

OPINION

# Doctors need competition too

Marketplace competition is a foundation of capitalism. Increased competition means more suppliers chasing consumer dollars which in turn lowers prices and usually means better products.

If competition is beneficial in the product marketplace why not in the service marketplace?

A new Scott and White Clinic, specializing in 13 medical areas, is scheduled to open here in the spring of 1986. It will be Scott and White's second multispecialty clinic.

The clinic will give consumers a larger selection to choose from when in the market for medical services.

This will affect not only consumers, but local physicians as well. Area doctors have spoken out against the clinic saying it won't provide any services not already available locally.

This may be true, but when a new Burger King comes to town, it doesn't provide local patrons anything new. But the increased competition may help to push the shoddier restaurants out of business.

Competition for consumers' spending on medical services may not be agreeable to all, but it is the American way.

The Battalion Editorial Board

OWMAN THE OREGONIAN  
© 1985, THE OREGONIAN  
MEDIA SERVICES



# Ignorance, apathy keep apartheid going strong

The recent worsening of the political situation in South Africa and the parallel increase in anti-apartheid activism in this country illustrates the growing concern over injustices committed in South Africa, and the proper role of U.S. policy towards it.

**Paul Thorpe**  
Guest Columnist

Rather than surrendering to the impulse to base our actions upon short-term interests and fears, we should analyze what is likely to happen in that country, how it will affect us and the world at large, and what effects any actions we might take could have in the future.

I don't think anybody would disagree with the assertion that the South African government ultimately will change to one where the white minority no longer has a legally enforced dominance over all other races. When this dominance goes, so will the discrimination against non-whites. It is hopeful that this transition could be relatively peaceful, with a fair, non-exploitive government taking over.

But the only way this could happen is if the current government alters its obstinate stand and agrees to end apartheid and political discrimination on its own accord, in a rational, legal manner.

If this does not come to pass, the only alternative outcome will be a violent overthrow of the minority government in a long, painful civil war. And if recent happenings there, such as the call by the African National Congress for a violent uprising, serve as an indication, time for a peaceful transition may be running out.

In response to increasing political pressure and criticism, the Reagan administration claims to be using "quiet diplomacy" to encourage change in South Africa. Yet whatever this entails seems to be having no effect whatsoever. Very little significant change has been taking place and then only in response to the increasing violence.

The white-run government seems to be following the example of southern U.S. states before the 1950s in making token gesture towards non-whites while keeping unbreached real power for themselves. The gestures taken include finally giving blacks the right to not be forced on to government-designated "homelands" against their will (somewhat akin to our Indian reservations) and even giving blacks the right to a "separate but equal" education (now where I heard that before?), which, of course, is notorious for the inferior quality of instruction and facilities available.

In contrast with these gestures, the minority government seems dead set against ever allowing for an end to apartheid and political discrimination.

While the white government has allowed the Asian and colored minorities to elect separate (segregated) legislatures of questionable real power, it refuses to grant ANY suffrage at all to the blacks who make up over 70 percent of the country's population. Also, blacks are segregated into mostly poverty-stricken neighborhoods and must all carry identification passes to be produced upon demand by the police.

They are clearly treated as sub-citizens, and are given no rights to effective redress of the government, which is absolutely contrary to Western democratic notions of the rights of all individuals to an equal opportunity to influence their government.

If there is no change in the volume of outside pressure put on Pretoria, perhaps that government could continue to keep its iron grip on power, with change coming just as slowly as it is now.

However, the longer and more painful the transition is, the more likely it will be that the coming government will be opposed to Western democratic values. In other words, this could be a replay of what happened in Nicaragua.

For these reasons, it seems that both private and U.S. government sanctions against the South African government should be increased, so as to encourage and facilitate a quicker and more purposeful transition.

One means of doing this is for individuals, plus private and public institutions, to divest themselves of investment in multinational corporate activity in South Africa. This is controversial, since it is held by many that these corporations offer improved and more equal employment conditions for South African blacks. However, due to the constraints of South African law, any advances in racial equality that might thus take place are not permitted to extend beyond factory walls, and no political advances are allowed. And this political discrimination is at the root of the conflict.

Of course, such a divestment effort could have an effect only if it were internationally coordinated so that European and Japanese corporations don't just step in and fill the void.

Also, the U.S. and Britain, who are the only major powers who consistently give any political support to the South African government, should join the rest of the world in active opposition to that government.

There are fears that such a move could backfire by making it difficult for us to obtain certain strategic minerals from South Africa. However, to remain viable, the South African government more dependant upon a steady market for its goods than we are upon a temporarily problem-free access to them.

Also, if when a majority government is finally able to gain control, the rulers see the U.S. as a country that is effectively hostile to their struggle, they will probably be as difficult as Iran is today in regards to selling resources. Just think, hostile governments in South Africa and the Soviet Union could have the world diamond market cornered.

Some might question the real worth of American activism on issues such as this, especially since we are so far removed from the area in question. But awareness can be increased through this country and the world, a significant step will have been taken.

It is amazing that such an overtly racist government could exist in the world today, and its only hope for maintaining its current form is for the continuation of ignorance and apathy around it.

Paul Thorpe is a senior political science major.

# Fun in sun can be overdone

Hey Buffy, do you want to go out by the pool and catch some rays?

Sure Skip, I'd love it. Let me put on my string bikini and grab some baby oil. I can't believe how pale I've gotten in the past few days.

I know Buffero, you're lookin' like a real Casper. I mean a white sheet.

Oh Skippola, I'd give anything to get about six shades darker.

That's right Buffy and Skip, you could give just about anything to maintain that all-important-tan. The tan you have worked on every year since you were in junior high. The tan you started in the month of April and ended in September. The tan you try to maintain during the off-months by attending a tanning salon twice a week.

Think how neat your tan will look when you're 30. I have a friend who wants to be a plastic surgeon when he grows up. Ten years from now when he finishes school, he will be happy to charge you some big bucks to remove the wrinkles from your face.

If you're not giving him the bucks, you could be buying all sorts of creams so you can try to soften the piece of leather your skin has become. Or best of all, you could have to have some cancer-ridden cells surgically removed so that they don't develop into something nastier.



**Cheryl Clark**

Face facts Skip and Buffy.

•Skin cancer is directly related to sun exposure in 90 percent of all cases.

•The number of skin cancer cases has risen from about 300,000 in the 70's to 500,000 today.

•5,500 people will die from malignant melanoma, a cancer of the cells that produce melanin.

I can hear the arguments from Buffy and Skip.

(Buffy and Skip in unison) Skin cancer is easily cured. It's the least harmful cancer a person can have.

You're right Buffy and Skip. Skin cancer can be cured sometimes by simple surgery. If you're willing to risk permanent scarring and disfiguring.

But we both use those new, expensive products that say they build up the melanin level in the skin, thus forming a protective layer against any harmful radiation from the sun.

Buffy, those products are produced as a cosmetic, not as a drug. So the FDA can't test it medically for what it claims to do. And dermatologists think tan accelerators may be more cosmetic than medical.

But Buffy and I go to the latest in tanning salons during the off-season. They are much safer than the salons that were chic a few years ago. The new salons use ultraviolet-A rays for tanning instead of the ultraviolet-B rays which causes cancer.

Good point Skip. But these suppos-

edly safe "alpha" rays can age the skin prematurely. They can also cause toxic reactions to antibiotics and other medications. The rays can cause cataracts in those who don't wear goggles. Finally, alpha rays can act as a cancer "promoter" by inhibiting enzymes that could repair cells damaged by the sun.

But I use tons and tons of skin lotion to keep my skin moist and young. That's the whole secret, keep moisturizing the skin.

Well Buffy, I overheard a conversation the other day. A woman was complaining that she just couldn't get dark enough this summer. She said she was 25 and had been laying out since she was 14. Buffy, I have a pair of leather cowboy boots that looked better than her face did. In fact, the boots probably had more moisture in them than her face possessed. She looked at least 40. And she said she used moisturizers all the time.

But we can't live without the sun. Why was the sun invented if it wasn't for the summer. The sun had to have its own season. What would we do without beach parties, water skiing and our BMW sunroofs?

Hey, ya'll don't have to give up skiing or parties or the sunroof. But you could be a little careful and use some common sense when you're in the sun. Try to protect your face with some sort of sunscreen so 10 years from now you won't look like your least favorite pair of cowboy boots. Sun is fun, but skin cancer can put a wrinkle in anyone's lifestyle.

Cheryl Clark is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

# Mail Call

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

## A&M headed for gay university status

EDITOR:

This past week I have been wondering why the GSS fought for recognition on campus. Why would they want to connect themselves with an institution that they so obviously dislike? I mean, aren't student organizations here to support the students and the University? If they don't care about A&M, why fight for affiliation? Sick publicity?

I was humiliated when I read in The Batt about the disgusting exhibition by the GSS in Houston last week. There is no excuse for such despicable behavior. They obviously take some kind of perverse pleasure not only in being homosexuals but in mocking our band, our traditions and our University. They should be sued for malicious slander and kicked off campus.

In the past, I have been rather indifferent towards the GSS. I was stupid enough to believe that the little fairies could coexist, since they were Aggies too. However, the GSS does not support A&M, nor are its members Aggies. Any organization who goes around ridiculing and belittling Texas A&M doesn't deserve the honor of being Aggies and shouldn't be tolerated by those who are.

I am sorry that we were forced to recognize them at A&M. I hope that graduate before Texas A&M becomes gay university. And I hope that something is done before Aggies are too embarrassed to be Aggies. With that kind of organization representing A&M, being an Aggie will no longer mean being proud of Aggieland.

Kara M. Brown '86

**The Battalion**  
USPS 045 360  
Member of  
Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Conference

**The Battalion Editorial Board**  
Kellie Dworaczky, Editor  
Kay Mallett, John Hallett, News Editors  
Loren Steffy, Editorial Page Editor  
Sarah Oates, City Editor  
Travis Tingle, Sports Editor

**Editorial Policy**  
The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.  
Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.  
The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.  
The Battalion is published Tuesday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holidays and examination periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.  
Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843. Editorial staff phone number: (409) 845-2630. Advertising: (409) 845-2611.  
Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.