

Curfew

Youth off-the-streets legislation poses problems for teens, parents

Legislation has been proposed in Richland County that would require all persons under the age of 18 to be off the streets and in their homes by midnight. The proposal has been modified to target only those under 17 and make the curfew 2 a.m., but the meaning and the implications are the same: the government now wants to have more control over people's lives.

The proposal was made in an effort to find a way to curb teen crime because a large percentage of crimes in the county are committed by persons under 18.

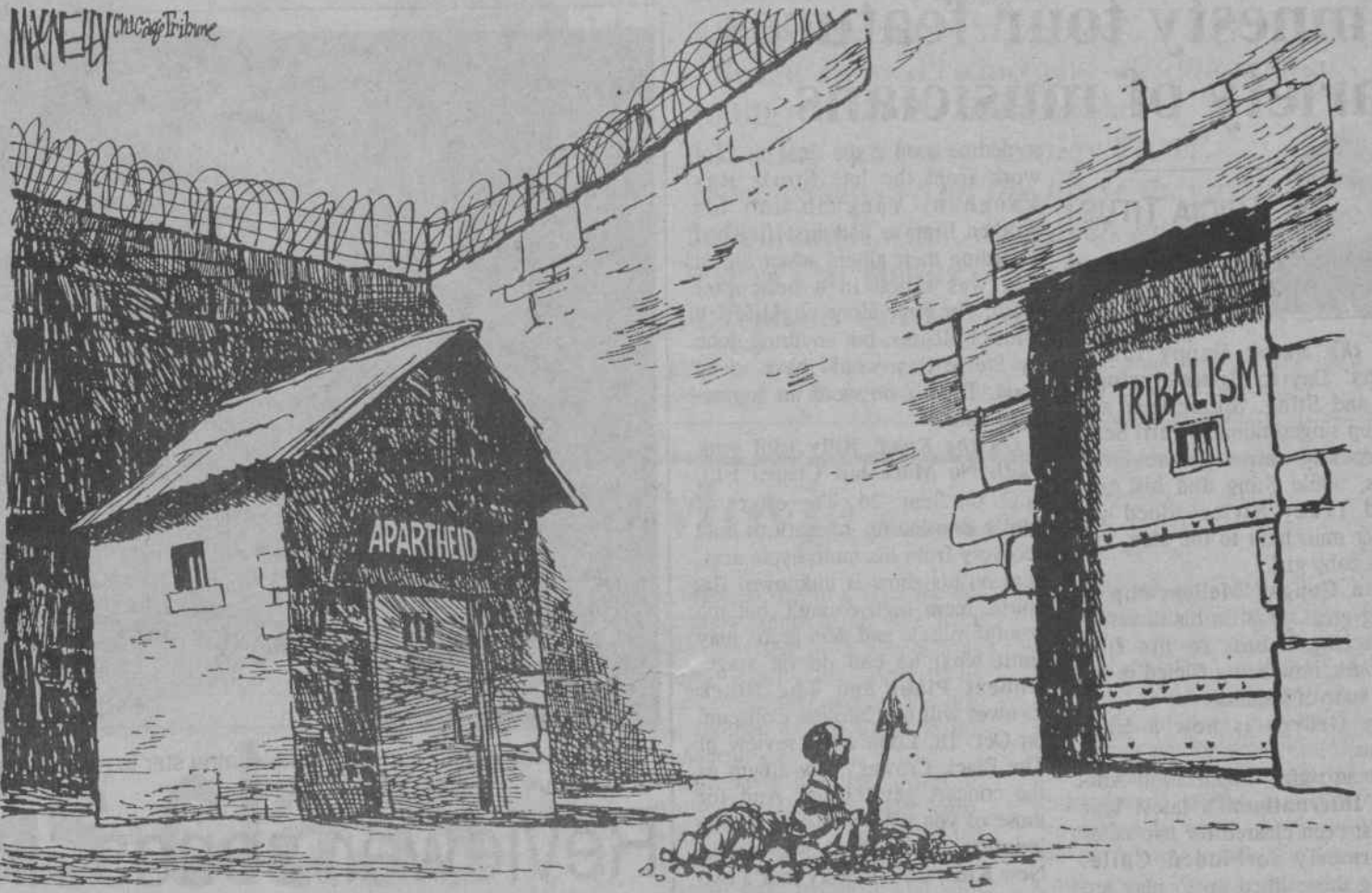
The problem is that the law, should it become one, will serve little purpose.

First of all, it assumes that parents will not mind having teen discipline partially taken out of their hands and placed in the hands of the law.

Secondly, it forces teens that do want to be out late (for any reason, good or bad) to use out-of-the-way paths and meeting areas — places that, because of their location, make them naturally dangerous to anyone. The police could, then, be driving teens into dangerous situations — giving real criminals perfect targets.

Thirdly, if a teen is going to break the law — by raping, robbing or killing — is another law saying they cannot be out at night going to stop them? Not likely. People who break laws are going to break laws, and it really doesn't matter what laws they are. All that matters is if the law is in the way of what the person wants to do.

Now, if the proposal does become a law, what's next? Will the legislators propose a curfew for those between 18 and 35 years of age, since most fatalities caused by drunk drivers involve people in that age category? Or maybe legislation could be passed requiring all people to be in before midnight or 2 a.m. That way, the police can arrest anyone they see out after that hour. As Richland County Sheriff Alan Sloan said, "No one in their right mind should be out at 2 a.m. anyway."



The Great Escape — Part I

Western world after market monopolies

The Berlin Wall cracked. Then it fell down. And the Wall apparently took Communism with it.

There was much rejoicing in the Western world. Why? No, not because the Cold War itself was over, but because the world was now the Western world's oyster.

Just look if you will at the nearest wall map and see just how big the Soviet Union is and just how undeveloped it is.

Ooooooh. Then look at the rest of the world that remains undeveloped.

Ooooooooooooooh. Impressive, isn't it?

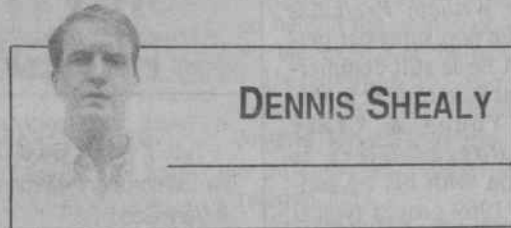
Take this, throw in a little crisis in the Middle East that gets all of the developed nations of the world pulling together for the good of the entire world and what do you have?

Those of you who answered Imperialism are absolutely correct.

Not long ago it was easy for a powerful nation to go into an undeveloped place and take over for whatever reason, as long as no one important's toes were stepped on, and all under the guise of it being for the good of whoever it was you happened to be taking over at the time.

It would be nice to think the days of doing this by military force are over, but those are an awful lot of troops down in Saudi Arabia now.

Actually, what I'm really talking about is



DENNIS SHEALY

economic take overs. Without the threat of the evil Empire, big companies can go just about anywhere and on whatever conditions they want.

American companies have already made the move into the Soviet Union, especially into the areas of high technology and natural resources. Siberia has too much untapped potential to just let any old body make use of it.

This is of course the nature of capitalism. What American and other countries' companies are after are monopolies on both markets and resources with a country so eager to catch up with its Western neighbors that it will probably agree to almost any terms.

Not very fair, but that's business folks. America is not the only one who is into exploiting their neighbor. Japan has reaped huge profits from China using them for the low labor side of production with the promise of help in increasing their technology and potential for growth. This of course has not come about be-

cause Japan has kept all of the high technology business within their sphere of influence and who wants to give up cheap labor.

The real point to be made here is that big money makes the world go round, which isn't necessarily bad as long as some fairness is taken into account on the part of those planning to make the big money.

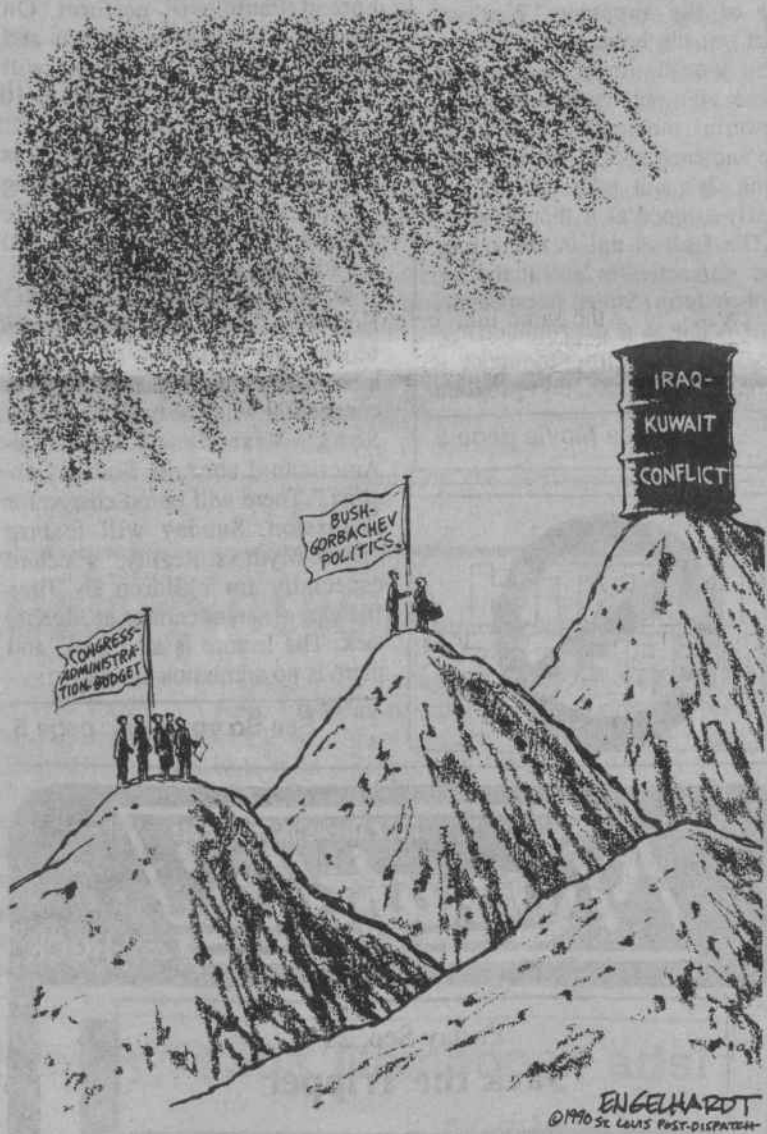
With the fall of the Berlin Wall and Communism and then the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Western World sees the way things used to be, when they called all of the shots and nobody really had much of a chance to say anything about it.

Sure the big countries have still been running things but they couldn't do it with authority. They had to do it through polite politics. Nobody wanted to look like a bad guy in the media-influenced world of today.

Now, though, there's the chance to prove once and for all who the big boys on the block are and who is up for exploitation.

Be cynical folks, and keep an eye on political and business figures in our country and abroad. There's nothing like making money, but the world is not going to become a better place if three-fourths of its population are being exploited and companies are not operating under a watchful eye that keeps them from laying waste to natural resources and polluting the whole planet.

SUMMITS



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Poor housing not far away

To the editor:

If one wants to investigate truly depressed living conditions, one need not journey to some Third World land or even to some area of Columbia like "Little Soweto." One need only travel to Carolina Gardens Apartments, wholly owned and operated by the University of South Carolina. The university has pursued a thoughtful campaign of neglect and discrimination against the inhabitants of Carolina Gardens based, I think, on the fact that many of the residents of these apartments are foreign students.

If you have never been to Carolina Gardens, they are easy to spot. They are the two-story, brick, low-rent housing beside the new athletic practice building. When this building started belching toxic fumes into the air last Saturday and Bates House and Cliff Apartments were evacuated, we were told to stay indoors and keep our windows closed. We live across the street from this thing — not blocks away. Why wasn't the same concern for our safety and that of our children shown as the concern for other people?

Let me describe to you the joys of Carolina Gardens Apartments. Outside, we have no living grass. There is no attempt made to keep the grounds looking livable. Once a month, whether the grass needs it or not, they come and they cut it so low that the lawn is either scalped or the grass burned so it won't grow again for at least another month. And heaven forbid that you have the wash out on the lines on those rare occasions when they do come to cut the grass, or it gets covered with dust. The leaves are virtually never raked up. Yet after all of this, the university paid somebody to edge the sidewalks for a week — as if there, was any

living vegetation encroaching on the sidewalks.

Carolina Gardens was apparently built on a landfill. In practical terms, this means that when it rains, broken bits of glass and masonry are exposed. Our children play on the sides of hills literally covered with broken glass. The lighting is so inadequate that the grounds are black as pitch at night (particularly between buildings). Carolina Gardens at night becomes a transit point for drunks, derelicts and perverts. It is not uncommon to have people urinating outside your apartment windows or looking in at night. The police patrols are so sporadic that these individuals can violate our privacy with aplomb. In addition, our cars are frequently vandalized or stolen, particularly at Christmas vacation when it seems that police patrols all but cease.

One final point about security — or the lack thereof. We are the only area on this university without those emergency call boxes scattered throughout the campus.

Inside Carolina Gardens the conditions are not much better. We have had our rents increased over the summer to pay for "increased maintenance costs." Yet when we make a maintenance call it takes weeks or even months to get results. One woman had to live with her bathroom window partly ajar for months last winter. It takes months to get painting done. Yet we have to pay extra for these services. The athletes in the old Roost had it bad before they got their new accommodations, but it's hard to walk by their dorms and compare them to how we live.

The residents of Carolina Gardens are being systematically ignored and discriminated against by this university in much the same way a slum lord treats his residents. It seems likely that this is due in large part to the fact that many of the students living there are foreign students, and the uni-

versity believes that they will not make a fuss over their living conditions. The sub-standard nature of the grounds, lighting and maintenance must be made clear to the university population at large. Your fellow students are living in conditions that many of you would not put up with.

Richard Schellhammer
history graduate student

Letter writer misinformed

To the editor:

In a recent editorial (letter) by Heather Buggy, it was stated that scientific and medical groups were consistently pro-choice. I would like to present to you what the scientific community has said concerning the beginning of human life. Landrum Shettle, the first scientist to consistently achieve in vitro fertilization of human eggs, says in his book *Rites of Life, The Scientific Evidence for Life Before Birth* that "the zygote is human life." World famous geneticist Theodosius Dobzhansky has stated that "a human being begins his existence when a spermatozoan fertilizes an egg cell." It's even asserted in the International Code of Medical Ethics that "a doctor must always bear in mind the importance of preserving human life from the time of conception until death." Further still, The Declaration of Geneva holds physicians to the following: "I will maintain the utmost respect for human life from the time of conception; even under threat, I will not use my knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity." Even more recently, in 1981, hearings on senate bill No. 159, of the 97th Congress (called the Human Life Bill), were conducted by senator John East. The senate report concluded "Physicians, biologists and other scien-

tists agree that conception marks the beginning of a human being — a being who is alive and a member of the human species. There is overwhelming agreement on this point in countless medical, biological and scientific writings."

Some say the fetus is part of the mother's body. This seems ridiculous knowing that the fetus often has a different blood type and half the time is a different sex than the mother. Professor A. W. Riley, research professor in fetal physiology in Auckland, New Zealand, has stated that, "It is the fetus who stops the mother's periods and makes her womb habitats by developing a placenta and a protective capsule of fluid for himself ... and finally it is the fetus, not the mother who decides when labor should be initiated."

So how may this HUMAN organism, which while in the womb has it's own blood, sexual identity and it's own NERVOUS SYSTEM be allowed to be aborted. Some of those in the pro-choice camp believe that the fetus is not REALLY human yet; that is, that it is not human in a meaningful way. I pose these questions to those individuals. At what point did your life become really human? When was your existence justified? If not (at) conception, when?

Others site viability as a marker, but the time at which a fetus is potentially able to live outside the mother's womb has dropped from 32 weeks in 1960 to 19 weeks in 1989, due to scientific achievement. Certainly, the humanness of the fetus does not depend on our ability to successfully care for it.

FACT: Biologically speaking, at conception there is life. That life's cells are distinctly human. Therefore, the embryo is human life regardless of what subjective values are placed on it by beings other than itself. Abortion is the process of terminating that life.

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