

The Case of the Missing Ballot Boxes

Following the 2000 AD election, the government of Papaw has been spending weeks in an attempt to determine exactly which candidate has legitimately won the Presidency of their small island nation. To settle this dispute, a special bipartisan committee has been chosen to investigate voting irregularities, especially those frequently reported in the southernmost province of Har-koon. Yesterday three ballot boxes, scheduled to be unsealed and the votes recounted today, disappeared from a locked closet within the official headquarters of Attorney General Shaboom. A note left near the scene of the break-in read:

A stitch in time saves nine, especially when those votes are mine.
-De Voter

You have been assigned to help the committee identify the thief who stole the votes. Here are the clues:

- fingerprints on the handle of the closet door
- footprints in the office
- powder residues near the floor of the closet
- hairs found inside the closet
- ink from the note written by the suspect
- blood from a cut possibly sustained while prying open the closet door

CHESTER CHINLEY is the Peoples Party presidential candidate who now appears to have won the election without winning the popular vote. Chester has a pet golden retriever named Ranger. Chester was at his brother Barony's residence near Camp Swampy at the time the ballot boxes disappeared. Chester is known to drink freshly squeezed orange juice nearly every morning to assure his daily requirement of Vitamin C.

HALEY HOPEFUL is the Nationalist Party presidential candidate who insists she has won the election, a belief supported by her having narrowly won the popular vote. Haley and her Persian cat, Fu Fu, have been spending much of their time attempting to persuade the island residents that she has won the election. Haley's diet consists primarily of carbohydrates supplemented by scores of vitamins.

WILEY WISDOM is the Peoples Party vice presidential candidate. He has taken the lead to assure that candidate Chinley will indeed achieve his lifelong dream of becoming this Island Nation's rightful leader. Mr. Wisdom's prize possession is his saltwater aquarium. Mr. Wisdom prefers his steaks to be slightly over-cooked.

JESSE JEOPARDY is the Nationalist Party vice presidential candidate and had previously served as senator representing the Island's most controversy-ridden province. Jesse's golden retriever is named Nutmeg. Jesse plans to return to the Senate should his party lose this election. His real passion is swimming in the sky-blue waters of Mystic Harbor.

CHANCY CHARMING, the outgoing Nationalist Party President, has devoted much of the past several months campaigning for vice presidential candidate Hopeful. Chancy and his two favorite pets, Spunky the Cat and Topsy the Dog, spend much of their leisure time at the beach searching for rare sea clams. His diet consists of a variety of freshly baked breads generously spread with delicacies found in the shallow waters surrounding his island home.