

# Daily Herald

## **Jelalian: Palin joins the establishment**

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Sarah Palin once comforted conservatives during the Obama/McCain 2008 election year. She gave the more hardcore conservatives an excuse to vote for the super moderate Sen. John McCain and gave the future Tea Party something to look to in the upcoming years.

Although Palin made it clear in her interview with Katie Couric that she didn't know any newspapers, let alone read them, she did a half-decent job presenting her anti-establishment conservative message. Conservatives saw her as the rebellious punk the party needed.

The problem is, much like the Hot Topic-shopping punk rocker in any given high school, Palin just wanted to be one of the cool kids.

Now that she has endorsed Donald Trump, Palin is officially part of the establishment.

I've talked about Trump in past columns. The guy is not a conservative by anyone's definition. He's not even a moderate.

He made fun of POWs, openly advocated for religious discrimination and has maligned an entire race of humans. Have I ever mentioned he took a job at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in a recent New York Times interview?

He's a walking caricature of every Republican stereotype I know of without any of the actual conservative principles.

This is the man Sarah "Barracuda" Palin decided to endorse. She has left whatever conservative principles she claimed for an extra five minutes of fame.

It's time conservatives stop pretending Palin has anything worth contributing to the movement. I don't know what flavor of conservatism people thought Palin represented, but it's clear she doesn't represent any I have tried.

In case anyone on the left thinks I'm the sole right-leaning individual who disagrees with Palin, just look at what conservative commentator Matt Walsh had to say about her.

"She betrayed the grassroots and stuck a dagger in the back of Ted Cruz," Walsh said. "Before endorsing Trump tonight, both her and her daughter viciously attacked him."

"There is not one conceivable legitimate reason for her to endorse Donald Trump while there are actual grassroots conservatives still in the race. This is a betrayal, plain and simple."

Even Glenn Beck, another famous conservative icon, disagreed with her.

"I couldn't disagree with her more but she has played the game now for years," Beck said.

"Perhaps she knows more than those of us still on the outside. Maybe the press was right about her but for all of the wrong reasons."

The fact is, there are a great many conservative and libertarian thinkers who are against Trump.

Brent Bozell from the Media Research Center, David Boaz from the Cato Institute, Ben Domenech from the Federalist, Erick Erickson, Dana Loesch, Thomas Sowell and many others have spoken out against Trump.

None of these people are political insiders. They're hardcore fringe conservatives.

The fact that they have all spoken out against Trump should be a testament to how much of a non-conservative he really is, and how much Palin cares about conservative values.

Palin is now nothing more than a political talking head looking for more press attention in order to sell tickets to her guest speaking appearances for more money.

The easiest way to put an end to the Republican Party takeover is to stop supporting them. Don't buy their books. Don't attend their speaking events. Don't share their social media posts. If you feel the need to do anything, speak out against them.

The New York Times reported most of Trump's support comes from southerners who, although registered Democrats, self-identify as Republicans. Luckily, Trump support fades as you head west across the United States, with Utah showing Trump close to no love.

This one fact brings peace to my mind.

Although I continue to wait for Ashton Kutcher to pop out of a bush saying that he and Trump punk'd all of America, I continue to worry he might actually win the nomination.

I'm glad though that, if Trump is the Republican nominee, Utah doesn't look like it will back him.

I can't imagine why people support him since he does not have a history of holding moderate Republican views, much less strong conservative principles. Hopefully, Palin's endorsement will not win previous fans of hers to Trump's side.

This all ignores Palin's disgraceful comment blaming President Obama for her son being arrested for domestic abuse. This ignores Bristol Palin's traditional value message as she has a second child out of wedlock.

I think the Palin clan see politics as a business. The conservative message is their branding image. But when you see their actions, you realize the product they're selling just came from an overworked Chinese sweatshop.

They're the Kardashians of the Tea Party movement, and it's time we put them in their place.

The silent majority needs to stand up against these faux-conservatives and nominate someone who truly reflects the views of Republicans and Americans.

Or we can stay at home and hand the election to Sen. Bernie Sanders.