

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 10, 1980

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Now that's what I call a Christmas tree!"

Calls for S. Africa sanctions being raised again in UN

By CHARLES MITCHELL

United Press International

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — South Africa's stubborn opposition to independence for South West Africa has brought new calls for international sanctions from the United Nations council for the territory, a region as big as Texas and Arkansas that also is known as Namibia.

Sanctions have hung over South Africa's head since it adopted a policy of race segregation or apartheid two decades ago. So, despite government warnings to prepare for the worst, the man in the street appears more concerned about the supply of scotch whiskey than the national economy.

"Sanctions can't hurt us," said Jan Van As, a building contractor. "Little things like cigarettes and whiskey might become short, but so what? This country is loaded. South Africa is a survivor."

Prime Minister Pieter Botha likes to refer to sanctions as "a double-edged sword." As the mineral supermarket of the West, South Africa can withhold minerals such as chrome and platinum and cause disruptions in numerous world economies.

Following the bloody 1976 riots in the all-black Johannesburg suburb of Soweto, South Africa increased its overseas borrowing by 50

percent and poured the money into huge capital projects aimed at making the country self-sufficient in industries as diverse as energy, automobiles, petro-chemicals, agriculture — even whiskey.

Faced with an arms embargo after riots in the Soweto riots, South Africa gave top priority to establishing an arms industry. Starting from scratch, it became an arms exporter in four years.

Stockpiling has become official government policy. In some strategic industries, government loans do not have to be repaid as long as inventories are kept at a certain level. All types of rationing programs could be put into effect in less than a week.

A comprehensive study of sanctions by Professor Arnt Spandau of Johannesburg's Witwatersrand University predicted trade sanctions only 20 percent effective would put about 90,000 whites and 340,000 blacks out of work or about 20 percent of the respective labor forces.

His economic model shows "the rate of black job advancement will decline" and chances are that blacks, the intended benefactors of the boycott, "will suffer most" from it.

Spandau predicts that, if Britain were to totally boycott South Africa, more than 60,000 Britons would lose their jobs because of the

high trade volume between the two countries. But sanctions would be a more serious blow to black southern African states than heavily on South Africa for manufacturing goods, food and employment.

South Africa employs an estimated 1.5 million foreign blacks from Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. Most are on a contract basis with pay in gold remitted directly to the foreign government. Those workers would be the first to be laid off.

January-to-September trade figures show South African exports to black states \$1.1 billion while imports amounted to \$1.1 billion.

Internally, sanctions pose a great threat to relations between South Africa's 4 million whites and 18 million blacks.

"Sanctions would be interpreted by leftist radicals as a victory over South Africa and this could certainly lead to internal and high black expectations for change," said John Barret, director of the Institute of International Affairs.

Political analysts point out that internal unrest might be met with renewed government crackdowns and would certainly slow power introduced by Botha since he has held power almost two years ago.

The rich are the new heroes of college kids

By PATRICIA McCORMACK

United Press International

College kids have new heroes these days — the college graduates who are making fat paychecks out in the business world.

That's according to a report from the Carnegie Council on Policy Studies in Higher Education, which adds that "fat" in this case means "enough to ... go first class."

The report, entitled "When Dreams and Heroes Die," condenses studies of students on campuses coast to coast who are working to attain college degrees which carry the highest price tag in history — over \$40,000 for some schools.

Arthur Levine, the report's author, said many students view their own futures as bright but the country's as poor, so that they see themselves "going first class on the Titanic."

Levine said 91 percent of those polled say they are optimistic about themselves but only 41 percent are optimistic about the country.

"For the past four years, the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan has studied the future outlook of college-bound high school seniors.

"With each succeeding year, students have grown slightly more pessimistic about the country until 1979. That year pessimism increased by a full fifth. In contrast, nine out of every 10 students were quite positive about their own futures."

Levine said a typical "about the future" interview with a college student goes like this:

Interviewer: Will the United States be a better or worse place to live in the next 10 years?

Student: The U. S. will definitely be a worse place to live.

Interviewer: Then you must be pessimistic about the future?

Student: No, I'm optimistic.

Interviewer (with surprise): Why?

Student: Because I have a high grade point average and I'm going to get a good job, make a lot of money, and live in a nice house.

Among the worries cited:

— Fears over the economy, pollution, energy, crime, morals and nuclear war.

— Apprehension over nuclear power, corporations, greed, illegal aliens and the right wing.

— Concerns over Anita Bryant and her anti-homosexual campaign, Phyllis Schlafly and her anti-Equal-Rights-Amendment campaign.

"There is a sense among today's undergraduates that they are passengers on a sinking ship, a

Titanic if you will, called the United States or the world," Levine said.

"Perhaps this is part of the reason why suicide has become the second leading cause of death among students in the 1970s, exceeded only by accidents.

"Today's fatalism fuels a spirit of justified hedonism.

And what about after graduation? "They want their own home (not an apartment or a condominium) with a big yard, well-kept lawn, appliances, stereo and the like," the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research found.

"About half think it is extremely important to have clothes in the latest style."

The focus is on the material joys of life.

Levine said: "Glitter and gold are part of the driving force for this generation, more so than for their predecessors of the 1960s."

And a philosophy of life is much less important.

"Perhaps if one believes that he or she is ... on a doomed ship, a philosophy of life becomes meaningless," Levine said. "It is a world where freedom of individual action seems pathetically limited and a time when situational ethics appear to make more sense than a philosophy of life."

The report ends with recommendations.

It said "self-centered and me-oriented" college students — also weak in basic skills — are in serious need of education with at least four distinctive qualities. To wit:

1) Education that teaches the skills of reading, writing, arithmetic, speaking, problem solving, lifelong learning, "crap detection" (identifying the drivel, exaggerations and untruths that we hear and read every day), and surviving.

2) Education which emphasizes our common humanity and which is concerned with our common problems and the ways that we together can solve them. "This is ever so important in mitigating the self-concern that, more than any other characteristic, stands out in this generation."

3) Education which stresses issues of value and questions of ethics. "For a pragmatic, competitive generation with a Titanic mentality and a propensity for taking academic shortcuts, this is essential."

4) Education that gives students a base from which to continue learning and the skills necessary to perform well in a succession of jobs.



It's your turn

Corps values pretentious, hypocritical

Editor:

I'd like to take this time to voice my opinions on the Corps of Cadets and the values they pretend to uphold. Before I go further I would like to make it clear that I am a member of the Corps. Now to continue, what is the purpose of the Corps? Leadership? Integrity? Wrong! What the Corps is is the biggest bunch of hypocrites I have ever seen. Sure, for the public and other students on campus, they uphold a false image, but when it comes down to it they discriminate worse than the Klan does to minorities. I think that anyone that sues the Corps for discrimination is in the right. I say that because I experience the Corps discrimination every day. I came to this University in 1978 and joined the Corps because I (at the time) thought the Corps represented a high standard of a person. But I was fooled by the false image they had. Well, when I got in I was labeled as a "head." ('70s term for hippie.) That prejudice of

labeling has given trouble for almost three years now. But I've stayed in for I feel someone has to try to put a stop to the prejudices that the Corps has against the female cadets. They have been here now over five years and if people can't accept them by now, I don't think that shows any leadership at all. In fact a senior told me I could not associate with them while he was around because he's a senior and he said so. Now is that any way for a leader with integrity to talk? Other prejudices: A cadet was not accepted for a staff position because they said he was too religious. Now I ask is that leadership or

is that leadership? As I write this letter I think of all the hypocrites in the Corps. I try to do "something" about this letter again that is the childish leadership that has been allowed in the Corps. Also I will catch hell from the Trigon for this letter then again the Trigon likes to restrict constitutional right of freedom to express self. The truth in this case does hurt. I know about time for the Corps to accept people what they can give of themselves and damn them for their beliefs.

Paul S...

Warped

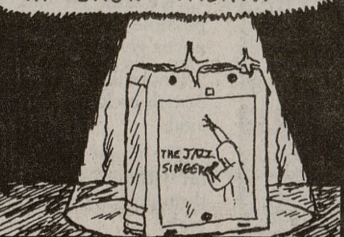
By Scott McCullar

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The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M University's spring semesters, except for holiday and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished upon request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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