

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Slander campaign begins

Now that Jesse Jackson is being accepted as a serious candidate for the presidency, and is daily rising in the polls, the press that earlier snickered at his candidacy or ignored him altogether has unleashed its usual propaganda war against him.

Not only did Jackson go to Syria and obtain Goodman's freedom, but he has challenged the entire Reagan foreign policy—the invasion of Grenada, intervention in Nicaragua, support of the El Salvador government, the bombardment of Lebanon. He supports a nuclear freeze, challenges the bloated military budget and supports self-determination.

This is not acceptable, especially for a Black man, and more especially for a Black man who is forming alliances among Blacks, whites, chicanos, Native Americans, seniors, youth, workers and the poor—a Rainbow Coalition. We learned through the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X that development of coalitions is dangerous—dangerous for those who now hold political power in this country.

So the smear campaign begins. Most of the U.S.'s Black spokesmen have suffered the same assault. The pattern is the same. First the press, then the various committees and police powers of government. By the time the not-guilty verdict is reached, the seeds of mistrust have been planted. We've seen it all over the country and even in Portland, when the now-defunct *Oregon Journal* led the charge against Cleveland Gilchrist.

The *New York Times* "revealed" that Operation Push had accepted \$200,000 from the Arab League when it was air lifting supplies to drought-stricken Africa. The grant was made publically and no one cared but the most narrow-minded Zionist.

Now the *New York Times* chooses to link "Arab money" to Jesse Jackson and the hint of impropriety is raised. In spite of Jackson's continued advocacy of the right of Israel to exist and to be secure, the flames of bigotry are raised and Jackson is subtly accused of selling out to the Arabs. The *San Francisco Examiner* put it into words, "acquired an interest in foreign affairs with a decided tilt to the Arab side."

The attack on Jackson indicates that the media—and the power structure—consider Jackson a threat. All over the nation people are listening as he forces the other candidates to discuss the real issues. And many of them are finding that they like his positions. It should serve as an inspiration to work harder to put him into the Democratic Party National Convention with enough delegates to become a real force in the development of the platform policies and in the selection of the candidate.

Snuff the flame!

The 1984 Olympic Games to be held in Los Angeles this summer are the most commercialized in history. In addition to corporate support of the U.S. teams and players, the Games will sport their own "official" hot dogs, breath mints, toothpaste, candy bars, etc.

Prices for individual events range as high as \$50 and living accommodations are going sky-high.

Now the U.S. Olympic Committee plans to raise money (a benefit for the Special Olympics) on the traditional carrying of the Olympic Flame from Olympus, Greece, to Los Angeles, California. Corporations and individuals will be asked to sponsor the athletes who will carry the Flame (so much a mile, as has become traditional in U.S. money-raising runs). A Las Vegas casino has already offered to buy 25 tickets to be won by its patrons.

The Greeks, who consider the Flame to be a sacred trust, depicting the innocence of youth and the purity of athletic competition, are shocked by this blatant commercialization. The Greek government is protesting this travesty and the people of Olympus say they will stop it.

Perhaps the Olympic Flame should be snuffed and with it all claims to amateurism. Let the U.S. create a new, magnificent flame—perhaps of neon—for the new Olympic Games to be fought by professionals representing the international corporations rather than their nations.



News for sale

by Mark Allen

It was truly a bizarre headline that caught my eye in the *Christian Science Monitor* last week, but one indicative of the U.S. news coverage or lack thereof, of the brutal South African invasion of Angola. With more than 10,000 troops positioned some 125 miles inside the Angolan border, hundreds of innocent civilians were murdered or wounded, villages, power stations, agricultural collectives bombed, the January 12 issue of the CSM printed a story entitled "South Africa moves to improve Mozambique and Angola ties."

Indeed, according to the major U.S. media, South Africa really didn't invade Angola at all, rather the apartheid dictatorship incurred, as in "the latest South African incursion."

Reading the reports of the invasion, launched December 6 from South African occupied territory in Southern Angola's Cuene province, is like reading press releases from the South African Defense Force (SADF).

The U.S. media didn't even report the invasion until it was confirmed by the South African dictatorship, ignoring repeated government statements and reports from the official Angolan news agency almost a week before.

What we are witnessing in the major media in their criminal handling of the South African aggression is part of the Reagan Administration's all-around policy of strategic alliance with South Africa, what he euphemistically terms "constructive engagement."

When the press did report on the invasion, it did so almost totally from South Africa's point of view, accepting every false premise, lie, and phony justification. According to South Africa, the invasion was a "hot pursuit" of guerrillas of the South West African People's Organization.

And the U.S. media dutifully reports the South African line, as

did Time magazine, which said the raids were "to pre-empt attacks by the Black nationalist guerrillas of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO)."

Time, like the rest of the major media coverage (*Newsweek* didn't even consider the invasion newsworthy this week), totally ignored charges by the Angolan government that South Africa attacked the "township of Cahama Cuvelai, in Cuene province, Mulondo in Huila province, and Ciaundo in Cuando Cubango." According to the Angolan government, against the defenseless civilian public and military units and not against the alleged SWAPO positions, as is claimed by the Pretoria rulers."

"The facts of the South African operation show that it is against Angolan military, economic, and civilian targets and not against SWAPO," SWAPO information secretary Peter Manning said Jan. 5. "It is just another excuse on the part of the South African regime for an invasion of Angola."

None of these statements, charges, or claims have successfully found their way into print in the major media. Nor have the charges, again repeated by Angola, that South Africa "has been using unconventional weapons against the Angolan people, such as toxic and paralyzing gas that can cause biochemical alterations to humans and other living creatures."

The invasion, the fourth major invasion since 1975, and the largest since Operation Protea in August of 1981, which resulted in the occupation of Angolan territory by South Africa, suffered immediate setbacks due to ferocious resistance. South African General Constand Viljoen admitted at a press conference, that the situation in Angola was "a bit worrying." So immediately, the apartheid regime, first forced to admit it was engaged by Angolan and now SWAPO troops, tossed in the Cubans to justify their

difficulties. And again the U.S. press complied.

As in Grenada, overblown statements and outright lies concerning Cuban troops are made to disguise the heroic nature of the popular resistance to the invasion.

Faced with the military setbacks, South Africa proposed a truce and a "disengagement," and not as the major media proclaimed, a "withdrawal." Hardly what the *Christian Science Monitor* calls a "peace offensive."

But few examples of journalistic duplicity and legerdemain can compare with Time magazine's attempt to justify the Reagan Administration support for the South African invasion, and its abstention, along with Britain, from the United Nations Security Council condemnation of the invasion.

"Meantime, the U.S. still finds itself in the curious position of backing Namibian independence while refusing to condemn South Africa's Angolan incursions. One compelling reason for that refusal: as a charter member of the contact group that hopes to mediate a settlement of the issue, the U.S. cannot afford to choose sides."

Several years ago, in what became known as the South African Information Scandal or Muldergate, named after then South African Information Minister Connie Mulder, it was revealed that South Africa had launched a massive and well financed covert conspiracy to influence U.S. public opinion as regards South Africa. That conspiracy included the secret South African purchase of newspapers, one of which was the *Sacramento Union*.

Judging from the media accounts of the recent South African invasion, one can only assume they either succeeded, or, with Reagan in the White House decided to save their money and enter into what, for the racist dictatorship, has become a most "constructive engagement."

Letters to the Editor

Stop intervention

To the editor:

As religious leaders in the State of Oregon, we feel compelled to speak out on the moral and religious implications of our nation's foreign policy, especially in light of recent events in the Middle East and Latin America.

As brothers and sisters, created in the image and likeness of God, we express our solidarity with the people of those war-torn lands.

As brothers and sisters in the Lord, redeemed by the same divine Redeemer, we express our solidarity with all who would hear the good news of salvation, of peace and of love.

As human beings who respect life, as Christians committed to peace, as Americans dedicated to life, liberty and happiness for all, we raise our voices in protest against the military interventions and escalations, in which our government is becoming increasingly involved, leading to heightened tension.

As citizens of this country, whose government is of the people, for the people, by the people, we cannot allow our President, the Congress, or our military leaders to claim full responsibility for acts of escalation, the deployment of troops, or the build-up of nuclear weapons. We share that responsibility and decision-making process, as we share the responsibility to be peacemakers, to turn our swords into plowshares, our missiles into instruments of peace, to create a more peaceful world, built on the principles of justice and love. Therefore, we urge our President and Congressional leaders to exhaust every avenue of dialogue and diplomacy before resorting to military solutions which only exacerbate civil strife.

We urge our government to seek ways to build bridges of communication, with the Soviet bloc, third world, and other nations (including artistic, scientific, literary, religious and student exchanges). We urge our leaders to redirect our precious resources to build up God's creation, not destroy it.

We commit ourselves to prayer and action and urge people to pray and work for the peace which the

world cannot give, the peace which is God's gift to us, the peace which is our responsibility to share with our neighbors, our enemies—all our brothers and sisters, because we are one human family, we are citizens of the world, we are members of the Kingdom of God.

The following members of the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Bishops and Executives Forum endorse this statement:

Dr. Glenn E. Camper, American Baptist Churches of Oregon

The Rev. Harlow Jacobson, American Lutheran Church

Dr. Mark Reid, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Oregon

The Rt. Rev. Matthew P. Bigliardi, Episcopal

The Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey, Episcopal (Eastern Oregon)

The Rev. Elias Stephanopoulos, Greek Orthodox Church

Elder Greg Page, Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ, Latter Day Saints

The Rev. Tom M. Castlen, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Most Rev. T.J. Connolly, Roman Catholic Eastern Oregon

The Rev. Donald Severson, United Church of Christ

Bishop Calvin McConnell, United Methodist Church

We'll miss Booth

To the editor:

All the brothers here at Oregon State Penitentiary and surely the women next door also, were shocked and saddened at the passing of Mrs. Rosalie Booth. We were shocked because she never let us know that she was fighting the battle against death. She did let a couple of us know that she had had an operation for breast cancer and was undergoing chemotherapy, but she gave no indication by word or action that she was losing the battle.

In fact, she was involved in the planning of a youth facility for which a brother here had drafted the proposed building and grounds. We are saddened because "Miss Booth" is irreplaceable. Our sincere condolences to her family. "Miss Booth" had also cultivated a family down here. Her group sessions every Tuesday morning were

packed. Forty or fifty brothers would pack into a little room exposing their souls in a setting that would not have been possible without the presence of "Miss Booth". We know that she is now close to her Lord, but we miss her nonetheless.

We know that she had a special character that compelled her to come down here, even in this last year of her life, when she had to know that the odds were against her seeing all of 1984. She never gave indication at all that she was in any pain. Not to us. In fact, we never saw her without her characteristic smile. And "Miss Booth" was strong too! She had to be to come down here for the past six years and put up with all the foolishness and games we brothers confronted her with. We will miss her dearly. We know there is no Black Woman (or man) in the state who can or will be to us what "Miss Booth" was. Especially to some of the young brothers here, she was like a mother. And to some of us, she was like a sister or a friend.

We miss her, we miss her. She lives on through her many good works.

Broderick W. Hunter
Coordinator
Uhuru SA SA

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