

EDITORIAL/OPINION

Stop legalized slavery

Last week the headlines blared with the death of a white three-week-old infant in South Africa. The infant was the first white casualty of more than six weeks of racial violence.

However, the headlines don't cry out when a Black baby dies in a country where the infant mortality rate is 90 per 1,000 live births. For rural Blacks it's 200 per 1,000.

The headlines are silent when a Black child dies of malnutrition. In one of the most industrialized countries in the world, 2.9 million Black children under the age of 15 suffer from malnutrition.

Where are the reporters when a Black child becomes ill while grappling with a doctor-patient ratio of one doctor per 19,000 Blacks compared to one per 330 for whites.

Where are the investigative reports that categorize the effects of the unequal per capita spending for education. For Blacks it's \$170 while for whites it's \$1,115.

If, by some miracle, the Black child in South Africa survives the legalized racism to which it is subjected, corporate slavery awaits him. If he works in a mine, his average monthly wage is \$260. For whites it's \$1,395. If his wife works as a domestic servant (one of the few employment areas opened to black women) her monthly income is \$40 to \$80 a month.

The Black adult in South Africa lives under

the Internal Security Act which places invisible and visible chains on his mobility in his own country. He can be detained without charge or trial, his organization outlawed, he cannot meet or gather with a group and is subjected to random police searches.

The way a farmer brands his cattle, Blacks over the age of 16 are required to be fingerprinted and to carry a passbook at all times. If he forgets or loses it, prison awaits him. In South Africa 40 percent of the prison population consists of people convicted of pass law violations.

Apartheid, the legal separation of the races, is a crime against humanity. Its genocide goes unreported and the current administration policies of "constructive engagement" amount to destructive coddling of criminals.

The world rejoiced when Bishop Desmond Tutu won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for exposing these statistics of slavery for 75 percent of the population. Last year in Portland, Tutu told us of an encounter he had with a child living on a homeland in poverty. Homelands are fragmented, worthless pieces of land where Blacks are forced to live. Tutu asked a little girl what she did when her family ran out of food. "We drink water," the child replied.

Where was the press? Where was the headline?



POSAF ON SOUTH AFRICA

Winnie Mandela awaits... She is waiting for justifiable majority rule in her country, South Africa, with a population of twenty-two million Blacks and four and one-half million whites. Her husband, Nelson Mandela, is 66 years old and has been a political prisoner for 20 years. Nelson Mandela's leadership stems from the African National Congress. If Winnie Mandela was living in a free society, she probably would be referred to as the "First Lady" in her country because her husband has been unofficially declared the national leader in South Africa, but she has yet to acquire the right vote. The government does not allow

people with black skin political rights. She is waiting to vote in a country that supports apartheid/legalized racism under the suppression of white rule. Come November, United States citizens should think of Winnie Mandela when they go to the polls. She is waiting for the same rights we strive for that bring about dignity to humanity. The right to vote, to assemble, to own land, to choose your workplace, to live together with your family, and so on. The rights of self-determination. The name of this woman is Winnie Mandela. Remember it. Facts about Winnie Mandela are probably not in school textbooks,

and are very seldom mentioned in newspapers and magazines, but she is a leader in South Africa. At 50, she is a social worker, mother, and is presently under house arrest. Winnie Mandela has been arrested, tortured, banned and separated from her husband for two decades, but has yet the right to vote because her skin is black. A year ago officials entered her home and removed a quilt from her bed because the colors were wrong. They were yellow, black and green, representing the African National Congress' efforts. The government has stripped all human rights from this banished woman, yet she continues her struggle.



"It is only when all black groups join hands and speak with one voice that we shall be a bargaining force which will decide its own destiny. This is the only way in which we shall maintain our oneness. We know what we want, our aspirations are dear to us. We are not asking for majority rule; it is our right, we shall have it at any cost. We are aware that the road before us is uphill, but we shall fight to the bitter end for justice..."
Winnie Mandela

Letters to the Editor

Hatfield record questioned

Dear Editor: Mark Hatfield has long been considered an outstanding peace leader. I wonder is he? Different times he has cast the lone vote against an armaments bill. Now, as chair of the powerful Senate Appropriations Committee, why could he not influence a few other Senators to join him? Even back in 1979 when Senator Henry Jackson - a leading war hawk badly needed votes for presidential standby authority to ration gasoline, Hatfield rounded up 10 votes. Did this help Hatfield to later become Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman? Does Hatfield really work for less

arms and negotiations to build peace? Then why did he campaign so vigorously against SALT II--which limited nuclear arms extension? And had popular support of 75 percent, according to national polls. Many people asked "What alternative is there?" to SALT II "It will go part of the way?" to restrain the arms race and hold back military spending. Hatfield insisted we did not need SALT II, but could go on to SALT III. Did we go to SALT III? No, but to the terrifying arms race with its crushing Pentagon budget! Now, what about Hatfield's personal cooperation with Reagan? Hatfield M.C.'d his swearing-in Ceremony. Hatfield has endorsed him for re-election. Is Mark Hatfield really leader for peace? Or just a follower of the nuclear lunatics who seek U.S. domination of the world.

VIOLET ORR

Reagan praised

Dear Editor: It is good to be a senior citizen in today's United States, because there are so many more people to share our long pasts and to enjoy the bright years ahead. Much of this favorable situation must be credited to President Reagan and the leadership he has provided to this country since 1980. Not only has his vision and good

judgement made the Social Security and Medicare programs secure for our futures, after he had inherited a crumbling program in 1980, but he has cut inflation and improved the economy and made it better for all men and women in America today. As a senior citizen and a voter, I want all other electors to know that it was President Reagan who invited democrats to join in a bi-partisan commission that led to a real solution, not just a quick fix. Benefits are now up 180 dollars a month for the average couple and more than 2100 dollars a year based on the lower rate of inflation since 1980. Spending for programs for older Americans has jumped 27 percent in the past three years. The overall picture is that 49 million elderly, poor and disabled citizens, one in every five Americans, will have health care needs met through Medicare and Medicaid in 1984. That's a million more this year and three million more than 1980. The advantage that many years of experience has dealt me makes it imperative that I go with a proven leader and winner and vote for and recommend President Reagan on November 6th.

Wilbur Bishop
Tigard, Oregon

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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Street Beat

by Lanita Duke and Richard Brown

Although the Marijuana initiative did not make it on the ballot this election year, the Street Beat team asked, "Should Oregonians have the right to grow their own Marijuana for personal consumption?"



Kerry Patrick
Student

"Yes, a lot of people live to get high. If they grew their own they wouldn't have to have drug dealers. It would cut down on crime."



Walter Harrison
Student

"I would support it for adults, but not for minors. Rather than go after people growing pot, the police would be free to go after major drug dealers."



Melvin Brown
Trucker

"Yes, I do, but I doubt if there are enough people in Oregon who do to get it passed."



Chris Johnson
Priest

"Yes, for their own personal consumption. That way the police could concentrate on more dangerous substances."



Joyce Santos
Clerk

"I think it's up to each individual. Although I think it's a waste of money, but if they were to legalize it, people won't have to do it illegally."



Earl Jones
Mechanic

I'm against it. It's harmful. I don't think we should be allowed to grow it."

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