

Things in Motion

All things are in motion and nothing is at rest...you cannot go into the same (river) twice. --Heraclitus (540?-480?) B.C.

WHAT'S WRONG HERE?

There is chaos in the world; the economy has become a train wreck; unemployment still is growing; war continues to rage in the mid-east, and at least two nations are rattling their nuclear swords in defiance of the treaties and agreements that prohibit nuclear proliferation—all in addition to the threat of global warming. In the face of all these potential disasters, does it make good sense for the United States to leap passionately and without any restraint into a wholesale hero-worshiping fury of national, even worldwide scope at the death of one Michael Jackson? That such unfettered attention is being fed to the entire country by our news media indicates to me that, in the words of Shakespeare, ***“The time is out of joint!”***

Regardless of the popularity of this man and his appeal to certain segments of our population, is his passing so damaging to the fabric of our country that it eclipses all other events? Not even Elvis drew such a snow-balling reaction—nor did the subsequent endless investigations into “the King’s” use of drugs. Given the media frenzy that is now attending Michael’s death, his Last Will, the fate of his children, and all other matters of even minute relevance to this entertainer, we could be swamped for months to come by one or more questions; each of which will be microscopically examined and debated by a host of reporters, analysts, media moguls and hangers-on looking for a quick buck. It would not surprise me to see our Congress in weeks of debate over whether to declare Michael’s birthday a national holiday; make June a month of mourning for Michael, re-name a street in every town for him, or build a marble memorial to him on the Capital Mall. As a nation, have we not now gone totally around the bend in where we place our collective concerns? Indeed we have; our cries of mourning have exposed our feet of clay.

I do not oppose national mourning for a lost national treasure; however I do oppose such a widespread mis-representation of fact as is now being fed to us by our various media. To show respect, admiration, and appreciation for one who has added to our nation’s pride by his or her deeds is clearly the honorable thing to do, but to turn that respect, admiration and appreciation into a perverted worship and to bestow a kind of sainthood on a human whose qualifications are, at best, questionable is to go beyond the bounds of reality by portraying the United States as a society of fanatics who have lost touch with reason, let alone with good taste.



It seems to me that this nation has many heros, a large number of whom far exceeded Michael Jackson in their contributions to the American culture. Can we not maintain a sense of proportion and honor each according to his contribution rather than subject ourselves to the circus that is going on now for Michael? Truly, ***“The time is out of joint.”***

No. 61 Summer 2009
Published for AAPA by Hugh
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