

The Gods, They Think Us Crazy

Todd Parkhurst as the moderator. With Bill Hannay and Scott Petersen as the candidates. The three men to be dressed in ordinary suits. We will need to procure a second podium if possible. Todd will sit between the two podiums.

Todd: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chicago Literary Club. This evening is a wonderful opportunity to see and experience new plays by the very talented club members Philip Liebsom and Douglas Cannon. ArLynn Presser was supposed to present a play as well but was unable to be here this evening because she has a date with Ryan Gosling. I have, with the permission of our president and program chair, taken the liberty of asking two of our members who are both coincidentally running for governor in the upcoming 2016 election to take a few moments in order to educate us about their platforms, their qualifications and their hopes, dreams and ambitions for our fair state. Ladies and Gentlemen, William Hannay and Scott Petersen.

The two men enter and give each other and Todd effusive manly man handshakes before taking their places at the respective podiums.

Todd: Gentlemen, it is a deep and abiding honor to be part of a club that has as members two such illustrious gubernatorial prospects. And such close personal friends. We've agreed to the terms of the presentation beforehand so I will now ask for each of you to make a not more than one minute general introductory remark. I'll start with you, Scott.

Scott: Thank you Todd and thank you to all the members of the club for allowing me this opportunity to bring my message to you as voters. I also want to thank my wife Donna who has stood by me as I have embarked on this journey of public service. Also our children Muffy, Buffy, Puffy, and the family rabbit Fluffy. I am privileged to be a lifelong resident of the state of Illinois and I have such a feeling for the history and the beauty of our great Land of Lincoln. And I would be remiss if I didn't point out that I am deeply respectful of Bill, who has been a friend to me since we both were in our twenties fresh out of law school. Bill is a caring, quiet, courageous man. We have our disagreements, on policy, on approaches to political discourse, but I am always aware of the integrity with which he comes to his positions.

Todd: Thank you Scott. Bill?

Bill: Thank you Todd, thank you club members, and thank you of course to my wife who is also named Donna. As well as our children Dirk, Kirk, and Burke. I am of course honored by my friendship with

Scott: And I appreciate his kind words. In fact, I have to say that my admiration of Scott is without bounds. He would, as governor, bring as much determination and fortitude to the interests of our state's citizenry as he does to every client he has represented. And were it not for his association with his political party, I would promptly withdraw from the race and endorse him. He is a remarkable man but his party, well, let's face it. His party has waged a century long war against women, minorities, the gender displaced, union members, Peruvians, salmon fishermen, dogs, cats and telekinetic detectives. It's not that he's waging a campaign of death and destruction against these politically powerless groups but it's a small but telling moral blindness, if you will, that he associates with those who do.

Todd: Uh, Scott, you have the floor.

Scott: Thank you Todd and thank you Bill for those kind words. I don't like to make accusations of guilt by association even though others might point out that Bill of course is part of the political party that has introduced lawlessness, fiscal irresponsibility, marijuana madness, and tummy tucks being paid for with government money. No, I'm fine with Bill. And in fact, we are well aware that he has a deep reservoir of courage. A few years ago, he had the courage to give up drinking, cocaine, marijuana, shoplifting, gambling, smoking, webcam porn and inhaling five pound bags of peanut m & m's every afternoon. How could you not admire. . . ? Well, at least, there's no evidence that he has continued any of these practices. Or at least not any evidence that I'm willing to disclose at this time.

Staring contest with the two men. Then the doom and gloom voice overs as they stare.

Male Voice Over: Bill Hannay wants to release every really bad criminal from the big house and give them bus fare so they can come to your house and murder you and go next door and murder your neighbors. Can Illinois really afford this? Think of the children.

Female Voice Over: Scott Peterson wants to take every dollar you have ever made and use it to roll cigarettes that he will then smoke while laughing manically that he's a millionaire and you aren't. And then he'll cash your social security checks and buy cheap women and expensive cocaine. If you value humanity, vote Bill Hannay.

Okay, which one of them is going to blink first?

Bill: Scott, for some reason I was just now thinking about that time that you and I went fishing up at the cabin.

Scott: I was just thinking about the season we bought season tickets to the Cubs.

Bill: I frankly think you'd make a better governor.

Scott: I want to be governor, I really do, but what's the point? Everything in politics is screwed up and besides I don't want to go to prison. Dan Walker, I actually liked that guy. George Ryan? Uh. Blagovich not so much.

Bill: Wasn't he fun though? In an Elvis kind of way. And Scott, you really would make a great governor. You really would.

Scott: You would do better.

Todd: Uh, you guys, this isn't exactly following the rules of our debate.

Scott: There's no rules in friendship.

Bill: Only one. Loyalty.

Todd: Hug it out.

Scott and Bill in unison: We're good.

Todd: Ladies and gentlemen of the club, thank you for enduring our political debate. It's sometimes, well, it's important for citizens of a democracy to be informed. All of us were glued to our sets when Rauner and Quinn debated, weren't we? Well, did we actually talk about substantive issues this evening?

Scott: Politics? Substantive?

Bill: haha!

Todd: Okay, well, I guess that I have misjudged. Thank you club members. I believe I am prepared to tell you vote early, vote often.