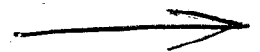


"RICHARD NIXON; A CHARACTER OUT OF SHAKESPEAR"

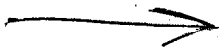
BY PAT/SALTY

NIXON WAS MY FAVORITE PRESIDENT. BECAUSE HE WAS SO INTERESTING. FOR THE SAME REASON THAT DARTH VADER IS MORE INTERESTING THAN SOME GOODY TWO SHOES JEDI KNIGHT. NIXON WAS JUST LIKE SOME CHARACTER INVENTED BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEAR. ONLY RICHARD NIXON WAS REAL. I - PAT/SALTY - ALWAYS FOUND HIM INTERESTING TO WATCH, LISTEN TO, READ, AND FOLLOW VIA THE MEDIA. IN HIS DAY NIXON WAS THE MOST POLORIZING FIGURE IN AMERICAN POLITICS. THRUOUT THE 1950'S, 1960'S, AND 1970'S. NIXON SAW ENEMYS EVERYWHERE. NIXON WAS RIGHT. HE DID HAVE ENEMYS EVERYWHERE. NIXON WAS A VERY COMPLICATED MAN. NIXON ~~WAS~~ WAS HIS OWN WORSE ENEMY - A FACT THAT HE HIMSELF APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN PERFECTLY AWARE OF EVEN AS HE WAS POWERLESS TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. THERE WAS THE GOOD NIXON - AND THE BAD NIXON. TWO NIXONS IN ONE. THE GOOD NIXON WAS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, SELF DISCIPLINED, FARSIGHTED, FOCUSED, OPEN MINDED, INNOUATIVE, AND SENSITIVE. THE BAD NIXON WAS PARANOID, SPITEFULL, ENVIOUS, PETTY, CONSPIRATORIAL, AND MEAN. SHAKESPEAR AT HIS BEST WOULD HAVE FOUND IT A CHALLENGE TO INVENT SUCH A CHARACTER. LIKE A COMBANATION OF HAMLET AND KING LEAR.



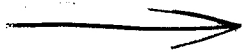
(2)

NIXON HIMSELF WAS A PERFECT REPRESENTATIVE OF HUMAN NATURE ITSELF IN THAT HE HAD BOTH THE GOOD SIDE AND THE DARKER SIDE OF HUMAN NATURE WITHIN HIM - CONSTANTLY COMPETING FOR SUPREMACY, EVEN SEMI-OPENLY! I KNOW OF NO PRESIDENT - NO MODERN PRESIDENT, AT LEAST - THAT HAD, OR HAS, THAT. ~~AND~~ IT WAS - AND REMAINS - FASCINATING. I WAS ALWAYS FASCINATED BY NIXON, BY NIXON THE MAN AND BY NIXON THE PRESIDENT; BY THE DARING WORLD STATESMAN VS. TRICKY DICKIE, IT WAS MORE INTERESTING THEN ALI VS. FRAZIAR, ALL WRAPPED UP IN ONE PACKAGE, IN ONE MAN. THE SO CALLED "NIXON HATERS" - WHO WERE EVERYWHERE, INDEED - MISSED OUT ON ALL THIS BECAUSE THEY ONLY SAW AND PERCEIVED ONE SIDE. THE SAME THING WITH NIXONS ADMIRERS, THEY, TOO, ONLY SAW AND PERCEIVED ONE SIDE. BUT AS AN OBJECTIVE OBSERVER WHO FOLLOWED HIS LIFE + CAREER WITHOUT JUDGEMENT - ONLY WITH INTERESTED FACINATION - I - PAT/SALTY - SAW BOTH SIDES, SAW THE REAL WHOLE STORY. AND, AS I STATED, THE GREAT WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE HIMSELF COULDN'T HAVE WRITTEN A BETTER CHARACTER, OR STORY, THEN THE STORY OF RICHARD MILHOUSE NIXON AND HIS LIFE AND TIMES. I ACTUALLY MISS THOSE DAYS, NIXONS DAYS.



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PERHAPS I SHOULD TAKE THE TIME TO
KIND OF "FILL IN" SOME OF THE PICTURE
OF THE TIMES TO REFRESH THE MEMORIES
OF THOSE WHO LIVED THRU THEM AND TO
GIVE A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ERA
TO THOSE READERS WHO WERE NOT AROUND
AT THE TIME; EVERYBODY AND HIS BROTHERS
UNCLE DID "NIXON IMITATIONS" FOR FUN -
CONSTANTLY - AS NIXON, AND HIS FAMOUS
MANNERISMS, WERE JUST THE EASIEST
IN THE WORLD FOR JUST ABOUT ANYBODY
TO DO. AND ~~DOING~~ "DOING" NIXON WAS
A NATIONAL PASTIME AT THE TIME.
ANYTIME ANY GROUP OF 3 OR MORE CAME
TOGETHER TO GET HIGH - VIA JOINT OR
PIPE - SOMEBODY WOULD ALWAYS GET A
LAUGH BY "DOING" NIXON WHILE GETTING HIGH.
SOMETIMES EVERYONE ~~WAS~~ WOULD START
IMITATING NIXON, OR WHAT NIXON WOULD
BE LIKE IF NIXON WERE GETTING HIGH -
THEY EVEN HAD NIXON BONGS (SOLD IN
RECORD STORES / HEAD SHOPS) WHEREBY THE
PARTICIPANTS WOULD TAKE ON THE NIXON
BONG / PIPE (IN THE SHAPE OF NIXON'S FACE
AND NOSE). I KNOW THE WHOLE THING
BEING DESCRIBED NOW PROBABLY COMES
ACROSS AS STUPID TO THOSE TOO YOUNG TO
HAVE BEEN ALIVE OR TO REMEMBER THOSE
TIMES, BUT IT WAS WHAT IT WAS AND THAT'S
THE WAY IT WAS. NIXON AND THE LAW AND
ORDER REPUBLICAN / CONSERVATIVE TYPES
WERE ALL OF COURSE 100% AGAINST POT.
SO THAT PLAYED INTO IT, NO DOUBT. BECAUSE



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WE WERE THE OTHER HALF OF AMERICA; THE HALF THAT SMOKED POT AT LEAST ON WEEKENDS - IF NOT DAILY OR ALMOST DAILY. TO US, SMOKING - OR "TOKING" - POT FROM A RICHARD NIXON BONG WAS A REAL KICK, AS THE SAYING WENT. WHATEVER. I REMEMBER THE TWO YEARS BETWEEN 1972 AND 1974 WHEN THE WHOLE "WATERGATE" THING PLAYED OUT, ENDING IN NIXON'S AUGUST 1974 RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENCY. EVERY WEEK THE WHOLE SCANDAL TOOK SOME ~~WILD~~ WEIRD TURN OR ANOTHER. IT WAS - TO ME - FACINATING AND YES, EVEN FUNNY AS HELL, TO FOLLOW.

A WHITEHOUSE "PLUMBERS UNIT" TRYING TO TRACK DOWN "LEAKERS"?!? EX C.I.A. CUBANS BREAKING INTO HOTELS TO "BUG" THE DEMOCRATS?!? OFFICIAL "ENEMYS LISTS"?!? THE PRESIDENT BUGGING HIMSELF IN THE WHITEHOUSE?!? IT ALL SEEMED LIKE SOME CRAZY ~~WATERGATE~~ STORY WRITTEN BY SOME WRITER - OR GROUP OF WRITERS - WHILE ON L.S.D. - IT SEEMED LIKE THE CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF THE INMATES RUNNING THE ASSYLUM; OF BIG BROTHER GONE MAD; OF ALICE IN WONDERLAND; WASHINGTON ADDITION. IT WAS ALL ENDLESS MATERIAL FOR COMEDIANS ~~AND PUNDITS~~ AND PUNDITS EVERYWHERE. IF IT ALL REALLY WAS "A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS", AS THE SERIOUS MINDED WARNED, THEN TO ME - AND OTHERS - IT WAS ALSO FUNNY AS ALL HELL AND FACINATING TO BOOT. AND EVERY BIT OF IT, FOR TWO YEARS, EITHER INCLUDED →

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NIXON, LED TO NIXON, WAS SUPPOSEDLY INSPIRED BY NIXON - OR - OF COURSE - DENIED BY NIXON. TO SAY THAT AMERICAN COMEDIANS & PUNDITS & WRITERS HAD A FIELD DAY WITH IT ALL BETWEEN 1972 AND 1974 IS A VAST UNDERSTATEMENT; THEY HAD THE BIGGEST, WILDEST, LONGEST ALL DAY FIELD DAY IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF FIELD DAYS! I WAS THERE - I KNOW, MANY PEOPLE - SERIOUS POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL TYPES, MOSTLY - DESCRIBED IT AT THE TIME AS "TRUENATIC", AS THE "LONG NATIONAL NIGHTMARE OF WATERGATE". I PERSONALLY REMEMBER IT AS NO SUCH THING - NOR DID I KNOW ANYONE WHO DID. OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE, AND WORKING CLASS PEOPLE I KNEW, JUST LAUGHED AT IT ALL. THE ~~THE~~ THING WITH NIXON HATERS, YOU SEE, IS THEY TOOK EVERYTHING SO SERIOUS. EVERYTHING NIXON AND EVERYTHING WATERGATE, IN PARTICULAR. THEY MISSED ALL THE ENTERTAINMENT VALUE. THE LUDICROUS HUMAN ELEMENT IN IT ALL. THE NIXON HATERS - IN SHORT - WERE NOT AMUSED. WE, HOWEVER, WERE. NOW, IF IT ALL HAD TURNED INTO A NATIONAL MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH - LIKE ANOTHER CIVIL WAR OR SOMETHING - THEN WE WOULD HAVE STOPPED LAUGHING AND TAKEN THE WHOLE THING DEAD SERIOUS, I'M SURE. BUT THAT NEVER HAPPENED IN REALITY. SO THE WHOLE TWO YEAR LONG NIXON/WATERGATE THING - FOR US - WAS JUST FASCINATING NATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT AND GOOD FOR LAUGHS. →

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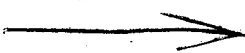
THATS JUST THE WAY IT WAS, IS ALL.
OTHER PRESIDENTS BEFORE NIXON DID,
OR TRIED TO DO, MANY IF NOT MOST OF
THE SAME THINGS NIXON DID ITS JUST
THAT NIXON GOT CAUGHT, IS ALL.

THE REALISTS - LIKE MYSELF, PAT/SALTY -
REALISED THAT AND THE CYNICS OF COURSE
REALISED THAT AND THE WORKING CLASS
GUYS I KNEW REALISED THAT, TOO.

WHO DIDN'T? THE IDEALISTS AND

DREAMERS AND LIBERALS AND INTELLECTUALS.
TO THEM, THE OVAL OFFICE REPRESENTED
SOMETHING LIKE THE CHAIR OF SAINT PETER,
OR THE INNER SANCTUM "HOLY OF HOLYS"
DOES, ~~THE~~ TO THE RELIGIOUS MINDS:

INSTEAD OF JUST AN OFFICE WITH
A DESK, BEHIND WHICH SAT - AND SITS -
ONLY A MAN; THE MOST POWERFULL
OFFICE IN THE LAND - IN THE WORLD - TO
BE SURE, BUT JUST AN OFFICE NONE THE LESS,
TO THEM, A MAN LIKE NIXON WAS "UNWORTHY"
TO BE PRESIDENT, "UNWORTHY" TO SIT IN
THE OVAL OFFICE (AS IF THEY ARE, RIGHT?)

AS I STATED, THE BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
NIXON AND HIS PREDECESSORS WAS THAT
NIXON ACTUALLY GOT CAUGHT. ~~AND~~ THE
NIXONS OF THE WORLD ALWAYS GET CAUGHT.
NIXON WAS FAR TOO TRANSPARENT NOT TO
GET CAUGHT. HE HAD GUILT WRITTEN ALL
OVER HIM ALL HIS LIFE. NIXON WORE
TRANSPARENT GUILT LIKE OTHER MEN
WEAR FINE \$2,000 ITALIAN MADE SUITS.
NIXON WAS THE KID WHO WOULD ALWAYS
GET CAUGHT WITH HIS HAND IN THE 

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PROVERBIAL COOKIE JAR. EVERY TIME, NO MATTER HOW MANY KIDS TOOK HOW MANY COOKIES FROM THE EXACT SAME JAR BEFORE HIM, NIXON WOULD GET CAUGHT. NOT SO BAD IF YOU WERE A GOOD LOOKING GOOD NATURED KID LIKE A JACK KENNEDY WHO COULD JOKE & CHARM HIS WAY OUT OF ADULT JUDGEMENT / WRATH IF CAUGHT WITH HAND IN COOKIE JAR; VERY BAD INDEED IF YOU WERE A NIXON. CAUGHT WITH HAND IN COOKIE JAR.

BECAUSE, BESIDES LACKING A KENNEDYS LOOKS AND HUMOR AND CHARM - BESIDES ALL THAT - WHAT WOULD A NIXONS FIRST NATURAL REFLEX BE? TO DENIE, DENIE, DENIE, IS WHAT. EVEN WHILE THE ADULT AUTHORITY FIGURE IS RIGHT THERE LOOKING AT NIXONS HAND STUCK RIGHT INTO THE COOKIE JAR NIXON WOULD REFLEXABLY DENIE EVERYTHING "WHY, I WAS JUST MAKING SURE THE LID TO THESE COOKIES ~~was~~ IS SECURELY ON, IS ALL".

THIS WAS NIXONS NATURAL REACTION. AS WAS - AND WOULD BE - THE ADULT AUTHORITY FIGURES NATURAL WRATH DIRECTED UPON SUCH NIXONIAN DENIALS. THE NIXON HATERS HATED NIXON NOT BECAUSE HE WAS THE FIRST TO ~~DO~~ DO SUCH THINGS - HE WASN'T - BUT BECAUSE HE WAS NIXON AND NOT JACK KENNEDY. BECAUSE NIXON COULD ONLY DENIE AND MAKE EXCUSES AND LIE INSTEAD OF JUST ADMIT HE WAS HUNGRY AND WANTED A COOKIE (AS A JACK KENNEDY WOULD HAVE DONE) →

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The NIXON HATERS HATED ~~LOVED~~ NIXON BECAUSE HE WAS NOT HANDSOME LIKE KENNEDY, NOT FUNNY + WITTY LIKE KENNEDY, AND UNABLE TO CHARM THEM LIKE KENNEDY. BUT - HEY - IT WASN'T NIXON'S FAULT, NOW WAS IT?

BECAUSE NIXON WAS NIXON - NOT KENNEDY. NIXON WAS WHAT HE WAS - AS WE ALL ARE. HE WAS - AS WE ALL ARE, AS EVERY SINGLE HUMAN BEING IS - A MYSTERIOUS UNKNOWN MATHEMATICAL COMBINATION OF GENETICS, UPBRINGING, AND ENVIREMENT - ALL MIXED UP TOGETHER; NIXON WAS AN INDIVIDUAL. HE WAS WHAT HE WAS - NO MORE + NO LESS. THIS IS WHAT MADE HIM A FASCINATING CHARACTER: AT LEAST TO ME - AND TO CERTAIN OTHERS, I'M SURE. PEOPLE (IGNORENTLY, IT WOULD SEEM) USED TO SAY, "WHY DIDN'T NIXON JUST BURN ALL THOSE WHITE HOUSE TAPES WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE TO?" MY ANSWER TO THAT IS THIS; 1) THE GOOD NIXON BELIEVED - CORRECTLY, AS FAR AS THAT GOES - THAT THE TAPES WOULD EXONERATE HIM (THE GOOD NIXON) AND, 2) THE BAD NIXON WANTED TO GET RID OF AND DESTROY THE TAPES BECAUSE THE BAD NIXON KNEW (CORRECTLY) THAT THE WHITE HOUSE TAPES WOULD NOT EXONERATE HIM - SO WHY WERE THE TAPES NOT DESTROYED? ANSWER; THE GOOD NIXON WOULD NOT ALLOW THE BAD NIXON TO DO SO! THIS IS THE REAL TRUTH, PLAIN AND SIMPLE; BY PRESERVING THE TAPES, AND EVENTUALLY TURNING THEM ALL OVER - EVEN THOUGH IT LED TO HIS FORCED RESIGNATION - RICHARD NIXON ENDED UP DOING THE RIGHT THING AFTER ALL. XX