

The Silly Party Effect



Election Night Special

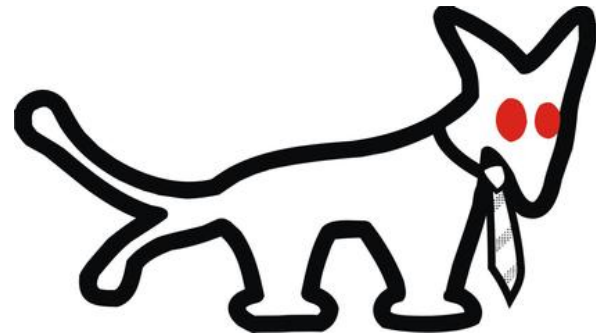
November 3, 1970

The Silly Party Effect

- **Election Night Special**
 - Monty Python sketch in Episode 19 on November 3, 1970
 - Inspired others around the world to create silly political parties to protest the status quo
- **Silly parties (before and after the sketch)**
 - **Two-Tailed Dog Party** (Hungary, 2006-present)
 - **Rhinoceros Party** (Canada, 1963-1993, 2003-present)
 - **Official Monster Raving Loony Party** (UK, 1983-present)
 - **Lord Buckethead** (UK, 1987-present)

Two-Tailed Dog Party (Hungary)

- Founded January 2006
- Registered 2014, received 6% of ballot
- All of the electoral candidates were called Nagy István ("Stephen Big", Hungarian equivalent of the English John Smith)
- Reaction to election of extreme right wing government
- The party made the following promises:
 - **Eternal life**
 - **World peace**
 - **One work day per week**
 - **Two sunsets a day (in various colors)**
 - **Smaller gravitation**
 - **Free beer**
 - **Low taxes**
 - **Other promises include building a mountain on the Great Hungarian Plain**



Rhinoceros Party of Canada (1963-1993)

- Claimed to be the spiritual descendants of **Cacareco**, a Brazilian zoo rhinoceros who was elected to São Paulo's city council in 1958
- Declared that the rhinoceros was an appropriate symbol for a political party since politicians, by nature, are:
 - Thick-skinned
 - Slow-moving
 - Dim-witted
 - Can move fast as hell when in danger
 - Have large, hairy horns growing out of the middle of their faces



Rhinoceros Party of Canada (1963-1993)

- Promises:
 - To keep none of our promises
 - Lottery winners would be appointed to Canadian Senate
 - “Queen of Canada” would be seated at Buckingham, Quebec
 - Distributed condoms in 1988 elections
 - For voters to protect themselves from politicians
 - Make Britain Canada’s 11th province
 - Build one nuclear power plant per household
 - Change from the gold standard to the snow standard
 - Marxist-Leninist factions
 - Groucho Marx group
 - John Lennon group



Neo-Rhinoceros Party

(2006-present)

- Best result was 1.2% in by-election of 2007/2008
 - in Saint-Hyacinthe—Bagot.
- Reincarnation of original Rhinoceros party, adding Neo from The Matrix to its name.
- **Promises:**
 - **Repeal the law of gravity**
 - **Promote higher education by building taller schools**
 - **Count the Thousand Islands to make sure the Americans didn't steal any**
 - **Privatize the Queen**
 - **Tax the black market**
 - **Tear down the Rockies so Albertans can see the Pacific sunset**
 - **Ban crappy Canadian winters**



Official Monster Raving Loony Party (UK)

- Started by Screaming Lord Sutch in 1963
- Founded as a party in 1983 to satirize British political parties
 - Has 6 parish councilors across Britain
- Started as National Teenage Party when teenagers could not vote



Official Monster Raving Loony Party (UK)



Policies:

1. AIR bags will be fitted to the Stock Exchange immediately, ready for the next crash.
2. DATA will be secured, placed in a brown bag and hidden in the PM's socks and pants drawer.
3. KIDS will be made to sit closer together at smaller desks in order to reduce school class sizes.
4. NATIONAL debt will be cleared by putting it all on our credit card.
5. PUDDLES deeper than 3 inches will be marked by a yellow plastic duck.



Lord Buckethead

- **Political campaigns**
 - Ran against Margaret Thatcher for parliament in Finchley in 1987
 - Ran against John Major in Huntingdon in 1992
 - Ran against Theresa May in Maidenhead in 2017
- **Claims to be an intergalactic space lord**
 - Name derived from 1984 Sci-fi comedy “Hyperspace”



British PM-to-be Theresa May debates Lord Buckethead

Monty Python's Silly Party Influence on other Comedy Shows

Saturday Night Live:

- Weekend Update
- Election Specials



The Daily Show With Jon Stewart

- Indecision 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2014
- Democalypse 2016 (Feb. 5, 2015)



Monty Python's Silly Party Influence on other Comedy Shows

- Last Week Tonight With John Oliver

