



10月24日，來自亞特蘭大的考古學編輯關學君先生和他認識30年的匹茲堡盲人老師凱文，一起在我家做客，他倆針對這次美國總統競選，各抒己見，爭辯達五個小時，一個堅持希拉里，一個非說選川普是美國唯一的希望。這一次也是我看到的從未有過的總統競選，我曾經寫過一篇文章：《必須這樣選舉美國總統嗎？》表達我的困惑。以下是不同的人站在不同的立場，以不同的視角看這次大選，他們觀點的正確與否請讀者自行判斷。

老朋友針鋒相對選總統



關學君表示：

目前美國，以致當今的世界正在面臨前所未有的挑戰和危機。我們引以自豪的民主機制已經受到威脅。民主黨的博尼現象，與共和黨的川普之出現，使美國民衆對現有的兩黨的建制派完全失去信心，現在是兩個相反的方向。美國人民意識到現有美國政治機制已病入膏肓，美國人爲其擔憂，人民力圖挽救國家爲之拼力抗爭。遺憾的是博尼成了希拉里與民主黨總部骯髒交易，暗箱操作的犧牲品。而川普，儘管如何不盡人意，卻成了改變這個現狀唯一的希望寄託。從這一點講，支持川普，與其說是真正喜歡與贊賞其人，不如說是借用他，給予打破現狀、起死回生的一個值得一試的機會。選擇沒有任何真正性質上轉機可言的希拉里，從而沿着同樣的路繼續越陷越深，或者推出一個也許有一線生機的川普，至少是更值得一試的選擇，毫無疑問我寧願選擇希望，即便是十分微弱，甚至帶有一定風險，也是完全值得的！



10月24日晚上電話採訪了共和黨前聯邦教育部副助理部長張曼君女士：她認爲：競選已經到了最後階段，雖然共和黨候選人不是最理想，但川普給人印象一直是單打獨鬥爭取共和黨總統，川普實在不容易，川普在創業和賺錢上表現亮眼，直率的言語也引起愈來愈多普通老百姓共鳴，但在政府運作上缺乏實戰經驗，但這是可以彌補的。

張曼君表示：

美國國債從2000年中國沒有加入世貿之前的5萬6千億到了今天的17萬7千億（其中奧巴馬八年發行了八萬億，是以前所有總統的總和）！這些錢都到哪里去了？而美國的經濟並沒有好轉，普通工薪階層的收入，和2000年比較起來，並沒有很大提高。中層階級80%人受影響，過去一個高中畢業生就可以找到工作，養家糊口，現在連大學畢業都難找到工作。同時現在的教育太差，她也搞不明白爲什麼中國人還將孩子送到美國來求學。因爲美國的基礎教育太差，而基礎教育是培養人的創造能力。

她相信川普入選，共和黨主流與川普的關係將得到有效整合，包括一些共和黨大金主，也可能從觀望轉爲落實。

Putting the “fun” Back in Dysfunctional – The Reconciliation of the Hatfields and McCoys A Model for America after this Raucous Election Season

—Cynthia Marek Lundeen

Russian literary giant Leo Tolstoy opened his now classic work Anna Karenina with the words “Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” If this is true, the people of the U.S. today are truly uniquely unhappy.

In talking to voters throughout this election cycle, I have heard that the traditional holiday dinner, where family members smile indulgently and affectionately at each other’s foibles has often given way to comparisons with the American Civil War and talk of dividing up the union, as no matter who wins, half of the country will feel disaffected.

During the American Civil War (1861-1865), some members of the same family took opposite sides in the conflict, resulting in brother fighting brother, quite literally.

Yet we have a very good example in U.S. history of feuding families coming together for the common good— none other than the Hatfields and the McCoys. These two families, living along the West Virginia and Kentucky borders, were engaged in a legendary feud from 1863-1891 involving a great loss of life for both families. You may know, and others might be surprised to learn, that they not only buried the proverbial hatchet, but now annually sponsor the Hatfield McCoy Marathon which you can read about at <http://www.hatfieldmccoymarathon.net/>



You’ll notice their slogan right across the middle of their home page which says “No Feudin’ – just Running.” The Hatfields and McCoys have surely created a suc-

cessful formula for putting the “fun” back into dysfunctional family relations.

As there has been a tradition of rallying around the newly elected president for the good of the country, the candidates might do well to take a cue from the Hatfields and McCoys. They don’t necessarily need to copy the marathon; one thought I had would be the type of fun activity often held at outdoor fairs during the summer. The potato sack race, in which partners each put one leg into the same potato sack and thus must co-operate to arrive at the finish line, could surely be a sign of unity.

As a hat designer, it occurs to me that a creative hat contest with a unity theme would also be a good idea, although Mr. Trump may already have a head start… pardon the pun.

If you have a suggestion for a charming activity to bring the candidates and country together, send an e-mail to me at ecj@cynthiascenturies.net.



Cynthia Marek Lundeen