

Et Tu Tim?

Well, well, well, have you seen what's happened to the mild mannered Tim Pawlenty since he decided to test the waters of a possible Presidential Campaign? Seems like yet another otherwise reasonable politician has gone over to the silly side. You remember Tim, good old 'T-Paw' the guy who was always inviting people to his office to "talk it over", the guy who presides over one of the most progressive States in the Union? Yeah, I remember him too. He's gone missing. It seems that somewhere along the way in his deliberations about the big run he took a "Rage 101, how to fake it" course that is currently being offered at Tea Party workshops. He told the assembled Tea Baggers at 'Sarah Fest' that they should behave like Elin Nordegren (Tiger Woods' spouse) and "Take a nine iron and smash the windows out of big government." That's the kind of guy I want in the White House, a cheap shot artist.

Hey, remember when he was being considered as a possible candidate for the Oval Office about two years ago? All the way back then he was seen as the hope for the moderate wing of the Republican Party. All the way back then there was a moderate wing of the Republican Party. Now it's more like a closet than a wing, two women from Maine and David Brooks. Everyone else has gone over to fantasy land where everything is simple and your position on an issue can be no longer than a sound bite. So I Guess the Timster is making his choice clear. It's a Bagger's world, so sound like a Bagger. If it means making a stupid joke about someone else's private life, go ahead, it's just politics and besides the Baggers love this kind of junk.

Today, on 'Meet The Press' he came out and said that he's in favor of keeping the antiquated, backward looking policy of Don't ask, don't tell in the Armed Forces. "If it's not broke, don't fix it." That's what T-Paw says. He would have been a lot of help when Slavery was being debated in the 19th century. "Hey it works for a lot of people, let's not mess with it." He would have been sadly out of it when women were struggling for the vote. "Hey, people get elected just fine, what's the problem?" Or how about when the Armed Forces were integrated? Tim would have been right there saying, "There's white outfits and there's colored outfits. We don't want to endanger morale, so let's just leave well enough alone." Thank you Harry Truman (who integrated the Services) for not being Tim Pawlenty. You fixed it because it was unjust not because it didn't work.

So T-Paw, here's the scoop about Don't ask. It's a justice issue, it's about fairness. It's just not fair to tell people to fight and die but shut up about who they are. It would be just like telling a soldier that he's welcome to go home in a body bag...just don't tell anyone you're a Christian. Or that we want you on your post but don't let on that you're a Swede. That would be wrong because it's unjust. It doesn't matter whether it works (which it doesn't) Don't ask, don't tell is wrong because it's unjust.

Tim, do you remember fair? When you appointed Judge Askegaard to the bench you extolled his virtues as, "...intelligence, calm manner and fairness." I guess the fairness principle applies to judges but not to politicians and certainly not to soldiers. Oh well, it's just sound bites, just posturing, just the business of getting elected. As for intelligence and reserve, they're not exactly the Baggers' cup of tea, are they?

Here's a tip old buddy; if you're going to hang out with that crowd you could do with a tougher nickname than T-Paw. Somehow that just doesn't sound right if you're going to pursue that raging nine iron persona. I should say right now that I don't think you're cut out for it, that I think you should wait until neo-know-nothing has run its course and then take your shot at the big one. But that's just me. In the meantime have you thought about a nickname that will inspire your new constituents? I'm just saying that you can't go around with a pet name that sounds like it belongs to a hamster. If you're going to court the red meat base of the Party then you need a moniker that will resonate with them.

I was thinking "T-Bone". It alludes to beef and that's always good, no arugula munching fruit smoothie nonsense for you. Now that you're a tough guy you want to exude barely controlled violence wrapped in a shell of nonchalance, kind of like Sean Penn but in a James Cagney sort of way. No wait, I think I've got it. This would be the perfect name for the guy who hopes to take the helm of the anti tax, anti government, anti intellectual, anti everything but pro getting elected movement. It will require that you bulk up a bit and maybe sport a little bling but the image will be unforgettable.

How about Mr. Tea?