

LET THE GLADIATOR GAMES BEGIN

Abalinx 1 July 2016 Peter Adamis



The political battle plans created some months ago are about to come to fruition for many. The battle lines have been drawn, disagreements, possessions, insecurities, treaties, alliances have been ratified and manpower resources and material equipment in place.

One could be excused for reading into the above and believing that a war between nations was about to be waged.

Nations are not the stakeholders in this case, but political gladiators across the Australian continent all vying to attract the voters' attention and this gain a foothold in the lucrative but exclusive band of political gladiators.

The wannabees, the nationalistic, the extremist, the hardliners, the environmental friendlies, the progressives, the conservatives, the democrats and the guardians have been using every manner of missiles, barbs and weapons of political mass destruction against their opponents in order to gain the advantage for the big battle on Saturday 2 July 2016. Many will not be ready and will be poorly armed against a well defended opposition, but nevertheless they are of the opinion that the more troops and weapons of political mass destruction will give the the edge and thus reduce the territory which in this case meaning the margin or gap between the opposing sides.

Campaign managers will have been working silently in the background laying the groundwork, laying down the political traps, snares and deceptive tracks for the unwary to follow and fall in. They will be drawing upon their resources hidden from public view and create artificial political environments in order to gain the advantage for their candidates. Every opportunity that arises is considered for its political value or in some cases added to the body of political knowledge for long term interest. Campaign managers make the deals, gather the resources and steer their candidates along the chosen path already mapped out by the political party of their choice. It takes years to train a seasoned campaign manager and it one role where experience counts.

Numerous briefing, training and further briefings and meetings being conducted to ensure that when the big day does arrive, everyone involved has been advised, trained, briefed or is aware of their responsibilities. Votes are acutely unaware of the enormous effort that goes into by all political parties in preparing their teams of volunteers for the monumental task that lays ahead of them.

Some volunteers are up late at night wondering whether they have met all of their objectives and even when they do them double check to ensure that there are no hidden issues or problems that have the potential to bring the political process to a stop. The best method of testing the system is by using the appreciation method where scenarios are played out and the best course of action is taken with modifications along the way.

It is of interest to note that during the 2013 federal election, one campaign manager successfully used a combination of the human element as well as social media and the other forms of electronic media effectively to publicise the candidate and attract voters' attention. Defying all the odds the risk of over exposure paid off against all opposition from the head office who felt that use of social media and other forms of electronic media was not of value. Unfortunately the 2016 Federal election is being fought exactly on electronic and social media alone with a smattering of the human element to get the message across.

Voters have become fed up, bored and disengaged even as late as the day before the election. It was reported in the Scullin electorate a strong Labor held seat that they had polled more voters and was the busiest pre-poll booths that any other electorate. Why is this so? Were the voters prepared to pre-poll rather than wait in the freezing cold of the Saturday election? I think that is the case and such those volunteers on the pre-poll had their hands full and with little back up support.

At the end of the day, the mobile teams if any would traverse the political perimeter and gather the spoils of war or in a political campaign, the posters, banners, corflutes, signage, wrapping, How To Vote cards, chairs, boxes, rubbish, flasks, mugs, buttons, balloons, streamers, pens, biros, instructions, mangled copper wire or plastic ties that bound the posters and corflutes to the fence. The list is endless and yet, many leave behind their political paraphernalia for the owner of the building in which the polling was conducted. In many cases it would be an educational institution or a community hall in which the voting has taken place and they would invariably contact the appropriate political party to return and clean up any political debris left behind.

In the end when it's all over, the campaign manager returns to the shadows and the candidate is once again thrust into the limelight and accolades are poured upon them for their courage perseverance and representation of the political party irrespective of the outcome. To be sure, being a candidate is not an easy task as they are in the public eye from day one and all of their actions are being monitored whether they like it or not. In many cases they are under more scrutiny within their own political party than the opposition who are busy working on their strategic political campaign.

The majority wins and the country returns to some form of stability. That is what every voter hopes to see once it is all over, but unfortunately this election is somewhat of a cliff hanger where it could go either way depending on the whims of the voters, the deals being done, the double crosses, the preferences and last but not least, the fickle hand of luck and fate dancing away into the evening. Only when the dance of luck and fate has been finished will the true result be known.

When it does come to a halt, there will be tears, joy, sadness, grief, anger and emotions being brought to the fore in an attempt to express feelings. What can one say but that a winner will eventually emerge, but not in the manner in which they had hoped. Whoever obtains the majority will find a stiff opposition and the Ides of March may return as a bad dream to haunt victor and vanquished alike.

As always, my apologies for the poor grammar, punctuation and savagery of the English language. All that I can say is that it is great to be alive and one does not give up in the face of adversity.



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