

THE TALK

FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2008



ERIC ZORN

The vice presidential debate between Sen. Joe Biden and Gov. Sarah Palin described in 12 words or fewer.

CHANGE OF SUBJECT, CHICAGO LAND, PAGE 2



JULIE DEARDORFF

The wait for mammograms can be up to 7 months, so schedule yours early.

SMART, PAGE 3



ASK AMY

Mixed feelings on who gets to be called grandma or grandpa—and who doesn't.

SMART, PAGE 2

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER

NEWS FOCUS

RACE IN AMERICA: The small, racially divided town of Paris, Texas, already seared with a racist label by civil rights groups last year over differences in how blacks and whites were treated by the local justice system, is on edge yet again, wondering if it has a horrific new hate crime on its hands. **PAGE 4**

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CHICAGO LAND

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

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WINNING LOTTERY NUMBERS

ILLINOIS	Pick 3	Pick 4	Mega Millions
Sept. 29	349	8660	Sept. 30 09 30 35 50 41 36
Sept. 28	502	4128	Sept. 29 13 28 32 41 52 16
Oct. 1	806	1175	Oct. 7 jackpot \$42 million
Oct. 2	258	9413	Oct. 1 08 09 39 43 55 26
Oct. 3	367	8951	Oct. 4 01 04 26 37 39 48
Oct. 4	829	6289	Oct. 4 jackpot \$20 million
Evening	Pick 3	Pick 4	INDIANA
Sept. 28	605	5209	Midday Evening
Sept. 29	615	8966	08 04 09 04
Sept. 30	899	4028	08 04 09 04
Oct. 1	871	3623	Oct. 4 Lucky 5 mid 05 06 09 19 27
Oct. 2	745	7983	Oct. 4 Lucky 5 eve. 09 20 22 23 35
Oct. 3	219	7774	Oct. 4 Lotto 08 19 28 23 31 45
Oct. 4	347	6339	MICHIGAN Midday Evening
Oct. 4 Daily 4	546	241	04 04 04 4
Oct. 4 Daily 4	6995	7654	04 04 04 4
Oct. 4 Daily 5	14	24 24 29 31	04 04 04 4
Oct. 4 Classic Lotto	05	13 20 23 41 46	04 4 Mega 01 05 06 08 10 11
Oct. 4 Mega	01	05 06 08 10 11	19 26 30 32 35 40
Oct. 2	06	05 11 38 36	54 56 64 67 69 70
Oct. 3	20	23 24 33 34	11 72 74 80
Oct. 4	06	24 26 36 39	WISCONSIN
Oct. 4 Pick 3	077		Oct. 4 Pick 3
Oct. 4 Pick 4	982		Oct. 4 Pick 4
Oct. 4 Badger 5	07	09 12 17 24	Oct. 4 Badger 5
Oct. 4 SuperCash	09	11 20 22 33 34	Oct. 4 SuperCash
Oct. 4 Megapicks	02	04 20 24 25 26	Oct. 4 Megapicks

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Much more than this, he did it Chicago Way

Going into Tuesday's presidential debate, the campaign of Republican John McCain still suffers from the lousy economy and that Bush hanging ponderously from his neck.

With that going against him, he's running uphill, trying to remind Americans that he challenged his own party and the Democrats, on corruption. Because of McCain's opposition to politicians who feed from the public trough, there is a road open to him Tuesday. It's the Chicago Way.

Obama definitely does not want to go there. It would be a forced march for him. Obama's gauzy references to Chicago involve baseball and where he met Michelle and those blissful hours he spent as a community organizer. What he doesn't want discussed is his evolution from independent Democrat to potential White House enabler of the corrupt Chicago Democratic machine.

The Chicago Way is a road the Belt-way media establishment dare not travel. It must frighten them. It conflicts with their fairy tale about Obama as reformer, and they're much too busy rummaging through garbage cans in Alaska to bother about Chicago's political alleys.

But any child in Illinois knows the Chicago Way leads through the most politically corrupt city in America, in a politically corrupt state, where muscle trumps reason, where Democratic warlords brazenly promote their off-spring into public office, where even souls are offered up for sale.

The national media have never wanted to understand, much less expose, political corruption here, or examine how Obama prospered under the Daley machine's guidance. A trip down the Chicago Way would force them to re-examine their ridiculous narrative that sets Obama as a political reformer riding a white horse, or is that a winged unicorn?

A tour of the Chicago Way isn't without risks for McCain. Though his supporters would say it puts Obama in proper context, Democrats would certainly cry "guilt by association." Yet the national urgency to view Obama as a political life-form several evolutionary rungs above Chicago's common political hacks is not only a mistake, it's disingenuous. So on Tuesday night, McCain might ask:

How, for example, could change agent Obama endorse the boss of the Chicago machine, Mayor Richard Daley, after Daley's friends and drinking buddies, white guys with mob connections, received \$100 million in city affirmative action contracts, a crime that sent one of them to federal



John Kass

The national media have never wanted to examine how Sen. Barack Obama prospered under the guidance of Mayor Richard Daley's machine. CHRIS WALKER/TRIBUNE

prison?

The mayor said there is no such thing as a machine. Does Obama truly believe there is no machine that runs Chicago and Cook County? Then he should declare it. And, if so, then how does he explain the Daley hacks sitting in federal prison for rigging thousands of city jobs?

McCain could ask about the machine trolls Obama endorsed per Daley's direction. And what of Obama's own political mentor, the legendary city sewer inspector/Illinois Senate President Emil Jones (D-ComEd), who upon retirement will convert almost \$600,000 in campaign cash and stuff it into his pockets, and begin cashing a fat public pension, as his son, Emil III, takes Daddy's place in the legislature, courtesy of the Democratic bosses.

Is this the change we've been waiting for?

McCain could ask about Obama's real estate fairy, the convicted influence peddler Tony Rezko, who is now apparently cooperating with federal investigators probing the dealings of Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who also campaigned as a reformer. Rezko is scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 28. How was the Rezko-Obama real estate deal, the one that Obama himself described as "boneheaded," never made a subject of a Senate Ethics Committee investigation?

McCain also might offer up some straight talk about his own involvement in the Keating 5 scandal two decades ago—and how he was dishonored by that, and whether the shame changed his views on political corrup-

tion.

Hillary Clinton tried to link Obama to Chicago's politics during her party's primaries, but she was shouted down. Back then, at a Tribune editorial board meeting, I asked Obama about his place in Chicago's corrupt history.

"I think that all of you have been following my career for some time," he said. "I think I have done a good job in rising in this environment without being entangled in some of the traditional problems of Chicago politics. I know there are those, like John Kass, who would like me to decry Chicago politics more frequently."

Just the corrupt parts, I said. "I'll leave that to his editorial commentary," Obama continued, "but I think it's fair to say that I have conducted myself in my public office with great care and high ethical standards."

Is Obama corrupt, the way the caricature of Chicago-style corruption is often drawn, with some beefeater alderman reeking of gin, stuffing an envelope into his breast pocket? No, though he came close with Rezko in that smelly deal for the purchase of Obama's home.

But Obama looked the other way in order to prosper and assiduously avoided conflict with the machine to the point of embrace. In this, he offered Americans a glimpse at the real man inside that nice suit, the Chicago Way.

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WEEK IN REVIEW ADVENTURES IN JUNK FOOD

How much fat is in that?

Didn't know there were more than 400 calories in that beef Chalupa Baja you just wolfed down at Taco Bell?

Well, there's a much better chance you will, once Taco Bell and its sister restaurant chains post calorie counts on their menu boards.

In a move that bucks industry trends, Yum! Brands Inc., the parent of Taco Bell, KFC, Pizza Hut, A&W Restaurants and Long John Silver's, said last week that by 2011, all five of its chains will spell out the facts—or at least its roughly 4,000 company-owned stores will. Yum's approximately 16,000 franchisee-owned restaurants will be "encouraged" to do the same.

The menu board is prime real estate, and restaurant chains have long fought attempts to mandate posting calorie counts on it. But the industry has incurred a couple of big setbacks this year. Last week, California became the first state to mandate calorie counts on menu boards at chain restaurants. A few cities, including New York, have passed similar laws.

"Maybe [Yum] saw the writing on the wall and wanted to get out in front of the parade and be a leader," said Michael Jacobson, head of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a non-profit nutrition watchdog group that advocates menu calorie counts. Yum's move challenges the industry's contention that menu-board calorie counts would be expensive, and confusing, Jacobson said.

So what about Oak Brook-based fast-food giant McDon-



Cereal mascots targeted

LONDON—Any parent who has ever wheeled a child through the supermarket knows the lure of packaging festooned with favorite cartoon characters.

That's why a leading British consumer group is now pushing to have Tony the Tiger promote healthy food—or disappear off packaging.

A proposal last week by Which?, a consumer advocacy organization, would ban not only entertainment heroes like Shrek and Spider-Man from children's products that are high in salt, sugar, fat or saturated fat, but cartoon characters created by food manufacturers themselves.

At risk of extinction? Kraft's Moo cow, which, according to the group, promotes too-salty lunch packs. Also Captain Rik, of Rice Krispies, a British version of Rice Krispies, and the Internsack Pom-Bear, a pusher of potato chips. The effort has so far drawn backing from at least one British legislator. But food manufacturers say they have no intention of limiting the use of the highly successful marketing characters, noting that most of them long predate Britain's worsening obesity epidemic.

—Laurie Goering

What you eat—some calorie counts

630	460	400	380
Calories in a Taco Bell grilled stuffed burrito	One KFC extra-crispy chicken breast	One serving of KFC popcorn chicken	A slice of Pizza Hut Meat Lovers 12" pan pizza

SOURCE: COMPANY WEB SITES

ald's Corp.? It says it has no plans to follow Yum. McDonald's says customers are happily with the way it currently provides calorie information, including on the Web, on the back of tray liners and on packaging for some items.

—Mike Hughlett

Kids' cereal bad? No way!

What's next on the shocker list?

First, Clay Aiken is gay. Now, Consumer Reports Health says most breakfast cereals marketed to kids aren't very good for them. Still, it's nice to have data to confirm what you only suspected.

Some of the cereals the publication examined in a study released last week are more than 50 percent sugar by weight. We're looking at you, Honey Smacks and Golden

Crisp. You can't hide from the sweetener detectors at Consumer Reports Health merely by having changed your names from Sugar Smacks and Super Sugar Crisp.

Joining those two on the good ship Bad Cereal is Cap'n Crunch, scoring high in sugar, high in sodium and low in fiber. Also at the bottom of the list are the likes of Froot Loops and Corn Pops and the surprising villain Rice Krispies (low sugar, but high sodium and no fiber).

So what's best? Just four of the 27 cereals examined earned the "Very Good" rating: Cheerios, Honey Nut Cheerios, Kix and Life. The publication especially liked Kix because it's light and puffy, meaning kids aren't likely to pour more than the recommended serving size.

Not rated, however, was the quality of the "Speed Racer Turbo Car" inside the Cheerios box.

—Steve Johnson

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WEB SPIN LAST WEEK'S MOST VIEWED STORIES ON CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Naked Palin and other lookalikes

1. Sarah Palin gets painted in full, and nothing's conservative about it (Sept. 30). With a little artistic license, the Old Town Ale House has supplied the answer to thousands of pathetic Internet searches: It's a actually got "Sarah Palin naked," in a painting done by Bruce Elliott.

husband of the bar's owner. Although Elliott used his daughter as the model, the figure in the painting resembles the Republican vice presidential nominee in look (upswart hair and glasses), in style (big gun, scared moose) and in substance (also doesn't answer direct questions.) Oh, and from its perch in the pub, you can see Russian vodka.

2. Palin impersonators, rated (Oct. 1). From Tina Fey to Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm, some wise guy (humble bow by yours truly) had the inspiration to rank seven imitators of the Alaska governor, ratings neatly packaged as an online photo gallery. Best at capturing the "trills and whirrs of that Klondike twang" while still doing a sharp send-up? You don't need to phone a friend to know that, you betcha, it's Tina Fey.

3. 2 ex-workers sue Neiman Marcus over sex tape (Oct. 1). Two "close friends" who worked together in loss prevention at the Northbrook outpost of the department store allege that a secret videotape a store manager made of two on-the-job assignments was shared widely and has kept them from finding new employment. It's either that or the fact that they were fired for having sex with.

4. Age becomes part of the equation (Sept. 30). Based on statistics for men of their ages, John McCain would be seven times more likely to die in office than Barack Obama, longevity experts say. But the fact that McCain has already made it past 70 demonstrates hardiness and tilts the statistical odds in favor of him living another 12 years. It's all theoretical, though, because neither man has offered a full examination of his medical records—and because the field of longevity studies seems to contain more loopholes than the federal tax code.

5. Smooth sailing for Obama until debate arrived in Iran (Sept. 28). Summing up the first presidential debate, columnist John Kass says there was no to admire in Barack Obama's performance—until Obama failed to counter John McCain's attacks over Obama having said he'd meet with leaders from renegade states. Kass faults Obama for letting the narrator change the subject. As if anybody could stop Jim Lehrer from doing what Jim Lehrer wants to do.

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chicagotribune.com/chainphotos to see what various fast-food chains looked like before they supersized their number of stores. There you'll find photos from the Boots'nAll travel site of the original McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's, Subway and Starbucks, among others.

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