

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU!

by Vic Berecz

A few years ago, while searching for distant relatives in Australia, we came upon a young fellow named Grant Luhrs whose recording briefly topped the charts and became the theme song for outback nudist resorts trying to set Guinness records in naked line dancing. Grant's best-selling title was *Nude Bootscootin'* from his album *Ya Gotta Laugh*. That's how I feel when I think back over this election season ... ya just gotta laugh!

A bunch of the most influential political pundits don't really care whether you agree with them, get mad at them, or laugh at them. Their only concern is that you tune them in. That's because they are first and foremost entertainers. Whether it's Glenn Beck and his *Rally to Restore Honor*, or Jon Stewart with his upcoming *Rally to Restore Sanity*, or even Stephen Colbert's *March to Keep Fear Alive*, their whole shtick is aimed at boosting their ratings and thus their income. It doesn't matter what they say, because like the original great inciter himself ... Rush-bough ... most of them will say or do anything for money. That's the business they're in. Sometimes I agree with them, sometimes I disagree with them, but I understand them for what they are ... entertainers. So, you can't take them too seriously ... how I wish more Americans would understand this distinction, because as entertainers they have given up real credibility ... for money.

OK, maybe I'm un-American in this respect. I think entertainers ... and that includes all professional and many "amateur" athletes ... are grossly overpaid. I firmly believe St. Paul's warning to Timothy that "lust for money brings trouble" ... and *lust* is evident in most everything many of these entertainers do. Just go to *RushLimbaugh.com* and you'll find yourself totally inundated by ads. He's willing to peddle anything that makes him a buck! There's something to be said for separating the product specs from the marketing hype. That's one reason you won't find ads on this or any of my other websites, and why when I write articles for newspapers or magazines (I've had over a hundred published) I refuse payment, likewise when I speak publicly on family history research. Hopefully taking greed off the table as my motivator adds a little bit to my credibility. Forgive the personal diversion ...

I only begin to take these people seriously when they are willing to make the transition from entertainer to public servant ... with the huge cut in income that decision involves. I don't like some of Al Franken's political ideals, but I do give him credit for taking that big pay cut and working within the system to build a better America as he sees it. Recently there's been a lot written about another group some of whom are involved in a similar transition. Maureen Dowd in the *New York Times* wrote that "We are in an era of *Republican Mean Girls*, grown-up versions of those teenage tormentors who would steal your boyfriend, spray-paint your locker and, just for good measure, spread rumors that you were pregnant."





Republican Mean Girls?

Well, I'm not sure if Meg, Carly, Sharron, Michelle, or "sweet wannabe" Christine O'Donnell are quite that bad. But, Dowd certainly describes Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, who remarked that our President doesn't have the "cajones" to deal with the immigration issue. *Mean Girl* also describes Linda McMahon, if for no other reason than her proud moment of publicly kicking a man in the *cajones* ... I mean, in the groin area. I know, she says "It was just entertainment." Finally, there's the "Queen Bee" of the bunch, Sarah Palin, who proudly proclaims she's as mean as a "Momma Grizzly." These three are clearly poster-girls for meanness. Well folks, let me tell you, I don't want meanness in my congressional representatives, male or female, Republican, Democrat, or Independent. In my mind, civility trumps meanness any day. And, by the way, can you imagine the repercussions if a male candidate said something about their female opponent's boobs? Or maybe gave them a little pinch just for the sake of entertainment?

OK Linda, I'll give you credit for the fact that you resigned from WWE to run for the Senate. I don't like the fact that you're so blatantly trying to buy a Senate seat by shelling out \$50 million of your own pocket change, but at least you are willing to take a great big pay cut if you win this election. On the other hand we have Sarah who did the reverse. She quit a low-paying job as Alaska governor to go into the entertainment business. According to NYC ad guru Jennifer Hill, Palin "saw a window of opportunity and seized upon it ... and focused all her energies on creating a market and generating revenue ... whether you love her [or not] she gets credit for turning herself into a brand." Yup, that she did. She's made more money in the last eighteen months than in her entire earlier life ... and she's obviously enjoying the limelight. That's fine Sarah ... be an entertainer and revel in your cash and your notoriety. But, we'll remember. Ya just gotta laugh!

