Letters

One of the most disgusting things about the wars after WW II is that they are aimed at the poor, but this is covered up by terrorizing the public with 'the Russians are coming.' The sad, really tragic lack of cognition of the role the opponents of liberation play by people who won't even read the papers (why do you think CBS was threatened with takeover?) to get a line on the hypocrisy practised by the high and mighty.

Would collecting certain articles and sending them as chain letters (legal where not for profit) to people who show some democratic orientation culled from whatever media be worthwhile? How about prizes for political tests for the youth who aren't old enough to have learned by experience? Say a political book and $20 cash giving many prizes rather than a few big ones. Maybe Mrs. Kroc would fund it.

One would deal with this Pope who forbids political roles for priests, then makes a Cardinal of Miquel Obando y Bravo who agitates in Nicaragua for the return of the foreign priests who agitated against the government. Seems it only applies to the opposition!

U.S. owes reparation to Mexico: New Mexico, Texas and Arizona were stolen by force of arms as were Indian lands. Those killed deserve reparation to relatives. Reparation is a modern concept in the U.S. Women deserve reparation for being paid half as much as men on the average for equal work, etc., etc.

An explanation of your name other than its origin from Brixton should be given.

M. Bender
Poway

To be quite honest, I've been trying for years to figure out what's wrong. No, not what's wrong with the world, but rather what's wrong with you and me, you know, the ones who're trying to save the world.

Since the waning moments of the Viet Nam War, the American Liberal movement per se, has been in a gradual state of deterioration. Being dispersed within a loosely knit association of "special interest" groups, the Liberal movement flounders and has failed to establish the common ground needed to attract popular support.

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A Memorial to Viet Nam War Protesters

An Editorial

War memorials are constructed for specific purposes. They are the means whereby leaders who have resorted to the use of force and violence attempt to give this act a moral gloss. In countless cities and towns throughout this country the monuments in the town squares and city parks testify to the willingness of America's leaders to sacrifice our nation's youth to the conflicts of the last two centuries. They are the ideological fig leaves that hide the sacrifices that these wars have imposed on our country. While history will eventually pass judgment on these conflicts, it is worth wondering if there is not a place as well for a monument to those who have fought for peace.

The *Pie Shop* joins with those such as Assemblyperson Tom Hayden who have called for the construction of a memorial to the war protesters of the 1960's. It seems to us that those who attempted to stop that war are due a measure of gratitude by this country. If peace is truly a priority of this nation then a simple memorial to those who took this issue seriously seems only fitting.

But there is another more important reason to support the creation of such a memorial: to keep similar events from taking place in the future. There is a battle currently underway. It is a struggle to define our understanding of the nature of the Vietnam War, and in many ways it is even more important than the war itself. The Ronald Reagans and Jeanne Kirkpatricks of this country are trying to convince the American people that the war was an "honorable endeavor".

True as it may be that the Americans who participated in that war were honorable (if misled) people, the war itself was not. It was and remains a tragic conflict in which the youth of the U.S. were asked to fight the youth of Viet Nam who desired no more than self determination for their country. To have opposed such a war was an act of morality for which our country should in fact feel gratitude. To build a monument to these protesters is to affirm that we must never again sacrifice the lives of our citizens for a cause that had so little justification.

We at the *Pie Shop* support this memorial and would suggest the following inscription: THIS MEMORIAL IS DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO FOUGHT AGAINST A WAR TO SAVE THE HONOR AND MORALITY OF THEIR COUNTRY, AND TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF THE YOUTH OF VIET NAM AND THE UNITED STATES. LET NO SIMILAR SACRIFICES EVER AGAIN BE NECESSARY.

The Whole Damn Pie Shop

Sponsored by-monthly as an independent left and progressive newsletter by Borderlands Education Committee, *The Whole Damn Pie Shop* is a forum for open discussion. As such, signed articles do not necessarily represent views of the staff.

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Apartheid: A History

First of Two Parts

by Rick Nadeau

In spite of near universal condemnation of its policies of racial discrimination and repression, the South African government continues to receive military and economic support from the United States and its Western allies. The Reagan administration calls this support "constructive engagement" while ignoring the fact that such assistance has been instrumental in maintaining white minority rule and has provided the racist-capitalist regime with the military means to occupy Namibia (formerly South West Africa) and attack its Northern neighbors in Angola and Mozambique.

If the anti-apartheid movement in the United States is to have any substantive impact, it needs to develop a deeper historical understanding of the series of events and processes which have formed South Africa into a major Western imperialist sub-center on the African continent. Therefore, it will need to understand the intricate dialectic between racism and capitalism as part of a wider historical movement of colonial conquest and imperial plunder. Without this deeper historical understanding, the movement could easily lapse into a reformist stance which leaves the structural basis of apartheid unexamined.

The Colonial Heritage

The bloody history of the colonial period (1650-1914) offers evidence of a connection between racism, imperialism, and the emerging economic infrastructure of the world capitalist system. The historical evidence suggest that the European powers grew progressively more racist as they began constructing their colonial empires in their search for raw materials, new markets, and cheap land and labor. The objective basis of this racism was the collision of populations which had hitherto been separated by natural barriers such as oceans, deserts, and mountains. Fast sailing boats brought the Europeans across these barriers to the Americas, Africa, the Far East, the Great Island continents of Australia and New Zealand. Everywhere the same pattern was evident—the missionaries, explorers and traders were followed by the settlers and colonial armies. In each case, the European settlers viewed the indigenous populations as obstacles to be eliminated or as pools of cheap labor to be exploited (e.g. by slave trade). The lands these natives lived on were expropriated and the natives themselves were forced onto reservations and bantustans.

The settlers claimed that they were bringing Christian civilization to the untamed heathens. Yet their behavior often contradicted Christian values, particularly the commandment against killing. An obvious solution presented itself: the native peoples were subhuman or at a lower evolutionary stage of development and it was the "white man's burden" to elevate them to a higher level. The settlers brought their guns along with them just in case the natives failed to understand the high moral nature of their mission. All resistance was brutally suppressed.

It is within this wider historical context of imperial expansion that the conquest and colonization of Africa must be placed. The industrial revolution stimulated the process and led to a ferocious competitive scramble for raw materials and productive farm lands. In fact, European expansion into Africa was nothing short of spectacular, a kind of invasion. For example, in 1875 Europeans held 11% of Africa, in 1902 they held 90%! It seems that all European classes were intoxicated with a vainglorious national chauvinism, dazzled by the adventure and opportunity presented by the "virgin" soil of the "Dark Continent"! The arch imperialist Cecil Rhodes argued that the benefits of imperialism went beyond precious minerals and land. He claimed that social peace at home could be expected from the imperial harvest since social and demographic pressures would be eased by emigration and settlement in foreign lands. "If you want to avoid civil war", argued Rhodes, "you must become imperialists."

The Boer Settlers

A particular series of historical events gave rise to modern South Africa. The first European to visit the region was the Portugese Bartholomew Diaz who founded the Cape of Good Hope. The Cape, about midway on the European trade route to India, was an ideal location for a supply station, and in 1852 the Dutch East India Company established the first permanent white settlement. Originally called Boers (a

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