

Excerpts Taken From Gene Wall Cole's latest book:

CONSIDER THIS...

Always Drink Upstream From The Herd

Reflections of an American Fasting From Ignorance

"It is not in the nature of politics that the best men should be elected.

The best men do not want to govern their fellowmen."

George E. MacDonald

Day 25---Consider This:

It's a well-known adage that if you don't learn your lessons from history then you're doomed to repeat them. History has taught us that every great empire our world has ever known (from The Roman Empire to Napoleon's empire, to The British Empire that once covered half the world), have all fallen because their political system persistently ignored reality and because the people became alienated from their own values. Once the glory faded, they sank into social decay and bitterness. History is also full of evidence of societies that were aware of their contradictions and chose to simply evade them.

It seems to me, America is on a similar path of evasion. I daresay both problems of politics ignoring reality, and people becoming more and more alienated from their values, are happening even as we speak. Our democracy is not only in reverse at this point, but we've practically stripped the gears necessary to regain forward momentum and in critical need of repair. I believe a woman might be best suited to help repair the damage and turn the tide, and here's why.

Generally speaking, because women are considered physically weaker than men, man has done everything possible to make them psychologically weaker than himself as well. Add to that, his desire to have a woman financially beneath him and spiritually dependent upon him, and the problem becomes even more exacerbated. Why is it like this? Simply because a woman is physically weaker, nothing else. There is no other way a man can claim superiority over a woman except that he is physically stronger. The fact is, psychologically a woman is

better equipped, more intuitive, and more emotionally evolved than a man, and no one can deny we are living in psychological times that need psychological solutions.

Till men learn to see women as equals, till every man learns to respect a woman, he will never truly know himself. There is no way, because half of him is just that. This attitude has continued for thousands of years and it is time people stood up and did something about it.

Imagine our democracy as a great ship that has suffered some mighty blows to its hull and is taking on water from a number of places. What do you do? First of all, make sure the ship and all its passengers are safe, and then as soon as possible get the ship into dry dock for repair. That's what I'm suggesting we need to do. Get our great ship, The U.S.S. Democracy, into dry dock for an overhaul as she is in great need of repair. It's becoming quite obvious to millions of passengers (especially those on the lower decks), that doing those repairs at sea won't work anymore as the hull itself has become compromised and the water has started seeping into the staterooms.

Better yet, visualize our country as one body with a brain, a heart, a nervous system, a reproductive system, and arteries that allow our life-blood to flow to our limbs. America took a body blow on 9/11 at the same time we were trying to fight off a virus (the bitterly contested 2000 election). The time when a few stitches and band-aids could do the job is long past as we now have internal hemorrhaging.

I see Washington as the brain that should be paying attention to what the body (we the people) is telling it. That's called democracy! What the body has been trying to say for a good while now is that our arteries (the democratic system) are clogged up, and our extremities (the average American) are getting numb and losing hope from loss of blood (otherwise known as money and our inalienable rights as citizens). Meanwhile, the brain (Washington) keeps pumping more and more blood to the penis (the richest 1%) so it can keep pleasuring the other head (Washington). Meanwhile our heart (spiritual connection called God) is trying to pump lifeblood to the entire body, while the penis has convinced the brain to basically ignore, or, at best, pay lip service to the rest of the body (society), as it now wants a permanent erection. Folks, that's just out and out greedy!

The first thing we each need to do is stand up and be sensible. We need to handle this body, this mind, these emotions---things that are within each of us already. Only when a person has learned to handle their own body and mind as well as their own personal and social lives sensibly, can they hope to handle the national and world situations sensibly.

Those are the characteristics we should look for in our leaders and why we've started this grass roots campaign to find a people's candidate. Forgive the simplicity of my analogies, as well as the austerity of the three-part plan about to be unveiled, but nature proves to us that elegant simplicity is usually the best path.

One of the founding principles I applied throughout the process of compiling this entire book was one voiced by Herbert Spencer, in the Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous:

“There is a principle which is a bar against all information, which is proof against all arguments, and which cannot fail to keep a man (a country) in everlasting ignorance---that principle is contempt prior to investigation.”

FIRST STEP (described on front page) ---

Use the internet to find a “People’s Candidate” willing to truly be a trusted servant.

SECOND

Since money is what runs the current system, “we the people” need an ante to get back in the game. I figure there's got to be at least one truly altruistic billionaire out there who wouldn't mind leaving a legacy of bailing out our democracy. Hell, if Ted Turner was willing to give a billion dollars to the United Nations, it shouldn't be too hard to find someone willing to invest a billion dollars to save our democracy from going belly up, while infusing some real hope into a cynical populace.

Think about it. Ross Perot scared the pants off of the politicians and the moneyed elite just because they knew he couldn't be bought and he managed 20% of the vote. His effort set in motion an idea that might have just come of age; a billionaire benefactor willing to sponsor what George Washington referred to as the “least designing and perhaps most valuable of our community [the farmer, the artisan and the planter]”, back into the equation. I think it would be wise to make it mandatory that the money be given with no strings attached, like Ted Turner did with the United Nations. If they gave it anonymously, all the better. I've been surprised at the number of people that think this might be the easiest part in the plan. What greater legacy (except a Jesus, a Buddha or a Mohammed) could a man leave than bailing out the greatest empire to have appeared on earth? That untainted money could get a class act elected, who isn't beholdng to anyone or any group and who truly has the peoples' interest at heart. The next step, I believe, is the most critical for long term success of the entire plan.

THIRD

I envision a grass roots approach, with hundreds of thousands of volunteers to help get the word out. Once we have the funds to get the people's choice elected, we need to make the existing politicians more afraid of losing their jobs than they are of losing their funding sources. In other words, we need to send them the message that if they don't support the initiatives of our new popularly elected president, and the grass root desires of the masses, rather than the self serving policies of the few that have been bankrolling them, they will get unceremoniously booted out of office.

Since we probably can't run all the crooks out of office at once, the optimist in me has to believe there are a few idealists left in Washington who haven't sold their conscious to the highest bidder, so we ask for support from both sides of the aisle. Human nature being what it is, reminds us that everyone likes to be aligned with a winner.

This message could be effectively delivered to all the politicians, by millions of dissatisfied citizens marching on all 50 state capitals on the same day, to show them the people are serious about wanting real change. If tens of millions of people can get organized around the world, as we saw two years ago concerning the war in Iraq, it should be relatively easy to organize a "Back to Democracy" movement by setting a date and using the internet to keep everyone informed.

Keep in mind, registered political party members are miniscule, compared to the number of citizens that can vote. The number of political party members is less than two million in each party, and many of them I suspect joined as a gut response to the lesser of two evils. When you figure only 59 million people out of a possible 250 million voters chose our current president, I think the disenfranchised are certainly in the majority and could do this quite easily.

Also, since unbiased media is mandatory and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for all practical purposes sold the people out in 1996 (and are trying to finish the job even now), we would have to depend heavily on our Public Broadcasting Service and National Public Radio to keep people informed. Since those stations are all self supporting, it would be more important than ever to contribute whatever you can afford to your local stations. They are practically the only media outlets not in the pockets of the 'elite few' at this point, and it's rumored even they are being infiltrated. The mass media would be under tremendous pressure to at first ignore, then ridicule, create flak, and/or sabotage any and all efforts for this kind of democratic movement.

After all, it would indirectly threaten the ‘elite few’ that sign their paychecks. Once we get a real democracy back in place, the damage done by the FCC could be easily overturned, and the airwaves given back to the people.

Obviously there would need to be a loose organization with a central office located somewhere accessible. It would probably be best to start with a location away from Washington DC, preferably a small town in close proximity to a major airport. It would be best to find a town that has maintained an atmosphere where everybody still knows each other and people still say “hello” when they pass you on the street. I think it might be wise to find a small town within a days ride of Washington D.C. (I’m not sure why, except that seems like what Abe Lincoln would do). It should be a place that would be easy for volunteers to visit without fighting gridlock, even if it’s just to come stuff envelopes on their vacations. I would suggest an organization based on the model that has run Alcoholics Anonymous so successfully the past 75 years. It has a proven track record and tens of millions of citizens already know it works, and have experienced service as its own reward. The motto of *Honesty, Openness, and Willingness* is HOW it would work.

The basic tenets of the organization could be based on the traditions that have allowed so many different 12-step programs to flourish and could loosely read something like this:

1. Our common welfare should come first; democratic recovery depends upon national unity.
2. For our group purpose (democracy) there is but one ultimate authority--a loving God as he/she may express themselves in our group conscious. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern.
3. The only requirement to get involved is a desire to build a true democracy based on our forefathers intended vision.
4. Each grass roots group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other groups or our democracy as a whole.
5. Each group has but one primary purpose--to carry its message of true democracy to all citizens who still suffer.
6. Every grass roots group should be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
7. This grass roots movement should remain non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.

8. This grass roots organization, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
9. Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion.
10. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation on which we build this democracy, reminding us to place principles before personalities.

This may well be the moment of testing that our history has prepared us for all along. We are about to learn whether the American experiment was truly unique in its ability to defy history, or simply another chapter in the rise and fall of another powerful nation-state. We are on new ground here at the dawn of the 21st century; a beacon of democracy for others to see, yet profoundly troubled in our own social reality. The only way to turn this around is to renew civic faith, and I daresay after the bitterly divisive elections of 2000 and 2004 it is at an all time low.

If the only thing this plan accomplishes is to begin some public debate and offer some hope to those citizens too apathetic or cynical to bother getting involved, it has served my intended purpose. This three-point plan is simply one offering to put on the public table, elegant in its simplicity, and though obviously in need of much detail, could certainly be a fresh place to begin.