

U.N. Column

by Laura Parks

**The Loves And Hates
Of South Africa**

South Africa loves Taiwan. A Taiwan trade delegation leaves for South Africa next Tuesday to sign an agreement for the surplus of South African grain. The agreement involving 120 million metric tons of corn over the next few years. The current corn agreement between Taiwan and South Africa expires in May.

South Africa loves gold. Krugerrand gold coins for 1978 nearly doubled the total sales for the previous year. Over 22 million coins have been sold since 1970 amounting to more than 700 tons of gold. The increase in sales is attributed to the increase in the price of gold over the last year. The United States overtook West Germany during 1978 as the largest single outlet for the Krugerrand. South African gold analysts feel that "only the surface has been scratched in the U.S." and that the market for the coin would expand considerably. New marketing offices for the coin are to be established in the Far East and Japan is seen to be a major buyer in the near future.

South Africa loves trade. The South African Minister for Economic Affairs has convened a meeting in Spain of all South African commercial representatives overseas, to study ways of increasing South Africa's foreign trade and to change marketing strategy. This is necessary in order to adapt to the changing pattern of international trade.

South Africa likes Dr. Kissinger. The former Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger, said Cuban military intervention in Africa is unacceptable and should be stopped. Dr. Kissinger indicated that force should be used to halt Cuban intervention. He said Cuba should have been stopped in Angola and even before the difficulties in Ethiopia, but that now it would be difficult.

Asked how he thought Cuban intervention should be countered, Dr. Kissinger said means could be found if one wants to. He pointed to the French invasion of Zaire's Shaba province last year in which Cuban-backed African rebels had been forced back to Angola and he believed France's action was correct.

South Africa hates the Rhodesian "terrorists." In Rhodesia, 49 more people have been killed in the "terrorist" war. The military command in Salisbury says that Rhodesian forces killed 41 "terrorists" for the loss of only two of their own men.

South Africa hates President Kaunda and blames the U.S.A. President Kaunda praised Cuba as a source of inspiration for the oppressed people of southern Africa. According to a Radio Zambia report, the praise was contained in a letter which President Kaunda sent to the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, to mark Cuba's national day. This came about because the United States failed to take effective counter measures against Cuban penetration of southern Africa which in turn caused the Zambian leader to lean increasingly towards Cuba.

South Africa hates the Russians, the Cubans and other undisclosed communist countries. The Department of Civil Aviation in Rhodesia has released its findings on the crash of the Rhodesian Viscount airliner on September 3 last year. The report confirms that the aircraft last year. The report confirms that the aircraft was hit by a Russian made SAM 7 missile. The report also says that the survivors were murdered by "terrorists" belonging to Joshua Nkomo's Zambian based guerrilla forces.

The South African government is waging an international propaganda war in defense of Rhodesian and South African minority white rule. The world wide sale of Krugerrands, in part, finances this war. The freedom fighters are always called terrorists and the communist countries are invariably called the enemies of freedom in southern Africa.

The uncertain stance of the United States in its relations with Africa have left all in a

state of confusion. Perhaps now, with the lessons of Iran behind us, we might take to heart the lessons of history and come to realize that our long term national interests are best served when we join the peoples in their struggles against oppression, rascism and poverty.



"Looking Back"

I've often found myself bogged down in trying to understand the past in hopes of unraveling the future, but the struggle seems never ending.

For example, the decision that should have decided this nation's continued course of action for better conditions and opportunities fell short a few months ago. The long-awaited Bakke case finally has been handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court, reaffirming our never ending struggles.

As most of my readers know, in a split decision the Court struck down the use of prominity racial quotas in college admission programs and ruled that Allen Bakke, a white engineer, must be admitted to the University of California Medical School at Davis. The court also ruled that race may be taken into account by institutions as one factor in special programs (such as affirmative action programs) whose purpose is to remedy disadvantages.

It's discouraging--if you've been in the trenches and on the front lines--when you think that racial minorities now face a legal situation in which they must prove that past discrimination was consciously intended, and then leave the elimination of discrimination up to the "good intentions" of those who consciously intended it! This is obviously unacceptable.

The only good thing about this decision is that it is a challenge for a new beginning.

The new beginning should be grounded in knowledge. I would suggest that you begin with a new sense of pride and knowledge of our people who have made contributions in the face of difficulties. One account of such a person of the past would be the true story of Charles Waddell Chustnut, "An American Crusade, written by Frances Keller. This is the remarkable story of Charles Chestnut, America's first Black novelist and one of the first to champion the cause of civil rights. Chestnut was a self taught and self made man, who devoted his life and his writing to prove that his people had the intelligence and foresight to make a great contribution to society. Although he made many great contributions to the literary world, it wasn't until 1928 when he became the recipient of the NAACP-Spingarn Award--upon the recommendation of W.E.B. DuBois, that Americans began to acknowledge his efforts.

There is another Black American classic, Proud Shoes, that should be read and understood. The author is Pauli Murray, a lawyer, civil rights activist, teacher, feminist, poet and episcopal priest. It's a book twenty years ahead of its time with information that deserves your attention. She has delineated a plight that is as far reaching and as tasteful as any American classic.

Finally, Looking Back portrays not only the cynosures of the Black community such as W.E.B. Dubois, E. Franklin Frazier, Mary McCleod Bethune, Martin Luther King Jr., but also lesser known persons, reassessing their impact upon both the character of our community and the development of its citizens. We must remember the past and use the rich and diverse approach that developed the leaders of today.

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Had A Physical Examination Lately?

1979 is a brand new year and with it comes many brand new resolutions, some of which will be kept and some which will be broken. There is one resolution however, that you should make and keep this year: To have a physical examination as soon as possible.

Many of you have not had a physical examination in over 5 to 10 years and some not knowingly have ever had one. This is ridiculous especially in light of the fact that today there are many programs that will provide free or low cost medical care to people.

However, you use all type of excuses to keep from having a physical exam, none of which is valid. Listed are some excuses usually used for not having a physical exam, see which is yours: "Nothing is wrong with me", "I don't have the time," "I don't have the money," "I'm afraid of what the doctor might find," "I don't like doctors," "Doctors always want to feel all over you and sometimes get fresh," "I can cure my ailments at home just as good as a doctor can," "My grandparents lived to an old age and never saw a doctor," "Whatever I have I'm going to die with it."

None of these or any other excuses is sufficient to warrant your not having a physical examination as soon as possible.

People usually go to the doctor the fastest for one of two main reasons: Feeling of pain or the sight of blood. Where as these are very good reasons, you should not wait for this to happen because in many cases it could possibly be a disease process that could have easily been picked up by earlier detection.

The purpose of a physical examination is to see that you are biologically and psychologically normal, if not, then to take steps to try and find the nature and cause of the abnormality so that together with your doctor's knowledge, the wonders of medicine and equipment plus the grace of God you may be able to improve your condition. Keep in mind that your doctor is a highly trained human being, not a magician, and he cannot help you unless you are willing to help yourself.

There are no laws that require people to have physical examinations (except for employment) but don't you think that it just makes good common sense to have one? Think about it . . .

THERE'S HOPE for humanity,
in its children.
There's hope for Democracy,
in its minorities.
KDOWN Radio (720) 3:30 a.m. . . . LISTEN!

The following is an actual comment one family made. We have the writer's permission to print it here.

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