

opinion

South Africa needs our positive action

BY HAROLD JENKINS

"Everyone realizes that if the blacks were given total political equality, meaning, one vote per person, they would not be able to make proper choices because of their lack of educational and political background and would probably be misrepresented in the government."

This comment was made by Jim Tapp in his opinion on South Africa in the Nov. 18 issue of *The Aquinas*, but it is hardly an original thought.

We have seen that the solution to the problem in our country was neither simple nor immediate. Even today the racist mindset is still prevalent.

But what we have seen is that positive action as a solution to the problem has helped increase the degree of equality of the races in the United States, making the phrase "all men are created equal" more than a hollow slogan. Positive action is needed in South Africa.

Mr. Tapp's suggestions about the necessity of U.S. businesses staying in South Africa have no historical

basis; every attempt by foreign businesses in that nation to improve the lot of the few black workers (representing a very small percentage of the entire black workforce) who actually are employed by these firms has been met with hostile resistance from the Botha administration.

It is naive to think that the present South African regime would allow businesses to move in a manner contrary to established governmental policy and help or encourage the South African blacks to "try to achieve economic equality with the whites and then get educational and political equality," as Mr. Tapp states later in his opinion.

The solution to the problem in South Africa clearly is not a quick or easy one. But the solution to the problem is by no means to simply maintain the status quo and hope that things will sort themselves out.

Harold Jenkins is a junior physics/philosophy major from Nanticoke, PA.

Jim Thorpe: KKK or Krishna?

BY PATRICK LYNCH

The residents of Jim Thorpe, located in Carbon County, have found their tranquil, conservative borough in an interesting predicament. The religious sect, Hare Krishnas, is considering a parcel of land there as a walled "City of God." A homeland for some 12,000 followers.

The Krishnas who have previously sought land in the Princeton, N.J. area, have found interest in 400-acre Flagstaff Mountain Park that overlooks the town.

Upon word that the Krishnas were the least bit interested in the acreage, the residents banded together to fight what they say will threaten their lives, community, youth and property.

The Hare Krishnas, who say their city in no way will affect the residents of Jim Thorpe, claim, "we will not go to you, you shall come to us, looking."

Most people residing in the area claim that the Krishnas are a very mysterious, religious cult who will cause more harm than benefits.

The religious group, however, say their goal is to help humanity restructure their communities in time so that they can save their religion, their devotion, their culture and their identity.

The residents of the region have gone to all lengths to preserve their community. The lengths of which the Krishnas claim are unconstitutional.

Senator James A. Rhoades and state representative Keith McCall said they are hoping the state will provide 1.2 million dollars to purchase the area and designate it a state park.

This bill, however, came about after the group announced its intentions. The



Art by Mary Lisa Canterelli

Krishnas claim this action, aimed at blocking the proposed land purchase, violates the group's civil rights.

The ironic part of this battle is the presence of the Ku Klux Klan. In showing support for the town area, Klansmen have actively voiced their opinion against the purchase.

It's humorous to see the use of one societal extreme against another. For when it's all settled, would the town of Jim Thorpe prefer the presence of the Ku Klux Klan or the Hare Krishnas? Neither, but I'm sure the residents would prefer the passive presence of the one whose infringement on human rights and dignity is much less blatant.

Patrick Lynch is a senior marketing major from Nanuet, N.Y.

Two identities yell for release

AIDAN EGAN

If I ever join the CIA, I'm sure I'd make a great spy. I'd be good at leading a double life. Scranton has me well trained for it. After four years here, I feel as if I have two identities.

On one hand, I'm Aidan Egan, resident of Scranton. I'm a sometime student, full-time dumbhead, part-time writer and budding alcoholic (you know, the guy by the bowling machine in Oscars).

I'm the guy that lives with Ted Waterman and Bill Holmes. I'm the guy that got written up for being drunk on St. Patrick's Day.

On the other hand, there is that home identity. Aidan Egan, son, brother, friend from high school and postal worker. I'm that hard-working student short on cash, home for some good home cooking, that guy with good high school stories to reminisce over.

I slip easily from one identity to the other. The home identity starts to fall into place when that old Electra 225 puts the Poconos behind, mile by mile.

By the time familiar landmarks begin to appear and the last toll has eaten the

last quarter, the home identity is almost totally in place and my mind struggles to remember phone numbers that were once as well known as my own.

Then I'm on my doorstep remembering that my house key is under a stack of typing paper in my Scranton desk. I ring the door like a stranger, bag of dirty laundry in hand, Mom appears and the metamorphosis is complete.

But after getting my little brother to say "uncle" and chowing down on Mom's food and telling the folks how hard I'm studying and going to the bar where beers cost 3 dollars and no one wears baseball hats or ripped jeans, the Scranton identity begs for release.

Scranton becomes a Shangri-la in the hills, and I mentally itch to get back, only to eventually get back and hear, after a few macaroni and cheese dinners and too crowded bars and term papers, my home identity yelling for release.

Maybe I wouldn't make such a good spy after all.

Aidan Egan is a senior history/English major from North Valley Stream, N.Y. His column appears in every other issue.

Thoughts...and afterthoughts

Seasons greetings.

This is the best time of year but can be the worst of times.

While we get wrapped up in Christmas dresses, final exams and holiday gifts, the poor wrap themselves in donations and the homeless in...

The Toys for Tots bazaar on Saturday could be a small step towards peace on earth.

Meanwhile, Reagan and Gorbachev are tip-toeing through a superficial "good will towards men" between the super powers.

The real super power in all the hubub is the media.

Speaking of which, look for some subtle and some drastic changes in The Aquinas over the next semester.

Off-campus house residents should be glad to hear visitation hours may be extended.

As if the students really paid attention to those rules.

Students are paying attention to senatorial debate over the pass/fail policy. Should the policy be suspended, the registrar will have his hands full of drop/add sheets.

Lots of excitement followed the commencement speaker announcement.

Lehigh gets Trump. We got Scranton.

That's okay. The Lady Royals' current success is enough excitement.

Enjoy The Aquinas.

a.f.