

Manchester, New Hampshire. Ward 6, Turf 2.

104 Ash St #2. Carlos Gonzalez 53 M U. Maria Gonzalez 51 F D. Driveway is icy. Decrepit doorbell. [Knock knock]

Count to ten. They may be coming.

→ *Not Home*

106 Ash St. Mary Petokakis 67 F U. Sandra Beechman 35 F D. Shredded tires, broken tricycle on the front lawn. Last weeks lit drop still in the front door. No car in the driveway. Fresh snow untouched.

→ *Not Home*

108 Ash St. Frank Brown 52 M D. Marcy Brown 61 F D. Wreath on the door. Swoosh—that was close. Way to ice your walkway, assholes. [Knock knock]

→ *Not Home*

109 Ash St. Maria Rodriguez 65 F D. Juan Rodriguez 61 M D. Light footsteps in the snow on the lawn. Old lit in the screen door. Narrow shoveled path to back door from driveway. Icicles dripping onto the back door landing, refreezing. [Knock knock]

Hi, Maria? How are you today! I'm a volunteer with the Obama campaign and—

Lo siento, no hablo ingles.

→ *Spanish.*

112 Ash St. Gary Walker 18 M U. Jennifer Walker 21 M U. Juliette Walker 52 F D. Lexus in a dry shoveled driveway. Wreath on the door. Cross for a door knocker.

Hello, sir, how are you today! I'm looking for Juliette, Gary or Jennifer?

Gary and Jennifer don't live here anymore. They're in school down in Atlanta. Juliette's at work.

I'm actually a student as well! My name is Max, I'm a volunteer with the Obama campaign, and I just stopped by today to see if they and you would be voting in the Democratic primary next week, and to see if maybe they knew who they'd be supporting.

Well, you know, I'm an independent but I think I'll be voting in the Republican primary. My wife has been a pretty strong supporter of Hillary, though.

Alright, well if it's not a problem, I'd love to leave this pamphlet for the two of you.

No thanks, we're all set.

Well I hope you'll be voting next week, and you have a nice day now.

→ *Moved, Moved, 4 Leaning Hillary*

116 Ash St. Saul Goldstein 67 M U. Ida Goldstein 67 F U. First Jews I've run into in Manchester. Cheesy blue menorah in the window, fully lit. McCain sign peeks out of the snow drift at the corner of the driveway.

→ *5 Leaning McCain, 5 Leaning McCain*

119 Ash St. Patricia Green 32 F D. Cheeks are feeling rosy and chilled. 1991 Honda Accord in the driveway. Flat tire. Extremely icy walk to the back porch, icicles refreezing on the gutter. Faint smell of vomit or litter box or something foul. Motion sensor light startles. [Knock knock]

She pokes her face through the blinds. Slowly opens the door. Is she actually wearing a nightgown?

Hi... Patricia?

Uh, yes.

How are you today... ?

I'm ok, I guess.

Glad to hear it... My name is Max. I'm a volunteer with the Obama campaign. I just came by to see if you would be voting in the Democratic primary next week, and if maybe Senator Obama could count on your support!

Voting?... uh, for who?... Obama? Wait a second, he's the one on Oprah!!

[Bite tongue. Hold in laughter.]

Well, not exactly... Senator Obama is the junior Senator from Illinois and a Democratic candidate for President, but Oprah did endorse him. Do you think you'll be voting?

Yeah I guess I'll vote maybe.

But... you haven't made up your mind I guess?

Well sure you said I should vote for that guy on Oprah. So I guess I will.

... Alright, well you have a nice day now.

Buh-bye.

→ *2 Leaning Obama (?)*

[WALK TO THE CORNER. LIGHT A CIGARETTE] NO MORE HOUSES ON ASH. [INHALE] THAT REPUBLICAN MAN WITH KIDS AT SCHOOL WAS NICE. STRANGE STREET ALTOGETHER THOUGH—[INHALE]—NOT EVEN REMOTELY SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THAT LAST HOUSE. [INHALE]

1 PAGE ON BEECH, HALF A PAGE ON BRIDGE, 2 ON MAPLE, [INHALE], 1 ON PEARL AND HALF A PAGE ON WALNUT. [INHALE] JUDGING FROM THIS GOOGLE MAP, SINCE THE CAR IS ON ASH, I SHOULD PROBABLY WALK MAPLE, PEARL, WALNUT, BEECH, BRIDGE.

[INHALE] SHIT I SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT THOSE TOE-WARMERS FROM THE DORM. I CAN BARELY FEEL MY TOES. [INHALE] [INHALE]

528 MAPLE THROUGH 572 MAPLE. [FLICK]

528 Maple St. #1 Cynthia Fuentes 34 F D. Mark Fuentes 33 M D. Smooth jazz playing in the kitchen. Play car on the porch. Hillary sign in the lawn. [Ring the bell]. Something smells good—pot roast for dinner?

"Just a second!" she calls. Kenny G continues to ruin "White Christmas". Young boy opens the door with his mother.

Hello?

Hi, Cynthia? How are you today!—

Great, thanks and you?

Just fine, thanks! My name is Max, and I'm a volunteer with the Obama campaign. I just came by today to see if you and Mark would be voting in the Democratic primary next week, and to see if perhaps Senator Obama could count on your support.

You bet he can. We've been trying to convince Matt and Bill next door to support Obama over Hillary, but haven't had much luck. We're on board, though! In fact, that's so funny, we were just out last week doing what you're doing. Thanks for helping out.

Well thanks so much for your support, and keep up the good work! Have a great day, now.

→ *1 Obama, 1 Obama*

528 Maple St. #2 Matt McConnell 32 M D. Bill Rojas 33 M D. Hillary sign must be theirs.

→ *4 Leaning Hillary, 4 Leaning Hillary*

534 Maple St. #3 Jason Lewis 30 M U. Sharon Lewis 31 F D. Well shoveled driveway to the back door. No lights on, no car in the driveway. [Ring the bell]

→ *Not home, Not home*

534 Maple St. #4 Donald Baker 58 M D. Barbara Baker 54 F D. Yellow house. Huge evergreen, its rainbow Christmas lights glowing brighter as the sun fades burnt pumpkin and violet. Temperature dropping. Black ice harder to see. Hammock dripping with icicles, freestanding in the lawn. No doorbell in the front, no shoveled path to the back. [Knock Knock]

→ *Not home, Not home*

542 Maple St. Virginia Mitchell 81 F D. Oldsmobile Delta 88 in the driveway, covered in snow. Well iced path to the back door. Dead mouse, cats' footprints on the lawn. Back porch door swings open gently. Small, old television playing some version of Law and Order in the window—seems like that shitty Criminal Intent. [Knock knock]

Hi, Virginia? How are you today! My name is Max, and I'm a volunteer with the Obama campaign. I was just stopping by to see if you were planning on voting in the democratic primary next week and to see if maybe Senator Obama could count on your support?

Well... I think I'll be voting, yes. My grandson is home from college and he said he would come pick me up next week, but he also said he would shovel the driveway in addition to the walk and he hasn't done that yet.

Well I'm glad to hear that you'll probably be voting! Do you know who you'll be supporting yet?

To be honest... What did you say your name was? I'm having a really tough time choosing. I've watched all the debates, you know, but I'm still choosing between Hillary and Obama.

It's Max, by the way. Glad to hear you're still considering Senator Obama! Are there any issues that are particularly important to you?

Well, my prescription drugs cost too much money and I just hate this darned war in eye-raaq. But I'm just split dead-even between the two on those two issues.

It's funny that you mention health care, ma'am, because one of the reasons I support Senator Obama is that I think his health care plan, while very similar to Hillary's is actually far more likely to pass in congress. Any person who already has health care and is happy with it keeps their coverage under his plan, and he has a number of proposals to cut costs, such as improved information technology.

Really? Well, you know, I'm still not sure. I'll definitely take one of those little pamphlets you have, though. It's real funny—you Obama folks have been by here a number of times, mostly just leaving a pamphlet, but the Hillary folks haven't knocked once—or at least they didn't leave any pamphlet!

Well thanks! We're working really hard to make sure that we reach every possible voter for the primary next Tuesday. Thanks again for your time. It was lovely meeting you.

Have a nice day, Mark.

→ *3 Undecided, Health Care, Iraq*

MAYBE SHE'S MY ONE-IN-TWELVE. NATE SILVER SAID THAT FOR EVERY TWELVE CONTACTS WE MAKE, ONE VOTER WILL VOTE FOR BARACK THAT WOULDN'T ORDINARILY HAVE DONE SO. IT'S ACTUALLY NOT A BAD RATIO WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, BUT YOU CAN KNOCK 50 DOORS AND ONLY GET 10 CONTACTS ON A BAD DAY. MAYBE SHE'S MY ONE-IN-TWELVE.

544 Maple St. #1 Keith Collins 22 M U. Jennifer Collins 20 F D. Albert Collins 55 M U. Kathleen Collins 52 F D. No cars. Lamppost at the end of the walkway. Incredibly tacky "Jesus loves you" sign with smiley emoticon on the door. [Joy to the world, the lord has come].

ARE YOU KIDDING ME? A CHRISTMAS DOORBELL? I REALLY HOPE THAT ISN'T THEIR DING TONE ALL YEAR. POOR NEIGHBORS.

→ *Not home, Not home, Not home, Not home*

550 Maple St. #2 Eugene Cox 46 M U. Path to back door is well iced. Screen door croaks and large dogs start sounding the alarm. U.S. Marine Force sticker and "do not trespass" sign on the door. [Knock knock]

Alarms go into double time.

What the hell do you want? Can't you read? NO TRESPASSING!

Sorry about that, have a nice day.

→ *Refused*

562 Maple St. Teresa O'Flaherty 92 F D. Largest house on the block. A couple cars in the driveway. Well iced.

Hi, sir, I'm looking for Teresa O'Flaherty.

Yeah, that's my mother. She passed last week, but she already voted for Hillary absentee.

Oh my goodness, I'm so sorry to hear. My deepest condolences to you and your family.

Thank you.

→ *Deceased*

564 Maple St. #2 Brandon Jenkins 32 M U. No car. Small, cartoonishly bare cherry blossom in the front. Must have been planted this summer. [Knock knock]

→ *Not home*

566 Maple St. William Salvina 84 M R. Driveway well iced. Sign on front door: FedEx, come to the back porch.

Small dog yips as the screen door creaks loudly. Porch is heated. Fingers start to burn as they warm from the cold. Pungent aroma of stale tobacco fills the nostrils. [Ring the bell]

A slow walk through the kitchen. Heartbeat-paced thumps on a tile floor. Is he using a cane? Yips grow louder and closer, squeaking.

What do you want?

Hi, William? How are you today! I'm a volunteer with the Ob—

I'm a goddamned Republican, and I wouldn't vote for that muslim-terrorist-who's-preacher-hates-America if you paid me, son.

Have a nice day, sir.

→ *Refused*

568 Maple St. Mark Peters 28 M D. April Peters 29 F D. Sled in the yard. Well iced driveway and path to the back. Barney the Dinosaur reminds everybody to do their share. [Ring the bell]

Hello?

Hi, Mark? How are you today! My name is Max, I'm a volunteer with the Obama campaign, and I was just coming back to see if you and April would be voting next week, and to see if perhaps Senator Obama could count on your support?

Well, I can't chat right now as it's almost dinner time, but yes. We've been extremely impressed with you folks' dedication and we're pretty sure we'll be voting for him next week.

Thanks! Have a great night.

→ 2 Leaning Obama, 2 Leaning Obama

572 Maple St. #2B
572 Maple St. #2E
572 Maple St. #3C
572 Maple St. #3F
572 Maple St. #4A
572 Maple St. #4B
572 Maple St. #4D
572 Maple St. #4E

DAMN APARTMENT BUILDINGS. NOBODY EVER BUZZES YOU IN. WHY DO THEY EVEN PUT THESE THINGS ON OUR LIST?

→ Inaccessible, Inaccessible, Inaccessible, Inaccessible, Inaccessbile, Inaccessible, Inaccessible, Inaccessible,

STEVIE WONDER CALLS FROM MY POCKET.

HEY JENNA, WHAT'S GOING ON?

OH, REALLY? YOU'RE ALMOST DONE? I'M ONLY ABOUT HALF DONE, BUT I HAD A FEW CRAZIES... YEAH I DON'T MIND CALLING IT A DAY. IT'S FUCKING FREEZING. CAN YOU GIVE ME AN ADDRESS TO PLUG INTO THE GPS? 368 PEARL ST.? OK YEAH I'M PRETTY CLOSE, I HAD A PAGE ON PEARL THAT I DIDN'T GET TO.

TALLY SHEET:

DATE: 1/3/08 TURF: WARD 6, TURF 2
TOTAL DOORS KNOCKS: 18
TOTAL CONTACTS: 11

1: 2 2: 3 3: 1 4: 3 5: 2
REFUSED: 2 NOT HOME: 12 DECEASED: 1
INACCESSIBLE: 8 MOVED: 2 SPANISH: 1

SIGNATURE: MAX CHAIKEN