

LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Speaker at political meeting impresses

Dear Editor:

Last night (Sep 13) I found myself at a political meeting; some might term it a rally. This was a new experience for me and I confess I went mostly out of curiosity. I found 75 or 80 ordinary citizens concerned about where our country is headed. The other reason I went was to hear a young African-American Texan address what would likely be a lily-white audience here in Walker County. I was initially reminded of the black sheriff riding into the Old West town of Rock Ridge in the Mel Brooks film "Blazing Saddles." But this was no comedy.

The speaker and I were about as different in age, appearance, and ethnicity as you could hope to find. Yet as he spoke, it was almost as if I were looking into a mirror. He spoke of deeply held values that we both shared: limited government, limited taxation, the dignity of work, the sanctity of life and traditional marriage, secure borders, a strong military, the right of parents to choose where and how their children are educated, the importance of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, respect for our Creator, and the need for elected officials who are willing to sacrifice for their country, not their country for themselves.

This man with a strange-sounding name went on to back up his statements and philosophy with hard demographic and political data. This was not just empty rhetoric or platitudes designed to make people feel good temporarily in order to get them to do the party's work. This black man did not assume I was racist because I was white, no more than I should assume he was of a certain political party and philosophy simply because of his skin pigmentation. Stereotypes are always dangerous. Rather, he assumed that our respective views of how we should conduct our lives and govern our country would coincide positively, just as his survey data indicated. In short, our principles and beliefs would bring us together, transcending artificial barriers such as race. And they did.

I came away impressed by his astuteness,

character, and message. And by the fact that he came to Walker County (enemy territory for him) to speak to ordinary people like me. He made it clear that we have no one to blame but ourselves if we do not rise above the current apathy, anxiety, and anger plaguing our nation. The American way is not just to complain and get angry, but to win elections. We have that opportunity on a regular basis, yet relatively few of us choose to exercise our right to inform ourselves and vote our consciences.

Thus, I am not mentioning where I went or who spoke. If you are in agreement with the principles I mentioned, I challenge you to read the paper, google raging elephants.com, or talk to someone you respect, and find out what's going on in our county, state, and country, and what you can do to help. There is nothing wrong with partisan politics, so long as your politics accurately reflect your core beliefs about what is right and wrong, and you remain true to your principles. God may yet bless our country, but He may be planning to do it through ordinary Americans like you and me. It's time to look in the mirror. As Flip Wilson used to say: "What you see is what you get."

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