

OPINION

Guest Editorial Veloz Viewpoints

(What Would Alex Keaton Do)

It's been almost 20 years since Family Tree went off the air. And Alex P. Keaton's political ideas Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan have each gone off to their deserved places in history.

Yet I still get asked a lot, well okay maybe not a lot but more than twice, whether or not Alex P. Keaton would be a Republican today and, if so, who would be his candidate in the 2008 presidential election?

Before I go any further I should point out that I'm a registered Independent, I vote Democratic most of the time but not always, and I am part of the 75% of Americans who strongly disapprove of the job George Bush has done as President of our United States.

I should also point out that in order to properly represent Alex and his political point of view I, as well as the rest of the Family Tree writers, did a great deal of research on the subject. And during that time I developed a very healthy respect for the true conservatism of his views.

A powerful and proud strain of American political thought. And even today I know to no one in my domain to see the capital gains tax eliminated.

Alex Keaton was a true conservative Republican. He was for limited government. He was strongly against government involvement in the personal lives of its citizens.

He was competent and capable. The ultimate over-achiever. But, above all Alex Keaton was a firm believer in the power of ideas. The true conservative marketplace in the competitive market place of intellectual discourse. Where the best ideas win - usually Alex's.

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will include Terri Schiavo and Hurricane Katrina, a fight he lost but he might feel the least bit comfortable.

Alex was smart. Real smart. And, proud of it. He also believed deeply in the power of science. And, the free exchange of scientific ideas. Unconstrained. Unfettered by excessive government regulation. Not stifled by religious or political correctness.

So, it's hard to picture Alex in a party which seems to be waging war against science. And, where their presidential candidates seem comfortable debating whether or not the earth is round.

On the other hand, I can't see Alex easily voting for a Democrat. Alex was loyal. I think his natural inclination would have been to vote for John McCain. But, that would have been John McCain in 2000, when he was still talking trash: Jerry Falwell was an agent of intolerance.

And, water boarding. I developed a very healthy respect for the true conservatism of his views. A powerful and proud strain of American political thought.

But, ultimately Alex likes to win and I think that would have kept him from fully committing to either of those guys.

Hillary Clinton? I have to disclose that I've known Hillary Clinton for 20 years. I, and, so difficult to recognize in this current incarnation of the Republican party, a party whose legacy...

He and his brother were in the home village and helping the children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic. We were led through the reception line of village elders, the elected head of the region (equivalent to a member of Congress) and the administrators and teachers of the school.

A tour of the facilities followed the reception. First we were shown a string of small plain cottages where the students live. In each one were bunk beds, a place to hang clothes and a small table with a bench sitting underneath.

The students, ages 6 to 10, gave us a tour of their living quarters. We already knew enough about Ethiopia to know that the school was a major step above how a majority of Ethiopians live.

The head of the school and the teachers pointed out the fields where the children would grow their own vegetables. The children grabbed our hands to take us to see their new call and then pointed out their chickens, goats and donkeys. He and his brother were in the home village and helping the children orphaned by the AIDS pandemic.

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Greetings from Nevada! I hope you are all having a great week.

What a week we have had at our household. Antonio has been a little under the weather and let me tell you, fussy doesn't begin to describe it. It is so hard not to get frustrated at a baby who is crying all the time, but when it is your own, frustration and pity are in a tight competition.

Antonio had a touch of tonsillitis and fever. It is mostly gone now, thankfully, but he has just been a bear the last few days. Crying at what seems like nothing and basically refusing to eat.

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Veloz Viewpoints

By Amy Bond Veloz

Well, it seemed we turned out great on Monday. He still had his bouts with fussiness, but he did seem to eat better. The worst part of the day progresses, he gets more tired and this fussiness. Antonio had a touch of tonsillitis and fever. It is mostly gone now, thankfully, but he has just been a bear the last few days.

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With the weather being so beautiful here today, we have been taking the kids outside a lot. They are learning how to pass the ball and front and love to play in the grass and on the decorative rocks.

Antonio almost prefers to crawl around on the rocks more than on the grass. The worst part of the day progresses, he gets more tired and this fussiness. Antonio had a touch of tonsillitis and fever. It is mostly gone now, thankfully, but he has just been a bear the last few days.

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It is actually pretty good. Well, Antonio figured out that Angel pays a lot of attention to him if he is holding rocks.

So, it is so funny, he will pick up a rock, throw it and she will run after it. The winning part is if he doesn't throw the rock fast enough to suit her. At that happens, she just goes over and takes it right off his hand. He'll admit, so I. It is pretty great watching the twins interact outside and with the dogs.

I can't wait until they are up and running, then they will give the dogs a real workout!

One of the best things to watch them do is throw rocks for Angel. Our dog Angel learned how to fetch with rocks. In fact, Ben is the one who taught her. You can throw a rock into a pile of wet rocks and she can bring back the exact one you want!

Until next week, it is a great one!

Any one who can get a Friday off in conjunction with a 3-day weekend, giving me rare block of four days away from work, trying to decide whether to get a head start on this summer's move to Carlisle or not. About noon, I came across a CD that I hadn't thought about for over a decade.

It's a project I've been meaning to get to for years and there I was with a couple of days to spare. I was excited at all downloaders, hooked the turntable up to the computer, and started recording the albums onto my hard drive so I could listen to them on the CD.

The Mehari home was larger and nicer than 98 percent of the other homes in the village but humble by American standards. The Mehari were in their 80s and were revered and respected members of the village.

A goat was sacrificed in the Mehari front yard and then cooked for our enjoyment. The Mehari and the 78 recordings - as if they were an ancient record of a lost culture in a museum setting.

Maybe they're right. With the electronic music players available today, even CDs are being replaced by the record player. These days you can store hours of music on a device small enough to carry on your key chain.

Our rooms had toilets that would flush and run water. Despite the crude conditions, it was the best good night's sleep I've had in Ethiopia for a while. I was exhausted.

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Financial Literacy and Credit Cards

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, regulation of the credit industry is one of the many issues we've focused on this year and I'm pleased to carry a balance, cash advances, etc.) and then select a card that will best meet those needs. For example, if you plan to pay your monthly bill in full and use the card as a convenience, you may want to look for a card with reward features, such as frequent flyer miles, or a card that has no annual fee.

On the other hand, if you sometimes carry a balance from month to month, a card with a lower annual percentage rate (APR) would probably be a better fit. If you do not understand any of the terms of a credit card agreement, call customer service and get an explanation before signing up. Many credit card companies are willing to work with you to ensure your bill is paid on time. One way is to request a due date that works for you each month.

For example, you may want a due date that comes after your pay period. Another good way to make sure your bill is paid every month is to keep track of your account online and either pay online or set up automatic payments. If you are going to pay late, call your credit card company and they may be able to offer you alternatives to a late payment penalty or a hard time paying off your credit card debt, do not ignore the problem. Be proactive by talking with your credit card company, or contact Consumer Credit Counseling Services (CCCS) by calling (800) 368-2227 or by visiting <http://www.cccs.org>. CCCS is a non-profit community service organization that offers free, confidential counseling on a wide range of financial issues. For more information on credit issues and other financial issues, please visit <http://www.money.gov>.

I strongly encourage you to learn more about your finances in every area of your life, whether it credit cards, saving for retirement or home mortgages, and to include your children in this effort, as well. Only 20% of people reported the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money. Teaching personal financial management skills to your children starting at a young age will help them to develop good lifelong habits.

Steve's Report

Not long ago, I got to take a Friday off in conjunction with a 3-day weekend, giving me rare block of four days away from work, trying to decide whether to get a head start on this summer's move to Carlisle or not. About noon, I came across a CD that I hadn't thought about for over a decade.

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