

The Ayatollah plays Russian Roulette

The situation in Iran, which started out so hopefully a few months ago with the overthrow of the Shah, has turned into a bitter joke with the recent seizure of the American Embassy by the hordes of rampaging students backed by the support of the self-appointed ruler of Iran, the Ayatollah Khomeini.

Understanding and co-operation are what are strongly needed between the peoples of Iran and the Western World. However, it is very hard to expect anyone to co-operate with anyone who so obviously hates everything our society represents. (It is interesting to note that the Ayatollah was more than willing to put up with Western society when it offered him refuge after the Shah put pressure on the neighbouring government of Iraq to have the Ayatollah banished).

The Ayatollah is playing a dangerous game of Russian roulette that he stands a very good chance of losing. The entire world has condemned his actions. He has broken every rule of diplomatic culture. No matter how wrong it was of the United States to let the Shah enter their country (even if it is just for medical treatment) the Ayatollah had no right to seize innocent people and use them in his international game of cat and mouse.

The accusation that these people are all spies is so ludicrous it defies description. It is like blaming the neighbours of a thief for all the crimes that thief committed.

The Ayatollah has backed American President Carter into a corner from which he might have to take desperate measures to escape. It is almost election year and the President can not afford to look weak or else his already slim chances of re-election could totally disappear. On a broader scale, America's role in international affairs has been declining slowly and the States can not afford another blow to its damaged international prestige or its allies will begin to wonder if the States is effective at anything.

A weak show of strength on America's part could also encourage the Russians to continue their growing policy of expansion around the world.

The Ayatollah may just want to forget the rest of the world and carry on undisturbed with whatever plans he has for Iran. But his position in the world is just too strategic for the rest of the world to forget him.

His position as one of the world's top oil producing regions and its geographical location on the Gulf of Aquaba—the world's major oil transportation route makes Iran too precious a jewel to ignore.

The Ayatollah's country is in serious economic troubles. He has used his people's hatred for the Shah and the U.S. to make his people forget about troubles at home. But these tactics will only backfire on him and bring him even more troubles at home.

Khomeini has taken a dangerous move. Just yesterday the Americans announced they will use force if necessary. If the Ayatollah wants respect for himself and his government he must give that respect to others. His cries for democracy and freedom will be ignored as long as he attempts to rule by whim and fails to provide the leadership his country so desperately needs.



Letters to Gazette

Engineers

mean no harm

To the Gazette:

I am writing in response to the article 'Editor Goes Undercover' in the November 15 Gazette concerning the engineers' escapade.

Okay, so maybe the engineers do get a bit out of hand now and then and don't know when they are going too far, but may I point out that they are probably the only society on campus that has any spunk at all! If you are so down on the engineers and their actions, why do you continually fill your pages with their endeavors? Can you not find anything else of interest to fill the space? Why should they quit when you give them all this attention?

As far as I'm concerned, this year's 'Stamp' was a harmless prank that showed a little spirit from a generally apathetic university. Apart from the 'Beer Bath' in the armories at Winter Carnival, how many other crazy traditions does Dal have? It gives us a bit of character and personality and Lord knows we need it!

Many things have been blown out of proportion with the Engineers, out of envy because they have spirit, and out of necessity because the other societies on campus are just too dull to write about.

Just remember—it's not the lectures and the book work

you remember about your school, it's the people and the crazy times and when you broke the rule.

Yours sincerely
Joan Hamilton
Bachelor of Nursing
4th Year

Engineer treasurer resigns

November 20, 1979

To the Gazette,

The attached letter is the resignation of me as the treasurer of the Dalhousie Engineering Society. I think that the letter speaks for itself. Please feel free to reprint it in your "Letters To The Editor" in the Dalhousie Gazette.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Stegen,
Treasurer,
Dalhousie Engineering Society.

November 19, 1979

Dear Fellow Engineers,

After a great deal of thought, I have decided to resign as Treasurer of the Dalhousie Engineering Society. This resignation will take effect on December 4, 1979. I hope that this will give enough time to find a successor.

The reasons for my resignation are as follows: (a) I can no longer support, as a member of the executive, the policies and attitudes that the society has with respect to the King's College incident.

(b) due to the actions of the rest of the executive, I no

longer feel that I am a respected part of this body, and I would not have the trust of the executive that is essential for the Treasurer to perform his duties, and

(c) the failure of the executive to act on motions which were passed in a executive meeting.

I feel that I can no longer represent a society which does not come close to living up to the high standards that have been attained in the past and are equally expected of it now.

Respectfully,
Ron Stegen

Poli-Soc upset

To the Gazette:

I am compelled to write a letter 'setting the record straight' on certain statements made by Graham Wells in your "Grants Committee A Give-away?" article (GAZETTE, November 15, 1979). In this article it was stated that PoliSoc's budget for 1978-79 was being cut from \$300.00 to \$200.00. This is untrue. The grant recommendation for 1979-80 was cut from \$300.00 to \$200.00.

Mr. Wells stated that Poli-Soc carried a \$170.00 deficit from last year's to this year's budget. Once again, Mr. Wells is mistaken. PoliSoc broke even in 1978-79 (an amazing feat, considering the miniscule grant from the Student Council) and, therefore, ob-

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the Dalhousie Gazette

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