Steve Solnick

Patience, Patience

A future thing happened to me on the way to Harvard Square the other day. I didn't get there. Instead, I spent 45 minutes in 15 degree weather waiting for the Harvard bus. I finally gave up.

I took refuge in the Coop where I waited 15 minutes to buy a roll of film. I finally gave up.

I went home where I have been waiting for the Registrar to register a copy of my transcript so that I may apply to graduate schools.

They say all good things come to those who wait. I was beginning to doubt it.

On the other hand, I got to thinking. The last year has actually been an unusually fine year for patient people. Take Paul Gray, for example. After a wait of 30 years in Cambridge, he finally made it to the top of the Tech heap.

George Bush may get the same thing if he can only wait a little bit longer.

Henry Kissinger was reelected after only seven years. Or, at least foreign policy was. If you doubt this, you need only look at the southward casting of our former Secretary of State, Alexander Haig: "It neither serves the purpose of social justice nor the vital interests of America to pursue policies under the rubric of human rights which have the practical consequences of driving authoritarian regimes friendly to the West into totalitarianism, where they will resist all of permanent animosity to the American people and our interests." That must also have brought a smile to the face of many a South African democrat, who has also been waiting eight years for such a turn to come over Washington.

McCarthyists have been waiting 25 years to hear government aides declare, "The threats to the internal security of the Republic is greater today than at any time since World War II." Congressional and Reagan transition aides have been endorsing the revival of internal security committees in Congress to counter the threat to "internal security." McCarthy must be looking down at us on all earth with a bated breath.


A particular fine one for patient people.

On a larger scale, of course there are the Republicans, who finally got what they've been waiting for since the fifties - the government. Ronald Reagan finally got to move out of the Pacific Palisades and into the White House. After only sixty years of trying.

Or take the MIT Dining Service (you've got no choice if you're a student). They say all good things come to those who wait. I was beginning to doubt it.

Patience, Patience

To the Editor:
The dining report, which was presented in December 1979, culled for a complete survey of dining on the east side of campus, to include either kitchens in either East Campus or Senior House, improvements and expansion of existing kitchen facilities, and the construction of a house dining hall. This investigation has yet to be started. The only result of this dining program appeared to be increased traveling time, the increased pressure to leave the area while we bring a military cordon around the nation.

While disagreeing with this suggestion, it appeals to me on an emotional level. Frustrated at our inability to get our countrymen back, I'm now willing to try anything as a possible cure. While recognizing that Reagan's statement will, in time, be proven to be true, it is not as in his case 13 years, but rather with absolute the case. I'm glad he said it.

As America's public emotionalism grows, that is for us to be warning. References to the "Great Satan" (that is, the US) by the French Parliament has long generated much public reaction. Rather, they add to the slow burn most Americans are currently experiencing.

Nevertheless, it is rational enough, and fair-ermotion that generates results in any complex issue. Do the Iranians decide to involve the Algerian negotiators, I think, shows that they have realized this. Carter's statements show that he realized this from day one. The fact that Ronald Reagan would do well to follow recent traditional and give the June 1981 Commencement Address.

Richard Salz

Tugging on heart strings

Performers, politicians, and others appearing in the public spotlight have a number of key sentiments in their vocabulary which they can use to get an automatic and favorable reaction out of their audience. For example, a stand-up comedian will often open his set with, "Geez, it's great to be here! Isn't Greater North Podunk a wonderful town?" If it is said sincerely enough, the crowd will be reflexively yeller and cheer. Having thus warmed up the crowd and lessen- ed some of their inhibition and embarrassment, they are more likely to listen to his other jokes. Johnny Carson uses this technique almost every night. "How many of you are too much this Thanksgiving?" Likewise, a politician may end his speech with, "We have had enough; America isn't going to be a second-rate power any more!" If said with enough force, he can then walk off the podium and out of the auditorium leaving a cheering crowd behind. This was almost the exact wording of Ronald Reagan's campaign slogan, and George Bush ended many of his speeches with a similar phrase.

The two above examples illustrate a well-recognized fact: it is much easier to get a reaction from someone by appealing to them on an emotional level than a rational one.

Around Christmas time, Iran released the captive holiday celebrations. All the TV news programs dutifully showed the hostages. Several commentators pointed out that the film was a blatant attempt to strike an emotional response with the American people. The Iranians, they said, were trying to galvanize the public into forcing the government to accept the speedy settlement - Iran's settlement - to the hostage situation.

The captives' situation hassettled for an emotional one. At the beginning, an official would merely have to mention the words "United States," and thousands of Iranians would be mobilized in front of the embassy yelling, screaming, and burning our flag in effigy of Joe of Greater North Podunk applauding his home town. It was the reflex reaction brought about by a key phrase. There was no clear-cut reaction in the US during the same period. Some people thought the action justified, others called it a terrorist international crime. President Carter asked chief of rhetoric, and the other presidential can- didate agreed not to comment on the situation.

The situation now, however, is quite different. We are tugging with an overwhelming sense of frustration on the people's heart strings, while our hopes for a set- ting have a number of key strings.

feedback

East Campus protests dining

To the Editor:
It has been nearly one full year since the MIT administration im- posed a new dining program on this campus. This new program called for many improvements in the dining of the undergraduate residence halls and the East Campus residence halls. The improvements re- quire concessions by both the residents and the administration. The students would give up their freedom to choose how and where they would eat. They would also pay a priori higher price to eat the meal on the meal plan as opposed to cooking on their own. The ad- ministration would have to improve the MIT dining system, add physical improvements to some of the dining facilities, and try to make the dining service more responsive to the students' needs and desires.

The dining report, which was presented in December 1979, culled for a complete survey of dining on the east side of campus, to include either kitchen facilities in either East Campus or Senior House, improvements and expansion of existing kitchen facilities, and the construction of a house dining hall. This investigation has yet to be started. The only result of this dining program appeared to be increased traveling time, the increased pressure to leave the area while we bring a military cordon around the nation.

The residents of the east campus dor- sitories have dropped until some substantial improvements are completed.

Eric Delkers

East Campus President

Gray should speak solo

Appropriately, the Commence- ment Committee is beginning a formal campaign to make commen- ter speak. Why? This will be the first commencement under our new MIT President. What would be more appropriate than to have him follow recent tradition and give the June 1981 Commencement Address?

Steven Piet G