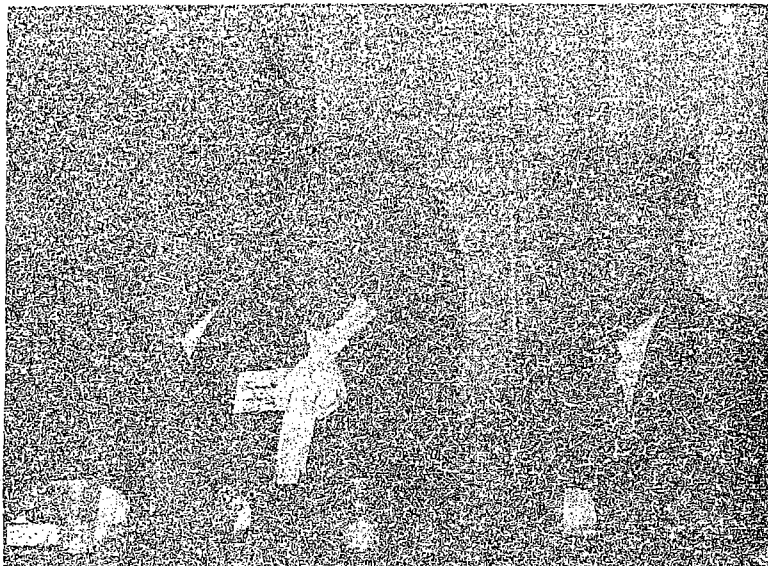


Senate Race '92

Tempest Profiles Of The Four Candidates

by Patrick Lalley



Tom Daschle, Charlene Haar and Kent Hyde.

The 1992 Senate race has been quite calm by past standards: McGovern/Abnor, Abnor/Daschle, Pressler/Muenster. These were hard fought races with tension, purpose, rumor, insinuation and strategy. In short, it was politics as usual. The most newsworthy and interesting items in this campaign have centered around things that have little to do with issues or politics.

First it was the "Draft Janklow" campaign waged by Governor Mickelson, followed by Char Haar's official entry into the race as the only Republican woman running for Senate, followed by two minor party candidates, Gus Hercules and Kent Hyde, and culminating in George Bush having trouble remembering Char Haar's name.

What follows are the impressions of the four candidates for Senate 1992. It's not about issues necessarily, but when has this race ever had anything to do with issues?

Tom Daschle

What can you say about the Democratic incumbent? Arguably one of the most popular politicians in recent South Dakota history, his quiet, confident demeanor, boyish

charm, and populist politics have brought him four terms in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate.

He was able to defeat the popular West River Representative, and Marlboro Man, Clint Roberts in 1982 after consolidation of the state's two seats into one.

His defeat of Republican Jim Abdnor in 1986 was one of the hardest fought, most expensive races in South Dakota history, drawing national attention and money on both sides of the coin. The race was key in the Democratic Party's push to regain a majority in the Senate which they have since held, much to the consternation of Republican presidents and conservative commentators.

His rise in the Senate has been impressive. His appointments include the Indian Affairs and Agriculture Committees, as well as a leadership role in the Democratic Policy Committee. Not to mention being one of the few, if not the only in recent history, freshman Senators to receive a seat on the influential Finance Committee.

Daschle had been involved in pitted political battles, for the most part, every two years since his entry into politics in 1978. Now as a Senator he has enjoyed the luxury

of the six-year term. It did appear, however, that another battle of the Titans loomed when evidence surfaced that the state's Republican bigwigs were attempting to bait former Governor, and giant killer in his own right, Bill Janklow into a run against Daschle.

Certainly this would be the mother of all Senate races. The now legendary, shoot-from-the-hip Janklow coming out of private law practice and the dreariness of mundane fees like the Corps of Engineers to grapple with Daschle the *wunderkind*. But it wasn't to be. Janklow, it seems, prefers the seclusion of his rural Sioux Falls home and riding lawnmower to the rigors of a Senate race and, God forbid, actually living in Washington. Who can blame him?

Or, perhaps, he senses the popularity of the incumbent. Only Bill knows.

At any rate, the Republicans' lady in waiting, Charlene Haar, seemed an unlikely David to the Democrat's Goliath. But rock slinger she has become, a fact that Daschle himself found surprising. "I was sure that somebody with greater political credentials would be my opponent," said Daschle after a recent campaign stop. "The Republicans are capable of fielding any number of good candidates." He admits that the worst-case scenario for his campaign at the beginning was a Janklow candidacy, but stresses that he has not taken the Haar campaign lightly. "A lot of pieces looked ominous," he said.

Daschle says that the break offered by the longer Senate term allowed him to gear up emotionally for the campaign, which he called "gratifying."

Char Haar

Like Rocky before her, Mrs. Char Haar tends to lead with her head, chin high, never timid, always aggressive.

Mrs. Haar grew up on the family farm outside of Madison. She attended the University of South Dakota, where she earned a degree in French and met her husband. She taught school in Hurley and Parker while her husband finished law school; then, when he entered private practice in Viborg, she quit teaching for the business of a law practice.

The Haars eventually moved to Madison, and Char went back to the education field, where she has been for 11 years.

Her political experience involvement in the Republican '90 campaign manager for Clint Roberts.

The Char Haar for Senate got off to a rather inauspicious start when the party leadership snubbed her for the prospect of a candidacy. During that time the staff consisted of Char, her faithful volunteers, and the mini-van she drove 75,000 miles on.

Though she has little experience from the candidate's point of view, she has learned one thing and tried and tried the politician: Never acknowledge negative. "It gave me a lot of publicity that I might not have had otherwise," she says of the Janklow incident. "Not all of it was negative. I never got in the race for any other purpose other than to run against an incumbent, and I never veered from that even when all of that was going on."

"The second thing it did was to give me an image for the public about me that I didn't cave under to the good old boy when I got into the United States. I won't cave in to the good old boy. I'm tenacious, and that I'm willing to go hard, and that I don't have to have followers in order to do this."

Party be damned.

Is she then, as popular opinion holds, the sacrificial lamb of the Republican? "I don't think that anybody would say that," is the terse teacher's response. "I'm the upstart schoolboy interviewee who have traveled all over this state."

Haar rarely has allowed anyone to attack Daschle to pass. She counters the incumbent's votes on special bills and continually needles him with 345 dollar bills, which represents the amount of the cost of living raise recently gave itself: money that Daschle he voted for as a trade for the clinic speaking fees.

Haar's aggressiveness is in contrast to the actions of the other key challengers. Daschle has been turning away Haar's attacks continues in earnest. And the senator's influence her tactics. In what is called Daschle's backyard, a former local Disabled American Veteran Char was persistent. As a veteran popular with this crowd and an ombudsman for veteran concern with health care services, he has been

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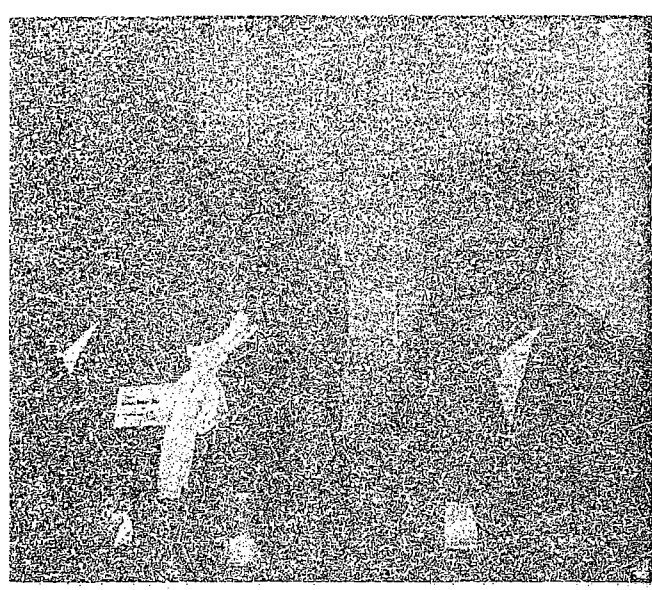
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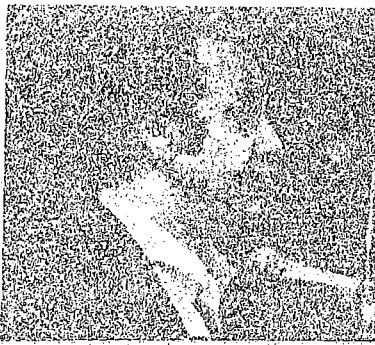
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Haar's aggressiveness is in sharp contrast to the actions of the other two, lower key, challengers. Daschle has been adept at turning away Haar's attacks, yet she continues in earnest. And the setting does not influence her tactics. In what could be called Daschle's backyard, a forum at the local Disabled American Veterans chapter, Char was persistent. As a veteran, Tom is popular with this crowd and as an ombudsman for veteran concerns dealing with health care services, he has been a savior.

Haar's chances in this room were hurt immeasurably by the much-publicized criticism of a Daschle commercial which featured a disabled Vietnam veteran, Bud Hill. Haar reportedly called the man a "long haired hippie without a job."

Haar later said she didn't remember making the statement but when the *Argus Leader*, in a rare departure, outlined the steps taken to verify the quote in an October 7 front page story, her fate with a great number of veterans seemed doomed.

It was into this tumult that Char walked on October 20 for the forum. Following a rather pointed question from one veteran, ("Where are you going to get the money, and I don't want rhetoric?") Daschle's three point



Gus Hercules

plan (defense burden sharing in Europe and Japan, unnecessary Cold War relics, and tax increases for the wealthy) drew vigorous applause from the crowd. Haar walked to the podium with her stack of dollars and roiled on Daschle for voting for the pay raise.

The woman has a hearty constitution.

In this year of the woman in politics, Char is the black sheep. The only Republican woman running for Senate, she gained a speaking role at the National Convention. Haar gained national exposure for her appearance, but the event seemed to do little for her at home. Rarely does Haar bring up the subject in debates and forums, choosing instead to bring up her experience as a teacher and businessperson.

The title of "Mrs." on her campaign literature has perhaps turned off some middle of the road women voters. Her response, "Who was your favorite teacher? If you would have had me, you would have said Mrs. Haar."

Gus Hercules

Complete personal freedom is the best way to sum up the stance of the Libertarian party. Gus Hercules, the Libertarian candidate in this year's Senate race, believes in the basic philosophy of Libertarianism but says he isn't as extreme as some. He says that every bill has a freedom aspect to it. He cites examples of experimental medical treatments as an example. "I think that, in view of the fact that nobody suffered from it, that people ought to be able to make their own decisions," he said. "If an insurance company doesn't want to pay for it, that's OK, but a person shouldn't be prevented from having it."

Health care is an good example of Hercules' version of Libertarianism. He believes that consumers should have more choices with regard to doctors and treatments.

"Along the same lines, there's an act in Congress to start confiscating nutritional supplements of various kinds because they're not proven to be effective, like drugs need to be proven, and I'm very much opposed to the FDA taking those things off the market because there are all sorts of uses for them. If you have a headache and you take two aspirin and you do it a dozen times and it goes away you know the aspirin works for you.

"So what's the FDA want to do? They want to take them off the market rather than letting consumers decide for themselves what to use. It's none of the government's business. As long as the stuff is pure and is labeled honestly, government ought to stay out of it."

A Rapid City psychiatrist, Hercules

has also backed the war against smoking in the campaign, often illustrating the harmony he hopes to add in the Senate with an autoharp.

He notes that in the unlikely event that he won't be going to Washington in January he hopes to lobby the South Dakota legislature for more personal and economic freedom for the citizens of the state.

Hercules is the president of the South Dakota Libertarian party. Their presidential candidate is Andra Marrou, a former Alaska state legislator. Bob Newland is the Libertarian candidate for the House of Representatives in South Dakota.

Kent Hyde

The Natural Law Party is the newest political party in America, according to Kent Hyde, the Natural Law candidate in South Dakota.

An Aberdeen lawyer, Hyde typifies his parties approach to politics. He is calm, almost sedate in public.

His party proposes that scientific knowledge and reason are the keys to solving the problems that currently plague our nation. Hyde says that the party isn't an opposition party. They aren't necessarily interested in winning elections or signing people up as Natural Law disciples. They hope to mediate the current gridlock and hope that politicians will embrace their ideas regardless of political affiliation.

The party was officially formed on April 20 of this year in Fairfield, Iowa. The Natural Law ranks are populated with professionals including many doctors and lawyers.

Touting the laudable goals of competitive business, no unemployment, elimination of national debt and reduced tax burden, the Natural Law party hopes to initiate the ultimate in a "kinder and gentler nation."

Hyde says the party hopes to bring "the light of science into politics." For example he believes that Transcendental Meditation is key to releasing stress and assisting people in giving up bad habits that threaten their overall health.

Much of the party platform is based on prevention and efficiency from health care to sustainable agriculture to the national debt.

The Natural Law party presidential candidate is Dr. John Hagslin, a scientist with a Ph.D. in nuclear physics from Harvard University.

A motley crew indeed. This is a campaign that has seemed more like the "Three Musketeers Meet Aunt Bee" than what we have been accustomed to. The minor candidates, Hercules and Hyde, have spent as much time complimenting Daschle and thanking him for including them in the debate rather than attacking him or his party. And Haar hasn't been able to project the kind of inspirational message necessary to convert voters away from Daschle.

This is an important race however, if only to recognize the emergence and inclusion of third parties. You will probably be hearing from these parties, and Mrs. Charlene Haar, again. We shall see. ☺

Halloween

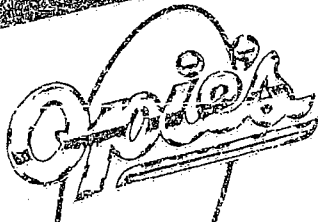

On The Hot Side Of Town

Thursday
October 28
Friday
October 29
Saturday
October 30
Sunday
October 31

Outlaw Country Rock
With KTWB, Hill Country
Costume Contest, prizes
include Coors Light, Satin
Jackets and Opie's Parties.

Halloween Eve
Live Remote With 97.3 KPA
Budwiser Mug Giveaway
and Beer Special
Halloween Games

HALLOWEEN NIGHT
COSTUME CONTEST
Prizes: One \$100 Party, Two
Party, and One \$25 Party.
Drink Specials All Night



ROCK AND ROLL EMPORIUM
SIOUX FALLS, SD

EMPIRE EAST MALL