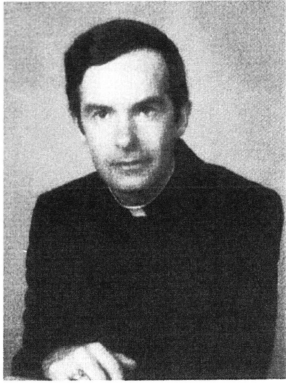


Chaplain's Corner, Hughes Camp Chaplain Richard W Rudd



The election is two months behind us, the dust raised by numerous whirlwinds has begun to settle, and a new administration is about to take office. We are now in the midst of the season for commentary - - the editorializing about explanations for what happened and why.

AD 2016 will be remembered in American history as a time when the nation has never been more divided since 1861. The popular vote gave evidence of a nation almost evenly polarized. However, the electoral vote displayed a geographical division of not North vs South, but coastal vs inland, urban vs rural.

After their resounding defeat, liberals have called for unity. Beware of liberals bearing olive branches. Their plea, veiled under a sanctimonious façade of noble sounding rhetoric, must be recognized for what it really is - - a desperate backdoor maneuver to persuade the winner to negotiate away their fairly won victory. Proof of liberals' disdain for national unity is found in their campaign strategy before the election. They attempted to divide and conquer by means of Balkanizing the nation into tribal groups: urban vs rural, rich vs poor, immigrant vs native, socialist vs capitalist, globalist vs nationalist, secular vs Christian, liberal vs conservative, younger vs older citizens, college educated vs non-college educated, and the pitting of races and ethnic groups against each other.

The last three categories are of particular interest. Liberals have been far too successful for far too long in their dominance over education and mass media. Acting as self-appointed gatekeepers of the minds of the populace, they use these two conduits to control the flow of information, to disseminate propaganda supporting their agenda, and to condition thought patterns, herding the masses toward pre-determined conclusions as gauchos herd cattle into a corral. "For as (a man) thinks in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7) Liberals recognize this truth and twist it to serve their purpose.

Mass media, the broadcasting and publishing of news, advertising, and entertainment, subtly casts a net wide enough to ensnare non-college educated

and older citizens. Liberals made an issue of non-college educated voters not supporting them in the election, suggesting it was because they lacked sophistication and intelligence. On the contrary, it merely demonstrated that those voters had not been brainwashed by academia and the news networks. Advertising is designed to confuse the boundaries between need and desire in order to get as much of our money as we are willing to spend. As for entertainment, it is revealing as an adult to look back at the cartoons we saw as children and discover the political and social messages that were concealed in them. That practice spills over into entertainment for adults. Nothing is produced and broadcasted without a subliminal message to guide our thinking. Ideally, it is not the job of the news networks to shape events or be a part of them. Their role is to relate news in a truthful and neutral way. That charade was boldly dispensed with last year for all who wanted to see.

It is education that is more direct, institutionalized, and regimented in its approach to incrementally mold each successive generation of impressionable youths. Unless students come from homes and churches that ground them in properly instilled belief systems, they are fresh meat for vultures. During the so-called Arab spring, many student demonstrators might have been sincere in their desire for positive changes and freedom. However, in their naivete, they did not recognize that Islamic extremists lurked in the shadows to infiltrate their ranks, exploit their fervor, inflame their idealistic passions of desire and anger, and encourage the terrorizing reign of emotionalism over rationalism. Referring to their young proteges as stooges and donkeys, the extremists used the students to carry out the revolution that enabled the extremists to seize control, deny freedom, and ultimately silence the students. Khomeini did this in Iran, Hamas in Gaza, and the Moslem Brotherhood in

Rudd continued from page 4. Egypt. Liberals in American academia operate in a similar way. For example, college campuses and city streets across the US erupted with scenes of student riots after the 2016 election. Riots create lawlessness and destroy safety; the absence of law and safety destroys freedom. Colleges and universities, once known for academic freedom, are now places where students have been manipulated into calling for limits on free speech, attacking the First Amendment, and accepting indoctrination as a substitute for education. Many schools have formulated codes limiting free speech and organized Star Chambers of inquisitors, who are no more than school-yard bullies, to enforce them. Both students and faculty are encouraged to report each other, creating tense atmospheres of suspicion and fear reminiscent of conditions during the French Revolution. At the University of Kentucky, to be critical of smoking is a biased offense. Vanderbilt University, after 83 years, is renaming its Confederate Memorial Hall because Chancellor Zeppos thinks the name is "a symbol and reminder of racism..." Middle Tennessee State University seeks to remove Gen. Forrest's name from one of its buildings. At Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, the Haystack Monument, erected in 1806 to represent a commitment to Christian missionary work and serve as a place where students still gather to pray, is threatened by the administration for being "unwelcoming" and "problematic in a modern context," a coded phrase suggesting that historical facts should be revised to conform to current fads. While students do not view the monument as controversial, a professor said it represents Christian work that justified violent forms of cultural imperialism.

The Foundation For Individual Rights In Education (FIRE) is working to defend the First Amendment on campuses and restore the traditional role of education. As a result, codes limiting free speech have declined 40%, demonstrating that it is possible to call liberals' bluff. Where private schools are concerned, charitable donations can be withheld and parents can stop enrollment of their children. As for public schools, parents and other concerned citizens have the right and obligation to determine what their tax dollars finance. I say "other concerned citizens" because, even if we are not parents of school-age children, we have a vested interest in the education of these students as America's future leaders. We can review textbooks, lobby state legislators, and either serve on local school boards and college boards of curators or hold their members accountable. If more practicing Christians, conservative thinkers, and Confederate descendants

would do this, the future of our schools, the responsible use of our tax dollars for education, the formation of the next generation, and the ultimate future of America all depend on our being vigilant now. It can be done. If we do not, the liberals will.

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