

Black vs white, justice vs convention

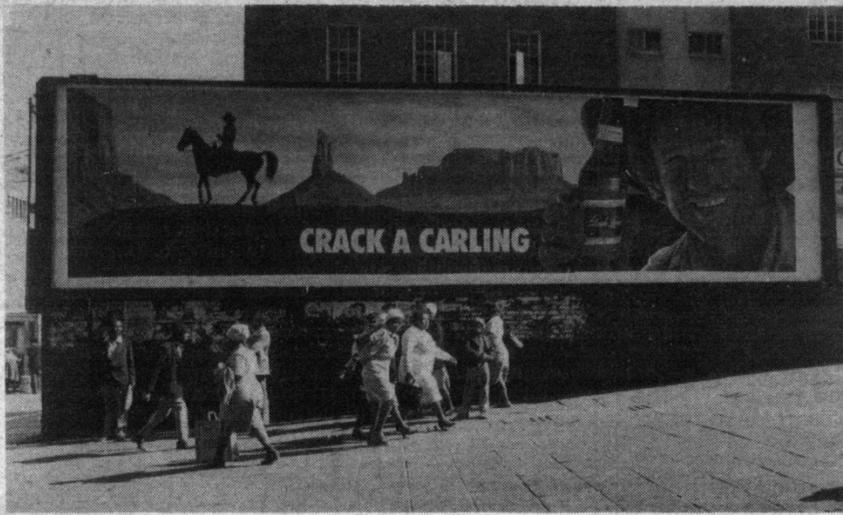
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retained the defense portfolio as Prime Minister. Botha has also centralized power in the hands of his cabinet. This, according to Gwendlyn Carter in her book *Which Way is South Africa Going* "ensures rapid passage into law of any measure the government desires." Again, concerning Soweto, I received a different perspective on the situation of that township from someone I know who has lived in South Africa most of his life. He commented, "just look at how that town is laid out, it is built solely for the basis of easy access to major areas by the military."

Despite the efforts by the government to maintain civil order and obedience they have had the opposite effect. Social unrest continues to grow. Many black youths are joining black nationalist groups. Glenn Moss of Witwatersrand University describes the situation of unrest as "taking on the propositions of a low level civil war." The government is committed to maintaining internal security in the face of growing economic uncertainty and any further strain on the economy will only serve to add to this 'low level civil war.'

The people who participate in a consumer boycott should only do so after a great deal of thought. If a consumer boycott of South African products took on big enough proportions as to have an adverse effect on the economy the results could very well be disastrous. As in the past the immediate reaction by the government would be to place more restrictions on the population. These restrictions would in turn create greater social unrest. Social unrest leads to conflicts with security forces and more and more violence. In short, economic instability could very easily lead to ever increasing violence and the possibility of an all out civil war grows larger. Does any country or any group of people, for whatever cause, have the right to push another country into a civil war?

The only way to ensure concrete, positive steps toward changes in South Africa is to work with both blacks and whites. Working solely for the purpose of knocking the whites out of power accomplishes nothing constructive. Both sides are going to have to co-exist so an agreement has to be made with both sides involved. If you believe that a boycott will pressure South Africa to the bargaining table you are misguided. If you just want to see the blacks handed power at any cost, you are dangerous. Economic instability, brought on by boycotts or trade



sanctions, will simply push the government's back against a wall. This situation could get hopelessly out of hand.

The only effective way to facilitate change in South Africa is through increased communication. Pressure the government through increased contact with the world. Aid the groups within South Africa who are working for a peaceful settlement. We can offer help and solutions and should continue to do so but not through boycotts. The people who join in a boycott do so to satisfy their own conscience. If anyone believes a boycott will have any impact at all, at best, it will be extremely negative.

Any solution forced on one side or another will not work. The so called 'solutions' being imposed by the present South African government are not working. South Africa may be headed for a bloody civil war, there may be no other end. But as long as the chance for a peaceful settlement exists then that possibility should be given priority. Boycotts will not lead to any form of a peaceful settlement.

In closing, I'd like to finish off with another quote from Gwendolyn Carter who states, "Only when the accepted leaders of both whites and blacks sit down together hammer out agreements on the kind of race relations that can satisfy both groups, and jointly put them into effect will peace and stability ultimately come to South Africa."

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attempting to embrace all companies with ties to South Africa would obviously be foolish. But a selective boycott aimed at specific offenders has potential to be very effective, especially if publicized.

An international, highly visible boycott of Nestle's to protest that multinational's unethical sales of infant formula in the Third World shrunk Nestle's worldwide 1981 profit by 16 per cent. Why not use the same tactics against DeBeers or Rothmans-Carling O'Keefe?

Your Students' Union has a policy stating that 1) All Rothman's products are to be removed from all SU outlets; 2) The SU shall pressure the provincial government to change current regulations that force the SU to sell Carling O'Keefe beer in its bars; and 3) The SU shall establish an educational committee on apartheid.

The largest Afrikaner corporation in South Africa has effectively 72 per cent ownership of Rothman's, which is in turn a majority shareholder in Carling O'Keefe. Just on a rough calculation, at standard corporate tax rates, about 10¢ out of every Old Stock you buy goes straight to the South African Government.

If you don't think the ads themselves are effective, consider the fact that in fifteen years, DeBeers managed to turn

around the centuries old tradition in Japan of not giving rings at a wedding. In 1967, 5 per cent of Japanese women received diamond rings at their weddings. By 1981 it was 60 per cent. Disrupting such a powerful campaign must have an effect.

Should you think that this is all some leftist ploy, consider that no less a bastion of free enterprise than the Toronto-Dominion Bank has agreed to stop all loans to the South African government.

Yet this too is subject to change. A boycott is a political act. If one were widely enacted, it would pressure the Federal government to alter its foreign policy stance toward South Africa.

Another argument that is often brought forward against sanctions on South Africa is that they hurt the black populace of the country more than the whites. Even assuming that the blacks benefited equally from government and industry in that country, which they do not, this would still not be true.

Organizations within the nation itself even actively oppose the government (as far as that is possible). The South African Students' Press Union refuses to run advertisements for their government organizations offering bursaries to students, according to Jo-Ann Bekker of SASPU.

The South African Conference of Trade Unions stated at its Eighth Annual conference (in 1963), "The working people of South Africa (read blacks) do not eat imported food or wear imported clothes; nor do we benefit from the export of South African products. To our friends abroad we say that trafficking in the fruits of Apartheid can never be in the interests of the workers who suffer under Apartheid."

Steve Biko, leader of the Black Consciousness movement until his death at the hands of the police, stated that boycotts would help the Blacks by cutting off funds used to maintain the South African government through arms and economic power.

Former South African Prime Minister John Vorster, arrested as a Nazi in World War II, said that, "Every sale of a South African product is a brick in the wall of our (read the white oligarchy's) continued existence."

As Kevin Russell of the University of Manitoba *Manitoban* asks, "Do you want your student paper running on money that was made by enslaving 20 million people for the color of their skin?" The *Manitoban* decided it did not, and I agree with them.

Lonely Liberal defense

interview by Peter Block

In an interview with John Middleton, President of the Student Liberal Association, issues of relevance to the campus association were initially the topic of discussion, but this soon led to a broader discussion of the current state of affairs in Canada, and the Liberal Government's responses.

Gateway: "John, what is the purpose of the club?"

Middleton: "We want to bring in those interested in politics in general and Liberals in particular, with the understanding that the club is not the government — that is, we are not a government agent — but rather an association, a branch of the Young Liberals of Canada devoted to educating in

general and spurring interest in the Liberal Party."

Gateway: "What are some of the activities the Club partakes in?"

Middleton: "We have a convention coming up in February of the Young Liberals of Alberta, on the 18th, 19th and 20th of the month, on the U of A Campus. The convention will take the form of a workshop, with the primary focus on party reform, in the wake of the National Youth and Senior Party convention in Ottawa in November 1982. Those interested in attending the convention should contact the club.

We are also tentatively planning a model parliament. This is currently in the negotiation phase with the other campus parties.

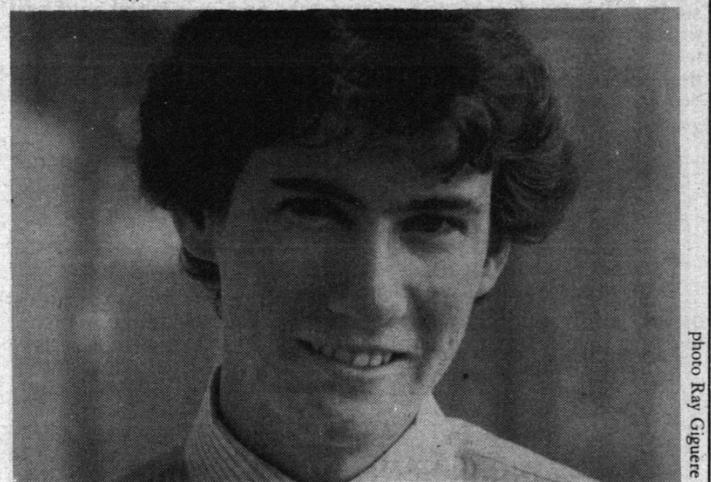
We also have the intention of sponsoring forums with other political parties on contemporary political issues."

Gateway: "Does the leadership of Pierre Trudeau hinder the recruiting of Liberals on campus?"

Middleton: "There is the political reality that Albertans are less receptive to the Liberal Party under Pierre Trudeau, however, our club fully supports the leader of the Party.

Furthermore, I would say Prime Minister Trudeau has been certainly one of the great Prime Ministers of Canada, despite the fact that regional conflict and division in Canada has perpetuated a feeling of doubt regarding the national nature of the Party and of politics in Canada in general.

Speaking on behalf of, I'm sure, many Albertans and Canadians, I would argue they do not oppose the fundamental principles of Liberalism. Discontent lies on the economy, which in turn tends to focus on the governing party."



Student Liberal Association President, John Middleton

Gateway: "On the topic of the economy, what have the Liberals done to improve the Canadian situation?"

Middleton: "Without passing the buck, a lot of problems are due to international conditions, any informed economist would concede that fact. There is a serious world-wide recession being experienced by the entire western industrialized world.

As for Canadian initiatives, 6 & 5 has been a fundamental step in redressing one of the elements that has contributed significantly to inflation in this country, that is, the spiralling increase in wages which has spurred a commensurate increase in prices. The psychological barrier has been broken.

The federal government is attempting to encourage a police for a feeling of cooperation among the people. The manner in which inflation will be beaten is through collective cooperation on the part of all Canadians.

We have to prepare our workforce and the various sectors of our industries to be ready when the upturn in the economy occurs."

Gateway: "Of the major economies of the world, unemployment in Canada is the most severe next to only Holland, and it has risen the most (in percentage) of all the countries over the last one year. What are the Liberals doing about what the Catholic Bishops have termed a 'moral' problem?"

Middleton: "As to why unemployment is so high: when any government takes an approach to solve inflation, it is inevitable that unemployment will result, because when a country is faced with stagflation as we have, the government must decide which of the two problems (inflation or unemployment) is more important. At the time inflation was.

As for remedying policies, the National Training Act and proposed worksharing plans should both help the situation.

In regards to the Catholic Bishops, it is easy for any group to criticize an easy target (unemployment), earlier, they would have criticized another problem (inflation). What they are doing is compounding the problem. I would simply echo the words of the Prime Minister who responded the Bishops are not very good economists."

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by SKEET and Nielsen

