

OF POLITICIANS AND STATESMEN...

By Paul Lambrecht

So here's my crack at political punditry. Just an immediate gratification check-up from the neck-up on the dismal state of our country's political discourse.

Political sniping and blasting and such has become a short-cut to independent thought in a discussion which has come to represent for all of us interconnected intravenously fed media-drip coma patients, all of our hopes and dreams for our country, its people, the people of the world, and now the fucking whole planet itself.

As if all of this destiny was at our fingertips. If only.

Yet we assume by fragging and assassinating the character of our political opponents, the best will happen, but if those venal incompetent charlatans should happen to win, well then the whole world will fall apart.

As the argument has become so monolithic and emotional that considering the other side is tantamount to personal defeat, I think the equation has to be missing something. Something we've lost about what it meant to be human before we all got so plugged in to each other's mediated alter-egos.

People would like to express themselves, as eloquently as possible. But don't over-promise and under-deliver, politicians. We're not stupid.

Don't scare us with the world about to wither and die. It's people who would need saving, not Earth herself, and one wonders what and who's worth keeping, just the people who happen to be right, and screw the people who are wrong? That's as silly as any other aspect of the debate.

So who is right? As usual, it's nobody. There's nothing sacred about a columnist, public intellectual or career politician spouting off to earn their paycheck. Our system works because how we define ourselves gets pitted against a nameless adversary, often within the very city walls.

No wonder everyone's pissed off at one another. All one has time for in life are blanket compliments and condemnations. And on these fault-lines in the society, all types of weaselly pundits, radio personalities, op/ed writers, and attorneys burrow in.

If I were better read on Enlightenment philosophers, I might clamor for an independent intellectual aristocracy. But these dinosaurs would be outshone by the modern American media huckster.

If anything the last eight years shows us it's that this country will get the President it deserves. As high-sounding and all-important an office it may be, it will still be occupied by a mortal and platitudinous man. It is their skills as a human which will allow them to portion out deceitful and homogenous authority, the hope somewhere contained that the end results are wise, and ultimately beneficial for all people.

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