Panetta, who heard about the “project” from Bill Clinton himself on Air Force One in 1996. Clinton “allegedly told Panetta that’s why they relied on people like adviser Dick Morris, who has since become an outspoken Clinton basher,” ABC News reported in June 2007. “According to the authors, Clinton told Panetta that ‘you had to hear from the dark side,’ referring to Morris, and ‘we had to do what we had to do.’” Leon Panetta has never altered his on-the-record account.

The fanaticism with which the Clinton Machine went after Gerth and Van Atta over the notion of their shared presidential “project” helps make the point that the Machine is obsessed with public imagery and getting even with opponents. “[Bill] gets angry, and he gets over it. She gets angry, and she remembers it forever,” Robert Boorstin, who oversaw communications for Hillary’s health-care task force, told former *Washington Post* reporter Carl Bernstein for Bernstein’s 2007 Hillary biography *A Woman in Charge*. At another point in his interview with Bernstein, he said of Hillary: “I find her to be among the most self-righteous people I’ve ever known in my life.”

None of these behavior patterns are unknown among politicians, and voters know the game is a dirty business, so they usually focus on other issues. But electing a president is different, and there are signs that Hillary will be held to a higher standard the closer she appears to be returning to the White House. You’re likely to see more stories like the one last month from Gerth, writing for Pro Publica: “Hillary Clinton’s Top Five Clashes over Secrecy.” Another scandal could suddenly pop up, further increasing her trust deficit with the public.

Some Democrats seem almost to relish all the incoming fire Hillary attracts from Republicans. Paul Waldman, a leftist who writes for the *Washington Post* and the *American Prospect*, gloated earlier this month: “I’m sure the idea that Hillary Clinton might enjoy immunity from low-level political scandal because she’s been involved in so many previous scandals (real and fake) just drives Republicans batty.”

But there are signs that the evasions and counterattacks that worked for a first lady, for a U.S. Senator, and even for a secretary of state might not serve Hillary as a full-fledged presidential candidate, especially over the long 20-month stretch until voters go to the polls in November 2016. After all, they didn’t work for her in the 2008 primaries against Barack Obama — a contest in which she was also viewed as an invincible frontrunner.

Washington Post

[She rides by van: The Hillary Clinton launch](#)

by Charles Krauthammer

See Hillary ride in a van! Watch her meet everyday Americans! Witness her [ordering a burrito bowl at Chipotle](#)! Which she did wearing shades, as did her chief aide Huma Abedin, yielding security-camera pictures that made them look ([to borrow from Karl Rove](#)) like fugitives on the lam, wanted in seven states for a failed foreign policy.

There’s something surreal about Hillary Clinton’s Marie Antoinette tour, sampling cake and commoners. But what else can she do? After Barack Obama, she’s the best-known political figure in America. She has papal name recognition. Like Napoleon and Cher, she’s universally

known by her first name. As former queen consort, senator and secretary of state, she has spent a quarter-century in the national spotlight — more than any modern candidate.

She doesn't just get media coverage; she gets meta-coverage. The staging is so obvious that actual events disappear. The story is their symbolism — campaign as semiotics.

This quality of purposeful abstractness makes everything sound and seem contrived. It's not really her fault. True, she's got enough genuine inauthenticity to go around — [decades of positioning](#), framing, [parsing, dodging](#) — but the perception is compounded by the obvious staginess of the gigantic political apparatus that surrounds her and directs her movements.

Why is she running in the first place? Because it's the next inevitable step in her career path. But that's not as damning as it seems. It can be said of practically every presidential candidate. The number of conviction politicians — those who run not to be someone but to do something — is exceedingly small. In our lifetime: Ronald Reagan. And arguably, Barack Obama, although with him (as opposed to Reagan) a heavy dose of narcissistic self-fulfillment is admixed with genuine ideological conviction.

Hillary Clinton's problem is age, not chronological but political. She's been around for so long that who can really believe she suddenly has been seized with a new passion to champion, as she put it in Iowa, “the truckers that I saw on I-80 as I was driving here”?

Or developed a new persona. She will, of course, go through the motions. Her team will produce a “message,” one of the most corrosive, debased words in the lexicon of contemporary politics — an alleged synonym for belief or conviction, it signifies nothing more than a branded marketing strategy.

She will develop policies. In Iowa, she'd already delivered her top four, one of which is to [take unaccountable big money out of politics](#). This is rather precious, considering that her supporters intend to raise \$2.5 billion [for 2016](#) alone and that [the Clinton Foundation](#) is one of the most formidable machines ever devised for extracting money from the rich, the powerful and the unsavory.

She will try to sell herself as champion of the little guy. Not easy to do when you and your husband have for the last 25 years made [limo-liberal Davos-world](#) your home. Hence the van trek to Iowa, lest a Gulfstream 450 invade the visual.

Clinton's unchangeability, however, is the source of her uniqueness as a candidate: She's a fixed point. She is who she is. And no one expects — nor would anyone really believe — any claimed character change.

Accordingly, voters' views about her are equally immutable. The only variable, therefore, in the 2016 election lies on the other side, where the freedom of action is almost total. It all depends on who the Republicans pick and how the candidate performs.

Hillary is a stationary target. You know what you're getting. She has her weaknesses: She's not a great campaigner, she has that unshakable inauthenticity problem and, regarding the quality most important to getting elected, she is barely, in the merciless phrase of [candidate Obama](#) in 2008, “likable enough.”

But she has her strengths: discipline, determination, high intelligence, great energy. With an immense organization deploying an obscene amount of money. And behind that, a Democratic Party united if not overly enthusiastic.

That's why 2016 is already shaping up as the most unusual open-seat presidential race in our time: one candidate fixed and foregone, the other yet to emerge from a wild race of [a near-dozen contenders](#) with none exceeding 20percent.

So brace yourself for a glorious Republican punch-up, punctuated by endless meta-coverage of the Democrats' coronation march. After which, we shall decide the future of our country. Just the way the Founders drew it up.

Contentions

[Hillary Clinton Is Terrified of People. Will It Matter to Voters?](#)

by Seth Mandel

If, as a child, you expressed fear of a certain kind of insect, or a dog or a cat perhaps, you were probably told by an adult to buck up because "it's more afraid of you than you are of it." If so, you might find it endearing to learn that the same could probably be said about Hillary Clinton. It's true that she seeks to punish dissent, embraces Nixonian power lust and rule breaking, and is even willing to support amending the Constitution to trash free-speech protections if it means keeping a negative movie about her out of theaters. But as we're learning this week, as creepy and destructive as her view of government is, she's almost certainly more afraid of you than you are of her.

[IJ Review](#) has a fun side-by-side comparison of what happened when the entertainment-news site TMZ attempted to question Marco Rubio in an airport, and what happened when TMZ tried to corner Hillary Clinton in an airport. Rubio walked over to the cameraman smiling, and chatted for a bit about his campaign, music, and even gracefully handled a question about his wife being an ex-cheerleader. He never looked uncomfortable, or bothered by the questions.

The video of Clinton consists entirely of her walking away in silence, hearing but ignoring the cameraman.

You may think that if there's any fear at play in that video, it's fear of the media or of accountability. And that's surely true. But Hillary's campaign rollout is revealing that it's a more generalized fear than that: the woman who wants to be the next president is terrified of people.

Politico [reports](#) that while Hillary launched her campaign promising to fight for "everyday Americans," she would prefer to do so at a distance. She drove to Iowa to meet with voters, but it turned out to be the early stages of a Potemkin campaign:

That's because she didn't actually have much face time with regular Iowans who weren't handpicked by her campaign.

In part, that was by design: Clinton didn't meet with that many people, period. The strategy going in was to focus on small groups — rather than stage big rallies — and to cultivate more

intimate experiences. But Clinton's foray into Iowa was also an exercise in preaching to the choir, largely executed in the safety of controlled environments.

All told, she met with less than a few dozen Iowans who weren't pre-selected.

The Politico piece is a guided tour through Hillary's Iowa trip and the carefully selected groups of "regular people" she met and spoke with along the way and who asked her canned softball questions that were really just liberal talking points with a question mark at the end.

But then, something happened that threatened to shake the very foundations of her Iowa trip: someone spoke to her *unscripted*. Politico tells the terrifying tale:

But Clinton appeared less at ease in less controlled situations. When two reporters yelled questions at her about why she ignored a 2012 letter from congressional investigators asking about her personal email use at the State Department, and why she appeared to change her position on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage, Clinton bolted from the room without a word to the news media.

The subheadline of the Politico article is: "Clinton's foray into Iowa was an exercise in preaching to the choir, executed in the safety of controlled environments." That seems like an accurate summary of the trip as well as Hillary's hopes for the campaign. She is uneasy when she doesn't approve everyone's placement in the room and when she doesn't know what they're going to say to her. She needs pre-programmed responses to questions. The act of thinking on the fly, of deciding for herself what she believes—of actually *believing* something, anything—is too much for her.

The extent to which Clinton's interactions with the public must be stage-managed can get quite ridiculous. In September at the Harkin Steak Fry in Iowa, Hillary [pretended to grill](#) a steak that had been pre-grilled for her in order to fulfill the obligatory photo op. A picture of Hillary flipping a pre-cooked steak at a steak fry is possibly the quintessential image of Hillary's presidential ambitions.

The question, as always, is whether any of this is going to matter. Hillary's a disaster when actually speaking extemporaneously, so there's an argument to be made that the image of an entitled aspiring monarch running away from "everyday Americans" at full speed is an improvement over what she might say when asked a question that hasn't been pre-written and pre-answered.

But the contrast between her and the Republicans like Rubio, who wear a smile easily and are willing to interact with voters, is not going to be kind to her during this long campaign. Get to know America, Mrs. Clinton. You just might like it if you give it a chance.

National Review

[If You Doubt Hillary Is the Candidate of Yesterday, Remember Her Iraq War Vote](#)

by Jonah Goldberg

So far, of the declared candidates for president, the only one who voted for the Iraq War is the Democrat.

I recently made that observation on Twitter and the response was instructive. I will refrain from reprinting the more piquant language from Hillary Clinton's supporters, but one common theme was that I am a fool. Senators Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, and Marco Rubio weren't in the Senate for the Iraq war vote, many shrieked.

Well, exactly.

In case you haven't been paying attention, you might be interested to know that the Iraq War was not popular, especially among Democrats. If you had to pick a single position that allowed Barack Obama to pull ahead in the 2008 Democratic primaries, his opposition to the war would almost certainly be it.

It still looms large in the liberal mind: Obama frequently uses the Iraq War as proof of his foreign-policy wisdom, which is otherwise unearned by evidence or argument.

For instance, humiliated of late by the rise of the Islamic State — a group he'd glibly dismissed as a negligible "jayvee team" — Obama now concedes it's a real problem but blames its rise entirely on the war.

"Two things: One is, ISIL is a direct outgrowth of al-Qaeda in Iraq that grew out of our invasion," Obama told *VICE News* last month. "Which is an example of an unintended consequence. Which is why we should generally aim before we shoot."

Obama is merely the headmaster of this cheap and lazy school of thought. Blaming the Iraq War for the world's problems or using it as a way to deflect legitimate criticism of Obama's foreign policy remains the primary rhetorical gimmick for many liberals. For instance, Clinton ur-spinner James Carville dismissed Mrs. Clinton's e-mail scandal as "diddly squat." When MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski asked if he'd say the same thing if Dick Cheney had a stealth server, Carville spluttered in response that Cheney had started the Iraq War.

Much has been written about Jeb Bush's challenge. Unfair as it might be, Bush must run as, well, a Bush. His last name is a burden for several reasons, but chief of among them is the unpopularity of the Iraq War.

In a debate with Clinton, whatever barbs Bush might hurl at the Obama-Clinton foreign policy record — and there is no shortage of pointed ones to be thrown — Clinton would probably be able to deflect them by dredging up "your brother's war" (even though she might wisely avoid familial guilt-by-association arguments, given her own baggage in this regard).

The weird thing is, Clinton has far more responsibility for the Iraq War than Jeb Bush does. Meanwhile, none of the potential GOP presidential hopefuls voted for the war in 2002. Scott Walker was the Milwaukee County executive; Marco Rubio was in the Florida House of Representatives; Chris Christie was a U.S. district attorney; Ted Cruz was a policy wonk at the Federal Trade Commission; Rand Paul and Ben Carson were practicing surgeons. And so on.

Of course, one could argue that many would have voted for the war (probably true of Rubio, probably untrue of Paul). But that's all hypothetical. Not so with Clinton. She voted for it, defended it in the well of the Senate, and arguably lost the primaries in 2008 because she refused to apologize for her vote.

Personally, I don't think support for the war should be disqualifying. And I have no doubt that most anti-war Democrats will nonetheless work through their cognitive dissonance and vote for

Clinton. They hardly put up much protest when anti-war Obama selected Clinton, Joe Biden, and John Kerry, all of whom voted for the war, as his top foreign-policy gurus.

Perhaps this generational wave of post-Iraq Republican politicians says something interesting about the GOP? Likewise, perhaps Clinton's support for the war — until she apologized in her 2014 memoir — says something about her? Reasonable (and unreasonable) people will differ on all that.

But Clinton's support for the war underscores a broader vulnerability. Unlike her probable opponents, she's truly a creature of yesterday's battles. From the fight over "Hillarycare," to the endless scandals of her husband's administration, to the ugly brawls over the Iraq War, Hillary Clinton has been a partisan fixture of Washington at its most exhausting and ugly moments. A Midwestern road trip in a van dubbed "Scooby," even one punctuated by burrito breaks, won't make people forget that, nor will defensive outbursts from her supporters stop her critics from pointing it out.

NY Times

[Hillary Clinton Was Asked About Email 2 Years Ago](#)

by Michael S. Schmidt

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton was directly asked by congressional investigators in a December 2012 letter whether she had used a private email account while serving as secretary of state, according to letters obtained by The New York Times.

But Mrs. Clinton did not reply to the letter. And when the State Department answered in March 2013, nearly two months after she left office, it ignored the question and provided no response.

The query was posed to Mrs. Clinton in a Dec. 13, 2012, letter from Representative Darrell Issa, the Republican chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Mr. Issa was leading an investigation into how the Obama administration handled its officials' use of personal email.

"Have you or any senior agency official ever used a personal email account to conduct official business?" Mr. Issa wrote to Mrs. Clinton. "If so, please identify the account used."

Mr. Issa also asked Mrs. Clinton, "Does the agency require employees to certify on a periodic basis or at the end of their employment with the agency they have turned over any communications involving official business that they have sent or received using nonofficial accounts?"

Mr. Issa's letter also sought written documentation of the department's policies for the use of personal email for government business. Mrs. Clinton left the State Department on Feb. 1, 2013, seven weeks after the letter was sent to her.

When Mr. Issa received a response from the State Department on March 27, all he got was a description of the department's email policies. According to the letter, any employee using a personal account "should make it clear that his or her personal email is not being used for official business."

Mrs. Clinton acknowledged last month that she had exclusively used a personal email account, which was housed on a server that had been specially set up for her, when she was secretary of state. She said that she used the private account for convenience purposes because she did not want to carry more than one electronic device. By using the private account, many of her emails were shielded from inquiries by Congress, the news media and government watchdogs.

The revelation has set off the first major test of her early presidential campaign, as she seeks to assure the public and the news media that she was not seeking to hide her correspondence.

A congressional official provided The Times with a copy of Mr. Issa's letter and the response from the State Department on the condition of anonymity because the official did not want to jeopardize his access to such information.

A spokesman for the State Department declined on Tuesday to answer questions about why it had not addressed Mr. Issa's question about whether Mrs. Clinton or senior officials used personal email accounts.

"The department responds to thousands of congressional inquiries and requests for information each year," said the spokesman, Alec Gerlach. "In its March 2013 letter, the department responded to the House Oversight Committee's inquiry into the department's 'policies and practices regarding the use of personal email and other forms of electronic communications' with a letter that described those policies in detail."

An aide to Mrs. Clinton said in a statement Tuesday that "her usage was widely known to the over 100 department and U.S. government colleagues she emailed, as her address was visible on every email she sent."

Mr. Issa had sent letters to the State Department and other executive agencies after it was discovered that some administration and Environment Protection Agency officials had used private accounts to conduct government business.

In the State Department's letter back to Mr. Issa, Thomas B. Gibbons, the acting assistant secretary for legislative affairs, described the department's records management policies and guidelines.

He said "employees may use personal email on personal time for matters not directly related to official business, and any employee using personal email 'should make it clear that his or her personal email is not being used for official business.' "

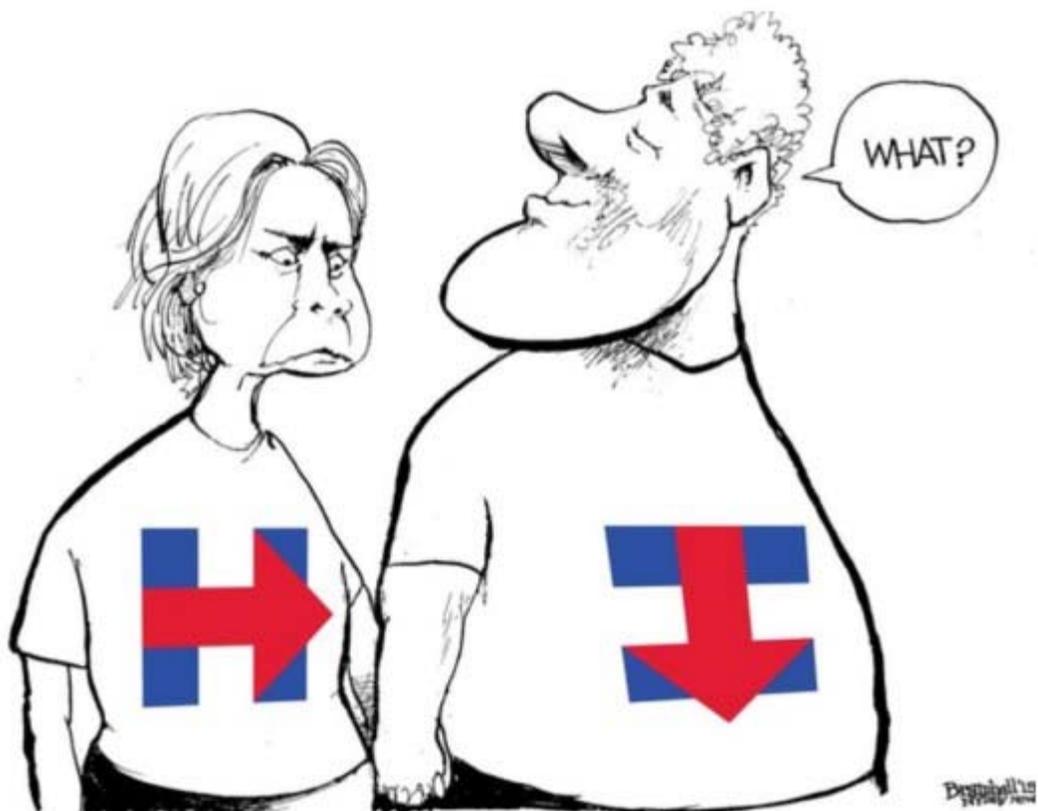
The State Department offered training on its record management programs to its employees, he said.



"I'm just not entirely sure a big red arrow pointing right is the best logo for a Democratic candidate, is all."



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