

# Making Waves

by Dragos Ruiu

Well, here we are a year after sanctions were imposed on South Africa. A recent interview with one of the organizers of the Sun City single had this quote "Yes, I think it's been very successful. No one except Black Sabbath has played Sun City."

Oh boy, no major acts have played in a resort city that isn't even in South Africa. (It's in Bophut-patswana, an African homeland.) To give them credit, they did draw major public support for the anti-apartheid movement. Indeed you could even go as far as to say the Sun City single was a major political force. So what?

Well, you might answer: Exactly one year ago the U.S. joined 27 other nations and imposed economic sanctions on South Africa. And those sanctions have reduced south African exports to Europe by 33 per cent and to the U.S. by 45 per cent. South Africa depends on exports for economic survival so this must be forcing them to reconsider apartheid.

It might be a good answer too, it certainly sounds impressive; too bad it means little. The Sun City group's little trendy cultural boycott (Paul Simon you are a bad, bad boy) has done little to help apartheid. Foreign power-politics that attempted to force South Africa to remove apartheid *right now* have had about as much success.

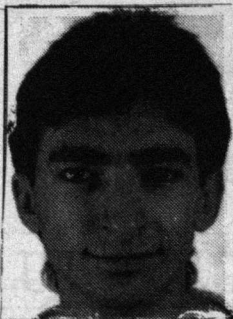
South Africa's economy has proved tough enough to withstand the siege. Gold exports, which account for more than 50 per cent of South Africa's \$22 billion foreign business, are up 3 per cent. Ironically, the political hot water has helped gold skyrocket and nearly double its price in the last two years. The South African economy will only grow by 2-3 per cent instead of 3-4 per cent this year because of sanctions, according to the U.S. State Department. Whoopity dip-shit.

The sanctions have strengthened support for Botha's National Party, and brought the more radical Conservatives into second place.

Even the hard-line Congress of South African Trade Unions has admitted that the current "selective sanctions" have "serious negative consequences" for workers. Bravo politicians and musicians, with sledgehammer diplomacy all that has been accomplished is to hurt those whom you want to help.

You know that if they ever do a song about Nicaragua (for either side) the country is really toast (as if it isn't already). Beware the trendy activist . . .

Star Trek: The Next Generation will be



seen here in Edmonton. No local stations had decided to pick it up, but after a column in the *Journal* by Bob Remington, ITV decided to pick it up. ITV in Edmonton received some nasty calls when people found out they would have to go to Calgary and watch ITV there to see it, and they quickly back-pedaled and snagged it. Trekkies must be a force to contend with. It's premiering October 10th.

The show has already been picked up in 150 U.S. markets and will reach 90 per cent of U.S. households. The two hour pilot "Encounter at Far Point" was written by Star Trek originals, Gene Roddenberry and D.C. Fontana. Corey Allen, director of *Hill Street Blues* directed it.

The cast includes Patrick Stewart *Excalibur*, *Dune* as captain Jean Luc Picard and LeVar Burton *Roots* as the blind Lieutenant Geordi LaForge. Marina Sirtis *Hunter* plays Lieutenant Deanna Troi, a Human/Betazoid starfleet counselor. Get this one though, on the crew there will be an android with super-human strength and memory, and he is called Lieutenant Commander Data (good name guys). He will be played by Brent Spinner from *Cheers* and *Hill Street Blues*.

The series has a top notch team behind it, and odds are that it will go beyond the rip-off that everyone assumes it will be. The second episode will probably be David Gerrold's "Blood and Fire". I have a sneaking suspicion this show will at least make two seasons. There are probably still some network executives kicking themselves for nuking the first one, and the guilt should carry over a little bit.

The aforementioned David Gerrold has left the Star Trek team to produce a mini-series (with the usual series attempt) for Columbia. The two night series called *Trackers* will be aired on CBS and will feature a starship that is called to planets to solve their problems. Hmmmm . . . I think I've heard this before . . . But, Gerrold insists this isn't a clone of *Star Trek* and it will let him approach stories in a way the first show couldn't. He is willing to make it into a series if he would be free to keep it "adult" fiction. Taking a look at TV, all I can say is: Good luck David.

In the gossip and fluff department, the scoop is that actress Molly Ringwald and Adam Horowitz from the *Beastie Boys* are hot to trot. What an odd couple. I wonder if they'll pull a Sean and Madonna and release putrid movies together.

Well, *Sting* fans can rejoice. His new album *Nothing Like the Sun* is due out next month. His quote is "It's not all politics." He is referring to the fact that there are some dance tunes along with the 'edged' music.

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