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77th KZGN News Talking Points Editorial
By: Tom Wiknich

What do you expect to see from Wednesday’s republican presidential debate and some thoughts on the upcoming democrat debate?

First, some comments from Thursday’s editorial titled: What does fair and balanced in news mean to you? Ethan provided this comment, “Well, I ought to feel honored that an entire ‘editorial’ segment was in my honor.  I will end my participation here by making a final point.  It is not in the least bit surprising that the author would employ the ‘two wrongs don't make it right’ theme, as if to suggest that my desire for objectivity and fairness is a deflection. It is unfortunate that objectivity and fairness would not be a reporter's most paramount code when reporting or giving an informed opinion. I believe my error here is I assumed that editorial was written by a reporter and not a conservative station owner. Perhaps the KZGN news room has a professional conflict that is inhibiting its credibility in the community.” Ethan continues, “The over the air rebuttal is nothing but deflection. I too am tired. I am ‘tired’ of both liberals and conservative supporters who scream and whine about the actions of the other side when their side is just as guilty of the same crud. I am ‘tired’ of both liberals and conservatives acting so self-righteous when criticizing their opponents for evil yet will have no shame in turning a blind eye to the same evils perpetrated by people in their own circle.  I am Ethan Lane and that's what I know.”

In response to Ethan, I wrote, “I guess we are just speaking different languages. I thought I was pretty clear that I agree with you that if other presidents do something wrong, then it’s wrong. Oh and by the way, when is the last time you watched any daily national news program, and when they reported that Obama did whatever, they also included all the predecessor president’s that did it too?” Since Ethan doesn’t believe an editorial is fair and balanced unless I criticize every other person that violated the topic I’m commenting about, I reached out to him saying this: “Invitation to Ethan, I have an idea. I invite you to join me on the air to provide the ‘other’ side of an issue whenever I do a political criticism editorial. Then you can make sure everyone gets blamed that needs to be blamed. My final comment is, when I have watched any other media outlet, TV, or newspaper opinion pages, I don’t remember any writer including in their opinions pieces the other side of the issue. Newspapers across the nation are filled with opinions every day. None of those include counter points provided by the author. I’ve watched Fox and MSNBC editorials, and none of them provide inclusion of all previous guilty people. Ethan, the purpose of editorials is for a person to give their opinion of a topic. Of course we would hope that it is based on current facts. However, again, I invite you to participate with me on the air for you to add the balance you so desire. I await your response. If you don’t respond with a yea or nay, then I guess it just wasn’t that important to you.

Harry wrote, “Fair & balanced? I don't think there can be such a thing, because everyone filters all of their thoughts through their world view. I would rather listen to someone present real, untarnished, facts and let me make up my own mind about what to believe; instead of having somebody telling me what i should think and believe. Just my opinion...”

On to today’s topic: What do you expect to see from Wednesday’s republican presidential debate and some thoughts on the coming democrat debate? Tomorrow we get to watch another republican debate. The first debate hosted by Fox reached an estimated 28 million people. That is unbelievable. In recent history, debates usually drew viewers in the 2 million viewer range. How many will tune in to tomorrow’s debate on CNN? Pundits are predicting a lower number than Fox, but still could be in the 20 million range. What I’m anxious to see is what questions are posed by the moderators? Previous years’ debates usually had kind of soft, easy to answer questions. Fox’s moderators came under fire for asking questions that were too personal in nature. Only you can decide if that was the case. I think that personal questions can be asked, if they have relevance to the candidates potential conduct as a president. Sometimes, it depends on how the question is phrased. A personal question can be posed in an informative manner, or an accusatory manner.

For example, if there was information that a candidate had been married 4 times, some may be interested in why. A moderator could ask the question about this in two manners.

First example, “Sir, it is reported that you have had three failed marriages before your current one. Can you tell the people how these failed marriages may impact your presidency?” Second example, “Sir, we understand that you have had 3 prior marriages that ended under charges of cheating and abuse. Would you like to comment on those charges?” You can see the clear difference in the tone of both questions. One designed to get information out to the people, one designed to embarrass the recipient as guilty before even being able to answer. Again, I’m not talking about the content as much as the way a question to posed.

If the next debate sponsors decide to follow Fox’s lead, the CNN debate could be interesting. Will they ask real questions? Will they ask questions designed to get us information to base our decisions on, or with they be “gotcha” questions? Of course, all eyes will be on Trump. Everyone will be watching to see if he changes his rhetoric at all. Some pundits are predicting that the lower tier candidates will have to go after the leaders--that they have to do something real quick to get the attention they need to continue their campaigns. Obviously, all the single-digit candidates need to do something, and soon. I would expect to see the field dropping into 10 candidates by years’ end. Campaigns are expensive. Since the voting really doesn’t start until next February, it’ll take a lot of money to get there. Then the major effort will be Super Tuesday next march. That’s when the campaigns will get really expensive. However, as far as republican debates scheduled, I hear that after this one at CNN, there will be another in October, November, and two in December.

Now for information on the democrat debates, the Democratic National Committee has scheduled six debates between October 2015 and March 2016. The first will be held on October 13 in Nevada, and sponsored by CNN. CBS news will sponsor the second debate, which will be held November 14 in Iowa. The third debate will be held in Manchester, New Hampshire on December 19, hosted by ABC. The fourth debate will be held in Charleston, South Carolina on January 17, hosted by NBC and the Congressional Black Caucus Institute. The fifth debate will be held in Miami, Florida in February or March, and it will be hosted by Univision and the Washington Post. The sixth debate will be held in Wisconsin in February or March, and it will be hosted by PBS. What’s interesting in that list, there was no Fox sponsored debate. I wonder why? I’ll have to check into that. So next month, we’ll see the first democrat debate. I guess Vice President Biden has to get in real soon now. He is skillfully manipulating the media on this decision process of his. While I do respect that he has lost a couple of his children and may agonize over those losses, I think it is being over emphasized by the media. When he jumps in, and I do believe he will jump in, he’ll have developed this huge emotional support for the decision. Since Hillary is tumbling so badly, and Sanders is quite scary with his socialist agenda, Biden is poised to be the perfect solution for the democrats. Again, I wonder about the questions that will be asked of the democratic candidates? Will they be treated with soft easy questions? Or will the moderators ask real questions to get us the information we need to pick the right candidate?

In conclusion, I do believe tomorrow’s republican debate will be entertaining. I expect to see a much stronger group of answers. I believe Trump is ready for some of them too attack him. A lot of attention will be on Carly Fiorina. Bush supporters will want him to exhibit some strong energy. I suspect he might exhibit the biggest change in approach. He has to stop his slide in the polls. I just hope the questions are asked appropriately.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to info@kzgn.net.