Vice Presidential Debate Results

October 3, 2008 By Shawn Decker

Going into last night's debate, I wanted to get an honest, untainted opinion on who did better. Because I can't trust MSNBC or Fox News, or even myself.

Then it came to me at lunch. As I sat there with Gwenn, my brother Kip and his family which includes a beautiful wife and two daughters (9 and six months old, respectively) it came to me: the children are the future. That cheesy song is right... *they* will have to live with the consequences of this election longer than I will, and they don't even get to vote!

That's why I turned to a new neighbor to sort this debate out. Meet My Pet Virus' first political correspondent: Evelyn.

If you read this blog, you actually met her a couple of weeks ago in True Babies.

Evelyn is three weeks old, and I decided to watch the debate with her and monitor her responses, like those weird lifelines that float up and down the screen, representing undecided Women and Men voters, and occasionally Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

Well, all those test groups have had a lifetime of manipulating. As I watched Evelyn drool, I knew I'd found the perfect barometer to gauge the candidates. Of course, she's too young to speak, so I made a few categories: **Grunt, Cry** and **Smile**.

With pen in hand, I awkwardly watched Evelyn as the Vice Presidential candidates met center stage... it was awkward because Evelyn was breast feeding. "Research!" I told my friend, Lauren, as she tended to her child.

Democrat Joe Biden got off to a shakey start, eliciting a scathing nipple **Bite**, forcing me to adjust and create a new category on the fly. That was followed by a ten-minute nap: not a good sign for the Senator from Delaware.

Evelyn woke up just in time to get her first taste of Sarah Palin, and I wondered if sexism against Joe might make Palin a more comfortable fit for the young politico?
As Palin addressed the nation, Evelyn grunted and smiled. My notion rang true, and I did not judge her, just wrote down the results like a real reporter…

Then it happened- as Sarah Palin was in mid-riff, Evelyn began to cry. Change *she* could believe in involved a clean diaper, and crapping her pants had evened out Joe's sleep-inducing policy wonking.

Forty minutes in, this was anybody's debate.

A **Grunt** for Joe, then a **Bite** for Palin, "Ouch!" Lauren screamed. Just as it seemed like this thing was Biden's, he inspired another **Grunt** and his second **Bite** of the evening. He was trailing, and Evelyn was spent, retiring to her crib with a little less than half the debate to go: like most Americans, she'd seen enough… I set down my pen, and then, as Palin spoke Evelyn cried from afar, helping Biden narrowly escape with a draw.

I'm hoping I can tap Evelyn for the next Presidential Debate, where I'll make sure to take note of not only her responses, but the topics that set her off. Still, overall I'm happy about this, and thus far most media sources agree with the three-week old, though I doubt Wolf Blitzer or Sean Hannity shat themselves.

Positively Yours,

Shawn

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