

Choose Wisely, Children

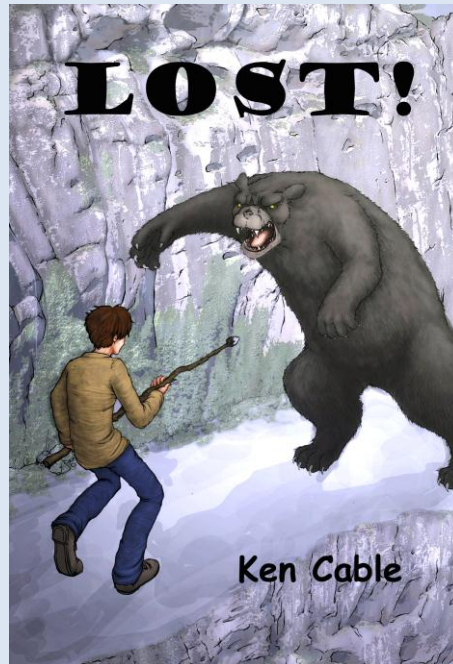
By Ken Cable

As I sit here gazing out across my seniorscape this quiet Sunday morning, I am rummaging in my mind through all of the clutter produced by the two party nominating conventions held during the past few weeks to select candidates for the office of the President of the United States.

I don't have much trouble picking out the wheat grains from the political chaff that whirls out of my newspaper and television every day. During my lifetime career in law enforcement I sorted through a limitless array of stories about what did or did not happen at a crime scene with the teller from each side swearing they did or didn't do it. And so it is with politicians.

In this go-round I have listened to poignant stories about how each candidate in their youth struggled up and out of crushing poverty – poverty that included having to eat dinner at an ironing board or retrieving a still revered coffee table from a dumpster – to become the giants they are today. I am assured by a multitude of supporters on each side coming before cameras every hour to declare that each of these journeys qualifies the traveler to be the next leader of what remains of the free world.

Ken Cable's



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Echoes from each acceptance speech had barely died away when the other side loudly denounced the candidate, declaring his oratory was filled with lies, deceit and clearly demonstrated that his presidency would bring the country to ruin. Accusations and denials were freely exchanged by acolytes on either side and a host of media giants shared their convoluted opinions with the world.

Of course, one of the candidates will win in November. Who that will be depends on an electorate with an incredible mix of personal interests. Each side hopes that these interests will coalesce into a victory that will allow them to lead the country – and the world – into the future.

Seniors, it seems to me, have two concerns about the outcome of this election. What will it mean to them in the short run – and what will it mean to their children and grandchildren in the decades to come?

It is clear to this writer that those questions – and so many others – will be decided by America's youth in this election. They should choose carefully for it is they who will live with their decision. Most seniors won't.

So, go for it kids, choose how you want your world to be. What you do in November will be revealing. I wish you well.

Ken Cable is a nature and travel writer, whose novel of survival about three young boys lost in the Sierra Nevada Mountains, is a return to the young adventure novels of the past. The novel follows the boys as they struggle to keep from freezing, find food, and find a way to fight off a rogue bear who is not sympathetic to their plight. The novel, set in the '70s, is about three actual boys – Cable's two sons and a nephew. The story is made up.