

Served in the pew

by Jeff Davidson

I was a guest at a Methodist church which a friend of mine attends (and I love Methodists). I was seated in the last row, while my friend was a part of the choir. The morning service proceeded well, the sermon was interesting, and then came time for the congregation members to have communion.

Row by row, in orderly fashion, as they had undoubtedly had done scores of times before, these reverent church members made their way for the bit of bread that would sanctify them, at least for this week.

When the members of my pew arose, I stayed seated. It was clear to the guests and regulars that I was a guest. Perhaps it's not obvious to everyone, but I am Jewish, or was at least born Jewish. I have been in many churches, Mosques, Ashrams, and Buddhist temples, here and abroad; I am always highly respectful of the customs. So

that morning I watched with great interest as everyone received their symbolic piece of the body of Jesus.

While I was watching, alone in my pew, one of the ushers, a dapper, if somewhat portly man of 60 with glasses, gray at the temple and all the distinguishing characteristics of a church usher, came over to me. From behind, kneeling slightly, he whispered in my ear, "Would you like us to serve you in the pew?"

TURF BEHAVIOR: Because I had seen him with peripheral vision from my left eye, I knew something was coming. I didn't turn towards him or say anything. I simply shook my head no. He knew as well as anyone that I was a guest for that morning. He knew, as well, that I had remained seated by choice, and that clearly I had the physical ability to dart up to the front of the room if I so chose.

He was displaying what I call "turf behavior." He

needed to let me know that this was his turf, or at least the ushers' turf, or the congregation's turf. I was an outsider. I wasn't quite following their custom, which apparently required that everybody seated get up for communion. I couldn't have been the first guest they had ever had, nor could I have been the first guest to remain seated for communion.

The turf protectors don't care. The usher who asked me this question did so in a way that let me know that he didn't suspect in a thousand visits that I would be getting up for communion. He used the question not as one of service, but for other reasons. I have to think that Jesus would not have done so.

Jeff Davidson is "The Work-Life Balance Expert®" addressing corporate and association audiences, and is the premier thought leader on work-life balance issues. He is author of "Breathing Space," "Simpler Living," the "60 Second Innovator," and the "60 Second Self-Starter."

Epilogue – Election 2012

by Don Lein

OPINION

"If they bring a knife, we will bring a gun." – Barack Obama
 "The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything." – Joseph Stalin, or in today's context, whoever programs the machines that count the votes decides everything, or, perhaps, whomever pays the programmer decides everything.

Indeed, the President was better prepared to win this election than was his Republican counterpart, but instead of knives and guns the election process which Americans had thought they could trust, was apparently perverted to the advantage of the Democratic slate and Obama in particular. What was forecast as a relatively easy win for Romney by most reputable polls and confirmed by exit polling was suddenly upset on election evening when the results were announced. The throngs of cheering people attracted by the Republicans in the last days and the dismal turnouts for the Democrats, apparently suddenly were reversed. How did this happen? Of course, the pundits on election night all had ready explanations, which like most things done in haste, with sketchy facts, not surprisingly matched the predisposition of the pundit and were about 180 degrees off.

In the first place the ability of the military to vote was seriously compromised by the rather inappropriately named "Military Voter Protection Act". In two key states, Virginia and Ohio, there was a 70 percent reduction in ballots from overseas military voters. These are people who put their lives on the line for us yet they are disenfranchised because of their history of voting for conservative issues and candidates. In very Democrat leaning Wood County in Ohio there were 106,258 voters registered despite having only 98,213 adults eligible to vote! Unsurprisingly, Obama carried Wood County! Thirty-one of Ohio's 88 counties have voter registration rates over 90 percent which voting experts view as improbable and suspicious, since the national average is about 70 percent. The Columbus Dispatch estimated that 1 out of 5 registered voters in Ohio were ineligible, but nonetheless voted.

There were other "statistical anomalies". Of the 15 states with photo ID, Obama lost them all. He won 100 percent of the vote in 21 Districts in Cleveland. Of the Ohio districts where the Republican inspectors were illegally removed Obama received over 99 percent of the vote. Overall, in Ohio, 100 districts indicated that Obama received 99 percent of the votes. Similarly, in Pennsylvania, Obama gathered an unlikely 100 percent of the ballots in 59 voting divisions, while GOP poll observers were illegally locked out of polling places by Democrats. It seems like they were following the same playbook.

How is unanimity or near-unanimity possible? One of the answers that has shown up in at least Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Nevada and North Carolina was the situation where a selection by a voter in the voting machines for Romney would trigger the voting machine to not credit the vote to Romney. In Illinois it would trigger a "voter save

failure", where indeed the vote was not saved nor counted. In Pennsylvania, a Romney vote in up to 10 percent of the time caused a "default", which automatically gave the vote to Obama. In Ohio, a similar situation arose where a Romney vote 5 – 10 percent of the time would cause a "default", which resulted in a vote for Obama. Thus far, this "mal-function" also showed up in non-swing state, Texas.

This, of course, reignited concerns some had expressed when before the election it was discovered that voting machines were being bought from a manufacturer whose ownership was purportedly tied to George Soros. Of course, as anyone familiar with computer programming can attest, it would be elementary to program the machine to do exactly what has been described. Welcome to Chicago politics on a national level! The Daley machine never lost, irrespective of the qualifications of the candidates. That is the machine under which every consequential occupant of the White House grew up. The most consequential one, Valerie Garrett, indicated she was looking forward to replacing two Supreme Court justices and implementing more of her vision. I am puzzled why the White House Press Corps wants more press conferences with the President, rather than Garrett. As was proven throughout the campaign, he is the prototypical superficial, symbolic straw man who was unbelievably superficial and waspish when he went off the teleprompter. Saul Alinsky must be beaming at all of this!!

What of a third term? Obama has paid little heed to the Constitution in the past, why should he suddenly let it stand in the way of something he and his Chicago crowd (Valerie) wants? When the U. S. becomes like Greece, Portugal, Spain, California or Illinois, they might be satisfied, but there is much to be done by the White House and their allies in the labor unions, trial lawyers, capitalist cronies, environmentalists and the intellectual crowd to put in place the "fundamental change" we were promised and which started in 2008. If Mitt Romney was afraid of the 47 percent he faced in 2012, he will need a bunker to view the number he will see in 2016. Also, if the Republican establishment recycles another candidate with the charisma of a Bob or John or Mitt, who thinks the battle is fought by the Marquis of Queensbury rules, just forfeit the election after the Republican convention and let us all eat our administration provided bread while watching administration provided circuses!!

What of other national and state and local races? I don't know who is in charge of selecting U. S. senatorial candidates, but Republicans need to become a little more discerning. In Raleigh we ended an embarrassing run of intellectual lightweights. I guess we should be happy she hasn't been convicted of a felony, yet. On the local scene, my departed friend, Lot, would be very proud of his boy who, in the face of a very strong Republican showing in the state, did very well for his party!

Don Lein is a regular contributor to Chatham County Line. A Chatham resident, he is involved in a variety of civic organizations.

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- Food Lion, Governors Village
- Bean & Barrel, Governors Village
- Farrell's Store (Lystra/Fearrington)
- Jordan Lake Business Park
- Cruizers (U.S. 64, Wilsonville)
- Wilsonville General Store/Exxon (U.S. 64)
- Donna's Grill
- Fiddle Stix (U.S 64/Mt. Gilead)
- The Preserve

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- Al's Diner
- Carolina Brewery
- BB&T
- Bella Donna's Restaurant

- First Citizen's Bank
- Cooper Gas Station 15-501 North
- Chatham Marketplace
- Piggly Wiggly
- Chatham Community Library
- Ronnie's Quick Stop
- Central Carolina Community College
- Virlie's Grill
- Senior Center
- SGT Soda Shoppe
- Second Bloom
- New Horizons Trading Company
- Pittsboro Discount Drugs
- Angelina's Kitchen
- French Connections
- Greek Kouzina
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