

The Marc Steiner Show



WEAA 88.9 FM

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marc on keswick and the media

Submitted by CEM on Thu, 07/10/2008 - 4:10pm.

Keswick

When I got back from Cape Hatteras last week, I was driving down Roland Avenue and saw all these signs saying "Stop Keswick." I thought maybe all the retirees and senior citizens who live at Keswick Multi-Care Center had run amuck in the streets or became merry senior pranksters.

Then I went through a weeks worth of local papers to find out Roland Park was up in arms because the old Baltimore Country Club wants to sell its grounds for \$14 million to Keswick Multi-Care Center to build their nursing home on new grounds.

You could dismiss it as wealthy North Baltimoreans whining over losing a bit green space to run their dogs or play Frisbee. It is more than that. Our green space is limited. It keeps getting eaten up by development deals and ever expanding businesses. Yes, we need business but there is plenty of room to expand without eating one more acre of green. Our uniqueness as a town and our quality of life is at stake.

It is not just the neighborhoods of North Baltimore. In the inner city there are vast tracts of brown dirt fields where houses once stood, not to mention the acres of useless and unredeemable housing. Some are whole blocks and some just the width of a house or two. Why not turn these into green spaces as parks or urban farms or unique architectural landscaped oases for people to bask in?

It is all connected. The problem is that our communities are not connected. Each pocket whether in Roland Park, or Hampden, or Guilford Avenue or Forest Park goes it alone. Each fighting their individual battles to save their open space. They often lose because they go it alone.

Leave the green alone in on Falls Road and build gardens in the devastation of West Baltimore. Communities need to come together to support one another and determine what our urban landscape should be.

Media And The Campaign

Most of the political pundits in print and on the airwaves seem obsessed with guessing whom McCain and Obama will pick as their running mates. Take a breath; we will all know that answer right around Labor Day.

Cable talk, radio talk, even respected columnists keep talking about the insult of the week. How much longer can we talk about Wesley Clarke insulting John McCain, or whether Obama is moving to the center and do white men like him, or all the clap trap about Michelle Obama or Cindy McCain, and now we will hear ad nauseum about Jesse Jackson's latest ridiculous comment about Obama. ... STOP ALREADY!

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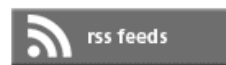


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There are serious issues facing America. Our commentators and pundits seem to all have taken the yellow journalism pill of "gossip is the news". We deserve better. Can my colleagues in the media please focus on issues of substance?

Where is the debate over the candidates positions on FISA and wiretapping American citizens? Our economy is in a tailspin. What are their responses to the ever deepening mortgage crisis? Rising oil costs do not just effect gas prices but the cost of most of what we consume in the carbon powered economy of ours. What are their plans?

Both candidates tax and spending proposals will drive our nation further into debt. Obama's less so than McCain's but who is asking them the tough questions about our future.

Both candidates want to boost military spending, add numbers to the Marines and Army. Ideas may differ on how they spend it but who is asking them about this and its implications?

The chances are we may not get to interview Senators Barak Obama or John McCain (we will try) but we will talk to their issue people and political leadership to hear what they have to say about their candidates' vision for America. Forget gossip, the horse race and the specious scandal of the week, we need answers about the future of our nation.

What do you think?

-Marc

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Nobody ever asks anymore the

Submitted by Carlo Carlini (not verified) on Thu, 07/10/2008 - 8:57pm.

Nobody ever asks anymore the important questions. A lot of blah blah blah about NOTHING.

I don't know what's worse: fox news distorting reality or the floor mats that fill the telly and the airwaves with a lot of nothing rather than facing the issues.

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Horse races

Submitted by count on Fri, 07/11/2008 - 3:53pm.

I enjoyed Marc's comments about campaign coverage. Really funny, considering how untold many hours of horse race and specious scandal coverage he has done.

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Keswick

Submitted by count on Fri, 07/11/2008 - 3:47pm.

What is Keswick really up to, I wonder? Quite some time ago, Keswick bought the large property of the old vacant Methodist church at the corner of Roland and 40th. The grounds have been maintained, but the building is neglected and is unused, far as I can tell, except perhaps as a grandiose storage shed. What plans does Keswick have for this property, if any?

With regard to the country club property, I haven't read the coverage in the Sun, disreputable rag that it has become, but I thought the uproar centered on the unused former tennis club property on Falls Road. \$14 million seems like a lot of money for that, though, unless more acreage is included than just the old tennis

club.

Marc, can you provide more details about this? Does the proposed transaction involve all the Roland Park country club property, just the southwest parcel, or what?

Just noting, the tennis club area is asphalt, not greenery.

Marc, what do you think is a reasonable alternative to the Keswick proposal? Do you advocate that the Roland Park Association enter a bid for the property? Should the city buy the property and replace the tennis courts with ilex and rhododendrons?

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New Yorker cover

Submitted by count on Mon, 07/14/2008 - 7:24pm.

In case anyone cares what I think about "the" New Yorker cover:

"Tain't funny, McGee."

Also, Clarence Page is a certifiably insane jackass.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/politico/20080714/pl_politico/11719

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