



W h e r e a r e
t h e y ?

Where are they?

Long-time Talossan indicates his intention to not cast a vote in current Kingdom election

3 i 2008 - Gödafrieu Válcadác'h reporting: He was a combatant in the Cone Wars. He is the founder and author of the legendary Talossan National News as well as the author of the definitive exposé on the life and times of the infamous Davron, *Invasion of the Androids*, and has done Talossa for more than a quarter of a century. Ián Metáiriâ today expressed to this reporter his intention to not vote in the current Kingdom election. By way of email, he said, 'As you said, Jeff...."voting signifies (and it did with the old Kingdom) that you are *still interested in the whole thing.*' Thus, I am NOT voting precisely for that reason."

When asked about why he was no longer interested, he replied because of the lack of interest of Milwaukee Talossans in general. It is noted that of all the Milwaukee people, only Fritz Buchholtz has voted, though his son, Zach Buchholtz has not. Neither has Greg Raxhála. Neither has Danihél Lauriéir. Neither have any other Milwaukee-area Talossans.

If things go as they seem to be going (as of 9:00pm CST on 3 January), for the first time ever, a Talossan election will be held without the votes of a Metáiriâ or a Lauriéir being recorded.

What's going on?

Dan

He and I had a good phone chat before Christmas. It seems that he is entering a new period of Talossan inactivity. Nothing new, here: in his entire time as a Talossan, he has undergone periods of activity and inactivity and back to activity again, and so on.

Greg

As of this moment (9:05pm CST on 3 January), the last time Greg posted anything was on 13 November.

Fritz

He has had computer problems in the last year that have kept him off Wittenberg from time to time, but as I understand it, he is generally uninterested, anyway.

Ián

His last post was 20 December...of 2006.

And in the light of the end of the election for the 38th Cosâ, he has recorded his first strike.

Why did we leave in the first place?

A Founding Parent of the Republic speaks out

- an editorial by Gödafrieu Válcadác'h -

There are some, I believe, who think that we who left on 1 June 2004 could have done things differently in the Kingdom leading up to that time to make our voices heard: using the judiciary, campaigning for another election, etc.

It is time that I help to shed some light on why all that was moot and on why we who left the Regipäts on 1 June 2004 had no other choice but to do what we did.

Founder, family, friend, and guru

The genuine achievements of Ben Madison in Talossan life will never be equaled. How many of us have, in the wild imagination of our childhood, have fantasized and founded our own bedroom kingdoms, only to forget about them or to see the jaded cynicism of Real Life take over and put those dreams to pasture? Ben Madison was more than remarkable not only in founding the nation. That which he founded, combined with his personality and obsessiveness, was sufficiently appealing to other people to encourage them to join in on the fun. Thus, the make-believe kingdom lasted not just for a few months, but for decades.

To read about what Ben did to keep the Kingdom going through the years before the enterprise went online is to read about his winning life's lottery in a way that is richer in so many ways than those who win Powerball. He created a community. And without having children by normal means or adoption, he started a family.

The old Kingdom revolved around him in every way. He was the driving force culturally, socially, and politically. It was his sandbox in his backyard, and we all played with him. It was him and his Milwaukee cohorts. And we from around the world got to play along.

How could anyone think of Talossa without Ben Madison? And how could anyone think of Ben Madison without thinking of Talossa?

The offenses

In the spring of 2004 as a part of his vendetta against fellow Talossan Chris Gruber, Ben Madison, former King of Talossa, falsely accused him of domestic violence. In the process of gathering "evidence" for these accusations, Madison looked up Gruber's publicly-available United States court records.

Diligent research into the records by people other than Madison, as well as years of anecdotal evidence, showed these accusations to be utterly false, and Gruber was vindicated. But in the process, a horrible breach of trust in the institutions and government of Talossa was committed. Had any Talossan other than Ben pulled this stunt, he or she would have been expelled, and Ben would have been the one calling for that very punishment louder than anyone else. Should we hold Ben Madison to those same rules of human decency? Should he be held to the kinds of standards to which all other Talossans were and are held? Should he be punished, and if so, by what means?

And if he's not punished, then what kind of precedent would be set by letting him get away with this chicanery? A dangerous one, I say. It would be a precedent that would turn the Kingdom of Talossa from a democratic institution where basic civil rights were upheld into a

totalitarian dictatorial regime where anyone could be looked into if one fell afoul of the King and Queen - a banana republic where *El Presidente* rules.

Any legal mind who was not a Talossan at the time would have the objective view, I believe, that the proper means of legal recourse should be pursued: the judicial branch (as in Gruber suing the King in court), the executive branch (as in the Prime Minister and his cabinet doing something about it), and the legislative branch (the Ziu). If worse comes to worse, then the people as a whole could get involved and do something about it by pressuring all aspects of the government to do something. Why not sue? Why not pressure the government? Why not use the means that the law gives you?

The fact was that using those means would have done nothing more than delay the inevitable: secession or, much worse, a falling away forever of many of the nation's then-most-currently-active citizens with no hope ever of bringing back any of the Talossan diaspora from the past.

The influence of Ben Madison

So many things contributed to Ben having an overt influence on the direction of the nation. And it boils down to two things: 1. We trusted him as leader, founder, and guru-of-it-all. We still thought of Talossa as Ben's baby, even though we had a say in things through the ballot box, most of the country still looked to Ben as being the final arbiter of how things were going to go. 2. Unlike, Ben, the rest of us had real jobs and lives outside of Talossa. It was Ben and Ben alone who did Talossan 24 hours a day and seven days a week. Because of these things, the rest of us were not as interested in taking the time, energy, and money to canvass inactive voters for their support. Ben was very good about this, and was the chief vote-getter for the old Progressive Conservative Party back in the day when it held a continuous ten-year stranglehold on power.

More than a few of these inactive citizens did literally nothing in Talossa but vote for whomever Ben told them. And many of these citizens had known Ben for decades, and of these, a number

were family. One thing was clear to me: had we even tried to get their support, they would not have budged out of sincere affection and loyalty to Ben borne of years and years of non-Talossan relationships and experience.

This is why when he and Wes Erni revived the Black Hand Party, the Progressive Conservatives, already reeling from the departure of the Grey Congress people (on good terms they left), were decimated. Ben was the real source of power, and it was at that point that I realized just how immense his hold on Talossan politics really was.

But this same Ben Madison, who had done so, so, so much good, had also, in the spring of 2004, made a false accusation against another Talossan of domestic violence based on spurious conclusions fabricated from the said Talossan's public legal records.

6th Covenant: Under the principle that "A Man's Room is His Kingdom," the right of the people to privacy and security in their persons, homes, papers, correspondence, and property, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended. No person may be arrested or detained without a warrant issued by a judge, except in cases of *flagrante delicto*. No warrants shall be issued except on probable cause, and must particularly describe the place to be searched and the person or things to be seized. The right to privacy for public figures must be balanced by the public's right to know, in matters affecting politics, elections, campaigns, and governing. The intentional withholding of political information which reasonable voters might find helpful, profitable, or informative, violates the public's right to know.

- from the 1997 Organic Law as amended on 31 October 2003¹

The Covenants of Rights and Freedoms form (or are supposed to, anyway) a codification of the bedrock of Talossan society from 1997 onwards - standards of basic human decency and conduct that apply to all Talossans, even the King. Yet the

King expected to be exempt from what was clearly an illegal search and seizure.

A man's room is his castle.

But even more clearly than the Organic Law of the Kingdom, the words of a former Talossan citizen ring clear, as they always will:

What you said was bad Grubi, no doubt. But what Ben is doing about it is worse imo.....being yelled at is one thing, even when it brings up a loved one who has died, believe me I know. Were it only your vitriol to worry about I probably would have stayed, but honestly, Ben checking your background out as a means to dump you from Talossa, makes me sick. Ben evidently believes that two wrongs make a right, except that he is never wrong is he?

Grubi, you and I both know that had it not been you.....tho you kind of put yourself in that position ;p, Ben would have found someone else who didn't pass his muster and do everything he can to get them out of Talossa. Just like the Liberals just because they didn't bend down and kiss his ass. And the group before that, and the group before that. Ben likes enemies, he makes so many of them, according to him.

While I don't agree with the way you insulted Ben.....what Ben is doing as a result is scary. What's to keep him from doing it to any Talossan citizen who gets on the bad side of him. Like I said in another post, all I have is a traffic ticket issued in Kansas sometime in 82....maybe 83. But, that still doesn't mean I have to condone him looking into yours or any one else's personal records.

Even after all the time that's passed since I was on (and actually I've been reading posts for the last several months....putting off reappearing), I've had enough of Ben to last me for a good longv time. This was supposed to be fun.....at least that's what the website says, Ben has made it less fun for quite a few people.....and not just with you....I'm sorry, but I don't believe [Michaglh Pop] is a liar, and Ben saying he is has pissed me off.....same with M-P, same with [Gödafríeu Válcadác'h], and with your girl friend (sorry gf I can't remember the name...but it's old age ;p), who obviously knows more about it than Ben can

ever hope to....and is really good at posting :).

Gosh, I'm sorry, I didn't mean for this to be a book.....nor to discuss how I feel more than the post requesting my info be removed. But, I don't want this kind of Talossa, since it doesn't seem to be on it's way to changing, I am removing myself. Good luck Grubi and thanks :)

- the late Bill Cüféir's renunciation²
Wittenberg X 10068
12 April 2004

Had the founder and guru of Talossa become a millstone around the Kingdom's neck?

The seriousness of what Ben did

"what Ben is doing as a result is scary. What's to keep him from doing it to any Talossan citizen who gets on the bad side of him."

- quoting from Cüf above

Without meaning to, Bill hits on the very aspect of what Ben and Amy did that was so repugnant for us. In the Talossa of old, community was based on more than just an internet message board. It was based on all the tangibles inherent in day-to-day in-person contact. One could see the other person, hear their voice, see their gestures (including the rude ones), and be receptive to all those signals and vibes that can only come through in-person contact.

When the Cybercit era began in the late 1990s, all that changed. For the first time, a group of Talossans would be no more than pixels on a computer screen. All the tangibles of personal contact were not available, and the things upon which we based our trust in one another changed utterly. The small-town aspect of Talossa was lost, and the wild-west world of people being nothing more than pixels (and ready access to whatever) that is the internet came into play.

And part of this wild-west world of the internet includes the easy availability of one's public legal records.

I'm not going to look through the public records of my friends at church or elsewhere. That information may be freely available, but while it may be freely accessible, it is none of anyone else's business, and it is certainly none of mine. The only exceptions for me would be if I thought someone was threatening me, as Ben may very well have sincerely thought of Chris Gruber.

And did Ben really believe Chris threatened him? We really don't know, and we will never know. But for the sake of argument, if for no other reason, let's give Ben the benefit of a doubt. After all, even with Gruber's vindication, Gruber's insult to Ben during the Halloween Crisis, in which he references Ben's mother's passing-away in 1979, proved he was no angel.

Yet, all Chris did was to make an insult. A vicious and nasty one, though, to be sure... And if nothing else had happened beyond that, Ben walks on the high road. But it is part of the genius of Ben Madison that he found a way to out-do even that vicious insult with something much worse: the attempted smearing of Gruber's reputation.

But again, let's give Ben the benefit of the doubt: Chris Gruber makes a death threat. What would you do? Let's take a logical step and look up his records and see if there is a history of violent behavior.

Before she met and married Ben Madison, Amy Durnford was a victim of genuine domestic violence in a previous relationship. Naturally, when the cosmetic appearance of Chris' records seemed to match those pertaining to Amy's troubles, Ben and Amy, already seething with hatred toward Gruber over a personality spat as much as anything else, took the next step and made their conclusions public - a potentially-libelous thing to do.

To me, at least, it was not the looking into Chris Gruber's records that was the problem. Had Amy and Ben kept their conclusions to themselves and done the appropriate thing (again, playing devil's advocate) and had a formal criminal background check done on Gruber, that would have been something different. But they instead went public

with their conclusions, and they were proven spurious.

In the light of Chris Gruber's vindication and continuing to give Ben and Amy the benefit of a doubt, what Cuf said in his renunciation was a clarion call to many of us. Here was Cuf, a quiet observer of what had been going on; an apolitical citizen much-loved by Ben (seemingly), the PC, and everyone else in Talossa; and who had did not have any animosity towards anyone and had no axe to grind, saying this. If Ben was apt to make these sorts of spurious conclusions about Chris Gruber, even if he felt he was genuinely correct, he could do this sort of thing to anyone.

Bill's words opened a lot of eyes, and they certainly did with me. In fact, his renunciation, as well as Art's a few hours later, was an unwitting direct inspiration (though not the only one by any means) for us to "dare something worthy". He later became a citizen of the Republic and passed away from cancer in December 2005.

Playing devil's advocate

In truth, however, we did not feel we could give Ben that benefit of a doubt. There was too much evidence that suggested that all this ruckus was just a petty personal vendetta based on a personality clash at TalossaFest 2003 in which Gruber and the Madisons met for the first time in-person, the sole purpose of which was to get Gruber out of Talossa by whatever means necessary.

And if Ben did this to Chris Gruber, he could do it to anyone he didn't like. And I say this again, if anyone else in Talossa had pulled this stunt, he or she would have been thrown out in short order with Ben screaming and yelling louder than anyone else for expulsion. Yet when he did something like this, we were supposed to just look the other way?

As Cybercits, especially those of us who have not spoken on the phone, know in-person, or have met other Talossans in-person, our trust in Talossa is based solely on that ephemeral trust in the internet and those who dwell therein - a precarious one at best for a lot of people online. We who are cybercits have nothing else to go on but the good nature and goodwill of pixels we have never laid

eyes on or know in any way, shape, or form. How great that leap of faith the trust among Cybercits truly is: the foundation that keeps trans-Milwaukee Talossa - and the real cultural impetus of the nation for the past eleven years - alive, well, and, as a result, the nation as a whole alive.

By airing Gruber's dirty laundry, opening him up to potential problems in employment-background-internet-check searches, Ben and Amy violated that trust in spades. Not to mention his reputation in Talossa...

Why, again, should we give Ben and Amy a free pass? The laws of Talossa, as well as the laws of basic human decency, applied to them, too.

An appropriate punishment

The Organic Law provided a number of ways Ben and Amy (who was as complicit as he in all this and had to have been the driving force behind it all) could have been punished, ranging from Ben's dethronement to their outright expulsion. Organic limitations on the political powers of a monarch made the prospect of dethronement unworkable. Free of the restrictions placed upon the monarchy, Ben would have been free to waltz into the Senate seat of Vuode province as well as the vacant seat on the Uppermost Cort with little difficulty. Even worse, he could have instead become Prime Minister. Additionally, he would be free, with his cadre of ghost voters to work the 200-seat Cosâ as he wished. The next monarch would have been the figurehead (Amy?) while Ben, working behind the scenes, would have wielded the real power.

Ben's influence as founder, family, guru, friend, and creative genius had to be removed. He and Amy both had to be truly punished, and the only real way in which to effect that was provided for in the Organic Law - but with a catch (boldfacing mine):

Art. XV: Sec. 12. The courts shall have power to enforce penalties against violators, commensurate with the severity of the crime. The Uppermost Cort may in certain extreme circumstances impose the penalty of expulsion from the country, **by a unanimous vote**. Sentences may only be overturned by Royal Pardon.¹

Does the 'sentence' take effect immediately upon the issuance of the Cort's decision, thereby stripping Ben of the power to issue a Royal Pardon on himself immediately? Of course, Madison could have issued a Royal Pardon in advance of the Cort's ruling. It's ironic that that Royal Pardon would come from none other than the subject of the lawsuit. Also, the composition of the Uppermost Cort did not lend itself whatsoever to there being any unanimity to any vote of expulsion that might come up, and anything less than outright expulsion would not have hurt Ben really at all. Yes, we would have gotten a favorable verdict, but the represented victory would have been meaningless.

Censure him in some way? Prohibit him from making new awards and honours? Whatever. He was rightfully stingy on such things, anyway. Prohibit him from making speeches from the throne? So what. This is Ben Madison we are dealing with - the guy who found the loophole revealing the readmission of Ián Anglatzarâ into Kingdom citizenship in 2003³ was a sentence of the Cort that could be commuted (and was) by the Monarch. He could have simply sidestepped the throne-speech issue with "Speeches from the Consulate".

What about the Cort as a punishment prohibiting him from nominating new Cort Justices? Well, without amending the Organic Law directly, that would most certainly run against the Organic Law in some fashion. And of course, his suit before the Cort would be in their hands immediately, thereby delaying any sort of punishment.

But in the light of the composition of the Uppermost Cort at that time, all this discussion is academic.

Senior Justice Ian Metáiriá

Of the two Justices serving in the Spring of 2004, he was the most outspoken against Ben's behavior, but would he, Ben's best friend, have voted to oust him from the Kingdom?

I don't think so, and neither did the rest of us who formed the Republic.

Justice Ken Velméir

Years of working with him and knowing him did not give us any assurance he would have seen things the right way. As it turns out, he renounced his own citizenship in 2005 in the wake of Ben and Amy leaving.

With a unanimous vote needed to throw Amy and Ben out of Talossa, the Uppermost Cort as a means of genuine legal recourse that would really benefit Talossa did not exist.

Art Verbotten

Yes, he was on the Uppermost Cort as well, but only until 13 April 2004 when he renounced his citizenship, thereby leaving the Cort. Additionally, it was not until this renunciation as well as Bill Cûf's a few hours before that the real impetus for the Republic began.

And even if Art had stayed, I am still not convinced even he could have pulled off the seemingly-impossible and gotten Velméir and Metáiriá to go along with expulsion.

The Cosâ and the Black Hand

What about the legislature?

The exact record of the election that ended on 14 June 2004 is not available at the present time. However, everyone knows the result: a convincing victory for the Black Hand, and the prospect of the Kingdom continuing to be a one-party state.

Yes, we in the PC-ZPT merged party voted in the election, but even the clout of our votes was not enough to defeat the MN in the election for the 200-seat Cosâ with provincial reapportionment.

And the Black Hand had Ben and his legion of pocket votes. Actually, aside from “Cantaloupe” and Q (who was better than the MN ever hoped to be), the Black Hand party *was* Ben and his pocket votes!

Ben’s party was in the position formerly taken by the Progressive Conservatives: being in a powerful position capable of wooing just enough new citizens with carrots of PMships and the like (yes, the PC did this, too) to keep itself in power perpetually.

Yes, the Cosâ would probably have issued some sort of resolution calling Ben’s actions nefarious or something else, but Talossan memories are short, and the resolution would have been forgotten, and because we would never have let the issue rest, we in the end would have come off as whiners.

The Government

Then-PM Quedier Castiglhâ was not about, I believe, to go along with any sort of expulsion for Ben and Amy when in fact, he was trying to get all sides to forgive one another and have done with it.

The People themselves

On 20 May 2004, I did a private assessment of the voting strength of our PC-ZPT bloc of people who were fed up with Ben compared to the numbers in the other factions of the Kingdom.

The majority of the Talossan people as well as majorities in a majority of the provinces were not on our side.



16 January 2005 at Napoleon’s gaming store in Shorewood, Wisconsin. Amy Durnford (left) votes in the Cosâ election while Fritz Buchholtz looks on.



Chên Velmeir ca. 1996

The numbers do not lie.

		All these people I have grouped together as being against Ben and Amy's expulsion				
	Anti-Ben/ pro-expulsion	Pro-Ben/ openly-hostile	Pro-Ben family/ close friends	<i>Pro-Ben pocket votes</i>	Anti-Ben/ anti-expulsion	<i>Neutral inactives/ pocket votes opinions not gaugable</i>
KA	1	1	1	<i>0</i>	2	5
CÉ	1	0	1	<i>0</i>	0	1
FL	2	1	0	<i>0</i>	2	1
MA	2	0	0	<i>1</i>	1	3
MM	3	0	0	<i>0</i>	2	1
MU	1	0	2	<i>0</i>	0	1
VD	2	2	3	<i>0</i>	1	1
Total	12	4	7	<i>1</i>	8	13

The numbers used here have been gleaned from information collected from the citizens list of the Talossan Database System on 20 January 2004 as well as from a private assessment of the leanings of individual citizens done that same day. This table takes into account the renunciations of Art Verbotten and Cüf as they are not included in the number above.

Anti-Ben/pro-expulsion

This group includes M-P Furxheir as well as the eleven Founding Parents of the Republic of Talossa. No-one who abhorred Ben's and Amy's actions and who wanted their expulsion from the Regipäts ended up staying in the Regipäts.

Pro-Ben/openly-hostile

That's right. Only four people were openly-hostile to the first group. Ben, Amy, M. Cantaloûr, and one other person were in the camp that actively campaigned against Chris Gruber or actively supported that campaign.

Pro-Ben family/close friends

These are people like Ben's father and sister as well as a long-time citizen who was an old teacher of Ben's.

Pro-Ben pocket votes

One Cybercit who is not an Old-Growther revealed to me by email in 2004 they supported Ben over us.

Anti-Ben/anti-expulsion

These are the people who sat on the fence.

Truly-neutral inactives/pocket votes opinions not gaugable

Self-explanatory

I have left out the actual names of the individuals I believe were in each group so as not to bring up truly needless dross from the past. The above table shows the distribution of voting-age Kingdom citizens into the various political clumps of the day. At this point, it was no longer about the ZPT, RCT, PC, or whatever. You were in one of a number of camps: those repulsed by “Be proud of that, it’s all you have”, those who chose to ignore it, and those who were torn between genuine affection for Ben and the horrid truth.

Again, I say: the numbers do not lie. Twelve people would have done the right thing and expelled Amy and Ben from the Kingdom, but such was Ben’s influence and all that four people, Ben included, worked actively to see that that did not happen.

Then there were those seven members of Ben’s family as well as his close friends of many years who we could never hope to sway. A rich trove of unwitting pawns for Ben...

Of course, the King was not the only person with pocket votes. Every political party in Talossa had them - the PC, the ZPT, etc. It’s just that the number of these voters Ben had at his disposal brought attention to him in that he, and therefore the MN, had more pocket votes than all other political parties combined. The one pocket voter not in Ben’s inner circle who overtly declared their support for Ben did so by way of an email to me in Spring 2004.

And then we come to the eight swing voters, the Anti-Ben/Anti-expulsion crowd who unwittingly did Ben and Amy’s work by not supporting their expulsion. No, none of them ever came out and said, “No” to that sort of punishment, but in so many words they did. Had they done differently, they would have been, I believe, the people who could have swung the tide to bring in enough support from the thirteen inactives whose opinions we could not gauge.

As it stood, however, we had twelve votes, and when you count up all the neutral voters, Ben effectively had twenty who would not have supported his expulsion, which was for him an effective victory. Assuming he could have swayed

half of the thirteen “Just don’t know” people, he would have effectively had twenty-six.

Even if Art and Bill were to be included in the list, neither one was willing/or able to wage a protracted war against Ben’s propaganda mill. They had more-pressing problems in their non-Talossan lives.

The provinces and the Senäts

My numbers show that while the long senate terms still had PC members in control of the Senäts, the general electorate was such that five of the seven Kingdom provinces were effectively in Ben’s hands, thereby assuring Cosâ victories, especially in Vuode. Yes, we who left held five of the seven Senate seats (all but Vuode and Atatürk unless the Database System shows something different) - a comfortable majority.

But rest assured, Ben would have made Senate race issues out of what went on, and I cannot imagine we would have been re-elected, for we would have never stopped trying to get Ben and Amy thrown out of Talossa - a penalty they richly deserved, and we would have made that our chief issue.

The last twelve whose inclinations we could not guess

Those in the “Just don’t know” column... Could we have persuaded all twelve of these far-flung individuals to take our side? The justified prestige of being the founder and the person who knew more about the country than anyone else ever could and the genuine respect and affection such a position engenders would have been a hard nut to crack indeed, and it was far too risky to attempt it lest we all become burned out on Talossa completely and just give up on the entire thing completely.

The Table of Abbavilla

This was then-PM Quedêir Castighlâ’s spring 2004 attempt at bringing the two sides of the issue to the figurative table in the hopes of working something out. The theory was that both sides would submit their takes on all that happened, and that things would go from there with Q as the

moderator. The idea was that if things were talked out, the situation would have come to a peaceful resolution.

Alas for Q, things were out of not just his control, but beyond the ability of anyone in Talossa to repair without someone being thrown out of the country or someone leaving on their own accord. Once Ben had taken things to the next level with the accusations against Gruber, Talossa was broken. And there was nothing Q or anyone else could have done about it.

It has been asked why I (and I think M-P Furxhéir) were the only ones to submit statements and materials to the Table. As it turns out, the reason why more of us did not submit things to the Table was that we were waiting for Ben do so something - *anything* - that would give us any indication he wanted a rapprochement, which was clearly Q's aim and a laudable one. I guess now that he thought his Wittenberg statements and Stötanneu articles would be enough, but to the Table of Abbavilla he submitted nothing. Nothing at all.

No other options

The executive and legislative branches were openly-hostile to us. In regard to expelling Ben and Amy from the Regipäts, the judicial branch was really not in our corner, either, though unlike the executive and legislative branches of Talossa's government, the justices would have been at least sympathetic.

We could have held on to control of the Senäts for a time, but we felt that Ben's influence was too powerful and pervasive in too many provinces for our continued senatorial tenures to last much longer. Besides, we did not relish the prospect of a long and protracted war with the King in which the Gruber issue would have become stale with time. Ben's propaganda machine was too good, and he only had to keep the rhetoric going long enough to burn out the neutral crowd on the evil Gruber crowd and finish us off.

The majority of the Cosâ electors as well as majorities in the majority of the provinces were not in the expel-Ben crowd, and doing anything in the Cosâ would have been a lost cause. Yes,

bringing up lawsuits, etc. and having them fail would have given us the opportunity to say, "We exhausted all legal remedies.", but we didn't want to bother. We had had enough, and the timing was right for us to make a clear and sudden break with the Kingdom. The creative genius of what Ben had put together for more than two decades meant that the thing was worth fighting for against the very thing that was destroying it: its creator.

1 June 2004. We had no choice.

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Many thanks to Miestrâ Schivâ for her proofreading and editorial work!

References

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REFORM
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TalossaWest 2007 pics



Mick: "I have a problem here...The last time they asked the Royal Household to stand for a photograph... they shot the Romanovs."

Last summer, John and Patrick Woolley, Hooligan, Olaf, and others got together for TalossaWest, a gathering of the Colorado-based Talossans. I remembered an online photo album from this event, but could not find the Witt posting. This week, Cresti made a post to that thread, bringing it back up to the top of Wittenberg and giving me a chance to tell you all where to find these photos:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/mr.mickster/TalossaWest>

Raves and Rants

This is a damn good issue. I encourage everyone to read it (and the past issues, when they are made available again).

- Alexander Davis
responding to Oraclá No. 64

archived from
<http://www.talossa.proboards32.com/index.cgi?board=general&action=display&thread=1198733891> reply #1 on 27 xii 2007

Of course, it did help that your mug was prominently displayed in the cover graphic and that this particular issue was more Kingdom-centric than one might imagine it would

be. ;-) But seriously, thanks ever so much for your support and kind words. It's very good to have this thing going again. -- And past issues are already available. See the notes from the editor below. - GV

+ + +

I think in order to find out whether unification is possible at all, we need to put political issues totally aside for a while and spend some time getting to know and understand each other as individuals first. It's too early to talk about what provisions of the OrgLaw should be changed, etc. We need to be real friends first.

- C.M. Siervicül

archived from
<http://www.talossa.proboards32.com/index.cgi?board=general&action=display&thread=1198733891> reply #4 on 29 xii 2007

Truer words were never spoken. - GV

+ + +

Zooks! It's really been two years since the last?

- QC

Yup, Q, it has. - GV

archived from
<http://www.talossa.proboards32.com/index.cgi?board=general&action=display&thread=1198733891> reply #12 on 29 xii 2007

www.oracla.com

What's going on with it anyway?

Back in 2005 and with the generous sponsorship of www.cablan.net (which continues to this day), I began www.oracla.com to house not only my Oraclá past issues, but also the numerous publications of Oraclá Press. Given the nature of search engines and the plethora of original-language names in so many of my publications and the need for privacy and the need to keep search engines at bay, I made the site password-protected.

**One may access
oracla.com by way of
username: readoracla
password: andbehappy**

As for the blog, it is on hiatus for the moment, though a special issue of Oraclâ (or issues, that is) will be used to archive these posts, they being a part of the Oraclâ record.

In the next year, I hope to bring about a complete makeover of oracla.com, including new editions of all Oraclâ publications (except official Republic and Kingdom archives which will be housed in a password-protected site elsewhere - yet to be determined) with Talossan-language names, making it possible for them to be available without having to go through the inconvenience of having to remember a username and password.

Happy New Year!

Gödafríen Válcadác'h
Editor-in-Chief and Founder