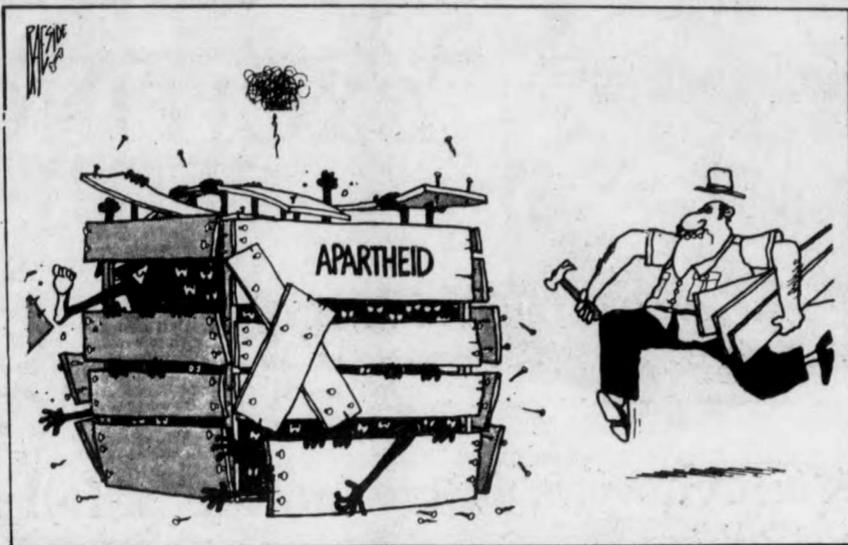


# Apartheid—Commonality of human experience

By MIKE MACKINNON  
Apartheid involves lack of freedom. It is up to South Africa to determine just what that freedom involves. However, anyone who cares about freedom and realizes that a common human experience is involved, knows that this problem cannot be left to South Africa alone. The struggle to share in power is a struggle we all face and one that links us to those who are suffering in South Africa. We all face obstacles to our freedom; some not as great as others. There is in South Africa something we all face and therefore South Africa presents both a hope and a challenge to us. It is important that we help South Africa, for just as the Africaners and English-speaking groups of that country are feeling the



pressure of the blank majority in demanding their rightful share in the country's wealth and power, so too are we in the industrialized countries feeling the pressure of demand from Africa, Asia and Latin America. More importantly, however, there is a grave and immoral injustice being done in South Africa and we all have an obligation to do what we can to change that.

At present, up to two million blacks are unemployed, nearly 20 percent of the black work force. This is coupled with an inflation rate that is expected to reach 20 percent by year's end and an increase in the general sales tax that will bring it up to 12 percent (double last year's level). Four and one half million whites own 87 percent of the land, 13 percent is owned by twenty-two million Africans. The per-

capita allocation of government funds for education is a ten-to-one ration in favour of whites. There are 13 times as many African infant mortalities as those of whites, with 50 percent of African deaths being those of children under the age of five.

Only whites, 12 percent of Africa's population, can stand as candidates and vote in general elections. Those that blacks can vote for are leaders in homelands and townships or members of ethnic councils. The final legislative power rests with those whites elected to parliament. The 1968 prohibition of Political Interference Act made interracial party membership illegal. This effectively cuts off the blacks' means of expression of opinion and political self-determination. Recent reforms are of little significance as they are mainly symbolic in nature.

The burden of Apartheid and its accompanying poverty is particularly heavy on

African women. Because of regulations, laws, customs and cultural expectations, many women are confined to the barest lands where they can attempt to scratch out a meager living. A mere quarter of the women in South Africa are able to engage in paid employment, where they are paid less than the men in practically all occupations. It becomes apparent that the struggle of women in South Africa is two-fold; the fight to obtain the freedom of their race and also equality with men within that freedom. Women are the hardest hit by Apartheid because it places them in the most vulnerable of positions.

A recent movement afoot is putting pressure on the governments of the industrialized nations to force the government of South Africa to abolish Apartheid. Across the United States people have been demonstrating their opposition to this policy of racial discrimination and the fact that their government is doing little to change things. It is time we in Canada accept or responsibility to the people of South Africa. Just as people in the US are pressuring their government, so should we.

Those demonstrating in the states are pushing for divestment—a policy whereby the country ceases investing in the South African economy. This would take place over five to ten years and would affect only com-

panies that demonstrate a willingness to follow segregationist employment practices. It has been criticized that such a policy would hurt South African blacks rather than help them, but in the words of Bishop Desmond Tutu, "people ought to stop using us South African blacks as alibis for not doing what they know they ought to." Divestment will place pressure on Botha's and subsequent governments to find a workable solution to this problem.

The pressure for divestment is sure to grow. We in Canada should take part in demanding changes from the South African government. Not only can we voice our opinion through the electoral process, we can write to our MP's, Brian Mulroney or Joe Clark and urge them to impose economic sanctions. In addition, we can make a symbolic and ethical gesture by moving our accounts from those banking institutions that deal with South Africa.

The dismantling of Apartheid will be a slow, painful process and will require a lot of thought in order to prevent a repeat of what has happened in so many other African nations, but it must be achieved. Because so many nations, Canada included, practice segregation to a certain degree, we all should become involved in the process.

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## Opinion...

By BARRY PARKINSON  
Brunswickan Staff

Remember Jerry Falwell? He's the guy who said that AIDS was God's Way of punishing gays (and, presumably, people from Haiti and Zaire, pregnant women, hemophiliacs, kids...) Well, guess what Jerry's up to these days: Why, he's supporting the South African government, of course.

Yep, Jerry's been chatting it up with PM Botha and has decided to launch a campaign to stop disinvestment in SA. Isn't that nice? Why sure it is. We can't let poor Mr. Botha suffer too much hardship now, can we? And you can bet that when Jerry's ol' buddy and "fellow Christian", the President, asks for spiritual guidance on the sanctions issue, Jerry will point him down the Right Path.

My opinion? Falwell doesn't give a damn about the non-white population of SA. He would like them to shut up and quit rioting. Falwell wants SA

to behave anti-communist regime and a good investment climate. That's all. Democracy? Human rights? Simple decency? Well, someday, perhaps...in the future...long after Falwell is dead and his reruns have been cut from the television screens.

As for Botha, the fact that he have an audience to Falwell -hardly an out-spoken opponent of apartheid - while snubbing Tutu is revealing. It only adds weight to the assertion that he is interested not in dropping apartheid, but rather in maintaining US investment. And if the US supports the South African government, so will Canada, the UK and most other western nations.

How about the next couple of years? Suppose the west continues to tactily support the apartheid system? Things don't look good: Plenty of blood. Failure of an already sick economy. Eventually, the white rule will be overthrown and a leftist government will

come to power. This will be disrupted by power-struggles among the non-whites. South Africa will be gone: a country that has at least produced a certain amount of wealth will become just another third-world circus.

This is not the prettiest of pictures. Actually, it rather surprises me that I wrote all that. The clock reads 3:41 and it's dark outside, so it must be early morning...maybe that explains it. Who can be an idealist at a time like this?

My advice to the western world (trumpets blare, the clouds part and my keyboard is bathed in moonlight): Get this over with as quickly as possible. Impose sanctions. Hell, place a tight embargo on the damn fools. Send aid to the blacks. Try to help all the factions work together. Remind Jerry Falwell and IBM and everyone else interested in keeping their bucks in SA that this sort of behavior is not acceptable. Remind yourselves of that.