



Upper chambers are elitist and unnecessary

At the end of last semester, Prof Betty McLane-Iles, spouse and senior longevity TSU leady language teacher, got me to introduce her at the TSU “CUTS” QUAD RALLY protest, due to her near voice collapse the night before in her chief Bernie Sanders Adair delegate capacity function role.

Being me, in European Leftist style, often a be-moaner at the lack of issue sharpness and sheer negativity of much USA too gentlemanly at such protests, I threw out oratorically a feeling I am building upon this fall in this article. Simply, I think it’s only realism that, yes, if you’re asking, as TSU Students for a Democratic Society, Amnesty International and other quad protester chapters were, for restored, yes even expanded higher education funding and free tuition from the likes of Jeff City stingy legislators, then, you also have an argumentative duty to propose cuts elsewhere in needlessness of existing spending.

One example of the needlessness is located in the Jeff City state legislature complex itself, and indeed in every state US capitol building save Bernie Sanders’ unicameral Vermont. Why do these bodies still exist in the early twenty-first century era of our supposedly democratic age and all? Are they not damnable, as fundamentally aristocratic and costly crazy, just as their counterpart second chambers are elsewhere globally? Do not all the arguments apply against them, as for instance against UK’s present House of Lords, which absurdly has more unseatable appointed members on party lines than the elected House of Commons chamber?

A political revolution-seeker, to see that 2016-17 the very nationalism of our existing needless bi-cameralism, or two-chamber rule, is inherently over-elitist and democratically lacunae in sheer negativity. Because, Platonist, it presupposes that we the people, the “rabble” all do lack the intelligence capacity to elect wise, first-legislator minds in the primary popular chambers. Instead, we must be “checked” or “revised” or even counter duplicated, as often happens in Jeff City today. Where the GOP’s unnaturally huge State senate majority constantly re-introduces bills for what it calls “tougher” gun-rights and anti-abortion, schools curricula anti-sciences “creationist” measures, propagandistically. Why? Because folks these measures are too horrifically extreme, ruinously right wing and rural, white male biased even for its more moderate state house of reps for them even to want to get them through!

Nor, too, does the “revision” argument used for bi-cameralism work — the assertion that a second-thought chamber will stop over-pandering first chamber neglects, in the first place. The failure of the US federal Senate to assert its own such revision written constitution revisory prerogatives against the third executive power in US terms, the elected Presidency and his entirely appointive cabinets, of the relatively rich, on foreign policy consultation and treat – “yea” or “nah” making is notorious. Not just as amply illustrated by the Vietnam and two Iraq war disasters, let alone, the establishment of over 100 US military bases in as many overseas sovereign countries, without any UN pretense of global law and often US bribery of overseas rich elites. The peoples’ house too in, yes, DC is supposed to have some trade policy rights, yet NAFTA and so on has surely made that process just a jobs-loss fiction, has it not?

Finally, everywhere, there is the huge windbag-oratory costs and ultimate evasions of modern democratic governance accountability entangles that second chambers do pose. By seeming to house power elsewhere than it clear-cut, or not, ought to be transparently so housed. Positively, the greater accountability we could have can be shown by countries or provinces which are now long term unicameral or one chamber — where tv and yes, social other media can watch the one chambers and Pms/Presidents running them all. It is a proud fact-set, of progressivism galore, that unicameral New Zealand has had more women prime ministers of larger duration than most of we two chamber régimes. That it has voter reform, ensuring more Maori indigenous reps, more viable young Green parties and more transgender MPs than the USA has ever had, or, nearly indeed, Australia its Senate-hampered big neighbor has ever had federally. So let’s get “real,” Americans and others — abolish the needless second chamber talking shops that impede modernity and progress — well, uselessly!

-Larry Iles, Kirksville

Friends

by Annie Kintree



Avoid offensive costumes



Lesley Reno

It’s official — fall is finally here. Fall is, by far, the best season for many reasons. The leaves are changing colors, bugs are returning to the hell where they belong, it is finally cold enough that I can wear my flannels and sweaters without melting and, of course, the main reason fall is the best season — Halloween. Halloween is the best holiday. It is the time for horror movie marathons, being able to buy candy in bulk without getting weird looks and dressing up as something you would never be able to pull off on a normal day. It is the holiday in which you get to release your inner child and be as creative as you want. It brings happiness and creativity to our boring, everyday lives, and everyone gets a free pass to be whatever they want for a night, whether it be a dragon or a ketchup bottle. It’s a time when you can escape the stressfulness of everyday life and return to the silly, playful side of life.

Along with this freedom to be anything you want, though, is a darker side to the perfect costume search. One thing people don’t think about when they choose their costume is whether or not what they are choosing is going to be offensive to another’s culture. Cultural appropriation is a sociological concept that views the use, borrowing or adoption of elements from a culture that is not yours as a negative and offensive phenomenon. Now more than ever, people are aware of this concept. Most people, including myself, have fallen prey

to choosing a costume that was not “sensitive” to other cultures. I firmly believe most people, when they choose their costumes, do not think about how their costume might affect other people. They think it is all in good fun and don’t intend to offend any groups of people, which is why I firmly believe people should educate themselves about cultural appropriation and think about how their intended costume could be potentially offensive to others.

Often, the cultures appropriated are ones that belong to a minority, like a Mexican tequila girl, Native American, anything involving blackface, geisha or even Catelyn Jenner. The list goes on and on. There has even been a photo campaign started by students at Ohio University titled “We’re culture, not costume” in the hopes of spreading awareness about the racial insensitivities that occur during the Halloween season. The posters started circulating in 2011 and the campaign has since gone viral, found on many media platforms. One poster’s caption reads “You wear the costume for one night, I wear the stigma for life.” This one phrase, I think, perfectly sums up how detrimental it can be to a person to see someone walking around in a costume of their culture — only for that person to go home at the end of the night and take it off and return to their own lives without understanding the culture they just misrepresented. For minorities who see their culture being stereotyped, this can be painful, angering and an overall uncomfortable experience.

If we continue to buy these costumes, we only solidify the stereotypes attached to them. I challenge people to think more carefully about what or who they choose to be this Halloween season. It is our duty as decent human beings to listen to what those that are offended are trying to say and about how they are affected by our choices in costumes. After all, it is their culture and their identity that we’re putting on display. Halloween is an all-inclusive holiday, and we should want to make it feel that way for all peoples.

Lesley Reno is a junior communication major from Renick, Mo.

Our View

Delta Upsilon Fraternity at the University of Missouri has been under much scrutiny lately. The fraternity was first temporarily suspended last month because of a report that some members joined a group of students in calling out slurs against the Legion of Black Collegians. They have also been put on probation before because of alcohol violations. Last week, however, reports emerged that new members of the fraternity were allegedly told to drug and sexually as-

sault women. This last allegation is not under investigation. The allegations made against the fraternity in this case were unsubstantiated.

We, the Truman Media Network Editorial Board, think these allegations were so easily made in part because of the spread of misinformation on social media and the internet. Anyone who has a Facebook account can easily access news sources. Additionally, that same source makes it just as easy for people to spread information without looking at the content of the story they are sharing, or have the ability to give false information in general.

It might be shocking for some to realize this, but not everything one can read on the internet is true, and if we rely solely on it for information, there is the possibility that we can become greatly misinformed about a subject.

While credible news sources do use Facebook as a way to communicate information to readers, most readers are interested in news sources that focus on entertainment.

Another thing that should be mentioned is while you might trust your friends, the sources they get their information from might not be trustworthy. For many readers, it’s unlikely. If you don’t trust the places where your friend gets their news, then why would you share something that you see them post?

Therefore, we the Truman Media Network Editorial Board, suggest that before you share, like, or comment on something you see, think about it. Click on the source, see where it comes from, read what it is about. You shouldn’t just read headlines or believe that it’s true. You need to think critically about it — after all, Truman is a liberal arts school.

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