

No Controlling Legal Authority To The Contrary

by John Farrow

This is MegaMiles SportsTalk and we're live from the finals of the All-American 10k, the race for the national championship where today we'll be bringing every mile to you via MegaMiles SportsTalk Radio.

But first, let's meet some of the elite runners who have qualified for the field and will be competing for the top prize, an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC! Standing next to me, from the State of Texas, Governor George W. Bush!

W: Heidi y'all. How y'all doin'? Como están frijole, cabritos? *That's for mah Spanish-speakin' friends, ya know.*

MM: Governor, there has been some concern expressed that perhaps you might be a little out of your league in this race. How do you respond to such criticism?

W: Well, ah do thank that those are legitimating questions but ah also thank ah have been more than up to th' task at hand. A' course, y'all remember that ah was in th' big leagues when ah owned th' Rangers. But there comes a time in ever man's life, and Lord knows ah've had'em. Our country is now at a fork in the road and it's time for us to take it.

MM: Um, Governor, could you perhaps help us out a bit . . .

Voice: Pardon me, but is this the starting line?

MM: Ralph Nader! We didn't expect you here.

RN: Of course you didn't. But I have a race number and I intend to run.

MM: Yes, sir, Mr. Nader, but this number is not an elite number, so I'm afraid that you'll have to

leave this area and run elsewhere.

RN: I am Ralph. Therefore, I run.

MM: Ralph Nader has moved back in the pack, and over here we have Vice-President Al Gore. Mr. Vice President, congratulations on qualifying for the All-American 10k.

VP: Thank you very much, Meg, and I would just like to take this opportunity to say that I know that although there will be but one winner in this race, I do share the pain of all those who, through no fault of their own, fall short. They have been victimized by unhappy childhoods or not being born at altitude. Therefore, I want to assure each of them that the very first bill my administration will propose to the Congress will be to offer compensation for all who have been unable to make a living at their chosen sport of road racing.

MM: That's very generous, Mr. Vice President. By the way, could you tell us about the qualifying standard for this race?

VP: Of course, Meg. It was 32.

MM: Thirty-two minutes! It's quite a tribute that at your age you are still able to run a 32-minute 10k!

VP: Uh, no, Meg. That's thirty-two million dollars.

MM: Thirty-two million dollars? That's incredible!

VP: Well, Meg, at this level, that's what it takes if one is going to be competitive these days. And you can imagine what that has done to the price of the Lincoln Bedroom, but my very good friends are more than happy to pay it.

Of course, you know that I have been a very religious man all my life and religious people are also very generous. Even my many good friends of the Buddhist faith. They are all most generous. Why, you have no earthly idea how much money they carry under those robes they wear! And we are only just now reaching out to the temples overseas.

MM: But sir, aren't there laws governing those sorts of things?

VP: *Meg, you must understand. I have trained with the very best and let me assure you that I have learned my lessons well.*

W: *'Scuse me, but do either a' y'all have a pencil? Ah need ta git me a phone number here.*

MM: Here you are, Governor. You seem excited. Are you looking forward to the start of the race?

W: *Do you see this! Carrizo sands coming smack dab out o' a Permian formation raht 'chere on th' surface! Do you realize that this here piece a' dirt is prime awl-producin' land? Ah bet we kin git us a lease or two!*

MM: But Governor, I do believe that much of this land is part of a national park.

W: *That don't matter none. In awl we trust, son. Gotta git it while ya can. That's what Janis Joplin said and ah always admired her for that.*

MM: Governor, it certainly seems that you have put some miles on those running shoes. What can you tell us about them?

W: *These are a pair of Air Analogs that ah've had probably since my Daddy was Prez'dent. Once ah find a good thang, ah lahk . . .*

VP: *And, I might add, the technology of that quaint artifact was obsolete with the 5¼" floppy disk and the 286 micro-processor chip. Why, any of today's ISPs offer search engines capable of multi-tasking through the myriad data bases . . .*

MM: Mr. Vice-President, I really must ask that you allow the Governor to finish.

W: *Yessir, ah lahk to go with what works. Dance with the one who brung ya, ah always say.*

MM: Now then, Mr. Vice-President, what can you tell us about the shoes you're wearing? They are certainly in marked contrast to the Governor's.

VP: *Well, before I was so rudely interrupted, I was about to inform your listeners about the very*

latest in exo-skeletal mesh technology available over the Internet, the idea for which, by the way, came to me during lunch with Erich Segal to discuss my relationship with Tipper so that he could write Love Story.

The mesh upper is combined with a combination last of evacuated-polyurethane and open-cell Duralon to create superior traction and cushioning. And Nike continues to improve upon the waffle sole that I helped Bill Bowerman develop during a summer spent in Oregon.

MM: Governor Bush, any last comments?

W: *Why, ah love waffles. Always have. Perfect with a little maple syrup.*

MM: Thank you, gentlemen. That's all the time we have. Good luck to both of you and may all of your miles be MegaMiles!□

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