

Editorial Viewpoint

Collective Hubris

The greatest sin of the Deep State is not that they have been on a continuous campaign against the will of the electorate as expressed in the 2016 Presidential election. All their individual transgressions stem from that one. But the foundational character flaw of that entire class is arrogance. Arrogance based upon the assumption that WE the People are stupid, too stupid to see their machinations for what they are: a series of frauds committed upon the republic in the name of saving it. Their patron saint is Brutus, their religion is thinly disguised avarice posing as "public service". Like the plotters of 44 BC Rome their claim is that they are saving the republic but their actual mission is to preserve the preferences and emoluments they derive from their control of the levers of power and their position. In their eyes they are anointed to control us and to prevent the excesses of actual republican democracy as structured in our Constitution. Make no mistake. This is a self selected self appointed "elite" of lawyers, bankers, company leaders, lobbyists/regulators/bureaucrats who believe that their own good outcomes are perforce good for the nation. For these people the trappings of democracy and the observance of its forms are really a mantle in which they wrap themselves to lend credibility to their more nefarious purposes. For them the US Treasury is a vast pot of gold derived from taxpayers for them to allocate as they see fit. Congressional appropriations are just the tool they use to implement their plans. In this system "medicare for all" becomes the means by which all healthcare from the practice of medicine to the research, development, and distribution of medications come under the control of a bureaucracy which can then be manipulated for the financial benefit of the

relatively few "in the club". Global warming or climate change becomes another mass hysteria to be exploited for subsidies, tax credits, and restrictive quotas which can be mined for financial and other benefits for preferred participants in the "Deep State". From the moment he rode the escalator in Trump Tower down to the press gaggle to announce his candidacy for President, Donald John Trump has been at this supercilious "elite" and the edifice it has created to dominate public life in the United States and, indeed, globally. In his own inarticulate sometimes even vulgar way President Trump has made clear his determination to free our body politic from rule by our "betters". Roughly 70 years ago President Harry Truman said at a time when the US population was about 150 million, "There are 15 or 16 million people in this country who can afford representation in Washington DC. I represent the rest." President Trump is probably unaware of Truman's statement but he is the modern embodiment of it. That is the real reason for the serial "witchhunts" launched against him. The Deep State knows a mortal enemy when it sees one and it will fight to the death to defeat him. The Deep State war on President Trump began in earnest when it became clear that his candidacy was not a falsh in the pan. The FBI senior management and their equivalents in the Intel Community launched their smear campaign that early. It has had several chapters. Impeachment is just the most recent. The tactic of taking an actual Democrat crime and by obfuscation, prevarication, and distortion turning it into a Trump crime is the tactic preferred and repeated. It is ultimately defeated by facts and truth but they keep trotting it out. The whole Trump Russia Hoax is just an inversion of



Ed Scanlon has his opinions

what Hillary and the Democrats actually did, enlisting several Intel community contacts to conjure up a narrative with which to defeat him. This current phase of the now "Impeachment Hoax" is in relity based on the outright corruption Of Obama's Vice President. He actually bragged to the Council on Foreign Relations (Deep State pillar) that he extorted from Ukraine's then Preident the firing of an Ukrainian prosecutor who was getting too close to Mr. Biden's son's corrupt involvement with a corrupt Ukrainian natural gas company. Its founder was an Ukrainian oligarch with connections to the Kremlin oligarchy and its Oligarch in Chief, Vladimir Putin. The use of impeachment, American politics' nuclear weapon, reveals how desperate they are. The fact that Speaker Pelosi has discarded legitimizing custom completely in this impeachment effort (she has declined to put before the whole House an impeachment resolution stating the initial case and setting forward a procedure) tells us that she knows how illegitimate this effort is. It is in this context that we learn that the whistleblower rules which required "first hand information" were changed on August 8. The whistleblower's complaint complete with all the leagalistic bells and whistles was apparently filed with the CIA's Inspector General on August 12. Unlike Chairman Adam Schiff, we can't make this stuff up. The hubris of these people will be their downfall. We can only hope it cimes soon.

Family & Marriage

Be Careful with Criticism

"Honest criticism is hard to take, particularly from a relative, a friend, an acquaintance, or a stranger." - Franklin P. Jones

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." - Bible

"Do you, Steve, take this woman, and do you, Julie, take this man, to be your lawfully wedded spouse, to have and to hold, for better or for worse, in sickness and in health, in constant reminders and helpful suggestions, in specific details, step-by-step instructions, and redundant directions, as long as you both shall live?"

Julie Ferwerda, in an article in Christianity Today magazine, says these should have been her marriage vows. She then goes on to describe the challenges she and her husband faced as they learned the close connection between "constant reminders....." and criticism.

The primary definition of criticism is the act of passing judgment as to the merits of anything. The secondary definition is the act of passing severe judgment; censure; faultfinding.

In every day life the secondary definition soon overrides, and such criticism cuts at the core of our being. When we are told there is something about us that could be better, we hear it as though there is something wrong with us! So immediately our self-protection mechanisms spring to our defense. And the battle is on.

There are always at least two people involved in the process of criticizing: the criticizer and the criticizee. When handling criticism directed towards us the easy answer is: don't take it personal. Yeah, right! And yet sincere and meaningful criticism has our best interests in mind and usually focuses on our behavior and not our personhood.

Our lives are not static. We cannot halt the change brought about by aging which leads ultimately to death, but we can make choices that will impact the quality of our life, and specifically our relationships. Relationships never stay the same; they grow or decay. If we want to grow, we must be able to accept the constructive criticism that helps relationships improve.

The delivery of constructive criticism is also crucial to maintaining healthy relationships. A key point to remember is that we can't change anyone except ourselves. So let's quit trying. But we can call attention to behavior, and encourage the one with the behavior to consider whether change is needed.

Before we attempt to deliver constructive criticism,

here are a couple of ground rules to keep in mind.

Why do we want to be critical? Is our spouse doing something wrong, or just different than the way we would do it? Perhaps it would be good for husband and wife to identify some boundaries defining when criticism is acceptable or even meaningful.

When differences are not a matter of right and wrong, and are trivial (which most are, e.g. which end of the toothpaste tube to squeeze), settle the matter through calm discussion; criticism shouldn't even be an issue.

We all have a tendency to set up our system of "laws". And then we act as judge and jury when our "laws" are violated, and pronounce sentence, i.e. offer criticism. The Jews in the Bible set up a system of many laws to govern their behavior. When Jesus was asked which laws were most important, He said only two really mattered: love God and love others. Which leads to the second ground rule.

If the criticism is necessary, will it come across as unloving or disrespectful? Is it an attack on the person or simply addressing a particular behavior?



Roger Rollins, Family and Marriage Coalition

Consider words from "The Love Dare" by Stephen and Alex Kendrick: "Kindness is love in action. If patience is how love reacts in order to minimize a negative circumstance, kindness is how love acts to maximize a positive circumstance. Patience avoids a problem; kindness creates a blessing. One is preventive, the other proactive."

Offer any critical comments out of respect and love.

The Family and Marriage Coalition of Aiken, Inc. (FAMCO) provides resources for you to succeed in your marriage and families. Roger Rollins, Executive Director, FAMCO, 640-4689, rogerrollins@aikenfamco.com, www.aikenfamco.com

Kershaw Kaleidoscope

Long story short, I almost cut my leg off with an ax this weekend, but I had one of the best times I've had in months! All because of the new ax!

Now for the long version. For a while now, I have been sort of semi-interested in campfire cooking. Those who know me, know that I have had a passion for cooking since I was a preteen and it has been something that has followed me through jobs, and into adulthood. I cook at home quite often and thoroughly enjoy cooking for friends and family every chance I get. I can make Effie's Chicken at home and it is amazing!

Part of the outdoor cooking experience is building the fire. Those who know me well (Lance), know that I love to burn stuff. I love starting fires in my backyard in our fire barrel or fire pit. I spend hours each month collecting limbs and sticks from around my yard and set them ablaze. It's thrilling to watch the heat and flame overtake the objects in the pit and turn them into ash.

People who live near us or ride by the house will often see smoke coming from the backyard as I am outside enjoying my "hobby". I do try to obey the burn bans that are put into place, but sometimes they get ignored. More recently, I have been practicing my fire building techniques. When you burn leaves and limbs or household trash, the fire does not get very hot nor does it burn for very long. I have been practicing building



Alan Sims

hotter and longer burning fires.

So a while back I decided to try and combine the two "hobbies" that I enjoy so much. This is what led to the interest in longer burning and hotter fires. See, when you cook over coals on a campfire, you need the heat to last for as long as it takes to cook your food. I cooked a pot roast in our cast iron Dutch oven last week and it had to be on hot coals for 4 hours. And other dishes, like the scalloped potatoes and turnkey burgers I cooked Sunday night require different conditions. The potatoes went into the Dutch oven, while the burgers went over the coal on a rigged up grill grate.

Now for the story about the accident. I have burned stuff, either with or without permission, for almost my entire life. But until Saturday I had never owned a real ax. Well I went to the hardware store in town and bought myself a new toy. I brought it home and went to work on some logs that I got from a friend next door. The 2nd swing cracked the handle and the 3rd swing hit me square in the right shin. Well the next swing went right at the ground and caused me to have make a trip to Camden to let me buy my 2nd ax of my lifetime. This one is a maul and is just what I've always wanted.

I spent the weekend pouring sweat and chopping wood. I didn't hit my leg again, but I did set several fires and cook a lot of food. This hobby is definitely one I can get used to taking up my spare time. If you're reading this and have any spare firewood or meat that I can cook, let me know. Also, I'm in the market for as many cast iron pieces as the Wife will let me bring home!



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