

Nationalism

Pro: Con:

Nationalism is a unifying thread that runs, has run, and will continue to run through the fabric of every great country. The Greeks knew they were Greeks and were proud of it. The same can be said for the Romans. Americans, too, should be aware of their national uniqueness and should take pride in it. Nationalism creates this pride. Pride is responsible for nationalism. The two are inseparable and go hand in hand.

Nationalism is the motivating force that led to the destruction of the European feudal state. It is responsible for all of the flowers of modern western civilization, the Italian Renaissance, British literature, French culture.

Nationalism is a sense of belonging, a sense of identity, that is an indispensable part of American history. It was this national identification that led to the consolidation of the American colonies and which led to America's westward expansion. This same sense of national pride is directly responsible for the perseverance of our country for over 200 glorious years.

Nationalism comes to be the strongest at times when things are at their roughest and people need the security of national identification to support them. It comes during times of war, times of economic crisis, times of political unrest.

Nationalism is what we, as Americans, most need now — our foreign esteem has plummeted, the dollar has devalued world-wide, we find ourselves being dictated to and pushed around by a bunch of little, unimportant countries. This is not due to a weakness on the part of America; it is due to a weakness on the part of the American people. We are letting this happen to ourselves because of our own inability to stand up for our beliefs. People are pursuing their own selfish interests, to the detriment of our national well-being. Like the old proverb, we are like individual sticks trying vainly to stand alone when group together we are invulnerable. It is time that all Americans came to realize this. Together, with a firm belief in our national ideals of liberty and justice for all, the invincible American people will, with God's help, fulfill their glorious destiny.

Darryl Gossett

Nationalism is a state of mind or a belief that one's own country is the best country in the world. The sense of belonging to a larger group sharing a common language, history, and aspirations combines with a feeling of responsibility for the tiny of a nation and a willingness to help shape its future. But, nationalism's mix of emotions, thoughts, and actions arouses distrust of the alien and unfamiliar. Governments manipulate nationalism, people owe their supreme loyalty to a country and are willing to fight for that loyalty. The U.S. Hockey team's recent victory over the Russians at the 1980 Winter Olympics provides an example of nationalism. Rather than praise the players of the winning team, fans shouted "U.S.A." Since a person's world view and education highly determine his susceptibility to the emotion, many people are blindly drawn into the irrational emotionalism. Few question the legitimacy of America's right to do something by thinking, "America is right or wrong, is our fatherland."

Nationalism is dangerous; it has been a cause of modern wars. The American and French revolutions were the first powerful manifestations of nationalism. We Americans tend to view those wars as necessary. That is American nationalism at work. But what about the tiny country of Serbia which also desired local autonomy? The Serbs had their nationalism also. The stress on cultural diversity, peculiar traditions, and national languages got out of hand in the mid-19th century. Radical political leaders intensified ethnic tensions to create nation-states in Austria and Germany, and bred tensions which led to the Balkan Wars, World War I, and World War II.

Fortunately, post-European nationalism declined with the international economy, military, and political organizations such as NATO, the European Coal and Steel Community, and the Common Market. Although previously cultural nationalism had been nationalism's goal, the irrational emotional nature causes conflicts which pose as obstacles to the idea of the betterment of mankind and block world peace.

Today some European countries use nationalism to justify keeping their economies poor and maintaining a depressed economy. Nationalism seems spontaneous but actually the fibers already exist; they merely have been sown together with a terrifying speed and power of irrational emotionalism.

Our nationalism is being abused.

Gus Jenks

Washington

Two-week exploration of city life, national politics, international diplomacy, third world problems, art, technology and culture; 16 students and Dr. Peery lived and studied in Washington; briefings by Congressional offices, federal agencies, interest groups, trade associations, etc.; students enjoyed city tours, mapping projects, museum visits, concerts and similar activity; students also had opportunity to explore the city on their own time, looking at historic sites, parks, restaurants, theatres, and other tourist attractions.



Photo ID: (on steps of the capitol) down the steps from top to bottom: Terry Campbell, Wales Whitehead, Mike Plemmons, Angie Boring, Alex Navy,

Pete Hatheway, Robin Phillips, Dwayne Davis, Travis Plemmons and Congressman Lamar Gudger; on landing above (left to right): Kay Cunningham, Dr. Peery, Mark Jordan

Letters

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the guest editorial "Challenging the Power Structure," by Keith J. Leggett. It seems to me that this article is too vague to warrant any serious attention from the administration or student body.

Mr. Leggett states, "By using rules and regulations the administration is able to manipulate the campus conscience to achieve its own objectives." Specifically, what are the administration's objectives?

In a seemingly dramatic plea for unity, Mr. Leggett states, "This (cooperation) then, unifies the campus and establishes an anti-ethical conscience to the administration's will." Exactly how does the "student conscience" differ from the "administrative will?"

"Also, the student body (in general) perceives various campus organizations as reiterating administrative policy instead of student concerns." In what organization do we perceive this tendency? How do these organizations reiterate administrative policy?

I realize that the author of this editorial didn't want to get too specific, so as not to offend anyone. It may be possible that the author didn't offend anyone, but he also didn't prove too much by writing this article. Without clear definitions of "administrative will" and "student conscience," this editorial sounds quite rhetorical. It is very possible that there is validity to Mr. Leggett's idea. There definitely may be conflicts between student and administrative concepts of morality and conscience. However, in order to resolve these conflicts, we must rely on clear, specific criticisms and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Patricia A. Hayes

Ladies Night

The girls in Jarvis House met February 24 for a supper and discussion with George Peery. Plans for the meeting were limited to lasagna, salad, homemade bread, and ice-cream-cake. The character of the discussion remained undetermined until it began. "Character" itself became a very important issue. The meeting opened with introductions, which gave everyone the opportunity to define her own reality, the whos and wheres and whys seemed important at the moment. We talked about the character of Mars Hill as an institution, and encountered difficulty defining it, which was the character of Mars Hill seems to have a somewhat ambiguous character at this time. There seems to be some friction between the conservative and more liberal standards of ethics. And how do rules come into play? Do they really reflect the standards of the community? If they do not, it possible that the rules themselves might be self-defeating? The ethical issue becomes, "How can I do this without getting caught?" rather than "this right or wrong?" And does the enforcement of the rules include considerable interpretation? Curfews for girls? And in all fairness, only girls have the protection of locks. Protection... for girls? Is that important? What does that word "girl" say about image? How do we ladies maintain image as ladies (or women, whatever you prefer)? And not as girls. We left the meeting with many thoughts and questions. Questions very important... Ladies?

Patricia Hayes

EVERGREEN

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