

TRAVAIL OF YOUTH IN A TROUBLED WORLD

Recently my wife and I were blessed by the graduation of Summer Nicole Dunsmore from the University of California, Berkeley, an honoree. With her mother, father, friends, grandparents in attendance - the latter, being us - it was a special occasion, memorable and impressive. It took place in the Greek Theatre on May 16, an outdoor cement amphitheater on an overcast morning. Summer received a Bachelor of Arts degree in something called: Development Studies. I will have to sit down with her soon and learn its concept and rationale.

I worry about Summer and others like her faced with a troubled economy beset with high unemployment, horrendous national debt and job potential suspect, notwithstanding a troubled world involved with a seeming clash of civilizations and ideologies. But, yes haven't we had our share of problems as youth? Younger than Summer, I went to war in Europe against Germany and matured quickly and we believed we were part of a noble cause against tyranny. She may seek more education in the troubled environment.

I know enough of Summer to believe she wants to aid others in 'developing productive life styles in education, writing and speaking, and a caring thread of concern for the downtrodden and less fortunate.' It is said the young began as idealists, libertarians and liberal in thought and wish to emulate a teacher, a parent or pastor. I recall the words of Roscoe Pound, eminent jurist and botanist who believed 'youth want to save the world as idealist, and often end as a conservative with a more circumspect ideology.'

*To digress, as a political science major at UCLA (1948-51) I fell consciously under the spell of Dr. Gordon Lewis, a Fabian Socialist –who believed in socialism and gradual reform rather than revolutionary action, and was often teased by friends who found it incongruous as I was headed back to the military as a professional officer. Too, a student at SF State, during the tumultuous sixties, I was surrounded by teachers and students against the Vietnam War in the midst of their mini-revolution while Savio at Berkeley and Rudd at Columbia led quasi-rebellions at their locales, often inciting the administration and the political moment of the country. Remembering this is former radical David Horowitz, whose recent book *The Professors, 101 most dangerous academics in the halls of the**

Universities. They spew violent anti-Americanism, preach anti-Semitism, cheer on the killing of American soldiers and civilians, all while collecting tax dollars and tuition fees.

“Mr. President, still in an undeclared war, our borders are porous, loyalty of our Muslims, illegal citizens suspect, a dormant al-Qaeda and Taliban a threat, the ‘roadmap to peace between Jew and Palestinians in detour’, hope of Arab Spring appears calamitous and in breach.”

One thinks of your moment when you had our attention and the inauguration historical, and now we cry out for leadership where you take responsibility for your actions and policy without redress, recrimination, or rationalization. You are a man on the left as Thomas Sowell mentioned: a coterie of those whose ideology reeks of lessening constitutional ethos for a ‘living charter’ defined by judges, rather than ‘we the people’.

Youth must be beware of false prophets in this time of doomsday prophecy