

BHOSO the Clown...

After Lyndon Baines Johnson, the practice of using initials to identify Presidents (or candidates) seemed to fall out of fashion. No doubt that was simply because RMN (Richard Milhaus Nixon), GRF (Gerald R. Ford), JEC (James Earl Carter), RWR (Ronald Wilson Reagan), and GHWB (George Herbert Walker Bush) just didn't trip off the tongue as did LBJ, JFK, or FDR.

With Bill Clinton it would have been even more difficult, inasmuch as William Jefferson Clinton was born William Jefferson Blythe, III, and later took the name of his step-father, Roger Clinton. "WJBC" sounds more like the call letters of a radio station than the catchy initials of a President, so most people simply settled on (and for) "Bill Clinton."

The current President's name, George W. Bush, seemed somehow to encourage supporters to refer to him only as "W," which led mostly to the childish removal of the "W" keys from all the White House keyboards as Clinton left office (taking half the contents of the White House with him as well).

Now, here we are in 2008 with John Sidney McCain, III on the Republican ticket, and a presumptive/presumptuous Democrat candidate named Barack Hussein Obama, Jr. That has led adoring fans to refer to Obama on campaign placards as simply "BHO." Of course, opponents quickly printed placards reading "Hell no, BHO!"

Even "BHO" is a little awkward, as it reminds one of "Beau," the short version of Beaugard. I'm thinking out loud here, but "No regard for Beaugard" sounds a bit lame.

Ah, but I'd forgotten for a moment about Obama's other father - the one who wasn't (as far as we know) an alcoholic bigamist - the Indonesian man who married his divorced mother and who adopted little Barack in 1965 (or thereabouts). Dad number two's name was Lolo Soetoro, which presented Barack with that surname name just in time to enroll in elementary school in Indonesia, where he went by the name Barack Soetoro (and whose religion and nationality were, respectively, Islam and Indonesian, according to school records).

Somewhere along the line Barack (who sometimes used the name "Barry") decided a return to the name Obama would be in order. He likely assumed an African background would suit him better in politics than an Indonesian one. At any rate, the deed was done... although one would be hard-pressed to find documentation of any legal name change, as the candidate prefers that his past be shrouded in mysteries.

So, it turns out that the real name of the likely Democrat candidate for President in the year 2008 is Barack Hussein Obama Soetoro Obama. Conveniently, that gives us the acronym "BHOSO," which most people can readily pronounce as "BOH-ZOH." Luckily, the name BHOSO conjures up the image of another bumbling fool loved by people with child-like minds, making it oh so much easier for the creation of witty, if sophomoric, campaign placards and posters.

I'll leave it to the rest of you to come up with those signs. I'm confident that you are up to the challenge...

Don Fredrick
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