

St Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church · Timonium, Maryland

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FROM THE RECTOR

It's time protesters learned to catch flies with honey

Demonstrations hold no appeal for me. There's something off-putting about being stuck in the midst of a seething mass of humanity. Even so, as a journalist, I witnessed a goodly number of them over the years – which, I guess, qualifies me to opine about the protests over the weekend of the Presidential Inaugural.

It strikes me that those protests were neither one thing nor the other – neither the type that advocate change by means of peaceful witness, nor the sort that seek to force change by violence.

True, a vast majority of protesters were peaceful, while a small minority was violent – smashing store windows and burning cars. But neither seemed much interested in changing hearts and minds.

Rather, the peaceful folks appeared interested primarily in heaping profanity-laden abuse on any who disagreed with them, while the violent seemed interested only in mayhem for mayhem's sake.

Similarly, the reaction of the cops looked curiously unfocused. Beyond the vaguely threatening presence of police in riot gear, the response appeared strangely lacking in original strategic thinking.

Not that the reaction of the police in such situations necessarily has to be violent. In this instance, it was obvious long before the inaugural weekend that the protests would be unlikely to involve major violence.

This should have afforded Washington's law enforcement community ample time for strategic planning of the sort employed in the late 1960s during London's first big anti-Vietnam War protest – an event that ended with neither police nor protesters in hospital emergency rooms

Sadly, despite the effectiveness of the strategy the police authorities employed at the time, the model has rarely, if ever, been followed either in Europe or America – or, for that matter, in Britain itself.

The organizers for that anti-Vietnam War protest were an even more motley lot than the folks who planned the Inaugural Weekend demos. They included anarchists, communists, professional agitators, a smattering of hard-core revolutionaries and a large number students, among them President Bill Clinton, then a Rhodes scholar.

The Special Branch (Britain's political police) learned that revolutionaries in the group planned to hijack the protest to provoke a diplomatic incident between the United States and Britain and, thus, spark a revolution. It was a foolish and unlikely plan, but it scared the living daylights out of the government of the time.

On the day appointed, hundreds of thousands of young people, fired up with rousing speeches, set off from Trafalgar Square, past the government offices in Whitehall, towards the U.S. Embassy in Grosvenor Square. There, the revolutionaries hoped to get the Marine guards to open fire on the crowd.

The air crackled with tension. Revolutionaries issued sympathizers with Molotov Cocktails – quart bottles filled with gasoline and paint, a primitive form of Napalm – while the increasingly jittery authorities boarded up windows of government buildings and stationed snipers on rooftops along the marchers' route.

However, both revolutionaries and authorities had reckoned

without the resourcefulness of Britain's police authorities. Rather than rely solely on London's police force, they bussed in hundreds of the tallest, most heavily muscled country Bobbies they could muster.

Their orders were to treat the demonstrators with extreme politeness. Above all, they were to keep their truncheons (nightsticks) in their pockets, and resist – diplomatically but firmly – any attempts to provoke them to resort to violence.

It succeeded brilliantly. I saw an anarchist attempt a blocking tackle on an enormous police sergeant only, quite literally, to bounce off him and end up flat on his back on the ground.

"Sorry, son," the sergeant said mildly, gently picking up the young man and dusting him down, "I didn't mean to bump into you. I hope it didn't hurt." Nonplussed, the anarchist accepted the apology and wandered off scratching his head.

Shortly after, another towering bobby spotted two revolutionaries preparing to set light to rags that served as fuses for what were plainly Molotov Cocktails.

"I'm sorry, lads," he said, "I'm afraid there's no smoking or

Parish Prayer List

Our Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, ring the parish office on 410 560 6776.

FOR RECOVERY: Peter, Hilarie, Sarah, Betsy, Edie, Bill, Alan, Terry, Helen, Jim, Linda, John, Judy, Neal, Wiley✕, Aida, Stephen, Nathan, Hobie, Betty, Helen, Eunice, Tom, Robert✕, David, Jan, Susie, Sophia, Bobby, Lee, Cary, Courtney, Marie, Joanna, Finnie, Kendall, Ian, Gloria, June, John, David, Adrian & Michell

FOR LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Melba, Sam, Vinnie, Doug, Ian, Lisa, Carey, Cindy, Jacob, Casey & Beth

IN MEMORIAM:

THOSE WHO MOURN:

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN; Lt Col. Harry Hughes; Lt Cdr Emma Hawkins, RN; MSGT Michael Holter, USAF; Cpt Fiodor Strikovski, US Army

drinking in the parade. You don't want to get me into trouble, do you? Do me a favor. Be good little chappies: Put that lighter away and pour your drinks down that drain." Sheepishly, they complied and threw the empty bottles into a trashcan.

"Thank you for being so thoughtful," said the bobby, "Have a lovely afternoon."

It was a strategy successfully employed time and time again. Indeed, cops told me afterwards, only half jokingly, that there was so much gasoline flowing through the storm drains that if somebody had thrown in a match the whole of Whitehall would have gone up in flames.

Outside the U.S. embassy, the protestors overflowed Grosvenor Square into the surrounding streets. Efforts to incite the crowd to break through the police lines in front of the building to provoke the Marines into opening fire were thwarted by huge cops who simply linked arms and stood their ground.

The protestors repeatedly charged the police, but each time the stalwart blue line held fast. Finally, the revolutionaries changed tactics: They got the crowd to link arms like the cops and charge

once again. As the lines collided, a quick-witted wag in the police line, noting the demonstrators had linked arms too, started lustily singing a ditty that the British traditionally sing, with linked arms, to welcome in the New Year: “*Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?*”

Both police and demonstrators immediately took up the refrain. “*For auld lang syne, my jo,*” they sang, “*For auld lang syne, we’ll tak’ a cup o’ kindness yet, for auld lang syne.*” Even the anarchists, professional agitators and revolutionaries joined in.

That was the end of the demonstration. After five or 10 minutes of “*Auld lang syne,*” hands were shaken all round and the demonstrators, still singing, headed for the subway, while the cops, also singing, piled into their tourist buses to be driven homewards.

The difference between then and now, I guess, is that, back then, people were generally rather more polite than they are today. What’s more, it was also quite permissible for protesters to display a sense of humor – and not only in London.

My wife, for example, once attended a feminist protest in New York led by movement icons Gloria Steinem and Betty Friedan. There was a general air of *bonhomie* surrounding the event, she recalls.

Indeed, the feminists were all vastly, and not at all unkindly, amused when a weedy little man joined the protest, toting a placard reading: “What about the hen-pecked husbands?”

You wouldn’t get that today. Perhaps it’s time protesters learned you catch more flies with honey than vinegar. GPH✱

FROM ANNE HAWKINS

It's about time that we held another Parish Tea Party

Tea parties are wonderful affairs for meeting new friends and renewing old acquaintances. This is why St Stephen's teas are so popular.

It has been a very long time since we have had a good old fashioned tea party. Things have been so busy of late what with preparing for the Cookie Walk and decorating the church from Christmas (then taking it all down again after the Epiphany) that we just haven't had the time to prepare for one..

However the time has come to put things right. We are planning to start our tea parties again next month. The only variable is the weather. Providing the snow and ice holds off, we will be inviting you to tea in February. If the Balimore weather does not permit, we shall hold one in March for sure. Watch this space for news.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Please join us at Joey Chui's

On Wednesday, February 14th, the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting for an hour or two of good fellowship and great Chinese food at Joey Chui's Restaurant at Greenspring Station. Why not join the fun and reserve your place by calling Joyce Perberg at (410) 252-2680 or the Parish Director of Pastoral Care Hasppy Riley at (410) 560-6776?

St Stephen’s Anglican Church

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Pastoral Care: 410 252 8674

www.ststeve.com

The Rev. Canon Guy P Hawtin, *Rector*
The Venerable Michael Kerouac, *Vicar*
The Rev. Michael Belt, The Rev. John Novicki and
The Rev. Robert Ludwig, *Associate Rectors*
The Rev. M Wiley Hawks, *Pastoral Care Chaplain*
Mrs Happy Riley, *Director of Pastoral Care & Wedding Coordinator*

SUNDAY SERVICES

8am: Said Eucharist
9.15am: Choral Eucharist (with Nursery & Church School)
11am: Choral Mattins (1st Sunday: Sung Eucharist)
6pm: Choral Evensong (as announced) –
evensong.ststeve.com

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6pm: Evening Prayer
Friday, 12 noon: Healing Eucharist
Saturday, 5pm: Family Eucharist

Calendar of Events

WEEKLY

Monday, 6.30pm: Bridge Club
Tuesday, 7am: Fellowship Breakfast (Nautilus Diner)
Thursday, 10am: Knitting Circle
Friday, 10.30am: Bible Study

MONTHLY & SPECIAL

Candlemas Choral Evensong

Sunday, February 5th, 6.00 pm
A reception will follow

Parish Life Committee

Tuesday February 14th, 7.00 pm

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday February 15th, 7.00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch

at Joey Chui's, Greenspring Station,
Wednesday February 15th, 12.00 pm - 2.00 pm

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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