



Sunday, September 07, 2008

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Alaskans Speak (In A Frightened Whisper): Palin Is "Racist, Sexist, Vindictive, And Mean"

September 5, 2008



by Charley James –

“So Sambo beat the bitch!”

This is how Republican Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin described Barack Obama’s win over Hillary Clinton to political colleagues in a restaurant a few days after Obama locked up the Democratic Party presidential nomination.

According to Lucille, the waitress serving her table at the time and who asked that her last name not be used, Gov. Palin was eating lunch with five or six people when the subject of the Democrat’s primary battle came up. The governor, seemingly not caring that people at nearby tables would likely hear her, uttered the slur and then laughed loudly as her meal mates joined in appreciatively.

“It was kind of disgusting,” Lucille, who is part Aboriginal, said in a phone interview after admitting that she is frightened of being discovered telling folks in the “lower 48” about life near the North Pole.

Then, almost with a sigh, she added, “But that’s just Alaska.”

Racial and ethnic slurs may be “just Alaska” and, clearly, they are common, everyday chatter for Palin.

Besides insulting Obama with a Step-N’-Fetch-It, “darkie musical” swipe, people who know her say she refers regularly to Alaska’s Aboriginal people as “Arctic Arabs” – how efficient, lumping two apparently undesirable groups into one ugly description – as well as the more colourful “mukluks” along with the totally unimaginative “f**king Eskimo’s,” according to a number of Alaskans and Wasillians interviewed for this article.

But being openly racist is only the tip of the Palin iceberg. According to Alaskans interviewed for this article, she is also vindictive and mean. We’re talking Rove mean and Nixon vindictive.

No wonder the vast sea of white, cheering faces at the Republican Convention went wild for Sarah: They adore the type, it’s in their genetic code. So much for McCain’s pledge of a “high road” campaign; Palin is incapable of being part of one.

Tough Getting People Who Know Her to Talk

It’s not easy getting people in the 49th state to speak critically about Palin – especially people in Wasilla, where she was mayor. For one thing, with every journalist in the world calling, phone lines into Alaska have been mostly jammed since Friday; as often as not, a recording told me that “all circuits are busy” or numbers

just wouldn't ring. I should think a state that's been made richer than God by oil could afford telephone lines and cell towers for everyone.

On a more practical level, many people in Alaska, and particularly Wasilla, are reluctant to speak or be quoted by name because they're afraid of her as well as the state Republican Party machine. Apparently, the power elite are as mean as the winters.

"The GOP is kind of like organized crime up here," an insurance agent in Anchorage who knows the Palin family, explained. "It's corrupt and arrogant. They're all rich because they do private sweetheart deals with the oil companies, and they can destroy anyone. And they will, if they have to."

"Once Palin became mayor," he continued, "She became part of that inner circle."

Like most other people interviewed, he didn't want his name used out of fear of retribution. Maybe it's the long winter nights where you don't see the sun for months that makes people feel as if they're under constant danger from "the authorities." As I interviewed residents it began sounding as if living in Alaska controlled by the state Republican Party is like living in the old Soviet Union: See nothing that's happening, say nothing offensive, and the political commissars leave you alone. But speak out and you get disappeared into a gulag north of the Arctic Circle for who-knows-how-long.

Alright, that's an exaggeration brought on by my getting too little sleep and building too much anger as I worked this article. But there's ample evidence of Palin's vindictive willingness to destroy people she sees as opponents. Just ask the Wasilla town administrator she hired before firing him because he rebelled against the way Palin demanded he do his job, or the town librarian who refused to hold the book burning Walpurgisnacht Mayor Palin demanded.

Ironically, Palin was pushed into hiring the administrator by the party poobahs who helped get her elected after she got herself into trouble over a number of precipitous firings which gave rise to a recall campaign.

"People who fought her attempt to oust the librarian are on her enemies list to this day," [states Anne Kilkenny](#), a Wasilla resident and one of the few Alaskans willing to speak on-the-record, for attribution, about Palin. In fact, Kilkenny actually circulated an e-mail letter about Palin that was verified and printed by The Nation.

For good measure, Palin booted the Wasilla police chief from office because, she told a local newspaper, he "intimidated" her.

Running on Extreme Fringe Evangelical Views

Sarah Palin drew early attention from state GOP *apparatchiks* when, during her first mayoral campaign, she ran on an anti-abortion platform. Normally, political parties do not get involved in Alaskan municipal elections because they are nonpartisan. But once word of her extreme fringe evangelical views made its way to Juneau, the state capitol, [state Republicans tossed some money behind her campaign](#).

Once in office, Palin set out to build a machine that chewed up anyone who got in her way. The good, Godly Christian turns out to be anything but.

"She's doesn't like different opinions and she refuses to compromise," Kilkenny notes. "When she was mayor, she fought ideas that weren't hers. Worse, ideas weren't evaluated on their merits but on the basis of who proposed them."

Sound familiar? Palin may well be Dick Cheney's reincarnate.

Something else has a familiar Republican ring to it: Her tax policies, and a "refund surpluses but borrow for the future" attitude.

According to Kilkenny and others in Wasilla as well as Juneau, Palin reduced progressive property taxes for businesses while mayor and increased a regressive sales tax which even hits necessities such as food. The tax cuts she promoted in her St. Paul speech actually benefited large corporate property owners far more than they benefited residents. Indeed, Kilkenny insists that many Wasilla home owners actually saw their tax bill skyrocket to make up for the shortfall. Two other Wasillians with whom I spoke said property taxes on their modest, three bedroom homes rose during the Palin regime.

To an outsider, it would seem hard to do, but an oil-rich town with zero debt on the day she was inaugurated mayor was left saddled with \$22 million of debt by the time she moved away to become governor – especially since nothing was spent on things such as improving the city's infrastructure or building a much-needed sewage treatment plant. So what did Mayor Palin spend the taxpayer's money on, if not fixing streets and scrubbing sewage?

For starters, she remodelled her office. Several times over, as a matter of fact.

Then Palin spent \$1 million on an unnecessary, new park that no one other than the contractors and Palin seemed to want. Next, Sarah doled out more than \$15 million of taxpayer money for a sports complex that she shoved through even though the city did not own clear title to the land; now, seven years later, the matter is still in litigation and lawyer fees are said to be close to at least half of the original estimated price of the facility.

She also worked hard to get voters approval of a \$5.5 million bond proposal for roads that could have been built without borrowing. Anchorage may not be the center of the financial universe but, like good Republicans everywhere, Sarah Palin knows how to please Alaskan bankers and bond dealers.

For good measure, she turned Wasilla into a wasteland of big box stores and disconnected parking lots.

Sarah Barracuda

En route to the governor's igloo, Palin managed to land what Anne Kilkenny says is the plumb political appointment in the state: Chair of Alaska's Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (OGCC), a \$122,400 per year patronage slot with no real authority to do anything other than hold meetings. She took the job despite having no background in energy issues and, as it turned out, not liking the work.

"She hated the job," an OGCC staff member who is not authorized to speak with the news media told me. "She hated the hours and she hated what little work there was to do. But she couldn't figure out a way to get out of the thing without offending Gov. Murkowski" and the state Republican Party regulars, some of whom were pissed off they didn't get appointed.

But ever the opportunist, Palin quickly concocted a way. First, she waged a campaign with the local news media claiming that the position was overpaid and should be abolished – despite the fact that she lobbied Murkowski hard to get it. Then, mounting what she saw as a white horse, Palin raised a cloud of dust by resigning from the OGCC and riding away with an undeserved reputation as a "reformer."

But when a local reporter dared to suggest that the reformer Empress has no clothes, Palin tried to get her fired.

"She came at me like I was trying to steal her kids," said the targeted reporter, who now works for an oil company in Anchorage. "I heard she had a wild temper and vicious mean streak but it's nothing like you can imagine until she turns it on you."

Not surprising since some of her high school classmates still openly call her "Sarah Barracuda," Kilkenny insists.

Still, as a Republican Party hack Palin managed to get herself elected running under the false flag of a "reformer."

And what did she bring to the job? No legislative experience other than a city council of a village of 5,000 people, which is smaller than some high schools in Chicago. Little hands-on supervisory or managerial experience; after all, she needed to hire a city administrator to run Wasilla. No executive experience, except for almost being recalled as mayor. A philosophy of setting public policy based on one word: No.

And what has she done since winning the job?

According to Kilkenny, nothing. Well, nothing other than suggesting the state's multi-multi-million dollar, oil-generated surplus be distributed to residents and finance future state needs by borrowing money. Gee, doesn't that sound precisely what George Bush did with the surplus he inherited from Bill Clinton in 2001 and we all know in what great shape Bush's economic policies left the nation.

It may explain why, when asked by reporters, including me, what she thought about Palin being picked to be McCain's running mate, her mother-in-law replied with a sardonic, "What has Sarah done to qualify her to be vice president?" Of course, when the woman – said by many I spoke with to be well-respected in Wasilla – was running to succeed Palin as mayor, Sarah refused to endorse her, so that may explain the family tension.

As Governor, Palin gave the legislature no direction and budget guidelines, according to the chair of a legislative committee. But then she staged a huge grandstand play of line-item vetoing countless projects, calling them pork. "They were restored because of public outcry and legislative action," the aide said. "She vetoed them mostly because she had no idea what they were or why they were important."

But it was enough to get the McCain, who is mostly unobservant of the world around him anyway, to think Palin has a reputation as being "anti-pork".

In fact, Juneau observers note that Palin kept her hand stuck out as far as anyone for pork ladled out by indicted Sen. Ted Stevens. She only opposed the "bridge to nowhere" after it became clear that it would be politically unwise to keep supporting it, these same insiders assert. Then, Palin fell back on her old habits and publicly humiliated him for pork-barrel politics.

As for being "ready on day one" to be commander in chief, despite the repeated public claims she's made, the Alaska National Guard commander said that, "she has made no command decisions, other than sending some troops to help fight a few brush fires and march in parades at county fairs."

"Sambo Beat the Bitch"

"Palin is a conniving, manipulative, a**hole," someone who thinks these are positive traits in a governor told me, summing up Palin's tenure in Alaska state and local politics.

"She's a bigot, a racist, and a liar," is the more blunt assessment of Arnold Gerstheimer who lived in Alaska until two years ago and is now a businessman in Idaho.



“Juneau is a small town; everybody knows everyone else,” he adds. “These stories about what she calls blacks and Eskimos, well, anyone not white and good looking actually, were around long before she became a glint in John McCain’s rheumy eyes. Why do I know they’re true? Because everyone who isn’t aboriginal or Indian in Alaska talks that way.”

“Sambo beat the bitch” may be everyday language up in the bush. Whether it – and the outlook, politics and worldview Palin reflects when she says such things in public – should be part of a presidential campaign is another thing altogether. The comment says as much about McCain as it does about Palin, and it says a lot of things about Americans who overlook such statements (as well as her record) and vote anyway for McCain.

by Charley James

Charley James is an American journalist, author and essayist who lives in Toronto.







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148 Comments

■ *Comment by Anony mous*

2008-09-05 12:02:59

wow, this is good shite! Why can't i read stuff like this on the MSM? AP, reuters, you listening? I hate your globalist controlled media b.s. This is the real deal, good stuff!

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by SouthernYankee*

2008-09-05 16:30:37

Why hasn't this article been sent to mainstream papers to pickup on. I bet if sent it to Keith Olberman at MSNBC he would say something. I don't know how to send this article. I have a feeling this woman will withdraw anyway. She is to mean and know one wants a more extreme right religious person to be one step away from the president's office. I just don't think people will elect her.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by aa*

2008-09-05 21:32:42

i sent it to keith olberman. someone should digg it. i will see if i can figure out how to do it.

(Comments wont nest below this level)

[Reply here](#)

■ *Comment by Carol Williams*

2008-09-05 17:08:21

I knew as soon as I saw her speak that she was the female George Bush. Not only do they share the same "beliefs" but they even have that same facial mannerism.....I don't know what to call it but its a combination of pursing the lips and jutting the jaw after making a statement.....McBush/Georgette

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Robin Dicken*

2008-09-05 21:24:03

Mussolini had that expression too... like "yeah, I said it". Arrogance and hatred are not leadership qualities. Caribou Barbie needs to be sent packing back to the Great White South.

(Comments wont nest below this level)

[Reply here](#)

■ *Comment by iam funny*

2008-09-05 21:39:46

That's because George Bush's speech writer wrote the speech for her and she was intensely coached and practiced. Scary, no?

(Comments wont nest below this level)

[Reply here](#)

Comment by kemche

2008-09-05 17:23:59

As you know MSM, AP, Reuters are all part of Liberal Media.

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■ *Comment by grand ol baddass*

2008-09-05 18:14:15

what garbage

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by [George W.armonger](#)*

2008-09-05 20:15:50

Power attracts the very sort of people that should not have it!!

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■ *Comment by Buford Gooch*

2008-09-05 20:16:54

You can't read stuff like this in the MSM because they know it is bat guano crazy.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Emmi*

2008-09-05 20:47:20

Oh, here we go. The whisper campaign begins. How obama of you all.

No one is going to buy the waitress with no name and the official who isn't supposed to talk to the press (but, they'll talk to Charley - oh, how RICH!)

But you know what- go ahead. Play the race card from the bottom of the deck. You are being watched and with every move you make against Palin- you only strengthen McCain.

Here, I thought Obama was smart. NOT.

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■ Pingback by [Sarah Palin Is Racist, Sexist, Vindictive, & Mean. | John McCain](#)

2008-09-05 13:14:59

[...] According to this story. [...]

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Comment by [Sarah Palin Scares Me](#)

2008-09-05 13:16:03

People have to find out the truth about this woman. She really does scare me. I honestly thing she's even scarier than Bush/Cheney.

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■ Pingback by ["So sambo beat the bitch?" Sarah Palin - PoliticalGroove Forums](#)

2008-09-05 13:24:14

[...] for this article, she is also vindictive and mean. We

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ Comment by *WOW*

2008-09-05 20:58:22

Can you send this article to the main stream media (tv)? I would if I knew how. The entire country should be able to read this article.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ Comment by *Chris*

2008-09-05 13:26:45

If this is true, it's damning. It's over. I hope you're prepared to work with major news sources to corroborate this story, because you're going to be hearing from them, and the bloggers, in droves.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ Comment by *Mernesba Sullivan*

2008-09-06 17:27:27

I agree! If this is true something needs to be done legally to stop her and McCain.

[Reply to this comment](#)

Pingback by [Democratic Diva » "Racist, Sexist, Vindictive, And Mean"](#)

2008-09-05 13:28:06

[...] "So Sambo beat the bitch!" [...]

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■ *Comment by Nick Danger*

2008-09-05 13:38:14

This would be a huge story if "Lucille" was a verifiable source. As it stands, it's just another easily deniable rumor, or possibly a GOP plant intended to be picked up by left-leaning blogs and discussion forums, with the goal of embarrassing them.

If there were in fact people at other tables within earshot, there are witnesses who can corroborate the story. Unless one or more of them, or "Lucille", come forward with their real names and verifiable details of the incident, this one will be shrugged off as another mean-spirited attack by the left.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Frank*

2008-09-05 13:39:35

Why can't you read this elsewhere? Perhaps because it isn't factual?

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by David Duke*

2008-09-05 13:40:43

It's about time the Republican party put an admitted racist on the ticket!

McKKKain/Palin for a restoration of White Christian AmeriKKKa!!!

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by joy*

2008-09-05 22:06:12

just the fact that you made this indoesment should send shivers down the spines of hard working TRUE AMERICANS. I for one will take every chance I have to debate the Sarah lovers I will come in contact with over the next two months. The reps sure can take the prize for getting out the stupid vote.

[Reply to this comment](#)

Comment by Josh

2008-09-05 13:44:15

ummm...her husband is part native. These web sites are a joke, completely nonsense. If all the crap they say about Palin is true, then why do the majority of Alaskans love her? I live in Anchorage, by the way. So I actually do know what I am talking about

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Sarah*

2008-09-05 20:30:30

I hate when non-Alaskans write about Alaska. They can never get it right. I lived in Alaska for nine years. Maybe I didn't hang out with the right crowd (I am not a Republican), but I never heard the kind of slurs this article mentions.

[Reply to this comment](#)

Comment by janice

2008-09-05 21:15:47

You asked why Alaskans gave her an 80% approval rating...could it be the \$1200. she gave every man, woman and child from oil revenues? That's a good way to establish a "base".

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by WoZ*

2008-09-05 22:32:32

Maybe because 80% of Alaskans are white.

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■ *Comment by Kate Tee*

2008-09-05 13:48:53

Not surprised. This IS the Republican Party.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Dash Riprock*

2008-09-05 13:49:31

Wow!

This is disappointing, but I'm not surprised at all. No wonder she rushed back to Alaska after the convention- She has a closet full of skeletons to disappear.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by dyanne*

2008-09-05 20:34:59

Not true. She appeared in Wisconsin and I believe Michigan too today with John McCain. I'm no fan of Palin's. In fact, I abhor her positions. But let's be sure of our facts. Because if we spout lies and misstatements about her, people won't believe the truth when they hear it. Please people. It's important to get your facts straight.

[Reply to this comment](#)

Comment by Vir

2008-09-05 22:51:10

I heard all the computers and against jews tapes are all erased and missing!!! this is a scary appointee hand picked by extreme right wing leaders. Mccain is only a puppet. she is female Cheney she is the real deal. repubs lied in the UN and lied to americans about war. don't put anything past them. they do scare people to win elections. remember made in america anthrax appeared to elect bush the second time. certain people blindly follow the pied piper.

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Comment by kB

2008-09-05 13:51:08

Gov. Palin has over 80% job approval rating!!!

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■ *Comment by jen*

2008-09-05 22:08:39

Well, since Alaska is around 20% minority population, that sounds about right.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by elmer*

2008-09-05 13:55:28

No wonder the vast sea of white, cheering faces at the Republican Convention went wild for Sarah: They adore the type, it's in their genetic code.

Hmmm. Sounds like shorthand for Obama-speak "typical white people." It's pretty clear who the racist is here.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by James*

2008-09-05 14:02:35

Really? They hate her? That explains why she has an 80% approval rating in her state - FROM DEMOCRATS.

[Reply to this comment](#)

Comment by [Jas](#)

2008-09-05 14:04:17

I agree wholeheartedly with the article, and I've read the email that he mentions from Kilkenny. Unfortunately, some of the language of the article is lifted straight from that email without adequate citation, IMHO.

Otherwise, get this stuff out there where more eyes can see it!

[Reply to this comment](#)

Comment by Bob

2008-09-05 14:39:37

You people should be ashamed publishing this. You dig up unsubstantiated rumors from her enemies and call that news.

I smell desperation.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Diana*

2008-09-05 20:10:29

We don't know this women and to think that she could be a heartbeat away from being commander and chief, it's sad and it needs to be exposed. I want to know all the dirt on her, because she can't be that perfect, there has to be something and I know the more she talks and the more we read and hear we will know the truth.

I understand the truth hurts, but it will set us free. McCain sorry you know what didn't do a good job all he saw was her ass and he said go get her.

Well anyway there is something about her that just don't set right with me.

Obama/Biden

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by TB*

2008-09-05 21:05:35

What do you mean unsubstantiated? The article names two people by name. One is Arnold Gerstheimer, and the other named Lucille who is a waitress. If you have such trouble believing it, why not e-mail the article's author?

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Darla*

2008-09-05 21:14:13

You should talk ... how about: Obama is a muslim or Michelle hates America ... there are so many lies told by the Republicans that there isn't enough space in this box to list them all.

John McCain spends a month assassinating Obama's character then has the gall to blame Obama for the McCain tactics because he didn't "do town hall meetings" with him. I'm still waiting for the "clean campaign" John and Cindy promised. What a JOKE!

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Chad*

2008-09-05 14:45:45

Throw this out everywhere, people. We need it on videotape, audiotape, transcript, whatever. People with this kind of attitude, and the willingness to use this kind of language have no business being in leadership positions in our country.

I grew up with this kind of crap, now I have to deal with it from my vice presidential candidates? Hell with that!

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by henry*

2008-09-05 14:46:17

Is this for real and confirmable? Are these people willing to sign sworn statements? I'd have to say if this were true and provable, then this would be very big news.

[Reply to this comment](#)

Comment by Sonja

2008-09-05 14:49:16

Ok, maybe I am not psychic; however, listening to Ms. Palin the other night prompted me to dust off my copy of "It Can't Happen Here". Highly recommend reading this before TOMORROW!

I also enjoyed a more recent spin "It Can Happen Here".

Enjoy

And thank you. How appalling.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by [Texas Hill Country](#)*

2008-09-05 14:49:56

this is a total crap hit piece.

an unnamed waitress? are you serious? what kind of journalism is this???

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Paul*

2008-09-05 15:02:26

Yeah, I'm sure she hates eskmo's being that her husband and kids are all part eskmo.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Juanita*

2008-09-05 20:07:26

I don't know whether the article is based on truths, but it's NOT impossible for Palin to "hate Eskimos" while being married to one. My stepmother married my father, a Mexican, and has two sons with him. But she regularly made racist comments re Mexicans anyway. Go figure.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by chuck*

2008-09-05 15:03:26

wow!!! i hope this isn't true. i admit knowing very little about alaskan politics, but this is very disappointing. there needs to be some verification to determine if this is indeed accurate and if it is; it should be brought before the media in a greater light. i'm an obama supporter, but we don't need this (another rove type, but a female; now that's scary). it's cool though because obama is no creme puff when it comes to political muscle. he can always turn to chicago political muscle which trumps anything palin has been exposed to in a remote state like alaska. remember, he trumped the clintons and that was no small feat. i predict if this is true; palin's real personality will be exposed and i mean really exposed. the former mayor daley and his son can play some serious hard ball and obama is from illinois.

[Reply to this comment](#)

■ *Comment by Wah*

2008-09-05 15:04:09

Can you post the audio from the interview? Can you post the full phone interview?

Need some more details, yo.

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■ *Comment by jess*

2008-09-05 15:10:32