

Opinion

Out of South Africa

Many businesses, such as General Electric, GTE and Phillips Petroleum, are pulling their investments out of South Africa, despite President Reagan's refusal to support divestment. This new lack of revenue coupled with sanctions imposed by other governments is wreaking havoc on the economic and social structure of South Africa. It's good to see private businesses rescuing the moral convictions of this country and doing what the president refuses to do — curtail our economic support of government-sponsored racism.

At least 55 countries have announced over the last 18 months they are disinvesting. U.S. officials say South Africa is experiencing an unprecedented exodus of people and money, including 200 Western corporations in various stages of disengagement.

White emigration is up dramatically for the first time in 10 years, adding to the country's economic woes and causing a decrease in the white standard of living.

The diplomatic and economic isolation brought about by the economic sanctions of other countries has had a devastating effect. South Africa has lost \$1 billion in capital in the last six months, making unemployment a problem for whites as well as blacks.

The result of the sanctions is a financial slump affecting all races. No longer are blacks the only people who feel the crunch of an economy run amuck. No longer are whites shielded from monetary troubles by their carefully implemented oppressive policies.

The economic sanctions of other countries and the disinvestment of U.S. companies has given South Africa a series of financial gut-punches. We can only hope that Congress and the American people can convince President Reagan — a barroom brawler from way back — to stop pulling his own economic punches.

The Battalion Editorial Board

Mail Call

What about the Soviets

EDITOR:

You think we have a bad economic situation in Texas — you ought to think about what's happening in Russia right now.

First, their main purchasers for crude oil — the Europeans — announced a while back that they will soon begin purchasing their oil and gas from Norway, and not from Russia. They have made plans for a multi-billion dollar pipeline from the North Sea oil fields south.

Second, the Soviets were having just as bad a family crisis there, as we are in the United States. Until, that is, the Chernobyl accident happened and rendered their most productive farm lands useless. Also, that accident scared most of their Warsaw Pact clients away, for fear that they were purchasing contaminated produce from the Russians.

Third, the radiation from Chernobyl has affected some 100,000 Soviet citizens, all of whom will essentially have to be on welfare for the rest of their lives . . .

William H. Clark

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.



Instructions for 'going to hell'

We are engaged in reliving the Vietnam experience. Whatever President Reagan does, it is not enough. Whatever South African President P.W. Botha does, it will not prove to be enough. The militants in South Africa will settle at this point for nothing less than *The Federalist Papers*, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Emancipation Proclamation, *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, the civil rights acts of 1964 and 1965 and the latest affirmative action decision of the Supreme Court. Otherwise?



William F. Buckley Jr.

The West can go to hell.

Or to quote Bishop Desmond Tutu more exactly, "(President Reagan) is the pits as far as blacks are concerned. . . . He sits there like a great, big white chief of old," and "I am so angry . . . I found it quite nauseating. I think the West, for my part, can go to hell."

That was Tutu's response to a speech in which the president of the United States four separate times condemned the emergency laws declared by Botha, asked for the release of political prisoners, for the release of Nelson Mandela and for "unbanning" black political movements. One concludes that only if Reagan had said that he would send the U.S. Navy to blockade South African ports unless his recommendations were acted on would Bishop Tutu's disgust with the West have mitigated.

Tutu's complement in the United States was Rep. William H. Gary III, D-

Pa. who, representing the Democratic Party, spoke the official answer to Reagan. He was preceded by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who announced that the United States had become "the last, best hope for apartheid." Gray said that the United States must "demand" a timetable for "full democracy, which is one person, one vote."

Gray went on to say that it hardly mattered if those South African blacks who are employed by American capital should lose their jobs, since they amount to a mere 47,000 people, or "one-tenth of 1 percent" of the work force. So that simultaneously we are told that only sanctions will bring the white government to its knees and that sanctions can only affect one-tenth of 1 percent of the working force. If that is so, then obviously something more than economic sanctions is desired in order that we succeed with our "demands."

What?

Well, we know that the Commonwealth nations are doing their best to change the mind of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, whose position has been exactly that of Reagan and South African novelist Alan Paton — namely, that economic growth in South Africa is the surest means of effecting the loosening of controls and the granting of civil rights. But there is even talk of the Commonwealth disintegrating if Thatcher does not go along, and there are rumors that Queen Elizabeth has said that she has not accepted the throne of England in order to preside over the liquidation of the Commonwealth. I swear, if we generated such pressure against the Soviet Union, Gorbachev would be sleeping in the cellar of the Kremlin.

What is clear — beyond the Vietnam

syndrome, which specifies that cession will generate anything other than the demands for more — is that before we knew it, one vote, which not even the Progressive Federal Party in South Africa favored traditionally, is suddenly commonly accepted objective isn't clear but ought to be a man one-vote in South Africa to happen in any meaningful sense.

Why? It is one thing to vote one's civil rights, another to vote one's neighbor's property. And that's what the militants want. Man (whom the militants wish release the Ben Bella of the liberation movement in South Africa, and he self-proclaimed Marxist whose in one-man one-vote would be a satory as the Sandinistas' proved. The African National Congress, he effectively heads, is Jacobin spirit, and its chosen instrument a modern counterpart of the guillotine "necklace."

Well, Chief Buthelezi of the isn't going to yield to the ANC, nor the Indians, nor will the Coloureds, will the Boers. No one clamoring for collapse of the white government describe convincingly what would after. But rather a Vietnam-type even if it is followed by boat people, Ho Chi Minh cities, than Botha and grudging reforms. So what the Sandinistas have militarized Nicaragua stripped the people of their civil ties and reduced real per capita more than 40 percent? We got rid moza, did we not?

Bishop Tutu's formulation was. He said the West can go to hell. likely, the West will simply go to hell.

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'Monkey Trials II' reincarnates past morality, idiocy

Hollywood offers a wide range of movie sequels this summer, but nothing can top the follow-up to the greatest horror-comedy ever made, undergoing production right now in the heart of the Bible Belt. I'm speaking, of course, about *The Monkey Trials II*.

Unlike most good, or even mediocre, sequels, *The Monkey Trials II* does nothing to advance the ideas and concepts of its predecessor. The plot remains the same, only the actors have changed.

The original version, called *Scopes' Monkey Trials*, premiered in 1925. The drama unfolded in a Greenville, Tenn., courtroom and starred John Scopes as a science teacher accused of illegally presenting Darwin's theory of evolution in the classroom. Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryan played the roles of the attorneys. Scopes was found guilty of fillings kids' heads with the idea that man evolved from apes, thus the title.

The flick was billed as a horror-comedy because many of the courtroom viewers found the drama



Loren Steffy

appalling, while others such as H.L. Menken found it laughable.

But it took little to scare and amuse people in 1925, which is why the 1986 sequel falls on its face. Instead of being another horror-comedy, *Monkey Trials II* merely disgusts and dumbfounds its audience with its reiteration of 1920s morality and ignorance.

The scene is once again a Tennessee courtroom, but the only returning actor is the state of Tennessee. The other original stars declined offers to recreate their roles, probably because they're dead.

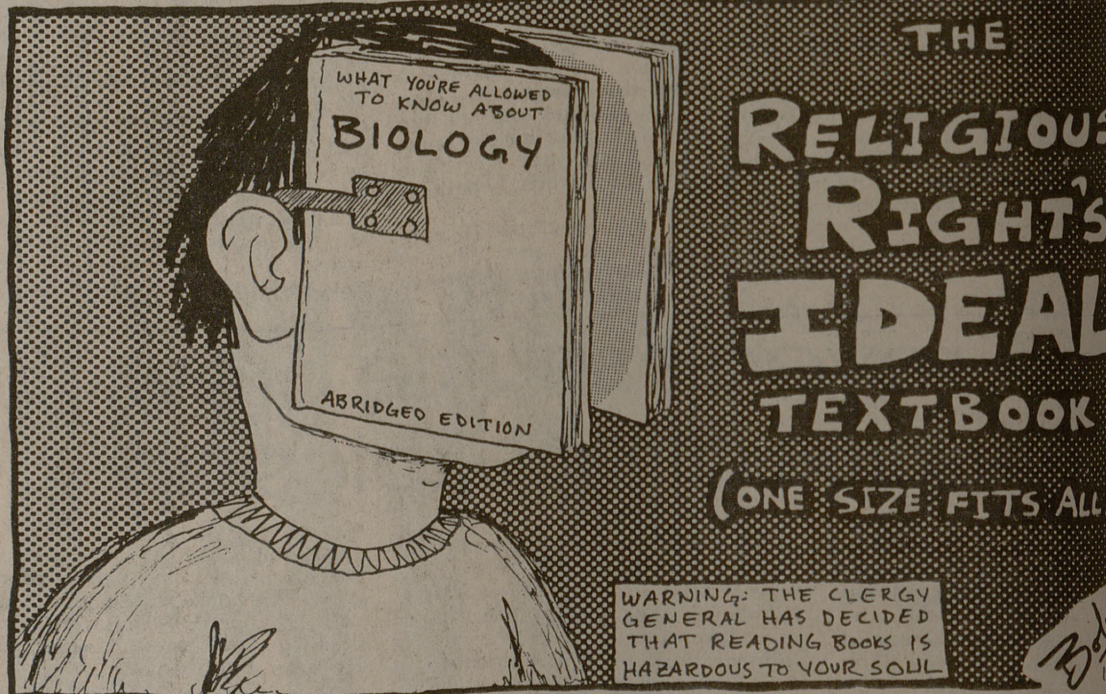
In the new version, the lead part is played by Vicki Frost, a 34-year-old mother of four, and all-consumed follower of the Fundamentalist Way. Frost is suing the Hawkins County public schools because they require children to read books published by Holt, Rinehart and Winston. Frost claims the books, used by 15,000 schools in all 50 states, violate the Fundamentalist world view, which barely stretches beyond the edge of the Fundamentalist's nose.

The age-old plot begins with Frost entering the courtroom, Bible in hand, spouting accusations of secular humanism, a term which only Fundamentalists can define. More stereotypical schlock has never been put on celluloid. Bible-banging in the courtroom wields all the subtlety of a sledgehammer.

While secular humanism is never accurately explained, Frost claims it is apparent in the parts of the book that promote pacifism, feminism and situational ethics. The books also warp children's minds by reversing traditional roles for boys and girls, even going so far as to suggest boys might enjoy cooking. Chef Tell, in Frost's eyes, must be the epitome of hell on earth.

The role of the state, however, has reversed in *Monkey II*. In the 1925 version, the state of Tennessee was the driving force behind the Scopes persecution. In the new film, the school is defending the school district.

The plot winds on, moving toward Frost's eventual goal of having Fundamentalist children given different books, so they won't be exposed to the diverse views, cultures and religions the current texts strive to present.



And this is where the drama's credibility falls apart. If Fundamentalists were distinguished from normal children (perhaps by sewing a big F on their clothes) soon all groups would want separate texts, specifically detailing each different viewpoint and ignoring all others. But *The Monkey Trials II* does not concern itself with logical thought. For example it also ignores previous rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court that suggest the court would frown heavily on state efforts to favor one particular religion.

Monkey Trials II exists in its own world, assuming that the viewing public is as tolerant and blissfully oblivious to reality as the players. The last fatal flaw of the plot is exposed with a simple question: Has Mrs. Frost ever heard of private school? Many parents who find public schools unsuitable for one reason or another find this solution much simpler than a court battle.

The message of *Monkey Trials II* mimics the original — religious minorities should be able to impose their specific beliefs on the general public, regardless of how many others and laws get trampled on in the process. Frost argues that Fundamentalist kids deserve special treatment. But, aside from their parents' desire to shelter them from the outside world, these children are not necessarily handicapped. Nor are they necessarily gifted, despite their parents' to God's hotline.

The producers of this sequel fail to top their horror-comedy predecessor, but *The Monkey Trials II* is a solid attempt to recreate past idiocy. We can only hope that *The Monkey Trials II* closes the same theater it premiered in — the Tennessee courtroom.

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The Battalion

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