

South Africa

Whites hang on to master-servant relations

Editor's Note: After watching South Africa's white leaders debate Black critics on ABC's Nightline, there can be little doubt that the country's crisis will only deepen in the months ahead. The Afrikaner leaders reveal themselves as prisoners of unshakable mindsets in which Blacks can play only one role — that of the dutiful servant. PNS editor Louis Freedberg, an anthropologist who was born and raised in South Africa, recently returned from a two-week trip through the country.

by Louis Freedberg

As South Africa descends into its most violent period in half a century, Americans have had a rare chance to glimpse its government leaders at close hand through ABC's Nightline program.

What they've seen has not been encouraging.

Government critics were eloquent and passionate in their condemnation of apartheid. More illuminating were the white leaders — all Afrikaners — who revealed how far away from a peaceful resolution South Africa remains.

The Afrikaner leaders gave no hint they recognize that a political system based entirely on race is out of step with the Western world.

Nor do they seem to understand what lies behind the growing Black outrage.

When Bishop Tutu told viewers that, in spite of his being born in South Africa, his government-issued passport lists his nationality as "undetermined at present," Foreign Minister Pik Botha responded that the problem is Tutu's — he just does not want to vote in one of the national states of which he is probably a citizen.

Botha insisted that his government does "not want to rob people of their citizenship" even though that is exactly what it has done to millions of Blacks who have been told they are not citizens of South Africa but citizens of one of the government's "national states."

Just hours after 19 Blacks had been killed in the most violent incident in South Africa since the Sharpeville massacre, one of the country's



Portland's Honorary South African Consul is a thing of the past. For the activists who were arrested, meetings with lawyers are still happening. Above, Lawyer Kathleen Herron discusses upcoming legal action. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

leading opinion-makers, journalist Otto Krause, explained the tragedy away by saying "these troubles beset all industrialized nations."

When the country's most distinguished Black journalist Percy Qoboza, who has been detained, harassed, his newspapers banned or shut down, wondered aloud why at the age of 47 he still cannot vote in his own country, Krause replied, "Percy, Percy, all you do is complain, complain," as if the highly educated Qoboza was a five-year-old child.

Then Connie Mulder, once touted as a future prime minister, now head of the ultra-right wing Conservative Party, reminded viewers of the "61 coups" that have taken place in Africa — all caused, in Mulder's view, by ethnic tensions between warring Black tribal groups. South Africa's problem, Mulder said, was that it consisted of people who "should never have been put together." His solution? Subdivide the land.

Mulder was at a loss to explain why whites should not also be divided up according to their ethnic back-

grounds, with separate "homelands" for white Afrikaners, Greeks, Italians, and so on.

In his interview, State President P.W. Botha seized control from the start by saying U.S. viewers had received "erroneous perceptions" of South Africa. He then reeled off an endless list of statistics to prove his point that Blacks in South Africa were better off than anywhere else in Africa.

Botha claimed he has "the cooperation of the vast majority of Black South Africans," that "no Blacks are forced into the national states" (the homelands), and that 50 percent of South Africa's best land had been given to Blacks.

"No white minority has done more to raise the standard of living of the Black community," he concluded, dismissing the recent killings at Uitenhage by saying "violence happens everywhere in the world."

Indeed, he blamed the killings on the London-based South African Communist Party (outlawed some 30

years ago, and now inactive within the country).

"I'm going to keep order in South Africa and nobody in the world is going to stop me from keeping order," Botha proclaimed.

Not one of these white political leaders remotely suggested that a unified South Africa, in which all citizens would have the vote, was a negotiable issue. Clearly, a chasm still separates the two sides.

Nor did there seem to be any hint of self-doubt.

Under pressure, Afrikaner leaders only reveal a more exposed racism: Blacks are there to do what the white man wants them to do. Otherwise, they belong somewhere else — out of sight, preferably in the homelands or in outlying townships.

That is why there is little chance for anything but a deepening crisis in South Africa. Most white South Africans expect a classic master-servant relationship to continue to flourish in South Africa.

©PNS

City Council to vote on Corinto, Nicaragua plan

by Robert Lothian

David and Elizabeth Linder feel a special affinity for Nicaragua. Their son, Ben, has lived there for 1½ years, putting his mechanical engineering skills to work helping to develop geothermal and hydro-electric generating projects.

Ben Linder visited his parents in Portland in December. He said that on the road to El Qua, the poor northern town where he works, teachers and other Nicaraguan citizens have been attacked and killed by CIA-backed contras.

Even though he uses another road which is safer, reports of contra attacks have worried Ben Linder's parents since he returned in January.

That worry hasn't stopped David Linder from getting involved in a campaign to convince the city council to adopt Nicaragua's Pacific port of Corinto as our next sister city.

Commissioner Mike Lindberg's Corinto sister city resolution comes before the city council on April 10th. Lindberg started the sister city campaign after his visit to Corinto in August.

Linder, a pathologist at the University of Oregon Health Sciences University, has organized a project to gather school supplies for Corinto

children. Corinto schools are very short of supplies, say those who have visited the town.

The school supply project has raised several hundred dollars and filled large boxes with paper, notebooks and other supplies. The supplies will be sent to Corinto with Portland visitors, he said.

Portlanders who have been there describe Corinto as a hot, dusty, impoverished town with a population of about 30,000. A huge crane dominates the harbor.

Nicaragua's major port, Corinto handles about 80 percent of the country's foreign trade. In 1983, contras under the direction of the CIA attacked oil tanks on Corinto's waterfront. The huge fire that resulted caused the entire town to be evacuated.

In 1984, CIA-sponsored mining of Corinto's harbor caused damage to many foreign ships. The World Court condemned the mining.

Sister city supporters say that adopting Corinto will open people-to-people communication and help Nicaraguans in their struggle against the contras.

Detractors say that politics is behind the Corinto campaign. Adopting Corinto would mean that Port-

land would be conducting its own foreign policy, they say. Others say that Portland already has enough sister cities (Guadalajara, Mexico and Sapporo, Japan).

Whether the city council approves Lindberg's resolution or not, the Corinto campaign has already established firm sister ties with Corinto.

In Northwest Portland, Metropolitan Learning Center, Portland's alternative school, has adopted Ruben Dario elementary school as its sister school. MLC students have sent letters, drawings and poems to their sister school, and they are eagerly waiting for a return package.

And over in Southeast, Lincoln Street United Methodist Church is now sister church with the first Baptist Church of Corinto.

In addition, Outside-In clinic in Southwest Portland may soon adopt Policlinica Gaspar Garcia Laviana in

Corinto as its sister clinic.

Lincoln Street pastor John Schwiabert received a letter recently from Rev. Elmer Barahona in Corinto.

Barahona explained why his church supports the Sandinista revolution. "We see God from history," he wrote. "He freed the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt, and he liberated Nicaragua from the slavery of Somoza (Nicaragua's former dictator)."

Sister city spokeswoman Diane Hess said that several other U.S. cities have adopted cities in Nicaragua and other Central American countries, including Atlanta, Georgia; Burlington, Vermont; Boulder, Colorado; Seattle and Port Townsend, Washington; and Berkeley, California.

The city council will hear public testimony on Corinto as Portland's next sister city from 10 a.m. - noon, and from 2 - 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday April 10.

Seattle march organized

by Lanita Duke

GRASSROOT NEWS, N.W. — A national mobilization around the rallying cry of jobs, peace and justice has been planned by a coalition of more than 80 national organizations. Locally, a number of organizations and unions plan to show support of the April 20th march in Washington with a solidarity march in Seattle, Washington.

Organizations have issued a four-point resolution: Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America; create jobs and cut the military budget; freeze and reverse the arms race, and oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home.

National sponsors include the American Indian Movement, National Lawyers Guild, TransAfrica and the National Black United Front.

"Ten years ago this April, the war in Vietnam ended. We recall that war and what it took to stop it. We know protest makes a difference. When we stand with struggling people of the world, we have the strength to turn the tide," said the sponsoring organizations.

Activities to coincide with the Washington, D.C., mobilization are underway in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Spearheading the Pacific Northwest Mobilization is a coalition formed to help organize people to attend the march in Seattle. Chartered buses are standing by to transport Portlanders to the event.

Suzanne Auger, a student representative of the April 20th coalition, said, "Young people's rights are being attacked with the cuts in education. It's time to come out and say something."


"If ever there was a time for people to unite to defend their rights, this is it. We see continued increases in the war budget, the nuclear arsenal and support to repressive regimes like South Africa. We see more attacks on our rights and standard of living. As Ronald Reagan enters his second term, we have a chance to speak out against inhumane policies," Auger added.

Local labor unions are encouraging their membership to attend the March in Seattle. "These issues are particularly important for working people and our unions," said Sam Gillispie, Mike Hereford, and Nita Brueggeman — all union officials.

Bus tickets are open to the public for \$15.00. For more information, call 231-0902 or 232-7206. Unite for Jobs, Peace and Justice!

Duke Report

(503) 287-9074



The Duke Report — Portland's Urban Contemporary News Show. Our journalistic focus is youth, small businesses and Portlanders of color.

Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday
9:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

23

CHANNEL CHANNEL

INTERESTING FACTS

ASB

brought to you every week by


AMERICAN STATE BANK
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Your letters can be much better than phone calls and greeting cards at conveying the emotions of the heart. Forget the flowery prose. A few simple words, straight from the heart are the most effective.

Printing was introduced to what is now the United States in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Wrestler Ed (Strangler) Lewis lost only 33 out of 6,200 matches in his 44-year career.

We do not do business with South Africa.



American State Bank
AN INDEPENDENT BANK
Head Office
2737 N. E. Union
Portland, Oregon 97212

Support our advertisers | Say You Saw It In The **PORTLAND OBSERVER**

MRS. C's WIGS

Many wigs priced at \$5, \$10 & \$15

BRAIDS
\$4.50

HUMAN HAIR
\$29.95

WEAVING HAIR
\$6.75 and up per foot



R601
\$15⁰⁰
Now Reg. \$18.95



CAIRO
\$23⁹⁵
Now Reg. \$30.00

MRS. C's WIGS
707 N.E. Fremont 281-6525
Closed Sun. & Mon. OPEN Tues. thru Sat. 11:30 AM to 6:00 PM

Jefferson High School students and staff returning from spring break found their building vandalized. Ronald Griffin's assessment of whoever was responsible for the graffiti was "dumb."

(Photo: Richard J. Brown)