



Letters to Gazette

Iran again

To the Gazette:

I am writing this letter to express my opinion on recent happenings in Iran. Before I get into the text of this composition I would like to make it clear that I am not an American nor, to the best of my knowledge, were any of my ancestors. As a matter of

fact, I have never even set foot on U.S. soil, so my opinions are not misguided by some blind patriotic loyalty.

When the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini took over the government of Iran I thought that was fine and dandy because a "holy" man would provide some peace and stability in the Middle East. The Archbishop of Canterbury is a holy man. President Kimball of the Mormons is a holy man. Pope John Paul is a holy man. Ayatollah Khomeini is a nut. Do not take this last remark as

anti-Islamic. The Moslems, like all religious orders, have their good as well as their bad. The problem here is that Khomeini is one of the latter.

Why am I taking such an interest in this affair? Well, aside from believing the embassy takeover is wrong, one of Khomeini's comments pertains to me. That is: "This is not a conflict between Iran and the United States but a conflict between Islam and blasphemy." Assuming that to Khomeini a blasphemer is someone who does not believe Mohammed is the great prophet and the Koran is the word of Allah (God) then not only am I included but so are all the atheists, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews, and everyone else in the world. Furthermore, if Khomeini is right, then how come no other Moslem state has publically supported the embassy takeover?

Khomeini claims to have the full support of the Iranian people because they voted to accept a new constitution which makes him leader for life. Shades of Napoleon, Hitler, and Idi Amin. Of course, the voting was done out in the open so that Khomeini's supporters could see which way the people voted. To cast a negative vote would make one either very brave or very foolish. Most of the people of Kurdistan, an Iranian province, did not even vote and that shows that they reject this new constitution.

As for claiming the hostages are spies, that is no reason to put them through their present ordeal. A few of them might have been carrying out matters indirectly related to spying, but the odds are that about one quarter of the embassys in Iran are no better. In all probability the KGB runs the Soviet Embassy,

Scotland Yard has their agents in the British Embassy, the French Secret Police have spies in their embassy, and so forth. If the Americans did break the law, then do what other countries do—deport them. By keeping them in their present condition they will be left with emotional scars that may never heal.

According to the Islamic calendar the world is now in the thirteenth century. It seems Khomeini wants their thirteenth century to be no different than what ours was.

Do not misinterpret the thesis of this letter. I am not a supporter of the Shah. Actually, I believe he should be tried and punished for the crimes he has committed. I am sure that most, if not all, of the Americans held in the embassy agree.

The actions of the Shah were wrong. So are the actions of the Ayatollah Khomeini and, as all sane and intelligent people know, two wrongs do not make a right.

Yours truly,
Kevin J. Patriquin

Gazette caused breach

To the Gazette:

In both your lead story and your editorial in the November 29 issue, you suggest that the D.F.A. leaked the names of the candidates on the short list of the Presidential Search Committee. The allegation is false and unjustified. It seems your information came from an anonymous caller "who refused to identify himself". The caller may have been a member of D.F.A. (we have over seven hundred members), or he may not; in any event, the caller was acting as an individual and not on behalf of the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

It is true that the D.F.A. Executive is in serious disagreement with the position of the Presidential Search Committee that all informa-

tion about candidates be treated as highly confidential. We favour openness in decision making in general, and think that the selection of a new President in particular is a decision in which the whole university community has an interest. Each member of the community has the right to have the information necessary for responsible input to the Committee. The D.F.A. Executive has attempted to persuade the Committee to modify its strict secrecy requirement. When it became clear we could not get the Committee to change its procedure, we chose to withdraw from further consultation with the Committee because we did not think we could "represent" our members' views on candidates without the opportunity to share information with our members.

The D.F.A. Executive has provoked public discussion about the procedure and mechanism of the decision making, but it chose not to reveal the information it was given by the Search Committee under the Committee's rule of secrecy. It is the Gazette which chose to make the names public. Whatever judgments are made about the legitimacy of actually breaching this controversial confidentiality belong to the Gazette and not the D.F.A.

Sincerely,
Susan B. Sherwin
President,
Dalhousie Faculty
Association

Gazette too 'Liberal'?

To the Gazette:

I am writing this letter in response to the opening of the article on "Pitfield at Dal" on page eleven of your November 29 edition.

The sentence in question reads "Michael Pitfield, the highest ranking civil servant in Canada until Joe Clark de-

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the Dalhousie Gazette

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