

LE DANGER

by Paul Creelman

Les élections présidentielles françaises auront lieu le mois de mai prochain. Les présidentielles de 1988 verront une nouvelle politique du droit.

Les conservateurs dans le Rassemblement pour la République (RPR) de Jacques Chirac compte parmi eux-mêmes les jeunes qui ont nouvelles idées contre les vieux de parti. Selon Louis-Bernard Robitaille de la revue

l'Actualité, les jeunes RPR restent à la droite modérée par la pragmatique sociale, mais sans le libéralisme idéologique des autres au droit comme le Parti Republicain.

Mais plus effrayant que les conservateurs RPR sont les membres du Front National, nouveau parti de l'extrême droit. Le dirigeant, Jean-Marie Le Pen, est vraiment du droit. Voir Le Pen sur les camps de concentrations nazis: "Je ne dis pas que les chambres à gaz n'ont pas existé, mais je pense qu'il s'agit là d'un

élément secondaire dans l'histoire de la seconde guerre mondiale".

Mais Le Monde a conclu que Le Pen n'a en rien souffert de l'affaire du 'détail' des chambres à gaz.

Dans son 'petit livre bleu' on trouve 'Affaire Le Pen' défini comme "campagne de diffamation et de dénigrement virulent". Sur le même sujet, on trouve 'Auschwitz' disant que n'emporte laquelle sujet est discuté, "votre adversaire vous jette à la tête Auschwitz et

Buchenwald".

Mais la racisme existe chez le Front National. Une des issues plus cher au coeur du Front National est l'immigration afro-maghrébine, et la sécurité et la chômage reliées à l'immigration. Son slogan est "nous sommes envahis par les Arabes", selon Robitaille.

Dans leur petit livre bleu il y a une définition du racisme: "doctrine niant le droit des peuples à être eux-mêmes. Les Français en sont aujourd'hui les principes victimes dans leur propre pays."

Si le Front National ne gagnera pas les présidentielles, leur influence restera même. Mais j'espère que la politique Française ne bougera plus à la droite.

Les membres de la RPR disputent sur le financement des activités politiques. Comme les conservateurs qu'ils sont, ils font une politique du financement et de la moralité.

Mais chez le Front National, il y a de la racisme et un nationalisme dangereux.

Espérez-vous que cela ne va plus loin.

l e t t e r s

hear me roar

An open letter to the "Friends of the Citadel"

I'm looking for a summer job. Too bad I'm a woman. My gender disqualifies me from applying for one of the sixty-odd positions open for "animators" at the Halifax Citadel.

Every summer since 1981, the Friends of the Citadel have hired students with government money to portray the soldiers who secured the fort in the 1880s. David Danskin, Acting Senior Interpretation Specialist for Parks Canada, was happy to give me a little historical background on the hiring policy of the animator program during our recent phone conversation.

"We're attempting to re-create history as accurately as possible," he explained. "That means showing things the way they were — everything from the clothing to what they were doing to the type of person doing the job."

The 18th-century soldiers wore no glasses. They were a minimum of 5'6" tall to meet the height requirements of the British army. They weren't women, and they certainly weren't black. Twentieth-century students must fit the necessary criteria to create the authentic look appreciated by tourists in order to qualify for the jobs.

You can't argue with history. And when the Nova Scotian Human Rights Commission ruled the male-only specification as being a "bona fide occupational requirement" for the job, David Danskin didn't anticipate any future complaints from the "non-qualifiers". He clarified the commission's position: "They looked at it in the same way you'd hire an actor for a role." Personally, I see it in a slightly different light.

I find any policy that perpetuates discrimination hard to take, no matter what the context. I also find it hard to believe any tourist would be outraged to find a black or a female face among the troops. And I believe the complaints of women and non-whites who are excluded from applying to government-funded positions far outweigh any considerations to "historic accuracy".

I'm willing for a compromise. I believe Dave when he says it's

not the program's intent to be discriminatory. I just can't understand his rejection of my suggestion to equalize the ratio of men and women working at the Citadel by hiring only women to act as tour guides and shop attendants. He said, "It's not our policy to do that kind of manipulation to the hiring practice." Ah. Perhaps he foresaw the added difficulty of having to find women-of-colour-only to fill the position, in order to truly balance the labour pool.

Yes, that's a cheap shot. But attempting to gloss over the reality of the limited policy on the recruitment ads by neglecting to mention that women and non-whites need not apply seems a bit gutless as well. "It's a sensitive area," acknowledges Dave, who explains the omission by saying, "There's no use waving a red flag at people".

The Friends of the Citadel (and Dave) would like to avoid any controversy over the nature of the positions. Evidently the recruitment of able-bodied young men willing to swelter in heavy uniforms during July heat waves while their friends frolic on the beach is quite a chore. You know, I'd be more than happy to help you guys out. But history says I can't. It must have been a woman that first said, "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose".

Sincerely,
Erin Goodman

"opinion"

To the Editors:

In spite of being sick and tired of the same old arguments, I can't seem to help responding to Dan Peters' letter "Abortion: black and white" (Gazette, Jan. 21)

Dan Peters: Yes, abortion is a "difficult issue" (especially for women from Newfoundland and PEI). Do you have a solution to offer, or are simply expressing a desire for balanced academic debate? If we "acknowledge the legitimacy of the pro-lifers' way of thinking," respect the anti-choice opinion, then what? Must they, too, respect the pro-choice opinion? Does that mean abolishing the existing anti-choice legislation in the interest of freedom of opinion? Are you suggest-

ing we should listen objectively to both sides, then each be free to make our own personal decisions on the issues? (Careful, that's the basis of the pro-choice "opinion".) If we are all entitled to our own opinions, why is mine against the law?

The abortion "issue" is not merely a conflict of opinions, an abstract intellectual debate about ethics (except, perhaps, for men, who will never be forced to take a stand). The "legitimacy of the pro-lifers' way of thinking" hardly needs my support (or that of Tu Thanh Ha) — it is embodied in our legal system, at my expense as a woman. There is no neutral position on abortion: it is either legal and available, or it

isn't. While you indulge in intellectual debate, the anti-choice "opinion" directly affects women's lives, directly denies the legitimacy of their "opinions".

When the legal support for the anti-choice position has been withdrawn, and safe, legal, accessible abortion is freely available, I'll be glad to engage in abstract philosophical debates. Until then, feel free to lobby the decision-making bodies to be fair, to respect my opinion. You could start with the federal and provincial governments, community hospitals, "Right-to-Life" groups . . .

Brenda Beagan
Sociology

next time, call

Jan. 21/87

Dear Editors:

I have been told that there will be a story in today's edition of the Gazette about the Law Students' Society. If that is true, then I am very disappointed that the Society's Executive was not consulted. I fail to see how a story involving the society could be accurate or complete without such consultation.

Sean Casey
President,
Dalhousie Law
Students' Society

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