

**Tribune Letters**

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## Praise for Paton —from Norwegian fan

IN YOUR January 7 issue was an article by Alan Paton, written on the occasion of his 70th birthday. I want to thank you for publishing that article, and also, to congratulate Alan Paton on his birthday.

I am a visitor from Norway, a country where South African cultural achievements are not well known. Alan Paton is the most outstanding exception. At the age of 12 I read his great novel *Cry, the Beloved Country*, in Norwegian translation. It left a deep and lasting impression.

So it did with thousands of my fellow countrymen, who rightly consider Alan Paton one of the truly great writers of our time.

Through his writings, Alan Paton has made friends all over the world. For those who believe in liberalism and justice, he has been an inspirer.

Please convey my best wishes.

**GUNNAR SKAGESTAD,**  
Rondebosch.

Opinion Letters

# 'IN MR HATTON'S DREAM WORLD...'

IT IS PEOPLE with the mentality of Mike Hatton who let your children play with Indians, and they may marry. (Sunday Tribune, January 14) — who make a solution to South Africa's problems virtually non-existent.

He writes of a notice in India which is no doubt insulting, but it surprises me to realise that there actually are Whites who do not realise why South Africa is hated overseas.

Mr Hatton feels obliged to thank God for a segregated society. May I suggest to him that it is the God of his which comes apart that what Blacks are now finding unacceptable? Mr Hatton urges Indians to understand they live

in a segregated society. He can be assured that most of us understand this only too well.

He writes with apparent gusto that "no one was shocked" at the treatment meted out to the Indian children in Mitchell Park on New Year's Day.

Let's hope that his dream world is never realised.

Mr Hatton's "they might even get married one day" automatically places any Indian on a lower footing than that of any White. I see the fallacy in this type of thinking for I know Indians who can think more logically than Mr Hatton.

Finally, Mr Hatton writes of "good facilities in non-European recre-

tion areas." He obviously sees many recreation areas for Blacks in his dream world.

I would like to see these areas. Thereafter I would be pleased to oblige him with the reality he obviously lacks.

SOBER.  
Darban.



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Rondenech.

## More of Van der Merwe

I HAVE no doubt that English-speakers are having a secret little giggle at the latest van der Merwe joke: The claim by some clown about a mentally and physically superior "super race" in South Africa.

One feels that certain people could be excused for making these pathetic statements if the achievements of a certain section of the Republic's people were based on merit and not on what name they bear, what language they speak and what political party they support.

J. A. SHENTON,  
Zuluand.