Don't Vote Buchanan to Protest Bush Blundering

Column By Matthew H. Heinrich

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If you weren't paying attention two years ago, or you're just not bright enough to figure it out, Buchanan's America First campaign...is a crock, that Pat has no platform, no life, and no political experience outside his stint as an adviser to Richard Nixon. Buchanan gained national exposure in 1979 as the resident moron on NBC's political discussion program The McLaughlin Group, where he was allowed one stupid comment per show. There he achieved notoriety among his fellow consultants by blustering the "Israel lobby" for everything, remaining largely indifferent to the changing world around him, and, in the summer of 1991, earning the famous quote from the show's host, "What is it with you, Pat?"

Many realize that Buchanan's America First campaign...is a crock, that Pat has no platform, no life, and no political experience outside his stint as an adviser to Richard Nixon.

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Column by Scott Paradise

What shocks me even more, though, is that people who don't want Pat to get the nomination...and purposely vote dishonestly, the whole outcome of the election can be shifted. The same applies to party primaries, in which unsuccessful candidates wind up dropping out a few weeks.

Primary elections in particular offer many ways to show a candidate that he is in treading on thin ice. Purposely voting for the wrong candidate, though, only corrupts the democratic process. Plans to use protest voting to send messages and intimidate people can easily backfire — and attempts to use voting for this purpose are unethical. In many states, voters have the option of writing in candidates of their choice, or even registering for the opposing party on the day of the primary. Voters can indicate their real preferences in this way, or show their dismay with an equally simplistic "inconsequential" vote. There is really no need to vote for the wrong candidate, especially for dubious candidates like Pat Buchanan who count on protest voting as an evil engine which will carry them to the White House.

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No experience necessary, but fast typing (60 wpm+) and familiarity with the local arts community is a plus. $25 per calendar.

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