

## CFS: Kangaroo Court

Like many people, I was surprised to learn that the DIE Board had overturned the CFS referendum. Now, after acquainting myself with their reasons for doing so, my feelings are somewhat stronger. The DIE Board decision is an unjustifiable insult to both the franchise and the intelligence of every student who voted.

I'd be one of the first to admit that the referendum may have suffered from the lack of a NO campaign, but the DIE Board's suggestion that there was insufficient invitation to students to form a NO committee is difficult to believe. At least one interested student responded to the Returning Officer's newspaper ads and set out to run a NO campaign. His existence and intent was no secret, as a front page article in October 18th's Gateway attests, and it's hard to imagine what prevented other like-minded students from joining forces with this character if they really wanted to run a NO campaign.

I find it equally difficult to imagine that students could have been misled by YES campaign material as alleged by a patronizing DIE Board. When they examined YES pamphlets, members of the DIE Board apparently had no trouble recognizing a quotation

from a Students' Union task force report for exactly what it was. Nonetheless, they suggest that more "ordinary" students would mistake that clearly-labelled quotation for the Students' Council's outright endorsement of CFS. It might be helpful to remind ourselves that the Kangaroo Court notwithstanding, this is not a kindergarten, but a university. To a university student, that pamphlet was not misleading.

Finally, despite admitting that CFS's everyday business should never be disrupted by a referendum campaign, the DIE Board would overturn the referendum on the grounds that regular CFS promotional material gave the YES committee an unfair advantage. Joseph Heller could do wonders with that kind of Catch-22 reasoning, but the charge stands, as far as DIE Board is concerned and, with the other two charges is seen as reason to void the referendum.

There was nothing dishonest about the way the referendum was run (no lies anywhere, Mr. Jang) and to many people the DIE Board's ruling seems hardly credible. Their decision to overturn the vote is one I find very difficult to respect.

James Weir  
Arts IV

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Today is November 22 - the anniversary of John Kennedy's death. It is the time of the year when empty-headed hero worshippers emerge from the walls and speculate endlessly about what might have been. This year, the twentieth anniversary, is especially bad.

Because Kennedy died tragically he has become a martyr and romantic hero. People are unwilling to see him for the self-serving macho cold warrior he really was.

In fact, he probably did the world a favour by dying.

During his short term as President, Kennedy managed to invade Cuba, involve the USA in Vietnam, and almost start a nuclear war.

The Birth of the Civil Rights movement - the one positive development of the Kennedy era - owes more to Martin Luther King Jr. than to Kennedy. Kennedy's behaviour was disappointingly expedient on such matters. At one point, he actually authorized a wiretap of King's phone.

The entire myth surrounding the Kennedy family is somewhat perverse: there is Robert, conducting personal vendettas through the justice department; John, having numerous sexual adventures and generally mistreating Jackie; but neither son was nearly as impressive as father Joseph, removed from his post as ambassador to England during World War Two because he kept sending reports to Roosevelt outlining the merits of aligning with Hitler.

Such is the stuff that great men are made of. It may be unfair to compare John F. with his father, but President Kennedy was not quite the Liberal Great White Hope that his admirers would have us believe.

One of Kennedy's first acts as President was to invade Cuba. A band of CIA trained exiles was to land at the Bay of Pigs, join with the discontented Cuban masses and overthrow Castro. Unfortunately, the Cubans were not very discontent and the invasion was a disaster.

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**VENCEREMOS**

by Oscar Ammar

For a long time now, Israel has supplied the various dictatorships in Central America with arms.

El Salvador, for example, was the first country in the world to sign a contract with the Israeli aircraft industry and at the present time, it maintains more than fifty Israeli military advisers.

The Israeli government, just recently, signed new contracts with the governments of Guatemala and Honduras. Last year, Honduras was host to a "surprise" visit by Ariel Sharon (Israel's most notable butcher) which led to increased arm shipments to that Central American nation.

As well, the Guatemalan government, infamous for its constant violations of human rights, has received aid from Israel for several years. Guatemalan-Israeli relations have been special since 1948, when Guatemala sent commissioners to oversee the founding of the Zionist state.

Some may argue that Israel is not breaking international law by aiding governments in Central America. However, let us set all laws aside for the

If Kennedy had trouble understanding the people in Cuba, he knew ever less about the Vietnamese.

Despite warnings from the French, Kennedy simply could not understand that even helicopters and napalm were no match for a people determined to govern themselves. So Kennedy sent in the advisors and later the Marines.

Now we come to the Cuban missile crisis. Kennedy did not start the crisis, but must take as much blame as Krushchev for bringing the world the closest it has ever come to annihilating itself.

At one point Krushchev offered to withdraw Soviet missiles from Cuba if Kennedy would remove American missiles from Turkey.

The Turkish missiles were obsolete and scheduled for removal, but Kennedy refused to allow Krushchev a way out.

An American President can not be seen as weak, even if the future of mankind is at stake.

It is rather an ironic twist that Nixon the Republican withdrew American forces from Vietnam and negotiated Salt I whereas Kennedy the Democrat sent 16,000 American troops to Vietnam and ordered nearly 1000 ICBM's.

Kennedy was always more of a rhetorician than a visionary.

His speeches were not memorable for what he said, but for how he said it.

Seemingly profound statements like "Ask not what your country can do for you but what can you do for your country" become inane and even dangerous upon closer examination. (Actually, Kennedy stole this quote from George Bernard Shaw.)

Implied is the belief that there is some mysterious abstract entity - the nation - which is more important than people. This ridiculous belief has caused numerous wars.

No, the world would not have been better off had Kennedy lived; there might not even be a world.

moment, and consider how Israeli arms are being utilized.

In El Salvador, Israeli arms are used by the junta to kill political opponents and people who support the FMLN (the guerrilla movement in El Salvador).

In Honduras, Israel contributes to the destabilization of Nicaragua's economy by providing arms to the contras. In this way, Israel enables them to continue bombing the Nicaraguan population. Finally, Israel manifests its support of the government of Guatemala when its arms contribute to the frequent massacres of innocent people such as the Mayan Indians who are considered to be part of the "communist menace".

Israel support the Juntas effort in Central America to do the same thing to their people that Israel is doing to the Palestinians. In fact, as Noam Chomsky stated, "Israel has had no qualms about supporting governments that have murdered over 100,000 people during the last five years." Indeed, Israel is perhaps the biggest authority (together with South Africa - Israel's strong political and economic ally) on oppression and murder.

Hopefully, Zionist, racist, fascist and colonialist Israel will not teach everything it knows to the military juntas of Central America. For, if it does, we may face many "Sabras" and "Chatillas" on our own continent.

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