# South Africa's future: Who knows?

WILLIAM RASPBERRY

my gloomy doubts that South Africa will never be able to work its way out of its racial

A white South African thinks I may be

overly pessimistic One of the major obstacles to bloodless resolution of the country's simmering racial conflict, says Harry Green, is the absence of genuine white challenge to the apartheid

of genuine white challenge to the apartheid policies of the Vorster government.

If that could be changed, he believes, there could be the beginnings of real power sharing between white and black South Africans, the only genuine prospect for peace. That same point was made in a September speech by Colgin Eglin of the South African parliament leader of the South African parliament, leader of the Progressive Federal Party. Green said he and other Elgin con-

stituents have been canvassing on behalf of the PFP, with encouraging results. "Okay, okay. So if we get 25 seats, we will be shouting Hallelujah on Nov. 30/Dec. 1—and that out of a House of 177," admitted Green, a Sea Point businessman.

"But we will have an opposition which will be free of double-talk. The old United Party was riddled with it, and the (ruling) Nationalist Party is not free from it. If my figure of 25, give or take, is fulfilled, for the first time in many years a white opposition party will be a relevant factor — at a time when white politics is becoming increasingly irrelevant." ingly irrelevant.

What the PFP is pushing, however ten-WASHINGTON—I recently expressed tatively, is a sharing of power: full citizenconstitution "drawn up, negotiated and agreed upon by representatvies of all sec-

tions of our people," a sharing of political decision-making and an end to trial-less imprisonment and "banning." All of this would have to be done, of course, without the introduction of majority rule. The one thing that no South African can realistically accept - no matter

how liberal his politics — is the notion of

But, then, black South Africans have not made much of a point of it, either. The late Steve Biko, during his May 1976 trial, reiterated the position of this South African Student Organization (SASO): "There will be proportionate contribution to the joint culture by those who form the society. That means that white people will be included, blacks will be included, and all of us will

can exert much influence. contribute proportionally to the joint cul-



'A CLASS THAT DOESN'T MEET ON FRIDAY? THAT'S THE ONLY LIMITATION YOU HAVE?'

Hardly anyone could disagree with such a goal. The problem in my mind has always been whether South Africa can get there from where it is. Given the government's reflexive crackdown on any challenge to the status quo — whether the challenge comes from black leaders, from university students or from white newspapers — it is difficult to see how voices of moderation

But my correspondent is convinced that the election of more moderates to the parliament could change all that. "I can tell you that in my canvassing, I find the electorate fearful of majority rule, but even more so of a Russian presence (Angola up the road from us) and a black confrontation,"

He hopes to drive home the point that present policies serve to increase the likelihood of both Russian influence and black confrontation

I had suggested that catastrophe appears unavoidable, given two facts: that change is inevitable and peaceful change (in light of the government's attitudes) is impossible. Eglin and the PFP cite another pair of facts that lead to a less-gloomy conclusion:

The first fact is that we live in a dynamic, changing situation. The second fact is that no solution for the future is going to work unless it is the result of joint decision-making by all sections of the South

African population."
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### Letters to the editor

# Flag fight was question of A&M's 'honor'

I would like to address some of the comments that have been voiced in the "Cheap Shot to the Editor" section of the Battalion. Specifically, I'm talking about the actions of the senior Corps members who blocked the attempts of t.u.'s Alpha Phi Omega to bring the huge Texas flag on the field. To enlighten a few, and to straighten out those who voiced their somewhat ignorant opinions, I'll tell you what went on.
I commanded that detail of seniors, I

made the decision to stand in front of that t.u. mob and I accept responsibility for the actions of the unit of zips. The purpose of the senior detail on the field is simply to show respect to the U.S. flag and the Texas flag. As we stood at present arms for the playing of "Texas, Our Texas", which was a first, a great deal of verbal abuse was thrown at us from the flag holders.

At the conclusion of "Texas, Our Texas", the group faced to walk off of the field which is standard operating procedure. But at the request of the Yell Leaders, in an effort to keep the tradition of not allowing mobs on Kyle Field before the game, we marched back in front of the t.u. flag holders.

When we turned to face this mob, we were cussed by this group of boys and girls. We were cussed, our mothers were cussed, our dogs were cussed, and our God was cussed — all this after paying respect to the same flag that these folks were carrying.

Any time a flag is displayed, the people doing so are responsible to act with the reatest of dignity and personal bearing. Their arrogance, their immaturity, their childish behavior and their gross show of bad manners led me to believe that letting them on Kyle Field would be like letting a dog eat off your plate. I like dogs and am in no way trying to insult them by this anal-

The tradition stood at that time — not to let mobs on the field before the team. They distinguished themselves as a mob, and I don't think that the tradition should be changed when dealing with them. I decided to keep the seniors on the field until asked to leave by the authorities - Joe Reagan and the crowd control men (the guys with the badges and the walkie-talkies).

In retrospect, I view the actions of the t.u. students as a show of disrespect for the very flag which they were carrying. Proper display of a flag is a very important part of the symbolic value of the flag. The flag of the Republic of Texas was properly dis-played at the south end of Kyle Field and shown proper respect. The same flag was disgraced by the t.u. students in their be-

In looking back, the distasteful part of the events prior to the game was not the action of the senior detail, nor the small fist fight, the orange chicken or the armadillo. Though these events did offend some, they involved two people, a bird and a mammal. It might sound a bit serious for a column

in which "humor" is the word for the day. I can find a little humor in a bird and armadillo, but the flag of Texas deserves the respect of all who display it. To me, the issue shifts from one of our traditions and of our cruelty to animals to one of our honor.

-Ken Donnelly, '78 **Deputy Corps Commander** 

#### Rude on both sides

In response to all of the letters written claiming that Aggies showed poor sportsmanship at the A&M-t.u. game last week-end, I would like to say that we were

by no means the only ones who were rude. When our fish drill team was trying to perform before the game, the t.u. football team ran out and started practicing. Granted, both teams have to warm-up before a game, but the teasips could have waited five minutes until the drill team

Also, the t.u. band started marching off

and playing during the middle of our yell practice after the game. They'd already outscored us — couldn't we have our yell practice in peace in our own staduim without them being so rude and inconsiderate?

I think the teasips and our own students who feel we were poor sports ought to stop and consider these and several other incidents staged by some of the teasips. I don't intend to apologize to anyone at t.u. after their rude actions and display of poor sportsmanship!

Abuse not 'spirit'

Editor:
The Humane Society of Brazos County

wishes to express its disapproval of the incident at the Texas A&M vs. Texas game, in

which several A&M corps members abused a chicken in their display of "school spirit". It is disturbing to hear of such insensitive treatment of an animal and even more di-

turbing to come to the conclusion that these young men probably thought that the

near 60,000 fans at the game would enjoy

seeing this take place.

The fact is that a great number of those fans have expressed to us their shock, disgust and displeasure at the incident. It might also be added that we have received complaints about the painted armedillo

complaints about the painted armadillo tradition at A&M and the use of a pig at the

It is our goal to eliminate cruelty to and

suffering among animals in this area. The

offense noted may be in violation of Sec.

42.11 of the Texas Penal Code. However, it

is not our intention to file cruelty to animal

charges against those individuals responsi-

ble, as it is our hope that our disapproval and the disapproval of many Aggie fans will

be enough to discourage any such future

Ending it all

Well, here's another one of those tedious letters to the Editor. This letter, like sooo

many others, concerns the actions of Aggies

and teasips alike at the t.u. game. I'm writ-

ing this because I don't happen to agree

Battalion has seen fit to publish.

our home field.

quences of his actions.

ters in the Battalion.

name, I sometimes get upset.

with too many of the other letters that the

things concerning traditions. So many

people have written in to slam the corps

and non-regs for not respecting t.u.'s tradi-

tion of carrying a caricature of our state flag into the field before every football game; saying that if we don't respect other

schools' traditions, how are we to expect

them to respect our own. Might I point out,

however, that their tradition was in conflict

with one of our own and we were playing at

made on our part out there during the fes-

tivities and I'll agree that a riot over a foot-

ball, or the things associated with one, is a

foolish thing. Yet, when one is being shoved around and badmouthed by a lousy

teasip who is attempting to violate a tradi-

tion and damage a fellow Ag, well, one

doesn't always stop to consider the conse-

This happened to me and several people around me. When someone shoves me,

spits at me, swings at me, or calls me a dirty

the sidelines before and after the game was

senseless, but it wasn't all unprovoked. Those people in orange and white weren't so innocent as is implied by the recent let-

I realize that a lot of what went on along

Sure, there were some poor decisions

First, I too would like to sputter a few

**Humane Soceity of Brazos County** 

-Mrs. Jean K. Duffey

President,

Arkansas game

-Julia Humphries, '79

Anytime that there is that large a number of excited, spirited people jammmed, crammed, or shoehorned into a staduim the size of ours to watch a violent game then you're living in surrealism not to ex

pect something to happen.

The things that did occur were unfortunate but probably predictable and not the fault of any group or individual alone, Aggie or teasip.

So can't we let the issue drop without casting blame or making unfair value judgements on other Ags. I regret many of the things that happened Nov. 26, but I apologize for none of them.

-Curt S., '81

Editor's note: Yes, we can let the issue drop and will with this letter. However, we may in the future consider possible solutions to the problems that you point out seem so inherent in having "that large a number of excited, spirited people jammed, crammed or shoe-horned into a staduim the size of ours."

#### The right to pray

I would like to respond to Jeffrey W Clark's letter to the Battalion on Nov. 29 concerning public prayer.

I do not condone public prayer for a couple of reasons. Prayer is a personal

thing. It should be kept to the individual and not forced upon another at a public gathering. By praying publicly, one is violating the rights of those who are not Christian believers such as Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Humanists, Agnostics and Atheists (Yes, they go to A&M, too!).

According to the Bible even Jesus did not

condone public prayer, "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets (and at football games), that they may be seen of men. . . But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which is in secret shall reward thee openly. (Matthew 6:5-6) People don't pray at public concerts and lectures, so why pray at football games?

-Lynne Fahlquist,'81

Editor's note: To each his own — that's what rights are all about, aren't they?

# Why police armed?

Why do the officers of the TAMU police department carry guns? Are the tickettoters expecting a sequel to the Kent State riot or the madness at t.u.? Neither of which could be handled by a single force, much less a lesser-trained university police department. When was the last ime one of our ticket stickers used his or er gun in the line of duty?

In the case of a shooting or other crime occurring on campus that may involve the need of a firearm other forces will be called in and they will make the investigation. So why endanger the students and police by allowing the mighty ticket force

I see the use of guns by the university polie unnecessary. I hate to think of going to Silver Taps on account of such an avoidable accident. Where there are people there are accidents. Why give death another chance? After all, we're not hoodlums, we're Aggies!

-Kyle Couser, '81 Editor's note: The University police officers are commissioned law enforcement officers and part of their duty is to carry

firearms. But no University police officer has ever fired or even drawn his weapon on duty. That's quite a record.

## **Defending Catholics**

In the spirit of Madalyn Murray O'Hair, I feel that the time has come to climb atop my soapbox and offer my two cents worth concerning Mrs. O'Hair and her state-ments. It is obvious to anyone that Mrs. O'Hair has not been doing her homework and that she has made herself quite open to criticism as a result of her latest offensive campaign.

Madalyn Murray O'Hair has clung to

the Bill of Rights for years, making good use of her rights of freedom of speech and freedom to petition the government. Now, the Catholic Church is under fire by Mrs. O'Hair for doing the same thing. It is the priviledge of every American and the Catholic Church to lobby for or against the company of the company o abortion. To Mrs. O'Hair's action I say, "Who in the heck is she to think that only she be allowed to speak her peace, pub-

licly or in the Congress?"

It also appears that Mrs. O'Hair knows little about the Catholic Church. Her petition for a collection boycott is a joke. All Catholics are well aware that the freedom of choice concerning abortion is a myth. According to God's law, not man's, abortion is murder. The decisions of right vs. wrong follow from God also, not the mortals who make up the Catholic Church. The decision of life or death was never intended to be a mortal decision. especially not that of an emotional 18year-old girl. If it were to be that a per son's life or death should be in the hands of another person, would it be right to take Madalyn Murray O'Hair's life? After all, she has, and is going to, cause more grief than a dozen unplanned children.

It is a shame that so much money and energy, which could be used to save lives, is being wasted on ending lives and making many other lives uncomfortable. -Robert L. Vaclavik, '80

#### An IO suggestion

I am writing in response to a front page story in your Nov. 10 issue entitled, Shockley, Goldsby Debate IQ Factors. Shockley and Goldsby disagree on the

causes of the 15 point deficit of black's scores compared to white's scores on IQ tests. I would like to suggest that the two variables are very similar, and that one may be the result of the other.

Shockley states that the lower score is due to hereditary factors, while Goldsby firmly believes the deficit is due to environmentally controlled factors.

Studies have proven that environmental intervention can improve IQ test scores. If we take these people out of their normal environment (which has been inherited) and place them in an environment where they would receive specialized training and education (environment intervention), it is quite obvious that the scores of these people with low socio-economic status will be increased. We can say the environmental factos are a result, or effect, of the hereditary determinants, the cause.

But, must we take kids away from their families and put them in specialized schools or in families with a higher socio-economic level to attempt to raise their IQ test scores. In effect this would be enacting communism. The only way we can effectively raise the IQ test scores is by improving vocational training for the parents, so that it may be passed on through the gener-

---Cindy Corti, '81

# Top of the News **Campus**

Library to open 24 hours

For those students who want to study for finals, the Texas A&M University libraries will be open 24 hours a day. The extended hours begin Dec. 11 at 1 p.m. and will last until midnight, Dec 14.

### Loaned art prints past due

Art prints which were checked out at the Sterling C. Evans Library in the early fall were due Thursday, according to Emma Perry, head of the circulation division. A fee of \$5 will be charged for those items

## State

### Houston nuclear plant in 1985

Houston Lighting & Power Co. has announced a federal permit for construction of the reactivated Allens Creek nuclear power project is still about a year away. If construction begins in 1978, the nuclear plant should go into operation in the summer of 1985. The total cost of the scaled-down project now is estimated at \$1 billion in inflated 1985 dollars, said company spokesman Jim Parsons.

## Irate farmers rally in Dallas

Farmers supporting the American Agriculture Movement and its proposed Dec. 14 strike gathered in Texas Stadium in Irving Thu day in what they said was another effort to show the seriousness their economic problems. Rally activites — primarily preformant by musical groups — were scheduled from noon to midnight Thu day and today, highlighted by a planned "tractorcade" through downtown Dallas at 1 p.m. today. Farmers then plan to "match" tractors, representing each state, to Washington D. C. by Dec 10. tractors, representing each state, to Washington D.C. by Dec 10 for confrontation with President Carter and Agriculture Secretary Bol

## **Nation**

### Boy Scouts not 'lily-white'

A Boy Scout leader in Kansas City, Mo., says a publicly funded community group asked him to assemble "a lily-white" honor guard for its Christmas program — barring black, Mexican-American and Vietnamese youngsters. Frank Palermo, chairman of the Boy Scout Lone Star district, called the request from the Northeast Area Com-munity Council "repugnant," and said Wednesday he will not permit any of his scouts to participate. The council, which receives some funds from the city, wanted the scouts to serve as an honor guard leading the pledge of allegiance at its Dec. 19 program. Council officials denied Palermo's charge. They said the controversy was a misunderstanding of their request to have only scouts from the northeastern area chosen to help with the program.

### Carter may name 145 judges

Congress is about to give President Carter the chance to increase the federal judiciary about 30 percent by naming more judges than any other president in history. A bill creating 110 new district court judgeships and 35 new circuit court positions is about to be approved by Congress. It also voted to ask Carter to make the nominations on the basis of merit, not party, although his record to date has been one of naming only Democrats as judges and U.S. attorneys. The last new federal judges were named in 1970, and despite court backlogs, the Democrat-controlled Congress was not eager to create judgeships for a Republican president to fill.

#### Sevareid retires from airwaves

Eric Sevareid closed a four-decade journalistic career with the same plain, chiseled words that colored his reporting from the battlefields of Europe to network television in his final commentary broadcast Wednesday night. Sevareid's career in journalism began as a student activist at the University of Minnesota, carried him to the Minneapolis Journal in 1936, to Paris where he worked for the New York Herald Tribune and United Press before joining Ed Morrow and CBS news in 1939 to help cover World War II. He will remain at

## Longshoremen end strike

The president of the International Longshoreman's Association Thursday ordered striking dockworkers at the nation's second-largest port, New Orleans, back to work, ending a 62-day walkout against containerized cargo ships. The New Orleans dockworkers had been the last major holdouts in a strike that began Oct. 1 and stranded containerized cargo ships from Maine to Texas. Longshoremen at most other ports approved a national contract earlier this week. ILA members in Baltimore, Baton Rouge, La., and Mobile, Ala., still have not reached agreement on a new contract but those ports were unaffected by the strike.

# World

#### Mudslide hits Swedish town

A giant mudslide swept away 40 houses in the western Swedish town of Gothenburg Wednesday, killing at least four people and gouging a 3,000-foot-long crevice in the earth. Rescue workers said they feared more bodies were buried under the debris. The mudlayered on top of solid rock and loosened by recent heavy rains began rumbling down an embankment in the middle-class suburb of Hisingen 300 miles west of Stockholm at about dusk, officials said.

# Weather

Clear to partly cloudy and mild today and tomorrow with variable winds 5-10 mph. High today low 70s. Low tonight mid-40s. High tomorrow mid-70s. No rain.

#### The Battalion

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LETTERS POLICY

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