

Blame the victim

In my parallel life I am an engineer. Look inside any engineer's head and you will find all the machinery is fueled by a substance called logic. In fact, most of the Erector Set brigade pride themselves on being logical to the extreme. Their nature requires them to think like robots, glean answers from facts not emotion. That is how I navigate life, harvesting fact with logic. Boring, but simple and comfortable for me. Occasionally though, I am thrown off balance by a bout of emotion that clouds my thinking and makes me uneasy until logic refreshes my mind to once again regain equilibrium. One such occurrence happened recently, but the way my balance was restored came from an unusual source that took me by surprise. A young person I know, someone who I affectionately consider youthfully ditzzy, with an unrealistic but charmingly fairytale view of life, in one sentence reminded me of the

fundamental meaning of clear logical thinking and shamed me into discarding soft touchy-feely irrational emotion.

Now for the gist of this 'what do you think'.

Most of you would have heard of the Cleveland couple who's 7 year old son's pet Labrador was struck and killed by a passing motorist outside their home on Bow Street. Apparently the family was in their front yard when the dog chased a ball the boy was playing with onto the road and into the path of the car. Understandably it was a traumatic event for the family and the driver, who was reported to have become hysterical at the scene. The outcome of this tragic event was an appearance of the mother before the Cleveland City Council with a demand for stricter traffic control outside her home with lowered speed limits and installation of speed bumps. The mother suggested that the reason the family pet was killed was

What do you think?

an opinion for The People by pete edwards

he is, his first thoughts were to enact especially strict property laws to force home and business

because of excessive speed by the driver, and the city had not done enough, despite previous complaints to slow traffic.

Initially, my thoughts coincided with those of the city council, tempered by compassion for the loss of the family pet. That is when my young mentor stepped in to inject reason into my failing logic. "This would not have happened if the dog had been on a leash" was the remark that brought clarity to my emotion tainted thought. I have to tell you, as a dog lover, it did not come easy to overcome my compassion with logic. It troubled me for days and taught me the valuable lesson that wisdom is not guaranteed with age, and that we older folk can sometimes learn from the young.

On reflection, I now believe the Cleveland City

Council erred with its knee-jerk reaction to appease the mother. An understandable reaction, but a mistake none the less. What they did was vilify the driver for hitting a dog that through the negligence of the parents should not have been on the street in the first place. The parents were aware of the dangers of the road outside their home but failed to restrain their dog. The driver had the right to be on the road, the dog didn't. Even if the driver was speeding, as the parents claim, the family pet would not have been hit if it had been properly restrained. By supporting the mother over the driver without proof of speeding, the city council took sides and helped the parents avoid responsibility. Apart from the damage to the vehicle, the driver was reported to be heavily pregnant at the time of the event so the fetus

could have been negatively impacted by the collision which could be argued, was initiated by the negligence of the parents. A risky fight for the council to take sides in. Also, the city has set a precedent for people requesting reduced speed limits in every residential neighborhood in town, leading to anyone involved in a collision outside someone else's home being vilified publicly by the city. Logic would say, let those that never speed through someone else's neighborhood cast the first stone.

That's what I think. What do you think?

Cool for some.

Cleveland City Councilman, Bill Estes, wants to clean up the poorer end of Inman Street leading East past the railroad bridge. Being the radical liberal that

owners to shape up. Already, Cleveland Mayor, Tom Rowland was on to it, (strange how he achieved this so quickly.) He had already appointed downtown property owner, Sherry Brown, chair of the newly formed US 64 / Inman Street Gateway Task Force with Estes and NAACP's Lawrence Armstrong as enablers. They say they already have local businesses on board to clean up the area. If the cleanup resembles what happened on the west side of the bridge, Inman Street from US 64 will soon become a run down wasteland owned by speculators. They are in effect handing over the area to those that are slowly destroying what little business and community there remains downtown. Inappropriate action is sometimes worse than doing nothing.

That's what I think. What do you think?

Know Your Enemy

Guest Editorial

By Jerry Henderson

The recent re-awaking of our citizens to the conservative principles that our nation was founded on has been a wonderful but belated thing for us all to behold.

Of course, in the past before the awaking, we were good Americans weren't we? Didn't we proudly stand with our hand over our breasts while we sang the National Anthem and didn't we repeat the Pledge of Allegiance at every public gathering? But, did we listen to the words; did we recall the sacrifices of our forefathers that gave us this priceless gift of freedom known throughout the world as the United States of America? More importantly what did we do after the football games or meetings were over; it was not enough.

Our new awareness has come at a terrible price. While we have been pursuing our own vain endeavors our nation has been trans-

formed into a near Socialist State. Each day brings another assault on our liberties, a new intrusion into our lives by our own government. While many of our citizens are just becoming aware of our government's misdeeds the majority remains unaware of the issues, indeed they are unaware that there are any issues. Now the question is always, who is to blame for this mess? Many of us will relieve our own sense of guilt by blaming the politicians we selected to represent us. That always seems to work until we have to face the fact that we are the ones that elected them.

So who or what is to blame? While we have been awakened to the numerous issues that we are confronted with daily, we have not identified the real problem the real enemy. We are merely reacting to a large number of seemingly overwhelming issues that we earnestly disagree with. Soaring fiscal deficits, Health Care, Cap and Trade are all issues but they are not the Enemy. For

the most part our politicians are not the enemy either, but to a large degree they and we are the tools of the enemy.

The real enemy is the leftist movement. Not deterred by the utter failure of their "Mother Land" the USSR they have continued their battle to transform our nation into a "Workers Paradise". While we have been lulled to sleep the left has infiltrated our Educational Institutions where they indoctrinate our young, rewriting the history of the United States to suit their own distorted views. They are the overwhelming prevalent force in the news and entertainment industries where they control not only the news but public opinion as well. Listen carefully to the propaganda that is spewed from your televisions and from the movies of today. Each movie, each TV program conveys a message to you and to our youth.

The messages are these:

The United States is bad, some even go so far to extol the virtues of Cuba, North Korea and other "worker

utopias".

Drugs are good, young people that don't do drugs are totally not cool.

Young people that engage in premarital sex are also the object of their admiration.

Christians are portrayed as hypocrites, homophobes and racists.

We must all agree that a homosexual life style is the way God and nature intended for us all to live.

And of course, if you disagree with them you are illiterate or just plain stupid and we don't want anyone to think we are stupid, do we?

We must not continue to underestimate these leftists that are steadily destroying our Republic, for they are truly dedicated to the transformation of the United States into a Socialist Nation. Barack Obama, Nancy Pelosi, George Soros and thousands more like them will continue to attack our freedoms at every opportunity we through our own inattention provide them. Nancy Pelosi in particular is a worthy opponent and as the

third most powerful person in the world she must be defeated. While we have dismissed her with various comments about her appearance; she has ruled over the House of Representatives ruthlessly pursuing the left's and her agendas; taking no prisoners, giving no quarter.

Please, make no mistake, we are truly at war with the leftist movement and their leaders and they are very dedicated and worthy opponents. They continually probe for any weakness any sign that we are not paying attention to what they are doing to our nation. Witness how they have played the magician's "sleight of hand" tricks on, the Republican Congress and us; while we have been watching their right hand their left hand has very been busy subverting the Constitution of the United States.

If we are to retain this nation that we have grown to love for our children and grandchildren we must be even more determined, more dedicated than members of

the leftist's movement. We will be maligned by them and the liberal press. We will be attacked as racist, as bigots and worse because we dare to oppose their agendas. If you are timid, you should stay home, but if you are unafraid and tired of our government's attempts to subvert our constitution while using our money to buy votes, it is time for you to stand up against them.

So you and I, like our Founding Fathers, must now re-dedicate our honor, our lives and our fortunes to the continued preservation of the United States and our Constitution, God's gift of freedom to us and the world. Our reward will be that we will be ridiculed by those that oppose us as we have already witnessed and by perhaps by some of our allies that may misunderstand our intentions. It is now clear that if our United States is to survive we have little choice. "It's not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what's required" - Winston Churchill