

## We Can All Get Along By Exception

Mr. Emerson's July Democrat column was spot on. He accurately described the expanding franchise to vote as a central theme in The Great Experiment, Democracy in America. His concerns about the Patriot Act are well founded. The Patriot Act needs to be revised with a lot of red ink. How pleasant to agree whole-heartedly with everything in the Democrat column on the eve of a promising unpleasant election.

But, that's the way it is. There are few issues, like the Patriot Act, where the Liberals and Conservatives can agree. Usually, only the broad brushes, the top-level descriptions of issues, can be held in common. Interestingly enough, I wrote this column, except for editing, before Mr. Emerson wrote his August column on definitions for Conservative and Liberal. I disagree with his definitions. Still, I marvel when I get my Liberal organization mailers, which use the same headlines as Conservatives.

I suspect that I'm on a Liberal mailing list because I'm on the alumni lists for two of the most Liberal universities and I subscribe to Atlantic Monthly. So, the Democrat Party, ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, People for the American Way, etc. send me solicitations. I like the first words they use – Peace, Prosperity, Security, Strength, Family, Values, etc. – but I disagree the next level of detail. I never buy their solutions. For example, it is an economic fact that tax increases kill jobs – first and foremost - the minimum wage jobs for low skilled persons. I learned in graduate economics that tax cuts for anyone, including the 'rich', means jobs for people, especially the working poor. And, so it goes.

Also, I detect in my hate mail for my web columns and in what I read elsewhere, an unprecedented level of hatred from the Left. Yet, I don't hate any person. My God commands that I love all people. The challenge, frankly, is to go from 'not disliking' to truly agape loving. It helps if I think about the Liberals I've cared about.

I love the liberals in my extended family. I avoid talking about politics with them. I love them, few that there are, just as they are.

I remember the energy and caring of liberals in my grad schools. I had coffee a number of times with the late Ron Brown, President Clinton's Secretary of Commerce and donations moneymen. I had coffee many times with the former Sen. Bob Torricelli. I've chatted with Sandy Berger. Caesar Chavez's son-in-law, Richard Ybarra, and I, under the supervision of our wives, organized a Thanksgiving feast for all the foreign students. What fun! I served in the Army with super lib Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI). He shared his plans for politics when we were in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

Still, these delightful liberals all had a threefold problem.

First, they were dangerously clueless, except maybe Jack Reed, about how tough the neighborhood we call the world really is.

Second, they know how to make money for themselves, but never trusted the idea –

capitalism – for others.

Third, but most important, the basic ideas of their worldview and their subsequent solutions for almost all issues were off. Liberalism, like its close cousins - the totalitarianisms of National Socialism and Communism, is falsehoods built on wrongs.

Too bad, because so many Liberals are lovely, engaged, committed, energetic, wonderful people. All the more reason to regret the bitter bile of Liberal hatred. And all the greater cause to chastise Conservatives for like moral failings if they blur hatred into the emotion of their passion.

Frankly, Conservatives well always be accused of hatred. Just as we are called zealots, extremists, bigots, etc. with abandon. That's okay because the Liberal name-callers speak from the overflow of their hearts.

I speak from my heart when I applaud Mr. Emerson's July Democrat column. I will speak from my heart and head in the next four columns when I urge our neighbors to reject the most Liberal fellow in the U.S. Senate, John Kerry, for the office of President of the United States of America. Liberals can be marvelous, but Liberalism is not. Nor is it worthy of your values and your vote. Please vote for President George W. Bush in November.

James Atticus Bowden