

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Artists should refuse blood money

An increasing number of artists, writers, playwrights, entertainers and other cultural personalities are placing their commitment to humanity above dollars and are refusing to travel to South Africa.

For years the cultural boycott of South Africa has been an important part of the international campaign against apartheid. In the past four years the South African regime has undertaken a massive effort, through false propaganda about "reforms," and exorbitant fees, to lure artists to South Africa.

A big role in this effort is being played by "Sun City," a gambling and entertainment complex in the bantustan of Bophuthatswana. Bophuthatswana is one of the "homelands" that South Africa tries to label as "independent," a designation not accepted by the governments of the world.

However, some entertainers have seen through this ploy. "I have a moral commitment that supercedes money," said Roberta Flack, who reportedly turned down a \$2.5 million offer. Eddy Ams of the British group The Real Thing, said, "Sun City is an Afrikaner's paradise in a Black man's nightmare."

In spite of the efforts of the Special Committee, many entertainers continue to perform in South Africa. The Committee is publishing registers of these performers and asking that they be boycotted.

Among the prominent Americans on the list are: Shelly Berman, Cher, Joe Henderson, Frank Sinatra, Francis Grier, Willis "Gator" Jackson, Curtis Mayfield, the America Country Rock Group, Ray Charles, Shirley Brown, Glen Campbell, the Beach Boys, Johnny Mathis, Telly "Kojak" Savalos, Efron Zimbalist, Ann Margaret, Kenny Rogers, the Staple Singers, Neil Sedaka, Paul Anka, Shirley Scott, Jimmy Smith (singer), Stanley Turrentine, Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt.

These people, their products and the products they endorse should be boycotted. American citizens must push our government to act on the U.N. Resolution 2396 (XXIII) of December 2, 1968, that requests "all States and organizations to suspend cultural, educational, sports and other exchanges with the racist regime and with organizations and institutions in South Africa which practice apartheid."

The remaking of Grenada

by Bill Bigelow

The State Department assures that Grenada is now safe for American tourists as Reagan's "restoration of democracy" begins to take shape.

Though the nominal head of state, Sir Paul Scoon, is in charge of restructuring Grenada, reporters on the scene say that real power lies with U.S. Ambassador Charles Gillespie and U.S. military commander Major General Jack Farris. In addition to the 300 Caribbean policemen who accompanied the American invasion, about 1200 U.S. troops still remain on the island. According to the Reagan Administration, U.S. military forces will be cut to around 400 by Christmas. U.S. ships still patrol off Grenada's coast.

The strategy of the United States appears to be to wipe out all influence of the New Jewel Movement (the political party of assassinated Prime Minister Maurice Bishop), establish a government allied with—if not actually controlled by—the U.S., and turn the Grenadian economy away from the socialist projects it had begun.

On November 10, Governor General Scoon gave himself broad emergency powers, including the right to censor the press, ban public gatherings and authorize warrantless arrests. Over a thousand people have been at least temporarily detained—an estimated 60 to 200 remain imprisoned without charge.

The main targets of the round-up are former members of the Peoples Army and the militia. But in addition to these, New Jewel members, trade unionists, activists in the mass organizations (such as the National Youth Organization and National Women's Organization) have also been held for interrogation. Kendrick Radix, and NUM founder, was arrested by the U.S. military because he was "an instigator in spreading bad will among the people

in public places," according to a U.S. captain.

U.S. forces have tried to silence all voices but their own on the island. The *Washington Post* reports that the sole radio station is entirely manned by U.S. Navy personnel and "public service announcements" directed by specialists from the U.S. Army Psychological Operations Battalion. This one-hundred-person crew has also plastered the island with pro-American and anti-New Jewel Movement posters.

U.S. troops are ferreting out all centers of opposition to the new order. For example, soldiers ransacked Pope Paul's Ecumenical Center, an educational and community service project. Calling it a "center for communist propaganda." The "evidence" he found consisted of books on Central America, a map of Puerto Rico, Cuban literature and "a list of Spanish-type names." The center's staff was evicted and the building occupied by armed guards. The Center for Popular Education, Grenada's highly successful adult education program, has also been closed down, the director deported.

In nearby Barbados another critical voice was suppressed when Prime Minister Tom Adams ordered newspaperman Ricky Singh deported. Singh was the editor of the *Caribbean Contact*, a newspaper published by the Caribbean Conference of Churches, and ecumenical organization of twenty churches in the region. Singh's crime: writing articles critical of the U.S. invasion of Grenada and the role played by Barbados in that action.

Shortly after the invasion, Reagan promised speedy elections for Grenada. But the U.S. is now worried that holding elections too soon could bring the New Jewel Movement back to power. Governor General Scoon hopes to avoid this by having all former NJM members,

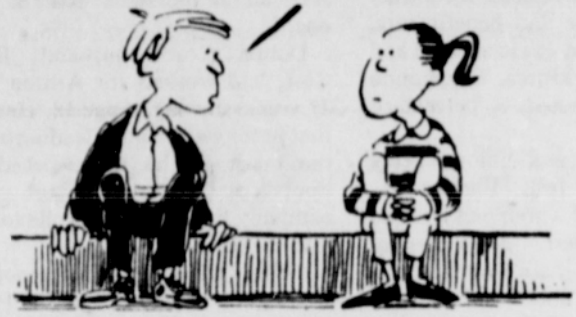
and would-be candidates, screened by a special commission to check their ideological credentials. In any event, a date for elections has not been set and they likely won't be held for quite some time.

On this matter, Scoon has run into opposition from his own appointees. Attorney General Antony Rushford resigned in disgust December 5th, complaining of Scoon's "total indifference and lack of cooperation" with Rushford's efforts to establish a civilian government. Rushford lashed out at Scoon, declaring that, "I have never known a situation in which a governor-general appoints himself savior of his people, calls in foreign armies and then does very little to bring about the restoration of constitutional civil government." No replacement has been found for the departed attorney general.

Economically, the halting of work on the new international airport and suspension of the tourist trade has pushed the island's unemployment rate to an estimated 25 percent. Reagan has announced an economic aid package of \$15 million (in addition to \$15 million in military equipment and training). He has also met with U.S. businessmen to encourage investments in the "new Grenada," and has urged Grenada to revise its tax code to make the spice island more attractive to U.S. capital.

But will the American aid packages and new foreign investment pacify Grenadians who had benefited from the social changes initiated by the New Jewel government in their four-year tenure? Free education, free health care, enhanced union rights, access to new farm land, participation in grassroots organizations, respect for women's rights—whether or not people will allow these to be buried and forgotten remains to be seen.

DID YOUR PARENTS LET YOU WATCH THE TELEVISION SHOW ABOUT NUCLEAR WAR?



YEAH - AND THEY WERE THE ONES WHO GOT SCARED



WHAT PART MADE THEM SCARED?



THE PART WHEN I ASKED THEM WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT



District 18 Viewpoint

by Ross Danielson
Democratic District Leader

As the year comes to an end, tax-paying Democrats find themselves searching through receipts and loose change, wondering if they have made their \$50.00 worth of campaign contributions to qualify for 1983 income tax credits. (Qualified campaign contributions up to

\$50-\$100 for couples—may be subtracted from income tax.)

Folks who have not made their '83 campaign contributions are likely to end the year searching out their preferred candidate, political action committee, or political party to make a last minute 1983 contribution. I've even heard of people borrowing money to make their contri-

bution, knowing that they could pay it back in reduced taxes or larger tax returns next spring.

This last minute flurry of 1983 green stuff is an optimistic beginning for 1984, a year of great challenge for Democrats who depend on many small contributions by working people to match the easy wealth of the Republican establishment.

Letters to the Editor

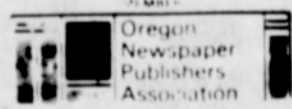
To the editor:

I appreciated Nathaniel Scott's article on Sisters of the Road Cafe. The reporting was accurate, and I recognized myself in the quotes, an

experience not always achieved after an interview. This is a critical time for the Cafe, so thank you for the coverage!

Ginny Nelson

The Observer welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters should be short, and must contain the writer's name and address (addresses are not printed). The Observer reserves the right to edit for length.



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Washington Hot Line

by Congressman Ron Wyden

Reducing the federal deficit top priority for 1984 session

When Congress reconvenes in January, 1984, several issues will be screaming for attention. Yet none will be as important for the long-term health of our nation as cutting the deficit.

In the three years since the Reagan Administration assumed control of the national government, many citizens in all parts of the country have been called upon to make sacrifices and expect less from their government. In short, we have asked to bite the bullet to advance the cause of a balanced budget.

The sacrifices have been made, the benefits cut, the bullet bitten, but the budget has not been balanced. In fact, it is looming close to \$200 billion a year for the next several years.

I would suggest the lack of fairness with which the Administration

approached the task of balancing the budget doomed the project to failure.

Most obviously, all the cuts were in social programs and specifically social programs which aided the poor and near poor. Medicaid spending was cut 5 percent, food stamps 10 percent, Aid to Families with Dependent Children 13 percent and the major subsidized housing project was brought to a halt.

The list goes on to include jobs spending, child nutrition, education aid for the poor and college student aid. The point is fairly clear: social programs have suffered in the last three years under the banner of reducing deficits, yet the deficit has tripled under the current Administration.

The Reagan Administration's failure to decrease deficits has pro-

duced the call for more advisory type commissions to report on ways to balance the budget. I support these efforts, but at the same time I think the basic answer to the questions is obvious: We must be willing to put all government programs on the operating table and squeeze, squeeze, squeeze until we produce further economies.

The defense budget, the largest government spending program ever this year at some \$249.8 billion this year, cannot be considered a sacred cow. We cannot afford a "buy everything" policy for defense now or in the future.

In short, if we are serious about cutting deficits, and I believe we must be, every aspect of federal expenditure must come under scrutiny. That is the only way we can reduce deficits, and the only way we can do it fairly.



BOBBY... HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING WITH THOSE COMPUTER ACCESS CODES AGAIN?..