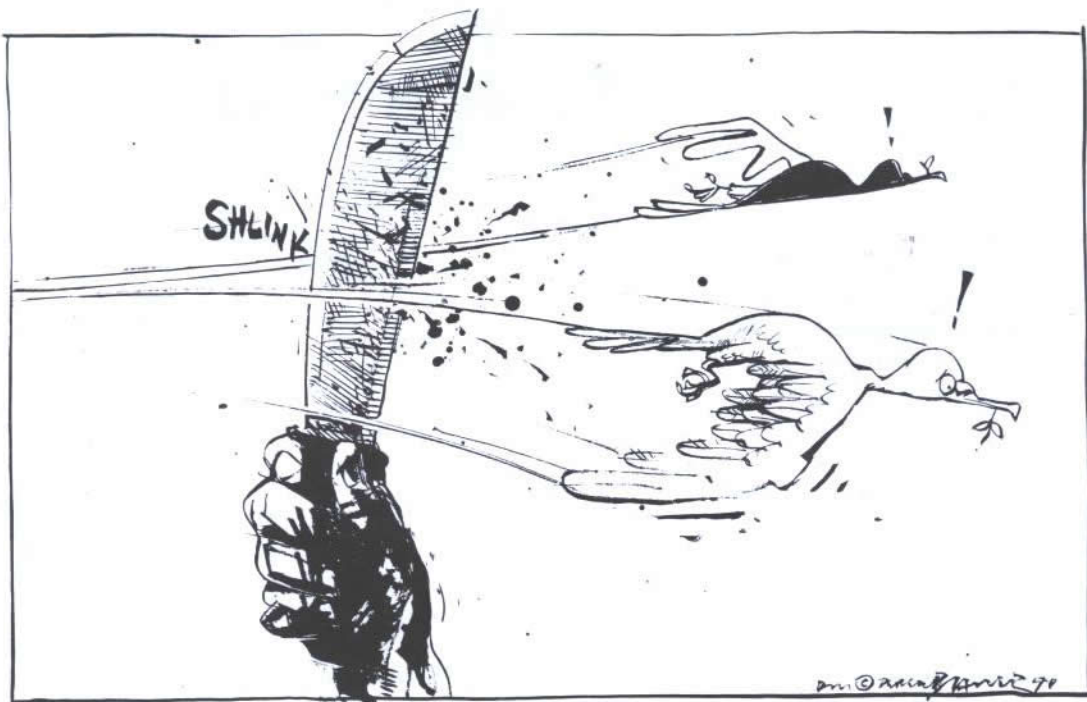


*"No matter what the politicians say, education is not free.  
Health is not free. Housing is not free. Nothing is free.  
Never trust a politician!"*

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# INSIDE THE HEAD OF

*Derek Bauer*



**BY DEREK BAUER**

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**N**EVER become a cartoonist, unless you really love it. It is a thankless task with little financial reward. People of all political persuasions view one with extreme suspicion. If you do it well, you piss off everyone. If you do it badly, you get the boot.

Most cartoonists middle along somewhere in the muddle. Even our friends and loved ones view us with suspicion...

Ha! What does it take to become a cartoonist? Lower your standard of living!

This article was delivered by fax... days after the copy deadline in hand-written pencil scrawl (work pressure). I'm constantly ferrying between Cape Town – where I live (I think), and Johannesburg – where I don't live (yet, I think). Basically I cannot afford to be a cartoonist.

I believe one of the most valuable

PLEASE TURN OVER



# the car

things one can do is bring up good children. People who choose not to have children sadden me, they seem to have contracted out of life. They are not part of a sentence or phrase or book, they are full stops.

It's a crazy world to bring children into. The West is in decline – occasional flashes of brilliance in the ever-encroaching darkness. The East is on the rise. Islam is on the rise. Ethnic nationalism is on the rise. Mexico is winning the war in Texas and California. The Cubans have taken Miami.

Debates rage as to whether or not we should be allowed to kill our children. What kind of society kills its children? What kind of people willingly kill their children and grand-children because they might be inconvenient?

The present is lost... We cannot gain the future. Only good people can do that. Healthy, strong, intelligent, well-balanced, honest, critical, energetic, responsible, untimidatable children. Surely there is no greater contribution one can make to the world. In order to achieve this, one needs many things including money, lots of money, so as to provide them with that terrible thing – a choice.

No matter what the politicians say, education is not free, health is not free, housing is not free. Nothing is free. Never trust a politician – the unbelievable slime, the outrageous crap, the torrents of puke they spew. Politicians will say anything to get your vote. Politics is expedience, politics draw to it the scum. Those who would spend other people's money, manipulate, siphon off, control. Those who would be in power. The two-faced, low-down, conniving, forked-tongued, corrupt, swindling bastards. These harpies of destruction, these horsemen of the apocalypse. These saviors.

See the larney lefty sychophants, some with great minds, all hobbled with white guilt. They cannot become brown, but their faces they can manage. Their heady new mix of Nationalism and Socialism



smells like a stale fart from 1939.

Let us right the obvious wrongs. Let us deal with the anger (anger is a temporary madness). Let us be open and accepting, but let's not lower our standards – they are too low already.

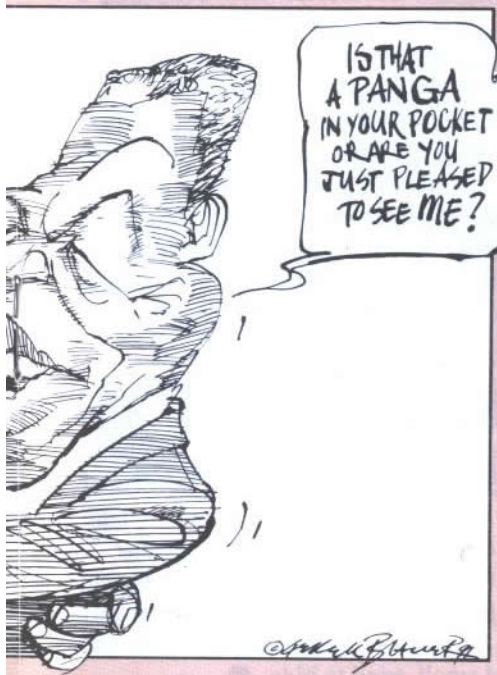
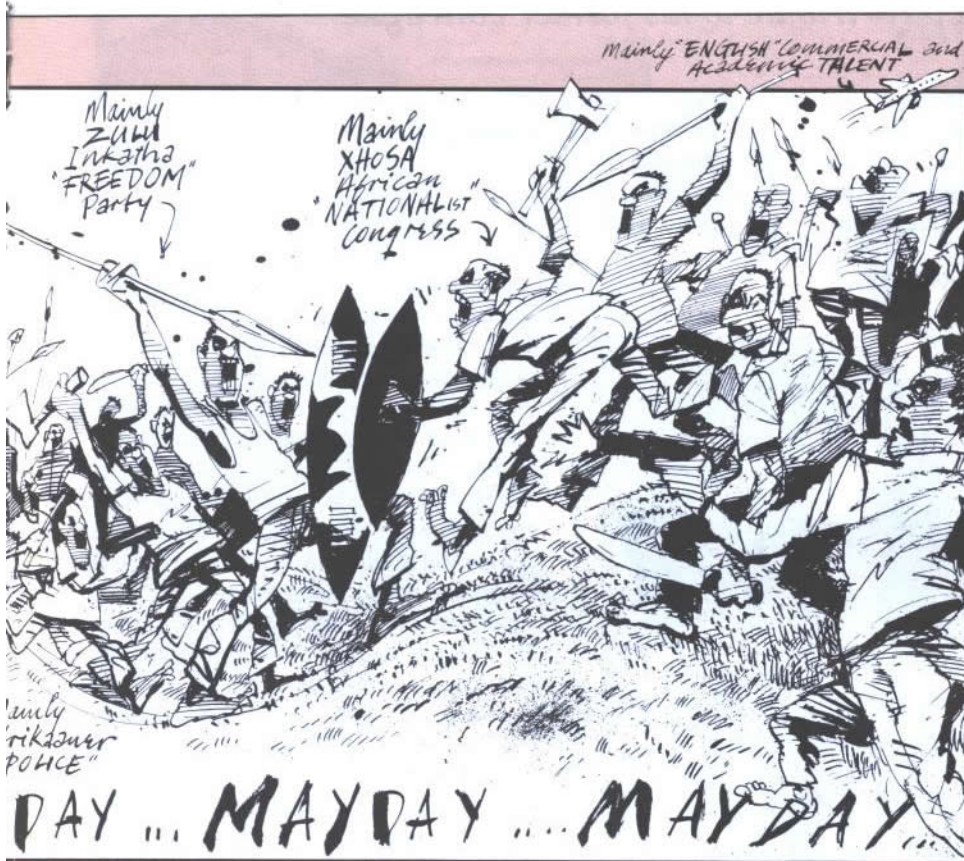
There are no saviours. We have met the enemy and he is us. Someone is going to save us? Now it's Mandela! Ha! The disgusting filth that's being squeezed out of those swine Nats is sickening... but the next guys will be just as bad. If people can be corrupt, they will be corrupt. It's the power corrupts thing. Systems must be devised to limit the power thing on all levels. And... the books must be open to all.

The excuse of apartheid will cause more damage than apartheid did. All failing is and will be laid at the feet of this great excuse. The "liberation struggle" is shackled by excuses. But, there are no excuses.





# Review



Some politicians are people and not all people are bad. Mandela and De Klerk I respect. Mandela for persistently believing he was right against *all* odds and De Klerk for facing the truth. But as politicians, I don't trust either of them. They will spend my taxes wisely? Look at what and who they're dragging behind them... forget it!

Everyone in a position of power must be criticised. The more powerful, the more intense the criticism. Cartoon and caricature provides the derisive laughter that can cut these political monsters, these TV monoliths, down to human scale.

At art school – East London Technical College Art Department – the visual was everything. In advertising I began to understand the power of the word and idea (most people think verbally). An idea is enemy, no creating, no destroying.

There are no new ideas. The idea from

the brain by the hand to the paper to the copier to the fax to the copier to the plate to the paper to the hand thro' the eye to the brain. The cartoon is of no consequence in this context. Not as some would have us believe "tomorrow's fish and chip wrapping".

The drawing is important because that is how the idea is expressed and that is vital. No one listens to a speech delivered in a stutter or language so broken it makes no sense.

Political cartooning is not a case of sitting on the fence, but rather jumping over it repeatedly. A-politicism, like anarchy, is an ideal to strive toward although one can never reach it in reality. No matter how impartial or cynical one is ("you can be as cynical as you like but you'll always get left behind" – Woody Allen), one adheres to certain ideas and principles which rise to the surface.

Right-wing newspapers should have left-wing cartoonists and visa versa. A cartoonist should prick the conscience, go against the grain, rattle the cage, not ooze out what the readership wants to hear.

Because TV is so instantaneous and present – right up Saddam Hussein's nostril – newspapers must become more like magazines. Analysis and in-depth articles. Cartoons have a place here... there should be one on every page. But, of course, editors are more interested in making money than in disseminating news or building a country and its character (they have boards of directors to answer to). There are exceptions and they know who they are, but there is so little bravery in the world. ●

*DISCLAIMER: (old advertising trick) A guide to the bored, infuriated and perplexed:*

This article was written under great pressure at a particularly scattered time and space. The opinions expressed herein may be altered, moderated or changed completely without notice. As my grandfather would say: "What's the use of having a mind if you can't change it."