

Comparing Clinton and McCain

By Armondo Borboa

Hillary Clinton: People's advocate or tied-up chaperone?



CLINTON

Education:

Yale Law School, J.D., 1973
Wellesley College, B.A., 1969
Maine South High School – Park Ridge, Ill.

Public service:

Senator, United States Senate, 2001 to present
First Lady of the United States, 1993 to 2001
First Lady of Arkansas, 1979 to 1981, 1983 to 1993
House Judiciary Committee, 1974

Private experience:

Attorney, Rose Law Firm, 1976 to 1992
Faculty, University of Arkansas Law School, 1975
Board member, TCBY Yogurt Company and Wal-Mart, 1985 to 1992
Board member, Arkansas Children's Hospital and the Children's Defense Fund
Co-Founder, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

Book(s):

"Dear Socks, Dear Buddy: Kids' Letters to the First Pets"
"Living History"
"It Takes a Village"
"Witness to Genocide: The Children of Rwanda: Drawings by Child Survivors of the Rwandan Genocide of 1994"

Pros:

As an advocate of women's issues and a defender of families, nobody does it better than Hillary Rodham Clinton. She has spent her entire adult life fighting for civil rights and the children's causes that are near and dear to her heart.

She was the first-ever female senator from New York, and is the first-ever former First Lady to run for political office.

Prior to her marriage, the former Hillary Rodham was a formidable lawyer with a record of fighting for social causes. She has been noted and lauded quite often by numerous social groups for her work on behalf of Constitutional rights, civil liberties, migrant workers, health care and education.

Thanks to her name recognition, her election as senator for the state of New York was practically assured. Also thanks to her fame, all of her pet projects receive an inordinate and enviable amount of national attention. Because of this, her New York constituents have received many benefits that any other person would simply not be able to deliver.

Now campaigning for president of the United States, Clinton continues to make history as the first-ever viable female candidate and elected office holder to make a run at the primary.

Cons:

Bill Clinton. That's it.
Pure and simple, Hillary Clinton's biggest drag on her future success is her husband. As a former president and a very popular and divisive figure, Bill Clinton continues to draw attention away from his wife every time he opens his mouth.

In addition to the controversial statements he has made without his wife's knowledge or permission, his actions on the campaign trail continue to embarrass her. He tarnishes her image as a strong and intelligent woman and powerful candidate for political office.

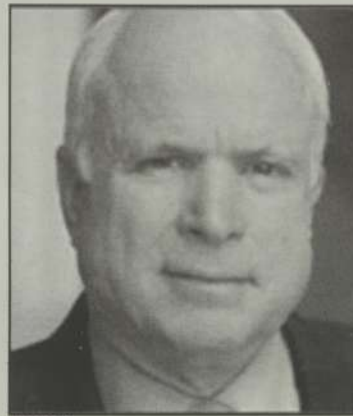
In addition to all of his numerous and very public infidelities, Bill Clinton's insane need to steal the spotlight away from his wife will continue to drag down her campaign and embarrass her at every turn. She looks weak in comparison and deserves better.

Analysis:

As unfair as it might be, the first and most important question to ask must be this: If Hillary Clinton cannot control her husband, how can she be trusted to run the country?

Grade: D-

John McCain: Security savant or jeopardous action hero?



MCCAIN

Education:

National War College, 1973
United States Naval Academy, 1958
St. Stephen's School, 1946 to 1949 – Alexandria, Va.
Episcopal High School, 1951 to 1954 – Alexandria, Va.

Public service:

United States Navy, 1958 to 1981; prisoner of war, Vietnam, 1967 to 1973
Awards: Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross
Senate Navy Liaison, 1977 to 1981
Representative, United States House of Representatives, 1983 to 1987
Senator, United States Senate, 1987 to present

Private experience:

Board of Trustees, Gallaudet University
Founding member, Pacific Council on International Policy, USC
Board of Directors, Board of Directors Chair, International Republican Institute
Board of Directors, Nixon Center for Peace and Freedom
Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, 1995 to 2001, 2003 to 2007
Chair, Committee on Indian Affairs, 1995 to 1997, 2005 to 2007

Book(s):

"Character Is Destiny: Inspiring Stories Every Young Person Should Know and Adult Should Remember"
"Why Courage Matters: The Way to a Braver Life"
"Worth the Fighting For: A Memoir"
"Unfinished Business: Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Beyond – Defusing the Threat That Threatens America's Security"
"Faith of My Fathers"
"The Reminiscences of Admiral John S. McCain, Jr."

Pros:

With credibility you can take to the bank and a resume as long as a telephone book, McCain has spent a lifetime fighting the established order.

After being shot down and captured during the Vietnam War, McCain endured five years of torture and deprivation at the hands of the enemy. Although he was beaten, starved and crippled, he never broke faith with his fellow prisoners or accepted special "favours" from his captors.

As an Arizona senator, McCain has become well-known for his willingness to take a hard line on particular issues, regardless of all other popular sentiments. He was one of the few vocal supporters of the military surge into Iraq at a time when support of that surge was considered to be political suicide.

He has also been recognized for fighting against "pork barrel spending," a euphemism for politicians using federal taxpayer money to fund pet projects and buy votes back home.

Cons:

Although he would be your first choice to have your back in a bar fight, McCain has really learned to play nice with others. This hurts him in a very real way.

Reading into his personal history, his halo quickly loses its luster. A notorious troublemaker in school, he racked up demerits and was often at odds with authority. A difficult student, he graduated fifth from the bottom out of a class of 899 Naval Cadets and never achieved the rank of admiral, which was earned by both his father and grandfather.

McCain's impulsive and controversial nature has extended itself to his political career. In addition to the Keating Five Savings and Loans Scandal, a large majority of his political opponents have died simply because of his inability to work well with members of his own party.

Analysis:

In a time of war, John McCain has the experience and credibility needed to lead a nation, fight and win against anybody in the world. In a time of peace, he is his own worst enemy.

Grade: B+

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