

a CCN Editorial

In the wake of the US elections of 2004, some soul searching is due. It's clear that we must begin to seek an understanding of the wisdom of the conservative elements of our society. We have started this process in the quotations from Bob Barr and the Conservative Digest distributed to some of our readership. In the immortal words of Barry Goldwater, the father of the modern conservative movement, extremism in defense of liberty is no vice and moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue.

We pledge to honor his memory and we will not bow to any girlie man tact, political correctness, moderation or diplomacy to avoid offending our readers, but we will strive to be fair and accurate, in the remote American journalistic tradition of centuries past. At times we have let our emotions intervene in our reports, at times alluding to the similarities between the current administration and the Fascist and Nazi regimes of Italy and Germany in the 1930's and 40's. We were moved to such dubious associations by reading a Mussolini statement defining fascism as "the merger of a militarist state with corporate power", which seemed to describe our current situation better than that of Italy in the 1930's.

Nevertheless, our chief administrative critic and culinary editor, who happens to be Italian, has reminded us that such a confusion of regimes and names is unfair and inaccurate. She reminds us that although Il Duce was not above telling a few little fibs to Der Fuehrer regarding the strength of his army, when planning to invade a neighboring country, he never resorted to lying to his people that it was to impose democracy or defuse a threat. While having severe enough limitations regarding civil rights to make him a kindred spirit to John Ashcroft, Il Duce did manage to drain the malarial swamps south of Rome, and while no friend of historic architecture, his rule was more friendly to the natural environment than the mountain leveling, river and stream polluting, clear cutting regime of our own Leader. Lastly, there is the matter of consistency. When Mr. Mussolini aligned himself with a genocidal dictator, he stayed aligned, unlike our own leaders who after arming and applauding our own favorite genocidal dictator while he was doing our bidding, flip-flopped into a very hostile posture when he seemed vulnerable and in possession of large petroleum reserves.

In the interest of fair and nuanced reporting, we will make efforts to avoid unduly tarnishing the historic memory of Mr. Mussolini by reflexively referring to Mr. Bush and other members of the regime as Fascists, and, despite the old family connections, we will not refer to the current President Bush as a Nazi, no matter how similar the political strategies may appear. Their self applied name is "Neo-Cons" and we believe that in the next few years the term will take on its own strong identity and historic resonance, just as did the terms selected by Messrs. Hitler and Mussolini.