

Finding Mr. Right

I've been reading lately that the secretive and powerful Council for National Policy has been having trouble finding a candidate that they can get enthusiastically behind in the 2008 presidential race. The Council is a group which President Bush has allowed to greatly influence his policy decisions. He has met with them regularly and often sent his officials, including cabinet members, to consult with them. The President was their guy.

The Council is made up of folks with an extremely narrow point of view, rather like a pinhole. These are the same men and women who think that dinosaurs and humans were running around together six thousand years ago. Wouldn't it be hilarious if "The Flintstones" had it right? These are the same folks who think flag burning is a bigger sin than sending our strong, beautiful children to die in a demeaning, blood-lustful civil war. Does getting blown up by a Jihadist also send his *victim* straight to heaven? These are the same folks who think that your choice of a soul mate is far more important than their choice of a lobbyist.

Apparently the Council is looking for someone who is the equal of President Bush in faith and taxes but much tougher on immigrants and a lot less global in his economic outlook. Good luck. I think almost everyone who exhibited that combination of stupidity and meanness was voted out in our most recent elections.

The sun may actually be setting on the Council, these self-appointed protectors of America's collective soul. It may be twilight time for the clique who would rather be right than useful. The past seven years may have been their best, the high water mark of dim. Too bad, watching them on Fox and the other preachy stations was like a visit to the monkey house at Brookfield Zoo. Theirs has been a performance full of endless screaming, posturing, face making and chatter, signifying very little besides the fact that a lot of us are too easily distracted.

There are a bunch of candidates running for the top spot on the ticket but they all seem to limp badly in one or more critical areas. The Council needs purity of vision not humans with foibles. Giuliani did a great job after 9/11 but he's had a couple too many wives. Romney is a Mormon which means he and Falwell would have to arm wrestle for "Dopey Dogma" bragging rights. McCain was a war hero, but he actually wants to eliminate Lobby Dollars, something the Council

spends and spends and spends. There are the lesser lights to choose from, the Brownbacks and the Huckabees but these guys will have campaign-ending trouble raising enough money to combat the forces of Secular Humanism.

Still, there must be someone who could fill the bill. Let's see, first of all they're looking for a male. No doubt about it. These folks spend a lot of time looking for Dad, the guy who's never wrong because, well, just because. He should probably be a former sinner who now professes the truth. You know, someone who used to drink or womanize or gamble but has now come to his senses. Nothing plays quite as well as the formerly unsaved. He should be good looking but not pretty since the Council is nothing if not homophobic. He should be wealthy because the Council believes that money in the bank is a sign of God's favor. He should have a solid catalogue of quotes full of tormented, petty wrath directed against pregnant teens, science, libraries, PBS, and the Clintons. I'm sure he's out there somewhere. There must be a rock that hasn't been looked under yet.

The Council has a big problem, I know. I remember being a young political Lefty in the 60's and 70's with the same degree of focus as the Council. We were 180 degrees to the left of these folks but we too were looking for that true believer who would overcome the unwashed enemy simply by the force of his convictions.

I wish them luck. Maybe the Council will be as enlightened as the Left was in 1972 when we picked a guy who fit our perfect standards so well that he carried exactly one State and the District of Columbia. Maybe the Council, in its wisdom, will find its own George McGovern. I hope so.