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21/2/94

The Editor
"The Age"
Spencer Street
Melbourne Vic 3000
Dear Sir,

In his profile of W.A. Premier Richard Court, your writer Mark Baker seems to suggest that a person cannot be accused of being a racist if they have an adopted Aboriginal child. This is a popular misconception in Australian society and one which is easily dispelled by reading personal accounts of some of the tens of thousands of Aboriginal children forcibly adopted out to white families from the 1930's to the 1970's.

The experience of many of these forgotten victims of paternalistic and racist policies of state and federal governments clearly shows that compassion and concern for the child and his/her cultural integrity were rarely major considerations when it came to adopting Aboriginal children. Rather, it is obvious to those who know the truth of Australian history, the mass, forced adoptions over 50 years were part of a bizarre, racist plan to forcibly "assimilate" Aboriginal people into the ways of the white man.

There are today literally thousands of people still coming to terms with the emotional and psychological scars from being forcibly assimilated into a society which rejected them. Furthermore, the adoptive and foster parents were rarely equipped to adequately counsel their adopted Koori children when they were confronted with the brutal reality of white Australian racism in everyday life.

Whilst obviously many (maybe most) adoptive parents were not callous or insensitive people; indeed many former adoptee's speak fondly of their "parents"; the fact remains that there were still thousands who went into families with the most appalling attitudes. The best known recent example of this is Russel Moore, aka James Savage, currently facing death in Florida after having been forcibly adopted out to questionable adoptive parents in Victoria in the 1970's.

With such an appalling history of using adopted Aboriginal children in one the worlds biggest, unsuccessful attempts at social engineering, it comes as no real surprise to see Australians clinging to their social and political myths and think that you can't be racist if you have adopted a Koori child.

Dream on Australia!

Yours Sincerely

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