

LAST MAN STANDING

Long time ago, a British poet, John Donne wrote something like this: “No Man is an Island” suggesting perhaps, that no one is the complete essence or whole of any entity. History is replete with examples of leaders who became obsessed with their charisma, intelligence and influence and became like a pariah, or the ‘last man standing’. Our President has a touch of this yet he rides merrily along, oblivious to the many objections to his programs, policies and a deaf ear to critics. Despite his white-black mix he is the one on horseback and many relish this first African-American President. It may be his only salvation. I cannot believe George Bush would be ‘riding merrily’ with this much baggage, possibly the threat of impeachment hovering.

It is like what has been said of Thomas Jefferson that he listens essentially to his own counsel, and mind-set comfortable with his vast reservoir of knowledge almost in an intellectual vacuum- a professor of a vast store of experiences, and beset on changing things for the better, almost blindly in a relative mix of ideas. And to our misfortune. This President has violated most of the tenets of a good leader: blaming others for our situation; indecisiveness on major issues, kow-towing to some nation leaders, apologizing for American policies and alleged misdeeds; a failure to grasp significance of the opposition to his mission. Arguably, the most damaging, a failure to ‘set the example’ and bring us under his wing.

Obamaway is a lot like Obamacare, obscure..

-a struggling economy seeking recovery, jobs, and salvation. Money from trees, heaven, debt and inflation mounting. It must be Bush’ fault!

-an inability to define the enemy....unless it is man-made disasters like the Ft Hood killer, extremism in isolation; it can’t be Islamic extremism, yet?

-a new energy policy, oil drilling and nuclear – a return to somewhere out there, maybe?

-a new mideast policy for Israel(behind close doors)-quit building those apartments and let the Arab have his land back. Will they attack Iran? And..?

-a new START reduce nucs with Russia as long as we don't build any anti-missile sites nearby. A new strategy, discussion, rationalization over the nuclear threat and use, portends weakness, not strength...

-a visit to a church on Easter, in passing? Is he Muslim, Christian, non-denominational, or free thinker or none of the above. Like the Saudis believe they are a Muslim nation, do we think we are a Christian nation or is this unfair to all the non-believers?

-is the wave of the future a move towards a more social-political European structure where life is more Kabuki theater than plain ol' America without the socialism façade. Remember Greatest Generation!

-whatever happened to that plan to accept all immigrants in any form and ask them to become Americans first with no disrespect to birth culture? ...including oath-taking, English speaking, and stand in line to wait your turn?

-a never-ending war in Afghanistan-Iraq that bodes both victory or failure under the watch of someone whose strategic vision appears muddled! Leadership a mixed metaphor at best.

As an old soldier I remember the leaders who set the example for the rest of us, intrepid soldiers yet simple men who kept us all going in the horror that was WWII: Lieutenant Roy Barnett, a remarkable leader of men, Platoon Sgt Paul Smith, who fell at Havert, and tank commander, John Van Ooyen, dead on the Rhine, men of uncommon fortitude and valor.

Our President may be found to be the 'last man standing' the captive of his ideology and questionable historical significance of his hope and change mantra.

