

CP City Voices

Why not blame partisan politics?

It is the last resort and the crybaby retort of political losers everywhere — to blame partisan politics for their failures.

Despite the fact that our democracy is built around it, partisan politics gets the blame for all manner of public policy and political deficiencies from politicians all too willing to put a “D” or an “R” by their names. Oh, the irony.

In today’s political climate, such disclaimers blaming the system are becoming all too frequent. The disingenuousness of these claims is in direct correlation to that growing frequency.

In the late hours of the recently closed session of the Tennessee General Assembly, partisan politics was blamed by a man who never once apologized for keeping a “D” by his name for four decades.

Former Lt. Gov. John Wilder in his final hours as a state senator ended his political career with a whimper. I am

ON POLITICS going to go the opposite direction from all of the platitudes and praise heaped upon Wilder by other writers as he left the Senate. Yes, he was once a powerful presence in this state during his time. The problem was that he tried to extend those salad days about a decade too long and in the process became an incredibly ineffective steward of state government and his own party.

Wilder and his supporters in the Senate blamed partisan politics when Senate Republicans, who now control the chamber, shut Wilder’s attempts to do an end run around a committee action that killed one of his “legacy” pieces of legislation. Wilder lost the battle in committee to see his



CLINT BREWER

“Tennessee Plan” for judicial selection continued, and the set of state laws empowering the Tennessee Judicial Selection Commission are now in a year-long wind down mode.

Wilder attempted bring the legislation directly to the floor of the Senate, something as Senate Speaker he cautioned generations of senators never to do. Following Wilder’s own advice, the Senate Republicans shut him down on the floor.

Partisan politics was to blame, said Senate Democrats apparently feeling embarrassed for their deposed leader. Wilder also intimidated the same, telling Senate Republicans amid the fight on the floor that partisan politics have never been his way.

Yet, in the months following the indictments and shame of the federal Tennessee Waltz bribery scandal, Wilder refused to politically leave the side of fellow Democratic senators facing federal jail time and a mound of very tight, convincing evidence against them. Even as guilty pleas and sentences for involved parties began to mount, Wilder never really distanced himself or the State Senate from the charged Democratic lawmakers.

Legislative insiders would say this was the mercurial Wilder’s inherent love for the Senate getting the best of him. To the average person, it looked very much like partisan politics — a partisan leader standing beside embattled fellow partisans despite good sense and a mountain of credible evidence.

To Wilder and Senate Democrats, the actions of the Senate Republicans on Wilder’s final day looked overtly partisan. Yet, to Senate Republicans, they were simply following the good legislative form taught to them by the body’s former speaker.

Partisanship, it seems, is often in the eye of the beholder. ☐

Look who’s playing the victim card

Barack Obama, the left’s new Moses, has come down from his lofty mount to proclaim a new commandment: “Thou shalt not criticize my wife, Michelle.”

Appearing on ABC’s *Good Morning America*, Obama tried to remove a potentially troublesome issue from the campaign — his wife.

Told that “certain Republicans” have questioned the lady’s patriotism, Obama told anchor Charlie Gibson, “If they think that they’re going make Michelle an issue in this campaign, they should be careful because that I find unacceptable. These folks should stay off my wife.”

As Ann Coulter noted in her book *Godless*, it’s a time honored custom among liberals to hide behind alleged victims in order to gain immunity from political criticism of anything they say or do.

In their lexicon, anybody who has had a single misfortune — or who endures what liberated women see as the terrible ordeal of motherhood or housewifery — is a victim, and since Mrs. Obama must suffer the inconveniences of being a wife and a mother, she’s qualified for victimhood and must be immune from criticism.

Having gained that immunity, she is free to make outrageous statements without having them reflect on her spouse.

In one fell swoop, Barack Obama rids himself of the burden of having to explain away her comments, just as he has tried to explain away all those Anti-American rantings of the Reverend Wright.

Reminded that Michelle had informed her fellow Americans that “for the first time in my adult life, I am proud of my



MICHAEL REAGAN

country,” a pretty straightforward statement that requires no parsing, Obama explained that she really didn’t mean it.

He left it to campaign spokesman Bill Burton to say, “Of course Michelle is proud of her country, which is why she and Barack talk constantly about how their story wouldn’t be possible in any other nation on Earth. What she meant is that she’s really proud at this moment because for the first time in a long time, thousands of Americans who’ve never participated in politics before are coming out in record numbers to build a grassroots movement for change.”

But that’s not what she said.

It was only after that sorry explanation didn’t wash that he contrived his new approach: even though his wife is a key participant in his campaign, traveling far and wide to preach Obamaism, she may not be held accountable for what she says and does. After all, she’s a wife and a mother and is thus far above the fray. From this point forward she’s free to say anything she wants without having it stick to her husband.

That frees her to continue to say that Americans have become “cynical” and “mean,” and have “broken souls.”

The *New Yorker* magazine reported she told a Baptist congregation “we’re a divided country — a country that is “just downright mean.” we are “guided by fear,” we’re a nation of cynics, sloths and complacents. “We have become a nation of struggling folks who are barely making it every day...”

Is that the America you see all around you? Or it just the one liberals pretend to see?

No wonder Barack Obama wants her off limits. If he really means it he’ll take her off the campaign train and tell her to go home and bake cookies. She’ll find less heat in her own kitchen than she encounters in the political kitchen. ☐

Contact Reagan at reagan@caglecartoons.com

LETTERS

To the Editor:
Charlotte Ave. trade talks

Cars vs. arts is a terribly simplistic portrayal [May 19] of the stakes on Charlotte Avenue, whether your writer or the combatants framed it that way. So I wish a pox on both sides.

Arts, restaurants and coffee houses don’t add up to a whole neighborhood — neither do two dozen repair shops. I drink coffee in 12 South and have my auto body work done on Charlotte. We’ll trade you a coffee house, a restaurant and three salons for a couple of 50-year-old automotive repair businesses.

However this swap would still neglect the lion’s share of basic commercial, service, recreational and spiritual entities we all use regularly: groceries, health providers, trees, walking, architecture, history, safety and beautification. Until the ‘progressives’ get off their excess income business model and the ‘regressives’ join the discussion about habitat improvement, nothing will happen.

37204
Kenneth Winter

To the Editor:
No faith in the faithful?

It’s a fact that our schools are overcrowded and under-budgeted. I think it’s a kindness that a church is willing to share its facility. So, aren’t we getting a little carried away with parents worried about the separation of church and state at our schools?

Would you rather our kids gathered on the streets? “Someone saw a chalice uncovered!” Wow! They sang “Kumbaya!” Such horrors. Call the ACLU!

Do any of you realize that that this same ACLU [that] defends rap artists’ and porn magazines’ rights of free expression and freedom of speech? That’s right... it wants to stop praying parents from their awful influence on children, but defends pornography and violent lyrics.

I have to wonder what kind of parents are worried about their children spending a little time in a church house anyway. We live in an upside down world when you can put foul language and partial nudity on TV simply by flashing a parental warning disclaimer at the beginning. But you can only show *Veggie Tales* during children’s hour if you take out the words “God loves you” so as not to be offensive.

What a shame! God help us all. Oh no, I said “God” in public!

37184
Marvin Williams

To the Editor:
The value of a Clinton vote

Women are very strong advocates for the Democratic Party and Senator Hillary Clinton has been winning their votes in record numbers.

I am a woman, wife, mother and grandmother and I have had to work

since I was 16 to survive in decent means. My husband went into the Marines when he was 17 and has continued those values to this day.

We are God loving people who believe in working hard and sharing our blessings with others not so fortunate. This is America’s values “Under God.” On all of the checks I write and all of my envelopes I mail, I write “In God We Trust.” We must not lose this value.

Women are very strong, sensible, dedicated and think things through thoroughly before they make serious decisions. This is our country we are fighting for and Hillary has passed the test of experience, dedication, strength, love, values and knowledge that it takes to run our country.

I trust her thoroughly with all of America’s problems from health care to wars and all in between. We are in a serious mess due to the current administration and there is not room for playing games with this serious nomination.

Hillary will work hard to bring our “American Dream” back for us equally to work for and for generations to come.

37086
Virginia Phillips

To the Editor:
Not pleased with an appeaser

[It’s been] reported that President Bush spoke to the Israeli Knesset and criticized those who advocate talks with “terrorists and radicals.”

Now, Barack Obama is claiming Bush was targeting him and condemned the speech as a “false political attack.” When John McCain spoke up in support of Bush, some of Obama’s spokesmen said Mr. McCain was reaching “the height of hypocrisy.”

You have to keep in mind that Mr. Bush was speaking to the Jewish people and some who kept their heads stuck in the sand and advocated talks with Adolph Hitler. While this was going on, Hitler built his war chest with the stated purpose of taking over the world.

Now, I distinctly recall Mr. Obama on several occasions saying he would meet with the terrorists and radicals of Iran, Syria and North Korea with out any preconditions. Anyone with a memory of history knows that these type of meetings only legitimize these so-called leaders with their supporters.

Mr. Obama is an appeaser and someone who frightens me to no end. So, Mr. Obama, if the shoe fits, wear it.

37214
Ray Shärer

To comment on a City Paper story or local issue, send us a typed 100- to 300-word letter (with ZIP code and a phone number for verification) to: letters@nashvillecitypaper.com, or Editor, The City Paper, 624 Grassmere Park, Suite 28, Nashville, TN 37211. Letters may be edited. We cannot guarantee a letter received will be printed.