

Shanty sparks racial concerns once again

Anti-Apartheid movement in America hypocritical



Matt McBurnett
Columnist

Once again, our Students Against Apartheid have decided to manifest their views in the form of a shanty. And, once again, their creation has been defiled by people who either had mean prejudice streaks or simply did not like to look at the "black-shack" any more. If it happens again next year I believe it qualifies as a tradition.

I disagree emphatically with the wanton destruction of the shanty. The builders of the shack obviously had obtained permission for its construction, so there is no need for anyone to skirt the rules and vandalize it.

Do not get me wrong, though. I do not like the shack.

Never mind the fact it is hideous and has an identity crisis. It fluctuates between an outhouse and Hurricane Hugo rubbish. Either way, it still is not quite as ugly as the English Annex.

I am averse to supporting the shanty because it reflects hypocrisy and the tendency of some Americans to forget that other nations are entitled to at least a small degree of autonomy.

For the sake of argument, let us say the South African government notices that people in America are protesting their Apartheid system. Let us also say they care. If they try to change their system, could we point to ours as the ideal model? Of course not.

"Because they have not solved the race relation problems on their home turf," the South Africans who actually

care might think, "why should we pay any mind to them?" Our hypocrisy is unnerving.

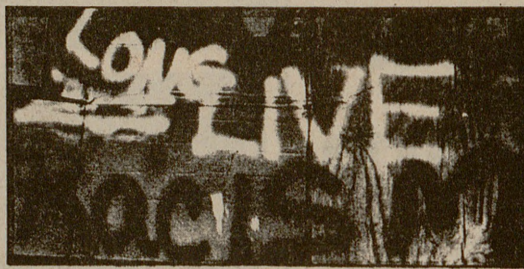
America has far too many problems with race relations to have anyone seriously consider our recommendations. Jim Westmoreland's recent faux pas is a prime example.

Houston City Councilman Jim Westmoreland jokingly suggested that Houston Intertcontinental Airport be renamed "Nigger International." At the time, council members were considering a proposal to rename the airport in honor of the late U.S. Representative Mickey Leland. As a direct result of his gaffe, Westmoreland lost his recent election to Beverley Clark, a little known black woman with no political experience.

Westmoreland served 16 years on the council and drew almost 80 percent of the vote in 1987. Many people may point to Westmoreland's defeat as a triumph for blacks and anti-racism forces. After all, a racist comment turned the race around. I see it as an unwelcome indication that a major rift is present between blacks and whites. Had Beverley Clark used the word "nigger," nothing would have changed.

If Westmoreland truly is a racist, he certainly deserved to lose. His record and his seemingly authentic apology indicate his comment was simply a mistake.

The entire incident reflects an overly wary attitude toward racism displayed by society. Twenty years ago when the civil rights movement was beginning, this attitude was more than necessary for the movement's survival. America has progressed significantly since the 50s and 60s, (New York just elected a black mayor) and this always-on-guard attitude toward racism is not only unnecessary, but it is proving to be one of the final stopping points in the path of harmonious relations between blacks and whites.



Whites and blacks must mutually adjust their attitudes to cope with the remaining racism problem in America. Until we conquer our domestic racism problem, we should not attempt to intervene in other nation's affairs.

An interesting thought arises when one attempts to place America in South Africa's shoes. We would not be overly excited if people in, say, Japan began protesting our country's racial policies because they did not suit Japanese beliefs. If they even hinted at tampering with our government in an attempt to ease the strain our blacks undergo, we as a people would be furious. How then, do we expect to tamper with, as some have suggested, South Africa's autonomy to appease standards that we concoct and impose on them?

It is granted that Apartheid is wrong, but we should have learned from our experience in Vietnam that meddling in other nations' internal affairs can severely backfire. By the way, the Soviet Union's Communist system violates the rights of many more people than Apartheid, and it does it to a much worse degree.

I simply cannot justify any concentrated anti-Apartheid movement here in America without thinking of the hypocrisy involved. For this reason, I do not see any need for the anti-Apartheid shack/rubbish.

Members of Students Against Apartheid reportedly have said they desire to show, with their shack, that racism exists at A&M. Well racism certainly does exist here, and we need to halt it instead of clinging to idealistic notions that we can provide a cure for racial problems in far away countries.

Matt McBurnett is a junior electrical engineering major and a columnist for The Battalion.

Peaceful solution needed not violence, bloodshed

Recently there has been much debate about the issue of racism on the A&M campus and how it can be paralleled to the oppression in South Africa. Most of it is centered on the idea that anyone opposed to the view of the Students Against Apartheid (SAA), a campus organization, is a racist or a supporter of the racist policies of the South African government.

The Chancellor's office was recently marched on by SAA in opposition to the continued investment in South Africa by Texas A&M.

SAA supports the removal of foreign capital and instituting sanctions against South Africa. These policies are put forward by the African National Congress (ANC) and leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu, an appointed leader who represents 1.5 million South African Anglicans.

It is asserted that disinvestment and sanctions are preferred by the majority of the blacks in South Africa. They believe the blacks will be given an equal voice in their country as a result of the government's fear of an economic collapse.

The plain and simple truth is that the majority of South African blacks do not support disinvestment or economic sanctions.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, Black leader of the 5.4 million Zulu nation, said that, "When I oppose disinvestment as an option...I receive mass applause (in the Black community) for doing so... Those who call for disinvestment do so in direct opposition to the Black sentiment in South Africa."

In fact, "Chief Buthelezi, Prime Minister George Matanzina, and seven other elected leaders, representing over 21 million blacks (out of a total black/white population of 32.7 million), are unanimously opposed to disinvestment, sanctions or racial violence."

Instead of trying to destroy South Africa's economy we should promote economic growth that will assure black progress.

Mark Saum

Guest Columnist

According to Innocent Abiaka, a Nigerian born president of INA-national, "Effective changes can be made in South Africa by requiring U.S. firms doing business there to adhere to non-racist policies. If they don't, they should forfeit all tax advantages and trade assistance from the U.S. government in all their overseas markets not just South Africa."

Whose interest is SAA and the ANC serving? In South Africa it is common for members of the ANC and other black radical groups to give other blacks a "necklace." A necklace where they take a black man whose supports peaceful reform, put a chain around his neck, pour gasoline on it and light it. I know it is as clear to me as it is to me how that advances the rights of blacks.

The day that SAA marched on the chancellor's office, they held an apartheid rally. One of the people invited was an ANC activist who had been arrested at UT last year for breaking into the chancellor's office during a similar march and rally. The same man told attendees the ANC supported militarily and economically by Cuba, and advocated the violent overthrow of the South African government as the only possible resolution to the conflict. In reality, SAA does not support human rights, nor does it support the majority of the South African blacks. It supports the torture and murder of black South Africans and the violent overthrow of the government. Divestment is not the only way to abolish apartheid. I would prefer the peaceful solution before we resort to bloodshed. Please remember that next time you see *The Shack*.

Mark Saum is a junior BANA major and guest columnist for The Battalion.

Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches — aphrodisiacs of the stars

Did you read what Jack Nicholson's former girlfriend said about him?

She said, among other things, he was a "sex machine" and was into erotic games, such as spanking.

She also said he ate peanut butter and jelly sandwiches in the bed in order to keep up his sexual strength.

Some guys have all the luck.

Here's an ex-girlfriend of a guy calling him a "sex machine" in public, which means a lot of other women will want to give ol' Jack a try now just to see if he lives up to his billing.

I figured perhaps it might work for me.

I phoned my ex-wives and several former girlfriends to see what sort of recommendations they could give me as a lover.

My first ex-wife, once she stopped laughing, said, "You're a sex machine, all right — a 1954 DeSoto with plaid seat covers."

"But didn't we play any erotic games?" I asked her.

"Once you tried to use a dirty word in Scrabble, but I disallowed it," she said.

I moved on to wife No. 2:



Lewis Grizzard
Syndicated Columnist

"Somehow," she said, "the term 'sex machine' just doesn't seem to work when I apply it to you."

I pressed on, "What terms apply to me when you think of my sexuality?"

"Do the words, 'numb,' 'yawn,' and 'wake me up when this is over,' ring a bell?"

Wife No. 3:

"How did you get this number?" she asked.

"Please be civil," I said. "I know we had our differences, but I was just wondering how you would describe me as a lover."

"How would I describe you as a lover?" she asked, in a tone of voice I remembered distinctly.

It was in that very same tone of voice she once said to me, "My lawyer is

going to ask for the death penalty during our divorce proceedings."

"I'd say," she continued, "you are to lovemaking what Muammar Khadafi is to world peace."

Ex-girlfriends usually are more understanding than ex-wives. They still hate you, but only about half as much as ex-wives do.

I called an ex-girlfriend.

"Jack Nicholson's ex-girlfriend," I explained, "said he was a sex machine. What would you say if you were asked what sort of lover I was?"

She handed the phone to her current boyfriend, Bruno.

"You call here, again," he said, "and I'm going to hurt you."

I went on to my next ex-girlfriend. She was a lot nicer about the whole thing.

"Well, you weren't bad," she said.

I knew I would find somebody who appreciated my abilities as a lover.

"Could you expand?" I asked.

"Well," she said, "if we turned off the lights and I thought of my ex-boyfriend, Bruno, it was bearable."

I had one last ex-girlfriend to call, the lovely Juanita.

We met while I was having my oil changed. I can still remember that first

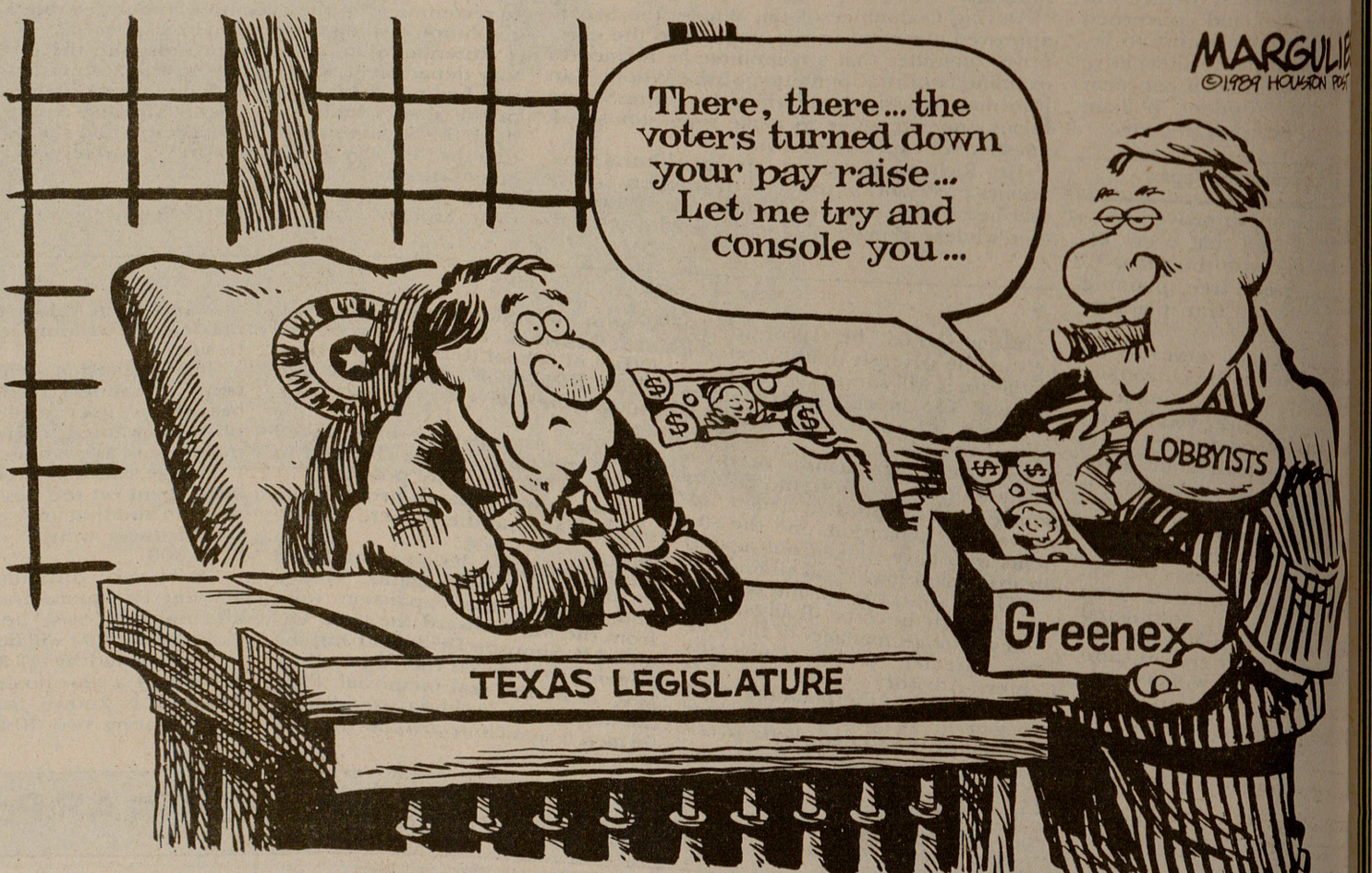
meeting. Juanita rolling out from under my car at the Gulf station, oil dripping down on her shirt, the one with "Juanita" sewn in script over her pocket.

"Juanita," I asked, "was I a good lover?"

"If I could have ever gotten cranked, darling," she replied, "you knows?"

I went and made myself a couple peanut butter and jelly sandwiches just wish I'd known about them sooner.

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