

11/9/05

Commander in Chief... the Show

by
Tom Holbrook

I don't know how many of you have caught the new ABC show on Tuesday night at 9:00, but those of you who haven't might want to give it a try. I like it and am happy it's on even though there are many rumors floating around that it is just an attempt by some to make a political statement about electing our first woman president. Frankly, I believe "Commander in Chief", with Geena Davis as Madame President is a great show and I could care less what any political group, left or right, might say about it.

I'm about as politically minded as the next guy and, just probably, more so than the majority of you out there. However, as former President Ronald Regan said about Tom Clancy's first hit, "Hunt For Red October", "It's a great read and I love a good yarn." Of course that comment brought Tom Clancy immediate success and his books started selling in the millions rather than the hundreds. I do love a good yarn as well and "Commander in Chief" is well put together. It's got all the ingredients of a hit with our protagonist, Ms. Davis, as neither Democrat nor Republican but an Independent who was thrust into the Presidency by the death of her boss. She had been chosen as Vice President for window dressing and to capture the women's vote and it worked. Her handlers never imagined she could ever become president and even asked her to resign rather than take the oath of office at their President's death.

Needless to say, she fooled them all by taking the oath and is now showing everyone she is more than just a pretty face and actually has a brain under that skull. Our antagonist is a villain one just loves to hate, played very believably by veteran actor Donald Sutherland who is about as conniving and underhanded as anyone can be, and the behind the scenes dueling between the two is usually the central theme with each show.

Those who believe that I am a hopeless male chauvinist who never gives the ladies credit for anything of substance, either in the corporate or political world, could not be further from the truth. There have been great women leaders over the ages in many countries, i.e., Indira Ghandi of India, Golda Meir of Israel, and Margaret Thatcher of England, and I'm sure there are those in these United States who could also qualify as a great American president.

My short list of those whom I believe have the moral character, intelligence and savvy to correctly handle the job in a way that would be good for the American people would be:

Judge Janice Rogers Brown – Former member of California Supreme Court and current member of Federal Appellate Court.

Condoleezza Rice- Current Secretary of State and former National Security Advisor

Senator Libby Dole- Current United States Senator from North Carolina and former head of The American Red Cross.

Anyone of these ladies could get my vote in a heartbeat and I'm sure there are many more well qualified women throughout the United States as well. So forget your "Tom's a chauvinist" dribble... it just isn't true.

Meanwhile, back to the TV show "Commander in Chief," you ladies should like it because Madam President does her job and still has time for sharing some quality time with her three normal children, two of which are teenagers. All in all, "Commander in Chief" keeps Judy and I coming back and, like a good book, the show is hard to put down and you hate to see it end each week.

In keeping with our theme, allow me to end this article with a few famous or not so famous quotes by notable women. Remember, this is the women themselves speaking... not me speaking for them. Some are quite insightful.

- 1- "A male gynecologist is like an auto mechanic who never owned a car." – Carrie Snow
- 2- "My second favorite household chore is ironing. My first being, hitting my head on the top bunk bed until I faint." - Erma Bombeck
- 3- "Inside me lives a skinny woman crying to get out. But I can usually shut her up with cookies." – Anonymous
- 4- "Whatever women must do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult." - Charlotte Whitton
- 5- "A man's got to do what a man's got to do. A woman must do what he can't." – Rhonda Hansome
- 6- "I'm not offended by all the dumb blonde jokes because I know I'm not dumb... and I'm also not blonde." - Dolly Parton
- 7- "In politics, if you want anything said, ask a man. If you want anything done, ask a woman." - Margaret Thatcher

I'm sure there are many more but let's call it a day with these. Have a great one.

#

Tom Holbrook
judyandtom@comcast.net