

Redneck Revolution

Country music singer Gretchen Wilson brought her Redneck Revolution Tour to Washington, D.C. recently. And, except for the 25,000 fans at an all-day music festival, the political establishment paid her little notice.

Big mistake. Wilson's lyrics reflect a tidal wave of emotion running like a riptide below the surface of public debate.

Her song "Politically Uncorrect" captures the feelings of millions of blue collar workers all across North America. She starts with:

*I'm for the low man on the totem pole
And I'm for the underdog God bless his soul
And I'm for the guys still pulling third shift
And the single mom raisin' her kids
I'm for the preachers who stay on their knees
And I'm for the sinner who finally believes
And I'm for the farmer with dirt on his hands
And the soldiers who fight for this land*

Wilson's final refrain goes like this:

*Nothing wrong with the Bible
Nothing wrong with the flag
Nothing wrong with the working man, me and Ol' Hag
We're just some of many who can't get no respect
Politically uncorrect, Politically uncorrect.*

Think of those lyrics next time a Washington or Ottawa politician or pundit issues another polished sound bite.

This single mom from Pocahontas, Illinois is making history. With an eighth grade education and years of tending bar at Big O's on the outskirts of her hometown, Gretchen Wilson's first album, "Here for the Party," proved to be a quadruple platinum recording. Little wonder. There's some down home wisdom in her lyrics.

Have you heard?

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