

GOVERNING OBAMA STYLE (Hereafter “ObamaSCHTYLE”)

Stephen L. Bakke – June 28, 2010

A very clever entertainer once said “I don’t have ‘style’, I’ve got ‘SCHTYLE.’” (Or it could have been a famous wrestler who said it – I forget.)

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Where I Left Off

I recently distributed an article about left wing activist Saul Alinsky and his influence on a young Barack Obama. Essentially, that effort was intended to provide insight into how ObamaSCHTYLE developed. Recall from the earlier report that Saul Alinsky taught:

- “The first step in community organization is community disorganization ... No politician can sit on a hot issue if you make it hot enough ... In the beginning the organizer’s first job is to create the issues or problems ... What the organizer does is convert the plight into a problem.”
- “Change means movement. Movement means friction ... abrasive friction of conflict ... The organizer’s job ... [is] to agitate, introduce ideas, get people pregnant with hope and a desire for change ... The organizer dedicated to organizing the life of a particular community must first rub raw the resentments of the people ... fan the latent hostilities ... stir up dissatisfaction.”
- “Before men can act an issue must be polarized. Men will act when they are convinced that their cause is 100 per cent on the side of the angels and that the opposition is 100 per cent on the side of the devil ... [The organizer] knows that all ideas arise from conflict.”
- And regarding “intended” unintended consequences Alinsky instructed that “Something else that comes with experience is the knowledge that the resolution of a particular problem will bring on another problem. The organizer may know this, but he doesn’t

mention it.” When that happens the organizer creates more chaos and conflict, and this gives the organizer a new set of problems to solve.

I presented these quotes for help in finding explanations of criticisms of Obama including: he and his “disciples” believe in creating crisis, friction and chaos, and in making sure that no crisis is ever wasted; and that he uses false hyperbole and misinformation to stir up emotion about an issue – Obama’s own statements implored his supporters to argue and “get in the face” of critics.

Here I extend the discussion to some other of his mentors and also further observations about ObamaSCHTYLE.

Are There Other Interesting Soul Mates?

In my earlier report I stated that nothing happens in a vacuum. Every human is the sum of many things – including experiences and relationships. Obama had personal and professional contacts with many people outside of mainstream liberal circles. Included are Reverend Jeremiah Wright and Weather Underground founder Bill Ayers, to name just two. Of course there are more.

One interesting relationship was with Frank Marshall Davis. It is unclear to me what specific influence he may have had on the young Barrack Obama, but this is at least worth mentioning since Barrack mentioned the old man named “Frank” in his “Dreams” book. Davis was a member of the Communist Party USA. He was an author (including one book of soft-porn), a poet, committed activist, and an early mentor to a teenage Barrack Obama. Obama mentions the old man “Frank” in the context of knowing him while living in Hawaii, and as a visitor in their home. He relates that “Frank” advised him, prior to leaving for college: “You’re not going to college to get educated. You’re going there to get trained ... they’ll ... let you know that you may be a well-trained, well-paid nigger, but you’re a nigger just the same.” Obama didn’t fully identify the character but it has been firmly established, and now acknowledged, as having been Davis. If not a significant influence on the adult Obama, at least Davis made quite an impression.

Have you ever heard of the “Cloward-Piven Strategy”? While Obama was attending Columbia University and long before he became a documented disciple of Saul Alinsky, there were two radical left-wing professors at the same university – Richard Andrew Cloward and Frances Fox Piven. Their “Strategy” originated in 1966 in an article for “The Nation” magazine. Early promoters of the professors and their “Strategy” credit Saul Alinsky as their inspiration.

And their “Strategy” was what? Just guess! First proposed in 1966, the “Strategy” seeks to hasten the fall of capitalism by overloading the government bureaucracy with a flood of impossible demands, thus pushing society into crisis and economic collapse. In other words, forcing political change through orchestrated crisis and chaos – does that sound familiar? Artificial crisis, friction, conflict, polarization, chaos, and beating the establishment over the head with their own rules – all from Alinsky.

First Alinsky; then Cloward-Piven; then personal disciple Hillary Clinton; and finally Barack Obama. He was late to the game but turned out as a solid, usually dependable missionary of the

“Alinsky’s Method.” It began with the “Alinsky Method”, then came the “Cloward-Pivens Strategy” and finally it all comes together in ObamaSCHTYLE.

Obama: The King of Impressions

What was the result of all of this early influence and preparation? That would be “ObamaSCHTYLE.” First, some impressions he is giving people.

A Prophet

Prophets use visions or other prescient talents to foretell the future. In early 2008, the candidate Obama told Dartmouth students: “... a light will shine through that window, a beam of light will come down upon you, you will experience an epiphany, and you will suddenly realize that you must go to the polls and vote for Barack.” Months later, in his victory speech Obama proclaimed: “I am absolutely certain that generations from now we will be able to look back and tell your children that ... this was the moment – this was the time – when we came together to remake this great nation ...” That sounds like attempts at prophesy to me.

Others recognize his prescience as something special. The following is from the Nobel Prize Committee’s official statement accompanying Obama’s winning announcement: “The Committee has attached special importance to Obama’s vision of and work for a world without nuclear weapons.”

Unfortunately visions often are just dreams – idyllic and utopian, but grounded in wishful thinking and devoid of reality.

King Canute

Early in 2008 Obama implored those present to remember this day as “when we ended the war and secured our nation and restored our image as the last, best hope on earth.”

Canute was a legendary 11th century Viking conqueror who was rather fond of grand declarations of his grand wonderful accomplishments. He once “puffed” in a letter: “... I have settled the great dangers which were approaching us that we need fear no danger to us from there ...” And after some significant victories in battle he described himself as: “King of all England and Denmark and the Norwegians and of some of the Swedes.”



Courtesy of The Patriot Post

Columnist and commentator Charles Krauthammer put his finger on one of the dangers of having a personality like Obama by writing: “Well, when you anoint yourself “King Canute, you mustn’t be surprised when your subjects expect you to command the tides” – like Poseidon – whom I revive in the next section. Charles was referring to Obama setting himself up for failure with his bold promises. Witness the panic some are experiencing when they realize Obama can’t snap his fingers and solve the disastrous oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico – but he asked for it.

Poseidon

During the campaign for the party nomination, Obama spoke of launching an age when “the rise of the oceans began to slow and our planet began to heal ...” If I recall correctly, it was the bold and blustery Greek god Poseidon who ruled the deep and controlled the tides – and was generally self-important and pushy. But I also recall it was the goddess Nemesis who sometimes got in his way in her battle against hubris wherever it could be found. And she made Poseidon regret his incredible behavior. In like fashion, will this administration turn into a memorable Greek tragedy?

Mr. Spock

Spock is an image or impression that I would never have come up with. The first significant association of Obama and the Vulcan Spock came in a June 2008 NPR interview of Henry Jenkins, a MIT humanities professor. He stated: “There’s something in the mythology that surrounds Barack Obama that seems, to me, echoes some of our assumptions about Spock ... He’s someone who’s been able to bridge worlds.”

According to columnist Jonathan Gurwitz, this image gained “warp speed” when New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd wrote in March 2009: “Mr. Obama has a bit of Mr. Spock in him (and not just the funny ears). He has Vulcan-like logic and detachment.”

In a Newsweek cover story Steve Daly wrote: “Spock’s cool, analytical nature feels more fascinating and topical than ever now that we’ve put a sort of Vulcan in the White House.”

But might overemphasis on the Spock analogies develop into more of a cartoon caricature than a respected image? Do we have to wait and see, or is it already happening?

The Little Engine That Could

“The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2009 is to be awarded to President Barack Obama for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples.” So wrote the Nobel Committee. What’s with this “extraordinary efforts?” Remember that for certain liberals, good intentions trump results.

It is the motives and intentions that are important – not results or accomplishments. I guess if you just try hard and say over and over and over: “I think I can ... I think I can ... I think I can ...” that will be “good enough for government work” (as they say).

The One

Oprah got the ball rolling in terms of supernatural impressions and images when she referred to him as “The One” – because, she said, “we need politicians who know how to be the truth”. She says that Obama will help us “evolve to a higher plane”.

I’m just not getting “the shivers.” I thought Jesus said He was the “Truth” – what do I know?!

The Messiah

For a while at least, Obama seemed to be operating on a mystical plane – at least that was the impression he was leaving with many disciples. For example:

- Jesse Jackson exclaimed: “I cried all night. I’m going to be crying for the next four years. What Barack Obama has accomplished is the single most extraordinary event that has occurred in the 232 years of the nation’s political history ... The event itself is so extraordinary that another chapter could be added to the Bible to chronicle its significance.”
- Louis Farrakhan declared to young Obama disciples: “You are the instruments that God is going to use to bring about universal change. And that is why Barack has captured the youth ... involved young people in a political process that they didn’t care anything about. That’s a sign. When The Messiah speaks, the youth will hear. And The Messiah is absolutely speaking.”
- And you wouldn’t believe what was said by Evan Thomas, Newsweek editor: “We’re understanding what Obama is. He is a great teacher. He is this guy that stands above everybody ...I mean in a way Obama’s standing above the country, above – above the world, he’s sort of God”. (Compare that to what he said in February 2007 about “W”: “Well, our job is to bash the president, that’s what we do.”)
- Disciples of P-BOB recite how they “came to Obama”.
- U.S. Representative Bobby Rush (Dem. Ill) said this about Obama’s election to the U.S. Senate: “I would characterize the Senate race as being a race where Obama was, let’s say, blessed and highly favored. That’s not routine. There’s something else going on. I think that Obama, his election to the Senate, was divinely ordered I know that that was God’s plan.”
- Michelle has insisted that her husband “has redeemed the entire nation.”
- Continuing the “redeemer” theme, Obama proclaimed that he and other world leaders took actions that “brought the global economy back from the brink.” And: “For those who question the character and cause of my nation, I ask you to look at the concrete actions we have taken in just nine months.”

Those are some “**impressions.**” Now for some “**depressions.**”

What is Most “Alinsky-like”?

Alinsky would probably most approve of the following: initial defiance of a federal court order; mixed signals and confusion caused by repeated “drifting” of goals and objectives for almost all

projects and legislation; demonizing BP, Arizona, Wall Street, insurance companies, etc.; accomplishing de-facto global warming legislation (unachievable through the proper channel of Congress) by expanding the authority of the EPA outside of statutory or other authority; grabbing financial gain for the “most favored” auto unions in the GM and Chrysler cramdown bankruptcy settlements; circumventing the proper legislative process while ram-rodging the Obamacare legislation, and on and on. For this administration the end truly does define and justify the means.

The portion of the Alinsky Method which really strikes a chord with me is the “intended unintended consequences.” Obama’s government thrives on finding/creating problems and then justifying their existence by working on solutions – which lead to more unintended consequences and an even greater opportunity to be “helpful.” FOR GOODNESS SAKES! It seems that there is no incentive for the current left wing administration to actually solve problems. The Arizona immigration controversy is a perfect example. Any problem is fuel for the progressive mindset. It is what they thrive on. In my opinion they use problems to empower themselves and, unfortunately, perpetuate that or other problems.

OK – Where Are We?

First came the influences; then the preliminary impressions; finally we have the manifestations.

Columnist Jonathan Gurwitz recently wrote: “Having placed Spock in the Oval Office, some people are now disappointed to discover that there’s no Vulcan death grip for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, that a mind meld won’t prevent fanatical extremists from trying to blow up the United States or that logic won’t convince Iran and North Korea to abandon their nuclear weapons ambitions.” He just hasn’t managed expectations too well.

Our President seems to reluctantly get to the point of having to do something and then he “sweeps in” declaring and describing all of the attention and information gathering which has gone on and specifically denying several assertions which have never actually been made. It seems that once he gives full attention to something he makes decisions very quickly (But, how long does it take to flip a coin?). Les Gelb recognized the same tendencies and wrote: “He is so self-confident that he believes he can make decisions on the most complicated of issues after only hours of discussion.” This sort of wisdom and discernment requires experience and context by both the President and staff. **And NEITHER have EITHER.**

In spite of this hubris, he must soon recognize that many of the things he “demagogued” during the campaign have come back to bite him in the “behinder.” He hasn’t significantly changed the situation in Gitmo, Iraq, Iran, immigration or the “Patriot Act.” But he has made many traditional allies concerned about our continued consistent support. I believe he has emboldened some of our traditional adversaries. He has done it on purpose but I only see disadvantages.

In other areas Obama continues to forge ahead without regard to opinion and seems to be determined to accomplish his agenda “no matter what.” He uses his now familiar tactics of demonizing “W”, Wall Street, big business (unless it’s in “green technology”), senior lenders, insurance companies, Las Vegas – and the list goes on and on. Finger pointing and blaming

others are never flattering habits for a Chief Executive. And underserved apologies to former adversaries reduce our national self esteem and the respect of the world – friend or foe.

He's No Chief Executive – and Neither Am I

I think this president is an extremely sincere “community organizer”; a committed leftist; and a willing handmaiden of leftist radicals. He's a bright young man and sincerely convinced of the goodness of his agenda. And I am sure his mentor Saul Alinsky would find a lot to approve of.

But there are “distractions” which he naively didn't anticipate. Whether it's national defense, the environment, health care, or international relations, he seems to set policy and manage situations like an academic. Unfortunately that is an inadequate approach for the greatest, most powerful position on the planet. What originally appeared (to many) to be excellent management skills is actually turning out to be largely charismatic communication skills which contain little real substance.

Obama has done many things he can be proud of. But he's no chief executive, not the right Commander in Chief, and certainly not the right U.S President or leader of the free world. I believe some of the aloofness and the descriptions of Obama being like Mr. Spock come from a misinterpretation of his thoughtfulness. I believe this should be interpreted as uncertainty and a bit of confusion. It is really indicating he is less than engaged in the moment. It does not represent serious contemplation or thoughtfulness.

If I were that far over my head I would be seriously concerned. But I don't believe his hubris, his narcissism, or his “pinnings” to Alinsky teachings permit him those feelings.

I guess we are learning what ObamaSCHTYLE really means.