

Opinions

The strong men

By Leo Chappelle

On Monday, February 28, 2022, the Police Jury will have a hearing at the time and place of its regular meeting (6:00 P.M., Room 104 of the Harrisonburg Courthouse) to consider amending the Burn Ban Ordinance #2958 to include a penalty for non-compliance. Generally speaking, this is a good thing because ordinances without penalties are wastes of paper. If you think you may want to speak on the matter, Police Jury President Harold Sones will have no objection to receiving comments on the agenda.

On another front, Harrisonburg had a bang-up celebration last weekend with plenty of gunfire and cannon volleys across the Ouachita River. It was cold as the dickens and that discouraged attendance which was too bad because the uniforms and firepower provided by volunteer re-enactors were authentic and entertaining during the part of the festivities that I saw.

I frankly admire the community spirit behind such celebrations and that includes the organizers of Sicily Island's Black History Month as well as the folks who like to party once in a while down in Larto. These signs of life are seeds that

have the potential for growth.

Things have been somewhat difficult the past year. But hard times have haunted our door step before, and these evidences of resilience are good news and not atypical of who we are. There is a spirit still among us that at a point will kindle like a spark and flare up. We should expect, even demand, creative leadership that will seek out opportunities to inspire and lead a willing and able people such as are in Catahoula Parish.

This need of ours puts me in mind of the heroic example lately of the president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy. It is highly uncertain whether he will survive his nation's resistance to the Russian invasion, a fact of which he is undoubtedly very well aware. No matter which side of the dispute you are taking in this historic episode, in fairness one must recognize Zelenskyy for his leadership and sharing of his people's burden at the grave risk of his own life. Actually, our own George Washington was such a man, and arguably the greatest American of all, not just for what he did, but for what he could

have done, but didn't. Washington could have been "president for life", the king of the United States of America inasmuch as it was offered to him and his popularity would have enabled it. But he didn't. That wasn't the thing for which he fought.

The selflessness of men like Zelenskyy and Washington are more than ideals of leadership. They are in fact necessities of their time. Our own trials have been with us for a while now and may well become worse before getting better. And we have some necessities of our own.

But just as America had its Washington, England had its Churchill, and Ukraine has its Zelenskyy, on our modest scale, Jena had its Murphy McMillin. And Harrisonburg, Sicily Island, Jonesville, Enterprise, and Larto and the rest of us are not without talent either.

Author of the fiction series The New World, G. Michael Hopf, put it famously: "Hard times create strong men. Strong men create good times. Good times create weak men. And, weak men create hard times."

The strong men are coming.



BLM is a Political, Moral and Policy Disaster

Durham's Righteous Investigation

The Democratic party is finally realizing its vulnerability on culture issues, and perhaps no group better exemplifies the problem than Black Lives Matter.

The group's eponymous slogan swept all before it in recent years. It was repeated by Democrats around the country. Corporate leaders paid obeisance to it. Sports leagues displayed it. Such was its totemic power that a more inclusive version of the three words -- all lives matter -- was considered a dangerous heresy.

The BLM agenda on criminal justice -- based on the idea fewer criminals should be arrested and held in jail -- took hold in blue jurisdictions, and the slogan "defund the police" got traction despite its utter impracticality and obvious political destructiveness.

Now, it's obvious how shortsighted and foolhardy all this was. The rise in violent crime is a clear and present danger to the Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, and progressive prosecutors allied with BLM who have pursued soft on crimes policies in the midst of a crime wave are under fire, facing either recalls or heavy criticism.

BLM the group is continuing to find ways to underline its own extremism as it withers under scrutiny for its dodgy finances.

If a right-wing purveyor of internet misinformation wanted to discredit BLM and its allies, he couldn't do much better than concoct a story where a disturbed activist attempts to shoot and kill a local politician and immediately gets bailed out by his BLM brethren spouting cliched attacks on the criminal justice system.

It's what happened in Louisville, Kentucky, though. After 21-year-old Quintez Brown allegedly shot at -- and missed -- mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg, the BLM chapter in Louisville quickly posted his \$100,000 bail. From

attempted murder to walking free a couple of days later is quite the turnaround.

The BLM organizer in Louisville, Chanelle Helm, explained it was necessary to bail out Brown because: "They are calling for this individual, this young man who needs support and help, to be punished to the full extent. It is a resounding message that people are down for the torture that has taken place in our jails and prisons."

Everyone agrees that Brown has mental health problems and needs treatment, but given the violent act he's accused of, common sense dictates that he receives it while confined.

In the wake of George Floyd's death, BLM's radicalism was very good business. The group's co-founder, Patrisse Cullors, said the other day that the money raised itself, as practically every entity in America that wanted to bolster its "social justice" credentials tried to buy its way into BLM's good graces. "People have to know we didn't go out and solicit the money," Cullors explained. "This is money that came from white guilt, white corporation guilt, and they just poured money in."

If that sounds a tad defensive, it's because BLM raised \$90 million in 2020 and it's unclear who has stewardship of the funds or how they're being spent. BLM has gone from a sainted group to one that's on the run. California and Washington have ordered BLM to stop fundraising in those states and, in a telling symbolic blow, impeccably woke Amazon has kicked BLM off its charity platform, AmazonSmile.

Cullors has the explanation that you'd expect for the new focus on BLM's lack of financial controls -- "anti-Black racism." Yes, good accounting is racist, now.

Democrats wonder how they can blunt GOP attacks on culture issues and believe that if they

explain their positions better, they'll be fine. But the party is positioned so far left that it needs bold gestures. If it wanted to send an unmistakable signal of change, it would denounce the leadership of BLM, call for investigations into its finances, declare that the group's priorities aren't those of the Democratic Party, and wear the ensuing furor from the left as a badge of honor.

But Democrats won't do that and can't do that -- which is why they are in such trouble.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

(c) 2020 by King Features Synd., Inc.

Editors Note: The opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by various authors do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the Catahoula News Booster or any employee thereof. The Catahoula News Booster is not responsible for accuracy or completeness, and will not be liable for any errors, or omissions. All opinions are provided on an as-is basis and have not been edited in any way.

Catahoula News Booster

The Catahoula News Booster is the Official Journal of the Town of Jonesville, Village of Harrisonburg, Village of Sicily Island, Catahoula Parish School Board, Catahoula Parish Police Jury, and Tensas Basin Levee Board. POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to Box 188, Jonesville, Louisiana, 71343. Periodical class postage paid at Jonesville, Louisiana. Kim Cloessner, Publisher Identification Number is SECDUSPS556-720. Published every Wednesday. Subscription rates: By mail in Catahoula Parish-\$35.00 annually, elsewhere in Louisiana-\$45.00 annually, out-of-state-\$55.00 annually Catahoula News-Booster, 103 3rd Street, P.O. BOX 188, Jonesville, LA 71343. 318-339-7242