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WRITER POKES FUN AT BOTH PARTIES

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The 100-plus people who heard Frank Luntz on Tuesday night now have several new political jokes in their repertoire.

Why don't middle-aged men like Hillary Clinton? She reminds them of their first wives.

Or this one:

John McCain is so old he takes one and a half hours to watch "60 Minutes."

Luntz spoke as part of the Novello Festival of Reading, sponsored by the Public Library of Charlotte & Mecklenburg County. A Republican pollster, he's the author of "Words That Work: It's Not What You Say, It's What People Hear."

At ImaginOn, he turned the evening into an animated give-and-take with the audience.

Who'll be the next president? Clinton. Her campaign flaw? She wouldn't admit her first Iraq vote was a mistake.

And Barack Obama? To Luntz, he's the least divisive candidate. He talks about what he's for, not what he's against.

Luntz picked on both sides of the political spectrum. It's sad, he said, when we can't laugh at ourselves.

In the end, he called for an open dialogue. His message, in part: Stop the meanness.

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