

Excalibur

Everything secret degenerates; nothing is safe that does not show it can bear discussion and publicity
— Lord Acton

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Attitude of nonchalance prevails in Senate

When will our senior planners learn that some things cannot be put off indefinitely, or shoved under the carpet or left to just fade away.

Last week, in a dramatic move, the Senate held over the question of whether to smoke in the Senate chamber an issue raised by D.C. Russell, one of the more concerned members.

The Senate made a shambles of the presidential voting, breaking its own rule to submit no less than three names to the Board of Governors. Instead, it chose to hand in two names, H. Ian Macdonald and Brian Wilson. The board, of course, was delighted with the Senate's move.

Perhaps the rule was a stupid one in the first place, and the Senate was right not to request more names from the search committee. But that's not the way it appears.

The dominant impression of the whole presidential search effort, after the final candidates had been presented to the Senate, is one of incredible nonchalance, a "who cares" approach that can only leave students wondering just who is running this institution anyway.

It started with the interviews of the candidates. On a good day maybe 20 persons

would show up to ask the prospective chief administrators to explain their views, policies, theories or whatever. Either the senators were staging their own version of the California grape boycott or they knew in advance whom they were supporting.

John Becker, the assistant vice-president who arranged the interviews, was surprised by the light turnout. So were some of the university's other top administrators, not to mention some of the candidates themselves.

Students were invited to attend the meetings too, though few attended. But, then, the student body never had a say in the presidential selection in the first place, outside of the token members in the Senate and on the board.

A difficult decision

We can no longer remain silent on the issue of the American presidency.

It is with great anguish that Excalibur comes to this decision. We have supported Richard Nixon from his first day in the House Un-American Activities Committee. We applauded his bold initiative in driving the evil commies from the great land to the south. We were warmed with the thought that he was able to outfox the leftist intellectual snobs in the House and preserve freedom in the defenseless little country of Vietnam. We cheered when he ordered the secret bombing of Cambodia. We giggled with glee when he slashed the budget for social programmes. And we fell off our editorial desks when he made such a valiant effort to cover up the despicable Watergate affair.

But this time he has gone too far. No explanation to the American people can atone for the outrage he has perpetrated. He has betrayed his nation.

The President must resign.

— Michael Lawrence

War's irrationality excuses nothing Emotional appeals useless

Well Mr. Abramson, now that the Middle East combat is over, allow the "ethereal Michael Lawrence" to replay to your letter published two weeks ago.

On October 11, I wrote a column entitled "Israeli Supporters Should Reflect." In that column, I asked those who had chosen to support the Israeli cause to reflect upon their basis of support. I expressed a personal fear that many of these supporters had grounded their commitment in a dangerous mixture of blind religious nationalism and racism.

My fear was twofold. First, such support denied the existence of important issues in the Mid-east; issues, which, if not dealt with, would guarantee future conflict between the Arab states and Israel.

My other fear was based on the historical perspective of what can happen when national groups reduce their cause to the point where it becomes dangerously close to fascism.

Criticizing my appeal for an objective review of the Mid-east situation, Mr. Abram-

son countered with his own sophisticated analysis. "I suggest that before he (Lawrence) demands objectivity from these supporters, he realize that Israel is now in a state of war. Is war rational?"



YORK SENATOR: "OFCOURSE WE MAKE THE RULES AROUND HERE. WHY WOULD'JA ASK?"

Abramson's ground for criticism lie in his analysis that behaviour during wartime is not rational, for war itself is not. To demand rational thinking is a fine "peacetime philosophy", continues Abramson, "but at this very moment meaningless."

The danger of such an analysis is apparent. To excuse behaviour during wartime on the grounds that war itself is not rational, is to excuse every atrocity from My Lai to the Nazi slaughter of six million Jews.

Perhaps Mr. Abramson would care to plead temporary insanity at his next mock trial.

You're right. I'm as Jewish as a circumcision certificate, but does that mean I have to condone irrational behaviour? Certainly it does not. The day that happens, I'll resign as a Jew.

Yes, I was outraged at the happenings in

Central Square, outraged at a behaviour that extends from the various synagogues we attend. I refuse to be emotionally coerced by rabbis preaching racist dogma. I refuse to allow my religious commitments to be perverted into justification for political repression. I refuse to have my House of God converted into a House of Gelt. Mr. Abramson, if that is what you call "assimilation", my dictionary has a misprint.

The battle in the Middle East may be over, but the war has yet to be won. When gentle Canadians start questioning why they should have to suffer fuel rationing because their government supports Israel, you will have to have a better answer than simply "Israel Must Live". Because then they'll reply that they must live too, Israel or no Israel.

If we are to convince our fellow Canadians that such sacrifices are necessary, emotional appeal will be useless.

The time has come when we must justify our support beyond its emotional grounds, justify it to others as well as to ourselves.

Staff meeting

for all people interested in Excalibur

Come to
Room 111,
Central Square
2 pm

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