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The Anatomy of a Ted Cruz Rally

There was a certain hum in the room, people buzzed excitedly as they talked with one another. A man wearing a 10-gallon hat smiled as he attached a “Choose Cruz” sticker to the front. Wide eyed children clutched their parent’s hands or perched upon their shoulders. The men and women on the media stand changed back forth between lenses, checking to make sure the aperture was just right for that perfect shot of Ted and the other speakers that joined him on Sunday, April 3rd at The Florian Gardens in Eau Clare, Wisconsin.

**The heart**: the organ that pumps life throughout the body. It gives nourishment to all the other organs by delivering fresh oxygen. The heart doesn’t miss a beat; without the heart all the other organs would fail. Tonight, Vicki McKenna was the heart.

Vicki McKenna, a fiery talk show host from Madison, Wisconsin, quickly climbed the stage and introduced herself as the master of ceremonies for the evening. The crowd went wild. She kept the crowd excited, and when there were lulls in between speakers had some witty one-liners to keep the mood up.

McKenna’s introduction speech was all about standing up for what you believe in and fighting back when things get tough. “Wisconsin didn’t back down when a bunch of protesters with blue fist signs shouted, ‘this is what democracy looks like.’ We told them to stick it where the sun don’t shine!” The audience erupted in laughter. “We fought back! That’s what we do in Wisconsin! We always fight the good fight.”

She kept the crowd going at an event that otherwise may have turned dull quickly. “On Tuesday… We’re going to go out and vote, to show that we’re having none of this ‘Trump Slump’.” She joked as she made air quotations with a microphone in hand. The crowd loved every moment she was on stage. Cheering, raising Cruz signs high in the air and shaking them whenever they agreed, hooting and hollering, and laughing right along side her.

“DUMP TRUMP!” One man shouted after McKenna explained how Trump had hung up on her in a radio interview.

“I don’t like saying his name,” she quipped.

“Me neither!” The man shouted back.

**The kidneys:** the organ that filters waste. It gives the body only what it needs. The organ that creates the substance that controls blood pressure, the heart needs the kidney to survive and control the rate of the heartbeat. Mike Lee is the kidneys of the event.

Mike Lee, a United States senator from Utah entered from stage right. Lee was straight forward. He encouraged the crowd to get out and vote on the following Tuesday. Lee kept the heartbeat of the crowd going as he made a few quick jokes about his home state. “In Utah we’ve got big families. So when I walk into a room like this I feel like I’m at home. This is like a family gathering in Utah, with only my first cousins of course.” The crowd laughed in response to his dad-level joke.

Lee sung the praises of Ted Cruz, saying he was his best friend in the United States Senate, “One of the things about a friend is that they will always exhibit a couple of traits. All friends will tell you the truth, even when it’s hard, and all friends will do what they tell you they’re going to do. If they tell you they’re going to stand by your side, they stand by your side.” A hush fell over the crowd. “You know what? Ted Cruz does that.”

He continued talking about the character of Cruz, what an admirable man he was, a family man, a great husband, all the things that the “ideal” traits a presidential candidate should possess. Lee even referenced Cruz’s filibuster of Obamacare that lasted over 21 hours back in 2013. “Ted Cruz is driven by principle, he’s driven by a love for the Constitution, which has fostered one of the greatest nations the world has ever known.”

The Constitution was another key point that Lee continually came back to throughout his speech. “Ted understands that key to restoring and reinvigorating the middle class, is restoring and reinvigorating the US Constitution.” The crowd cheered loudly. It was easy to imagine the crowd as Bible-thumping, gun-toting, Constitution waving citizens simply based off of their reactions to this statement.

**The lungs**: the organs that breath life into the rest of the body. Removes poisonous carbon dioxide from the blood, and replaces it with refreshing, life-giving oxygen. Carly Fiorina is the lungs, because she breathed life into the event.

Carly Fiorina, a rags-to-riches kind of gal. She started off as the secretary of Hewlett-Packard Co. more commonly known to the masses as HP. After years of hard work she ended up taking over the company as CEO, and was the first woman in history to lead a FORTUNE 20 company. She was even named Fortune Magazine’s most powerful woman in business for five years in a row, from 2003-2008.

While other speakers talked about all things political, Fiorina spoke to the crowd on a personal level and identified with them in ways that others that evening did not. “My mother said to me one Sunday morning on the way to church, ‘What you are is God’s gift to you, what you make of yourself is your gift to God’.” Though this did not directly tie to anything about Ted Cruz, the crowd murmured their approval of this statement.

When Fiorina did start discussing political issues she did it in a way that did not condemn other politicians, instead she talked about principles, and mentioned that this election was vital to restoring the country to its former glory. She did not get caught up slamming Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, or Bernie Sanders. She focused on the issues that mattered to the people in the room.

Fiorina also mentioned that only in the great country of America could someone have a success story like she did. “It is only in this nation that a young woman could start out the way that I did, filing, answering phones, scheduling appointments, to one day become the CEO of one of the largest technology firms in the world, and also have to opportunity to run for presidency of the United States.”

**The Appendix:** the organ that some people believe shows no purpose, but after some time, people realized that it is vital to the continued health of the body. After the body gets sick, the appendix helps restore balance with good bacteria. Governor Scott Walker is the appendix.

Like the appendix gives good bacteria to the body after it has been ill, Governor Walker came in and restored Wisconsin to it’s former glory. Walker strode onto the stage with confidence, the crowd was very excited to see their Governor visiting the Chippewa Valley. “I’m happy that the weather is getting warmer,” he started. “Because that means one thing in Wisconsin. Leinenkugel’s Summer Shandy, and I would have loved to share one with my friend Ted Cruz.” The reaction to this statement was even larger than when Senator Mike Lee made his statement about reinvigorating the Constitution. No surprise there, Wisconsinites love their beer.

Walker continued talking about all things that made Wisconsin such a great state, the beer, the people, and of course, the teams. Of course the audience loved every word the Governor said. If there’s something that the conservatives in Wisconsin love more than their Governor, it’s definitely the Green Bay Packers.

Governor walker explained how his reforms to the state worked, “The facts are simple. The economy is better, our finances are better, our schools are better, and our state is better! It’s time to show that these principles work, they’ve worked in Wisconsin, and they can work in Washington D.C. too!”

According to a January job’s report, the state of Wisconsin had the 6th highest employment rate. Another study shows that Wisconsin’s ACT scores are the 2nd highest in the nation. Walker does pose a good question, “if the reforms work in Wisconsin, why can’t they work in D.C.?”

**The Brain**: the organ that controls functions, movements, sensations, and thoughts. Without this organ sending signals, all other organs would cease doing their job. It stores knowledge, thoughts, ideas, and memories. Ted Cruz is the brain.

Ted Cruz, a Senator from the state of Texas. Other than John Kasich, he is the only candidate that has not given up against the Republican front-runner Donald Trump.

“God bless the great state of Wisconsin.” He started. There seemed to be an evangelical theme throughout the night. Since Trump has been having difficulty locking in the evangelical vote, Cruz’s campaign is jumping at the chance to gain this huge portion of voters.

Cruz did not treat the crowd like they were simply votes in a ballot box however, he treated them like friends. “I’m so proud to be among so many lovers of liberty.” A little girl sitting on her father’s shoulders held her Choose Cruz sign high in the air and he waved to her. “Raised Right!” Cruz joked and the crowd laughed in response.

Senator Cruz thanked every guest speaker, making a personal reference to them, and reminiscing on memories they had shared.

“I would have to say, Mike Lee would look awful good in a robe.” Cruz said referring to the United States Supreme Court.

“And how about Carly?” Cruz asked.

The crowd immediately responded shouting “VP! VP! CARLY FOR VP! CRUZ CARLY!” Perhaps this was the beginning stages of Senator Cruz hinting at his running mate that he so recently announced.

“Isn’t Carly fantastic?” He continued. The crowd applauded and shouted even louder. He joked that Hillary Clinton fears Fiorina. “I can just picture Hillary, tossing and turning, tossing and turning, and tossing… In her jail cell.” The crowd laughed harder than they had at any point in the evening. Cruz knew how to rile up an audience, how to keep them engaged and interested, and he wasn’t even 5 minutes into his speech yet.

Cruz then talked about his policies, “Jobs, freedom, and security. That is what our election will come down to.” He discussed his jobs plan, how it was better than all the other candidates, how our freedom is being threatened every day, and how if we do not do something about security in our country there will be no more freedom.

The crowd was silent, soaking up every word the Texas Senator spoke. With each point Cruz made, the crowd nodded their heads or murmured quietly agreeing with him. “Five of the former presidential candidates have endorsed my campaign. They’re smart men and women, people who could run a country. So if they’ve backed me, and you are considering backing me on Tuesday when you head out to the polling station, you can be assured you are making a wise choice.”

Cruz talked about memories. He explained his knowledge on important political issues that face the American people today. He also shared his ideas and thoughts on how if elected, he could fix those issues. Ted Cruz is the brain, and that is the anatomy of a Ted Cruz rally.