Alcohol easily available to children — official

More drug abuse in schools

By Janet Heard

More youngsters were admitted to drug rehabilitation centres last year and surveys showed that about 25 percent of all schoolchildren were experimenting with chemical substances, Mrs Ronelle Sarton, the Johannesburg deputy director of the SA National Centre for Alcohol and Drug Dependence said.

She said some children just eight-years-old were experimenting with some form of chemical substance.

The most common forms of abuse included alcohol, over the counter drugs such as cough mixtures, appetite-suppressants, analgesics and glue and correcting fluid.

"There is a steady escalation of abuse among all school kids and we could say we live in a chemically-oriented society," she said, adding that the problem was greater among boys.

She said children experimented with chemical substances due to a number of factors, including pressure from peer groups and the economic climate where parents were unable to adequately care for their children as they had to seek employment outside the home environment.

Mrs Sarton said while legislation controlling the use of alcohol and drugs was adequate, little was being done to catch the problem in its early stages, and the Government concentrated on curing teenagers after they were already drug-dependent.

Over-the-counter drugs and alcohol were easily available to children as the sellers did not abuse the legislation and these substances were often freely available in most homes.

Harder drugs

She said people generally thought that there was a pill which answered every problem, and this idea filtered down to children.

She said children got money for harder drugs such as Mandrax by stealing money from their parents or taking articles from home to buy drugs.

When this was discovered, they turned to anti-social acts such as prostitution, house-breaking and stealing from other people.

"One organisation cannot fight the problem on its own. There needs to be a joint effort between all groups, including the Government in order to tip the scale the other way," she said.
Underprivileged black children to get home in Vaal

By Winnie Graham

A new village for children is being built in the Vaal Triangle at a cost of R2.7 million.

The project is being sponsored by the Society of St Vincent de Paul, a Catholic welfare organisation, which has already formed a management board consisting of representatives of the local community, the churches, local government and the Sebokeng Teachers Training College.

Mr Allen O'Brien, a member of the Sebokeng Committee, said this week that the first phase — a day care centre accommodating 160 children — would be opened soon.

The building of the first of the cottages was underway and other houses would be erected as and when money was available.

He added, "We are looking for sponsorship of individual houses, costing $10 000 each to be built, as well as financial assistance towards furniture, equipment and running expenses."

The village is being built on a site made available by the Catholic Bishop of Johannesburg, the Rt Rev Reginald Ormond, in the middle of Evaton.

Sebokong, meaning "we are safe", was the brainchild of an unofficial housemother living in the Vaal Triangle. Aware that there were many abandoned street children who were hungry, undisciplined and homeless, she and a group of township women tried to raise funds for a home. Eventually she approached the Society of St Vincent de Paul for help.

Mr O'Brien said there were only six homes for black children in SA. In the Vaal Triangle, an area with a population of 800 000, there were no homes.

"After visiting children's homes throughout South Africa, the Society decided a village on the lines of the SOS children's villages was what was required," he added.

"We have employed the same architect who designs the SOS villages, so that a community of children can live as families in houses, sleep in dormitories and eat in their own dining rooms rather than in huge dining halls."

Further information is available from Mr O'Brien at (011) 946-1011 or Mr Malaichy Cox at (011) 708-1746.
Ambitious plan for Vaal kids

By STAN MHLONGO

A DREAM by a Vaal community worker to build a home for homeless and street children neared fruition this week.

The home that started as a dream, has now enlarged to become a village to be called Polokong (a place of safety) and is being built in Evaton at a cost of R2.7 million.

The first stage – a R400,000 creche – will be ready for use in April this year.

The idea is the result of a dream by grandmother Edith Morake, 63, who was herself orphaned at a young age and has a great love for children.

She is the result of a dream by grandmother Edith Morake, 63, who was herself orphaned at a young age and has a great love for children.

She and a group of friends began raising funds in 1982 to build a home for neglected and underprivileged children in the area and they eventually approached the St Vincent de Paul Society, which is attached to the Catholic Church, for assistance.

Morake told City Press: “Although the response we received from the society was positive, the project started at a very slow pace and I did not imagine the village would become a reality in my lifetime.”

“My own five kids are all married now,” she said. “I was very fortunate to find a husband like Caiphus who I married in 1946.”

“He understood the plight of homeless children because he knew of my background as an orphan and found no problem in my accommodating them from time to time.”

Allan O’Brien, of the steering committee of the Polokong building committee, said sponsorship for housing other parts of the village was still needed.

“We need R320,000 to build two houses next to the creche this year which will bring costs – including the building of the creche – to R720,000.”

“More money is urgently needed to buy furniture and for finance to run the village.”

O’Brien said there were only six homes for black orphans in South Africa.

Polokong is built on a site in Evaton, donated by the Catholic Bishop of Johannesburg, the Right Rev Reginald Ormond.
The street kids who have sold their souls for drugs

The pavement is his home, his bed is a dirty piece of cardboard and he digs into rubbish bins for food.

This is how Dumsani lives. Although only 13 years old he is already a drug abuser, glue sniffer and pusher.

Drugs have become a fact of life for people like Dumsani and other youths.

At night they loiter on street corners and around shops in Hillbrow, Belvedere and Berea, waiting to accost innocent people to satisfy their drug habits.

Some of them have become hooked on tablets like mandrax and crack— which is plaguing big cities like Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

Dumsani does not want to discuss his lifestyle with strangers, but residents in the area who know him claim he is a drug pusher "employed" by a white woman who also peddles the stuff.

Most of her clientele are white youths known as "The Devil's Angels".

Now educationists and parents have pleaded to work together to clamp down on drug dealers and their operations.

Police have warned they will act against drug dealers to stamp out the drug menace.

Civic associations in Soweto have also asked the community to join efforts this year to wipe out drug dealers.

A Soweto father complained that his teenage son had to repeat standard seven three times without making progress.

He said he later observed certain changes in his son's behaviour and after thorough investigations found he was a mandrax user.

Mandrax is often crushed and smoked with dagga—a practice doctors claim is related to stomach cancer.

The distraught father said his son stole money from home and other people to support his deadly habit.

He said the son has lost a lot of weight and his concentration was affected when under the influence of the tablet.

He urged parents to take special precautions as even cough mixture, which is easily available in most homes, can be used by children to get "high".

Ronelle Sartar, Johannesburg deputy-director of the South African National Centre for Alcohol and Drug Dependence, recently warned that the most common forms of abuse included alcohol and over-the-counter drugs such as cough mixtures, headache and slimming tablets, correcting fluid and glue.

"One organisation cannot fight the problem by itself," she said.

Head of clinical services for the South African National Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Dr Sylvain de Miranda, recently rated South Africans as the biggest abusers of mandrax in the world.

Reports by SOPHIE TEMA
A typical "bedroom" for many young twilight children in Hillbrow.

Runaway boy talks about life on Hillbrow's streets

SOLANI is just a slip of a boy, dressed in ragged clothes and bearing the signs of one who has not used water for a long time.

He is a glue sniffer who left his home at the age of 10 and has spent two birthdays in the streets of Hillbrow.

Solani says he hates speaking to strangers and worse still, people who know him from his home in Alexandra.

But after showing him some sympathy and warmth he decided to speak to me and from what he told me about himself I realised he had a history of horrors and close shaves with the police.

Solani — whose name has been changed to protect him — says he is 12 years old and was born in Alexandra township.

He says he started sniffing glue at the age of 10 after older boys had introduced him to the habit.

He recalls how he had hallucinations after a "good sniff" — seeing big, ugly "goggas" with five arms and three eyes.

At the time he was staying with his mother — who he describes as an alcoholic — and her boyfriend.

He went to school in Alexandra and was doing Sub-Standard B.

"My mother was never married and her boyfriend, who I called father, hired a one-roomed shack from a landlord in Alexandra. Her boyfriend was paying the monthly rent, but food in the houses was scarce.

"My mother drank heavily and her favourite drink was "Mbamba" a concoction made from malt, bread and yeast.

"I left school because I had no uniform and no exercise books to do my schoolwork," he said.

"The teacher often punished me for not wearing uniform and not having books.

"On several occasions I was turned away from class and sent me amlessly with nothing to do instead."

"I met some boys who were older than me and had already left school and they introduced me to glue sniffing.

"They then taught me to steal money, sweets and fruit from nearby shops.

"One day they decided that we should go to Hillbrow where we were to meet other boys who they claimed were their friends.

"They finally lured me away from home, where there was no food for most of the time and convinced me that life was better in town than at home.

"I fell for their stories and since I have been staying here ever since.

"I have not been to Alexandra to see my mother since then and I do not know whether she is still alive or not.

"When I turned 11 on October 5 my friends bought me a cake, and we celebrated just here on one of the pavements, but when I turned 12 we had no money to celebrate," he said.

Although Solani was once been brutally assaulted by older boys and has been taken held by the police on several occasions, he still does not want any desire to return to his home.

Sparking with his eyes continuously fluttering he said: "I was once assaulted by boys older than me for stealing their money and I almost died as a result of head injuries.

"I was taken admitted to hospital for two months and when I felt better, I ran away.

"I was often picked up by the police for roaming the streets, sleeping in the alleys and being overcome by glue fumes.

"He told me how he had been beaten up by the other boys, then suddenly as if he had spotted something that had made him suspicious, Solani turned away and in staggering strides, vanished around the corner."
Raising awareness to prevent child drowning

MORE than 10 children under the age of 15 drown in South Africa each week.

Apart from road accidents this is the greatest cause of unnatural deaths in the country, according to Mrs Jeanie de Wet of the Child Safety Centre at the Red Cross War Memorial Hospital in Rondebosch.

In 1988 more than 600 children drowned in South Africa, most of them in fresh water.

De Wet says 40 percent of all drowning victims in South Africa are children and they often drown unnecessarily because no precautions were taken.

To try cut down juvenile drownings the Child Safety Centre - the only one in its kind in South Africa - and the Institute for Child Health of the University of Cape Town have compiled a pamphlet with general hints on the prevention of drowning.

As far as Cape Town and its surrounding areas are concerned most drownings occur in dams where there is little protection for the children of farm labourers. Quite a number of drownings also occur in private swimming pools, baths and fishponds.

Drown silently

De Wet adds that few people know that a small child, for example, can drown silently within 30 seconds in a mere four centimetres of water.

On drownings in buckets she says no bucket should be without a lid where there are small children around. Parents or caretakers should get used to never leaving younger children on their own.

"A small child should never be left alone in a bath. Rather ignore the telephone or doorbell and save your child's life," is her advice to parents.

De Wet strongly recommends that children should learn to swim as soon as possible. "But even if a child can swim, it is no guarantee against drowning. It gives them a second chance, however."

More attention should be paid to the problems that occur when children nearly become victims of drowning. These children can succumb to lung failure even four days after the incident.

Safety measures alone are not sufficient to prevent children from drowning, according to De Wet. Parents should familiarise themselves with elementary lifesaving measures, of which mouth-to-mouth resuscitation is but one.

Drowning can still occur even if all safety measures are applied and the necessary precautions taken. Personal supervision is always necessary and this golden rule should be applied at all times if an unnecessary tragedy is to be prevented.

The pamphlets appear in three languages - Afrikaans, English and Xhosa - and are distributed free at the Red Cross War Memorial Hospital for Children.

Further enquiries: Mrs Jeanie de Wet (021) 685-4103 ext 245 - Sapa.
Hostel to fight for reopening by new term

By CHARI DE VILLIERS

THE St John's Hostel Association will fight the temporary closure of the troubled home for socially deprived boys by the start of the school year — even if it means taking the state welfare department to court, prominent association member Mr Bob Dixon said yesterday.

"An interdict to open the home and get the boys back before the new school term starts on January 16 will be the tactically correct thing to do," said Mr Dixon, an old boy and former chairman of the association.

St John's, in Upper Kloof Street, Higgovalle, became the focus of controversy in November last year when state welfare authorities ordered that its 18 occupants be transferred till the institution rehabilitated itself.

The hostel has been led by a new management committee since December when the preceding committee was ousted for allegedly not exercising its mandate to petition the Minister of National Health and Services and Welfare against closing the home.

In December, Mr Michael Bryan, whose principalship was suspended in 1988, was reappointed to the post by the new committee for a six-month probationary period.

But "the writing is on the wall" for homes like St John's, said the director-general of welfare in the Department of Health Services and Welfare, Mr Willem van Wyk.

He cited a declining white birth rate, new policies of placing socially deprived children in their parents' homes — and the "unacceptable state of affairs" at St John's weighing against boys being placed in the care of the home.

Vandalism, theft

Deputy-director of Welfare Mr Piet Venter said yesterday that "things were not in order at St John's".

"We were very worried about poor discipline, the poor facilities and continual turnover of social workers."

Children had absconded, there had been two attempted suicides, three cases of drug abuse and continuous vandalism and theft — all culminating in an "atmosphere of destructive tension and anxiety," said Mr Van Wyk.

But Mr Bryan said the Department of Health Services and Welfare "had been naive and led by the nose" in making its decision to transfer the boys.

"I am more than hopeful that an approach will be made to the department. It is important to resolve the issue before the start of the term," he said.

The recently elected management committee, headed by the Rev Bruce Duncan as its executive director, will meet for the first time tonight to "get to know each other," Mr Bryan said.

Mr Duncan said he would put forward his plan of action to prevent the home from being closed.

The legal standing of the newly elected committee was called into doubt yesterday by Mr Venter, who said special general meetings had to be advertised 14 days beforehand in newspapers.
Call to Fight Child Abuse

BY KENESIS MOBISANE

Women
Mother threatens to take indecency case to parliament

The woman, visibly upset by Mr Rossouw's decision, said her son was psychologically prepared to appear in court. In similar cases of alleged abuse, the child was often the only witness.

She said she now intended approaching members of parliament to urge them to launch an investigation into the case.

ACTION NOT TAKEN

The boy was one of six children who appeared, two at a time, in Marthinus Basson's production of Heiner Muller's Shakespeare Macbeth last July. He had also appeared in several other Capab productions.

A charge against the author and playwright was investigated by the child protection unit when Capab failed to take action against the 26-year-old after promising to do so.

The alleged assault took place at the Nico Malan Theatre while Shakespeare Macbeth was in production. The boy's mother said: "For three months after the incident, my son continually threatened to commit suicide, stayed away from school and rebelled against authority."

He was too afraid to go to the theatre and it is possible that he may never act again."

The Attorney-General said: "When there is only one witness it is a problem for the state to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt. In this case the dice was loaded against the state."

It is understood that the 26- year-old playwright was admitted to the Kenilworth Clinic recently after an apparent 'breakdown'.

Crime Reporter

AN outraged Cape Town mother has threatened to go to parliament following the dropping of charges against a 26-year-old playwright whom she allegedly indecently assaulted her 13-year-old son.

The man, a member of a prominent South African family, was to have appeared in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court today. He was arrested on December 12.

The charge was "very, very minor" and the possibility of a conviction "very slim", the Attorney-General of the Cape, Mr Niel Rossouw, said today.

He also doubted whether the assault had actually taken place and this contributed to his decision to drop the charge.

Mr Rossouw told the mother of the 13-year-old boy that the charges were being dropped because her son would be traumatised during the court case. The character of the accused had already been damaged and her son was the only witness.
Author 'badly affected' by sex charges

Staff Reporter

A PROMINENT author and playwright suffered a nervous breakdown just days before charges against his involvement in a child sex case were withdrawn at the instruction of the Attorney-General.

"The accused in this case has been through a harrowing experience which he took very hard and which resulted in the breakdown," Attorney-General Mr Niel Rossouw told the Cape Times yesterday.

Explaining his decision to withdraw a charge of indecent assault against the man, Mr Rossouw said: "He has been exposed to extensive publicity already and the stigma attached to cases of this nature is affecting him badly — apparently he has no work at present."

The man, aged 26 and the son of an advocate and grandson of a former Appeal Court judge, was to have appeared in Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday. Charges were withdrawn in absentia on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the mother of the 13-year-old boy involved in the case, has threatened to go to Parliament to "get some action". She wants to urge members of Parliament to launch an investigation into the case.

She alleges the playwright indecently assaulted her son at the Nico Malan theatre while Shakespeare's "Macbeth", was in production.

Mr Rossouw said the charge was "very, very minor" and the possibility of a conviction "very slim". There was a possibility the assault had not taken place.

But the mother said yesterday that the assault had certainly taken place: "If Mr Rossouw believes my son was never assaulted, then why is he scared to let us prove our case in court," she said angrily.
SEX CHARGE ON CHILD ACQUITTAL

SUSAN ROYAL, 34, former head of the Constantia children's home "was yesterday acquitted of a charge of sexual assault on a child."

She pleaded guilty to a second charge of indecent assault on a 12-year-old girl. The magistrate fined her R500 and warned her to stay away from the child. She was also ordered to undergo sex offender treatment.

In respect of the first charge, she said, she knew the child and did not realise she was under the age of 15. She said she had committed an offence.

The judge said the sentence was reduced due to her previous good conduct and that she had expressed remorse. He added that she should not have had sex with a child under the age of 15.
Music video aims to help child survival

A music video called "Is It Too Late", featuring musicians from the US, USSR, China and South Africa, will be broadcast all over the world from Moscow on Friday January 19.

It is part of a campaign of the Native Children's Survival Foundation, which aims to make the world a safer for children.
The disappearance of six schoolgirls in South Africa bears a remarkable similarity to several abductions and serial killings in America, according to the founder of the SAP Child Protection Unit who recently met US experts on child abduction and sexual murders. The Star's Crime Reporter, CRAIG KOTZE reports.

Mr Robertson outlined several factors on serial killings and abductions which could be relevant to the suicide of Mr Cornelius van Rooyen and his lover, Ms Francina Haarhoff, in Pretoria this week.

- Serial killers and abductors lived "on the edge of death" and were involved with death or dying in some way. "It didn't take long for them to kill themselves."
- A man and a woman were often involved. Research had shown that this tended to involve sexual murder.
- The fact that Mr van Rooyen and Ms Haarhoff had destroyed evidence such as a blonde wig, school satchel and schoolbooks, indicated previous evidence had also been destroyed.
- A report that a kidnapped boy had also escaped from them also indicated more than one offence.
- Serial killers and abductors often travelled hundreds of kilometres in a single day to various cities to find victims. The missing girls were from Pretoria, Maritzburg, Kempton Park and Randburg.

They also sometimes almost deliberately made mistakes in order to be caught. Mr van Rooyen and Ms Haarhoff drove past their house when they should have known the police would be watching it.
Living on the edge of death

South Africa’s missing schoolgirls mystery and the suicide of two suspects in Pretoria on Monday bears many similarities to several abductions and serial killings in America, according to Mr Grant Robertson, the founder of the SAP’s Child Protection Unit.

He also said that unsolved murders such as that of schoolboy Robert Rau, the murder of two young national servicemen on the Pretoria road and other missing children cases should be looked at in conjunction with the present investigation.

Mr Robertson, who is no longer in the force, has just returned from a two-week visit to America, where he discussed the missing girls problem with the head of the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), a federal organisation.

He also visited five cities and had talks with the American Justice Department.

He now plans to set up a similar organisation in South Africa and it may be funded by the Liberty-Life Insurance company, which sponsored his visit to the US. The organisation would provide education, assistance in investigations and collate information on all aspects of child abuse.

Information gathered during the visit would also be made available to the SAP.

“Based on the facts presented by media reports in South Africa and my visit to America, the disappearance of these six girls in South Africa bears a remarkable similarity to serial killings in America.

“Certain elements are similar to the Atlanta child killings and the Gaycex murders in America and Moors in Britain – the Moors killers.

“It seems highly possible that this is one of the explanations and merits strong attention,” said Mr Robertson, who has himself investigated the disappearance of one of the South African girls, Tracey-Lee Scott-Crossley of Randburg.

He discussed the missing South African girls with the head of NCMEC, Mr Robert O’Heck, who had investigated 30 serial killings involving 1,100 victims.

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Society's teeny adults—robbed of rights
Big decline in number of child prostitutes

By DALE MEE
Crime Report

AIDS and a police rehabilitation programme have led to a dramatic decline in the number of child prostitutes in Cape Town.

Police and prostitutes say the number of boys and girls selling their bodies has dropped from a few hundred three years ago to about 50.

The decline began when the police launched the child protection unit to tackle the problem sociologically rather than by prosecution, says one of the unit's detectives, Sergeant Chris Hummings.

In addition, several young male prostitutes have said they are buying sex because they are afraid of contracting AIDS.

COUNSELLING

Once police have identified child prostitutes they contact the parents and encourage the children to attend counselling, says Sergeant Hummings.

One of the main objectives is to get the children to go back to school or to be placed in training programmes. The long-term objective is to help the children find employment.

"We try to get the children off the streets as soon as possible to prevent them from being conditioned into a prostitution lifestyle," says Sergeant Hummings.

They are exposed to severe and often abnormal sexual acts which can affect them psychologically and behaviourally.

The unit's "task" was simplified in March 1988 by the introduction of the first legislation governing homosexual relationships between adults and minors.

It is illegal for two people of the same gender to have sexual relations before both are aged 18 years.
Spotlight on City's Prostitute Problem

...Their Youth Casuing Trouble

The streets of the city are a haven for predatory sex offenders, preying on the vulnerable.

The problem of prostitution in the city has escalated in recent years, with the number of reported cases rising steadily. Many young people are lured into the sex trade, often through coercion or deception. The need for effective intervention strategies is迫切.

Highlighting the Impact

The report on prostitution in the city highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to tackling this issue. Measures such as increased law enforcement, social support programs, and awareness campaigns are critical in addressing the root causes of the problem.

Crime Scene: A Young Victim

A young victim of prostitution is featured in the report, showcasing the harsh realities faced by those involved in the trade. The case underscores the importance of providing adequate support and protection for victims.

Editor's Note

The editor's note calls for a unified effort from all stakeholders to combat the prostitution problem. The report serves as a call to action for policymakers, community leaders, and the general public to work together towards a safer city for all.

By: Keen, Date: 24.09
From ERIC JANSEN, The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The hunt for six abducted schoolgirls took a dramatic twist early today when two prime suspects — sought in the latest of a spate of kidnappings — apparently committed suicide as police swooped to arrest them.

This follows an incident on Thursday when a 16-year-old Pretoria girl was allegedly abducted by a blonde middle-aged woman in Church Square here.

The teenager was offered a lift to school, but instead was taken to a house in Capital Park where, before being locked in a built-in cupboard, she was handcuffed, drugged and assaulted by the woman and a middle-aged man.

She escaped and although heavily drugged, gave police the tip-off.

Massive search

This led to a massive search last week for the woman and her accomplice, taking detectives from the Pretoria Child Protection Unit and their counterparts in the Natal coast.

Early today police spotted a "suspicious-looking" white man and woman in a bakkie in Capital Park.

When the police gave chase the couple sped off towards Pretoria North.

Detectives fired several shots at the bakkie’s tyres, forcing it to stop.

While approaching the vehicle police heard two shots and found the couple dead in the car, both with bullet wounds in their heads. A firearm was found next to them.

Clues on paper

Police also found several letters and documents in the bakkie and these may contain clues revealing the whereabouts of the missing girls. Detectives will begin analysing the papers today.

Although police were reluctant to give confirmation, it is believed that the woman and her accomplice — identified only as Mr Haarhoff, 49, and Mr van Rooyen, 52 — are linked to the abduction of Pretoria schoolgirl Joan Horn and five other missing children.

While the death of the two alleged abductors has come as a dramatic breakthrough, it could also hamper the investigation.

Police sources said they would have preferred to have taken the couple alive for questioning.

However, they are confident that today’s development will lead them to the children, some of whom disappeared more than a year ago.

Still missing are Joan Horn, 12, of Wespark, Tracey-Lee Scott-Crossley, 16, of Randburg, Fiona Harvey, 12, of Maritzburg, Anne-Marie Wapenaar, 12, Odette Boucher, 11, and Yolande Wessels, 12, all of Kempton Park.

New hope

On hearing of the death of the couple, Joan’s mother, Mrs Annie Horn, said today it gave new hope that her daughter and the other children would be found.

“I had started to accept that I might not see Joan alive again, but this gives me new hope that she will be found.

“Of course, the worry remains because the girls are still missing, but hopefully today’s development will solve the second part of the mystery,” Mrs Horn said.

1 2 3
Kidnapping: 'Ex-wife' held
"There was a policeman sitting behind a banana tree with a walkie-talkie when she arrived. As she tried to open the house police trapped her and took her off in the back of a police van," a neighbour said. The woman had apparently moved out of the house about four years ago after living with Van Rooyen for a year.

Neighbour Mrs Carla Carvalheiro said she had met the woman once during that time.

Another teenage girl, 16-year-old Cornelia Gouws of nearby Daspord, last night told how she luckily escaped being employed by Van Rooyen six months ago.

She said she had answered his advertisement in the local newspaper Viva for a day mother and telephoneist.

"When I phoned him he said he wanted someone to move into his house and look after children. He said it involved a 24-hour service and because I would be gaining experience I would not be paid," said the pretty brunette.

"He also told me I would have no time to visit my parents and I could have no boyfriends. He asked for a full description of myself and what my hair colour was."

Several days later Van Rooyen telephoned her to say he'd heard she had "been seen with a man".

"I decided not to take the job because my mother was not happy with it and he wasn't going to pay me."

According to neighbours Van Rooyen had a strange habit of reverse parking his Kombi van next to his front door in a manner which allowed him to enter his home directly from the van's side doors.

Last Thursday morning about 2.30 neighbours said they saw two young men park Van Rooyen's Bantam bakkie at his front door in a similar way. They then saw them loading something on to the bakkie before speeding off.

On Friday Mrs Carvalheiro said she was nearly knocked down in the street when Van Rooyen, Haarhof and three other people sped out of his driveway in his Kombi.

Neighbours described Haarhof as "charming", but said she kept very much to herself. They only saw her leaving for work in the mornings or occasionally mowing the lawn.

The couple had no domestic servants because, according to neighbours, Van Rooyen never paid them and was known to expect maids to sleep with him.

There had been many complaints in the area about Van Rooyen refusing to pay staff who helped him out with his backyard handyman business.

"He was always screaming at them and there were lots of arguments. But other than that they were so quiet next door it seemed as if nobody was living there," a neighbour said.

The neighbour said Van Rooyen told him he had been a policeman.

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**From DOMINIQUE GILBERT**

**JOHANNESBURG.** — A woman believed to be the former wife of alleged Pretoria kidnapper Cornelius Gerhardus van Rooyen, 52, has been arrested outside his Capital Park home in Pretoria.

Mr Van Rooyen and a woman described by police yesterday as his "lady friend", Ms Johanna Hermina Haarhof, 48, were found shot dead early yesterday morning after a high-speed car chase when their vehicle was halted by police gunfire.

This follows the discovery of a 16-year-old schoolgirl who was allegedly snatched by Ms Haarhof on Pretoria's Church Square last Thursday morning and taken to the couple's Malherbe Street, Capital Park, home.

The girl had escaped after being beaten, drugged and locked in a cupboard.

**Digging**

Police said the couple were suspected of having been involved in the abductions of six schoolgirls, which has grabbed the attention of the nation and resulted in one of the largest police investigations in the country.

Early today police, acting on information, were digging up the garden of the Van Rooyen home in the hope of finding evidence that may clear up the mystery of the girls' disappearances.

Police also confirmed that the kidnap couple had been shot in the back of the head and that a .357 Magnum revolver and a .22 revolver had been confiscated.

Neighbours yesterday said a man believed to be Mr Van Rooyen's brother had arrived at the home and appeared mystified by reports of an alleged suicide pact.

Others described how a blonde woman who had lived with Mr Van Rooyen several years ago with their children was arrested at 10.30 yesterday morning while trying to unlock his house.

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Kidnap suspect Cornelius "wanted"

From ERIC JANSSEN
The Argus Correspondent
PRETORIA.—Cornelius van Rooyen, 53, the man police believe may have been responsible for the series of child kidnappings, had wanted to become a preacher.

This was disclosed by his sister, Mrs Mariaan du Plooy, while standing tearfully outside her brother's luxury home in Capital Park yesterday.

"If you look in his study you will see all his books. He wanted to be a preacher, but could not because he was divorced," she said.

Mrs Du Plooy added she could not believe that her "good-hearted" brother had been involved in such a sinister operation.

However, while Mrs Du Plooy defended her brother, she had harsh words about Ms Francina Haarkoff, 48, the mysterious blonde woman who was apparently Mr van Rooyen's mistress and accomplice.

Both died instantly when they shot themselves early yesterday.

After seeing an identikit picture in a newspaper, Mrs Du Plooy positively identified the woman as being the one who had lived with her brother. She added that Ms Haarkoff had worn her hair a bit shorter than shown in the picture.

"If police prove she was involved in the abductions, her death will be a good thing," she said.

"I knew the woman slightly, but every time I visited my brother she was evasive and had some excuse or other why she could not be there.

"She always claimed to be a social worker who sometimes took children home to give them a break from a care centre. Actually, she worked for pathologists in Pretoria."

It has been learnt that Ms Haarkoff resigned from her...
to be preacher

work about 24 hours before committing suicide.

"My brother and the woman had two boarders at the back
of his home, but they were lesbians and left after a while.

"Whatever the circumstances, I sincerely hope the
missing girls are alive and well," she said.

Another woman who recognised the blonde from the iden-
tikit is the co-owner of a cafe near the Malherbe Street
home.

"I remember this woman coming in almost daily, often
buying sweets and bread," she said.

Mr Ben Sita, who worked for
one of Mr Van Rooyen's neigh-
bours, said he had heard that
Mr Van Rooyen often invited
young black girls into his
home.

Other neighbours reacted
with shock to reports about Mr
Van Rooyen and Ms Haarhoff,
saying they had never noticed
anything suspicious about the
home or its occupants.

Suicide couple hid at SADF holiday resort

The Argus Correspondent
DURBAN.—The Pretoria suicide-pact couple at the centre
of the missing schoolgirl mystery, booked into a Defence Force holi-
day resort at Umhloti at the weekend as the police net closed
around them.

Police today confirmed that Mr Cornelius Gerhardus Van
Rooyen and his friend, Ms Francina Johanna Hermiena
Haarhoff, fled Pretoria after a 16-year-old schoolgirl escaped
their clutches and went to the police.

Major Reg Crewe, police public relations officer in Pretoria,
said that detectives from the Durban Murder and Robbery Unit
had had information that the couple were in Durban.

They were, however, unable to trace where the couple was
staying.

By the time it was discovered that they had been at the Umhlo-
loti resort, the couple had already died in the Pretoria suicide
drama after police had spotted a bakkie which corresponded to
information given by the 16-year-old schoolgirl and given chase.

Major Crewe said it seemed the couple left Umhloti in a
hurry as they had abandoned
all their belongings in the holi-
day flat.

GIRLS SEEN
He said the police had
switched their search to Dur-
ban in October when Anne-Marie
Wapenaar and Odette Bouch-
er, two of the missing girls,
were reportedly seen in the
city. It is now thought they
may have been with the couple
at the SADF holiday resort.

In October, in letters post-
marked Durban, Odette and
Anne-Marie wrote to their par-
ents to say they were with boy-
friends and other people and
developed to the coast in a
combi.

The girls were seen with an
adult man on Durban beach-
front.

A MOTHER'S PLEA: Missing schoolgirl
Tracy-Lee, whose mother is "desper-
ate" for information about her.
London Bridge falls down

The Argus
Foreign Service

MELBOURNE. — London Bridge has fallen down. Or rather, a spectacular arched rock formation of the same name on the Victorian coast has collapsed.

Two tourists had just walked across the narrow strand of rock and earth which connected the coastline with a rock plateau out to sea when the arch fell on the waves 30 metres below.

The tourists were stranded for three hours last night, until a helicopter lifted them to safety.

Pope falls victim to flu epidemic

ROME. — The Pope has cancelled public engagements after falling victim to the flu epidemic sweeping Europe.

The 76-year-old Secretary of State, Cardinal Agostino Casaroli, and Archbishop Angelo Sodano, 61, have also been laid up. — The Argus Foreign Service.
Kidnapped girl: Couple in court

A 21-YEAR-OLD man and his 20-year-old wife have been arrested in connection with last week's kidnapping of a teenage girl from Pretoria SABC Radio News reported last night.

They appear in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court today, along with a 42-year-old woman who was detained earlier, to face charges of being accessories to kidnapping, the radio reported on last night.

A police spokesman said it had also emerged that the two alleged kidnappers who killed themselves on Monday had "gone to ground" last weekend at Umzimtoti on the Natal North Coast.

The two, Cornelius van Roojen and Ms Francina Hlabowo, had hidden at the Defence Force holiday resort there after the 16-year-old abducted girl managed to escape, the radio said.

They shot themselves dead when police shot out the tyres of their bakkie... after being alerted to the couple by the escaped schoolgirl.

In the garden and out of sight of the general public, police today spent a long time looking at a section close to where new concrete had recently been laid. There was no indication that police had begun digging in the garden.

Clothing

The head of the CID, Lieutenant-General Alwyn Conradie, said bags full of clothing and other personal possessions found at the holiday resort were delivered to Van Roojen's house in Capital Park in Pretoria on Tuesday.

The police have begun digging up the garden in their search for clues.

Meanwhile, various garments related to the investigation into the disappearance of six schoolgirls last year have been found next to the Mahopane highway outside Pretoria-Saps.

Missing

The missing girls are Joan Horn (12), of Pretoria; Tracey-Lee Scott-Crosley (15), of Randburg; Fiona Harvey (12), of Maritzburg and Anne-Marie Wapenaar (12), Olette Boucher (11), and Yolande Wessels (12), all of Kempton Park.

Yesterday it was learnt that Van Roojen was previously convicted of having sexually assaulted at least two other children.
How I escaped

'Colluding women' often feel inadequate, says psychologist

Tracey-Lee Scott-Crossley
Fiona Harvey
Joan Horn
Anne-Marie Wopenaar
Odette Boucher
Yolande Wessels

A woman who colluded in child abuse often provided her mate with children for his sexual satisfaction because she felt inadequate sexually, according to an expert on sexual violence.

Mr Lloyd Vogelman, director of the Witwatersrand University psychology department's project for the study of violence, sketched a psychological portrait of a woman who was anxious, dependent, weak and submissive, and often had a history of abuse by men she perceived as strong and powerful.

This woman evaded her "adult responsibility" of sex by transferring this task to the child, relieving the pressure on herself to provide her mate with satisfaction.

She was frequently emotionally and financially dependent on her mate, often depressed and withdrawn and emotionally distant from her family.

The man usually had difficulties with adult relationships and therefore preferred to have relationships with children.

There was often a fear and hatred of women, particularly when the victims were girls. This was frequently the result of an emotional and social deprivation by the man's mother.

"Paedophiles also often feel that girls and women are objects belonging to them and who have no feelings. They feel they have every right to do what they please. Some also believe the myth that the girl or woman enjoys it, no matter what they might do."

"The man who abuses children often feels powerless in a number of areas such as his occupation and his place in society. He frequently has a poor self-image, feels insecure of his masculinity and sexually inadequate."

"He often feels the need to exert power and abusing children makes him feel powerful, as an adult and as a man."

Mr Vogelman said abuse of alcohol often played as part as it had a disfiguring effect.

He urged all victims and their families to seek counselling and treatment.

It was wrong to think that all victims suffered long-term and permanent effects, as many did recover.

Some of the effects on the victim were withdrawal, problems at school, rebellious behaviour, sleep-related difficulties, suicide attempts in teenagers, a pattern of self-destructive behaviour, a low self-image and sex-related difficulties later.

He said 75 to 80 percent of offenders were known to the child.
Girl:

What would MacGyver have done to get away?

The Argus Correspondent in Pretoria

A PRETTY 16-year-old Pretoria girl described in graphic detail today how flashig thoughts of TV-hero MacGyver getting out of sticky situations helped her escape the gripping claws of her abductors.

Sitting quietly at her home in Mountain View, she told in detail of the drama and terror she experienced on Thursday, when she was abducted by Ms Francine Haarhoff, believed to have been the mysterious blonde woman linked to the child kidnapping dramas.

being done to determine which type of drug the teen-ager was fed. She later be- came unconscious in a helper’s car and only regained con- sciousness about six hours later.

"Throughout the ordeal I was actually amazed at my own calmness. I did not panic once, but realised I simply had to escape."

"Luckily the drugs did not take immediate effect and in the cupboard, which had three doors, I immediately started thinking of ways to flee from the home. The first thing I did was to pull my tied hands forward under my feet, enabling me to use them.

"Occasionally I thought of how MacGyver would always get himself out of problems and this prompted me to look around in the cupboard for anything that could help me."

"I used to be a Voortrekkers and here I had also learnt to ap- proach problems in a calm and rational way."

"The house was very quiet at this stage and I presumed the man and woman had left.

"I found a lid of a tin and after trying the first door, which was securely locked, found a looser clip on the in- side of the second door. With the lid I managed to force open the door."

"The house still seemed de- serted and after looking around, found a partially damaged door. I escaped and as I ran away, the blonde woman, who was standing in the driveway, came after me, urging me to come back into the house where ‘we would discuss the whole matter’.

"I kept on running and was then picked up by a stranger — later identified as a Mr Vermeulen — before passing out in his car. I only regained consciousness at night," she said.

"Looking back on the ordeal, the teenager said she was "in way glad that this had hap- pened to her".

"I really hope my experi- ence will help police in trac- ing the six girls."

"The teenager’s mother said today it would appear as if the abductors had planned to keep her daughter at the home.

"The woman removed her wig and they were very natu- ral about the whole affair, ob- viously thinking that my girl would never get away.

"When they saw her run- ning away, the pair must have realised that their game was over," she said.
Parents of six missing children keep sad vigil

The Argus Correspondent in Pretoria

The parents of six missing schoolgirls yesterday kept a sad vigil outside the home of a Pretoria couple who may have been involved in the mysterious abduction of the children.

The couple — Cornelius Gerhardus van Rooyen, 52, and Mrs Francina Haarnoff, 48, committed suicide early yesterday rather than be questioned by the police following a high-speed car chase through the city.

The girls — from Pretoria, Kempton Park, Maritzburg and Randburg — have gone missing over a period of a year. Their disappearance has baffled police.

They are Joan Horn of Pretoria, Tracey-Lee Scott Crossley of Randburg, Fiona Harvey of Maritzburg and Anne-Marie Wapenaar, Odette Boucher and Yolande Wessels, all of Kempton Park.

Reward money as well as a huge public relations campaign to make the public aware of the case has so far proved fruitless.

Suicide

The couple committed suicide in their Ford Bantam bakkie. They had earlier left notes with relatives.

They died after a pretty 16-year-old Pretoria schoolgirl told police she had been drugged, assaulted and handcuffed after being abducted on the city's Church Square on Thursday morning.

She escaped from a built-in cupboard in a house in Malherbe Street, Capital Park, a working class suburb in Pretoria.

The man operated a construction business with members of his family and is alleged by police to have been "a well-known paedophile".

Police have taken possession of letters and other documents found in the ca$h of the bakkie in which the couple took their lives. They also took possession of a .375 magnum revolver.

A school uniform, a school bag, a blonde wig and other clothing found on Mahopane Road, near the city, have been recovered.

The woman involved in the case is thought to be the same "blonde woman" who allegedly lured Pretoria schoolgirl Joan Horn, 12, into a bakkie on June 7, last year.

Most descriptions of Joan's disappearance at the Quagga shopping complex in Pretoria North claimed that a "blonde woman" in a white Ford Bantam bakkie had been responsible. Police confirmed yesterday that the couple who committed suicide were in a "white Ford Bantam LDV."

Pretoria Zoo

Yesterday, shocked neighbours peered over garden fences on tree-lined Malherbe and nearby Venter streets as the parents waited and police forensic experts combed the property for clues. A strong police presence was in the house and in the garden of the walled-off property throughout the day and last night.

The property is within a stone's throw of the Pretoria Zoo.

The house in which the couple lived is in a relatively secluded part of Capital Park and close to Paul Kruger Street, a main thoroughfare. Malherbe Street is a leafy, quiet street.

The house was used as both home and office for a construction company which, it is understood, was a family business. A large business sign stands in the garden.

Children

Neighbours said the couple often had visitors and a number of bakkies were often parked in the driveway and on the street.

A feature of the couple's lives was the number of children who visited the home, neighbours added.

They said children often spent the day at the house, and that "many" had visited over a period of time.

The woman involved in the case had been regarded as "quite friendly" while little was known of the man.
A move is about to introduce far-reaching changes in the laws relating to child witnesses who, of course, are often the victims of sexual abuse.

By WINNIE GRAHAM

A move is about to introduce far-reaching changes in the laws relating to child witnesses who, of course, are often the victims of sexual abuse.

The move is due to be announced in Parliament early this week by Justice D.J. Olivier, acting chairperson of the SA Law Commission and a leading research team into the problems of sexual abuse of children, said the week that interesting proposals had been received in response to a working document prepared by the commission.

He said: "I have to the final say to Parliament ready by July 8. If recommendations are accepted, South Africa will lead the world in procedures designed to protect young witnesses in court."

The main problem in court, he said, was that children were often afraid of the "hostile appearance of the courtroom" and intimidated at the sight of strangers in black gowns. The environment was unfriendly and they were in particular, detained at the will of the accused.

In an attempt to please, child witnesses often said "yes" to all questions. "It becomes very difficult to tell whether the truth is being told," Judge Olivier said.

One of the proposals under consideration was the introduction of a "playroom" in which children assigned to questions behind one-way glass had been recorded, reports WINNIE GRAHAM.

"Once a child feels comfortable away with it because small children are unable to testify properly."

The Attorney-General of the Transvaal, Mr. Dan Bronnico, told child abuse was usually extremely difficult to prove, particularly if the child was five or under. Sometimes the child was too innocent to know what had happened. Sometimes the abused child was "bad". The alleged child had given the child sexual abuse occurred, sometimes the marriage was difficult, one parent continued to the child, sometimes it had happened. Sometimes the child's imagination was simply too vivid.

"The problem is to decide what really happened," he added. "This is not always easy, but the first rule is to..." He continued.

The law that doesn't protect children

By WINNIE GRAHAM

A mother of three small children left her husband within 24 hours of finding out that he had sexually abused her five-year-old daughter. She left, she said, because her first instinct was to protect her child from further abuse. She reported the matter to the police after consulting a doctor and a lawyer.

Today, a month later, her daughter's little girl was still in shock while the incident was all about. The whole case had never come to court.

The doctor in Pretoria confirmed the child's account, and the Social Services, as well as the police, who were waiting for the child to get a conviction when the victim was under 12.

"I was told a conviction depends on how well the child can stand up to the verbal abuse of the defence attorney," she said. "And I wastold my daughter wasn't old enough.

The nightmare started for Mrs X on June 30 last year when her daughter complained of pain. When she asked the little girl if anyone had touched her, she said she had been "a secret", but later confided that who had passed between herself and her daugther.

The baby girl and the baby girl's "secret" were found by her father to the baby girl's "secret"..." He continued.

They told me to report to the SA Law Commission which would be kept under..." He continued.

"I have not told anyone of what South Africa was doing to protect children. The law, as I am..." He continued.

But the baby girl's "secret" was not enough. The baby girl's "secret" was not enough. The baby girl's "secret" was not enough. The baby girl's "secret" was not enough.
Teenager invited to orgies at kidnap house

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Pretoria teenagers yesterday arrived at the Malherbe Street home in Capital Park to tell police of the wild offers made to them by alleged paedophile Cornelius van Rooyen.

Young Dawie Nieuwoudt, who arrived at the house on his bicycle, said Van Rooyen had told him he often brought schoolgirls to his house and got them drunk.

He described how he and a friend of his were struck on the side of the road with a flat bicycle tyre when Van Rooyen stopped to help them, at the start of 1989.

"He picked us up on the side of the road. We were standing by the bicycle. Then he brought us here (to his house). He was probably looking for someone to have a party with. He said he was holding parties with girls every night — in the back building so that people couldn’t see what they were doing."

Dawie said that during the five minutes the boys spent at the Malherbe Street home, Van Rooyen showed him pictures of naked girls, aged about 18 and 19, and told the boys to visit him again and to bring some of their friends with them.

"We didn’t attend any of his parties. From the pictures we could see that he and the people who were at his parties were naked," he said.

"He said he brought schoolgirls here and made them drunk. We visited him again but he wasn’t at home."

Dawie was extensively questioned by police and later whisked away before he spoke to journalists.

BOY TELLS . . . Teenager Dawie Nieuwoudt tells a policeman about his encounter with the suspected kidnapper.

Two girls held in Natal flat?

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Police yesterday confirmed that they were investigating the possibility that two missing girls were held captive in an Undooli holiday flat near Durban by the Pretoria suicide pact couple linked with the disappearance of several schoolchildren.

Convicted paedophile Cornelius Gerhardus van Rooyen and his alleged accomplice, Francis Hafroff, spent Saturday night in a flat — in the same complex which two Kempton Park schoolgirls could have been taken to last year.

The head of the investigating squad, Brigadier Chris Serfontein, said rumours that Odette Boucher, 11, and Anne-Marie Wepenaar, 12, of Kempton Park, had been seen in Durban at the end of September 1988 were being investigated.

These two, together with Fiona Harvey, aged 11 or 12, of Maritzburg, Joan Horn, 12, of Wespark, Tracey-Lee Scott Crossley, 15, of Randburg, and Yolande Wassell, 12, have been the focus of attention of a nationwide hunt for the missing schoolgirls, feared victims of child-sex rings.

The pair fled Pretoria last Saturday after a 16-year-old girl they had abducted escaped from a cupboard in Mr Van Rooyen’s home and sparked off a massive police hunt. They went into hiding in a flat in the SA Army Foundation holiday resort north of Durban.

The manager of the complex, who did not wish to be named, said he recognised Ms Hafroff when she came to his home late on Saturday night asking for accommodation.

"I think she stayed at the resort before."

The woman, whose late husband was a member of the army, applied for the SADF-owned flat in her name and gave her correct telephone number and address. Members of the SADF and their families get preferential rates at the resort.

On Monday morning the manager found a note in the flat saying the couple had gone for a ride and would return yesterday. Clothes, food and personal belongings lay strewn about the flat indicating the couple had left in a hurry.

Kidnap cop fired at fleeing bakkie

MARITZBURG. — One of the policemen who fired at the fleeing bakkie carrying Van Rooyen and Hafroff on Monday was Detective WO Don Chandler, who is heading the search for Fiona Harvey, the Maritzburg girl who disappeared in December 1988.

WO Chandler, of the Maritzburg Murder and Robbery Unit, yesterday returned to Pretoria to rejoin colleagues in their hunt for the six missing girls.

WO Chandler was unable to comment on the investigation at this stage.

Eleven-year-old Fiona Harvey vanished on December 22, 1988, after buying milk at the local tearoom in Clarendon near her parents’ home.

Her parents, Mr Richard Harvey and Mrs Eve Harvey, were still away yesterday but were expected to return home today.
Shock turn in kidnap drama

JOHANNESBURG. — The hunt for the six missing schoolgirls took a surprise turn yesterday when it was established that the woman accompanying of paedophile Cornelius van Rooyen was the aunt of one of the girls.

This was said yesterday by the father of 13-year-old Yolanda Wessels, Mr Johan Wessels, of Kempton Park.

Haarhoff committed suicide with Van Rooyen after a police chase on Monday in one of South Africa's most haunted crime spots in recent years.

Mr Wessels said Haarhoff and the Wessels family were not close and she had visited the family only once during the past year.

"This is a double blow. It has been a great shock to us. I don't know what else to say. We didn't expect it," said Mr Wessels.

Mrs Yolanda Wessels, mother of missing 12-year-old schoolgirl, said yesterday that she knew Haarhoff was Yolanda's mother Old Wessels's sister.

The whole situation is grim and shocking. I can't describe my feelings when I found out," Mrs Wessels said.

Senior police detective spokesman said: "We have no leads on the identities of the men involved and are appealing for information from the public.

Police also announced yesterday that a man aged 21 and his 18-year-old wife are to appear in court in connection with the kidnap.

"The couple will appear at Pretoria Magistrate's Court today with a 40-year-old woman — believed to be the former wife of Van Rooyen arrested on Monday — to face charges of being accessories to kidnapping."
Child abuse strains welfare services

INCREASED public awareness arising from media publicity and other literature about child abuse has resulted in many more cases being reported to the Child Welfare Society.

This has meant a heavy additional case load for social workers but the society is unable to appoint additional staff to handle the crisis.

"Due to economic stringencies of the present situation and the effect of inflation on funding, those already in harness are doing more with less - and feeling the strain," according to a report in a journal published by the society.

The situation has become so serious that it has developed into a catch-22 situation where social workers have to decide between quality of service or spreading the resources thinly over an increasing case load.

Ideally, specialised training would be given to selected workers and cases of child sexual abuse would be handled by these workers. This would require that these workers are relieved of other duties so they could give the necessary amount of time to this kind of work.

The society reports that with lack of funds to appoint additional staff and an increase in conventional social work, this kind of specialisation is not possible.

With cases of sexually abused children, social workers are required to give sensitive crisis support to the abused child and advice on rehabilitation measures for the perpetrator and the family concerned.

Statistical information revealed an increase of 67 percent in figures for reported cases of child sexual abuse in 1988 over figures reported in 1987.

For the year ended in December 1988, the child Welfare Society helped 56,410 children to a better lifestyle by providing protection, promoting day care services and giving material aid.
Staff Reporter

A young man yesterday told Cape Town Regional Court that convicted child molester Robert Lynch had never forced him to commit indecent acts with him.

Mr Craig Bester, 18, was giving evidence in mitigation of sentence in the trial of Lynch, a city council clerk, who had previously pleaded guilty in terms of the Immorality Act to molesting eight boys at his Gardens Centre flat over a period of four years.

Mr Bester said he had been introduced to Lynch by friends in 1988 and had visited him in his flat every Saturday. Lynch had later committed indecent acts with him, he said.

Mr Bester described Lynch as a “kind, gentle and very understanding” person. He had already had sexual experiences with men when he was about 13 and did not feel that his relationship with Lynch had harmed him.

Sentence will be passed next Tuesday and bail of R500 was extended.
Rooyen and Haarhoff moved into Mrs Aletta van Rooyen's two-bedroomed house, where her son Gerhardus and his wife Sonet also lived.

The neighbour also said yesterday that Mrs Aletta van Rooyen was "close" to Haarhoff and Van Rooyen, and had been divorced for about 15 months.

The three used to go on long journeys together—"Warmbaths, Natal— they liked travelling".

She said Haarhoff often accompanied Van Rooyen on his visits to his ex-wife, and that Haarhoff always dressed impeccably, "like a queen".

A close friend of Haarhoff, Mrs Moira Heath, said yesterday that Haarhoff had told her Van Rooyen dominated her sexually, demanding satisfaction up to six times a night.

Haarhoff was a "lonely, unattractive woman completely swept off her feet by her lover".

Yesterday Mrs Aletta van Rooyen, 42, Mr Gerhardus van Rooyen, 21, and his 19-year-old wife Mrs Sonet van Rooyen appeared in Pretoria Magistrate's Court on charges of abduction.

They were not asked to plead.

The case was postponed to February 16.

Mrs Aletta van Rooyen, a large woman dressed in a red and white dress, told the magistrate she depended on her children to help provide bail money. She said she was disabled and had a son of six years old by Van Rooyen.

When asked were her husband was, she replied, "He's him who is now dead."

Mrs Sonet van Rooyen, dressed in a red and black leopard-skin top with a black skirt, later sat joking with relatives outside court.

Her father several times threatened and shouted angrily at journalists while his daughter posed for an artist, saying: "Let them draw, I feel feathers."
The street where

What girls thought of Gert van Rooyen

The Argus Correspondent in Pretoria
MALHERBE Street has undergone an overnight metamorphosis.

What was still a quiet suburban street on Sunday, used by residents in the area and a link between the Aries River and Voortrekker roads, has now become a hive of activity, almost a mini "tourist" attraction.

Talk about Pretoria, and you're talking about Malherbe Street in Capital Park — more specifically about the notorious house numbered 227.

At first, hundreds of motorists, many without any purpose but to see the house of horrors, zipped up and down the street.

Then the traffic police got wise and cordoned off the street to bar vehicles from entering, but still the masses came... only this time on foot.

Many people — ostensibly dressed for work — are seen standing in front of the house for hours before shaking their heads and moving on.

Even the motorists flashing past the Malherbe Street turn-off in Paul Kruger Street momentarily take their eyes off the road to steal a quick glimpse at the suspected crime scene.

On the pavement the horde of journalists wait patiently... and wait... and wait. Their lengthy hours of doing "nothing" are briefly interrupted by an impromptu press conference or some other "discovery", before the waiting game starts all over again.

On Monday only five journalists were "camping" on the pavement opposite the home, but by yesterday the tally had grown to more than 20, claiming to be as much in the dark) and friendly smiles are exchanged — all while curiously watching the police perform their tasks.

Even some of the detectives — as tight-lipped as they are — manage to put on a quick smile before crossing the red and white barrier bordering the home.

Hardly a minute passes without one of the scribes heading off to the local Macedonia Cafe, where the friendly owners happily supply journalists with a free soft drink or let them use the telephone for hours to call their editors.

Yesterday was no different and today the same faces again have met at about 8am — to discuss the same tales and watch some more digging.

Gone are the days when people had to consult a map to find Malherbe Street, but, say the residents, hopefully peace and calm will return to their little street soon.
Search switches to Natal

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — The search for South Africa's six missing schoolgirls swung back to Natal today as a team of top detectives followed several clues which they hoped would lead them to the youngsters, who have been missing for several months.

The police are convinced that the Pretoria suicide-pact couple who died this week were linked to the missing girls following the discovery of the names of the six girls in documents seized by police.

Mr Gert van Rooyen and his lover, Ms Francina Haarhoff, killed themselves on Monday morning after being chased by the police.

The documents with the names of some of the missing girls were found in the bakkie in which the couple were fleeing and in which they died.

And in a dramatic breakthrough last night detectives found the names of Odette Boucher and Anne-Marie Wapenaar in a document under a carpet at Mr Van Rooyen's Capital Park home.

A vehicle seen where Fiona disappeared has also been linked to a white bakkie owned by Mr Van Rooyen and which had red or orange writing on it or the half-moon symbol of his construction company.
Wall was built ‘to stop Van Rooyen leering’

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — The high wall behind his home was not built by paedophile Mr Cornelius van Rooyen to stop neighbours from looking at what went on at his parties — but by his neighbours to prevent his “leering” at people using their swimming pool.

A man, who asked that his name be withheld, said his parents owned the Venter Street house adjoining Mr Van Rooyen’s Malherbe Street property. The two streets run parallel.

His parents had built the wall because Mr Van Rooyen had made a nuisance of himself by “leering” at people using their swimming pool, the man said.

Soon after he had moved into Malherbe Street, Mr Van Rooyen had sued the man’s father, claiming that a loquat tree on his neighbour’s property made a mess in his back garden.

Earlier this week, a teenager, Dawie Nieuwoudt, said Mr Van Rooyen had boasted to him that he had built the wall to prevent his neighbours from seeing what went on at his parties.
Root-slogging

Major Reg Crewe, police public relations officer in Pretoria, said today that it was "back to good old hard detective work once again".

"Detectives on the case have reverted to the old root-slogging and Natal is one of the places where we will be looking for at least three of the missing girls."

Major Crewe said detectives will also be concentrating the search in other parts of the country.

He said it was natural that detectives would be investigating in Natal as one of the girls, Fiona Harvey, was from Maritzburg and it was believed that the two Kompton Park girls, Odette Boucher and Anne-Marie Wapenaar, were seen in Durban last October.

"We have no definite clues as to the whereabouts of the girls and we are sifting through all the information at our disposal."

"It is a case of going back to basic investigations, interviewing people and picking up the pieces," said Major Crewe.

In October the parents of Odette and Anne-Marie received letters allegedly written by their daughters and posted from Umhlanga.

Holiday resort

In the letters the girls said they were with their boyfriends and were travelling in a Star Wagon Hi-Ace combi.

Police this week disclosed that Mr Van Rooyen and Ms Haarhof stayed at the Defence Force holiday resort at Umboldt last weekend.

On Sunday the couple left in a hurry for Pretoria and in the early hours of Monday committed suicide when they were chased by the police.

The couple left most of their belongings at the holiday resort.

FAMILY TREE: This graphic shows how the respective families and offspring of Mr Gert van Rooyen and Mrs Francina Haarhof tie into the kidnapping drama unfolding in Pretoria and Natal.

Mrs Aletta van Rooyen, her son Gerhard and his wife Sanet have appeared in court.

24 HOURS

The street where they lived

— page 15

Meanwhile police said that three green metal trunks "large enough to hold children" were offloaded at Mr Van Rooyen at his ex-wife's Pretoria home last week.

Forensic experts yesterday began analysing samples of hair and what was thought to be blood, taken from the house at 227 Malverbe Street in Capital Park, Pretoria — the house neighbours have dubbed "House of Horrors".

Police also, while digging up the garden, found a dog bone — leading to an erroneous radio report that human remains had been found.

Two ornamental bushes were removed and then replaced as digging operations moved to the double garage.

A traffic department tow truck was brought in to lift a heavy steel plate covering a hole in the garage floor. After a policemen had inspected the hole workmen broke up the floor.

An unidentified man who had apparently worked as a builder for Mr Van Rooyen was brought in to point out recent renovations.

Yesterday three people appeared in court in connection with kidnapping charges related to the teenager who escaped from the Capital Park house.

They were Mrs Aletta van Rooyen, her son Gerhardus and his wife Sonet.

Mrs Van Rooyen and her son are on bail of R1 500 each. Mrs Sonet van Rooyen was released on warning. They are due to appear in court again on February 16.

Pretoria police have made an urgent appeal to the media not to publish photographs of Mr Van Rooyen and Ms Haarhof.

While police could not prevent newspapers and TV from using photographs, it would "seriously jeopardise the investigation" said Brigadier Chris Serfontein, head of the police child protection unit who is leading the investigation.

ARES

18/1/90

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Two missing girls linked to paedophile

POLICE have found positive links between Pretoria suicide and paedophile Mr Gert van Rooyen (52) and at least two of the six missing girls whose disappearances mystified South Africa.

And as police today continued to dig up the garden of the Pretoria, "horror house", detectives said that the next part of the search would involve smashing down the home's front walls - the most recently renovated part of the house.

"Officially the hunt is for "clues" but there is no doubt police fear they may find bodies of missing children. It has emerged that not only is Van Rooyen positively linked to two missing girls, but circumstantial evidence has also been found linking him to a third girl, Fiona Harvey of Maritzburg.

In a dramatic breakthrough, detectives found the names of two Kempton Park girls in a document under a carpet at Van Rooyen's Capital Park home. They are Odette Boucher (12) and Anne-Marie Wapenaar (12).

CID chief Lieutenant-General Alwyn Conradie said yesterday: "Up until now this is the most noteworthy evidence we have found of a link between Van Rooyen and the missing girls. We found references to the two families."
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Missing 6 may yet be alive

3824

Caf Oíñ 9/1}90
Mother criticises police

Own Correspondent

THE mother of one of the six missing schoolgirls yesterday criticised police for not keeping her family informed of developments — and two other parents were refused entry to paedophile Gert van Rooyen's Malherbe Street home.

Mrs Noreen Hughes, the mother of Tracy-Lee Scott-Crosley, 15, who has been missing since August 1988, said last night that police had kept none of the parents informed on developments.

"I want answers on what happened and what's going on."

A while back, she said, she was informed that her daughter's disappearance might have been linked with the rapist Skroewie van der Merwe, who was killed while raping two girls near Cape Town.

"Police were supposed to fly up clothing for me to verify, but they never did."

Two other parents have visited the Malherbe Street home this week but were not allowed to enter the house.

Mr George Boucher, father of 11-year-old Odette of Kempton Park, was upset that he was not allowed into the house. He believed he might recognise items belonging to his daughter.

He said: "Police keep saying families come first, but that is certainly not the case as far as we are concerned."

Mrs Ansie Horn, mother of missing 13-year-old Joan Horn, also visited the house on Wednesday. She said she was positive her daughter was still alive. "I stay positive and won't let this week's events get me down."

2 Cape Times, Friday, January 19, 1990
FIRST PICTURES OF CHILD

Van Rooyen — with and without wig

POLICE in Pretoria today released these pictures of paedophile Mr Gert van Rooyen and his lover Ms Francina "Joey" Haarhoff.

Earlier a 16-year-old Pretoria schoolgirl they had kidnapped escaped from their Capital Park, Pretoria home and gave the alarm. The couple committed suicide after being pursued by police. Their house and garden have been extensively searched this week. The couple have been linked to the disappearance of missing Transvaal and Natal schoolgirls. The picture on the left shows Van Rooyen and the one on the right shows him in a wig. On the far right is Joey Haarhoff.

‘Help me!’ Kidnap girl’s plea

The Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA. — “Help me, they’re trying to kidnap me,” a 16-year-old girl said to a cool-headed Good Samaritan who has emerged as one of the heroes of the child kidnapping drama which was followed by the double suicide of the perpetrators.

A former policeman, Mr Ernst Vermeulen, 26, of Doornpoort — who prevented the girl from being recaptured by her abductors — emerged into the spotlight for the first time today.

It is doubtful whether the girl — exhausted, drugged and handcuffed — could have escaped her pursuer if not for Mr Vermeulen’s intervention.

Mr Vermeulen kept his cool as Ms Haarhoff — who died in a double suicide with her lover, Mr Gert van Rooyen — tried to persuade him to take the sobbing girl back to the Malherbe Street "House of Horrors".

“I’m proud that I could have made some small contribution towards solving the case,” Mr Vermeulen said.

In another twist in the case the girl revealed to Mr Vermeulen that known paedophile Mr Van Rooyen had threatened to keep her as a hostage and demand ransom for her release.

The teenage girl was abducted by Mr Haarhoff on Church Square about 7.30am on Thursday last week while on her way to catch a bus to school. She escaped from a cupboard in the Capital Park home, drugged and handcuffed, after an ordeal lasting more than two hours.

Mr Vermeulen gave a blow-by-blow account of his brief confrontation with Ms Haarhoff, an alleged accomplice in the abduction of six schoolgirls.

“I remember that throughout the confrontation she was completely calm and unruffled,” he said.

He did not recognize her from police identikitts that have been circulated throughout the country.

He described her as "a slim woman, with perm brown hair, gold-rimmed spectacles and wearing a light pink dress".

Police identikitts showed Ms Haarhoff with blonde hair — allegedly a wig used as a disguise. The charred remains of a blonde wig were found next to the Malherbe Street, north of Pretoria.

Mr Vermeulen was driving down Malherbe Street towards Paul Kruger Road when he saw the running girl on the left hand side of the road. She had her hands up in front of her mouth — later I learnt she was removing a gag,” he said.

“When I noticed the woman giving chase,”

Thinking the girl might have stolen something or was fleeing from her mother, he stopped his car and prepared to apprehend her.

“They had crossed to the right hand side of the road — I caught the girl, dressed in school bluse, skirt and shoesless, as she drew level with me.

She was crying hysterically — she told me she had been abducted and pleaded with me to help her.

My Vermeulen noticed the girl was handcuffed and he thought she might have escaped from an institution.

“The woman came up and I asked her what was going on,” Mr Vermeulen said.

Mr Haarhoff, who was looking "calm and unfurled", invited Mr Vermeulen to "come back to the house" to "talk it over".

“I held the passenger door open for the girl, then quickly slid behind the wheel and started up in order to prevent her (Ms Haarhoff) from getting into the car as well.”

Mr Vermeulen then drove off.

He regrets he did not try to apprehend Ms Haarhoff.

“If I had been carryng my firearm on my person while I was confronting her in the street, I would have tried to arrest her,” he said.

“But my pistol was in my briefcase on the back seat of my car. It was out of reach.”

He said that if he had known Ms Haarhoff was wanted in connection with the abduction of the six girls, he would have made "some attempt".
Van Rooyen ‘must have bewitched Joey’

The Argus Correspondent in Johannesburg

Joey had a heart of gold before she met Gert van Rooyen. He must have bewitched her.

This is the view of a close relative of a child kidnapper, Ms Francine (Joey) Haarhoff, who committed suicide with her lover, Mr Gert van Rooyen on Monday after allegedly kidnapping and assaulting a 16-year-old schoolgirl.

The relative, who wished to remain anonymous, said the macabre drama that had evolved around Ms Haarhoff was “killing me”.

“I don’t know what made Joey change. She was such a lovely person until she met this guy. She always used to make decisions for herself and was hugely competent in anything she undertook. She was pretty and could have got any man.

“When she met this man (Mr van Rooyen) she became as meek as a lamb. She was very much in love with him. I think he bewitched her.”

‘Too smooth’

“My husband and I never liked him. There was something about his manner. He was too smooth and he talked far too much. He was always preaching to us, telling us not to smoke, drink or swear. I resented the pressure on me not to swear in his company,” she said.

The relative said of the drama: “It has hit me so hard. I feel absolutely ill. I have lost eight kilograms since Yolande went missing.” (Yolande Wessels is one of the missing schoolgirls suspected to be linked to the suspects. Ms Haarhoff was her aunt.)

“I haven’t even cried about Joey’s death. I feel like an empty shell. All I want is for Yolande and the other girls to come back alive.”

The Argus Correspondent in Pretoria

Police have found a prefect’s badge similar to that worn by missing girl Odette Boucher, 11, in the Pretoria “Horror house” — further strengthening the link between paedophile Mr Gert van Rooyen and two of six missing girls.

The police also made another important breakthrough when the man who bought a bakkie from Van Rooyen contacted them.

CID chief Lieutent-General Alwyn Conradie confirmed today that a prefect’s badge from the Kempton Park primary school Odette attended was found in Mr van Rooyen’s Capital Park home.

“We do not know that it is Odette’s badge, but it is similar to one she was wearing when she...”

But with investigations almost completed at Van Rooyen’s home, police are now casting their net wider in a massive attempt to find the six missing girls, General Conradie said.

“We have no reason to believe the girls are not alive. We don’t know. We are looking at every possibility,” General Conradie said.

Detectives had almost completed visiting places where the six girls had last been seen and showed photographs of the suicide pact couple to anyone who might have seen the girls.

General Conradie added that should the modus operandi in other missing children cases be the same as that of the disappearance of the six girls, they would be added to the present inquiry.
Prefect's badge found

The school has told us the badge we found is similar to the one Odette was wearing," General Conradie said.

A Pretoria businessman contacted police just after 6pm last night, following an appeal from Lieutenant Ruudie van Olst for the unidentified man to come forward.

Police, who believe the Datsun bakkie may be a link to the disappearance of Maritzburg girl Fiona Harvey, will question the man today.

The bakkie, which has a logo on the door, was spotted on the corner of Moreland and Kitchener roads, the point where Fiona was last seen.

He said the bakkie was parked in an empty street, and that he thought it was strange.

A retired police officer, who lived in the area, said he had seen the bakkie there before.

"I think it's just a coincidence," he said.

But police are taking no chances and are investigating the matter further.

Five of the six missing girls - They are Joan Horn, 12, of Pretoria, Fiona Harvey, 12, of Maritzburg, Odette, Anne-Marie and Yolande Wessels. The only girl not yet linked is Tracey-Jo Scott-Crossley of Randburg.

The links, other than names and the badge found in Van Rooyen's home, have been vehicles - either a green and white kombi or a white bakkie - and a woman in a blonde wig. Police have recovered a blonde wig apparently used by Haarhoff.

A senior police officer said the Van Rooyen home early today that concrete was laid inside a front room of the house would be dug up this morning.

"Van Rooyen was supposed to be a builder but this concrete was very badly laid," he said.

He said police made another important breakthrough last night in that the man they sought after he had bought a bakkie from Mr Gert van Rooyen, contacted them.

"We are virtually finished at the house. We must now spread our investigation and find out the movements of Van Rooyen and Haarhoff. We have not found anything to link the two to more of the girls," General Conradie said.

Van Rooyen and Haarhoff committed suicide when police tried to arrest them after a car chase following the escape of a Pretoria schoolgirl from the Capital Park house.

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Mr van Rooyen bought the bakkie just before Fiona disappeared on December 22. Police say the bakkie was then sold a few weeks later.
Kidnap pair had girl, 14, as fosterchild over Xmas

PRETORIA. — The alleged kidnappers of a Pretoria schoolgirl, Gert van Rooyen and Joey Haarhoff, who have also been linked to the disappearance of another five schoolgirls, acted as temporary holiday fosterparents to girls from children's homes.

A spokesman for a children's home at Winburg in the Free State would not deny reports that the couple had had a 14-year-old girl in temporary foster care during the past Christmas holidays.

Meanwhile, it has been established that an application from them to take children from a Pretoria children's home was rejected last year.

Van Rooyen, 58, and Haarhoff, 49, are said to have represented themselves as a married couple.

At a later stage, Haarhoff was alleged to have asked to be allowed to visit children at the home. This request was also rejected.

Police have so far linked Van Rooyen and Haarhoff to the abduction of five schoolgirls and have said there was a possibility they could have been involved in the case of missing Randburg pupil Tracey-Lee Scott-Crossley.

They still have no idea whether the six missing schoolgirls are alive or dead.

Police teams are still turning the Capital Park "house of horror" upside-down in their desperate search for clues and are examining several steel trunks removed from the house this week.

They have found a school prefect's badge said to have been worn by Odette Boucher, 11, at the time of her disappearance.

CID Chief Lieutenant-General Alwyn Conradie said police would spend the whole weekend sifting through the house. "We won't stop until we have searched whole place."

Parents of the missing girls, meanwhile, have refused to give up all hope that they are dead.

Mrs Kobie Wapenaar, mother of Anne-Marie Wapenaar, 12, who has been missing with Odette since December 22 last year, said she firmly believed her daughter is still alive.

"An answer to the months of doubt is now close at hand. I don't doubt any longer that she is still alive," she said.

She based optimism on an envelope found by police in the house and on which was printed the names of Odette and Anne-Marie's parents.

Mr George Boucher and his wife Linette were also hopeful, rather than dismayed, at the discovery of the envelope.

Mr Boucher said the waiting was the worst part. "It's hell. It would be easier if we knew one way or another."

Mrs Wapenaar said her family and the parents of Yolanda Wesseels, 12, another Kempton Park girl who vanished on November 2 last year, have become close since of the disappearances.

"No one can describe what goes through a mother's mind at a time like this. I worry every day that she may be hungry or cold. My hope and faith are in God. This helps me through the darkness. One has to be positive," she said. — Sapa and Own Correspondent
ABDUCTORS

Ms Haarhoff

she was to escape being employed by Mr Van Rooyen six months ago.

He had advertised for "a day mother and a

telephoneist" and told her she was not allowed to

visit her parents or have boyfriends. He also
told her she would not be paid. The girl decided

not to take the job.

It was also disclosed by Mr Van Rooyen's sis-
ter, Mrs Marianna du Ployo that her brother
wanted to become a preacher.

She said he was a "good-hearted" man and
she could not believe he would have been in-
volved in the sinister operation of abducting
children.

It was also revealed that Mr Van Rooyen had

dark past. About 1982 he was convicted of

abducting two girls, aged 10 and 12, from the

Sacoor Club on February 10 1980 and molesting

them.

He was sentenced to four years' imprison-
ment. Most of the time was apparently spent in

the Wepener Hospital for observation.

In another surprise turn it was established that

Ms Haarhoff was the aunt of one of the

missing girls.

This was said by the father of 13-year-old Yo-

lande Wessels who was abducted on November

2 last year.

On Wednesday detectives and labourers con-
tinued digging and drilling through cement in

the "House of Horrors" garden.

Three fish ponds in the front yard were taken

apart but proved not to hold anything.

NEIGHBOURS said the fishponds were con-
tinuously moved by Mr Van Rooyen from one

spot to another but never filled with water.

While this was happening a close friend and

colleague revealed details of the strange sexual

relationship between Ms Haarhoff and Mr Van

Rooyen.

She said Ms Haarhoff had told her that she

was dominated sexually by Mr Van Rooyen and

that he demanded sex up to six times a night.

In the meantime three members of the Van

Rooyen family appeared in the Pretoria Magis-
trates' Court on charges of abduction.

Mrs Aletta van Rooyen, 26, Mr Gerhardus

van Rooyen, 31, and his 19-year-old wife Sonet

were not asked to plead. The case was post-
poned to February 16.

On Thursday dramatic new evidence linking

Mr Van Rooyen and Ms Haarhoff to the six

missing schoolgirls was released by police.

NAMES of some of the six were found in
documents when police seized the vehicle in

which the couple died.

A white delivery truck belonging to Mr Van

Rooyen was linked to the disappearance of

Fiona Harvey.

In another dramatic turn police were told

that three mysterious green trunks "large

enough to hold children" were dropped off by

Mr Van Rooyen at his ex-wife's Pretoria home

last week.

In a late development police said that a

small yellow class captain's badge worn by

Odette Boucher was found in Mr Van Rooyen's

house.

It was also revealed that Mr Van Rooyen had

apparently been visiting the girls daily before

he and Ms Haarhoff committed suicide.
WHILE the bodies of paedophile Mr Cornelius van Rooyen and his accomplice Ms Francina Haarhoff lie cold in a Pretoria mortuary their chilling web of child abduction is painstakingly being unravelled.

As police work around the clock to piece together one of South Africa's most bizarre crime sagas, the parents of six missing schoolgirls wait patiently.

In a week of horror which has grabbed the attention of the nation the parents pray their daughters will be found alive. This hope is their only anchor.

It was not for a pretty 16-year-old Pretoria girl missing her bus and cleverly escaping their grasping claws, her abductors' sordid activities might never have been exposed.

It was about 8am on January 11 when she missed her bus at Church Square. A woman with blonde hair driving a combi offered her a lift. Instead of being taken to school she found her way to a house in Capital Park which a few days later was to become known as the "House of Horrors".

Once inside she was handcuffed, drugged, indecently assaulted and finally locked up in a cupboard.

In the darkness she thought of TV hero MacGyver who always got himself out of difficult situations.

In a calm, rational manner she pulled her tied hands under her feet enabling her to use them. She managed to get out of the deserted house.

As she ran away she saw the blonde woman standing in the driveway beckoning her to come back. The teenager was picked up by a stranger before passing out in his car. Although heavily drugged she was able to give police the tip-off.

Then the hunt for the six abducted schoolgirls took a dramatic twist as a massive search over the weekend for Ms Haarhoff and Mr Van Rooyen was carried out.

Early on Monday morning this week police spotted a "suspicious-looking" white man and woman in a bakkie in Capital Park.

They gave chase. Detectives fired several shots at the bakkie's tyres forcing it to stop.

As they approached the vehicle they heard two shots and found the couple dead in the car, each with bullet wounds in their heads.

Police also found several letters and documents in the bakkie containing clues to the whereabouts of the missing girls.

Further information obtained that day by top detectives revealed that Mr Van Rooyen—a known paedophile—had allegedly ordered his son Gerhard, 21, to destroy a blonde wig, school cases and books.

Gerhard allegedly took the goods to Mabopane Highway, north of Pretoria, where he allegedly burnt the wig and threw away the cases and books.

The death pact of the two abductors was a dramatic breakthrough in the investigations into the disappearance of the six girls. Although their whereabouts remain a mystery, police suspect that Ms Haarhoff played a part in all the abductions.

The following day a woman, believed to be the former wife of Mr Van Rooyen, was arrested outside the Malherbe Street house.

Police began digging up the garden of the house in the hope of finding evidence that may clear up the mystery of the missing girls.

A stream of detectives and forensic experts combed the house. It is believed that they found hair and blood samples on the premises. These were sent for analysis.

Pressmen were barred from entering the house but it was learnt that Mr Van Rooyen, a building contractor, had turned the house into a fortress with high walls cutting off the neighbours on all sides. A heavy duty security gate had been installed in the front.

Another 16-year-old girl told police how lucky
FRANCINA HAARHOFF, the woman being linked to a suspected Pretoria child abduction ring, telephoned her sister, Mrs Babs Wessels, after the kidnapping of her child to commiserate and tell her she was "praying" for her daughter's safe return.

Mrs Wessels, the Kempton Park mother whose daughter Yolande, 12, disappeared after school on November 2 last year, said this week she felt "nothing" for her dead sister.

"I can't cry for her," Mrs Wessels said. "I feel nothing, absolutely nothing. How can I feel anything for a woman who kidnaps my child and then phones me to say she is praying for me and for my daughter's return?"

"We grew up in the same home, we are flesh and blood, but I was not close to her. I did not see her often and I saw even less of her once she had met the thing (Mr Van Rooyen)."

"I did not know much about my sister's life and I didn't even know that and white combi until after."

ASKED if she could support her sister, Mrs Wessels said "that shows just how much was between us."

Mrs Wessels said she and Van Rooyen once, when he came home with Ms Haarhoff, but immediate dislike to him.

"There was something not right about his eyes," she said adding that they looked very much like the eyes of convicted American murderer, Charles Manson.

Mrs Wessels said she was relieved the police appeared to have made a breakthrough in the case.

"It is terrible to wait for news. At least we know something now, even if they do find her dead."
In addition, there is a strong possibility that this woman may herself have been abused as a child so she would possibly identify with her victims and in her mind she would say "this happened to me so what if it happens to others?"

ASKED for an expert opinion on the alleged involvement of Mr Van Rooyen's ex-wife, son and daughter-in-law, Mrs Theart said: "One could find that he had some kind of hold over the whole family — this is not impossible. Some psychopaths, like the infamous Charles Manson, have extremely magnetic personalities which draw people to them and they can charm some people into doing anything."

Mrs Theart said there was also a possibility the whole family used child abduction as a means of getting hold of money.

"They may have been lured by the financial rewards to be gained from child prostitution and kiddie pornography."

Mr Lloyd Vogelman, director of Wits University psychology department's project for the study of violence, was not prepared to speculate on the involvement of other members of the Van Rooyen family, but he did agree, albeit conservatively, with Mrs Theart's views on the freeing of psychopaths.

"We do nothing for members of the public by releasing violent psychopaths who stand little chance of rehabilitation and unless we find more creative ways of confining them, it would seem to be more useful keeping them in prison."
Sound of surf . . .
and a single bed

P AEDOPHILE Gert van Rooyen and his mistress and accomplice Francina Haarhoff, the evil couple at the centre of child abduction saga, spent their last night together in a single bed, the sound of the Um-
dloti surf filling the SADF holiday flat where they had gone to ground.

The main attraction of the Spartan one-
roomed R89-a-day apartment on the fourth level of the block at the holiday resort is its pan-
oramic outlook on the North Coast beach and Indian Ocean.

But the panic-stricken couple, sure that the police were on their tail after the escape of their latest victim, must have had little time to enjoy the view.

Within hours of booking in at the resort on Saturday and saying they intended to be there
for a week, they headed back to Pretoria, leaving behind all their possessions and a note saying they would be back on the Tuesday.

Instead, the couple chose suicide by shooting rather than face the police who picked them up near their Pretoria home.

WHY they returned there is a mystery which may never be solved.

At Umndloti yesterday, Mrs Renee Schultz, who helps her husband, retired Brigadier Steve
Schultz, run the resort, described her annoyance when the fugitive couple arrived at her beach-
front home at 5.20pm on Saturday.

She had the whole of her balcony straight into my
living room. I’d been at the beach and I was in my swimming costume. I was really cross.

We had closed the office for the day. My hus-
band had gone to play golf and when I came back from the beach I worked in the garden. I was in and doing a bit of cooking and the door was open. I heard the dog barking and went into the lounge and there was this blonde woman.”

The couple had stayed at the resort in March, but Mrs Schultz did not immediately recognise

Haarhoff.

“She was crying and shaking, waving her
hands. She said she was on the verge of a ner-
vous breakdown and begged me to give her a
flat. She said she had tried everywhere else in
Umndloti but they were all full.

“I could have killed her. I was so cross at be-
ing disturbed. I said to her I was ready to have a nervous breakdown too.

“She looked really odd in high heels and
stockings, she had blonde hair, all neatly done and a dress or suit with brown flowers. She
didn’t look as if she was planning a holiday at
the beach.

“Then my husband came back and we said
they must wait until we had finished dinner be-
fore he could take them down to the flats. By
the time he took them she was really agitated. I
just caught a glimpse of him (Van Rooyen) in
their balcony before they went.”

ONCE Brigadier Schultz had let them in to
flat 807 they were not seen again by staff.

On Thursday, Rolland COK and Clive Thom-
son of Durban, two national servicemen who
work at the resort, opened the flat for Weekend
Argus and produced a box containing a few of
the couple’s possessions which the police had
not taken.

The vinyl-tiled one-roomed flat, opening on to
a balcony, is drably functional. Bunk beds, a
single bed which the couple used, plastic uphol-
stered armchairs, a deep freeze, television and
built-in dining area are haphazardly arranged.

The small neat kitchen, where the couple left
behind bread rolls and rusk, had been cleared of
the assortment of kitchen and picnic goods the
couple had brought with them.

The keys to the flat were found after the couple
died and the identification tag led police to the
resort.

“We only knew what had happened when the
police arrived,” said Mrs Schultz.

“I can’t believe I had that woman in my
home. Apart from being upset she looked so
ordinary.”

"The courtRooyen, who told whether Van

Rooyen, who told...
The West Bank First Reformed Church was about to be sold to a developer, and the congregation was left with no place to worship. The community came together to save the church, and a new building was constructed nearby. The church now provides a place for worship and community events for the congregation.

The Children's Missions Fund

The Children's Missions Fund is a fundraiser for the Western Missions Committee (WMC) of the Reformed Church. This year's trip to help the children of the WMC includes a visit to Bolivia and a trip to Peru. The fund is used to support the children's education and health care.

A Burden For An Hour

Raymond M. Kana, Thando Kana, Baan Pharm, Mzwandile Katseti, Mabell and Stungke

Last year 121 people were hanged and 240 were killed in South Africa. The situation is urgent and the people need our help. Please consider donating to the Children's Missions Fund to support these children and their families.
'Stop these sex monsters'

By VIVIEN HORLER and JOCELYN MAKER
Weekend Argus Reporters

ALL convicted paedophiles and psychopaths must be closely monitored by the State for life if South African children are to be safe.

This is the call by top psychologists, psychiatrists, child abuse experts and parliamentarians.

They also believe the Prisons Service must introduce a more sophisticated method of assessing the mental health of what the public sees as "sex monsters" before they are released on remission.

Children's lives will continue to be wrecked and possibly even lost until convicted paedophiles and psychopaths are monitored once they are allowed back on the streets.

There are hundreds of convicted paedophiles and child molesters on the loose in South Africa, and without their names appearing on a central register and their movements being continually traced by the State, nothing can be done.

Loopholes

The problem, and the loopholes that exist, have been highlighted by the police investigation into convicted child abductor Gert van Rooyen and his six gang of sex predators.

Speed essential if missing 6 alive

By JOCELYN MAKER
Weekend Argus Reporter

IF the six missing schoolgirls are still alive there is a race against time to find them before they die of hunger and thirst.

But the burning questions remain — if they are, where are they? Who is looking after them? Are they being fed or will they, after facing the hell of their tormentors, die a terrible death before they are found?

One of the most positive statements made this week by police investigating the sordid activities of paedophile Gert van Rooyen and his gang is that they have been able to identify certain documents found in the house as evidence of the girls' movements and their escape routes.

A re-check

But it is believed that the house has yielded less evidence than police hoped for and they now no longer expect to find any dramatic clues there.

This weekend an evaluation...
of Pretoria. Haarhoff was that they believed the six missing girls were still alive.

Admitted
Child molester Van Rooyen admitted four days before his suicide that he was connected to the missing schoolgirls and said they were alive.

It was also said that he had been feeding them, taking them water and could drink on a daily basis.

Now he is dead and the relentless search continues.

Major "Blikkies" Blignaut, Transvaal co-ordinator of the Child Protection Unit, said the police were positive the case would soon be solved.

He added, however, that the death of the two prime suspects had hampered the week's hard work.

Enough documents, witnesses and circumstantial evidence have been found to positively link five of the missing girls to Van Rooyen and Haarhoff.

Now there is a good possibility that the sixth girl, Tracey Lee Scott Crossley will also be linked to the investigations.
Child prostitution on the wane

By HAMISH McINDOE

"Our priority is to get them back to their families." He admitted it was an uphill task persuading teenagers who knew prostitution would bring in "considerably more money than they would otherwise earn".

But, while the passing stream has become a trickle, the pavement hustlers and kerb-crawlers looking for "rough trade" at several city pick-up points are a blunt reminder that the problem has merely diminished, not vanished.

Surprisingly, fear of catching AIDS has played a less significant role than expected in diminishing Cape Town's population of child prostitutes.

"But it has certainly been bad for business," Sgt Hunsinger said. "Most of them are on the road because of financial reasons," he said.

Three years ago their number was in the hundreds," said CPU detective Sergeant Chris Hunsinger. "We believe there are now about 20 of them."

Blunt 398
Missing since last October

Mbalu Maseko.

Soweto police are appealing to the public to help trace a young boy and girl who were abducted in separate incidents in the township last year.

Mbalu Maseko (12) and Nunu Nkuzo (5) have been missing since last October, and efforts to trace them have been fruitless.

Mbalu of 1645 Zondi I, was abducted by black men outside his home on October 16. Nunu was playing outside her 480 Block Five Mshenguville home with other children on October 27 when an unknown woman who offered her fish took her away.

Anyone with information about the two children is requested to contact Detective Sergeant Moses Masebattela of Child Protection Unit at Kliptown Police Station. Telephone (011) 945-6629 or (011) 986-3288.
he had six missing girls
Child molester, admitted

Cape Times, Monday, January 22, 1990 3
PRETORIA. — Police yesterday rejected speculation that Pretoria paedophile Gert van Rooyen had been responsible for the disappearance of black children.

A police spokesman here said police had no information to confirm reports to this effect in the weekend press.

But police confirmed that they were investigating a possible link between Van Rooyen — who was cremated at the weekend after shooting himself in the head — and the murder of Miss Hanlie Viljoen, 19, whose mutilated body was found next to a railway line between Walkerville and Vereeniging on September 10 last year.

Police experts were yesterday conducting ballistic tests on a firearm seized at Van Rooyen’s home which could link him to the murder of Miss Viljoen.

They confirmed that a firearm, similar to the one used in the murder of Miss Viljoen, had been found among the possessions of Van Rooyen and his accomplice and lover Joey Haarhoff, who died with Van Rooyen in a suicide pact earlier this month.

Church Square

This and other new evidence uncovered in the past few days was being evaluated as police began digging again yesterday at the Malherbe Street home where Van Rooyen, 52, and Haarhoff, 49, lived.

Miss Viljoen had been seen on Church Square shortly before her disappearance.

Van Rooyen and Haarhoff abducted a 16-year-old girl from Church Square earlier this month. The girl escaped after being indecently assaulted and led police to the house.

There is grave concern about six missing schoolgirls, most of whom have now been linked to Van Rooyen.

Police said they refused to believe the girls were dead unless they found proof of this.

Police have disclosed that a suitcase packed with children’s clothing might be linked to the girls’ mysterious disappearance.

It was found on the Mabopane road near Pretoria after the abduction of the 16-year-old girl and there may be a link to Van Rooyen and Haarhoff. — Sapa
Police dig a metre deep

From NORMAN CHANDLER and CRAIG KOTZE
The Argus Correspondents

JOHANNESBURG. — Police were digging over a builders' rubble dump close to the House of Horrors at 927 Malherbe Street, Pretoria, in a bid to find more clues to the whereabouts of six schoolgirls who have disappeared in the past 15 months.

The garden of the house was to be dug up a second time as well. Police were to dig some areas to a depth of 2.5m. Last week they dug to 1.5m.

The possibility of the dump being an important clue in the hunt came from a reporter of The Star, the Argus's sister paper, who led police to two stained children's dresses and a cream slip which had been found on the dump.

The stains could be blood but forensic tests will have to be made on the dresses — which appeared to fit children of about 12 — before any conclusive decision could be reached, police said. Clothing worn by the children at the time of their disappearance would also have to be matched to that found.

And police today said they were in possession of important new information relating to investigations into paedophile Gert van Rooyen and the disappearance of six girls.

This was disclosed by CID chief Lieutenant-General Alwyn Conradie. However, he said the information could not be made public at this stage.

There have also been two other key developments.

Police said yesterday that a suitcase found on the road to Mabopane, close to Pretoria, late last week had contained children's clothing which had been "cut up".

The clothing was found at the same time as police uncovered, during a four-kilometre hike along the highway, items of clothing which had belonged to a 16-year-old girl who kidnappers and suicide victims Van Rooyen and Joey Haarhoff abducted from Church Square, Pretoria, 12 days ago and subjected to sexual assaults. The handcuffed girl escaped and pointed out the Malherbe Street house to police.

And, in a second development, police have conclusively eliminated the murder last year of Pretoria teenager Hanlie Viljoen from being part of the case surrounding Van Rooyen and Haarhoff.

"Ballistic tests show that bullets fired from a gun found in the cab of the bakkie in which the two died did not match those which were fired at Miss Viljoen," Major "Blikkies" Blignaut, co-ordinator of the SAP's Child Protection Unit, said outside the Malherbe Street house last night.

Miss Viljoen died as a result of a particularly gruesome sexual assault. Her killer caught a train from Vanderbijlpark to Pretoria. Her killer has not been found.

In a separate investigation, to be launched possibly today, police are to investigate two farms or smallholdings allegedly used by Van Rooyen.

It was learnt yesterday that Van Rooyen — who has been conclusively or through circumstantial evidence linked to the disappearance of five of the six school children — owned one of the properties and rented another, both north of Pretoria.

Major Blignaut said police would investigate the farms but said the exact location of the properties was not known.

"We are hoping for an early breakthrough on this piece of evidence," he added. "It could be very important."

Forensic experts were examining items found in the house shared by Van Rooyen and Haarhoff. Further forensic tests were being undertaken and the garden at the house was being dug up again in some areas.

The children's clothing found on the builders' rubble dump in Capital Park was reported to police investigators by a reporter from The Star.

Two floral dresses and a cream slip, which appeared to fit a child of about 12 years of age, were found. The two dresses were stained although it could not be immediately confirmed that the stains were blood. One of the dresses looked as if it had been cut with a pair of scissors.

These dresses were half buried under rubble while the slip was in a bush close by.

A Pretoria builder, Mr Willie Bouwer, told the reporter what he had seen and took the reporter to the dump. He had not connected the items with the present case and "it was only after reading weekend newspapers that I realised that there could be a connection."

After investigating the site the reporter immediately contacted the police, who removed the dresses and the slip for forensic tests.

"We are unable to immediately link the clothing to the
per

"Case but we are going to further investigate the area," said Lieutenant Rudie van Oost, an investigating officer. The dump is about two kilometres from 227 Malherbe Street.

Major Blignaut and other police officers told journalists staking out the house for the seventh consecutive day yesterday that many telephone calls had been received from all over the country.

"Forensic tests of material and samples taken from the house are almost complete and many leads are being followed up," Major Blignaut said.

Sensation-seekers again thronged Malherbe Street all day yesterday. A crowded tour bus was one of many vehicles which drove slowly past the house before traffic police cordoned off the road.

Five girls have been linked to the Van Rooyen-Haarthoff couple. They are Joan Horn of Pretoria, Odette Boucher, Anne-Marie Wapenaar and Yolande Wessels of Kempton Park, and Fiona Harvey of Maritzburg.

Detectives are still searching for a link between Tracey-Lee Scott Crossley of Randburg and Van Rooyen.

RUBBLE DIG: Police search through rubble at a builders' dump looking for clues in the missing schoolgirls case.
Gardens man fined for molesting boys.

ROBERT LYNCH, who has been convicted of having performed sexual acts with eight boys under 19 over a period of four years, was yesterday fined R4 000 in the Cape Town Regional Court.

Lynch, 41, a city council clerk, previously pleaded guilty to charges under the Immorality Act and admitted to having molested eight boys over a period of four years at his Gardens Centre flat.

He was further sentenced to three years imprisonment conditionally suspended for five years. He was permitted to pay R1 500 of the fine yesterday and was ordered to pay off the remaining portion of the fine at R300 per month.

Mrs M Theart, a probation officer, testified that the boys had willingly taken part in sexual acts with Lynch — himself molested as a child.
Key proves Van Rooyen link to girl

Own Correspondent

PRETORIA. — Police yesterday positively linked 12-year-old missing schoolgirl Anne-Marie Wapenaar with Pretoria suicide couple Gert van Rooyen and Francina Haarhoff.

Police found a key which fits a door-lock in Wapenaar's Kempton Park home.

Wapenaar — together with Odette Boucher, 11 — disappeared from the Kempton Park area on September 22 last year.

Police public relations directorate spokesman Major Reg Crewe said yesterday that a key, attached to a key-holder with "Kempton" engraved on it, was found in Van Rooyen's home on Monday.

"The key was found in the drawer of his bedside cupboard. It was identified by Wapenaar's mother and fitted a door lock in her home," Major Crewe said.

Police have also positively linked the dead couple to the disappearance of Boucher. During an intensive search at Van Rooyen's Capital Park home, detectives came across a "yellow" school badge which Boucher had worn during the week of her disappearance.

It was also established that the disappearance of another Kempton Park schoolgirl, Yolande Wessels, 12, was linked to the couple.

Last week, Wessels's parents disclosed that Haarhoff was their missing daughter's aunt. All three girls were pupils at Kempton Park Primary School.

A document with the surnames and telephone numbers of two of the missing girls was also uncovered at the Malherbe Street house.

Police said earlier that "circumstantial evidence" also linked the couple to the disappearances of Joan Horn, 12, of Pretoria and Fiona Harvey, 12, of Maritzburg. However, the circumstances of the disappearance of Randburg schoolgirl Tracey-Lee Scott-Crossley, 15, on August 1, 1988, still has police puzzled.

Police said they had not found any real link to her disappearance and the Pretoria couple.
Girls still alive

By ANDRE KOOPMAN

POLICE are taking note of telephone calls from several clairvoyants who yesterday contacted them to say the six girls abducted by paedophile Gert van Rensburg were still alive.

"All the clairvoyants who called said they had seen the girls alive, except for one, who said she saw a black-haired girl under a pile of rocks," police spokesman Colonel J de Vries said from Pretoria last night.

"We were glad to hear that these people still see the girls alive and have not seen bodies," he added.

He said the clairvoyants were among the thousands of people who telephoned police yesterday in response to an appeal for information.

Colonel De Vries called on all those who "had dreams" or had "seen visions" to "dig deeper into their subconscious" and to come up "with a specific place name or address". "I am serious," he added.

Police have in the past used clairvoyants to track down criminals and in the fifties a man, arrested on information supplied by a clairvoyant, was hanged for the murder of Joy Arken in Natal.

Police were "flogging away" at the clues provided yesterday by callers, he said.

Now clue in hunt for girls — Page 3
Housewives to protect children

A BEDFORDVIEW mother has been given the go-ahead by top-ranking policemen to form a "housewives unit" which will work in conjunction with the police to combat child abduction and abuse.

Referring to the response she received when she met with senior SAP personnel at Johannesburg's John Vorster Square, Mrs Leigh Dismore said:

"They were absolutely wonderful. It was a pleasure to deal with feeling people who understand exactly that I hope to do, and that is to ensure the safety of our children."

70 JOIN SAP

Mrs Dismore, a housewife and mother who will join the SAP as a reservist, was encouraged and approved her idea for a "housewives unit" which will operate within the parameters of the SAP.

"I will be meeting police again at John Vorster Square next week when senior police personnel, sultan commanders, and the founder of 'Block Watch' (a neighbourhood crime prevention service) will be present to discuss ideas," Mrs Dismore said.

"I received an overwhelming response from members of the public when The Star published my idea on Monday this week and I want to express my gratitude to the many who phoned to offer their support."

"My telephone has been busy from early morning until late in the night with calls from mothers, fathers, restaurant owners, businessmen, mayors and companies - people of every shape, size, age and colour contacted me to offer their personal or financial assistance.

"The majority of callers said they were prepared to be trained as police reservists for the specific task of fighting child abuse."

Some of the ideas which Mrs Dismore plans to further discuss with police officials are:

- Installing "child safety kiosks" in shopping and recreation centres and places like discoteques and restaurants. The kiosks would be identified as places for children to approach for assistance.

"I believe we owe it to every one of our children," Mrs Dismore said.

Determined to create a totally multi-racial movement, Mrs Dismore said it is vital to protect every South African child, regardless of creed or colour.

"We owe this to our society and we, as housewives, owe it to our husbands to sacrifice one or two hours a day so they can leave for work with peace of mind."

"HORRORS"

"I also believe it is important for housewives to give their support to those mothers who are forced to go out to work - they would be so relieved to know we are out there patrolling the streets for the safety of all children."

"It is time for all mothers to join hands in a circle that cannot be broken - we must support our beautiful, precious children so that we don't see their childhood taken away by the horrors of child abuse."

Referring to the Van Rooyen-Haarhoff child abduction ring, Mrs Dismore said: "This type of thing must never happen again."

"We cannot afford to be complacent - it is a good sitting back and saying it won't happen again. We don't know where these lunatics are and we certainly don't always know how to recognise them. Somebody has to protect our children."
All the world's a stage...

Introducing street kids to theatre world

By SOPHIE TEMA
JOHANNESBURG's street kids are beginning to command the attention of a growing number of people and organisations that realise the problem can no longer be regarded simply in terms of "m术tide" or "pay".

Their lives represent a picture of hardship, alienation and despair combined with the dangers of exploitation, sexual abuse, petty crime and drug involvement. But society evens gratitude to good Samaritans like Julie Mochidi Chika who is involved in trying to mould the character of some of Johannesburg's street kids by introducing them into the theatre world.

Chika, a well-known and worldly-minded artist collected about 20 street kids in Hillbrow with the view of introducing them into the Space Free Theatre founded by him about five months ago.

Space Free Theatre is situated in what used to be the Israel Temple in Hillbrow.

Chika said: "Sometimes we can only afford to buy two loaves of bread and drugs for a month and to keep the accommodation from which we are operating I pay from money I saved while I was in America."

"The reason I changed emphasis and picked on street children is because I feel it is the most constructive way of giving my energy towards the upliftment of our society."

Chika said he chose to introduce them to the theatre, which can be used as an instrument to shape their individual lives and create an outlet for communication.

He said: "I have discovered that some of these children have unique talents and this is why I introduced them to "imagination and emotion" portraying what comes from their minds and their feelings."

"Some of the things they act out are what they think, feel and dream but to get them to express it is not very easy because they do not talk to friends or strangers."

"I have succeeded in winning their confidence so that they discuss all their problems with me."

"We must regard them as children or street kids but they certainly have many of their own because in one case I can impart music on them.

"So the best you can do is to reason with them and fill the gap of brotherhood and foster so that they can understand and accept you."

Copp told to pay old debt

By DAN DHALAMAINI

The Small Claims Court that week ordered a policeman who had owed an ex-cop money for over five years to "pay up".

Police constable with a small claims court commissioner John Williams made the ruling during a civil claim matter involving Const Bothe Tshise and former prisoner David Serero.

Serero told the court that he had R450 when he was arrested in September 1985.

He said he entrusted Tshise with the money and requested him to give it to his (Serero's) friend.

Serero said that he was never done with his deposit and he demanded his money from Tshise on several occasions.

He said at one stage Tshise had refunded him R450 and seemed reluctant to pay the rest.

Serero said he used the Small Claims Court because it was cheaper.

Tshise had since resigned from the police force, but has now resumed the force as a constable.

He was ordered to refund Serero the remaining R140.

Social climber? No, just ambitious!

Corny Money Mogal, 23, of Randfontein loves earrings and things, but is intent on climbing the ladder of success, being a BA student in education at the University of the North. Her hobbies are swimming, tennis and movies. She looks great in the pool and on the court, and would grace any film set.
Molester won't see kids — mum

BY JOCELYN MAKER
Weekend Argus Reporter

A YOUNG Cape Town mother, sickened by lenient sentences handed out to child molesters, is willing to risk jail by refusing to allow her convicted husband to visit his children.

She will do anything to keep the man she once loved away from the adopted daughter he indecently assaulted for six years and his own two children he now says he desperately wants to see.

The woman was adamant that this would never happen — and now she is preparing herself for a long, costly legal battle she cannot afford.

If she loses, she intends to hide her family away from him and face jail if she has to.

Free man

Last week her ex-husband walked out of a court a free man after being found guilty of indecently assaulting his adopted daughter.

He was sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment suspended for five years.

To protect the children, names may not be published.

The angry woman told Weekend Argus: "How can I allow a man like this to come near my home and children? He’s a danger to all of us. He has destroyed our eldest daughter, fuddled with his own little girl and now wants to see them."

The mother said her ex-husband had begun abusing her daughter in 1983 when she was nine and this had continued until the child was 14.

"It was said in court that I was sexually cold towards him, which leaves the impression that it was my fault he began assaulting my daughter. He also said she approached him for a sexual relationship when she was nine years old. "How can anyone in their right mind accept this? What does a little girl of that age know? He knew what he was doing and what he wanted. It certainly wasn't the other way around."

Became suspicious

During 1986 she first became suspicious of her husband.

"He would always take her everywhere alone. He bought her expensive presents like a television set, a hi-fi and a horse. Often he would go riding with her and she has told me this was when many of the assaults took place."

One Sunday morning the woman awakened early. When she walked through her daughter's bedroom she found her husband lying on top of the child.

"There was a blanket between them and when I screamed at him, asking what he was doing, he swore at me. "He is a violent man and is often physically abused me and the children. We were terrified of him during our marriage and still are."

Broke down door

"Now that he's free and while the case was being heard I had to get an interdict preventing him from coming to our home. He broke down the front door and has been violent numerous times. "How long must we live like this? Now he wants to have visitation rights. How can I expose these children to him?"

"Will I have to continue running away from a man who will hurt me and the children for the rest of our lives or will the law step in and do something about it?"

Child-watch to stop lunatic kid-snatchers

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — A Bedfordview mother has been given permission by top-ranking policemen to form a "housewives unit" which will work in conjunction with the police to combat child-abduction and abuse.

Referring to the response she received when she met senior police officers at John
Molester's church links investigated

Own Correspondent
MARITZBURG. - Convicted child molester Gert van Rooyen was well-known in Natal and may have had religious links in Maritzburg where 12-year-old Fiona Harvey disappeared on December 22, 1988.

Police here have established that Van Rooyen was not among building contractors who worked on repairs to Clarendon Primary School where Fiona Harvey was a Std 4 pupil at the time of her disappearance.

Investigating officer Warrant Officer Don Chandler confirmed on Saturday that extensive inquiries had been made at the school after it was learned that contractors worked on a re-roofing project at the school over a five-month period in 1988.

"We have definitely established that Van Rooyen was not among the contractors who worked on the project," said WO Chandler.

He said police were continuing a round-the-clock investigation to trace the movements of Van Rooyen and his suicide pact lover, Francena Joey Harhoff, who have been linked with the disappearance of six girls.

Police have circumstantial evidence suggesting that Fiona Harvey was among those abducted by the pair.

A white bakkie bearing a logo similar to that displayed at Van Rooyen's Capital Park home in Pretoria was seen in the Clarendon area on three days before Fiona's disappearance.

Police learnt that Van Rooyen owned a similar bakkie at the time and sold it shortly afterwards.

"What has become of the missing children remains a mystery after the couple committed suicide by shooting themselves before police were able to arrest them in Pretoria, taking their secrets to the grave," the statement added.

However it has been reliably learnt that Gert van Rooyen was well-known in Maritzburg and Natal and often visited the area, although he has no known relatives here.

He allegedly made contact with a number of women through "lonely hearts" columns in newspapers and magazines.

He also visited Maritzburg on business and may have links in religious circles in and around the city.

He is believed to have participated in the Full Gospel Christian Businessmen's Fellowship in the Maritzburg in 1978/79 and to have given testimonies at various churches in the city and other districts.

The international fellowship undertook missions to several areas including the Natal north coast.

Police in Pretoria discovered a number of Bibles at the paedophile's home during their investigations.

Anyone who has any information which could assist police in their investigations is asked to contact WO Chandler at 0331 43771 (office) or 0331 64698 (after hours).

Father to search for missing daughter

Crime Reporter
THE father of one of the six missing girls linked to Pretoria paedophile and suicide victim Gert van Rooyen has taken time off work to launch his own single-handed search.

Mr George Boucher, of Kempton Park, father of Odette, 12, said yesterday that there were no new police leads in tracing the girls, and he would do his own searching.

He said he had been "all over the show", including Natal, Pretoria, Hammanskraal, Warmbaths and Nykroon in the Eastern Transvaal, following leads from telephone callers.

Mr Albert Wapenaar, 20-year-old brother of another of the missing children, Anne-Marie, 11, told the Cape Times yesterday that his family had also been told by police that there was no new evidence.
Leilah is now 19. When she was seven, she was sexually abused by her two brothers and her uncle. Her mother refused to believe this and insisted she was to blame - "Sy het vir haar oulik gehou."

When she was 13 years old, her father began to fondle and abuse her physically. He would beat her if she refused to yield to his demands for sexual favours.

"Leilah, then in Std Five, spoke to her teacher, who did not wish to become involved."

At the age of 15 she ran away from home and started a lesbian relationship with another girl - with whom she lives today. She hates men, distrusts adults and Sateline has special awareness courses and has published a book "Child Abuse Examined" (R15,00 per post: R13,50 collected). The telling signs of child abuse - and much more - are clearly set out in this book.

In our next article in SOUTH, we will be looking at these signs and also discussing relevant and applicable treatment programmes for both abuser and abused. We will also look at the support structure that Sateline has for families who have abuse within their family circle and the special help offered to adult survivors of abuse.

# Sateline can help in strictest confidence. Telephone (021) 2611000.

(Rev Bruce Duncan is a counsellor at Sateline)
Commission to inquire into sexual deviancy

Political Staff

JUSTICE Minister Mr Kobie Coetsee last night announced the appointment of a commission of inquiry into sexual deviancy.

Mr Coetsee told Parliament the cabinet had decided yesterday morning that attention should be given to crimes of violence against children by sexual deviants.

The commission would be asked to examine the sentences imposed on offenders, when they should be released and even their possible continued detention after expiry of sentence.

In addition, the commission would investigate whether psychopathy should be included as a certifiable disease in terms of the Mental Health Act, and would make recommendations on the further handling of this kind of person.

Mr Coetsee also gave more details on government's new policy regarding the death penalty.

He said that in future a superior court would be able to impose the death penalty only if, after taking into account all factors that could be regarded as extenuating or aggravating circumstances, it found it to be an appropriate sentence.

If Parliament approved changes to the law, in future all people sentenced to death would have an automatic right of appeal.

Because murder was to be treated in the same manner as other crimes for which a death sentence might be imposed, and because of the increasing workload of the Supreme Court, regional courts would in future be able to try murder cases.

Regional courts would not be able to impose a death penalty but might be able to order terms of imprisonment not exceeding 15 years in cases of murder.

Mr Coetsee said also that in terms of the envisaged changes to the judicial process, the state would be granted the right to appeal against the imposition of particular sentences.

He said a body of experts would be appointed to investigate every case of a person now on death row. If the body found that even under the new dispensation the death penalty was still an appropriate sentence, the matter would be passed on to the Appellate Division which would also investigate the case in the light of the new criteria.

Where a court found that a death sentence was not appropriate but still regarded an offence as serious, realistic sentences would be imposed. This would include a mechanism which would ensure that a life sentence meant exactly that.
4 cuts for peeping Tom

Boy held in jail for two months

By Shehnaaz Bulhulia

A young "peeping Tom" was sentenced to four cuts for his crime — after spending almost two months in custody awaiting trial.

His case has led to calls for the judicial system to treat minors with special care.

Last week the black youth was found guilty in the Randburg Magistrate's Court of crimes injuria and sentenced to four strokes, after the court heard evidence from two women that he had been seen watching them in a toilet.

Special care

The minor, who did not have legal representation, pleaded guilty.

Passing sentence, the magistrate said he had taken into consideration the fact that the youth had been in custody at the Randburg police station since December 15.

Asked to comment, a legal expert on children and the law, attorney Mrs Ficca McLachlan, said that if a minor committed an offence, he or she should be kept at a special place and not in police custody.

The accused should be treated with special care — not like a criminal.

"The accused should have been kept at a special place and not in police custody.

"I'm also against corporal punishment. In this case, the court has treated the minor as a criminal, when they should have treated him with special care," Mrs McLachlan said.

It was ridiculous that a child should conduct his own defence because children could not cope with the complex legal system, she added.

"Children should get automatic legal defence because lawyers would probe many questions, such as: was there a probation officer's report and why was the accused kept in custody," Mrs McLachlan pointed out.

The entire South African legal system did not provide adequately for children.

"The judicial system is overloaded and because there are insufficient social resources to cope, especially when it comes to dealing with black children, corporal punishment is an easy way out to punish petty offenders," the attorney said.

Assessment

A Johannesburg Child Welfare Society spokesman said the accused should have been taken to a place of safety instead of being held in police custody and a complete assessment detailing the youth's background should have been compiled.

"The exposure to hardened criminals, coupled with corporal punishment, could intensify the accused's problem.

"A treatment plan should have been developed," the spokesman said.

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Plea for special care of youth

A young "peeping Tom" was sentenced to four cuts for his crime - after spending almost two months in custody awaiting trial.

His case has led to calls for the judicial system to treat minors with special care.

The minor, who did not have legal representation, pleaded guilty.

Passing sentence, the magistrate said he took into consideration the fact the youth had been in custody at the Randburg Police Station since December 15.

Asked to comment, a legal expert on "Children and the law," Mrs Fiona McAlachlan, said if a minor had committed an offence then he should be kept at a special place and not in police custody. The accused should be treated with special care and not like a criminal.

It was "ridiculous" that a child should conduct his own defence because children could not cope with the complex legal system, she added.

"Children should get automatic legal defence because lawyers would probe many questions like, was there a probation officer's report and why was the accused kept in custody?" she said.

The entire justice system did not adequately provide for children, she said.
Plight of unwanted children

Only 1 percent of children in children's homes are actually orphans, according to the Children's Foundation.

The welfare body said in a statement that most children placed in homes were there because their families were unable to care for them.

The professional care of those in children's homes was an essential element in their recovery and staff had to be well trained to help the children to realise their full potential.

The Foundation sponsors and provides much of this training throughout South Africa and most of its funds are raised through competitions.

A fundraising competition in which the lucky winner can go home with a brand new Mazda 323, has been organised.

The vehicle will be on display at Tony Factor's Intown Centre in Johannesburg until March 9 where tickets are available at R3 each.

There are a number of consolation prizes. For more information, telephone Tersia van der Merwe at (011) 337-7010.
THE East Rand branch of Imbeleko, a women's organisation, is addressing one of the major causes of the high school dropout rate - the lack of finance.

Adopt-To-Educate is the branchrun for unemployed women who were trained by the organisation in knitting and sewing.

They started the project as a way of ploughing back to the community what they had gained from Imbeleko.

**10 adopted**

The women have adopted 10 children from a farm outside Vosloorus and are taking them through primary school.

The sponsorship covers tuition and school uniforms.

The families of the adopted children are also provided with food parcels.

"We picked on primary school children because at this level of education, there are no burdens available," Ngenge Zwane, administrator of the project, said.

She said the organisation was contracted to a number of schools in the Benoni-Waterval area to whom they sold their stock.

They knit school jerseys and sew shirts, dungarees and boys' pants.

"We are looking at helping other families in the township."

"We started at the farm because the situation was desperate there."

"The children were not going to school and some of them were past school entrance age."

"We placed them in schools in the township, paid their fees and bought them books."

"We hope to do the same for other children whose education has been neglected."

"We cannot allow children to be kept out of school for minor reasons like lack of finance."

"These children are our future, they should be given education," Zwane said.

Imbeleko aims to spread the Adopt-To-Educate project to its four other regions in the Orange Free State, Eastern Cape, Western Cape and Natal.

Their objective, they say, is:

- To get the so-called "wilight" children into leading normal lives.
- To provide some psychological support for older children who start school late and need help to cope with societal attitudes.
- To get parents involved in the education of their children whether or not they are able to provide for it.
- To help towards a nation-building education system which will instil a sense of creativity, identity and self-reliance among students.

Lindi Manganyi (far left) and Ngenge Zwane (far right) hand over school uniforms to children they have adopted at a Vosloorus farm.

At the offices of Imbeleko, the Adopt-To-Educate women bus themselves with their orders.
Petition triggers government talks

By BARRY STREEK

THE government will hold in-depth discussions about a petition it had received opposing the incorporation of certain areas into the homelands, President F W de Klerk said yesterday.

This followed the receipt of a petition on February 12 with 43,000 signatures from the Stop Incorporation Campaign.

"It is demanded that the incorporation of certain areas into independent states and self-governing territories be stopped, and that areas already so incorporated be re-incorporated into the Republic in the case of the independent states and in the case of the self-governing territories, be placed under the control of the central government," Mr De Klerk said.

THERE were only 2,055 street children in South Africa at the beginning of this year, the government has estimated.

This was disclosed yesterday by the Minister for Planning and Provincial Affairs, Mr Hernus Kriel, in reply to a question tabled by Mrs Carole Charlewood (DP Umbilo).

He said the government had allocated or intended allocating funds to help run registered institutions for youths and children in need. These included places of safety, subsidised children's homes, a state children's home and reform schools.

"Funds are also provided for the employment of social workers to render preventative and statutory services. There are also maintenance and foster care grants,"
Govt and youth locked in struggle

The Government will never succeed in repressing the will of the youth, which will continue in the struggle to change the conditions under which they live, says the Human Rights Commission. **KAIZER NYATSUMBA reports.**

State repression against children in the past two years reached unprecedented proportions as the Government desperately tried to stamp out any resistance and hold on to power, according to a special report released by the Human Rights Commission.

In a 57-page report, "Children and Repression — 1987-1989," the HRC said the youth saw no future for themselves under the present Government, and had consequently been at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid. This usually led to their arrest and detention without trial by the police.

"The youth," the report said, "have less to lose than their parents, and everything to gain for their rights. They see no future for themselves in this country under the present Government. They have large reserves of energy, are idealistic (and) courageous and will not be bowed or defeated."

**Repression**

Five forms of repression mentioned in the report are:

- Formal repression through legislation such as the Internal Security Act, the Public Safety Act, the Public Safety Amendment Act and the state of emergency.
- Informal repression enforced through the now:downgraded National Security Management System and other similar State apparatus.
- Target repression, which is the targeting by security forces of organisations and institutions which stand against apartheid.
- Financial repression designed to prevent "affected organisations" from receiving funds from abroad.
- External repression — the alleged destabilisation of neighbouring countries by the South African Defence Force and its allies.

The HRC report noted that close working relationships had developed between youth organisations and trade unions, and that this had broadened the youth's perception of the South African situation and disabused the youth of the view that "they could liberate South Africa through their own actions."

**Repression**

Youth organisations had since acknowledged that the working class could also play a leadership role in the struggle.

The youth, the report noted, usually responded to State aggression with acts of violence, but this did not change the fact that children were "the victims of repression rather than the perpetrators of violence."

Said the report: "Peaceful, legitimate demonstrations of protest are turned into violent confrontations as a result of unnecessary and aggressive police intervention. Situations of 'unrest' are given as an excuse for detaining children and attempting to criminalise their political activity."

"No act whatsoever justifies detention, restrictions, the use of torture (physical or psychological) or any other type of formal or informal repression."

The Government, notwithstanding the severity of its repression, would never succeed in repressing the will of the children, according to the report. Like other freedom-loving South Africans, the youth would continue in the struggle to change the social, political and economic conditions under which they live against their will, said the HRC report.
academic competence, experience, managerial ability, professional disposition and personality.

(4) No

(a) The nominated candidate did not meet the minimum qualification requirement as advertised.

(b) As soon as a suitable candidate has been identified.

(5) Yes

(a) He is the most suitable candidate.

(b) Until further notice.

Mr MRAJAB asked the Minister of Education:

(6) Whether his Department has opened its classrooms to Black matriculation pupils to receive instruction there after normal school hours; if so, (a) at which schools and (b) how many (i) classrooms and (ii) Black pupils involved;

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: House of 4410

(1) No

(a), (b)(i) and (ii) fall away.

(2) Yes

$3

(3) Yes

(a) KwaZulu Department of Education and Culture

(b) On an hourly basis in accordance with rates as determined by the Department of National Education.

(2) whether any teachers under the control of his Department have volunteered to teach these pupils; if so, how many;

(3) whether any payment is to be made to these teachers for such service; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom will such payment be made and (b) on what basis will it be determined?

(3) yes

(a) the State appealed against the Court’s findings.

(b) Judgement was given on 17 May 1989.

(4) yes

(a) judgement was given in favour of the State by the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court. The organization’s request for leave to appeal was refused. The organization was, however, granted permission to petition to the Chief Justice to appeal against the judgement.

(b) (i) a petition was filed and leave was granted to appeal to the Appellate Division, Bloemfontein. No date for the appeal has as yet been determined.

(ii) Sun Promotions.

Sun Promotions: competition

50. Mr P C CRONJE asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

(1) Whether, with reference to her predecessor’s reply to Question No 12, standing over, on 28 June 1988, the R1 million competition run by Sun Promotions had been concluded; if not,

(2) whether her Department issued any instructions in regard to the money collected by way of this competition; if not, why not; if so, (a) what instructions, (b) when, (c) to whom and (d) with what result;

(3) whether any further steps were taken or to be taken in respect of the organizers of this competition; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when;

(4) whether any steps were taken and/or are to be taken as a result of the court case referred to in the above reply; if so, (a) what was the outcome of this case and (b)(i) what steps were taken and/or are to be taken and (ii) by whom in each case?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No

(2) Yes

(a) The Director of Fund-raising ordered the organization to return the contributions collected to each contributor who is known and transfer the balance (if any) to the Director,

(b) 19 January 1987.

Places of safety

54. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

(1) (a) How many places of safety other than police cells and prisons were there in South Africa for children of each race group, and (b) what was the total number of children who (i) could be accommodated and (ii) were being held in each of these places of safety, as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(2) whether her Department has statistics on the number of children of each race group being held in police cells as places of safety; if so, (a) what are the relevant statistics and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?
St John's Hostel's debts to be sorted out today

Staff Reporters

OUTSTANDING debts and staff salary payments of over R23,000 by the management of St John's Hostel in Gardens would be "sorted out" by today, Mr John Fabre, chairman of the Board of Trustees, promised yesterday.

Mr Fabre said that problems with access to a St John's trust account of over R1 million had caused a delay in settling debts once they became known.

The hostel's illegally constituted management committee had "spent a whole lot of money they didn't have" and his board would meet today to re-elect a management committee, he said.

Mr Fabre also intimated that he was in favour of the hostel and grounds being sold and the hostel being relocated.

His "personal thinking" was that the hostel had served its purpose and was now a valuable asset which should be encashed and redeployed more resourcefully to serve the needs of the community.

He emphasised that no decision had been taken on selling. The hostel and grounds are estimated to be worth over R7 million.

Mr Roy Davies, chairman of the "illegal" management committee, said the Department of Health and Welfare had stopped financial assistance last year after expressing reservations about the hostel's facilities and services.

He had later informed the board of trustees about a "cash flow problem" with management funds and asked them to help out.

Staff members told the Cape Times at the weekend that none of the weekly- or monthly-paid staff had been paid for February, with one monthly-paid staff member not having been paid since the beginning of the year.

Headmaster Mr Michael Bryan said he had also not been paid. He had paid weekly-paid staff on Monday.

One staff member said the nine remaining resident teenagers (the hotel can accommodate 65) had become "insecure" because of the uncertainty surrounding the hostel's future.

Mr Fabre said that all salary problems would be resolved today.

While his board accepted that the management committee's motives had been genuine, their methods had been "different", he said.

The committee had been "improperly constituted" through an inaccurate reading of the constitution, he said.

St John's Hostel existed to "take in children attending school who are in need of care", Mr Fabre said.

• The present "in limbo" committee was elected at a special meeting last year after the previous chairman resigned at a stormy earlier meeting.
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) Places of safety in terms of the Child Care Act, 1983

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<td>White</td>
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* One place of safety inter alia with a detention section for ten youths in which ten youths awaiting trial are being held in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977.
** One place of safety inter alia with a detention section for ninety youths in which one youth awaiting trial is being held in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977.
*** Four places of safety with accommodation for seven hundred and fifty youths of which two hundred and forty youths are being held in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977

(2) 5 September 1989.

Own Affairs:

Hillbrow constituency: rent-controlled premises

1. Mr L. FUCHS asked the Minister of Health Services, Welfare and Housing:

(1) How many rent-controlled premises were there in the Hillbrow constituency as at 31 December 1989?
(2) How many such premises were decontrolled in 1989?
(3) Whether he will furnish the House with the (a) address and (b) description of each of the premises so decontrolled; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES, WELFARE AND HOUSING:

(1) 121 units were conditionally exempted from rent control during 1989;
(2) Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education:

(1) How many (a) Whites, (b) Indians and (c) Coloureds are at present studying at each technikon under his control;
(2) In what respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

Technikons: person studying

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(2) 5 September 1989.
There were 1 709 children of all races being accommodated in 28 places of safety other than police cells and prisons on February 16 1990, Minister of National Health and Population Development Dr Rina Venter said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

In a written reply to a question by Mr Roger Burrowes (DP Pinetown) she said there were 392 white, 506 coloured, 102 Indian and 709 black children in places of safety.

There were seven places of safety for white children, with an accommodation capacity of 491.

Eight places of safety with a capacity of 780 were reserved for coloured children, two with a capacity of 140 for Indian youngsters and 11 with a capacity of 142 for black children.

Ten coloured youths were being held in a place of safety with a detention section as awaiting-trial prisoners in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act.

One Indian youth was being held under similar circumstances in a place of safety with a detention centre catering for 50 youths, and 204 black youths were being held in four places of safety with accommodation for 750 youths.

Dr Venter could not divulge figures on statistics on the number of children of each race group being held in police cells as places of safety. — SAPA.
Child safety unit needs sponsorship

A VIDEO dealing with the inception of the “Child Safety Watch” will soon be shown in primary and high schools to make children aware of the safety services provided by a unit comprised largely of housewives working within the parameters of the South African Police.

The “Child Safety Watch” (“Kinderveiligheidswag”) is the brainchild of Mrs Leigh Dismore of Bedfordview who is determined to play a personal role in the fight against child abduction and abuse.

Initially called the “Child Safety Unit”, the new protection service came about soon after Mrs Dismore publicised her idea to form a “housewife’s unit” to patrol schools, suburbs and known “hang-out” points.

Mrs Dismore, a former South African Airways hostess and mother-of-one, received a phenomenal public response when her idea first appeared in the Saturday Star and she has since worked extremely hard, together with senior personnel in the SA Police, to get the unit off the ground.

A recent financial boost from the Pick ‘n Pay group of supermarkets has allowed Mrs Dismore and the SAP to start making firm plans with regard to training housewives for the “Child Safety Watch”.

Sponsorship money, which is desperately needed, will be used to film a professional training video which the SAP will use when training housewives, and other adult members of the public, on the fight against child abuse.

The money will also be used to film a video which will be shown at schools to create awareness about the new protection service.

Sponsorship is also needed to cover the costs of items like identity stickers and badges and Mrs Dismore said the unit plans to register itself as a fund-raising organisation.

Anyone interested in joining forces or offering financial support can contact Mrs Dismore on (011) 453-1198.
New measures to protect children investigated by police

CAPE TOWN - The South African Police Services (SAPS) is considering tougher measures to protect children who have been victims of sexual assault. The commission of inquiry into child sexual abuse has been investigating the matter extensively.

The commission of inquiry into child sexual abuse, chaired by Justice Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, has been examining cases of child sexual abuse in detail. The commission has heard testimony from victims and their families, as well as from experts in the field.

Justice Dlamini-Zuma has expressed concern that the current laws are not sufficient to protect children from sexual abuse. She has called for amendments to the Children's Act to make it easier for children to report cases of sexual abuse and for courts to protect children in the courtroom.

The commission has also heard evidence that many children who have been victims of sexual abuse are reluctant to come forward. This is partly because of the stigma associated with sexual abuse, as well as the fear that their cases will not be taken seriously.

The commission has recommended that the government should consider introducing a new law specifically designed to protect children from sexual abuse. This law could include provisions for anonymous reporting of cases and for the appointment of a ombudsman to oversee the protection of children.

The SAPS has welcomed the commission's recommendations and has promised to consider them carefully. The department has also pledged to increase its efforts to investigate cases of sexual abuse and to provide support to victims and their families.

Justice Dlamini-Zuma has said that the commission will continue to hear evidence until the end of 2023. She has stressed the importance of ensuring that children's voices are heard and that their rights are protected.

The commission has received hundreds of submissions from individuals and organizations, including children's rights groups, legal experts, and advocacy organizations. These submissions will be considered as the commission finalizes its report.

The commission has emphasized the need for a multi-agency approach to tackling sexual abuse. It has called on the government to work closely with the SAPS, the Department of Social Development, and other relevant departments to ensure that children are protected.

The commission has also called on the public to continue to support its work. It has urged individuals to report cases of sexual abuse to the SAPS and to participate in its hearings.

The commission has expressed its gratitude to all those who have contributed to its work, including victims and their families, advocates, and experts. It has said that the commission's work is an important step towards ensuring that children are protected from sexual abuse.
Proposals for child witnesses

NEW measures are being considered to protect child witnesses who are victims of crimes of a sexual nature, the South African Law Commission said yesterday.

Among the provisions the commission is examining is a proposal "that the child should not be confronted in open court with his assailant, but that use should be made of one-way glass to separate the witness and his assailant."

The commission said in its 1989 report, tabled in Parliament yesterday, that it was considering the possibility that the child should be assisted by a legal adviser.

Also under consideration was that the child's testimony should be heard in an informal atmosphere, that the pre-trial questioning of the child should take place by trained people and that video recordings of interviews should be admissible as evidence.

The commission said it had been asked by the Minister of Justice, Mr. Kobie Coetsee, to investigate the possibility of better protection for young children who had to give evidence.
'Right' to enlist child soldiers

A new Convention of the Rights of the Child is soon to be ratified. It was hailed as an advance, but it also has its shortcomings, writes ELVI RUOTTINEN:

A NEW 54-article Convention of the Rights of the Child has been drafted — three decades after the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child that said "mankind owes its children the best it has to offer".

It has been 10 years in the drafting between governments, the United Nations' Department of Human Rights, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with consultative status with the UN, and the United Nations' Children's Fund (UNICEF).

It becomes illegal in most parts of the world to sell or traffic in children of any age "for any purpose or in any form".

But governments will be allowed to call up children from the age of 15 for war.

Many NGO child advocacy agencies involved in an intense effort to save children from the death and destruction of warfare were deeply disappointed in the Convention's Article 38 — the "cannon fodder clause" — which permits the use of children on combat duty.

The Convention defines childhood as ending at the age of 18, and all other provisions of the document extend protection up to that age.

But the age limit was dropped to 15 in Article 38 as a result of what an NGO representative called "superpower arm-twisting on behalf of client countries", referring to nations which allegedly recruit "even 12-year-olds to smuggle explosives".

NGOs pressed strongly for changing the combat age back to 18, as was proposed in the original draft, but failed to sway governments.

The Convention articles cover a broad spectrum of civic, social, economic and political rights, affirming the child's right to life, health, education and freedom of expression as well as the right to a name, to acquire a nationality and to preserve an identity.

It also provides for the protection of children from all forms of physical and mental violence, neglect and abuse, including sexual and economic exploitation.

Under secretary-general for human rights Jan Martenson called the Convention a "most comprehensive and significant treaty on children's rights", adding: "When it enters into force, it will set universally-accepted standards for the protection of children and will provide an invaluable framework for advocacy on behalf of children in every country in the world."

While amendments are possible — and the NGOs vow to keep on lobbying for them — they are not thought likely any time soon.

A minimum of 20 countries must ratify the Convention before it becomes international law. It is expected this will take place in record time, as laws go.

Once the Convention becomes law, governments are obliged to raise the standards of children's wellbeing in their countries to those of the Convention, and to submit a progress report every five years to a special committee set up for the purpose. — GEMINI NEWS
Children's home gutted

PART of a city home for street orphans was gutted by fire last night.

About 16 orphans were housed in the home.

The girls, whose ages range from nine to 15, were on the pavement as firemen battled the blaze.

The home, in Albertus Street, is named Ons Plek.

The chairman of the committee which runs the home, Mr. Terence Parker, said the girls were "shattered and hysterical, because the home means so much to them".

Mr. Parker said the fire was "devastating" because the home was "struggling financially".

"We are in the process of being registered to obtain a subsidy and this fire will set us back," he said.

He said the girls would be housed in a nearby boys' home and with members of the Central Methodist Mission. The mission runs the home in conjunction with the Department of Child Welfare.

The house mother, Ms Joyce Maela, said all the girls' clothes and possessions had been destroyed.

Thieves return foul fowl

LONDON. — Thieves who stole a parrot from an animal park have returned the bird because they couldn't stand its foul language.

Pablo the Parrot was dumped in a cardboard box on the doorstep of his old home in Dortmund, West Germany, this week, almost two years after being "nappled".

Attached to the outside of the box was a note saying: "We can't stand it. He's driving us mad."

Now police are re-opening the investigation, thanks to new clues provided by the chatterbox Pablo.

Farmer pays up Kidnap child's
SA's violent children — a catalyst for chaos

Brutality, death and destruction is life's grim reality for millions of township children — according to parents, local councils, child experts and social workers.

Living in an environment where murder, assault, rape, arson and beatings flourish, social workers said violence had become a means of survival for many children.

The problem of violent acts by reprobate children in townships has become a major issue and one of the country's most severe problems.

According to an expert in child violence, Dr Jerry Coovadia of Durban's medical school, the growing problem was going to cast a long shadow into the future unless it was dealt with immediately.

"Once these youngsters become adults, there will be a sharp increase in domestic violence, child abuse, homicide, suicide and a general decline in morale and respect for authority," he said.

In a medical paper reporting the complex and sensitive subject, Dr Coovadia said that by living in the township environment, black children developed a blunting of emotions, lost of respect for human life and became embroiled in acts of lawlessness and feuding.

"This is the hidden violence of apartheid society, which, every day, through a multiplicity of social contrivances, including education, affects the personality of blacks and distorts that of whites.

FAMILY

"The central pillar of social cohesion, the family, has been systematically destroyed through the forcible restriction of wives and children to bantustans, through influx control and through the forced removal of settled communities.

"The residential environment of black areas is bleak and unfulfilling and the collapse of social structures has led to community upheaval and terror in the townships."

Mr David Maepa of the Soweto Education Co-ordinating Committee works closely with young people.

He said the main problem was that the scales of justice were very unbalanced.

"From an early age, black children were exposed to an unjust society which was hostile towards them, he said.

"Children are impatient for freedom and a better life.

"They are taking the initiative. Parents sympathise but the children are running ahead and we can't keep pace."

GUIDANCE

Mr Jerry Moloi, mayor of the Soweto Junior Council, said children needed more parental care, supervision and moral guidance.

"Parents are a big problem. They give us no support. They should stand behind us and get involved in our lives.

"Parents go out to work and leave kids to roam the streets. Lots of children get bored because we have no recreational facilities.

"They join gangs and turn to drugs, alcohol and crime," he said.

Dr Coovadia believed children bought up with love, humanity and respect would reflect these values.

To stem the tide of child-perpetrated violence, he said people needed to look at the political issues which gave rise to civil war in the country.

"We must look at upgrading socio-economic living standards, like housing, education, and protecting the family."

Mr Maepa called on interest groups, the community, councils, employees, parents and the Government to stop children terrorising the townships before they were reduced to total anarchy.
Lawyers criticise ruling on abuse of children

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH — The Grahamstown Supreme Court's rejection of a magistrate's finding that indecent acts with children were rife, has been criticised by lawyers, including an academic lawyer.

One lawyer suggested that a magistrate could take notice of "anything that is of general knowledge to the public".

Another said: "I don't believe that child abuse itself is on the increase, but child abuse cases (in court) are clearly on the increase."

Professor Ivan Schaefer of the faculty of law at Rhodes University said the criticism of the magistrate had left him with a sense of grave disquiet.

The magistrate was criticised in a judgment handed down by Mr Justice Jansen, with Mr Justice Cooper concurring, in an appeal against the magistrate's sentencing of child molester Guy Morris, 22.

Not clear

The magistrate had said that child abuse was rife and on the increase and that a strong sentence, which would act as a deterrent, was needed.

The judges said it was not clear from the trial record how the magistrate became aware that indecent acts with children were on the increase.

The judges halved the effective prison sentence imposed by the magistrate and sentenced Morris to an effective jail term of 18 months for six counts of indecent acts with two boys aged 11 and 12. He was fined R200 (or six months) for another four counts involving two consenting adult men.

Prof Schaefer said yesterday: "Child abuse is very much before the public eye through media reports. It would be very ignorant for a judicial officer not to be aware of this fact."
A SOUTH African Muslim organisation is offering 500 Romanian Muslim orphans for adoption.

Mr Yusuf Hassim, chairperson of the Pretoria-based semi-autonomous Muslim Board for Prison Welfare and State Institutions, said thousands of children had been abandoned in Romania when their parents fled the country across the border into Turkey.

There was also a large number of destitute children because of the policy of former Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, who wanted 30 million children to be born by the year 2000.

"We have just about completed negotiations to airlift 500 children for adoption — provided 500 suitable parents can be found," Hassim said.

The House of Assembly had agreed to the project, but he was still waiting on agreement from the House of Delegates.

He appealed to people able to adopt a child to contact the board. The response so far had been "very good", he said.

The children would be assured "South African citizenship.

Interested people can contact Hassim at (021) 377-1396, or (021) 374-3569.
Social needs to be scrutinised

Study on Nineties children launched

By Joe Openshaw

A 10-year study of the health and well-being of 4 000 children of all races to be born in Johannesburg and Soweto in the next month was launched at the University of the Witwatersrand Medical School yesterday.

The aim of the study, involving over 40 researchers from the Medical Research Council, Wits Medical School, the Johannesburg City Council, Unisa, Sowetan Health Department and others is to discover the health and educational needs of the "children of the Nineties" in an urban environment in a post-apartheid South Africa.

The study, called Birth to Ten, initiated by the MRC, will cost about R2.6 million.

Commerce and industry will be called on for funds.
"We hope the 'children of the Nineties' will provide the baseline knowledge which could lead to a better quality of life for our urban people," said Dr Derek Yach in launching the study on behalf of the MRC.

He said up to now this information had mainly been gleaned from death certificates.

"A major challenge is to identify ways of narrowing the differences between the physical and mental developments of children in upper and lower social groups," said Dr Yach.

Thirty major questions relating to health and well-being of children in the next decade will be addressed, including:

- Exposure to air pollutants such as coal, tobacco smoke and lead.
- Parental behavioural patterns such as alcohol consumption and child abuse.
- Immunisation and health service usage.
- Early development of cardiovascular conditions.
- Physical growth.
- Feeding and nutrition.
- Dental health.
- Socio-economic status.
Tembisa Child Welfare needs assistance for project

THE Tembisa Child Welfare Society is appealing to community members in the township to help it raise the last half of the R1 million they need to build a centre for their services.

The society, which operates from a prefabricated structure, has already raised R500 000 with the help of the private sector.

Mrs Wilhelmina Bodibe, the director, said they hoped to raise R10 000 in street collections to be held in the township tomorrow.

She said the society was finding it difficult to run its services, a shelter for abandoned and abused children, a youth club, an after-school care for preschool children and a self-help project for unemployed women, from the structure.

A children's home, which will be the first in the East Rand, and a creche are planned for the first phase of the building.

Bodibe can be contacted at 926-2805, for further information on the fund-raising project.
Alienated youth greatest danger

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

SOUTH AFRICA's lumpenproletariat was becoming a highly disruptive and destabilising force in society, Mr Ken Andrew (DP, Gardens) said yesterday.

"The greatest danger facing South Africa today is the growing number — hundreds of thousands — of young blacks who are uneducated, unemployed, disillusioned, alienated and anti-social in their attitudes and behaviour."

Speaking during the budget debate in Parliament, Mr Andrew said these young people were neither politically motivated nor interested in making progress "in any conventional way".

"Vandalism, intimidation, crime and violence are rapidly stretching the police force beyond its limits and tearing the social fabric on which a stable society is based."

Mr Andrew said that South Africa needed urgent action to address the causes and the symptoms of the problem.

Among the causes of the current situation were the breakdown of established authority patterns and structures as a result of urbanisation, the "appalling" black education system and the acute shortage of housing.
festival

Orphans to benefit from music

The festival will be held on the 15th of July, at the City Auditorium. The event is organized by the Children's Rights Organization and seeks to raise funds for the support of orphaned and vulnerable children. The festival will feature performances by local and international artists, including well-known names like Bob Marley, Rihanna, and Justin Bieber.

The proceeds from the festival will be used to support various projects aimed at improving the lives of orphans and vulnerable children. The event is expected to attract thousands of attendees, making it one of the largest cultural gatherings in the region.

The organizers have stated that they are committed to making this festival a success and ensuring that all proceeds go towards the intended cause.

If you wish to participate in the festival or make a donation, please contact the Children's Rights Organization at 123-456-7890 or visit their website at www.childrensrights.org.
Try child counselling

Caring people with the time and inclination to befriend children living in child care homes (and their families), are invited to attend the counsellors' training course offered by the Children's Foundation -- a national fundraising body which supports more than 80 children's homes in South Africa.

"It's a splendidly worthwhile exercise both for the volunteer counsellors and the children," says Ms Jacqui Michael, director of the Children's Foundation and one of the trainers.

"Counsellors will learn self-awareness and relationship skills to help them help the young residents in the homes.

"Social and child care workers, doing what they can to make time for each child, are overloaded. We need to take the pressure off these professionals."

"Additional trained volunteer counsellors can help significantly to give the child and family the feeling of being guided and guarded under a sheltering wing."

"Trainees will need to have passed Std 8, have their own transport and attend all the sessions. A two-year commitment and a minimum of three hours a week counselling is expected."

"The course fee is R400 for 14 sessions of three hours each from May 8 to June 26. Proceeds will go towards helping children."

"Michelle Chesno at the Children's Foundation, telephone 37-7010 ext 126, will be glad to hear if you are interested."
Children study announced

The impact of urbanisation on children is to be studied over a 10-year period in the Johannesburg-Soweto area, according to the issue of the South African Medical Journal due for release today.

Researchers at the University of the Witwatersrand and Unisa's Institute for Behavioural Sciences, as well as from the health departments of Johannesburg and Soweto and the SA Medical Research Council's Centre for Epidemiological Research, will all take part in the study. Known as "Birth to Ten", the study has been initiated because, according to a report in the magazine, "to ensure that the impact of urbanisation is positive for children, research is required so that future health and educational policies are based on evidence rather than ideology or tradition".

The study will monitor the health and well-being of about 4,000 children born in April and May 1990 in Johannesburg and Soweto, over a 10-year period.

The aim is to determine the biological, environmental, economic and social factors associated with the survival, health and adjustment of children living in an urban environment.

"We hope that these 'children of the nineties' will provide the knowledge that could lead to a higher quality of life for South Africa's urban people," the report said.
Youth 'executed'

By MPUMELELO KIVA
EAST LONDON. — A 17-year-old youth accused of burning down a Mdantsane businessman’s house died in an apparent summary execution by the Ciskei police.

A group of youths described how they were abducted and assaulted by the businessman, whom they named, and handed over to the police.

They said they were made to lie on the ground at the Zone 1 police station where the youth, Xolani Nogha, was allegedly shot in the back and killed by police.

The incident occurred on March 11, but it came to light only when the dead boy’s father reported it to the Black Sash.

A Black Sash fieldworker said the organisation had since written to the Ciskei attorney general, Mr Willem Jurgens, to ask what steps had been taken in the case and whether there would be any prosecutions.

Jurgens said last week he personally had no knowledge of the case, but that if his office had received the letter, he would have called for a report from the police.

The other youths involved in the incident were Simphiwe Fimi 21, Thamsonqa Bese 22, and another 17-year-old who asked to remain unnamed. They are all from Zone 9 in Mdantsane.

Sikhumbuzo said he and Xolani had been sitting in a car outside the house of a friend, a soldier, when a group of youths armed with axes and pangas arrived from Zone 3 nearby.

The youth said: “We lay down and stretched our arms forward while the police were standing behind us. Then a shot was fired in the air. A second shot hit Xolani in the back. After that, we were told to pick him up and put him in the back of the van.”
Peelers, while admitting that their presence, brought Mandrax into her. "The community is prepared to pay..."
Urgent probe ordered of 'baby deaths'

THE alleged deaths of more than 20 babies during the strike at Ga-Rankuwa Hospital near Pretoria last week would be urgently investigated, a Transvaal Provincial Administration spokesman said yesterday.

Newspaper reports yesterday quoted a "distraught" intensive care unit doctor who last Thursday allegedly told colleagues of 22 babies who died during the eight-day strike, which ended last Wednesday.

The TPA said the truth of details in the reports should be determined at all costs. Consequently, the inquiry into the alleged deaths could take a long time.

TPA Hospital Services planning chief director Sampie Cronje and liaison director Jan van Wyk visited the hospital yesterday, but were unavailable for comment in the afternoon.

TANIA LEVY
Children necklaced

PRETORIA — A nine-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy were necklaced on the strife-torn Natal South Coast this week.

Their bodies were found at Murchison, near Port Shepstone, a senior police spokesman said yesterday. A black man was stoned to death in the same area on Wednesday.

In nearby Izingolweni, the 23-year-old son of a school headmaster was gunned down. And in KwaMashu, near Durban, an off-duty special constable was stabbed to death.

The police unrest report also mentioned petrol bombings and bus stonings near Maritzburg. In Mpumalanga the municipal offices were set alight.

And in Umlazi a teacher's house was torched by children. — Sapa.
Teens flee to Lusaka

By RYAN CRESSWELL

ABOUT 210 young people have fled Natal fearing for their lives and have sought refuge at the ANC's Lusaka headquarters.

About 150 had trickled into the organisation’s Zambian headquarters by Tuesday and another 60 teenagers arrived on Friday. More are believed to be en route to Lusaka.

Said ANC spokesman Tom Sebina: “There is a steady stream of kids aged between 10 and 23 fleeing to Swaziland and asking to be sent to our Lusaka headquarters.

“Most of those I have spoken to say they left Natal because of general insecurity. They claim to have been attacked in their classrooms and in the streets by Inkatha vigilantes or kitkometsas.

“The ANC had nothing to do with their departure.

“I have talked to a number of students in the group, including three who were at Durban Tech and, they wish to continue studying.”

Mr Sebina said provision would be made for refugee students to continue their studies in other African countries.
A NATIONWIDE campaign to monitor and protect the rights of children in South Africa will be launched on June 1 this year.

This resolution was adopted at a conference held last week in Gaborone, Botswana, under the auspices of the United Nations International Emergency Fund. It was attended by 45 delegates from anti-apartheid groupings.

The conference stressed the lack of effective legal protection for children and their vulnerability under apartheid rule.

All organisations were called on to join hands in achieving the aims of the campaign to protect children.
Vlok defends controversial police action

Political Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok has strongly defended police action in recent controversial incidents at Sehongkem, Viljoenskroon and Robertson, where protesters were killed or injured.

Police actions at these places had been "forced upon them by mischievous, radical agitators," Mr Vlok told Parliament during debate on his budget vote yesterday. He announced that:

- The Commissioner of Police had handed him a report on the Viljoenskroon shootings on April 19. The relevant dossier would be sent to the Attorney-General.
- Police were keen for the truth about the Sekokeng shootings to come to light through the judicial inquiry.
- On the controversy about police action at a recent protest at a Robertson church, Mr Vlok said a senior and experienced police officer, Colonel George Potgieter, had conducted an intense investigation. A dossier had been handed to the Attorney-General of the Cape.
- Mr Vlok condemned "scandalous and dangerous" right-wing attempts "to cause ill-feelings between Afrikaners and the Jewish community." He said special efforts were being made to track down the culprits.
Abortion: a new look at present law invited

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The Government is to take a new look at the controversial Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 and has called for people to approach the Department of Health to put forward their ideas for possible changes.

"If the Act forbids abortion in South Africa unless the woman has been raped, the baby is abnormal in some way or a medical panel agrees that having the baby will irreparably damage the woman physically or mentally," said Dr Marj Dyer, chairman of the Cape branch of the organisation.

"If they had, it might have prevented the restrictive law which has led to many deaths and much ill-health, especially among poor women."

Rich go overseas

The financially better off women have made ample use of overseas abortion facilities, she said.

"A woman who does not want to be pregnant doesn’t worry about the law. If she can’t get an abortion legally, she’ll get it illegally. But illegal abortions are frequently dangerous and can lead to death, hideous infections, hysterectomies or infertility."

"We believe the decision to have an abortion should be taken, up to about 12 weeks of pregnancy, by the woman and her doctor."

Pro-Life could not be reached for comment.

Anyone wishing to make representations to the Department of Health should write to the Director-General, Department of National Health, Private Bag X63, Pretoria 0001.
Charred remains found on footpath after necklacing

left at least 14 dead in the past week. On Friday police found the body of a man who had been necklaced in the same area.

It is not known who their attackers were and police are still trying to identify the young victims of the latest violence in the area.

End

The government must seriously and urgently address itself to this crisis brought about by ill-disciplined trigger-happy policemen whose agenda is to undermine and frustrate all attempts to normalise the political situation in the country,” the statement said.

A commission of inquiry into the incident, headed by a senior police officer, has been ordered by Police Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe.

The ANC welcomed the appointment of the commission but said it should be conducted by a member of the judiciary and should include black community leaders – “not an interested party like a police officer”.

Hundreds of unidentified bodies are piling up at Natal mortuaries as a result of the township war.

Unclaimed

Police confirmed this week that the 17 police mortuaries in the province were under pressure, with 443 unclaimed bodies in the Maritzburg mortuary alone. These came in between March 19 and April 18. They are stored for 30 days before being given a pauper’s funeral,” said Pretoria police spokesman Captain Roben Bloemgberg.

Bodies usually remained unclaimed because families could not afford funeral costs, he said.

Although funeral arrangements exposed the bereaved to attack from opposing factions, this was rarely a reason for not claiming a body, he added.
Minister quizzed on children in prison

By BARRY STREEK

FIVE children, between the ages of eight and 12, are being held in Pollsmoor Prison because no suitable place of safety could be found for them, the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee, said yesterday.

They were being held "pending their hearing on charges of theft and housebreaking and theft", he said in reply to a question in the House of Assembly by Mr David Dalling (DP, Sandton).

The Simon's Town magistrate had indicated that no suitable place of safety mentioned in the Child Care Act was available for their detention.

They were held between eight and 18 days in the juvenile section of the awaiting-trial section of the prison, Mr Coetsee said.

Mr Dalling commented: "The reply raises more questions than it gives answers.

"How is it possible that there is no place available to these children in the Western Cape?

"Why do the police not tell us why these were not placed under the custody of their parents or suitable adults?"

"All in all it seems to me it is urgent that these children's cases be brought to the courts so that the question of their custody can be properly resolved."

Mr Coetsee said detained juveniles were not permitted to associate with persons over 18 unless they had been charged jointly.

Discussions took place regularly with a view to keeping awaiting-trial juveniles out of prison.
### CHILD ABUSE REPORTING BY TEACHERS

233. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development: (1) **Whether she is considering extending the categories of occupation named in section 42 of the Child Care Act, No 74 of 1983, to include teachers as an occupational group who are compelled to report suspected incidences of child abuse to the Regional Director of Health Services and Welfare; if not, why not; if so, when is it expected that the section concerned will be amended in this manner?** (2) **Whether she will make a statement on the matter?**

### THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) **Yes, as a result of consideration of several amendments of the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983) at present, it will not be addressed during the present session of Parliament.** (2) **No.**

### AIDS INFORMATION

225. Dr F H PAUW asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development: (1) **What is the latest available information on the incidence of (i) Aids and (ii) positive tests for HIV among Whites, Coloureds, Indians and Blacks, respectively, and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished?** (2) **How do these data affect the (a) planning for meeting future needs in respect of the provision of health services and (b) anticipated future funding of health services;** (3) **What measures are envisaged to protect the public and health services personnel against the risks of contact with HIV-positive patients and HIV carriers?**

### THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) (a) and (b) **Reported number of Aids patients as on 12 February 1990**

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(2) and (b) **Population Groups**

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<td>3 431</td>
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### INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE ANSWER TO PARAGRAPH "(1)" IS BASED ON VOLUNTARY ANONYMOUS REPORTS RECEIVED FROM DIAGNOSTIC CENTRES.

Note: Best available estimates based on various data sources suggest that the number of persons infected with HIV in South Africa at the end of 1989 were in the order of 55 000 persons.
Boy's ordeal in police cell

By REHANA ROSSOUW
AN Hanover Park mother has told about her frantic search for her 15-year-old son — allegedly held for three days in a police cell without being able to contact his family.

The youth, who cannot be named as he is a minor, claimed he was assaulted by police at Atlantis and Mamre police stations.

The boy, who spent a few weeks with his uncle in Atlantis, was arrested last Tuesday evening after two taxi drivers caught him near a car they suspected him of breaking into.

They took him to the Atlantis police station. He was later taken to the Mamre police station, where — he claimed — he was assaulted.

Questioning

"I kept asking whether I could phone my mother to tell her what had happened, but they were abusive and said I could not," the boy said.

He was held alone in a cell on Tuesday night and Wednesday and was fetched for further questioning only on Thursday night.

While he was there, a relative who had come to the police station to visit someone else, saw him and managed to speak to him.

The boy's family started searching for him on Wednesday morning when he did not come home.

Morgues

"My sister-in-law phoned me from Atlantis on Wednesday and said she had contacted all his friends to find out where he was," the mother said.

"We even called the Atlantis police station to find out whether he was there, but they denied seeing him.

"By Thursday, we were contacting hospitals and morgues in an effort to find him."

She said her sister-in-law telephoned her on Thursday night and said he had been spotted at the Mamre police station, covered in blood.

She was told the police did not want to release him as he was due to appear in court on the Friday morning.

"He arrived at the court in a police van. His face was still swollen and he was covered in blood," the mother said.

"We waited until four o'clock for him to appear."

She said she asked the magistrate whether any steps would be taken against the police who had assaulted her son, and was told to lay a charge of assault at the Mamre police station.

However, the police on duty at the charge office allegedly refused to accept the charge.

The boy said that, while he was lying in the cell at Mamre, he was convinced the police would never let him see his mother again.

"I thought I was going to die there. They wouldn't let me wash the blood off my face and the only food I was given in the three days was bread and jam."

Police spokesperson Captain Guys Boozzaier said the boy was arrested only on Wednesday night and appeared in court within 48 hours.

Custody

He said police denied that he had been assaulted in any way.

"He never asked to contact his mother during the time he was in custody," Boozzaier said.

"He was visited twice by a senior police officer while he was in custody and never complained."

Boozzaier said the magistrate denied that the boy's mother asked him about charges of assault and said he did not notice the boy was covered in blood.
Child study launched

THE Wits Medical School and the Medical Research Council have jointly launched a study which will investigate the effects of urbanisation on child development.

Called "Birth to Ten," the study will involve 4,000 children of the 90s living in the Johannesburg-Soweto area. The study will take 10 years.

Noel Cameron of Wits and Derek Yach of the MRC said the study would monitor the health and wellbeing of children born in April and May this year.

They said the overall aim of the study was to determine the biological, environmental, economic and psychosocial factors that are associated with the survival, health and adjustment of children living in an urban environment.

Questions

Yach said research questions would include: the environmental exposure to air pollutants such as domestic fuel emissions as well as tobacco smoke and lead; parental behaviour such as alcohol consumption and child abuse; immunisation coverage and health service usage; early development of cardiovascular risk factors; feeding practices and nutrition; dental health; socio-economic status and the quality of life experienced by children born into known high-risk groups like low birthweight infants.

Cameron and Yach said in an analysis of 240 European growth studies carried out since 1960, social class was shown to be a strong determinant of growth. In addition, urban children were found to be growing faster than their rural counterparts.

In industrial countries, higher mortality from pneumonia has been observed in individuals living in urban areas compared to the countryside. In South Africa, pneumonia already accounts for more infant deaths in several cities than diarrhoea.
Probe into register for child molesters

CAPE TOWN — The Government has ordered an urgent inquiry into the feasibility of a register for violent deviants targeting children and women.

This was announced in Parliament yesterday by the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee.

He said a commission of inquiry presently probing psychopaths and other violent criminals would be asked to urgently turn its attention to the practicalities of establishing a register for molesters posing dangers to children, women and others.

Mr Coetsee said the commission, chaired by Mr Justice Willem Böysen of Natal, would be asked to make recommendations and, if necessary, compile concept legislation.
The trial of 27 children in Transvaal angers LHR

By Montshiwa Morokini

Twenty-seven children, whose ages range between 10 and 14, have been on trial in the Potschpe stream Magistrate's Court this week charged with public violence and malicious damage to property.

A Klerksdorp attorney yesterday intervened and asked the court to postpone the matter so he could consult with the accused, who were unrepresented.

The pupils, all from Basaphe Higher Primary School at Kwa- neng, near Potschpe stream, were arrested at school on Tuesday.

Mr Mohamed Motala, the attorney, said he arrived in court yesterday to find that the children had been appearing in court since Tuesday and the fifth State witness was giving evidence.

Mr Motala said two of the children had pleaded guilty to public violence and not guilty to the second count. The other 25 had pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Stoning

The State alleges the accused gathered at the school and stoned a vehicle belonging to police.

The case has been postponed to May 17 and the children have been released into their parents' custody.

A spokesman for Lawyers for Human Rights said his organisation was appalled by the attitude of the presiding officer and the prosecutor.

"We find it quite strange that even a common assault case wouldn't be disposed of at such short notice. Given the fact that public violence and malicious damage to property carry one of the most serious penalties set out in our criminal code, we are of the opinion that this matter should be seriously looked into by the Department of Justice.

"It is our submission that the Department of Justice should make it imperative that in any matter in which children are involved, free legal aid should be recommended."
NEW PROJECT: Archbishop Desmond Tutu lays the foundation stone of the new Grassroots Educare Trust centre in Athlone.

Tutu launches Educare centre

By HANS-PETER BAKKER
Staff Reporter

ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu has laid the foundation stone of a R2.4 million building which is to house Grassroots Educare Trust in Cape Town.

The Trust was established in 1972 to promote preschool education for Cape Town's black children.

Since then it has grown to a staff complement of 42 administering more than a hundred preschool projects in the Western Cape with a budget of about R2.5 million.

It has been renting office space from the Garment Workers' Union in Salt River.

The new centre in Klipfontein Road, Athlone, will provide space for training and will function as a base for the national application of the organisation's programmes.
APARTHEID BAROMETER

DETENTIONS

The Human Rights Commission has recorded a total of 396 people currently being held in detention in South Africa. These include 320 people being held under the Emergency regulations, 48 under the Internal Security Act and 28 in the "independent homelands".

The breakdown by region of those held under the Emergency regulations is as follows: Free State (142); Western Transvaal (77); Northern Transvaal (69); Natal (18); Eastern Cape (eight) and Western Cape (one).

The HRC has recorded 43 section 29 detention from January 1 to April 25 and the latest official figure for those held under section 31 is five. Twenty-five people are being held in Bophuthatswana and three in the Ciskei.

RESIGNATIONS OF BLACK TOWN COUNCILLORS

A total of 60 out of 692 black town councillors resigned "because of unrest over the last few months" Transvaal MEC in charge of local government Ouma van Zyl said this week. He added that "about 8.5 percent" of black councils had been affected and that seven of the 82 local authorities were not functioning.

SUSPENSION OF PRISON WARDERS

A total of 44 prison warders were suspended from their jobs between March 27 and April 24 1990, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said in parliament.

FUNDING ACT REPORTING

The Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre was the only organisation that had been declared a "reporting organisation" in terms of the Disclosure of Foreign Funding Act, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said in parliament.

CHILDREN IN POLLSMOOR PRISON

Five children aged between the ages of eight and 12 were held as awaiting trial prisoners in Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town, for between eight and 18 days earlier this month, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee said in parliament. He said the children aged eight, nine, 10, 11 and 12 had been held pending a hearing on charges of theft and housebreaking. He said they had been held in the juvenile section of the awaiting trial wing.

VACANCIES AT WHITE SCHOOL HOSTELS

There was a total of 24 834 vacant places in hostels at schools falling under
The Young Pioneers of ANC smartly dressed in their uniforms.

South News

SOUTH, May 17 to May 22, 1990

BY GAL REITZON

Internal Winding

Young Pioneers
Sunshine creche a haven for sick children

IT looks like an ordinary creche, only better equipped than most in the sprawling township of Etsles River.

What makes Santa's Sunshine Creche in Hereford Road different is the frequent sound of dry hacking coughs as tiny chests heave for breath.

Here 74 children with TB or at risk of contracting the disease from family members are cared for and treated.

They attend the creche until the bouts on their lungs disappear and are kept for another three months to strengthen them.

Children from as young as six months are cared for at the creche.

After their 10am snack the children queue patiently for their medication, grimacing as the bitter tablets are washed down with water.

Some children receive four tablets a day, while others in remission are given only a vitamin syrup to build their resistance.

"A lot of the children are badly malnourished and are on treatment to strengthen their bodies," said Santa's project manager in Etsles River, Sister Dulcie Erasmus.

"Quite a few of the children's mothers cannot cope financially and we ensure they get a good meal every day."

The Sunshine Creche accepts only referrals from the local clinics.

"Once their treatment is completed, we send the children back home to be cared for or to their previous day-care centres," Erasmus said.

"But if our committee finds the conditions at home have not improved, we will keep the child a bit longer.

"Our health educators work with the families to improve the conditions at home."

CHECK-UP: Santa worker Anthony Oliver checks a pupil's arm for results of a TB test
Friend’s arrest ‘may lead to missing girls’

Crime Reporter

POLICE have arrested Mr Arthur Barrett, the man they believe may lead them to the five missing girls abducted by paedophile Gert van Rooyen.

East Rand Murder and Robbery detectives caught Mr Barrett, 40, in Pretoria West on Monday night after he was last spotted in Cape Town 10 days ago. They also detained, but did not arrest, a 16-year-old boy who was with him.

Police liaison officer Major Reg Crewe said that both were being questioned by members of the Child Protection Unit.

The girls are widely considered to be the victims of Van Rooyen, 52, and his lover, Joey Haarhoff, 49, who shot themselves when faced with imminent arrest.

Police think Mr Barrett could have been in contact with Van Rooyen over the past few years and that the two men could have been involved in exporting stolen vehicles to other African countries.

It is possible that the girls may have been sold into slavery.

Mr Barrett met Van Rooyen 10 years ago while he was serving a prison sentence for car theft at the time when Van Rooyen was in prison for molesting two girls.

Police are questioning all people known to have had any contact with Van Rooyen.

Mr Barrett, of no fixed address, is expected to appear in court soon to face charges of possessing a stolen vehicle, and several charges of car theft.
HOUSE OF ASSASNY

(1) An order dated 16th July 1989 was issued under the
(2) Housing Act 1988. The order is to be implemented on
(3) 1st October 1989. The order provides for the
(4) demolition of certain buildings. The order is
(5) statutory and is not open to appeal.

ORDER

(1) Pursuant to Section 16 of the Housing Act 1988, the
(2) Secretary of State for the Environment, in his
d function as the Minister responsible for
(3) housing, hereby gives notice under
(4) Section 20 of the Act that the
(5) demolition of the buildings described in
(6) the Schedule hereto is to take place on
(7) 1st October 1989.

SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>123 Main St</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>456 Park Rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>789 River Ave</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: The order is effective from the date of publication in the
Official Journal of the European Communities.
A SYMPOSIUM that will provide a strong thrust to grassroots demands for further affirmative action for children by the State, private enterprise and communities is to take place at the Natal University in Durban from July 9 to 11.

This early childhood educare symposium will be a benchmark event in terms of linking teachers, parents, communities and the private sector in the name of all children in South Africa.

It is organised by the South African Association for Early Childhood Educare.

Ms Mapito Malepa, national chairwoman of the association, said the conference was vitally important in that it will bring together grassroots educare workers from around the country.

She said often these very talented and hard-working individuals, many of whom work in rural areas, feel isolated and cut off from support systems.

"The occasion will allow people from all regions to interact with each other, hear about the latest research and development, participate in practical workshops and discuss new strategies to cope with the vast problems of lack of education and care for millions of our youngest citizens," she said.

Ms Elaine Davies, the association's national coordinator, said the symposium titled, "In the Name of the Child", has three themes - Education, Social Issues and Physical Care.

She said when studying the needs of the young child, people need to look at the total environment within which he is developing, including his family and socioeconomic conditions within the community.

"While a great deal of impetus is paid to the importance of early education, very little support is being given to parents in disadvantaged communities to provide a better start for their children.

"Many successful local educare programmes exist. However, they are hampered by lack of state funding, limited private sector involvement and parent apathy. Our association is actively campaigning for cooperation and networking between these groups.

"It provides training for parent education coordinators, advice for firms setting up day care centres for children of staff, and supports an accreditation system for para-professional training courses in early educare.

"It also plays an active role in accrediting existing educare facilities to protect children and parents against unscrupulous and abusive treatment," she said.

The conference programme has been confirmed and is available from CSIR Conference CO-ordinators, C125, PO Box 395, Pretoria, 0001. Further details can be obtained from Brown Eckstein (011) 787-1358.
Help for the troubled family

When family problems are overwhelming, crisis intervention is necessary. Child abuse and neglect, which has received much media attention in recent times is among the problems.

If a child is "at risk" and abuse can be proven, a child may be removed provided legal proof of the necessity for this is offered to the authorities within 24 hours.

If no temporary care and therapy will be provided for the child by JCWS pending investigation and court rulings.

The arena in which JCWS' social workers operate include all of the above and, later, on-going therapy for every family in need that comes to the agency.

The services JCWS then provides to the more than 6 000 children in its care spans supervision within the family, foster care placement with approved relatives or foster homes, residential care, and adoption.

The care of abandoned babies is yet another major area of the agency's work. Two to three abandoned babies are found in the Johannesburg area each week. They are cared for until they are placed in a safe home — and sometimes, with a chronic shortage of all but white adoptive parents — they remain in care for a long time.

The adoption laws require that a child be placed for adoption in a home of its own race group. Borderline cases require the lengthy process of applying to "release" the child. As a result, black and coloured babies cannot be placed with white adoptive parents.

In the black and coloured communities, fostering — generally supposed to be a short-term medium-term arrangement — is often a long-term one and the closest thing to subsidised adoption seen in SA.

JCWS believes there is a case for state-subsidised adoption in SA as well as in other Western countries — particularly for the black community, where widespread poverty prevents there being many adoptive parents.

Apart from all the above, JCWS supervises or co-ordinates its own prevention programmes, as well as others, to prevent the cause and handle the initial stages of suspected child abuse cases.

Presentations

Two high school presentations have been made to close to 300 children.

JCWS also responds to requests from community bodies to address functions on child and family problems.

In the past year, 130 addresses were delivered.

An extension to the agency's child-abuse prevention efforts being planned is to teach teachers to prevent the initial stages of suspected child abuse cases.
Picking up the pieces of tomorrow's society

JOHANNESBURG is a city with a great deal to offer.

As the economic epicentre of southern Africa's wealthiest country it has drawn people by the thousand over decades. But, like all major cities, it has its share of problems.

For most, these problems are the "price" of a pressured society. But for others, they are the pieces that must be picked up to put together the society of tomorrow.

Although a few privately run associations contribute, that task falls squarely on one organisation - the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society with its staff of 289.

Only 80 trained social workers are active in the field, undertaking therapy for families with severe stress and difficulties.

Cases

In order to care for the current case load, which is in excess of 4,000 children, and the 9,888 families to whom some kind of service was rendered in the year ended March 1990, each trained social worker handles about 120 cases a month.

The cost to the community of what is undoubtedly a desperately needed service is surprisingly low - R8,2m a year.

Of the R8,2m running cost, the state subsidy contributes R4,7m towards salaries and costs. Donations to national welfare work via the National Council for Child and Family Welfare go into services as a back-up to individual societies, but not to infrastructural support nor to any specific child care projects.

So the other R4,5m as to be raised in direct fundraising activities by JCWS itself.

To raise that, JCWS fundraising manager Caroline van Rooyen will have to try to collect an average of R17,000 a day during 1990.

Most of this money comes from individuals. Only 10% of it traditionally comes from the corporate sector.

JCWS' director Dr Adele Thomas says: "We endeavour to give a high quality of service wherever possible, but also try to keep expenses to the minimum."

It is not an idle claim. The atmosphere at JCWS' offices on the corner of Eloff and Main streets is set by its occupants - a highly qualified, committed, young and dynamic team both in management and in field work.

The difference between those two areas is appreciated. Several of the management team at JCWS are drawn not from a social sciences background but from business management experience.

The commitment to keeping costs down is so tight that no more than 10% of running costs will be administrative, exclusive of salaries.

Administration manager Mike Turnbull not only intends keeping within the limit - he's set another to reduce admin expenditure by R100,000 this year.

"It may make people's lives a little more pleasant, in that they'll shrink twice about making resources go further, but it's worth it.

"Welfare organisations have traditionally been run by the non-business minded. It is often been inefficient. We're adamant about efficient use of resources in terms of people, time and equipment.

Example:

"Even with our pool girls - we have only seven for our 90 social workers - we do our best through advance bookings to make this suffice."

But Turnbull is a good example of the highly qualified, private sector manager, typical of the JCWS team.

Formerly in the diplomatic corps and a former Reserve Bank employee, Turnbull has a degree in Political Science and Administration.

But he's found satisfaction in contributing to a balance sheet that's not just about profits but about "a roof over a child's head and a meal on a child's plate".

An example of how good money management can assist JCWS is Turnbull's centralised purchasing. All food for the organisation's nine residential and community centres is bought.

"Bulk buying ensures savings," he says.
Answering cries of abandoned babies

Miriam Masibuko is a JCWS field worker for areas including Soweto, Diepkloof and Alexandra. For her, social work is a "calling." She says "It is like standing on the bank of a river, hearing the cry of someone drowning. You jump in to save them. But every few minutes, there is another cry. "You can't save them all and you can't begin to start looking for the one that's pushing them in."

She is talking about causes of family problems, and although they are many, she is tempted to say they are almost all traced to terrible poverty and destitution. "A mother who has nothing, has nothing to give to a child."

One of the JCWS' biggest tasks in the black community is caring for abandoned babies. Masibuko says the problem peaks just before holiday periods when people leave the cities for homelands.

Women who left extended families there to come to seek money cannot go back with yet another child, probably conceived in a transitory relationship with a migrant labourer. "If the mother must give up the child, we want to help. But often, with a new perspective and our help, they may be able to keep the baby or arrange a good home."
Taking a stand on family matters

THE JCWS has set itself a goal of being relevant as a social welfare service to a community in political upheaval, beset by violence and conflict and operating in a legal system which in many ways harms family life.

Part of that is taking a stand on issues that directly affect the family.

Dr Adele Thomas has made a priority of the agency's responsibility to be heard, and to be a force for legal and social reform — what the agency refers to as advocacy.

Within the organisation, this portfolio falls to social work consultant Jackie Loffell.

Integration

Loffell is a member of the Co-ordinating Committee on Welfare Policy and presents cases for policy reform such as integration of welfare services for all population groups, equity in state subsidies, improved payment procedures and security against misuse of state subsidies.

The organisation took a firm stand against the state of emergency policy of detaining children and was instrumental in having many children released as well as in counselling detainees and their families, particularly at the Soweto Impumelelo family resource centre.

"We try to publicise information on issues which negatively affect families — focusing not on the problems but on the root causes.

We try to educate the community about social structures that damage the family and children."

Private sector support is vital for survival

IN November 1987, a welfare policy for SA entrenched the racial fragmentation of state welfare structures, limiting state responsibility for welfare and promoting further privatisation of services was approved.

Chairman of the JCWS Norman Barlow says in the agency's last annual report that this illustrates an increasing dependence of welfare organisations on private sector support.

In the budget of March 1990, although the state allocated an increased expenditure towards centralised areas such as health and education, the budget for welfare was reduced.

Social grants, pensions and foster care grants continue to be separately administered for different race groups, each group receiving a different allocation.

The state's grant for black children in children's homes has remained less than half of that allocated to white children.

Delays

Although foster care grants are legally supposed to be payable from the inception of foster care, there are often substantial delays in the payments being processed.

JCWS social work consultant Jackie Loffell says: "The payout points are often confused and foster parents can make many fruitless journeys."

At 10% of JCWS' annual income, donations from the corporate sector hardly make a dent in the agency's requirements for funds which ideally should make up the difference in these disparate foster care grants.

Foster care manager Kentlole Mohafa says: "If foster parents are offered a better deal, far more will be able to take on the responsibility of taking in a child."

There are already more than 2000 children placed by JCWS' foster care division. Thousands more, who face no alternative but care in children's homes, could have the advantage of their own foster parents and a better chance in life — if only the money was available.

A drive to raise funds

FROM May 18 to May 26, Johannesburg Child Welfare Society's first Awareness Fortnight gets into gear to provide a focus on a fundraising drive.

This is a new era for welfare in terms of professionalism in its organisational approach.

It is no longer the province of the volunteer, who will turn out to shake a tin for a few cents.

Johannesburg Child Welfare Society has a service to run. It costs money. And when it's talking about raising it, it is talking in terms of millions of rands.

The hopes are that Awareness Fortnight, an annual project, could double the level of corporate contributions to agency running costs from 10% to 20%.

Events include profit-making presentations, constructive community talks and addresses by prominent speakers for an entrance fee.

The texts and tapes of these speeches will be sold.

A day of fun runs all over Johannesburg on May 26 in which a number of celebrities and sporting personalities will turn out and will prompt sponsorship.

The sexual abuse prevention presentation For Safety's Sake will also be presented at several high schools throughout the fortnight.

The programme is:


Society

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CASELOAD</th>
<th>TOTAL 1985/86</th>
<th>TOTAL 1985/87</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of families brought forward from 31/3/86</td>
<td>3,241</td>
<td>3,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New and re-opened cases from intake</td>
<td>4,860</td>
<td>4,820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New and re-opened cases referred from other departments</td>
<td>1,387</td>
<td>1,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of families dealt with during 1985/86</td>
<td>9,488</td>
<td>9,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cases received at intake</td>
<td>3,857</td>
<td>3,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cases closed during the year ended 31/3/87</td>
<td>2,310</td>
<td>2,230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average number of children in caseload dealt with per month</td>
<td>3,821</td>
<td>3,241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JCWS believes the state should re-look the issue of tax rebates, which are not applicable to foster care donations or to foster parents.

Tax incentives are an overlooked opportunity for encouraging greater private sector funding of JCWS work, says fund raising manager Carollse van Rooyen.

Although donations to JCWS are not subject to donations tax, they are not tax deductible from income.

To ignore child welfare work's contribution to education is a serious mistake. It fails to recognise the need for basic literacy training, primary and pre-school education.

The Margo Commission's position on welfare donations did not advocate further 'special allowances for taxpayers' but instead preferred greater direct state support.

SA cannot afford the breakdown of its voluntary welfare services. JCWS is the largest child and family welfare organisation in the country — and under the pressure of unbearable caseloads it was forced last year to close its intake.

There is no option but for SA's corporate sector to see its investment in such a service — tax deductible or not — as an investment in its own future.

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Neighbours and relatives can help

Not every social problem is best solved by an agency like Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS).

- Neighbours and relatives can often do a lot at little cost.
- Similarly, in the business world, companies have the power to do a great deal to support their employees' family lives and relieve some of the strain and stress of home responsibilities.

One of the most valuable ways is for an employer to provide day care facilities or day care subsidies to employees paid for out of pre-tax income.

A recent survey in the US indicated that 55% of married couples both worked, and that 25% of children lived in single-parent households. Two thirds of mothers with children under three years of age held down full-time jobs.

South Africa is following fast. The time when parental worries could be left at home with the wife are gone. Economic necessity keeps most women working after they become mothers.
A place of refuge

THE Twilight Children’s Organisation has come a long way since its inception in 1982 when the spotlight first fell on the plight of street children living in Hillbrow.

Then, the organisation only had contact with the children once a week at the Lutheran Church and later at the Catholic Church in Hillbrow. Voluntary workers supplied the children with food, hot water to wash, games and some tuition.

In 1986 permanent residence was found in Hillbrow, where the children still live today.

“Our aim is to rehabilitate and provide shelter and care for the children,” a spokesman for the organisation said.

**Assist**

“Attendance is voluntary. The rules of the shelter are strictly enforced by the boys themselves. They assist in the preparation of meals, washing dishes and laundry and keeping the place tidy.”

She said the children were encouraged to re-establish ties with their families once they had adjusted to life at the shelter.

“Since 1984, 1 400 boys have passed through the doors of the Twilight Children’s Shelter and most of them have returned to their homes.”

Education was initially supervised by the staff at the shelter until 1987 when a programme of literacy, numeracy and vocation, called Streetwise, was introduced. About 13 boys who were once ar cheval - sniffing glue and begging for food - have progressed through the school readiness stage and are now part of a formal education system.

Children at the Twilight Shelter are encouraged to take part in sporting activities, the most popular of which is soccer. There are under 12, 14 and open section teams. Gum-boot dancing is also taken on as well as crafts, karate and hiking trips.

**Broke**

The organisation broke away from the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society in June 1988 and re-affiliated in November 1989. A manager was appointed to take charge of the shelter and plan a commune to be established before the end of the year.
Congratulations to a grateful child

THE winner of our Mother's Day Competition is Johannes Letsoalo of Ga-Kgapane.

Congratulations, Johannes. You have won your mother a R250 hamper of lingerie and cosmetics from Garlick's. Virginia Sello of Central Western Jabavu, took second prize and won her mother a R100 voucher from Sales House. The third winner is Matebogo Mabula of Mamelodi East, who won her mother R50 cash from Sowetan Woman.

All three will also get chocolate hampers from Nestle and double movie tickets from Ster-Kinekor.

Our consolation prizes of double movie tickets go to: Christina Ditshake of 2191 Protea North; Elizabeth and Iris Mathebula of 818 Block G, Soshanguve; Etsie Masangane of 355 Nhlapho Section, Kadehong; Albert Molei of 6205 Mathata Street, Thokoza and Grace Baloyi of 252 Block G, Soshanguve.

Sowetan Woman publishes the winner's letter.
The Minister of Planning and Reconstruction, Mr. Farouk Shara, submitted a report to the House of Assembly on the progress of the reconstruction program in the liberated areas. The report highlighted the challenges faced during the reconstruction phase and the progress made so far.

He stated that the reconstruction process has been slow due to various factors, including funding constraints and the need to ensure the safety of the residents. The report also mentioned the ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure, especially in the areas affected by the conflict.

Furthermore, Mr. Shara emphasized the importance of involving the local communities in the reconstruction process. He assured the House that the government is committed to providing adequate resources and support to ensure the successful completion of the project.

The report concluded by emphasizing the need for continued international support to accelerate the reconstruction efforts and ensure a better quality of life for the residents of the affected areas.
Bloody slaughter, or every woman’s right?

It’s a crime — except for women with the price of a plane ticket to Europe. It represents either the slaughter of the innocent, or a woman’s right to control her own body.

CLAIRE ROBERTSON of the Pretoria Bureau reports.

Abortion and the raging controversy surrounding it has found a new focus in South Africa with the recent announcement that the Department of Health would consider representations on the country’s abortion laws. The Soviet Union was the first country to legalise abortion on request, in 1920. Japan and some East European countries followed in the '60s, as did Scandinavia.

In 1975 SA allowed abortions to be performed following rape and incest, and in cases of foetal abnormality or when the mother’s physical or mental health is threatened. The Abortion and Sterilisation Act stopped neither abortions nor the debate.

If more attention had been paid to the views of those championing the issue then, thousands of injuries could have been prevented, says the Pro-Choice lobby.

Chris Diamond, a spokesman for the Abortion Reform Action Group (Acag), said it appeared the then Minister of Health ignored representations on the issue and even denied he had received any.

Helen Suzman, who has campaigned for a liberalising of South Africa’s abortion laws since before the promulgation of the Act in 1975, said she was “shocked at the time of the parliamentary select committee — which later became a commission — that there was not a single woman member.

“I hope that if the Minister of Health goes ahead with an inquiry into South Africa’s abortion laws, she will see to it that it includes qualified women of all races.

“I am very pleased the Minister has finally agreed to the many pleas over the years — rejected by her predecessors — for a review of the Act. Our laws are far too narrow,” said Mrs Suzman, who advocates abortion on motivated request for “any woman who doesn’t want to have a baby — it should be her choice”.

Dr Claude Newbury, head of Pro-Life SA, said the organisation would, in responding to the Department of Health’s invitation, ask for a total ban on abortion.

Neither rape, nor incest, danger to the mother or severe abnormalities in the foetus are grounds for abortion, according to Dr Newbury. Every argument could be refuted on medical or moral grounds.

“The scientific facts are that the child in the womb is human. Have you ever heard of a woman giving birth to a carrot or a rabbit?”

Abortion “turns the womb into a bloody tomb; women into walking graveyards; doctors and nurses into professional assassins; and hospitals into antiseptic abattoirs”.

Mr Diamond stated that Pro-Choice advocates had never said they were in favour of abortion — it was the woman’s right to choose that was at stake. “Abortion happens anyway — we need to make it legal and safe.”

He stood by Acag estimates of 200,000 illegal abortions in SA a year, pointing out that Baragwanath Hospital alone dealt with 3,600 cases where gynaecological complications were known to have been caused by illegal abortions.

The Department of National Health and Population Development recorded 863 legal abortions from mid-1988 to mid-89 — 600 of which cited a risk to the mental health of the woman as the reason.

In total, 20 children under 14 had legal abortions — the largest single group being white.

One issue on which the Pro-Choice and Pro-Life factions agree is the need for counselling for women either seeking or who have procured abortions. Dr Newbury’s wife, Glenys Newbury, runs one such service for the “victims of abortion”. It’s known as Sorrow’s Reward.

According to Mr Diamond, legalising abortion on request would allow women to be counselled before and after the operation.

“The threat of illegality makes it hard, if not impossible, to receive proper counselling. No decision — keeping the child, having it adopted or terminating the pregnancy — is free of permanent trauma.”

He said that, as happened in Britain, post-abortion counselling on the use of contraceptives could perform a valuable service in SA.

What some endure to get rid of their babies

Whatever the law, South African women do manage to procure abortions. They endure the leering innuendo of a back-street abortionist, and may pay with their lives.

At Baragwanath an estimated six to 19 women die every year from complications from illegal abortions.

For women from all walks of life, the abortions happen in seedy flats in Hillbrow, with the woman dilated while still conscious, injected anaesthetised and trusted in position, and finally operated on with instruments boiled on a kitchen stove before being sent away still partly drugged.

Some women endure suction abortions without anaesthetic in a rural Le- sotho hospital; others attack their own bodies with sharp instruments, drink toxic potions, inject saline solutions.

Still others plan an estimated 2,600 a year — fly to Europe to be operated on in clean, sophisticated clinics after routine counselling. The plane ticket and clinic fees total about R5,600.
Children of Thabisong Creche in Diepkloof Soweto, were all smiles yesterday when their centre received equipment worth R5 000 from Joy Manufacturing Company. The equipment included drawing boards, painting powder, educational toys, puzzles and furniture. Mr Dave Bekker, (fourth from left in the back row) PRO for Joy Manufacturing said his company was proud to be assisting the school.
Johannesburg – Youths thrown out of court at kangaroo "people's courts" do not have the experience to do justice and their punishment of citizens often much older than themselves is barbaric and a disgrace, an Alexandra Civic Organisation spokesman said yesterday.

The organisation’s publicity secretary, Mr Obed Bapela, said the organisation had ordered elements of the township’s youth to stop the kangaroo courts, which have been running since the beginning of this year, but they had apparently continued.

Mr Bapela said the township’s crime problems were being taken to youths instead of the police because residents had lost confidence in the authorities. — Sapa
Court told of abduction from church

JOHANNESBURG. — The Rand Supreme Court yesterday heard how four youths were abducted from a Soweto Methodist church and taken to a house belonging to Mrs Winnie Mandela.

Mr Barend Thabiso Mono, 20, was giving evidence in chief in the trial of Mr Jerry Vusi Musi Richardson, 41, of Soweto, charged with the murder of teenaged activist "Stompi" Seapio Mocketsi.

Mr Richardson is also charged with one count of attempted murder, four of kidnapping and several others of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

He has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Mr Mono, Mr Kenneth Kgase and Mr Gabriel Pelo Mekgwe were allegedly abducted with Stompi in December 1983.

Mr Mono told the court that one night in December 1983, he had been in a dining room of the church manse with Mr Kgase, Stompi and a friend who was visiting. Mr Mekgwe and others had been preparing food in the kitchen.

A man wearing an overcoat had entered the dining room and ordered them into the kitchen.

Mr Mono said he did not know the man at the time, but could now identify him as one "Sledge".

In the kitchen they encountered various people, one of whom, responding to queries put by Mr Richardson, pointed out those who were later abducted.

The four were bundled forcibly into a nearby bus and taken to Mrs Mandela's house, the court heard.

— Sapa
Champion Week

Childecare Woman

Maggie Macknuy

The week of February 19th is the time for the Woman's Auxiliary to promote their program of care for children. In many communities, this is known as "Childecare Week." During this week, special activities and events are planned to raise awareness and support for the care of children. The Auxiliary encourages members to participate in various ways, such as organizing fundraisers, hosting educational workshops, or volunteering at local childcare facilities. This week serves as a reminder of the importance of providing loving, nurturing care for all children in the community. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children by promoting their well-being and development.
Revise Abortion Act – Kane-Berman

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — A top medical official has joined the call for the revision of South Africa’s controversial abortion law.

Dr Jocelyn Kane-Berman, Chief Superintendent of Groote Schuur Hospital, said the Abortion Act should be revised in the interest of society, women and thousands of unborn, unwanted and potentially unloved children.

A few weeks ago the Government joined the debate when it announced that it was to take a look at the Act. A call was also made for people to approach the Department of Health with ideas for changes.

The Abortion and Sterilisation Act of 1975 forbids abortion in South Africa unless the woman has been raped, the baby is abnormal or a medical panel agrees that having the baby will irreparably damage the woman physically or mentally.

In a letter to the editor in the latest edition of the South African Medical Journal, Dr Kane-Berman said new norms, values, ethical and legal principals must be formulated to meet the needs of societies that lack supportive extended family structures, and who are unable to nurture millions of unwanted children born daily throughout the world.

Since 1980 she said, publications on medical ethics have increased considerably in volume and depth of understanding of these and other important issues.

"It is essential that the abortion issue should be widely debated in the light of contemporary thinking and prevailing circumstances. In this century inventiveness and improved living standards have increased humankind’s life span and ability to overcome most ills and deficiencies.

"The problems of this age are not those relating to survival of the species but rather those of longevity, increasing numbers of dependent mentally and physically handicapped individuals, child abuse and overpopulation."
Move to protect minor children is welcomed

Staff Reporter

The appointment of a family advocate to protect the interests of children in matters affecting family life has been welcomed by the South African Council for Child and Family Welfare.

Commenting on the move by Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee last week, national director Mrs Jean Oberholzer said her council had long urged the introduction of family courts and advocates.

"We are overjoyed the interests of minor children will be seen to during divorce proceedings. The council hopes the whole question of legal representation for children in all courts, will now become clearer.

"We also hope there will soon be enough money to appoint social workers as family counsellors and we fully back plans to investigate a register of psychopaths who are a danger to children and women," she said.
THE Johannesburg Child Welfare Society has planned an awareness
fortnight to inform the
public about its services.
The campaign will
start from May 13 to 16
and community talks are
planned at various venues
around the greater Johan-
nesburg and Soweto.
Services offered by the
society include child
abuse counselling,
residential care, foster
care, education, adop-
tions, and the counselling
pregnant teenagers.
Lesson One: A starving child can’t be educated

IN A TIME of violence it may be boring to talk of starvation, even though the one often leads to the other.

There was a time when the government of South Africa took the starvation of South African children seriously enough to introduce a programme of school feeding.

There was a world war on and there were many demands on the Treasury, yet the United Party got its health and educational priorities right and saw that health care had to start with nutrition and that education was impossible of the children who were too young to pay attention or too brain damaged by starvation to think well.

Not that the NRF Government has run billion for repairing some of the damage done by apartheid, perhaps we could get back to basics.

There is little value in high quality education programmes for starving children. They don’t pay attention. Nor is there much point to a high tech medical programme for the starving.

We need food. To this we can add clean water, shelter and fuel. These are the basic necessities that every decent society must provide for its people.

Everyone knows that South Africa is a country of hunger, but perhaps we need to believe what we know. That’s why we have statistics.

Grave

In a health survey conducted for the Department of National Health and Population Development in 1960, 90 per cent of rural African children were found to be "wasted" (starving), and 25 per cent were "stunted" (on the verge of starvation).

These figures are even worse for children under three years of age. Children who are wasted or stunted are not the sort who raise their hands in class to answer questions.

They are born in the wastelands of society and struggle on for a while before they are tipped into the grave.

Perhaps we can make poverty more palatable by giving an example. This is the diet of a stunted rather than a wasted child.

Breakfast: Rice, brown bread and margarine, coffee with half-teaspoon of sugar and Creamora.

Lunch: Coffee with half-teaspoon of sugar and Creamora.

Supper: Coffee with half-teaspoon of sugar and Creamora.

Between the meals: A sandwich (From Wilson and Ramphale’s Uprooting Poverty)

It’s a good advertisement for Creamora but it’s not a good diet. In the poorer regions at least, the diet of 50 per cent may be pap day after day, with nothing to relieve it.

School feeding cannot make up for all the accumulated misery of our society, nor can it contribute to economic growth and the generation of new jobs. It is merely medicine for the moment, but essential medicine.

Furthermore, unlike most medicine, it is intensely happy medicine. There are few things which make us happier than food when we are really hungry. Make sure that the poor have bread and a little more, and you will immensely improve the sum of happiness in this country.

How did we get into this situation? How is it that, once the school feeding scheme had been introduced, it was not continued and expanded?

The history of the abandonment of the scheme fills one with such shame that only the possibility of restoring it enables one to think of it again.

The track on the scheme commenced almost immediately after the NF came to power in 1948.

The first decision was that the total amount voted for the scheme would be reduced and then frozen, so that any increase in the number of children attending school would reduce the amount available per pupil.

Horror

A series of restrictions were introduced which then saved about a third of the money voted for the scheme by making it less attractive to those children who had previously been eligible for school feeding.

These restrictions had nothing to do with their nutritional status. In 1966 the scheme was further restricted by forcing African Schools to choose between feeding and building extra classrooms at a time when the education budget was being squeezed.

Posts for school feeding officers were abolished and other measures were taken to make the scheme less attractive to school committees and principals.

The peculiarly South African horror was that all of this happened while funds were still available for feeding white children, even in wealthy suburbs. By 1963-64, the provision of feeding in Afri- can schools had fallen to 150,000, and it was finally abolished shortly after this.

We may say, hard choices had to be made by rational men if only it were so.

When we read the Debates of the House of Assembly, we wonder what passing was through the minds of those who made the choices.

Idle

P W Botha was among the speakers in the Debates of 1949, arguing that we ought to avoid “crushing” the “national characteristics” of blacks “under a cloak of philanthropy.”

Whites were presumably immune to these “crushing” effects. He argued that many natives (in the terminology of the time) attended school to be fed rather than to learn and that many women neglected their families for love of idleness in the secure knowledge that the schools would take over their duties.

He defended the NF against accusations of misappropriation. We have known this sort of talk for the past 300 years. The origins of the charge were Dr Phillip and Van der Kemp, and Reid, and other people who were bent on blackening and demeaning the original European populations of the country, the Afrikanners who knew the natives’ interests. (Debates, 1949).

Of course, P W Botha was then a young man making his way by being outstandinglyバッグ in an outstandingly bigoted party.

When we read the Debates of the time we are astonished by the violence of the imagery. It is the violence of men at war with the ghosts of all who have attacked them in their past — the missionaries, the English, the blacks.

It is the imagery of men who have been deeply wounded and are therefore violent. They repeat, in their speeches, the battles they have fought throughout their history. Now they have arrived and they mean to stay. This is something which occurs again and again in history. Nor is it the mere language in which they reject the claims of the poor. The moralists of the 19th century involved the Poor Law in England in the same violent language. Carrying for the poor encouraged men and women to become idle, they said, that they would not work, but would lie in wickedness upon the public chest. Threatened people are defined by the ways in which they reject those who would reject outsiders, the poor, the unemployed, the deviant, in moral language which is the curset of politics because it is the prelude to violence. How can you recognize this kind of pseudo-moral babble?

Invariably, it is directed against some group of people and invariably it involves injury to them, justified by the injury they are said to have done to the speaker, or their allies have done to the speaker. The old enemies may at some time do to the speaker.

The self-righteousness of the speaker is politically deadly because it enables him to feel good about doing evil.

Perhaps the time has come when we have outgrown some of our past. At least some of the devils have been exorcised. Let us hope the deep generation of wounded people is not about to take over government. That may not be so, but it is no excuse for failing to do the work which lies to hand.

Debt

We now have a government which is struggling to escape from the burden of its past. Now might be the time to start a war on starvation.

The next line of such a war might well be a school-feeding scheme which begins in the most devastated parts of the country and spreads until it provides for all who need it.

Fortunately we have people who have continued where the government left off. Organisations such as the Peninsula School-Food Association (and others in various parts of the country) have struggled to raise money privately.

They are relatively in debt, but they know how to do the job. This knowledge can be used. We don’t have to start from scratch.

Do we want healthy, educated citizens? Start by feeding their bodies and you might be able to nourish their souls.
Child unit denies resignations

THE police Child Protection Unit is understaffed — but yesterday denied a Cape Times report that half its members had resigned.

The 11-man unit is operating on about half staff because of one resignation and several detectives being on leave or attending courses.

The man who resigned yesterday, Sergeant Chris Hansinger, quit in favour of a salary four times that which he was earning in the police.

As a social sciences graduate and expert in handling paedophile cases, he had to support a family of five on a take-home salary of less than R1 000 a month.

Mr Hansinger said last night that the specialist unit “did not deserve to lose its qualified detectives” but that it would continue to do so until the government developed a separate salary scale for graduates.

The Cape Times yesterday wrongly reported that seven detectives had resigned from the unit.

When the Cape Times tried to check its information with the liaison department before going to press, the duty officer declined to confirm or deny the rumoured resignations, saying it was not policy to disclose such information as it was a departmental matter which had “nothing to do with the public”.

Contest to raise funds for needy

THE Save the Children Fund has launched a fund-raising competition together with the Natal Building Society to raise R100 000 for needy children.

The organisation has been providing food, blankets and money to needy children of all races in both urban and rural areas for 42 years.

To achieve their objective, the organisation is selling tickets for R5 which can be purchased at all NBS branches on the Witwatersrand.

The competition was launched in January and the closing date is on May 11 and the draw will be on May 18 in Parktown, Johannesburg.

The first prize is two return air tickets to London, donated by British Airways; second prize, five consecutive nights accommodation in selected Protea Hotels for two people sharing, plus R500 spending money; third prize, a Kelvinator microwave oven donated by Barlows; and fourth prize, a Joy-Namaz rug donated by Victor L. Sathi.
About 2,000 underprivileged children will this year be given the opportunity to attend field camps and environmental programmes they would otherwise not have been able to afford.

A sponsorship programme, launched by the Youth Environmental Education and Cultural Association and known as “Operation Nature Link”, will help these children — and others in years to come — to learn about the environment.

The association has for several years run camps and trails for schoolchildren.

Through a sponsorship programme, underprivileged children will now be able to learn about environmental education and responsibility, wildlife, plants and conservation. — Staff Reporter.
A WAVE of detentions under the State of Emergency has hit Western Transvaal townships and while a number of cases are confirmed by police, scores of other people have gone missing.

Activists say the areas affected are Klerksdorp, Orkney, Stilfontein and Hartbeesfontein, where a consumer boycott is in progress.

Monitoring organisations and activists put the figure of detainees as high as 300, consisting mostly of young people aged between 14 and 20.

A Klerksdorp attorney, and member of Lawyers for Human Rights, Mr. Mohammed Motala, could confirm only those cases in which he had received instructions from families of the detainees.

He confirmed about 60 cases in Klerksdorp, six in Schweizer-Reneke and 18 at Hartbeesfontein.

However, he said he could not confirm several cases where either full or proper names were not used.

Report

Motala said it was difficult to establish the right number of detained people because several families did not know where to report detentions.

He said about 30 schoolchildren travelling in three minibuses were arrested in Klerksdorp on their way from a funeral at Schweizer-Reneke on April 7. This was reported to him last week.

"The Western Transvaal has been worst hit with detentions," he said.

The Rev. Xolisi Duka of the Western Transvaal and Northern Cape Council of Churches said in most cases teenagers gave their nicknames to the police and the organisation could not confirm their detentions.

"It is a problem for us. Parents have brought us reports about missing children and we are unable to trace them because they give wrong names to the police."

One detainee, Mr. Lucas Ntabolomjang, is reported to have died at the Klerksdorp prison from "natural causes". He was from Schweizer-Reneke and was buried two weeks ago.

Police comment could not be obtained last night.
More pupils held in police swoops

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By SONTI MASEKO

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By JANIS FRASER
Weekend Argus Reporter
A PROJECT started in Cape Town to fight child abuse by simply and clearly explaining the rights of the child to children and telling them where to find help has been taken up on a national scale to promote awareness of the growing problem.

"Children, don't be hurt by grown-ups" is the message the campaign against sexual, physical and mental abuse initiated by the Rondebosch Round Table, will put across in schools, youth organisations, churches and shopping centres.

Rondebosch Round Table member Mr Jon Diboll is a prime mover behind the scheme. He has shocking statistics to back his concern:

- In South Africa this year, if the established trend continues, more than 12,000 children will be murdered, raped, assaulted or sodomised.
- One in every three female children and one in every six male children are either physically or sexually abused.
- Home, for many of the victims, is the scene of the abuse. The abuser is often a parent or person known to the child.
- Last year, between Child Line, Safe Line and the Red Cross Children's Hospital, more than 800 new cases of child abuse were reported in the Peninsula.
- An estimated 9,500 children live on the city streets in South Africa.

Mr Diboll says, "Children must know that they have the right to say no. It's our aim to let them know that."

Late last year — with strong support from his wife Cindy — he was a prime mover behind the Rondebosch Table's project to establish Child Line, the toll-free service for victims of abuse, in Cape Town.

It was a start, but it was not enough, he says. The next step was for the Table to establish the umbrella organisation, Child Help Line, convened by Mr Diboll, to promote the services of Child Line and organisations such as Safe Line, the church-initiated support line for the abused and abusers, involved in the fight against child abuse. At the same time the Table started a monthly newspaper, The Guardian, to provide information on child abuse.

The greatest triumph came two weeks ago, at the Table's national annual meeting in Cape Town, when the Rondebosch motivation for prevention of child abuse as the national project for the year was accepted.

Thousands of stickers and pamphlets carrying Child Line and Help Line numbers are being distributed at schools, churches, youth organisations and at Link Pharmacies who are major sponsors of the project.

It is hoped that colouring books and videos already on the market in America will become available here and over 800,000 copies of a pamphlet explaining child abuse in terms easily understood by young children are being sent out.

The pamphlet explains:

"Your body is your own and my body is my own, and nobody has the right to touch you in any way that makes you feel uncomfortable or gives you a 'no' feeling. Think of your body as having an imaginary bubble around it and no-one has the right to come into your bubble unless invited."

"A 'no' feeling is when you don't like the touch and you want it to stop. When you get a 'no' feeling, you can say NO!"
Contest to raise funds for needy

Sowetan Reporter

The 'Save the Children' Fund has launched a fund-raising competition together with the Natal Building Society to raise R100 000 for needy children.

The organisation has been providing food, blankets and money to needy children of all races in both urban and rural areas for 42 years.

It has established feeding schemes for children in which their mothers are parents and instructed in primary health care, nutrition and hygiene.

It also encourages self-help projects.

To achieve their objective, the organisation is selling tickets for R5 which can be found at all NBS branches at the Witwatersrand.

The competition was launched in January and the closing date is on May 11 and the draw will be on May 18 in Parktown, Johannesburg.

Air trips

The first prize is two return air tickets to London, donated by British Airways; second prize, five consecutive nights accommodation in selected Protea Hotels for two people sharing, plus R500 spending money; third prize, a Kelvinator microwave oven donated by Barlow; and fourth prize, a Joy Namaz rug donated by Victor Lidchi.

Winners will be announced in major newspapers and magazines.
Child labour still in use

MATTHEW CURTIN

THE use of child labour in industry in the Third World had decreased dramatically, the International Labour Organisation's labour office said in a report published last month.

But the report emphasised child-workers were still used widely in agriculture, the urban informal sector and domestic service.

Despite problems of monitoring the numbers of children involved, widespread adoption of child-labour legislation in developed and developing countries and the demand for skilled adult labour in modern technology-dependent industries had reduced industrial child-labour use.

These developments had not affected agriculture or the informal sector, and the report cited exploitation of children as labourers, hawkers and prostitutes.

Johannesburg Child Welfare executive director Adele Thomas confirmed yesterday child exploitation, particularly in Soweto, was rife.

Thomas said the money children earned was often vital in supporting their families, resulting in pressure from parents to keep them on the streets.
Cop: How to crack satanism

By MONICA GRAAFF
Crime Reporter

ONLY a special police satanism task force could ensure arrests in connection with recently released chilling details of bizarre, sexual satanic rituals in which children were sacrificed and the blood of animals drunk.

This was said yesterday by the police captain who released the details, Captain Leonard Solms, head of the city's Child Protection Unit.

So far he has made no arrests and has not opened a single murder docket despite allegations that 11 babies, specially bred for sacrifice, have been ritually murdered in the Western Cape.

Other crimes allegedly committed during satanic rituals are child sexual abuse, sodomy, bestiality, rape and cruelty to animals.

While satanism is protected by religious freedom, Captain Solms feels that police “cannot turn a blind eye to serious allegations of criminal practices”.

But all we have done so far is prove to ourselves that these things are happening,” he said. “My unit is doing its best, but we are not going to make any headway unless a special task force with properly trained men is established.”

He added that apart from one of his 11 men, all were “too scared to touch it”.

Captain Solms, who has been investigating satanism for 12 years, said he had gained his information from 10 satanists who spoke to him on condition that he promise them immunity from prosecution.

“We have been told about murders, but to prove a murder you need a body.”

Captain Solms denied reports in a Sunday newspaper that he would be questioning suspects in connection with satanism, but said he had the names of certain people who would be kept under surveillance as effectively as possible.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Law and Order, Brigadier Leon Melet, said that the Minister, Mr Adriaan Vlok, had taken “a special interest” in reports about satanism. However, he declined to comment on the possibility of a special task force.
ON SCHOLL AT
BLACK KIDS' ORIENTATION, BECAUSE THEY
BLACK TABLE NUMBERS. POOR VERA INING.

BY COTTIE CANE

OPEN SCHOLS
By COLETTE CAINE

ANGRY Soweto parents have removed their toddlers from an expensive “non-racial” pre-school after learning black children had to undergo a programme to “civilise” them.

Charges of racism and running a “Bantu education” school have been laid at the door of Johannesburg nursery school owner, Val Amm, and “Child World” nursery schools.

Child World purports to be non-racial but City Press investigations revealed black children have to undergo an “orientation programme” to teach Western civilisation at separate premises before being allowed to mix with white children.

Amm told City Press: “I have to orientate the black children. They haven’t been exposed to Western civilisation yet so they have to learn sitting, walking and being toilet trained.”

For this Soweto parents pay fees of R185 a month, R85 for transport and R5.60 for pruning lessons.

Amm, who owns five Johannesburg nursery schools under the Child World name, is a regular contributor to TV programmes on child care.

When City Press visited Child World’s Rosebud premises in Queens Street, Washington Park last week we found dozens of black children sitting in a piece of bare carpet with neither mattresses nor blankets. These children are part of the “orientation programme.”

Parents claim they were never told their children would be racially segregated and sent to premises other than the Child World facilities in Vincent Avenue, Washington Park. Most children travel to and from school by taxi, paid for specifically for the purpose, so their parents were unaware of the situation.

Kedibono Takalo, who removed her daughter from Child World after finding out about the segregation, said a group of parents went to speak to Amm about it.

Her response was that they should not have gone to the other school without her permission.

Amm then told them about Western civilisation, table manners and toilet training. “How dare you assume that we black parents don’t teach our children decent manners!” said Takalo.

Amm claimed in an interview she had told parents their children would undergo a term’s orientation — but several weeks into the second term the “orientation” was still on.

An employee at the nursery school said the orientation lasted one year.

The mother of another child who has been removed, called Child World a “bantustan” nursery school. She said she was “discouraged and disgusted” with Amm’s attitude towards black children. “This is pure racism.”

She said she realized something was wrong when her child failed to improve his English and still became excited to see white visitors at their Soweto home.

Another parent also said she sent her son to Child World to improve his English. When she asked Amm why her son’s English was not improving, she was told he was not in a hurry, his English would improve slowly.

“But I have only now discovered that he never spoke English before my son spoke English,” the parent told City Press.

Another mother who has taken her child out of Child World, said parents discovered the school did not have enough qualified teachers. Fifty children were taught by one qualified English-speaking teacher and two unqualified black helpers.

She said parents of about 20 children held a meeting to discuss the situation but it was May and already nursery schools were full.

Amm claimed Amm told them the law stipulated only 10 percent of children in nursery schools in white areas could be black.

This is not true, City Press has established. It was also found the school is not registered with the Transvaal Education Department or the Department of Education and Training.

Parents are seeking legal advice and will probably sue for a refund of fees.

“We feel cheated — Child World is not the kind of world we want our children to grow up in,” parents said.
Young Funeka has the United Nations eating out of her hand

By TRISH BEAVER


South Africa’s "special ambassador" Funeka Radebe was a hit at the UN and was given a standing ovation for her speech on Children’s Day.

Returning home to Johannesburg this week with seven other youthful ambassadors, Funeka said: "It is very important that we all work together for a better future."

Aged between 10 and 12, the eight children were carefully selected by the Department of Foreign Affairs for the visit to celebrate Children’s Day on April 22.

The multiracial delegation was selected from schools throughout the Transvaal and spent two weeks abroad.

Trees

"It was such fun," said Funeka. "The only nerve-racking part was saying my speech in the United Nations. There were so many people looking at me I felt there were thousands of butterflies in my stomach."

In her address to the UN General Assembly, she outlined a special South African project.

"Before our departure we decided to plant six trees in a free settlement area. Our aim was to plant them close enough so that when they grew up their branches and leaves would be touching."

"We hope that one day"

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FUNeka Radebe
Standing ovation

South Africa will be one big free settlement area and that we will all be able to live together and touch each other," she said.

Mrs Jan Lister, headmistress of the Montessori Primary school who accompanied the children, said: "I was so proud of them. They were complimented on their good behaviour and their general knowledge.

"When Funeka stood up and gave her speech I almost burst with pride. We were incredibly lucky to be given a chance to speak. Only 13 countries were allowed to speak and Funeka was our representative.

"She was the perfect choice as she is very sure of herself, and what she has to say. After her speech the applause was tremendous and she was given a standing ovation."
Shock report on city satanism

Devil cult

White, black miners to talk

WELKOM. — Black and white miners here are to sit down to discuss common security grievances.

This is the outcome of a four-hour meeting last night between Law and Order Minister Mr Adrian Vlok and representatives of a wide range of labour unions, the Chamber of Mines and Anglo American. The SAP, SADF and mine security were also represented.

Meanwhile, during the talks, a white assistant mine manager was stoned while driving past Anglo's President Steyn's gold mine. Mr Daniel Jacobus Jacobs was admitted to Welkom Provincial Hospital with a gash in his head. He received four stitches.

The meeting follows rising racial tensions in the town after two white mine officials were killed, four injured and 14 black miners injured.

Both Mr Vlok and National Union of Mineworkers' general secretary Mr Davel Ramaphosa described the meeting.

The chamber, NUM and the Council of Mine Unions (CMU) agreed to enter into urgent discussions to talk on the security of mine employees to be initiated by the chamber, Mr Vlok said.

Mr Ramaphosa and CMU representatives agreed the meeting had been fruitful. The CMU is an umbrella body for eight artisan and skilled labour unions, including the constitutionally whites-only Mine Workers' Union.

Mr Vlok and Mr Ramaphosa agreed that vigilante groups in Welkom were unnecessary.

After the meeting he asked Mr Ramaphosa to help in ending Welkom's black consumer boycott of white businesses that has crippled the trade in the town and threatens many shops with closure.

Conservative Party MP for Welkom Mr Eddie Jordaan said he was happy the talks had gone well and that black and white miners were determined to end racial tensions.

Crime Reporter

A POLICE captain and head of a city police unit has made sensational claims about satanism in communities in the city and Western Cape towns.

Captain Leonard Solas of the Child Protection Unit alleged at a press conference yesterday that:
- Eleven babies had been "specially bred for sacrifice to the devil" and were ritually murdered over the past five years by having their throats slit and "hex" hearts torn out and eaten.
- Cells of teenagers satan worshippers were active at least 10 Peninsula schools and in the rural areas.
- Devil-worshipping parents initiated their children by allowing other adults to sodomise and rape them at regular secret meetings.
- Children were forced to perform sexual acts with dogs and goats while adult cell members chanted incantations to the devil.
- Animals, especially black cats, chickens and goats, were regularly slaughtered and their blood drunk.
- Professional people and community leaders were involved in these cells, usually as high priests and witches.
- Interlinked satanist cells existed in many parts of the city and numerous towns in the Western Cape.
- Outdoor sexual orgies formed a key part of ritual practices.
- Cell members were threatened with death if they tried to quit or expose the cult.

Captain Solas said his information came from interviews with 10 former satanists.

"I definitely believe that these allegations are true," he said, but added that no murder dossiers had been opened nor arrests made.

This was due to the "extreme difficulty" experienced by police forces worldwide in collecting material evidence relating to satanic crimes.

Investigations were hampered by a "fanatical cover of secrecy" and the "extremely dangerous nature of infiltration."

He made an urgent appeal to the public to help in investigations by supplying as much information to the police as possible.

While satanism was legal in that it fell within the ambit of religious freedom in South Africa, police could "not turn a blind eye to serious allegations of criminal practices", he said.

Crimes being investigated were murder, child sexual abuse, sodomy, rape, bestiality and cruelty to animals.
Captain Solhas said investigations into satanism began in August last year when a Peninsula teenager broke down and confessed that she had been ordered by "witches" to murder her mother after being found in possession of a firearm.

At the same time the Cape Times agreed not to print reports from a headmaster about cult activities at his False Bay school so as not to hamper police investigations.

But yesterday Captain Solms said investigations were floundering and police urgently needed the help of the public to make new breakthroughs.

Thus far he knew of various outdoor meeting places in the Peninsula with Table Mountain being a favoured spot as rituals were traditionally held on "high ground". Cells were kept small and compact to make discovery more difficult.

A recent cell meeting at a Peninsula school had been broken up when a man taking his dog for a walk at midnight had surprised participants, he said.

They had left, a cloth behind with occult and satanic inscriptions and it appeared as if they had been playing a game called "anarchy" when they were surprised.

Children who revolted against society were natural targets and were also easily drawn into playing "anarchy", he said. These games often progressed to children being sworn in as satanists.

A 16-year-old boy told police he was paid R46 per week to perform sexual acts with a satanic cell. Part of his duties was also to clean up after every orgy. The boy told police he was introduced into satanism when he was 11 years old.

Anyone with information should contact Captain Solms at 43-3697 during office hours. Identities of callers will be confidential.
SAFELINE'S services in combating child abuse have been assured with the opening of a centre in Bridgetown.

Safeline unit manager Mrs Marcelle Lendt at the controls of the new video equipment used in interviewing and counselling abused and abusers and their families.
The wheel analogy is his. Until now, the lines of service set up by the Cape Town City Mission Homes Safeline Unit have not had a central point of connection.

The opening of the Bridgetown centre has given Cape Town what is probably the country's most comprehensive single unit dealing with the problem of child abuse.

The centre brings together Safeline's 24-hour phone-in service; its counselling service for abused children and abusers as well as survivors of childhood abuse and affected third parties; and its programme on the prevention and treatment of child abuse.

All the services are confidential.

As founder and director of the City Mission Home organisation, Mr. Duncan - who was abused as a child - runs a home for boys, two children's homes, an after-care centre, a hospice, group home, day-care centre, home for the aged and pre-school centre. Coming up are centres for battered wives and street children.

**Flatlets**

The new Safeline centre includes flatlets where victims and abusers - sometimes together if a family is involved - can spend weekends while receiving intensive therapy. The flatlets may also be used in emergencies to house victims.

In addition, the centre has a sophisticated interview unit with recording and video equipment.

With the knowledge of the person being counselled, a trained social worker sits behind a one-way mirror and records the interview on video. The interview may be played back to the subject as part of the treatment.

"An abused child may play out an uncensored version of his experiences during counseling, although it may be unable to go into detail about what happened," Mr. Duncan says.

**Defences**

"When the video is played back it can be stopped at a point and the child can be asked what's happening with the doll during counseling, that's when a child is sometimes able to open up.

"A family might be interviewed without much success, but when they see the video and are questioned on their various reactions they are able to see the defences they are putting up."

The centre needs a television set, but the shortage of funds is a problem.

Mr. Duncan says his great regret has been the lack of co-operation from other welfare organisations.

The centre was proposed four years ago and a circular sent to numerous welfare organisations. "One in Stellenbosch wrote showing interest, another said thanks - that was all."

He drove the point home at the centre's official opening. "That fascinating and emotionally flavoured cliché 'duplication of services' has become the latest buzz word in some circles," he said.

"Waste of money"

It made sense to appreciate that the horrendous waste of money caused by constitutional duplication 'costs you and me - as taxpayers - a small fortune. In this sense we have duplication many times over.

"It is another matter to accuse Safeline - and others who have entered the field of the child abuse cycle - of 'duplication' when our concept is holistic, all-in-one and community-based.

"I have, along with others, been absolutely amazed by the excess of adrenaline 'used up by some critics who allege we are duplicating services.'"

His main argument in defence against critics is that it is the victims of abuse who are losing out because of the fragmentation of services.

Safeline was the first to offer a 24-hour telephone service, a holistic approach and a public awareness programme, he said.
Political Staff
A white baby has a six times better chance of surviving the first six months of its life than a black baby.

This has emerged from the address to Parliament by the Minister of National Health and Population Development, Dr Venter, in her budget debate.

The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births was 9.8 for whites and 60.6 for blacks.

Nearly 50 percent of the South African population was urbanised. By the year 2000, 62 percent of the black population would be urbanised. This would have far reaching effects on health care needs, its cost and financing, Dr Venter said.

Developing countries spent between two percent and three percent of their gross national product on health care, whereas developed countries spent between five percent and 12 percent. South Africa spent five percent of GNP on health care, and this could limit future health care provision, Dr Venter said.

Destructive lifestyles
Adequate water and sanitation would avoid many diseases resulting from unhygienic and poor socio-economic conditions. But on the other hand, many health problems in developed countries were caused by destructive lifestyles, like vehicle accidents, smoking, stress, alcohol and drug abuse.

Dr Venter said at the end of last year, there were 8.78 million beneficiaries of medical aid and medical benefit schemes. They covered 68.8 percent of the white population, 34.6 percent of Asians, 90.2 percent of coloureds, and 5.5 percent of blacks.

This was 19.5 percent of the South African population. Adding the schemes which covered the transport and uniform services, 21 percent of the population were covered by medical schemes.

"This means that 79 percent of all South Africans are dependent upon State health services," Dr Venter said. A quarter of these people received the services free, 71 percent paid a small amount, and four percent paid the full tariff of R1.0.

As long as families existed in low socio-economic living conditions, where there was no clean water and sanitation available, there would be a shortage of beds for babies with gastro-enteritis.

"The answers cannot be found in the hospital, but outside in the community."

And as long as South Africa had one of the highest road accident figures in the world, there would be a shortage of beds for traumas in intensive care units.

"As long as our child mortality rate stays unacceptably high, we shall have problems with our population growth. As more babies die in underdeveloped communities, so the birth rate escalates."

"As long as the literacy figure for blacks stays low, we will have a high child mortality rate."

"As long as we are not able to curb the violence of low socio-economic living conditions, we will be inundated with patients at casualty sections in our hospitals."

"As long as we are unable to succeed with our education programme to promote healthy lifestyles, we will have patients who are the victims of over-indulgence of alcohol, too much smoking and too little exercise," Dr Venter said.

The reconstruction of health services had to run parallel with the socio-economic upgrading of communities, Dr Venter said, and this was the joint responsibility of all Government departments.
Abortion laws in the balance

Woman judge has crucial US Supreme Court vote

Hundreds of thousands of people have been wailing around about Washington, for or against abortion. The last demonstration was the tour of the malls, who brought a heat-wave in great numbers, sporting an enormous balloon with an inflatable fetus inside it.

Meanwhile, the one person who may have the power to change America's abortion rules, has her ears blocked to the shriller emotions down below.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has the decisive Supreme Court vote on abortion: four of the nine justices defend the 17-year-old law that made abortion legal; four would probably like to overrule it; Mrs O'Connor, while unhappy with the law, leaves everybody guessing on what she would do about it.

Battle lines

Until 1973, the rules on abortion had been left to state legislatures. In Roe v Wade, the Supreme Court invalidated the states' abortion laws, decreeing that women had a constitutional right to abortion. They had the choice of abortion (sometimes, but not always, with exceptions for rape, incest and the physical health of the mother) without the state's intervention.

The difference in America lies in the all-or-nothing dogma of many of the pro-life and pro-choice leaders. In the 1980s, the religious wing of America's new Right made abortion an emotional debate in Britain has just ended with a new time-limit set at the 24th week of pregnancy.

The dissenting opinions, when there was still a liberal majority in the court, suggested she was ready to turn the right to abortion on its head, replacing it with a curious formula that decreed that though abortion should not be absolutely banned (no "undue burden" on women), it must be balanced against a state's "compelling interest" in the life of the foetus.

But dissent is one thing, making law another. A case came up last year, after the change in the court's composition, that might have been, but was not, the beginning of the end for Roe.

The fortunes of abortion laws in the United States may hang on the vote of one woman judge of the Supreme Court. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor (right) has the decisive Supreme Court vote on abortion, but she is biding her time over revealing her hand. The Economist's correspondent reports.

Mrs O'Connor jibbed. She joined her four fellow-conservatives in upholding a new set of rules and regulations imposed by Missouri but, exercising admirable judicial restraint, she declined to extend the court's ruling beyond the strict confines of the case before it.

There would be time enough, she coolly added, to reconsider Roe when the court was faced with a state law that turned on the constitutional validity of the right to abortion.

Anti-abortionists seized on her words as an open invitation. Hundreds of Bills popped up in state legislatures, many of them specifically designed to give Justice O'Connor what she seemed to have asked for.

Several, crafted by the National Right to Life lobbyists, were directly aimed at Mrs O'Connor's supposed susceptibilities: using language with which it was guessed she would be comfortable, the Bills went as far as they dared to criminalise abortion, while still allowing a chink of legality.

The assault failed, most of the
Africa’s ingenuous, courageous children

FROM Khartoum to Cape Town, it is children who have been the silent victims of the economic decline, civil war, disease and famine that much of Africa has endured in the last decade.

But it is children who have displayed immense ingenuity and courage that have enabled many to survive these hardships.

So says the Africa Review Group in Save the Children’s Fund’s (SCF), “Prospects for Africa’s Children”.

What are unimaginably austere conditions for most Westerners have become part of the daily experience for millions of African children who display tremendous resourcefulness.

Take the case of Paul Eriegeo, the boy cow-herd who, in 1981, won a place at Starehe Boys Centre in Nairobi.

He became captain of athletics and won a sports scholarship to a US university in 1987.

Less than a year later, he won the Olympic 800m in Seoul.

But too often this talent is wasted by governments with too little money, weak management structures, misdirected aid and unsustainable social services programmes.

Without concerted international action, things are likely to get worse. Complacency among the adult world is a dangerous possibility, because children have no voice — though they suffer most from adults’ mistakes. — GEMINI NEWS
Boost for kids

A LEADING pharmaceutical company has launched a special project to assist Child Welfare in its services to 435 day-care centres throughout South Africa.

A spokesman said the programme, called "Project Touch," was initiated by Johnson and Johnson, world leaders in the field of health care.

"Our credo is to be responsible to the communities in which we live. We believe we must encourage civic improvements, better health and education.

"We aim to raise R500 000 in cash and product donations this year," she said.

People wishing to assist are asked to address their donations to: Protect Touch, Box 871, Highlands North, 2037.

For further information contact Janette Chun or Glynis Branthwaite at (011) 728-1363.
tMr H A SMIT: He has no respect for the Chair!
[The hon member for Overvaal thereupon withdrew from the Chamber.]

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I now once again call on the hon the State President.
†The STATE PRESIDENT: Mr Chairman, the hon the Minister of Justice said in public that he had informed me after I became leader of the NP and that I was aware of the fact that Mr Mandela would meet Mr P W Botha. On account of my line function prior to this, I was not involved with this matter. [Interjections.]

Ministers.

Question standing over from Tuesday, 27 May 1990.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: signing

Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs: [Question No 9 on 20 February 1990, the Government has taken a decision to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, if not, why not?; if so, when does it intend to sign the treaty?]

The MINISTER OF FINANCE (for the Minister of Foreign Affairs):

The position of the Government has not changed in essence since I replied to Question No 9 on 20 February this year.

New questions:

Adoptions: different race groups

Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether the race group of prospective adoptive parents is a factor in determining their suitability, if so, why?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Yes.

The Child Care Act 1983 (Act 74 of 1983) provides that the court shall not place a child in the custody of any person whose classification in terms of the Population Registration Act, 1950 (Act No 30 of 1950) is not the same as that of the child except where such person is the parent or guardian of the child.

Mr L FUCHS: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can she inform us as to whether any steps are being taken to do away with this discrimination?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, the Government is committed to removing all discriminatory legislation, and this matter will receive attention when the Child Care Act is reviewed next session. [Interjections.]

†Mr H D K VAN DER MERWE: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, in the case of a White being married to a non-White, may a married couple adopt a child of any race group at present?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I think that is a hypothetical case. Each adoption is evaluated according to specific circumstances, and I do not want to speculate now, solely on the grounds of superficial remarks, on how a child may be placed.

Crossroads Town Committee: licences to carry fire-arms

Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether licences to carry firearms have been issued to certain members of the Crossroads Town Committee, Cape Town, whose names have been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply: if so, (a) how many fire-arms, and (d) what types of firearms, in each case, (b) why and (c) what are the names of the members in question?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) to (c) [298] B1045E

It can only be ascertained beyond doubt, whether a person is the holder of a fire-arm licence on the basis of the person's identity number and name. I can unfortunately not furnish the required information, owing to insufficient particulars furnished by the hon member.

Cape Town: deaths due to unrest-related incidents

Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Law and Order:

Whether any persons died in Cape Town as a result of unrest on or about 6 September 1989 if so, how many?

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

No.

Durban academic hospital: earthworks programme delayed

Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether the Cabinet injunction not to proceed with major hospital construction has meant that the commencement of the earthworks programme for the new Durban academic hospital has been delayed; if so, (a) for how long has it been delayed and (b) what additional costs are likely to be incurred as a result,

(2) whether the University of Natal has been informed of the delay, if not, why not; if so, when;

(3) whether she will furnish the date on which the said earthworks programme will commence, if not, why not, if so, what is that date?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

(1) No;

(2) falls away;

(3) the existing planning provides for the calling of tenders during July 1990

Mr R M BURROWS. Mr Chairman, arising from the reply the hon the Minister, I wish to say that her reply now is in total contradiction to a reply to a similar question asked in respect of the Natal Provincial Administration's Hospital Services Section, which indicated that there had been a delay of six months in the earthworks commencement.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! What is the hon member's question?

†Mr R R HILL — Law and Order. [Question standing over]

Irradiated food: health problems

Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether she or her Department has received any reports of instances or alleged instances of individuals experiencing health problems as a result of the consumption of irradiated food, if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was the (i) purpose and (ii) response to each such report?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

No.

Harms Commission: evidence by Minister

Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether he, in his capacity as the Minister of Defence, is willing to give evidence in person before the Harms Commission; if not, why, not, if so,

(2) whether he has indicated this willingness to the chairman of the Commission; if not, why not; if so, when?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes;

(2) Yes. By means of my legal representative during February 1990 and personally on 2 March 1990. The hon member is also referred to column 1631 of the HANSARD of 26 February 1990.

Cycads illegally removed

Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether certain persons, particulars of whom have been furnished to the Min-
The Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. ANDREW, asks for the Chamber's consent to set up a system of education and culture committees. These committees will be responsible for advising the Minister on matters related to education and culture. The system will consist of two main committees: the Committee on Education and the Committee on Culture.

The Committee on Education will focus on issues related to schools, curricula, and teacher training. It will be comprised of representatives from various educational institutions and stakeholders in the education sector. The Committee on Culture, on the other hand, will deal with issues related to arts, culture, and leisure activities. It will include representatives from cultural organizations, artists, and community leaders.

The Minister believes that this system will enhance the quality of education and cultural activities in the country. It will also provide a platform for stakeholders to participate in the decision-making process. The Minister encourages all interested parties to propose members for these committees. The application process will be announced shortly.
RESIDENTS of Mofolo Village in Soweto are up in arms against a middle-aged man whom they allege has sexually abused four children.

They say the man, believed to be a former Robben Island prisoner, has gone into hiding. He was released two years ago after serving eight years in jail, according to the residents.

The man’s name and those of his victims are known to the Sowetan.

### By MATSHUBE MFLOLE

The residents said the man was scheduled to appear before a street committee, but had disappeared.

### Haunt

His alleged sex romps with children were discovered by a resident, on questioning a neighbour’s child. The child revealed that three others had gone through the same ordeal.

The four children were taken to doctors, who told their parents that there were no “complications”. The victims’ parents said the incident would haunt their children “for life”. They said their children were still “terrified”.

Soweto police spokesman Captain Joseph Ngobeni said Kliptown police were investigating. He warned street committee members not to take the law into their hands by punishing the suspect. He was reacting to the committee’s resolution to “punish” the culprit if police failed to apprehend him.
Young children's situation 'bleak'

By Janet Heard

All over the world people will celebrate International Children's Day next Friday, June 1.

In South Africa, the SA Association for Early Childhood Education said the situation for the young child was bleak and called on the Government to sign the United Nations International Convention on Children's Rights.

The association said in a statement:

"In our country there is a horrifying level of exploitation of young children, vast areas of neglect and abuse.

"The few pre-schools that exist are overcrowded, or reserved for the well-off.

"Overcrowding, poor nutrition, lack of stimulation, are all chronic problems on a vast scale."

"Whole communities in Natal, disrupted by faction fighting, have no facilities at all for the young children whose lives have been torn apart.

"Yet children have a right to early education and care, not only for their personal development, but as an important contribution to the future of the country," the statement said.

"The lack of State and business responsibility in pre-primary education and the plight of handicapped and rural children are two themes of a conference next month on pre-primary education.

The conference, "All Our Children", will be held at the University of the Western Cape from June 29 to July 1."
Cops save girl, 15, in ‘slavery’ probe

By CHIARA CARTER

POLICE rescued a teenager from her Stellenbosch employers last Friday in a follow-up to a row over allegations of child slave labor. She was 15 years old at the time.

Last week, 15-year-old Karina Kalsmeyer fled from what she described as a “life of hell” as a domestic worker for a Kylinda family.

Acting on information provided by Kalsmeyer, police and an official from the South African Domestic Workers’ Union (SAWU) went to a shop owned by a relative of Kalsmeyer’s employer.

There they found Lien Bantam, also 15, hidden under a table.

Bantam told her rescuers she had not been paid since she was brought to the shop from her family’s home on a Worcester farm in October last year. Her employers have subsequently given R600 to SAWU.

Like Kalsmeyer, Bantam alleged her employer ill-treated and physically assaulted her.

Mystery surrounds the whereabouts of another child who was employed by the family.

Bantam said the boy, Anton Maritz, 13, was swept away from the shop after a report in SAWU last week.

Bantam’s employer told the police the boy had been taken back to his home in Citrusdal.

A spokesperson for the Child Protection Unit said it was investigating the matter.

He said no decision had yet been taken on whether the children’s employers would be prosecuted.
SOCIAL SECURITY -

CHILD-CARE

1990

JUNE - DEC.
Ikemeleng grows from 15 to 104

THE Ikemeleng Remedial Education Centre in Dube, Soweto, is one institution that can proudly associate itself with Sowetan's Nation Building concept.

The centre, which started in 1987 with only 15 pupils, now boasts an enrolment of 104, with 117 currently on the waiting list.

By MOKGADI PELA

The headmaster, Mr. Sanku Molaoli, said this week that the centre catered for children with special educational needs. "There are kids who seem normal in every respect, yet cannot cope when placed in an ordinary class," he said.

Such children confused figures, shades and letters. They would not differentiate a B from a D or a square from a rectangle.

Molaoli said it was necessary to have teachers who loved children, who understood their problems and who had creativity.

He said in line with the Sowetan Nation Building concept, the newspaper's editor Mr. Aggrey Klaaste had appealed to the community to donate funds towards building a proper school.

"Nation Building reassured us that we were right in our cause of helping the needy as well as showing the community's support for our efforts," said Klaaste in reference to the school.

Molaoli said they were presently operating on a site provided by Youth Alive Ministries but the Diepmeadow Council had allocated them a site.

Ikemeleng would launch a community awareness programme next year to enable teachers to identify children needing specialised care at an early age.
A thousand expected at children's rights launch

THE National Campaign for Children's Rights will be launched tomorrow at the Johannesburg City Hall. Almost 1,000 people are expected at the historic event, including children from all over the Transvaal and representatives from concerned organisations.

The day will be marked by cultural activities, workshops and speakers will include Albertina Sisulu and Sister Bernard Ncube, who are both convenors-in-chief of the campaign.

The campaign comes in the wake of a consultative conference, sponsored by the United Nations International Children's Education Fund (Unicef) and held in Gaborone, Botswana, two months ago. At the conference the plight of the child victim of apartheid was explored.

Among issues to be taken up by the campaign are the lack of legal protection for children and their repression and detention by security forces. General social and educational problems besetting children like homelessness, no schooling and crime, will also be addressed, and material assistance will be at the top of the agenda. "The campaign will have the effect of setting the pace for the enthrenchment and enforcement of the child in a democratic, non-racial and unitary South Africa," say the convenors.

The education crisis starts long before school

Today, International Children's Day, we focus on one of the root causes of the education crisis at black schools, inadequate care for underprivileged children at pre-school stage.

PHILIPPA GARSON reports

...ground had a better "socio-emotional state", were more motivated academically and had "learned how to learn", as opposed to those who received no pre-school education.

Balanced nutrition provided in pre-schools is essential for growing children often deprived of vital foods at home, says Bierstecker.

She adds that illiterate parents feel unconfident about teaching their children to read and write.

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Children of violence who seek their parents’ love

LAST week the Saturday Star reported how two girls, aged eight and seven allegedly kidnapped and murdered a two-year-old in an incident which stunned the Shurugwi community in Zimbabwe. What makes children commit these acts of violence?

JOVIAL RANTAO reports.

Drugs and alcohol often aggravate the child’s behaviour.

Child expert Mr Terry Kohler said these children had problems establishing affections and bonding with people.

“They can’t keep a friend for long and they tend to befriend older people. They also focus on their own needs and manipulate others for personal gain.”

They are bullies who behave cruelly. They are hostile and occasionally lie. Sometimes they don’t have any feelings of remorse and guilt,” Mr Kohler said.

Such behaviour was fuelled by responses these children received from society. “They are often dealt with in a punitive way,” he said.

Often, Mr Kohler said, these children were easily impressed by seeing acts of violence on television or by watching other people indulge in violence.

The children would involve themselves in violence especially if the people were their heroes.

Broken homes

What kind of homes did they come from?

“From homes riddled by marital problems. Often from broken homes These children were often unplanned and their fathers are often diagnosed as having a psychopathic personality”, Mr Kohler explained.

Children did not seek pleasure from violence.

“Very often the child has a feeling of bitterness and resentment towards society. Sometimes they feel that they have been wrongly treated. This develops feelings of hostility and hate towards people in general.”

Under-socialised children developed into adults with an anti-social personality disorder, according to Mr Kohler.

“One of the best remedies is the involvement of the family in this process. Unless parents start to develop a feeling of warmth towards the child, they cannot be cured easily.”

“In critical situations the child is removed from the family and institutionalised,” Mr Kohler said.

There was a shortage of institutions fully equipped with the right professional people and equipment to deal with these children.

Mr Lloyd Vogelman, director of the Project for the Study of Violence at the University of the Witwatersrand, said it was a mistake to believe that children were peaceful.

“They have enormous anger,” he said. “Whether they act out that anger or not depends on the circumstances surrounding them.”

Although some children behaved violently, they did not easily become psychopathic.

Children depended and modelled themselves on their parents, he said. “They will often engage in acts of violence to please them or obtain more love from them. They become violent especially if they have witnessed their parents doing the same.”

“The way the children behave cannot be divorced from the way they live at home. If there is violence in the family then children believe that violence is acceptable and is a way of solving conflicts,” he said.

Violent children felt powerless and believed that if they adopted similar characteristics to parents they would get what they desired: love and affection.

Mr Vogelman recommended early intervention, such as play therapy, for better results. “Children tend to communicate more through play that in any other way.”

“The family should also go for treatment because the problem is not the child’s but the family’s as well,” he said.

South Africa needed to develop a comprehensive programme for children involved in violence, Dr Vogelman said.

Mrs Helen Renegass of the National Institute for Crime Rehabilitation (Nicro) said there were 1,940 children, between the ages of 12 and 18, in South Africa on remand. She said the average age of first offenders was 14 going down, which was worrying.

Nicro was also concerned that children were put into juvenile prisons instead of reformatories.

To prevent children becoming involved in crime, Nicro ran crime prevention projects for school children from primary to high school.

Crime talents

“We teach them to say it and not to do it,” Mrs Renegass said. “We teach them to use the same talents used in committing crimes in a positive way.”

A psychologist at the Child and Family Unit of the South African Medical Institute said children with severe conduct disorder had enormous amounts of rage within them, and that coupled with a lack of empathy launched them into a violent rage.

Dr Cora Smith, a senior clinical psychologist at the Institute said research showed that the children treated with severe conduct disorder, 50 percent could not be cured and went on to become psychopaths.

Of the 2,400 children treated at the Institute for the past four years, 22 had become extremely violent, Dr Smith added.

Dr Lynn Born said the Institute treated children as young as three. Conduct disorders were more common in males than females.
Jo’burg gathering to focus on the plight of children

By Monica Nicolson

Hundreds of parents and children will be gathering in Johannesburg tomorrow to promote a nationwide awareness campaign for the protection and promotion of children’s rights, as part of the International Children’s Day celebrations.

Albertina Sisulu, co-ordinator of the campaign, said the immediate aims of the launch were to highlight the present crisis of children and to monitor and expose the repression and abuse of children.

“In particular, we want to keep people aware of the plight of children in our country, especially in Natal, and to urge the international community to intensify sanctions and other forms of pressures on the inhuman apartheid system,” she said.

Mrs Sisulu said the negative effects of apartheid on children would have to be countered before a non-racial and democratic South Africa could be established.

All interested parties are welcome to attend the family day, to be held from 10am to 4pm in the City Hall.

Children from all over the Transvaal have been practising plays, songs and other performances to participate in the cultural day.

The organisers of the event are hoping to attract the interest and sponsorship of the business sector.
SOUTH African families who have made a place in their hearts and homes for 1,000 Rumanian children have sparked off a controversy over the country's own "forgotten children".

Community leaders and Muslim clergy have slammed the scheme as "racist".

They point out there is no waiting list of parents eager to adopt black children, and there few children's homes to care for them.

The chairperson of the Muslim Board for Prison Welfare and State Institutions, Mr Yusuf Hassim, recently unveiled plans to bring the Rumanian children to South Africa.

He denied this week his scheme was racist, saying that people of all colours and creeds had applied to adopt the children.

While families flock to adopt the Rumanian children, hundreds of South African children are in children's homes and in exile with little hope of being adopted.

The principal of the Masikhulu children's home in Crossroads, Mrs Pumla Nceyi, said she was "puzzled" by the scheme to adopt Rumanian children.

Exiled children

"All over South Africa, our own children are crying out for homes. Let's get them settled before worrying about children overseas,"

Muslim Judicial Council chairperson, Imam Hassan Solomon, who is linked to plans to repatriate South African exiles, said he was in Lusaka recently where he saw more than 200 children housed in a school building.

He encouraged families wanting to adopt children to assist these orphans rather than children from Rumania.

"The children's homes are light-skinned and South African orphans are mostly black," said a spokesperson for the Call of Islam, Mr Ibrahim Rasool.

Hassim said he had "absolutely no idea" there were children in South Africa requiring adoptive parents.

"I have more than 2,000 applicants for the Rumanian children and I intend writing to them and asking if they rather wouldn't take a South African child."
Kids in the ‘twilight’ zone

Masikhule is home to 54 children with nowhere to go.
And a scheme announced that week, to “import” a thousand Ramanan orphanage has succeeded. Mrs Pamela May at the principal, Morokhule, which is located in the heart of the Crossroads squatter camp near Cape Town. She is surprised by South Africans’ enthusiasm, to adopt foreign children. While hundreds of children on their own doorstep are crying for a home.

Masikhule is the first children’s home in the Cape for African boys and girls. Its green lawns, tennis courts, swimming pool and shady built-up terraces are safe centres in the surrounding squatter camp. But although Masikhule has meant a new life to its bright-eyed children, it will never be ‘home’.

Questions
“...the most heart-breaking questions the staff here are asked is “when am I going home?”
Even those children who know they have no home, ask that question, said May.

There are 54 children at the home, ranging in age from four to 18.
“We would love to take more children, but the existing buildings are too small to accommodate more,” said May.

“We are in the process of registering ourselves as a welfare organisation to raise funds. In the meantime, we regard this as the first phase of the project. The children have all been committed to the home by the Children’s Court. Some have been sexually or physically abused, abandoned or neglected by their parents. The rest are orphans.

“We see the home as the start of a new life, not the end of the road,” said May.

“Primarily, we do not want to break away from the link of family life, our ultimate goal is to return children to their home.”

For the children without parents or homes, the outlook is grim.

The 14-year-old Sipho (not his real name) who had been in the hospital for months, was referred to the home at one stage.

Sipho has been in hospital for months, without gaps in his care. He was admitted to a hospital at one stage. A nursing sister took pity on him and a few years.

SMILING FACES: children receive help

After another attack on his nose, Sipho was hospitalised again. He is still referred to the hospital and has not seen his family.

The boy was then placed in a hospital for safety and spent years with different children.

Now, at Masikhule, Sipho is thriving. The staff at the home feed him well and brings him presents from Crossroads to play with him after school.

The home urgently needs adoptive or foster parents—preferably adoptive parents.

Our experience is that people in our community become foster parents because of the grants which accompany the children.

“Generally, they are not well cared for. The grant, which is intended to provide for a single child, goes used to feed and clothe the entire family. Children are often sent back to the home, which is extremely unsatisfactory.”

Adopted

“An adopted parent can raise a child, he said. The child can then be transferred to another home.

So children who have been referred to the home are transferred to another home. Social workers who are responsible for background checks have assessed Sipho and placed him in his care. However, the uncle showed him, locking the boy alone in a room, all day without food or water.

“...in order to transfer the boy to a new home.”

“...by the Children’s Court. Social workers who have been referred to the home are transferred to another home. Social workers who are responsible for background checks have assessed Sipho and placed him in his care. However, the uncle showed him, locking the boy alone in a room, all day without food or water.

“...by the Children’s Court. Social workers who have been referred to the home are transferred to another home. Social workers who are responsible for background checks have assessed Sipho and placed him in his care. However, the uncle showed him, locking the boy alone in a room, all day without food or water.”

Masikhule urgently needs adoptive or foster parents.

Volunteers

Masikhule urgently needs adoptive or foster parents. Volunteers who can work with the children or take them on occasional outings are also welcome at the home.

“Our community’s involvement will help a domiciled child become a useful citizen of South Africa,” May said.

SOUTH NEWS
SOUTH June 7 to June 13 1990
TOYI TOYI TOTS: Children give a cameo performance at a celebration of International Children’s Day at the Johannesburg City Hall last weekend. The main address was delivered by ANC NEC member Aziz Pahad. (Pic: Elmon Jiyane)
"Mixed" parents tiptoe past the race law bogey

Weekly Mail Reporter

The Johannesburg Child Welfare Society has reacted with alarm to a plan to bring more than 1,000 Romanian orphans into the country for adoption.

According to Magda Dobie, assistant director of adoption for the Child Welfare Society, the organisation has complained to the authorities about bringing orphans in on that scale when there are already many children from South Africa's own deprived communities who need homes.

According to Yusuf Hassim of the Muslim Society for Prison Welfare and State Institutions, the children, ranging from four months to 11 years old, are expected by the middle of October.

The welfare society is also concerned about the effects of uprooting the children and moving them to a totally different part of the world.

Major stumbling blocks in the operation remain the race laws regarding adoption: At present, according to the Child Care Act, no child can be adopted by a couple unless their race classification is the same as the child's.

Many couples wanting to adopt Romanian children are Indian or coloured, and they would not be able to adopt under present legislation.

Many of them have also not been able to adopt South African children, blaming stringent and discriminatory adoption laws.

The Act has prevented many children from being placed in homes, as the majority of children are black and most couples wanting to adopt are white.

But Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter announced last week that discrimination in the Child Care Act was to be reconsidered.

Dr Margaret Herman of the National Council for Child and Family Welfare said: "We are very excited about the decision. The present Act has been a great limitation to us in placing children. We've been in a ridiculous situation, where people can marry across the colour line, yet cannot adopt children of another race."
A STORM erupted this week over an Indian businessman's plan to import 2,000 tragic Romanian orphans to South Africa and put them up for adoption.

The scheme, brokered by Pretoria clothing store owner Yusef Hassam, has been slammed by welfare experts as "highly irresponsible".

Amid dire warnings that the children could be infected with AIDS — which is rife in the Eastern bloc country — Government officials last week opted to stay out of the wrangle, saying they had not yet received an application from Mr Hassam.

Romanian orphans were the centre of a storm of controversy in Britain this week after a London businessman devised a scheme to sell them to childless British couples.

But Mr Hassam, chairman of the Muslim Board for Franco Welfare and State Institutions, denied that week that he would be selling the orphans planned to bring to South Africa.

Joy

"I have more than 1,000 people lined up to give homes to these abandoned children and I am confident the scheme will work," he said.

However, he admitted that "price would be no problem" for the people who wanted children.

"The children have been left to their fate, and would bring great joy to children's charities."

Existing adoption laws are totally inadequate and people have to wait years for a child and even then there are severe restrictions.

"My children will be placed in homes of love, irrespective of the race or creed of the parents," he said.

However, welfare and medical authorities have issued dire warnings against the plan, pointing out that Romania is riddled with AIDS.

"The idea is outrageous." said Mrs Marion Ramanian, adoption manager of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

"Romania has a terrible AIDS problem and these kids may very well be infected."

"AIDS tests are not infallible and the incubation period is a long one. A child could tests negative now and turn out to be HIV positive in the near future."

The plan was also condemned because it did not make provision for accepted adoption screening procedure.

"You can't just match up a child with any parents," Mrs Ramanian said.

A lot of careful assessing is necessary, taking into consideror the genetic and social characteristics."

Dr Adolphe Thomas, director of the society, slammed Mr Hassam's plan as "highly irresponsible."

"We are extremely concerned about these children being exported and transported in a foreign environment," she said.

Dr Thomas said there was also "grave concern" over Mr Hassam's suggestion that the orphans could serve to strengthen the bonds between childless couples whose relationship had soured.

"To place children with adoptive parents who are having marital problems is totally unacceptable. Any social worker who approved such an adoption would be reported for unprofessional conduct," she said.

Mr Hassam said a number of Eastern bloc countries had indicated their willingness to finance his scheme.

Broker

He said United Nations refugee and health organizations were selecting children from orphanages in Budapest and screening them for Aids.

"A group of nearly 2,000 children — aged between two months and 11 years — is scheduled to arrive in South Africa in October."

But the Government has not yet given the scheme the green light.

A spokesman for the Department of Home Affairs said he was aware of the project but had not yet received a formal application.

In Britain this week, North London property developer Constantine Laron was exposed as a baby broker who tricked poverty-stricken Romanian women into parting with their children for paltry sums of money.

Mr Hassam said this week he had never heard of Mr Laron and claimed his plan to place Romanian orphans in homes throughout South Africa did not involve any payment.
School facing financial crisis

By Shirley Woodgate

The Noordgesig Pre-Primary School which has served Soweto and Noordgesig for 11 years is facing a financial crisis, management committee secretary Cynthia Phillips wrote to Operation Snowball.

"There is a great need in this area to accommodate more children and to expand to a full day's programme. At present, the school cares for 50 children at a fee of R85 a month, which is not always affordable in this area.

"Through the kind assistance of the Human Resources Trust, the school has obtained mattresses for the children to sleep on. We are now faced with the problem of blankets as colder weather draws near," she wrote.

So Operation Snowball delivered 50 warm blankets to the school and a delighted Yvonne Merckel commented: "Previously, we relied on heaters to keep the children warm but even that did not always help.

"But yesterday, after each child settled down under a warm blanket — some were even snoring — for the first time we had problems waking them up."

The Noordgesig children are just a handful of the people who need help from those of us who sleep warmly at night. Please send cash donations for buying blankets to Operation Snowball, Box 1014, Johannesberg 2050, or deliver old clothes to any one of the 25 depots receiving donations on our behalf.
Series on creative child development continues

THE Afrika Cultural Centre continues with its Creative Studies in Child Development seminar series later this year.

The aims of the Creative Studies in Child Development programme are: To activate communities, community groups, individuals, parents and other people working with children and children themselves; to establish programmes to raise awareness and debate on issues affecting child development; to engage children themselves in a critical and creative programme of transformation of their material conditions; and to develop a programme of creative intervention in the life of a child and publish regular research material.

Here are the dates of the series for the year:
Environmental awareness - July 14;
Resources - August 25;
Art - October 6 and Series review - November 17.

TV should not
Boost for day-care centres

A LEADING pharmaceutical company has launched a project to assist Child Welfare in their servicing of 435 day-care centres in South Africa.

A spokesman said the programme, called "Project Touch", was initiated by Johnson and Johnson, world leaders in the field of health care.

She said the day centres were identified as being an area where the company could play an essential role in the future of South Africa's children by providing support for disadvantaged children.

"Our credo is to be responsible to the communities in which we live and work," he said.

"We believe we must be good citizens and support good works and charities. We also believe we must encourage civic improvements, better health and education.

"We aim to make this a living philosophy, through positive action. We are totally committed to "Project Touch,"" she said.

They aimed to raise about R500 000 in cash and product donations this year.

"Various fund-raising activities are planned for the year - some in conjunction with major retail outlets. To stretch the funds a little further, our company has pledged to match every donation rand for a rand to a maximum of R20 000," she said.

The first leg of the fund-raising kicked off with the Baby of the Year Competition. Each entrant is asked to be accompanied by a donation of R2.

The competition and "Project Touch" are being supported by advertising on M-Net and Radio 702.

People wishing to help the company reach out to the children through its project are asked to address their donations to Project Touch, PO Box 871, Highlands North, 2037.

For further information contact Janette Chan or Glynnis Branthwaite on (011) 728-1363.
Dr. Carter, managing director of the Children's Home, said their doors are open to anyone and everyone. The Children's Home, he said, has no restrictions. The public has been very receptive to the idea of the scheme and has made it possible for the Children's Home to continue its work. The public's support has been immense, he said.
A watchdog over abused children

CONCERN about the abuse of children in this country and the reluctance of people to report cases to the police led Mr Michiel Tshini to start the National Youth Research and Services Organisation (Nyrsa) last year.

When it started, the organisation was merely a small effort by Tshini, two research officers and a private detective to combat and prevent child abuse. But as the demand grew for their services, they decided to extend their staff. Today the organisation has four research officers, and four private detectives, some who are ex-policemen.

The organisation researches the causes of child abuse, counsels victims and recommends medical help when necessary.

"I always read about children who had been abducted and abused sexually or who were being abused by their own parents, but found that not much was being done to bring the abusers to justice."

"One of the reasons the police fail to solve such problems is because they have no researchers to investigate the specifics of cases, and rely only on information supplied by the people," Tshini said.

"Nyrsa's first case was of a woman who had been using children for prostitution in Vosloorus. The police could not find her, but after two weeks of investigating the case we had found the woman and taken her to the police.

"While investigating that case we came across another interesting case of young girls who were living in contractor camps with the contractors. Obviously these men were taking advantage of the girls. There are many other cases we have found on our own, investigated and helped to arrest the abusers."

Problems

A non-profit making organisation, Nyrsa has not escaped problems, especially financial ones. At first Tshini ran the organisation on his own, providing all the necessary funds - office rent, salaries and general administrative costs.

But as the workload increased, so did the financial demand and this forced the organisation to close down for three months.

Nyrsa charges R100 to cover administrative costs, but would not refuse complaints who cannot afford this.
(2) (a) 25,764
(b) 4,320
(c) 1,535

NOTE: A large number of the stolen vehicles are taken to countries such as Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Zaire, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho. Although some of these vehicles are identified in the countries concerned, it is difficult to retrieve them as the co-operation of the authorities of these countries cannot be obtained.

Police Force: resignations/shortage

501 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order (1) (a) How many policemen of each rank resigned from the Police Force (i) in 1989 and (ii) from 1 January 1990 up to the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how many new recruits were there during each of these periods,

(b) what is the shortage of policemen of each rank in each province as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) 31 December 1989?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.

(1) (a) 1,048 in 1989
(ii) 2,589 until 31 May 1990.
(ii) 3,716 in 1990.

(2) (a) On 31 May 1990, 4,925 posts were vacant country-wide.

(b) On 31 December 1989, 3,304 posts were vacant country-wide.

505 Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) How many technicons (a) Whites, (b) Blacks, (c) Coloureds and (d) Indians are there in the Port Elizabeth area and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished.

(2) What was the (a) capacity of and (b) enrolment at each such technicon as at the latest specified date in 1990 for which information is available.

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION.

(1) (a) The Port Elizabeth Technikon is the only technikon which serves the Port Elizabeth area. Students of all population groups are registered at this technikon which falls under the Department of Education and Culture, Administration: House of Assembly.

(b) 1990

(2) (a) 3,009
(b) 3,925.

The Department of National Education does not initiate the planning and building of technikons. The State Departments responsible for education should be approached in this regard.

Unemployment Insurance Fund benefits: OCS

519 Mr M FUCHS asked the Minister of Manpower:

(1) What total amount was paid out in Unemployment Insurance Fund benefits in the Orange Free State in the 1988-89 and 1989-90 financial years, respectively;

(2) in respect of each of these financial years, (a) how many (i) Blacks, (ii) Whites, (iii) Coloureds and (iv) Indians received such benefits and (b) what was the total amount involved in each case?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER.

(1) 1988 — R21,518,683
1989 — R30,336,445

(2) (a) and (b) Figures for the different population groups are not readily available.

NOTE: The figures are for the period 1 January to 31 December of each year concerned.

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Whether there are any clinics for the termination of pregnancies in South Africa; if so, (a) (i) what are their names and (ii) where is each located and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MEDICAL SERVICES:

521 Mr J J ELLIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

Whether the Central Statistical Service keeps statistics of the number of (a) White, (b) Coloured, (c) Indian and (d) Black children who died of (i) diarrhoea and (ii) dysentery; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant statistics for 1989 or the latest specified year for which they are available.

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

Statistics on children who died of diarrhoea and dysentery are not kept separately. In the compilation of statistics on deaths, the Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death (which is based on the International Classification of Diseases) is used to distinguish the different causes of death. Diarrhoea and dysentery are not identified separately but fall under ill-defined conditions in the group Intestinal Infectious Diseases. Child deaths in this category during 1988 (the latest year for which such statistics are available) were

Children

(a) 15
(b) 805
(c) 11
(d) 3,892

* Children under one year of age. This age group is normally used to calculate the infant mortality rate

** Asians are shown. Data on Indians are not separately available.
23 dead babies: doctor tells of strike crisis

Pretoria Correspondent

Documentary evidence substantiating allegations that 23 premature babies died as a direct result of strike action at Ga-Rankuwa Hospital earlier this year has been handed to a Commission of Inquiry investigating the causes and consequences of the eight-day dispute.

The evidence was contained in a letter written by a paediatric consultant, Dr M van Dyk, to the temporary chief medical superintendent, Dr L van Heerden, on April 17 — five days after the strike ended.

"In the neo-natal intensive care unit we had to diagnose and treat critically ill babies without supporting laboratory facilities. We had 23 deaths between April 4 and April 10," wrote Dr van Wyk.

The letter, submitted as evidence yesterday, said no cleaning was done in the neo-natal section during the strike and neither were the bodies of dead babies collected for removal to the mortuary. The tiny patients' food was delivered late and on April 10 and 11 none of the babies received medication as their nurses had been "intimidated to join the strike".

"I have to state that this was a most unethical way to care for patients. I would appreciate it if you (Dr van Heerden) could let the parties involved in the strike know what the results of their actions were. The responsibility for these patients already dead, as well as those who will die due to poor care, should be placed on the strikers."

The legal representative for the National Education, Health and Allied Workers Union, Mr G Josman, said on the first day the Commission of Inquiry sat that he would show the attempted evacuation of patients during the strike had some bearing on the alleged deaths of the infants.

However, Dr van Heerden said yesterday that he was not aware that any of the babies in the neo-natal ward had been evacuated.
Detained youths ‘not allowed to have visits’

By CASSANDRA MOODLEY

A 12-year-old boy who is awaiting trial and is being held at Jabulani police station, Soweto, has not been allowed visits by his family since his arrest. Three other 16-year-olds awaiting trial have also been refused visiting rights.

Kenneth Maila, 12, was detained with nine others after the June 16 rally in Jabulani, Soweto. The police alleged that nine were involved in burning a train and arrested them under section 50 of the Internal Security Act. They appeared in the Protea Court on Monday where they were charged with public violence. The case was remanded to July 6.

However, witnesses claim no train was burned on that day. Apparently after the Jabulani rally people proceeded to the train station, still singing revolutionary songs. The police then blocked the chanting crowd at the Jabulani railway station.

The next day Maila’s family heard he was arrested and went from station to station searching for him.

Once they had established that he was at Jabulani police station, they asked to see him but were told that this was not possible. Since then they have been denied the opportunity to see the boy.

Lawrence Siswana, Daniel Radebe and Bonolo Moloaba were also arrested on June 6, the day before the partial lifting of the State of Emergency. They were suspected of being in possession of explosives.

The three members of the Congress of South African Students, appeared in the Protea Magistrate’s Court and were transferred to Orlando police station.

Legal representatives say that on one occasion when an appointment was arranged for 6 pm, the families were still refused visits. A constable at the station also informed them he had orders not to grant visiting rights, and a warrant officer advised them not to apply for visits.

According to the parents the police officers hide their badges, making it impossible for them to identify who is turning them away.

The parents and lawyers are afraid that the boys are being assaulted.

Soweto public relations officer Lieutenant G Marlemuthoo confirmed the detentions but rejected as false the allegation that parents were not allowed to see the youths being held in custody.
Helping mums to get ready for school

THE Home Instruction Programme for Preschool Youngsters (Hippy) is becoming more acceptable to black people in Soweto and already boasts 14 graduates.

The programme, developed in Israel in 1969 for children from educationally disadvantaged communities, is aimed at equipping mothers with the knowledge and skills necessary for them to help develop their own children intellectually, emotionally and socially and prepare them for formal learning.

In South Africa, Hippy was started in 1987 after long and in-depth negotiations between the Union of Jewish Women and representatives of the Board of Deputies of Johannesburg, Orlando East and West communities to find out if the programme was in demand in those areas. Now it has spread to Diepkoof, Vosloorus, Bloemfontein and Daveyton.

Committees were then set up and the first group of co-ordinators elected by Soweto child-minders went to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to be trained on how to introduce the programme.

"Parents don't see themselves as educators or as important players in the formal education of their children. They would rather take their children to nursery schools. This programme gives them the responsibility to orientate their children for formal learning," said Mrs Rosina Mahumapelo, the first co-ordinator for Soweto.

Co-ordinators meet with parent leaders on a weekly basis and discuss work to be done on that week. Thereafter the parent leaders go and instruct mothers individually on the week's material and mothers teach their children at home.

Parent leaders meet with mothers fortnightly for a review of the past week's work and an enrichment programme where they develop the parents' communication skills.

The material is a worksheet with 10 activities for the child to follow, instructions for the parent leader and a story book. Focus of the programme is on language development, visual discrimination, problem-solving and perceptual skills for the child.

"The programme has since gained momentum but there are still problems because it is still relatively new to the people. For instance, we had a big dropout rate in our original group, but last year we gained 'even more people,'" Mahumapelo said.

"Hippy is meant to be run in English for children aged between four and six years, but it can be translated."
Nightclubs focus on teenage drinking

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

THE South African Nightclub Association has called a meeting in Johannesburg next Tuesday to discuss the "escalating" number of schoolchildren, especially those under the age of 18, who patronize drinking places.

An executive member of the association, Mr Brian Batsheke, yesterday said that they were concerned about violent incidents, robberies and other crimes that take place at nightclubs, taverns and shebeens involving youths.

He said: "Much as our businesses are not doing well because of inflation, unemployment and other problems facing our black communities, we feel strongly about the youths who drink at these places.

"Most of them - boys and girls - drink liquor and whenever under the influence resort to violence, sometimes causing damage to property."

"The situation often becomes intolerable and when remonstrating with them and owners have been attacked," he said.
Bid to help abused children

By CAROLYN McGIBBON
Weekend Argus Reporter

A UNIQUE programme has been launched in Cape Town by victims of child-abuse to help other children who have been sexually abused.

The group is run by two remarkable young people: Rachel, 19, who was sexually abused by a member of her family from the age of five; and André, now in his 30s, who was molested as a child actor.

The group, called Forward, helps victims come to terms with the enduring nightmare of their past.

Rachel and André have an understanding of child abuse better than any textbook. They know the horror that the victim endures. And they have little sympathy for the perpetrator.

"They cannot just “forgive and forget”," they say. The damage wrought is too deep. A life sentence would be an appropriate punishment, they say.

Their lives were devastated by their attackers, they say. They lost all self-confidence, were riddled with guilt, were overcome by feelings of powerlessness and were sent on a path of self-destruction.

Rachel found herself continually taken advantage of by older men. Once, she was abused by a teacher to whom she had turned for help. She was driven to attempt suicide and landed up in a mental home for five months.

André was so disturbed by his experiences that it led him to prostitution. It was the only way he could regain power over his body and his life, he said. When he was 15 he sold himself on the street four times. On the last occasion he vomited as he climbed out of the car.

He is now engaged to be married to a loving, understanding woman, but he is still not rid of the past. As the engagement party a man he trusted gave him a hug. He recoiled, quivering.

"I still feel uncomfortable if a man stands too close to me," he said. "It’s not fair that I should feel like that. I don’t have anything against homosexuals. That’s their choice. But I had no choice."

Rachel has taken years to come to terms.

"It started when I was six or seven and carried on until I was 10 or 11. I went through absolute hell. I had such a poor self-image. I’ve got a lot of talent, but I threw it away and started punishing myself because I thought I was a bad girl."

"I burnt myself and cut myself. I destroyed everything of sentimental value to me."

She tried to commit suicide at 13 and eventually went for psychotherapy.

The group started last year during the trial of Rachel’s abuser, when she was introduced to another victim by the prosecutor.

"That was a turning point in my life. It raised me out of the black hole that I was in,"

Rachel was aware that there were others in the same predicament as her and now works full time, without pay, for the group.

"I’m not trained. My only qualification is that I have been sexually abused," she said.

"This is the only place kids can go to which has been established by and is being run by victims."

Often children had nowhere to turn to. Their parents accused them of lying or made them feel to blame. Professionals were not always helpful. André was once told by a psychiatrist to “notch it up to experience."

Said Rachel. "Now there is a place where kids can go to where they won’t be judged or analysed; where they have no fear of being ridiculed or biassed.

"We can identify with them. We’ve been through it all. We’ve had the same feelings, the powerlessness and the guilt, the same problems with sex and relationships.

"It is a group of children, for children. "We have taken something negative and destructive and turned it into a constructive thing."

Many children who had been abused got caught in a vicious circle and became abusers themselves, she said.

Rachel said children in the group were taught their rights, how to say ‘No’, and how to avoid the pitfalls of choosing unsuitable partners because they might feel they are “not good enough for anyone else”.

The group has the full backing of Child Welfare, Safeline, Lifeline, the Red Cross Hospital, Wynberg Magistrate’s Court and the Child Protection Unit.

Phone Forward on 45 8511, page 1888.
Soweto news editor Mr Sello Rabothata presenting a cheque for R500 to Mr Sanku Molaudi, principal of Ikemoleng Remedial School. The newspaper adopted the school last year as part of its Nation Building campaign. Another cheque for R500 was given to Othandweni Children's home. The money came from donations by the Soweto-based Brotherhood Syndication.
back to mum

Gunn's baby

back to mum

BY NONNE WICKI

01/4/81

© [Mark]
Children's festival puts spotlight on sensitive issues

CHILD abuse and divorce are the main features of the Out of the Box Children's Festival at the Market Theatre until July 28.

The festival, organised by Annie Barnes, writer and director of children's plays, in co-operation with Childline, offers three plays for children, running from Monday to Saturday at different times.

In addition to the plays, every Wednesday there will be free puppet shows, story-telling, face-painting, competitions, quizzes, prizes and a lucky draw where cash prizes and a video cassette recorder can be won.

**Its aims**

Out of the Box's objectives for the festival are to provide not only fun and entertainment for the children, but also the original work relevant to South African children and to show it to the public.

Though dealing with sensitive issues like child abuse and divorce, the plays *You and I, Safe and Sound* and *People We Call Parents*, are simplified to the children's level of understanding through fun songs, story-telling, dance and participation which keeps them attentive.

By PEARL MAJOLA

children into a futuristic space age.

But here as well there is a meaningful message for the children. They are taught about peace and co-operation through their participation in an effort to save the planet.

**Rights**

Yet both do not fail to convey the clear messages they set to put across.

*You and I, Safe and Sound* teaches children about their right to privacy with strong themes like "My body is private property" and "I never talk to strangers".

**Purpose**

*People We Call Parents* brings children and parents to a better understanding of the divorce issue.

Its purpose, according to Annie Barnes, the director and producer of the play, is "To bring children face to face with the people behind the roles of parenthood, eliminate misconceptions and help them to accept imperfection in adults as part of what makes them individuals."

A lighthearted part of the festival is brought by *Beware the Moonshadows*, which is an adventure that takes
Children sick after eviction from shacks

By Montshiwa Moroke

Thirteen children who were exposed to the cold after the demolition of Dobsonville's shantytown have contracted measles and bronchitis, a spokesman for the Soweto Civic Association health committee said yesterday.

The children were aged between four months and five years.

At least three of the children and three adults, including a diabetic and an anaemic, were referred to a Soweto doctor for treatment.

The doctor said last night the patients had suffered from diseases symptomatic of exposure and poor living conditions.

Nongaba Mosunkutu, a nurse who attended to the squatter families in a tent pitched at the site, said her team had treated 36 people suffering from a variety of ailments.

Mrs Mosunkutu said that in another development, the police, who had earlier backed council officials who demolished about 40 re-erected shacks, arrived on the scene while she was away and confiscated the tent.

Two elderly people also suffered leg and head injuries when a bulldozer knocked down their shacks.

The pulling down of shacks started more than a week ago. Last week, after a court ruling, 59 shacks were demolished in a single operation. Most of the families have since been sleeping outside in the cold while guarding their meagre possessions. There is no water or sanitation in the area.
10 Bara babies die of Aids

Ten babies have died from AIDS at Baragwanath Hospital in the last year, a hospital paediatrician has disclosed.

Of 30 infected babies admitted to Baragwanath in just over a year, 10 have died, 12 are known to be still alive, and the parents of the remaining eight have stopped taking their babies for treatment.

Paediatrician Dr Ian Friedland said although there was no effective cure for the HIV infection, babies were treated for diseases which could attack their immune system and lead to an early death.

The 10 babies had been infected by their mothers during pregnancy.
Probe into young WR activist's cell death

A post mortem would soon be held to determine the cause of the death of a 15-year-old Khumong, Carletonville activist who died after being held in police custody last week, a police spokesman said in Pretoria yesterday.

He said Eugene Mbolwana, arrested last Tuesday in connection with assault and malicious damage to property, died on Friday after he was taken to hospital on Thursday.

The youth's mother, Mrs Aggie Mbolwana, told a Johannesburg newspaper that when she saw her son at Leratong Hospital the doctor said he was suffering from multiple head injuries and severe internal bleeding in the head.

He did not respond when she called his name and died minutes later, she said.
POLICE yesterday asked that a statement alleging they had tortured a young activist before he died be handed to them so they could investigate the allegations.

A police spokesman was reacting to reports that a lawyer had a statement from a youth who allegedly witnessed police assaults on Eugene Mbulwa (15) at the Welverdiend police station near Carletonville.

Police said Eugene, arrested last Tuesday in connection with assault and malicious damage to property, died on Friday after he had been hospitalised on Thursday.

The alleged witness, whom the lawyer would not name out of fear for the youth’s life, said he had also been tortured by police.

They had allegedly punched, kicked, chained and poked needles into a group of youths who had been detained with Eugene.

Eugene’s mother, Mrs Appie Mbulwa, said when she saw her son at Leratong Hospital a doctor said he was suffering from multiple head injuries and severe internal bleeding in the head.

He did not respond when she called his name and died minutes later.

A post mortem would be held soon, police said.

-SAPA
Scores of babies are behind bars

By Claire Robertson, Pretoria Bureau

There were 177 babies in South African prisons, according to the latest count, carried out in May this year.

Although Shirley Gunn is being held in a police cell at present, it has been suggested she be moved to Pollsmoor Prison where there are better facilities for herself where she could be reunited with her son, Haroon.

If the transfer takes place she will fall under prison policy which holds that female prisoners be admitted with their infants where the babies are wholly or partially dependent on breastfeeding.

Further, prisons believe in "accommodating them at State expense for as long as it is considered to be physically or psychologically essential," a spokesman for Prison Service said yesterday.

Policy

"This also applies to babies born while their mothers are in prison.

"Regardless of their age infants can remain with their mothers for as long as it is considered essential for medical, psychological and nutritional reasons.

"It is however the policy to place small children of prisoners in family or foster care as soon as possible."

According to the spokesman, all babies and children were given a full physical examination by a physician shortly after admission and as often as necessary thereafter, with each consultation and all treatment being recorded.

"Prison nurses routinely record the children's weight and are in daily contact with the younger children, helping the mothers with their care."

Medical problems are referred to the prison doctor or dentist, the spokesman said.

Complex

Mrs Barbara Harker, acting national director of Nicro, (the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders) said this was an "incredibly emotive" and complex issue.

Any decision depended on the length of the mother's sentence and the welfare of the child, but that generally in Western countries removing the baby from the mother could be considered a "cruel and unusual punishment".
Hospital staff battles to keep vital service functioning

MARITZBURG — Dedicated doctors at Edendale Hospital, aided by a handful of private practitioners, are battling to keep the hospital’s most vital service, the Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O and G) department, functioning.

The hospital provides a service for about half a million people from its immediate surroundings. It acts as a referral hospital for the more than 30 community clinics dotted throughout the Natal Midlands and nine other provincial and KwaZulu hospitals.

With an average of 800 to 1,000 babies delivered each month, a skeleton staff and the volunteer city doctors are under considerable stress, and the hospital faces the dangerous predicament of falling foul of medical council regulations.

This follows a critical loss of doctors, including all its full-time specialists, over the past eight months. Relying on crisis management since the beginning of the year, the hospital administration has failed to find replacements.

The crisis, the biggest yet to confront Edendale Hospital, is further exacerbated by the excessive red tape surrounding the employment of new doctors. Ideally served by 21 medical officers and four full-time specialists (consultants), there are now only six medical officers, one intern and no permanent full-time consultants in the O and G department.

As an emergency measure, a private gynaecologist and former head of department has volunteered his services as acting head of the department, and a visiting professor from Poland has been seconded to Edendale from King Edward VIII Hospital as a temporary consultant for the next two months.

Sources at Edendale Hospital have cited the fragmentation of health services, inept administration and frustrating working conditions as a major cause of the crisis.

Administered by the KwaZulu government, employment of staff is a lengthy and bureaucratic procedure. Most white doctors are employed by the Natal Provincial Administration and seconded to the hospital.

Superintendent Dr Peter Evans commended the doctors of O and G. He said his staff were working flat out and the administration had been streamlined considerably. — Sapa.
PORT ELIZABETH — The plight of children who scavenge for food at a rubbish dump in Port Elizabeth remains unsolved, months after Operation Hunger transferred its assistance scheme from community family feeding to school feeding.

The national deputy director of Operation Hunger, Ms Mpho Mashinini, said the transfer was made because of a lack of funds. The organisation felt people should initiate schemes to help themselves.

Many concerned people are still wondering why the “Etipini” rubbish dump in KwaZakhele, which was closed down in the 70s, is still feeding the children.

Conditions

Children as young as eight, some with their parents, were discovered last week sniffing glue, smoking dagga and tobacco, and living in a dumping area in a tiny cardboard hovel.

It has happened to some for the past five years and their living conditions are worse than those of the “street urchins” in town. They have no water supply or ablution facilities, but sneak to the taps at the nearby blocks of houses to get water.

Some of the children said, although they had parents living in the township, they could not stay with them because of overcrowding and poverty.

Children from firms and warehouses in Port Elizabeth bring refuse and food scraps to the dump.

I found the stench almost unbearable as I watched children stoop to sift through the garbage. One child’s hand was bleeding as he pulled it out of the heap — it had caught hold of some razor blades.

Small children were helping grownups. Women roamed around screeching with harsh voices, a goat was eating whatever it could find.

An elderly woman told me: “I feel deeply moved at your presence here.” She said their problems were beyond solution, and that “we live in mortal sin here”.

They have become known as the people of the dump.

Their daily survival depends on the food and useful items they find in the mountain of rubbish dumped at the “Etipini” at KwaZakhele near Port Elizabeth.

To most of them the dump has been “home” for more than five years, reports ZOLA NTUTU:

She said she decided to scavenge for food and “valuables” dumped there after she had been refused a pension to enable her to rent a house and feed her children.

“If the people call this living, they are gravely mistaken,” she added. She appealed to anyone who could come to their aid to do so.

A nine-year old boy, Dumane, said he was born and had grown in garbage.

He does not know where his parents are and said he stayed there because there was nowhere else to go. He said he sniffed glue because “my body goes through all the motions like a robot, while at the same time my head belongs elsewhere”.

Thembile, 14, who can read and write, said he left school because his parents never encouraged him to study, instead telling him they had no money. He said he was forced to scavenge for copper to sell in the township.

A 17-year old boy said: “Do whatever’s in your power to let our voice be heard. It’s a crime that we should be allowed to die like this.

“We are dying of TB, and we are slowly rotting, but let our children live,” yelled an old pensioner.

Encourage

Not much help appears to be on the way for these desperate children, although the “Liebenhause” (house of love) shelter in Gelvandale hopes to incorporate the street children by raising funds to extend the existing building to offer overnight accommodation to the children.

The shelter, run by social worker Ms Anthea Thompson, currently provides care to 12 children.

Thompson said attempts to encourage the children to come to “Liebenhause” had met with little success. They were “territorial” by nature and would not leave their area.

Despite difficulties, a dogged determination to improve the lot of the children and establish a platform to enable them to reintegrate themselves into society is what keeps Thompson going. — PEN
Children who go looking for war

By Marguerite Moody

Children younger than 10 armed with home-made guns, knobkerries, knives and petrol bombs, youths meting out physical punishment on adults, children sleeping in the bush by the roadside at night, small children separated from their parents...

This was the grim picture painted of the effect of the violence in Natal on children by the director of Pinetown Child and Family Welfare, Priscilla McKay.

Addressing about 50 delegates to the Southern African Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect annual conference in Johannesburg last week, Ms McKay said children in Natal had become "brutalised victims of a vicious system".

Destroyed

"The murder in Natal is both the murder of childhood and the murder of children."

"There have been about 4,000 deaths as a result of violence since the conflict started in 1987, and more than 500 homes have been destroyed. At one stage, there were 40,000 displaced people, and there are still some 8,000 people living in refugee camps in Maritzburg."

She said a kind of war psychosis had developed among children in the townships.

"Children armed to the teeth are actually going out looking for war. They don't sleep at night as they expect their areas will be attacked, and they are not attending school."

According to Ms McKay, 112 schools in the Mpumalanga circuit near Pinetown had been closed for over three months, and more than 120,000 children, most under 15 years old, had not been to school since then.

"The townships have been divided into Inkatha and UDF areas, and children cannot be accepted into schools in Inkatha-controlled areas unless they register as Inkatha members. Access to other facilities such as health, welfare and housing are controlled in much the same way."

She said headmasters could no longer guarantee to parents that if their children went to school, they would return home alive.

"Children have been shot waiting in school bus queues."

The absence of children from school had resulted in a marked increase in sexually transmitted diseases and pregnancies among unmarried girls.

"Schoolgirls have told us of threats by youths to burn their parents' houses down if they don't sleep with them," Ms McKay said.

Another matter of concern to social workers was the emergence of "comrades' courts".

"There has been a complete breakdown in normal law and order, and these courts take very severe action. In one case, children took it in turn to administer 250 lashes on an elderly lady accused of practising witchcraft. She later died," she said.

Control

"When the Comrades control an area, a lot of things go wrong and the adults have no say."

"What is desperately needed in these townships is a massive programme of social and human development."

"The Pinetown Child and Family Welfare does not have the financial resources at the moment to offer much to these abused children."

She said the centre had only 27 social workers for the area from Durban to Mpumalanga, and more community workers and social workers trained to handle conflict were needed.

"We have got to re-divide our resources between the sophisticated needs of the First World, and the far greater needs of the Third World. This is where 80 percent of our aid is required," she said.
Steps taken against child death rate

BY PETER DENNEHY

DEATHS of children under five years of age whose bodies are sent to the state mortuary in Salt River are to be reported daily, rather than weekly, to the office of the Medical Officer of Health (MoH) concerned.

This was said yesterday by Professor Deon Knobel, head of the department of forensic medicine at the University of Cape Town medical school and head of the pathologists at the mortuary.

He said this step had been agreed upon after a spate of mid-winter children’s deaths, reported last week by the Cape Times.

Dr Michael Popkiss and Dr Stewart Fisher, MoHs of the City Council and the RSC respectively, will continue to report children’s deaths to local clinics as they have been doing for years, albeit on a weekly basis, so that social workers can do house visits.

“We are all concerned about the high rate of infant mortality,” Prof Knobel said. “To address this problem, one of the things we must do is ensure that bereaved families get both social and psychological support.”

Dr Popkiss said yesterday that final infant mortality rate figures for Cape Town municipality in the year ending June 1990 were not yet available, but indications were that these would be the lowest yet.

In 1987/88 the figure (for all races) was 19.30 per 1 000 live births, and last year it was 18.32.

A spokesman for Dr Fisher’s office said the RSC infant mortality rate for the year just ended was also not yet available, but he added that in the years 1986 to 1988, the colour figures had been respectively 21.16, 18.18, and 19 deaths per 1 000 live births.

Another measure being taken within Prof Knobel’s department was that preventable natural deaths were being separated from cases of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, or “cot deaths”, in an ongoing research project. Detailed forms are to be filled in in respect of cot deaths.

Usually, bodies go to the state mortuary in Salt River only in cases of death from unnatural or unknown causes. This would account to some extent for the relatively high “cot death” figures reported from the mortuary — 40 so far this year.

Some of the babies who had died this winter had not been completely healthy — they had suffered from colds and diarrhoea, Prof Knobel said. The causes of malnutrition — poverty and ignorance — were also being looked at, he said.

Community nursing services could help to alleviate ignorance, especially concerning recognition of the symptoms of illness, Prof Knobel said.
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"When the comrades control an area, a lot of things go wrong and the adults have no say in how to cope with the situation."

McKay said even creches were controlled by warring youths.
Leader of ANC presents new view on curbs

By CHARLES MOGALE

NELSON Mandela arrived back from his sixweek world tour this week with a softened line on sanctions.

The deputy president of the ANC told journalists at Jan Smuts Airport in Johannesburg that there was a possibility the ANC could review its stance on sanctions even before a new constitution was in place.

Mandela said this was possible once mutual trust between the ANC and the government was established.

Although still persistent in his call for the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles, Mandela’s statements have been regarded as a shift from the "hardline" position adopted prior to his world tour.

He had made it clear that the ANC was immovable on the Harare Declaration, the observance of which the ANC regarded as a bottom line to the creation of a climate-conducive to fruitful negotiations.

Allaying fears that sanctions could ruin the economy irreparably, Mandela said world business leaders were eager to return to South Africa as soon as apartheid was buried.

"We are fully conscious of the fact that political stability and social security can only derive from an ever expanding economy," he said.

The ANC leader is expected to meet State President FW de Klerk for the second round of the Groote Schuur talks. It is expected to be held in Pretoria within weeks.

Mandela’s 14-nation tour was to a large extent described as a success for the ANC. Although he was less enthusiastically received by British leader Margaret Thatcher, and there were sparse demonstrations against him from Jews antagonised by his pro Yasser Arafat stance, the overwhelming majority of the cities he visited received him warmly.

In New York Mandela drew the largest single crowd ever seen in the city, and stars paid R2 500 and more to dine with the Mandelas.
Soweto police 'adopt' 60 children

By Glen Else
West Rand Bureau

The Soweto police notched another first recently when they "adopted" a Jabulani children's home after obtaining the necessary permission to act as guardians for about 60 children.

This is the first time that such a project has been undertaken by a police region anywhere in South Africa.

Major-General Johan Swart, regional commissioner of the Soweto region, said the mission of the South African Police in Soweto was to provide effective policing and to maximise their relationship with the community.

One of the ways of accomplishing this mission was to become more involved in community affairs and projects. The police decided to become involved with one of four children's homes in Soweto, the Emdeni Children's Home.

As an initial gesture the police donated blankets and swings to the home during the launch of the project yesterday.

General Swart said further projects included a supplying of Christmas trees for the children at the end of the year. They would also be invited to take part in the first Soweto "candles by candlelight" which is being planned for this year.

Reverend Samuel Tladi, the home's principal, thanked the police for acting as guardians of the institution.
Video helps children say ‘NO’

By SOPHIE TEMA

RESEARCH has shown parents who were abused as children were six times more likely to abuse their own children.

Speaking at the Orlando Children’s Home in Soweto this week during a video presentation to teach children the inalienable right to say NO to abusers, Liberty Life Group community fund trustee Hytron Appelbaum said there was an alarming cycle of “the abused becoming the abuser”.

Three out of four children at the home are thought to have been victims of sexual abuse.

“The reason for this (cycle) is simple. The perpetrators stress secrecy and warp the victims’ sense of normality — explaining to their children their behaviour is normal and happens in every family, but is not spoken about.

“In many cases the mother is party to the crime or simply turns a blind eye.

“If on the other hand, the child senses what the perpetrator is doing is wrong, the child is made to feel that it is his or her fault — and becomes tormented by feelings of guilt,” said Appelbaum.

He said research showed an extraordinary percentage of abnormal behaviour could be attributed to childhood abuse. Sexual, physical and psychological abuse cut across cultural, religious and language barriers.

There was a strong need for to teach children how to handle possible advances and to enable them to say NO to behaviour they find uncomfortable.

Appelbaum said such education would prevent children falling prey to paedophiles and abusers.

The most effective way to bring this across was through a visual medium — with the back-up of the written word.

Until Liberty Life and the SABC seized the initiative there were no videos on the subject to which South African children could easily relate, he said.

The programmes, aimed at the very vulnerable age group of between six and 13 years, were televised on three channels by the SABC and designed to teach children:

- They have the right to say NO.
- Their bodies belong to no one but themselves.
- To come to terms with their positive and negative emotions.
- To have a negative response to adults is not necessarily wrong.
- They have the right to seek advice and help from adults.
Homeless on the

Row over running of crèches in township

A ROW has erupted in Atteridgeville over the running of crèches in the township.

The Atteridgeville/Saulsville Residents Organisation said this week it had taken over the running of the crèches in the township and had subsidised them to the tune of R2 500 since they reopened on June 10.

Mr John Ramatsui, ARO's media liaison officer, said the organisation took over the crèches after the council indicated it was no longer able to run them.

Ramatsui said they saw the council's statement as another attempt to break the four-month-old rents boycott in the township.

"We are presently providing food for the crèches and we are also involved in improving the quality of life at these institutions," said Ramatsui.

Mr Dan Mouzon, Atteridgeville's acting town clerk, denied that ARO had taken over the running of the crèches.

"The council is still running the crèches and the statement by ARO is totally incorrect," he said.

Mouzon said ARO had offered to assist with providing food after the council informed parents that it intended closing the crèches due to lack of funds.

"The food supply is irregular and this makes it difficult for the crèches to function properly," he said.

Mouzon said the council welcomed ARO's contribution but it would consider closing the crèches if the situation did not improve.
were not cared for.

Distinctions can also be drawn between abandoned children and those seen in the city and referred to as "street children" or "strollers", said the social workers.

Some "strollers" arrive in cities from the homelands or independent states without anywhere to live and others leave their homes to earn money by begging in the city.

Most of the children who purposefully leave home had lived in "squatter" communities before taking to the streets. Other "strollers" return to their homes every night.

When black children land up in homes, social workers find that families are reluctant to adopt them.

Poverty appears to inhibit families from adopting children as they do not have the financial means to care for extra children. They therefore tend to take children into foster care and obtain a foster care grant.

Reasons for children being left homeless result from poverty, urbanisation, socio-economic factors and population growth, said the social workers.

Mothers who abandon children usually leave them with friends, family or at institutions where they know their children will be looked after.

However, babies are sometimes found left on strangers' doorsteps, buses or in the open. Occasionally mothers do not return to hospitals to collect premature born babies.
Babes behind bars – unseen statistics

Among the prison population of some 400 in the Johannesburg Women's Prison are 25 who are pregnant.

Their "cell" is a spacious room with bright paintings on the walls, cellar cushions and toys on the floor, and colourful blue and red curtains hanging the bars. They are loved by the staff and prisoners alike. Their gilglows create an island of normality in a stormy, ugly world of guards, uniforms and corridors.

The baboes behind bars are treasured and comforted by the prison with medical care, a carefully planned diet including fresh fruit and vegetables and a surplus of affection.

Separation

The SA Prisons Service does not believe in babies in prison. "The idea is to have no babies born..." says Prisons Public Relations Director Brigadier van Zyl. But, he confirms, that the infants cannot be separated from their mothers as it makes them too uncomfortable as they are.

"Most of the people here are mothers who have been separated from their children, but they have children they can cuddle," says Brigadier van Zyl.

We treasure our babies. Even the Prison Service members get to cuddle them, particularly those who stay for a while.

Bright-side button says one such "long term" baby, having spent 14 of her 16 months in "Sun City".

One of the few baboes who was born in the prison, eight-month-old Pociel will have to be separated from her mother in due course as she is serving a nine-year term.

A shy, elfin-faced woman, the wrinkles "murder" when asked why she is there.

Baboes are admitted with numbers if they are physically dependent – still being breastfed – or if there is no one suitable outside prison to care for the baby.

"We do have problems in finding suitable foster carers for some babies," says Brigadier van Zyl.

Some of the baboes are born while their mothers are in prison – about one a month at Johannesburg Prison, the largest women's prison in South Africa, housing 568 women in a facility built for 768.

The births take place either in a civil hospital – usually the Park Lane or the Johannesburg Hospital – or f the doctor thinks it would be better for the baby to be born in the prison. The doctors and the prison nurse are in charge of the delivery.

Pediatricians from the hospital come to examine the baby within hours of its birth. The baby is then taken to the hospital nursery.

Pregnant women in jail are visited regularly by a gynaecologist, who ensures they receive a special diet, and are checked by the medical section of their prison, to ensure they are in good health and receive their antenatal care.

Inmates are given antenatal checks, vitamins and other care they require.

Separation of the baby from the mother is not a problem, unless the child is over eight months old.

"Inmates are given antenatal checks, vitamins and other care they require in prison. Separation of the baby from the mother is not a problem, unless the child is over eight months old."

The courtyard of Diepkloof Women's Prison... Life is made as comfortable as it can be for prison baboes.
Mrs FW in challenge to all SA women

By Claire Robertson, Pretoria Bureau

No woman should be allowed to have a child if she could not provide for it, according to wife of the State president, Marilee de Klerk.

Addressing a meeting of the Pretoria Afrikaans Businesswomen's Club in Pretoria yesterday, Mrs de Klerk said the population growth was "the responsibility not only of the woman who had the child but also of the rest of womanhood."

"No woman should be able to ... should be allowed to bring a child into the world if she cannot provide for that child," she said.

"Businesswomen render a valuable service in creating and maintaining job opportunities. They will also have to assume social responsibility in other fields ... family planning, education, health services and even religious facilities."

Discussing the role of women in the new SA, Mrs de Klerk said freedom implied responsibility, and "people will have to be taught how to use freedom of speech and freedom of union procedures so that they can actually see the results of their actions."

"For example, strikes and demonstrations build up bad feelings and break down what has already been achieved."

"In this country we are now committed to share power, not to hand over power. In order to attain this each one of us will have to make his or her contribution..."

"Without hard work there is no future."

"We cannot fight one another endlessly. We need a settlement, we need compromise and once that is achieved, only then will economic and financial opportunities abound."

"Therefore we must all get involved in finding peace — and don't leave it to the politicians, they are negotiating about a constitution. You and I as women can negotiate on ground level."
More cases, no cash

Increased public awareness had pushed up the number of suspected child abuse cases reported to Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, but this had not led to a corresponding increase in funds, said director Adele Thomas at the annual general meeting this week.

Increasingly, welfare workers were dealing with children who had been severely traumatized and families with complex problems for whom extensive help was needed. Work in Alexandra and

Sona had become extremely difficult during the year with an average of two cases of abandoned children reported every week.

"Working under such difficult circumstances, social workers have had to recruit members of communities to meet the need," she said.

The society's 1990/91 budget is R8.5 million. Dr Thomas said after limited subsidies were received from the State, about R18,000 had to be raised daily from the private and business communities to make up the shortfall.
pay,” says delegation co-ordinator Nat Ramokgopa.  

This week provincial authorities are expected to meet the delegation and council to present proposals regarding demands that arrears should be scrapped.

Jan Wolmarans, chief director of regional and local government promotion, says: “Black local authorities cannot survive if new revenue is not created.”

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**CHILD ABUSE**

**No defence**

Sexual crimes against children seem to be soaring. Reported cases rose 22% last year and in the first six months of this year 2,274 cases of sexual violence against children were reported to police — including the attempted rape of a seven-week-old girl.

The real incidence of sexual violence against children is 10 times higher, the SAP Child Protection Unit believes, and has almost doubled since 1988.

In all there have been 4,176 reported cases of child abuse (including sexual crimes) for the first half of this year. They include 48 child murders — a drop from 106 last year — and 95 in 1988 the same periods.

Rape is the crime against children most often reported. There were 888 incidents in the first six months of this year compared to 913 for the same period last year and 612 in the first half of 1988.  

In the first half of this year 81 cases of incest and 218 cases of sodomy were reported along with 355 unspecified sexual offences and 732 indecent assaults.

The western Cape, northern Transvaal and Witwatersrand have the highest rate of child abuse. “The 1,514 cases reported in the western Cape represent three times as many awareness (and more reporting) has pushed the figures higher. Police say many cases are never reported to them because the victims are intimidated.”

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**Child abuse**

**Reported cases for first 6 months, 1990**

- Rape (888)
- Indecent assault (732)
- Common assault (539)
- Serious assault (467)
- Sexual offences (355)
- Sodomy (218)
- Incest (81)
- Child murder (48)

*Real figures are believed to be 10 times higher

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**Sexual abuse almost exclusively manifests itself as incest in white areas; in black communities it is most often non-family rape, Loffel says.**

Once children have reported an abuse their situation often worsens because a family crisis is created. She says the State and private sector need to dramatically extend support to welfare authorities.
Spotlight on diseases in children

Medical Reporter

The paediatric department of the Johannesburg Hospital is holding a symposium on chronic diseases in school children aimed at parents, teachers, community health nurses and others on Wednesday.

The aim of the symposium is to give an understanding of the problems of children with chronic diseases such as asthma, allergies, diabetes and epilepsy.

Topics will include the psychosocial effects and the mental and physical abilities of children with chronic disease.

Among the speakers will be paediatrician Dr Francois de Villiers, clinical psychologist Thande-Mqoduso of the University of South Africa, physiotherapy professor Muriel Goodman of the Johannesburg Hospital and Dr Ros Frankel.

The symposium will be held in the hospital auditorium.

The registration fee of R20 includes tea and a light supper. Further information can be obtained from D Green at (011) 488-3256 or 488-3206.
World leaders to focus on poverty

NEW YORK -- The world’s most powerful people will give their attention to the weakest at the World Summit for Children next month.

Heads of State of 60 countries have agreed to meet at UN headquarters on September 29-30 to discuss ways of improving the lot of millions of children whose lives are threatened by poverty, disease or malnutrition.

Officials of UNICEF, the United Nations Children’s Fund, is organizing the summit.

James Grant, executive director of UNICEF, said he hoped it would produce global acceptance of the idea that children have a “first call” on society’s resources.

He urged the national leaders to establish such goals for the 1990s as immunizing 80 percent of all children; reducing the number of children who die before age five by one-third, to 70 deaths per 1,000 live births; and providing safe drinking water for every child.

Sapa-Reuter
Row over society’s refusal to see more abused children

By Stan Hlophe

A controversy has erupted between a member of Women for Justice and the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society over the society’s refusal to register any more cases of child abuse.

Dr Denise Bjorgman of Women For Justice says:

"I contacted the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society to report a child abuse case.

"Before I could finish my story I was bluntly told that no more cases are being taken as their books are full.

"I was surprised to hear that and I tried to ask for the reason, but I could not get any.

"I am interested to know and the public is interested to know why such cases are no longer taken.

"As far as I am concerned, welfare bodies should serve the community as they are part of the community.

"I am looking forward to the answer. This just can’t be taken for granted. The public has the right to know.

"It might be my child; it might be anybody’s child."

Dr Adele Thomas, director of Child Welfare, says:

"We are a private institution and we raise our funds from the community.

"This year’s budget is R8 million of which R6 million is obtained through fund raising. Less than a third of our funds come from the State.

"We cannot get any more funds as the community is facing economic and political restraints.

"We simply do not have the staff to deal with the cases."

"Even if we could get the social workers, we do not have the funds to pay them.

"Those we have in our employ are being overworked.

"Hence it is our policy not to take any more child abuse cases.

"We have to make a choice whether to open our books or not.

"We have to choose between quantity or quality and have to refer many cases to State-owned welfare organisations.

"We are receiving several cases of child abuse daily and we can’t cope any longer.

"Three years ago child abuse cases were unheard of. Now reports are on the increase because of the sudden awareness.

"None of the welfare organisations are geared for such an increase."
Child Welfare is facing crisis

By Shirley Woodgate

The Johannesburg Child Welfare Society is facing a crippling financial and staff crisis, with donations down by 50 percent and underpaid social workers pushed to the limit to cope with increasing workloads.

Outlining the crisis facing the organisation, director Dr Adele Thomas said income was already running R700,000 short of forecasts.

Reasons for the dramatic drop were the present political and economic uncertainty which presented a Catch-22 situation, with more children needing help but less money forthcoming.

Calling on the Government to fulfil its duty towards child welfare, Dr Thomas warned that unless sufficient government funds were provided, the State would have to take full responsibility for child care.

"The State expects more and more of private welfare organisations, yet does little to help fund-raising by way of tax incentives.

"The required budget for 1990/91 is R8.4 million, of which less than a third is in the form of State subsidies, grants-in-aid and fees."

"The balance of R20,370 every working day is brought in through donations from the private and business sectors."

An internal cost-cutting drive by the JCWS has already forced the curtailment of certain services to the community and all vacant personnel posts have been frozen.

"Despite the increase in abuse, the situation is so bad that we can no longer take on any more cases of abused children and their families," she said.
Root of all good

Equal education for all in a country still marked by race discrimination is generally regarded as the basic step towards solving the education crisis. However, educators and sociologists overseas have been pointing out since the Sixties that this is impossible.

Underlying their often complex arguments is a simple premise: one cannot expect children from vastly different backgrounds to benefit equally from equal education.

French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu even contends that, at senior school level, children from working-class families have a double disadvantage. By being subjected to the same level of education as better-off peers, they not only cannot cope but build up a resentment to education and a poor self-image.

One way of at least moving towards equal education is to start at the level of pre-primary schooling, or educare, as experts called it recently at a national meeting in Durban.

The recent 5th Symposium of the Southern African Association for Early Childhood Educare (an umbrella organisation embracing all aspects of early education) highlighted these issues.

The Urban Foundation's Andries Latgeg sees education as part of the 'developmental struggle' which will see all citizens demanding access to "a quality, relevant education that will empower them to play their full role in the modern urban society.'

An important part of these demands will be for the educational needs of children before they enter formal schooling. But, as the foundation's statistics show, there are massive discrepancies in what is available to different race groups.

The impact is dramatic — 23% of black children fail or drop out of their first year at school and for those who get through the rest of the system only about half pass matric (compared to about 92% of white children).

At pre-primary level about 33% of white children (aged three to five) attend registered public or private pre-schools, while about 2% of blacks do. Of the country's 6.3m under-fives only an estimated 2.5% receive pre-school education.

Yet there is overwhelming evidence highlighting the importance of cognitive development in the first five years of a child's life and the benefits of educare for later schooling and careers.

Criminal neglect

What makes adequate child-care and education even more important are the growing economic demands on families — which see increasing numbers of women joining the work force, coupled to disintegrating extended families — and even the basic nuclear family, as single-parent and divorce figures rise.

There has been little response to these changing conditions by either the State (regarded by many educare groups as responsible for pre-primary education) or the private sector.

The victims are children and an economy already seriously short of skilled workers.

Not surprisingly, then, some papers delivered at the educare symposium took on an almost militant tone. National co-ordinator Elaine Davie asked where, at a time of marches and demonstrations for detaines, teachers, hospital workers and unions, were the protest actions against the "exploitation and neglect of the pre-school child," whom she called the greatest victim of apartheid oppression.

She said that, as the MDM had brought unity among like-minded groupings, so too should the educare association co-ordinate the activities of all pre-school initiatives.

The association is strongly opposed to the total privatisation of pre-primary education, something which could happen — certainly in Natal — where plans to implement a new subsidy scheme could close many pre-primary schools and eventually force the remaining schools to go private.

Pre-primary teachers in the province have already been hit by retrenchments, which saw nearly half of the 200 teachers laid off last year coming from pre-primary schools.

The Early Learning Resource Unit's Linda Biersteker quoted from a pilot study finding that, besides the benefits to both employers and workers of providing educare centres, awareness of these advantages was lacking.

Of the six employers interviewed, only one provided a childcare facility. Lack of interest from staff is an apparent problem. One company reported that, despite offering childcare services to employees on three occasions, there had been little interest.

While trade unions can play a significant role in demanding early education support from employers (as they've done for maternity and paternity rights), the issue is still vague in union circles.

One union felt that crèche facilities might become "an instrument of manipulation of workers." Another felt it was the responsibility of its members to look after their children.

The problem now is to convince government, businessmen, unions and even parents of the importance of proper care of young children — one of the hallmarks of a civilised society.
MARION DUNCAN reports on the tragic plight of the innocents caught up in this week's township turmoil.

KIDS of the CARNAGE

19/11/80

Uneasy

There must be hundreds, maybe even thousands, of these small groups playing, a part of the night's urban life. They are not warned, not supervised, not even questioned. But they are out there, and they are there.

For me, this was a moment of realization. I had never really thought about the children before. I had never really thought about the risks they take, the dangers they face. But now, as I stood there, watching them play, I realized that they were in danger. They were in danger every day.

Big indaba on SA's future

Despite the optimism shown by the President at a recent conference in Pretoria, many people are still concerned about the future of South Africa. The recent elections have brought to the fore many issues that need to be addressed.

The elections showed that the country is divided, with a majority of voters supporting the ANC, but also a significant number of voters supporting the IFP.

Soldiers

The presence of soldiers on the streets has become a common sight in many parts of the country. They are there to maintain order, but they are also a reminder of the conflict that continues to tearing at the fabric of South Africa.

Slughter

In the meantime, violence continues to escalate. The recent violence in the Vaal Triangle has highlighted the deep-seated racial tension that still exists in the country. The government needs to take strong action to address this issue and prevent further violence.

Playtime

It's quiet for the moment, so Lusia, Nono and Mark sit on the roadside, watching the world go by. They are happy to be outdoors, away from the tension of the city.

The last one needs "Make your dreams come true" right here in Thabo.
Crime doesn’t pay. Or does it?

WHAT distinguishes shoplifting from any other theft is the opportunistic and impulsive element of the crime.

Recent research by Professor CMB Naude of the department of criminology at Unisa, into juvenile crime, revealed that while the elderly are likely to steal food, juveniles shoplift luxury goods; suggesting that economic need is not a reason for this theft.

“Shoplifting by juveniles, under 17 years, is a serious problem, which annually gets worse,” said Naude in the recent De Robu. She investigated juvenile shoplifting over a six-month period at the Johannesburg Magistrate’s Court over the period 1988-89.

Naude examined misconceptions on the part of juveniles and of retailers that surround the issue of shoplifting.

She found that misconceptions on the part of juveniles arise from “irrational perceptions” such as:

- If I am aware and behave carefully I will not be caught.
- If I am caught I will not be punished.
- Everyone shoplifts at some stage, so why can’t I.
- Shoplifting is not a serious crime and retailers get what they deserve.
- It is more fun to steal than to pay for an item.
- It is exciting to transgress the law.
- Laws against shoplifting are very liberal.

Criminologists believe the reluctance on the part of shop owners to lay charges against all people caught shoplifting, and the general lack of more purposeful behaviour by the courts and the community reinforce and strengthen these misconceptions.

Retailers, especially small retailers, say it is not worth prosecuting since a large percentage of shoplifters are not found guilty by the court.

Naude states that between 30 to 70 percent of people caught shoplifting will ultimately be prosecuted, and thus a highly “selective process” operates to determine which shoplifters will be charged. Research indicates that juvenile shoplifters are much less frequently brought to book.

Her research found that almost 25 percent of all shoplifters tried at the Johannesburg Magistrate’s Court were under 17 years, and about 95 percent of shoplifters were found guilty.

The latter finding contradicts the view held by retailers that shoplifters are not found guilty by the court.

Only seven percent of juvenile shoplifters were legally represented, and Naude said: “This is apparently an important reason why such a high percentage of accused are found guilty by the court.”

The sentencing of the juvenile is a difficult task.

Naude found: “Reliable information about the personal circumstances of the shoplifter is seldom available as few shoplifters are legally represented, and due to the heavy workload of social workers, their services were rarely used in the case of shoplifting.

She listed the factors taken into account by the court to determine sentence:

- Whether the accused is a first offender or has previous convictions.
- The economic situation of the accused.
- Whether the accused shows remorse.
- The incidence of shoplifting and the interests of the community.

Naude found that “population group does not play a role in the situation of sentencing shoplifters”.

Adult shoplifters are usually sentenced to pay a fine. In determining what fine to impose, the court looks at income earned by the offender. As white shoplifters usually earn a higher income than blacks, the fines imposed on whites are higher.

Sentences imposed on juvenile shoplifters are markedly different from those imposed on adults.

Naude found that postponed sentences were imposed on convicted juveniles in 55 percent of cases. This means the court does not sentence the juvenile but puts the youngster on probation for a period of about five years. If the juvenile is found guilty of an offence within that period of postponement, then the court will sentence him or her for the shoplifting too.

Postponed sentences are usually imposed on female offenders, as the law does not allow corporal punishment to be administered to women.

Naude found that 38 percent of convicted juvenile offenders were sentenced to corporal punishment.

Naude questions the value of postponed sentences, especially in light of perceptions held by juveniles that shoplifting is not a serious crime.

Naude proposes that urgent attention be given to the establishment of alternative programmes for the handling of juvenile and first offenders. The programmes, which should be conducted by a multidisciplinary team, must educate the offender as to the individual and socio-economic repercussions of shoplifting, the rights of the offender and victim, the attitude of the shoplifter to the community and himself.

Naude suggests a specialist court should deal solely with shoplifting cases.

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Group gives R100-m to disadvantaged

What do you do when you are handed R100-million over a five-year period? That’s exactly what Liberty Life, one of South Africa’s largest corporate social investment (CSI) programmes, has done through its Liberty Life Foundations.

The foundations have been set up to support projects relating to education, health, and social development. They are designed to address the needs of disadvantaged communities in a way that is sustainable and has a long-term impact.

The investments are in the form of grants and loans, and they are made to non-profit organisations (NPOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) that are working to improve the lives of people in disadvantaged areas.

The funds are used to support projects such as schools, hospitals, and other essential services that are critical to improving the quality of life for people in these communities.

The foundations are committed to working with partners to ensure that the investments are effective and that they have a lasting impact. They are also committed to transparency and accountability in the use of the funds.

The investments are made in collaboration with the Department of Social Development and other government departments, and they are intended to complement the efforts of government in providing services to disadvantaged communities.

The foundations are also committed to empowering communities and encouraging them to take ownership of their development. They are working with communities to develop long-term plans that will address the root causes of poverty and inequality.

The investments are part of a broader strategic approach to corporate social investment, which is aimed at improving the lives of people in disadvantaged communities and creating a more inclusive and equitable society.

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Big organisations must help smaller ones

The funding of pre-school education is bedevilled by a number of problems including the fact that it does not feature prominently on CSI programmes and that many of the smaller organisations do not know how to market themselves.

Mapitso Malepa, national chairman of the Southern African Association for Early Childhood Education (SAAECE), said that those who suffered the most in terms of funding were small community organisations "without a fax and receptionist" who lacked the marketing skills of bigger organisations.

"We have found that when it comes to CSI activities the funding of this age group is a sore point. Business people don't always see the benefits," she said.

"The truth is that if the fundamentals are right, children cope better with school. People talk about investment in people — this is where they should start."

Mrs Malepa said another problem relating to funding was the rapid growth of development organisations: "There are so many springing up that people don't know where to spend their money."

She said communities didn't only want money, they also wanted involvement.

"We would like them to help us with management skills. They run a business so they should be able to pass on such skills as strategy planning and so on."
Researcher seeks abused parents

CAPE TOWN — Parents victimised by their children are the subject of a study by Pretoria University criminology professor Ronelle Pretorius. In conjunction with the Parents of Rebellious Children (Porch) organisation, Professor Pretorius wants to gather as much information as possible in the hope that she will be able to find ways of helping. "Much has been done in the field of battered children, but very little has been done in this field," she said.

Parents have been asked to telephone either Porch on (021) 215-609 or Professor Pretorius on (012) 420-2930 (office hours) for a confidential questionnaire which will be supplied with a stamped, return envelope. — Sapa.
St Anne's may have to shut its doors on a crying need

By ANDREA WEISS
Staff Reporter

A WOODSTOCK nursery for abandoned babies faces closure at the end of the month because the home to which it is attached has run into financial difficulties.

Also facing an uncertain future at St Anne's Home in Woodstock are 26 needy women and their 18 children. If the 86-year-old home is closed, the destitute women will be on the street because of a shortage of welfare facilities in Cape Town. The abandoned babies will also be evicted.

Many of the women are there because they have had alcohol, physical or sexual abuse at home. Some started out life as street children and have found themselves "in a pregnant, alienated, unemployed and uneducated", according to Miss Megan Scholz, St Anne's principal and social worker. She said the decision to close the nursery for abandoned babies had already been made because the State subsidy of R14,66 a day a baby did not cover running costs.

The home's coffers have run down to R20,000 while the cost of keeping it every month is R11,56. Chief costs are staff salaries — eight people alone are employed to look after the motherless babies who are regarded as "high risk" because they may be premature, battered or have alcohol syndrome. Milk and medical supplies cost over R1,000 a month.

Inflation and delays in the payment of the subsidy means St Anne's is having to dip into capital to keep its doors open.

While the home is in desperate need, a fundraising campaign supported by the Groote Schuur Rotary Club is in the pipeline. But unless St Anne's can keep affluent for the next eight months, it could be closed to all by the end of the year.

Miss Scholz said closure would definitely put the mothers and their children on the street because they did not fit the profile for other homes in the city.

"It would be one more slap in the face, one more rejection on top of thousands of others," she said.

Miss Scholz has been helping to re-integrate the mothers with a "life-skills development programme" which includes adoption counselling, budgeting advice, learning how to apply for and keep a job and making use of the Department of Manpower's training courses.

She also ensures that there is a "heavy focus" on family planning and relationship counselling.

"The programme concentrates on enabling the women to live better equipped to deal with society and not to be back here in two years," she said.

If you wish to help St Anne's provide this service, call Miss Scholz, 431 598, or Mrs J Robinson, 431 138.

ABANDONED BABIES: Mrs Gladys Cupido, left, Mrs Ade Coetzé and Mrs Elizabeth Jantjes with some of the abandoned babies whose nursery at St Anne's Home in Woodstock faces imminent closure.

NAPPIES: Washdays, and the nappies pile up at St Anne's Home for abandoned babies and destitute women.

ST ANNE'S: The coffers are nearly empty.
The people who take care of the thousands of disabled, homeless and malnourished babies and children in this country are never given the praise they deserve.

But this year, for the first time, a national search has been launched in the form of the Glodina/Procare Award for Service to the Infant Community which will finds and reward these people.

The award will not only recognise those who serve but those who are served will benefit as well.

The winner will nominate a charity or service organisation to receive a R15 000 award from Glodina and Procare.

Candidates for nomination must be actively involved in caring for underprivileged infants under the age of three. However, this need not necessarily be their formal job situation.

Judges include television personality Adrian Szeid and Adele Thomas of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

"We call on all caring South Africans to nominate a man or woman who they feel have given services to our country's little people," a statement released by the organisers said.

Nominations, as well as a few photographs as to why you believe your candidate deserves the award, should be sent to the Glodina/Procare Award for Service to the Infant Community, P.O. Box 47566, Greyville, 4023.

The closing date for entries is November 28 and entries should have telephone numbers where nominees can be contacted.
Children want a better future

By PEARL MAJOLA

THE second Voice of the Children conference held in the Netherlands attended by 84 children was not only a success, but also an eye-opener and full of memorable experiences for the first and only delegation from South Africa, Phyllis Ndlovu (18).

The purpose of the one-week conference, organised by the United Nations Children's Education Fund and the Council for the Future of the World's Children, was to get the children of the world to discuss the devastation of the earth.

"The conference had three main sessions.

"One was on our visions - improved global education, safe environment, human dignity, health, peace and security, fair and just resource management and sustainable economic stability," said Ndlovu.

"The second was on contradictions - obstacles that make our visions impossible, like social conflicts, lack of education and lack of co-operation universally.

"The third was on our proposals on what can be done to realise these visions.

"Other suggestions were an international advisory and monitoring body for education should be created; the environment and its children should be preserved for the future and international independent organisations promoting peace and human rights should be established," she said.

Within that week they also wrote a book, made a video and staged a play for the residents of Noordwijk (where the conference was held) and some business people.

Projects

All three projects were about the conference and the book and video have been distributed to all heads of states.

"On the last day, seven of us were chosen to represent the group at a Press conference where we explained to the Press the aims of the conference and our achievements.

"We also had a meeting with the Nobel laureates and we discussed with them what we aimed to do when we returned home.

"I have reported to Mr F W de Klerk and Mr Nelson Mandela by writing letters and telling them about the conference and appealed to them to attend the United Nations Children's Summit in New York this month.

"I have also contacted organisations like the SACC, NEUSA and Youth Alive Ministries."

Despite all the hard work, the youngsters did have some time to unwind.

Visits

"We sometimes left Noordwijk and visited some nearby areas. "The highlight was a visit to Madurodam, which shows the whole of Amsterdam, and the Van Gogh exhibition.

"I made lots of close friends.

"At first I was scared. I did not know how people would react to me as a South African, but I found that they were interested in my personal life and experiences.

"I had a great responsibility in representing South Africa and I hope I succeeded in presenting it factually.

"On the whole, the experience was enriching and I had a wonderful time," she said.
Man guilty of kidnap, police uncover 4 other cases

**Child Labour Probe**

Police are swooping on child labour operations

By GUNNAR VONHILL

**Man Guilty of Kidnap, Police Uncover 4 Other Cases**

The Child Protection Unit has uncovered 4 other cases of child labour. The unit has been working on the cases for months, with the latest case being the kidnap of a 12-year-old girl. The unit has been working closely with the police to ensure that the children are safely returned to their families.

**Child Labour Probe**

The unit has been conducting raids on the locations where the children were found. The raids have been successful in identifying the locations and arresting the individuals involved in the child labour trade.

**Police Warning**

The unit has warned individuals involved in child labour to cease their activities immediately. Failure to do so will result in severe consequences.

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**Image Description**

The image contains a photo of a building with a sign that reads, "TAKING COVER A manager at the Dynasty Cafe in Newlands, tabled by 30th.

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**Additional Information**

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Child Welfare sets up sexual abuse group for adults

THE Johannesburg Child Welfare is to set up a support group for women who were sexually abused as children.

The programme will benefit adults who never received the assistance and guidance that today's abused children are receiving.

According to Child Welfare, the aim of the support group was for women who were sexually abused as children to share their experiences with others who had been in the same situation and who would understand and help each other sort out the many problems that had for many years remained unresolved.

The groups will be supervised by social workers specially trained to deal with problems resulting from child sexual abuse.

Weekly meetings

Meetings will be held weekly on Wednesday evenings at 5pm. The first group meets on September 12.

Interested people can phone Zelda Kruger or Linda Palm at (011) 331-0171.
Children forced to work — claim

Staff Reporters

TWO platteland children, aged 13 and 16, claimed yesterday that they were brought to work in Cape Town after their parents were given R20 each "for bread".

Piet Erasmus and Maria Jakobs, both from Moorreesburg, were reunited with their parents this week when a Steenberg man took pity on them and bought them train tickets home.

According to the police Child Protection Unit, four cases of child labour in Cape Town are being investigated.

Last week a city man was found guilty in an Oudtshoorn court on two charges of kidnapping minors. The children were brought to Cape Town for labour.

Speaking from home yesterday, Piet and Maria said they had worked for a Steenberg family for a week before running away last Sunday.

They said they knew only one man in the family whose name was "Jerry".

Piet said he was told to clean up the dog's mess in the yard and to clean out the family's two mobile shops. Maria had to look after the family's three children and clean the house.

The two claimed they were sworn at every day and that "Meneer" (the husband) threatened Piet that he "would hang him up and beat him blue" if he did not do his work properly.

They were fed bread and coffee. Piet claimed that a man arrived at his parents' house looking for a boy and a girl to work in his house.

His mother was reluctant to let him go but eventually agreed, he said.

Young Piet's mother, Mrs Sara Frans, said she had not asked for money for her son but had been given R20 by the man.

Mrs Frans said she did not know the name or address of the man.

Maria's mother, Mrs Rachel Danster, said she had asked the man "for a little money for bread and he gave me R20". She could also not identify the man.

"He said he would bring the children back for a visit and that he would bring more money at the end of the year," she said.

A spokesman for the Child Protection Unit said he would contact the Welfare Office in Moorreesburg to investigate the allegations by the children.

BACK HOME . . . Two Moorreesburg children sent to work as child labour in Cape Town were reunited with their parents this week. From left are Piet Erasmus and his mother, Mrs Sara Frans, with Maria Jacobus and her mother, Mrs Rachel Danster.
LITERACY '90
Special focus on International Literacy Day

educare skills

By MUSA NDWANDWE

MOST educare workers have not been to school, therefore cannot read or write. This is what the Vumani Preschool Project is determined to change.

The project was started in 1984. Its activities include working towards improving the skills of the educare workers.

"Educare workers are special in that they prepare and equip our young children with the values, ideas and skills needed to build a new society," said Ms Gloria Brittan, a Vumani Project worker.

"Whether they are doing this as domestic workers, workers at a centre or as childminders, they are all important in the child's early development and stimulation."

Vital

As educare workers introduce children to the world that is to be their future, it is "more than vital" that they must be literate, according to Brittan.

Although there are no specific statistics on the literacy rate of educare workers, organisations involved report that almost all are either semi-literate or have never been to school.

The Vumani Project is one of the few organisations in a campaign to "educare" educare workers.

Education and an awareness campaign are among the project's priorities.

The Vumani Preschool Project held a conference in June at the University of Western Cape where a list of demands of the educare workers was made. High on this list was the issue of adequate training and education of educare workers.

That many educare workers are illiterate is a direct result of society's ignorance of these workers' crucial role in society, argues Vumani.

Activity

"These issues have been swept under the carpet for many years," said Brittan.

Education of the educare workers is not the only issue that Vumani aims to highlight. Investigating the general working conditions of the workers is part of Vumani's area of activity.

These conditions include low wages, long hours, inclusion in the Labour Relations Act and the improvement of their living conditions.

One of the biggest concerns of the organisation is to involve the parents in the education of their children.

The centre is also involved in attempts to analyse the link between the child, the family, and the systems of gender, racial and economic oppression which affect preschool education.

"If we want to prepare today's children to be part of a common South African community of the future, we have to create a type of preschool educare that will prepare children for such a future," said Brittan.

A co-worker at Khanyisa Creche in Nyanga East
Improve

Preschool educators prepare children for a common South African community
A desperate need for more foster parents

SUE OLSWANG

The closure of two children's cottages under the control of the financially burdened Johannesburg Child Welfare Society has resulted in a desperate need for foster parents.

The Saturday Star last week highlighted the financial crisis currently affecting the society, a crisis which has forced it to curtail certain of its services.

The society's public relations officer, Linda O'Flaherty, said the majority of children who were housed at the two children's cottages — both situated in Norwood — have either been taken in at other children's cottages or placed into foster care.

Sad sequel to closing of two homes

"Taking care of a foster child means providing a home for the period of time it takes for his or her parents to rebuild their lives and once again be in a position to care for their child."

She said the society carefully screens prospective foster parents to assess their suitability and to determine which child they will suit best. The society provides training to prepare foster parents for any difficulties that may arise while caring for a foster child and its social workers provide a back-up service for further assistance.

Ms O'Flaherty said: "Many people feel they have the love and facilities to care for an extra child in their home, but are perturbed by the thought of the child one day returning to his family.

"What these people are perhaps not aware of is the tremendous impact made on a foster child's life by a stay with foster parents."

Ms O'Flaherty said the foster child will one day model his own family on his experiences with a foster family free from conflict and violence. "Nothing can give more satisfaction and sense of achievement than having given a child a chance in life," she said.

"This may mean a certain amount of sacrifice and suffering on the part of the foster parents, but we cannot afford to be selfish and deprive a child of what might be his only chance at becoming a responsible adult and credit to his community."

Ms O'Flaherty said the ideal situation would be for the society to have a "pool" of foster parents in order to meet the exact needs of each child.

"The child's needs come first," she said, "and we would like to be in a position where we can place each child in a foster situation best suited to their individual needs."

The Johannesburg Child Welfare Society will be holding a foster care information evening at 7.30 pm on Wednesday September 19. The meeting will be held on the 7th floor, 112 Main Street, Johannesburg. Contact Moira Oliver or Toni Swart on (011) 331-0171.
RAISING children can be complicated and sometimes a difficult task, but the Johannesburg child Welfare Society will be running Systematic Training for Effective Parenting (Step) programmes designed to give a practical approach to better parenting.

These programmes will start from October 15 to December 3 and will be divided into Junior Step for parents with children between the ages of three and 12 years and Step Teen for parents of teenagers.

Junior Step will provide parents with the abilities to sort out all the conflicting theories of child training one finds in books, newspapers and on television so that they become effective parents.

Many parents enjoy their children's infancy and childhood but the teenage years often develop into a time of conflict.

Ways

Step Teen finds realistic, effective and enjoyable ways of relating to the emerging young adult in their family and can also be a parent-teenager enrichment experience.

Both programmes will benefit parents who are experiencing problems with their children as well as improve the relationship between parents and children of families functioning adequately.

They will be run simultaneously at the Ernest Ulibar Recreation Centre in Gallo Manor, the Ferndale Community Centre and in Orange Grove every Monday night from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

The cost of Junior Step is R110 for one parent and R140 for a couple.

Step Teen will be R130 for one and R160 for a couple.

For further information interested parents should contact Linda O'Flaherty at 112 Main Street, Johannesburg or telephone her at 331 0171/9.
Appeal for foster care

By PEARL MAJOLA

THE Johannesburg Child Welfare Society is appealing to families to foster abused children who have been removed from their homes.

Training will be given to prospective foster parents and social workers will provide a back-up service.

Child abuse remains a serious problem in our society. The tragedy is that Child Welfare, which fights child abuse and helps victims, finds it difficult to cope with the workload and expenses required to provide assistance.

This situation has forced the Society to curtail some of its services.

“Because of the financial position of the Society at present, it is not possible to take on any more cases of child abuse if the resources to treat the children and their families are not available,” the director, Dr Adele Thomas, said in a Press statement.

Closures

The Society has been forced to close two of its children's cottages because of lack of funds.

Every month it cares for about 7,000 children and their families in the greater Johannesburg area, which includes Soweto, Randburg, Alexandra, Sandton and the coloured areas.

They provide services ranging from counselling abused children and their families to educate and various community projects.

“”The budget required for 1990/1991 is about R30 million. Less than a third of this sum comes from State subsidies, grants from various municipalities and fees payable at education centres,”’’ Thomas said.

“The balance comes from donations, which have dropped by 50 percent because of political and economic problems that the country is presently going through, resulting in the Society’s present critical financial situation.”

Subsidies

Thomas said the provision of services for abused children is the duty of the State but the State did not provide sufficient subsidies to organisations dealing with the welfare of children.

Instead, the State expected more and more of private welfare organisations without doing anything to assist them with fundraising.

The Department of Health Services and Welfare has said it was not the duty of the State to help organisations raise funds as financial matters were dealt with by the Department of Finance.

Services

The Department said that it runs its own counselling and intake centre for abused children through the Child Emergency Service Toll Free number.

State social workers also give family and child care services.

However, a spokesman for the Department admitted that their service, which has been operating since August last year, did not reach everyone.

* A Foster Care Information evening will be held by the Society on Wednesday, September 19 at 7.30 pm at 112 Main Street, Johannesburg. For more information, phone Oliver or Toni Swan at 331-0171.
LABOUR BRIEFS

Action on childcare

EMPLOYERS face the prospect of having to contend with their employees' children at the workplace later this month. September 20 has been declared Childcare Day and workers are being urged to bring their children to work in an attempt to highlight the need for employers and the state to provide adequate childcare facilities.
A place of honour in SA history

BY ZB MOLEFE

A CHAPTER in black South Africa's history closed quietly three weeks ago - with the death of Minah Theobehu Soga.

It brought to mind what City Press editor Percy Qoboza wrote years ago: "I am sure that when the history of our people will eventually be written, a huge chapter will be dedicated to the cherished dream of Miss Soga."

Minah Soga's dream was liberation for her people, particularly women. It was forged on the anvil of one of South Africa's turbulent times - the years 1935-1937 when the "Hertzog Bills" effectively removed blacks from a common voters' roll in the Cape, fuelling black resistance politics.

The black newspaper Beant Doyle took the initiative, and called a national convention of black organisations countrywide to oppose the bills - the Representation of Native Bill, Native Trust and the Land Act.

It was at this convention that Minah Soga suggested to a handful of women that they organise themselves and form a women's organisation that would see to the social welfare of their respective communities.

Women's support for Soga's ideas led to the birth of the National Council of African Women (NCAW). This is the moving story found by University of the North librarian Theokozile Hlahla. While researching Minah Soga's Baby, a booklet marking the 50th anniversary of NCAW in 1987.

The spirit of Soga dominated the first NCAW conference in December 1937. The 49 delegates unanimously elected her the council's first national president. But a humble Soga declined, arguing that "a more experienced lady of the day" be elected.

In 1939 Soga became the second national president, a position she held for 15 years.

On November 3, 1951, the grand old lady launched the "One Shilling Drive for the African Child", a campaign in which black parents countrywide were asked to donate one shilling - slightly more than 10 cents today - for the education of their children.

But the NCAW was to be disappointed. Though it collected thousands of pounds, the government stepped in and stopped the initiative because it was "against the Fund-Raising Act". The NCAW had to use the money to subsidise missionary schools countrywide instead.

Writer Hetshwayo says: "Her life had been full of sacrifices. In all her endeavours she had to dig deep into her pocket. When she taught and enlightened people, she used all the money she had earned through staging concerts in the United States."

Soga also fought for women's rights. Writes Hetshwayo: "It had to take the likes of Minah Soga to stand up and shout against this evil (that women were only good for the bedroom and the kitchen)."

"The women naturally woke up to fight, not only against sexual discrimination but also against all evils facing mankind in this country."

Soga came from a long line of achievers, and Hetshwayo quotes well-known journalist Donald Woods saying the Soga clan is composed of intellectuals, music composers (Henderson Soga), surgeons (Dr Lex Soga), pianists (Ishbel Soga) and prominent Cape newspaper editor (AR Soga). All black America can boast of Septima Polesette Clark (born 1898), one of the most effective and yet unsung heroines of the Civil Rights movement, then Minah Soga (born 1893) deserves an equally high place of honour in black South African history.

Minah Soga ... cherished a dream.
Adoption laws: A small scale question of race

While the law is written to address cross-race adoption, the resulting problems governing adoption and the question of race
defy the statutes.

PHILIPPA CARNON
It is a question of race.

Adoption should be a

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It is a question of race.

defying the laws.

Adoption should be a

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It is a question of race.

defying the laws.
Above: For two short hours in the devastated township, a resident was afforded a respite from his worries as he sang and prayed for peace. Right: Amidst his column of prayer, the priest blessed the choir and congregation at St. Helens' Church in Sengbushe.

Praying for peace in our troubled land.
Manias. "It depends on how threatened a couple feels about the fact that their child is adopted. Generally, adopters like children to look like them. But the less insecure couples are about their own identity, the less important this is."

A good adoptive family, rather than race requirements, should be the bottom line, says Manias, adding that the adoption department is inundated with daily enquiries from white couples willing to adopt babies of other races rather than wait up to four years for a white baby. There are many would-be adopters on the waiting list, who would be prepared to adopt mixed-race babies which are difficult to place since the coloured population cannot absorb them all.

"We advise them to foster children (who must be white) instead," says Manias. Many people are reluctant to foster children as the biological parents may ask for their children back during the two years of fostering. After two years foster parents may apply to adopt the child but welfare agencies stress reunion with the biological parents as a priority over permanent fostering.

While there is a trend towards fostering children rather than keeping them in homes — which are more expensive to run than the grants given to foster parents and the child is able to bond in a family environment — the situation is not ideal. Many parents, especially those in poor communities, tend to foster children for financial gain and sometimes there is evidence of neglect.

Laura Evans, a voluntary worker at the Orlando Children’s Home, says children, who are compelled to go into foster care at the age of 12, may be shuttled from one unsatisfactory foster home to another.

Foster grants are staggered according to different race groups. African foster parents receive R102 a month, coloureds and Indians R146,50 and whites, R194.

Despite the fact that many South African children languish in homes, plans were underway a couple of months ago to bring Rumanian orphans into the country. "We need to unlock those children already in homes, rather than bring in extra children," says Manias.

Some white couples wanted the Rumanian orphans to be brought in to the country to increase the number of white children available for adoption. Before qualifying to adopt their names to a lengthy waiting list, prospective parents must conform to a battery of requirements concerning age, marital status and financial position.

The waiting list for prospective white adopters at the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society is "somewhere between 100 and 200", says Manias. For other race groups there is no waiting list and there is a brief delay of a few months while the screening process takes place and the child's medical certificate is drawn up. All adoption agencies have strict requirements for white adopters due to the shortage of white babies. Some, like the Apostolic Faith Mission adoption agency, have closed their lists.

"It's a question of supply and demand," says Manias, who adds that a strict requirement is that the white couple must have been married for five years. The adoptive mother must be between 25 and 37 years of age. The husband may be no older than 40 and no younger than 25 when the couple add their names to the list.

The only age requirement regarding African, Indian and coloured adopters is they must not be over 45 years.

"We are strict in terms of health, marriage and financial position for adopters but we do allow black single women to adopt because of the need for adopters of black babies," Manias says. A single white person may not adopt and there is no flexibility regarding homosexual couples.

Each couple must be childless and have medical proof of infertility to qualify for the waiting list. A year ago, white couples could adopt in two children but now the limit is one child per couple.

While an unwanted white child has a home lined up for it before it is born, black mothers are encouraged from bringing their unwanted babies to Orlando Children’s Home in Soweto as an average of 10 babies a month are abandoned in Greater Johannesburg. Says Evans: "Right now we have 20 babies needing to be adopted but it is unlikely that more than two will find permanent homes. If a pregnant mother contacts us we try to dissuade her. We have enough people in baby homes, many of them abandoned.

While Evans is changing nappies toddlers clamour around her, hoping for some affection.

Many of the 60 children at the home have been there since birth, she says. Some are retarded, deformed or disfigured due to hypothermia, malnutrition and abuse. This renders their chances of adoption almost nil.

Director of the home, Maggie Nkwe, says numerous white couples show interest in adopting black babies and one white family is in the process of trying to adopt twins.

Nkwe says she is more than ready to "disobey inhumane laws". However, she disapproves of the often used play by a childless white couple to persuade their domestic worker to be the official adoptive parent for a child with the white couple will raise.

When The Weekly Mail visited the home, angelic-looking little Ntabiswa was wandering around with the other toddlers all searching for attention. She grinned broadly and ran with her arms outstretched. All she wanted was to be picked up and cuddled.

Not enough people challenge the law and attempt to adopt babies of other races because of "cultural differences. But I don't buy that argument. Before we worry about culture, let us address ourselves to the question of humanity.

In her opinion, the Act should be changed to make adoption as accommodating as possible.

While there is speculation that the Act will be amended, no immediate change is in the pipeline, says Manias.

Children’s lawyer Fiona McLeachan says the time has come for cross-race adoptions to be challenged in the courts. "There is a great deal of leeway in terms of the Act to challenge the law. There are many concerned social workers who are anti-apartheid. But they don't go ahead because the lack of resources rules out the use of lawyers.

A good test case with enough publicity would set a precedent, she says. "It is rubbish that babies have to lie around in cots in children's homes while so many people wait for years to adopt."
Workers campaign for child-care facilities

WORKING parents countrywide have been urged to take their children to work with them tomorrow in a campaign for child-care facilities organised by the Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu).

The federation is demanding special paid leave for working parents to care for their children, workplace creches and State support for the children of unemployed workers, a Cosatu spokesman said.

At the Telex electronics factory in Atlantis, north of Cape Town, workers planned to take their offsprings to work and stage an hour-long demonstration in support of the Cosatu demands, shop steward Mrs Vanessa Jungles said.

Shop stewards and members of the National Union of Metalworkers of SA would care for the children during the demonstration, she said.

However, Mr Keith Dixon, the company's administration director, said children were not allowed on the shopfloor and workers had not been given time off for a protest.

He said he believed that commerce and industry needed to accept the "changing order of needs" regarding working parents. "There is a problem which has to be accommodated within the industrial sphere," he said.

Dixon said employers were already hard-pressed to keep up employment figures in an ailing economy and demands for creches and similar facilities were stretching the social commitment of companies.

He hoped talks with the Numsa shop stewards would minimise the risks associated with children being brought to work. - Sapa.
Foschini child-care pay first

IN what may be a first for South Africa, Foschini and the SA Commercial, Catering and Allied Worker's Union have reached a deal on a child-care allowance covering 5,000 workers.

The agreement, which provides for a R620 lump-sum payment for child care in addition to six months' paid maternity leave, was reached after seven months of talks, including three rounds of mediation.

It takes place against the backdrop of a Cosatu child care campaign — workers were to take their children to work for a three-hour protest yesterday — and Saccawu's recent social security conference, which resolved to push for parental rights.

Women make up 80 percent of the workforce in the Foschini group, which includes Piggies, Markhams and American Swiss.

Foschini's John Corlett said that, given the small staff complement at Foschini stores, the demand for nine months' paid maternity leave was "operationally impossible." Six months' leave had thus been agreed, with an additional payment for child care for a further three months.

Women workers will have their jobs guaranteed on returning to work. The agreement, the first on parental rights at Foschini, also provides paid time off for ante-natal care and full company payment of medical aid contributions. Fathers will receive a week's paid leave and an optional 18 days' unpaid leave, with the possibility of a further five days if the mother or child falls seriously ill.
BABY DEATHS
BLACK LINK IN

Just friends!
Boxer: We're
Beauty and the

killed more
could have
toxic chips
Growing fear

by School Staff
possible deaths caused by contaminated drip include the 23 infant deaths at the Ga-Rankuwa Hospital north of Pretoria, which is under investigation by the Coroner's Commission.

The other hospitals are Tembisa, Coronation, Bokburg-Benoni and Katseleng.

"We do not have statistics on the babies who died at the five hospitals -- and we do not know what actually killed them -- but we intend to find out," Wilkins said this week.

It was reported that Baragwanath Hospital was not affected by the contaminated drips because it mixes its own drips.

Doctors fear the authorities and Sabax are attempting to cover up the full extent of the bacterial contamination that is believed to have killed at least 25 people -- 21 babies and four adults -- in clinics and hospitals throughout the country, attorney Peter Soller said yesterday.

Soller, who acts for the families of people who died or were affected by the drip, slammed as "unacceptable" the report released by Adcock Ingram, holding company of Sabax, this week.

According to the report, contamination had only so far been found in two batches of the drip--"potassium admixture" -- supplied to two private clinics where new-born babies had died.

The statement to the Department of Health Services referred only to supplies to the Park Lane Clinic in Johannesburg and the Morningside in Sandton.

But Soller said doctors feared there was a cover-up because it was not revealed how big the batches were, how widespread the distribution had been and the source of the contamination.

"There could be scores of black babies -- including the unexplained 23 deaths at the Ga-Rankuwa Hospital -- who have died as a result of the contamination.

He asked, "Why was there so much delay in making scientific tests and only at the clinics where the Press had revealed babies had died?"

"The authorities and
Planning Children's Future

Two Professional Child Mental Health Workers and Childcare Providers Talk With Parents About Mental Health and Development of Their Children. The Women Are Working in a Community Health Center, a Decision to Open an HIV/AIDS and Child Mental Health Program Will Fall to the Community. In the Field of Child Health Care, Women Who Are Able to Provide the Services to Children Are Needed. How Would You Like to See a New Model for a Health Care System That Focused on Children's Mental Health?

By Soni Maseko

Duty Informed

September 24, 1990

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Sowetan Friday October 6 1990
TPA orders urgent probe into spate of baby deaths

THE Transvaal Provincial Administration has launched an urgent, in-depth investigation into all the baby deaths at public hospitals and clinics named by a Johannesburg lawyer representing the families of 25 babies who have died from a bacterial infection.

The babies allegedly died of klebsiella septicaemia after being placed on contaminated drips.

So far the privately-run Park Lane, Morningside and Garden City clinics have confirmed klebsiella-related deaths.

However, reports have also surfaced of other deaths at Sandton Clinic, Alberton's Union Hospital, Far East Rand, GaRankuwa and provincial-run Coronation, Tembisa, Boksburg/Benoni and Alberton's Kalafong hospitals.

Sandton Clinic's Dr Antoinette van der Merwe yesterday strongly denied that a baby had died there during September as a result of drip contamination.

Caution

She said the only baby who had died during September had been born 26 weeks prematurely, with a 50 percent chance of survival.

She emphasised that the clinic did not even use the specific product which has been publicly linked to the deaths.

TPA spokesman Mr Piet Wilken said that while its health services department had been ordered to investigate each baby death thoroughly, he also wanted to issue a word of caution.

He said he wanted to point out that all newborn babies were highly susceptible to such infections - and that these infections could be caused by many sources, not necessarily only by contaminated drips as alleged.

The TPA controls 79 hospitals and 33 clinics, but Wilken said the investigation into the recent baby deaths was being held only in those TPA-run medical institutions mentioned in media reports.

He added that the media would be kept informed of the TPA's findings but, because of their extensive nature, these would not be known for "quite some time". - Sapa.
Talks to focus on brutalised children

By PEARL MAJOLA

The majority of children who grow up in South Africa’s townships will have experienced some kind of violence by the age of five.

Pre-school children who witnessed the 1976 riots became victims of the violence when it erupted yet again in 1985. Since then this country has seen little peace, if any.

Often children are witnesses to destruction and brutal murders even of their own parents and other family members.

All this is apart from other forms of violence they are exposed to in their lives.

Scourge

Concern over this scourge has led to a group of Transvaal childcare workers in August forming the Committee on Violence and Its Effects on Children.

This Saturday the committee will make its first attempt to formulate a strategy to counteract the effects of violence on children.

They will be hosting a seminar on “The effects of violence on young children - what you can do” at Ipeleng Centre in Soweto from 9am to 5pm.

Experts, parents, teachers and ordinary people concerned with the growing violence in the townships and its effect on children will discuss what can be done to help the innocent victims of this trend.

Professionals who will be at the seminar are Thandeka Mguduso, a clinical psychologist at the University of South Africa, Jane Gam, a social worker with the National Council for Mental Health, and Leslie Richardson, chairman of the South African Association for Early Childhood Education.
Parents seek criminal charge

The parents of a baby which allegedly died after being placed on a contaminated drip have lodged a culpable homicide charge with the Brixton murder and robbery squad, lawyer Peter Soller said yesterday.

He declined to name the couple but police said they could not confirm that charges had been laid unless a name was provided.

Soller said he had taken on four more cases yesterday involving babies who allegedly died from klebsiella septicaemia.

He had received about 75 calls from parents who believed their dead babies might have died after being put on contaminated intravenous drips.

"On average I'm taking on three to four further cases per day, but only once I'm reasonably satisfied that the baby may have died as a result of septicaemia," Soller said last night.

So far the privately run Park Lane, Morningside and Garden City clinics have confirmed klebsiella-related deaths but reports have surfaced of further deaths at Sandton Clinic, Alberton's Union Hospital, Far East Rand, Garantnawa and provincial run Coronation, Tembisa, Boksburg/Benhul and Atteridgeville's Kalebong hospitals.

Only yesterday the Transvaal Provincial Administration (TPA) Health Services began investigating allegations of baby deaths from klebsiella infection.

TPA spokesman Piet Wilkes said a statement would be issued today.

Soller said National Health and Population Development Minister Nita Venet was being kept informed. However, she was not expected to comment on the matter.

Babies was waiting for the Medicines Control Council's report and results of an investigation by Minister Sam de Beer's Health and Welfare department before requesting a judicial inquiry.

The man with the key to the council's findings and who everyone was now waiting for, was Cape Town University medical professor Peter Volp, Soller said.

Any civil or criminal actions arising from the findings of a judicial inquiry would set legal precedence in SA.

This was because the courts had never given a ruling as to whether damages can be awarded to people who suffer "emotional shock" in the way the parents of these dead babies experienced it, he added.

Sandton Clinic PR Sonia Vellerman yesterday denied an allegation that a baby had died at the clinic during September possibly as a result of contamination.

The only baby who died during September was born 26 weeks prematurely with a 50% chance of survival. The baby died of bowel complications linked to its early birth, Vellerman said.

Mervyn Harris reports that share prices of pharmaceutical group Adcock Ingram dropped on the JSE yesterday in a belated response to the controversy which surrounds its subsidiary company Sabax, which manufactures the intravenous drips.

The shares, which rose to a R30 peak two weeks ago, eased almost 8% or 20c to R30 on a trade of 10 600 shares worth R31 600 changing hands in seven deals.
Infants death toll is now 25

Four more child deaths linked to contaminated intravenous 'drips' were reported yesterday, bringing the number of babies suspected to have died in similar circumstances to 25.

More women fearing their children had died after being infected with klebsiella septicaemia approached lawyer Mr Peter Soller yesterday. He said he had received 75 calls by noon yesterday. The four deaths reported yesterday occurred at the Far East Rand Hospital, Tembisa Hospital, Morningside Clinic and Union Hospital in Alberton, he said.

Soller said he thought the government was awaiting the return of President PW de Klerk before appointing a judicial commission to probe the deaths. - Sapa.
THREE more babies, two of them twins, died at Tembisa and Coronation hospitals after being infected with Klebsiella Septicaemia in September, bringing the death toll to 21 on the Reef.

Mr Peter Soller, an attorney for parents whose babies died at several hospitals apparently because of contaminated intravenous drips, said yesterday he was approached by Mr Sidney Kaha, of Tembisa, who said his twin boys died at the hospital on September 10 and 11.

He had also received a report from a mother who said her baby died at Coronation Hospital about the same time.

Reliable sources said Government health departments would appoint a judicial commission of inquiry into the deaths.

The death of at least 11 babies at Garankuwa Hospital in January and 28 in April have also been linked to the drip contamination.

A representative for the hospital said septicaemia was found in some of the babies but declined to give more details as the matter was sub judice.

A Sunday newspaper reported that Mr Justice PM Cillie, who heads the commission into the Garankuwa deaths, confirmed that klebsiella septicaemia was "the most important" element of his probe although negligence was still being investigated.

Soller said he had been approached by relatives of four adults who died of septicaemia after being admitted for relatively minor ailments and put on drips.

A spokesman for Baragwanath Hospital said they had no outbreaks of the infection because they prepared their own intravenous drips.

Park Lane, Morning-side and Garden City clinics and Johannesburg Hospital have confirmed deaths due to the infection.
Teacher ‘took funds’

THE Department of Education and Training has suspended a Pretoria teacher from duty without pay following allegations by parents that he embezzled school funds and inflicted excessive punishment on pupils.

The teacher, whose name and that of the school may not be published until formal charges are brought before him by DET, is also said to have been inefficient because of the high failure rate in his class.

Mr Christo Steyn, deputy northern Transvaal regional director of the DET, yesterday confirmed the suspension of the teacher and said their legal advisors were busy preparing formal charges of misconduct against him.

The teacher’s suspension followed complaints by parents who accused the acting principal and the school management council of not taking action against him despite his misconduct.

The management council is believed to have warned him several times but to no avail.

Parents, at a special meeting held a month ago, appointed a committee of 10 which presented and discussed the complaints with DET regional chief director, Mr Job Schoeman.

The committee also presented certain documents to Schoeman to support their complaints against the teacher.

The teacher, who has promised to challenge the suspension, has been barred from entering or visiting offices or institutions under the control of DET without prior approval from the regional chief director.

Semantic focuses on effects of violence on children

THE Committee on Violence and the Effects on Children, consisting of a number of organisations working with children, will host a seminar which is aimed at formulating strategies to counteract the effects of violence among children and give support to childcare workers.

The seminar will be a full day event at Ipelegeng Community Centre in White City, Jabavu, Soweto on Saturday, October 27.

The seminar will focus on psychological perspectives, first hand accounts of violent experiences and practical intervention strategies with the aim of equipping childcare workers to deal with effects of violence on children, the organisers said.

“The greatest harm a society can do is to deprive its young of their right to utilise and benefit from all the richness of human history in a safe, calm and happy environment where they are free to learn through their own actions and interactions,” a spokesman for the committee said.

The seminar will be open to educators, preschool organisations, parents and social service organisations and members of the public, who can contact the organisers Azia Jardine or Ilroy Mustel at 836-7008 or Brown Ekeki at 787-1358.

The registration fee is R5.
Shell acts on ANC claims

By SHARON CHERTY

THE Shell oil company said yesterday it would no longer fund "politically biased" courses after a public storm over claims of ANC indoctrination at a youth camp.

The assurance was given by a trustee of the Shell Science and Mathematics Resource Centre after the youth leadership course for high school pupils was slammed for being biased towards the ANC.

Parents and a National Party MP, Dr Johan Steenkamp, objected to the programme, games played and the venue in Richards Bay on the Natal North Coast.

They also objected to the presence of ANC member Greta Appelgren, linked to the McGoo's bar bombing in Durban.

Now trustee Terry McCulloch has assured irate parents that future courses "would be looked at closely and the programmes carefully examined."

"Complaints about our youth camps are an exception and this is the first time people have expressed problems with the programme."

"If those spoken to, only a few found this particular camp offensive," Mr McCulloch said this week.
What streetkids need is love

By LULAMA LUTI

DELINQUENTS, shoplifters – they live in the gutter, high on glue, jail their only future.

These are children of the streets, commonly called "malunde" or "malalippe".

Many people would like to have them removed from the streets and locked away and forgotten.

Social worker Jill Swart says most people have this stereotyped attitude towards street children, an attitude she is hoping to correct.

"There is another side to these children that is often overlooked. Their intelligence is tremendous and their sense of humour incredible.

"All they need is space and opportunities, not institutions. Locking them up will not solve the problem," she said.

Childcare worker at the Tshepo centre at Bertrams, Abel Makhubedu, agrees: "I have been with these kids for two months now and because they are different from kids who grow up in normal homes, my work was initially tough.

"What became clear is they need love, care and great patience. They even need to be reminded to perform daily activities like washing.

"But we've seen a lot of improvement in most of them, which is very encouraging."

The Tshepo centre is one of four rehabilitation centres run by Streetwise South Africa – an organisation which aims to get street children back into society.

These centres - in Soweto, Johannesburg, Pretoria and Durban – offer basic literacy and job skills training programmes to street children of 16 years and younger.

Why do these children - mainly boys - leave home to live on the streets?

Swart says a lack of love at home led many to the streets.

Very often parents are working so hard at earning a living, they have little time to care for their children.

Others come from rural areas, in search of better education or lured by the glamour of the city.

The social, economic and political situation in the country has also contributed to the plight of street children.

About 10,000 children live in the shadows of South Africa's streets, most of them black and coloured.

But Swart believes these children have a better chance of being saved than the thousands of children on the streets in South America, where the conditions are even worse.

Looking at boys from the Bochabela commune in Soweto, neat and smart in their school uniforms, this seems possible.

Former street kids, these boys are affectionately known as graduates.

Mina Motaung, a teacher dedicated to helping the boys, says: "Working with these kids is a challenge."

"Giving them the love they were deprived of at childhood is of vital importance," she said.

And what do the kids say?

"We may have been street kids before, but now we are Tshepo boys," the Bertrams boys say.
Children without colour bias

WHEN a second pre-schooler named “Willie” joined Sacred Heart College, pupils ignored the teacher’s instruction to call the boys “white Willie” and “black Willie”.

To the children they were “new Willie” and “old Willie” – demonstrating that young children are oblivious of racial differences.

This story is told by Brother Neil McGurk, headmaster of Sacred Heart College in Observatory, a school with a proud history of 13 years of non-racialism.

Sacred Heart was one of the first schools to open its door to other races in 1977, and today about half of its 1 200 pupils are white.

Success

“We find that if the students start in our preschool they all do equally well. In 12 years we have never had a black pupil fail a standard,” McGurk said.

Challenge

McGurk said admitting a few blacks did not offer a challenge.

“The challenge is greater when the numbers increase. Black students have their own imperatives, cultural experiences and aspirations.

“Friendships grow across racial lines and common nationalist aspirations develop. Once the students adjust, the white children lose their fear of the unknown black community and stop feeling guilty.

“The black students overcome their anger and resentment. This is a process of mutual liberation, but it needs the right people to guide and teach and act as role models.”

“There is a phase when children are sensitive and don’t want to discuss racial problems, but later, when they develop self-identification, you can discuss it quite openly.

One God

“It is very important to look for transcultural values on which to build. An important one we emphasise is that there is only one God, whether you are Christian, Muslim or Jewish. If you emphasise the differences you polarise the children.” – Sovietan Correspondent
Angels faces of hate
Now the AWB puts its children on parade

A line of yellow AWB children, their faces costumed, brandish a banner at a Kruger Day rally urging "Gor Fw" to keep their schools white.
In a place where hell broke loose...

Next week 28 people are due to appear in court following the shocking murder of four whites in a Free State township.

**IVOR POWELL** visited Kuthloamong where the killings occurred.

There was more than 10 days ago that the killing of four whites in the township of Kuthloamong outside the Free State town of Bothaville took place, but ever since there has been nothing chilling about the sense of imminent normality which pervades the scene.

Little groups of men or on rocky chains in the sun or in the little pools of shade the corrugated iron shacks create, they go about their trade with the care that only the unemployed — who understand how long it can be — are capable of.

Some of the women are washing clothes in buckets and hanging them out in the sun to dry. Others sweep the dry sand into patterns to mark our posts. One is baking a small girl with a massively protruding navel in a tub hardly bigger than a cooking pot.

Maral township dogs snuffle and a couple of small children are playing among the broken bottles and rusty tins of the refurbished dump which is the closest you come to a playground in a small township. As children do, they test the textures they find them by taking them from mouth to mouth. No one seems to think that much notice; the kids have to take their chances, it's not as if they only place to play is in Kuthloamong's squatter camps.

And as for the rubbish dump is there, like the heavy smell of old excrement, because, despite promises from the provincial administration, neither sanitation nor refuse disposal has been tackled on a large scale. The Government promised that it would dispatch 1 000 trucks which sprang up on the broads of Kuthloamong township in an announcement after State President FW de Klerk promised a new South Africa on February 2.

In those weeks the many thousands of tents in the already overcrowded township decided to make their own new South Africa, to cease paying at the same time the R60 to R100 rentals their landlords were charging, in fact, by taking possession of all the unused council camps in the town out of corrugated iron and mud.

But this is history. For now, beside the rubbish dump, there is only a small blackened patch of earth, eroded with the wind and rain, a hole in the motor car tyre as any kind of clue to what happened there. Saturday, September 29, when four whites from the adjoining towns of Kuthloamong and Welkom, drawn and unwritten, stumbled into something they never expected.

What exactly happened to Basie van Niekerk, Shirley Boshoff, Michael Beukes and Antoinette Coetzee is described by acquaintances as “very ordinary fellows” — the kind of thing all drinking binge, who, when they run out of alcohol take home, take a trip to the other side of town or to a patch of township drinking holes and forbidden thrill, it’s likely that it was probably never known in its entirety.

But two things seem certain: they never intended to go into the squatter camp, and they got caught up in something which had nothing to do with them personally.

Both the political system they were being influenced by the township in the first place.

Kuthloamong was ready to explode and they just happened to be there, in the presence wrong place at the equally provoking wrong time.

The brawl took place some time around 9.30 on the Saturday night, but sessions had been building up since early in the previous week. According to Simon Mienie, assistant general secretary of the Kuthloamong Civic Association, groups of men believed by local comrades to have been members of the notorious Rassiai — the Leboho-based equivalents of Zuidafrika’s Lebatsa — had been seen marching in the area early on the Friday.

Believing the Russians to have been planning an attack on the township, the comrades called urgent community meetings, the result of which was that they took up arms in order to patrol the area in self-defence.

In the early hours of Saturday morning, Mienie claims, he and a number of other community leaders were hauled out of bed to investigate allegations of late night disruptions in the squatter camp, where individuals, believed to have been Russians, had been hanged on doors and issuing threats, before disappearing again into the night.

Some of the people seen in the area, Mienie claims, were known to have police connections and had been involved in earlier incidents of violence against township residents.

But for the rest of the night, though the situation remained tense, nothing further happened.

On Saturday again, large movements of suspected Russians were reported in surrounding areas. Rassiai’s forces — mainly drawn from Congress of South African Trade Unions activists — again grouped and self-defence patrols on the streets.

This, the residents feared, would be the night when the Russians — mainly migrants from Lesotho, living in informal squatter camps on or around farms in the area — would descend. According to township residents, these Russians have on numerous occasions been mobilised by whites in order to break up squatter camps and to incite violence in the township.

Now, it was found they would be used again, by some third force, to disrupt the township and would revenge in the face of a consumer boycott, of white-owned business in Kuthloamong.

The boycott, organised by the township’s civic association, had been in progress since the week before in order to demand, among other things, the introduction of a bucket waste disposal system in the squatter camp, the deregulation of the private clinic hospital, and an end to the system of black local authorities.

Ironically, township dwellers were buying necessities in the Afrikaanse Westernd newspapers of the local — only recently recovered from its own consumer boycott — which made a total 70 minutes away in order to avoid manufacturing local businesses.

And the whites of Kuthloamong did not like it.

“Don’t use to calling the tune, you know,” one township resident said. “They like to have things their own way. You know, even without wanting to buy things. I wouldn’t go the town after the boycott was called. Maybe I’d never come out again. It’s that kind of place.

What kind of place? It’s hard to say, but we picked up a few clues along the way.

On the fact that, although, according to township residents, many whites visit the townships on a regular basis, usually in pursuit of black women, and although there are numerous children of obviously mixed parentage running around its dusty streets, the township remains a kind of geographical taboo.

One white who has broken the taboo is an Italian South African who wants to be known as Spencer in order to protect his family, Spencer, together with his friend Dinaka and Mark, „met her and fell in love. Maybe I’m colour blind, but I don’t know. It has lived in an unassuming little township house in Kuthloamong for some three years. They moved there after their life together in white Welkom — where Spencer owned a non-racial disco until he closed it in solidarity with the consumer boycott. — became unsustainable as a result of intimidation by right-wing whites.

So I still get resistance from the whites of Kuthloamong,“ says Spencer with a shrug. “Occasionally troops come looking for me and then, well, I have to hide.

“I’ve learnt to handle it fast,” he adds with a laugh.

But Spencer’s real concern is for Mark.

“It’s not easy for her to even go into the white town these days, I’m scared about what could happen. For myself I don’t mind. If my time comes, it comes. But I don’t want anything to happen to her.”

But Spencer is, to say the least, a rarity. One Kuthloamongite while we spoke to summarised the general feeling about the township killings as he told us:

“Who would have thought this could happen here...”
Circumcision: The cruelest cut of all?

AS South Africa wallows towards a "white society" tradition practices are coming under close scrutiny. One such practice is circumcision, during which ritual black boys are isolated in mountains or the veld to mark their transition from boyhood to manhood.

Circumcision — observed by virtually all black South Africans — is a particularly contentious form of the practice concerning the boy's health and life. Many youths attending initiation schools have suffered severe wounds, from the cutting of their foreskins.

At a recent circumcision camp outside Pietermaritzburg, a teenage died from severe wounds, according to Seulugol police. They found that four other children had become ill as a result of their wounds going septic. Police, they added, had the children to the hospital, but their uncles persuaded them to return.

A Venda university student says he would not have married a woman if she was not circumcised, the time they returned from the ceremony.

"They had to limp along to school, I became lauging stocks," he says.

Initiately the practice was held in wine, when the spread of gripe was "old. But, because there are no trained medical staff, the ritual is now carried out by untrained people during the December holidays. Because of the heat, especially in the open, there are more cases of infection.

The Congress of Traditional Leaders of South Africa (Congress) this week told the Times Mail that the ritual had to be "stopped", and that the actual circumcision be performed at a hospital.

National activist Simon Nkomo says that as traditional leaders, Congress is very concerned about the "malpractice" it is being carried out because of the "impoverishment of what is good in culture, and doing away with what is bad.

He adds: "People still cling to old ways. But today, as it happens with circumcision, they overlook the dangers involved."

"We hope the Congress of Traditional Leaders that Congress cannot enforce its opinion that circumcision be performed in hospitals."

"Centerless will have to educate people step by step until they can see that it is wisest to consult the practice through medical professionals."

"African People's Organisation spokesman George Nkomo said the ritual has to be modified, although he appreciates the value of structures which inculcate respect, discipline and moral integrity among young people.

"Congress is very concerned about the malpractice it is being carried out because of the "impoverishment of what is good in culture, and doing away with what is bad."

African National Congress representative Eric Pule says circumcision should not be abolished, but has to be practiced in a "healthy manner.

Hard to say whether or not circumcision is "healthy" but it seems as though there is usually no complaint to attend. He adds that many boys will be forced to attend the camps, fearing that they will be taken away from home. Xhosas, who steadfastly practice circumcision, traditionally regard a man who has not been circumcised as being less than a man.

Among the elecct, they cannot inhere their father's properties, get married in the neighborhood or pressure over customary ceremonies. "Men who have not gone for the initiation are regarded as boys, and are inaught — ollygored by their friends."

Eastern Transvaal resident Richard Myburgh, who was circumcised 10 years ago, says he had to go because all his peers did so. Parents and friends taunted those who stayed away.

Myburgh says the initiation was tough, lasting for more than five weeks. The ritual, performed in winter, took place in a thicket and the group slept in half-made clothes, bags and tree branches. They used ground grass as a mattress, and slept under a single blanket.

"As in fact witnesses and technical expert for the Zulu political parties, Hyatt will demonstrate — his work precedes the one that is in issue in this case.

Patent examiners gave Hyatt's claim a stamp of approval when broad patent was granted in July for work he performed in 1968, but enforcement of the patent has yet been tested in the courts.

"In fact it is important to clear the air," Hyatt says. "A patent is a legal instrument and should be part of the record. My patent is the basic one, and it is inalienable."

"Hyatt's testimony could affect seven laws involving attempts by Texas Instruments to market a function of the microprocessor. In addition to Zenith Data Systems, Texas Instruments has also sued Apple Computer Inc., Sony, Sanyo and several other companies.

"Texas Instruments' patent enforcement attempt prompted a change from computer maker Tandy Corp., which acquired TI in 1985.

In its suit filed in a United States District Court in San Francisco, Fort Worth, Texas, the Texas Instruments said that Tandy, which was acquired by a computer maker, had been developed first by others such as Hoff.

Texas Instruments officials called Tandy's lawsuit a "typical counterfeiter's" without substantiating proof, they said. Tandy would have to identify in which case he would testify in those cases. He said he did not have time to testify in the Zenith case. — Los Angeles Times

Hyatt's won the microprocessor patent. Now he wants royalties.

Testimony in a US patent-infringement suit could save inventor Gilbert Hyatt from challenging large computer chip companies to obtain his royalties.

GILBERT HYATT, the little-known Californian engineer who recently won a patent for an idea that is standard equipment in nearly every American computer, has turned the tables on the major computer makers who once gave him the slip.

The case is the first to be brought against the major computer makers and marks the beginning of a new era in patent law.

Hyatt, a self-employed engineer who earns less than $40,000 a year, said he now has to challenge his larger potential adversaries in court.

Hyatt, who was born in 1947, is a former IBM engineer who worked on the IBM 7090, the first computer to use a magnetic core memory. He left IBM in 1968 and formed his own company, which he called Hyatt Electronics.

He then worked on a computer chip that would be able to store data in a single chip, and he patented the idea in 1971.

"From our position, we can comment on Zenith's success and what role Mr Hyatt would have to play," said Jim Dabrowski, manager of corporate relations at Texas Instruments.

The suit is not about who invented the microprocessor, but about the patent. Some of the patents that Hyatt's company seeks to enjoin from use were held by the companies that made the chip.

Boone, who previously worked with Hyatt's company, was accused of infringing on the patent.

Boone, who previously worked with Hyatt's company, was accused of infringing on the patent.

Out in the veld or the mountains, young South African boys undergo tough and hazardous initiation ceremonies to mark their transition from boyhood to manhood.

Hyatt's work is the culmination of a long career in computer science at the University of California, Berkeley, where he was a professor of computer science for 20 years.

"But there's a way to make a living out of it," says Myburgh. "During the evenings we set up a lot for our church and do it ourselves. We would have to pay if the fire went out, even when it rained."  

The ritual is an ordeal to the men, with marching, chanting, whipping, yelling and shouting — "It's like in the army,"  

Several whites who have witnessed the ritual say they feel "repelled," says Myburgh. "They have the same arrogance which educates us."

"I feel this is all about the white man's arrogance," says Myburgh. "I feel this is all about the white man's arrogance,"
Keeping the small criminal outside the jails

Patrick the petty thief would be in jail today if it weren't for Nico, who have saved the state its money and have saved Patrick his soul.

By ARTHUR MAAMANE

PATRICK stood alone in the dock of one of the small courts in Johannesburg last Monday and heard the magistrate who could've been an older sister pass sentence on him for attempted theft.

He had started the first job of his young life the previous Monday, two years ago when he'd passed his matric. He hadn't given up trying to get a technical certificate because he had difficulties with mathematics.

In August he broke into a car hoping to steal money from a jacket lying inside. He was spotted by passersby, chased down a street and handed over to the police who believed him when he claimed he was only 15 years old.

He looks young and from past experience he'd get a lighter sentence as a juvenile; he'd been given lashes for receiving stolen goods when he was a genuine juvenile.

This time the prosecutor demanded three years' imprisonment because, he said, society had to be protected from the likes of young Patrick.

After about an hour's thought, the magistrate told him off for being "long-fingered" and sentenced him to a year's imprisonment, suspended for five years. But he would have to serve 150 hours of community service in a children's home and would be locked up if he missed any of that time or did not follow the instructions of his social worker and probation officer.

The National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders was formed 80 years ago with prison visiting among the good works it pursued. But the intention developed with time, and in 1977, its lobby changed the law to make community service an alternative to serving useless, and expensive, time behind bars for some of the convicted.

There are 110,000 prison inmates at any given time, and the cells are overcrowded that the Prison Service plans new prisons, at great cost, to house 12,000 more convicts. This is regarded by Nico as an unnecessary waste of human and state resources.

One of its persuasive arguments is the most simple—money. It costs the state—that is, all tax-payers—just over R16 a day to keep one offender locked up, which amounts to R1.76 million every day for the army of 110,000 convicts whose crimes vary from Patrick's attempted theft to fraud, murder and other serious mayhem. Those serving less than two years are not trained for anything and the only contribution they make towards their keep is being used as convict labour.

Another persuasive reason for keeping minor offenders out of chookie is that while they languish behind prison walls they cannot maintain their fami-

The majority of offenders assisted by Nico from 113 centres across the country are—like the prison population—black; not hardened or habitual criminals. But as its Johannesburg director, Heather Reegen, says, there is the danger that while hanging around prison yards and cells they could learn the crooked skills which could turn them into criminals who cannot be rehabilitated.

The government provides only limited funding for the Institute, such as paying a percentage of social workers' salaries, and the rest comes from private donations. There is also what Nico calls "privatisation"—well-off offenders, like the fraudster who received a suspended sentence for the million-plus fraud, can afford lawyers, psychologists and other experts to assist in their defences, but still need the Institute on their side to give them added credibility before the courts.

They are asked to contribute a few hundred rand towards the privatisation scheme, which still amounts to less than R10,000 a year. But while these white-collar offenders can be said to have more to lose if they don't serve time (fearing jobs and even careers) it is the poor who are at greater risk.

Right now the future of six children in Soweto hangs in the balance while a mother waits for the Appeal Court in Bloemfontein to rule on whether she is to serve three years for owning a car she says she did not realise had been stolen. Since her arrest in 1987 she has so far spent about R9,000—almost the price of the car—on legal fees and a week in "Sun City". Not the gambling resort but the name for Diepkrans Prison outside Soweto.

If Gladys loses the appeal and has to serve the three years she's likely to lose the responsible job she's held down for 15 years at Baragwanath Hospital— as well as her home. The state, through the provincial administration, will have to provide for the children—the eldest of them is expecting a baby—and an aged mother who's also a dependent.

She says an irony that upsets her while her family's future hangs in the balance is that while the stolen car was confiscated by the police she still gets parking and speeding tickets for it, with threats of prosecution if she doesn't pay the fines. They amount to several hundred rand, but she has refused to fork out more cash.

"There was a time," she says, "when I thought I'd be better off dead. But then what about the children?" That was before she heard about Nico from a neighbour last August. She pins her hopes of staying out of prison on the Institute.

Patrick's mother appeared much more frightened than her son during his morning in court. On Tuesday he returned to his week-end job as a trainee at an electronics company whose letter to the court might have helped sway the magistrate against the prosecution.

This weekend he's scrubbing walls, floors or whatever at a children's home. With a little luck and the guidance of the probation service he could be rehabilitated into the useful and honest citizen Yasmin Furmin and Nico believe he can be.

The youth in an earlier case in the tiny courtroom didn't have much luck. He'd been arrested two years ago, at the age of 16, for being in possession of a car radio worth about R7,000 and an electric iron valued at R80 which the police suspected were stolen. Last week, at the age of 18, the court was still taking evidence against him: this time from one of the arresting policemen.

The case was adjourned yet again—and the youth clanked out of the dock, through a door and down to the cells. Chanked because his ankles were bound in heavy chains as if he was a mass murderer who could cause bloody havoc in the courtroom if he were free to walk like a human being.
The secret of gifted children

TOYS and other child stimulation gadgets are less important than a healthy parent-child relationship in nurturing giftedness.

It is "the being" with the child and not "the doing" with or for it, according to psychologist Zachary Blumberg who works at a centre for gifted children, that counts in developing a child's intellect.

"The most important aspects of gifted education like thinking, intelligence and creativity, are grounded in parent-child relationships.

Friendship with the child is the beginning of all learning.

Gifted children, Blumberg told a conference on child development, are what they are because of an experience of

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

"The ready attitude that tells a child that the mother is there if it needs it makes the ground fertile for its development and gives it an opportunity to explore the world around it and see itself in relation to others.

"A healthy relationship that makes it feel emotionally-held by the parent offers the child an opportunity to symbolize, think and create within a basis of security," he said.

Gadgets are only an assistance to helping a child develop. They cannot be a substitute for a relationship with the parent.

He said the misconception among
Parents' call for probe on infant deaths

EMBITTERED parents who lost their babies at the Park Lane and Morningside clinics yesterday met and supported a bid to have a judicial commission of inquiry into the deaths conducted by the Department of Health and Welfare Services.

At a meeting in Johannesburg yesterday, 10 couples told legal consultant Mr Peter Solter their babies had died of a bacterial infection in the clinics.

Solter proposed that before any litigation, the facts of the circumstances surrounding the babies’ deaths should be fully established through a commission of inquiry by the Department of Health and Welfare Services.

Meanwhile, the full impact that a contaminated sterilised product had on babies in clinics and hospitals countrywide would be known by the end of the week, Government health officials said on Tuesday.

In addition, findings of an in-depth investigation conducted by the product manufacturer, Sabax, were expected to be released late yesterday.

Report

A Department of Health Services and Welfare spokesman said an official Press report would be made this week following investigations by the Department of National Health and Population Development.

At least 15 babies have died from a bacterial infection apparently picked up while being treated with a Sabax manufactured drip.

All but one of these infants died at the Park Lane and Morningside clinics. One baby had been transferred to the Johannesburg Hospital from Park Lane.

Several clinics and hospitals contacted this week – including Johannesburg Hospital, Baragwanath Hospital, Hillbrow Hospital and Sandton Clinic – said they knew of no babies dying as a result of an infection from a sterilised drip.

At Garankuwa Hospital, a judicial commission of inquiry is underway to investigate the death of babies in April.

A spokesman said he could not say how many babies were involved and what treatment they had received.

It is understood that several babies have also died at Kalafong Hospital near Pretoria.

The superintendent, Dr JA Kunzmann, said the deaths could not at this stage be linked to the product. – Sowetan Correspondent.
Money shortage adds to woes of abused children

Paula Fray

Unwashed, scruffy and hungry, little Maggie and her brother, Kobus, existed on the fringes of society — neglected and abused by their parents while neighbours and friends apparently preferred not to interfere.

Social workers suspected the abuse had been going on since the children were infants — but neighbours said nothing. The Star was told.

And it continued until an alert school principal reported them as neglected children.

Today they are in the care of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society...but the society itself is in trouble.

It is R600 000 in the red.

"Until we get more funding we simply cannot take on additional cases," says Caroline van Rooyen, the society's fundraising and public relations manager.

Maggie and Kobus are just two of thousands of abused and neglected children in South Africa. They are also two of the lucky ones — eventually their parents were reported.

In the case of Maggie and Kobus a social worker, alerted by the principal, contacted the parents. She tried to help, advising them on the emotional, physical and nutritional needs of the children. She taught them parenting skills.

But a few weeks later Maggie approached the principal. Her father, she said, had got drunk and beaten her. A guidance teacher found bruises on the young girl's body.

When confronted, her parents denied the abuse. They gave improbable excuses for the bruises and told social workers to mind their own business.

A children's court inquiry was opened and Maggie and Kobus were interviewed without their parents. Kobus also reported abuse. He, too, had bruises on his emaciated body.

Maggie and Kobus's parents were found unfit.

Once an inquiry has been opened and the parents found unfit, the presiding officer can return the children to their parents, under supervision, or order them to be taken into foster care or a children's home.

This decision depends on the age and needs of the children, the severity of the abuse and damage, the ability of the family to change and the availability of resources.

But hundreds of other children like Maggie and Kobus, abused, beaten, neglected, have been dealt a double blow.

The cash-strapped Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, which provides an essential service to thousands of children, has been forced to cut back.

Anyone who wishes to make a donation can call Mrs van Rooyen at (011) 331-0171 or send the donation to the society at Box 2539, Johannesburg 2000.
Business booming for township assassins

IN South Africa's violent black township life is cheap. Sometimes as cheap as a R10 note slipped into the hand of a teenage assassin.

A generation of professional killers is growing up on township streets, ready to kill anybody and for any cause - so long as the price is right.

Township businessmen this week told the Sunday Times of assassination cartels where killers could be bought for a few rand to murder relatives, wipe out political or business rivals or murder for money.

Mandrax

The sources refused to be named out of fear. But police spokesmen confirmed they have long suspected assassins being used in taxi and drug wars.

Now there are suggestions that some of these young thugs may have been recruited to engage in political actions - perhaps even the recent bloody attacks on train and bus commuters.

One shebeen owner said: "Prices vary. These assassins kill for money and can be hired by anyone willing to pay their price."

By VICTOR KHUPISO

were used by people in the drug wars, like mandrax syndicates who bumped off the opposition. But now they have become cheap, maybe because unemployment is so high.

"It is an open secret that hired killers are easily available. They hang around shebeens or anywhere and no job is too small or too big for them," she said.

She added: "I have witnessed some of these guys. They are youths desperate for cash.

"Their mission is to kill, no questions asked."

Another shebeen owner, who also did not want to be named, said:

"People are working as assassins because of the high unemployment.

"They don't know the importance of human life and they have resorted to dirty games.

"One day I overheard some guys at my shebeen discussing a job they planned to carry out somewhere and for which they would be paid R100."

"The shebeen owners said the usual price of an assassination was R100 but that this could vary between R59 and R200, depending on how well-known the victim was.

They said the assassins were trained in the use of firearms and know which parts of the body were the "best" to shoot at, such as the head and neck.

Weapons are also easily available. Some are stolen from white homes but many, particularly AK-47s, are brought into South Africa from Mozambique by migrants who acquired them from bandits.

Confess

Soweto police liaison officer Colonel Tienie Hilpynn said police had not received any information about a cartel of assassins.

"Though we have no records of hired assassins ready to take on any job, we have often suspected that assassins are used by people like the taxi factions," he said.

"There may have been other murders connected to hired killers but we can only confirm when people confess in court to having been hired.

"We have no record of this, but I want to appeal to the community to report such cartels if they are there."
Angry parents fuming over ANC ‘indoctrination camp’ for kids

FURIOUS parents have hit out at the organise of a youth leadership training programme that was described as an ‘indoctrination camp’.

The camp’s programme included discussions on violence, racism and politics — and one of the participants was a convicted ANC activist who was involved in a recent bombing.

Sixty adolescents of all races aged between 16 and 18, were invited to participate in the weekend youth leadership development course by a committee of the Shell Science and Mathematics Trust.

According to the trust, the programme was designed to foster a sense of responsibility and leadership among young people.

However, the programme has been met with widespread criticism from parents and the public.

One parent, who wished to remain anonymous, said: “This is a clear example of how our children are being brainwashed.”

The programme was held at the University of Natal in Durban, and it was organised by the Shell Science and Mathematics Trust.

The parents said they were angry because the programme was not approved by the trust.

Mr. Paul, a social worker, said: “We are concerned because the programme is being taken too far.”

The programme was led by educators and activists who have a long history of anti-white, anti-Semitic, and anti-Israeli views.

They have used the Shell Trust’s funds to further their own political ends, which I find totally unacceptable,” he said.

The programme was described as “indoctrination” by parents and educators.

Parents said they were concerned about the use of the trust’s funds to support such activities.

The programme has been slammed by various organisations, including the National Teachers’ Union and the South African Teachers’ Association.

The trust has defended the programme, saying it was designed to promote leadership and critical thinking skills.

SUNDAY TIMES, October 14 1990
Virus may have killed babies all around the country

By MARK STANFIELD

FEARS grew yesterday that the number of baby deaths allegedly caused by contaminated drips may be higher than reported.

It was disclosed by the drip manufacturers that the product had been distributed to clinics throughout South Africa.

So far at least five babies’ deaths — all in Johannesburg private hospitals — have been linked to the allegedly contaminated drips.

The drips were withdrawn by manufacturers, Sabax Ltd, immediately after being identified as a possible source of the killer infection believed to be responsible for the deaths.

But fears are mounting that far more children could have been infected by the virus klebsiella from the same source — and their deaths attributed to other infant ailments.

At the high-level investigation into the source of the infection continued this weekend, Sabax — a subsidiary of Adecok Ingram — made it clear the company would not accept liability unless it was proved the product was faulty.

A spokesman said there were a number of possible sources of the deadly infection — including the clinics themselves.

“The treatment of seriously ill babies involves different procedures such as surgery, wound treatment, storage and infusion — all of which are potential sources of contamination,” said marketing and public affairs director Frans Erasmus.

Battle

The dispersed product has a 24-hour shelf life — but clinics and hospitals could have been using expired stock, experts said.

“These admixtures have a short shelf life,” said Vicky Baker of Sabax. “Accordingly, expiry dates and storage temperatures are very clearly labelled.”

“It is particularly important that the product remain refrigerated from the point of mixing through transportation and storage up to the point of use.”

Nevertheless, pinpointing responsibility for the spread of the infection in Johannesburg’s neo-natal clinics could become one of the longest and costliest medical legal battles in South African history.

Already battlelines have been drawn between the manufacturers, the clinics and the parents whose children died.
14-Year-Old Hired out to Athione Family

Children Exploited as Cheap Labor

Scandal at Abductors' Revolving Platform Youngsters

Report: Joe Travemaker
A BATCH of medicines used in intensive care units that treat new-born babies have been withdrawn after an undisclosed number of babies in three Transvaal hospitals died of bacterial infection in the past two months.

By PHANGISILE MTSHALI

The deaths led to the closure of a neo-natal intensive care unit at the Park Lane Clinic for three weeks as private and State investigations into the cause of the deaths were conducted.

A statement from the pharmaceutical company involved, Sabax Limited, said all the products, which may or may not be implicated, have been temporarily stopped pending the outcome of the investigations.

"We have brought out a microbiological specialist from the UK to help us in our evaluation of the products," the statement said.

In a statement, Mr Francois Baird, the public relations officer for Clinic Holdings Limited, confirmed two deaths.

Death of babies at hospitals probed

From Page 1

"During August and September a bacterial infection occurred in the neo-natal unit. The management immediately closed the unit to new admissions and proceeded to investigate the cause of the infection."

"Having put the unit through the most stringent hygiene control procedures the unit reopened on September 10," he said.

"When infections were again discovered in two more babies, further investigations were immediately undertaken. A number of independent laboratories found that sterilised products provided to the hospital by a reputable firm contained the same bacteria as found in the infected babies."

"The hospital immediately ceased the use of the identified products and no further infections have occurred."
Seminar will provide food for thought

PARENTING and Nutrition in the '90s features in the expanded Sowetan Nation Building Festival, which runs until November 5. The event takes place at the Zonzele YWCA Hall, Bloemfontein, on Saturday at 1.30pm.

Clinical psychologist Anne Maselle, of Garankuwa Hospital will deliver a talk at the seminar on building strong families.

The understanding of nutrition, according to the experts who have been giving talks at this Kellogg's sponsored event, is fundamental to building strong people and thus strong nations.

According to Maselle, a child's growing in the community is strongly influenced by family, school and church. The family is a fundamental socialising agent and through parent-child interaction the child develops to be a useful member of the community. Parents serve as guides, educators and models for their children.

Proper nutrition is also vital in the socialising process.

Parents, youths and all members of the community are invited to attend this event.
The innocent victims of malnutrition

MORE than 100 million children a year will die from illness and malnutrition in developing countries in the 1990s. These children will not be the victims of food or famine. There will be few televisions in their deaths, no public outrage, no demand for action.

Most of these children will die of diseases which were once common in the industrialised nations — of dehydration, pneumonia, diarrhoea, malaria and whooping cough.

These five common diseases — which are all relatively easy and inexpensive to prevent and treat — kill far more than twice as many children and more than half as many children in the decade which lies ahead.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF are appealing for a World Summit on Children this year to ensure a programme to prevent most child deaths and child malnutrition in the rest of this decade.

The overall cost for both prevention and treatment measures may amount to $20 billion.

This is the equivalent of one per cent of the Third World's annual spending.

It is as much as the Soviet Union has spent on vodka every month and as much as US companies have been spending each year on cigarette advertising.

It is then impossible to accept that the world cannot afford to prevent the malnutrition and deaths of so many children.

It is impossible to accept that the world cannot afford to prevent the illnesses and deaths of so many children.

The total is 100 million children who will die each year.

They are not the victims of death.

They are not the victims of food.

They are not the victims of war.

They are not the victims of poverty.

They are not the victims of ignorance.

They are the victims of malnutrition.

The innocent victims of malnutrition.

Universal child immunisation

The two biggest killers — measles and associated infections — can be prevented by routine vaccination for those two killers alone.

Measles and diarrhea kill 1.5 million children each year, while breast-feeding nearly three quarters and on the children and millions of young women each year.

But socioeconomic factors, high fuel costs, social structures, and cultural problems of temperature and sex mortality inequality exist.

If one child dies of malnutrition, another will be infected with the same disease.

The same commitment is required for other equally important and lower moribund infections to treat the lives and growth of children as the 1990s begin.

Two of the most important of these are oral rehydration therapy (ORT) and vitamins.

In almost every country, diarrhoea, dehydration, and inhalation infections are the first and second most common cause of illness and death among children younger than five.

Together they claim under 100 000 lives a day. But these illnesses can be prevented at low cost by rehydration and good therapy.

Because diarrhoea, coughs, and colds are the most common illnesses of childhood, a broad range of measures are already having an estimated 2.5 million deaths a year are directly attributable to childhood.

A $200 billion children's aid budget, if it is not provided.

The health of children is as vital to the survival of the child as the survival of the child.

The infant rate of malnutrition in the United States has never been higher.

More than 150 million children suffer from malnutrition which can be prevented.

Malnutrition affects the physical and mental development of children and the working and earning capacity of adults, it is therefore a cause as well as a consequence of poverty.

Several countries have managed to reduce malnutrition drastically, even though per capita income remains the same.

Eating incontinence is therefore not just a question of food and economic development, but of policy and prevention.

Alan Berg, programme director at the World Bank within "Data are presented as a guide to action on malnutrition. They include, among other things, how governments are far to make this effort.

Malnutrition has been made to be an effective way to make some progress in its prevention.

Many parents think it is impossible to feed their children because of hunger, war, or absolute poverty. But one of the most important

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Children forced to find work to survive

By Stan Hlophe and Brian Sokutu

Issac Phiri (14) works six days a week and earns R3 a day. He is one of the thousands of children whose plight was reported by The Star this week. Township violence, the recession and lack of opportunity are among the factors which have made Issac one of the adolescent workers who, in some cases, support not only themselves but their entire families.

The Star this week spoke to children working in Soweto coal yards, taxi ranks, the Kliptown market and on Johannesburg street corners.

Issac lives with his aunt in Kliptown squatter camp. His father died when he was two and his mother left home. His brother and two sisters were adopted by his uncle in Malawi. He left school after Std 3 when his aunt, who had three children of her own, could no longer afford to support him.

Issac had no alternative but to find work. He eventually found a job at the Kliptown fruiters as an assistant. He works six days a week and earns R3 a day.

To Issac that is better than nothing as he is now able to buy food for himself and contribute to the family income.

Tuition

Anna Mtsweni (15) had to leave her Pretoria school when her mother could no longer afford to pay for her tuition and books. She had to go to Johannesburg to find work and now sells oranges for a Soweto businessman, earning R5 for an 11-hour day.

"When I arrive in Orlando East where we stay, I'm dead tired," she said.

She has a dream: "At least I hope that by next year I would have saved money to go to school," she says.

Another youth who came to Johannesburg seeking not riches but survival, is Thomas Chauke (18), from Gyangi.

He came to Johannesburg in January looking for a job. He eventually found one in Chiawelo as a coal cart hauer.

He regards himself fortunate to find a job which pays R45 a week and provides free accommodation which he shares with three other workers.

His working day is from 7 am until 6 pm with a two-hour break. He spends the little money he gets on food and clothing and sends the balance home to his parents.

Siphile Radebe (17) of Zola, Soweto, also works for a coal merchant — in Zola. He left school in Std 7 when his father became disabled. With little education he was forced to take any job that was offered.

He works from 8 am to 6 pm, with a two-hour break.

With his wages of R70 a week, Siphile helps support his mother, two brothers and two sisters.
Child labour shock on Reef
10-year-olds make cash for elders

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Reports this week of parents using children to make a living were reported to the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

Children are working in Soweto coolyards, taxi ranks, the Klipspruit market and on Johannesburg street corners.

They are as old as 18 and as young as 10 and some come from as far as Gazankulu and Natal. They all have one thing in common — making a living.

Father died

Isaac Phiri, 14, lives with his aunt in Klipspruit squatter camp. His father died when he was two and his mother left home. His brother and two sisters were adopted by his uncle in Malawi.

He left school after Standard 3 when his aunt, who had three children of her own, could no longer afford to keep him there.

Isaac had no alternative but to look for work. With little education and being under age he found industry unwelcoming.

He eventually found a job at Klipspruit fruiterers as a delivery assistant. He works six days a week and earns R3 a day.

Sphiwe Radebe, 17, of Zola, Soweto, works for a coal merchant in Zola. He left school in Standard 7 when his father became disabled. With little education he found that it was tough. Industry has no room for semi-literates and he was forced to take any job that was offered.

R5 a day

Sphiwe, with his meagre wages of R70 a week, helps support his mother and two brothers and sisters. He works from 8 am until 6 pm with a two-hour break.

Anna Msweni, 15, from Pretoria had to leave school when her mother could not longer afford to pay for her tuition and books. She now sells oranges for a Soweto businessman, earning R5 for an 11-hour day.
Computers bring new hope to disabled kids

By PEARL MAJOLA

IF you do not educate children suffering from cerebral palsy, what other hope have they got in life?

This question motivated Karin Spottiswood, an occupational therapist at the Phillip Kushlick school for the cerebral palsied children in Soweto, to introduce computer programmed classes to enable athetoid quadriplegics (those with involuntary movement of the limbs) to write.

She started out with one computer, then she lent the school her own, borrowed one from a friend and raised funds to buy more.

Today a centre has been established with more than 10 computers and almost all the children have a chance to learn to use them.

Four of the children are now ready to work as copy typists on word processors.

"The three students I am most concerned about are between the ages of 17 and 21. They can work on the Apple and IBM systems as copy typists. They also do Data Base and they even help with some typing for the school," Spottiswood said.

Problem

"The problem is that they want to use the skills they have to contribute to and want to feel wanted by society. They can only do this by finding jobs and being productive. So we appeal to companies and small businesses to offer them something to do on a sheltered employment basis.

"Obviously their typing speed is low but they are very reliable and keen to work," she explained.

"Should there be anything else an employer who wants to help requires them to learn, we are willing to teach them and I am sure they would learn."

Spottiswood started working at the school in 1985 and was disturbed by seeing the athetoid quadriplegics doing nothing during sports periods and their disability to write because of the involuntary movements.

That is when the whole idea of educational and recreational computer programmes struck her.

Recreation

"It is my job to make the children as independent as possible and provide recreation for them. I have done this as part of my job and I have enjoyed it very much because these children are such wonderful people to work with.

"They are enthusiastic and that on its own is very rewarding to me."

The Phillip Kushlick School can be contacted at 011-933 1728.
Children face daily a dark air

There is a song that goes “The future’s so bright, you gotta wear shades.”

The writer was clearly not thinking about South African children when he wrote that song, because for millions of children, the road ahead is so dark and bizarre it seems that nothing short of divine intervention will save them.

For millions of children in South Africa, each day is a fresh battle to survive poverty and violence.

But even more frightening than the daily suffering, fear and brutalisation is their future in a country where violence is a way of life, where the landscape around them and the economy is contracts.

Three teenagers were beheaded near Vanderbijlpark last weekend. These murders were yesteryear. In the same week a 14-year-old was arrested in connection with the beheading of four whites at Grootdraaiers. Earlier this year a 12-year-old was murdered in Pretoria.

The questions being posed by welfare workers, psychologists and educators about the perpetrators are whether the traumatic effects of violence and poverty can ever be reversed.

The majority of children suffering are black, according to Dr Adele Thomas of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS). There is a vast chasm between their lives and those of white children, she says.

From The Star's files... Some of the "trent" children of Heavenly Valley. An appeal was made for foster parents to help the children.

Prostitution

The degree of violence and poverty being suffered by children is shown by

- An increase in child labour and prostitution as reported by the JCWS last week.
- Roughly 5000 children are suffering from malnutrition to some degree, according to Preparation Hunger's Ina Perlman. And their numbers are increasing.
- Excluding the TBVC areas, the infant mortality rate (IMR) was last year equal to that of Zambia — 73 out of every 100 live births, according to the United Nations Children's Fund. The per capita gross national product for South Africa is about three times that of Zimbabwe.

The most up-to-date statistic revealed by the Department of National Health and Population Development is that there are 45 per 1000 in 1986. And Minister Nans Venetia says this figure is dropping.

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The World Bank

A total of 17,560 children under 18 were detained during the state of emergency, according to the Human Rights Commission.

From March to August 1990, one phenomenon seen in South Africa was the brutal township violence involving the youths, says Mr Vogelman.

Young children, often younger than eight, were frequently involved in shootings and molotov cocktails. And boys too young to drive cars were seen carrying automatic weapons in the streets.

In addition to taking part in the violence, young children are becoming targets. Mr Vogelman says.

- While the poverty and social deprivation resulting from apartheid are prime contributors, these factors cannot be automatically linked to widespread community violence, he adds.

“Now there are examples of law where the youth of the poor communities have enforced great hardship without it leading to such widespread and brutal violence.”

He attributes the current violence involving youth to:

- Relative deprivation, the gap in what people have and what they want, or once had.

- Fratration of the nature increased dramatically in the 1980s as unemployment and underemployment burgeoned. It was made worse when black youths compared themselves to their white South African peers.

Pressures

- Desensitisation to violence is a generation born since the 1976/7 and 1984 violence, which grew up with a culture of violence.

- Group pressure children are spending more and more time on the streets, keeping out of classrooms and schools. Much of the brutality of violence in groups is unlikely to be carried out by individuals.

- Collapse of authority few parents or community leaders are able to control the young. Because community structures are effectively wiped out under former President Bantu, their influence is negligible.

- With their lives of deprivation, limited opportunities for a small chance of economic advancement, South Africa's youth care little for the future.

Mr Vogelman says.

“Of millions of young South Africans, talk of a new political era have moved little or no difference to their day-to-day material survival. In the black community, they are still without jobs, or if they have, they are badly paid.”

A number of internal restrictions were lifted earlier this year, many expected a rapid transfer of political power. This has not materialised. He says, living conditions have improved substantially.

The JCWS is at present enumerating hundreds of children in Soweto with severe post-traumatic stress disorders as a result of township violence and detention. Symptoms could take up to six months to manifest and could last for years, Dr Vogelman says.

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Land

Thousands of blacks assured that they areas which were earmarked either for or for incorporation land

In Nata, residue rural freedom comm. Macrae, F.J. Steyncoopspruit — lived under the luswa since 1986.

According to custom for Rural Act (Atra) in Mafikeng, displaced people or black community seriously considere the black home.

Negotiations com. cision of Transvaal titie already savep and continuation of a

As the land manit envisaged blacks scorned in self-governance or in or in — land territorial collapse, building up small uncompleted process and land restored.

It is a mess that hnt of negotiation on national level to sort. Rex Maxi, Pr of the Rural Action Comm. The complexities of the abandonment of held are highlight the plight of several... in the Transvaal,
Land redistribution now a burning issue

Thousands of blacks are being assured that they can settle in areas which were previously earmarked either for removal or for incorporation into homelands. The Government's abandonment of forced removals policy has led to new hope among those dispossessed of their land. Thousands of blacks are now looking at the prospect of re habilitating the land, reports HELEN GRANGE.

In Natal, residents of the rural homelands of Coramville, Thembalihle and Stencilspoort — who have lived under the threat of removal since 1986 — have been granted official recognition.

And according to the Association for Rural Advancement (Arab) in Mzimbi, thousands of displaced people from former black communities are seriously considering going back home.

Negotiations concerning the position of Transvaal communities already incorporated into homelands are underway.

As the land master-plan that envisaged blacks nearly encompassed in self-governing territories or in organised urban townships collapses, pressure is building up to have the half-completed process reversed and land restored.

"It is a mess that will take a lot of negotiation on local and national level to sort out," says Elton Margo of the Transvaal Rural Action Committee.

The complexities involved in the abandonment of land apportionment are highlighted by the plight of several communities.

In the Transvaal, the communities of Leeuwenfontein and Brakalashe have long been embroiled in legal wrangles with the Government over their incorporation into Bophuthatswana.

"The fact that the Government has recently abandoned its policy of incorporation means that these communities want their situation reviewed," says Mr Margo.

"There are scores of people who have been victims of incorporation who want their South African citizenship back and the new policies backed off," Mr Margo says.

The Government's abandonment of forced removals policy has led to new hope among those dispossessed of their land. Thousands of blacks are now looking at the prospect of rehabilitating the land, reports HELEN GRANGE.

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Plight expected to worsen

Shock reports on cruel abuse of SA children

By Dawn Barkhuizen

Suffering among South African children has reached shocking proportions — in some respects mirroring the horrors in Latin America, says Johannesburg Child Welfare Society director Dr Adile Thomas.

In the last two weeks several cases of parents prostituting children as a means of income have been reported to the JCWS. This was previously little heard of in South Africa.

Cases of child labour on farms and in coalyards in Soweto, sometimes involving children under nine years of age, have been uncovered in the past two months and child labour appeared to be on the increase, she said.

Dr Thomas said more children, some as young as six, were being made to do menial work such as street vending. They were sometimes the sole breadwinners for large families.

The upsurge in child labour could be directly related to the economic slump, she said.

Operation Hunger executive director Isa Perlman said yesterday malnutrition appeared to be increasing as thousands of breadwinners were retrenched. She was receiving more reports of child deaths as a result of malnutrition.

‘‘When we visit new areas we are shocked at the advanced state of malnutrition that we encounter, particularly in children under five,’’ she said.

In addition to the millions suffering the effects of poverty, millions more had been seriously affected by detention and brutal township violence.

Witwatersrand University director for the Project of the Study of Violence Lloyd Vogelman said that young children increasingly participated in brutal violence, younger children were becoming victims. Three teenagers were necklaced on the Reef last week alone and fourth was arrested in connection with a necklacing.

Dr Thomas predicted that as the economy deteriorated and manpower, State and private funds were cut, the plight of children, mostly black, would worsen.

‘‘There are not enough social workers, homes, funds. We have one social worker working with more than 100 families each. The pressing question is whether children who survive poverty will be too traumatised by violence to ever normalise,’’ she said.

Suicides

Since June 1989, 17,500 children had been detained under emergency regulations.

In Soweto alone, hundreds of children were being found suffering from acute post-traumatic stress disorders after detention and township violence. This stemmed from a fear of annihilation and could take six months to manifest.

Symptoms included: suicide, violence, paranoia, neurosis, insomnia, impaired concentration and communication skills, nightmares and drug addiction.

JCWS worker Miriam Mazibuko said all children in violence-torn areas had been traumatised to a degree. For those under 14 violence was a lifestyle, she said.

South Africa has roughly 15 million blacks under the age of 20. About one-third — five million — are township residents.

Other aspects of poverty and violence currently affecting children are:

○ One child was being deserted in Soweto each day and three infants abandoned each week, Mrs Mazibuko said. The number had doubled in 18 months.

The JCWS Soweto office shut its doors to abandoned infants for four months this year when the load became unmanageable and funds dried up. Since reopening in September they have been inundated.

○ The number of street children — some from afar amid Natal — seeking refuge in the Hillbrow Twilight Children shelter has increased by one-third in two months. Many were fleeing township violence, Dr Thomas said.

○ Operation Hunger is feeding one million previously clinically malnourished children. Mrs Perlman estimates 200,000 more are in a similar condition and a further two million have forms of protein or carbohydrate deficiency.

Mrs Mazibuko said: ‘‘Something bad is happening to our children. They are starving and they face violence daily. They no longer regard violence as something serious — they just do it.’’

 ○ Children face dark road — Page 11.
Why kids turn to violence

THE breakdown of communication in a family resulted in children resorting to violence to achieve what they needed, a Meduna clinical psychologist told a Nation-Building seminar in Sehgo, Pietersburg, on Saturday.

Another seminar on the job market and legal assistance will be held in the local community hall in Sehgo tomorrow.

Mrs Anne Masite said the involvement of children in the Reef violence was also a result of "non-verbal communication in the family".

The children were fighting a battle they did not understand, she said.

The theme of the seminar was "Nutrition and future feeding patterns and stress the importance of successful parenting and improved communication in a family."

Mrs Rengani Ladzani emphasised the importance of breast-feeding and family visits to clinics to get advice on breast-feeding.

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

Parenting in the 1990s".

The meeting, sponsored by Kellogg's, marked the beginning of a host of events under the banner of this year's Nation-Building Festival.

Dieticians and clinical psychologists outlined aspects of infant feeding and future feeding patterns and stressed the importance of successful parenting and improved communication in a family.

Mrs Rengani Ladzani emphasised the importance of breast-feeding and family visits to clinics to get advice on breast-feeding.
THE Orlando Children's Home celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

It is run by Mrs Maggie Nkwe, who gave up her job as a nurse to take care of the abandoned, homeless and hungry children of Soweto.

"I developed an interest in the home while I was on assignment for my paediatrics diploma. In 1975 I helped out at the home on my days off, during my annual leave, and whenever I had spare time," Nkwe explained.


By PEARL MAJOLA

She appealed to everyone she met for help while doing most of the work herself, from changing nappies to administration.

"It was also at this time that they decided they could no longer afford to run the home, which was falling apart because of financial problems."

By 1977 the inspectors were becoming impatient and it was evident the home would close. So, with no knowledge of how to run the institution, Nkwe launched a campaign to save the home.

Obtained

A fund-raising number was obtained and rebuilding started in 1984. She then applied for the reinstatement of the Government subsidy which had been withdrawn because of the poor state of the home.

The home was started in 1940 by the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society and this year it celebrates 50 years.

"I love children. That, coupled with my faith that God provides, has given me the will to survive over the years."

"My strength is renewed daily by God's grace. He has performed miracles for me and this home. My dream is to provide the children with cottage homes so that they have something to call their own and to hang on to," she said.
The fight against child abuse

By FIZAKELE KOMMA

A CONFERENCE covering a wide spectrum of topics on child abuse was held in Pretoria to an effort to spread awareness on the incidence. Questions on whether or not to instantiate abashed children and identification of child abusers were raised at the meeting attended by nearly 500 child welfare professionals.

Perspectives from various professional disciplines involved in the treatment and prevention of abuse were given by people from three fields.

The police begged for commitment and cooperation from the community and(continues and)complished that the public’s response to child abuse had been extremely disappointing.

Major C J Blanket said the police, who invested a Child Protection Unit specifically for child abuse cases, and victims of child abuse were in a more conceal need than victims of any other category of crime.

"Handling of the victim includes steps to initiate and ensure immediate after-care treatment of whatever nature for the victim.

Importance

"This is a serious importance and if neglected, all other actions may not be worth any effort." Blanket said.

He said the preventative role of the police in child abuse cases necessitated the absence of effective criminal investigation and tracing missing children. Child vulnerabilities and runaway children "in good care" before they become victims of exploitation possibilities and other child crimes.

Dr Hill said that the role of the church in preventing abuse was to reach people that sexual behaviour was a relational quality.

People are told that when they see a person who is against a relationship with either God or man.

"You cannot bring it to function without a personal relationship with God is needed. When the relationship exists, God works through that person to inspire him to live according to the spiritual quality of ethical behaviour, namely love for God and fellow man," he said.

The school’s role, said Dr J. Hendrey, was to identify abused children and report them and also act as their spokesman and partner in communicating what has happened to a child should be protected.

"The role of protection by the school is education itself in which, according to its goal, operates curiosity and sense, does help fill the gap," Hendrey said.

He said children in pre-primary phase up to Standard 4 were made aware of dangerous situations and taught not to be afraid, but to be careful of strangers.

The children were also taught how to act in these situations, like to scream and to climb tree stem and corners. In the junior and senior secondary phase child abuse methods of dealing with sexual abuse and sexual harassment was emphasized.

Dr W. Petersen spoke of the importance of medical evidence in discerning abuse.

Crucial

"The reliability of medical evidence is crucial for the correct and just course of action. The doctor must know that the patients have been fully informed of the course of treatment and the course of the treatment is not harmful in any way," Petersen said.

He said that all wards are required to be recorded by the doctor with or without special methods to ensure that the treatment is not harmful to the patient. The injuries could be abrasions, bruises, fractures, burns, sexual injury, and vaginal damage.

Teamwork among professionals of all disciplines was emphasized by all speakers who also cited the inexperience of health professionals.

Speaking on factors considered in removing the child from the parents, Mrs. Celia Theron said that each individual case and child were unique and issues were considered when care assessment was made.

Assessed

"Parental personality, capacity to provide, threat to the child, physical well-being, vulnerability of the child, social circumstances, the abusive incident and available resources are some of the aspects assessed in cases that might lead to the removal of the child.

"To remove a child or not is a decision taken by a team of experts and not by one person," Theron said.

Miss G.S. Boucher said that health care had enabled nurses to identify bullied children and high-risk families, through their family casework approach.

"Parenting education is increasingly being used to assess physical, development, and emotional health in order to identify risk factors and preventive measures," Boucher said.
Gagged doll, fake cash to help kids

GENEVA - World leaders will each be handed a little blue box containing a doll with its mouth gagged, a piece of chalk and some grain when they meet in New York at the end of this week.

Youth groups feel the gesture at the United Nations' first World Summit for Children may say more about the plight of millions of children than many of the speeches.

SALTS

The 10cm square boxes also contain dehydration salts used to combat diarrhoea, one of the chief causes of infant death in the Third World, and a mock one dollar bill with the head of a black child replacing George Washington.

"You have in a nutshell the main issues that should be tackled by the first ever summit on children," says Ana Fernandez, a spokeswoman in Geneva for the UN Children's Fund (Unicef), one of the organisers.

The gagged doll represents children without rights; the chalk stands for the drive for literacy, the salts and seeds are for health and food and the dollar represents a plea to alleviate Third World indebtedness.

The organisers believe that resolve steps to tackle poverty, hunger, illiteracy and pollution are now possible as the end of the Cold War frees money earmarked for arms.

The five objects in each box show the stark reality for millions.

Some 40 000 children under the age of five die each day because of poor sanitation, pollution and dirty drinking water or preventable diseases such as tetanus or measles.

FORCED

Millions receive no education, are forced into bonded labour, prostitution and pornography.

The boxes, drawn up at a recent workshop in Geneva for non-governmental youth organisations from more than 100 countries, will be handed to at least 70 heads of state attending the September 29-30 conference.

With the boxes, is a letter explaining the youth groups' main grievances and proposals for improving the lot of children everywhere.

In it they invite heads of state to remove the gag from the doll's mouth as a symbolic gesture for children's rights.

OBJECTIVE

One objective of the summit is to ratify basic human rights convention and the Rights of the Child, adopted in Geneva last November by the General Assembly after a decade of debate.

The convention, already ratified by a number of countries, is the most comprehensive treaty so far to defend children. It breaks new ground on adoption, protection from sexual exploitation and drug abuse.

"At last the convention...recognises a child as a person with civil, economic, social and cultural rights," the letter says. But the authors of the letter, representing some 2.2 million young people, say a treaty alone is not enough.

"You are able to read this letter, but millions of children cannot," the letter says.

It asks heads of state to use the piece of chalk in the box to rewrite their education policy to make schooling accessible to all.

Unicef has long been a vocal critic of so-called structural adjustment policies - often advocated by the International Monetary Fund. The austerity measures involved have unacceptably high social costs for the poor in developing countries, it says.

The letter says cancelling the Third World's debt is vital.

"The face of a smiling black child on the one dollar bill represents a structural adjustment policy with a human face", says Ana Fernandez.

Unicef executive director James Grant sees the first children's summit as a beginning rather than an end.

"What it will represent is a commitment by heads of state and a new perception on their part as to what they can do," he said in an interview in the latest issue of the UN publication Development Forum.

"The first purpose of the summit is to focus on doing the do-able - preventing thousands of deaths that take place because the children don't have a dollar's worth of vaccine or because the parents don't know how to make a simple sugar-water solution to combat dehydration," he told this week's Newsweek magazine.

Problems such as drugs, AIDS and the impact of the debt crisis also require urgent attention but are too complex and should be dealt with in other forums, he said. - Sapa-Reuters
Teenage detentions: Reviving old trends?

By JO-ANNE COLLING

Teenagers have begun disappearing off the streets of the townships and into detention cells again, since the government declared townships across the Reef to be "unrest areas".

On Wednesday, a group of eight Soweto teenagers — understood to include two boys of 14 years — were released from Johannesburg's Diepkloof Prison after 12 days in the cells, according to an attorney acting for one of the boys.

Workers at the Detainees' Aid Centre, alerted to the case, are watching carefully for signs of a return to the old State of Emergency pattern of widespread detention of youngsters — still defined as children in terms of welfare legislation.

Asked yesterday to confirm that the eight had been detained earlier this week, a spokesman for the Police Division of Public Relations avoided answering directly. The only available comment was: "The persons mentioned in your fax message are not currently in detention. We do not confirm releases."

The attorney said it appeared the youngsters had been held in terms of section 3(1) of the regulations governing "unrest areas".

She added that the youths were held in a cell at Diepkloof with 42 others — all juvenile prisoners awaiting trial for criminal cases.

"Our main concern was that they were being badly treated by the others. They have dagga and liquor in the cells and force our clients to do their dirty work, for instance wash their underwear," she said.

The attorney said her young client had told her that a boy had been stabbed in the cell.

She observed that the legal provision that "unrest detainees" be held as awaiting trial prisoners was a mixed blessing. On the one hand, it enabled detainees to regular visits by their families and access to lawyers. On the other, it exposed them to criminal elements.

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Although in this case the young detainees had been held only with juvenile prisoners, this still meant that 14-year-old detainees were in the same cell as 20-year-olds suspected of criminal acts.

The Department of Prisons Services states that prisoners under the age of 21 are considered juveniles and "it is the policy to incarcerate juveniles separate from other prisoners and to differentiate them where possible".

Tactfully confirming the incarceration of the youths, a prisons service spokesman added: "The allegation that one of the occupants of the cell where the youths were held was stabbed is not true."

Regulations on unrest detainees bear a strong resemblance to those of the four-year State of Emergency. They state that a member of the security forces may, in an unrest area, without warrant of arrest, arrest any person whose detention is, in the opinion of such member, necessary for the combating or prevention of public disturbance, disorder, riot or public violence or the maintenance or restoration of public order."

Detainees may be held on this basis for up to 30 days and thereafter their detention may be indefinitely prolonged in terms of an order by the Minister of Law and Order.

The police spokesman said his division did not have "figures readily available as to the number of arrests made in terms of the unrest regulations."
Oasis against crime

A CULTURAL OSI
s in crime-ridden Manenberg has been
ised by community
isations as a
means to combat
poor social condi
tions.

According to Mrs
Fadiehul de Vries,
cairperson of the
Manenberg People's
Centre (MPC) inner
committee, the centre
is seen as a means of
addressing social
problems such as the
high rate of alcohol-
ism, incest, child
abuse, gamblings,
gener al apathy
and helplessness in the
community.

Manenberg, a suburb in the Cape
Town area, was built in the
late 1960's to accommo-
date the thousands of
people forced to move
from the Looi Street
area in the city. So
Paul and Chocmont as
a result of the Group
Acts.

# Oversuged

According to the 1982
Census, Manenberg has a
population of 43,753 in an
area of 16 square kilo-
meters.

The small tenement build-
ings, due to the housing
shortages, are overcrowded
and accommodate six
or seven adults and chil-
dren in one one-bedroom
unit.

An informal survey con-
ducted by the Manenberg
Advocacy Office found
unemployment to be excessive-
ally high, estimated at be-
 tween 30 and 40 percent.

Poverty is endemic in the
area with 32 percent of the
residents in arrears with their
rent.

The centre was born out of the
collaborative work be-
tween the Manenberg
Movement, the Universal
Presbyterian Church, Ma-
enberg Advice Office, Ma-
enberg Civic Association
and The Call of Islam.

A community survey con-
ducted by the organisa-
tions revealed a need for a
centre for cultural-social ac-
tivities such as dancing,
music and acting and an
advise facility to help people
deal with problems like high
crime, unemployment, drink-
ing and family violence.

The different components
of the three-storey centre
are managed as a 400-seater
hall, an unemployed workers'
centre and a counselling
and office complex.

Louise Abraham, who is
currently unemployed and a
part of the MPC team, man-
ing co-operatives.

“We intend having pat-
er, customer and savings
co-operatives which mem-
bers will run independ-
ently.”

Abraham is a former
shopkeeper for the South
African Clothing and Text-
ile Workers.

The groundwork for the

Juvenile delinquency and
crime, highlighted again this
week by the murder of a Catho-
lic priest, have been the
source of Cape Town's
Manenberg township.

This community, however, has
devised a plan to root out the
problem by redirecting and har-
nessing the energies of its rela-

tively youth. Central to its
scheme is the Manenberg
People's Centre. Reports
HEATHER ROBERTSON:

REFUGEE: Township children who have found a cultural refuge at the Manenberg People's Centre.

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The vulnerable must be first be protected

By HEATHER ROBERTSON

The concept of International Children’s Day is a great idea but concentrating the public around children’s rights and the United Nations Children’s Fund’s principles of first call for children’s and of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in South Africa needs more than just slogans.

The principles of first call state that the lives and the normal development of children should be first call on society’s concern and capacites and that children should be able to depend upon that commitment in normal times, times of emergency, poverty, war, prosperity and violence.

Emotional development

The United call is based on the premise that the church of civilia
d to the protection of the vulnerable and of the future. And children — like the environment — are the vulnerable and the future.

According to UNICEF, failure to protect the physical, mental and emotional development of children is the principal means by which humanity’s difficulties are compounded and its problems perpetuated.

If special measures to protect children from the hazards of the adult world are taken, many of the world’s most fundamental problems may ultimately be alleviated.

The 1980s have seen the first examples of this principle of first call being put into practice. In 1980, El Salvador became the first country ever to suspend a civil war for the purpose of respecting the right of its children to be immunized.

Gilles adds, however, that war and conflict can cause problems in these areas of conflict as they are not given access to children if they do not belong to a particular political party.

"In South Africa we need corridors of tranquility where, even in these areas of conflict, all sides agree that these organizations working with children are not drawn into the conflict," he says.

He argues that in the interests of children, organizations involved with children which were previously rivals need to be brought together.

"Organizations working with children should be seen to be non-partisan. Otherwise the service they offer will not be according to the children’s needs but to somebody’s political agenda.

"When we don’t work together all are affected but the most critically affected are the children. True liberation is the ability to review, compare and make choices," says Gilles.
Let all children

By GAIL REAGON
AMID feverish preparations for the International Children's Day (ICD) festivities on September 22, the Free the Children Alliance (FCA) has released a document detailing the continuing plight of South African children.

Focusing particularly on the rights of children to health protection, education and legal protection, the document is an indictment on a country which is notorious for its disregard of children's rights.

Since its inception in early 1987, the FCA has aimed to "highlight the conditions under which the majority of children find themselves in South Africa."

These include:
- Poverty;
- Suppressed physical circumstances;
- Ill-health;
- A vastly inferior education system; and
- Abuse at the hands of the security forces.

The FCA believes that few of these deplorable conditions have changed.

While insisting that much of the problem is rooted in apartheid policies, the document makes numerous recommendations to the state on how to alleviate some of the most urgent concerns.

Promote

The document defines how a combination of underemployment and poor environment affects social intellectual functioning.

It urges that the Department of Health develop a comprehensive health service to prevent and safeguard an environment for everyone.

Local authorities must be galvanised to maintain their districts in a hygiene, clean and sanitary condition.

The document further points to the fact that South African children are fragmented into 17 racially-determined Departments of Health, Social Welfare and Education.

Subsidise

The document recommends the creation of a Supplementary Education Fund to subsidise preschool education and for the implementation of alternative strategies such as home-based and work-based skills training and play groups.

In the areas of primary and secondary education, the document exposes the discrepancy in state spending on education for different groups and details the cause of the protracted crisis in black education within the context of apartheid.

Here it is urged that education should be made compulsory for all, that curricula be reviewed in consultation with parents, traditional bodies and communities and that the state budget for education be increased.

Over and above this, the document regrets in an essential that money be spent on the creation of a single education system, "not in order to prevent division between races with regard to increasing number and cost of education, but because children will not be able to live successfully together if they have not grown up together.''

Treatise

The document further explores the malady of South African law in its failure to protect children's rights both legally and in the case of children coming up against the criminal justice system.

While the law does provide a special institutional care for children, this law is often overridden by the possibility of overcrowded and inadequate security legislation.

It lists issues relating to the protection of children that should form part of any alternative strategy for children's protection.

These include:
- The regulation of care and work by child development professionals;
- The adequate protection of children in diverse cases;
- The effective enforcement of maintenance orders; and
- The treatment of South Africa's thousands of street children.

It also suggests a broader definition of child abuse and neglect as well as the creation of a unified, effective Welfare Department.

The FCA suggests that a children's commission, comprising state-oriented parties, should be established to investigate areas of the law which affect children.

Cultural

They also call for an end to the segregation of children in police cells and the abolition of corporal punishment.

The publication of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child would be a step forward in addressing children's rights in South Africa.

Signed by 97 countries, the convention deals with the social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights of all children.

Rafinor by South Africa could begin the process of ending generations of brutalisation and marry the country's two most elastic human rights.

EACH ONE TEACH ONE: These friends share information.

Excitement but million still have little to celebrate

BILLOADS of children from schools and children's groups will be treated to an International Children's Day festival of fun and games at Mayfair in Cape Town this Saturday, September 22.

However, there are millions of children throughout the world who have very little to celebrate.

Despite the fact that childlessness and should be the bane of the century, this is often overridden by the possibility of overcrowded and inadequate security legislation.

It lists issues relating to the protection of children that should form part of any alternative strategy for children's protection.

These include:
- The regulation of care and work by child development professionals;
- The adequate protection of children in diverse cases;
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The FCA suggests that a children's commission, comprising state-oriented parties, should be established to investigate areas of the law which affect children.

Cultural

They also call for an end to the segregation of children in police cells and the abolition of corporal punishment.

The publication of the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child would be a step forward in addressing children's rights in South Africa.

Signed by 97 countries, the convention deals with the social, economic, cultural, civil and political rights of all children.

Faf in South Africa could begin the process of ending generations of brutalisation and marry the country's two most elastic human rights.

SPILLTIME: Squatter children look after their family's possessions while their parents rebuild their demolished shack.

"His head was gashed, probably by a panga blow. His left arm had a deep wound, the result of a similar blow. Part of his lips was gone, again probably from a blow with a panga."

"The boy didn't know that his parents were also in the hospital; receiving treatment for injuries they received in the same attack."

This is but one example of how children are caught in the crossfire of a battle. The fact is that no political conflicts in which children are ensnared, that it is the cycle of poverty, unemployment, homelessness and overcrowding which leads to various forms of child abuse.

Safelink, a confidential service through which children can be offered help and shelter and to a victim of abuse, recorded 97 cases related to actual child abuse in 1989.

Barbara Dorsman, a worker at Safeline, said child abuse transmits social dislocations, educational qualifications and religious permutations. In most cases, the children have been victims themselves.

Reports and statistics from throughout the world are daily to the height of the number of children who are abused and neglected by society.

Children of the world are burst in their homes, butchered, killed in reconcilest and conflicts, not in tiptop physical circumstances, by soldiers and police, and their parents tortured by the security forces. It is for reasons like these that the Declaration of Children's Rights was framed in 1959 by the United Nations and June 1 was declared International Children's D Day.

The service of the International Children's Day Committee in Cape Town, which was established in 1986, organised a children's festival on June 1.

According to Ms Lucha Shabashi, the coordinator, the festival, the ICD Committee recently decided to make children the focus of their activities for International Children's Day. The Committee, which consists of several service welfare organisations, established in the protection of children's rights in South Africa through ongoing annual children's week activities on June 1.
Against the Grain
Surgery from the Robocops in blue

YOU'VE heard of brain operations and heart operations. Now we have Operation Iron Fist — which has nothing to do with White Tyson or Denise Frisby (whether the hospital or the kitchen).

In this operation, the doctor (usually at least six forearm) cuts the 'cuckoo' because he has 'popped the machine gun'.

When the task for the time he means "correlate". When the task has "aining up" it means "put a razor into it around them".

De Klerk is speaking about an Iron Fist operation as a method of spreading a hidden force. Unless the mysterious "third force" is known about and exposed to public view, many people will continue to feel out on a limb.

I know Mandela isn't very happy with the operation. Perhaps he would have preferred Operation Iron Lady so that he could send Winnie into the townships.

After all, now that the Social Welfare post has been eaten, she should have some use among her hands.

The problem, though, is that she is not known for her dreaming presence.

— civilians —

— Tukulikana kug xulientras! I have this buddy who came up with quite a novel solution to the problem.

He works with the Furse, to discuss the people, to take away their loiters, pangas, AK47s and other "repression" weapons.

If that doesn't work, then those involved in the fighting must be enticed that he has no one left to fight.

Without any, they would not be able to carry arms. If you know what I mean.

For the police operations make a lot of sense. It is better to have no arms and no arms, and no loiters.

It is to see that the police have seen the Furse and buy drugs and caught him.

They probably thought that before they closed the Robocops (the latter version of cowboys and Indians) in the townships, they'd better pick up as many people as possible.

Of course, if they had had "Iron Fist" — as he apparently advised them to do when they arrested him — it would have really been alive or dead in the impotency of the boys in blue.

They've already done a lot to show that the South African government is on the rise in the fight against crime.

Of course, the fight against crime is not yet over the attention of De Klerk when they entertained the threat of bombing — for example, the letters of Imant Hauer and Ahmed Tamir.

Now the rightwingers are getting at least two lots of evidence in the findings of numerous commissions of inquiry, court trials and the testimony of thousands that the problem will, in fact, be compounded.

Add to this the activities of a sinister (if not a third force), the concerns of a Nelson Mandela becase easy to understand.

Are black people now supposed to believe that the security establishment — irrefutably linked to the murder of countless anti-apartheid activists like Giffiths Mxenge and David Webster and to the bombing of a children's creche in Athlone — will bring peace to our townships?

— Parisan —

The SAP has never engendered confidence in the black community. Since the assumption of power of the National Party in 1948, it has been seen as the long arm of the oppressor.

It has played a pariah role, enforced discriminatory legislation and suppressed the opponents of the apartheid system.

Incidents of police involvement in torture, illegal acts of intimidation, excessive use of force, covert support for vigilantes and the actions of inadequately trained "mixed-combat" units are well documented and seen in the black communities as part of the SAP's "image".

President F.W. de Klerk's stated intention to take the SAP out of the "political battlefield" seems to have been implemented to a certain extent.

Heavy-handed: Its members have been barred from belonging to any political party, a recruitment campaign to deal with chronic understaffing has been launched and significant salary increases have been announced.

However, the heavy-handed and repressive police action in recent months suggests that no fundamental changes have taken place.

Shady: It is clear that even though a new "culture" may exist at a leadership level, the traditional practices and structures of the SAP are entrenched and that superficial reforms will not overcome the problems.

A unwillingness by the government to fully expose the shadowy sectors of the security establishment to scrutiny or cease their activities altogether worsens the situation.

Undoubtedly, it is afraid of a monster of its own creation.

But for as long as places like Viaklas and units like the Askaris remain, and mysterious killings occur like that on the 3.94 train to Naledi Extension, Soweto last Thursday, fingers will point at the security establishment.

Reorientation: The black community and anti-apartheid organisations like the ANC must insist on the rapid reform of the SAP that will include blacks at a leadership level; a general reorientation and professionalisation of its members, an emphasis on crime prevention and a concerted bid to build legitimacy and trust in the broader community.

Only then will police operations like "Iron Fist", if necessary, be welcomed in our townships.
Children plead for dad's release

The children of detained ANC executive member Mr Mac Maharaj have appealed to British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to help free their father.

In a letter personally delivered to the British foreign office in London, the young Maharaj children, aged 6 and 8, urge Hurd to "please send our love to Daddy and could you help to get him out of prison.

"We want him back because we miss his teaching skills and the way he makes us laugh and the way he brings us around."

Earlier the children and their mother, Mrs Sarina Maharaj, took part in an anti-apartheid protest outside the South African embassy to protest against detentions in South Africa.

The protest was organised by the Anti-Apartheid Movement and focused on the ill-health of ANC leaders Nelson Mandela and Bobby Sands.

Maharaj, who sufffers from a severe form of cerebral palsy, remains in hospital under police guard.

The London present coincided with a march by 130 members of detention, political prisoners and political detainees from around the country who delivered a memorandum to the Union Buildings in Pretoria on Monday.

The families are anxiously awaiting a meeting with South African President FW de Klerk following a meeting with representatives of the President's Office in Pretoria this week.

Officials agreed to forward the memorandum twice to de Klerk and ensure that the families receive a proper response.

The officials said they would follow up on a request for the families to meet with Dr. de Klerk to discuss their concerns.

Mrs. Pauline Maharaj, the wife of Dr. Robert Maharaj, said the families asked for a response to the memorial by the end of the week.

Bound to read in the memorandum include the conclusion of political trials and a 20-day determination, when and how political prisoners will be freed and whether the government intends to end political detentions.

From MONO BADELA SOWETO - Acclaimed South African musician Hugh Masekela has called for the cultural boycott to be amended to the advantage of the black community.

Masekela is among several overseas-based South African musicians expected in upmarket concerts from here on as the year to welcome returning artists.

"I think it is important that artists be allowed to come here to generate funds for the Arts Fund," Masekela, who returned home for a short visit recently after 30 years in exile, said during a recent interview in South Africa.

He added that the fund should perhaps be amended to allow musicians to tour and raise funds for the fund that would encourage developing talents at different levels.

STELLA'S new party

EAST LONDON - Miss Stella Sngela, who served for 36 days as President's Press Minister before the 1997 military coup, is planning to launch a new political party before the end of October.

The Patriotic Democratic Party will aim to unite all anti-apartheid organizations into a united front.

In addition, the party will also seek to deepen South Africa's anti-apartheid movement through a campaign of public education about the benefits of a free and democratic South Africa.

The party aims to mobilize people to participate in a democratic process and to build a strong society based on justice, equality, and freedom.

We require from you:

- A full Curriculum Vitae
- An outline of your previous and present involvement in community organizations
- A motivation of your interest in working for CECS
- Two references (including contact numbers of your referees)
- (If possible) An endorsement from a progressive organization.

- The closing date for application is 18 October 1998. Interviews will take place from 15 October until the 21 October in Cape Town.
- The course will begin on 1 November and end 31 March 1999.

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What is the Cape Educational Computer Society?
CECS is a non-racial, non-sectarian, democratic organization which aims to develop and encour-
Accidents cause most deaths among children

ACCIDENTS are the major cause of death in children between the ages of one and 15 in all industrialised and developing countries, according to the Child Safety Centre.

The Centre, in a statement to the Press, says national mortality statistics show that deaths in accidents account for 45.6 percent of all deaths in children between five and 14 years.

This makes accidents the major cause of death in children between those ages in South Africa.

Road traffic accidents account for the highest mortality rates at 28.7 percent followed by drowning at 20.6 percent.

Causes of accidental death, which cannot be defined as being accidentally or purposefully inflicted, are number three on the list.

Fourth on the list is burns at 9.5 percent.

The incidence of accidents, the statement says, varies according to the different sex, age and race groups.

"Accidents are the leading cause of death in white and Asian children between the ages of one and 14, 53 percent for whites and 46 percent for Asians.

Death

"They are also a leading cause of death in black and Coloured children between five and 14 years, 44 percent for blacks and 55 percent for Coloureds," the Centre says.

Different accidents are also common to different age groups.

Choking and suffocation, for instance, is the leading cause of death in children from birth to one.

The Centre also counts injuries in accidents.

Although it cites the seriousness of accidents in childhood, the Centre says it does not want to be seen as being overprotective of children.

"A few minor accidents are an essential part of growing up, learning and development of independence. But we want to prevent the serious fatal accidents that cause death and permanent disability,"

The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPSA) was launched in 1989 with the specific aim to prevent accidents involving children under the age of 18 by means of scientific research and the application of educational methods.

The Foundation disseminates information on accidents and means of preventing them through the media and pamphlets.

It also provides talks, on a limited scale.
Abuse of children is on the rise

NATIONAL Child-
ren's Week starts today but many boys and girls will not be celebrating.

They are the victims of child abuse, a problem which has reached "horrible" proportions in South Africa.

Round Table, which has launched a campaign against child abuse, estimates that 12,000 children would be murdered, raped, assaulted or sodomised this year.

The Western Cape has the worst record in the country for child abuse.

Police have investigated 1,514 cases of abuse in the region during the first six months of this year - a third of the number of cases reported nationally.

The second highest number of incidents was on the Witwatersrand but at 575 the figure was almost a third less.

Altogether 4,176 cases of child abuse were reported to the police throughout the country in the first half of this year.

They included 46 child murders - a drop from 106 last year.

Sexual crimes against children, however, seem to be rising as there was a 22 percent increase in cases reported last year.

For the first six months of this year 2,274 cases of sexual violence were reported to police. These included 2,181 cases of sodomy, 355 unspecified sexual offences, 81 of incest and 732 incident assaults.

The police Child Protection Unit believe the real incidence of violence against children - which includes cases not reported - is 10 times higher.

Violence

Rape and the sexual crime against children most often reported. In the first six months of this year there were 888 incidents.

About 40 percent were committed by men who were strangers to the victims and 60 percent by members of the victims' families.

Round Table has an emergency service which can be telephoned, toll free, by abused children. The number is 0800 123 321.

Emergency telephone counselling services similar to Round Table's have been set up by various organisations throughout the country.

And helping equip children with self-defence skills which could help them against being abused is what a group of Cape Town martial arts experts are trying to achieve.

Research for the martial artists' Bonny Bird Self Protection Programme began in 1987 and pilot studies have already been conducted in Atlantis.

The programme is designed mainly to reduce crime generally but a major focus is providing children with skills to prevent abuse and injury.

Anyone interested in getting more information about the programme can contact Mr Capito at (0236) 23200.
Child-abuse at ‘horrific’ level

By DALE KNEEN, Crime Reporter

NATIONAL Children’s Week starts this week, but many boys and girls will not be celebrating.

They are the victims of child abuse, a problem which has reached “horrific” proportions in SA.

Round Table, which has launched a campaign against child abuse, estimated that 12,000 children will be murdered, raped, assaulted or sodomised this year. One in every three girls and one in every seven boys would be abused.

Worst record

The Western Cape has the worst record in the country for child abuse.

Police investigated 1,514 incidents of abuse in the region during the first six months of this year — a third of the number of cases reported nationally.

The second highest number of incidents was on the Witwatersrand but at 575 the figure was almost a third less than in the Western Cape.

Altogether, 4,176 cases of child abuse were reported to police throughout the country in the first half of this year. They included 48 child murders — a drop from 106 last year and 99 during the same period in 1998.

Sexual crimes against children, however, seem to be rising as there was a 22 percent increase in cases reported last year.

Emergency services

For the first six months of this year, 2,274 cases of sexual violence were reported to police. These included 218 cases of sodomy, 355 unspecified sexual offences, 81 cases of incest and 749 indecent assaults.

Round Table has an emergency service which can be telephoned, toll free, by abused children. The number is 0800 123 321.

Emergency telephone counselling services similar to Round Table’s have been set up throughout the country. Children are advised to telephone them or approach any police station, hospital, doctor’s consulting room, clinic, school or church if they need help.
Children's Week to highlight abuse

CAPE TOWN — National Children's Week starts today, but many boys and girls will not be celebrating... they are the victims of child abuse.

Round Table, which has launched a campaign against child abuse, estimates that 12 000 children will be murdered, raped, assaulted or sodomised this year. One in every three girls and one in every seven boys will be abused.

The western Cape has the worst record. The second highest number of incidents is on the Witwatersrand.

Altogether 4 176 cases of child abuse were reported to police throughout the country in the first half of this year, but the police Child Protection Unit believes the real incidence is 10 times higher.

Emergency

About 40 percent of child rape cases at the Red Cross Hospital in Rondebosch last year were committed by men who were strangers to the victims and 60 percent by members of victims' families.

Round Table has an emergency service which can be telephoned, toll free, by abused children: 0800-123-321.

Now a group of Cape Town martial arts experts are trying to help.

"Children can be taught self-protection skills during physical education classes at school," said one of the founder members of the programme, Martin Cape.

"Rapes take place in streets, and people get attacked in trains, but no one does anything to stop them because they don't possess the skills." Anyone interested in obtaining more information about the programme should contact Mr Cape on 021 23200...
Probe into deaths

By SA PRESS ASSOCIATION

A COMMISSION of inquiry into the deaths of infants and adults after contracting a bacterial infection at Johannesburg Hospital has been ordered by Minister of Health Services, Welfare and Housing Mr Sam de Beer.

He also submitted all information he had to the Attorney-General with the request that inquests into the deaths be held.

The decision came hours after pharmaceutical company Sabax admitted that two batches that were supplied to Morningside and Park Lane clinics were contaminated although the source of the contamination could not be traced.

**Medicines withdrawn**

The special unit from which medicines for individual patients originated had been closed since October 1 and all traceback medicines withdrawn. No danger existed to patients, the statement said.

The lawyer acting for families of dead babies and adults - by now said to total 55 - believed to have died from klebsiella bacterial infection, said the interim report issued by the Sabax was "unacceptable".
Mothers main culprits of child abuse, neglect

Staff Reporter

Mothers are the main culprits in neglect and abuse of children, it has been revealed in 1989 statistics released by the National Council for Child and Family Welfare.

The council, celebrating its annual National Children’s Week this week and Our Children’s Day on Saturday, says that fathers, followed by male friends of the mother, then stepfathers and uncles are responsible for the sexual abuse of children.

Unable to cope

Statistics show that the 172 affiliated child welfare societies rendered services to 93,902 children last year, which includes 6,535 cases of child neglect, 1,001 cases of physically abused children and 1,034 cases of sexually abused children.

Girls were more often neglected and sexually abused than boys, but because of the shortage of funds and facilities, child welfare cannot cope with all the cases, says national director Joan Oberholzer.

There has been a steady increase in the tendency to return children to the custody of their parents, she says.

Of the 2,918 children dealt with in terms of sections 14 and 15 of Act 74 of 1958 (this section empowers the Children’s Court to determine the future action that should be taken with regard to the child), 573 children were returned to their parents’ custody last year, compared to 490 in 1988 and 343 in 1987.

Social-work services were rendered to 11,330 foster children, there were 6,302 committed children in children’s homes last year, 2,049 cases of adoption were handled, and 484 inquiries were received from natural parents regarding their children who were adopted.

It was also revealed that 608 adults who were adopted had inquired about their origins, 3,160 children attended child welfare playgroups or school readiness classes, 737 were at after-school centres, an average of 401 foster families received guidance and training, and 232 natural parents were assisted with parental training and guidance.

Children’s Day promises feast of fun

By Shirley Woodgate

This Saturday belongs to the children, particularly thousands of youngsters in crisis.

Since 1926, when Our Children’s Day was inaugurated by Princess Alice of Athone as the culmination of Our Children’s Week – October 27-November 3 – it has been the time when the privileged of all ages have focused on the problems of the young underprivileged.

This year the needs are even greater. The Government has indicated that the public sector will have to bear an increasing amount of the welfare burden.

The Council for Child and Family Welfare has 172 welfare societies under its wing, and R33 million is needed annually to cover basic needs.

On Saturday, Children’s Day will be marked by street collections, a two-hour M-Net music special, concerts, white elephant sales, charity matches and film shows to collect funds and make the public more aware of the problem.
Parents should practise what they preach

By SONTI MASEKO

An important element for parents to remember is that children imitate and are likely to do what they see their parents doing, even if parents preach the contrary.

This was said by a speaker at a seminar hosted by Sowetan's Nation Building Festival.

Addressing the seminar at Vista University at the weekend, dietitian Mrs Dudu Mdaweni said parents gave children pocket money instead of a lunch; books gave them sweets and later substituted them out with negatives.

Habits

These bad-eating habits were copied by children from adults and unless parents started practising instead of preaching healthy eating habits, children are not going to learn to eat properly, Mdaweni said.

The seminar, whose theme was "Healthy Life: Parenting in the 90s", was sponsored by Kellogg's.

It was the fifth in a series of seminars organised by the Sowetan under the auspices of the National Building Festival. Similar meetings have already taken place in Pietersburg, Bloemfontein, Doutoyon and Pretoria.

Negative

Mrs Anne-Gloria Masetle, a clinical psychologist at Garspark Hospital, outlined the effects of negative parental practices on children and young adults.

She said negative parenting traits in adults often resulted in them raising children who were not well adjusted and likely to become either inhibited, insecure or destructive.

Ideas

The speeches by the two women generated stimulating discussions between the parents and the youth - many of them were students - at the seminar ensuring an interesting exchange of ideas.

Masetle said community and health centres were desperately needed to give adults and the youth a healthy place to relieve stress.

Since many parents were involved in burial societies, such structures could be used to make parenting an area of priority, she said.
Inquest into Klebsiella baby deaths

A spokesman for the Department of Justice said further information would be released when it became available.

The announcement of an inquest into the death of the babies comes despite a call for a commission of inquiry into the matter to clear up how contaminated drips could have been administered to babies.

Calls

Calls for a commission of inquiry have come from various sources, including the attorney acting for the parents of 25 babies who died at the clinics.

Saba said last Friday that the source of the contamination has not yet been established. - Sapa.
Hillbrow street children move to new premises

By TSHOKOLO MOLAKENG

It's farewell to the Twilight Children's Home in Hospital Street, Hillbrow, as the children prepare to migrate to a new place in Van der Merwe Street.

More than 80 teenagers will soon pack their belongings to leave the home they have occupied for about six years.

Senior social worker at the centre, Shoki Tshabalala says the new premises near the Radio 702 Crisis Centre - will be "bigger and more decent".

And the larger space may stop the skirmishes, although Tshabalala admits children inevitably turn to violence when they have no relatives and come from unstable backgrounds.

It's "interesting and brain-tiring" to work with the children, he says.

In less than two years the children are released to their parents, or the centre finds alternative accommodation and employment for them.

University students teach them basic skills to prepare them for the "job market".

Home is where the bed-mat is... one of Hillbrow's twilight children takes a nap before the move to the new building in Van der Merwe Street.

Picture: JUSTIN SHULK.
A passion for soccer and anti-communism

FEW South Africans have heard of the Eagles clubs but there are 500 of them nationwide, held together by a team of 80 members of the organisation’s staff and consuming finances which run to more than R1-million a year.

The clubs concentrate on recruiting youth from the townships. They are anti-communist and pro-Christianity and they favour the strategy of negotiation, the institution of equal social rights and advancement by education.

That’s how the deputy director of the Eagles, Lexon December, outlines his Bloemfontein-based organisation. December, a former rugby player from the Eastern Cape and former senior clerk for the Development Board, has travelled the world on behalf of the Eagles. He has attended Youth Action Training in Taiwan and has also been trained in Israel. This has provided valuable experience for the training courses he co-ordinates for Eagles members, he says.

The Eagles enterprise, adds December, has nothing to do with the government and is privately funded. It was founded by a political scientist with a passion for soccer, Dr David Marx, who is director of the organisation.

December and Marx began their working relationship on the sidelines of some playing field back in 1981 and have remained together since.

"Every year we went overseas with Dr Marx and there we would get to talk to various firms about funding," Elize van Vuuren, who is responsible for fund-raising as public relations officer for the Eagles, says much of the support comes from abroad although international donors prefer to keep their names confidential.

"I believe that big business gives us money because we are against communism and for democracy," says Van Vuuren.

December agrees that opposition to communism is one of the Eagles corner-stones but it is not the only facet of the organisation.

He holds strong personal views on communism. "I’ve seen with my own naked eyes what has happened with communism in China."

Have his travels extended into the People’s Republic of China? "Well, in communist China I went as far as the border," he replies.
SIPHO is six years old, lives on the streets of Johannesburg and is a drug addict.

Ntabiseng is eight months old and was found outside the Johannesburg Hospital a few hours after birth with a placenta still attached to her small body. She was placed in an orphanage.

Both Sipho and Ntabiseng and thousands of other South African children - have been

...traumatic experiences leave permanent 'dents' on the children's minds ...

made to suffer for mistakes not of their own making.

They were deprived of the basic human rights which the UN Declaration of Children's Rights says as the right to be born, the right to a home and the right to parents.

These rights, which Orlando Home director Maggie Nkwe has stretched to include the right to an identity and education, have been violated by an unceasing society that has also turned them into privileges.

This week marks National Children's Week, which is meant to create an awareness of the plight of children and urge the community to give meaningful assistance to children in misery.

But how much awareness does South Africa need on this issue?

Soweto Woman took a probing look at the dilemma of children, using Soweto as a reference point in some cases.

The evident deprivation and apathetic attitude of the community towards children in need and the lack of facilities, it found, will take a long time to be remedied.

Child abuse, the most talked about problem today, is high on the list of crimes committed against children.

The Witwatersrand has the second highest rate of incidents of child abuse, with 757 cases reported in the first six months of this year compared to 4176 reported countrywide.

The police, social workers and professionals of other disciplines have been instrumental in making the once secret crime public and helping both children and parents cope with the experience.

The Child Protection Unit, though, believes that the incidence of violence against children is 10 times higher.

Abandoned children and street urchins, who can also be said to be abandoned, remain a serious problem, especially in the black community.

The National Council for Child and Family Welfare puts the figure of children who were committed, to children's homes in 1989 at 6382, a large percentage of whom were abandoned.

This figure does not include children kept in hospitals and unaffiliated societies.

Soweto has four orphanages, only two of them catering for babies. One of them, Orlando Home, can only take in 60 children aged from a few days to 12 years old.

The figure is miniscule when compared to the thousands of homeless children in the township.

The critical shortage of facilities leads to children being put in hospitals and under the care of, sometimes, unfit foster parents.

The above three issues are often overshadowed by more equally, serious problems faced by children, some of whom perpetuated by the State.

South Africa recently hit the international list of countries notorious for child detentions and harassment by police.

These acts that have turned children into adults and could be held responsible for the bitterness and militancy of most black children.

Children of primary-school-going age have been jailed and infants...
dagga were no longer the only intoxicants circulating in the townships. Hard drugs like mandrax and cocaine were also in use.

Sanca runs the only drug and alcohol rehabilitation clinic for children in the township. The children who take treatment at the clinic include school-going children ranging in age between six and 14. There are 30 children on the council's day-care programme.

Child labour is a crying shame in Soweto where hundreds of youths between the ages of eight and 18 prowl taxi ranks and coalyards for easy money.

A 14-year-old boy behind a horse-driven cart heavily loaded with bags of coal, is a common sight in township streets.

This overworked and underpaid juvenile, often a runaway, is of least concern to society as he garden along drowning his frustrations in glue.

Most of the responsibility for the self-destruction - that could probably be a cry for help - can be placed on the heartless community and negligent parents who have either ignored or refused to acknowledge and address the serious factors responsible for destroying their children.

The plight of the South African child reflects on a welfare system which gives a black child a fifth of what her white counterpart gets, welfare societies that are insufficiently funded and, therefore, inefficiently run and an adult community that is not prepared to volunteer emotional and material help.

A 1989 report released by the The National Council for Child and Family Welfare identified mothers as the main culpris of neglect and abuse.

It said fathers were more often responsible for sexual abuse of children. They were followed by male friends of mothers and then stepfathers and uncles last.

"If society could realise that without our children we have no future, things could turn out for the better. Our tomorrow depends on them," News said.
Giving kids a chance...

BY VICTOR MUSOAMERE

THE Afrika Cultural Centre's Centre for Creative Child Development's penultimate workshop takes place at the centre's Fordsburg base on Saturday at 10am. Workshops in drama, dance and movement, music and sound will take place in the morning.

The concept Art For Development will be discussed in the second half of the day-long programme.

Short drama performances by pupils of the Harvey Cohen Centre for the Physically Disabled in Eldorado Park will be presented. Another performance, by the Soweto Educare Workers Unit, will close the proceedings.

The aims of the Creative Studies In Child Development series are to:

- Activate communities, community groups and individuals and parents working with children;
- Raise awareness on issues affecting development;
- Engage children in critical and creative programmes to improve their material conditions;
- Develop creative intervention in the lives of children;
- Publish regular material on research.

The project, said an ACC co-ordinator, was non-discriminatory in terms of the children's needs and would always explore dynamic means to bring together disabled, gifted and normal children through a participatory and learner-based process of mutual development, respect, care and understanding among the children.

A workshop scene at Afrika Cultural Centre
Pictures of white children displaying racist slogans and marching with the AWB during the recent Kruger Day celebrations have focused attention on the role of children in the struggle for power in South Africa.

Rightwing support is estimated at over 100,000 adults — all prisoners of a cultural mindset from which they cannot escape and into which their children are drawn.

These children are being politicised for what they believe is the "inevitable struggle" following the carnage and bloodletting in the townships, trains and buses in recent months.

The motiveless attack on whites by knife-wielding blacks in Durban also has hardened attitudes of some people who were willing to give the "new South Africa" a chance.

Whites who unreservedly supported President de Klerk's initiative are being influenced by rightwingers using the continuing violence as a ready platform to convince their followers that all they ever feared is a black "takeover" becoming horrifyingly true.

Although whites and even a "third force" have been blamed for instigating violence among black people in detail, many whites still cling to the notion of an apartheid undo.

It is a notion they eagerly feed their children whose anti-black perceptions are also moulded by institutionalised privilege of their group above the black group.

Although these children have grown into a culture of unquestioning discipline which can be tolerated by both their parents and leaders, their destabilising activities will be carried out by a minority, say experts.

In contrast on the other hand the millions of black children — the "lost generations" since 1976 — who remain uneducated and with little or no prospect of being meaningfully employed. Talk of rightwing resistance by a future generation of rightwing radicals pales when compared to this vast mass of township children that any future government will ignore at its peril.

The brutalisation of millions of black chil-

Cash strapped future governments will have to try to meet the increased expectations of masses of unemployed black youths.

Rightwing children are also being politicised for their own "struggle" — to retain the white privilege enjoyed by their parents.

He said racism did not necessarily exist only in prejudiced minds.

"There are people not in some sort of sense. You are talking about people who see their interests threatened."

"People drawn to rightwing movements clearly feel threatened by an identifiable group that happen to be black. They fear for their livelihood, their possessions, their position of privilege."

He said it was characteristic of threatened groups to find a target on to which they could project their hostility — this would be passed onto the children.

The biggest problem facing any future government will be its inability to meet the expectations of the youth.

With almost half the black population under 15 years of age, Mr. Dawes believes there has to be fundamental reconstruction at the economic level for educational reconstruction to take place.

"We do not expect what he calls "some sort of magical peace" to descend on the country when negotiations are over."

He said the size of red tape and the potential for mobilisation around genuine discontent is as likely to be as real for the next few years as it has been up to now," he warned.
White children waving AWB banners and shouting racist slogans during rightwing marches have drawn attention to the future role of children both black and white in the "new South Africa". Weekend Argus Reporter GRAHAM LIZAMORE examines the problem facing any future government.
ECC builds township creche

Built by End Conscription Campaign members at weekends over the past two months, the creche, painted in bright primary colours, makes a striking contrast to the surrounding shanties.

CAPE TOWN — There was a victory for peace in Khayelitsha at the weekend when young whites opposed to service in the defence force completed an alternative service project: the opening of a new creche in the township.

In spite of the curfew last week, and the presence of more than 100 troops in the area, there was laughter and singing at the Nokwe creche on Saturday. The principal of the school, Agnes Tyolota, said she was delighted.
A TOTAL of 96 black babies of every 1,000 born in South Africa die before they turn one, according to the Durban Children's Rights Committee.

The disclosure was made by the Committee's secretary, Mrs Ella Rangobin, child care activist and granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi. She said that 13 out of every 1,000 white babies born die before their first birthday.

Rangobin said that there was "a lack of a basic right to live" for black babies in this country.

She also picked out three articles from the Convention of Children's Rights which was presented at the United Nations headquarters in New York to heads of state which she said had particular relevance to Natal where there is on-going violence which has already claimed more than 4,000 lives.

**Children affected**

"Many of those killed were children and even a greater number were severely affected by the destruction of 20,000 homes."

She said that Article 22 of the convention makes it clear that the State must ensure protection and assistance to children who are refugees.

Rangobin also pointed out that Article 38 states that no child under 15 takes a direct part in hostilities, or is recruited into the armed forces, and that all children affected by armed conflict benefit from protection and care.

The third article (number 39) notes that the State must promote the physical and psychological recovery and social re-integration of child victims of abuse, neglect, exploitation, torture or armed conflict. - Sapa
ACCIDENTS are the major cause of death of children between the ages of 1 and 15 years in all industrialised countries, as well as in many developing countries.

In South Africa, the accident fatality rate is fast reaching epidemic proportions, yet there is not the same community and state action normally afforded to other epidemics of similar size and impact.

Medical services are trying valiantly to pick up the pieces but no concerted national effort has been launched to curb the breakage.

National development and a rapid demographic growth rate inevitably resulting in escalating urbanisation is a major cause of this phenomenon.

South Africa is no exception. The most conservative projections indicate that this country's overall population will double and its urban population treble between 1985 and 2015.

Urbanisation and better access to health services normally result in fewer cases of infectious and parasitic diseases. Paradoxically, however, the opposite tends to apply to accidental and other injuries; the exposure to urban lifestyles, pressures and technology increases the prevalence of trauma.

According to the latest available national mortality statistics of 1986, unnatural deaths, or so-called accidents, accounted for 45.6 percent of all deaths between five and 14 years of age. On the basis of these statistics, 3,500 children died in South Africa in 1986 due to unnatural deaths. Road traffic accidents involving pedestrians, passengers and cyclists are the major cause of death (28.7 percent), followed by drowning (20.8 percent) and burns at 9.5 percent.

But accidents don't only kill. South Africa also reflects a high injury rate; from April 1986 to March 1989 at least 19,007 children were treated at three Cape Peninsula hospitals for injuries sustained as a result of accidents. This is an average of 52 children a day.

In this context, the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa (CAPFSA) was founded to fight against the killing and maiming of healthy children in South Africa.

CAPFSA says children should not be over-protected. A few minor accidents are essential parts of growing up, learning and development of independence. But we need to prevent accidents which cause death or permanent disability.
Southern believes there was a loose understanding — not formal agreement — between major insurers that the new limits would not be exploited, to protect children from infanticide. Trailing Old Mutual and Sanlam in size by a long way, it was caught on the hop when the two market leaders went for this business. Southern is still undecided whether to be a reluctant and late debutant.

If there was an understanding, Old Mutual and Sanlam broke ranks. They released details of policies within hours of each other.

Old Mutual’s John Bryant explains its children’s policy is “standard” as defined in the Sixth Schedule. Before 1985, Old Mutual sold many policies without life cover. These were then declared non-standard. This, coupled with the old limits on life cover that could be taken out on children, made it impractical to market policies for infants.

Bryant believes the policy has sufficient safeguards against infanticide. If a child dies before age three, no life benefits will be paid. On a R50 a month premium, maximum life cover of eight times premiums (just enough to qualify in terms of the Sixth Schedule) is a rather unattractive R4800. Before a child turns five, the accumulation account will have taken over the role of building the fund. “It becomes purely a savings policy and there can be no risk to the child.”

Bryant argues that, with a little research and thought, a policy can be produced which does not put a child’s life at risk yet provides meaningful savings for a specific purpose. Metropolitan’s “Future Builder” similarly in practice provides no life cover until a child is three. With premium from as low as R20 a month, it caters for lower-income customers. The low premium entry has been called “bad news” by one competitor but Metropolitan also applies the eight times premium limit, so the maximum temptation to a predatory parent would be a mere R1920.

Southern senior manager life marketing Dave Johnson says if the company does introduce a policy, it is likely to have a minimum premium of R80 a month, to place it outside the socio-economic bracket in which infanticide is a risk.

Johnson is not impressed by the three-year moratorium on life cover. “No one suggests people take out policies intending to commit infanticide. But three or four years down the line they could be in a tight financial corner. That’s when a child may be at risk.”

Liberty Life deputy GM product development Herschel Meyers is non-committal. Liberty does not have a policy for children, he says, “but we consider it a good product.”

All life offices agree the cover offered is a compromise, dictated by the Sixth Schedule. Sanlam assistant GM product development Charl le Roux says Sanlam still offers old-style endowment policies in Namibia, where there is no Sixth Schedule.
Abandoned children need young parents

UNWANTED pregnancies and a whole lot of socio-economic problems lead to the abandonment of many innocent children, to the point where the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society alone sometimes receives five children a day.

The only hope for them is adoption or foster parents. But unfortunately few people offer to take the children and the Child Care Act prevents parents of one race from taking a child of another race group.

According to the society, the few people who are taking abandoned children are pensioners. But they do not get a substantial income to enable them to make ends meet.

Moreover, elderly parents cannot give the children the stimulation younger parents can.

"What the children really need are parents who have the energy and expertise to deal with the fast moving and ever changing lives of the youth," said a statement released by the society.

"They need the secure and loving environment of a home with parents and perhaps brothers and sisters to develop into responsible and caring adults.

"The generation gap should not be too great between them and the parents so that they can communicate and interact freely."

Foster parents receive a State grant of R102 a month.

In turn they have an obligation to see to the emotional, educational and health needs of the child.

However, unlike adoption, the child does not legally belong to them.

A couple who take an abandoned child can adopt the child if they wish and he legally becomes their own, meaning that even if its natural parents want him, by law he belongs to the adopted parents.

The society runs information evenings every third Wednesday of the month and more information can be obtained from there.
Private health care in danger
MORE than 1,000 children will be murdered, raped, assaulted or sodomised each month this year, according to Round Table.

The figure is very conservative as police estimates suggest the number of unreported cases could make it 10 times higher.

These startling statistics of atrocities committed against children have been steadily going up since the veil of secrecy was lifted on child abuse by media reports and police investigations which started in the early 1980s.

Professionals of different disciplines and a variety of institutions and organisations have rallied round to help both the victims and their relatives, but very little or no education has filtered down to potential victims and perpetrators of child abuse.

Begged

The police Child Protection Units have complained of the "extremely disappointing" response to child abuse.

They have begged the illiterate community, illiterate where child abuse is concerned. Most of the communities are not aware of their genitalia, of bleed or have discharge.

The State and private institutions have services that offer help to abused children, described as children from birth to 17, and their families.

The Sexual Offences Act also makes it illegal for a woman to have sexual relation with girls under 18 and men to be involved with boys under 19.

The services include preventative and treatment services.
Talk of lost generations is nonsense

TALK about a "lost generation" of South African children was loaded with assumptions about the nature of childhood and influenced by "our racist heritage".

This was the view of Andy Dawes, senior lecturer in the University of Cape Town's Psychology Department, speaking at the Weekly Mail Book Week in Cape Town.

The assumption, he said, was that childhood was a time of innocence; that if children experienced death and violence they would surely be damaged. But most children in the world grew up in severe poverty and frequently amid violence; in South Africa, violence had been the norm for generations and there was no automatic link between these experiences and becoming a violent adult.

Many of South Africa's youth had become powerful in recent years as they took up the cudgels of the political struggle. They had learnt to kill, to enforce boycotts and stayaways and often told their parents what to do.

Lay and professional discourse of the Eighties had shifted from one of concern about child victims of repression to one of fear about an uncontrolled, uncivilised rabble.

Youths took on a more powerful role in political conflict, when they became part of crowds involved in burning, stoning and necklacing.

This behaviour challenged the traditional notion of children as innocent and vulnerable. It also stripped adults of the traditional authority over children, creating a vacuum of uncertainty in which fear could easily take root.

While this was understandable in the face of horrifying violence, it was also driven by a heritage of racism and structural violence.

There was conspicuous silence about white youths who had learned, in the army and police, to kill, burn villages and beat children through the streets. No-one talked about white youths who marched with placards threatening to shoot dead the first "Kaffir" setting foot in a white school as being part of a lost generation.

Sociologist Jackie Cock observed that South Africans have "bought the suggestion" that violence is a legitimate solution to conflict.

Nor was the concept the sole preserve of the state; it was just as apparent in the culture of resistance, she said.

Violence against people and violence against nature were connected, she said. Nuclear energy and weapons-making employed the same materials and processes. Chemical weapons made for war were later used in agriculture.

Political conflict in South Africa expressed itself through violence, said political analyst Matthew Kenridge. There was no legacy of political tolerance, exemplified by the National Party's reaction to all challenges over the past 40 years - and manifest now in extra-parliamentary groupings as well.

But while the conflict was founded in the political, it took its texture from "all the attendant pathologies" such as material deprivation, feeding off and reinforcing it.

Gaye Davis
Talk of lost generations is nonsense

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Gaye Davis
Gladys mothers abandoned kids

Love and warmth for lonely children

GLADYS Sibiya is a woman with a heart of gold.

Like any grandmother she loves children. But she goes a step further and fosters children who are not lucky enough to have someone of their own to love and care for them.

It all started in 1980 when she was working at a creche and local social workers asked her to take care temporarily for a one-year-old abandoned child.

The little girl, who is also mentally retarded, has been living with Sibiya and her husband Johannes since and now has two sisters and two brothers.

"I have only one child and I now have a five-year-old grandson, but to me children are all the same and I love them. I cannot bear to see them unloved or suffering because they do not have parents," she said.

"I would take in even more children if the welfare authorities had not stopped me.

"I have a few minor problems with the children but they are nothing new because I worked with children for a long time and I understand them."

"Three of the older children know that they are fostered but we have talked to them about it and they seem to understand," Sibiya said.

By PEARL MAJOLA

GLADYS Sibiya

"But elderly people like myself have patience and I personally would rather explain to the child why he should not do something than punish him."

The Johannesburg Child Welfare Society has said that there is a shortage of foster parents and those people who do offer to foster children are mostly pensioners like Gladys Sibiya.

Capable

She admitted that as an elderly person she did not have the energy to deal with the fast-moving and ever-changing life of the youth but said that she was still a capable parent.

"Young parents tend to be impatient and resort to punishing children for every little mistake they make."

"But elderly people like myself have patience and I personally would rather explain to the child why he should not do something than punish him."

The Johannesburg Child Welfare Society has said that there is a shortage of foster parents and those people who do offer to foster children are mostly pensioners like Gladys Sibiya.
Institutions blossom to help the violated
Society rescues abused children

By SIZA KOMA

The significant incidents of child abuse in the country, has prompted the State and private institutions to establish services that offer help to abused children and their families.

Child Protection Units, set up by the South African Police, play an important role in the prevention of abuse and are one of the places where cases of abuse can be reported.

The abused or parents of the abused, report their cases to the police who then help with investigations and court appearances of the offenders.

They investigate cases of abuse ranging from baby bashing to child prostitution.

The telephone numbers of the Child Protection Units are:
- Soweto: 945-6629
- Johannesburg: 477-1390
- Pretoria: 325-1800.

The South African Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (SASPCN), is a national society composed of individual members.

They exert pressure for higher standards of child protection and care.

The group oversees the very successful Childline telephonic service, which was pioneered in Durban in 1986 to monitor child abuse.

Counselling

Childline offers counselling to victims who have been emotionally, physically and sexually abused, followed by referrals to appropriate sources of long-term aid.

Their Johannesburg service was started in 1988 and can be contacted at (011) 484-3044.

The Government's Child Emergency Service was instituted last year to counteract sexual and physical abuse.

The 24-hour telephonic service, which is manned by social workers, provides counselling and follow-up services.

They visit the callers at their homes to assess the situation and provide aid.

Their toll free number is 0100833.

Child Welfare organisations can also be contacted to report child abuse cases.
More Natal schools to go ‘open’

PARENTS of pupils at three more Natal schools this week voted overwhelmingly in favour of implementing the B-model of education.

The schools are Danville Park Girls High School; Durban Preparatory High School and Sherwood Primary School.

At Danville there was an 88,81 percentage poll with 86,25 percent of the parents voting in favour of model B.

At DPHS there was a 95,3 percent poll with 92,1 percent of the parents voting in favour of model B.

At Sherwood there was a 95,8 percent poll with 91 percent of the parents voting in favour of model B.

In terms of model B a school can determine its own admission policy whilst remaining under the control of the State. - Sowetan Correspondent

Fewer pregnancies at Cape schools

ALTHOUGH at least 10 pregnant schoolgirls are writing matric examinations at present, there has been a definite decrease in the number of pregnancies among high school pupils in the Cape since 1983, according to education authorities.

They were responding to queries in the wake of a report that at least five girls had been asked to leave a hostel at De Villiers Graaff High School in Vlitlersdorp after allegedly being found in possession of condoms and the Pill.

The issue of pregnancy among school pupils was also raised in a recent sex education video for high school pupils which has become a controversial talking point among educators - and which has been banned from white "own affairs" schools.

Cape Education Department spokesman Dr Orland Fimani said cases of girls who became pregnant in Standard 10 and decided to leave school and not write matric, were not, normally brought to the attention of the department.

For this reason, they could not say authoritatively how many pregnancies there were among matric girls.

"However, if such a pupil decides to write the Senior Certificate examination, she will have to apply for permission either to interrupt the Senior Secondary course or write under the control of a private invigilator, or both.

"During 1990 10 such cases were referred to the Department," he said. - Sowetan Correspondent
Pollution: the child killer

By RUSSEL MOLEFE

AT least 14 million children under the age of five die every year because of environmental pollution and malnutrition.

A further 3 million are seriously disabled, according to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme.

The report titled "The state of the environment 1990. Children and the environment" said environmental hazards also strike children even from the moment of conception, causing birth defects, brain damage and sometimes death.

Foetuses and children were more vulnerable than adults to environmental problems because of different breathing patterns, nutritional needs, body temperature and behaviour.

"Even in the relatively sheltered environment of the mother's uterus, the developing baby is far from completely protected because the environment to which the pregnant woman is exposed has a marked effect on the development of an embryo and the foetus", the report said.

The threats to the foetal environment range from chemical pollutants in the atmosphere and toxic substances taken into the body voluntarily by the mother, including tobacco and alcohol, to malnutrition.

Exposure of the foetus to toxic substances passing through the placenta can cause permanent genetic mutations and cancer.

"More than 20 mental and physical defects in new-born babies, some of which threaten the life of the child, have been associated with drinking during pregnancy", the report added.

It referred to this problem as as foetal alcohol syndrome.

However, direct forms of environmental pollution were not alone in endangering the foetus. Malnutrition in expectant mothers was also a major threat since it leads to low infant birth weight.

"An infant birth weight in turn is the single most important determinant of its chances of survival and development" the report said.
Cops will forgive tiny tot vandals

Sunday Times Reporter

POLICE will not take any action against three young boys who caused thousands of rands damage to a nursery school this week.

The three boys, from Hermanus — two aged five and one aged eight — broke and smashed furniture, tiles and walls at the Babbel en Krabbel nursery school.

Using a hammer and an axe, they also gouged holes in two doors, broke light fittings and switches and splashed paint on carpets.

Further damage was only prevented when a passerby heard the noise and went to investigate.

**Sorry**

According to the police, the man took the boys to their homes and reported the matter to school principal Lorna Such.

But Cape Attorney-General Niel Rossouw said that, according to the law, children younger than seven did not have the capacity to determine between right and wrong and could not legally be held responsible for their actions.

So the three boys, who are all from "broken homes", were forgiven this week and were back at their respective schools.

Mrs Such said she "felt very sorry for them".

One of the five-year-olds, who was from her school, would be staying on, she said.

Western Cape police liaison officer Captain Anthe Laubscher confirmed that no action would be taken against the three boys.
‘White men attacked children in park’

Own Correspondent

LOUIS TRICHDARDT — An outing for a group of black Sunday school children ended on a sour note at the weekend when they were barred from a park and some of them allegedly attacked by a group of 30 white men.

The Rev George Mohali of the Apostolic Faith Mission, who had accompanied the children, said the men arrived in cars shortly after the two buses in which the children were travelling had stopped near a park in town.

The men told the group to leave, as blacks were not allowed in the park.

Mr Mohali said he spoke to a senior police officer at the park about the threatening attitude of the men.

As the group was about to leave, the men attacked the children with an assortment of weapons including sticks and sjamboks. Five injured children were taken to Sioram Hospital for treatment.

Mr Mohali said that when he went to lay a charge of assault at the Louis Trichardt police station, he was told to bring the children who had been assaulted.

In Pietersburg, Lieutenant Werner Voigt said he could not immediately comment.
Johannesburg Child Welfare's directors meet on Thursday to decide which of its services will be closed or curtailed.

The organisation, which deals with 7,000 children of all races, is R600,000 in the red, according to director Dr Adele Thomas. The deficit was due to a cut-back in contributions, the uncertain political situation and the vast scale of retrenchments.

"We have no choice. We have to curtail services, and the community will have to suffer,"

"It's a frightening situation. And we're not crying wolf. We have no money," said Caroline van Rooyen, fund-raising manager for Johannesburg Child Welfare.

Mrs van Rooyen said the State had been approached to increase its 40 percent subsidy but had refused.

"It required R20,870 a day to keep the welfare organisation running, "and we are not even getting in half of that".

Donations can be sent to Johannesburg Child Welfare, Box 2599, Johannesburg 2000."
‘I don’t think there will ever be peace’

By Moica Nicolson

Mama Ngebiaya is desperate.

Chased out of her comfortable home into the veld by the violence in the squatter camp of Zodik’lizwe on the East Rand, Mrs Ngebiaya is just one of many unrest victims.

Homeless, cold and hungry, she was forced to flee with her three toddlers to Phola Park, where she sleeps in the open, unprotected from the rainy weather.

Her means of livelihood — raising chickens and making beer from home — has been destroyed, so she has no income.

On Sunday, she returned home to pick up clothes and blankets but found that all her belongings, including her television set, had been stolen.

Her husband disappeared when the violence began a fortnight ago and she has not seen him since. She hopes he is with the group of fighting men defending the Xhosas and not lying dead in the nearby veld.

Running away

In between bouts of hoarse coughing, Mrs Ngebiaya told The Star she was beginning to lose hope that she would be able to endure her circumstances.

“My three little girls are sick and my youngest has started to cough up blood. I want to get home and life to return to normal, but I don’t think there will be peace in Zodik’lizwe or anywhere.

“Mothers are going to spend their lives running away and hiding. Our children will just die because we mothers are helpless.

“What can I do? What can I do?” she asked.

Then she burst into tears.
CHILDREN in prison "hell"

STREET children held at Pollsmoor Prison have related shocking experiences of rape and assault from older inmates at the prison.

Children as young as 12 have been held in cells with older men who often abused them, street children claimed this week.

They said favoured methods of abuse was demanding sexual "payment" for food given by the men and beatings with a stainless steel mug placed inside a sock.

A social worker who has spent time with the boys inside Pollsmoor said there were no facilities at the prison for them and they were often held in cells with up to 50 men. See page 7
and assaults in cells

PRISON 'HELL'

Angola

Features

SOUTH, November 29 to December 5 1990
'Strollers' tell of rapes

KIDS IN STREET

The rape and assault of young boys at Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town and social workers fear that if police proceed with their project to find placements for children more will end up there.

Children who had been held at Pollsmoor told this week of shocking experiences including assault and rape by older inmates at the prison.

A Nicro social worker confirmed that 50 children under the age 15 were held at Pollsmoor last month.

In interviews, several street children or "strollers", as they are commonly known, spoke about conditions at the prison.

John Peterson, 19, whose name has been changed to protect his identity, was held at Pollsmoor for two months in 1988 after being found guilty of theft.

The teenager from Robertson had spent more than half of his life on the streets of Cape Town.

"I was held for two months at Pollsmoor while I was awaiting trial," John said.

"At first, I was held with the older men but later I was transferred to the juvenile section.

"You really have to argue with the men so that they don't use you."

John uses terms like "use" and "jumped on" to describe sexual assault.

He said the men gave young boys a plate of food when they first arrived at the cell.

Later, after "lockup time", the men went back to the boys to ask for the food.

"If you don't have it, you have to pay," John said. "The boys always eat the food because they think it's a gift and the men make their pay by jumping on them."

"When they tried it with me I told them I would rather kill myself, so they left me alone. I saw it happen a few times with other boys."

Peter Formin, 14, was held at Pollsmoor after being arrested for theft in March this year.

He was held for a month with adult men in the A-section at the maximum security jail.

Steel mug

"They abused us all the time we were there. Their favourite method was to put a stainless steel mug inside a sock then hit us with it," Peter said.

"There were lots of boys in the A-section. The youngest when I was there was 10 years old."

After serving his two-month "sentence" at the Bonnytown Place of Safety in Wynberg, Peter went back to the streets.

He was arrested twice subsequently on charges of loitering and spent two 15-day periods at Pollsmoor.

"Once I was held in the juvenile section — it's much better there," Peter said.

"There are only four boys in each cell. In the A-section there are about 60 to 70 men in a cell, all chasing after the young boys.

"In Juvenile I knew most of the boys and no-one interfered with me.

"The food was much better..."
STROLLERS BEHIND BARS: THESE FOUR STREET CHILDREN WHO SLEEP ON THE GRAND PROMENADE IN CAPE TOWN HAVE ALL SEVERED TIME AT POLDOMOR FISON.
Cops party 'tra backfires

A POLICE plan to hold a Christmas breakfast party for street “strollers” backfired this week after social workers began to suspect that the children might be taken to places of safety afterwards.

A severe shortage of accommodation at shelters and children's homes has raised fears that the children could end up at Cape Town's Pollsmoor Prison instead.

Police have denied that anything sinister was involved in the party, planned for December 11 at a yet undisclosed venue in Cape Town.

A SOUTH investigation this week revealed that many street children are already being held at the maximum security prison in Tokai, awaiting trial or serving time on charges of loitering.

A social worker believes that as many as 50 children, under the age of 15, were held at Pollsmoor Prison during October.

Top police officials in Cape Town announced their project for street children at a meeting last Tuesday.

Mrs Annette Colburn, principal of

By REHANA ROSSOUW

Patrick's House in Gardens who attended the meeting, said she had 'no idea' what would happen to the children after the planned party.

"Our home is bursting at the seams, I don't know where the police are going to find place for the children," Colburn said.

"I intend going to the breakfast to monitor what happens to the children afterwards."

Another social worker said the only place available for children in Cape Town was Pollsmoor prison.

Police reacted angrily to suggestions that they were planning to "round up the children and take them to Pollsmoor."

"We intended to investigate a project to find somewhere to start placing the children," said police spokesperson, Captain Denise Brand.

"The project was going to be launched with the breakfast."

"I can assure you we had the best interests of the children at heart."

"We were attempting to determine from people involved in work with street children where we could find permanent homes for the children."

Brand said she doubted whether the breakfast would be held now that there was so much suspicion about the police motives.

Children in prison "hell"

STREET children held at Pollsmoor Prison have related shocking experiences of rape and assault from older inmates at the prison.

Children as young as 12 have been held in cells with older men who often abused them, street children claimed this week.

They said favoured methods of abuse was demanding sexual "payment" for food given by the men and beatings with a stick tied inside a sock.

A social worker who has spent time with the boys inside Pollsmoor said there were no facilities at the prison for them and they were often held in cells with up to 50 men. See page 7

SEEKING SHELTER: A 14-year-old Cape streets has already served time at Pollsmoor.
THE Prisons Act makes provision that juveniles can be incarcerated in prison only under certain exceptional circumstances.

In terms of Section 29 of the Prisons Act, a person under the age of 18 years who is accused of having committed an offence shall before his conviction not be detained in a prison, police cell or lock-up unless his detention is necessary on account of, for instance, the seriousness of the offence, considerations of the protection of the community or when no suitable place of detention is available, also bearing in mind the other-mentioned factors.

It must be certified by a magistrate that no other suitable place of detention is available.

The necessary precautionary measures are taken to safeguard young juveniles from being harassed and abused by adults.

The age of the prisoner is therefore always taken into account when juvenile prisoners are allocated to cells.

The Prisons Service regards harassment among prisoners and abuse of fellow inmates in a very serious light and any case brought to our attention is thoroughly investigated and dealt with.

As far as the other allegations in the report are concerned, it can be mentioned that although sentencing persons are required to work, they are allowed to keep themselves occupied constructively and to relax and participate in games in open and spacious courtyards.

Prisoners who do not sleep on beds are provided with sleeping mats and sufficient bedding.
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Prisoners who do not sleep on beds are provided with sleeping mats and sufficient bedding.

The allegation that two persons had to share one blanket is absolutely untrue.

Contrary to the allegation that they are only afforded the opportunity to shower twice a week, it can be mentioned that all cells have hot and cold water showers to which they have daily access.

The Prisons Service is satisfied that the juveniles, and other prisoners for that matter at Polismoor and elsewhere, are being well cared for."
Child Welfare gets reprieve

By John Miller

The Johannesburg Child Welfare's field services section, and three of its homes have been given a temporary reprieve until Monday.

Dr' Adele Thomas, executive director of the society, said the management committee had decided at a meeting yesterday to wait until Sunday before they took a final decision on the fate of the homes in Soweto, Norwood and Regents Park and that of the field services, which cares for more than 4 000 children.

She said that after a programme on the society's plight had been broadcast on M-Net on Sunday, almost R34 000 was received.

Most of this money had come from concerned individuals.
Ray of hope shines for Alex kids

A RAY of hope for a brighter future began shining for children living at Alexandra township's Sijwella squatter camp - probably one of the worst in the country - when a creche was opened there this week.

The Hlathanasani Day Care centre will start functioning from January next year and will admit about 60 children between the ages of two and six.

It is a project under the Johannesburg Saving the Children Fund, an organisation committed to the care of the disadvantaged children in the area.

When the organisation heard about the need for a creche at the squatter camp, they decided to take up the project to raise funds for the building of the creche.

"SFC is going to provide nutritious food, care and supervision and early education stimulation for the children. All which are very important for a child's later development," said the organisation's co-ordinator and fund-raiser, Mrs Lucy Taylor.

"Initially there will be two people on the staff, a cook and a supervisor. A minimal fee may have to be paid by parents where possible, but that has not been finalised yet.

"We believe in helping people help themselves so we plan to make this a community centre for use when the children are not there.

"Deep trench gardening will be taught, which will provide fresh vegetables for the children with any surplus being sold to the community to generate some income," she explained.

In addition, Taylor said sewing, hygiene, nutrition, and primary health care would be taught, with the community choosing candidates for training.

A parents' committee would be set up to help run the centre together with Pastor Gilbert Ndlovu, through whom SFC had heard about Sijwella.
Children in crisis: R500 000 needed

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — The future of more than 4,000 neglected, abused and abandoned children is hanging in the balance because the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS) is struggling to raise funds to maintain a number of its vital childcare services.

Threatened with closure or drastic curtailment if substantial financial aid is not received are three homes — which house 121 children — and the society’s Field Services Section, which deals with more than 4,000 abused and neglected children.

The fate of these services was due to be decided at an executive committee meeting on Thursday but the decision has been delayed until tomorrow in the hope that sufficient funds will be received.

Dr Adele Thomas, executive director of the society, said the JCWS will be forced to start working on a closing-down and curtailment blueprint if its fundraising efforts do not succeed.

Fundraising manager Caroline van Rooyen said the society needs close to R500 000 to maintain the threatened services.

FINANCIAL CRISIS

She said: "Just over R212 000 has been received so far, largely as a result of the appeal screened on M-Net’s Carte Blanche programme.

“We’ve been overwhelmed by the reaction to our financial crisis and we’re hoping we can sustain this momentum because we still need R400 000 to get out of the red.”

Dr Thomas said a massive gap will be left unfilled if the society is forced to close or curtail its services. The society’s fieldwork section deals with more than 4,000 children.

“Arising from the State’s responsibility to care for abused and neglected children but private organisations have been providing this service,” Dr Thomas said.
Millions of children may be ‘orphaned by AIDS’

AFRICA would become the largest orphanage in the world as AIDS killed the parents of an estimated 5.5-million children by the year 2000, SA Institute for Medical Research AIDS training and counselling centre spokesman Granita Christie said.

And the number of female AIDS cases worldwide would equal that among men at the end of the decade, said ANC health secretariat spokesman Manto Tshabalala.

She said in SA there were already believed to be more women than men infected with the AIDS virus.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) chose “Women and AIDS” as the theme of this year’s World AIDS Day, observed by 168 member countries on Saturday, because the inferior position of women in society made them especially vulnerable to the virus.

At the same time, WHO saw women as the key to achieving health for all.

The exercise by women of their rights as human beings was one of the best preventative medicines for AIDS in the absence of a vaccine or cure, according to a statement by UN Division for the Advancement of Women spokesman Jacques du Guerny.

Tshabalala said women would account for about 200,000 of the 500,000 extra AIDS cases expected to be reported around the world in the next two years.

Control

Women’s underprivileged position in families and society meant they had little control over financial and health resources and were excluded from policy and decision-making.

With an inferior social, political and economic status, women generally had little control over their lives, including control over their own fertility. In SA, they had been particularly marginalised by not only a male-dominated but also a racist society, Tshabalala said.

Contrary to laws which viewed women as dependants, apartheid and in particular the migrant labour sy-tem had led to a large number of female-dominated households.

Yet most of these women had little access to land, housing, finance or health care. Their minimal education meant most were illiterate and this greatly undermined attempts at AIDS education, Tshabalala said.

The war in Mozambique and violence in Natal, the epicentre of HIV infection among women, led to situations where women were sold as slaves or forced to selling sex to survive, placing themselves at risk of HIV infection.

Christie said young women were at particular risk, pressured by their peers and increasingly exploited by older men who saw them as less likely to be infected with HIV.

Rape victims and the wives of homosexuals were also at risk, and there were still cultures in SA where concubines were acceptable, she said.

In a statement, WHO’s global AIDS programme director Michael Merson said World AIDS Day was a reminder that to face the epidemic, people had to work together, transcending all differences within and between societies and countries.
Only one shop-theft offender out of 20 is apprehended, and of those caught only 30% are prosecuted — despite retailers losing as much as R280m a year from shop thefts.

An academic probe undertaken by Beatty Naudé of Unisa’s criminology department found a major reason for the high incidence of shop theft was the public view that this type of theft was not a serious crime.

The study estimated that R400m to R600m worth of merchandise was stolen from retail stores each year. This included shoplifting and pilfering by staff.

Shop theft was mostly opportunistic in nature and often impulsively planned and executed due to lack of security and the ease with which goods could be handled in self-service stores.

Burden

Of 600 cases surveyed, many employees said they justified shop theft because they were underpaid by their employers.

Firms had found prosecution expensive and time-consuming. The problem led to replacement of merchandise, implementation of security measures, increased insurance premiums and, in the case of employees being involved, the loss of trained staff and the retaining of new staff.

This led to a burden on the consumer and the taxpayer who had to pay increased retail prices. It also increased police and court costs.

The study found that no particular population group was more inclined to steal, but that 52% of adult offenders were female while 56% of juvenile offenders were boys.

About 70% of offenders had passed standards 6-8, while 68% were younger than 30 years old and 34% younger than 20.

The study also found that 35% of juvenile crime consisted of theft from shops.

The most popular items on thieves’ lists were cosmetics, toiletries, clothing and food. Men showed a preference for hardware goods, the study said. Elderly people tended to steal food, which was indicative of economic hardship.

Although 50% to 60% of theft from shops was committed by employees, only 6% were prosecuted. Managerial staff accounted for the largest portion, followed by cashiers and sales staff.

About 85% of all offenders taken to court were convicted, with an average fine of R213 being imposed. Women were often fined and given suspended sentences, while men were most often sentenced to prison terms. Juveniles usually received postponed sentences or corporal punishment.

The report made five recommendations to help bring down the rate of shop theft. These included:

- Public awareness and educational programmes by retailers, community leaders and law enforcement officers to increase public consciousness as to the gravity of shop theft;
- Pre-trial treatment or intervention programmes for juveniles and first offenders (already in operation at the Pretoria Magistrate’s Court);
- More community service sentences instead of postponed sentences, fines or actual prison time. No such sentence was imposed in the sample area during the survey period;
- The establishment of special shop theft courts where cases could be heard quickly and where fixed fines up to a specified amount could be issued;
- Retailers granting more priority to personnel selection and security measures.
Assault: workers in court

Farmer Mr. Johannes W Erasmus and two of his labourers appeared briefly in the Messina Magistrate's Court on Friday charged with assaulting six children.

Erasmus appeared with Mr. Nelson Mbedzi and Mr. Mark Moleya before Mr. AH Klopper.

They were not asked to plead and prosecutor Ms. M Skinner asked for a postponement of the case to January 17 for further investigation.

The accused were released on their own cognisance.

Erasmus, of Plot 7 Welpe, is alleged to have lashed the six children aged between nine and 16 years from school and work on November 21 and 22 and taken them to his farm where he screamed at them until their backs cracked.

He is alleged to have accused them of assisting men who stole his irrigation pipes.

The six children were at the Messina Limpopo Hospital on Friday. Five of them had just been discharged and were waiting to go home.
Nine in court over assault on children

NINE men appeared in the Pietersburg Regional Court yesterday in connection with the assault on black Sunday school children in Louis Trichardt more than a week ago.

Mr Lucas Beyers (31), Mr Bernard Jordaan (24), Mr Jeffrey Sculliard (38), Mr William Schaap (31), Mr Christoffel Wolvaard (45), Mr Gerhardus van der Linde (25), Mr Bernard Terblanche (48), Mr Stephanus Jacobs (40) and Mr Jan Beyers (no age given), all of Louis Trichardt, were not asked to plead.

They were released on R1 000 bail each and the case was postponed to January 18 next year.

They appeared before Mr WJ Fleurie in a packed court whose spectators included Conservative Party MPs, Dr Willie Snyman and Mr Tom Langley.

Also in the gallery was AWB leader Mr Eugene Terre'blanche, dressed in khaki uniform, members of his body guard, Aquilla, and other members spotting the organisation's insignia.

Salute

When the nine walked into court white spectators, except journalists, stood to salute them. A hymn was sung as the men filed out of court after the brief appearance.

A strong police presence was evident, with many uniformed policemen inside the court and camouflaged and plainclothes police outside.

The accused were later whisked away from court through a side entrance to evade the television and Press journalists waiting outside.

The Rev GM Muthi, who was in charge of the outing when the children were attacked, arrived late from Venda.

Police disclosed yesterday that three other men arrested with the nine had been released. Their names were not made available.
Cops object to report on child abuse case

SOWETO police spokesman Colonel Tienie Halgryn has objected to a report in Sowetan about a child abuse incident in which a 65-year-old man allegedly interfered with a seven-year-old girl.

The police were reported as having refused to open a docket because the girl was not examined by a district surgeon but by private doctors.

Halgryn was quoted as having said the family could not be helped because they had approached a private doctor instead of a district surgeon.

"I explained that I could not react to the allegations made against the police because the woman had not yet made a statement to the police," Halgryn explained.

Rape

"The police would always accept a charge of rape even if the victim had been examined by a private doctor.

"I added that we appeal to victims of rape to report cases as soon as possible so that the victim could be examined by the district surgeon to obtain the necessary samples and evidence."

"It is not always possible for a private doctor to conduct this type of medical examination as he is not geared for it, while the district surgeon is appointed to conduct this type of investigation.

"I also added that a private doctor does not always have the time to testify in a court and that a district surgeon is appointed and paid by the State.

"Furthermore, I pointed out that the victim of this particular rape is a child and that the Child Protection Unit should be notified," said Halgryn.

A 65-year-old man has been arrested and appeared in court on November 20 in connection with the incident.
Welfare society faces drastic cutbacks

DRASTIC staff and service cutbacks have been announced by the cash-strapped Johannesburg Child Welfare Society unless R400 000 is raised by the end of December.

Despite warnings and urgent appeals to the public, the shortfall has not been met and the organisation, which cares for about 7 000 abused, abandoned and neglected children on the Reef, has decided on a crisis programme.

Director Dr Adele Thomas announced after an emergency executive committee meeting:

* All vacant social work and related administrative posts will immediately be frozen, resulting in a saving of R150 000.
* If no help is received with funding, the JCWS will re-evaluate its position in the new year and cutbacks will be effected from April.

Abused

This move coincides with a 14 - 16 percent annual increase in the incidence of child abuse reported to the society as the economy declines.

* Recent publicity about the deterioration of the financial situation has brought in R210 000 of the needed R600 000 to balance the books.

This last minute income means certain children’s homes under the care of the JCWS have been saved at the 11th hour and they are no longer under threat.

At risk

"But," said Thomas, "the Ohandweni Child and family Care Centre which cares for 100 children in Soweto and the Howard Pim and Lucy Kennedy Cottages in Johannesburg face cutbacks should our financial position deteriorate in the next few months."

The society’s expenditure for the current year is R8,4 million of which the State contributes 40 percent.

"This is despite the fact that the bulk of our work involves services to children and families in terms of the Child Care Act," Thomas said. - Sowetan Correspondent.
Campaign to prevent child drownings

CAPE TOWN — More than 500 children are said to drown every year, and the National Sea Rescue Institute and an oil company have launched a national water and boating safety week.

The week, ending on Friday, is aimed at improving safety on inland waters and at the sea.

Project spokesman Elizabeth Row said leaflets on safety awareness would be distributed at service stations on roads to the coast.

Statistics showed an average of 546 children drowned each year, 70 percent of them at this time of the year.

The Institute found that the four major causes of drowning were inexperience, equipment failure, bad weather and misuse of alcohol.

Included in advice to ensure safety are:

- Supervise children all the time.
- Never swim alone and do not venture into deep water unless you are a strong swimmer.
- Obey lifeguards and swim in demarcated bathing areas only.
- Be careful of back and side washes.
- Do not dive into shallow water.
- Keep boats and required equipment in good order.
- Inform someone of movements and intentions when venturing out to sea.
- Always wear a life jacket and get the proper weather forecast.

Sapa.
New home for Twilight youngers

By Shirley Woodgate

Johannesburg's "Twilight boys" came in from the cold this week when they moved from their prefabricated dormitory in Braamfontein to a solid, old four-storey building in the shadow of Hillbrow Tower.

The roof leaks, the paint is peeling and there are cracks in the floors leading to the hodgepodge of rooms, but for these youngsters this is home.

They are just 70 of the estimated 200 to 600 youngsters aged between 10 and 16 who have abandoned their homes to seek happiness in the streets of Hillbrow.

Manager John Waldegrave said most of those who had been given shelter at Twilight Home had previously been subjected to street culture, the norm being communities of up to 15 who moved and slept together.

They do not smile easily at strangers, these youngsters who have often experienced a full lifetime by the age of 10.

For many of them, acceptance at the Twilight Home means not only security but regular meals, their first sleep in a real bed, and education.

The product of urbanisation, they leave home because of social, psychological, political, economic and inter-family stresses. They hope to find somewhere better but the reality is the pavements and doorways in the backstreets of an unfriendly city.

It costs R4 000 a month to run the home, assisted by a R2 000 grant from the Johannesburg City Council.

Until they become adjusted, this is the youngsters' oasis in the city desert, secure under a sign which reads "Catch a fish for a man and you have fed him once; teach him to fish and you have fed him for life."
"Sex link' in girl's death

BY DAN SIMON

THE family of a 15-year-old schoolgirl who was found brutally murdered outside a Brooklyn church yesterday morning believe attempts were made to lure her into a seedy world of drugs and prostitution.

This was disclosed by the brother and aunt of Miss Saskia Amos, 15, whose body was found naked and mutilated outside the Dutch Reformed Church in Minnow Street, Brooklyn, at 1.30am.

Miss Amos, of 24 Dr Malan Drive, Brooklyn, was last seen alive by her mother, Mrs Colleen Curnow, at 6pm before she set off for a party at a nearby flat in Da Gama Street.

Her body was later found outside the church by a passer-by who notified police.

Residents in the block of flats said they heard the girl run crying from the flat after an argument with a knife-wielding man about 11pm.

Police have arrested an 18-year-old youth who is expected to appear in court soon.

Mr Barry Amos, 16, said that his sister had "often" gone to a particular flat where young schoolgirls were given alcohol, dagga and "buttons" (Mandrax) before being "sold" to Japanese seamen.

He said the family had complained to the Child Protection Unit with no result.

Miss Amos's aunt, Miss Ilona Hawthorne, said the flat was a "den of iniquity".

Some of the girls were from poor families, she said, and enticed by easy money.

Miss Saskia Amos, 15
ALMOST 24 000 babies were either abandoned or neglected during the first four months of this year, a social worker said yesterday.

Mrs I van Zyl, who is conducting a research for the South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare, said the figures were a "tip of an iceberg".

This meant an average of 200 babies were dumped or neglected by their mothers every day countrywide during the same period, she said.

Last year an average of 6 635 babies were either dumped or neglected by their mothers.

"Our organisation is faced with a big problem because the number of child abandonment is increasing, particularly with babies," she said.

"These figures are not a true reflection of the situation. The reason for this is that many of these cases are not reported to us," she said.

She said the figures recorded during the first four months of the year were: January - 6 358; February - 5 864; March - 5 897; April - 5 895.

Van Zyl said a number of factors were responsible for the high incidence of child neglect and dumping.
Boys’ home
a dream come true

By DON HOLIDAY
Staff Reporter

IT all started five years ago through one woman’s distress at finding a group of black street urchins living in a hole in a wall in the bank of the Liesbeeck River in Rondebosch. Today the Khayamandi Baptist Home for Boys in Langa is the fulfilment of a dream not only for Mrs Rose McKenna but also for numerous other people and organisations who banded together to make a tangible contribution to improving the lot of innocent young victims of social upheaval.

A dedication and thanksgiving ceremony was held at the home this week, attended by Cape Town’s mayor Mr Gordon Oliver, foreign diplomats and representatives of organisations which helped build the home.

Sympathy

The Hole in the Wall Gang, as the group of street children soon became known, attracted international sympathy after Mrs McKenna drew attention to their plight in Weekend Argus.

It was discovered there was not a single home to care for abandoned and runaway black boys in the Western Cape.

The first steps to build the Khayamandi — Sweet Home — home were taken in March 1986.

An abandoned hostel for black contract workers was offered free but there were no windows or doors, no roof and only four blackened walls.

There was also no money and it appeared for a while the move had been made in vain.

When these facts became known to the public, money and offers of assistance came pouring in from a wide variety of sources and the project went ahead.

As each phase of the building and renovations were completed the boys moved in and the Western Province Baptist Association bought the land on a 99-year lease. A two-metre concrete security wall now surrounds the R500 000 complex which is home to between 60 and 68 boys at a time.

The Rev Bruce Duncan, director of Cape Town City Missions, said the tragic reality was that there were still about 300 boys and girls on the streets of Cape Town and that this number would inevitably grow.

He criticised whites for “seldom reaching out a hand to help because those in need were not white”, but said blame for the homeless children’s plight had to be shared by all sections of the community.

“It is time to acknowledge our individual failure and guilt and not to blame everything on the ‘tyrannical government’.

“I look forward to the time when we have homes not for ethnic groups but merely for people in need of help. I think that time is not too far away.

“Right now we have to think of these poor children on the streets. Think about opening up that spare bedroom.

“It might give you a fright, but it might also be a lovely surprise,” said Mr Duncan.

HOLE IN THE WALL GANG: Perhaps “Hole in the Door Gang” would be a more suitable description for the boys at the Khayamandi Baptist Home for Boys in Langa. The well-equipped and comfortable home for street children was built for a group of boys who lived in a hole in a wall above the Liesbeeck River canal five years ago.
Women who dump babies face jail

PREGNANT women who dump babies after their births are committing a serious crime that might land them in jail.

This warning came from Soweto police liaison officer Captain Joseph Ngebeni yesterday.

He said women abandoning infants were contravening Section 50 of Act Number 74 of 1983 of the Children's Act.

Ngebeni cited three cases where women threw away their new-born babies.

One was at Baragwanath Hospital on June 6, where the mother left her baby still wrapped in a hospital towel apparently on her discharge from maternity. The child has been given the name of Adam Seko.

The second occurred about 12 days later when another boy, nicknamed Themba Nkosi, was found crying near a sewerage pipe in Orlando East. It was taken to Baragwanath Hospital by police.

Another case is that of a child who was left with Mrs Minah Molee of Extension 11, Lenasia, by her mother in March.

Ngebeni said the mother told Molee that she was going to look for work in the city but did not return.

He appealed to anyone with information on the babies to contact Constable MW Phaladi at telephone (011) 945-6629.
702 raises R455 000 for Child Welfare

RADIO 702’s "Radiothon", launched to raise money to help cash-strapped child welfare services in the FFW area, had raised R455 000 by 8:30 pm last night.

The amount included a R25 000 donation from Pirk ‘n Pay, R1 000 from the "Nova" Turtle" Richmond Child Welfare Society which needs to raise R500 000 by December 31 or close or cut off child care services.

It was launched during "Newstalk" with Chris Gibbons yesterday afternoon and continues today.

The radio station will allocate the money raised to 20 child welfare services operating in the FFW area.

The 702 Child Welfare Radiothon resumed at 7am this morning with Barry Ronge. It will continue during most of today and listeners are advised to tune in for updates on how much has been collected and how much is still needed to ensure happier futures for thousands of neglected, abandoned and abused children.

Dr Adie Thomas, executive director of the JCS’s, said the society may be forced to seek foster parents for some children presently accommodated in the three children’s homes threatened with closure or curtailment.

Dr Thomas said the options of adoption and fostering are closed to many children accommodated in children’s homes because they have structured environments with constant therapy and psychological counselling in order to overcome emotional problems which result from severe physical or sexual abuse.

Sue Olswang

FROM PAGE 1

702 on top

The JCS, said recent media attention and public protest have been effective in putting the plight of children in the spotlight.

"It will have to be effective," said Dr Thomas, who said he was encouraged to see the community rally around the children.

He said while the JCS has received a total of R320 000, meaning that the children’s homes will not be closed, the funds will only go towards their operating costs.

Dr Thomas said the JCS’s target is to have R600 000 in the bank by the end of the year to ensure its financial stability.

The JCS is planning to hire more social workers, who will be trained to help implement mind-mapping techniques that will help children deal with their emotional trauma.

The JCS is also planning to establish a children’s hospital to provide medical care for children who have been physically or sexually abused.

Sue Olswang

FROM PAGE 1

702 on top

R10 000 per annum.

The JCS will have to be effective in ensuring that the children’s homes remain open.

"We have to make sure that the children’s homes remain open," said Dr Thomas, who added that the JCS is currently looking into options for alternative placements for children who cannot be placed in the current homes.

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702 on top

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Children
Street
For The
New Home
POOR

By SÔPHIE TEMA

PARENTS suffer when they are forced to allow their children to work on farms. They know the children are badly treated, but have no option when they cannot afford to feed and clothe them.

Child labour is not uncommon on Western Transvaal maize and groundnut farms. In some instances the children are paid in bags of unground mealies.

Parents who spoke to City Press this week said most of the child workers were collected from villages near Kuruman in the Northern Cape. Children from the ages of 10 to 17 were taken to work on farms, and sometimes adults joined the recruits because of the poverty and unemployment in their villages.

The recruits were picked up at collection points at poverty-stricken villages such as Seloja (Stough); Padoe, known as Pepsi by the villagers; Lacyx and Dearham. The children stayed on the farms for between three and five months.

The children claim they slept on mealie bags on the cement floors of unused barns while on the farms. Sometimes they were forced to use the same barns as mealie storage.

A man was hired and girls were often sexually exploited by the “boss.”

Saratie Mashube, who lives in Dearham, said her daughter was recruited to harvest mealies on a farm in Leudringstad in April this year. “My daughter was away for almost four months and when she returned, she had 16 bags of unground mealies.

“What is worse, my daughter had her arm broken by a man. A case was brought against the assaulter, but the farmer intervened and nothing came of it. I have sent her away, but she will come back next year to be in the village when the recruitment starts.

“I cannot stop her from going back because the mealies are our only source of survival,” she said.

Kulwane Minah Mekonela, a mother of four young children, said she joined the recruit in March because her husband died about three years ago, leaving her to fend for the family. She worked on a groundnut farm for three months. She was paid R3 a day.

“After the harvest, I went to work on a potato farm, but I was paid nothing. The farmer told me I had worked for my transpot back to the village.

“I cannot afford to send my children to school. We haven’t enough food to keep us alive,” she said.

Phillip Motswawungwe, of Padoe, said he was forced by circumstances to join the recruits. “I was forced to do something to keep my wife and children alive. I can’t look for work in town because we have to pay R12 a single trip by bus or taxi to Kuruman.” He also has no choice but to join the farm recruits again next year.

Paid in Kind for Back-breaking Work...
RADIO LISTENERS DIG DEEP FOR CHILDREN

Sunday Times Reporter

A radio telethon to raise pocket money, pledged by pre-schoolers to funds for the cash-strapped Johannesburg Child Welfare Society met its target of R1-million in just over 16 hours of air-time.

The society needed to raise R400 000 to avoid curtailing some of its vital services.

Thousands of telephone donations to the Radio 702

R1 in pocket money
R30 000 from Investec Bank, R25 000 from Pick 'n Pay and R15 000 from Checkers management and staff were made from 8pm on Friday. The telethon was extended yesterday afternoon, when the total shortly after 8pm was R390 000.

Just two hours later, the magic target of R1-million
Radio station raises R1-m in pledges for child welfare

By Paula Fray

Radio 702’s radiothon raised R1 million in pledges — well above their initial target of R400 000 — as “generous 702-landers” dug deep in their pockets to help child welfare this weekend.

According to 702 weekend news editor Denis Smith, the R1 million was raised during the 24-hour fundraising session which began on Friday and ended late on Saturday.

The radiothon was marked by the appearances of several personalities from the entertainment and business world while several humorous and earnest pledges were made. The station’s hosts and disc-jockeys manned the microphones to appeal for funds while the phones were manned by several Jaycee volunteers.

Pledges included R50 from childless couples who challenged others to do the same, while school children pledged their pocket money. Radio Five and Radio 702 also buried the hatchet during the radiothon to promote child welfare.

Overwhelmed

Mr Smith said the money would go to the “child welfare societies of 702-land”.

“We were overwhelmed with the generosity of the ordinary people,” he said.

The station was spurred into action with the news of the plight of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society which needs to raise R350 000 by December 31 or close or curtail vital child care services.

JCWS executive director Adele Thomas said the organisation was very excited by results of the radiothon which she said, had been organised within three days.

“Certainly if the money pledged does come in it will help solve our immediate crisis,” Dr Thomas said.

Staff from the organisation yesterday drew up invoices which would be sent to all those who had pledged during the radiothon while several companies still had to confirm their pledges. The money will help 28 child welfare societies.”

4 000 neglected children's future uncertain

Sue OLZWANG

The futures of more than 4 000 neglected, abused and abandoned children are hanging in the balance because the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS) is struggling to raise funds to maintain a number of its vital child-care services.

Threatened with closure or drastic curtailment if substantial financial assistance is not urgently received are three children's homes — which house 121 children — and the society's Field Services Section, which deals with more than 4 000 abused and neglected children.

The fate of these services was due to be decided at an executive committee meeting on Thursday but the decision has been delayed until tomorrow in the hope that sufficient funds will be received.

Curtailment

Dr Adele Thomas, executive director of the society, said the JCWS will be forced to start working on a closing down and curtailment blueprint if its present fund-raising efforts do not succeed in raising the required amount of money.

Fund raising manager Caroline van Rooyen told Saturday Star the society needs close to R100 000 in order to maintain the threatened services.

She said. "Just over R2 000 has been received so far, largely as a result of the appeal screened on M-Net's 'Carte Blanche' programme last Sunday.

Overburdened

"We've been overwhelmed by the reaction to our financial crisis and we're hoping we can sustain this momentum because we still need R400 000 to get out of the red."

Dr Thomas said a massive gap will be left unfilled if the society is forced to close or curtail its services. The society's field work services, in which social workers investigate cases of child abuse and neglect, deal with more than 4 000 children.

"It is the State's responsibility to care for abused and neglected children but private organisations have been provid-
Fourfold rise in children hit by AIDS

The number of AIDS-infected children in SA increased fourfold this year, figures released yesterday by the National Health Department show.

All 54 children reported to have AIDS this year were black and had received the virus from their mothers. Last year 14 cases of children with AIDS were reported.

According to the department’s latest update, an additional 39 AIDS cases were reported during November, bringing the total for this year to 231.

The figures showed a total of 574 AIDS cases since 1982, of whom 262 (46%) had died.

This year alone there had been 51 AIDS-related deaths, 12 of them during November.

By December 3 this year, 201 AIDS cases had been reported in Johannesburg, 41 in Soweto, 36 in Durban, 36 in KwaZulu and 70 in Cape Town. Bloemfontein reported 12 of the Free State’s 22 cases.

The heterosexual spread of AIDS became increasingly evident with 119 new cases reported this year, compared with 47 homosexuals or bisexuals—all whites—who contracted the disease this year.

Among the black population, 116 heterosexual cases were reported this year.

There was now a total of 434 men and 159 women with AIDS. The sex of one case was unknown.
There is an alarming increase in the use of child labour in Mitchells Plain, Cape Town’s largest dormitory suburb.

This is the view of Mitchells Plain Crisis and Advice Office worker, Mr Claude Mullins.

Mullins said the use of children as domestic labourers and in small businesses in the area was on the upswing and the office was presently dealing with several cases.

In the most recent incident, a 13-year-old boy, Krisjan Lottering, ran away after his employer, a local garage owner, refused to pay him.

Lottering claimed he and another child were picked up on their way to a shop in their home town of Rawsonville at the beginning of last month and offered jobs in Cape Town.

He said although he was promised R60 a week, the money did not materialise and he ran away.

He is one of about 14 destitute children presently staying at the Lighthouse children’s shelter in Strandfontein.

Lighthouse houseparent, Mr Andrew Lucas, said the home was bracing itself for an influx of children over the festive season, although its funds allowed for a maximum of 16 children.

The South African Domestic Workers’ Union (Sadwu) is assisting with Lottering’s case.

Investigating

Sadwu is also investigating the case of a 15-year-old girl who was found dazed and bleeding in the road earlier this month by a Mitchells Plain minister who did not want to be named.

The girl, who also comes from the Boland, told the minister she had been assaulted by her employer, a mobile shop operator in Strandfontein.

She has since run away and Sadwu and the minister are desperately trying to find her.

Mitchells Plain is not the only Cape Town suburb whose child labour cases have come to light.

Employment of minors is reported to be rife in both Rylands Estate and Cravendby and several cases have made newspaper headlines this year.
Home for the destitute

Sipho is 10 years' old. He has been a street child from the day he decided to leave his home about two years ago. He left his home because his parents were unemployed; drank too much and never cared for him.

The only clothes he has are those he is wearing, which are dirty and torn, and he never washes. He makes a living in Hillbrow sometimes directing motorists towards parking lots, cleaning the boerewors rolls kiosk outside Checkers or just begging.

Every evening between 8 and 9 some white people park at the corner of Quartz and Pretoria streets with soup and bread, so he can eat there.

'Sniffing'

Though he knows about the Twilight Children's Home, for now he prefers not to go there because "those people will want to control my life and they will tell me to go back home".

When he is not "working" he spends time with other street children either sniffing glue or smoking cigarette stubs they pick up from the streets.

There are at least 400 other boys like Sipho, who are driven away from their homes by social, economic and political situations such as unemployment, lack of recreational facilities, the education crisis, violence and child abuse.

But since the Twilight Children Organisation was formed in 1984 and other organisations concerned about street children, many of them have been assured a meal everyday, shelter and some have been rehabilitated and reunited with their families.

More hope

There is more hope for these boys now that the organisation, in association with the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society and many helpers, has found a permanent home for them in Hillbrow.

The home, a four-storey building previously owned by Wits University, already accommodates about 80 street children from the Hillbrow area. There are two other shelters in Johannesburg accommodating about 50 children each.

The chairman of Twilight Children, Mr. Peter Fitzgerald, explained how the home will function during its official opening.

"When boys move in, they will be given basic accommodation in the shelter. A social worker will be brought in to talk to the boy and inquire about his particular case," he said.

"When the boy has stabilised at the shelter the aim is to persuade him to return to his family. While at the shelter he is given all the basic necessities, including recreational activities. He is expected to attend education classes."

The boys, who have no family to return to, are provided with long-term accommodation. They are sent to formal schools and the organisation is building a programme of skills and job orientation for them.

However, the building as old as it is still requires renovation and funds towards the general running of the home.

One of the companies that have responded to the call for donations is the Carlton Hotel.

Donations may be sent to Twilight Children, PO Box 790, Johannesburg. Donors may Mrs. Jane Pitchford at 783-1011.
Innocent Children Affected
Child Welfare out of the red?

THE financially beleaguered Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS) will be out of the red — at least temporarily — if it receives all the money pledged to it during last weekend's Radio 702 Child Welfare Radiothon.

Exactly R1 million was pledged by 702 listeners during the Radiothon, which was organised to raise funds for 28 child welfare services operating in the PWV area.

Caroline van Rooyen, fund-raising manager for the JCWS, told Saturday Star the society had received about R120 000 of the pledged money by yesterday.

"We are extremely grateful to the public for responding so generously," she said, adding that the donations were a concrete sign of appreciation for the vital child-care services provided by the society.

Miss van Rooyen said the JCWS was hopeful that it will move out of the red if it receives all the money pledged during the Radiothon.

"Public generosity has allowed us to shelve our plans to curtail or close certain services, which were threatened by our need to raise R300 000 by the end of this month," she said.

"Being out of the red is not however, the end of our problem. We need to build our financial resources to help ensure that we are not in the same position in three or four months time.

"People have been wonderful during this time of crisis, but we do need on-going financial help. We still need to raise R21 000 a day in order to maintain our services or we will just go back into deficit again."

Miss van Rooyen appealed to the public to "think of the future and remember child welfare on an ongoing basis".
Desperation causing more black babies to be abandoned.
Some more from the Don Bosco

Some more from the Don Bosco

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Some more from the Don Bosco
It became clear that the biggest problem was education, because you can’t take children off the street and expect them to be evident.

The Homestead and Patrick’s House had started an internal programme called Learn To Live, but this was difficult, said Brother Peter, “because it depended on vol-

INDOOR STROLLERS: The children in this picture come to the Don Bosco Centre straight off the streets.

TAKING THE PLUNGE: It was the swimming pool that first attracted street children to the Salesian Institute. Now it’s a part of their daily activities between classes.

 Poor self-image

Because the children come in, often, with a poor self-image, classes are informal.

“It’s an alternative, non-formal school as opposed to a formal structure with all its discipline and regulations. Instead of desks, they sit informally on chairs around a table, and we teach them in small groups.”

There are five full-time paid teachers and several volunteers and the Don Bosco Centre receives some R2 000 a month from the Community Chest to help cover expenses.

“It’s a high staff-to-pupil ratio but this is necessary under the circumstances.”

Those kids coming straight off the street are given breakfast, while all the children are given lunch. From 9am to 11am the lessons are “more or less academic”. Then they have a swimming break, a games and sports period and lunch, after which they go back to class for practical subjects like woodwork, clay-modeling, needlework and...
Child Welfare plans for future

Johannesburg Child Welfare Society director Dr Adele Thomas responds to criticism of fund-raising methods. SHIRLEY WOODGATE reports.

THIS week South African Institute of Fundraising chief David Cuthbert tilted at methods employed by organisations relying mainly on charity.

Prompted by the 702 Radiothon run on behalf of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, he suggested this method worked best in a crisis, but that the organisation's head, Dr Adele Thomas, would be backed for more in six months' time unless a businesslike long-term strategy was adopted.

Dr Thomas, however, has stressed that the Radiothon was not organised to offset a R600,000 debt but an anticipated deficit by the end of the financial year in March 1991 "should the current level of services offered by the society be maintained with no additional funding being forthcoming".

By early this week the Radiothon had achieved a 40 percent response rate.

"It is essentially because the JCWS has a strategic plan and close budgetary control that the possibility of being R600,000 short was timously identified and that suitable remedial action was taken," she said.

Dismissing Mr Cuthbert's "assumption that the JCWS lacked a businesslike long-term strategy" as "arrogant and irresponsible", she added: "I most certainly agree with his statement that fund-raising should be approached in a businesslike manner. To that end the JCWS has developed a strategic programme comprising direct mail, an endowment scheme and bequest programme, systematic approaches to corporate donors (big and small), sourcing product donations as a form of savings and instituting a systematic fund-raising programme in schools.

"We have also recently instituted a planned fund-raising programme in bowels. All these plans have been detailed and documented and are monitored on a monthly basis.

"I would stress these fund-raising activities occur within the society. We employ no outside fund-raising consultancy; such as the one with which Mr Cuthbert is associated, as we have found the fees charged could be more cost-effectively spent in direct services to the abused, abandoned and neglected children in the greater Johannesburg area," Dr Thomas said.
Radiothon ensures children's welfare

SUE OLSWANG

Generous contributions from radio listeners in the PWV area have helped to ensure brighter futures for thousands of severely neglected, abused and abandoned children.

Vital services provided to hundreds of these children by the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS) can now continue to operate, at least for the moment, on the R420,000 received by the society after a recent Child Welfare Radiothon.

A total sum of R1 million was pledged by listeners when the independent radio station, 702, held a Child Welfare Radiothon on December 7 and 8 to raise funds for the JCWS and other child welfare societies operating in the PWV area.

Dr Adele Thomas, executive director of the JCWS, said the society was extremely grateful to Radio 702 and its listeners. She appealed to listeners who pledged money, "no matter how small", to honour their pledges. The society, she said, needed to raise R21,000 every day in order to maintain its services.
Radiothon ensures children’s welfare

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The society, she said, needed to raise R12 000 every day in order to maintain its services.

Germans give hungry R3,2-m

SUE OLSWANG

THE German government has given R3,2 million to help fill the stomachs of thousands who would face a bleak and hungry Christmas without assistance from Operation Hunger.

"The interim or emergency grant from the German government comes on top of the incredible response we've received from the South African public," said Ian Perlmutter, executive director of Operation Hunger.

The R3,2 million from the German government plus R1 million from the South African public should tide us over until the end of February next year. It also means we can increase our feeding and can now take on the 400 000 people who were on our waiting list.

Mrs Perlman said 200 000 of the people on the waiting list were from the eastern Cape and Transkei area, 100 000 from KwaZulu and the rest "scattered countrywide".

She said the feeding scheme, which at present spends R1,6 million every month to meet the basic feeding requirements of 1.3 million people (these figures exclude self-help schemes), will be feeding about 1.7 million people by January.

"Our country is in a crisis. The year 1991 will one of not only maximum unemployment due to the economic recession but also of maximum hunger due to the drought. Unemployment is constantly burgeoning."

"Many families become destitute when sole breadwinners are retrenched and the constant stream of appeals for help will certainly continue," she said.

• The following retrenchments or impending retrenchments were among those reported in Operation Hunger's most recent newsletter: Gans Foods in the Strand, Cape, intends retrenching 1 000 seasonal workers from January 1991; approximately 2 000 workers will lose their jobs when the Frame Group closes two factories in East London and a plant in Harrismith; Mercedes-Benz has advised that it will lay off 825 employees (15 percent of the workforce); about 5000 non-workers had lost their jobs by September this year and another 71 000 face retrenchment with the threatened closure of marginal mines; Armscor will cut its workforce by 9 000 in September this year; approximately 14 000 workers were retrenched in the engineering industry between January and August this year.
mass deaths of young people

United Nations calls for end to

NEW YORK - The UN
Gangsters ‘rampaged through home’

Bicycles and had progressed to shop-lifting and rape.

Captain Ivy Mntambo, in charge of the home at the time of the first attack at 2am on December 25, said she was woken by the night watchman, Mr Phakathi, who warned her people were breaking in at the back door. As staff and girls — ranging in age from three to 19 — tried to prevent the break-in, Mr Phakathi was attacked by a group of between 20 and 30 boys. The girls started screaming and the boys broke into two groups. One group carried on attacking Mr Phakathi and the others went for the girls and the staff in dormitories. Some of us ran into my flat and locked ourselves in.

“The boys started breaking windows and smashing doors, using fire extinguishers. More terrified girls crammed into my flat. The boys broke down the dormitory door and we could hear them pulling things down, looking for the girls.

“They then started smashing the small window, while we were pushing, trying to stop them gaining access. But it gave in and they forced us to open the door.”

Captain Mntambo said she asked the young men what was wrong and what they wanted. They told her they wanted “all the girls outside now.”

Some made their way into the dormitories through the ceiling. The girls were screaming. It was confusion. I kept on asking them not to harm us, but they ransacked my flat, taking money and clothing. They started dragging some of the girls out of my flat.

“The mentally-retarded girl was held up by one boy holding a broken bottle. She did not make a sound, just stood there, terrified. I tried to explain to the boy the girl was not well, and the girl asked me what she must do. I could only say there was nothing I could do,” Captain Mntambo said, and broke down crying.

The gang then abducted 10 girls and raped them at Phumulongs station. They returned later, ransacking the premises and cutting the telephone line.

Captain Mntambo said she had earlier managed to phone the police as “the mob” was busy breaking the security gate. She said it was a long time before the police answered.

Yesterday broken glass, ripped clothing and bedding and smashed furniture covered the floor.

The Salvation Army will install an electronic security system but cannot afford 24-hour guards with dogs at a cost of more than R10 000 a month.

A belated Christmas party will be given for the girls this Sunday. Their clothes must be replaced.

Donations can be sent to the Salvation Army, Box 1018, Johannesburg 2000.
Plea over donations

The Johannesburg Child Welfare Society has appealed to people who have promised donations during a radiothon to honour their pledges.

It said in a statement it had received R120,000 of the R1 million pledged by Radio 702 listeners during the fundraising effort on December 7 and 8.

The society had forecast a deficit of R600,000 and said if the money was not raised by December 31 services to abused children would be curtailed.

It helps about 70,000 children a month.

"We are calling upon those listeners who pledged any monies, no matter how big or how small, to honour those pledges which would help to see the society over its immediate financial crisis," it said. - Supa.
Vlok thanks residents for rape arrests

Weekend Argus Correspondent and Sapa

JOHANNESBURG. — Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok has expressed thanks to Soweto residents who arrested eight alleged rapists, but warned against vigilantism or taking the law into one's own hands.

He said such actions, when carried out within the ambit of the law, could only strengthen the "bond" between the police and the community. Such actions held the key to fighting crime successfully in any country.

Police said yesterday that residents had handed over eight people in connection with the attack, abduction and rape of young Soweto girls.

A 22-man gang forced their way into the Bethany Salvation Army home on Christmas Day and terrorized the 72 residents before abducting nine girls. Six of the girls were gang-raped.

Last girl found alive

Eight girls made their own way back to the residence. The last girl was found alive yesterday. Her brother had tracked her down to a distant relative's house where she was crying hysterically. She was admitted to hospital and treated for shock.

Mr Vlok said public participation in the prevention and handling of crime was an essential ingredient without which no police force could operate.

A greater police presence, including more police on the beat, are among steps Mr Vlok is expected to announce as part of a comprehensive crime-busting campaign to be launched in the new year.

On the Day of Goodwill, when news of the abduction and rape hit Soweto, a group of men from the community stood up and said: "No more. This is enough."

Incensed by the deplorable act of the gang — which calls itself The Zebra Force (ZBF) — Mr Mandy Masina, a self-employed father of three, and members of the Merabe Draft Club, called an emergency Killarney Civic Association (KCA) meeting to discuss the issue.

Mr Masina said the community had decided to put an end to this kind of thuggery after it was discovered that police had not gone on an all-out effort to capture ZBF members, even after the abduction and rapes.

"This is the first incident of its kind in this area and we decided it was up to us to act and stop the rot," Mr Masina said.

At the KCA meeting, 10 men volunteered to go on a manhunt to capture the rapists. In 20 minutes, the volunteers had found four suspects.

"We took them to the home where they were identified by the girls. The four were confessed to the crime and pointed out the girls they had raped. We then took the gang members to show us where the others gangsters were and the place where they had raped the girls."

Abducted schoolgirl found alive

JOHANNESBURG. — The 16-year-old Soweto schoolgirl who went missing after youths abducted nine girls from the Bethany Salvation Army home on Christmas Day, gang-raping six of them, was yesterday found alive.

Colonel June Dwyer, second in command of the Salvation Army in South Africa, said last night that the girl's brother had tracked her down to a distant relative's home in Diepkloof where she was crying hysterically.

She was admitted yesterday afternoon to Baragwanath Hospital where she is being treated for shock.

All the other abducted girls made their own way back to the Salvation Army and five were admitted to Baragwanath for two days.

A 22-member gang forced their way into the Salvation Army residence on Christmas Day, and terrorised the 72 residents before abducting nine girls.

The youths battered the nightwatchman with bricks and stabbed a Salvation Army officer.

Eight members of the gang, known as the Zebra Force, aged between 13 and 16, were arrested on Thursday night after 10 residents and police scoured the surrounding township and uncovered their hideout.

The residents — appointed by the community to hunt for the gangsters — have vowed to track down about eight more youths who were also involved.

Law and Order Minister Mr Adriaan Vlok last night thanked the residents who arrested the alleged rapists, but warned against vigilantism or taking the law into one's own hands.
Abduction: Dormitory: A girl was abducted on Christmas night. A Salvation Army officer in the dormitory of a compound on a Soweto home from which three girls were abducted on Christmas night.

Vera: The newspaper soon reported that the disappearances were the result of a plot by the police to protect their interests.

Mr. Phumzani said: "The government should investigate claims against emotional abuse in the dormitory. We need to protect the children and ensure that they are treated fairly."

Cape Times, Saturday, December 29, 1990.