



The Satirist

Evan Sayet

by Eldon Quick

I love the sound of laughter. Nothing is more joyous than the sound of children laughing or the laughter that comes from triumphing over the odds, or the laughter of a young couple in love, or the laughter when a surprising, edifying truth is uncovered. But laughter can also be derisive and destructive — not that that is necessarily bad. At times, a people's most potent political weapon — more powerful even than a bomb — is laughter directed at their often misguided leaders. I love that sound too,

Eldon Quick, California Political Review's entertainment industry correspondent, watches over(and reports on) the nation's pop culture so you don't have to.

especially when the “leaders” are liberals (Christine O’Donnell’s victory night laugh in Delaware was of this sort).

We are fortunate to have among us individuals who can see new, inspiring truths, point them out, and, in the process, inspire in us to that most edifying, healthy release, laughter. Though I admire any comics who tell good, funny jokes, I admire satirists most highly of all. The source of their comedy, perhaps even more than with other comedians, *is* truth. It is the satirist who inspires us to see our world in new ways and to understand our humanity through his skillful use of exaggeration, of parody, and of what may superficially seem mere nonsense. God bless them all.

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As we in California and the rest of the United States wind our way through the disaster of elected liberalism we currently endure, we can be thankful we are hearing more from satirists answering “those in power over us” with laughs. Recall the bleak old days — as recently as only a few months ago — when a good “Obama joke” (or even a poor one) simply didn’t exist. A black man had risen to the level of president of the United States, we were told. This historic advancement was just too intrinsically good and important to joke about, no matter what it might be leading to. But now even David Letterman and Jay Leno laugh about our often stumbling president.

EVAN SAYET

My favorite satirist, and one of the best at this

game, is Evan Sayet. I recently had the pleasure of spending a couple of hours with Evan over dinner in the San Fernando Valley. Our long conversation covered many topics, but most of what I brought away was Evan’s optimism about the future — his future as well as the future of conservative comedy in the en-

tertainment industry. Yes, conservative comedy *has* a future even in the warped, largely left-wing-overrun entertainment industry — thanks to expanding communications technology and the growth of audiences too smart and discerning to remain satisfied with the major media’s cramped, politically-correct and boringly one-side fare.

Evan has paid his dues and developed his insight and inspiration through many years of experience. He began as a

stand-up comic on the Letterman show and was, in those pre-9/11 days, a conforming Hollywood liberal. Since then, he has evolved, much due to the shattering events of September 11, 2001, into a proud, active conservative. He’s written and/or produced in virtually every medium, from late night television programs (“The Arsenio Hall Show,” “Politically Correct” with Bill Mahr, and the cult favorite “Win Ben Stein’s Money”) to films, documentaries, and books. On this journey, being part philosopher and a fan of the absurd (as every good satirical comic must be) he began to develop his theory of “How the modern Liberal winds up on the wrong side of every issue.”

He analyzes the liberal mind at work, seeking a “unified field theory” that explains them all. He’s appeared twice at the Heritage Foundation speaking on this subject (his talk can be seen and heard at heritage.org — they have received more than 500,000



projected programs. So if Evan isn't busy enough now producing and presenting his show in cities across America, writing books, and guest hosting radio talk shows, he will be producing and moderating a once-a-week TV show. It will feature performers from the large, and still largely unknown, cadres of conservative and Christian comedians that the major entertainment media (whose audience share, saints be praised, continues to fall) won't show.

'Alternative media' are quickly depriving the major media of significant portions of its traditional market share and re-defining America's political debate in the process. Innovators like Evan Sayet believe this is only the beginning.

Evan Sayet, lower left

ONLY THE BEGINNING

views. Andrew Breitbart said one of them was among the "five most important conservative speeches ever given." David Horowitz calls Sayet "simply the best political comedian working in America today."

'THE RIGHT NETWORK'

Now we have "My Space," "Face Book," "Twitter" — more, and more varied, ways to communicate than I can possibly keep up with. Another part of that expansion is the coming world of Video on Demand that will provide the equivalent of TV channels permitting viewers to watch any program at any time, old or new, on their TV sets, computers, or telephones. These new "channels" will likely create a huge demand for original programming.

In this mode, Evan has a project on the drawing board he expects to unveil soon on the air: "The Right Network." (look for it eventually at www.rightnetwork.com)

Evan describes it as "an entertainment network for Fox News watchers: fair and balanced, and a safe haven for 'heartland viewers.'" A version of "Evan Sayet's Right to Laugh" comedy show is among the

Other potential projects include "Running," a "reality" TV show

that will follow three first-time candidates pursuing public office from their decision to run to the final vote. "Politics and Poker" will be an actual poker game showing the players hands as they bet, bluff, and talk politics.

Evan's platform will at long last begin to provide exposure "on demand" for documentaries that network or cable channels are afraid to touch like John Ziegler's "Media Malpractice" and Evan Coyne Maloney's "Indoctrinate U."

So, soon, when — despite 600 channels available on your TV — you can find nothing to watch, and you've seen every movie in your collection at least twice, you will have a place to go to see original, quality entertainment. And it won't burden you with the anything-but-mainstream media's kneejerk compulsion to dig at conservatives in every dialogue, where a priest in the cast isn't necessarily the villain or a smoker automatically a bad guy.



First Things

Race ... again

Race, racial politics, and racism, Americans are again being told regularly, are at the center of our culture and politics. Although the three terms are often thrown together, even treated as all names for the same thing, they are, of course, absolutely different. "Race," as defined by my refreshingly incorrect Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition, Unabridged (published 1937) is: "a division of mankind possessing constant traits, transmissible by descent, sufficient to characterize it as a distinct human type; a permanent variety of the *genus Homo*." "Race politics" is an aspect of humanity's ongoing competition over political power. It takes many forms, some sincerely engaged in, others extending to the rankest extremes of cynicism. Since we all hear about this topic all day long on every talk and "news" show, and, I have no doubt, my readers are amply prepared to supply all they need to know on the topic, I will say no more about it here, except to point out, that race politics is its own topic, not the same as either race or racism.

Racism, which is 'way too often treated as meaning virtually the same thing as "race," is a form of evil. The distinction is crucial. For instance, USDA Official Shirley Sherrod, the object of so much in-

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terest not so long ago, was accused of displaying some sort of "racism" for saying such things as that she would allow a white former to be helped by people "of his own kind." This, of course, is not racism. Sherrod was merely registering a common sense, obvious awareness that races, in fact, as the Dictionary says, possess "constant traits." To call that racism is to feign ignorance; to hide known truths from ourselves, that is, to defy our responsibility to honesty. If I say "black people tend to vote for Democrats" or "it is moronic to call a fifth-generation American with black skin an 'African-American,'" I am stating facts, or perhaps opinions, about race, but saying nothing racist.

The crux of our concern, of course, is not race or awareness of racial traits, but the evil of racism. But here again, the topic is awash in foolishness and confusion. Our proper concern is with evil in any form, not racism alone or even especially. Like all evils, racism is resorted to only after the indulgence of pessimistic rationalizing. As Saul Alinsky puts it in *Rules for Radicals*, "He who sacrifices the mass good for his personal conscience has a peculiar conception of 'personal salvation'; he doesn't care enough for people to 'be corrupted' for them." The Alinsky rationalization (most frequently on display in our country

by John Kurzweil

in the anti-rule-of-law, "activist" rulings of liberal judges; for instance, for abortion), stands love on its head. It becomes necessary to "corrupt ourselves" to serve the people, as though keeping the great commandments of our civilization to love God and our neighbor is really a disservice to them. If we can't see the good love will do, we may safely conclude — indeed, Alinsky insists we must conclude — that we are actually harming them. Our will, not Thine, be done.

But history (along with more or less everything else) repeatedly contradicts this notion. "How many divisions has the pope?" asked a cynical Joseph Stalin, who did not live to see his hideous empire destroyed by a pope motivated and operating according to the law of love. And Napoleon is reported to have said he would worry about the Pope when he saw the "rifles drop from his soldiers' hands." He saw it: in the blasting Russian winter.

The evil in America is not peculiarly racism. Would that it were so simple as that. It is the human race's penchant for failing the law of love. It is the bogus notion that it is somehow good to "corrupt ourselves" for the good of the people. Once permit that, and we have loosed upon ourselves all the furies of hell, including murderous racism.

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