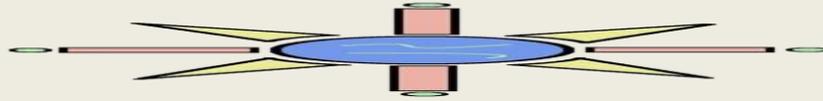


The Coquitlam Review



Edition 3, December 2016

An Argument for not Changing the Electoral System

Let us first be clear as to why a constitutional monarchy is the most effective system of government. For this we must look to the economic theory of John Nash, popularised in the film *A Beautiful Mind*, that is, by eliminating the possibility of a fight over the most coveted position, in this case the leader, everyone can get going on working towards, what should be the goal of politics, the common good. By having an undisputed Head of State government is able to more easily work together. Further, and without going into the detail of all the checks and balances of our governmental system, we would do well to note that the power, per se, of the government lies with the Cabinet and not with the Prime Minister, the Prime Minister being not much more than a facilitator.

So why do we use a first-past-the-post system? In short, to ensure smooth transition of political thought, to ensure that the cultural outliers, those both at the rear and fore of the bell curve, do not swing government in such a far flung direction that bloody revolution becomes inevitable. (cont. p.2)

Graffiti, Vandalism and Hate Crimes; when to draw the line

Many years ago, when I was new to the pub game, we constantly had to repair our washrooms. It was mostly the men's, but occasionally the women's as well. The damage would vary, often in proportion to our beer sales, from holes being... (cont. p.3)

Japanese Poetry for a German Baby

To my newborn:

How could I ever
not have known you? Before you,
how did I feel love?

To my one month old:

You gaze at me when
I nurse you. You sleep in my
Arms. You cry for me.

To my two month old:

You have not yet smiled
at me, but you soon will. Then,
Life will be different.

To my three month old:

You are growing up.
Everyday feels long but
time passes quickly.

Frugal - not just for Jerks

Some people equate frugality with being cheap - this is a mistake and unfair to those of us who consider frugality - the lack of wastefulness - as an honourable way to live.

Being frugal is not the same as being cheap. Someone who is cheap avoids paying their share of the bill, doesn't acknowledge good service by tipping, avoids repaying loans and are also often ungenerous in spirit.

Those of us who are frugal are not tempted by wasteful consumption. (cont p.2)

(cont. p.1 Frugal)

We gladly pay our share or more when eating out with friends, tip graciously and never forget to repay, or give back, something we have borrowed.

It's true we love deals, seldom buy anything that is not on sale - why pay full price for something that next week will be half price? - and consider a trip to Value Village as an opportunity to pass along un-needed items while picking up a few bargains.

Being frugal leads to wearing sweaters inside during winter and hanging our clothes outside to dry in summer - this saves money on fuel bills and also reduces our carbon footprints. We buy fruit by the bushel to can and make into jam - preserving old skills and the taste of summer while also saving money - and if we can pick the fruit ourselves even better, not just for the additional discount but for the memories of the excursion.

We scour newspapers and websites for reasonably priced wine, flights and hotels and we enjoy all three. And being frugal does not mean ignoring our social conscience - frugal people support any number of causes, happily adding up the charitable receipts when it comes time to file taxes.

Driving less, walking more, buying less, sharing more - frugality might just help in the fight against climate change - and if so, those of us who are sometimes accused of, instead of appreciated for, being frugal might be entitled to feel slightly virtuous now and then.

(cont. p.1 Argument)

Progress is to be sought, regress to be avoided, but both become dangerous when pushed too far.

We are lacking in progress at the moment, and if not altered our staleness will turn into regression and if that regression is allowed to fester there will be attempts to chop off the gangrenous limb, but we have not lost the plot to such an extent that we need worry about gangrene at the moment. What does need worrying is the attempt to change the security of our first-past-the-post system.

The reason for my argument is this, if we move to a proportional representation system, which is the only other non-tyrannical option, it will lead to revolution and as much as we might hope or believe that revolution can occur peacefully it does not, it never has and it never will. We can and must progress, preferably as quickly as possible, but revolution is not the same as progression.

How can I be sure a change to a proportional representation system will lead to revolution? Simple, I will run and I will win. I will reinstate the Bank of Canada, cut ties with all warmongers, nationalize all natural resources, train all citizens in combat, stop all commercial shipping, stop all resource exports, end dependence on fossil fuels, end factory farms, ban usury, nationalize all universities, redistribute the wealth, ensure all children become bilingual, ban all advertising, stop the influx of propaganda bent on creating happy slaves, redistribute the land, ensure everyone has access to the best technology and healthcare and create the finest space exploration program in the world, among other things. I will win because everyone is sick and tired of our immoral political parties and corrupt politicians. I will win because it only takes six million people to elect a majority, because enough of us know that if we don't change soon we are going to lose the beauty of the planet and the wonders of life. I will win because I will promise to make Canada a mixture of Harry Potter and Star Trek, because I will give hope that we can do better. And when I win I will be assassinated and there will be bloody revolution. So, for my sake, let us keep our first-past-the-post system and enjoy what time we have left, and who knows, we might still be able to turn the good ship Earth around with incremental change.

(cont. p.1 Graffiti) ...punched in the walls, doors ripped off their hinges, fixtures being pulled off the walls, debris in the urinals, and graffiti, of course, everywhere one could think of.

Luckily for us, one of our regular customers was the vandalism prevention officer for the city. He said we needed a "deflection device", like the ones he was putting in the parks. (These were blank walls, or strategically placed bare logs, on which the local hooligans could carve, scratch, or scribble whatever thoughts came into their tiny minds. By doing so, they would leave the living trees alone, and the city could send round a crew once a week or so to erase their "messages".)

On his advice we put chalkboards up above all our urinals and, lo and behold, actual vandalism dropped by 90%. (As long as we kept them supplied with chalk; hell hath no fury like a drunk with a blank chalkboard and no chalk!)

What makes some idiot spray-paint a swastika on a mosque or synagogue? We make a mistake if we assume that the person painting a swastika on a synagogue hates jews, or that the person painting a swastika on a mosque hates muslims. They are just the same stupid person, maybe not as drunk as my customers, but nevertheless grouchy, annoyed, and with pent-up frustration about something.

Why do people write the things they do? Who knows, maybe they think they are being funny (sometimes they are; my favourite lavatory scribbling is, Sartres: "To do is to be". Sinatra : "Dooby-dooby doo") but mostly they just want to shout, to express themselves, to "let it out". Do they still scratch swastikas in the walls? Not anymore, but they do appear on the chalkboards occasionally, along with exhortations guaranteed to offend LGBTQWERTY people and other officially-recognised minorities.

Do I care? Not at all, as long as I can wipe it off every morning. Why on earth would I make a fuss about something so puerile and insignificant? Let 'em scribble on the board, I say, far better than trying to burn the building down. That is where I draw the line.

A Review Reviewing the Review

While perusing the November edition of the Coquitlam Review there was one article in particular that stood out from the rest of the self-righteous and self-aggrandizing content, despite the editor's best efforts to bury it on the third page.

This article was poignant, purposeful and pointed in its astute critique of the bourgeois font used to create a two-tiered system of readership - the landed gentry who can read Old English cursive and those who were not afforded the opportunity to receive schooling in classical texts and fonts and thus have been shut out from their democratic right to read and understand whatever text is placed in front of them. If the Coquitlam Review continues to deploy such a divisive and exclusionary font than the only conclusion one can reach is that this Review is exclusively for the eyes and minds of carriage riders rather than carriage drivers.

One might argue that with a simple change of font the Review could attempt to straddle both camps of riders and drivers by providing a little for column A and a little for column B. However this would appear to be extremely unlikely as the editor of the Review has little grasp of readability and one might even question whether the editor has actually attempted to read a copy of the Review. Further, he has also failed to understand what a column is. (cont. p.6)

In Regards to Fake News

First one should be clear on what “news” is, or perhaps better put as, what “news” was. It may be difficult to believe, but there was a time when new distributors were trustworthy and revered. They shone light in dark places, informed the public as to the goings on in their communities and there-for-to unassailable halls of power. They exposed nefarious dealings of business people intent on capitalising upon the weak and the poor. They delved into the reasons and possible motives of politicians, exposed liars and cheats and laid bare our own failings so that we might better ourselves and build a more honest society. Somewhere in the past 300 years there was a major malfunction, when is of little importance - whether 100 years or 10 years ago - what is done is done, the issue is recognising and fixing the problem. The problem is not just influence and who has it and for what are they using it, but one of self-belief and the willingness to be wrong. That is not a problem this column will go into, the task is too gargantuan, the rot too deep, so let us simply consider what is fake news and how it compares to news.

Today the largest fake news story is related to Wikileaks and that organisations release of some emails from a United States political party. As the story goes, the head of Wikileaks has been taken hostage or murdered a month ago after releasing a file of hacked emails purportedly linking many high ranking officials and personalities to a pedophile ring in Washington DC. The evidence for this is the wikileaks founder suddenly being barred from the internet, the inability of the Swedish police to conduct their scheduled face-to-face interview with said founder, the release of a supposed deadman’s switch password to unlock a bevy of encrypted wikileaks files, the massive DDoS attacks on much of the “alternative” media sites of the internet, the admittance of the CEO of a large social media site to secretly altering users comments without their consent or ability to see the altered comments, the altering of code on the wikileaks website that is meant to ensure that their files are the original leaked documents and have not been tampered with, the sudden change in tone of wikileaks correspondence and the lack of verifiable communication by the head of wikileaks. The story is one of intrigue, deception, abuse and scandal. It is a cut and dry case, the globalist corporate oligarchy are destroying the world. (cont. p.5)

On the Loss of Elitism

Striving to be elite is revered in almost all aspects of society. Our best athletes work tirelessly to be elite, to be the best possible. Our warriors train endlessly to become elite markspeople or elite fighters or pilots or any number of other specialties. Our scientists and mathematicians study for decades to become the elite in their fields. Farmers endeavour to grow the finest crops, philosophers to posit the most logical and reasoned arguments, architects to build the most beautiful structures, engineers to build the safest bridges and towers, craftspeople to imbue their work with the most beauty, and the list goes on. Why then are those who seek the best of culture so reviled? Why are those who seek to draw the most from the English language and the accompanying literature branded negatively as elitists? Why do we judge culture with relativism alone? There is better and worse in the cultural realm and it should be the best for which we strive. To further the sports analogy, though we might enjoy a good hit it is Gretzky’s vision we came to see, not Probert’s checks. That is to say, one needn’t be ashamed to have read Dan Brown unless one has forgone Atwood, Bacon, Tolstoy, Goethe, et al. In conclusion, don’t buy into American anti-intellectualism and cultural degradation.

(cont. p.4 News)

Today the largest news story is related to the mass migration of people from the Middle East and Africa. As the story goes, the poor people of war torn countries should leave these hell holes and find refuge in the wonderland of smiles and hugs that is the West. Their countries are lost causes and should not be fought for by the citizenry, any Westerner not completely accepting of newcomers is to be shunned and the Islamic world is perfectly compatible with Christendom. The inference is that the masses of fighting age men and women leaving their crumbling countries should not fight for a better homeland (as did the fighting age men and women of the West) but should leave and take refuge in the West until outside forces can make them free or they decide to join the liberal capitalist adventure. That despite decades of meddling from the West, in an attempt to force western cultural values on Middle Eastern and African cultures in a desperate ploy to keep global corporate profits rising, the solution to the carnage is to increase meddling. The story is one of hardship, loss and self-congratulation. It is a cut and dry case, those people leaving their countries are right to do so and the countries of the West must accept them with open arms.

What both stories have in common is unabashed bias, and therein lies the rub. Both stories are not news, they are opinions on news. That is what our news has become, opinion on supposed events, or perceived events, or made up events - snippets of video that confirm one bias or the other - and let me be clear, that in spite of there being a myriad opinions in the world, there appears to be only two opinions when it comes to news and fake news, either one is of the opinion that the corporate global governmental oligarchy of liberal democratic institutions and ideas are benevolent and seek to bring about harmony and world peace with as little collateral damage as possible, or one is of the opinion that the corporate global governmental oligarchy of liberal democratic institutions and ideas are evil and seek to bring about world enslavement with as much collateral damage as possible. Both views are poppycock, yet they prevail in our semiliterate societies, so brainwashed as to believe the world consists of blacks and whites.

The news is meant to enlighten, but in the 21st century it obfuscates, it hides, from those for whom reasoned inspection requires more energy than their exhausting lives allow (which is the majority), that the world is made of chance and that change is always possible. Reasoning individuals have been silent or drowned out for too long, if we cannot debate openly and freely our society is lost, if we do not shine light on the dark the shadows win. We go to the news for facts and both sides of the story, as for opinions we can make our own.

Sherl Aukholmes

Mediocre Consulting Detective

and

friendly dyslexic dog Watson

Master of two disguises and average logical reasoning skills

1341B The Way Drive

No appointments

(cont. p.3 Review)

At first glance, one could easily mistake a copy of the Review for a game of snakes and ladders. Readers are greeted by a mish-mash of horizontal and vertical columns of various lengths and widths - perhaps the best description of the column style found in the Review was offered to me by one of my dear friends who is a clown in a travelling circus: It is as if someone has attempted to take those crazy mirrors you find in the carnival fun houses and transform them into text. The visual sensation one gets from staring at the two are certainly the same.

So there you have it, even a clown thinks the Review needs to undergo a thorough review of its design principles. This is why I am bypassing the editor and calling directly on the publishers of the Review to undertake a systemic overhaul of their production team, it is time to clear out the cobwebs and breathe fresh life into the Review.

It is time for the proletariat to rise up against the pro-literate, and it begins with one simple word: Arial.

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Comings and Goings

I came, you went
You came, I went

I came, you went
You came, I went

I left, you stayed
I returned, you'd gone

I came, you went
You came, I went

I don't know what I'm doing.

The Coquitlam Review is published by the Commonwealth Federation of Explorers.

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If you would like to submit articles to The Review please do so by emailing the editor at simon.j.postma@gmail.com

All submissions will be considered, no limitations as to content or length except do your best not to be boring. Local or international, philosophical or satirical, poetry or prose, all are welcome, providing for quality.

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