

Egg roll forward

Fortunately, dear Op Ed readers, I very rarely am not of the same opinion that you are, but this time I really have to contradict you quite strongly; at any rate, if you were perhaps toying with the idea of (perverting/committing the willful misprision of transforming) the motto of this year's wonderful Olympic Games from "one world, one dream" into "China, a nightmare"!

That is simply going too far! After all, one need not become upset over ridiculous details as is once again currently happening in the media, in politics, among party functionaries, and even with the ordinary man in the street. If the Chinese leadership decides to tread upon a few individuals on account of its somewhat idiosyncratic interpretation of democracy, then that is their very own private affair and should in no way influence the decisions of the honorable IOC. After all, we know that the Chinese leadership is far from being interested in exploiting for mere political gain a (noble/sublime) athletic event which brings together young people from all over the world. And besides, the Chinese treading upon (contrary/naughty) Tibetan rebels only affects people in strange flowing robes (which are usually orange, at that). It cannot really be said for certain whether they should have any rights at all, anyway.

We cannot risk good (business/trade) relations with our Chinese friends which are only now just beginning to develop (the relations, not the Chinese)! We cannot put them at stake with a boycott because of such trifles as an alleged dictatorship, human rights violations or oppression, or even industrial piracy with its associated production of cheap imitations of high-priced luxury goods. We cannot boycott the hosting of an event which was awarded to Peking, after all, on the basis of the well-founded considerations of a highly competent committee whose decisions were thoroughly informed about the local situation and who concluded at that time that the circumstances were thoroughly acceptable. A boycott would mean putting (the) heavenly peace in its place which has existed in Peking for decades ... not to mention the revenues (which are hardly worth mentioning) which the magnanimous and utterly selfless sponsors might otherwise (forfeit/miss out on). And just (try to) imagine (, if you would,) what this world would look like if humanity no longer wore Adidas clothing and drank Coca-Cola but switched over to Nike and Pepsi. A terrible thought!

And what of the poor athletes who have been training all their lives for this dream world mega-event? What would become of them if the games were boycotted? It is unimaginable. That would be really, really tough on

them. It would be for me, at any rate, for I have been practicing hard for two and half years now (including this afternoon) and I have progressed so far in my two favorite athletic events, long distance hamburger patty
45 throwing and 100 meter crumb cake eating, that I have finally caught up with the other top international athletes in these disciplines ... and now? Was all that effort in vain? My grueling daily practice with crumb cake and hamburgers? Getting up late to stay in shape? All that alcohol just to be able to withstand all the strain? All (in vain/for nothing)? No, it cannot be! I
50 want to go to Peking, together with old the other world-class athletes in a similar situation! I have a (legitimate/rightful) personal interest!

It would even be alright with me if the Dalai Lama wore a demonstration T-shirt instead of his world-famous gentle smile when the athletes appear during the opening ceremonies. That would really get back
55 at the leaders of the Chinese government (albeit unjustifiably) and take the wind out of the sails of their alleged propaganda. That would be okay, but I utterly dismiss all other forms of protest -- which are unjustifiable, anyway, on account of my aforementioned personal reasons. And I must therefore most energetically reject the possible suggestion of not even igniting the
60 Olympic fire of the fantastic games in Peking; likewise, I cannot condone the idea of carrying the torch farther and farther around the Equator for so long that it goes out by itself for lack of gasoline or is simply blown out with great force by some incorrigible demonstrator. How did our highly esteemed IOC President recently phrase it so fittingly? "Force is irreconcilable with
65 the idea of the Olympics." He is so right, that Jacques, and for that reason one should not go and throw out the baby with the bath water, or throw out the Olympic divers out with the pool water!

And so, dear Op Ed readers, let me conclude what has already been said by wishing a "clear ring for the first round!" For what is the point of
70 punching each other in the face in Olympic boxing or wrenching around an opponent's limbs in Olympic wrestling if it is not an utterly unmistakable demonstration of a highly sporting and completely peaceful competition? It is certainly a perfectly violence-free role model for our youngsters and completely in the spirit of the Olympic idea. Even spontaneous
75 synchronized vomiting with one's peers in front of the TV screen cannot compete.