

# Commentary

By EDWIN FEULNER  
Special to The Dallas Post

I'm getting tired of South Africa. We all know that the government of South Africa is not a paradigm of virtue, and that something must be done to end apartheid. But from the way the news media covered the subject, one would think South Africa is the only place left on earth with a repressive government, and it's not by a long shot.

Here, for example, are some stories that are being given a short shrift in the media's mad rush to have the last word on apartheid...

**AFGHANISTAN** — If you thought the Soviets pulled out when we refused to send our athletes to the Moscow Olympics, you're wrong. Even with the Head Red's decision to recall 5,000 soldiers, there are still about 150,000 Soviet troops in the war-ravaged country. And what are the Soviets up to? You can bet they're not sitting on their hands or plucking chickens. Instead, they've been having fun with gas warfare, attack helicopters, and bombs that look like toys (designed to explode when Afghan kids pick them up)...

**ETHIOPIA** — If you think a lot of blacks are dying in South Africa, you ain't seen nothin' yet. Take a look at the North African Soviet client state of Ethiopia. The regime of that country's mass murderer Mengistu Haile Mariam has managed to starve hundreds of thousands of its people while food from international relief agencies rots on the docks (starving rebellious citizens is cheaper than shooting them). But maybe that's all right in the eyes of the media; in Ethiopia, you see, blacks are doing the killing, not whites...

**IRAN** — Once one of the more enlightened countries in the Arab world, Iran is currently involved in a bitter war with its neighbor, Iraq. And in a brilliant flash of military strategy, Iran's ayatollahs have perfected the use of children as mine detectors and tank buffers...

**CAMBODIA** — Rumor has it that Cambodian despot Pol Pot has given up his mass murder. Small wonder. After killing untold millions (some say as much as half the population), there aren't very many people left in Cambodia to butcher...

**NICARAGUA** — Ronald Reagan has been right all along. There IS a Communist on our doorstep. And after meeting with his spiritual leaders in Moscow, Cuba and Libya, Daniel Ortega has moved into the big time. He's sent troops to visit his

neighbors, shut down the only opposition newspaper left in the country, persecuted churchmen, and redistributed the wealth so well that no one has anything.

**THE SOVIET UNION** — Yes, it's true: The Soviets don't have discriminatory apartheid laws. In the new Soviet Worker's State, virtually EVERYBODY gets persecuted and EVERYBODY likes it (or else). It's more fair that way. Well, ALMOST everyone likes it. You can count the 17 million or more who died in the Gulags between 1930 and 1953, and the millions who are on permanent vacations in Siberia...

**THE EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES** — Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, East Germany. No violations of human rights here. Just ask the Ministers of Propaganda. Okay, so maybe they did kill a couple of priests, and jail a few thousand dissidents, and stifle free speech, and shut down a labor union or two. But it's nothing the Nazis didn't do...

**AND A HOST OF OTHERS** — Libya, North Korea, Red China, Vietnam, Laos, Syria, Mozambique, Angola, Liberia and Cuba.

So why aren't these countries also in the news? Why don't our newspapers write pious editorials denouncing these brutal regimes? Why aren't the protestors calling for sanctions and disinvestment? The answer is simple: the more it invites criticism.

It is one of the supreme ironies of our time that the countries that most deserve to be vilified are the ones that get the least press attention. Countries with relatively free and open societies on the other hand become victims of the media juggernaut precisely because their flaws are there in full view.

Reporters who feel the need to write on South Africa simply take the next flight to Johannesburg. Writing a story on Afghanistan, on the other hand, is a risky business that involves crossing hundreds of miles of mountains making it across a closed border, and evading Soviet troops who have orders to stop precisely the kind of thing we are talking about.

No, South Africa is not the only repressive state in the world. It's not even the worst. But it's a convenient target; and that seems to be good enough these days.

Isn't it time for the U.S. media to give equal time to all repressive regimes?

(Edwin Feulner is president of The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute. His column appears in The Dallas Post periodically.)



## Beware of alcohol!

College Misericordia last week took part in the National Alcohol Awareness Week from Oct. 20-24. Activities, which were programmed by the College Misericordia counseling department and the B.A.C.C.H.U.S. Chapter and directed by Mrs. Kit Foley, included speakers from "Children of Alcoholics" and Alcoholics Anonymous as well as others on D.U.I. laws and underage drinking laws. With the S.O.B.E.R. car on campus are, from left, Chris Gaudenzi, student government president; Carmela Maccarone, SG activities coordinator; Kevin BiHerbender and Sue Postlethwaite, B.A.C.C.H.U.S. member and Designated Driver Program member.

Dallas Post/John Holinski

## Halloween season calls for extra caution with youngsters

The fall season, with the chill in the air that turns leaves to crimson and gold, heralds the harvest of pumpkins and creates the mood for one of the most colorful observances, Halloween.

"It is a time for fun and fantasy, not tragedy," said Matt Mathiesen, acting director of the state Health Department's Division of Emergency Health Services, and he offers these suggestions for Halloween safety for your little ghosts and goblins.

— Store-purchased costumes tend to be on the thin side and don't provide protection from the elements. Warm underclothing will help ward off colds and the flu.

— Many of the commercial costumes may not be fireproof. Never allow children to carry lighted candles. A flashlight fashioned as a candle or lantern will give the same effect without the danger.

— Each child should carry a flashlight whether it is part of the costume or not. It will let them see and be seen.

— Costumes should allow freedom of

movement, but not be too loose to cause children to trip over them.

— Attach strips of reflective tape to costumes so motorists can see them at night.

— Where possible, use makeup instead of a mask. If a mask is a necessary part of the costume, be sure it fits well so that eyes line up with eye holes. And be sure the holes are large enough.

— Go over the rules of safety before the children go out.

— Adults should accompany small children on their rounds of the neighborhood.

— Instruct the children not to eat any of the goodies until they get home. There the treats can be examined and parceled out in amounts that will not make them sick.

"I would especially caution motorists to be on the lookout for young trick or treaters as Halloween approaches. Each year there are accidents that could have been avoided if the driver and the children were a little more careful," Mathiesen said.

## Something to think about

We Americans are settling for mediocrity more and more every day.

How many times have you bought a new jacket or shirt and the first time you put it on, a button pops off? How about those matches that don't light, or the stamps that don't stick? Did you ever go grocery shopping and have the bottom of the bag fall out?

We are living in a polyester and plastic world - cheap - disposable - easily replaced. Fabrics even come already shrunken and wrinkled and faded. We are spending our hard-earned money for "junk."

Every year the new car models come out loaded with more and more plastic. Imagine! Plastic in a vehicle that takes us and our loved ones from place to place at 60 miles an hour. No wonder they fold up like accordions on impact. Even the metal in the car bodies crunches like paper.

As consumers, our appetite for new goods seems insatiable. Perhaps the manufac-

Toby Coleman



turers need to produce at such a frantic pace to satisfy us, that they have given quality control "Short shrift."

Perhaps, but I rather suspect that the reason so many of today's products are shoddy and don't work as they should, is that we consumers accept this mediocrity. Did you ever demand from the manager of the supermarket a replacement for the jar of jelly that smashed when the bag broke? Did you ever get a new book of stamps for the ones that don't stick? Did you ever tell the car dealers that you'll pay a few hundred more for real wood and metal and leather in the interior?

The thing that worries me

about all of this is not the button or match or bag or car. It is the fact that our present society doesn't put a high enough value on quality. We seem to settle for any old thing as long as the price is right. If it breaks, throw it away, and buy a new one.

This attitude has carried over to people aides as well. Accept mediocre performance on the job. Pay the least you can get away with to the workers to get the job done at the lowest cost and highest profit. Give only as much effort to your job as is necessary. Never mind maximum performance. Let quality be damned.

Ideas are also becoming mediocre, "mush for the masses." Many of our teachers are also ordinary. They don't make much money, so they don't really put forth the effort they should.

(Toby Coleman, a Back Mountain resident, is a columnist for The Dallas Post. Her column appears regularly.)

## Letters

### Organization head discusses her opinion on gubernatorial candidate

DEAR EDITOR: Bill Scranton has characterized himself as "pro-choice" on the issue of abortion in an attempt to somehow portray himself as a moderate on the issue. However, this position was good enough for him to gain the endorsement by the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), one of the strongest pro-abortion groups in the country.

NARAL recognizes that a pro-choice position is as good and as effective as a hard-core pro-abortion one

because it allows abortion-on-demand to continue unchallenged.

And, Bill Scranton recently proved that he wants nothing to interfere with the "so-called right to abortion." He, along with other pro-abortion groups across the state, urged Governor Thornburg to veto a measure designed to tighten the law on teenage drinking, because it had "certificate of need" legislation attached to it. The requirement would have made it mandatory that

abortion clinics, like all other health care facilities, prove their need before opening or expanding.

Apparently Bill Scranton can't be serious about reducing the number of abortions if he was willing to sacrifice a bill to curb the grave problem of teenage drinking because abortion legislation was a part of it.

MRS. HELEN GOHSLER  
PRESIDENT, SCRANTON  
CHAPTER  
PENNSYLVANIANS  
FOR HUMAN LIFE

### Quilt Show people grateful for publicity

DEAR EDITOR: Thank you so much for the wonderful article and press coverage you gave to Quilt Show '86.

Over 2000 people attended the show and over \$3,600 was raised for charity.

Thank you for making the public aware of our Quilt

Show.

Many thanks.  
AUDREY ANGELELLA  
PENNA. QUILTERS

## State Capitol roundup

Here is a summary of important events that occurred on Capitol Hill last week from Rep. Frank Coslett, 120th Legislative District.

**HEARING DELAYED** - The Select House Committee studying the Capitol expansion project postponed a scheduled hearing this week. An attorney for the Democrat-controlled panel said that ground rules could not be agreed to for the appearance of a witness, Robert Gentzel, a press aide in the Attorney General's office. Rep.

Jeff Piccola, R-Dauphin, the ranking Republican member of the committee, said this development proves that Democrats on the committee are in total disarray. "Rather than investigating the construction of a building, they are now trying to determine what information passed from one press secretary to another," he said. "It's clear now that the whole purpose of the investigation is one of partisan politics."

**VICTIM'S RIGHTS** - Gov. Dick Thornburgh this week

signed into law a measure which prevents an employer from dismissing or penalizing an employee for appearing in court as a victim or witness of a crime. Developed and sponsored by Rep. Jon D. Fox (R-Montgomery), the bill is part of a proposed package of legislation designed to create an enforceable Victim's Bill of Rights in Pennsylvania. Under the new law, which takes effect in December, any attempt to deprive a worker from his or her job, seniority or benefits for missing work due to a court appearance will be treated as a summary offense punishable by a fine of up to \$300 and or 90 days in jail. In addition, a fired employee may sue for reinstatement, recovery of lost wages and benefit, and reimbursement for legal fees. However, the employer is not required to pay the employee for time missed on the job. "The participation of victims and witnesses is essen-

## Library news

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK  
Library Correspondent

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is featuring, in the display case, four American Legion limited edition decanters borrowed from Tom and Martha Reese of Dallas. These are exact replicas of the original memorial statues of the four wars our country was involved in.

They include the "Doughboy" from World War I dedicated November 11, 1979; a Sailor representing World War II dedicated December 7, 1981; a Paratrooper from the Korean War dedicated on August 12, 1984; and a Marine representing the Vietnam War dedicated on June 9, 1985. Featured in the center of the display are the American flag and a Pennsylvania flag. Tom and Martha attended the Vietnam War dedication and ordered the decanter which they received on June 12, 1986.

November seemed the proper month to display these decanters with Election Day on November 4th and Veterans Day on November 11th. These decanters make a very interesting display and represent a lot of our history. They will be at the library until Nov. 19th.

The Book Club met at the library recently with 18 members attending. New books were reviewed and the program was presented by Marilyn Rudolph and Nancy Kozemchak, librarians. A film was shown titled, "Wyeth Phenomenon" which showed Andrew Wyeth's paintings emphasizing his great skill as an illustrator, his feel for realism and strength in portraying traditional American subjects. Many of his famous paintings were shown from an exhibit in New York City and some paintings of his father's and also some of his sons were included in the film. The film showed many scenes of Mr. Wyeth's home in Chadds Ford.

The library has three lovely books featuring the Wyeth paintings. This program proved to be very enjoyable with discussion following and refreshments served by Benny Matchett and her committee.

A very special thank you to a lovely young volunteer who gave many hours of her time to the library during a four year period. Heather Hand, daughter of Joe and Sue Hand, spent Thursday evenings at the library and did many volunteer tasks which we certainly did appreciate.

Heather is quite interested in the British Royal Family and is well versed on many aspects of their lives. Heather is a very conscientious and faithful worker and I'm glad she worked Thursday nights; I was able to get to know her and enjoy her pleasant personality.

(Nancy Kozemchak is the assistant librarian at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Her column appears regularly.)

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J. STEPHEN BUCKLEY  
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DOTTY MARTIN  
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