

THE MINUTES IMPEACHMENT SPECIAL!

At last week's house meeting, the residents of Section 5, citing a lack of minutes being posted, voted to impeach their section rep, Max Gallop. This means that we will be treated to an impeachment trial on Thursday. I know you're all excited about this, so I have brought in my good friends Herodotus and Thucydides to explain the background story.



Herodotus on the rise of Max Gallop.

There was a Max Gallop, Wisconsinite in race, son of Mr. Max, residing in Section 5, and aspiring to its kingship. However, he had developed a poor reputation among the people, becoming known as one who would play smash and laugh at off-color jokes rather than do work, and when he stood for the elective kingship, it was clear that the people intended to vote for some other of the candidates.

So Max tricked the people of Section 5 in the following manner. He arranged for the importation from his native land of a milk-cow, Holstein in breed, and brought the cow to Section 5, whereupon he hid behind some bushes. Soon enough, the people of Section 5, curious as to the source of the bellowing that had emerged among them, came out of their rooms and looked upon the cow, inspecting it for any possible utility which could therefrom be derived.

"Behold," said one resident, "this cow can provide us with milk, an important source of calcium, so that our bones may be strong and we may avoid osteoporosis."

"Look," said another, "after it has gone barren and can no longer provide milk, we can slaughter it and it will provide us with meat, an important source of protein."

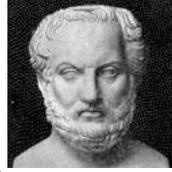
"And lo," said a third, "after we have slaughtered it, we may use its hides to produce textiles and clothes, keeping us warm during the winter months."

Seeing that the People of Section 5 had thus approved of the cow, an agent of Max now spoke among them. "Indeed, as Achilles is to all other warriors, this cow is to all other useful things. Whosoever brought us this cow, let us make him our king." The people all cheered this proposal, and Max then emerged and declared himself to be the one who had brought the cow. And in this manner he became King of Section 5.

There is another story, according to which Max did not become king by trickery, but was given the crown by a statue of Athena which, to the sound of loud thunder, became animated and moved, but there is no reason to pay it any heed, because it is told only by the supporters of Max, and is likely a fabrication, and has not been heard until very recently.

The Egyptians tell yet a third story, though I myself do not believe it, that Max was not the son of Mr. Max at all, but the son of their king Sesos-teris, who had been sent on a royal barge to deliver gold to the Phoenicians in exchange for dyes, but had been blown off course by the winds and landed in Section 5, where he used his gold to buy not dyes, but the crown, and in this way became their king.

However he came to the throne, once he was King Max established laws such as these: he forbid fathers to marry off their own daughters to whoever they wished, and instead decreed that whenever the maidens became ripe for marriage, at whichever time they brought them all together, to one place they brought them gathered and round them stood a crowd of men. Then, making each stand up, one by one, a herald sold them, first the best looking of all and afterward, whenever she fetched much gold and was sold, another he heralded for sale who after her was the best looking, and they were sold as such.



Thucydides on Dialogue at the Last House Meeting

The People of Section 5

M. Gallop, you have not posted the minutes this week. Is this not a violation of the social contract to which you, by accepting your current position, had implicitly agreed to?

Max

There either is or is not such an implicit social contract of which you speak. If there is not, then clearly I have done no wrong, as I am therefore under no obligation to do anything. If there is such a contract, then clearly I have already fulfilled it, since I am only required to post “minutes”, not “all the minutes”, and having already posted two different minutes, I have fulfilled its terms and need to do no further.

The People of Section 5

In our judgment it is expedient that you should respect a principle which you know is for the common good; that it is clearly meant, regardless of what is said, that you should in fact post all the minutes. Be warned that just as we selected you to be our sovereign, we may remove you in a similar fashion.

Max

Your threat is not credible, for you lack the power to defeat my forces. Moreover, if you remove me, your sovereign, the bringer of order to our section, you will only back into the state of nature, a state of warre of all against all, and you will be under a structural imperative to return to yet another sovereign, who, for all you know, will be even worse than I. Therefore, your threat is irrational as well.

The People of Section 5

But we know that the fortune of war is sometimes impartial, and not always on the side of numbers. If we yield now, all is over; but if we fight, there is yet a hope that we may stand upright.

Max

Hope, nature’s comforter, may be indulged in by those with abundant resources, but those who place their all upon it see it in its true colors when they are ruined.

The People of Section 5

We know only too well how hard the struggle must be against your power, and against fortune, if she does not mean to be impartial. Nevertheless we do not despair of fortune; for we hope to stand as high as you in the favor of heaven, because we are righteous and you against whom we contend are not righteous; and we are satisfied that our deficiency in power will be compensated by the aid of our allies the Snellians; they cannot refuse to help us, if only because we are their kinsmen, and for the sake of their own honor. And therefore our confidence is not so utterly blind as you suppose.

Max

As for the Gods, I expect to have quite as much of their favor as you: for I am not doing or claiming anything which goes beyond common opinion. For of the gods I believe, and for the men I know, that by a law of their nature wherever they can rule they will, that the strong will do as they please, and the weak suffer what they must. This law was not made by me, nor am I the first to have acted upon it, I have merely inherited it. And then as to the Snellians, when you imagine that out of very shame they will assist you, we admire the innocence of your idea, but we do not envy you the folly of it. In respect of their dealings with others, they can be described in few words, of all men whom we know they are the most notorious for identifying what is pleasant with what is honorable, and what is expedient with what is just. But how inconsistent is such a character with your present blind hope of deliverance!

THE CHARGES

Failure to post minutes and failure to prepare own food are the two major charges being brought against Max Gallop, but here are some of the other things the prosecution plans to focus on as well.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

Citing the principle of “cuius regio, eius religio”, or “whosoever is king, his religion”, from the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia, Max expelled all Huguenots from Section 5, indicating his desire for a more religiously homogenous section. His critics claim that since Section 5 did not fight in the Thirty Year’s War, it could not possibly be a signatory of the Treaty of Westphalia, and that the principle therefore does not apply. Max has issued a statement condemning “such denial of our history as an insult to the families of all those Section 5 members who fought and died at the Battle of Breitenfeld in 1631.”

SHADY DEALINGS WITH TONY BLAIR



The impeachment movement claims to have damning photographic evidence (seen above) that Max Gallop accepted bribes and titles of nobility from Tony Blair and a mysterious fat man in exchange for using his political influence to keep Wisconsin voting for the ruling Labour Party. Max denies the charges, claims that he received the title of Earl of Hughenden “only for my great contributions to the welfare of the English people”, and rejects the idea that he has that kind of clout in Wisconsin, saying that “I am merely a local politician with many good friends.”

WITCHCRAFT

The prosecution also claims that Max, among other things, caused Chris Lee’s crops to wither and, on at least two occasions, summoned the spirits of the dead in order to ask them questions about future events. Max has not commented on these charges, insisting only that “I am a man of God.”

SCHEDULE. OF EVENTS.

Sunday:

6:00 PM – Halloween BBQ on the Snell-Hitchcock Quad, with food and movie.

10:00 PM – Bad Movie Night. See the “Ice Princess” go from Scholastic to Fantastic.

Tuesday:

7:30 PM – Intramural Dodgeball at Henry Crown. Win, or the IM sports reps get tortured.

10:00 PM – Retro Cartoon Night, featuring Darkwing Duck.

Evening: Trick-or-Treating in Section 5. Bring either a costume or a trick of some kind to perform, and make sure to knock only on specially marked doors, lest you rouse the wrath of a disturbed upperclassman.

11:59 PM – 2006 Election Prediction Contest Form due in Hitchcock 547.

Thursday:

10:00 PM – The next House meeting.

December:

House trip to see “A Christmas Carol” downtown.

Next Quarter:

Hitchcock Hitched (First Week of Winter Quarter).