

UNLV gets the royal treatment

King Michael calls for the U.S. to place Romania in high trading status in an effort to support its fight for democracy.

BY DAVID CHERRY
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King Michael, one of Eastern Europe's last remaining monarchs, said restoring the monarchy is the key to a legitimate Romanian government Friday.

The heir to the long-vacant throne of Romania spoke to a small group for nearly an hour inside Wright Hall's Gold Room.

Dressed in a conservative grey suit, the king somberly addressing some of the many problems facing Romania since the execution of feared dictator Nicolae Ceausescu three years ago.

"Three years after a revolution which was meant to change everything, many people in my country have lost hope and want nothing more than to escape from their continent's troubles altogether," said King Michael.

"They no longer believe promises made by politicians...they have simply given up

in their country's prospects, in the ability of politicians to influence events."

The king continued by calling on both East and West to promote democracy through tolerance.

"What unites all Western countries is a set of shared values," King Michael said. "Fundamentally, all these depend on one virtue: Tolerance. It is tolerance which allows us to accept radically different views, which extends in your country even to the freedom to burn the national flag in public."

Silently, the crowd listened as the king outlined the many problems hindering Romania's attempts at democracy. The failed elections, the on-again, off-again, on-again banning of the Communist party and the apparent lack of legitimacy that, according to King Michael has produced leaders, "Considered as inherently unacceptable by large segments of the population."

According to the king, this lack of legitimacy has resulted in, "Utter deadlock at every level." A problem which has meant dire consequences for Romania, and for which King Michael has a solution; Restore the traditional monarchy in Romania.

Not only as a, "Reminder of national pride and historic traditions," said the king, but also as the, "Best guarantee for a smooth transition and the survival of democracy."

Having pled his case for restoring himself to power, King Michael then called for the United States to grant Romania its highest type of trading status [Most Favored Nation] in order to show Romanian's that if they, "Embark on the true road to democracy and a market economy, the West will reciprocate not only with financial aid, but with trading and political opportunities," said the king.

The morning's event ended with a question-and-answer session open to all participants.

Plan

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said that doesn't mean a student couldn't.

"Students are already leaving because they don't want to graduate without an accredited degree," Unrue said. "They had every reason to believe the building would be on track."

But Burgess said, "Accreditation has never been promised to students. We have kept them fully informed of what the potential for accreditation has been."

"(It's too bad)," Unrue said, "that a fight among architects over who's going to build our architecture building could possibly lead to the destruction of our architecture program."

"The administration doesn't care who builds the building, but we do care about the building getting built."

It was recently suggested the project be canceled so it could be re-authorized and the process for selecting an architect could be started over.

If this happens construction could begin in late summer, Unrue said.

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