

Leave club out of deal

Giveaway to band about unbridled arrogance



alex tsakumis

DOUBLE SHOT

Marty Zlotnik's a funny guy. No, not funny "ha-ha." Funny, as in, you'd think that at an age where most with his considerable comforts would have long retired to some palatial shack in the desert, the combative and irrepressible Mr. Zlotnik is in full throttle to save a Vancouver city landmark—the University Golf Club.

After a stellar career in finance and a slew of equally impressive accomplishments in politics and charity, Mr. Zlotnik finds himself smack in the middle of yet another scrap—but this time, with a familiar, er, friend?

The Honourable Preem and the MLA for Point Grey appears to be suffering from a botched sensibility bypass, as he is actually mulling over handing the University Golf Club to the Musqueam band to appease their highly questionable claim on the lands. This has sparked an outrage in Point Grey not seen since Gucci last went on sale without a mailer.

Although, make no mistake about it, what we're hearing isn't the pitched but nonplussed whine of the jetset's wives, Jimmy Choos echoing in their wake. This isn't a story about the elite and their toys. Hardly. The UGC has been a golf course for everyone. Those willing to stand up to the premier may be distinguished, but the ones who are most hopping mad are more likely to be the kid taking his first lessons or the pensioner and his spouse, who whack away a few rounds and retire with some friends to the 19th hole.

Ultimately, this is about the unbridled arrogance of giving up a Vancouver institution to satisfy the plaintiff howl of the Musqueam, who were bolstered by the B.C. Court of Appeal's overruling a lower court judgment in favour of the university, which will understandably feel robbed should the course become



- Carmine Marinelli, 24 hours

The University Golf Club shouldn't be up for grabs, says Marty Zlotnik, and the premier is asking for trouble if he thinks otherwise.

extinct—after all, they had a covenant protecting that. The premier is taking the easy way out if he gives in.

"The government are doing deals that are easy on them, for now, but not easy for the community—and are completely unfair," says the mighty Zlotnikian one. He continues, "I think the premier and the government have badly misjudged the public's outrage over this. It's ridiculous to give up the golf course to the Musqueam—find another way to compensate them—I'm certainly not against that, but it would just be a shame for this to end up as a land claims dispute, when they could be accommodated in cash and land elsewhere. Doing a good deal means being fair to both parties."

Moreover, if the provincial government can pull the greens and fairways of the UGC right out from under the feet of Vancouverites, this sets an outrageous precedent that means ANY landmark or property in this province is up for grabs

so long as there is a land claim against it, regardless of how dubious such a claim may be.

And... after six months of dealing with issues like Basi-Virk, Ken Dobell, salary and pensions, Graham Whitmarsh and the like, you'd think the premier would want a little better "up" going into the middle of his term.

Also, last election he won his constituency by only 2,250 little votes against an opponent he should have trounced.

Think Mr. Zlotnik hasn't thought about a party who wins but whose leader loses his constituency in the next election? Think again.

Free advice Gord, from a friend.

And I'm not referring just to Marty.

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