CNN NEWSROOM

Endeavour Heading to California Science Center; Third-Party Presidential Candidates Debate; Interview with Author of 'Zombie Survival Guide'

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(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

DON LEMON, CNN HOST: The final frontier. Shuttle "Endeavour" boldly going with no spacecraft has gone before. The streets of Los Angeles. We are live.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Hey, maybe I could do that because it looks like it's a whole lot of fun.

LEMON: Plus, our live interview from space and why it soon may not just be a place for astronauts but for everyday people like you.

VP faceoff. More like goofy faceoff.

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JOE BIDEN, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: With all due respect, that is malarkey.

LEMON: What were both these guys thinking?

And the other debate, the one you won't see anywhere else. Two third party candidate snubbed by the establishment here to talk issues

LEMON: The color of sex. Blue states versus red states in the bedroom. Who's more fun? Break out the wine and candles.

Those stories, plus --

LEMON: The walking dead. Hulk Hogan's sex tape, and Sean Penn and Kid Rock's rage against the political machine.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

LEMON: Good evening, everyone, I'm Done Lemon. Thank you very much for joining us. We appreciate it. As we go on the air tonight, we have a developing story to tell you about. We want to get you to the amazing pictures live there downtown Los Angeles. A completely dominated by a massive symbol of American innovation, exploration, and triumph in space. There has been a bit of a snag here. As you can see, the space shuttle "Endeavour" has stopped its journey temporarily through the streets of Los Angeles. We are live.

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You know, NASA is tracking it from LAX to its future permanent home on display at the California Science Center. And people, thousands of people, you can see them lining the route there as we look at this live pictures there on rooftops. And they are packed ten deep on the side of the road to get a glimpse of this historic moment. And helping -- guiding us through this.

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(END VIDEO CLIP)
LEMON: You have seen Obama versus Romney and Biden versus Ryan. Tonight though, a presidential debate you won't see anywhere else.

Two presidential candidates not afraid to speak their minds about the issues that matter most. Gary Johnson, Libertarian party nominee, and Jill Stein, Green Party nominee.

They weren't allowed in the official debate so we brought them here to add their voices to the national discussion. And we are going to cover a lot of topics from the economy to social issues.

But as third, even fourth party candidates, I decided to start with the obvious question, though -- why are you running?

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

JILL STEIN, GREEN PARTY PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: I'm running as a mother and a medical doctor really concerned about the direction we're going. And what propelled me into this race at this time, and I've been an activist for two decades really. People ask me what kind of medicine I'm practicing, and I say political medicine because it's the mother of all illnesses. And we got to fix this one in order to fix everything else that ails us.

What propelled me into this race was when the president put Medicare and Social Security on the chopping block as the solution to the debt crisis a year ago. So I'm basically in this to ensure that everyday people have a voice in this election and a choice at the polls that's not bought and paid for by Wall Street. And to ensure that we can puts forward the solutions the American people are clamoring for.

LEMON: That was a little bit longer than 30 seconds. I didn't give you the time.

STEIN: You didn't.

LEMON: We will let Gary - we will give a minute or so to do it. If you can do it in 30 seconds, Gary. So, why do you feel you'd be best suited to run the country, and why are you running?

GARY JOHNSON, LIBERTARIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: Well, I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't think I could do a really good job at being president of the United States. I've been an entrepreneur my entire life. Two-term governor of New Mexico, I think successfully.

And the differences between myself and other candidates, look, let's not bomb Iran, let's get out of Afghanistan now. Bring the troops home. I think that marriage equality is a constitutionally guaranteed right. Let's legalize marijuana now. I would have never signed the national defense authorization act. I would repeal the patriot act. I think that we need to balance the federal budget now, or we're going to find ourselves in a monetary collapse. And let's abolish the IRS and eliminate income tax and corporate tax.

We'll reboot the American economy tens of millions of jobs get created in a zero corporate tax rates environment.

LEMON: Jill, starting with you, if you can stick to a minute, how would you fix the struggling economy?

STEIN: Well, we think this doesn't need to be guesswork. We have experience creating jobs in the worst economy the country has ever known during the great depression. We created jobs by directly creating them, not by providing tax breaks for the wealthy or, you know, not by ending a tax system entirely which would basically, you know, turn the country over to the despair, the unemployment, you know, the problems that we have. We need government to actually, to step in where the private sector is unwilling and to see create jobs.

LEMON: Same question, Gary, how would you create jobs and improve the economy in one minute if you can do it.

JOHNSON: Well, I think first, we have to balance the federal budget. If don't find that - if we don't do, that we'll find ourselves in a monetary collapse, in a monetary collapse, very simply, as when the dollars we have don't buy a thing because of the accompanying inflation that goes along with borrowing and printing money to the tune of 43 cents out of every dollar we spend.

Let's abolish the income tax. Let's abolish corporate tax. Let's eliminate the IRS. Let's replace all of that with a one federal consumption tax. I am embracing the fair tax. I think that under a zero corporate tax rate environment if the private sector doesn't create tens of millions of jobs, I don't know what it takes to create tens of millions of jobs. Because we would be bleeding non-transparent federal taxes out of all goods and services. It's really the answer when it comes to American exports. Making us competitive with China. I see manufacturing jobs flocking back to the United States in a zero corporate tax rate environment. (END VIDEOTAPE)

LEMON: Two presidential candidates, two fresh perspectives. And we're just getting started. Ahead, Gary Johnson and Jill Stein talk abortion, same-sex marriage, and drug legalization. You don't want to miss what they have to say about that.

(COMMERCIAL BREAK)

LEMON: Take a look at that picture. Magnificent. This is our continuing coverage of the shuttle "Endeavour"s" final journey. And we will have it all hour here on CNN until 11:00 p.m. eastern and beyond, if necessary. But, it's making its final journey to the California Science Center.

A bit of a snag earlier. They had to stop, cut down a tree. They have had to do this along the way. It is about three hours, maybe more, behind schedule, but it is making its way to the California Science Center in Los Angeles through the streets of L.A. right now.

And meantime, back to our discussion with Libertarian Gary Johnson and the Green Party's Jill Stein.

There are unconventional presidential candidates with some strong views on the issues. We just heard why they decided to run and their plans to rebuild the economy. Now, we turn our attention to the current two-party system. They don't like it. And in case you're wondering, issues like abortion, always stirs the passions of American voters. That came up, as well. It's a presidential debate you haven't gotten to see until now.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

LEMON: We will call this a lightning round so to speak. So, let's talk about some of the issues here. Social issues. Where do you stand on abortion? Miss Stein?

STEIN: Abortions are a component of reproductive health care which is a component of health care.

LEMON: OK.

STEIN: It is between a woman and her health care providers.
LEMON: Mr. Johnson?

LEMON: I absolutely support a woman's right to make the decision surrounding this issue.

LEMON: OK. Mr. Johnson, you have said that you would legalize marijuana, correct?

JOHNSON: Yes. I think we're at a tipping point on this issue. Let's legalize marijuana, control it, regulate it, tax it. Ninety percent of the drug problem is prohibition related, not use related. That is not to discount the problems with use and abuse, but that should be the focus.

STEIN: We need to treat drug abuse and addiction as a public health problem not as a criminal problem. We need to legalize marijuana because it's a substance which is dangerous because it's illegal. It's not illegal on account of being dangerous. It's far less dangerous than alcohol and nicotine.

LEMON: Miss Stein, same-sex marriage?

STEIN: Equal protection, all people are entitled to equality under the law. That means equal marriage, equal employment rights, equal housing rights, and access to education regardless of sexual preference, race, religion --

LEMON: Does that mean marriage?

STEIN: And ethnic identity. Of course it includes marriage. Yes.

LEMON: Mr. Johnson?

JOHNSON: Yes, I think that marriage equality is a constitutionally guaranteed right on par with civil rights of the '60s. I do think that it is a federal issue because it comes under the constitution. And fundamentally, president of the United States, first tenet president of the United States govern under strict adherence to the U.S. constitution.

LEMON: OK. We have two minutes left.

Mr. Johnson, do you believe the two-party system is broken? Part of the reason we're doing this is both of you are not allowed to debate. There are no debates between you two. You're not included. Do you think the two-party system is broken? How would you fix it?

JOHNSON: It's broken. Obama and Romney arguing over who's going to spend more money on Medicare when Medicare has to be cut. It's a benefit that we pay $30 into and get $100 benefit. By extension, we pay $30,000 into a benefit that we receive $100,000 benefit. It's absolutely not sustainable. Sticking our heads in the sand on this and so many other issues, look, by extension, is the Easter bunny, Santa Claus, the tooth fairy coming? I got news. They're not coming. We got big issues, but we have to address them. Neither party's addressing them, they're broken.

LEMON: All right. Miss Stein, same question, but I will put it a different way. Do you think that there's a monopoly on politics between Democrats and Republicans, between two parties?

STEIN: Absolutely. And the distinctions between them are far too small. They want to debate the minutia of the tax code rather than the fact that we are giving away the store in trillions of tax break to the wealthy. In awards for oil we don't need. And in bailouts for Wall Street. And the free trade agreements which continue to offshore our jobs, undermine wages at home, that's not even in the discussion or the climate policies in which both parties have embraced drill, baby, drill, and Obama has gone on to give the green light to fracking. And the student debt that has made an entire generation essentially indentured servants who do not have a future.