

Yankee Steve's Column

for the week of February 25, 2010

For the Love of Lamprooning

Late night talk show hosts make a good living lamprooning others. None of them however can even approximate the skills of the greatest rhetorician of them all, Lucian of Samosata [125--200 A.D.]. In his hands the lampoon became a harpoon.

Lucian may have taken a lead from the Theophrastus who satirized some 30 different individuals he met around Athens. Though not a Greek like Theophrastus, Lucian mastered Greek literature and language.

If we are to read and enjoy his humor it will be necessary that we first become familiar with the most influential people in antiquity, the philosophers, who eventually were discredited because those in awe of them realized that philosophy has little to offer that is applicable to daily life. I hurt, therefore I am, and if I am, I will need something to soothe my hurts. Lucian is recorded as saying, "I will turn from a philosopher as from a mad dog." Perhaps he was hurting.

I am certain that if he were here now Lucian would be unrelenting toward some of the most notable figures of our day, especially those who are thought of as Socialists. After all, the Socialists of old Russia, according to the mystic Nikolai Berdyaev [1874-1948] were ready to sacrifice any and all comforts to elevate the serfs.

Are those the kind of Socialists that we have in Congress now? Do you think of "self-sacrifice" when Speaker of the U.S. House of Representative Nancy Pelosi [D-CA] comes to mind? Her private use of government jets could fund a small war. Man oh, man, where is Lucian when we would so appreciate his sarcastic wit? I wish he could return and milk our current state of affairs for all its worth.

What Am I Bid?

Lucian's best work may have been the *Sale of Creeds* in which the various philosophers and the schools they represented were auctioned off by Zeus, king of the Greek pantheon of gods. The auctioneer was his trickster son named Hermes.

The terms of the sale are stated up front: cash on delivery or credit allowed with suitable security or today maybe a future favor or backroom deal.

Let's have an auction now! I invite all friends of oldlineconservative.com and the liberal left, too.

But who will be the auctioneer? Of course it should be Pelosi who is as slick as anyone in Congress. She is a modern-day Hermes, only unlike Hermes, she cannot accomplish anything. Hermes could wave his golden wand, and it would happen.

Pelosi: Come on folks let's open the bidding.

Crowd: Why are you the auctioneer?

Pelosi: Because I am a woman. You don't need any other reason than that. My gender qualifies me for this job.

Crowd: But isn't that what men used to say when they refused to let women into Congress. Aren't you repeating their mistake?

Pelosi: Let's not get so technical. Remember that Americans do not like analytical thinking. We are a practical people, so let's get on with the bidding. We are short on time. What am I bid for this venerable old man from the Senate?

First Dealer (buyer): Well, who is he? He acts as if he is somebody, so who is he?

Pelosi: He is John McCain you know the guy that we liberals adore.

First D: I have a question. Why do you like him so much?

Pelosi: Over the years he has really come in handy. Whenever we want to make the Republicans look shameless we point at him. We just say that most Republicans are not bipartisan like McCain. You know that word "bipartisan" has proven to be invaluable. God, I love it and I live by it. We have gotten a lot of mileage out of just that one word.

Whenever we want to push off on the American people a wickedly Socialist agenda, and the conservatives in government say "NO" we accuse them of being partisans. We just start moaning about how they refuse to reach across the aisle. In other words we have made saying "YES" a virtue, and wouldn't you know it, the American people have bought this hook, line, and sinker! Please understand; we need someone like McCain. So how much are you willing to bid? Remember this guy was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for five years.

First D: I want to ask him two questions before I bid. "What is that chair you are sitting in?"

McCain: It's called a Hoveround[®]. It really comes in handy. It allows me to move from one side of the aisle to the other without much effort. When sitting in Congress, if I need to move quickly to the left I simply hop on my Hoveround, and before you know it I am hobnobbing with the people who give Karl Marx high marks.

I really needed it when I tried to palm off on the American people an amnesty bill for illegal aliens which I worked on with Ted Kennedy. We had to hurry it through the Senate so quickly that the bill was presented before anyone had time to read it.

I really love my Hoveround. Since it looks like the right are going to capture many seats in the House and Senate this November, all I have to do is steer in that direction so I can give the impression that I am after all a conservative. As a matter of fact that has been my maneuver of late. Many people are beginning to believe that I belong on the right side of the aisle. They thought the same thing of President George W. Bush until they woke up to what he was really doing with the federal budget and free enterprise.

First D: Now my second question: pray tell, sir, what is your political party?

McCain: I am a Republican. Of course, I would not want you to think of me as a nay-saying conservative. I think we should work with the Socialists so that we can install new dam-busting programs like Medicare and Medicaid which are about to bankrupt the government because no one would dare cut back on these massive entitlements.

First D: Indulge me a little further if you would. I have one more question.

McCain: Ask away, I pride myself in being flexible. I would not want anyone to think of me as if I were an ideologue like Barry Goldwater or Ronald Reagan. Whenever I mention Reagan it is just to get votes. I want to get along with everyone. Every day when I get up and look in the mirror I say, John, make sure to charge up the battery on your Hoveround you may need to move from left to right today or is it from right to left? Sometimes I get confused.

First D: Now my question, sir: Do you think that the people on the left have ever really shown themselves to be as flexible as you are? In other words have the Harry Reid's and Pelosi's ever met you halfway?

McCain: Well, I guess so. Even if they haven't, I think I should set an example.

Pelosi: How much am I bid, sir?

First D: I will not bid. This man is either naïve or a little stupid.

McCain: {~!@#\$\$%^&*}

Pelosi: Alright, let's pass to the next servant of the people. We need to make some money. Isn't that what America is all about? What am I bid for this august looking fellow whose unwrinkled and spotless uniform is covered in metals? How much am I offered?

Second D: Well, first give me his name.

Pelosi: He is retired General Colin Powell, who served his country with distinction and courage. If he is wealthy now, it is not due to U.S. Army pay. He also has a wonderful wife who served along with him. You know it's not easy to be the wife of a career military man. You see when the military enlists a husband it also gets the wife. She is the one who has to stay behind with the children. Her husband may be deployed to unfriendly locales like Iraq and Afghanistan, but she carries on at home. Yes, this is what you call a two-for-one sale. So let's get the bidding underway.

Second Dealer (buyer): Now General Powell before I lay out any money I want to know something. Why did you give your support to the Iraq war when you knew that it could have easily been avoided?

Powell: As you know I was Secretary of State under Obama's predecessor President George W. Bush, but before that I was trained as a military man. As such I was taught to obey orders even if the orders coming down from the top are destructive to humanity.

I obeyed orders even if I knew that a war was waged for no other reason than that it was intended to keep the military complex humming.

A general with more prestige than I will ever have, Dwight D. Eisenhower, made that point most effectively in a memorable speech; but I repeat, I was given an order! This is why I made myself look like an idiot when I appeared before the United Nations in order to persuade the organization of the legitimacy of military action. I was just doing what I was told.

Besides I am not really a conservative. I like to think that America is here to police the world. As a matter of fact I am what you call a "Republican in name only." I supported Obama for president, and I believe in abortion-on-demand and that gays should serve openly in the military.

Second D: Sir, I can understand why you believe in abortion, after all you are trained to kill, but this last thing you just mentioned, gays in the military; why have you changed your mind on this issue?

Powell: It's simple; now that I do not have to share the same foxhole for days and maybe weeks with other soldiers, I can change my opinion. You see it doesn't affect me. Now I have the luxury of believing that outspoken gays and lesbians will not lower morale, and that a red-blooded American will in fact die for his buddy even if he'd like to wear a bra under his uniform.

Let's lighten up man; can you picture a colonel or a drill sergeant in drag? Don't you think that is funny? Maybe the army will become a fun place after all.

We Americans will have to follow the example of the rest of the world. As far as I am concerned "Don't Ask; Don't Tell" is outdated, in spite of what the Veterans of Foreign Wars have said.

Second D: But won't the removal of "don't ask; don't tell" lead to "I will tell and I am hoping that you tell others." Won't the military become a homosexual brothel like in Egypt when the fighting Mamelukes ruled? And what about the fact that American military men are concerned about the HIV-AIDS which homosexuals have spread around the world? Doesn't that matter? And won't the Muslims use that against us as a marketing and recruiting device? Won't they say that American military men are not just infidels, but perverts, too?

Powell: Well that's not my problem. I just play golf these days. And besides President Barack Obama wants gays to come out of the closet and you know, he's the Commander-in-Chief, the Chief Executive, the boss man, head man, the head honcho. You see it is like this: military men are not allowed to think. We just do what we are told.

Second D: But sir, I just spoke with some teenagers who said that they were thinking about joining the military, but now they are reconsidering. And sir, isn't it true that Obama never had to serve on board a ship when men were bunking 100 to a room? The man sleeping next to you could be heard breathing. What if that man was an outspoken homosexual sporting a hospitable buttocks? Wouldn't something like that make most of us uncomfortable?

Powell: Not me, I'm no Navy swabbie, and besides I am retired. It is not something I will have to experience. What you have to realize is that we are suffering from a shortage of recruits. I advise you to get with the program. Gays are in. I mean they are out!

Pelosi: This conversation has dragged on too long. What is your bid?

Second D: I can't bid. This man lives by a code I do not want my children to observe. He just does what he is told even if it makes no sense, even if it offends sensibility.

Powell: I wish you served under me I would have seen to it that you were re-indoctrinated. I think you have been consorting with those people who read the Bible and think that homosexuality is a moral issue.

Second D: Then what is it?

Pelosi: Folks, you seem a little distracted. I will tell you what I am going to do; I will now auction off a lawyer. Everyone needs a lawyer from time to time, and do I have a lawyer for you! Just look at this guy. He is as slippery as they come. He could stand behind a corkscrew and not be found. And since America has become the bad guy around the world this man's anti-patriotism will be an asset.

Don't let him fool you, he may seem a little dull, but he can make the sparks fly like the time he engineered the pardon of Marc Rich, a billionaire commodities trader indicted for dealing for oil with Iranians during the hostage crisis, or when he obtained a pardon for violent Puerto Rican terrorist group, FALN. Look it's Eric Holder the man that 19 Republicans voted for so that he could be appointed Attorney General of the United States. He is well-connected. Every

bleeding-heart liberal in America who has anything to say about anything loves and adores this man.

So who will start the bidding?

Third Dealer (buyer): All that stuff you talked about was in the past; what's he done lately?

Pelosi: Why, my friend, a lot! He has managed to create quite a stir. His dossier reads like a declaration of war on America. Those of us who are ashamed of being Americans need men like Holder. He is proving to the world that the U.S. wants to be "just."

You see that is the problem. We care about what the rest of the world says about us. Gossip you know is a terrible thing. Frankly, I lose sleep over the fact that the French, who abused the people of Haiti for decades and operated a penal colony on Devil's Island think that the Americans are unjust.

So listen up, in just one year this guy along with his boss Obama, who handpicked him for his job, changed the rules of engagement. Now if an enemy combatant launches an attack on America, he will be able to bypass the Geneva Convention, which says that we may detain enemy soldiers even if they have not committed any acts of hostility.

It's really very simple. Just because the combatant has no uniform or because he has never trained in a boot camp, it must mean that he is not a soldier. And if he is not a soldier he will have to be presumed innocent and not complicit with his leaders.

Therefore we will have to provide him public defender, and we will not be able to detain him indefinitely as if he were a POW. On the other hand if he was a soldier under orders then we could detain him until hostilities cease, and a truce is reached. If only we had declared war this would not be a problem. We speak of "the war on terror" but we do not act as there is a war. This is what Bush wanted because it meant that he did not have to go to Congress in order to authorize his invasion of Iraq, clever, huh?

It makes no difference if the accused takes his orders from a floating regime like that of Al-Qaeda or if he believes that he's a jihadist, a soldier of Allah.

He must be given the same privileges granted to Americans protected by the Constitution. The Due Process section of the U.S. Bill of Rights, which assures all citizens in this country that they cannot be tried in a court of law if certain rules are not applied, now pertains to combatants, to dangerous people who place bombs in their underwear. [Sidebar]

Now isn't that quite an accomplishment? Look folks this guy is about change the rules of war! From way back when a person had no uniform, he was declared a spy. Spies in those days were sentenced to death with no questions asked. Now we read them their rights. President Abe Lincoln, who used the Constitution [article I, section 9, part 2] in order deny Confederate rebels

the right to Habeas Corpus, has been shoved into the background. I'll tell you, Holder is worth his weight; he has to be a high-flying dude. So how much am I bid for a bona-fide lawyer who from what I can see is as sly as another attorney who hated America, Clarence Darrow.

Third D: I don't like the smell of this. I may need a lawyer, but I am not going to pay very much for this guy. It seems to me that the Supreme Court once had a justice on it that was just like Holder. Wasn't there a shifty little guy on the court named Felix Frankfurter who threw around terms like Habeas Corpus and Due Process just so that he could protect the enemies of America, especially the Bolsheviks?

It seems to me that I have something in my briefcase that goes back to Frankfurter.

Pelosi: Sir, you are wasting valuable time.

Third D: No, here it is. Wouldn't you know, it just popped out at me? It is a letter from Theodore Roosevelt to Frankfurter written some time before FDR appointed the little weasel to the court which put up with his machinations from 1939 to 1962. This letter should be updated so that it could be sent to Holder. Let me quote it.

Pelosi: Please hurry.

Third D: Oh by the way, Frankfurter wasn't born in America. He was Austrian. So it would appear that Holder is even less of a patriot since he is New York-born.

Now the quote from Teddy R:

I have just received your report on the Bisbee deportations . . . *Your report is as misleading a document as could be written on the subject* . . . Here again you are engaged in excusing men precisely like the Bolsheviks in Russia, who are murders and encouragers of murderers, who are traitors to their allies, to democracy and to civilization . . . and whose acts are nevertheless apologized for on grounds, my dear Frankfurter, like those which you allege. In times of danger nothing is more common and more dangerous to the Republic than for men to avoid condemning the criminals who are public enemies by making their entire assault on the shortcomings of the good citizens who have been the victims of opponents of the criminals . . . It is not the kind of thing that I care to see well-meaning men do in this country.

Pelosi: I can't make money when people are allowed to suggest the idea that history is repeating itself. And we can't make money for our cause when consumers are well-informed.

This meeting is over. Let's get out of here.

Crowd: Why the hurry?

Pelosi: I have to catch a plane.

Ever yours,

Yankee Steve Cakouros

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Attorney General Eric Holder's abuse of the U.S. Constitution is contemptible.

Fourteenth Amendment:

In the 14th amendment of the Constitution there is what scholars call the due process clause. This clause guarantees a citizen the right to a fair trial irrespective of where they reside in the country. It bears directly on the fairness of a trial because it assures the citizens of every state that they have the right to a fair trial. Significantly, it reads in such a way that it allows for the deportation of those who are not citizens. When Justice Frankfurter used the habeas corpus clause to protect left-wing Communist dissidents, non-citizens who had come to America in order to overthrow the government, he was acting outside the Constitution and not on behalf of America. The 14th amendment reads,

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

Fourth Amendment:

The evidence that is used in a court of law must be obtained in such a way that it conforms to the ruling found in the 4th amendment to the Constitution. However, the 4th amendment applies to citizens of this country only. It cannot apply to those who fight against this country who are under orders from a foreign power. They must be tried in a military court and in keeping with the rules of the Geneva Convention. The amendment reads as follows,

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

The 4th amendment is addressed to "the people" and not to those who are combatants or spies and soldiers that have come to this country from another country or who represent another regime. This does not mean that we are allowed to torture combatants; but it does mean that they should be tried in a military court. Foreign combatants are subject to immediate deportation. They do not have the same rights as citizens. **An American citizen when he joins the military gives up the right to be tried for his crimes by a civilian court. How much more therefore should we deny that right to foreign combatants.**
