



## Sweet TEA sours liberal left

By Jim Waters

Whether a genuine misunderstanding, or collusion and conspiracy, the mainstream media continues its false portrayal of the grassroots movement known as the Taxed Enough Already party as a bunch of angry, racist rednecks.

In Kentucky, the mischaracterizations seem limited to large media relics — primarily the largest newspapers.

A Lexington Herald-Leader columnist's infomercial-column (published free of charge, I'm certain) about the upcoming Coffee Party convention in Louisville confirmed this.

He offered not only details of — but also a fund-raising pitch for — the Coffee Party's national convention, while making sure to use “anger” twice in his first paragraph to describe critics of Washington's bailouts and CNBC commentator Rick Santelli's “rant” that led to numerous TEA party gatherings since April 15, 2009.

Truth be told, it's not “angry” messengers so much as the “righteous” message that plants the TEA party firmly under the skin of this journalistic artifact.

Why is it that we rarely hear about “angry” or “disrespectful” fuming liberals who demand expanded government spending even amidst shrinking budgets?

Where's the name calling for those who support continuing [welfare for rich farmers](#) and eternal unemployment benefits or tax increases to bail out Cadillac [benefit plans](#) for government workers?

Defenders of big bailouts, big spending and big government are likely to suffer big defeats at the polls. But it's not because independent voters so highly revere TEA party *messengers*. Rather, it's the *message* of less government and more liberty, lower taxes and more freedom, less “educracy” and more learning. That resonates with Democrats, Republicans and Independents, who value American principles of prosperity and personal responsibility.

They may not care for talk-show host Glenn Beck or former Gov. Sarah Palin, R-Alaska, but they like even less the feeling of freedom slipping from their grasp.

This is why Alveda King, who endearingly refers to her famous ancestor as “Uncle Martin,” stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial alongside Beck and Palin at the Restore Honor rally at the Capitol on Aug. 28.

When asked by Larry King, who interrogated Sister King on whether Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. would have “been an admirer of” Beck, she just smiled and warmly [reminded](#) Talking Head King that neither he nor any of us are the sole proprietors of America's spirit.

That didn't sound like an angry woman to me. And racist? It's pretty tough to make that case, since few alive today — including Dr. King wannabe The Rev. Al Sharpton and others among King's fellow blacks — have lived closer to the very epicenter of the Civil Rights Movement in this country than the niece of the man who gave his life for the cause.

Ms. King didn't attend the rally because of Beck or Palin.

She understands that we're not the end-all, be-all of America. During our season as citizens of earth, we're only a link in America's chain, a cog in its wheel, a chapter in its story. We're connected to both those who came before us and to those who arise to accept freedom's anointing after we've faded.

“My uncle was not teaching that we needed the government to take care of us,” King said, sending the leftist loons straight into orbit. “He was teaching that we needed a government who revered and respected what was right . . . I never heard my uncle really say that he was marching or fighting so that the government would take care of people.”

That's a message that works over a mug of Starbucks at Louisville's Galt House or with an American flag waving in one hand and a rumbling hot cup of Earl Grey in the other on the steps of the capitol in Frankfort.

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