

PRESS RELEASE

AN OPEN LETTER TO CABLE TV NEWS

Dear CNN, MSNBC, and FOX:

Today I watched your early morning news programs and saw very little more than the coverage of last night's theatrical extravaganza between Mrs. Clinton and Mr. Obama. One of your brilliant commentators actually said that America was poised at a historic turning point in history because it is likely that the next President will either be a woman or an African American.

As I watched this coverage, across the bottom of the screen came a scroll that 64 people in Baghdad were killed and dozens more injured in an explosion at a marketplace, and one of the lead stories on the internet was that Exxon—even in this terrible economy—had posted a record \$11.6 billion profit for the quarter.

The disconnect between your glorified rhetoric and the realities of the world startled me. First of all, the “debate” between Clinton and Obama was barely headline-making. What it revealed was the same tired phrases from the same people who are owned by the same special interests (finance, law, real estate, business, labor, insurance, etc.) which control now and will continue to control the American government. But beyond that, a simple glance at history might have informed your commentator that a black or female leader is hardly earth-shattering news. England and Germany have had women heads of state just within the last fifty years, and the sovereignty of nations has already given us leaders of color like Nelson Mandela and Mrs. Gandhi. There is nothing significant about the U.S. divesting itself of political gender and race bigotry save the length of time it has taken to do so.

Meanwhile, the carnage of Iraq, the failure of our “surge” to protect even Baghdad, the rape of the American economy and environment by the greed of the oil industry, and so much more is reduced either to abject silence or a demeaning bottom-screen TV scroll.

The American media has given the Bush Administration a pass on high crimes and misdemeanors, and now it diverts the attention of the American people from key stories in order to cover the manufactured theatrics of the political season, and to cover it with commentary which is so shallow and uninformative as to be meaningless.

Nice job, guys. The people really owe you a debt of gratitude.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Porter, Independent candidate for Congress (PA-03)