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QUOTE FOR THE DAY:

**“I feel I change my mind all the time. And I sort of think that’s your responsibility as a person, as a human being – to constantly be updating your positions on as many things as possible. And, if you don’t contradict yourself on a regular basis, then you’re not thinking.”
Malcolm Gladwell, author, “Change your mind”.**

MEET DR. SHELBY STEELE:

Last issue our readers had the opportunity to learn the views of Ms. Kaba and her advocacy of abolishing the police. Today I am presenting some views on race relations from Dr. Shelby Steele.

Dr. Steele is a senior fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution. His specialty is racism and multiculturalism. He is the son of a black father and white mother. Having been

raised in rather humble circumstances, he and his brother, Claude, who is Provost at U.C. Berkeley, are very much on the national stage.

For starters, Dr. Steele is critical of the status of black families in America, “To truly reduce racial disparities, we must acknowledge, black fathers matter.”

He goes on to point out that 83% of black youth are suffering the loss of a parent or the instability of a split home, a likely causative factor that only 17% make it to high school graduation. As an aside here, perhaps I should rethink my earlier criticism of inner city schools, as it appears from this statistic that 83% of black students are missing some or all of their high school years.

In any event, Dr. Steele’s belief that the lack of a father in this huge percentage of households is the major cause of racial disparities is 100% echoed by Candace Owens, founder of #Blexit and Kweisi Mfume, former NAACP president.

So where does Dr. Steele come from when viewing the recent racial problems? He

believes that, “The contemporary Civil Rights movement under the banner of ‘Black Lives Matter’ is deeply unserious, catering to an old form of victimization that has accomplished nothing to uplift black people.”

A rather lengthy quote follows, but important to be read directly from Dr. Steele. “Why are blacks so dependent on white America, on the government, that all they can think of is themselves as victims which of course deflates themselves as human beings, undermines their best energies, their best intentions, and so, after 50, 60 years now past the Civil Rights Bill, we are worse off in many socioeconomic categories than we were.”

Dr. Steele goes on to explain, “that this African-American dependency emerged out of white Americans desperately seeking to prove themselves as non-racist. They live under this accusation that they are racist and they need to prove that they’re not racist. In order to prove that you’re not racist, you need to take over the fate of black people and say, ‘ go with us, we’ll engineer you into the future, we’ll engineer you into equality’.” Dr. Steele

concludes, “Life doesn’t work like that. We have to engineer ourselves. Period. There is no other way.”

Dr. Steele states that he models himself from that aspect of Malcolm X’s philosophy that called on blacks to engage in self-determinism.

A quote from Rob Liano, author and life coach, would seem to encapsulate what Dr. Steele espouses, “People fail because of one or two reasons. 1, They don’t know what to do to improve or 2, They know what to do and simply aren’t doing it.”

The conversation goes on, and I would love input from our readers, with or without attribution.

STATUE:

Statue

Tear downs

After

The

Ugly

Events

Here, again, I want to hear from our readers. Where is this whole thing going? I think the protestors and tear down folks have to be careful with their targets, and, by no means are we just speaking about our black citizens.

Let's start with a real baddie: Remember last issue we spoke of Edward Colston from Bristol, England. Over 200 years ago he started sending slaves across the Atlantic to America, 84,000 by most accounts. More than 20,000 died enroute. As a result, Colston became extremely wealthy and basically became the father of Bristol through his ill- gotten philanthropy. As a local recently said, "It's like mugging a grandmother and giving half the money to charity." So even though a good number of Bristol citizens became enraged and threw Colston's statue in the harbor, a lot of them still revere him for what he did for Bristol, as in, "He was always nice to me."

So now we have the same type of thing going on here; 500+ years ago Columbus arrived – discovered the new world, but in the process did some terrible things to the indigenous people. The Italian- Americans among us are

outraged as his statues are being pulled from their plinths.

Many southerners are angry as monuments to Jefferson Davis, General Lee, innumerable other Civil War statues and the 110 foot monument to VP Calhoun are taken away. I see a back -lash coming here, in that there is momentary satisfaction in these acts, but they do nothing to further the dialogue and ease the tensions.

As I also noted earlier, the statue busters are thus far extremely selective, primarily focusing on “offensive” (primarily military figures from the Confederacy.) These may be statues revered for historical reasons by southerners, but since the north won and history is written by the winners, those who would tear them down feel emboldened. Ah! But wait a minute, how about Washington with 300 slaves, Jefferson with 175 and nine other U.S. presidents who were slave owners? How many were customers of Colston in Bristol? My answer to that would be, they, our founding fathers and early presidents were very good to

us, and therefore, as with many of the citizens of Bristol, we give them a pass.

If, as a country, we follow through with these purely cathartic statue tumbings, then we better get on with it as there are tens of thousands, and, by the way, they toppled one of Thomas Jefferson, I think in Oregon, just a couple of days ago. The end is nigh.

But, when you think about it, again, the victors get to write history so, above and beyond our sorry history with slavery and terrible treatment of the Indians, look at every other colonizing nation in the world: Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands to name a few – felicitous outcomes for the colonizers, but tell me about the outcomes for the colonized.

HEALTH CORNER:

Revived interest in Vitamin D: It is known that vitamin D is helpful in lowering the risk of respiratory infections like the cold and the flu, but there is growing anecdotal evidence that it may help ward off Covid- 19 (CV). It appears

that people with vitamin D deficiencies have worse outcomes with CV than those who don't. People with deficiencies in D before the pandemic were 77% more likely to test positive for Covid-19 than people with normal levels. For age 71 and over suggested supplement is 800IU per day.

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF:

In issue 20 I wrote about Kim Yong-Hee, a former Samsung employee with a grudge against the company. To protest his unfair treatment he had climbed an 80 foot TV pole where he had lived, improbably, for 315 days. At the time, I cited this as an example where perseverance didn't pay off. Well guess what? At day 355 Samsung relented, apologized and agreed to resolve Kim's differences. If nothing else it was perfect social distancing.

Your faithful scribe

PB

