

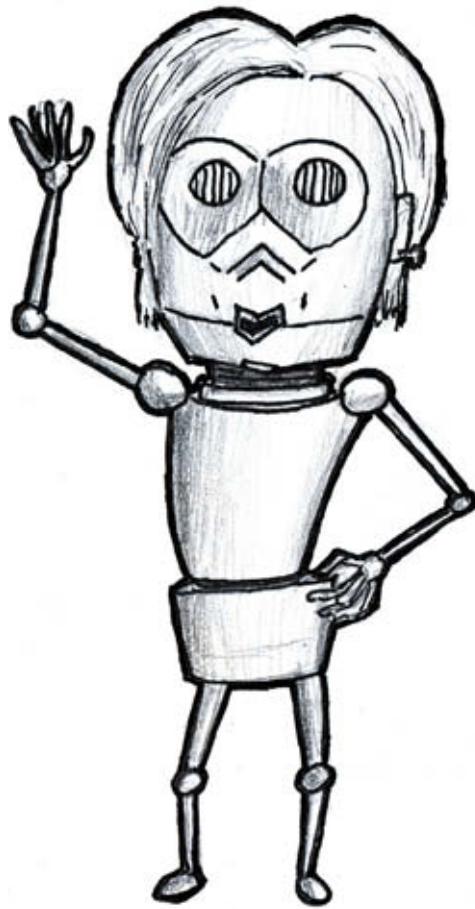
THE FED'S Slightly Outdated Guide to the 2008 Presidential Primaries

WORDS: MICHAEL GRINSPAN, ILLUSTRATIONS: MICHAEL BREDIN

Despite the presidential field narrowing down to two candidates on either side, many Americans are still deeply unhappy with the potential candidates presented to them by each party. This disappointment is due to the fact that all the major candidates possess a critical, deal-breaking flaw. Hillary Clinton, despite her experience and competence, is an unsympathetic robot. Barack Obama, the supposed hope of a new generation, desperately lacks experience. John McCain, the maverick, independent-minded war hero, is perhaps too old to run for the highest office in the land. And Mitt Romney, is, how shall I put this, Frankenstein's monster. But don't worry ladies and gentlemen; I know how these candidates can turn themselves around.

Hillary Clinton

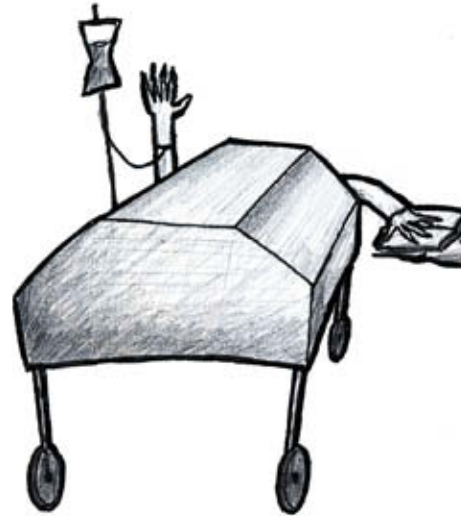
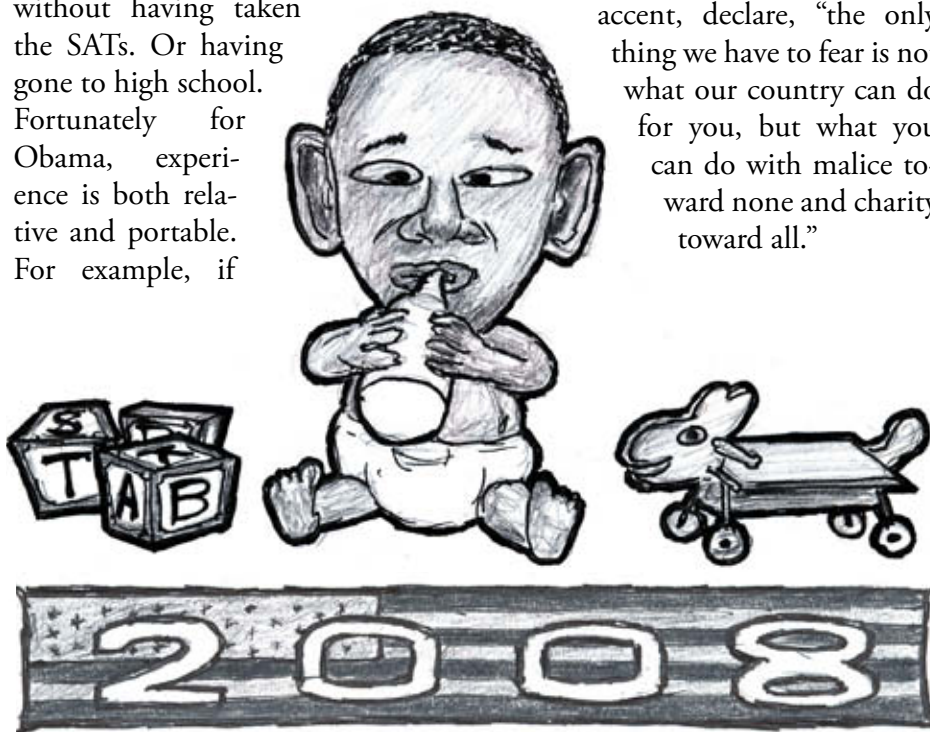
If the race were about ability alone, Clinton would be a lock. Unfortunately for Hillary, she has all the human charm of T-1000, without his ability to blow his enemies away. In short, Hillary needs to humanize herself; the crying helped, but she needs to go further. For example, nothing is more human than eating; Hillary needs the major news outlets to run footage of her eating a big, sloppy cheeseburger. This will counter the popular image that Hillary is fed by chaining a goat to platform and raising it into her dinosaur paddock. Really any kind of flub, accident, or bodily function can humanize Hillary, from falling down the stairs to cutting one during a press conference. Of course, this whole effort to humanize Hillary operates under the assumption that she is actually a human being, so there is a serious chance that it will backfire.



Barack Obama

If the race were just about, well, race, but more importantly charm, Obama would be a shoo-in. However, Obama seriously lacks experience; he spent 8 years in the Illinois Senate, only 3 years in the United States senate and he has no executive or military experience. Yet still he is running for President. That's a lot like applying to college without having taken the SATs. Or having gone to high school. Fortunately for Obama, experience is both relative and portable. For example, if

Barack Obama were to make his running mate a Polish 5-year old, suddenly he would seem like the more experienced one on the ticket. And were Obama to adopt the mannerisms and language of America's most respected figures, he'd seem a good deal more experienced, too. So at his next campaign rally, Obama would best be served to show up in a wheel chair wearing a stove-pipe hat and, speaking in a thick Boston accent, declare, "the only thing we have to fear is not what our country can do for you, but what you can do with malice toward none and charity toward all."



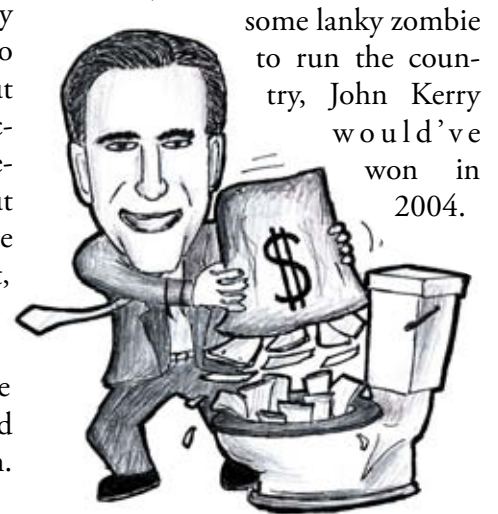
John McCain

McCain has a very impressive biography, but he will be 72 if and when he is sworn in, 76 if he is re-elected, and 80 when he leaves office. We barely trust septuagenarians to drive, so why should we trust them with nuclear missiles? True, McCain is still sharp and most people who meet him say they would never guess that he was 71, but America loves a vigorous, able-bodied President [see FDR, Taft], which McCain certainly is not. He looks as if he may be too inflexible to do the Macarena. But this problem can be overcome; McCain simply needs a vigorous, able-bodied running mate. How about McCain-Timberlake '08? Or maybe even McCain- Miley Cyrus '08. But, if McCain narcs out and decides to pick a "qualified" or "of legal age" running mate, busting out a simple Soulja Boy at a campaign stop would go a long way. And possibly kill him.

Mitt Romney

Mitt Romney is doubly blessed in that he was not only the Republican governor of a Democratic state, but he also has more money than any other candidate.

Unfortunately for Romney, he also happens to be the monstrous yet innocent protagonist of Mary Shelley's seminal Romantic horror classic *Frankenstein*. How do we know this? First off, Mitt Romney looks like the patchwork compilation of the body parts of every somewhat handsome politician you've ever scene; he's got Kennedy's bone structure, Reagan's hair, Johnson's height, and Rudy Giuliani's penis in a jar on his desk. Secondly, just like the monster, Mitt Romney is controlled by an evil madman who attempts to usurp the power of God himself. Church of Latter Day Saints founder Joseph Smith could not be found for comment. Now, Frankenstein's monster wouldn't necessarily make for a bad president, it's just that if we really wanted



some lanky zombie to run the country, John Kerry would've won in 2004.

And on the other side...

Chuck Blazer has run on an independent ticket for the presidency every year since 1976, but the veteran candidate proclaims, "This will be my year, I just know it."

Following his announcement to run for the presidential nomination in 2008, Blazer revealed that rappers Cameo and Milli Vanilli, as well as R&B group New Edition, will appear on the candidate's first series of promotional videos.

The videos, which will premiere next week on YouTube, primarily consist of several of Blazer's outspoken speeches (on issues such as returning America to the gold standard and withdrawing from the U.N.) intercut with the artists crooning and mouthing his words.

"I really felt the need to connect with the youth of America," said Blazer, as he adjusted his girdle, "and I know the youth vote connects with me."

In one video, Blazer, clad in sunglasses and chains, raps and dances on the Senate floor along-

side Cameo. Due to recent hip surgery, however, his upper body can be seen jerking in a jarring, rhythmic spasm to the beat of a speech about cutting aid to Africa.

Another video addresses Blazer's policy stance on illegal immigration, which has evolved over the years from a heartwarming welcome to an underground sugar-mining program.

He rhymes "Bitches knows who's daddy. Is that all right? Is that all right??" while showering three scantily-clad pole dancers with twenties and work permits.

Indeed, Blazer's MySpace page confirms that the word is out, and the time is nigh. Wave your hands in the air, like you just don't care.



ANDRES VEDOVA

-Michael Bredin