

EDITORIAL

The politics of celebrity

▶ Former Alaskan Governor Sarah Palin, the first female vice presidential nominee of the Republican Party, has retired from public service and has become, what some would say, a B-list reckoning, in a reality television show called “Sarah Palin’s Alaska.” Reality television is defined as dramatic, funny documentation of actual events, but most of all, it is defined as entertainment.

But let’s keep it real; effective political figures are what the public needs. Most of all, the public needs someone trustworthy — neither an entertainer nor public figure whose motives are questionable is needed.

For example, participating in a reality television show, especially before the presidential nomination in 2012, showcasing how “normal” Palin and her family can be aside from negative exposure of unfortunate events depicting her family as “dysfunctional” as of late, is not needed.

Not only has Palin come out with a reality show, her daughter, Bristol Palin, participated in “Dancing with the Stars.” There existed a thin line between cheering on a dancer on the show and endorsing a political party.

I will admit, reality television shows are addictive guilty pleasures, considering 4.96 million (and counting) people who tuned in during the premiere. But aren’t there more important problems that a potential 2012 presidential candidate should concern him or herself with? How

ethical is it to entertain the public for political gain when the public needs to hear more about solutions concerning more important matters like fixing our economy and the wars in the middle east?

Palin does have a political agenda that needs more focus than what is presented about her in the news. She opposes abortion with the belief embryonic stem cell research causes the destruction of life. She also supports of funding of “abstinence-before-marriage” programs, in favor of contraceptive education, among numerous other political views. However, none of these points seem to be part of Palin’s potential 2012 campaign, instead of politics, Palin seems to be basing her public persona on celebrity.

Other politicians known for their mainstream popularity include Arnold Schwarzenegger, nicknamed the “Governator” and dubbed “Conan the Republican.” President Barack Obama criticized as the re-run of law and order by Bill Maher, appeared on “The View” during his 2008 presidential campaign.

Ideally, political leaders should show they can implement responsible and strategic methods to bring this world closer to economic stability, not to move in a direction where the world worships at their feet because they made us laugh, sing a tune, or scored more points with the public because of their lifestyles. What matters is the law and what a political leader plans to contribute to it.

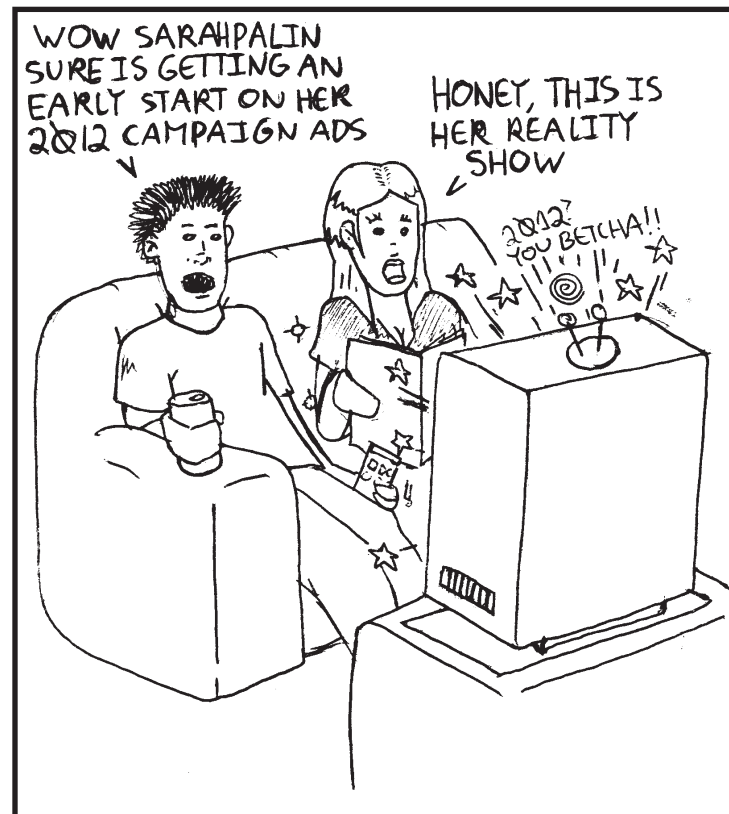


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City Talk

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Which one of Santa’s lists will you be on this year and why?



Cathlin Johnson
Avian Science

“I don’t celebrate Christmas. I’m a Buddhist.”



Devin Carson
Anthropology

“I think I’ve been on the nice list all year, but the last two weeks I’ve been on the naughty list. I’ve not been eating healthy and I’ve been an a--hole.”



Karla Law
Crimina Justice

“Nice list. I always do the right thing and being a criminal justice major with the last name Law makes sense.”



Nick Roar
Undecided

“I’m always on the nice list because I’m a wonderful caring person. I’m always doing nice things like smoking hella people out.”



Katie Orebaugh
Nursing

“Good list because I’m nice and do good things. I babysit for free and don’t beat the kids.”