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EDITORIAL: Whose Honor is it Anyway?

Are we letting commitment to the Honor Principle get in the way of real progressive community governance?

Since the founding of Reed College over a century ago, much has been made of the Honor Principle. For anyone who has recently been hit with a bad case of total amnesia, the Honor Principle is the undefinable, unwritten rule that governs all things at Reed. It appears everywhere, from the college's advertising materials, to posters in Commons reminding people to put their dishes away. Its seeming vastness of application is a product of its ambiguity: no one can say precisely what it is, so it can appear basically anywhere.

Yeah, yeah, I know we all know all this. Nobody seems to be able to step a single foot onto campus without being bombarded by the Honor Principle. It's meant to be the governing principle of all of our conduct at Reed, and given this, I want to ask a question that I've been struggling with for the better part of two years:

Does the Honor Principle, in all its ambiguity, really do that much good?

First of all, I want to say I'm not in any way belittling the work of people on this campus who are dedicated to upholding the Honor Principle. Honor Council is and has been a vital force for community mediation, and any member of that council I'm sure has things to say about honor that are a hundred times more insightful or important than what I have to say. But as a member of this community, I've noticed time and time again that the gap between what the Honor Principle is meant to do for the community and what it actually is is wide. It is an important force for justice on campus (the work of Honor Council testifies to that) but, in some ways, the Honor Principle actually exacerbates the power imbalances inherent to the functioning of the academy.

On the Reed Honor Principle home page, the blurb points out that "Many colleges and universities have honor codes clarifying the expected behavior for their community members. Reed is not one of those places. The Honor Principle has no official definition; you won't find it in the community constitution." That's really only half true. While it's true there is no formal laying out of "The Honor Principle is..." there are plenty of places, either direct or implied, where what *kind of conduct* the Honor Principle either supports or decries is explicitly laid out. How many of us have seen syllabi that open a paragraph with a variation of "This class is governed by the Honor Principle. Therefore, no plagiarism, no cheating, etc." The Honor Principle might not be directly defined, but its effects certainly are. Similar phrases pop up in the community constitution and the faculty constitution. And, of course, who can forget the infamous Dissent Policy, which stated outright states: "Striking at the heart of the community by denying it the functions for which it is organized, constitute a violation of the Honor Principle." That line is among those struck out by the recent proposed revision, but its inclusion in the underhandedly racist Dissent Policy highlights the Honor Principle's uneasy relationship to policy in general. The Honor Principle is a governmental gray zone, an ephemeral code that can too often let those in power off the hook while being used to bludgeon those without power. After all, you can't bring a grievance against faculty for violation of the Honor Principle: according to the constitution, the Dean only judges grievances based on policy or law.

Here's my final question: why is it better to leave the central guiding principle of our community undefined? When we create policy, we do it so that there are firm, unbreakable handholds that the most oppressed in our community can wield. I don't want every person on this campus to come to their own definition of honor. I want this to be a community that outright states our dedication to the uplifting of the most marginalized voices, to justice for those wronged either by a peer or a superior, to Honor in a real, identifiable sense. I don't know if we need to change the Honor Principle, but I want us to face it with a clear-eyed sense of what Honor really should be.

by JJ

Advanced Nuclear Technology Bill Re-introduced By Senate

On March 27th, a group of 15 senators from both parties headed by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) re-introduced the Nuclear Energy Leadership Act (NELA), which the senators hope would reestablish the United States as the "world leader in nuclear energy."

Specifically, the bill is "to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish advanced nuclear goals, provide for a versatile, reactor-based fast neutron source, make available high-assay, low-enriched uranium for research, development, and demonstration of advanced nuclear reactor concepts, and for other purposes." The bill allows the federal government to enter into 40 year power purchase agreements (PPAs) with nuclear companies, which is 30 more years than the current allowance of 10 years. The bill defines an advanced nuclear reactor as a fission reactor "with significant improvements compared to the last generation of fission reactors," including the use of high assay fuel, i. e. fuel enriched between 7 and 20 percent, containing additional safety features, having lower waste yields, having an additional tolerance to loss of cooling, being made with modular sizes, or having a fusion reactor as optional features as well as many others listed in the bill.

The senators hope to demonstrate (if the bill is passed) that the new advanced reactors would provide emission free electricity to the public at \$60 per megawatt-hour or less. Currently, solar power costs about \$50 per megawatt-hour, and wind power costs \$20 per megawatt-hour. Coal costs \$102. One notes that unlike solar and wind power, nuclear power is guaranteed 24 hours a day, since solar depends on sunlight, a resource available only for a section of each day, and wind power production varies with wind direction and power.

The bill also suggests creating a "university nuclear leadership program" which would train students to become nuclear engineers for the new advanced reactors. One suspects that Reed alumni would be targeted for recruitment, given that Reed's reactor training program is one of the highest rated in the nation, and also trains the most non-men of any reactor in the United States.

The senators are not the only people to support the NELA. Bill Gates tweeted his support for the bill on March 28th, saying "To prevent the worst effects of climate change, we need to reach near-zero emissions on all the things that drive it—agriculture, electricity, manufacturing, transportation, and buildings—by investing in innovation across all sectors while deploying low cost renewables. Nuclear energy is one of these critical technologies. It's ideal for dealing with climate change, because it is the only carbon-free, scalable energy source that's available 24 hours a day. I'm thrilled that senators from both sides of the aisle have come together to support advanced nuclear. This is exactly the kind of leadership our country needs to both solve the climate challenge and reassert our leadership in this important industry."

The senators introducing the bill are Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska; Cory Booker, D-New Jersey; James Risch, R-Idaho; Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia; Mike Crapo, R-Idaho; Lamar Alexander, R-Tennessee; Sheldon Whitehouse, D-Rhode Island; Cory Gardner, R-Colo-rado; Chris Coons, D-Delaware; Dan Sullivan, R-Alaska; Tammy Duckworth, D-Illinois; Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina; Michael Bennet, D-Colorado; Shelley Moore Capito, R-West Virginia; and Rob Portman, R-Ohio.

by CP

Gossip Column: Coups and Crumpets

Once again, the British royal family is having a Scandal leaving interested readers wondering why the British monarchy even exists.

The tea (ohohoho) this week is that Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge, has recently ousted Rose Hanbury, the Marchioness of Cholmondeley (pronounced Chumley because of course it is), from her social circle. Prior to her removal, the Marchioness and her much older and very wealthy husband were Kate and William's very close friends, with Rose as the leader of a Norfolk clique of the rich and "noble" called the "Turnip Toffs" by the locals. To make things even more interesting, since the Sun reported this new arrangement last week, Kate and William sent a strong letter to the Sun to discourage the Sun from digging any further on this story.

Now we begin blatant speculation. Many people think that William might have been sleeping with Rose Hanbury, since her social pariahship began rather suddenly and without Duchess Kate's usual amount of tact. Moreover, a well-connected English reporter and food critic named Giles Coren claimed that an affair between Rose and William had been "common knowledge" among certain circles in a recently deleted tweet. Moreover, both couples have reportedly considered legal action, which lends a lot

more credence to the idea than the Royal Family's usual tactic of weathering out rumors.

Does this mean there's actually an affair? No. However, since mocking those more fortunate than we, especially when they think they're better than we are, is a very fun form of catharsis, let's go wild. Perhaps William is cheating on his wife because he's balding and boring.

At the very least, this piece of "news" has allowed the press to stop attacking the only black woman in the British Royal Family in all of history, so let's toast Meghan Markle and hope her pregnancy goes well.

by CP

Global News: Erdogan's setbacks in local elections

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey's opposition looked poised to win control of the country's two biggest cities Monday as it dealt President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's conservative party one of its most serious electoral setbacks in years. The opposition won Ankara, a ruling party stronghold for decades, and was leading a tight race for mayor in Istanbul, according to unofficial figures Monday.

The leader who has dominated Turkish politics for 16 years declared victory despite the opposition gains.

Sunday's local elections were widely seen as a gauge of support for Erdogan as the nation of 81 million faces a daunting economic recession. They were also a first test for Erdogan — who has been accused of increasingly authoritarian tendencies — since he got widely expanded presidential powers last year.

If confirmed, the swings in Ankara and Istanbul could be excruciating for the politician who campaigned hard to retain hold of them. The opposition also retained its hold over Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city.

Although Erdogan was not running for office Sunday, he became the face of the campaign, rallying tirelessly for months across Turkey, using hostile rhetoric against opposition parties and portraying the vote as a matter of national survival.

The decline in urban support for his conservative, religious-based party came despite the fact that Erdogan wields tight control over the media, which hardly covered the opposition candidates' campaigns.

Behlul Ozkan, an associate professor at Marmara University, said Erdogan's loss of ground in Ankara and Istanbul indicated that his socially conservative and construction-driven policies no longer resonated in Turkey's cities.

"Political Islam's quarter-century old hegemony in Turkey's two largest cities is over," he said. "The basic problem is that Erdogan is not able to get votes from middle-income earners, who believe that the economy, education and urban administration are not run well."

More than 57 million voters were eligible to choose leaders for 30 major cities, 51 provincial capitals and 922 districts in Turkey, as well as thousands of local positions. The election was marred by sporadic violence, with five dead and scores injured across Turkey.

Erdogan's party and its nationalist allies garnered some 52% of the vote overall but the opposition made momentous inroads.

A strategic decision by a pro-Kurdish party to sit out critical races in major cities contributed to the opposition's gains. The opposition also increased its support along the Mediterranean, taking the city of Adana from the nationalists and the resort destination of Antalya from the ruling party.

Erdogan acknowledged setbacks in a speech to his supporters, saying his party would work to understand what had gone wrong and fix the problem.

Unofficial results reported by the state-run Anadolu news agency after all votes were counted showed a razor-thin win for the opposition in the race for mayor of Istanbul, Turkey's largest city and commercial hub. The opposition vote was at 48.8% support to the ruling party's 48.5% support.

Ekrem Imamoglu, the opposition candidate in an alliance led by the secular Republican People's Party, or CHP, declared that he won Istanbul but his rival, former Prime Minister Binali Yildirim of the ruling party, said it was still too early to call.

Yildirim accepted that his rival was leading but said his party would file an objection, suggesting a recount of the 319,500 votes declared void in Istanbul.

Both Ankara and Istanbul have been held by Erdogan's Justice and Development Party, the AKP, and its Islamic-oriented predecessor for 25 years. Erdogan's own ascent to power began as Istanbul mayor in 1994.

Unofficial results showed Mansur Yavas, the candidate of the CHP-led alliance, winning the top post in Ankara with 50.9% support. The AKP still holds a majority of Ankara's 25 districts. The government had accused Yavas of forgery and tax evasion, which he called slanderous.

The AKP's candidate for Ankara mayor, Mehmet Ozhaseki, won 47.1% support and his party said it would challenge the results.

Sunday's election was a significant victory for the opposition, which displayed good strategies and promising candidates, said Ozgur Unluharsicikli, the Ankara director of the German Marshall Fund.

"This will certainly lead to an emerging new political landscape in Turkey," he said.

He argued, however, that a pause in elections until 2023 would benefit Erdogan.

"This gives the governing party and President Erdogan a window of opportunity to undertake economic reforms, political reforms if they wish, fix Turkey's relations with foreign countries," he said.

Andrew Dawson, head of the Council of Europe's election observation mission, said Monday his monitors were "not fully convinced that Turkey currently has the free and fair electoral environment which is necessary for genuinely democratic elections."

In predominantly Kurdish provinces, the Peoples' Democratic Party, or HDP, won back some seats from government-appointed trustees, including the symbolic capital of Diyarbakir, but lost several former strongholds to the ruling party.

The government has replaced 95 elected officials since 2016 for alleged links to outlawed Kurdish militants.

Dawson urged the Turkish government to respect the election results.

Political parties have three days to submit objections and official results are expected in the coming days.

by ZB and SF

Buyer's guide: Which electric car is right for you?

If you're in the market for a new car or are passionate about reducing your carbon footprint, you might have started investigating electric cars. There are many options out there for every kind of driver, making electric vehicles the viable car of the future!

Students

If you live in an apartment complex or you don't have an electric charging station at home, that doesn't have to exclude you from owning an electric car! The public charging network is very impressive. You can charge your car at school or work and go on short distance trips. You can buy a number of used electric vehicles including the Ford Focus Electric (\$12,000; 115 mi range), Volkswagen e-Golf (\$15,000; 125mi range), and the Nissan Leaf (\$10,000; 84 mi range).



Commuters

If your primary purpose is to just commute between home and work, there are quite a few options! You can install a home charger or access the public charging network. Cars fitting this purpose include the Honda Clarity Electric (available for a \$199/month lease; 89 mi range), the Toyota Prius Prime (\$27,100; 25 mi range), or the newest Nissan Leaf (\$29,990; 151 mi range).



Electric Luxury

If you're taking long road trips and you don't want to stop to recharge, the Tesla model S, could be the one you're looking for. It has a 335 mile range and has the most impressive acceleration of any car you can buy on the market, going from 0-60mph in 2.4 seconds. Along with the autopilot feature, the Tesla S is a truly impressive vehicle. However, the starting price of the Model S is \$74,500, and if you oppose Tesla's CEO or some of its business practices, you may not want to endorse this brand.



You can explore more electric vehicle options at <https://forthmobility.org/drive-finder/>. Forth Mobility is a non-profit dedicated to making education and accessibility to electric vehicles more feasible!

by MJ

Think you could write an article even half as good as these?
Submit it for next month's issue!

pamphlette@gmail.com

(Articles should be 300-600 words. Can be about literally anything, so long as it's honorable and punches up not down. Feel free to send us an image as part of it.)

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