SOCIAL SECURITY — CHILD CARE

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Teaching street kids court in the act

A new game for street children teaches them their rights in court —a confusing system through which their progress, as offenders, often seems governed by factors as mysterious and arbitrary as the roll of dice

By **GAYE DAVIS**



An arresting activity ... Children play a new game geared to teach them their rights **Photo: GUY TILLIM**

IN a large, sunny room in Patrick's House, a Cape Town shelter for street children, a group of youngsters huddled over a table shake, rattle and roll two pairs of dice.

To the casual observer, they might be playing Monopoly. Amid urgings to "*Skiet, man!* (Shoot, man)" and squabbles over the exact fall of the dice, the players move their markers from square to square around a brightly coloured board.

But they are learning something about their rights in a criminal justice system in which the odds are invariably stacked against them.

Ismail Whittle, 13, has so far had the misfortune to be "arrested" while "helping a lady with her handbag" and is now making slow progress through the maze of squares on the board. His marker lies on a square signifying that he has tried phoning home to tell of his arrest — but that no one is home. He'll have to miss a turn.

Desmond Cupido, 13, is still enjoying the freedom of "the street". Like the other players, he too started with his marker on a yellow square denoting a legitimate job, such as "washing glasses in a shebeen", "selling peaches" or "working as a cashier" His throws have led him to more nefarious activities, such as "looking after someone's radio", "trying to get money back from a tickey box" or "helping yourself to sweets" So far, though, he's been able to evade arrest — but it's literally only a dice-throw away. Represented by a yellow plasticine van complete with aerial and blue-bead light, the police cruise the board — and if they land in his street, he'll be caught.

Unless, that is, he manages to land on a green square, or "hidey-hole", which Chris Frances, 15, has just done. But Chris' triumph at escaping the clutches of the boys in blue is short-lived. His next throw means leaving his haven. The police-van — siren sound-effects provided by the other players — bears down on him. Arrested for "taking someone's bike for a ride", Chris finds himself in police cells.

On the brink of entering the criminal justice system, he must now consider a range of options. Landing on a red square could mean missing a turn because "it's a long weekend" (and he won't be processed for days) or he's been caught "giving a false name", or "contradicting himself". Far better to aim for a yellow square, which could mean "your dad comes to court", "you contact legal aid", or "you wear a smart suit", in which case he will get a card. Later, Chris can cash in the card in lieu of rolling the dice, thus making sure he lands on squares offering him the best options of all, such as his prosecution being halted, or his release into the care of his parents

A lot also depends on whether Chris chooses to plead guilty, in which case his passage through the system will be relatively quick. But it will also leave him with a record, with disadvantages if he lands in court again.

Called Court in the Act, the game was devised by designer and illustrator Peni van Sittert, in collaboration with Anne Schuster, a researcher at the Institute of Criminology at the University of Cape Town.

Schuster was casting about for ways of making information about their legal rights more accessible to children, when Van Sittert came up with the idea of a game.

"More than 40 000 children are convicted in juvenile court each year," said Schuster. "Less than 10 percent of these children have legal representation. The rest — most of whom are from disadvantaged backgrounds — are put in a position where, as under-educated children, they must present a defence in a trial led by a prosecutor with two university degrees."

For this reason, the primary emphasis of the game is educational — but with a bias towards fun, to cater for limited education and attention-spans.

On "the street", Van Sittert's cartoon characters engage in activities readily indulged in by street-children, and for which they often find themselves under arrest, such as loitering In the game, however, this activity is described as "wondering where to go next", or "waiting for a connection" — defences regularly raised by children picked up on loitering charges, according to Schuster.

"The game attempts to deal with the confusion that most children experience in court, in a fun and engrossing manner," she said "It can be used by social workers, probation officers, child-care workers and parents — as well as the children themselves."

Said Van Sittert: "I knew I had to make it a team-game Otherwise, because of illiteracy, only a small percentage of children would get anything out of it"

One team represents the police, the other, the people. If the police manage to get everyone "inside" at the same time, they win. If the people manage to have everyone safe in a hidey-hole at one time, they win.

So far, Schuster and Van Sittert have played the game with children at a number of street shelters and places of safety in Cape Town. Now in its final draft stages, they're assessing whether it needs further refining or simplification before making it available.

For Desiree Hansson, the institute's director, the game represents "an ideal way of reaching the children. They're often disillusioned, with their experience of school and angry with welfare workers trying to get them back to school where they don't want to be.

"This is a new way of facilitating learning, through active participation in a fun activity which speaks to their life experiences."

Heather Lewis, a social worker at the Claremont Children's Shelter, who has herself found juvenile court an intimidating and confusing place, sees the game as an exciting intervention.

Back at Patrick's House, where the game is reaching a noisy conclusion, Mogamat Wittle, 14, considers awhile before giving his opinion: "It's *lekker*," he says. "It shows how *swaar* (heavy) it is in there."

Sex abuse: Cop to be prosecuted

CT 2/9/92 298 265

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

A FORMER Child Protection Unit detective is to be prosecuted for allegedly sexually abusing a 14-year-old schoolgirl while he was investigating her case of molestation by a schoolteacher.

The 26-year-old policeman, who was a detective sergeant in the Cape Town branch of the unit until May this year, will be charged with having sexual relations and committing an indecent act with a female under 16.

Future

Police liaison officer Captain Attie Laubscher said the policeman would not be suspended as a result of the prosecution. He has been transferred to another unit and promoted.

The policeman's future in the police force will be decided after the case has been heard in court.

The parents of the schoolgirl initially laid a complaint of sexual assault against a teacher.

A police investigation was launched when the girl's parents later laid a complaint of indecent assault against the policeman.

Decision

The result of the investigation was referred to the attorney-general, and acting Cape attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn took the decision to prosecute the policeman.

A date has not been set for the case, which will be heard in the Wynberg Magistrate's Court.

Now it's a haven for the needy

298 (299)

By Abdul Milazi

STAR 3/9/92

What started as a personal favour to the elderly people of De Weldt, north of Pretoria, is now a thriving community project and a haven for more than 200 needy children.

In 1979 Flora Matlou gave food to the elderly people who came to collect their pension at her shop. Little did she know that the De Weldt community problems would soon be hers.

"Pensioners sometimes waited for the whole day for their pension and all this time they were hungry. I felt I should do something to help them. I started by giving them soup and bread," said Mrs Matlou.

She then opened a soup kitchen and fed pensioners daily.

"The kitchen was doing well but there were other problems. There were children who were underfed and some whose parents could not afford to send them to a day-care centre.

"I then converted my storeroom into what is now the Itumeleng Day Care Centre. Things were tough from the beginning. Most of the parents

'Indecent assault': Anger after charges against cop

(298) South 5/9-9/9/92.

By Edwina Booysen

A NUMBER of organisations have responded with anger to reports that a member of the police's Child Protection Unit is to face charges for allegedly indecently assaulting a 14-year-old girl during an investigation.

There is also controversy because the policeman has not been suspended from the force, but has been transferred to another unit — and promoted.

Safeline director Rev Bruce Duncan said the case reinforced the organisation's view that no-one can work alone in this field.

"Support and supervision by qualified people are needed constantly," he said.

Ms Pat Anderson, the co-ordinator of Women in Law and Development: Feminist Resource and Education (Wildfire), said: "It is a classic situation of abuse of power. Maybe one needs a protection unit to protect children from the child protection unit," she said.

Ms Mardot Lochrenberg, counselling co-ordinator for Rape Crisis, said: "It is actually appalling. How can children trust the police if a policeman is capable of such an act?

"The fact that charges are being brought against the officer proves that there is enough evidence to warrant the court procedings," she said.

Lochrenberg said the promotion of the policeman had to be questioned.

"It is a very important issue. If police say they want to gain the support of the community they have to take a clear view on the sort of image they project," she said.

The assistant director of the Department of Health Services and Health Care, Mrs Katie Dempers, said it was "despicable".

But she said a child molestor should not be ostracised from the community, but given counselling to help him.

A police spokesperson, Colonel Anthony Dewhurst, said the policeman was removed from the Child Protection Unit (CPU) as soon as the allegations had been made.

"The officer was promoted before this business happened. To take his rank away he has to face a board of inquiry and that is subject to the outcome of the court case," Dewhurst said.

"The CPU has had a marvellous success rate and does marvellous work. It is unfortunate that this had to happen," Dewhurst said.

The case will be heard in the Wynberg Magistrate Court at a date still to be set.

Violence creates kids without a future

By FRED KHUMALO Argus 6/9/92

A MONTH ago Folweni High school on the Natal south coast was a hive of activity with at least 600 eager pupils poring studiously over books or buzzing around the premises during their lunch break.

But now all that remains of the school is a rickety structure with smoke-blackened walls and a missing roof, a sad reminder of the fire-bomb attack on the school during last month's IFP-ANC clashes.

A spooky silence hangs over the school . . . and the township.

The children, like other residents, have fled the township and are taking refuge in tents which have been pitched on no-man's land at Isipingo beach.

Their plight illustrates a crisis presently gripping Natal.

With only one month to go before exams begin, at least 30 schools have been closed – with bleak prospects of re-opening for exams – because of the violence.

"It seems like this will be another wasted academic year," said southern Natal ANC spokesman Dumisani Makhaye, who expressed concern at the fact that every time the fighting starts, education happens to be the "first casualty".

An attack by balaclava-clad men on the ANC-supporting Malukazi squatter camp near Umlazi township last weekend, brought to 17 the number of people who died in political violence in just two days in the province.

In Wembesi, near Escourt, and areas surrounding the tiny northern Natal township, at least six schools were forced to close down as early as April this year following sporadic clashes.

"Children in IFP-supporting areas in Wembesi have been hardest hit," said IFP information officer Ed Tillet.

"They have been stopped from going to school and hundreds of children will not be able to write exams. If they do write exams, the results will be a human tragedy."

In areas around Newcastle and Vryheid at least five schools have been experiencing problems and have been forced to close a few times this year, thus wasting hundreds of hours of learning time.

On the north coast, in areas surrounding Empangeni, including Sikhawini and Ngwelezane townships, four schools have been forced to shut their doors as a result of the eruptions of violence, the most recent being an attack three weeks ago on Umbuso WabaThethwa High school by people said to be IFP members.

"In the ensuing battle, one male pupil was killed right on the school premises. Children have not been going to school ever since. It is very unsafe," said northern Natal ANC spokesman Zipho Mkhize.

On July 28 pupils from Khombindlela High School in Ngwelezane marched to the ANC offices in Empangeni asking the organisation to intervene to end the attacks on the school by IFP-inclined marauders who have been attacking pupils for the past few months.

In areas around Port Shepstone, at least 10 schools have been closed down. Prospects of them being reopened for exams are slim because the fighting is escalating.

However, the IFP is in the process of setting up a school project for refugees, especially designed for matric candidates who have to write external exams in October.

The project, however, is still being established and will only come into fruition in a few weeks. It has also not yet been established which parts of the province it will cover.

Makhaye believes the emergency measures taken to cater for children who have to write external exams won't offer a permanent solution.

Makhaye said: "I imagine that those schools for refugees will have to be based in neutral areas which are unaffected by violence, areas such as cities and towns. The obvious problem with that is of a socio-economic nature. The children will need bus fares to travel to and from those schools. Where is the money going to come from? Remember, these people lost everything when their houses were burnt down."

Both IFP and ANC spokesmen agree that the education crisis cannot be solved before a political solution to the violence has been devised.

"Freedom of political activity should be zealously defended by all organisations party to the peace treaties," said Makhaye.

He said the policing of the townships should be done by the SA Police aided by forces deployed by the United Nations "if the fires of political violence are to be extinguished once and for all".

The IFP's Tillet offers another solution: "The politicians should get their act together. Our leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi says until ANC president Nelson Mandela agrees to meet him and they address joint rallies, there won't be any peace. The education crisis will only deepen and this society will produce a generation without a future."

PEOPLE'S LIVES *67-year-old woman's efforts benefit children and unemployed in their struggles*

A symbol of hope in Vaal Triangle

Sowetan 7/9/92

■ ONE ROOF

Single-handedly, she runs a multi-purpose centre:

Woman of the Week

298

By Lulama Luti

THE difference between the building and a shack is its size and the fact that it houses several projects.

The shack is divided into about seven rooms for both adults and children.

This has become home and a symbol of hope for the unemployed as they struggle for survival in the disorder brought about by the violence which has plagued the Vaal Triangle.

The shack is a realisation of the dream of 67-year-old Mrs Edith Morake of a fully-functioning multi-purpose centre at Evaton in the Vaal Triangle.

"We live from hand to mouth. Ever since I started about 20 years ago, I've had to make do with what good Samaritans have to offer," Morake said.

Under one roof, Morake runs a creche and projects for sewing, knitting and gardening.

Almost single-handedly, Morake runs Ebenezer Child Care Centre and other self-help projects under the umbrella of Bonginkosi.

"The violence has affected us badly. Parents have pulled out their children and some can't afford the R30 school fee But we can't chase the children away," she said.

A qualified child-minder, Morake helped set up the first Children's Village in the Transvaal in 1989.

This project, sponsored to the tune of R2,3 million, has been home and a source of hope to street children in the Vaal Triangle.

"I was orphaned at a very early age and I know how much pain underprivileged children go through," said Morake.

She explained that Bonginkosi started off as a feeding scheme for children attending nearby farm schools.

"We got together as a group of women and distributed soup and bread to the farm schools. But the project has since progressed to being a support group in which the women collect items of clothing, which they donate to the creche, as well as handling other projects under the wing of Bonginkosi," she said.

Her concern at the moment is to get money to make improvements to the existing building so that it provides more space for unemployed people.

"Our biggest problem is that we don't have facilities. The shack we are using needs electricity. The plan for the extension has been approved but our biggest problem is money," said Morake.

Morake now qualifies for the *Sowetan*/Eskom Woman of the Year Award.



Mrs Edith Morake

Critical shortage of funds for child care

298

STAR 8/9/92

By Shirley Woodgate

Training for child-care workers in children's homes is in jeopardy as the financial crisis facing the country's social welfare services deepens, says National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) assistant director Jacqui Michael.

Hit by a desperate shortage of funds at a time when specialised training is most needed to tackle challenging new welfare needs, the NACCW itself has been forced to cut its complement to only eight countrywide, she said.

Launched 17 years ago, the organisation provides social workers and child-care workers with training which is unobtainable elsewhere.

The NACCW also focuses on policy issues, urging State responsibility for training welfare workers and proper recognition of child and youth care as an emergent profession.

The training role, which is provided without government assistance, is even more vital in the light of the changing needs of welfare, said Miss Michael.

"Aids and the care of thousands of Aids orphans poses one of the greatest challenges, yet there is a total lack of training in handling HIV-positive children."

Traumas

Other areas where NACCW supplies sophisticated training include handling of traumas related to violence and various forms of abuse arising from unemployment and hardship in the worst recession since the turn of the century.

Conforming to modern trends away from institutionalising children and keeping them in their own homes as part of the problem-solving process, the NACCW is also involved in providing children with intensive life-skills training.

The back-up — through courses, training and supervision — is intended to reach between 30 000 and 50 000 children at risk every year.

But it costs R55 000 a month to run the NACCW. Some 30 percent of this is recovered from fees charged for courses, leaving a deficit of R30 000.

Although the entire welfare structure is hard hit by the recession, upfront institutions attract the most public support, said Miss Michael.

The NACCW will be soon be forced to relocate from its present Johannesburg premises unless it is able to find more public backing, and training services will also have to be even further curbed. Telephone (011) 477-9931 for details.

Escaping the alcoholic trap

■ Efforts to help township children, with nothing to occupy them, find Cultural and spiritual fulfilment:

By Sowetan Reporter

MOST people who become alcoholics in their childhood seldom escape from the trap of the devastating disease.

But Mr Johannes Sello of Brits did not only beat it, he immediately tried to shield township children from the disease.

It took a strong will and a drying-out spell in an alcoholic rehabilitation centre for this father of three to try and actively take on the disease that is tearing black society apart.

When Sello snapped out of his drinking binge he did not only bask in his new-found sobriety, he did something for the children.

On returning home Sello did not waste any time starting a youth club with 11 members. Retlakgona Youth Club now boasts more than 50 children who have something to do every day after school.

"During my soul-searching I realised that I became an alcoholic at an early age because I had a lot of time and nothing to do," he said.

"Where I grew up we had no recreation facilities and drinking became the only passtime."

For six days a week members of the club gather at a local church and for big events they use the club hall where Sello works.

They write and recite poetry, dance and sing.

Mr Johannes Sello is a finalist in the Sowetan/CCV Community Builder Award. He can be seen tonight on New Times at 6.30pm and again on Ntome Tsebe at 8.30pm.

Sowetan 8/9/92

They play cricket, hockey, volley-ball, table-tennis and netball.

"Retlakgona is not only a place for fun," said Sello.

"It strives to look after teenagers, providing them with cultural and spiritual fulfilment. It tries to be as educational, self-supporting and as relevant as possible."

The club regularly holds beauty contests and the proceeds are given to any worthy cause in the community. At one time they gave equipment worth R3 000 to a local creche.

Sello's community work is not restricted to the youth club He also started a meeting of other reformed alcoholics, holding seminars on the dangers of alcohol abuse in the community. They also discuss Aids.

Sello is also the moving force behind the monthly gospel concert by five local groups.



Johannes Sello

Sobriety Corner

Name: Johannes Shimmy Sello
Age: 37
Family: Married with three children
Occupation: Laboratory assistant at a chemical company
Motivation: "To have a community with self-help skills and a sense of social responsibility through convening seminars, workshops and ongoing programmes that will generally advance and develop our educational aspirations."

Woman aids black youth

Sowetan 10/9/92 (298)

■ **HUMAN TRAGEDY** *At least one victim of the Boipatong tragedy is not all alone:*

THREE NERVOUS BLACK youths sat at a table in a small restaurant in the conservative town of Vanderbijlpark, south of Johannesburg. They were in the company of a young white woman and her two children.

The youths were from nearby Boipatong, a township indelibly etched on world consciousness after the June 17 massacre that has bedevilled talks toward a new political order in South Africa.

The woman, Samantha from Durban, had travelled 100km to meet a black teenager whose mother and brother were speared to death by attackers who rampaged through Boipatong and butchered at least 43 men, women and children.

The teenager, Paul, brought two of his township friends,"just in case".

Samantha requested her personal details not be revealed, saying she was not "after publicity".

Story of the deaths

She is a former social worker and runs her own business in Durban. She said she had been reduced to tears by the 15-year-old boy's story of the deaths and how he had wriggled under the bed and survived the attack. Samantha was in Johannesburg on business when she visited Vanderbijlpark for a face-to-face meeting with the young man she had pledged to help face the future."I have a child of that age. He could have been my son."

As the group sat in the restaurant, the black youths repeatedly darted glances at white people peering at them.

"I felt I had moved back in time, 10 or 15 years. People stared, one didn't feel especially comfortable," Samantha said

Despite President FW de Klerk starting to write another chapter of South African history by beginning to dismantle apartheid in 1991, extreme right-wingers are vocal for its revival. In Vanderbijlpark one cannot help but feel vulnerable to the right-wing threat.

"There is human tragedy unfolding around us. People are going through incredible agony with no resources to turn to. I find it quite heartbreaking," Samantha said.

Asked why she had decided to help the young man, her answer was simple: "It was a desire not to say 'shame, oh how terrible'. To light a small candle of hope in the hearts of some of the disadvantaged people."

Paul's parents were divorced 11 years ago and his father lives somewhere in the Vaal Triangle. His father attended the mass funeral when his former wife was buried

The teenager's 26-year-old married sister has moved into the house with her husband after the tragedy.

His other relatives live in nearby Sharpeville township.

Following the massacre in Boipatong a fund for the victims was established and the Red Cross has been involved in efforts to help the victims. - *Sapa.*

On the map

Status: One of six Vaal townships.
Population: About 50 000.
Facilities: One high school, one primary school, a sports stadium and communal hall. No health facilities - nearest hospital is 10km away in Sebokeng.
Location: Situated in industrial heart of Vaal Triangle, in Vanderbijlpark. Most residents employed by large corporations, Iscor, Metal Box etc.

Necklace nightmare

City Press 13/9/92.

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

THE dreaded necklace almost claimed the lives of a Vaal couple accused of abducting two boys for muti purposes.

Palm Springs businessman David Nhlapo, 36, and his wife, Vatiswa, 28, got a last-minute reprieve from sure death at the hands of "comrades".

The two missing boys, Kgothatso Mokoena and Fanyana Mazibuko, had spent a week at a twilight centre for runaway kids in Lenasia, fearing home because they had stolen R20.

Fighting back tears, the couple related their terrifying ordeal.

"I had just opened my shop last Saturday when crowds of youths burst into the yard," Vatiswa said.

Without explanation, they bundled David into his car and drove off with him. They demanded that he "produce the children".

At home, Vatiswa was being interrogated and assaulted by the remaining youths who ransacked the house searching for "kid's heads".

At around 11 am, "the accused" – David and Vatiswa – were driven to Evaton followed by a truckload of chanting youths.

The entourage made a beeline for the nearest service station where they bought petrol to set the two alight.

"We just wept and prayed," said David.

Their prayers were answered when a Palm Springs ANC youth leader, known as Blue, stopped the rowdy procession. (298)

Blue demanded that more proof be sought that the couple were guilty.

He threatened to report the youths to the branch leadership.

The couple were then handed over to Blue and his men.

That same afternoon David and Vatiswa were taken to a house belonging to an ANC chairman in Orange Farm. There they stayed for two days.

The week before the couple's ordeal, Kgothatso's mother, Jane Mokoena, dreamed of her son's disappearance.

"She wrote down the details and handed them over to Evaton youths," said Blue.

The dream script, alleged to have been written by Mokoena – and in City Press' possession – concluded that the children had been murdered and their heads kept in a butchery fridge.

It was later revealed that the two runaways had gone to the Twilight Centre after running out of money.

Their mothers never reported the return of their sons to the comrades.

"I went to their homes in my follow-up investigations and I asked for the boys," Blue said. "They emerged from beneath a bed."

The dust might have settled, but the memory will haunt David and Vatiswa for some time to ...



SAVED ... David and Vatiswa Nhlapo narrowly escaped death. ■ Pic: THULANI SITHOLE

International prize for SA's Child Help Line

ST Times [Cape Metro] (298) 13/9/92

By EVE VOSLOO

THE national chairman of the Child Help Line, Mr Jon Diboll, has won an international award — and service organisations in Israel and Australia are so impressed they have started similar projects there

In an interview this week Mr Diboll said the Child Help Line — which children can call to report abuse — was started through Round Table in 1989.

In that year 2 500 calls were received. Since then the service has mushroomed. In 1990 there were 61 000 calls, in 1991 284 000 and in 1992 400 000 calls.

"We get about 35 000 calls a month on the toll-free number," Mr Diboll said Of these 20 percent are hoax calls, 60 percent are from children and 20 percent from adults wanting information or reporting abuse

Strategy

About four percent of the calls from children are referred to welfare organisations.

"We have launched two new lines in Namibia and want to extend to East London and the Free State," he said.

This month Mr Diboll won an award from WOCO — an international umbrella for service organisations with charters similar to that of Round Table — for the best service project of the year anywhere in the world.

Last year Mr Diboll was invited to Australia by the service organisation Apex, which has since launched a child help line there

He has recently visited Israel with the same result and has also been invited to the United States, where no similar service exists

Mr Diboll said international statistics showed that one in three girls and one in five boys will be abused in some way (physically, emotionally, sexually or through neglect of some kind) before they are 18.

Part of the strategy developed by the Child Help Line, with welfare organisations and the SAP's Child Protection Unit, is a major public awareness campaign

"This has involved advertising campaigns on buses, school timetables, radio and TV -and distributing child abuse information kits at schools and also 3½ million handouts aimed at everyone

"We are trying to distribute information as widely as possible and to empower children," Mr Diboll said.

"We want children to know what abuse is and to understand that they do not have to endure it

"There is help, hope and healing for them."

The service also receives calls from perpetrators, many of whom were themselves abused as children, and has arranged help for them.

The toll-free number for the Child Help Line from anywhere in South Africa is 0800 123-321.

In Cape Town the service is called Safeline. The number is 261-100.



FOR THE CHILDREN . . . The Standard 2 class at the J S Klopper Primary School, Elsies River, help Mr Jon Diboll, national chairman of Child Help Line, celebrate the international award he won for starting the service
Picture: JACK LESTRADE

PE Sash furious over detention of youth

THE Black Sash in Port Elizabeth has spoken out strongly against the detention of a 14-year-old youth on charges of public violence.

According to the Sash, the boy was arrested in Motherwell on the outskirts of the city, and held in a cell in New Brighton between August 25 and September 4.

The boy and three other youths appeared in the PE Magistrate's Court on Thursday when the case was remanded to October 7.

The boy alleged that he was taken in the middle of the night to identify the houses of the other three youths, who were then picked up.

Earlier, bail of R300 for the youth was waived and the four were released into the custody of their parents.

In a statement the Sash said it was concerned that children under the age of 15 were being arrested in this manner and put in prison cells with older men.

"We are appalled that the parents of the children were not informed where they were being taken to and that the grandmother of one of the children spent all Thursday searching for her grandson.

In its objection the Sash compared the detention of the youths to a case of a white man from Despatch who was arrested armed with a .22 rifle on a rooftop during a recent ANC march.

The man was released immediately without any bail application.

Police said the man was released on a warning.

Police denied the 14-year-old was held in a cell with older inmates and said that if young people have to be detained to ensure they appear in court, such detention is usually in a place of safety. – PEN

Increase not paid in Cape

CT 18/9/92

298

Political Staff

THE government approved a substantial increase as from April 1 in the grants to parents of profoundly disabled black children, but the increase is still not being paid in the Cape, although it is being paid in the Transvaal.

The Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, said in a letter to DP MP for Umbilo, Ms Carole Charlewood, dated July 1 this year, that the single care grants had been increased "as from April 1".

Dr Venter said the grants were from then: "Whites R345, coloureds and Asians R308, blacks R278." Before April 1 the amounts were, respectively, R330, R308 and R150.

A spokesman for the CPA, Mr Krige Visser, confirmed yesterday that the R150 grants were still being paid in the Cape.

"The CPA is not aware of any increases in single care grants."



AT PLAY . . . Some of the boys playing soccer at the Siyakhathala place of safety in Stellenbosch, which is only a third full.

Picture: ANNE LAING

298

Kids in cells while homes are half-empty

OT 19/9/92

Staff Reporter

PLACES of safety for black children arrested in connection with crimes are less than half-full in the Cape.

In some cases, instead of being sent to these institutions, children are placed in police or prison cells, CPA spokeswoman Ms Melanie Kelly said yesterday.

"We want to create an awareness about the existence of these homes of safety and want the children to be sent here if there is space available," she said.

Speaking at a press conference at the Siyakhathala home in Stellenboshch, Ms Kelly said the CPA wished to assist children who had clashed with the law.

The institutions act as temporary homes for children under 18 awaiting completion of court cases or awaiting placement in industrial or reform schools



CREATIVE EXPRESSION . . . Occupational therapist Mrs Mariet Brink teaches one of the boys painting.

Picture. ANNE LAING

She said children sometimes landed up in prison cells because the homes were far from the relevant courts.

Siyakhathala is only a third full, while the home in Port ELizabeth is 40% full and the Kimberley one is 35% full.

Where is my mom?

C/Press 20/9/92 (298)

Girl, 8, unaware mother died in attack on family

By THEMBA KHUMALO

AN eight-year-old Katlehong girl, Mbali Mkhumeleni, recovering in hospital from bullet wounds, is pining for her mother.

She does not know that her beloved parent, Margaret Mkhumeleni, is dead, and her father cannot summon up the courage to tell her.

Her mother and two sisters, Faith and Elsie, were killed when four gunmen burst into their Maphanga Section home while the family was watching television and pumped bullets into them.

Margaret and Faith died instantly. Mbali and her sister Elsie were rushed to Natalspruit Hospital, but Elsie could not be saved.

Margaret's sister, Joana Mabaso, said she arrived at the house about 30 minutes after the shooting and found Margaret and Faith lying in a pool of blood. There were bullet holes in the wall behind them.



AWAITING VISIT . . . Nobody has had the heart to tell eight-year-old Mbali Mkhumeleni that her mother and two sisters are dead.

Faith, 21, and Elsie, 17, were students at Fumana High School in Katlehong. Mbali is a Std 1 pupil at Monde Primary School.

Their father, Andries Mkhumeleni, was in Venda at the time of the tragedy.

Numb with shock he told City Press: "I received a call that there was a tragedy back home. I started to drive back immediately, but got stuck along the road.

"When I finally got home I was greeted with the dreadful news. I was paralysed with shock. I still keep asking myself why it happened. I pray night and day that Mbali will recover.

"I visit her every day in Baragwanath, but how do you tell a wounded eight-year-old that she no longer has a mother and her sisters are dead? She keeps asking about them and I tell her they are fine.

"I will only tell her the terrible truth when she is back at home after the funeral," he said.

An East Rand police spokesman said an investigation into the incident was continuing.



FAMILY TRAGEDY . . . The unknown assassins bullets killed Mbali's sister, Faith, instantly.



Not a care in the world . . . despite being under threat of violence in Alexandra's "Beirut" zone, Khangelani pre-schoolers play happily. Picture: Gary Bernard

Clashes in Alex jeopardise school

Star 21/9/92

By Brian Sokutu

It is mid-morning at Khangelani pre-school in the "Beirut" area of Alexandra, north of Johannesburg, and for 46 toddlers it is time to rush outside, shout and play.

But an air of gloom prevails inside the warehouse-turned-pre-school in deserted London Road, where teachers Juliette Palm and Ellen Makola are engrossed in serious discussions about "taking the childrem out of hell".

"Hell" is the troubled Beirut area, bordering Khangelani, which residents describe as a "no-go area".

Concerned about their children's safety, some working parents have decided to remove their toddlers from the pre-school.

Ms Palm says this move has led to the number of children enrolled at the pre-school, which was established two years ago, dwindling by almost half.

"We began the year with 80 kids and now we're left with a mere 46. Parents are afraid to send their children here because of the violence," she says.

Adding to their problems, a local factory owner, Mervyn Brittan, has refused to allow children and staff to enter and leave through his factory's "safe" entrance in 11th Road.

"Even if it means their safety is at stake at London Road, I can't allow them to go through my premises. I have tenants there. They should close the pre-school if it is dangerous," Mr Brittan told The Star.

Caught in the middle of the violence, the children of Khangelani, aged between three and six, are not strangers to the sound of gunfire.

"Since March, things have got worse and we have had to lock the kids inside during heavy fighting," Ms Palm says.

The school could soon be moved to the suburb of Kelvin if sufficient funds are found, she adds.

"We have seen a house in Kelvin that could give new life to these children, but we have to raise money. We appeal to everyone for funds"

Those wishing to help should call Ms Palm at (011) 882-3163 (w) or 802-6592 (h).

Youths in prisons: Govt to investigate

CT 22/9/92 (298)

Political Staff

THE government has appointed a special working group to investigate the detention of youths under 18 who are awaiting trial on criminal charges.

The Deputy Minister of Manpower, Local Government and National Housing, Mr Glen Carelse, said in a statement yesterday he had appointed a working group to look into the facilities and services for these youths.

Mr Carelse has begun a tour of "places of safety" to inspect their facilities, his department said in a statement.

The Democratic Party said yesterday a government inquiry into the detention of the 750 children under the age of 18, held in police cells for an average of three months, was welcome but it was long overdue and it did not go far enough.

Mr Carelse said: "Several youths under the age of 18 are being held in police cells instead of being placed in a place of safety, as would ideally be the case."

"However, due to log jams, children awaiting trial have to stay in police cells often for periods exceeding the prescribed period of 48 hours. Prescriptions laid down by the United Nations regarding the handling of youths in custody will be adhered to."

The working group would advise on possible changes, as well the possibility of alternative accommodation, he said.

The DP's correctional services spokesman, Mr Mahmoud Rajab, said South Africa should become a signatory to the UN Convention of the Rights of Children, particularly Article 37, which said children should only be detained as a last resort and for the shortest period possible. Mr Rajab said all detained children should be kept away from adults unless this was in the interest of the child.

COMMUNITY BUILDER *In Kimberley the community helps provide for a local feeding scheme*

Vuyo Lindela - giving food to hungry kids

Sowetan 22/9/92 (298) (~~299~~)



Mrs Vuyo Lindela.

By Pearl Majola

A GROUP of boys wearing torn and dirty clothes queue a few blocks away from Kimberley's city centre waiting eagerly for their only meal of the day.

An energetic woman rolls up her sleeves and prepares to dish out food for the boys.

This is an ordinary lunchtime scene at Victoria Park in Kimberley. The boys are either runaways, destitute or victims of abuse. The woman is 36-year-old businesswoman Mrs Vuyo Lindela.

Every morning 10 of the 35 girls and boys sheltered at Sebusi Mahanyele Children's Home leave for school.

Their shelter, food and the chance to go to school would have been impossible without Lindela's efforts.

Over 70 kilometres away, 30 other children from Ikhutseng township in Warrenton are assured of at least one meal every day. Another group of about 60 children from Vryburg is also fed, all of this due to Vuyo's hard work.

Lindela's feeding project started in 1990 when three boys asked her money for food. Before she knew it, the number of boys waiting for her to give them R1 each day had grown to 10

"I decided to cook food at home and take it to the park for the children," says Lindela.

By 1991, 60 boys ate in the park and the project was beginning to attract the attention of influential people.

The local judge's wife helped raise funds for the project.

National Sorghum Breweries donated fully furnished premises in industrial Kimberley to shelter 30 children. The Sebusi Mahanyele Children's Home was officially opened this year

Children at the home who do not attend school remain at the shelter all day and are taught informally by volunteer teachers. Their ages range from six to 17

During weekends and on school holidays the children are taken on outings by local volunteers.

Lindela has worked her way up to being a successful businesswoman, while being a wife and mother of three.

Her own childhood experiences of living in a one-roomed house with her parents and five siblings and surviving on a tight budget, inspired her concern for street children.

"But at least we had a roof over our heads and one another. Some of these children don't.

"They sleep on the pavements and don't have anybody to share their problems. This is the least I can do," she says humbly.

POVERTY INSPIRES *She herself grew up in a one-roomed house:*

Today we publish another finalist in the *Sowetan*/CCV Community Builder of the Year Award. Mrs Vuyo Lindela of Kimberley cares for street children in her community. She can be seen today on CCV's *New Times* at 6.30pm and again on *Ntome Tsebe* at 8.30pm

Payments to disabled adjusted

Political Staff

THE Cape Provincial Administration yesterday apologised for inconvenience caused by its failure to pay increased grants to parents of profoundly disabled black children.

The government increased the grants from R150 to R278 in April, but the CPA did not incorporate the increases in its monthly payments until last Friday.

The mistake was rectified after the Cape Times published a story on the situation last week when it was informed about the matter by Ms Cheryl Barrett of the Quaker Service Centre.

The CPA said in a statement last night, issued by Mr Krige Visser, that as from Friday last week all new claims and those to existing recipients would be increased to R278 a month and pack payments to April 1992 would be completed by November.

(298) CT 22/9/92

After it had learnt about the situation from Mrs Barrett last week, it realised that the increase in the single care grant had been authorised by the government and it immediately processed the adjustment in the monthly grants.

Its welfare directorate would also soon implement a computerised payment system for single care grants, similar to the system currently used for the payment of pensions, the statement said.

Maternal rights in constitution urged

STAR 24/9/92

By Jo-Anne Collinge

The DP will be asked to adopt the view that the new constitution should go further than outlawing gender discrimination; it should recognise that women's reproductive role demands that they be accorded rights beyond those that men enjoy.

The proposal forms part of the DP's discussion paper on the status of women which will be put to the party congress in November for endorsement.

The argument runs that, unless the maternal role of women is "explicitly acknowledged" in the constitution, there is a danger that subsequent legislation and policy measures would fail to make the provisions that enable women to take part on an equal basis in various spheres of society

The document also argues that the constitution should:

- Permit affirmative action for women "in the interests of accelerating the achievement of equality and correcting indirect or systemic discrimination"
- Safeguard equal legal status for spouses (297) (298)
- Contain a women's charter or a section on women's status in a statement of social, economic and cultural obligations which would set policy guidelines for areas such as primary health care, population growth, family law and the workplace

Children's home gets NSB cash

298

■ Brewers donate R 8000 to ease plight of the orphaned kids of Kimberley:

By Joe Mdhlela Sowetan 25/9/92

THERE won't be orphans as long as companies like National Sorghum Breweries existed.

The comment was made by chief executive of the company, Professor Mohale Mahanyele, after handing over an R8 000 cheque towards the running of the Sebuse Mahanyele Children's Home last week.

The home is in Kimberley. It is named after Mahanyele's father, Mr Sebuse Mahanyele.

"There is no reason for children to be orphans as long as companies like NSB make profits," Mahanyele said.

Principal of the home Mrs Vuyo Landella said the financial assistance NSB gave them would enable the home to function and meet some of its obligations.

"We are grateful to Mahanyele and his company for this wonderful gesture.

"He has made it possible for the home to bring joy to children who would otherwise be destitute," Landella said.

She also runs a feeding scheme catering for 60 destitute people.

She told *Sowetan* the company had contributed R10 000 when the home was opened in March, besides the R25 000 they received for renovations.

"Mahanyele and NSB are a godsend and I wish them well."

Anxiety over satanism

CT 25/9/92 (298)

Staff Reporter

PRINCIPALS of local goverment schools are perplexed by police claims that hundreds of pupils around the Peninsula are involved in satanic practices after class.

Lieutenant Kobus van Rensburg of the Child Protection Unit said yesterday that more than 300 pupils from government schools in the Peninsula could be practising devil worship.

His claims are based on reports made to the Child Protection Unit and have followed revelations of a police investigation into bizarre occult links after the arrest of two teengers in connection with the murder of a Rugby mother last week.

Mrs C J Walters, principal of Wynberg Girls' High School, said yesterday there had been no evidence of satanic practices at the school.

Mr Tony Crossman, headmaster of the Fish Hoek Middle School, said that as many pupils were at an experimental age, schools had to be careful not to glamorise issues like drugs and satanism.

Fun day to help children

By S'BU MNAGADI C/Pen 27/9/92

A MAJOR fundraising drive in aid of Othandweni Infants Home in Lamontville was unveiled in Durban this week.

Entitled "Durban's Fun Extravaganza", the campaign hopes to raise enough money to build two cottages for Othandweni, a place of care and safety for children suffering as a result of poverty, violence and neglect.

Jethro Ndlovu, voluntary public relations consultant of the Durban Child and Family Welfare Society, said the children's home was in dire need of at least two jubilee cottages, new furniture, and play and educational equipment.

Against this background, Ndlovu said, the society had organised a fundraising day of social soccer tournaments; a "battle of the kings of the airwaves"; a picnic and other events on November 1 at Umlazi's Tehuis Stadium.

He said "to give every child a chance" should be a lifelong dream of every South African.

The organisers expect about 10 000 people to attend. Admision fee is R2,50 and programmes, T-shirts, food and donated products will be on sale. (298)

The highlight of the fun day will be "Mabena Take Us Home to Kansas City", a two-hour music splash featuring Bob "The Jammer" Mabena of Radio Metro and Cyril "Kansas City" Mchunu of Radio Zulu.

A unique feature of the extravaganza will be a social soccer match, with comedian Joe Mafela and former journalist Knowledge Simelane taking part.

Ndlovu said the Durban Child and Family Welfare Society also intended running reader and listener competitions.

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Director goes beyond the call of duty to ensure the happiness of young people*

Pinky keeps youth off the streets

woman of the **Week**

Sowetan 28/9/92 (298)

IN THE PINK *Friend and comforter to young and old in Bloemfontein:*

By Pearl Majola

THE ZENZELE YWCA Centre in Mangaung Township, Bloemfontein, is abuzz with youth activities every day

These range from sewing by school leavers and supplementary English classes for pre-school up to Standard 4 pupils from local schools, to a children's toy and book library

The projects are the brainchild of Mrs Pinky Mokgele, programme director of the local Young Women's Christian Association.

Though employed by the organisation to do the job, Mokgele has gone beyond the call of duty to ensure the youth are off the streets and happy.

She joined the YWCA as a volunteer over 20 years ago organising youth groups and giving talks at their meetings on various topics from etiquette to dating.

She has since become a friend and comforter to the youth in the small township

Today the soft-spoken mother of six and grandmother of eight works full-time for the organisation doing what she loves most - keeping the youth happy.

"I love the youth and being there for them is the best way I know of expressing that love," says Mokgele.

But Mokgele's community work goes beyond her interest in the youth. She also works with the aged in the community, runs a feeding project for poverty-stricken children and this year started a day care centre for children of Pahameni.

"I initiated the project for the aged to keep them busy and give them something to look forward to every week Unfortunately we meet on Mondays only because of the lack of funds.

"We have an arrangement with the clinic which sends us two nurses who supervise exercises and do basic medical check-ups like blood pressure tests," she says

"The feeding project for children is sponsored by World Vision and is mainly for needy children who come here for the English lessons.

"We prepare food three times a week and local teachers help us identify needy children In extreme cases we even try to organise school uniforms for them," she explains modestly.

Mokgele is also involved in organising Sowetan Nation Building events in Bloemfontein, especially the parenting workshops, and serves in various other communities, women's and welfare organisations.

"I take after my mother who loved community work and whose last job as a matron at an old aged home she only quit at the age of 85," she says smiling.



Pinky Mokgele is also involved in organising Nation Building in Bloemfontein.

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the past week, he said.

Fun in Durban's sun for 120 children

STAR 29/9/92 29R

Star Seaside Fund hosts 120 underprivileged children from all race groups who will today leave from PWV destinations for a 10-day holiday in Durban.

For most of the children — who will be accommodated in The Star Seaside Fund's spacious Durban home — it will be their first experience of holiday fun in the sun.

Up to now the fund has hosted 113 000 children to a coastal holiday.

Each trip has many delights and this one is no exception. The visit will include sightseeing, boat-riding, a tour of the dockside sugar terminal, a dolphin show, and a visit to the aquarium.

The Star's assistant manager, Marcus Mashiteng, said children from Streetwise, Child Welfare and Orlando Home have benefited from the fund. Funds are received from the public, organisations like Millionex and events such as the OK Gold Bowl. — Staff Reporter.

Farcus by David Waisglass Gordon Coulthart

Hans - the dream maker

Sowetan 29/9/92 (298)

Drug, alcohol abuse among youth upset literacy teacher:

By Pearl Majola

FOR a group of youths from Cookhouse, imagining a trip to Port Elizabeth was like a child in Somalia dreaming about a hot traditional Somali meal

Up to now they would not have known what the friendly city or the sea looks like had Ernest Hans not made this dream come true for them.

Hans, a short and humble man from Mbekweni, near Paarl, moved to Port Elizabeth last year to work for Transnet as a literacy teacher.

He did not like what he saw in Cookhouse, where he used to visit his sister and her family.

There is only one primary school for a population of over 1 000 children and only three major employers (Transnet, a dairy factory and the municipality) who already have fulltime staff.

Many parents cannot afford to send their children to schools in nearby towns because they do not only have to pay school fees but also transport.

For their children, when they reach Standard 5, it is the end of the road because they cannot further their education and their chances of getting jobs are nil.

In January Hans started a youth project to keep the youth off the streets.

"I saw the need to upgrade the lives of the youth here who only had alcohol and drugs for entertainment," explains 36-year-old Hans.

Modelling

"Uncle's Disco Club was initially started to train the girls in modelling and just keep them busy. But the Groovy Guys, a local boys' dance group, approached me asking for help. I then formed Khulani Youth Club, which includes both the Groovy Guys and UDC."



Ernest Hans

Ernest Hans is a finalist in the CCV/Community Builder of the Year Award. He can be seen on *New Times* at 6.30pm today and on *Ntome Tsebe* at 8.30pm.

Every weekend Hans drove two hours to Cookhouse where he helped the youth with modelling and dancing and taught them drama, art and literature. Soon afterwards they were ready for their first fundraising concert.

By March the group had raised about R300 from a series of beauty contests, fashion shows and concerts they held since December last year.

With some help from Hans the youth (some of them over 22 years old) took their first trip to Port Elizabeth.

"It was very moving to see them as happy as they were that day," says Hans.

But Hans admits it has not been all that easy to organise the youth and get them to quit drinking.

"That part is difficult because parents also abuse alcohol. There are no other recreational facilities here and I only see the youth during weekends, by which time a lot has happened," he explains.

Death drips were infected, tests show

Star 30/9/92

By Monica Oosterbroek

Tests have proved that the intravenous drips given to the seven babies who died in Johannesburg last week were contaminated.

Four babies died of septicaemia at J G Strijdom Hospital, two at Johannesburg Hospital and one at Park Lane Clinic after they were put on drips supplied by Isotec Nutrition.

A baby girl is still critically ill in Johannesburg Hospital.

Isotec managing director Iain Rosekilly confirmed yesterday that the results of intensive microbiological tests had shown the drips had been contaminated by bacteria.

These initial results were only the first phase of a thorough and intensive investigation being conducted by Isotec, Lancet Laboratories, the South African Institute of Medical Research and Sabax — the company which supplied all the drip components, according to Mr Rosekilly.

Each component in the drip would now be tested to find out exactly how the drips were infected, he added.

Mr Rosekilly said there was no reason for pregnant women to panic because the highly specialised solution, Total Parenteral Nutrition, was prescribed and administered only to newborn babies who were already critically ill.

The solution provided life-sustaining nutrients vital for premature babies who would otherwise die, Mr Rosekilly said.

Any baby put on the drip was first closely examined by a paediatrician before a doctor issued a prescription.

"Due to the highly complex nature of these solutions, a terminal sterilisation process cannot be performed on these products. Therefore, the components are mixed in a totally isolated, sterile environment and sealed prior to distribution to the patient," he said.

Since November last year more than 10 000 units have been supplied by Isotec Nutrition based on doctors' prescriptions.

Help for disadvantaged youth

Sowetan 1/10/92 298

By Joshua Raboroko

■ The YEF will focus its energies on aiding township kids to offset years of arbitrary restrictions on blacks:

THE Young Entrepreneur Foundation plans to teach business skills to disadvantaged township youths.

The focus will be particularly on victims of racial discrimination, helping them to become businessmen and businesswomen in the townships.

YEF executive director Mr Oscar Mamba said years of arbitrary restrictions on blacks in economic and political spheres played a dominant role in destroying the sense of initiative, creativity, competitiveness and individual achievement of the youth.

He said: "YEF is firmly convinced that the most serious domestic problem in South Africa is the accelerating deterioration of our township youths.

"It is critical to note that black youth would have been better off economically and educationally, and not because of their colour, had they been equal to and afforded the same head start enjoyed by the majority of their white counterparts.

High school dropouts

"Violence, larceny, drug abuse and teenage pregnancies have all increased. Not surprisingly, there is a steady decrease in high school graduation rates," he said.

"Throughout South Africa, there are tens of thousands of township youths between the ages of 15 to 26 who are high school dropouts, unemployed and participating in highly destructive lifestyles."

He added: "No one needs empowerment more than the disadvantaged youths in the townships."

YEF's "goal vis-a-vis education, was to end the persistent "vicious cycle" of dependency, poverty and crime that afflicted most townships.

"Its programmes and activities are to teach them financing and management of small businesses.

"With our guidance, these young people can acquire the business skills necessary to become economically independent," he said.

For more information Mamba can be contacted at (011) 483-3280.

Youth Forum set for launch

CT 21/10/92

THE all-party Western Cape Youth Forum is to be launched in Cape Town tomorrow as an umbrella structure for youth organisations.

The first session of the new forum — representing 37 schools and religious, political and community organisations — is to be opened by the Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Frank van der Velde.

Political formations involved include the NP, LP, DP, ANC, Pan Africanist Students' Organisation and Azanian Youth. (298)

'Many times we get mothers in here begging for food'

As the recession bites deeper, more and more white families are struggling to feed their children and are forced to look to feeding schemes for help.

By **PAT SIDLEY**

BOET PRETORIUS is the principal of Langlaagte Technical High School in an area of Johannesburg where many white families have fallen below the breadline.

Like other educationists in once-privileged white schools, he and his staff have noticed the listlessness, headaches, nausea and lack of concentration in hungry children in the classroom.

And, like other headmasters, he remarks that it is the most severe depression he has encountered in a long career. It has struck at a time when schools are strapped for cash — along with the families around them

About 20 percent of his school needs extra feeding, although many more experience "very hard times" Some have only bread and porridge at home

The hunger becomes noticeable, he says, from "the way they are dressed, when they start staying away from school and they stop doing their homework"

When a teacher notices the symptoms of hunger among the children, the school reacts immediately. A teacher is dispatched to the home to see what the situation is and then the school sends in about R300 to R400 worth of groceries — hopefully to supplement whatever is in the house

"Many times we get mothers in here crying, begging for food for their children. The times are really very serious Very, very, serious," he says.

And sometimes funds at the school run low: "But the dear Lord always supplies"

Like many other headmasters, Pretorius raises money from various private sources He "does not get a penny from the government" for school feeding or family food packets and has to rely on some "ladies from the North" called the Monday Club and other private donors

He has also called in the help of a feeding scheme to help the hungry kids through the school day That "feeding scheme" is Martie and Fred Hughes — a dedicated couple who spend their lives and every spare cent feeding poor whites who have slipped through the net

It's not a legally registered scheme Though she has effectively assumed the role of fundraiser, feeder, social worker and general do-gooder, Martie Hughes has no fondness for the bureaucracy of the government s Department of Social Welfare She has not got, and will not apply for, a Welfare Organisation number which would bind her to certain conditions and then entitle her to raise money from the public.

Department officials raid her every now and then, but she goes on, a woman driven by a mission She came from a poor white family herself and says she knows what it is like to go to bed hungry. Nobody is going to stop her feeding the poor and less privileged She has harsh words for anybody who would stop such an act of charity

"You can come see my home for yourself," she announces, emphasising her lack of personal acquisitiveness, and giving an oblique assurance that no money comes her way

She isn't attached to any organisation, not even a church "People ask you what church you are from, and then if it is different from theirs, they shy away from the help"

Her husband adds that many of the churches they come across build new and fancy properties and then refer the needy in their congregations to the Welfare Department for help

He is in the construction business and helps her with transport — though she could do with a bakkie, as the family car suffers from the rigours of transporting large cooking pots, milk and the like

Martie Hughes checks on the circumstances of each family she helps, calling around to have a look for herself "Many mothers ask if we're from Welfare They're scared their children will be taken from them" It's only when she reassures them she's not that they let her in to talk

That's not to say they do not report abuse when they see it. Fred Hughes told *The Weekly Mail* that along with the increasingly desperate economic circumstances, they had seen an alarming rise in child abuse But instead of the Welfare Department, the Hugheses go to the police Child Protection Unit which, they say, acts swiftly, promptly and effectively

The Weekly Mail found the Hugheses at Langlaagte feeding hungry kids The milk they distribute is largely donated by Clover, which gives them thousands of litres for poor white kids and their families

Not everybody gets food every day, the Hugheses cover different areas on different days, dispensing pap and wors, stew or other nourishing food

Later in the week, in a small and shabby council flat in Vrededorp in the western suburbs, they have prepared spaghetti bolognaise for a straggly bunch of destitute white mothers and children

Among the mothers is Karen 27, barefoot and dressed in tattered, grubby garments Her teeth need attention of the type the poor cannot afford With two children, aged five and two, she lives in a council flat rented by her mother The two-year-old, Monte, clings to her hip He can't wait to eat as the smell of food wafts out of the small kitchen Monte has been ill several times in his short life and has needed three operations Karen is divorced Her ex-husband, a security guard, gives her no support

Karen's total monthly income is around R300 from "the Welfare" She worked briefly in a factory, replacing black workers on strike, "but then the blacks came back and took the jobs"

When Fred and Martie Hughes don't feed her, she goes round to Tannie Swannie's soup kitchen, where they will also try to help her find a job while giving her and the kids something to eat. "But there are no jobs," she says. "They all say they will phone back and they don't" Unskilled but willing, she has tried all the factories, hospitals and firms in the area

On the stoep outside the flat, Martie Hughes checks in her book who is who among the several young children gathered for their meal

Three black domestic workers arrive with their scruffy white charges. Two of the families they work for run single-parent homes with no food in the kitchen The third domestic, who leads a toddler by the hand as a baby sleeps on her back, explains she has left their drunken father asleep in the house The mother is working She pleads the cause of the hungry children — there isn't a crumb of food in the house and the kids have had nothing to eat all day

The domestic workers earn between R100 and R200 a month and have to travel in from Soweto daily It goes unnoticed that they are clearly impoverished themselves, and probably as hungry as their charges The kids are the target and undoubtedly need the help

Only one man appears for food And many are shy One woman skulks in a doorway, a few flats away Only when the crowd has evaporated will she come, in considerable shame, for a handout. Some food is kept for her

Most of the whites receiving food are from single-parent, fatherless families An exception are the Toeriens, who live on the other side of town, in Bertrams

Both Toeriens are handicapped — they are epileptics — and not working Bernadette Toerien has two children from a previous marriage, Cindy (10) and Small Charley (12) They are both at a nearby school, where the headmaster arranges for extra help for them as well as subsidies for the fees and the uniforms

Her husband used to work on the railways until they laid him off several years ago because his fits came too frequently He, too, has a son from a previous marriage, who is paralysed down one side and is also an epileptic

Bernadette Toerien says they are treated like dirt at "the Welfare" where she gets a disability pension of about R450 a month, and where they have not helped her get money for her disabled stepson Nobody will tell her why

From her meagre allowance she has to pay the rent on the house, the water and lights Additionally, she has to travel from Bertrams to the Johannesburg Hospital for her checkups and pills to control the epilepsy Often she cannot afford the bus fare, so she walks It takes almost two hours

Sometimes, if she doesn't make it, and misses her dose of pills, the fits increase So she has to slog to get there

Every time she tries to take a job, "the Welfare" calls her in, she says, stops her pension and threatens that if she continues to work, she will lose the payout for good

So she and her husband stay home, bored and listless, tending the small garden of their council home and cooking the mealie meal and soy mince handed to them every month from Operation Hunger

Langlaate's headmaster Pretorius believes the reason for the current depression and state of poor whites is the political situation

Although others are loath to put it explicitly, he says "I believe it is the political situation of the land

"Everything is going down People are losing their jobs" He believes there is only one way to salvage the situation "Peace There is no other way We have to talk until there is peace"

Self-help ... As government welfare funds dwindle, more groups are mobilising to look after their own



Classroom concern ... Symptoms of hunger are increasingly noticeable in schoolchildren

Western Cape Youth Forum kicks off

(298)

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter ARGS 5/10/92

HOPES are high that the official formation of the Western Cape Youth Forum — with its membership ranging across a breathtaking political and social spectrum — will be the first step to an equivalent national youth forum.

A total of 37 organisations from the African National Congress and National Party to the Pan Africanist Congress, and from Fish Hoek High to Nelson Mandela High, hammered out the final details of their constitution at a weekend conference at the Good Hope Centre.

The Congress of South African Students, the SA Union of Jewish Students, Azanian Youth, Democratic Party Youth and jobless youths were among others represented.

Cape Town mayor Mr Frank van der Velde opened proceedings and keynote speakers included Ms Helen Zille, who spoke on "education and social issues", Professor Vincent Maphai — who addressed "youth empowerment in a socio-political context" — and Father Mike Lapsley, whose subject was "violence and the need for tolerance and unity".

A declaration of intent binds the forum to democracy, non-sexism and non-racism, while its aims include creating a platform for youth to share views and experiences.

To be counted as youths, members must be of high-school age or in their twenties.

At 47, the forum's "godparent," Atlantic seaboard city councillor Mr Clive Bilski, does not qualify but is happy to see his vision come true.

Youth was the theme of Mr Bilski's maiden speech in 1988, and since then he has served on the council's youth liaison committee.

"At first we focused on setting up recreational facilities for young people, but later realised that what we needed was a programme to empower young people to think, debate and decide for themselves," said Mr Bilski.

The establishment of the forum comes after protracted talks following the first meeting, convened by the city council in March and attended by about 92 delegates.

A five-member working committee was formed and meets weekly. A steering committee, with a representative for each group, meets monthly and a "broad forum" is convened every two months.

The journey so far has not been without its bumps, according to Mr Bilski.

"But it is unbelievable how the young people have learned to accept each other — for example, the idea that we start after sunset so that Jews can attend came from Muslims," he said.

Flats children in most accidents

Staff Reporter

MOST Peninsula vehicle accidents involving children happened on the Cape Flats, said Dr David Bass, head of the trauma unit at Red Cross Children's Hospital.

Speaking at the launch of a video "Limitations of a Child in Traffic", aimed at educating parents about the dangers of children playing in the street unattended, he said about 1 000 children were admitted annually to the hospital's trauma unit with injuries from vehicle accidents.

He said according to research into 478 cases in 1990 and 1991, most child pedestrian accidents occurred in suburban areas during the late afternoon. Most of those injured were younger than nine.

Dr Bass said the aim of the video is not to point fingers at parents, but to make them aware that children cannot manage on their own in traffic.

He said that 3 000 of South Africa's child population of 11 million died annually. About 31% of the deaths were caused by road accidents.

298 CT 7/10/92

Dr Bass added that a child's concept of speed and size was not the same as that of adults and parents had to realise they endangered a child's life if they left them unattended at home.

Xolani an achiever at an early age

Sowetan 8/10/92. 298

YOUTH AID Matric pupil has formed two youth clubs which help pupils to live better and more meaningful lives:

By Sowetan Reporter

XOLANI Diwati looks like any other township youth handsome and neatly dressed with the latest in hair-styles

But he is different He is the first winner of the *Sowetan*/Willards Young Achiever Award - an accolade to honour those youths who not only work hard at their studies but also find time to work for the community and still do their bit on the sportsfield

In his short life the 18-year-old matric pupil has founded two youth organisations

While I was a pupil at Senaoane Junior in Soweto, I realised that to normalise our lives as children we had to get together and do things for ourselves rather than rely on others said Diwati

He founded his first club, the Mzwakhe Youth Club, when he was 16 years old

The club helped members with their studies developed their cultural awareness through music and drama and also gave them swimming lessons

"In Soweto, where the youths do not have many constructive things to do youth clubs are the only means of keeping young people together and building them in a positive way " he said

In 1990 Diwati founded the St Stephen's Youth Club with only five members

The club's main objective is to raise funds through concerts and asking for sponsorship for disadvantaged people At Christmas the club throws a bash and hands out food parcels

St Stephen's also gives Bible lessons which are conducted mostly by Diwati

"We believe that getting young people closer to the Bible and church is a sure way of keeping them normal in these abnormal times," he said

"Many youths seem to agree with us because through these studies we have managed to increase our membership from five to 35 "

At his school St Enda s Community College, he is a member of the Students Forum and a member of the choir Last year he was in the debating team and deputy chairman of the Standard 9 fundraising committee

He has received merit certificates for his performance in Accounting and Business Economics

Although Diwati has so far concentrated on supporting the youth academically and culturally, his dream is to work with street children

'Our youth club is organising a project to reach street children " he said

'We need to get them off the streets and give their lives meaning "

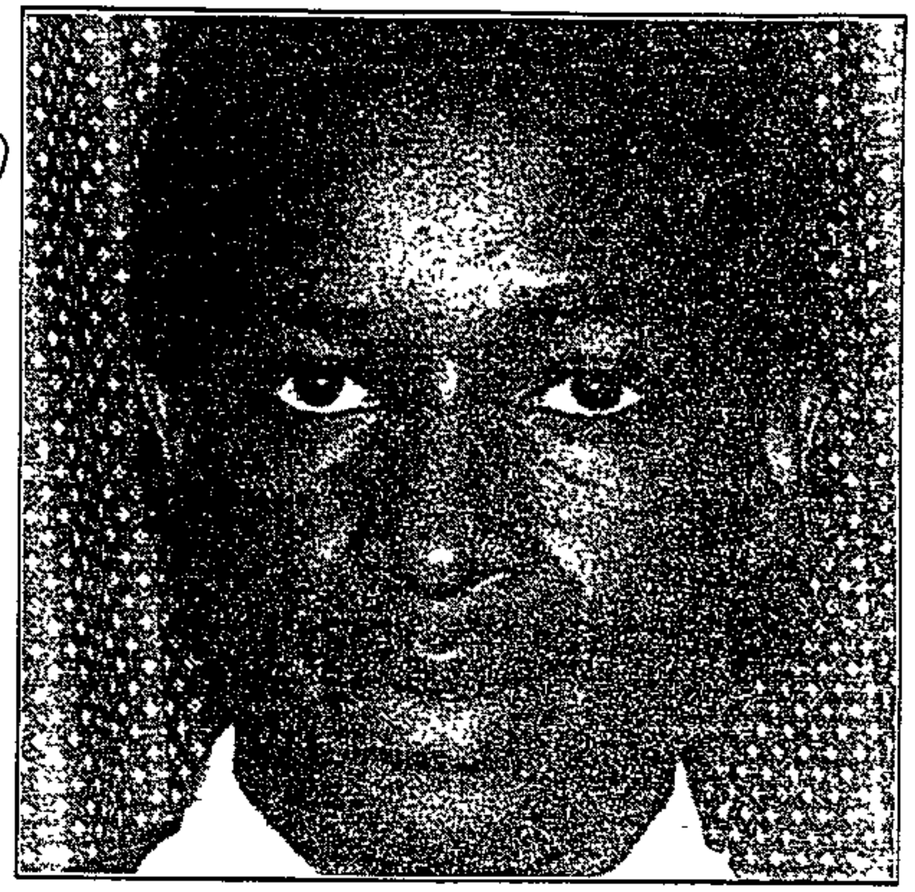
His nightmare is the violence that is ravaging the black community

"We have met members of political organisations in Diepkloof to find out how we can tackle the problem

"We agreed that we needed an intense campaign to change negative attitudes among different organisations It would be the first step towards stemming the violence," Diwati said

Two weeks ago Diwati flew to Cape Town to compete for the national title against other youngsters from Natal, the Cape and Transvaal for a bursary worth R5 000 from Willards and a floating trophy from Lions International

However he failed to win the prize



Xolani Diwati has founded two youth organisations.

NEWS FEATURE *Student's valiant bid to add meaning to the lives of youth*

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Sowetan 8/10/92.

298

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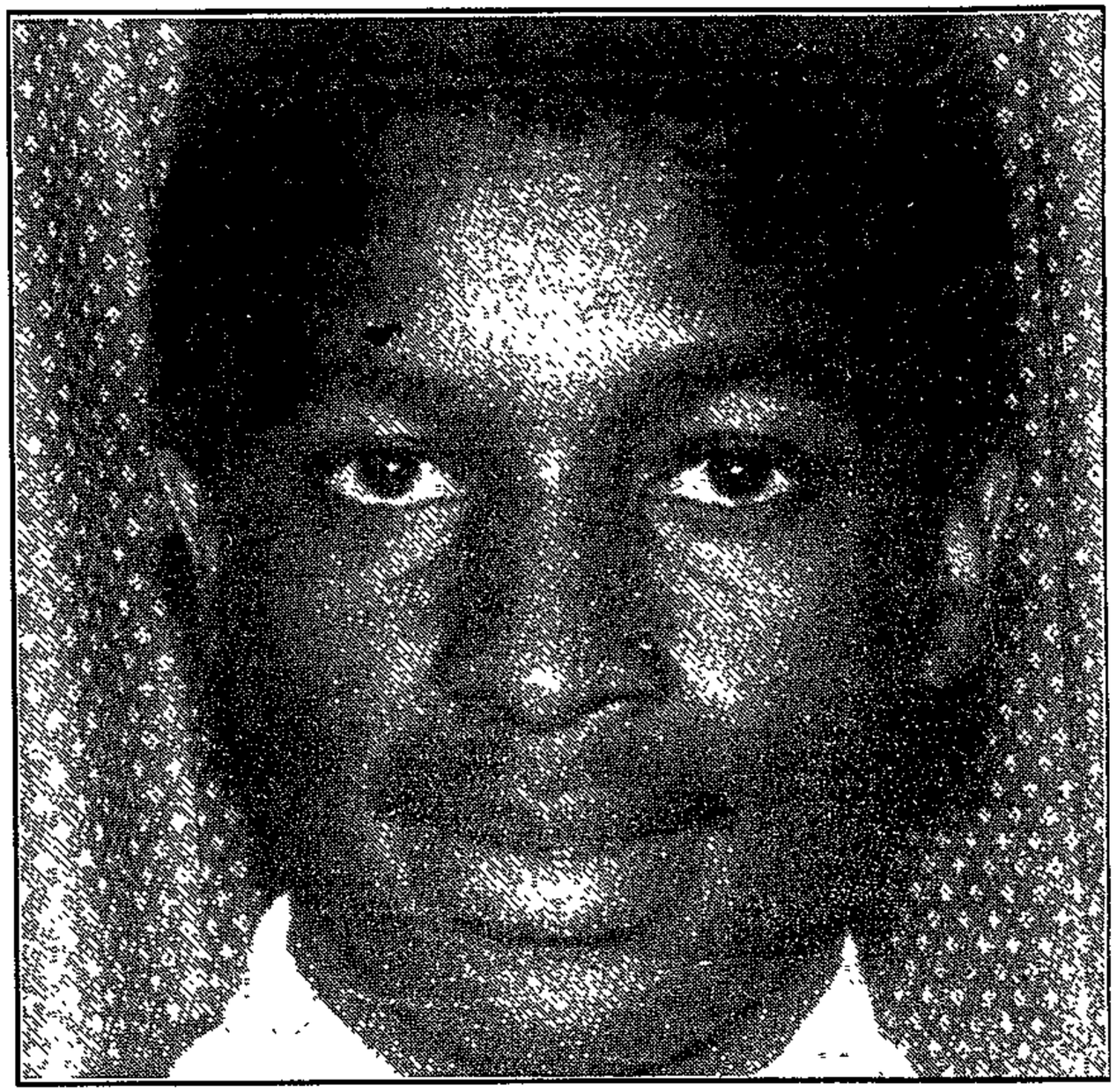

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PEOPLE'S LIVES *But for the Lukholweni shelter, little Mercy would have to bear her pains alone*

Lukholweni Home provides solace

Sowetan 8/10/92. (298)

By Pearl Majola

COMMUNITY CENTRE *Helps mothers whose kids need treatment:*

AT THREE YEARS, MERCY Motsoeneng should be in nursery school, playing with other children her age

Yet she walks around hanging on for dear life to an intravenous infusion machine.

Mercy has neuro-plastomia, a cancer that attacks the kidneys, which could not be treated in QwaQwa hospitals

She will be at the Baragwanath Hospital for the next six months and will continue treatment for about three more years.

See her mother everyday

Under normal circumstances Mercy would bear her pain alone, far from home and her parents

But thanks to the National Cancer Association (NCA) she can at least see her mother every day.

The NCA runs the Lukholweni Home in Orlando East, Soweto, which accommodates recuperating cancer patients who are still receiving treatment.

The home also takes in mothers who cannot be admitted with their cancer-stricken children at Bara because of space.

This has made it possible for children who come to Johannesburg (where the treatment is given) to be with their mothers when they need their love most.

"I feel better for being here for Mercy and for knowing what is happening to her all the time," says her mother, 25-year-old Elizabeth.

"I am comfortable at Lukholweni. We are given food and a place to sleep as well as free, daily transport to the hospital, all for a donation of just R10. I am very grateful to the people of Lukholweni," she says

Elizabeth, who had to abandon her secretarial studies to be with her baby, says she is hopeful that Mercy will survive.

Lukholweni used to be a school building but has now been converted to two cosy dormitories with 20 beds, a sparsely furnished lounge with a television set and a fire-place, a dining hall with simple pine furniture and a kitchen.

A caretaker who is on call 24 hours a day takes care of the residents at the home and a nurse and a social worker come in every Thursday to check on the patients.

"The centre used to be a school but was closed down after the 1976 riots in Soweto," explains the Reverend Geoff Jamieson of the Presbyterian Church.

"In 1987 the church decided to renovate it and turn it into a useful centre for community use."

The centre provides two other facilities: a creche for 140 children run by the African Self Help Organisation and a family planning clinic.

"I am comfortable at Lukholweni. We are given food and a place to sleep as well as free, daily transport to the hospital, all for a donation of just R10"



Despite the seriousness of her disease, cancer-stricken Mercy Motsoeneng from QwaQwa finds comfort in her mother, Elizabeth.

THREE CHILDREN

Men 'rape, kill boy in cells'

298

South 10/10- 14/10/92.

By Mluleki Gantsho

A BOY, aged 13, died in a cell of the Robertson police station last month after he was allegedly raped and murdered by three men who shared his cell.

The boy has been identified as Neville Snyman, a Standard Two pupil at De Villiers Primary School.

Neville's 11-year-old friend, Mervin, who was with him in the cell on September 24, described the incident.

"Neville was washing his shorts under the shower when one of the men pressed his head against the wall, under the running water. One of them raped him, then they kicked and hit him with a tap wrapped in a sock until he died."

Mervin also alleged that Neville was forced to drink water mixed with soap.

"There was nothing we could do to help him. We watched as they beat him. One of them said we would be killed if we told anyone."

He said the three men, "all in their twenties", beat the young boys and forced them to eat soap while they were waiting to be taken to court to face charges of theft.

Neville's distraught mother, Ms Fransina Snyman, said: "The police came a day after the incident to tell me of my son's death.

"I was shown his clothes that were full of blood and I was told to identify his body at the police station. I asked what happened to my son and they said, 'We don't know'. It's so painful, I cannot believe it, Neville was my only son."

Mr Mark Jasson, Snyman's lawyer, said that they were planning to lay charges of neglect against the Minister of Law and Order and the Minister of Correctional Services.

A spokesperson for the Department of Correctional Services said Neville was being held in a communal cell at the time of his death.

"The allegations that three of the occupants in the cell were in their twenties is devoid of all truth," he said.

Abuse of children rockets

PRETORIA. — A total of 1 889 South African children under the age of 16 were raped or sodomised in the first six months of this year. — and those were only the cases that were reported. (298)

In addition, 1 035 children were assaulted and there were 101 cases of incest. CT 10/10/92

On a daily average therefore, nearly 17 cases of children being raped, sodomised, assaulted or forced to have sex with a relative were reported.

In a statement yesterday listing the figures, police said: "It should be borne in mind that only a percentage of cases are reported, making the situation still more serious."

The SA Police urged children and their parents not to hesitate to report incidents of this nature to the police.

The latest figures indicated a drastic increase in violence against children.

In the same period last year 1 324 children were raped or sodomised, 773 assaulted and 117 cases of incest were reported — a total of 2 214 children in comparison with 1992's figure of 3 025. — Sapa

CHILD PRISONERS OF TOWNSHIP VIOLENCE

S Times 11/10/92 298

By WISEMAN KHUZWAYO

HUNDREDS of terrified children are trapped in Kwamadala hostel, in the Vaal, because they fear for their lives if they attend schools in the nearby townships.

Most of them have not seen a classroom for two years. They are the victims of the bloody clashes between the ANC and the IFP. In the townships they are seen as Inkatha members.

This was revealed by the Rev Kruger du Preez, acting chairman of the Regional Dispute Resolution Committee, in the wake of the murder of two teenage girls who were shot by youths claiming to be a ANC members. They mistook the girls for Kwamadala residents.

The girls, who in fact were pupils in Qwaqwa, were abducted in front of their relatives from a house in Evaton. Their bodies, riddled with AK-47 bullets, were found by police at a sports ground the following morning.

The ANC said it was investigating claims that the murderers were ANC members.

Kidnap

Mr William Nhlapho, regional secretary of the IFP, said his members in Kwamadala were safe as long as they did not go to the Vaal townships. It was those members who were living in the townships who were in constant fear.

He said only two weeks ago ANC supporters had tried to kidnap an Inkatha member in central Vereeniging. He was only able to escape by sprinting into the Kwazulu government offices nearby.

Mr Ronnie Mamoepa, spokesman for the ANC in the PWV region, said: "The level of violence in the area is of deep concern to us, but we believe the State must take the blame.

Iscor, which owns Kwamadala, has been trying to close down the hostel since September and move its employees to Kwamasiza hostel. But Kwamasiza residents, who are ANC supporters, won't share their lodgings with Kwamadala residents.

According to the IFP, Iscor has said it will not accept responsibility for the residents not employed by the company when the move takes place.

The Vaal Council of Churches has been trying to organise a meeting between the local ANC and IFP to resolve the plight of the residents.

Homeless

Mr Du Preez, who visited Kwamadala this week, said there were 304 children of all ages at the hostel.

Kwamadala did not have anything even resembling a school. Most of the children were homeless because their parents were driven out of the Vaal townships by ANC supporters while others had taken refuge in the hostel of their own accord.

Mr Du Preez has since been in contact with the local offices of the Department of Education and Training. He said he had been given a sympathetic hearing and a DET official had promised to look into the possibility of registering a school at Kwamadala.

Mr Du Preez added: "The residents were also complaining that they were isolated. Welfare workers did not visit the hostel because they were afraid for their lives when they returned to the townships.

"There is no church because even pastors are afraid to go there. TB and syphilis are rife among the inmates."

Both Inkatha and the ANC blame each other for what is happening in the PWV area.

CHILD PSYCHOLOGY

Motivating children to achieve their best

STAR 11/10/92

298

The child who under-achieves presents particular problems when it comes to motivation. This extract is taken from **Discipline Without Anger or Tears**, published by Tafelberg.

American psychologist Dr Abraham H Maslow's (1908-1970) motivational theories on children and adults, which surfaced 25 years ago, grabbed the attention of educators and psychologists worldwide.

He focused his attention on educational methods.

Educators and psychologists have applied his theory to under-achieving children with some success.

It should be emphasised that his theory can be applied to motivate both the achiever and under-achiever.

Dr Maslow's theory is depicted by means of a triangle which is divided into steps like a ladder. At the bottom of the ladder are a human being's most basic needs, that is, the need for food, clothing and shelter.

Above this is the need for safety and so on, through the need for security, love and respect, with the need for self-actualisation or achievement at the apex of the triangles.

According to Dr Maslow, until the lower-order need is satisfied, a person will not be motivated to achieve a higher-order need.



A simple example should illustrate this point. If you had gone without food for the past three days, you would hardly be motivated to read this page today. The need to satisfy your hunger would take precedence over your need to read this page. In fact, you would risk your safety in order to obtain food.

This theory will now be applied to the learning situation.

Whenever a child is under-achieving, according to this theory, we should look at which of his needs are not being met.

Remember, the need to learn, to know how to achieve is part of self-actualisation, and this is at the top of the ladder. We have to discover at what point on the ladder a certain need is not being met, and so find out why the child is either partially or completely fixated at this particular step.

You may even need to involve the parents, explaining Dr Maslow's theory in a non-threatening and non-accusatory manner, and ask them to see if they can shed any light on the problem from their side.

A word of caution here, though. If a teacher has reason to believe the problem may lie in the home situation, he or she may be well advised to refer the matter to the school counsellor or psychologist.

The need for food, clothing and shelter. This need is often inadequately satisfied in children attending schools in deprived areas, both in First and Third World countries. The problem is obviously more prevalent in Third World countries, however.

A child who is undernourished will find it difficult to concentrate on the many different concepts which have to be mastered during the five hours of the school day.

To be continued

SOWETAN Thursday October 15 1992

ct in Elim fire 'murders' ● New Bill on inquests



A train attack victim, Joyce Mzama of Jabulani, Soweto, talks to a paramedic at Langlaagte Station on Tuesday night. Two people were shot dead and 17 others seriously injured in two instances of train violence. PIC: SELLO MOTSEPE

Outrage over release of Elim fire suspect

■ CHARGES DROPPED Lawyers for Human Rights say there's no progress:

Sowetan 15/10/92

LAWYERS AND FAMILY members of the Elim Church fire victims have expressed concern and anger at the decision to drop charges against a man allegedly responsible for the fire in which eight children died.

The Attorney-General of the Transvaal decided on Tuesday not to continue with the prosecution against Mr Johannes Stefanus Vorster (33), who was facing eight counts of murder following the inferno at the Elim Church in Sunnyside, Pretoria, on March 12.

Vorster had already pleaded not guilty during his appearance in court in May.

Spokesman for the Lawyers for Human Rights, Mr Jody Kollapen, told *Sowetan* his organisation was concerned that nothing seemed to be happening. He said it should be noted that the Attorney-General's decision was based on what he had.

"What is of concern is that there has been no real breakthrough in the matter.

"But it should be remembered that innocent children were killed and the more time it takes to resolve this the more other people will feel unsafe out there," Kollapen said.

Sources close to family members of the victims expressed concern and anger that it has taken so long to resolve the matter.

They also wondered why police were so determined that they had their man. The Elim Church fire broke out on the morning of 12 March this year and eight children who were housed there perished, while 14 others sustained severe burns.

The Attorney-General for the Transvaal, Dr Jan D'Oliveira, was said to be in a meeting early yesterday and not available for comment.

Child abuse crisis in Cape

298
ARG 17/10/92

■ In South Africa, where 60 000 registered welfare organisations vie daily for public and sponsors' attention and often become embroiled in professional rivalry, neighbourhood-based "kiddie watch" units could provide a breakthrough in the fight against child and family abuse, says Safeline pioneer, the Rev Bruce Duncan.

948 calls made this year

TYRONE SEALE
Weekend Argus Reporter

SAFELINE's child abuse combat unit recorded 948 calls from sexually and physically abused children between January and August this year — and, the crisis-line phones keep ringing.

In the northern suburbs alone, Safeline received 171 calls from abused children between January and July. In 85 percent of the reported cases, abuse occurred in families sharing the same address. Only three percent of the alleged abusers were total strangers to their victims.

Such is the growth of physical and emotional abuse around the Cape that Cape Town City Mission Homes, the organisation running Safeline's counselling and rehabilitation centre in Athlone, recently opened an office in Somerset West to serve an area ranging from Gordon's Bay to Caledon and surrounds.

And, the organisation expects to launch a Stellenbosch-based service as soon as funds become available.

"This problem will always be with us," said Safeline founder the Rev Bruce Duncan this week, adding that international spread of child and familial abuse meant that, even if the problem were eradicated in South Africa, the country would remain vulnerable to abusers settling here from abroad.

"Even so, this is an unlikely scenario. The situation is very serious We cannot cope Reported cases are increasing all the time," said Mr Duncan.

The major advance made by Safeline, Child Helpline and other crisis services over the past four years was the raising of people's awareness about the different forms of abuse and their frequency.

Mr Duncan said: "We have a lot of people talking about it, but not enough is being done about it. The tail is wagging, but there's no dog."

He said professional rivalry between the country's 60 000 registered welfare organisations, the delays involved in the tricameral administration of welfare services and society's reluctance to "depower adults while empowering children" were serious concerns.

"We would like to see communities confront the problem at the most basic levels, without waiting for bureaucrats and a host of other parties to do something about a problem that affects every suburb in this country."

He cited Australia as an example where people had organised "kiddie watches" on the basis of one safe house for every residential block.

"Apart from initial training workshops, this system does not require large committees in drawn-out meetings, filling out piles of forms.

"All it needs is a caring household to offer their home, their telephone and their concern to children who may be abused."

This system was particularly needed in areas where children were often left to fend for themselves at home while parents were at work, leaving them vulnerable to abuse.

Safe houses would display "kiddie watch" tokens which could be easily identified by children and which would heighten people's awareness about child abuse.

■ Victims or perpetrators of abuse can contact Safeline at ☎ 26 1100. People who want to make homes available as safe houses can call the same number and ask for Mr Duncan.

Hungry shack kids thrashed for minor theft

cpress 18/10/92

298

By MOSES MAMAILA

A 10-YEAR-OLD who was savagedly beaten – allegedly by three white men said to be Portuguese immigrants – this week gave a chilling account of his narrow escape from death.

His frined, Pakiso Paulos Modise, 10, died from a wound received at the hands of the brutes.

Takalani Maphaha and Pakiso were accused by the men of stealing from a shop in Zuurbekom, outside Soweto.

No-one has been arrested – the cops say they are awaiting the outcome of the post mortem.

Pint-sized Takalani, who was playing with other kids when City Press arrived at his home, had weal marks and bruises all over his body – caused by an iron bar, a sjambok and sticks.

We were hungry

He said he and Paulos were hungry during the night of September 30 and they decided to break into the nearby shop to steal food.

"We got into the shop through the window by opening it from the outside. We stole two two-litre bottles of Coke, two packets of crisps and four packets of sweets.

"We stole R100 and left the rest of the money for the owners because all we wanted was to get a few things to keep us going. Without explaining, Paulos suggested that we defecate in the shop, and we did," he explained.

The two boys then fled into the night where they enjoyed themselves.

But their joy turned to terror when they were apprehended the following day and hauled off to the black shop manager, identified only as Lukhele, who whipped them.

The manager, who was helped by his employees, then handed the boys to three white men who took them to a nearby garage where they were thrashed with an iron rod and sjamboks.

"We pleaded for forgiveness with the white men but they kept on assaulting us for a very long time. I cried until my voice could no longer come out. Paulos was seriously wounded in the head where he had a hole caused by the iron bar," said Takalani, adding that they were later released and sent home.

Grievin ; mother Mamokete Annah Modise, 39, said

"We pleaded for forgiveness with the white men but they kept on assaulting us for a very long time. I cried until my voice could no longer come out. Paulos was seriously wounded in the head where he had a hole caused by the iron bar."



Paulos was covered in blood when he arrived home.

Speaking from tiny shack, Modise said her son could hardly speak and could not sleep.

She said: "On Friday morning I took my son in a wheelbarrow to the taxi rank where we caught a taxi to Chiawelo clinic. He was transferred to Baragwanath Hospital.

"I could not visit him at the weekend because I did not have money. When I visited him on Tuesday I was told he had died."

Modise is unemployed and was a single parent. She has to pay a shacklord R75 rent for her tiny dwelling space.

Fighting back tears, Modise said Lukhele was believed to be renting the shop owned by a Portuguese man.

He had told her he only wanted to "discipline" the kids by whipping them, but the three Portuguese men had interrupted and abducted the boys to the garage where they severely assaulted them, Modise said.

The owner refused to speak to City Press.

West Rand police spokeswoman Major Henriette Bester said police would only take steps after the post mortem. The suspects were known to the police.

BLIND HATRED ... Takalani Maphaha (left) shows the sjambok wounds inflicted by the three alleged Portuguese immigrants. Little Pakiso Paulos Modise's mother, Mamokete Annah, (above) weeps for her son who never lived to show his wounds.

■ Pics: TLADI KHUELI

Five youths in court

FIVE Diepkloof, Soweto, youths charged with the murder of Baragwanath Hospital doctor Stephan Walter were each granted bail of R500 when the appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday. 298

Walter (28) was shot dead while driving home on the M1 freeway near Soweto last month

The five youths, who are facing charges of murder and illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition, will appear in court again next Wednesday. Sowetan 8/10/92.

Attack suspects aquitted

298

THERE were stunned faces and surprised stares after Vanderbijlpark Magistrate FW Strydom acquitted four youths this week who allegedly almost killed two reporters – *Washington Post* journalist Paul Taylor and *Weekly Mail* reporter Philip van Niekerk – during a stayaway. Citizen

The trial of the four came after the highjacking of a vehicle the two reporters were in while travelling near Sebokeng on August 3. 15/10/92

The court heard the four allegedly stopped the car, held the two men at gunpoint and took R50 from van Niekerk before shooting him and Taylor.

1 900 children under 16 raped, sodomised

ST Times / Cape Metro 7

18/10/93

A TOTAL of 1 889 South African children under the age of 16 were raped or sodomised in the first six months of this year — and those were only the cases that were reported.

In addition, 1 35 children were assaulted and there were 101 cases of incest.

On a daily average therefore, nearly 17 cases of children being raped, sodomised, assaulted or forced to have sex with a relative were reported.

These shock figures are contained in a police report released last week.

In a statement listing the figures, police said: "It should be borne in mind that only a percentage of cases are reported, making the situation still more serious."

Violence

298

The South African Police urged children and their parents not to hesitate to report incidents of this nature to the police.

The latest figures also indicated a drastic increase in violence directed against children.

In the same period last year, 1324 children were raped or sodomised, 773 were assaulted and 117 cases of incest were reported — a total of 2215 children in comparison with 1992s figure of 3025 youngsters.

The SAP Child Protection unit can be alerted on the toll-free "childline", ☎ (0800) 123321. — *Sapa*

(1) Whether the Government is responsible for paying the costs of representatives of the (a) United Nations and (b) Organization for African Unity who recently visited or are currently visiting the Republic as observers, if so, (i) to what extent, and (ii)(aa) what are these costs to date and (bb) in respect of what period is this information furnished; if not,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the financing of the above-mentioned visits? B859E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

(1) (a) As far as the UN and other observers are concerned the Department of Foreign Affairs did not pay any expenditure to date

(b) (i) and (ii)

Only certain transport costs in accordance with international practice. From 14 September 1992 to 4 October 1992 and amount of R9 550 has been paid

(2) The general worldwide practice in the case of such missions is that the host country where a team is being deployed, provides financial assistance with regard to office accommodation and related expenditure It could thus be expected that certain costs will indeed be paid The amount cannot be provided at this point in time because there still have to be discussions about the extent of the services

Special representative of Secretary-General of UN: costs of visit

362. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs †

(1) Whether the Government is responsible for paying the costs involved in the visit to the Republic in August this year of Mr Cyrus Vance, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations; if so, (a) to what extent and (b) what were the costs involved, if not,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the financing of this visit? B860E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) No

(a) and (b) Fall away

(2) Not applicable given the answer under (1).

Imizamo Yethu settlement at Hout Bay: site

364. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing

(1) Whether the Imizamo Yethu settlement at Hout Bay is situated on a site of approximately 18 hectares agreed to in the second phase of the development in this regard, if not, what are the relevant details, if so,

(2) whether his Department has any plans for extending the above settlement; if so, what are these plans;

(3) whether these plans have been discussed with the liaison committee representing the Hout Bay communities; if so, when; if not, why not? B862E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING.

(1) Yes

(2) No; the activities of the Western Cape Regional Services Council on the relevant site of approximately 34 ha have been influenced to such an extent that they have to acquire an alternative site Consequently the Cape Provincial Administration is obliged to purchase the whole area of approximately 34 ha

(3) Although no formal plans for the development of the additional approximately 16 ha have been discussed, the Hout Bay Liaison Committee has agreed that the residential component will be confined to approximately 18 ha. The future utilisation of the additional approximately 16 ha is thus still to be decided upon in consultation with the local communities. This land could possibly be utilised for community facilities.

Pine forest area in Hout Bay: cutting down of trees

365. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Local Government and National Housing:

(1) Whether his Department has any plans to cut down any trees in the existing pine forest area near the Imizamo Yuethu settlement at Hout Bay; if so, (a) what trees and (b) why,

(2) whether an independent environmental impact study has been made regarding the possible effect of the cutting down of these trees, if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) by whom;

(3) whether he will make public the findings resulting from such a study? B863E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING·

(1) Yes;

(a) only those trees that have been identified during a scientific investigation to be dead, or are in the process of dying, as well as a limited number of trees which will hamper the alignment of roads or services in the development;

(b) the retention of the dead trees is a risk to the lives of people and property It would also not be cost effective to re-align roads and trunk services for purposes of retaining a small number of trees

(2) Yes;

(a) in June 1992,

(b) by Ms E L van and Honert, M.Sc (Botany) employed by Messrs Hill, Kaplan and Scott, consulting engineers;

(3) Yes

Single care grants: children of each race group

367. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of National Health:

How many children of each race group were receiving single care grants in terms of the Mental Health Act, No 18 of 1973, in respect of each province as at 30 September 1992 or the latest specified date for which information is available? B865E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

Province	White	Coloured	Indian	Black
Orange Free State	7	0	0	18
Cape	98	0	0	580
Natal	44	0	101	307
Transvaal	141	0	19	459
Total	290	580*	120	1 364

*Figures are not kept per province

SA citizenship: independent Black states

368 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

Whether any Blacks in the independent Black states have applied to regain their South African citizenship in terms of the provisions of the National States Citizenship Act, No 26 of 1970, as amended by the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, No 13 of 1978, if so, in respect of each such state, (a) how many applied, (b) how many applications were approved and (c) for what specified period is this information furnished? B866E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

Owing to the provisions of the Restoration of South African Citizenship Act, 1986 (Act 73 of 1986), which came into effect on 1 July 1986, no Black of any of the independent states applied in terms of section 3 of the National States Citizenship Act, 1970 (Act 26 of 1970), as amended by the National States Citizenship Amendment Act, 1978 (Act 13 of 1978), for South African citizenship since that date

Particulars of applications prior to the commencement of the above-mentioned Restoration of South African Citizenship Act are not readily available

Telephone installations: North Rand

369 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

Whether any applications for telephone installations for (a) residential, (b) facsimile and (c) business purposes were outstanding at the North Rand office of Telkom as at 1 October 1992, if so, (i) how many in each case and (ii) when is it anticipated that these backlogs will be eliminated? B867E

(g) wider acceptability,

(h) flexibility and ability to deal with different and changing circumstances

As Short-term Goals to

Address priority problems that currently exist in the retirement provision field, such as:

(a) Voluntary preservation and transferability;

(b) Pension payment problems,

(c) The means test,

(d) Unemployment benefits,

(e) Surpluses in funds;

(f) Pensions Ombudsman,

(g) Increasing of pensions

As Interim Goals to

(a) Conduct a situation analysis of the existing position dealing with human as well as statistical aspects, including migratory labour,

(b) Produce models;

(c) Address the issues in the goals;

(d) Achieve the widest possible understanding and co-operation

(2) No,

(3) To be decided at a later date,

(4) No

Racism in Police Force

45 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Law and Order.

(1) Whether the South African Police have investigated alleged accusations made by senior Police officers in the media regarding racism in the Police Force at Dundee as far as the use of facilities is concerned; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether the Police have completed their investigation, if not, why not; if so, what were the findings;

(3) whether the comments allegedly made in public by a senior officer, whose name has been furnished to the Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, reflect the official policy of the South African Police; if so, (a) to what extent are these comments consistent with the recently announced initiatives regarding the credibility of the Police and (b) what is the name of the officer concerned;

(4) whether any steps have been taken in respect of the said officer; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(5) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D227E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes.

Allegations in the media distorted the facts regarding the matter out of proportion

(3) According to the official policy of the South African Police which is actively applied, all institutions in the Force which make use of State facilities shall be open to members of all population groups

(a) Falls away.

(b) Colonel Moon

(4) No, in the light of details supplied above.

(5) The South African Police does all in its power to maintain the harmony between the different population groups No discrimination is tolerated Remarkable progress has been made in this area and caution must be exercised that the situation is not exacerbated as a result of distorted representations or exaggerations

Juvenile prisoners

46 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(1) (a)(i) How many (aa) awaiting-trial and (bb) convicted juvenile prisoners are being detained in gaols falling under his control and (ii) in respect of what date is this information furnished and (b) for what average period are awaiting-trial prisoners detained in gaol before being brought to court;

(2) whether any juvenile prisoners were released recently in terms of (a) a general amnesty or (b) any other such concessions, if so, (i) how many, (ii) when and (iii) in terms of what other concessions;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D228E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES.

Juvenile delinquency is an alarming world-wide phenomenon which in fact deserves more public attention than it receives in South Africa and in many other countries

In accordance with section 1 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) a juvenile is any person under the age of twenty-one years

In accordance with section 1 of the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act No 74 of 1983) a child is any person under the age of 18 years

(1)(a)(i)(aa) *Awaiting-trial children*

Younger than 15 years	80
15 but younger than 16 years	114
16 but younger than 17 years	231
17 but younger than 18 years	506
Total	931

Awaiting-trial juveniles (excluding the above mentioned children):

18 but younger than 19 years	1 044
19 but younger than 20 years	1 215
20 but younger than 21 years	1 199
Total	3 458

For the sake of completeness, I refer the hon member to the stipulations of sections 50 and 71 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977), which are self-explanatory To summarise, statutory provision has been made that a probation officer and the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 18 years who has been arrested, must be informed of the arrest. Any arrested person must also be brought before the court within a period of 48 hours, whereafter the court may issue an order for his further detention and determine the date of the next appearance in court.

Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act no 8 of 1959) stipulates *inter alia* that a person under the age of eighteen years who is accused of having committed an offence, may not be detained in a prison before his conviction unless his detention is essential and no suitable place of detention mentioned in the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act No 74 of 1983) is available for his detention. In each such case the judicial officer concerned issues a certificate to this effect When deciding on the suitability of the place of detention, the nature of the offence with which a person has been charged as well as age, sex, character etc are taken into account

A juvenile who is detained in terms of section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 shall not be permitted to associate with a person over the age of 21 years who is in custody, with the exclusion of a person who has been charged jointly with him, provided that the head of the prison is of the opinion that such association will not be detrimental to him Juveniles are also separated with regard to age groups where facilities permit

Discussions are regularly held between the Department of Correctional Services, the local magistrates, prosecutors and the South African Police with a view to keeping awaiting-trial juveniles out of prison.

(bb) *Sentenced prisoners*

Younger than 15 years	0
15 but younger than 16 years	19
16 but younger than 17 years	94
17 but younger than 18 years	446
18 but younger than 19 years	2 097
19 but younger than 20 years	2 608
20 but younger than 21 years	2 431
Total	7 695

South African courts do have the option to, amongst others, impose prison sentences on juvenile delinquents

Section 21 of the Correction Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) states, *inter alia*, that any part of a prison may be used for the detention, treatment and training of juveniles. Existing prisons or parts thereof are therefore set apart when required for this purpose and sentenced juvenile prisoners are transferred to these prisons on a regional basis for detention, treatment and training

In regions which do not yet have separate prisons for sentenced juvenile prisoners or where centralised detention has not yet been implemented, they are accommodated in prisons in separate sections or cells as far as possible, and depending on their needs, the

Continued

available programmes are also offered to them if feasible

Furthermore, it can be mentioned that the centralised detention of sentenced juveniles in certain regions is a direct consequence of the successes obtained with the youth centres and programmes at Leeuwkop (since 1986) and Pollsmoor (since 1987)

Generally the intention with these programmes is to equip the juvenile with the life skills which could contribute to his successful reintegration into the community after release

The following basic guide-lines are followed

— The achievement of a certain level of education in order to facilitate adaptation into the community In other words — acceptable norms and values must be acquired.

— Education and training as the basis of the programme Depending on the present level of education, intellectual capabilities of prisoners and the term of sentence it is endeavoured to achieve a specific level of education

— Meaningful utilization of time which is aimed at positive attitude after release.

— Maintenance of present social structures to counteract institutionalization and consequently prevent recidivism eg the maintenance and strengthening of family ties.

— Meaningful realization of religious needs

— Healthy physical development through physical training and care

Should the need arise, the further centralised detention of sentenced juvenile prisoners will be considered at certain centres which are deemed suitable for this purpose.

(ii) 31 August 1992

(b) The precise information cannot be provided to the hon member as it is, *inter alia*, not centrally available There are also various practical problems with regard to the possible recording of such statistics by the Department of Correctional Services.

To conclude this point I also refer the hon member to the information supplied by me in reply to question 87 on 26 February 1992 in the House of Assembly (Hansard Col 313-314)

(2) (a) No

(i), (ii) and (iii) Fall away.

(b) No

(i), (ii) and (iii) Fall away.

(3) No, except to refer to the attached press release issued on 21 October 1992 by the office of the Deputy Minister of Manpower and of Local Government; and National Housing in which it is, *inter alia*, confirmed that a special work group was appointed by the Deputy Minister of Manpower and of Local Government and National Housing, Mr G M E Carelse MP, to investigate the question of facilities for the detention of juveniles under the age of 18 years

Deputy Minister takes note of Nicro's report on children awaiting trial

Mr Glen Carelse, Deputy Minister of Manpower and of Local Government and National Housing, said in Cape Town today that the Government is equally concerned about the seriousness of the situation regarding children in detention, of which approximately 4 400 are presently being detained in prison.

Mr Carelse was reacting to the report released today in Cape Town which was compiled by the South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro), the community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape and Pietermaritzburg's Lawyers for Human Rights

The Government has for quite some time been concerned about this matter, and as a result an interdepartmental working group was appointed on 17 September 1992 by Mr Carelse. The mandate of the working group is investigate the possibilities of altenative centra and services where youths are being detained The final report of the working group will be submitted to him by the end of November 1992 The Working Group comprises the following departments:

South African Police, Law and Order, Justice, Correctional Services, Administration House of Representatives, Administration House of Delegates, Administration House of Assembly, Education and Training, Local Government and

National Housing, National Health and Population Development and the four Provincial Administrations The private sector will be co-opted by the sub committees of this Working Group.

In order to carry out its functions, the working group divided into several task groups, on which the interested parties from the private sector have been co-opted

The task groups will be considered matters such as:

— the true figures of children under age awaiting trial;

— alternative services that can be rendered;

— liaison between the role players; and

— legislation

Due to the seriousness of the problem, Mr Carelse has already requested that the working group submit an interim report to him by the end of October 1992 This will enable the Government to consider, if necessary, possible interim steps, even before the final report is published

Mr Carelse said that he welcomes the interests of Nicro in this particular matter He indicated that the interdepartmental committee will scrutinize Nicro's report, together with other inputs it may receive in preparing its report He also said that most of the issues addressed in Nicro's report are being dealt with by one of the sub committees of the interdepartmental working group

Mr Carelse has already visited two places of safety in the Transvaal and most of his visits to places of safety in the other provinces have already been scheduled. These visits are a result of his undertaking to acquaint himself with the situation in order to find a suitable solution

Issued by the office of Deputy Minister Carelse
Pretoria
21 October 1992

Contact person Johan Oosthuizen
Telephone: (012) 421 1406 (w)
(011) 976 4234 (h).

Own Affairs

Judicial commission of enquiry: representations to State President

38. The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Chairman of the Minister's Council:

Whether he will make representations to the State President to appoint a judicial commission of inquiry into alleged irregularities and political interference in respect of, *inter alia*, staff appointments, promotions and property allocations in the Administration: House of Delegates since 1 September 1989, if not, why not; if so, when does he intend making such representations? D219E

The CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL:

(1) No.

(2) I do not deem it expedient to make such representations.

Telephone usage in Ministerial office/official residence

39 The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION asked the Minister of the Budget and Auxiliary Services

(1) Whether he went abroad during 1992, if so, during which periods,

(2) whether his private and/or general telephones in his (a)(i) Ministerial office and (ii) official residence in Cape Town and (b) official residence in Natal were used during the periods referred to in paragraph 1 of this question, if so, what in the case of each of these telephones was the cost of such usage, excluding rental costs? D221E

The MINISTER OF THE BUDGET AND AUXILIARY SERVICES

(1) The Minister went abroad on pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia for the period 15 May 1992 to 15 June 1992.

(2) (a) (i) Yes — by the personnel in the Ministry of Budget and Auxiliary Services

Unable to determine actual number of units for the period 15/5/92 to 15/6/92 as the accounts overlap the said period

For information purposes the amounts for the period 8/5/92 to 4/6/92 and 5/6/92 to 6/7/92 are R38,75 and R91,48 respectively

(ii) Unable to determine actual number of units for the period 15/5/92 to 15/6/92 as the ac-

Cont →

4 000 in custody

298

MORE than 4 000 children were being held in prisons and police cells countrywide, the South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders announced in Cape Town yesterday. Sowetan 21/10/92.

The children were either awaiting trial, or awaiting placement in a juvenile facility, Nicro said.

NEWS Amnesty International lists numerous cases of child torture ● Hastening progress

Betrayal of the young innocents

Sowetan 22/10/92, (298)

■ CHILD TORTURE Crime is rife in all major countries of the world:

LONDON - Amnesty International yesterday highlighted reports of torture of children in India, Brazil and Mexico, and criticised the United States for executing youths for crimes committed when they were juveniles.

The London-based human rights group added in its report that a girl of 16 who died in Turkish police custody had half her head shot away.

The report, 'Innocence Betrayed: Human Rights Violations against Children and Young People', said children were tortured, killed or arbitrarily detained by government forces and police in countries around the world.

Criticising the United States, Amnesty International, which condemns capital punishment in all circumstances, said: "A handful of governments continue to impose the ultimate form of cruel and inhuman punishment (capital punishment) on children.

"Over the last 10 years, seven countries are known to have executed young people for crimes committed when they were still juveniles. The largest confirmed number, five executions, has been carried out in the United States."

It said that on February 11 the state of Texas executed Johnny Garrett by lethal injection for a slaying he committed when he was 17. Garrett was mentally impaired, chronically psychotic, brain-damaged and suffering from paranoid delusions at the time of his execution

It gave no other details about the US executions and did not name the other six countries

"Some children are deliberately targeted for human rights abuses because they are seen as social or political threats, others have been detained or tortured in order to force surrender or confession from their parents," the report said

It said that in some countries extreme poverty forced children onto city streets to fend for themselves.

"Street children are automatically regarded as criminal suspects by many law enforcement officers and are often subjected to harassment, threats or violent attacks. Children in India, as young as six, have been arrested and tortured."

It said that in June 1989 11 young children and teenagers from slums in New Delhi were detained on suspicion of theft.

"Munni, a 13-year-old girl, was stripped naked and beaten and one 12-year-old boy was given electric shocks and beaten with a leather belt. Another boy was stripped, hung upside down from the ceiling and beaten until he fell unconscious"

The youngest children, including a six-year-old boy, were released the next morning, it said.

It said police denied responsibility for the injuries, saying the children were roughed up by a family whose goods were stolen.

The report said thousands of poverty-stricken children in Brazil's big cities have been tortured, murdered or have disappeared in recent years after being snatched by death squads often composed of, or run by, police officers.

"Street children have also been killed by death squads hired by local shopkeepers to remove alleged criminals and petty thieves from the area," it said.

It said in Burundi a household of two women and five children killed with a handgrenade were among 1 000 people deliberately slain by soldiers last year against a backdrop of ethnic tension.

It said that in Turkey a 16-year-old Kurdish girl, Biseng Anik, was among 100 people, mostly students, detained by Turkish police in March this year in Sirnak province in the southeast of the country following disturbances during the Kurdish New Year.

She died in police custody.

When her mother went to collect the body, she found that half her daughter's head had been shot away, her hands were torn between the fingers, some fingers were broken and her flesh was covered in cigarette burns, cuts and bruises.

Amnesty International said the official police version of events was that the girl was put in a cell where a rifle had been accidentally left under the bed and she used it to commit suicide. Police denied she was tortured, the report said.

It said torture in custody is widespread in Mexico and many victims are children - *Sapa-AP*

NEWS FEATURE *A place of safety and care for black children in need c*

Improvement at Van Ry

Sowetan 22/10/92.

298

By Abbey Makoe

DRAMATIC CHANGE *From a mine hospital to a juvenile jail and now a place of safety:*

THE Van Ryn Place of Safety has always been synonymous with the detention of children

In fact, many black parents used to threaten their naughty children with sending them to the dreaded place.

As a boy I escaped being taken to Van Ryn, where many of our peers spent a weird 30 days digging potatoes barehanded.

Those were some of the tales many used to tell on their return from Van Ryn

The reasons for being locked up there were diverse - the most common being riding in a train without a ticket

I visited Van Ryn for the first time recently, courtesy of Deputy Minister for Housing and Constitutional Development Mr Glen Carelse

The place is no longer a jail. The first thing that caught my eye was a row of 29 single beds made neatly in blue and navy sheets.

The huge hall was decorated fancily with posters of singers on the walls. There was no one inside when we arrived.

Suddenly a nine-year-old boy who came from Tsakane emerged from one section of the building.

"I'm doing Sub A," he said subserviently

The place's historical association with the detention of black children remains daunting in the minds of many.

Just the thought of being taken to there was enough to give one a nightmare.

The place captured worldwide attention in the 1970s when the Black Peoples Convention (BPC), then led by the father of the Black Consciousness Movement, Steve Biko, spear-headed an international outcry over the conditions under which black children were held there

Social abnormalities

Biko himself had such places in mind when he declared during his well-known Saso/BPC trial: "It is a miracle for a child in the black community to reach adulthood."

It was also for the same reason he appealed to a judge to withdraw treason charges against the accused because the state was "itself guilty of terrorism" in the form of centres such as Van Ryn

But today the former prison is called the Van Ryn Place of Safety for black children abandoned by their parents or lost in the quagmire of social abnormalities

A Standard 7 pupil, who cannot be named because of the Child Care Act,

showed guests around She is also a prefect at the centre

In one room about seven babies are sleeping

A minder attached to the centre, Mrs Gertrude Kobese, says the room is used as a creche under her charge

Ugly deeds

She describes all the babies as "healthy and fine" Her colleague, a nursing sister, Mrs Sanah Kobe, says of the children: "They get comfort here "

Indeed, life has changed at Van Ryn

Social workers kept on reiterating the need for the black community to forget the State's ugly deeds that were perpetrated at the centre.

Mrs Mpho Zulu and Ms Marlene De Beer, social workers at the centre, presented a paper during the ministerial visit.

Nowhere in their paper did they specifically recall the past atrocities perpetrated at Van Ryn

They went back to the origins of the centre in 1930 when the premises were used as a mine hospital until 1960 when it was converted into its present structure.

"Since then emphasis was placed on child care only and a negative image was carried over to the community," they both wrote

Besides their understanding of the past inhumanities at the centre, Van Ryn is undoubtedly undergoing a drastic image transformation.

Some of the aims of the centre highlighted were:

- To create a "holistic environment" that is socially, emotionally and physically effective on an individual and group basis;
- To provide, develop and maintain a cohesive and effective staff team,
- To set up a public relations strategy to enhance the image of the centre.

Pocket money

Among other improvements at the centre were a tuckshop where children buy sweets Lately, the 130-odd children at the centre were provided with pocket money by the authorities

There is a school, registered with the DET, starting from Sub A on the premises.

Pupils who graduated to secondary school level were registered at the nearby Wattville, their fees paid for by the institution

A soccer team has been formed, an affiliate of the Christian Soccer League on the East Rand.

The team took part in a tournament at Springs in March and has been playing league games during weekends.

Although the team is yet to register its first win, the enthusiasm of players and supporters is said to be encouraging

When asked what the purpose of the visit was, Mr Carelse said plans to upgrade facilities at the centre were in the pipeline.

From a mine hospital to a juvenile prison and finally to a place of safety. Except for periodical renovations, the structure remains the same Change the name to exorcise the past



Act of passion: an abandoned -

Van Ryn Place of Safety

- **Population:** 134 legally bestowed children.
- **Location:** Benoni, East Rand.
- **Duties:** Helps children through court cases and prepares them for placing.
- **Education:** The centre has a creche, grade 1 to standard 5. Children who graduate to high school are registered in Wattville.
- **Tasks:** The centre provides, develops and maintains an effective staff team to prepare a brighter future for the childen.
- **Recreation:** Consists of soccer and other children's games.

1:

f security

n home



puty housing minister Mr Glen Carelse holds ld during his visit to Van Ryn Place of Safety.

Pic. Len Kumalo

'Childrens' rights violated'

Bloem 23/10/12

CAPE TOWN — The Departments of Correctional Services, Law and Order, Health and Welfare, Housing and Justice had violated their duty to care for children being held in prisons and police cells, according to a new report.

The report entitled Justice for the Children — No Child Should be Caged was released yesterday.

Compiled by the Community Law Centre, Nicro and Lawyers for Human Rights, it claimed that more than 4 000 children were being detained in SA.

It said the departments were unfit guardians and that there had to be intervention at the highest level to remove these children from their care. (298)

A children's court inquiry should be held for each child in detention, and non-government organisations as well as individuals should be considered as suitable guardians.

The report demanded the Law and Order Department address the issue of police harassment of children. — Sapa.

No safe haven for the caged children

W/Mail 23/10 - 29/10/92 (298)

Thousands of children languish in prison and police cells awaiting trial. A new report calls for a radical revision of the law, reports

GAYE DAVIS

VUYO was arrested while waiting for a train to take him home to Khayelitsha after finishing his Saturday morning job in a supermarket

Until then, life was going well for the 17-year-old He was coping with his Standard Eight schoolwork and he had his job Suddenly, he was handcuffed and thrown into the back of a police van

After two nights in police cells, Vuyo appeared before a magistrate Bail of R100 was set but he was unable to contact his parents His case was remanded and he was sent to Pollsmoor Prison to await trial.

He and two other youngsters were put in a crowded cell where they were slapped and kicked and forced to dance for their cellmates The next night, and every night until his mother finally traced him five days later and paid his bail, Vuyo was repeatedly raped by older men in his cell

He was warned about the fate of another prisoner, who was beaten to death by his cellmates when he reported being raped Vuyo said nothing.



Child prisoners at Pollsmoor Prison suffer abuses Photo: GUY TILLIM

At home, his aunt — a nursing sister — noticed the boy was walking with difficulty and took him to a clinic There he was treated for anal trauma and a sexually transmitted disease His Aids test was negative

When Vuyo finally appeared in court on a theft charge the magistrate threw the case out of court. Vuyo was the victim of false arrest.

But his life had changed forever Traumatised by the rapes, he turned into "a different person" The sexually transmitted disease flared up again and again He did not return to school

Vuyo is not his real name, but his story is true There are thousands of Vuyos in police and prison cells in South Africa — children who have not been found guilty, yet who are being kept in conditions where they are exposed to violent assault or worse

Recently, a 13-year-old Robertson boy, Neville Snyman, died in the town's prison after his cellmates allegedly sodomised him, beat him and ruptured his internal organs after jumping on his stomach

The plight of children like Vuyo and Neville form the focus of a report released in Cape Town this week, which calls for the urgent reform of the juvenile justice system

Far from promoting the rehabilitation of young offenders, says the report, the system is racially discriminatory, results in the abuse of children's rights and "creates, shapes and hardens juvenile delinquents"

The report is based on information gathered by Michelle Morris, of the Youth Advocacy Unit at the University of the Western Cape's community law centre, Rosemary Shapiro, a senior social worker at the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) in Cape Town, and Ann Skelton, who runs Lawyers for Human Rights' juvenile justice project in Pietermaritzburg

The Department of Correctional Services says there are between 9 000 and 12 000 youths under 21 currently awaiting trial in prisons The figure excludes those children being held in police cells, or those convicted of crimes who are serving their terms in jail because there are no places for them in other institutions.

They are there because the law allows for children to be imprisoned if there is no room for them in a registered place of safety or their parents and guardians can't be traced

But Shapiro says places of safety are under-used in the western Cape, some are running at only 40 percent occupancy "Up to six different state departments can be involved in the incarceration of children and there's no co-ordination between them Also, facilities are still segregated there are many more places available for white children " Children as young as nine will be kept with others aged 21

"We're not calling for a general amnesty for children in jail," said Morris "What we are saying is that the police and correctional services are violating their duty of caring for these children.

"We want non-government organisations (NGOs) working with children to be granted immediate access to all children in police and prison cells so that we can trace their parents or guardians and try and get them relocated.

"We also want attention paid to setting up emergency children's court or juvenile court hearings where monitors can be present to help children get lawyers to represent them It's estimated that more than 90 percent of juveniles appearing in magistrate's courts are unrepresented "

Often, police attempts to trace parents are thwarted by the children themselves, who give false addresses, or by suspicious communities reluctant to give information But NGO workers face no such difficulty.

"The report is aimed to intercede on behalf of the children to ensure that the government does not fail once again to adequately assess and respond appropriately to the problem We believe it is not necessary to hold children in prison and that no child should be caged."

●A government-appointed special working group recently set up to investigate the detention of youths under 18 is expected to report on its findings by the end of the year

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Easing jail congestion

THREE bold new steps are being taken by Magistrates' Courts to ease overcrowding in prisons and rehabilitate juvenile, first-time and petty offenders.

Instead of facing trials, some offenders are participating in victim-offender mediation programmes or doing community service.

And in cases of juvenile offenders, magistrates have the option of sending them on rehabilitation courses at special "juvenile schools". (298)

Change in land policy

THE Government has had a change of heart on land policy, acknowledging that land should be restored to people who lost it as a result of apartheid laws.

This was necessary to redress the "total imbalance" in land ownership between whites and the rest of the population, Deputy Land Affairs Minister Johan Scheepers said yesterday. - *Sowetan Correspondents and Sapa.*



Torture proof ANC leaders: Top ANC leaders

(298) ARG 29/10/92

■ In sworn affidavits from dissidents, it is clear that senior members of the Arican National Congress turned a blind eye to cruelties practised in its camps.

PATRICK LAURENCE, Weekend Argus Reporter

SENIOR leaders of the African National Congress knew of the cruelties practised in its camps by Mbokodo — as its security department was known — but chose to turn a blind eye.

This is clear from sworn affidavits from dissidents, which have been submitted to the investigation conducted by Mr R C Douglas SC on behalf of the International Freedom Foundation.

The depositions contain further gruesome accounts of what happened, including, according to a former ANC security guard who fell foul of Mbokodo, the discovery of a mass grave containing 13 bodies.

The leading officials include some of the ANC men named in the Weekly Mail yesterday as being responsible.

In a statement late last night, the ANC dismissed the list as inaccurate and said the reports repeated "unsubstantiated allegations and accusations".

It admitted that some of the names had appeared in the ANC report, but many others had been added, some of which were unknown to the ANC.

Weekend Argus can add new names to those already suspected of direct responsibility, including, by one account, Joe Modise, commander of the ANC's army, Umkhonto we Sizwe.

A list of those held to be responsible for brutality by the ANC-appointed commission — whose report was released on Monday — was given to ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela. The ANC refused to disclose the names, arguing that those named had not had an opportunity to defend themselves.

Senior ANC men identified by the Weekly Mail yesterday included Mr Mzwai Piliso, the immediate past head of Mbokodo, Mr Andrew Masondo, the ANC's former national commissar and its present chief representative in Uganda, and Mr Thami Zulu, a former camp commander who was himself later detained by Mbokodo and who died shortly after his release.

It should be emphasised that dissidents were not cross-examined by counsel for the ANC leaders and that their evidence was given on the express condition they were not publicly identified. Their desire for ano-

■ Turn to page 3

Woman of the Year is named

Sowetan 29/10/92

■ Sixth winner: Ex-domestic worker Emily Moabelo (54) fought against strong resistance to establish a pre-school:

By Sizakele Kooma

FORMER domestic worker Emily Moabelo is the 1992 *Sowetan*/Eskom Woman of the Year.

The 54-year-old woman from Mmadietane in GaMatlala, outside Pietersburg, fought against strong resistance from certain sectors of the tiny community to set up a pre-school.

Today, three years later, she has gained the confidence of those who did not trust her domestic worker background by making Lesedi Children's Garden a model for the community.

Moabelo used two years of experience working in nursery schools and a three-months intensive training programme in England to create the creche.

Church building

The project, which started off with 10 children in a church building, has grown considerably. There are now 120 children enrolled at the creche and they have since moved to new premises - two precast rooms.

But it has not only attracted a large number of children but sponsorship is pouring in from companies which are recognising Moabelo's efforts and realising the needs of those children.

Moabelo's commitment to the education of children does not end with the basic running of Lesedi. She also runs training workshops for her assistants and other pre-school teachers around GaMatlala.

Long-term-plan

Her long-term plan, which might be seen as far-fetched by some people, is to establish a community clinic. But before that she intends to turn Lesedi into a day and night care facility.

Moabelo, an energetic and vibrant mother of three, attributes her success to determination and optimism.

"When I have an idea, failure is definitely not part of me," she says confidently.

Moabelo's name is to be added to the list of five other women who have been honoured with the award since the project was launched about six years ago.

Past Woman of the Year winners are Fikile Mlotshwa, Emelda Boikanyo, Mirriam Sofe, Ruth Machobane and Olga Lutu. The project is part of *Sowetan* Nation Building.

Finalists for the award this year were Gloria Serobe who is the runner-up, Emily Motse, Pinky Mokgele, Jermina Kgope, Nelly Mothiba, Edith Morake, Mary Malaza, Thandi Khumalo and Rose-May Dabula.

By-law 'puts kids in jail'

(298) CT 30/10/92

Municipal Reporter

CHILDREN may soon be exempted from the provisions of the municipal by-law that prohibits loitering.

Councillor Mrs Isobel Edelstein, appealing to the council on behalf of street children, called for an investigation into whether the loitering by-law was drawing children into the criminal justice system.

Street children, the "most mute and marginalised section of our community", sometimes languished in jail as "awaiting trial" prisoners.

In March the National Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) had found a nine-year-old child in prison awaiting trial.

Mr Chris Joubert agreed that children should not be imprisoned, but said somebody had to be legally empowered to take them off the streets.

Mrs Eulalie Stott said she agreed that more places of safety were needed.

Mrs Edelstein's motion, that the council should re-examine its by-laws, was passed unanimously.

● A new children's shelter is to be established in Selkirk Street, virtually under Eastern Boulevard where it enters the city centre. A night shelter for adults is already operating there.

Night-time highways (298 South) where the bogeyman is real

31|10 – 9|11|92

MOST children are afraid of the dark. Even in secure bedrooms they dream up bogeymen. When they sleep on the streets the dangers are real.

People have been known to assault street children just because they are there. They are often victims of sexual abuse and are easy targets for police harassment.

Bed for these children is usually a place in a doorway or under a bridge. There are few secluded spots in central Cape Town and fewer still that the police don't know about Children have to compete for space with adult vagrants.

Street children usually gather where food is available. During the day they may eat at soup kitchens or buy food. But in the evening, they try to gather for a meal.

Traditional family rituals reproduce themselves: if a group contains both girls and boys, the girls will prepare the food. Children distribute the food equally, if possible dividing it into two "courses" to make a "proper meal". The meal often begins with a prayer.

Soup kitchens are not an adequate source of food since they are not open for the whole week. So children raid dustbins for food or beg food from shopkeepers.

Otherwise they need money — the options are prostitution, stealing, or begging. Of the children who spoke in the survey by community workers, 72 percent said they begged as a source of income. But after a day of begging, children may be mugged by adults for this money. — **JUSTIN PEARCE**

When escape is thinners and a rag

298

SOWETAN 31/10-4/11/92.

YOU start by pouring thinners onto a rag or into the bottom of a plastic Coke bottle. You take a good deep breath — and your brain goes into orbit. Minutes later you're back on the ground. Where am I? You feel disorientated. You may find yourself hallucinating. When reality means a cardboard shelter on a cold night, fantasy might not be such a bad idea. You don't feel the hard pavement so badly; the hunger doesn't bother you any more.

You feel powerful, as if nobody will ever be able to touch you again — not the police, not the shopowner who skopped you out of the doorway last night.

But you may not notice that you've wandered into the road. Or that those two blurred lights are getting closer and closer.

This is what thinners does to you. Presuming that the driver of the car has managed to avoid you, you're going to come down from that high sooner or later.

Now everything seems worse than it was before and the sadness cripples you. You see a policeman in every passer-by. So you go back to the bottle to get over it all.

Nine out of 10 street children use some sort of drug. Seven out of 10 use paint thinners. Younger children see nothing wrong with using thinners while swearing they will never use alcohol. "Drink kills you," they say. "People fight when they are drunk."

Yet most of them grow up to use alcohol. Using alcohol, the adults and older children say, is about "growing up" and "being a man". Although they grew up with thinners themselves, they look down on the children who now use it.

Spirits and meths, on the other hand, are old men's drinks. The youths avoid these, choosing beer and wine instead.

Contrary to some expectations, street children who use alcohol do not drink heavily. But those who do easily get involved in violent fights.

Thinners and alcohol are the big drugs as far as street children are concerned. More than half of them have used dagga at some point, but few are regular users.

About a fifth use mandrax now and then. Thinners and alcohol are both highly addictive. Children coming off these drugs need counseling and if forced to give up drugs they may readily become aggressive.

Says community worker Ms Tiggy Nichol: "Most children on the streets do not want to use drugs, but have begun to see them as a necessary part of their day." — **JUSTIN PEARCE**

Life in the shadows . . .

The new Streets project is taking up cudgels on behalf of street children. Before setting up this project, community workers David Fortune and Tiggy Nichol documented the children's lives. **SOUTH reporters** look at some of their findings:



Photo Yunus Mohamed

STREET LIFE: Home is doorway or cardboard shelter for these children

WHAT makes children take to the streets ?Mr David Fortune, co-ordinator of the Streets project, says tough conditions at home make most children take up this hard existence.

The non-profit making project was launched in July with the aim of easing the agony of children living on Cape Town streets.

To solve this problem, project workers want to see involvement by communities from which the street children come.

But this is not an easy task.

Fortune warned that once children had been away from family and community for a long time, it was hard to re-integrate them.

And often the reasons that had forced them to leave home remained the same, he added.

Fortune said methods used by children's institutions had not solved the problem of street children.

'Street children are subjected to constant police harassment and incarceration through the court'

South 31.10 - 4/11/92 (298)

"These children need support through to mature adulthood," he said.

Explaining the kind of support that was necessary, Fortune said full-time street workers should be employed. They would work with children who had come through the court system and would try to resettle them in their homes or the institutions they had left.

He also said that: "Street children are subjected to constant police harassment and incarceration through the court. Their continued detention has had a detrimental effect on them."

In the most recent allegations, the Cape Town children's project Molo Songololo has accused police of physically harassing street children.

In August, Mr Patric Solomons of Molo Songololo led a delegation of children to police. The children had a list of complaints detailing alleged maltreatment.

Streets has just moved into a rent-free building, owned by Head Start Development, where it will be located until December. Sponsors have promised to fund the project..

— LUCAS MATI

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Giving 'outcasts' a push in the direction of business skills*

Street kid realises a dream

Sowetan 5/11/92

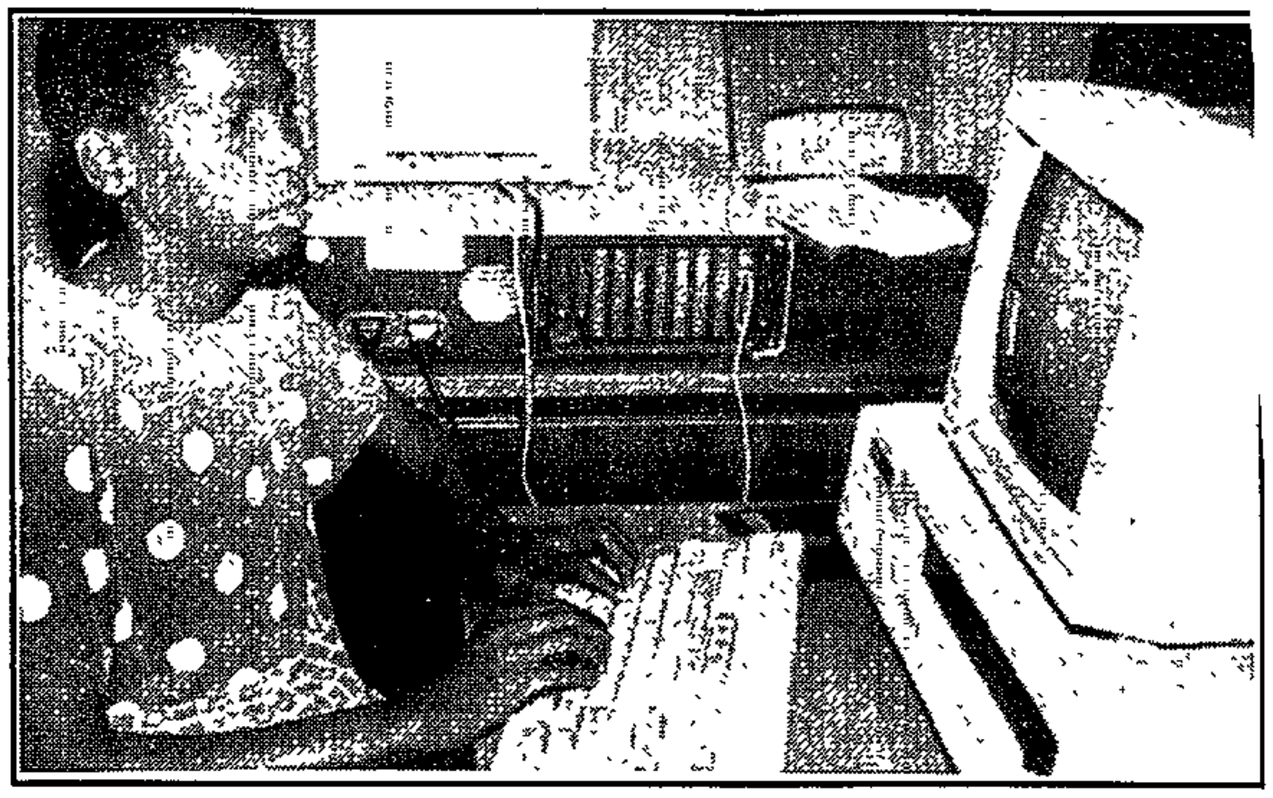
MOVING UP *Reformed Jacob Makola (17)*

is on his way to being a computer boffin:

By Pearl Majola

298

"These children need to know that somebody out there cares for them"



Jacob Makola hard at work.

AS MOST OF downtown Johannesburg goes to the suburbs with businesses closing for the day, six anxious boys sit behind their desks in one of the buildings and confront the computer keyboard.

One of them, Jacob Makola, hopes the two nights a week he spends at the AM Ultimate Computer School will lead him to his dream career as a computer programmer.

He is a reformed street kid who is now a Standard 6 pupil at Orlando High School.

After two months of learning touch typing and basic word processing, 17-year-old Jacob types up to 35 words a minute without a single error, a speed acquired from intense practice and envied by many typists. He has almost perfected the skill.

"I want to be a computer programmer," he says confidently as he types away.

His dream is fast becoming a reality. Thanks to Amalgamated Beverage Canners (ABC) who are sponsoring 13 boys from Streetwise, an organisation for street children, to attend a computer course at AM Ultimate.

The boys are divided into two groups, one of which attends classes every Monday and Wednesday evening and the other on Saturday mornings.

It all began when Rita Hirsch, the American consul general's wife who is a volunteer teacher at the Streetwise bridging school, met AM Ultimate director Mrs Angie Makwetla.

"I started working with these boys two years ago and put them on a programme called Writing to Read," explained Hirsch.

"I realised they were very talented and that if they could be trained in using the computer their writing skills could be improved and they have great potential

Career paths

"The training will also help direct their career paths and as you know computers are very important in today's industry.

"I met Angie (Makwetla) early this year at some function and spoke to her about this. She offered to train the boys free at her school until we could get sponsorship," she said.

"These children need to know that somebody out there cares for them and this was the least I could do," said Makwetla.

"Besides, they were really keen to learn and this course will help them in the future, so I decided to help."

Later Hirsch spoke to the ABC people and secured sponsorship for the boys who are being trained now.

"We hope they will benefit from this course and that it will give them a direction towards business skills," said ABC public relations manager Karyn Watson. "We also hope that it will keep them off the streets."

Keep practising

According to Hirsch, Streetwise cannot afford to buy computers for the boys to keep practising what they learn.

"So we hope that companies will see the work that is being done here and take the boys as apprentices in their offices," she concluded.

Help to give a child a future

Soweton 6/11/92

DIG DEEP

Dive into your pockets to raise money for children: (298)

By Pearl Majola

TOMORROW dig into your pockets and "Give a Child a Future" or ring bells, sound your hooter and sirens at noon for a minute for a worthy cause.

The occasion is the celebration of Our Children's Day which marks the end of Child Welfare Week organised by the National Council for Child and Family Welfare.

Give a Child a Future is the theme for the day.

The aim of the event is to increase awareness of South African children in need and child welfare societies.

A mini walk is planned for Soweto tomorrow in aid of the Impumelelo Centre in Diepkloof. Registration for the 10km walk is at 9am at the Centre and the entry fee is R8 for 12 years and older and R3 for under 12 years of age.

It promises to be a day of fun for the whole family with prizes, music, games and refreshments.

There will also be street carnivals, processions as well as friendly street collectors who will be asking for donations.



Walking to happiness - a mini-walk is planned for Children's Day.

Street collections will be at Rosebank, Randburg and Eastgate malls and there will also be a fashion show at Rosebank.

Our Children's Day is one of the largest awareness and fundraising events of the child welfare movement and it has been celebrated in South Africa since 1966.

According to the Council, the event was started by Countess of Athlone, Princess Alice who loved children.

"Princess Alice had a passionate love for children and used every bit of the royal influence at her disposal to further the cause of children in need," says a statement from the Council.

"The idea of Our Children's Day became well-rooted in the South African society and developed as a traditional day of the child welfare movement.

"After 66 years the Council and its affiliated societies still largely depend on this awareness and fundraising day to render important services for underprivileged children."

"Princess Alice had a passionate love for children and used every bit of the royal influence at her disposal to further the cause of children in need"

'Token love' for urchins

298
ARG 7/11/92

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

■ "Token" caring in Cape Town will soon mean food and shelter for the city's street children.

CAPE Town's street children soon will be taking plastic money.

Not the conventional credit-card variety of course, but rather "tokens" which they can "cash in" for a meal or a bed in which to sleep at one of the city's several shelters.

The ambitious token plan, which promises a whole new dispensation for the city's hundreds of young beggars, will not only resolve the daily dilemma motorists face of whether or not to respond to heart-rending pleas for cash, but also will secure better care for the street children.

City councillor Mrs Isobel Edelstein, spokesman for the working group that masterminded the concept, told Weekend Argus they expected to launch the project in June next year and were canvassing possible sponsors.

Effectively, members of the public will be able to purchase the tokens — a price has not been set yet — and then distribute them to the street children as they please.

"The idea is to sell the tokens at all sorts of outlets including service stations and through service organisations.

"The youngsters then can take their tokens along to one of the street-children shelters where they can exchange them for either a meal and/or a bed for the night."

Mrs Edelstein said people were loathe to give the children money because they were concerned it would be used to buy glue to sniff, dagga or mandrax.

Since most people did not carry food around in their cars, many children were losing out.

She believed the token system also would resolve the problem of beggars at every street corner which would lead ultimately to the deterioration of Cape Town as a tourist destination.

The exciting plan goes a step further too: "Once we've got the token system up and running, we aim to create street-children villages where these children can live permanently and acquire skills."

The idea was based on a successful Kenyan project in which their street children lived together in villages and were so skilled that they had the monopoly on manufacturing furniture for local hotels.

"It's all part of a great dream to get all the children off the streets," said Mrs Edelstein.

Sunnier side of the street for kids?

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

CHILD-CARE experts have come out in strong support of a move in the Cape Town City Council to see children exempted from the provisions of the municipal by-law that prohibits loitering.

Effectively, the change will mean the city's street children no longer may be jailed for simply being on the streets, begging or sleeping in doorways. Experts say this will put an immediate stop to an unnecessary "criminalising process".

The council move came from city councillor Mrs Isobel Edelstein who called for an investigation into whether the loitering by-law was drawing children into the criminal justice system.

Street children, the "most mute and marginalised section of our community", often languished in jail as "awaiting trial prisoners", she claimed.

Senior social worker for the National Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro), Mrs Rosemary Shapiro, said there was no doubt the by-law was contributing to the huge number of children in South African jails — a total 9 000 to 12 000.

"Leaving children lying in doorways is certainly the lesser of the two evils. It's far better to encourage them to go to shelters than to see them caught up in the criminalisation process in prisons.

"If you put them through the criminal justice system too early it's not an end of the road story, but a beginning of the road story. After the second or third time they're arrested, they are no longer intimidated. They become survivors."

'Give the kids a choice'

SOWTH 7/11-11/11/92.

By Edwina Booysen and Juanita Williams

298

HOW DO street children go about being rehabilitated and taken back into the normal life they should be living?

The Homestead and Patrick's Houses in central Cape Town, help the children in a two-stage process.

The Homestead, an intake shelter, helps street children to come off sniffing glue and solvents.

"The social workers at the shelter help the children to leave their street life by investigating the child's home circumstances and working from there," said Mrs Annette Cockburn, principal of Patrick's House.

Street children have to make the choice — they can either stay on the street and its instability — or go into a shelter.

"Most of the children enter the shelter willingly, we have found that they settle much easier then," Cockburn said.

But going to the Homestead is only the first stage of rehabilitation for the children. To complete the cycle they have to be prepared for the life they have been missing out on, beginning with their education.

Their second stage home is Patrick's House, where 30 children can be accommodated. As the name implies, it is a house, with a kitchen, living room and games area.

The boys sleep in dormatories — about 15 boys share a room.

Each dorm is furnished with the bare essentials — a few double bunks and cupboards where the children can store their belongings.

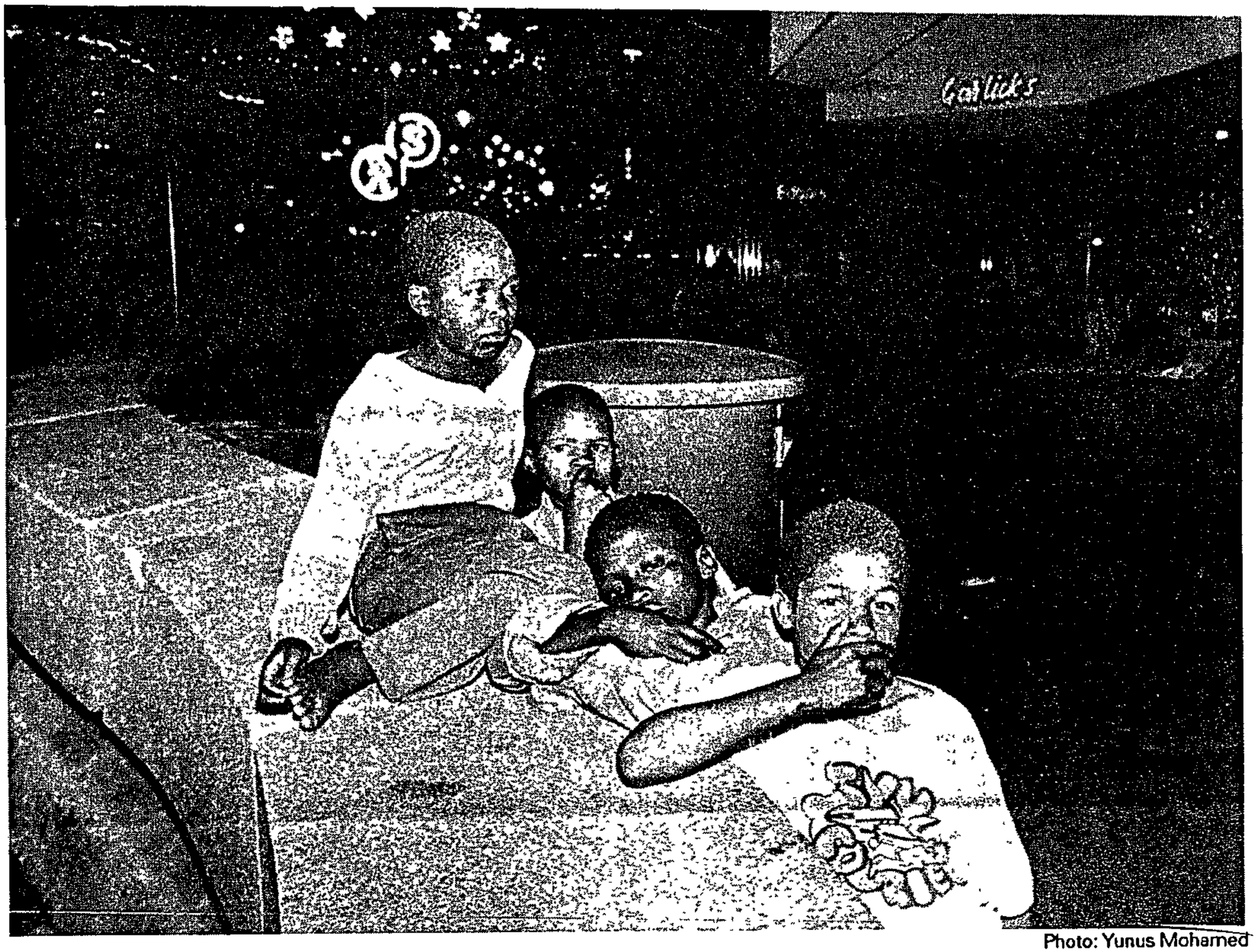


Photo: Yunus Mohamed

WHERE TO NOW? Prison, institutions or home care are the most likely alternatives to a life on the streets.

The educating process starts at Patrick's House. "They attend a non-formal education programme at Salesians called 'Learn and Live'. The children are then prepared for re-entry into formal schooling. If they are not school material, they are taught life and vocational skills," Cockburn said.

Rev Bruce Duncan, director of the Safeline advice service, believes the community must assume more responsibility for caring for street children, rather than leaving all the work to the already overextended shelters

"If people in the suburbs could take just one street child into their homes for a night or two, Pollsmoor Prison wouldn't be as full as it is

"If you find a child in need at night, give him or her a hot bath, something to eat and let him or her sleep in the lounge or spare bedroom In the morning you can contact one of the shelters. It is important to look after the children at night — that's when the police are liable to lock children up."

Duncan points to "safe houses" as an example of community-based care for street children. These are private houses which the owners have opened up as a space where street children can find shelter and safety.

"There are also lots of church halls standing empty that could be used as emergency shelter," Duncan added.

focus on street kids

Places without heart for plight of children

SOUTH 7/11-11/11/92 (298)

Most street children end up under a roof at some point, whether it is an institution, a shelter or a prison. In the second part of a series based on research by Tiggy Nichol and David Fortune, SOUTH reporters look at the options:

By Justin Pearce

FOR children who have left home and taken to the streets, there are three kinds of place to go to. One is prison. The second category of place is the state reformatories and places of safety. The third are the children's homes and night shelters.

While children go to a home or a shelter of their free will, the reformatories and places of safety are different. Children are referred there by the courts, and are guilty of an offence if they leave. While these places are meant to rehabilitate children into society, they often end up doing exactly the opposite. In the survey, 36 percent of street children had been in one of these institutions at some time.

Places of Safety cater for younger children, aged two to 10. They are not meant to be punitive, dealing mainly with children who have nowhere else to live, but children often end up seeing them as a punishment.

Reformatories are designed specifically for children who have broken the law and are seen as a last step before prison. Some children will wait long periods in prison before a place is found for them in an appropriate institution.

Street children are at a particular disadvantage when it comes to being committed to an institution. Children on the streets are considered to be in need of "intense rehabilitation", which means they are placed in institutions which would normally house an older or "more criminal" group of children.

Nichol reports that most children see institutions as lonely, frightening places. Children in these places do not learn self-discipline, but only to fear older people and respond to commands.

There is little room for making decisions when you live in an institution. Bedtimes and mealtimes are laid down in the institution's rules, free time is kept to a minimum and staff decide on matters as trivial as which television programmes to watch. Many children compare the institutions to military camps. They have their heads shaven on arrival, they are forced to wear uniforms, and they complain of having to march everywhere.

Nichol writes that children adapt to the institution making decisions for them, a process that is far from healthy.

"Children living under these conditions find it harder and harder to monitor themselves. Many will not wake without the institution bell, will eat until they are told to stop, and will not be able to make simple choices in everyday life such as what to wear or eat."

Children emerge from reformatories apathetic or aggressive and find it hard to fit in with living at home again. Without any way of bridging the gap between institution and home, children may end up on the streets once more.

White racists attack Benoni's streetkids

(298) City Press 8/11/92

By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

DESTITUTE streetkids roaming Benoni on the East Rand allege that there was a "clean-up operation" launched by suspected white racists who randomly attacked them in the city.

The youths said they have been accused of killing a white child who was found five months ago near Northmead, and further, accused of snatching bags from white women.

The claims follow the brutal death of a runaway boy; 11-year-old Sipho Nkosi, who was severely assaulted and later thrown into a Benoni dam on September 29.

In July the body of another streetkid, known as Oupa, was found in a drainpipe. He had been shot in the back of his head

Police spokesman Lt J Smit confirmed Nkosi's death, adding that no arrests had been made.

Most of the kids have become victims of indiscriminate attacks allegedly by whites who do not want them in the area.

A centre for street children called Kleinfontein Children's Home, just outside Benoni, was opened three weeks ago to accommodate the destitute and homeless youths.

Director of the centre, Stephen van Steenbergen, confirmed that the children were victims of constant racial attacks



FRIGHTENED CHILD ... Twelve-year-old Xolane Ntshoa points to the spot where the body of Sipho Nkosi was found.
■ Pic: THULANI SITHOLE

Teens chased, beaten, drowned

Van Steenbergen said the attacks intensified following the death of a white child whose body was found at the same place where Nkosi was attacked and thrown into the dam.

Nkosi's friend Eric Nthane told City Press of agonising screams and a plea for help on the night his friend was attacked

Nthane said he and his friends, including Nkosi, were on their way to a tent at the child welfare centre where they were staying

It was shortly after midnight.

He said they were being followed by a Ford Laser all the time But just as they were nearing the dam, the car, with four white men inside, cut them off.

"They then came out of the car armed with batons and we realised they were going to beat us.

"We ran away, splitting into two groups We ran in the direction of the city while Nkosi and others ran in another direction," Nthane said.

A distance away he could hear his friend screaming but was too afraid to go near the scene, he said.

They then went to sleep at the tent for the night without Nkosi.

The next morning the boys went back to the scene of the beatings and got a shock of their lives – their friend's battered body was floating in the water.

Police said the cause of death was unknown.

"The boys said they knew the men who chased them that night Four men were subsequently arrested but later released because they had alibis," Van Steenbergen said.

However, the boys insisted this week that they were certain about the identity of the men.

Another youth, Amos Radebe, told City Press that the day before Nkosi died, he was assaulted by another white man driving a Cressida in the city.

Blueprint was not meant to aid Unita, says expelled Cleary

ST Times 8/11/92.

By HEATHER ROBERTSON

FORMER Foreign Affairs official Sean Cleary, who was this week expelled from Angola, denied that he worked on behalf of the South African government or Unita while he was in Luanda.

Mr Cleary was thrown out after Angolan press attache Jorge Marais charged him with providing Unita with "logistical and political support when the rebel movement threatened to resume civil war".

The accusation revolves around a policy document Mr Cleary drew up on solutions to the present crisis.

But in an extensive interview this weekend, Mr Cleary said the offending blueprint was not meant to undermine the government but offer suggestions to both parties on resolving tensions.

He said he had presented his suggested strategy plan to all parties involved in the conflict as well as to foreign observers in Luanda

In the document, he blamed the Angolan crisis on the lack of joint political control of the electoral process.

Collapse

The document suggested that unless the Angolan government accepted joint control of the country's key ministries, the country would collapse into civil war once more. It argued that the police and media should be controlled jointly by Unita and MPLA.

"Aspects of my document were discussed by the parties before the fighting broke out on Saturday," said Mr Cleary

"I did not mean to impose my views on the situation. It was just a discussion document.

"The reality is that Angola is a major tragedy. I have nothing to gain from the present conflict. In fact, I have everything to lose because I have business interests in the country.

"Unita is fighting against its own interests by resorting to arms."

Mr Cleary admitted that he had had close ties with Jonas Savimbi since the early 80s when he was director-general of Namibia.

He last spoke to Dr Savimbi 11 days ago, when he suggested proposals for resolving the electoral dispute.

"I cannot say that I have influence over Dr Savimbi, I merely suggested to him possible peaceful solutions to the conflict."

Mr Cleary was expelled from Luanda after the Angolan Minister of Interior called him to a meeting to discuss certain unspecified "illegal actions" he was involved in

"I waited for five hours for a meeting that did not take place. I was not told what the illegal actions were but was instructed to leave Angola on the first flight out," he said.

He flew back to South Africa on a Safair flight with several other refugees, landing at Waterkloof on Friday.

There have been widespread allegations that his Midrand-based political consultancy Strategic Concepts — which assists associates in Europe and the US in identifying investment opportunities in southern Africa — is a front company for military intelligence.

Mr Cleary denied this yesterday.

"Strategic Concepts is a private company and is not funded by any government department or foreign agencies," he said.

Cavalier

The company is paid for consultancy services in scenario work and socio-political evaluations for a range of companies

Mr Cleary said he left Foreign Affairs after 15 years service in 1985 because he felt South Africa was too "cavalier" in its dealings with other countries.

Deputy director-general of Foreign Affairs Mr Derek Auret said Mr Cleary had not worked for Minister Pik Botha since he left eight years ago.

Mr Cleary said he was not sure that South Africa could play a decisive mediatory role in the Angolan conflict.

"The amount of time that some government officials can devote to mediation in Angola will probably not be enough to mesh with the Angolan parties' own pressures and time tables," he said.

Mr Cleary has also been accused of undermining Swapo during the run-up to elections in Namibia.

At the time he was employed to run the South African transitional government backed Transcontinental company, which promoted the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance parties internationally.

Denial

This week Mr Cleary admitted to disseminating anti-Swapo propaganda on atrocities in their detention camps

But he denied that he set up a foreign lobbying body, Strategic Network International, to discredit Swapo in Europe

More recent reports have speculated that Mr Cleary may try to link up with Renamo to undermine the Frelimo government when elections take place in Mozambique

Mr Cleary said he had been invited by the Mozambican government in May to discuss conflict resolution in the region

rson hits at IFP

ST Times 8/11/92

official Bruce Anderson wrote an party leaders denying gun-running before he signed an affidavit saying to the IFP

Anderson wrote from his mother's derstand the press in South Africa eculations about my deportation, British intelligence agent, I was IFP, ce, I oun- ivo- at I y of have ally our land rson r at that ain vere my are the leny way

By CHARMAIN NAIDOO

Ulundi for various meetings, and we met at rallies"

Mr Buthelezi also claimed Mr Anderson had "a long criminal record".

The Sunday Times knows of at least 20 criminal convictions dating back to 1962, with the most recent being 1982, which include fraud, theft, forgery, and cocaine possession

Dirty

Mr Anderson said, "It is no secret that I had a drug problem when I was younger The IFP investigated me thoroughly before I was elected to be on

NEWS ROUND-UP

Police in hunt for killer kids

ST Times 8/11/92

298

POLICE have warned that Soweto children — some as young as 12 — are carrying guns and killing people "for thrills" The warning comes after increased cases of hijackings involving children

Colonel Tienie Halgryn said the police were concerned about the trend "It's a very serious situation These children are highly dangerous and don't hesitate to kill," he said.

Col Halgryn urged the public to report anyone seen carrying an illegal firearm. "We will act immediately because these guns are used to hijack and kill innocent people.

"The sharp increase in hijackings by children is largely due to easy availability of firearms They feel they are in control when they are armed. This, they feel, gives them access to other people's property"

48 prisoners to be freed

ST Times 8/11/92

THE government and the ANC have agreed to the release of 48 more political prisoners by November 15

After weeks of tedious negotiations in terms of the Record of Understanding, the two sides have whittled down an original list of 500 who are claimed to be political prisoners

Among those rejected for release are prisoners guilty of rape.

Taxi men die

TWO taxi owners were shot dead in the East Rand township of Kwathema yesterday, raising fears that the feud between taxi associations in the area would flare up again

Mr Johannes Tshabalala, a member of the Springs Taxi Association, was fatally wounded in the neck and head

Mr Frans Motsieta was shot at by unknown gunmen armed with AK-47 rifles.

CCB deal

ST Times 8/11/92

From Page 1

down the gauntlet to the government in a document entitled The Handling of the Financial Disbandment of the CCB by the SADF

Copies of the document — sent to top government officials, including President de Klerk — also demanded the appointment of an independent committee to deal with the agents' claims "before the 'CCB skeletons come out of the closet, and in particular, before a new government assumes power"

The agents said they had lost confidence in the SADF's "steamroller approach" and warned that if the government continued to ignore their demands, information about a series of "extremely sensitive issues" would be leaked to the media as part of a carefully designed plan to embarrass President de Klerk and the government.

To emphasise the gravity of their threat, the agents pointed out that "this is already happening . . with revelations about Inkatha funding"

A spokesman for the agents said information about government funding of Inkatha rallies "was never leaked from within the inner circles of the SAP, but came from people inside the SADF"

The first salvo in the battle between the CCB and the government was fired in March last year A group of agents sought an urgent hearing in the Pretoria Supreme court on their breach of contract claim amounting to more than R1,5-million from the government.

The court ruled that the matter was not urgent, although legislation was pending in parliament to indemnify former Defence Minister Magnus Malan and the SADF against claims by dissatisfied CCB members.

The agents — including two women — claimed that the SADF owed them nearly R14-million in outstanding medical aid benefits, leave pay and pen-

In February this year, the auditor-general's report revealed that the CCB's R3 million pension fund had been paid over to a member of the organisation by an insurance company, and that "the member insists on certain indemnities before paying the money over to the SADF"

On June 4, Defence Minister Gene Louw said the cabinet had decided at its meeting the day before that "unfinished matters" regarding the CCB should be referred to the ombudsman. This followed a request by Mr Verster that CCB agents be allowed to give evidence to parliament's Joint Committee on Public Accounts, which was turned down by the chairman, Dr Francois Jacobsz.

On October 3, President de Klerk announced in Gazankulu that the government would bring legislation before parliament granting amnesty to those who had committed politically motivated crimes but had not yet been charged or sentenced.

On October 12, the inquest into the murder of Dr David Webster opened in the Rand Supreme Court, and parliament convened for a short session

Three days later, a letter signed by Dr Jannie Roux, director-general in President de Klerk's office, assured Joe Verster that the SADF had arranged for the state to pay his legal costs at the Webster inquest.

The following week, the Indemnity Bill was defeated in all three houses of parliament, and President de Klerk took the unusual step of referring it to the President's Council for approval

This was given on October 30 — the same day on which Mr Verster agreed to testify at the Webster inquest, in camera

However, when the Rand Supreme court convened last Monday, Mr Verster's legal representative informed Mr Justice Michael Stegmann that his

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Early intervention shapes development*

Help for disabled kids

Sowetan 9/11/92. (298)

By Tsale Makam

SHEER DEDICATION *Success of Sunshine Centre can be credited to staff:*

WATCHING pretty, 4-year-old Elelwani Ramashau play on the slide at her pre-school, the Sunshine Centre Association, no one could guess that she is a developmentally delayed child with a slight physical defect

She has a learning disability Her developmental milestones lag behind those of her peers. She drags her left leg slightly and moves with her chest pushed uncomfortably forward

Her doting mother, Mrs Keketso Ramashau, credits Elelwani's normal appearance to the Sunshine Centre Association.

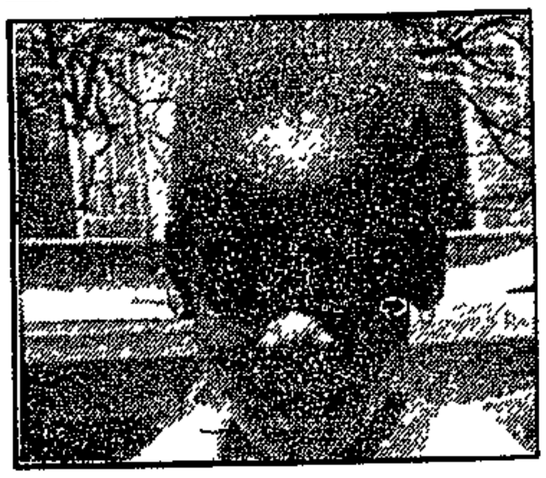
In 1976 parents of young, mentally disabled and developmentally delayed children found that there were no appropriate facil. 'es for such children. This was when the Sunshine Association pre-school was born.

Today, a few privileged children like Elelwani have the advantage of receiving specialised care at the association's two pre-schools. One in Craighall, Johannesburg, and the other in Elsburg near Germiston.

The pre-school helps bring together parents and provides support groups for them to share the problems and joys of their "special" children.

But its main aim is to offer early intervention, stimulate the children and nip their problems in the bud.

Disabilities range from severe mental disorders to minor developmental ones.



Ray of sunshine ... Elelwani Ramashau.

Elelwani's mother says her daughter's movement has improved considerably thanks to regular physiotherapy.

A speech, occupational and physiotherapist are among the professionals that work with the children.

Rowena Cornelius says when her child, Evan, first went to the centre, he was three years old and could not talk. Today, at age 6, he can hold a fairly comprehensible conversation.

Elelwani and Evan's mothers are divorcees. They will stop at nothing to give their children the best. Unfortunately the state does not provide much funding for early intervention.

At R400 a month from 8am to 1pm and a further R110 for the care service for working mothers many parents cannot afford the fees.

"We are aware that it is costly for most parents, but to do anything less would be to drop the standards and offer less service The specialised care is really expensive."

Outreach programmes to Soweto, KwaThema, Springs and Eldorado Park are the centre's attempt to make a difference in the lives of children whose families cannot afford to take them to special schools.

Another form of mental and physical stimulation is a toy library.

Toy libraries are open once a week in Eldorado Park, Soweto and KwaThema where the "Start Striving Towards Achieving Results Together" outreach programme offers counselling to parents and children.

Therapists visit centres in these communities to offer professional assistance and guide the parents on how to stimulate a particular child. Sibling support groups are also encouraged.

Some parents find it hard to accept that they have such children and may even reject them at first.

"Most of it is caused by ignorance about the condition and societal stereotypes. Mental retardation and physical disability are not diseases. Parents should learn to accept their children and not feel ashamed of them."

Shelter for children application

ARG 10/11/92
298

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

AN application by Molo Songolo to build a shelter and "skills training" complex for street children in Woodstock will be put to the city council for approval this month.

The charity hopes to house 50 children on the Copperfield Road site, the town planning committee was told yesterday.

A neighbouring clothing company has objected, claiming that the scheme will mean an increase in vandalism, theft and break-ins.

A city planner's report said a complex for street children was much-needed, but held a risk because "street children are generally associated with criminal behaviour".

The committee resolved that a rezoning application to allow the complex to be built should be put to the full council for decision.

● The committee sent a proposal to build 21 flats, a restaurant and 65 parking bays at Clovelly Station to the full council for decision.

After debate yesterday, the committee resolved to allow development above the railway line only, but this decision was suspended at the request of dissenting councillors, who asked for it to be put to the full council.

● A proposal to build 19 townhouses on Dreyersdal Farm, Bergvliet, drew 23 letters of objection, including two petitions, each signed by 184 residents.

The city planner recommended approval of rezoning for the scheme, but said no more than 13 buildings — each limited to two storeys — should be allowed on the property.

Objectors said the scheme would ruin the neighbourhood, cause traffic problems and overburden an already overloaded sewerage system.

The applicants, Groenewald Turner and McSweeney, said the townhouses would be priced at about R250 000 and would be "in no way detrimental to the neighbourhood".

Stopping their development would not solve existing traffic and sewerage problems, they said.

The committee referred the application to the council for decision.

● Subdivision of a plot beside the Liesbeeck River to build three houses was approved.

The plot is owned by Ohlsson's Cape Breweries.

A city planner's report said the site was not part of the Liesbeeck Walkway and could not be seen as open space because it was difficult to reach and would be costly for the city to maintain.

The subdivision was approved subject to only single dwellings being allowed, and to the council having prior approval of building plans and methods of protecting the river bank.

NATION BUILDING *Parenting - we owe it to the little ones who look up to us so much*



Soweto representatives at the launch of the Pick 'n Pay parenting workshop.

Building families to build a nation

By Pearl Majola

■ **OUR HOPE** *Nurturing the children in order to secure a brighter future for all:*

"We see ourselves playing a major role in restoring the priority of parenting, for the sole purpose of developing the child"

Sowetan 11/11/92 (298)

Pick 'n Pay marketing director Mr Martin Rosen

FOUR YEARS ON AND the *Sowetan*/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops are beginning to have an effect on the community as the project grows and people become interested in it.

An important development in the project this year was its launch in two new areas - Alexandra Township and Carletonville In fact, according to the organisers, it is becoming difficult to cope with the demand from communities

This brought the number of areas covered to eight The others are Soweto, Pretoria, Pietersburg, Bloemfontein, Daveyton, and the Vaal which did not have a workshop this year because of unrest

"People have shown complete support and commitment to the project," says co-ordinator and clinical psychologist, Mrs Anne-Gloria Masetle

More than before the project this year seemed to realise an important goal - getting the youth and the parents to talk about their problems and therefore getting the family closer to the integration required to build the nation

Issues that have been covered include how the communities can curb child abuse, improve education which has almost collapsed in some communities, how to get other people involved in Nation Building and the problem of alcohol and drug abuse.

For three years the project has enjoyed the valued support of Pick 'n Pay.

"We see ourselves playing a major role in restoring the priority of parenting, for the sole purpose of developing the child," says the supermarket chain's marketing director, Mr Martin Rosen.

Working groups

For the first time since parenting workshops started, many of the communities had follow-up workshops. Participants were actively involved and formed working groups to implement the resolutions reached at the workshops.

The working groups reported back and the communities re-evaluated their resolutions

"People have shown complete support and commitment to the project"

Clinical psychologist Mrs Anne Gloria Masetle

The project also succeeded in getting the youth more involved A network of their clubs in the Transvaal, as far out as Carletonville, has been formed.

They have started a cultural exchange programme through which they visit each other, stage drama and dance performances as part of their entertainment.

Chest's cash crisis

Creche depends on monthly help to pay salaries

(298)
ARG 12/10/92

EDWARD MOLOINYANE
Staff Reporter

REPORTS that the Community Chest is battling to raise funds has sent shockwaves among staff of Nokwezi Creche, whose staffers depend entirely on the Chest's monthly grants for salaries.

The Mfuleni creche, built by the local town council in 1988, has been depending on the annual grant of R12 000 from the Chest to keep it afloat.

The Community Chest is battling to raise the R8-million to meet its year-end target of R17-million.

The Chest supports about 358 welfare organisations in the Western and South-Western cape and distributes more than R1-million a month.

According to the Chest's Mrs Xandrien Semple, the Chest granted about R12 000 to Nokwezi this year, including an additional grant of R4 500.

Last year the preschool was given R9 600.

Nokwezi, which operated from a local community hall since 1983 before moving to the new buildings, caters for 128 preschool children, including 22 babies.

According to principal Mrs Lwandlekazi Mngomeni, although the Cape Provincial Administration was also contributing a monthly R1 000 to meet the preschool's running costs, they depended on the Chest to pay the salaries

The parents, most worked at the Somerset West and Blackheath areas, also paid a monthly fee of R50 for babies and R30 for older children.

But this money was used for feeding the children and other expenses, she said.

News that the Chest was battling to raise enough funds had badly shaken the staffers, she said.

"If the Chest can go broke we staffers are certainly going to be the first casualties It would be extremely difficult What would we do?" she asked.

Mr Mngomeni said some of the children looked after at the preschool were from Khayelitsha, where their parents had bought houses.

During a visit to Nokwezi this week, the buildings looked tidy and well kept. Mrs Mngomezulu said the Mfuleni town council ensured that the buildings were well maintained.

"Whenever we approach them about the pre-school's problems they promptly attend to them," Mrs Mngomezulu said.

Every cent of every welfare rand you donate to the Community Chest will find its way to the welfare service where it is most needed, said the Chest's Trish Wills.

● All donations addressed to: The Community Chest, PO Box 3836, Cape Town 8000.

By-law probe (298)

CITY council legal advisers are to interview organisations involved in helping street children, with a view to liberalising by-laws.

The executive committee commissioned the probe in response to a motion passed at last month's council meeting. ARG 13/11/92

The investigation is aimed at finding to what extent by-laws were causing children to be arrested and drawn into the criminal justice system.

This included arrests by city council law enforcement officers.

Street children not loiterers?

THE executive committee of the Cape Town City Council yesterday instructed the city legal adviser to look into the provisions of the city's loitering by-laws with a view to possibly amending them to exempt street children. CT 13/11/92

The decision by exco follows an appeal by councillor Mrs Isobel Edelstein who called for an investigation into whether the loitering by-laws were drawing children into the criminal justice system. (298)

'It's not the numbers, but the conditions'

Children in jail: Vlok criticised

ARG 14/11/92

■ Counting the number of children being held in South African jails is just not good enough and should be the least of the government's concerns, children's rights activists claim.

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

THOUSANDS of children are "damaged for life" in jails while the government busies itself compiling statistics.

This was the response of children's rights activists following a statement this week from Correctional Services Minister, Mr Adriaan Vlok, who revealed that 2 656 youngsters between the ages of 14 and 18, and a further 6 485 aged between 19 and 22, were being held in jails.

The activists accused Mr Vlok of ignoring "perhaps the most vulnerable of those youths who are being detained".

"Does his failure to provide any figures for the children who are eight, nine, 10, 11, 12 and 13 years old mean that they are not being considered at all?" they asked.

A Weekend Argus exclusive report last month revealed that thousands of children who had not been found guilty of crimes, were being held in jails and police cells in harsh and threatening conditions.

The University of the Western Cape's Community Law Centre said its real concern was not the exact number of children in prison, but the fact that children, and primarily black children, continued to be held at all.

A joint statement from the centre's director, advocate Mr Dullah Omar, and senior research fellow of the Children's Rights Project, Ms Michelle Morris, said the Department of Correctional Services had released "at least four differing statements" in the past three weeks disclosing the actual number of children awaiting trial in prison.

"The government has spent weeks conducting endless and unproductive headcounts while thousands of children are still being raped, beaten and morally and psychologically damaged for life in horrific prison conditions.

"From the range of numbers a single department has released in the last few weeks, it appears that the only thing the government *is* concerned with is the exact *number* in prison."

Senior Nicro social worker Ms Rosemary Shapiro said that no matter how many statistics the police or Correctional Services came up with, the fact remained that no child should be held in prison awaiting trial.

"Who says detention without trial is over? It may be unlawful but there are children being held in prison cells waiting for their fate to be decided."

In his statement Mr Vlok said the situation was different for convicted juveniles and those awaiting trial. Convicted juveniles were his department's responsibility "and we look after them with the greatest care". Awaiting trial prisoners became part of his problem, "regardless of the fact that we do not have any solutions".

Reacting to these comments, Cape Town Child Welfare Society director Mr Alan Jackson said this led him to believe Mr Vlok was concerned more with the conditions in prisons than the fact that there were children being held at all.

"Our chief concern is that there are children in prisons at all. We don't want them there.

"Differentiating between these two sets of children is in effect admitting that there are no services for children awaiting trial in prisons, which in itself is a crime," he said.

Mr Vlok came in for a further tongue-lashing from the Community Law Centre over the government commission formed to examine the problem which Mr Omar and Ms Morris branded a "closed door committee seeking temporary solutions".

The search for recommendations and legislative changes, they said, must start in the alleys, among the gangs and in the schools.

"The search must be centred in the communities and families where these children belong. We must move out of the stuffy boardrooms and cold courtrooms and establish investigative headquarters and youth advocacy networks in neighbourhoods."

They said the young people in Pollsmoor, Brandvlei and other jails belonged to families and communities and not to the State.

"Although lawyers and governments may have a role in the search for a more just manner of caring for children in trouble, they do not have a monopoly on the solutions for these children."

Mr Jackson said street children should not be forgotten either and that organisations working to improve their situations should be involved in any negotiations.

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12 000 children wait for the law — in jail

South 24/10 - 28/10/92.

(298)

By Justin Pearce

BETWEEN 9 000 and 12 000 children under 20 are currently awaiting trial in South African prisons, a report released this week reveals.

The report makes recommendations on the treatment of children awaiting trial, which the compilers hope will be accepted by parliament as a guideline for new legislation.

It was compiled by the Community Law Centre at UWC, the Cape Town branch of the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders and Lawyers for Human Rights in Pietermaritzburg.

It recommends that the state allows organisations access to the children to offer care and advice.

Ms Michelle Morris, project director of the Youth Advocacy Unit in the Community Law Centre, said: "We are not asking for an amnesty for the children but some of them have been awaiting trial for so long they have already served the sentences they would be given."

The report calls for emergency court hearings for children awaiting trial.

Morris mentioned the case of 13-year-old Neville Snymans of Robertson, who was held in police custody as his mother was not present at the court hearing and the court refused to release him into the custody of an aunt who was present. Three days later Neville was found dead in his cell.

Boy beaten to death for theft

Sowetan 15/10/92 (298)

DEADLY ASSAULT Youngster dies in hospital after allegedly being assaulted:

By Nicolette Tladi

AN 11-YEAR-OLD boy died at the Baragwanath Hospital last week after being allegedly assaulted by shopkeepers at Zuurbekom after he and a friend had broken into a fast food shop.

The dead boy, Pakiso Modise, had a hole in his head, his body was covered with bruises and he could hardly walk the day after he was beaten up, *Sowetan* was told yesterday.

He had to be carried by his mother, Mrs Mamokete Modise, in a wheelbarrow to a taxi rank to be taken to Tshiawelo Clinic.

He was transferred from the clinic to the Baragwanath Hospital, where he died on Tuesday morning.

Witnesses told *Sowetan* the boys were assaulted twice - first by the alleged owner of OJ Fast Foods and later by four white men, believed to be Portuguese from the nearby Superlink supermarket, who joined the assault with sjamboks, knobkerries, iron rods and even the butt of a gun.

The two boys had allegedly smashed the back window of OJ's Fast Foods and stole sweets, cool drinks and about R100, an employee at the restaurant said yesterday.

After that they defecated in the shop and fled into the night.

On finding out the identity of the two boys, the owners are believed to have told their parents to clean up the mess caused by their children.

By then the boys were hiding in nearby bushes where they were tracked down and dragged to the shopping centre.

A witness claimed that seven men were involved in the beatings.

However, the owner of the supermarket, Mr Jackie da Sousa, denied having being present when the boys were assaulted.

According to the surviving boy, Darkie Mokoena (10), the men pointed a gun at them during the assault.

Pakiso was the second child in a family of four and was a Standard One pupil.

Street shelter: Clergyman offers his help

298

ET 18/11/92

By JILYAN PITMAN

A "SPECIALIST" in children's street shelters has offered his services to help clear up the Rondebosch shelter controversy.

The Reverend Bruce Duncan, director of Cape Town City Mission Homes and Services, suggested a shelter should provide permanent accommodation for street children with compulsory schooling and discipline, like a family home.

He runs three child-care centres, with a fourth to be completed by the end of the year.

Mr Bill Sewell, chairman of the Rondebosch Civic Centre, said he would welcome Mr Duncan's input at a series of meetings to be convened with other groups interested in child welfare. He also invited Rondebosch residents to take part in the discussions.

Legitimate

Mr Duncan said: "If Rondebosch has the money to build a shelter, I have the time to help them plan it. I don't want to prescribe to anyone but when the subject of shelters comes up for serious discussion by the residents of Rondebosch, maybe my suggestions will be of help.

"Beware the danger of just being 'paedocentric'. This is a real danger when rights are divorced from responsibilities and where perceived rights are not related to legitimate social expectations.

"Most of the shelters on the Peninsula don't address the whole cycle of homelessness. Most children should not be allowed to wander in and out of shelters when they feel like it. They should be disciplined and put on the right track from the outset."

Experiences

He said a doss-house type of shelter had its place because of the constant process of growing up and breaking free from the negative "street culture".

"Shelters are a reality and street children will be with us for a long time. The problem occurs throughout the world and the sooner we come to terms with it the better. I will be happy to talk about my experiences if anyone would like to contact me," Mr Duncan said.

Mr Duncan can be contacted on (021) 633-1135.

ANC drafts code to curb its renegade members

BIDAY 17/11/92

ADRIAN HADLAND

THE ANC is planning a code of conduct to bind its errant self-defence units to party policy and make them more accountable.

The PWV region is to consider a draft code today.

Last week the ANC said renegade members of self-defence units in the Vaal Triangle and Natal had become involved in activities ranging from extortion and killing to rape and forced recruitment.

An ANC investigation into the recent slaying of the six-member Zwane family of Sebokeng had also found that self-defence unit members may have been involved.

ANC spokesmen said the details emerging from the investigation, which was headed by ANC PWV region deputy secretary Obed Bapela, had not been confirmed.

ANC PWV spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa said the allegations had come from communities as well as witnesses.

"We have not verified the allegations. We are investigating sources of violence in the Vaal Triangle, and in Natal we have found that the bulk of the violence has been visited by the state on the people."

The draft code of conduct, which will be tabled at a summit of ANC-aligned community, trade union and political organisations at the weekend, would include clauses on "behaviour, conduct, discipline, accountability and a commitment not to become involved" in unsanctioned acts, Mamoepa said yesterday.

The self-defence units had been "operating loosely, taking far-reaching decisions with national implications", Mamoepa added.

"We have to bring the self-defence units under control as the ANC must take final responsibility for their actions."

He said the final version of the code of conduct would be negotiated at the summit before it was implemented.

While individual members of self-defence units would not be represented at the summit, an "umbrella body" acting on their behalf would contribute to the debate, Mamoepa said.

He said the ANC was not prepared to divulge the number of self-defence units operating in the Vaal Triangle and Natal, because of "security considerations".

He said this weekend's summit was aimed at facilitating the building and strengthening of the self-defence unit structures, improving accountability, the adoption of a binding code of conduct and measures aimed at bringing the self-defence units firmly under ANC control.

Doors closed on inquest

BIDAY 17/11/92

SUSAN RUSSELL

FORMER CCB information officer Derrick Louw was granted an application to testify in camera yesterday at the resumption of the inquest into the murder of Wits University academic David Webster.

Minutes after the hearing resumed, Louw's counsel Jurie Wessels applied for his client's evidence to be heard behind closed doors in order to protect his identity.

Wessels' application for an in camera hearing was also heard behind closed doors. Judge M Stegmann granted the application.

State counsel J van Vuuren later told the media a transcript of Louw's evidence and cross-examination would be made available within a day or two.

However, members of the media were given a copy of Louw's statement to the Harms commission in 1990, which was submitted at the inquest yesterday.

The former CCB information officer said his task had been to collate information and make it available to the various CCB regions as needed.

During the Harms commission Louw was shown a list of names which commission officials had found among CCB documents. The list included Webster's name, next to which Louw had drawn an arrow.

Louw said Webster had been unknown to him until after the academic's death, and to the best of his knowledge had not been monitored by any CCB member.

After Webster's death, CCB MD Joe Verster had asked him if there was any information on Webster.

Louw said since the academic was unknown to him he had done a search of the CCB's information documents and, finding the list which had been drawn up by another CCB member, had put an arrow next to Webster's name to show Verster later.

Cross-examination of Louw will continue behind closed doors today.

Children slain in Natal attack

298

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Two young children and two adults were killed in the latest wave of violence in Natal when several kraals near Umgababa, south of Durban, were attacked early yesterday by unknown men armed with AK-47s.

SAP spokesman Capt Bala Naidoo said Ambrose Khomo, Catherine Gumbi and her two children were killed. BIDAY

At least 21 people have died in Natal/KwaZulu since Friday, including six people who were shot dead at Nxamalala near Maritzburg on Saturday. 17/11/92

KwaZulu Police reported at least nine other deaths in their area at the weekend.

Meanwhile, Umlazi mayor Maria Xulu yesterday survived a second assassination attempt in weeks while travelling through "H" section.

Caring for the next generation of SA

Soweton 20/11/92 (298)

By Don Seokane

■ DRIVING FORCE *Tzaneen has new centre that will rehabilitate the youth:*

A MODERN EARLY LEARNING centre that will provide resource and training facilities for community workers has been opened in Tzaneen.

Golang-Kulani, as the centre will be known, was officially opened by University of Cape Town vice-principal Dr Mamphela Ramphele this week.

She strongly emphasised the proper upbringing of children in her speech.

The opening of the centre was a heartfelt occasion for Ramphele, who, while banished to the then small Lenyenye township outside Tzaneen, started a community centre that is still a model in the whole of the Northern Transvaal region.

A toy and a book

Golang-Kulani Centre co-ordinator Ms Denise Tooley explained that the centre's main objectives would be to offer services such as a toy and book library, workshops and training for nursery schools teachers and advice on matters related to educare.

"The establishment of this centre is a first for this region and training and resources will also be offered as far afield as Phalaborwa and Giyani," said Tooley.

Ramphele, whose major development work centred on children as evinced by the establishment of the rural Day Care Centre in Maake in 1981, was all high praise for the centre's objectives. She said the future of our society was encapsulated in our children and this centre was an indication of what the new South Africa should look like.



Dr Mamphela Ramphele

"It will certainly address the past mistakes committed, particularly by the Government and the liberation movements,

"If people are in control of their fate, they start to believe in themselves and their abilities"

Dr Mamphela Ramphele

by using black children as cannon fodder.

"Our children have been brutalised by the Government and have also been turned into com-tsotsis by our liberation movements," lamented Ramphele

The fires she started

Ramphele, co-author of *Uprooting Poverty* published in 1984, was heartened by the fact that the fires she started in 1977 continue to burn with more vigour.

"If people are in control of their fate, they start to believe in themselves and their abilities. That is why we have so many community and educare centres in this region," she said.

Mamphele Ramphele encouraged by the progress in the Lenyenye

SOWETAN Friday November 20 1992

Pavement children face tough test

SOWETO
298
21|11-25|11|92

By Diane Coetzer

TRY to imagine this. You are a 13-year-old girl, trying to study for a good pass in your end-of-year examinations.

But where do you study when home is nothing more than a double bed perched dangerously on the edge of the pavement and covered by a large plastic sheet?

And this little space is shared with your parents and three siblings.

This is how young Carmelita Lawrence must study. She lives with her mother Patricia, father David, sisters Chantel, 10, and Terecita, 4, and 21-month-old brother, Morne, on a pavement in Eastridge, Mitchell's Plain, in front of the house they once occupied.

On September 28 the family was evicted by the Cape Town City Council after they were unable to pay the rent.

"My husband was retrenched so we could not make the payments," Lawrence said as she sat breastfeeding Morne amongst her few remaining items of furniture stacked next to the bed.

"And now the council wants us to disrupt the children's schooling and move us to a place I haven't even heard of (Vrygrond)."

Another Eastridge family has also been asked by the Council to move to Vrygrond, a serviced informal settlement near Lavender Hill.

Mrs Wasiema Dennis, 47, and her children Sarina, 15, Soraya, 13, Ferousa, 8, and Ismail, 5, have lived in a shack for four years, no more than two metres by two metres, on a piece of vacant council land.

Three of her children are in school and have to study by gaslight, perched on the edge of a bed, always listening for the sounds of gang fights or people trying to break through their flimsy surrounds.

A single-parent and unemployed, Dennis is waiting for a council house.

"I applied for a house at the rent office in 1988, but the City Council says my name has only been on the waiting list for a year so I think the rent office must have mislaid my application."

She too is unwilling to move to Vrygrond.

"If I go to Vrygrond, how many years will I have to wait for a house in which to raise my children properly?" Dennis asked.

The city council's director of project management services, Mr Hans Smit, said: "Squatting is illegal in terms of the law.

"However the council always offers an alternative before it takes any action and in this case the families have been offered space in Vrygrond.

"The bottom line, however, is that there is a massive housing shortage in Cape Town."

Youths head for course in United States

By Miluleki Gantsho

FIFTEEN South African youths have been invited to the United States to attend a two-month course on conflict resolution, community organising and non-violent change.

The youths are participants in Leadership South, a multi-disciplined life skills programme.

They have been invited by Dr Dudley Weeks, the international director of FutureLinks in the US, to take part in a training programme from December 15 to February 15.

"We need to raise R120 000 to send the youth," said Leadership South founder, Mr Graham Phippen.

"We will try to raise money in the US and in South Africa."

Team leader Mr Eldred de Klerk is already in America and assisting with fundraising, said Phippen.

One of the youths, Mr Mzamo Masito of Khayelitsha, said he had attended FutureLinks conflict resolution workshops in Cape Town.

"I have already facilitated programmes using skills that I learnt," he said.

Victory on the home front

South 21/11-25/11/92.

By Diane Coetzer

DOMESTIC worker organisations have reacted with cautious optimism to announcements that this sector's one million workers may soon be protected by legislation.

South African Domestic Workers Union (Sadwu) executive members, Mrs Dianne de Vries and Mrs Myrtle Witbooi, said this week Manpower Minister Mr Leon Wessels' commitment to amend the Basic Conditions of Employment Act (BCEA) to include domestic workers was a "real step forward, but only the beginning"

The chairperson of the Domestic Workers Association, Ms Maggie Oewies, stressed the amendment would be a "wonderful base to work from".

But she added it was now vital that domestic workers became more professional and equipped themselves with appropriate skills.

Wessels' commitment to extend legislative protection to domestic workers was given during a November 6 meeting between the minister and the general secretary of Cosatu, Mr Jay Naidoo

In a resolution, Wessels agreed that the Department of Manpower would submit to him draft legislation to extend the BCEA to domestic workers so he could introduce the Bill in parliament.

Wessels also agreed to facilitate the parliamentary process to have the Bill passed by not later than the second half of 1993.

The BCEA covers issues like hours of employment, meal intervals, overtime, weekend work, holidays, sick leave, maternity benefits, termination of service, minimum age, and certificates and contracts of employment

The minister also agreed to the establishment of a committee — comprising representatives of the Department of Manpower, the Department of Justice, Cosatu, Nactu and Saccola — to investigate and make proposals about the extension of the Labour Relations Act to domestic workers.

Agreement was also reached on the extension of unemployment and worker's compensation benefits to domestic workers

Although the DWA has expressed concern at its exclusion from the meeting between the minister and Cosatu, it is clear all domestic workers organisations can claim some victory from the outcome.

Oewies said her organisation felt it was important that workers be trained in house organising skills.

The Third World technikon initiated by the DWA offered courses in first aid, home nursing, cooking, driving, child care and swimming

"The more skilled our workers are, the more leeway they have to bargain with their employers.

"The whole area of domestic work must become more professional," said Oewies.

She said domestic workers were traditionally difficult to organise, particularly because of their dispersed places of employment, but it would be possible to educate them about new laws.

"People are very quick to pick up on their rights," she said.



DOING DUTY OR DOMESTIC BLISS: Will protective legislation benefit domestic workers from or will it just be empty words?

Care-ful, march in progress

298

South 21/11-25/11/92

By Diane Coetzer

EDUCARE workers are preparing to take to the streets in defence of the education and care of small children

The United Pre-School Association (UPSA) is inviting all educare workers to take part in a march on parliament on Saturday to demand that the state take responsibility for pre-school education and care.

UPSA spokesperson Ms Gloria Britain said a list of demands will be presented to an official from the Department of Education

"In townships like Guguletu, Khayelitsha and Langa there is an absence of formal childcare and pre-primary facilities.

"What little facilities there are, are under threat as the Department of Education and Training is trying to get these to conform to certain standards

"Facilities should be of a high standard, but this is not feasible in poor communities where a church hall is the only place available"

Britain said the increasing number of working mothers meant a greater need for for educare.

"The state must be pressured into realising it needs to take responsibility for all the children in the country," Britain said

● The march starts at 10 00am on the Parade.

Reward for lost slides on District 6

DID YOU find a rotary cassette tray, containing 80 colour slides, outside the Methodist Church in Albertus Street, Cape Town, or do you know of someone who did?

Mr Joe Wolpe, the owner of the slides, is offering a reward for the return of the rare and valuable slides which depict images of District Six during the late sixties and early seventies.

The slides, of people and buildings in District Six, are of great historical value, Wolpe said.

Any one who has information about the slides is asked to contact him at tel: 434-6405.

Crimefighters may join forces

South 21/11-25/11/92

By Juanita Williams

TWO rival forums which aim to combat crime in Mitchells Plain may merge if proposals on unity are accepted at a meeting this week.

One forum was started by police while the other was started by community organisations and the National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro).

Mr Norman Jantjes, branch director of Nicro in Mitchells Plain, said the community groups would send a delegation to the police forum meeting this week.

"We want to unite the two forums. We do not want one group to be more dominant," Jantjes said.

The Mitchells Plain police station commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Gysbert Engelbrecht, said members of the police crime forum were reluctant to join the community forum

"The community forum has suggested changes with which we don't agree For instance, they want to change the name of the police forum," Engelbrecht said.

Although the police forum includes some community representatives, Engelbrecht admitted that police chaired all meetings

This has been the main objection of Nicro, the Advice Centre and the South African National Civic Organisation (Sanco).

Youths head for course in United States

154 298

South 21/11-25/11/92

By Mluleki Gantsho

FIFTEEN South African youths have been invited to the United States to attend a two-month course on conflict resolution, community organising and non-violent change.

The youths are participants in Leadership South, a multi-disciplined life skills programme.

They have been invited by Dr Dudley Weeks, the international director of FutureLinks in the US, to take part in a training programme from December 15 to February 15.

"We need to raise R120 000 to send the youth," said Leadership South founder, Mr Graham Phippen.

"We will try to raise money in the US and in South Africa."

Team leader Mr Eldred de Klerk is already in America and assisting with fundraising, said Phippen.

One of the youths, Mr Mzamo Masito of Khayelitsha, said he had attended FutureLinks conflict resolution workshops in Cape Town.

"I have already facilitated programmes using skills that I learnt," he said.

War wreaks havoc on kids

By S'BU MNGADI Cpress 22/11/92.

THE number of abandoned children in Natal is growing daily as parents die in the violence or are left homeless.

Expanding refugee numbers have added to the problem.

Case studies cite children returning from school to find their homes razed and parents killed. Others become sole survivors of attacks on their homes.

These kids, many of them found wandering alone and confused in the townships, are being taken in by social workers, child and family welfare societies and hospitals.

However, the network is overburdened to breaking point – meaning kids, some only toddlers, are being abandoned.

Three kids a week are being abandoned in the greater Durban area. Last year the Durban Child and Family Welfare Society took in 142 abandoned babies. 276 298

They came from violence-torn areas like Umlazi, Folweni, the south Coast, KwaMashu and sprawling squatter settlements encircling the city.

The National Committee for Children's Rights says there are 29 children's homes provided for black children in SA compared to 600 for white kids.

NEWS Crowded cou

Infant dies in boiling nightmare

298
Sowetan 25/11/92

■ **Mother immersed baby in boiler:**

By Tsale Makam

A FIVE-MONTH-OLD baby died after its mother allegedly immersed him head first in a water boiler on Sunday.

The woman's sister told *Sowetan* yesterday that the baby's mother was in the kitchen and Lucas (the baby) was screaming. "Suddenly Lucas was quiet and my sister appeared at the door carrying my baby instead of hers.

"When I asked her why she was carrying my baby when it was hers who was crying she said: 'I don't want any baby'.

"When I went into the kitchen I found the baby in the water boiler with his legs sticking out," said the woman.

Police spokesman Captain Pieter van Deventer confirmed yesterday that a child was found in a boiler in Evaton and that a suspect would appear in court soon.

He said the incident had not been reported to the police and the baby's body was not removed until Monday afternoon.

A neighbour said an ambulance was called but the baby was already dead when it arrived.

Prominent schools to act on child vagrancy

CT 25/11/92 (298)

By JILYAN PITMAN

THE heads of five major Rondebosch schools will meet on December 1 to discuss the problem of child vagrancy in Rondebosch.

Parents of school pupils are also anxious about their children being harassed in subways and bicycles being stolen at traffic lights.

Mr Chris Murison, headmaster of Rondebosch Boys High School, and Mrs Mary van Blerk, headmistress of Rustenburg Girls High School in Campground Road, said they would meet on December 1 with other principals to discuss the problem

Mr Antony Clark, headmaster of St Joseph's College, said a street child was seen stealing a school bag last week.

'White thugs'

"There are also white thugs operating in the area, and they pull children off bicycles at traffic lights."

Mr Mervyn Gray, headmaster of Bishops Preparatory School, said vagrancy generally was a serious issue and he was aware of the number of children wandering the streets. "The appropriate authorities must now be identified. It is an issue that cannot be sidestepped"

Mr John Gardener, headmaster of Bishops, said the councillors for the area, ratepayers and police must now get involved for the good of the youngsters and the community. "It should now be identified as to whose responsibility the problem of child vagrancy is."

Major Huysamen, station commander at Rondebosch police station, said he had no knowledge of recent bicycle thefts or instances of harassment in subways He also said he would not become involved in social work with street children as he was trained as a policeman and not as a social worker

NEWS FEATURE *Millions starve but Operation Hunger receives no funding from the State*

Babies starve while Government dawdles

DEADLY DELAYS

Malnutrition deaths rise as the Government plays political games with relief schemes:

Sowetan 25/11/92

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

MILLIONS OF CHILDREN IN DROUGHT ravaged areas are faced with starvation because Government schemes to provide food relief are run by corrupt bureaucracies that are squandering the food

And organisations such as Operation Hunger (OH), which have been involved in relief work for years, are hamstrung by lack of funds

Faced with a growing list of applicants in rural and urban areas alike, OH submitted an application for R17 million funding to the Government in May

But to date no money has come through, OH executive director Mrs Ina Perlman told *Sowetan*

"The tragedy is that while the State refuses to fund us and claims that they are feeding the people through their own schemes, the reality on the ground is quite different

"In many areas of the Transvaal Orange Free State, Natal and Eastern Cape, where we pulled out because of State allegations that they are feeding, we have children dying at a growing rate because of malnutrition

"The condition of the under-fives has really deteriorated And with the summer rains now on, the danger of gastro-enteritis becomes even more real for the malnourished children," Perlman said

Politics behind logjam

Politics is behind the logjam of dispute between OH and the Government

On the one hand the State insists that OH should apply for funds regionally, which means going through the bantustans in many instances

The Government also buys food which is sent to various areas for distribution

Where this happens, OH pulls out to avoid duplication

OH, however, refuses to apply regionally and insists that funds be made available nationally for it to subdivide as needs arise

OH also refuses to deal with bantustan governments, saying they are non-representative structures that are corrupt

"The report of the De Meyer Commission is a vindication of our stand In Lebowa pensioners are up in arms because their money has been squandered

"Food that is destined for poor, malnourished and impoverished people is stockpiled in centres with no distribution network

Neglect of black communities

"All sorts of reasons are given for this state of affairs And many of the people we stopped feeding are faced with famine and are coming back to us for food

"And yet the Government refuses to fund us for flimsy reasons

"The last time we were told our application had been lost in the offices, and this we were only told four months after we submitted it and when we were asking what was happening," Perlman said

OH argues that the major part of the hunger problem is not drought related but a long standing situation due to the neglect of the black communities by the white Government



A child suffering from the effects of malnutrition is looked after in a Gazankulu hospital. She is better off now but when she is released, she will return to the same conditions for which she was admitted to the hospital. Pic: OPERATION HUNGER

> **"We have children dying at a growing rate because of malnutrition"**
>
> **Ina Perlman, CEO Operation Hunger.**

"The structures we are now expected to work with are the same ones that formerly accepted without protest - and more often compounded it by maladministration - inefficiency and neglect.

"Are we not by co-operation, particularly with the 'homelands', shoring up incompetence, defending the indefensible and giving credibility to that which had none?" OH said in its September hunger crisis update

And the statistics are shocking A total of 2,8 million people are being fed by OH alone throughout the country

White-owned farms

Another 120 000 are on the waiting list in the Free State, all of them former farm labourers who have been retrenched and evicted from their homes on white-owned farms

In Johannesburg OH is faced with daily requests for assistance by people referred to it by nurses and social workers at the Baragwanath Hospital

In Lebowa over 300 000 people are waiting for food from OH

The situation in Gazankulu is no better, with 30 000 children joining the feeding queues in August alone

In Lebowa, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei, OH says it has found no trace of any Government-run feeding schemes despite allegations that these were in place

Where this has happened, they were run on a parcel-a-person basis, which did not take into account the fact that a malnourished child is a sign of a malnourished family

"The State approach is that you give a food parcel to the affected child But which parent will feed one child and leave the other equally hungry ones sitting there without food? This approach does not work but they do not know," Perlman said

No firm decision

OH met with health and welfare officials last week to discuss funding but no firm decision was taken on whether this would be forthcoming, according to OH senior official Mr Mpho Mashinini

Sowetan tried to reach the Director-General of the Department of Health, Welfare and Social Services, Dr C F Slabber, for his comment but he was said to be in a meeting

Whether it was a meeting to discuss the funding of OH is not clear

What is clear is that as the bickering between OH and the State goes on, those least able to withstand the delay, the dying children, the emaciated mothers of babies that suck empty breasts, wait in the wings hoping against hope that help will be forthcoming soon

Will their prayers for food be heard in time? Only the Government can say

Healing the country's diseased heart

STAR 26/11/92

IF THE family is any barometer of a society's health, South Africa needs a doctor badly.

Fortunately there's a kindred spirit, a "traditional healer" already at work treating the "patient's" worst symptoms ... in the bosom of the family.

For two years now, The Family Institute has focused on healing society's chronic, febrile wounds which show up clearly in the family.

Decades of apartheid rule have contributed to the family's vulnerability. The rapid pace of political change over the past two years has exacerbated the condition, says institute director Dr Saths Cooper.

Destroy

The institute's work is based on a simple medical premise strengthen the immune system (the family) and you strengthen the whole body (the nation). And it begins with children.

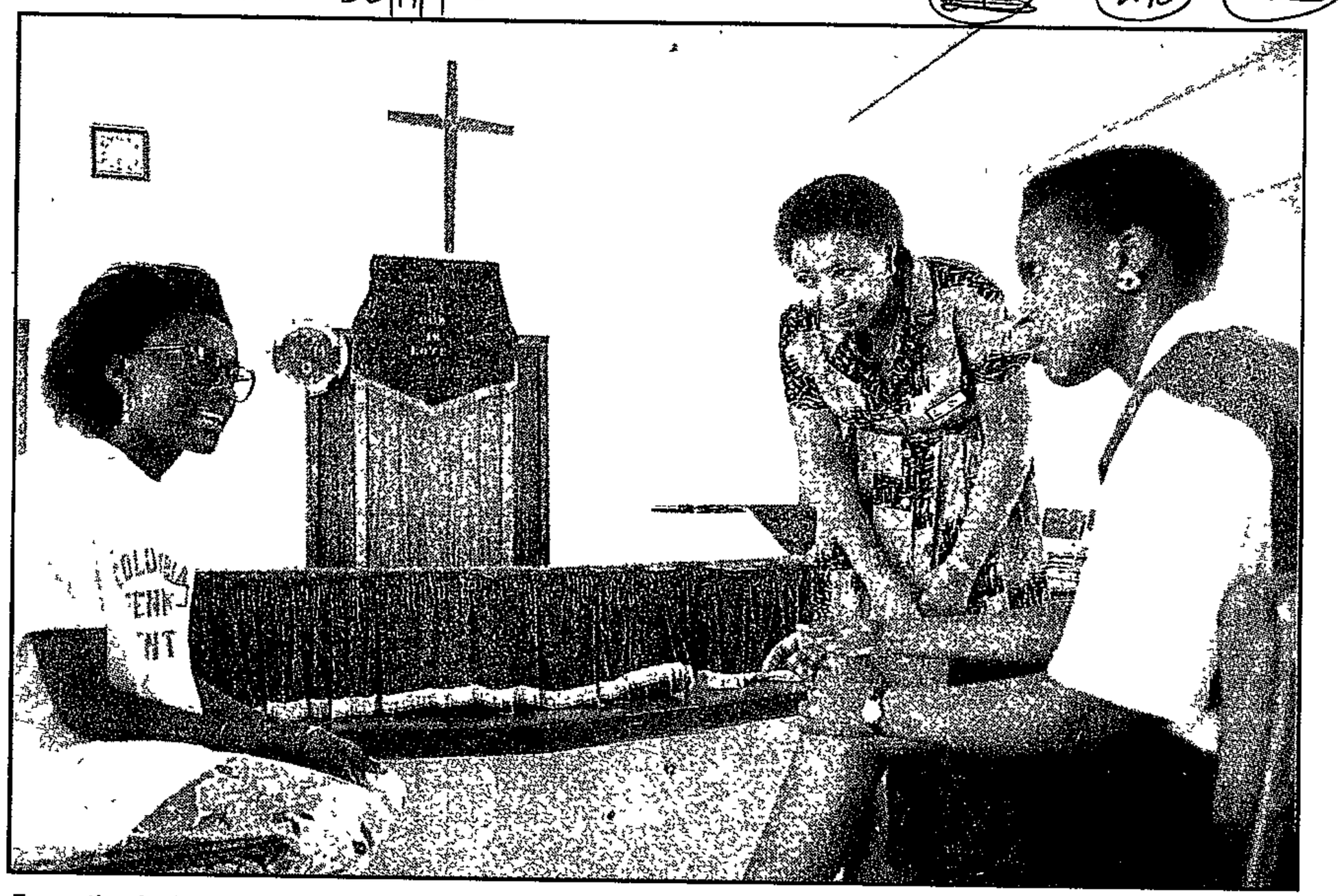
Ironically, while the Government has always upheld rightist notions of family values, it has done the most to destroy family life, Cooper says. Black families have taken the impact head on, but others have felt the ripple effect.

"We would not be suffering the degree of physical destabilising and anguish if the family could do what it is supposed to do: protect the children, give them a sense of self-worth, safety and sanity," says Cooper.

In just over 24 months the institute has expanded its areas of operation, and its projects have flourished.

It's special brand of "medical students" is the youth, especially black youth in their late teens to early 20s, who have trained as community counsellors and form the backbone of the institute's volunteer work.

The success of this operation destroys the myth of disaffected, marginalised youth being uneducated and uneducable, says Cooper. The "lost generation" has been found.



From the inside out ... The Family Institute member Lindi Maseko (centre) works with volunteers in Duduza as part of a programme to encourage the youth to help the youth. Picture: Joao Silva

Change is difficult to mediate at the best of times, he says. The type of change expected to occur now within individuals, families, organisations and communities is so far-reaching that it aggravates basic insecurities and inadequacies.

Families are affected by stresses such as public violence, unemployment, homelessness and an environment characterised by general instability.

Many people, particularly men, are taking out their rage, frustration and unrealised expectations on those closest to them, in the family. Sexual abuse of children, once unheard of in the black community, is increasing, as is general domestic violence including wife-bashing and famicide.

Children are alienated from parents and siblings and there are few if any stable communities. Cooper has counselled many young black activists who have never had a relationship with either parent.

Divisions run so deep these days that to declare that you are a Zulu in an urban setting is to invite an attack.

We have reached a "crescendo" of self-destructive behaviour, in which violence is an accepted way of resolving conflict, says Cooper.

The effects of structural violence in all its manifestations on individuals, families, organisations and communities represent formidable obstacles to current reconstruction and development initiatives aimed at the "historically disadvantaged" majority in South Africa.

The Family Institute finds its genesis and role in these contexts.

Cooper ascribes the institute's success to an open approach to collaboration with other institutions. "This avoids the risk of territoriality that feeds the intolerance underlying many endeavours in this country."

The institute offers a unique, holistic, interdisciplinary approach to relieving deep-seated trauma in this country's heart and to routing the causes.

Creative

No sector, discipline or interest in the institute is paramount; specialised expertise complements existing diversity. The institute intervenes where needs are expressed, and does not impose external "expertise". Independence from sectarian or individual interests allows it to operate without hidden agenda.

Its creative ways of training and intervention to empower families and communities reduce dependence and increase skills and knowledge in communities that need them most.

The institute's work, says Cooper, will have direct policy implications. These will be invaluable to a democratic government and the non-governmental sector, especially in cost-efficiency and measurable programme penetration to larger numbers of people who have traditionally been excluded from service delive systems, resources, decision-mak and developmental initiative

Working together

THE Family Institute focuses attention on the family and on communities — at their invitation.

It is interdisciplinary in nature. Intervention activities involve doctors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, teachers and educationists, a few business people (even accountants), community workers, lawyers, academics and artists.

It is committed to creating the necessary understanding and linkages essential to nation-building, so does not confine itself to one area of expertise.

The notion of outside experts entering communities with esoteric knowledge and skills which lay people are incapable of understanding is contrary to the institute's ethos.

Its work includes:

- **Children first: enrichment and prevention programmes, for example education for peace, maximising creativity.**
- **Family centres: to treat family related problems and offer training programmes to enhance family, organisation and community efficiency.**
- **Violence intervention: direct services to victims of violence and training for those keen on intervening at all levels, including prevention. Services are in the victim's language of choice.**
- **Community mediation and conflict resolution: training and intervention in collaboration with other professional agencies.**
- **Community support and enhancement.**
- **Youth leadership development: training youth to help the youth.**
- **Research to improve quality of life for all.**
- **Support in the work environment.**
- **Coping with change — managing transition and beyond.**

For more information, telephone The Family Institute at (011) 838-4541.

...built in Thornton
ARG 26/11/92
298

Home for abandoned children opens its doors

Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN'S first SOS Children's Village, which provides orphaned and abandoned children with a family environment and educational opportunities, is being built in Thornton at a cost of R7,6-million.

The village will provide a permanent family environment for 120 children who have lost their parents, or whose parents are unable to care for them suitably.

Children are admitted to the village from infancy to the age of eight and remain until they are able to begin an independent life.

"A community pre-school will operate from the village and other facilities will include a hall and library. Fifteen houses, each with a house mother and eight children, will operate independently.

"The children will help the house mother in cooking, shopping and other household tasks, sharing in the joys and sorrows of family life," said Mr Geoff Williams, national director of SOS Children's Villages in South Africa.

"It is expected that the new SOS Village will play a leading role in keeping the local primary school open and in the re-opening of the local high school," he said.

"Contrary to misconceptions, the local community does not suffer invasion. In fact they benefit greatly by such projects because of the facilities provided and do not suffer adversely."

The village at Thornton will be the second SOS village in the Cape (the first one is in Port Elizabeth) and the 311th facility provided by SOS worldwide.

SOS is the largest private welfare organisation for children in the world, bieng active in more than 106 countries and is a non-profit, non-political, interdenominational and multi-racial organisation.

NEWS *Kids' cult hottest issue in Vosloorus on the East Rand*



Angry parents confront Msabane Baloi at a meeting in Vosloorus.

'Cult' kids are defying parents

Sowetan 27/11/92 (298)

By Abbey Makoe

OBEDIENT GROUP *They pray to their god, "Somhlaba", who they believe lives in the mountain:*

IT ALL STARTED IN 1980, say Msabane Baloi (21) and his deputy Velaphi Makhoelo (19), who issue orders to a group of obedient young boys and girls surrounding them at an open meeting in Vosloorus on the East Rand.

The group is called "T-mass" "T" stands for "totally connected" and "mass" for a "group in mutual engagement"

That is the explanation one gets on asking about the title

And indeed they are united Baloi and his righthand man are surrounded by cheeky 10-year-olds speaking for themselves and asking what the meeting is all about in an openly angry manner

The two leaders are engaged in heated debates with parents whose children refuse to listen to them

In fact, children of "T-mass" are convinced their parents want to kill them

This is one of the many reasons given as to why they (children) do not want to return home Those who did return home were coerced into doing so, their parents concede

The children are praying to "Somhlaba', their god in the mountain, asking him to "help our parents repent and accept Somhlaba"

It is the hottest issue in Vosloorus at the moment. Many of the children no longer live at home with their parents And they are happy this way

They have seen "Somhlaba" himself, "red-eyed and wearing a white suit", they say He visited them at the mountains He visits them at "Somhlaba's" place, where most live, as well

"Somhlaba" comes in their dreams, talks to them and "shows us the way", they say proudly They have an almost identical picture of him

"He has a Chinese-like pair of eyes, pulled backwards at the sides He wears a black, pyramid-shaped hat

He also has an aerial stacked on his right ear and pointed upwards," they say

They continue "On his forehead is a glittering ring Another ring is on his chest. This one flicks frequently, like the hazard lights of a car"

One of the children says the flicking of the ring on "Somhlaba's" chest is to make sure people who did not believe in him will not recognise his face during his visits

They go on "His hands are always folded behind his back He is tall and stands on his toes, walking indifferently in his white suit"

This description came under fire from angry parents during a questioning session "Did I ever tell you you'll see God on the mountains?" asks a woman angrily

The answer she gets is unlike that coming from a 14-year-old It started with the history of the Bible and ended up with the rights of individuals, something all parents did not take kindly to

Victor Mphahlele, an East Rand activist chairing the proceedings, says he is concerned about the revelation that "T-mass" has been operating since 1980 "But it has never been a secret,' replies Baloi

"Anyway," says Baloi, "I will destroy T-mass and the two cars I have built with its members" He is interrupted by an angry middle-aged man "These are our kids, boy, okay?"

"Give me a chance," appeals Baloi, "Somhlaba" (super-natural power) has instructed me to do his will

"He has told me that he lives inside me He said those I talked to would follow me but if they don't I should abandon his mission"



Msabane Baloi

The irony, though, is that parents whose children lived with Baloi knew where they were and believed that Baloi was leading the children in the right direction and preparing them for better futures

That, nevertheless, does not bother them much All children in their care seem to listen to the two men more than they do their parents

Baloi himself has told a number of parents to report to him if their children refuse to obey orders at home

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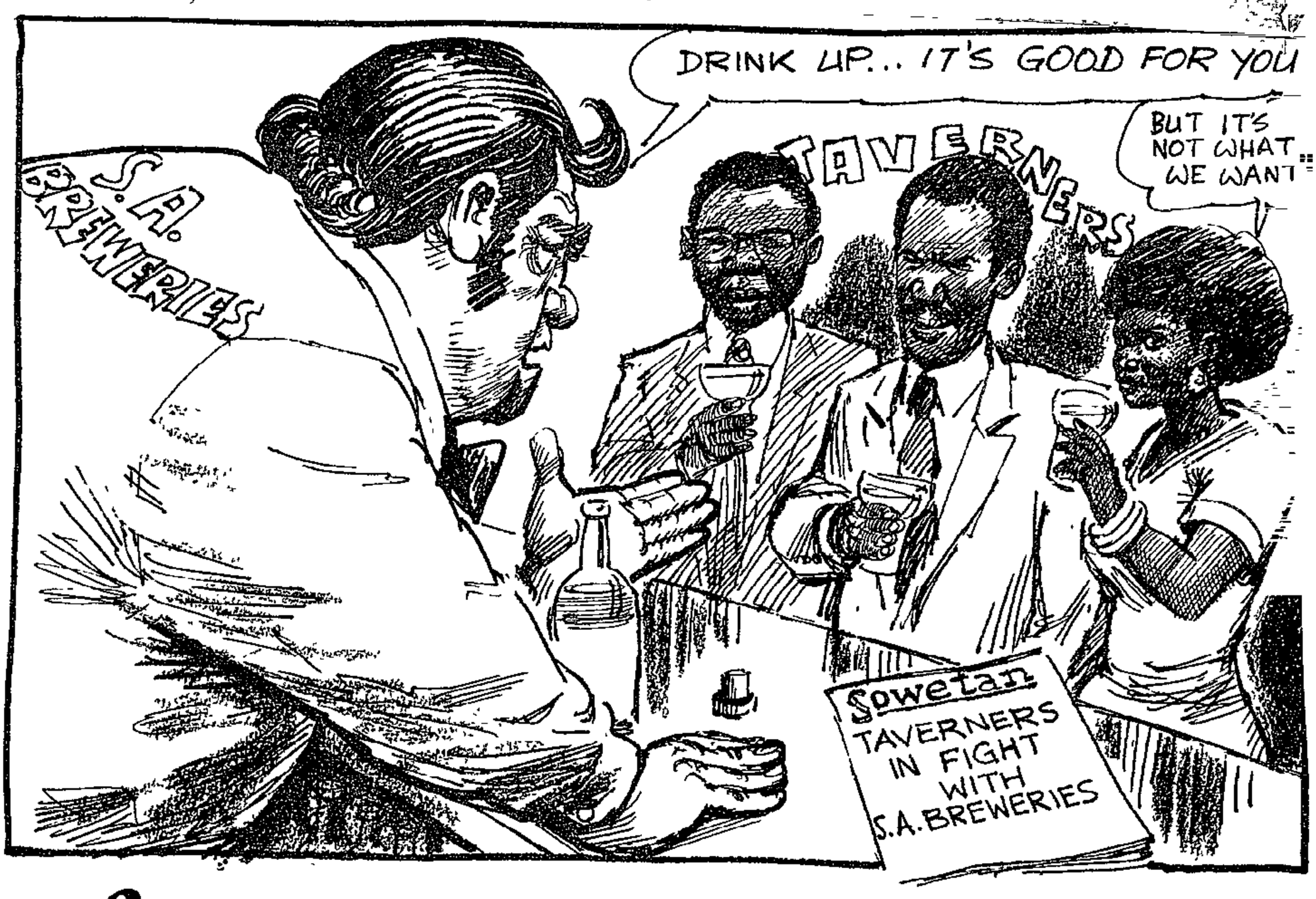


focus on child labour



The International Labour Organisation (ILO) says millions of children worldwide sacrifice everything in order to survive, reports **Ike Motsapi:**

298

Sowetan 30/11/92

SIX-YEAR-OLD house maids. Ten-year-old quarry workers. Twelve-year-old carpet weavers. These are the common abuse of children throughout the world.

These cases are contained in a report of a recent survey on child labour published in the 1992 World Labour Report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

"Hundreds of millions of the world's children sacrifice their health, education and childhood in a daily struggle to survive," the report noted.

According to the report, the number of child labourers is increasing - "not just in absolute terms - but as a proportion of the world's children".

"Tens of millions of children are known to be working in Asia while African countries are reported to have up to 20 percent of their children working," the report revealed.

Child labour is not confined to developing countries. Italy and Spain are among the European nations with the largest numbers of working children.

In the US thousands of children, particularly those from immigrant families, are at work each day on farms and plantations

The survey showed that almost all children do some work.

'Running errands'

This is part of the normal process of growing up They might be "running errands", just learning some of the skills they will need as adults

Is that considered child labour?

No. Child labour can imply something different.

It means that children are being exploited, working long hours under dangerous conditions and missing vital years of education.

Poverty is the driving force behind child labour, says the report

When family survival is at stake, everyone - however young or vulnerable - has to lend a hand.

A study of ILO in leather factories in Cairo asked parents why their children, whose ages averaged 12, were working there.

Over 90 percent of parents said they had no choice because they needed some income.

And millions in South Asia and South Africa have even less choice about working.

"These are the bonded labourers, working as virtual slaves to pay off debts which their parents have acquired.

"They might be working with their families or on their own, knowing neither the size of the debt they are paying off, nor when they will be released,"the report noted.

The report noted that many children are also working because they cannot, or will not, go to school.

Schooling may be unavailable, or too expensive, according to the report, but it may also be so inadequate that parents do not consider it worthwhile

However, many working children go to school as well

They might spend the morning selling vegetables and spend the afternoon in the classroom.

The majority of working children are reported to be in agriculture Here they help their parents on family plots or working alongside them on commercial farms

In urban areas, children are more likely to be working away from their parents, often as domestic servants in houses of richer families

"And while most children get pitifully small wages, those on the streets may actually earn more than their parents," the report noted

It also noted that all child labourers sell some of their childhood, but few sacrifice as much as those driven to prostitution

This is a problem in both rich and poor countries

"In poor countries child workers may start as street vendors but drift into prostitution since it can offer greater financial rewards," the report noted

The costs of child labour can be high, particularly to their health

Malnourished

"The soft bones of young children can be deformed by long hours of work and their eyesight damaged by sustained concentration

"And if they are already malnourished, tired working children are more vulnerable to infectious diseases and prone to accidents when working with dangerous machinery "

The report noted that the long-term aim was to eliminate child labour.

For this to happen, the first step is through effective and enforced legislation.

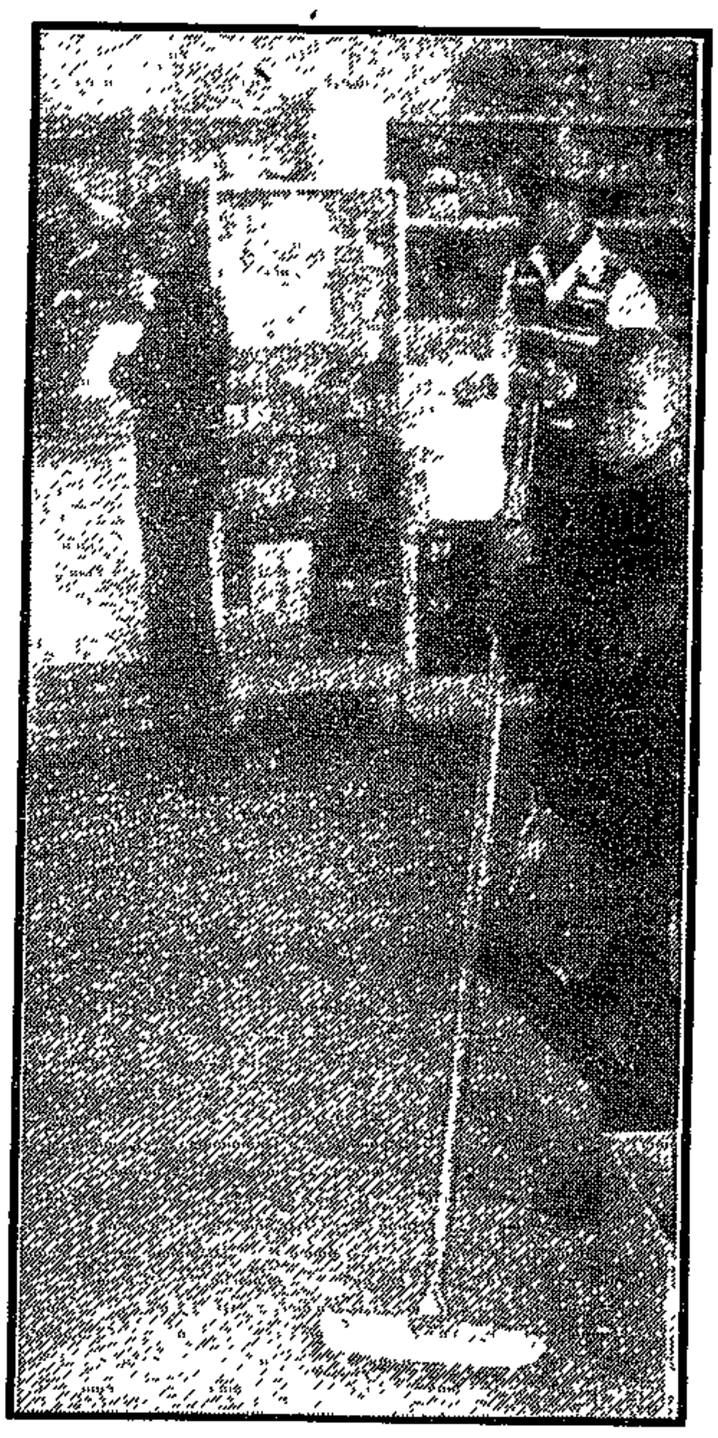
The basic human age for work in most countries is 14 years, though the limits may be lower for light work and higher for more hazardous occupations.

A second important weapon against child labour is education.

This can be achieved by providing universal and free primary education that will give the child a real alternative to work, as well as the prospect of a better working life as adults.

A good start for working children is viewed as a non-formal vocational education which they can see as practical and immediately useful

In conclusion, the report noted: "The global community now has the opportunity to live up to such commitments and allow poor families to give their children a happy childhood and prepare them for a healthy and productive working life."



A child sweeps the floor at a city store.



Children orphaned because of AIDS enjoy their Christmas party at Mike's Kitchen in Windsor. Pictures ROBERT BOTHA

Little practical support for AIDS victims in SA

A MAN who has lived with the HIV virus for almost 10 years spoke out this week about his infection, and said he would have been dead years ago but for his positive mental attitude and alternative methods of managing his health.

But Vincent Veal's appeals for assistance in setting up a network to share his holistic approach with other infected people, and to provide home-based care for the AIDS-sick, have been turned down by the Department of Health and by the private sector.

His appeal comes as countries worldwide observe World AIDS Day today.

KATHRYN STRACHAN

"All we hear is doom and gloom about AIDS, and the figures of how many will soon be dead," he said. "But nobody gives us any means of coping with it. There is no one offering hope. Sometimes it just seems easier to crawl away and die."

Despite all the talk there was very little practical assistance and still an alarming level of ignorance and prejudice about the virus, said Veal

Like countless others, Veal cannot afford to buy the R700 a month life-prolonging drug, AZT — especially since he lost his job after his employer discovered he was HIV positive

He has had to depend on stress management techniques, exercise and meditation to keep him healthy.

The limitations of SA's approach to the epidemic were highlighted by US AIDS expert Dr Patricia Greenfield on her recent visit to SA.

Despite the high HIV infection rate in the US, Greenfield said it had dealt successfully with the economic implications of the epidemic by realising costs could be saved through early intervention.

Regular testing was encouraged so that the virus could be detected early. If people tested positive they were provided with life-prolonging medication, such as the drug AZT, and other means of keeping themselves healthy.

US medical insurance schemes and employers had realised that if the health of infected people could be maintained for up to 14 years, there would be great savings in terms of productivity and hospitalisation costs.

But local medical sources said HIV-infected people were afraid to come forward and benefit from early intervention, for fear that their employers would be informed and they would lose their jobs.

However, after Greenfield's address to a private healthcare industry forum, Living Healthy with HIV, representatives from top healthcare and medical aid companies agreed at the weekend to take the initiative in funding and implementing an HIV/AIDS management plan.

Affiliated Medical Administrators spokesman Gill Gresak said the plan aimed to keep members of the various medical aid and insurance schemes who contracted the disease "HIV well" so that they would remain both physically and economically active for as long as possible.

Critical factors in achieving this were outlined as the early detection of the HIV virus, the establishment of a community-based infrastructure and the development of a process to ensure that care was both accessible and cost-effective.

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ANC abuse probe delayed

ADRIAN HADLAND

DESPITE mounting local and international pressure, the commission of inquiry appointed by the ANC to investigate abuses in its detention camps would begin its deliberations only next year, ANC spokesman Saki Macozoma said yesterday.

The ANC's national working committee had been too busy preparing for this week's bosberaad with government to consider the commission's terms of reference.

The commission was set up after an internal ANC investigation into alleged brutality at ANC camps in Angola, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Uganda during the 1980s.

The publication last week by Amnesty International of a report detailing widespread abuses increased pressure on the ANC to uncover full details of activities in its camps.

In a letter to Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel yesterday, DP justice spokesman Tony Leon called for improved witness protection facilities for former ANC detainees willing to testify.

He also called on Kriel to negotiate the release of Katiza Cebekhulu, a key witness in the recent Winnie Mandela trial, from protective custody in Zambia.

The Amnesty report said the findings of the James Stuart commission of inquiry into the 1984 ANC mutiny had been suppressed, ensuring that the security department "would be able to continue unchecked".

Angolan embassy representative Jorge Morais said Angola's government, unlike Zambia's, would not be conducting a separate investigation. "This is a matter that people from the ANC should answer as the camps were controlled by them. We didn't know anything."

Sapa reports the Returned Exiles' Committee yesterday welcomed the disclosure of ANC atrocities committed in exile — and demanded an end to atrocities in SA.

Committee chairman Pat Hlongwane said people's courts, self-defence units and civic organisations were guilty of atrocities at home.

Deserter: ANC member told me to lie

PRETORIA — Mozambican army deserter Joao Cuna said yesterday an Indian member of the ANC had promised to pay him for telling the Vrye Weekblad newspaper lies implicating the SA Police in political violence, after Cuna was taken to the Indian man by two Military Intelligence (MI) agents.

Cuna, who said he now feared for his life, testified before a Goldstone commission committee that he was taken by MI agents "Frank" and "Riley" to a house in Muller Street, Yeoville, whose owner — "his name sounds like Rule" — was a member of the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe.

Cuna said he met the Indian, who he described as tall and having a beard and whitish hair, "many times" and he suggested Cuna tell the story which appeared in Vrye Weekblad.

The October 30 issue of the publication carried a report quoting Cuna as saying he was given AK-47 rifles and paid R4 000 by security forces to kill ANC activists outside Durban.

Yesterday Cuna insisted the story published in the newspaper was false — Sapa.

Plea for public to foster AIDS orphans

298 KATHRYN STRACHAN

THE National Council for Child and Family Welfare today put out an urgent appeal to the public to "open your homes" and adopt or foster one of the hundreds of orphans who have been left behind by AIDS-infected parents.

The council has chosen World AIDS Day today to highlight the plight of those who are mostly forgotten about in the AIDS epidemic — the orphans.

In a statement the council said the construction of extra children's homes would not be possible in the present economic climate as institutional care was extremely expensive. "Foster parents, adoptive parents and day care centres will be the only answer," the council said.

The council has also appealed to communities to take care of the growing number of babies who are born HIV positive — and it plans to lobby government for higher grants for those who care for HIV positive children.

Council spokesman Keith Heimann said SA could not even deal with the 80 000 street children, and called on the community urgently to find ways to care for the AIDS orphans.

Society for AIDS Families and Orphans organiser Claire Fleming said her organisation cared for more than 500 AIDS orphans in Soweto alone, but the organisation had been refused government assistance.

Department of Health figures indicate that as many as half a million children in SA could be orphaned through AIDS within seven years.

The Department of Health has referred the problem of AIDS orphans to the council on the grounds that to distinguish them from other orphans would lead to them being stigmatised.

But Fleming disputed this argument, and claimed that as the already overburdened welfare sector does not have the resources to cope.

Street kids in demo against police

(298)
G 1/12/92

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 50 street children from the Don Bosco Hostel in Green Point marched to Caledon Square yesterday morning to protest against alleged police harassment and abuse.

A police spokesman said yesterday regional commissioner Major-General Nic Acker had ordered a police inquiry into the situation.

The march was organised by members of the Salesian Institute and the director of the hostel, Father Declan Collins.

Father Collins said on November 2 a plainclothes policeman dragged a 16-year-old street child down a corridor in Caledon Square and punched him three times in the face.

He laid a charge of assault.



Spreading joy . . . singer Yvonne Chaka Chaka watches as Aids affected children enjoy an early Christmas party in Randburg yesterday. Today is World Aids Day. Picture: Jacoob Rykliff

Funds needed to help thousands of Aids orphans

STAR 1/12/92

By Paula Fray
Medical Reporter (298)

About 30 Aids affected children were yesterday given an early festive treat when a leading franchise restaurant and Support Aids Families and Orphans (Safo) hosted a pre-Christmas party in Windsor, Randburg.

Safo patron and Africa's singing queen Yvonne Chaka Chaka watched as the Christmas crackers were popped, hats donned and — with arrival of the ice-cream cones complete with sparklers — the room filled with whoops of delight at the party at Mike's Kitchen which fell on the eve of World Aids Day today.

Safo, until now funded solely by Claire and Ian Fleming, was started a year ago. "We'd worked in the rest of Africa and we saw what was going to happen and we wanted to jumpstart things here ... but the community at large does not want to know They see the infected person but they do not see the affected person," said Claire Fleming who runs Safo with fieldworker Nana Ntuli.

The children being helped by Safo are Aids free but have parents who have either died or are dying of Aids. The organisation was forced to close its books three months ago as it was being run solely on her husband's salary.

"If we hadn't closed our books we would be getting between six and 10 new families a week. It is estimated that there are 20 000 HIV positive women in Soweto alone," said Fleming.

The children are given emotional and physical support

According to Ntuli a major problem was the belief that there were already so many orphans that an exception could not be made for Aids orphans. But there was a need for a specific organisation addressing their needs, she said

"They are going through a traumatic experience of watching their parents wasting away to their deaths. Their parents are not able to provide them with material things," Ntuli said.

Experts estimate that there will be 553 000 Aids orphans — children who are free from Aids but whose parents have died from the disease — within seven years in SA.

Adoption invitation

THE Pretoria Child Welfare Society is inviting people who are interested in adoption to contact them.

A social worker, Mrs Cily Tabane, said single people could also apply. Sowetan 2/12/92

"All people who apply must first undergo screening at the office. About two interviews are held and a home visit has to be done before the end of the screening procedure," she said. 298

Fund for street children planned

(298)

CT 2/12/92

MOVES are afoot to start a fund on behalf of the street children in Rondebosch.

The initiative came from retired architect Geoff Field (72) of Rosebank who is hoping it will lead to a plan of action regarding the future of the street children.

He said he would start off the fund with a donation and hoped others would come come forward with ideas and money to help solve the long-standing problem of child vagrancy.

He said: "I used to give money to the children's shelter in Sea Point but now I want to put it towards doing something in our community.

Bank account

"I have been following the debate about whether a shelter should be in Rondebosch or not. We must get cracking and do something about the problem, since the issue seems to be concerning a lot of people.

"As a retired architect, I can offer my services if needed."

He said he had approached Mr Bill Sewell of the Rondebosch Civic Association who had said an account would be opened to receive money for a shelter.

munity-based help ed for street children

(29B) ARG 3/12/92

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CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

SOUP kitchens and shelters in communities will help stop street children migrating to the central city, says Streets project co-ordinator Mr David Fortune.

Streets is aimed at finding long-term solutions to the misery of begging, abuse, and incarceration facing Cape Town's street children, whose numbers are now estimated at more than 1 000.

Mr Fortune said overcrowding, poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, and sexual abuse were the reasons children left home.

Past attempts at solving the problem had not included "communities of origin", an omission his project wanted to correct.

Streets, set up five months ago, used drama to show the harshness of a street child's life, to spark discussion on how to stop children being drawn to the central city.

This could be done by setting up shelters or soup kitchens, he said.

In central Cape Town, there was a big discrepancy between the number of street children and the number of shelters.

"I am opposed to more shelters in the city centre — services shold be developed in communities," he said.

Some children are reluctant to go into shelters because of the living they make by begging from motorists.

"It is difficult to say whether motorists should give or not," Mr Fortune said.

"There are 'daytime strollers', children who beg after school with the knowledge and consent of their parents as an additional means of income, and not giving to them may make it impossible for that family to survive."

The other side of the argument was giving money to children meant there was no guarantee it would be spent on food and shelter.

The director of the Homestead Project, Ms Annette Cockburn, agreed it was difficult to say whether to give money or not.

"Some children really need the money to go home.

"But food for street children is not necessarily a problem in Cape Town, the shelters provide food, the service dining rooms charge 7c a meal and feed 500 people daily," Ms Cockburn said.

Many argued that people should give money to institutions such as the Homestead and direct children there.

She estimated the number of street children in Cape Town at between 500 and 600.

"Urbanisation is already showing its effects because there are many more Xhosa children."

Most shelters were overcrowded.

Cape Town's shelters are the Homestead, which helps rehabilitate drug and alcohol-dependent children; Patrick's House, which provides education; and Ons Plek, for girls — some unmarried mothers — up to the age of 16.

Others are shelters in Lavender Hill and Mitchell's Plain run by the Cape Town City Missions Homes and Services.

A new shelter, The Bridge, is to built in Selkirk Street next year and the city council last week gave Molo Songololo a rezoning to build a shelter and skills training centre for street children in Copperfield Road, Woodstock.

Ms Cockburn said the long-term solution was to build informal shelters in strategic parts of the city.

"Unprotected children need basic services, shelter, warmth, showers, clothing and food — from there you can work on their self-esteem," she said.

Mother Amy, angel of Hillbrow

W/Mail 4/12 – 10/12/92 (298)

Mother Amy is guardian of the street urchins of Hillbrow, whom she feeds, bathes and gives a place to sleep. A gentle and selfless woman ... how strange then, that she should make such powerful enemies.

By JENNIFER GRIFFIN





Amy Flickinger and her flock ... 'Before we eat, I'm going to say the Lord's Prayer'. LEFT: The real tragedy of Hillbrow . Children openly sniffing glue, which keeps them warm and drives away hunger Photos. KEVIN CARTER

NOSES press against the glass door of Hillbrow's Pierino pizza parlour as a dozen street kids jostle each other for a better view of the film on the television inside Six white adults sit with their backs to the door, ignoring the tattered, snotty-nosed kids peering through Maybe the diners will toss them a few coins on their way home

Amy Flickinger, a 27-year-old American, walks up the street and calls out a greeting It is her personal mission to care for Hillbrow's homeless children Tonight she is looking for Tommy Dlamini, a young boy wearing dirty slippers and an old bathrobe that drags along the ground when he walks

She inspects the knife wound in Tommy's left shoulder — a few days earlier he was stabbed by another street kid Flickinger found him earlier in the week, as she made her rounds feeding the neighbourhood children

"Someone stabbed me for my takkies," Tommy explains "Amy took me to the hospital where they gave me some food"

Every Thursday night beginning at 9pm, Flickinger and a few volunteers from the Berea Baptist Church make their rounds with soup and bread, bear-shaped vitamins and a first-aid kit they use to treat the children's colds and scraped knees

Flickinger winds her way through Hillbrow's dirty streets to gather up as many children as possible Her blond hair and smile are familiar after two years of working here, and the kids flock to her when they see her coming

Some plead for cake, others for money The streetwise children know just how to get on her right side One child, huddled with others under a blanket in a dark corner, jumps to his feet as she approaches "Before we eat I'm going to pray," he announces, and starts to intone the Lord's Prayer

No one pays her for her work, but she gets R200 a month from a local church and depends on donations from friends here and abroad

Flickinger first came to South Africa in 1986 for a brief visit with an American church group After putting together some funds, she returned to start her mission On average, she tends to almost 100 children in a single evening

"Somebody told me there were children in need I then saw for myself and, clearly, they were in need," said Flickinger, who recently cashed in her return air ticket in order to support three abandoned children who now live in her tiny Hillbrow bachelor flat

Large letters of the alphabet coloured with crayons line the walls of her crowded flat, along with children's art work Thandi (8), Thabo (9) and Moses (12) were abandoned by their father at the Hillbrow police station, the duty officer asked her if she could help

"They were frightened," said Flickinger She first took them to Twilight Children's Centre, but says "there was no way I could leave them there

Now they live with her and go to school in Johannesburg Thandi answers the door wearing Flickinger's jewellery and high-heeled shoes She greets visitors with a firm handshake

Not everyone in Hillbrow seems to approve of Flickinger's work In the pre-dawn hours of May 28, she says, she opened the door of her flat to some 20 policemen in camouflage uniform, some pointing rifles at her As they flooded inside, she says they yelled and swore at her in Afrikaans One allegedly cocked a weapon at Thandi, who was curled up on her bunk bed

"I thought it was the AWB," she said She also says she has received countless crank phone calls in recent months, which she believes are designed to encourage her to leave the country

Reacting to the claims, police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said "I sincerely hope that she reported to the district commissioner if she felt the police did anything wrong It's easy to make allegations, but we like to investigate them"

The harassment, Flickinger says, began after an article appeared in *Femina* magazine in April on children in police cells that she used to visit every day at the Hillbrow police station Police are investigating a Prisons Act case against her, a *Femina* reporter and the magazine, which published pictures of the cells

The case could spell the end of Flickinger's mission Her visa is up for renewal and she fears the Department of Home Affairs will not let her stay

It could also prevent any formalisation of her relationship with her three children Only permanent residents may adopt

Growing up behind bars

Cipress 6/12/92.

(248)

By MOSES MAMAILA

PRISON was never meant to be for children, observed a 16-year-old convict held at the Leeuwkop prison north of Johannesburg

The teenager, who called himself Sipho, said that despite the intensified propaganda by the authorities that conditions have drastically improved in juvenile cells, there were still officers who brutally assaulted and ill-treated prisoners.

He said prison warders assaulted convicts with open hands and bashed them against walls "for no apparent reason and seem accountable to no one for their actions".

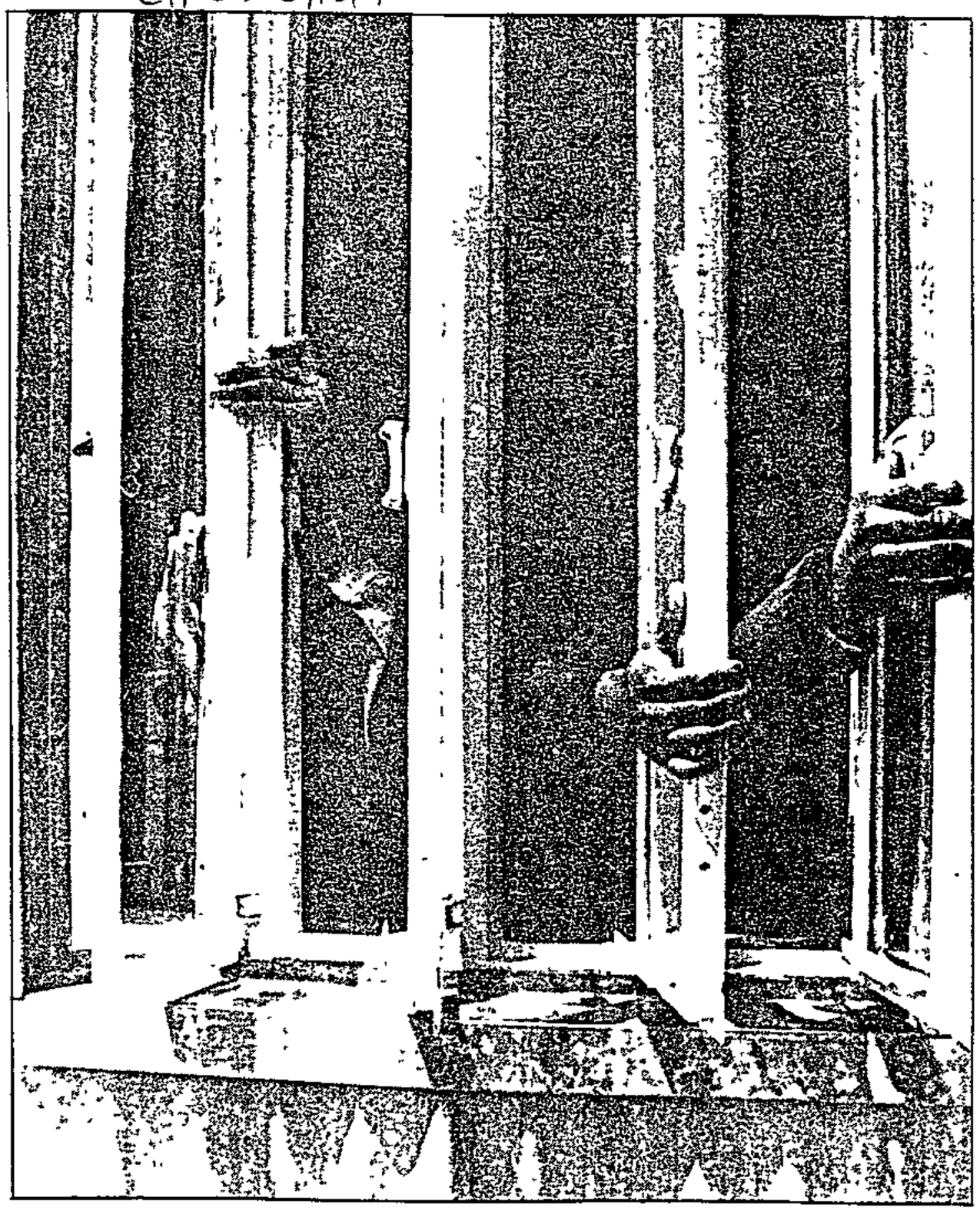
The boy – who was speaking to City Press during a visit by the Correctional Services Minister Adriaan Vlok and the press on Friday – quickly changed his tune to that of praising the prison services when a white official came near

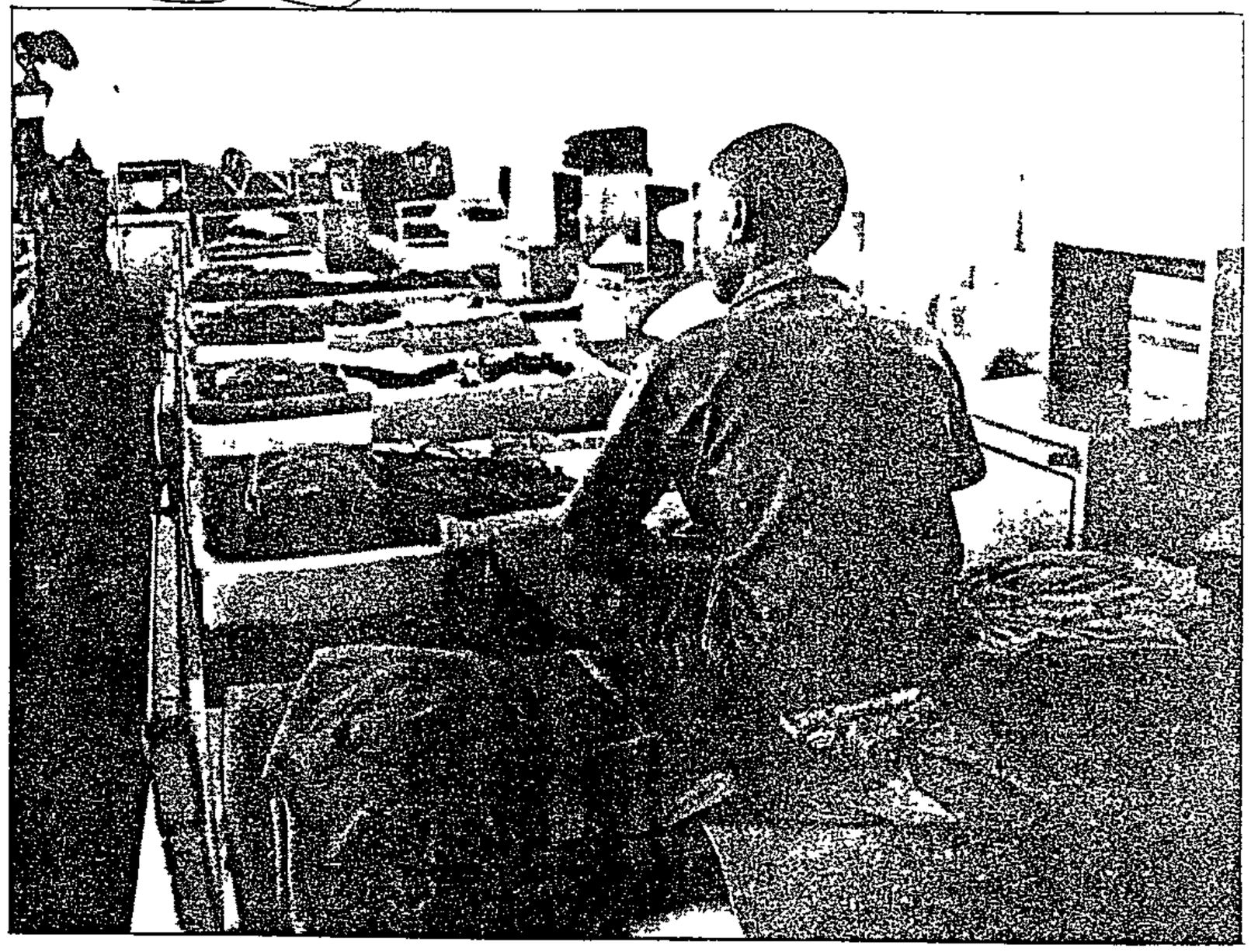
But when the white official walked away he repeated his claims and said that there was no point in him complaining as he had to report his problems to the same people who symphathised with his tormentors

"What I can tell you is that prison was never meant for children like me," said the boy, who was convicted for stealing

Most children spoken to were convicted of robbery, housebreaking or theft and were serving jail terms ranging from one to six years

A few others had committed serious crimes – like rape and murder – but appeared to be even less prepared to spend years in jail





WASTED YOUTH ... Juvenile detainees at Leeuwkop prison airing their cell (left) while a young inmate (above) sits pensively on his bed. ■ Pics TLADI KHUELE

A district surgeon, who visits the prisoners on a regular basis, admitted that she treated many assaulted youths, some of whom were treated for severe beatings

A prison official dismissed outright that there were gangs operating in the juvenile cells saying that this was the situation in adult cells

The plight of juvenile prisoners exposed by the media prompted the goverment to launch an investigation into their condition

Vlok – who acknowledged during a press conference in Leeuwkop that the goverment was extremely concerned about the detention of juveniles – said a report of the investigation was being studied by the goverment as a matter of urgency

"At this stage I would like to point out and emphasise that by November 20, we had a total number of 951 sentenced children under the age of 18 in detention.

"With regard to awaiting trial children, 538 children under the age of 18 were in detention on November 20," Vlok told reporters

Responding to reports that the vast majority of children in detention were black, Vlok said the composition of the population was such that non-whites were in the majority.

Kids' plight is being probed by govt – Vlok

Asked how many white children were being held, Deputy Commissioner of development programmes Maj-Gen Buks Jordaan said he could not give figures as they no longer classified people in terms of their racial groups

However, the figures stated by the minister did not include children being held in police cells through the country

According to the official records seven 14-year-olds, 34 15-year-olds, 176 16-year-olds and 734 17-year-olds have been sentenced

Vlok said his department was at the receiving end of criticism once the juveniles hjad been sent to jail by the courts

He also outlined various learning processes in jail for the young prisoners, and that some were actually doing well in their studies

The prisoners in the juvenile cells in Leeuwkop are allowed to go the library and also play family games

Despite all the games that are available, including soccer, the children in detention were adamant that games could be played better in reformatories and best of all at home with their parents

More cops in

Growing up be hin

CPress 6/12/92.

(298)

By MOSES MAMAILA

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He said prison warders assaulted convicts with open hands and bashed them against walls "for no apparent reason and seem accountable to no one for their actions".

The boy – who was speaking to City Press during a visit by the Correctional Services Minister Adriaan Vlok and the press on Friday – quickly changed his tune to that of praising the prison services when a white official came near.

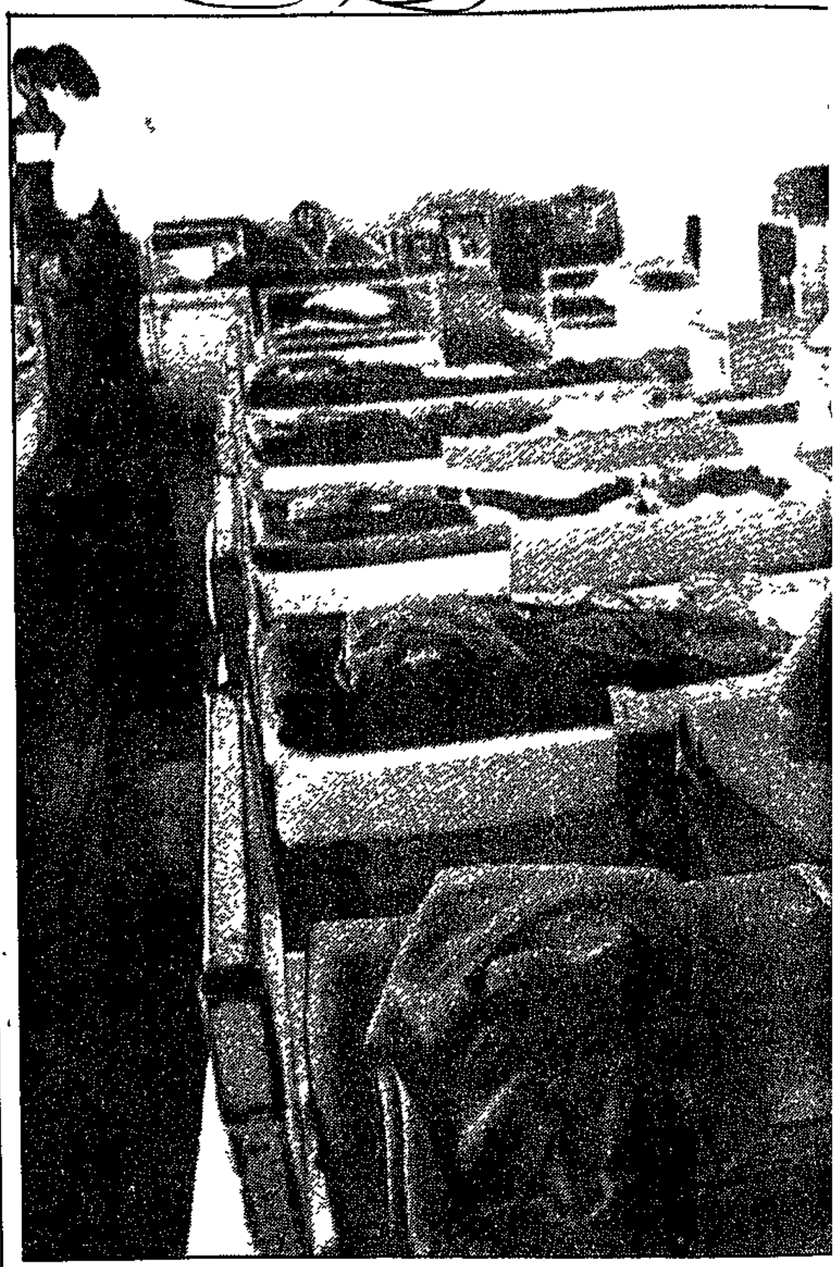
But when the white official walked away he repeated his claims and said that there was no point in him complaining as he had to report his problems to the same people who symphathised with his tormentors.

"What I can tell you is that prison was never meant for children like me," said the boy, who was convicted for stealing.

Most children spoken to were convicted of robbery, housebreaking or theft and were serving jail terms ranging from one to six years.

A few others had committed serious crimes – like rape and murder – but appeared to be even less prepared to spend years in ail.





WASTED YOUTH . . . Juvenile detainees at Leeuwkop pris pensively on his bed.

A district surgeon, who visits the prisoners on a regular basis, admitted that she treated many assaulted youths, some of whom were treated for severe beatings.

A prison official dismissed outright that there were gangs operating in the juvenile cells saying that this was the situation in adult cells.

The plight of juvenile prisoners exposed by the media prompted the goverment to launch an investigation into their condition.

Vlok – who acknowledged during a press conference in Leeuwkop that the goverment was extremely concerned about the detention of juveniles – said a report of the investigation was being studied by the goverment as a matter of urgency.

"At this stage I would like to point out and emphasise that by November 20, we had a total number of 951 sentenced children under the age of 18 in detention.

"With regard to awaiting trial children, 538 children under the age of 18 were in detention on November 20," Vlok told reporters.

Responding to reports that the vast majority of children in detention were black, Vlok said the composition of the population was such that non-whites were in the majority.

Kids' pligh probed by

Asked how many white children were being held, Deputy Commissioner of development programmes Maj-Gen Buks Jordaan said he could not give figures as they no longer classified people in terms of their racial groups.

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Street child help plan needs cash

ST Times (Cape Metro)
6/12/92
298

By CHIARA CARTER

A RECENTLY launched street child project which aims at reintegrating children into the community is in desperate need of financial help.

Streets, a non-profit organisation formed to combat the needs and problems of children living on the street as well as those of their families and communities, opened its doors in Woodstock earlier this month.

The organisation aims to assist street children and also, through the use of drama, to educate and assist the communities from which the children come.

According to Streets spokesman, Mr Glenville Leedenberg, Streets is the first attempt to take the problems of street children back to the community rather than just addressing the children's needs in the city centre.

"The project aims to bring the streets of Cape Town into the homes, schools, churches and centres of the community through drama, a resource centre and community education," Mr Leedenberg said.

The project has received the blessing of the University of the Western Cape's Community Law Centre, the St Georges Cathedral Foundation and the Salt River Coordinating Council against Drug Abuse.

As a first step, Streets hopes to identify a target community and then work closely with it to raise awareness and encourage the community to begin addressing the problem.

However, the project needs money to implement this programme. It presently receives assistance with accommodation from the non-profit association Headstart and from Amalgamated Beverages but the staff are working without pay. It hopes to raise money from its new anthology of poetry about street children, appropriately called "Streets".

news from around the showbiz scene

Where being different just doesn't matter

Sowetan 7/12/92

298

■ Victor Metsoamere takes a look at one of the four beneficiaries of the Heal Yourself concerts at the Standard Bank Arena in Johannesburg on December 11 and 12:

Imagine a young girl, pretty and vigorous, but not envied by her peers at school just because she cannot keep pace with them.

Perhaps they make snide remarks behind her back because she is "different".

The parents despair because they think the situation is hopeless and there is nowhere to take their beloved child for help.

But then someone tells them about the Ikemeleng Remedial Education Centre (IREC) in Orlando, Soweto, where girls and boys with learning disabilities are given a chance through special and easily understood methods not used in the conventional educational system.

Without this community-based remedial education programme, the only one in Soweto, these children would be isolated from society.

Ikemeleng, supported mainly by the community, was adopted by the *Sowetan* as part of its Nation Building campaign, while additional funding was provided by the Kellogs Foundation from last year.

IREC presently has a waiting list of about 100 names from concerned parents from as far as the East Rand, Port Elizabeth and the West Rand.

IREC desperately needs sponsorship to accommodate children whose needs are severely neglected in South Africa.

Helping the children

Name of Institution: Ikemeleng Remedial Education Centre.
Purpose: To help children with learning disabilities.
Year formed: 1984..
Reason for starting IREC: Prompted by the backlog of referral for children with learning disabilities at Baragwanath Hospital.
A parent group initiated the formation of the school in Soweto.
First staff: One teacher with 15 children. 40 children in 1988. 130 children in 1990.
Current teaching staff: 12 teachers - nine full-time and three part-time, a psychologist, an education officer, a health officer, a secretary, a bookkeeper and a field worker. The first teacher at IREC is the school's director.
Home: Dube Village
New home: Orlando, Soweto.

Sowetan 7/12/92

298



WATCH OUT FOR OUR SPECIAL ON THE HEAL YOURSELF CONCERTS IN TOMORROW'S SOWETAN.

Report on jailed children awaited

Star 7/12/93

By Louise Marsland (298)

A report containing important recommendations about the care of more than 1 000 children awaiting trial in police cells and prisons should be out before Christmas, says Correctional Services Minister Adriaan Vlok.

He disclosed that as of November 20, 951 children under the age of 18 were serving sentences in prisons and 538 were awaiting trial in prison. Another 400 to 500 were being detained in police cells pending trial.

Prison Services distinguishes between children younger than 18 and the 8 374 juveniles aged 18 to 20.

The report was handed to the Government on November 30. Vlok said he expected action plans arising from the report to be announced before Christmas.

The Minister led a tour through Leeuwkop prison for juveniles in Midrand on Friday to demonstrate to the media the programmes for children. He said these included schooling, recreation, sport and training in skills.

R1,5m to feed children

THE Liberty Life Foundation and the Donald Gordon Foundation would donate R1,5m to Operation Hunger, Liberty Life trustee Hylton Appelbaum said yesterday.

The contribution was given to ensure children's feeding schemes would continue running throughout the Christmas period.

REPORTS Sapa Business Day Reporters

FRIDAY 9/12/92

298

The Star Wednesday December 9 1992

Corporal punishment now in the balance

(298)

By Bronwyn Wilkinson

The 13-year-old Sebokeng boy who was last week sentenced in the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court to four lashes for shoplifting could be one of the last children to suffer what independent legal experts believe is a barbaric punishment.

Professor Jan van Rooyen, head of the Department of Criminal Procedure at the University of South Africa, commented yesterday that magistrates were meting out corporal punishment less frequently as the courts adopted the international view that lashing should be prohibited.

The bills of rights proposed by the ANC and the South African Law Commission outlaw cruel punishment, as do Namibian and Zimbabwean law.

"Although the courts are not bound by these laws, but by our own Criminal Procedure Act which allows lashing, courts seem to be taking cognisance of the more humane developments internationally," he said.

Lashing is legal for adults, and canes are used instead of sending juveniles to jail.

This could be a valuable argument if there were no other option, said National Association of Democratic Lawyers spokesman Krish Govender.

But magistrates were beginning to realise that children could be kept out of jail by other means.

The ghastly aspect of corporal punishment was that it constituted child abuse.

"So we get courts valiantly trying to fight child abuse, but then dishing it out themselves," Govender said.

9/12/92 Star

Kid to deliver plea

Sowetan 10/12/92

By Sonti Maseko 298

■ Women Calling for Peace hope to spread reconciliation message:

TODAY at the Standard Bank Arena in Johannesburg a child will tell thousands of people gathered there how the violence ravaging the country has devastated his family.

Through the child's testimony, an organisation, Women Calling for Peace, hopes to send a message of peace and reconciliation and mobilise people against violence.

The occasion is a prayer meeting for peace and to save the children.

Everybody is invited to the session, the last prayer meeting for the year which would also be for peace during the Christmas season from 2pm

"Again the women will be coming together, as they do every Thursday to pray for peace and to save the children," said co-ordinator of the meeting, the Reverend Motlalepula Chabaku.

Supporting the action of the Women Calling for Peace is chairman of the National Peace Committee Mr John Hall, who said yesterday, "Handling the problem of violence, poverty and despair required a contribution from all citizens in the country, of which the most powerful is prayer,".

Churchmen throughout the country, the Reverend Frank Chikane, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Pastor Ray McCauley and Professor Johan Heyns, also strongly support the women's initiative.

"It is your children who are dying, pray, we need you," Bishop Tutu said.

Pastor McCauley commended the women, "for holding up the hands of the leaders in the country in prayer, to give them wisdom and insight".

Buses will be made available to transport people to the arena from various points in the Reef. Arrangements for transport can be made



Two boys spent weekend in cells

Sowetan 11/12/92

(298)

By Tsale Makam

FRANTIC SEARCH Cases of 10 and 9-year-olds deferred for five years:

TWO SHARPEVILLE BOYS aged 10 and nine, who received deferred sentences of five years each, spent two days in the Vereeniging police cells last weekend

This was while their parents searched frantically for them.

They had, together with a 13-year-old "friend", stolen toy guns and bullets at a nearby Pick 'n Pay supermarket last Saturday morning.

The 13-year-old boy was sentenced to four lashes.

The nine-year-old boy's father yesterday said it was very cruel and irresponsible of the police not to inform them that the boys had been arrested.

"Even after we had located them, the police wouldn't release them into our custody. They kept them in jail and said we could see them when they appeared in court the following day."

He said the security guard who arrested the boys must have been a heartless man. "He should have given the boys a warning and chased them away when he realised they wanted to steal."

If the two boys committed a crime within five years their theft case would be reopened, said the prosecutor who handled the case, Mr Zakes Mashokwane.

On Monday the two boys, one in Standard One and the other in Standard Three, played nonchalantly in the yard.

"They were so scared and overwhelmed that when they saw us on Sunday night. they just broke down and cried," said the mother of the nine-year-old boy.

Both boys' parents said they did not condone their children's actions but felt that the sentence was too harsh.

Lawyers for Human Rights spokeswoman Laura Polecutt condemned the fact that a nine-year old boy had been taken to court for stealing a toy gun.

Party time... for Hunt for Cash winner

NEWS Children tell audience about violence children have to go through

Thousands come to pray for peace

By Isaac Moledi

PEACE CALL Women appeal to politicians to save country:

Sowetan 11/12/92

THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE ON children and calls for peace and reconciliation dominated yesterday's prayer meeting at the Standard Bank Arena in Johannesburg.

The day of prayer, with the theme "Women for peace," attracted about 3000 people from all denominations and political persuasions.

Some people expected, however, failed to arrive because of transport problems.

"Candles of peace" were lit to highlight the importance of the day.

Speakers at the meeting condemned the violence which has claimed thousands of lives, and appealed to the leaders of political organisations to come together to save the country from collapse.

One speaker, Mrs C Chitja, described the event as the day of prayer by "mothers all over the country concerned about violence".

Another speaker, Mrs P Makhene, told the worshippers: "Yesterday we were worried about our leaders who were languishing in jail. But today, when we are supposed to celebrate, violence has become our daily toment".

A testimony by children affected by violence drew gasps of shock from the audience. One, Janina Chitja, said many had been left homeless and orphaned.

Sowetan's managing editor Mr Joe Thloloe said the newspaper would continue to commit itself to the concept of Nation Building by making space available in the paper for that purpose.

Tradition revisited

By Rosemary Ridd

A 40-year-old District Six tradition is being revived with the children's Christmas party at the Marion Institute in Chapel Street.

The tradition was suspended in the past few years.

Speaking on behalf of the Springfield Terrace Welfare Group, Mrs Johanna Jacobs said about 200 children were expected on December 16.

A small grant and party boxes have been received, but gifts and prizes for games were still needed.

All contributions are welcome. Welfare group chairperson Mrs Lena Kynock may be contacted at 45-5978.

SCHOOL BARS AIDS SUFFERERS

C/Pmen 13/12/92.

(298)

By FRED KHUMALO

Parents slate 'despotic' clause

A NATAL south coast school board has issued an "admissions agreement" which entitles the board to expel children suffering from Aids or who test HIV-positive.

The "admissions agreement" issued this week by Mike McGregor, school board chairman of the multiracial Kingsway High School in Amanzimtoti, has been met with vehement protests from parents who have refused to sign it.

"It's a draconian document," said a parent. "By signing it I would be condoning this man's autocratic attitude. As far as I know, you cannot force an individual to undergo an Aids test."

According to an Aids charter – drawn up by the Aids Consortium, a group comprising 45 regional and national organisations – which has been recognised by the Natal Education Department, people have a right to refuse to be tested for Aids.

But McGregor, through the admissions agreement, demands that children undergo Aids tests before admission.

The discrimination against HIV-positive pupils directly contradicts the recently introduced Aids education programme, which has been integrated into the curriculum of Natal Education Department schools.

According to the Aids education programme, HIV-positive children should not be alienated, and their peers should be taught how to avoid the virus.

Another clause in the "admissions agreement" which has been slammed by parents states: "Parents shall respect the tradition and character of the school and maintain the 'Christian ethos'."

Asked to explain what this clause meant, McGregor said it was understood by the school board that Muslim, Hindu and other non-Christian children could be accepted at the school and in these cases the headmaster could decide whether they should undergo Christian teachings.

"It must be remembered that this is a Christian school, and we intend to keep it that way," he said.

"We can't have the school being disrupted if Muslims want to go off and pray to Mecca at 12 o'clock every Friday."

He said if Muslims or Hindus wanted their children to be taught about their own religions, they should send them to suitable schools.

Now the kids learn how to carry guns

S/Times 13/12/92



READY FOR ACTION: Colonel Gerry Brand



NOWHERE TO GO: Danie and Clandine Venter with their two young sons, Jaco and Danie

SIX-YEAR-OLD Jaco Venter handles a sub-automatic shotgun with the same easy confidence of the professional soldiers who patrol his father's Ugie farm.

At an age when most boys are playing with toy cars, Jaco, who has just lost his first front tooth, goes to regular petrol bomb drill, bomb identification practice and is trained how to react in the event of an attack on his parents' farmstead.

His parents are implementing the security strategy devised by the SADF for residents of the embattled north-eastern Border towns of Ugie, Elliot, Maclear and Lady Grey.

Jaco's father, SADF commando member Danie Venter, 33, said: "It's not that I want my children to live abnormal lives.

"If we had the choice, we'd live in peace. But we have nowhere to go and things have

By DAWN BARKHUIZEN

reached such a level that our survival depends on our ability to protect ourselves."

This week, members of the SAP's International Stability Unit, were deployed along stretches of the Transkei border. A fortnight ago, members of the Eastern Province Command moved into the Lady Grey area to bolster SADF troops already stationed there.

A crack SADF motorbike section — trained to respond within four seconds of coming under fire — also swings into action this week.

The officer commanding operations in the northern Border region, Colonel Gerry Brand, disclosed this week that SADF training bases in the horseshoe-shaped Elliot/Ugie enclave had been reactivated in mid-September.

As the number of attacks reached unprecedented levels — 21 by the end of November, compared with a total of 11 last year — troop numbers were doubled to protect isolated farmers.

"We have stepped up roadblocks and soldiers are deployed on vulnerable farms," said Colonel Brand.

"Security force reaction time has been cut from a maximum of two-and-a-half hours to 30 minutes. We have also brought in a Cessna and Alouette chopper for back-up and troop drops."

He added the SADF was patrolling the border around the clock.

Tactics

In addition, the SADF is teaching farmers how to "harden" their farms in terms of a self-protection programme code-named Project Mosteganem.

"The SADF does not have the manpower to protect every single farmer. It is vital that members of the community learn to protect themselves," said Colonel Brand.

"We have taught families the fine tactics of defence under attack ... how to crawl in the dark, which lights to switch off, where to return fire from.

"If this sounds heavy, it is because we are in a state of war, declared by Apla."

While the deployment of troops had effectively stopped attacks in the enclave — the worst-hit troublespot — recent trends showed urban areas in the Free State and Border region were now being targetted.

But frustrated soldiers and commandos complain that they are barred from chasing attackers who flee over the largely unfenced, unmanned Transkei border down a maze of access roads. More recently, raiders have been escaping into Lesotho.

Said Colonel Brand: "The political stability of this area depends largely on the political aspirations of radical groups.

"We are not allowed to pursue them over the border, but if we find them involved in terrorist activities on this side, we will hunt them down here and destroy them if we can't arrest them."

Plan to uncage the jailed children by Christmas

w\mail 11/12 -17/12/92 298

By GAYE DAVIS. **Cape Town**

LAWYERS across South Africa have been given the names of children awaiting trial behind bars — with the injunction to do their utmost to get them freed by Christmas.

This is the thrust of a campaign launched recently by Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR), which forms part of a concerted effort to address the plight of children caught up in a juvenile justice system condemned as ineffective and counter-productive.

Ann Skelton, director of the LHR's applied criminal justice project, said the Department of Correctional Services had agreed to provide the names of all children aged 17 and under awaiting trial in prisons — and came up with 350.

She passed the names on to members of LHR, the National Association of Democratic Lawyers and the Black Lawyers' Association. "We've called on them to provide these children with legal representation on a *pro bono* basis. The idea is to get as many children awaiting trial out of jail and into the care of their parents or a place of safety before Christmas."

Durban Prison, with 350 children aged 17 and under awaiting trial, topped the list, Skelton said. Next came Johannesburg Prison (27), Pollsmoor in Cape Town (26), King William's Town (10) and Modderbee (7).

Durban's high figure could in part be attributed to the violence afflicting the region which had displaced thousands of families, Skelton said. However, Durban police had agreed to ensure that a child's guardians were brought to court as soon as possible.

The LHR campaign is just one of the advances made since the October release of a report, *Justice for the Child: No Child Should be Caged*, which focused attention on the failings of South Africa's juvenile justice system.

Since the report appeared, players in the criminal justice system — including magistrates, lawyers, social workers, government ministers and city council officials — had finally begun to address the multiplicity of problems plaguing children who become part of the system,.

In Cape Town, the National Institute for Crime and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) had held workshops with prosecutors to inform them of diversionary programmes and sentencing alternatives. Magistrates had met to discuss possibilities for reforming and improving juvenile courts and the attorney-general had asked that children who appeared in court not be returned to prison or police cells.

Permission has also been granted for independent court monitors to attend juvenile court hearings — normally strictly in camera — and discussions were under way regarding providing an office for monitors at court, Morris said.

Cape Town City Council has appointed legal advisors to investigate the city's by-laws where they affect children, and the attorney-general's office has put the onus on arresting officers to explain why children's parents cannot be traced.

Another welcome move was the recent decision by the African National Congress to put children's rights on its constitutional agenda.

"Children's rights should no longer be an afterthought," said Michelle Morris, who heads the Children's Rights Research and Advocacy Project at University of the Western Cape's Community Law Centre.

Despite these advances, children were still languishing in prison, Morris said — stressing the need for a long-term strategy to creae a new system of juvenile justice: one that took into account children's rights as human beings.

Maritzburg may ban glue sales to children

(298)

AEG 18/12/92

The Argus Correspondent

MARITZBURG.— The city council is considering action to make the sale of glue illegal to unaccompanied young children.

This has been disclosed by Councillor Yvonne Spain, who is greatly concerned about the way some shopkeepers sell glue freely to "high risk" children.

She said the council would consider the possibility of passing a by-law forbidding the sale of glue to children not accompanied by an adult.

Children use the glue as a drug, sniffing the volatile fumes to make themselves "high".

This practice is fairly common in Maritzburg and the city's medical officer of health, Dr Iain Walters, has received many complaints.

He would discuss the possible ban with the council's legal department.

Dr Walters said Britain already had legislation prohibiting the sale of glue to children. He appealed to shopkeepers to exercise extreme caution when selling glue.

Eight start a new life

(298) ARG 21/12/92

The Argus Correspondent

DURBAN. — Eight wide-eyed little people lugged their meagre belongings in plastic bags and set off on a journey that will change their lives.

Most were abandoned at birth and had never been beyond the crowded wards and gardens of Edendale Hospital in Maritzburg — until now.

The journey was the start of a major drive to help Natal's forgotten children

The largest private children's welfare organisation in the world, SOS Children's Village International, has already invested R300 000 in the Maritzburg project.

South Africa's first SOS Children's Village was founded at Ennerdale near Johannesburg in 1983 as a gift from SOS Kinderdorf International.

The organisation is active in 106 countries where it aims to give abandoned and orphaned children a permanent home and family and so provide them with a sound base for an independent adult life.

Three houses have been selected in Maritzburg where the first batch of 25 children of all races will live together in a homely atmosphere.

Small family-like groups are established for eight to 10 boys and girls of different ages who grow up as brothers and sisters with trained "mothers", a father figure and a qualified social worker

Waving goodbye to the bewildered toddlers, Edendale Hospital paediatrition Dr Neil McKerrow said for most of them it would be their first "family" Christmas.

"There are 68 abandoned children at the hospital

"Some of them are born here and then abandoned, their mothers give us false particulars and vanish.

"It puts a strain on the sick children who need the space."

The cost of keeping an abandoned child in hospital is between R200 and R300 a day and they often do not develop well mentally because there are no trained people available to stimulate and educate their minds





Pictures JOHN WOODROOF
The Argus Group Picture Service

LONG ROAD: Carrying all their worldly possessions two abandoned toddlers, above right, walk along Edendale Hospital's familiar corridors for the last time to a new life at an SOS Village.

WAITING: Uncertain of what the future holds, young Vuyisile, above, waits to be fetched from the hospital to be taken to a new home where he will live with other children who are around his own age and a "mother" and a "father".

Saving the children: not a costly venture

STAR 21/12/92 (298)

By Paula Fray
Medical Reporter

About $25 billion (R75 billion) — less than what America spends on cigarettes every six months and Western Europe spends on alcohol every three months — would meet the needs of the world's children, according to the 1993 State of the World's Children report released worldwide on Friday.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) report says an extra $25 billion would make it possible to halve child malnutrition in the world, control the major childhood diseases, eradicate polio, bring clean water to all communities, provide a basic education for all children and make family planning available to all couples.

"The suffering of children in particular emergencies, whether in Afghanistan, Somalia or the former Yugoslavia, rightly occupies much of Unicef's attention at this time," according to Unicef executive director James P Grant.

Grant added that it should never be forgotten that everyday malnutrition and disease was a tragedy on a far greater scale.

"No famine, no flood, no earthquake, no war, has ever claimed the lives of 250 000 children in a single week. Yet malnutrition and disease claim that number of child victims every week," said Grant. "And, for every child who dies, many more live on with ill health, poor growth and illiteracy."

Unicef argued that the means of preventing this wider tragedy were now available and affordable.

According to the Unicef report, almost two-thirds of the 13 million child deaths in the developing world each year are caused by just three diseases — pneumonia, diarrhoea and measles. Together, they are also responsible for much of the present child malnutrition.

About 35 000 children under five die in the developing world each day. Almost 60 percent of these deaths are caused by the big three child killers — all of which can be prevented or treated with low-cost methods, said Unicef.

Pneumonia, with 3,5 million young victims a year, is the biggest single killer while diarrhoeal diseases claim 3 million children's lives a year.

In 80 to 90 percent of the pneumonia cases the problem is bacterial and can be controlled by a course of antibiotics lasting five days and costing 25 US cents.

Half of the diarrhoeal diseases could be prevented by teaching parents to use the almost cost-free technique of oral rehydration therapy.

Ban sought on glue sales to children

(298)

CT 27/12/92

Municipal Reporter

STREET children's champion Mrs Isobel Edelstein, who is a Cape Town city councillor, is to investigate the feasibility of a ban on the sale of glue and other solvents to unaccompanied children.

She was commenting yesterday on news that the Maritzburg city council was considering a similar ban. "I will investigate and see what we could do to follow suit," she said.

She said she was greatly concerned at the way shopowners sold glue freely to "high risk" children.

Many streetchildren had told her they were addicted to solvent-type substances. Social worker Ms Anette Cockburn, a director of the Homestead children's shelter, said she had lobbied for years against the sale of glue and paint thinners to minors.

"They controlled the sale of methylated spirits, so they can do it with solvents," she said, referring to the fact that meths buyers have to have their names and addresses recorded when buying the substance.

"It would be an enlightened thing to do. One of the biggest problems we have in the rehabilitation of kids is their substance-dependence."

Another social worker, who declined to be named, said there might be a problem with the ~~wide~~ variety of substances that would have to be included in an effective ban.

She thought it would be better to enlist the voluntary support of shop managers who could use their discretion in refusing sales.

The manager of a store in Mitchells Plain confirmed that glues were kept out of reach of children, as otherwise they were often shoplifted.

Kids' holiday jail respite

#298

Sowetan 23/12/92

Under 14s will be released:

AWAITING-TRIAL children under the age of 14 years will be released from prison, possibly before Christmas, and placed in the care of parents, guardians or places of safety, Deputy National Housing Minister Mr Glen Carelse said yesterday.

"Children will be released from prison after careful consideration of the seriousness of each child's alleged offence. Only children who do not pose a danger to society will be favourably considered," Carelse said in a statement.

He said the decision stemmed from the recommendations of an inter-departmental working group on children in detention.

Alternative placement

Because alternative placement facilities were limited, children between the age of 15 and 18 years would be attended to later.

Carelse said the short-term strategy would be implemented in collaboration with welfare organisations such as Nicro and the South African National Council for Child and Family Care.

Parents, guardians or family members who believe their children are being detained in prisons or police cells may contact the following co-ordinators:

Cape Province: Mr A Theron (021) 462-3960 (w) (021) 461-0114 (Fax)

Transvaal: Mr B van der Merwe (012) 201-2043 (w) (012) 21-6500 (Fax)

Natal: Miss E Welman (0331) 46-6201 (w) (0331) 42-8648 (Fax)

OFS: Mr G L Roberts (051) 30-3511 (w) Mr E G Barnard (051) 30-3511 (w) (051) 48-3811 (Fax). - *Sapa.*

OK forced to stop selling toy AK-47s

COMPLAINTS from the public have forced the OK Bazaars to stop selling toy replicas of AK-47 assault rifles.

OK marketing director Arthur Solomon said yesterday the sensitivity surrounding the sale of this "controversial toy" had prompted the chain store to remove all stock from the shelves immediately, rather than discontinuing supply once stock was sold.

The store said the toys, imported from the Far East, had sold well.

The SA Consumer Council did not criticise the sale of the replicas, with spokesman Paul Roos saying the council felt the replicas presented a political, not a consumer issue.

National peace committee chairman John Hall, speaking in his personal capacity, said he was "horrified" by the selling of the replicas. "It is criminally irresponsible . . . in a violence-wracked society to sell these replicas which only serve to promote the destruction of human lives and further deaden the minds of many who are already semi-anaethetised to the horror of death."

STEPHEN COPLAN

Christmas plan to free child prisoners

THEO RAWANA

GOVERNMENT is to release a number of children who are awaiting trial and place them in the care of their parents, guardians or at places of safety, possibly before Christmas.

Deputy National Housing Minister Glen Carelse said yesterday the decision to release the children, who are under the age of 14, stemmed from the recommendations of an inter-departmental working group.

The detention of children has been criticised by human rights organisations.

Although no figures on children under 14 awaiting trial could be provided yesterday, Correctional Services Minister Adriaan Vlok said last month more than 12 000 children — including 80 younger than 15 — were being held in SA.

"Children will be released from prison after careful consideration of the seriousness of each child's alleged offence. Only children who do not pose a danger to society will be favourably considered," Carelse said. Children between the ages of 15 and 18 would be attended to at a later date because alternative placement facilities were limited.

The short-term strategy would be implemented in collaboration with welfare organisations such as Nicro and the SA National Council for Child and Family Care, he said.

All-out attempt to free jailed children

By Jo-Anne Collinge (298) STAR 23/12/92.

The Government has joined hands with welfare organisations in a two-phase action plan to release children awaiting trial in prisons and police cells countrywide.

Deputy Minister of National Housing Glen Carelse announced yesterday that children aged 14 years and younger who were in custody awaiting trial could "possibly" be in the care of their parents or in a suitable place of safety before Christmas.

But officials made it clear that, although every effort was being made to speed up the process, releases would have to be preceded by a social worker's investigation and a court hearing in every case.

Carelse stressed that thorough consideration would be given to "the seriousness of each child's alleged offence. Only children who do not represent a risk to the community will be favourably considered," he said.

The severe shortage of institutional care for children whose families were not able to care for them had caused the authorities to deal first with the younger group, and to defer until next year the release of those aged 15 to 18, he said.

No official spokesman would venture an estimate of the numbers involved, but Lawyers for Human Rights, in its campaign to "Free a Child for Christmas", recently estimated that 521 children aged 17 or younger were in prison or in police cells in Johannesburg alone.

Non-governmental welfare organisations such as the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders and the National Council for Child and Family Welfare will assist in the release process and a co-ordinator has been appointed in each province.

Brahm van der Merwe, chief social worker for the Transvaal Provincial Administration, will co-ordinate releases in the Transvaal.

Classified

"I've appointed co-ordinators for various local areas," he said. "They must organise for social workers to go out to every police station and correctional facility in that area to get the names and numbers of children concerned."

A register of all children in jail and police cells would be drawn up.

"Every child will be classified according to his or her needs and problems, and that information will be forwarded to appropriate welfare orgnisations," he said.

Social workers would compile reports and make a recommendation to the courts as to whether the child should be returned home, transferred to a place of safety or remain in jail.

The Government is urging parents and guardians who believe their children might be in prison or police custody to contact the regional co-ordinators.

The names and work phone numbers are as follows:

- Cape Province: A Theron, (021) 462-3960, fax (021) 461-0114.
- Transvaal: B van der Merwe: (012) 201-2043, fax (012) 21-6500.
- Natal: E Welman: (0331) 42-6201, fax (0331) 42-8648.
- Free State: G L Roberts: (051) 30-3511; and E G Barnard: (051) 30-3511, fax (051) 48-3811.

A recent court application brought for the release of two Soweto teenagers highlighted how crucial family co-operation can be in clearing the cells of children.

Two boys had been convicted of housebreaking with intent to steal and were awaiting sentence. One was released on bail of R500 because his parents came to court and assumed responsibility for him.

The other child's mother could not be traced and relatives were unwilling to have him come home.

Van der Merwe said places of safety were overflowing.

Children's release

(298)

ALTHOUGH statistical information about the release before Christmas of children under the age of 14 awaiting trial is not yet available, the project is running smoothly, says Department of Local Government deputy director Retief Jacobs.

He said in Pretoria yesterday the statistics could be released next week.

"We are racing against time to get the children out as soon as possible," Jacobs said.

13 Lowry 24/12/92

Officials dash hopes of early releases

298

Sowetan 24/12/92

■ Children will be released to the care of parents, relatives:

By Mzimkulu Malunga

THE release from prison of children awaiting trial will mainly depend on the availability of alternative care provided by their parents or relatives.

Colonel Berry Eksteen of the Department of Correctional Services said yesterday various factors would have to be considered before any releases could be made.

Although Deputy Minister of National Housing Mr Glen Carelse raised hopes of early releases - possibly before Christmas - court hearings and investigations by social workers had to precede the process.

Eksteen said there were currently about 48 children under the age of 14 being held in South African prisons.

Cases of children between the ages of 15 and 18 had been deferred to early next year.

"Our belief is that prison is not a good place for the children but, on the other hand, we have to be sure that once they are released the children will be looked after," he said.

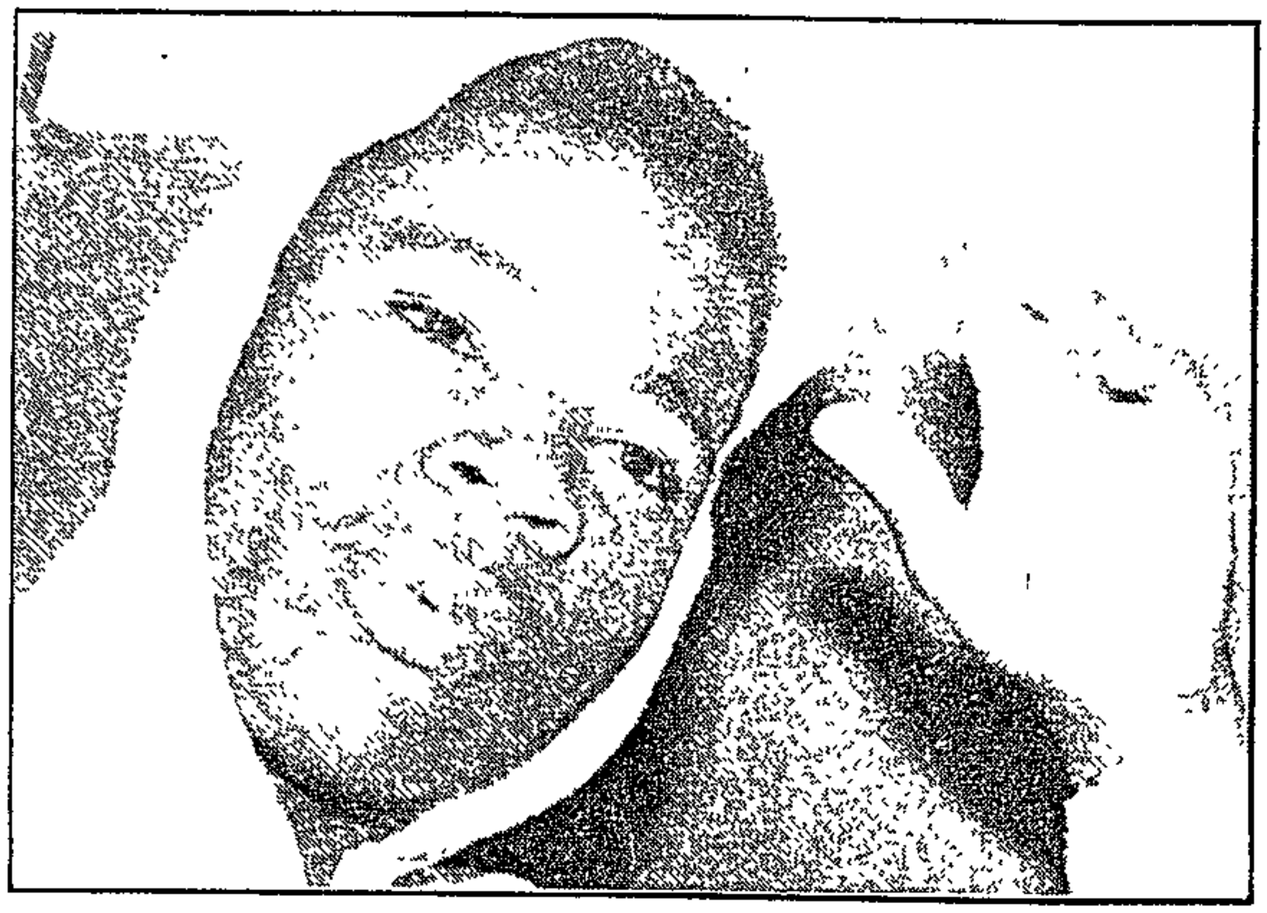
He said it was difficult to give figures concerning the number of children to be released, adding that decisions by magistrates would be influenced by the merits of each case.

"Some of these children, particularly those between the ages 17 and 20, are hardened criminals, so we have to be very careful with the whole release process," he said.

Welfare organisations such as the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders would be involved in the process.

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Shelters try to make it up to street kids*

All John wants for Christmas is his family



John Khambule - dreams of having Christmas with his own family.
PIC: Veli Nhlapo

IZIFUNDO NGOCANSI

THUTO KA THOBALO



MADODA lalelani
* Indlela yokujabulisa umfazi — 0873-0350-22
* Indlela yokumnikeza injabulo — 0873-0350-23
* Indlwabu — 0873-0350-24
* Ubude benduku — 0873-0350-25
* Indlela yokukuthanda — 0873-0350-26

BAFAZI lalelani:
* Indlela yokujabulisa indoda — 0873-0350-27
* Indlela yokumnikeza injabulo — 0873-0350-28
* Indlwabu — 0873-0350-29
* Uthando uma umfazi ezithwele — 0873-0350-41
* Indlela yokukuthanda — 0873-0350-42

MADODA NA BAFAZI lalelani
* Indlela yokufuna Uthando olusha — 0873-0350-07
* Indlela yokwenza uthando ngcono — 0873-0350-08
* Indlela yobunandi bothando — 0873-0350-09
* Indlela eyehlukene yokudlalisana — 0873-0350-10
* Ukuthembeka komngane — 0873-0350-15

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* Tsela ya ho mo fa thabo
* Thabo eo o ka mo neang
* Botelele ba molamo
* Tsela ya ho o rata

BASADI mamelang:
* Tsela ya ho thabisa monna
* Tsela ya ho mo nea thabo
* Thabo eo a ka e fumanang ho wena
* Lerato ha mosadi a le mmeleng
* Tsela eo o ka bontshang lerato la hao ho ena

BANNA le BASADI mamelang:
* Tsela ya ho batla lerato le lecha
* Tsela ya ho e bontsha lerato hantle
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PKU7561

UNREMEMBERED *Efforts to re-unite runaway kids with their long-lost families:*

By Pearl Majola (298)

JOHN Khambule (17) did not see his family over Christmas. Soweten

He may not see his mother and sister for many others to come. 28/12/92

He has been on the streets since the age of seven. He does not remember a Christmas with his family. And now he is too old to believe in Santa Claus.

It is the joy of having family and friends that he is missing out on; the pleasure of giving to and receiving from them, the true meaning of Christmas that he has not experienced.

John is one of the few boys who remained at the Streetwise shelter in Hillbrow while others visited relatives and even families over the festive season.

Like his "brothers" who remained at the shelter, John may not have had the best Christmas, but for now he is happy with his second home and family.

Streetwise, a national street children's organisation, managed to trace some of the families or relatives and reunited them with their boys for the holidays. They are expected to return when schools open next year.

For those whose families have not yet been traced, a programme of entertainment was organised. They went to movies, the theatre, live shows and parties. Others even attended ice skating lessons.

"I am happy here because they take good care of us," says John smiling.

"We go out for entertainment and I have had a really festive holiday. It would have been even better if I was with my own family.

It has been a good holiday for Streetwise. There are fewer boys at the organisation's two shelters in Johannesburg and some of them even have holiday jobs.

"We have 38 children at the Process shelter alone and 27 of them are away to see their relatives," said shelter manager Mr Knox Mogashoa.

"Our policy is to reconcile the children with their families. We locate the families and try to find out what could have led a boy to leave home.

"Sometimes the problems are too severe for the boy to go back. Sometimes we just don't find their families. That is why some of them (boys) are here now.

"We had a big party on Christmas Day at a staff member's home and invited boys from Soweto because they are also part of our family."

John, a plumbing course student, spends these last days of his vacation hanging out with his "brothers" and going to gym. Next year he will finish his plumbing course and hopefully find a job.

number of freed children ● Police arrest 88 employee

No figures yet on child detainees

298

Sowetan 29/12/92

■ **IMPRISONED MINORS:** Officials not sure how many have benefited from release programme:

THE Department of National Housing was unable to say yesterday how many imprisoned minors had benefitted from a special release programme announced by Deputy Housing Minister Glen Carelse before Christmas.

A department spokeswoman, asked yesterday what progress had been made since the announcement, said details would only be available later.

Officials remarked "it may prove difficult" to carry out the administration of the programme over the festive period because officials and parents might be hard to get hold of.

The spokesman said she was not aware of charges that the announcement had been "frivolous" in view of the fact that the department was unable to supply figures of minors released before Christmas.

Carelse said on December 22 that awaiting-trial children under the age of 14 years would be released from prison, possibly before Christmas, and placed in the care of parents, guardians or places of safety.

He said. "Children will be released from prison after careful consideration of the seriousness of each child's alleged offence Only children who do not pose a danger to society will be favourably considered "

He said the decision stemmed from the recommendations of an inter-departmental working group on children in detention.

Because alternative placement facilities were limited, children between the ages of 15 years and 18 years would be attended to later.

Carelse said the short-term strategy would be implemented in collaboration with welfare organisations such as Nicro and the South African National Council for Child and Family Care.

The spokeswoman said the Government had designated the Department of National Housing to co-ordinate all matters pertaining to detained minors. - *Sapa.*

Plan to eradicate 'last great obscenity'

The greatest tragedy of 1992 was also the quietest: the death of 250 000 children every week from hunger and disease. Now, as JOHN MANDLEY reports, the United Nations Children's Fund is launching a R75 billion worldwide campaign to save 4 million lives a year.

LONDON — The biggest disaster of 1992 was not seen on television or splashed across world newspapers. The disaster went unnoticed because it was not particularly new. According to Unicef, the greatest disaster was the ordinary everyday hunger and disease which affects children in poor communities throughout the world.

The scale of the disaster is seen in the figures. Each day of the year an average of 35 000 children are killed by diseases caused by malnutrition and poverty.

This is roughly equivalent to a jumbo jet crashing every 15 minutes with the loss of everyone on board.

"No famine, no flood, no earthquake, no war ever claimed the lives of 250 000 children in a single week," says Unicef's executive director James Grant. Now, with the disaster set to continue into 1993, Unicef is calling for a halt.

"With today's knowledge, this tragedy is no longer necessary."

In a new report, "The State of the World's Children, 1993", Unicef puts forward a "$25 billion bargain" to create a breakthrough in what it calls the "last great obscenity".

Meeting the needs of all the world's children for nutrition, clean water, basic health care and primary education would cost an extra R75 billion a year, estimates the report.

This money would fund low-cost strategies to control diseases such as measles, pneumonia and diarrhoea, halve the rate of child malnutrition, and bring clean water and safe sanitation to all communities.

It would enable family planning services to be made available to all and provide almost every child with a universal education. And the extra money would save about 4 million children's lives a year.

In an unusual move for a UN body, the Unicef report calls for a worldwide popular movement for this cause.

The report points to six ways to spend R75 billion. The sum is less than Americans spend on cigarettes every six months and less than Western Europeans spend on alcohol every three months.

It is less than businessmen in Japan spend on entertainment each year and less than the support package for Russia agreed to this year by the G7 group of countries

Yet this sum is what it would take, says Unicef, to meet the most basic needs of all the world's children by the end of the decade.

"The time has come to banish in shame the notion that the world cannot afford to meet the basic needs of almost every man, woman and child," says Grant.

Progress is already being made. Child deaths have been cut by more than half in the past 50 years and the proportion of children starting school has risen from less than half to more than three-quarters.

More than three-quarters of children in developing countries are being immunised against polio, measles and tetanus. A million children who would have been crippled by polio are now growing up normally.

In total, the Unicef report estimates, immunisation is saving more than 3 million lives a year.

Unicef is suggesting that two-thirds of the R75 billion total could be met by developing countries, with the rest coming from the West — although, in the case of Africa, the proportion of outside help would need to be considerably higher.

The sum would be available, it says, if a fifth of all international aid and a fifth of government spending was allocated to meeting basic needs such as food, water, sanitation, basic health care, education and family planning. — The Observer News Service.



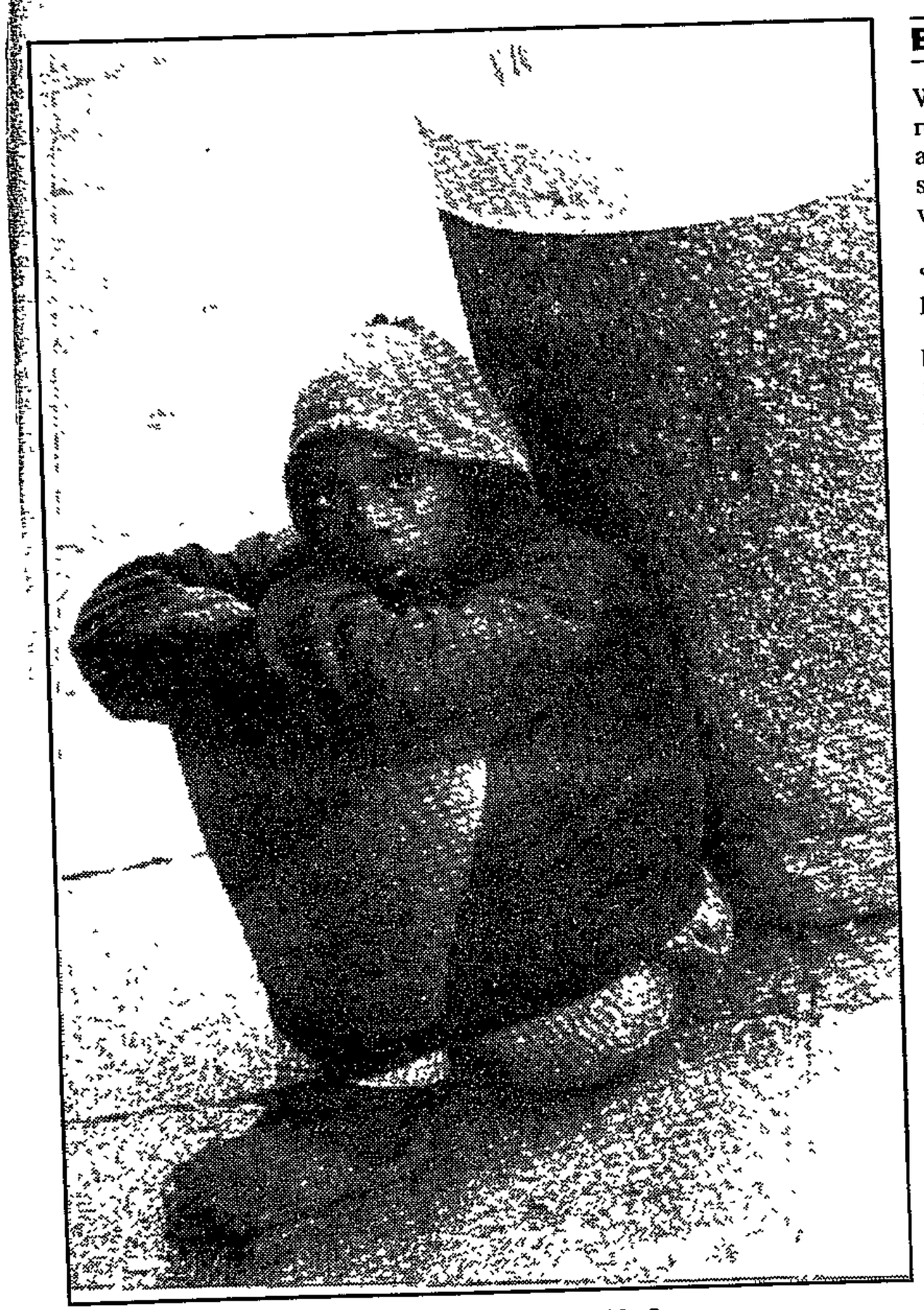
Kindred spirits . . . two brothers playfully embrace each other in a Somali orphanage. They have been inseparable since the loss of their parents in the civil war. Picture: AP

SOCIAL SECURITY_ CHILD CARE

1993

Street children — a growing problem

Sowetan 28/7/93



A street child ... is prison a suitable home for him?

By Greg Myre of Sapa-AP

WHEN William Bulweni, a 12-year-old runaway, tired of sleeping on sidewalks and scrounging for food on the seedy side of Johannesburg, he asked a social worker to find him a new home.

The social worker, Henry Makitla, simply dumped him and two street companions at a police station

Lost in the maw of bureaucracy, the boys languished in a cramped, dirty cell for more than two months. They were neither charged with a crime nor visited by a lawyer One said he was beaten and sexually abused by adult prisoners.

"We didn't know what was happening," said William, who was released in May "All I wanted was to get out."

Thousands of black youths, 17 or younger, spend time in South African jails or prisons each year Most are street children, a fixture in most cities.

They are barefoot and unwashed, their eyes often glazed from sniffing glue, hands outstretched to beg money from drivers stopped at traffic lights.

At night, a dozen or more will sleep huddled together for warmth in a vacant lot Some are criminals in training, others merely lost souls from broken homes

In a country woefully lacking in shelters, schools and social workers for wayward black youths, the problem is left largely to the police, who periodically round the youngsters up and put them in jail for a night. Some stay in jail for weeks without ever being charged with a crime, let alone convicted, human rights officials say

Amy Flickinger of Seattle said she knew of children held for up to a year without being charged She has worked for three years with street children in

"In a country woefully lacking in shelters, schools and social workers for wayward black youths, the problem is left largely to the police, who periodically round the youngsters up and put them in jail for a night. Some stay in jail for weeks without ever being charged with a crime, let alone convicted"

Hillbrow, a crime-infested slum of run-down apartments and sleazy bars in Johannesburg.

Police say they do not try to count the street children because the number changes daily, and have no figures on those in jail

Michelle Morris, a lawyer from New York who assists jailed children in Cape Town, estimates the number held by local police throughout the country at 2 000 to 5 000

Thabiso Cebekhulu (14), was freed in May after five months in prison for stealing a car radio. He saw bigger inmates slash the arms of smaller ones with razors when they refused to take orders.

An aunt greeted him when he was freed, but within days Thabiso returned to the bright lights of Hillbrow. Why? "Because my friend asked me," Thabiso said with a smile and a shrug.

"He still thinks it's all very exciting on the streets," said Edward Mphafi, a social worker at Streetwise, a private shelter where Thabiso stays. Mphafi sympathises with the children, but knows most are headed for trouble.

"Once they've been able to look after themselves for three to four years on the street, they become very smart, very tough and very dangerous," Mphafi said.

Street children are most commonly charged with theft and the usual sentence is seven strokes with a cane, said Ann Skelton, who works with the private Lawyers for Human Rights But sentences like the five months given to Thabiso Cebekhulu also are fairly common.

Major Edward Prinsloo, who runs the Hillbrow police station, said he does not like to put children in jail, but "sometimes the police station has to be used as a place of shelter on a temporary basis"

According to Ms Morris and others, authorities have become more responsive since horror stories like that of Neville Snyman, a 13-year-old prisoner who was killed last year while awaiting trial.

Teenage detainees allegedly sodomised him, beat him with a metal tap, forced him to drink soapy water and burst his internal organs by jumping on his stomach

Neglected Philippi kids get 'rescued'

South 10 -14/7/93

LIFE FOR THE hundreds of children of farm labourers in Philippi was bleak until the Trudy Thomas Centre was established early last year Before the centre was opened there were few day care facilities in the area

"Some babies were strapped to the backs of their mothers while they worked the fields and on rainy days they were left to shelter in little boxes Others were simply unattended," says Matron Sharon Lewin.

"Many were covered in sores, and gastroenteritis and diarrhoea were commonplace" (298)

The tot system prevails on the farms and childcare was neglected in the face of endemic alcoholism

But today there is hope and happiness at the centre where 150 babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers thrive on the attention of caring teachers, nutritious meals and play in a stimulating environment.

Dr Trudy Thomas, a community health specialist, started the centre last year to rescue the children after surveying Philippi farms.

She was shocked by the plight of the children.

Some children fed themselves by robbing trucks carrying stale bread for pigs Many were left unattended while mothers worked long hours in the field, and child labour was common

On the day SOUTH visited the centre, children were happily running around, enjoying the garden and playground equipment

Many still bear the ravages of early deprivation and malnourishment Some are small for their age and slow developers Some have poor eyesight and a few have had TB.

But at the centre they're secure in the space they share with the children of some of the centre's staff.

Matron Lewin, who has two children at the centre, describes her own joy at working in the warm environment where she can do the work she loves and be with her children

"I'm happy that I can see my children during the day, and they enjoy being here Even on Saturdays my six-year-old asks to come to creche."

The classrooms are bright and decorated with charts and posters. In the sunny babies' room diagrams on the wall depict a carefully-designed programme to ensure excellent care.

The centre is, however, under-resourced.

The nursery has only four cots for the 22 babies it currently accommodates and another nursery and more classrooms are needed to even begin to address the needs of labourers reflected in the long waiting list.

Parents are asked to pay one rand a day for each child, but few can and they're not pressed

The centre is supported by Community Chest and an American company and the Viva Game has donated R40 000.

But more is needed to make the dream of care for every labourer's child in Philippi a reality **LORELLE BELL**



IN GOOD HANDS: Randall Ruiters, aged 3, arrived at the Trudy Thomas Centre unable to walk or talk, but he is responding well to the care of teachers like Ms Revona Louw (left)

The Western Cape Peace Committee is currently inviting applications for the positions mentioned below

Candidates for these crucial positions must have good listening and communication skills with a sound grasp of political dynamics in the region Objectivity and the ability to assume a thoroughly non-partisan approach to the task of implementing the National Peace Accord are essential requirements For the position of field workers persons with facilitation skills and proficiency in English, Afrikaans and Xhosa will receive preference, whilst organisational and good conceptual skills will be advantageous.

FIELD WORKERS

A position is available in the **Northern Suburbs**, in the **Vredenburg/ Namaqualand** region and in **Beaufort West.**

The incumbents will be responsible for ● assisting in the formation and nurturing of Local Peace Committees (LPC) ● liaising with all relevant parties and leaders in the community ● acting as the link between the Regional Peace Committee and the LPC ● facilitation of different intervention processes in conflict situations

YOUTH LIAISON OFFICER

This person will work from the RPC office in **Bellville**, and will be responsible for ● liaising with and organising the different youth organisations ● facilitating the youth forum

ELECTION MONITORING COORDINATOR

This position at our **Bellville** office entails responsibility for ● coordinating the RPC monitoring efforts ● liaising with other monitoring agencies and

A place where there is love

South 1418 - 18/8/93

By Edwina Booysen

ONS PLEK, the only shelter for female street children in Cape Town, has recently launched a second-stage house, Siviwe, which can house 10 girls.

Cape Town has approximately 600 street children and about 60 of these are girls.

The majority are on the streets as a result of family upheaval in the form of violence, overcrowding, drug or alcohol abuse and poverty.

Until 1988, when Ons Plek was launched, there was no place where female street children could go for protection or shelter.

Organised by a management committee affiliated to the Child Welfare Society, the shelter can cater for 16 girls up to the age of 18.

"However, we do not really have a set limit," said Mrs Pam Jackson, a social worker at Ons Plek.

Education

Jackson said Ons Plek was a place where the girls' basic needs, such as food, clothing, education, a place to sleep and, "most importantly", love was provided.

Jackson said the second stage home, Siviwe (Xhosa for "God has heard us"), was started because it was difficult for the girls who had been at Ons Plek for some time to settle into a routine because new girls were coming off the streets all the time.

"With the new girls, there still has to be a great deal of leniency so that they can come to trust us.

Once they trust us and know we care about them, it is necessary for them to be dealt with more firmly. It was difficult to do this with the new girls coming in all the time."

In the five years since its launch, Ons Plek has had more than 600 girls — an average of 120 a year — staying at the shelter.

Upheaval

"Apart from the girls who are on the streets as a result of familial upheaval, a fair proportion had no family disruption," Jackson said.

"Some of them just had to leave because their homes were overcrowded and they were the eldest. Others are from areas such as Richmond, Worcester and Springbok and were brought to the city to work as domestics or nannies.

"Once they are here, they might be treated unkindly or overworked and they run away."

The first step when they come to Ons Plek is to have the girls adjust to a structured environment. A social worker investigates home circumstances and for some there is a supervised return to the family.

"If the girl cannot be returned to the family, a substitute family is found or a suitable children's home," Jackson said.

While at Ons Plek, and the same will apply to those at Siviwe, the girls participate fully in the running of the shelter. (298)

Restrictions

"They maintain the same independence they had while on the street. They go everywhere by themselves and have very few restrictions placed on them apart from the 9pm curfew."

At Ons Plek, girls who stay out past curfew are not allowed to return to the shelter until 6pm the following night, Jackson said.

"This is so that they will not come home early morning and sleep all day while the rest of the household is hard at work." Siviwe will be stricter.

The girls cannot sleep out unless they have the house-mother's permission. "Everyone at Siviwe works on a budget," Jackson said.

"This enables them to look after themselves and to work with money when they leave."

Anyone who is able to assist the shelter by providing clothing or foodstuff, can contact Jackson at 45-4829 (Ons Plek) or 448-6529 (Siviwe).



PITCHING IN: Siviwe resident Dorothy Moses (20) prepares lunch while Pamela Njomane (11) and Roslyn Collins (8) wash dishes Photo: Yunus Mohamed

Crystal (not her real name), now 19-years-old, arrived at Ons Plek when she was 14.

"My boyfriend and I had 'strolled' because I was having problems at home," she said.

"We were on the street about a year when he heard about Ons Plek and I went to stay there until I became pregnant and got married."

"I was away for three years and then I had some problems and had nowhere to go.

"That's when I thought of Ons Plek and asked if I could come back," she said.

Crystal and her son are now living at Siviwe. She works in the shelter's shop which sells second-hand clothing, household goods, and low-budget groceries.

"I am really happy to be here. If it wasn't for Ons Plek, I would be on the streets or maybe even dead."

Sharon, from Khayelitsha, recently celebrated her 15th birthday.

She has never been on the streets but came to Ons Plek because of difficulties at home.

"My mom and I stayed with her boyfriend but he did not want me there," Sharon said.

Sharon's cousin had spent some time at Ons Plek and suggested she go there.

That was two months ago and Sharon has since moved on to Siviwe.

"My mom comes to visit me here whenever she can. She is looking for a place for us," Sharon said.

"Ons Plek helps people. It allows them to regain their humanity," she said.

"Out on the streets you will forget your background and do things that in normal situations you will never even consider.

"Here it is like being at home. You are chided for doing wrong and praised for doing well, and that gives you back your dignity."

New HIV/AIDS Training Programme at the Columbia University School of Public Health in New York City, U.S.A.

Applications are invited for International Training in Epidemiology related to AIDS.

The purpose of the training is to develop the scientific and professional infrastructure in South Africa to sustain continuing efforts to counter the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The programme is funded by a Fogarty Training grant from the National Institutes of Health, Washington, D.C. Successful applicants will receive funding for travel expenses, tuition and a stipend for living expenses.

Candidates will be trained by the Columbia University School of Public Health in New York. In addi-

R1m-a-day 'national service' planned to take 50 000 youths off the stree

BTDay 30/9/93

STEPHANE BOTHMA

A VOLUNTARY "national service", aimed at drawing at least 50 000 unemployed young people into a programme of community projects and education, is to be launched next year.

The newly formed National Youth Development Forum is behind the project, which has also been backed by the National Economic Forum, government and development bodies.

It is expected that when the service is operational by the end of next year the cost will be about R1m a day, including payment of small allowances to volunteers.

The forum would not give details of funding yesterday, but said its proposal enjoyed strong support and there was no concern about raising the money.

"Everybody is desperately concerned about the youth. The state is keen to assist and so is everybody else," the initiative's technical group leader, Bob Tucker, said.

The National Youth Service Initiative would be in place by February, and could be functional within months with about 2 000 participants. This would grow to 50 000 volunteers by the end of next year.

Projects would include the rehabilitation of urban and rural infrastructure, the building of housing, education and literacy training, voter education programmes, environmental conservation, health care and social services. (298)

Establishing the initiative was one of the key programme decisions taken by the forum, launched at the weekend to combat the marginalisation of SA's youth.

Tucker said the initiative was not based on creating "youth brigades" and then looking for something for them to do, but instead would negotiate for a representative share for youth in a range of socio-economic projects.

He said no new structures would be put in place to facilitate the initiative, but projects would address the needs of SA's existing economy.

Initially each participant would get an allowance of R7,50 a day, one meal, clothing and possibly a travel allowance.

"The development benefits of participation should be significantly greater than the monetary allowance. The estimated total costs of the development programme and allowance per participant per day would be R20," Tucker said.

The proposal to create the initiative was put before the forum after an intensive analysis of programmes around the world as well as local proposals, forum convenor Sheila Sisulu said.

A National Youth Service Commission would be established to ensure that activities were undertaken in co-operation with existing organisations, she said, adding that the service initiative would provide education and training activities to supplement on-the-job skills development.

Youth service project at advanced stage

Star 30/9/93

(208)

■ BY ABDUL MILAZI

The National Youth Development Forum's plans to launch a youth service programme to help combat the marginalisation of SA's youth are at an advanced stage and the programme is expected to get off the ground by February.

Speaking at a conference in Johannesburg yesterday, NYDF co-ordinator Sheila Sisulu said the programme was intended to open up avenues for young people to take part fully in every aspect of economic, political and social life.

Sisulu said the proposal to create the National Youth Service Programme had been put before the forum after an intensive analysis of programmes around the world as well as 15 proposals made by various SA organisations after the death of SACP general secretary Chris Hani earlier this year.

The forum planned to implement its programme in its pilot stage by February and hoped to draw at least 50 000 youths into voluntary community service by the end of next year.

Participants would be paid nominal allowances while involved in the programme.

New youth group takes up struggle

South 1/10 - 5/10/93

(298)

A NEW lobby group to champion the cause of South Africa's youth was formally constituted in Johannesburg over the weekend.

The broadly-based National Youth Development Forum is, according to organisers of the launch, representative of 82 youth-based organisations including sporting, political and religious groupings.

Their role will be to lobby government in policy planning and resource allocation at a national level.

They will also encourage the expansion of youth development projects.

"For too long our country's youth have been portrayed as 'lost' and as a drain on society's resources. We intend to change all that," Mr Leema Mofokeng, one of the launch organisers, said.

According to Mofokeng, the launch completes a two-year consultative process with organised youth and non-governmental organisations involved in youth development.

The setting up of a "youth front" was initiated by the Joint Enrichment Project which has been involved in youth projects since its launch in 1986.

"We have commissioned researchers to find out exactly what it is that South Africa's youth want for themselves. They have talked to a wide range of youth from all over the country and we believe we are now ready to act — knowing what they want and need," Mofokeng said.

The researchers, from the Community Agency for Social Enquiry, have completed what is probably the most comprehensive study ever done on the country's youth.

Their findings show the daunting challenges ahead, although in the Western Cape, the position of youth is more favourable than in the rest of the country.

For starters, according to the survey, 27 percent of young people in the country are marginalised, meaning they see themselves as having no future, feel alienated from jobs, schools or family, have a poor self image and may be out of touch with the process of change in South Africa.

For the Western Cape however, this proportion is 17 percent.

The relatively positive perceptions of Western Cape youth are significant in the light of the youth unemployment rate in the province, which at 55 percent is the highest in the country.

The CASE survey shows 58 percent of 16 to 30 year olds in the Western Cape are Coloured, a further 24 percent African and 18 percent white.

Half come from the metropolitan area of Cape Town, a further 27 percent from towns, 12 percent from villages or rural areas and 12 percent from squatter camps.

The proportion of respondents with tertiary education was the highest in the country, with seven percent having diplomas and four percent with university degrees.

At the other end of the scale six percent of Western Cape young people have less than a Standard Five education, but 42 percent have passed matric.

The survey results provide useful information for youth development planners in the region. Only 69 percent of unemployed youngsters in the Western Cape sample said they would be willing to join a short-term employment creation scheme sponsored by the government, but 80 percent said they would join a training course.

A group of 47 percent would choose to be self-employed and a further 43 percent would like to be employed by a large corporation.

One of the first tasks of the National Youth Development Forum, says Mofokeng, is to initiate a National Youth Service, which would give people a chance to perform voluntary service while receiving further education, skills training and career guidance.

"Although youth will be serving the community by helping in the health, environment and educational sectors, the primary goal of this project would be to develop the youth who take part.

"We do not want a situation where the volunteers help with the development of their communities, and then afterwards, they are left to sit on the streets again without a job

"They must receive skills training as part of the process," Mofokeng said.

QUENTIN WILSON

focus on youth

Sowetan 6/10/93

Dr David Everatt, deputy director of the Community Agency for Social Enquiry, sheds startling light on the nation's youth and how they are misjudged by society:

298

YOUTH in South Africa have been stereotyped for years.

For the liberation movements, they were "The Young Lions" at the forefront of the struggle against apartheid in the 1980s; for those who associated them with violent resistance to apartheid, school boycotts and with only themselves to blame for lacking education and a future, they are "the lost generation".

Newspaper headlines continue to link young people with political and criminal violence The very term "youth" is inherently political; it tends to imply black youth, and most usually applies to black, male, urban youth, accompanied by images of protest, toyi-toyi and burning barricades

The result is that all youth — certainly all young black South Africans — are lumped together in popular imagery as a generation predisposed to acts of violence, if not inherently delinquent. Commentators speculate about an unavoidable skewing of the values of young people, having been exposed to and involved in the political upheavals of the 1980s.

Both these stereotypes were exploded by the research undertaken by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (Case), commissioned by the Joint Enrichment Project. The research constitutes the first national baseline survey of the attitudes and life circumstances of young people of all races in South Africa, aged between 16 and 30 years

Youth and violence

One in 10 young black South Africans have been victims of political violence, suffering stabbing, shooting, stoning or train or taxi attacks. This is particularly true of young people living in big cities or urban squatter camps. Furthermore, fully half of all young people know people who have been victims of political violence.

Asked about the causes of violence, almost half of all young people blamed unemployment, followed by "all parties".

Significantly, a third blamed migrant labour hostels for the violence. Fully 50 percent of youth living in squatter camps which suffer from attacks blamed hostels

We asked young people to tell us their attitudes to people sent to prison for a range of crimes The results were startling and cause for concern. One in five youth believe that people imprisoned for fraud are "victims of the system". Significantly, this attitude is more widespread amongst Coloured, Asian and white youth than amongst African youth. A similar pattern holds true for attitudes to people sent to prison for assault

Equally worrying are young peoples' attitudes to rape. Almost one in 10 young people of all races believe that people sent to prison for rape are "victims of the system". There was almost no difference between white and black attitudes. The results point to the need for urgent educational interventions among youth.



Peter Mokaba...Is he typical of South African youth?

The results also show that the assumption that apartheid, and resistance to it, affected only black youth is entirely false

The particular life circumstances of individuals of all race groups have led a small percentage of young South Africans to have value system s which are badly skewed. These individuals require education and counselling.

Attitude to police

On a more positive note, the results reveal that 90 percent of youth share the human rights values which will underpin the future South Africa

In other words, the attitudes or acts of a small number of people cannot continue to be taken as representative of an entire generation. Stereotypes which insist on characterising the entire generation of young people are entirely wrong

We asked young people if they regard the SAP as "the enemy". The results were positive, in that 79 percent stated that they did not see the police in this way. Put the other way round, however, the results are worrying; one in five young people do see the SAP as "the enemy" This is particularly true of African youth, of whom a quarter regard the police in this light.

Likewise, only one in five young people hold the police responsible for political violence. This runs counter to frequent television pictures of running battles between police and black youth, and the concomitant assumption of an instinctive enmity between the two.

However, the role of the SAP in upholding apartheid has somewhat affected the attitudes of young people

Two-thirds of the sample believe that the police protect the community, and are good at solving crimes, ie, one third of all young people do not believe this

There is a clear racial difference in attitudes to the police.

The overwhelming majority of white youth regard the SAP in a positive light Only 47 percent of African youth feel they can trust the police, and 53 percent do not believe that the SAP is the best protector

What to do?

The need for a transformed and community-responsive police force is widely accepted. The Case national youth survey shows that a transformation is certainly required.

Significantly, it also shows that there is no ineradicable antipathy towards the police among youth as a whole, which suggests that a transformed police force would be accepted by South Africa's youth

It is in this regard that the National Youth Development Forum, to be launched in September, has a key role to play

It should develop an understanding of the issues that do lead to mistrust between youth and the SAP, and find methods of bringing police and youth together to discuss and resolve these issues

Young people of all races reflect the nation at large: their values and attitudes are neither more nor less deviant than any other age category.

The significance of the National Youth Development Forum is that it will present youth in all their diversity, and provide a mechanism for reaching youth and giving voice to their divergent opinions and needs

Voluntary service for youth

(298) 10/10/93 SOWETAN

By Mzwandile Jacks

THE National Youth Development Forum decided this week that 50 000 young people would be drawn into voluntary service while they are being provided with education and training.

The decision was taken at the NYDF's inaugural two-day meeting at Midrand near Johannesburg.

The young people would provide voluntary service —under the auspices of the National Youth Service — in 11 areas including the improvement of infrastructure in urban and rural areas, education, health, welfare and community service programmes.

The NYDF resolved to recognise the youth as being at the centre stage of any decision making and to ensure that they are treated with dignity and equality in all areas of national life.

Launching programmes for youth development and facilitating affirmative policy for youth development are also among its plans.

Refuge of joy for the

(298)

KHOTSO is a beautiful toddler with huge brown eyes which light up when you say his name. His gap-tooth smile makes you laugh, yet not even his mother wants him. She ran away from Sebokeng Hospital after learning she had given her baby AIDS.

Earlier this year another little girl was found wandering on a Natal beach, abandoned by her family, presumably because she was HIV positive.

Both are just two of the increasing number of AIDS babies being abandoned by their families.

Sensing the need to care for the increasing number of such children, the Salvation Army raised the funds and initiated a project to establish a multiracial haven in Soweto for abandoned children of HIV-positive mothers. The first patient arrived on Peace Day last month and the nurses named him Khotso — which means peace.

Abandoned

The lively, gurgling little boy — who demands kisses and cuddles from everyone — will die within three years. "Khotso's mother never knew what a beautiful child she had," said Salvation Army Captain Lenah Jwili, director of the Bethesda House for AIDS orphans.

Bethesda has accommodation for 12 HIV-positive babies. Four more abandoned HIV- positive children are expected to arrive shortly from the Zakhe "place of safety" in Durban.

THE Salvation Army has set up a centre in Soweto to care for the increasing number of abandoned AIDS babies. LOUISE MARSLAND reports.

"These children don't have a sense of belonging, so we must give them all the love and care we can. Khotso has six mothers here at Bethesda, he is very spoilt." Jwili said

Government research on AIDS has shown that women between the ages of 20 and 24 have been the hardest hit by the epidemic in South Africa, Johannesburg City Council AIDS centre director Dr Clive Evian told a Hillbrow seminar recently.

The next peak was among teenage girls, with almost 3 percent currently carrying the virus. The problem is compounded by the fact that women in this category are more likely to fall pregnant than older women and pass the infection on to their babies — the chances of a mother transmitting the virus to her child being about 45 percent.

A recent study at a Johannesburg ante-natal clinic also showed that 6 percent of pregnant women arriving for care were infected with the virus.

"More and more babies are being born with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. And most of these babies will die before they are two," Evian said.

Education is the key to the success of the Salvation Army's AIDS programme "When the virus is in the family, are you going to chuck out your children, your wife, your husband?" Jwili asked.

"These children are innocent, one can't just throw them away. My dream is that the whole community should be informed because this virus is going to attack each and every one"

The Salvation Army's first priority is to return the child back to the family or foster parents. If this is not posssible, the Salvation Army has a creche on site as well as other facilities for older children, including a school

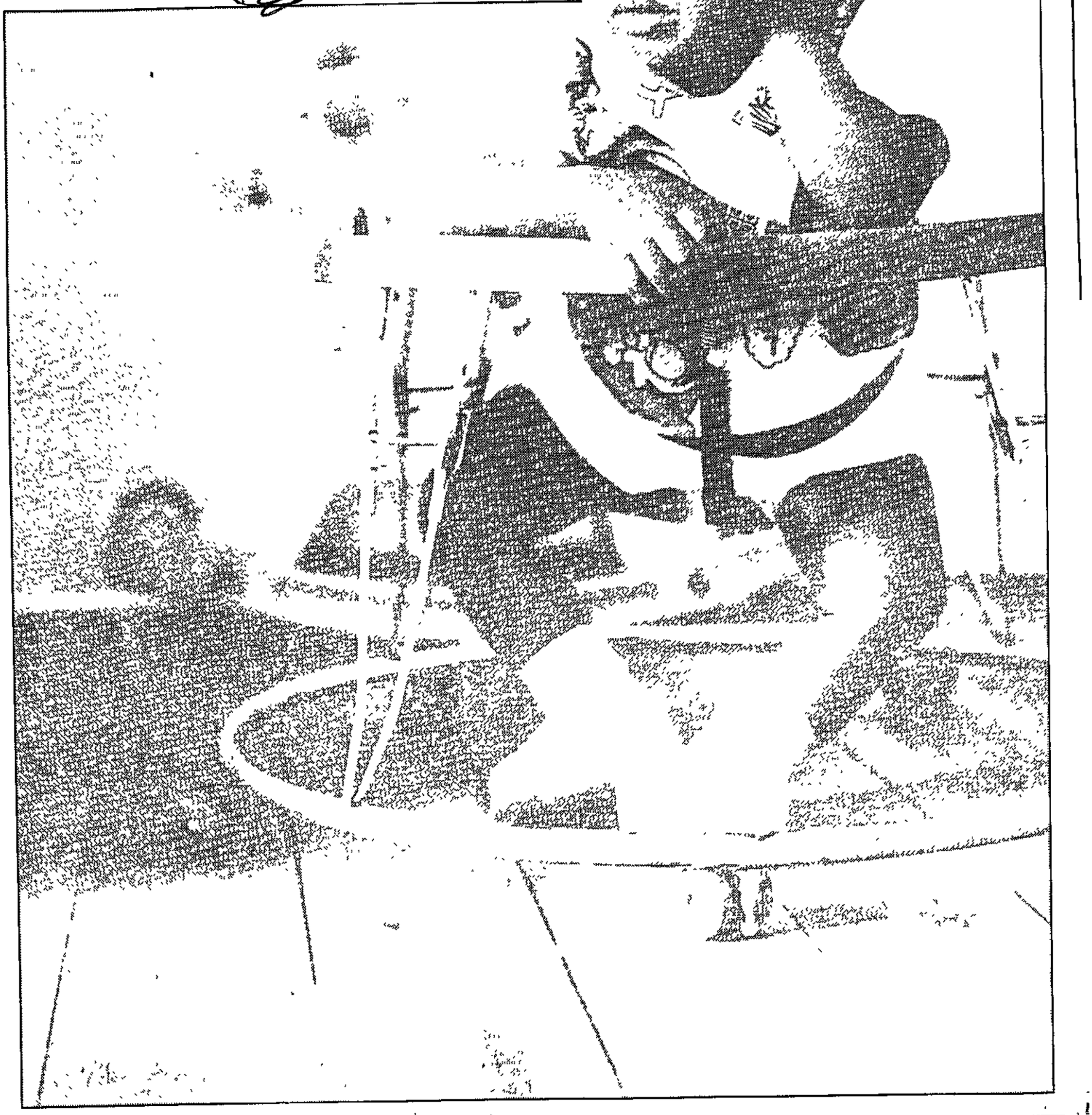
Spreading

Salvation Army public relations officer Major Denis Lorimer said someone had to start the ball rolling "We can't afford to wait for the State to do something. This home is an experiment, but the need is so great In Zambia we are finding villages with only children left. All the adults have died of AIDS. It could happen here ... the disease is spreading rapidly. We are trying to offer a place of love and care for these children, knowing that the hospitals can't possibly cope in the future. The problem is too big."

Jwili wipes away a tear as she talks about her AIDS charge. "When you see a child as healthy-looking as little Khotso is now, it is very painful to know that he won't live much longer. I adore him. It's so sad, and it will be very hard to deal with his death"

)eace and forgotten

Star 16/10/93



UNWANTED, BUT LOVED: Baby Khotso, abandoned by his mother after learning she had given her child AIDS. He will probably die within three years.

● Photograph: NATASHA PINCUS

NEWS More minors detained than released ● Shoc

Children in prison

Sowetan 28/10/93

A RECOMMENDATION that awaiting-trial children should not, as far as possible, be detained in police cells and prisons was already being implemented, deputy Welfare Minister Mr Glen Carelse said yesterday.

He was reacting to the findings, released yesterday, by a working group on alternate centres for children in detention.

Instability

Carelse noted that because of intensifying unrest, the depressed economy and instability in townships more children were being detained than released.

The number of awaiting-trial children under the age of 18 years in prisons increased to 921 by the end of September this year, compared with 800 over the same time last year. Those in police cells increased in number from 606 to 756.

Local committees were investigating child detention in the Cape Peninsula, Port Elizabeth, Durban and the Witwatersrand, Carelse said.

He invited child welfare representatives to present further submissions, particularly on the lack of community involvement in welfare structures, before January 15.

The working group's report said too many children were held for extended periods in police cells and prisons and it appeared there was insufficient overall responsibility for the handling of children in detention.

"Inadequate facilities and services result in existing legislation not being applied to the advantage of children in all respects," the report said. The group said it should be accepted in principle that unsentenced children should not be placed in police cells or prisons.

298

Residential

It recommended the creation of small, decentralised residential facilities where children could be detained and said there was a need for youth farms, camps and children's homes.

More juvenile court hearings should be converted into inquiries in terms of the Child Care Act, the report said. —*Sapa.*

Child Welfare turns 85 today

(298) ARG 16/10/93

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

■ Fun and festivities will mark the 85th birthday of the Cape Town Child Welfare Society — but its real purpose to protect children and ensure their rights will not be forgotten.

TODAY is the 85th birthday of Cape Town Child Welfare Society — but the organisation's constant battle with infant mortality, child abuse and neglect will strike a sombre note in the celebrations.

And with the blame for much of the neglect and abuse laid firmly at the door of poor socio-economic conditions, the society's future success will depend on its ability to find creative and innovative ways to help under-resourced families cope with life pressures.

That's the word from Child Welfare director Alan Jackson who said future plans included working closely with communities to tackle the problem together, providing training in child care and nutrition, challenging the State and regional and local authorities to pitch in, establishing job creation projects and identifying and supporting the coping mechanisms within communities.

This would also assist the society to cope with another looming burden. researchers predict 400 000 Aids orphans countrywide by the year 2000, of which 10 to 15 percent will be in greater Cape Town.

Cape Town Child Welfare Society is the oldest children's welfare agency in South Africa, born out of the then Medical Officer of Health's concern over the alarmingly high infant mortality rate — between 198 and 334 children born in the city died before their first birthday around 1906.

And still today, says Mr Jackson, the infant mortality rate remains a major concern, with this country's figures about the highest in Africa in spite of considerable resources.

The society's services include the following areas:

■ Child protection to prevent child abuse and neglect,

■ Placements of children through adoption and foster care,

■ Residential and skills development work with street children,

■ Training of parents and other care givers,

■ Residential care for babies and children,

■ Daycare/educare development, and

■ Community work (which includes educare income generating projects, school feeding and adult development).

Current statistics show each year the society helps about 70 cases of child battering with injuries varying from cigarette burns to broken bones, 60 cases of sexual abuse, 330 cases of neglect and 60 abandoned children.

It provides daycare services to more than 1 400 pre-schoolers, residential care to more than 100 children at three homes and emergency homes, and looks after more than 100 street-children in five shelters.

Returning children to the community, either to foster homes or adoptive parents, is top priority with a more than five percent a year success rate being recorded.

Spokesman Ms Jetty Botes said the society was committed to rendering a meaningful, not a cosmetic service and continually appraised the effectiveness of its operation.

"We believe that our services should at all times be relevant to changing community needs. We also believe that prevention is our highest priority and we are committed to ongoing education of the community in matters affecting family life."

■ Child welfare birthday parties will be held today in Kenilworth, Khayelitsha, Greenmarket Square in Cape Town, Athlone and in Hout Bay.

Schubert Mass in Stellenbosch

TOMORROW the Church Choir of the Stellenbosch Student Congregation will perform the Schubert *Mass No 2 in G* at the Endler Hall, Stellenbosch

The performance starts at 8.15pm. Tickets will be available at the box office.

Shirley Woodgate focuses on the many pressing problems facing South Africa's children. They range from certain Aids to uncertain education — or no education at all. She finds that there are no quick-fix solutions to caring for the nation's children



The Star CHILD CARE CAMPAIGN

Star 19/10/93

South Africans without any hope

298



artbreak . . . children are often left orphaned and homeless by political violence. PICTURE. KEN OOSTERBROEK

South Africa's estimated 11 million children face a tough future, with the possibility of Aids orphaning many and a lack of education being among the most pressing problems.

According to Dr Keith Heimann, a management committee member of the National Council for Child and Family Welfare, and chief of its Aids and adoption committees, by 2000 South Africa could have between 500 000 and 3 million Aids orphans.

He warned that it was essential to begin planning immediately for the care of Aids orphans in order to prevent tens of thousands of children being thrown on the streets.

Another problem which will have to be moved to the top of the agenda is the education crisis

As South Africa moves to a new dispensation, there is little reason to hope that the legacy of bantu education will be quickly remedied.

Only last week, National Education Minister Piet Marais admitted that 2 million black children of schoolgoing age were not getting any education.

In the short term a staggering 40 000 classrooms would have to be built to accommodate these youngsters

These statistics prevail despite the State spending 20 percent of the national Budget on education

While improved education will undoubtedly be a priority of a future black-dominated government, it is likely to take years before real progress is made. Most black teachers, for example, are underqualified and upgrading programmes will take time to achieve results

The "lost generation" (also called "marginalised youth") has been the focus of much debate this year and experts have mooted co-ordinated programmes to help reincorporate these children into mainstream society.

One proposed solution is the implementation of a national youth service aimed at drawing marginalised youth into a range of community service projects.

This concept, based on the American Peace Corps initiative, has been adopted by the newly formed National Youth Development Forum (NYDF), a body representing youth across the socio-political spectrum.

Message

The provision of adequate funds, coming mainly from the private sector, is considered essential to success of this programme.

What can be done about these diverse problems which threaten the fabric of society?

There are no quick-fix solutions. But perhaps the clearest message that filtered through from all those involved with children — the Government, the law, educationists, the medical profession, the Church, the broader community — was the need for funds . . massive cash injections in every field to boost any campaign aimed at uplifting the youth.

What is also clear is that money will not be forthcoming from the government of the day Only 6 percent or R512 million of the 1993/94 social security budget of R8,5 billion was allocated directly to children's programmes.

Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman, whose organisation is responsible for feeding 2,5 million people countrywide, many of them children, has called for the introduction of a massive famine prevention programme

She said that in Natal only 25 percent of children under six were adequately nourished. Transkei was not much better The Free State was the worst area in the country, with 80 percent of new applicants for aid stunted and underweight.

Stressing the gravity of the situation in South Africa, where Unicef recently claimed that child deaths were more than double that of any country of similar income worldwide, Perlman suggested a multi-pronged approach to ensure a better future for youth

Her list ranged from free pre-natal care for all low-income mothers, with food supplements, to the introduction of pre-school programmes where every child over three could participate at the State's expense, and free compulsory education for all children aged 6 to 16.

As we said, there are no instant answers, only the urgent need to hasten the debate before deprived children become no-hope adults

374 arrests for child abuse in September

PRETORIA. — A TOTAL of 160 alleged child rapists were arrested in South Africa in September, according to police figures released yesterday (298)

A further 99 were arrested for alleged indecent assault of children and 115 for assault.

The child abuse figures were contained in an overall statement on police arrests, including 1 575 arrests on drug charges during this period. — Sapa

CT 20/10/93

Home closed, more Pollsmoor youths

Staff Reporter

THE number of juvenile offenders in Pollsmoor Prison rose from 20 last year to 120 this year because the Siyakhaphala home of safety in Stellenbosch was closed.

A report in the Cape Times last week on the Nicro annual report stating most of the youths aged 17 and 18 who were held for serious offences presented a danger to society, was incorrect, Nicro social worker Ms Rozette Jeptha said.

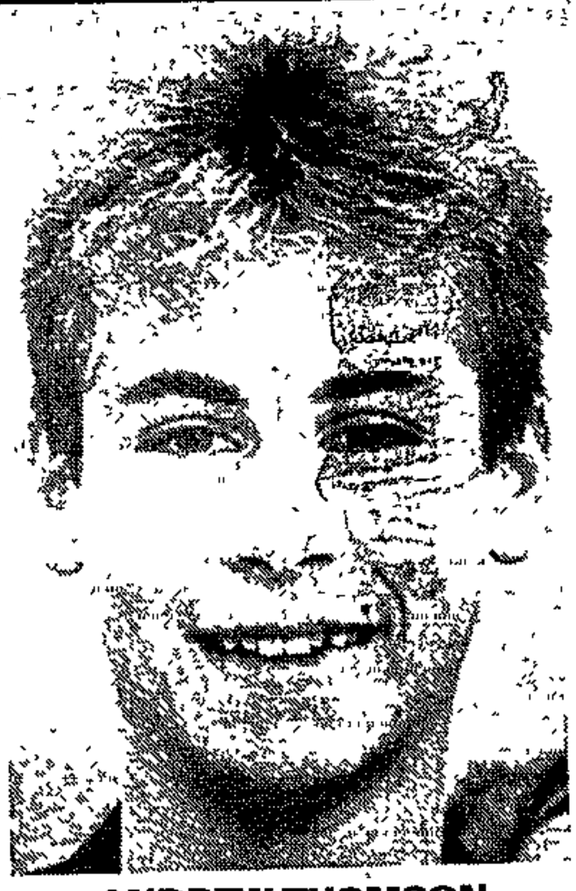
The report said findings disprove the claim that most children (in prison) are 17 or 18 years old, or that all youths in prisons committed serious crimes and are a danger to society.

She said most of the children's parents were unemployed, they were poor and starving and it was wrong to send them to prison.

They should rather be sent to a school for juvenile offenders, places of safety or perform community service at old age homes, mental hospitals and other centres, she said. In a lifeskills course, Nicro taught children responsibility to the law in six classes.

She said the Siyakhaphala home — closed in May — would re-open soon.

Boy, 14, runs for DP office



ANDREW THOMSON

South 3/9–7/9/93

By Christelle Terreblanche

THE WESTERN Cape Youth of the Democratic Party (DP) is sticking to its guns that 14-year-olds should be allowed to hold party political office — but is against them voting in a national election.

"If somebody is allowed to be a full member of the party, this person should be able to be elected to party office," says Mr Ryan Coetzee, regional Youth chairperson.

"We will not allow first- and second-class members or citizens."

The Western Cape DP's youngest candidate for regional office at their weekend congress in Lansdowne, was Andrew Smith, 14.

But he does not believe in giving the vote to 14-year-olds.

At the DP's weekend regional conference, when Mr Jeff Leonard, DP Atlantis branch chairperson, criticised the nomination of 14-year-old Wynberg branch committee member, Andrew Thomson, to the regional executive.

Leonard himself won a seat on the six-person executive.

Before delegates voted, he said the DP could not have a 14-year-old executive member, because "we will be lowering ourselves to the level of Mandela". (298)

He was referring to Mr Nelson Mandela's appeal for 14-year-olds to get the vote.

Leonard's objections were overruled but Thomson was not elected.

Thomson is a Standard Six pupil at Bergvliet High School, lives in Diep River and joined the DP a year ago. He was elected to the branch committee six weeks ago and is said to be very active. He is currently being co-opted in the regional DP Youth executive.

Thomson told SOUTH: "Personally and in all modesty I do not think people under 18 know enough about politics to vote.

"But holding office is a different matter. I can make a contribution towards what I believe in."

Coetzee told SOUTH there was nothing in the DP constitution that put an age limit on who should hold party office.

The smile of a child

South 3|9—7|9|93

THE SLOGAN, "A child's smile is our reward", sums up the joy experienced by all concerned with the Grassroots Adventure Bus Programme, says Alison van Blerk of the public relations office of Golden Arrow Bus Services.

This programme was started in 1974 when Golden Arrow Bus Services identified the need for excursions for pre-school children in disadvantaged communities.

"In underprivileged communities where cultural activities are few, if any, it was decided to try to get theatre groups involved in providing a programme of children's theatre as part of the Adventure programme."

The programme is being run over 10 months and more than 200 schools from Khayelitsha, Nyanga, Guguletu and Cape Flats centres are involved.

Said van Blerk: "This is an example of how unions, employers, community organisations and business can operate together for the upliftment of underprivileged pre-schoolers."



THEATRE ADVENTURE: Children from Manenberg and Khayelitsha with students of the Waterfront Theatre School

This year second-year students at the Waterfront Theatre School were approached for assistance. The children are taken to the theatre school where the students act out two plays in mime with a narration. After each performance the cast interacts with the children and asks questions about the play, also explaining the morals and ideas behind the performance.

"The students make use of different types of animals to tell the children that although people have different cultures, they can still live together and tolerate one another", said van Blerk. (298)

These plays were performed in Afrikaans and Xhosa during August and will be presented in English and Xhosa during September. During the winter months the performances were held in the Theatre School, but from the beginning of September they will be held at the Amphitheatre on Victoria Wharf.

All services in the programme are donated. Buses are donated by Golden Arrow and drivers offer their time at no cost. The venues sponsor the activities and the programme is compiled by the Grassroots Educare Trust.

Anyone wishing to know more about the programme may direct enquiries to Ms Van Blerk at 934-0540. **JOSLYN TITUS**



SPECIAL SERVICE . . . Dean Colin Jones surrounded by children at a special service at St George's Cathedral yesterday to mark the start of a child abuse conference today. (298) CT 6/9/93 Picture: BENNY GOOL

Fighting solvent abuse

Staff Reporter

A CAMPAIGN against solvent abuse was launched at a colourful inter-faith service for underprivileged children at St George's Cathedral yesterday.

More than 150 children from about 20 Western Cape homes came together in the cathedral — which was decorated with balloons — for prayer, song and a puppet show to mark the start of a conference on child abuse.

Dean Colin Jones said shopkeepers had been asked not to sell solvents to children without letters of consent.

Shops are being issued with certificates showing commitment to "making the streets of Cape Town safe and free of solvent abuse".

• Children for Africa is the theme of the Second African Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect at which 600 delegates from all over Africa will look at the prevention and management of child abuse.

Shops asked to help against solvent abuse

(298)
ARG 6/9/93

Municipal Reporter

HARDWARE stores and supermarkets are to be asked to display pledges in their windows not to sell dangerous solvents to children under 18.

The campaign was launched at a special interfaith service at St George's Cathedral yesterday.

Dean of the cathedral Colin Jones said the rights of children should include protection against the destructive abuse of solvents.

All faiths would ask corner shops, hardware stores and supermarkets not to sell thinners, glue, or any intoxicating solvent to minors.

"The onus will be on them to act with discretion, and with love and compassion.

"They all know these solvents destroy children's health," Dean Jones said.

Shops who sign the pledge will sell thinners or glue only to children with a letter of consent.

March: Call for action on abuse

Staff Reporter

ABOUT 50 Guguletu women marched to their local police station last night to protest against the "lack of police co-operation in dealing with the abuse of women and children".

The women handed a petition to the local station commander.

Police confirmed that the commander accepted the petition and said the matter would be investigated. CT 9/9/93

Kids 'abused in adult jails'

CT 11/9/93

Staff Reporter

CHILDREN as young as seven share cells with adult offenders in prisons and police cells throughout South Africa and become the victims of violent rapes and assaults, according to Mr Alan Jackson, director of the Child Welfare Society.

Addressing the Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Cape Town yesterday he said that in October 1992 Neville Snyman, 13, was brutally raped and killed in Robertson Prison while awaiting trial.

In June and July of 1992, 200 to 300 children were imprisoned in Pollsmoor Prison awaiting trial or awaiting placement in children's homes, he said.

"In Pollsmoor they were held in cells away from adult offenders, but the prison authorities did not officially recognise any responsibility for them.

"They did not benefit from the basic privileges afforded adult inmates like exercise, access to books, radio or TV education and recreational facilities."

These imbalances had since been rectified but some children still remained in Pollsmoor and a campaign has been launched to release them, he said.

Frequently imprisoned children had been released onto the streets without any support services to help undo the harm caused by the prison experience, he said.

"Various non-government organisations have worked towards having children released from prison and have campaigned to ensure that fewer children are arrested and supported Nicro in continuing to lobby for programmes to be set up to provide alternatives to imprisonment of children."

Police, he said, tended to arrest children for minor offences like urinating and drinking in public and loitering.

In many cases they did not inform the family of the arrest of the child.

Mr Jackson said there was no adequate juvenile justice system in South Africa and changes in legislation were needed to make more appropriate provision for juveniles. Most children are dealt with as if they were adult offenders.

Deficient

The Child Care Act was also criticised because it makes provision for prisons to be considered "suitable for the reception of the child" but says nothing about services provided to them.

"The act remains deficient in relation to compulsory reporting of child abuse in that psychologists, teachers and administrators in creches, pre-schools, childrens homes and shelters are not obliged to report child abuse," Mr Jackson said.

Incest's 'terrible silence'

Staff Reporter

INCEST remained one of the most neglected, misunderstood and taboo topics in the area of violence against females, delegates heard yesterday at the conference on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Cape Town.

Addressing the conference, Professor Dianne Russell of the Institute of Criminology at UCT, said the "terrible silence" about incest increased the suffering of victims.

It also protected offenders, allowing them to continue their destructive behaviour and go unpunished.

The incidence of incest was greater in South Africa than in the United States, she said.

As in the case of sexual violence against women, incest had been "privatised and depoliticised".

It was seen as "just another example" of child abuse rather than as a direct consequence of the power imbalance in a patriarchal family.

Prof Russell criticised recent court judgments involving sexual abuse, saying the offenders had got off too lightly.

In March, the action group Women against Incest was formed in Cape Town and she urged similar groups to form in other parts of the country.

Commission to probe children of violence

298 CT 13/9/93

JOHANNESBURG. — The Goldstone Commission is to inquire into the plight of children affected by political violence and intimidation.

Mr Justice Richard Goldstone said on Saturday a Unicef report and the National Children's Rights Committee had drawn his attention to the problem.

As the commission's terms of reference entitled it to make recommendations on compensation for victims of violence, a preliminary inquiry would be held on a date still to be announced. — Sapa

Kids 'abused in adult jails'

CT 11/9/93

Staff Reporter

CHILDREN as young as seven share cells with adult offenders in prisons and police cells throughout South Africa and become the victims of violent rapes and assaults, according to Mr Alan Jackson, director of the Child Welfare Society.

Addressing the Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Cape Town yesterday he said that in October 1992 Neville Snyman, 13, was brutally raped and killed in Robertson Prison while awaiting trial.

In June and July of 1992, 200 to 300 children were imprisoned in Pollsmoor Prison awaiting trial or awaiting placement in children's homes, he said.

"In Pollsmoor they were held in cells away from adult offenders, but the prison authorities did not officially recognise any responsibility for them.

"They did not benefit from the basic privileges afforded adult inmates like exercise, access to books, radio or TV education and recreational facilities."

These imbalances had since been rectified but some children still remained in Pollsmoor and a campaign has been launched to release them, he said.

Frequently imprisoned children had been released onto the streets without any support services to help undo the harm caused by the prison experience, he said.

"Various non-government organisations have worked towards having children released from prison and have campaigned to ensure that fewer children are arrested and supported Nicro in continuing to lobby for programmes to be set up to provide alternatives to imprisonment of children."

Police, he said, tended to arrest children for minor offences like urinating and drinking in public and loitering.

In many cases they did not inform the family of the arrest of the child.

Mr Jackson said there was no adequate juvenile justice system in South Africa and changes in legislation were needed to make more appropriate provision for juveniles. Most children are dealt with as if they were adult offenders.

Deficient

The Child Care Act was also criticised because it makes provision for prisons to be considered "suitable for the reception of the child" but says nothing about services provided to them.

"The act remains deficient in relation to compulsory reporting of child abuse in that psychologists, teachers and administrators in creches, pre-schools, childrens homes and shelters are not obliged to report child abuse," Mr Jackson said.

Incest's 'terrible silence'

Staff Reporter

INCEST remained one of the most neglected, misunderstood and taboo topics in the area of violence against females, delegates heard yesterday at the conference on Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Cape Town.

Addressing the conference, Professor Dianne Russell of the Institute of Criminology at UCT, said the "terrible silence" about incest increased the suffering of victims.

It also protected offenders, allowing them to continue their destructive behaviour and go unpunished.

The incidence of incest was greater in South Africa than in the United States, she said.

As in the case of sexual violence against women, incest had been "privatised and depoliticised".

It was seen as "just another example" of child abuse rather than as a direct consequence of the power imbalance in a patriarchal family.

Prof Russell criticised recent court judgments involving sexual abuse, saying the offenders had got off too lightly.

In March, the action group Women against Incest was formed in Cape Town and she urged similar groups to form in other parts of the country.

US Noma prize

Abused children helped

MORE than 470 neglected and abused children in the Cape Town area were treated by the Child Welfare Society's Child Protection Department between April 1992 and March this year, with about 170 new cases reported monthly. (298) CT 14/9/93

The society reported this at its 85th annual general meeting yesterday.

Of these children, 320 were neglected, 52 were sexually abused, 56 were physically abused and 48 were abandoned.

Guest speaker Dr Mandla Tshabalala, director of the University of Cape Town's School of Social Work, said: "Children are the most neglected population group in society. The issues of child welfare receive little attention from the state, because South Africa is not a welfare state, but only state intervention can put right the mess."

Child Welfare estimates there are more than 900 homeless children in Cape Town and surrounding areas, and at least 10% of these are girls.

Bid to aid detained children

Star 16/9/93

Measures to improve the lot of detained children have been urged by the Workgroup for Children in Detention.

The WCD comprises Streetwise, the Johannesburg Institute of Social Services, the SA National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders and the National Council for Child and Family Welfare. (298)

WCD yesterday called for improved facilities for children. These included adequate space, suitable bedding and clothing, and ensuring that there was no risk of abuse by adults or older juveniles.

"While young offenders should be punished for crimes, the focus must be on rehabilitation," WCD said. — Staff Reporter.

Children held in 'deplorable conditions'

STEPHANE BOTHMA

CHILDREN were being held in deplorable conditions in SA's prisons and police cells, the Work Group on Children in Detention said yesterday. B/Day

The group called on prison and police authorities to commit themselves to improving facilities. 16/9/93

According to the Correctional Services Department, there were 764 children awaiting trial in prisons countrywide.

Facilities should include adequate space, bedding, no risk of abuse, appropriate recreation equipment and educational opportunities, the group said.

A Correctional Services spokesman commented that facilities within internationally accepted standards were being provided. (298)

A police spokesman said children were sent to special homes as soon as possible.

'Adopt' a child for R100 a month

(298) ARLT 18/9/93

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE profoundly handicapped children at Lansdowne's Woodside Sanctuary have nothing at all to look forward to in their lives — but their carers take that fact in their stride, they don't expect big rewards and are more than happy with simply getting a meal eaten.

That's because feeding these mentally and physically handicapped youngsters is "a work of art", according to matron Monica Nieuwstadt, who explained that her "patients" have the capabilities of babies and almost no developmental potential at all.

But the sad fact remains that however incapable these children may be, they are alive and breathing, and need to be cared for.

So that is what Woodside Sanctuary provides — a safe haven where the youngsters are fed, bathed (the staff do 160 baths each day), stimulated where it's feasible — and most of all, loved.

Their lifespans are usually short and none of the children are on life-support systems.

"The staff provide the children with quality nursing, control of pain, alleviation of discomfort and the special gift of maintaining their dignity. Even these children have feelings and their feelings are no less real than yours or mine

"And Woodside offers help to the parents involved. Were the brain-damaged child to remain at home, the family would be shackled to a life of abnormality from which there is no respite day or night," public relations officer Ms Kathy Bakker said.

There are 81 patients from birth to about 30 years of age and while most spend their days trapped in their own private worlds, rocking quietly or just sitting or lying dead still, those who do show slightly more potential are stimulated daily in the day centre

"But we can't really do a lot with any of them because their full potential is not very high On top of that, many are epileptics so they are permanently heavily sedated to stop fits," Ms Nieuwstadt said

And if it's not enough for the staff to have to keep smiling against such insurmountable odds, Woodside has been dealt a serious financial blow with the recent withdrawal of their R22 000 a month government grant.

Public relations officer Ms Kathy Bakker explained that the loss meant Woodside had to raise more than R600 000 this year to keep open its doors and make sure its patients did not suffer.

She appealed to people to open their hearts — and their purses — to secure Woodside's future. Other than making a donation or leaving a legacy or bequest, the following options were available

- The Adopt-a-Child Scheme for a lump sum of R1 200 a year or R100 each month
- The 2000 Club where members donate R60 a year or R5 each month.

Anyone wanting to assist Woodside Sanctuary should call Ms Bakker at ☎ 696 2811/2.

W Cape children get more care than average

(298)

ARG 18/9/93

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

PRE-SCHOOL facilities in South Africa cater for less than 10 percent of the country's children — but in the Western Cape the youngsters are at least in with a fighting chance.

The large number of organisations in the pre-primary field, including the Early Learning Resource Unit and Grassroots Educare Trust, results in the Western Cape providing some form of care for considerably more children than the national average of eight percent.

"We are better off, but that's not to say we reach every child," Child Welfare director Alan Jackson told Weekend Argus.

He said it cost "an arm and a leg" to set up and keep formal pre-schools going and that the emphasis was instead on home-based businesses which were much more affordable.

Early Learning Resource Unit educational associate Mary Newman blamed apartheid for the "structural abuse of children which has left us in a bad way in terms of buildings and services for children.

"It's a broad-based problem and we need a well co-ordinated approach from a wide variety of agencies."

The unit had embarked on a "community pre-school motivator" project which involved house-to-house visits. It was only once this got off the ground that the true extent of the problem would become evident, Ms Newman said.

"We know that many facilities for children are overcrowded and understaffed and that there are no resources in terms of subsidies. We also have many areas where children are well below weight for age, but at least something is being done about it."

She said a joint educare standards committee had been established in Cape Town which had workshopped and produced guidelines, and had already influenced bodies like the Cape Provincial Administration.

"Some communities have appalling problems of child abuse and neglect. With the community pre-school motivators going from house to house, we will now start to receive reports and get systems working effectively."

DP Youth walks out of forum

Star 21/9/93

■ BY MONTSHIWA MOROKE

The National Youth Development Co-ordinating Committee (NYDCC) suffered a setback yesterday when the Democratic Party Youth suspended its involvement. (298)

The multiparty committee was only formed about seven weeks ago and its brief was to investigate youth development as an integral component of socio-economic development.

DP Youth chairman Colin Douglas claimed the organisation's vice-chairman Sipho Ncgobo was "repeatedly harassed" by Azapo and PAC delegates and was forced to leave a NYDCC conference at the weekend.

He said the DP Youth had been consistently excluded from the NYDCC on the grounds of being a white organisation.

The DP Youth plans to meet with the NYDCC steering committee as a matter of urgency to address the issue.

SA's first child-abuse court for city

298

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

SPECIALISED child-abuse court the first in the country, to be officially opened by Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee in Cape Town tomorrow

The child abuse court follows the opening of a special sexual offences court in Wynberg six months ago, also a national first, taking the rape initiative started by Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn a step further

Mr Kahn, whose initiative to improve the state's service to rape survivors culminated in the opening of the sexual offences court, said the Department of Justice had given him strong support and opening a child abuse court was an extension of this.

The sexual offences court had been a huge success. Between April 1 and August 31, 147 cases had been disposed of during an average of four-and-a-half hours court-time a day.

Although this figure represented fewer cases than those disposed of in a "normal court", the emphasis was on quality not quantity, he said.

The senior state advocate involved in the implementation of the rape initiative, Sandra Swart, said the provision of a rape unit at Victoria Hospital and the appointment of a Victim Support Services Co-ordinator at the Wynberg court were among the breakthroughs achieved in terms of the initiative so far

She said 182 rape complainants had already passed through the rape unit — she preferred to call it a "comfort room" — at Victoria Hospital.

The co-ordinator of Victim Support Services, Elsabe Durr-Fitchen, a social worker seconded from the Department of Welfare, had the job of connecting the victims of sexual offences with existing welfare organisations as soon as possible after the alleged offence, Mrs Swart said.

Mr Kahn thanked the regional director of Health Services (Western Cape) and his personnel for "going the extra mile" in assuring the system worked.

He also complimented the police for facilitating the process by feeding Ms Durr-Fitchen information of sexual offences within 24 hours of their occurence

"A major area still needing to be addressed fully is counselling for the survivors of sexual offences from both the private and public sectors.

"But this initiative adds a new dimension to the legal system, which is in essence accused-orientated rather than victim-orientated and I'm confident it can be sorted out in time."

● Criminologist Dr Irma Labuschagne will hold a symposium for Cape prosecutors on October 6 to heighten awareness about rape cases



Picture: OBED ZILWA, The Argus.

RAPE COURT SPECIALISTS: Control prosecutor Denise Greyling, prosecutors Helene Combrinck and Lynette Myburgh and social worker Elsabe Durr-Fitchen are the specialist team who co-ordinate sexual offences trials at the Wynberg Sexual Offences Court

Bisho march an 'error'

Political Staff Reporter

THE ANC "without doubt" had made an error of judgment in last year's massacre at Bisho, according to one of the central figures in the incident, Mr Ronnie Kasrils.

"We had underestimated the cynicism of our adversary and paid heavily for it in lives lost," he wrote in his autobiography, Armed and Dangerous, which is to be published in November..

Mr Kasrils led a procession of people through a fence at Bisho Stadium. The group was fired on by Ciskei soldiers, and 28 people died and more than 200 were wounded.

He said the ANC miscalculated in believing that President F W de Klerk would not allow Ciskei's military leader, Brigadier Oupa Gqoza, to go ahead with the massacre.

Putting youth on the main agenda

Sowetan 24/9/93

THE broad-based National Youth Development Forum is being launched in Midrand on Sunday with the aim of putting the interests of youth on the national agenda. ***Coco Cachalia*** *went to find out:*

LOOKING FORWARD *Youth believe the future is bright despite setbacks:*

298

"Life is extremely hard for us. I just cannot understand how we survive, but we do. Here I am. I am still looking around for a job and hope that one day I'll be employed"

THAPELO Meko lives in a shanty town on the outskirts of Lenasia. He is 19 years old.

He lost his job two months ago and he lives with his unemployed mother. His three younger brothers are too young to work and the family has no money to send them to school.

"Life is extremely hard for us. I just cannot understand how we survive, but we do. Here I am. I am still looking around for a job and hope that one day I'll be employed," he said.

Although life is tough for Meko (19) and his family, he is hopeful that one day things will be fine.

He said the new Government would have to upgrade the squatter camps, and turn them into proper places for living.

Meko said because youth formed 60 percent of the population they were the backbone of the nation.

According to Meko, the formation of the National Youth Development Forum is long overdue.

"If this could had happened years ago there would never have been this violence.

"The forum will be the expression of political tolerance and the goals we can score through our working together and co-operation," he said.

THE president of the African National Congress, Nelson Mandela, must be elected the State President of South Africa, says Yogesh Moodley.

Moodley (16) said: "I won't be able to cast my vote because I'm still young. However I call on all those who will be voting to elect him as the leader of this country, he has stood and suffered for democracy to prevail in this country."

As a Standard Nine student at Azara Secondary School in Lenasia, he truly believes the future holds great things for the youth.

He said unlike the elder brothers and sisters, he was going to grow up under a post-apartheid government which would spread the message of racial equality and harmony

"The Government will make us feel that all of us belong to this country. Our education will be upgraded to the level of white education," he remarks.

His main concern is the high level of crime in different communities of South Africa.

This means he cannot go out in the evening and the saddest thing is that he cannot risk his life by visiting a township like Soweto, which is near Lenasia.

After learning that he is part of the majority, Moodley proudly said: "This gives me hope that a few years from now, South Africa will be the best place in the world. This means that if the government can provide us with good education and proper training, then we will serve the country better".

Going to the medical school after completing matric is his wish and he will be happy if the incoming government can offer bursaries.

He supports the idea of forming the National Youth Development Forum because "it will bring peace among youths belonging to different political organisations—particularly the ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party. It should also help those youth who are unemployed".

"THE future of this country is bright, I see a rich peaceful country emerging from the ruins of apartheid. But we have to work hard to make this happen. Failing now will cost us more lives. We've had enough killings," says Stompie Selebi.

Stompie (17) is a Standard Six pupil at Soweto's Protea Secondary School. He is a member of Progress Youth Club (PYC).

He has begun to work hard to ensure that he realises his dream of seeing South Africa a better country to live in.

This he does by painting beautiful, colourful pictures on the walls throughout Soweto. He has painted some of these pictures, with friends, on a wall outside Baragwanath Hospital.

Through our work we are trying to send a message of peace and anti-air pollution to all the people of Soweto — particularly the youth," said Selebi.

"The Government is pushing us backwards. It is not providing us with enough educational resources such as textbooks. It does not create job opportunities for our brothers and sisters," he said, denying the notion that the youth is moving backward.

He will only support the National Youth Development Forum if it is going to provide skills-upgrading projects for the youth

Even though he will not qualify to vote next year he is still hopeful that the new government will usher in a new era in South African politics.

"The new government will truly represent the aspirations of the majority of our people, since everyone, black and white, will take part in the elections," says Selebi

HAVING dropped out of school last year, Ebrahim Loonat does not have hope in the future He has been looking for a job since then

He won't be fooled by the talks about the new South Africa It will only be new to the politicians and not to the ordinary people

"Things will improve after elections next year, only for a short while. Life will a bed of roses for two months, then things will go back to square one." said Loonat

Loonat does not trust politicians and he is urging people not to trust them because they are cunning.

Politicians can beg during elections and promise everything, housing and education, but they will never keep the promises.

"What happened to the politicians who begged for our support during elections of the tri-cameral Parliament last year? We only saw them a day we voted them into power," he asks.

Although he does not have hope for the future, he still wishes that people from different races can live together.

BECOMING a chef after graduating from Studywell College did not stop eighteen-year-old Brenden Geyser from believing that South Africa has a great future.

The multiracial elections that are coming next year are going to bring violence that is sweeping the country to an end.

This is the perception of one of the South Africa's youth who was supposed to go to the army to further the apartheid policies through the barrel of a gun.

Geyser said the scrapping of the conscription campaign also gave him hope that the South African government will no longer depend on its military might to push its way through.

Besides being troubled by this, he is more concerned about the high crime rate.

"The crime rate is alarmingly high. So for me the good government is the one that can get rid of crime and violence," said Brenden.

According to Geyser, the Government should devise ways of gearing up the country's economy, destroying the remnants of racism and granting equal status to all.

He is proud to be part of the largest section of the population, which is formed by the youth.

Geyser said "It confirms the saying that we are the future. It is more than proof that the Government has to provide us with our needs — education and other social welfare projects."

On the formation of National Youth Development Forum, he said it could be used as a platform through which the youth could put its demands forward

He said he believed South Africa would be an economic power like the United States of America

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are without jobs

Youth forum to be formed on Sunday

Sowetan 24/9/93

■ SELF DEVELOPMENT A survey has shown that 500 000 individuals are marginalised from society:

By Mzwandile Jacks

(298)

A BROAD-BASED National Youth Development Forum is to be launched at Midrand on Sunday to place the interests of youth on the national agenda.

The NYDF's target is 11 million South Africans of all races aged between 16 to 30.

The establishment of the forum was influenced by the high unemployment rate among youth and the breakdown in education which has left them ill-educated and unprepared for the workplace.

Mr Leema Mofokeng, of the Joint Enrichment Project said: "Many of South Africa's young people are a drain on the society's resources rather than contributors to these."

Contrary to an image of militancy, a survey has shown that most young adults are not card-carrying members of political organisations.

Only 12 percent of them are members of political organisations.

Most are ambitious and desperately in need of jobs

Mofokeng said organisers of NYDF want to see these aspirations harnessed in youth development programmes and policy at the national level.

They believe that development programmes must be put in place to address the problem of youth marginalisation.

A survey has shown that 500 000 individuals are marginalised from society.

Most of the youth see themselves as having little or no future, many have poor self-images and feel alienated from their jobs.

The NYDF is the end-product of a two-year process of research and consultation with communities and young people and one of its objectives is to ensure that young people play a meaningful role in their own development.

More than half of the NYDF's members will be youth representatives, under the umbrella of the National Youth Development Co-ordinating Committee.

The rest of the forum's members will come from key sectors of society, including organised labour, business, sporting, education and religious organisations.

● See page 11

'First World kids worse off'

GENEVA. — Life for children in wealthier nations is getting worse but has improved in poorer countries, the UN Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef) says in its latest report.

Although only five percent to 20% of children in the industrialised nations are poor, the UN report says, they suffer from a growing divorce rate, from a rise in single-parent families and from the increasing numbers of women — 66% in the US in 1988 — who go out to work.

By contrast, in the developing nations the mortality rates among the under-fives has fallen by more than half and malnutrition rates have been cut by about 30% in just over a generation. 298 CT24/9/93

In the same period, life expectancy has risen by a third and attendance in primary school has risen from less than 50% to more than 75%.

The Unicef report said there are more than twice as many children, 20%, living under the poverty line in the US than in all the other industrialised nations. — Sapa-AFP

Special sexual offences court for city

(298) ET 24/9/93

Staff Reporter

JUSTICE MINISTER Mr Kobie Coetsee yesterday opened a special court for sexual offences at the Cape Town Regional Court to cater for the spiralling number of sexual crimes involving children and the unique demands this places on the legal system.

The courtroom is linked via closed circuit television to an adjacent room where juvenile witnesses can give evidence in an unthreatening environment without having to come face to face with the accused — often a member of their immediate family.

Mr Coetsee said: "In cases of rape and child molestation the evidence given by the complainant or child is sometimes the only evidence available and exceptional demands are placed on the courts."

He said the special court had been necessitated by the "alarming" number of rape and indecent assault cases involving children in the Western Cape.

CITY

Co-operation vital in attack on child abuse

ARLC 28/9/93 (298)

☐ New court aiming to minimise trauma for victims

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

CO-OPERATION and interaction between state departments and private welfare organisations will make or break the country's first specialised child abuse court due to open its doors in Cape Town on October 18.

That's the opinion of senior state advocate Sandra Swart She said at the official launch of the court last week that the problem of rampant child abuse could not be dealt with by government alone.

Mrs Swart was instrumental — with her boss Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn — in launching the widely publicised rape initiative which culminated in the opening of the country's first special sex offences court in Wynberg this year

Discussions have been held with the Child Abuse Liaison Committee which comprises several Cape welfare organisations, while Mrs Swart has appealed to any bodies not represented on the forum who belive they can offer assistance, to make contact with her

Procedures in the new court are still open for discussion, she told The Argus.

The main aim of the court would be to reduce the incidence of crime against children by encouraging the reporting of cases But just as important, was "minimising the trauma of child victims in their dealings with the legal system", Mrs Swart said

"Children require special attention In the past, a lack of understanding among the various disciplines — including police, prosecutors and district surgeons — often led to badly investigated and presented cases

"The Wynberg sexual offences court has helped us identify what is required here — it's the logical extension,' she said.

Two specialised prosecutors, one with a history of prosecuting crimes against children, will be appointed to the new court which will serve the Western Cape, excluding the Wynberg district

Mrs Swart envisages close liaison between hospitals, police, district surgeons, prosecutors and private welfare organisations.

A social worker who will be appointed to work from the court, will facilitate this liaison and coordinate support services

The court is equipped with video equipment to allow child victims to give evidence in a "more relaxed atmosphere"

Questions can be put to the victims through an intermediary who could be a social worker or a psychologist.

"Laws were made by adults for adults. The plight of child victims is now being thoroughly addressed," Mrs Swart said.

Mothers before they're adults

17/7 - 21/7/93

298

Now that teenagers have access to contraception, the number of teenage pregnancies has dropped. But,the roots of the problem are rape, and a lack of sex education, reports **SHANNON NEILL**



PREGNANT AND POWERLESS: Teenage pregnancy can leave catastrophic consequences for the life of a young person
Photo Yunus Mohamed

THREE years ago you had to be 18 or older to be allowed access to contraception without your guardian's consent. Today, people as young as 14 can obtain contraception legally

One of the official reasons given for the age decrease is this country's high teenage pregnancy rate.

An unofficial source at one hospital said that they often dealt with pregnant girls "as young as 12, sometimes younger"

What is astonishing is that, according to the source, these girls are more often than not the victims of incestuous rape

Girls too young to have even started menstruating are brought in by their mothers and put onto contraception because the mothers fear their daughters falling pregnant.

"We usually put the girls onto Depo Provera (an contraceptive injection that only has to be given every three months) so that at least they don't fall pregnant.

"We try to educate the mothers, try to get them to help their daughters Often though, bringing them in for contraception is all they will do," said the source.

Because teenagers — both those who are sexually active and those who survive rape — can now get contraception, teenage pregnancy rates have begun to slowly drop, according to a study done for the Department of National Health and Population Development.

From 1990 to 1992 the number of women and girls under 19 using contraceptives in the Western Cape rose from 95 943 to 147 828.

The number of teenage pregnancies in the Cape Town metropolitan region dropped from 6005 in 1989, to 5766 in 1991

While the drop indicates positive results in dealing with the physical problems of teenage pregnancy, the way these results were achieved indicates extreme social inadequacies

To provide a victim of sexual abuse with contraception does not address the fundamental problem

"In South Africa we have always adopted an ostrich approach, we just buried our heads in the sand and avoided the issue of teenage pregnancy In the future this must change," said Dr Pohl de Villiers, head of the Gynaecology Department at Paarl East Hospital

He identified the lack of sex education in schools as one of the main reasons for the high teenage pregnancy rate in South Africa.

"Sex education in schools has been virtually non-existent to date. It is a catastrophe when women fall pregnant while still at school. It disrupts their education and often they become slaves to their families or husbands.

"The unavailability of contraceptives to sexually active teenagers obviously caused a lot of pregnancies," said De Villiers

Although there has been a significant drop in teenage pregnancy figures at Paarl East, De Villiers feels it is not enough

"In 1978, 38 percent of pregnancies at Paarl East were teenage ones. At the time this was one of the highest percentages in the world. By 1992 the figure had dropped to 18,45 percent.

"But we need the figure to drop below one percent It should be possible In the Netherlands only one out of every 100 pregnancies is a teenage one; in Japan only one out of every 300 is," said De Villiers

Ms Gertrude Fester, ANC Women's League member, agreed that sex-education was essential if a change in social consciousness was to be achieved.

"It is all very well to lower the age at which contraceptives are available to people, but it means nothing if the desperate need for sex education is not met," she said.

"In the light of the Aids epidemic I'm not convinced that lowering the age at which contraception is available to teenagers is a good idea, unless it is accompanied by sex education."

This page was made possible by the support of Warner-Lambert

TRO, 18 July 1993 3

PAC sets voting age at 16

51 Times
Cimetro
18/7/93

By NORMAN WEST
Political Reporter

THE Pan Africanist Congress has rejected the call by ANC president Nelson Mandela for 14-year-olds to be given the vote, saying the PAC felt it would be more "reasonable" for 16-year-olds to vote.

Meanwhile, the PAC is to launch a huge campaign in Cape Town at the end of the month to explain its stand on constitutional negotiations and the forthcoming election (298)(299)

Two PAC heavyweights, national organisor Maxwell Namadzivhanani and director of publicity and information, Waters "Bishop" Toboti, have been seconded to the Western Cape regional office of the PAC.

They also head a "Heroes Day Organising Committee", which plans a rally at the Athlone Stadium on July 31.

(298) 22/7/93 Star 22/7/93

Children need a 'grand new alliance'

BORN TO DIE? Life is dangerous for most of this country's children. And the danger exists before they are even born. MARIKA SBOROS reports.

NO one knows just how many South African children die before they complete their first year. Few realise that hundreds of thousands of our children are quietly dying from preventable disease, and that nobody is recording the tragedy.

Life is dangerous for most of this country's children. The hazards start even before birth when the children of malnourished women, who get little ante-natal care and live in poor conditions, are likely to be weak and succumb to infection in the first few days after delivery.

Alliance

They need a new agenda, a "grand new alliance", says the first report compiled on the state of South Africa's children.

The study was compiled by this country's leading academics in health, education and social policy and launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) and the National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC).

No government can achieve a major reduction in childhood death without support from the private sector, popular organisations, the media, non-governmental organisations, church leaders, parents and other groups.

"All need to come together in that alliance and adopt a unified policy to put children first in the new South Africa," says the report.

Our infant mortality figures tell a chilling story: statistics indicate that the rate for black children is more than 10 times greater than it is for their white counterparts.

The first step in the new agenda, says the study, is immunisation.

South Africa should pledge to immunise 90 percent of the country's children within the first 90 days of an interim government.

That campaign should form the basis of sustained immunisation cover so that all children are fully immunised against six killer diseases: measles, TB, diphtheria, tetanus, polio and whooping cough.

SA government figures suggest that 70 percent of the child population has been immunised, but that statistic excludes the TBVC states.

A 1988 Transkei study revealed that only 30 percent of children between one and two were fully immunised. Rural South Africa has low immunisation rates: 41 percent in the western Cape, 47 percent in southern Transvaal and 49 percent in the northern Cape.

And while South Africa is well on the way to eradicating polio, many children are still not immunised against the disease in rural districts.

If South Africa does not mobilise to immunise all its children, polio could strike again, killing and disabling along the way.

Diarrhoea is estimated to cause a fifth of infant deaths, yet it is easily and cheaply prevented through the use of oral rehydration therapy. A simple sugar and salt solution, mixed with water, quickly rehydrates children on the brink of death after massive fluid loss from diarrhoea.

Children die from pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, especially during the winter months.

Sanitation

Improving living conditions and providing water and sanitation to all South Africans, would also sharply reduce the number of childhood deaths.

Unicef estimates that providing clean water to everyone on the African continent would cost an average of R70 per person per year.

Environmental health experts have estimated that improvements in water quality and quantity, sanitation and health education would lead to a 50 percent reduction in childhood diarrhoea.

But the risks of illness caused by poor living conditions and inadequate health care, are compounded by the ever-present threat of violence in this country.



Diarrhoea in under fives can be significantly reduced through the provision of safe drinking water and improved personal hygiene. Picture: Unicef

TOMORROW
The boot is on the other foot for UK football stars.

Water as a fitness aid

WATER is necessary not only for life it seems, but also for fitness.

A one-day conference on the latest developments in water exercise will be held at the University of Pretoria's sports institute on August 7.

The "aqua extravaganza", organised by the South African Water Fitness Association, won't be all talk. Participants will get into the water for practical instruction.

Topics will include stress and exercising, pregnancy exercises in water, cardiovascular aspects, stretching and flexibility

Dr Mel Siff, a biomechanist at the school of mechanical engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand, will talk on innovations in water fitness. Siff is a pioneer of the use of "aqualand" circuits in South Africa — combining land circuits with water.

Water has distinct advantages as an exercise medium, says Siff It reduces the risk of injury substantially.

"However, we are land animals and must balance water exercise with land exercise," he adds.

For more information, telephone (011) 782-8846.

Star 24/7/93

Teens speak out on the evils of apartheid

(298)

THE future of South Africa is undoubtedly in the hands of its youth. But if ANC leader Nelson Mandela is able to give the vote to 14-year-olds, then the present may be theirs as well. What do these youngsters think of the state of the country and what are their solutions? A group of Std 9 children wrote to Saturday Star to express their views. LOUISE MARSLAND reports.

SIXTEEN-year-old Ros de Haan says: "I was raised in a country which offered me everything and my black neighbour nothing. I had a good education, every opportunity to succeed and all because I had a white skin. Life was great."

But now she has learnt about the sins of apartheid and she wants to apologise to all those who fought and died for their rights.

Ros is one of 45 teenagers in Standard 9 at Brescia House Ursuline Convent in Bryanston who wrote to Saturday Star about their feelings on apartheid and change in South Africa

Feelings

They were encouraged to do so by their English teacher, Meryl Hamilton, after discussions on the effects of colonialism and Christianity in Africa and the meaning of civilisation. "I wanted them to crystalise their feelings in a letter I tried to show them that they had a voice."

Claire Armstrong laments the perceived status of the teenager. "It seems to me and many of my companions that we teenagers have been left to painstakingly unpick 45 years' worth of the badly stitched blanket of apartheid, designed during the 1940s. We are regarded as lazy, good-for-nothing, juvenile delinquents .. yet we are expected to cradle South Africa like a baby and nourish and protect her against all evils."

Christina Katsikas is worried about the violence and believes it is now up to the teenagers who will be the new generation. "Apartheid was abolished in 1989 by President F W de Klerk and since then we have not moved forward, instead we have turned to violence and destruction. It is no longer safe here. It is up to teenagers to stand together to make it happen. What has been done cannot be forgotten but we can make up for it."

Claire Griffiths is frustrated at the difficult challenge of undoing apartheid She asks that the leaders of the future stand up in the name of their country and "do what our parents never dared"

A bitter Alinane Nsanja says racism is still alive. "I am a black girl and I go to a multiracial, private school (because) when we first came to South Africa from Malawi, they did not allow black people at government schools Yes, things have changed, they have introduced multiracial schools Yes, the law has changed, but have things changed that much in people's hearts and the way they have felt in the past 45 years?"

Hypocrites

She recounts how a thoughtless classmate's remark about blacks hurt her very much. "From what I have seen so far in this country, I have come to the conclusion that the majority of the people are hypocrites. One minute they are talking about how they can contribute to the new South Africa, but as soon as things get tough, the tough get going with British passports in hand," Alinane writes

The violence has shocked Cathy Heidstra. Prevailing violence and uncertainty about the future are a common thread throughout the letters. Cathy writes about the hopes people have that whites will stay in power and stop the violence in the black communities.

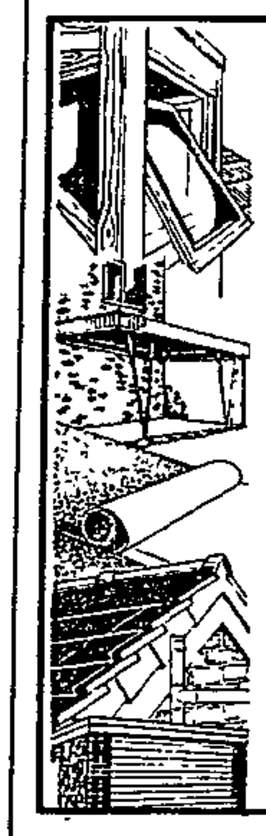
A fellow pupil, Belinda McKee, who signs herself "Scared", asks why things are being left to the youth She says it makes her angry that the Government seems to be "drastically" slow in negotiations — "we must ensure that our country is sorted out before it is destroyed".

To forgive and forget to ensure our children and grandchildren have a better future is the advice of Christine Jarvis. Michelle Moolman asks whether the politicians know that they are playing with the future of the country "Sometimes I wonder what South Africa would be without politicians and political groups."

Marie-Christine Geneste sums up the feelings of frustration and fear most of the girls express in their letters "We are in a war zone . so much pressure is placed on the youth, we have to save a country, which means we have to save lives — and that includes risking our own Is this what our country has come to?"



KEEPING ABREAST: Teacher Meryl Hamilton and some of her pupils read about a country in turmoil, and wonder what the future holds. ● Photograph: MYKEL NICOLOAU



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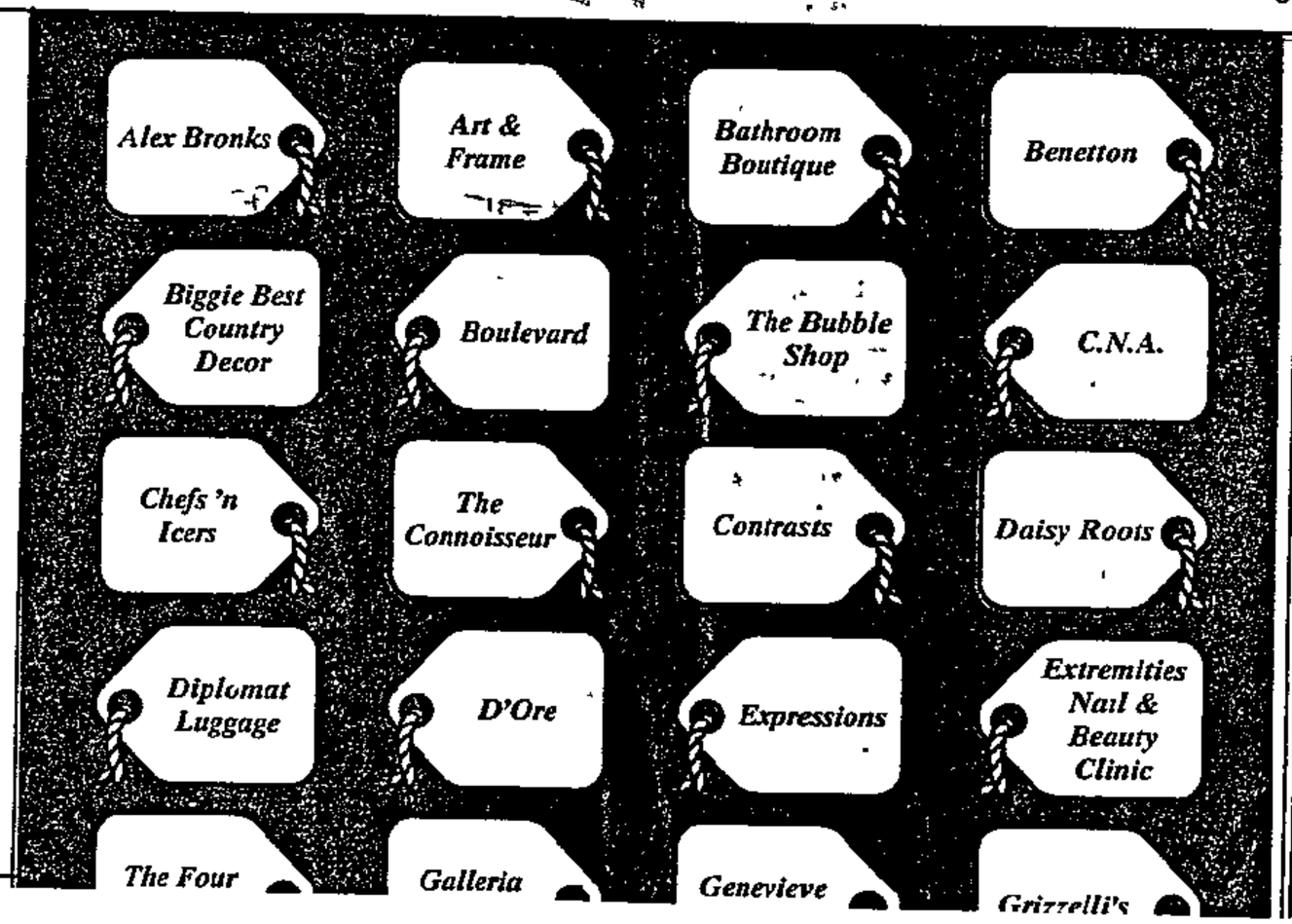

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A FANTASTIC

Star 24/7/93

Township youths meet new SAP



WORKING TOGETHER: Lieutenant Carousel Schoeman, a social work graduate who has worked in the townships, explains to youths how they can help curb crime. ● Photograph: JOE LOUW

'Crime busting' camp aims to win hearts and minds

SOMETHING is stirring down at police headquarters. JOE LOUW joined some suspicious township teenagers on a week-long programme intended to preach the new SAP philosophy of community policing.

IT sounded almost too good to be true: policing based on human rights, fully in tune with *real* democratic values, user-friendly, and recognising the *shared* responsibility of both the police and the community in making South Africa safer.

It sounded like a very idealistic scenario, but it didn't stop there. It went on to include such concepts as partnership, empowerment, accountability and transparency.

Mandate

This week 69 youths from Alexandra, Tokoza and KwaThema were exposed to the new rhetoric at a police camp at the Police College in Pretoria. "We have a new mandate," the lecturer, Captain Pieter Don Brandt, tried to explain. "We are working with a new philosophy, a new concept. It is called 'community policing' And it is not a special programme or a public relations exercise It is a profound revaluation and redefinition of the relationship between the police and the communities it serves."

It was a valiant effort. But the youths sat stonily through it all. No one, apparently, had taken into account how little schooling the youths had had, which made it almost impossible for them to grasp what the captain was going on about — except that "something new" was about to happen.

But the day was not entirely wasted The boys, aged between 15 and 24 and chosen randomly in the three townships, had a lot of fun, ate a lot, drilled a lot, toyi-toyied a lot, and eventually got the normal later this year for different areas throughout the country.

Police authorities are particularly keen to include youths from hot spots such as the Vaal Triangle, the East Rand, Soweto and certain squatter areas.

During their stay at the college, youths make all their own decisions and are provided with "an open forum" styled on a parliament They send their own political parties to debate issues and offer solutions.

Topics include the nature of crime, crime prevention and the effects of a promiscuous life which includes a lecture on AIDS.

Sessions tend to be lively and the "campers" are often quite angry when they talk about the realities of township life.

"You are just polishing the image of the police," charged Thabo, from Tokoza. "If the police are really changing, why are you sending the ISU (Internal Stability Unit) to harass and torment us, especially us youth?"

"When our people call the police from our communities," another youth from Tokoza said, "the police never show up, and when they do, they attack the people with their guns."

Brandt admitted that "in the past, the SAP was frequently used outside the normal field of policing, in sustaining an unacceptable political system and actually fighting political opposition — a role which led to a contamination of the image of the police and a perception among black people that the SAP acts to benefit the government and white people only"

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But that was nothing compared to the next morning when, in a masterful stroke of winning hearts and minds through stomachs and adrenalin, the SAP pulled off their biggest coup

On a clear, beautiful morning, they brought out the leathery heroes of the special parachute jumping unit From a shiny new hi-tech helicopter — which they carefully pointed out was used not only by FW de Klerk but also African National Congress president Nelson Mandela and the Inkatha Freedom Party's Mangosuthu Buthelezi — sky divers dropped out in perfect, professional precision

Enrolment

After the demonstration, a Major Goosen of the police air wing spent most of the rest of the morning answering eager questions about enrolment and what was required to join

It was a far cry from complex concepts of the new policing philosophy, but it was a beginning, nonetheless

Five win SatStar business

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Financial Highlight for the Year 1992/93

SEEFF TRUST PROPERTY SYNDICATIONS

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SYNDICATE CLIENTS 5700 (4542 - 1992) - 25% INCREASE

Following the successful syndication of 12 prime properties since 1989 Seeff Trust are pleased to report back as to the performance of these properties as follows

SYNDICATION PROPERTY	PERIOD ENDED	NET INCOME PROJECTED	NET INCOME ACTUAL	YIELD ON INITIAL INVESTMENT
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* ROELAND PARK	28 Feb '93	711 796	746 246	12 6 %
* OLD OAK	28 Feb '93	278 864	317 440	14,7 %
* ICS BUILDING	28 Feb '93	1 498 435	1 498 435	10,3 %
* CENTURION	28 Feb '93	758 081	758 841	10,3 %
CINNABAR	31 May '93	372 258	410 795	14 4 %
CITY HALL CENTRE	31 May '93	776 994	840 699	12,73 %
** STRAND STREET	31 May '93	436 962	436 962	10,42 %
** BSE CENTRE	31 May '93	1 650 000	1 650 000	10 %
VERWOERDBURG	31 May '93	1 103 887	1 270 776	12 4 %



WORKING TOGETHER: Lieutenant Carousel Schoeman, a social work graduate who has worked in the townships, explains to youths how they can help curb crime. ● Photograph: JOE LOUW

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Attitudes

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According to Captain Liszel Blacqiere, the police are trying to achieve this through active role-playing to expose the causes and results of crime. "By showing the campers the responsibilities and tasks of policemen, we introduce them to the processes in which the community is an indispensable part of crime prevention," she said.

The camps are expected to be a regular feature of the community relations department's effort to reach and engage young people, especially from the townships. Similar exercises will be organised

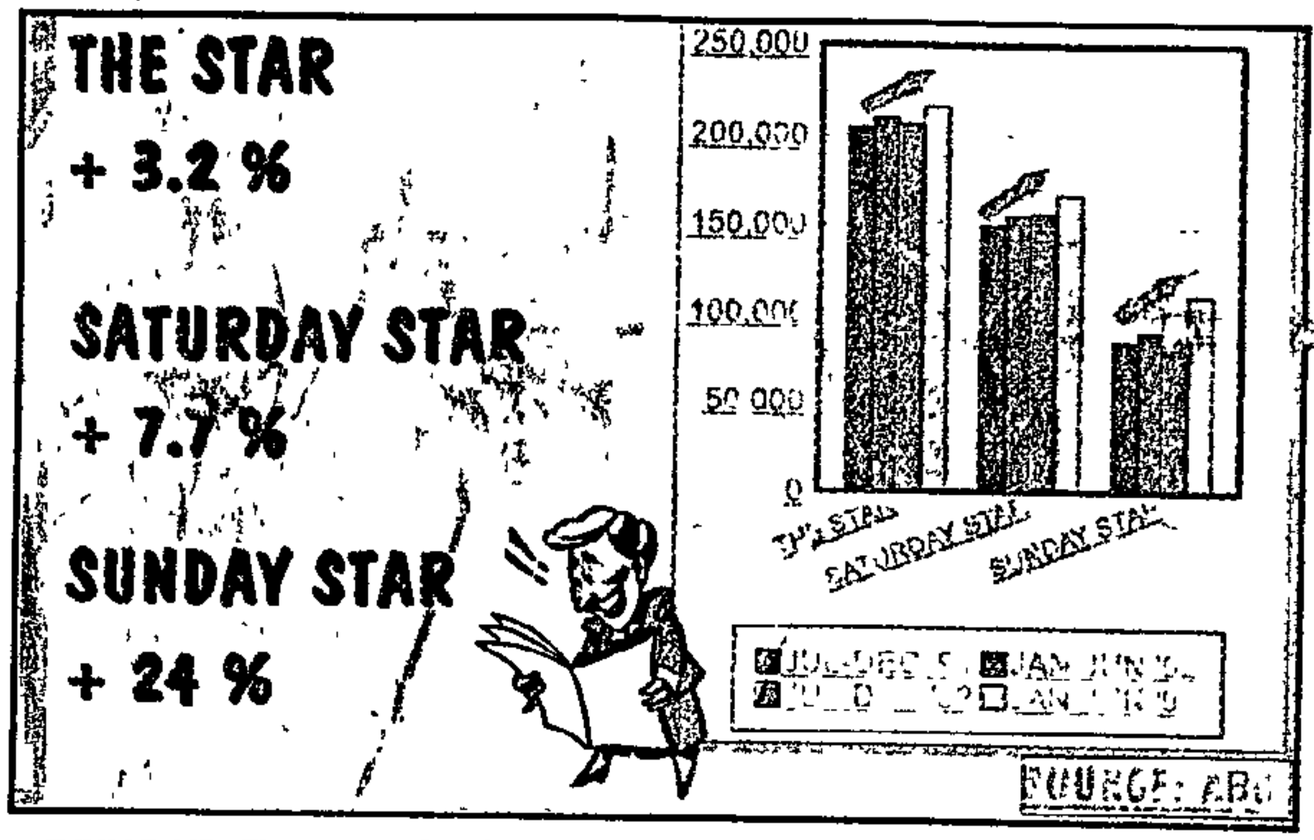
Five win SatStar business courses

FIVE readers have won secretarial and business bursaries valued at R4 000 each in a competition sponsored by Kelly Girl in conjunction with Saturday Star.

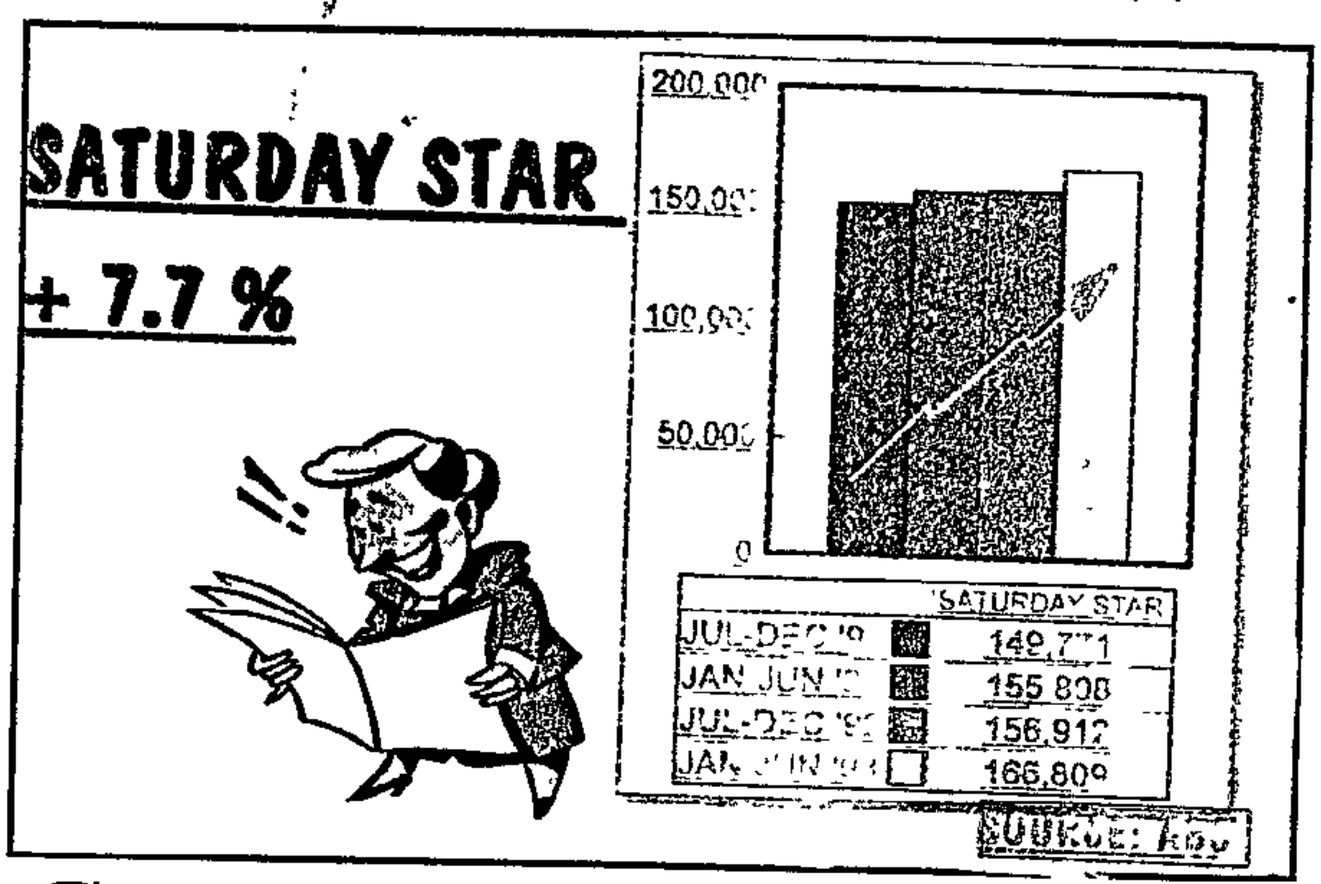
Elizabeth Mhlungu, Pascaline Sehularo, Fortunate Ndebele, Charlotte Manglana and Adelaide Raphadu have each won a bursary which provides professional career guidance, all tuition fees and prescribed course material — free of charge.

The course addresses the most critical demands for competent secretaries with strong business skills. The course (comprising Wordperfect 5.1, bookkeeping, Lotus 1-2-3, business administration and business communications) equips students with skills for most secretarial positions.

Kelly Girl group managing director Neville Mackay said his organisation was



GOING UP: These graphs show the sales growth for all Star newspapers.



Star comes shining through

MANDY JEAN WOODS

SATURDAY Star is rising! The latest Audit Bureau of Circulation figures show that all the Star newspapers — The Star, the Saturday Star and the Sunday Star — have increased their circulation in the six months to the end of June 1993. In the past six months, circulation has risen by 3,2 percent, while the Saturday Star has shown a 7,7 percent increase and the Sunday Star has shown a phenomenal 24 percent increase in circulation in the same period.

Youth can rebuild society — now

South 24/7 — 28/7/93

Destruction of reconstruction — these are the two choices facing young South Africans, says the deputy chairperson of the ANC Youth League in the PWV region, **NED KEKANA**

DESPITE their frustration with negotiations, militant youth in many townships were — until recently — still prepared to listen to the leadership of the liberation movement.

Their patience was broken by the assassination of Chris Hani. The events that followed the assassination, like the exam fees issue and the isolated incidents of stoning and looting, seemed to bring with them a new sense of urgency.

The future was clear, they were saying. Unless there was a change in the socio-political system in South Africa, the country was heading for complete destruction.

The debate introduced by ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela on the lowering of the voting age demonstrated the importance of involving youth in the political solutions of this country.

South African youth are early starters — they are generally active in politics from the age of 12. The high school leadership of the South African Students Movement and later the Congress of south African Students, for example, were instrumental in the mass uprisings against apartheid rule.

Young people below the present voting age of 18 years are thus an important interest group that should not be ignored in any political dispensation.

The history of mass mobilisation among the youth should be channelled and used as a tool for reconstruction and development.

Youth organisations are weak and unable to champion their members' needs adequately. Recent surveys show that only nine million youths belong to organisations — and only 12 percent of these belong to political organisations.

Any reconstruction programme in South Africa must seek to empower and involve one of the largest sectors of our communities' the youth.

Enterprises like the Joint Enrichment Project (JEP) and the ANC Youth League youth front programme have begun introducing ideas on youth development policy.

Studies over the years have shown that young people in South Africa are mostly concerned with unemployment, education, political conflict and other community needs.

The Community Agency for Social Enquiry (Case) was commissioned by the JEP to research various African countries' youth development policies. Case identified two basic approaches: economic skills training and life skills training.

The democratic elections will enable youth over 18 to influence national politics and policies through their votes. This will, however, not be enough to cater for the interests of young people.



MILITARY MODE: After decades of militarist action against the government, South African youth need to become agents of development

298

A government youth ministry should be established under a new constitution which should recommend to parliament policies on youth interests such as sport, recreation and employment.

The youth ministry should establish organic links with extra-parliamentary youth structures to ensure that the ministry represents a diversity of youth aspirations.

A project to engage the unemployed youth in public works, as suggested by the Congress of South African Trade Unions, should be supported by youth organisations across the political spectrum.

The development of people's parks and the clean-up campaigns of the mid-1980s were rudimentary forms of youth involvement in community public works services.

However, a massive public works campaign involving building roads, low-cost houses, schools, dams, and so on is needed to redress the under-development of black residential areas. Youth brigades could play an important part in implementing such a campaign.

There is consensus from major political organisations on the establishment of a peace corps. Youth organisations should be the backbone of the corps, which would concentrate on community policing.

In countries such as Nicaragua and Ethiopia, student and youth brigades were important in promoting literacy. This is important for South Africa, where 50 percent of the population is illiterate.

Young people in South Africa were on the receiving end of apartheid policies. They sacrificed their future to fight the system. Unless there is affirmative action for the youth and other victims of apartheid, the future of this country remains bleak.

The increase in the crime rate and the mistrust of authority among young people are sociological problems that are worsened by the general lack of political uncertainty. It is thus important for a democratic government, business, and organs of civil society to engage the youth in development programmes.

As Oliver Tambo said: "a people, a country, a movement that does not value its youth does not deserve its future".

The onus however lies with youth organisations to seize the present moment and make the future of the youth a focal point for the resolution of the South African conflict.

— WORK IN PROGRESS

Star 24/7/93

youths meet new SAP

298

'Crime busting' camp aims to win hearts and minds

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Township Town

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Child testimony changes coming

CT 28/7/93 (298)

COMPREHENSIVE changes to the way in which children under 18 may give evidence in court was announced yesterday by the Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee.

In future, minors would be able to give evidence in a place other than the courtroom.

Electronic appliances such as closed-circuit television sets could be placed in a room alongside the court for the children to testify in.

Equipment

He said this could help stop intimidation and to ensure cases involving children were approached more sympathetically.

The equipment will be installed in 10 Supreme Courts and 59 Magistrate's Courts at a cost of about R815 000.

New courts will be designed to accommodate these measures. — Sapa

N

Star 29/7/93

Youths start peace campaign

By Helen Grange

A group of concerned Soweto youths are poised to launch a major peace drive to combat crime and violence in their area.

The Youth Peace Pioneer Movement (YPPM) is to launch the drive on Saturday with a "peace parade" from Regina Mundi Church to the Mofolo Art Centre. Hundreds of peace messages from youths will be read out during the event.

Started in December 1992, the YPPM has linked up with several political, cultural and religious youth organisations in Soweto and has focused on involving the youth in constructive projects.

The latest peace drive entails finding experts in the field of dispute resolution to train youths in ways to defuse potentially violent situations.

"We want youths to be equipped in crisis management skills and basic mediation, so that they are not at a loss about what to do when chaos breaks out," YPPM committee member Teboho Mohapi said.

Other projects would also be identified.

The YPPM has already been active in monitoring marches in the township, as well as monitoring train stations.

Poetry & performance on the Plain

South 31/7 - 4/8/93

WHAT do you do when you find yourself in an almost hopeless position, uprooted from settled neighbourhoods by apartheid and forced to rebuild your lives on the distant shores of the region?

You find yourself in a situation where recreational facilities are at a minimum, gangsters roam the streets at night and unemployment is rife.

It would be understandable to throw in the towel. But the Mitchells Plain Youth Development Programme (MPYDP) did not. Since June last year the organisation, which arose out of the Mitchells Plain Advice Centre, has been taking up the plight of "marginalised youth".

It has been deploying them in creative initiatives, including remedial subject teaching, career guidance and leadership training skills.

Now, since the launch of the MPYPD in June 1992, its most challenging project is the all-encompassing concert it will be staging at Westridge Civic Centre on Thursday, August 5.

Through drama, music, song, poetry, rap, dance and sketches, the kids will give expression to issues like AIDS, the Rights of the Child, the importance of education and other issues affecting young people.

"Mitchells Plain is in no way unusual from other places in South Africa when it comes to the fact that it, in many ways, displays the inheritance of life under apartheid," says MPYDP field-worker Vincent van Breda.

"The not-so-small miracle is that we have lots of young, resourceful people in Mitchells Plain. We know it is not just a place of suffering, loss, strain and strife, but indeed a place where people are imaginatively busy creating a healthy environment, in the face of conditions of diversity."



YOUTHQUAKE: Members of the Mitchells Plain Youth Development Programme rehearsing for their ground-breaking concert

(298)

The concert next week will be part of the programme to create this healthy environment.

Says Van Breda: "The MPYDP sees itself as a vehicle for the youth to explore and develop their full potential."

Members of the ANC Youth League, the NICRO Youth League and various church youth groups will be participants at the concert.

For more information, contact Vincent van Breda at 32-6101.

RAFIQ ROHAN

Child witnesses to be treated with kid gloves

(2882) 298

ARGT 1/8/93

Weekend Argus Correspondent

DRASTIC changes in the submission of evidence by child witnesses have been brought about by the implementation of sections of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee announced that sections 1, 2 and 3 of the Act had come into effect at a Press conference at the Pretoria Magistrates Court yesterday.

"Young witnesses may, in terms of these amendments, give evidence somewhere other than in court, so that these witnesses are not exposed to an unfamiliar court atmosphere," Mr Coetsee said.

In practice this will mean that child witnesses, assisted by an intermediary, will give evidence via electronic equipment such as closed circuit television in a room next to the courtroom without coming into contact with the accused, his lawyer or the prosecutor.

The child is placed in a comfortable environment, with dolls or toys if necessary, and is observed on a video screen by everyone in court.

According to Mr Coetsee, these measures will ensure that young witnesses in criminal cases are not interfered with or intimidated.

He stressed that the implementation of these measures would not result in the lowering of legal standards, but would rather lead to greater justice in cases where young witnesses were in the past unwilling to give evidence, for fear of revenge, out of ignorance or discomfort.

The electronic equipment to be used will be installed in 10 supreme courts and 59 magistrates courts across the country, at a cost of R815 000.

New courts are specially being designed to provide for these measures. It is envisaged that a one-way mirror would be installed in order to view young witnesses from the court, which would make the use of video equipment unnecessary.

Only sound equipment need be installed in these new courts.

"The measures should be viewed in conjunction with initiatives such as the implementation of specialist rape and child molestation courts, for example at Wynberg," Mr Coetsee said.

Sowetan 21/8/98

Youths boost peace bid

298

By Lulama Luti

PEACE starts with you and me.

This is the message the newly formed Youth Peace Pioneer Movement took to their peers throughout Soweto at the weekend in an effort to help end violence.

The YPPM was launched at the Mofolo Arts Centre yesterday under the theme "Youth in construction action for peace and prosperity".

Year-long dream

The launch of the organisation sees the realisation of a year-long dream to establish a youth peace front through which they could contribute practically towards peace in and around Soweto.

YPPM organisers said the main aim of the organisation would be to promote ubuntu-botho, and to highlight the need for political tolerance.

"Due to the escalating rate of crime and the senseless violence in our country as well as lack of faith among political negotiators, many of us felt the need to initiate and participate in a peace drive," said YPPM in a statement.

Peace plan

The organisation believes that because the youth has always been in the forefront of the struggle, no peace plan would be complete without them.

"The youth is the future and we need to encourage their participation and commitment in the task of building peace for our country."

The events yesterday kicked off with a parade at 8am along the streets of Soweto, ending at the Arts Centre where the main event was held.

Battling to make Star ends meet

By Hayley Schonborn

Pre-schools and childminders in Soweto are struggling amid soaring unemployment and violence.

"Large-scale unemployment, particularly in Soweto, ongoing violence, spiralling costs and the introduction of VAT are all playing a part in making it extremely difficult for us to maintain the high standard of education and care (educare) previously being offered to the children of the communities we serve," said African Self-Help Association (ASH) director Jennifer Clowes. 2|8|93

Unemployment prevents parents from paying the monthly fees which range from as little as R5 for informal childminders to about R105 for formal educare or pre-school. Many centres are not full to capacity.

ASH has 39 full-day educare centres in Soweto and is about to embark on childminding schemes. (61)(298)

Children arrive between six and eight in the morning and leave at five. They get three balanced meals per day, 75 percent of their daily nutritional needs.

Each educare centre can take 120 children aged two to six years and employs five teaching staff; a principal, three teachers and an assistant.

ASH also has a resource and training centre in Klipspruit in Soweto where it trains staff. The latest project is an English class preparing five year-olds for model C schools.

"It is important for children to be in a home environment where they will be picked up, touched and loved and not in an institution at such a young age," says a member of the Childminders' Association in Orlando East Lerato Masango.

Soweto has about 600 children formally in the care of childminders for which parents pay about R60 a month.

Isn't it terribly dangerous?

"We spend lots of time planning and replanning dives and there are consequently few mistakes," Exley said.

Drive to teach children about household poisons

ARG 5/8/93

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

DANGER! Poison! Handle with care! Toxic — hazardous to wildlife!

These are familiar signs on scores of ordinary items used in the average household, but what happens to the empty containers?

Even worse, what happens when the expiry date is passed and the container is still half full?

To alert children to the dangers of chemicals found in their homes, a joint initiative — the Household Hazardous Waste Education and Collection Project — has been launched by the Fairest Cape Association, the chemical industry's information centre, Waste-tech and Pick 'n Pay.

The project includes a collection day at the chain's Ottery hypermarket next month when pupils will bring hazardous wastes — including old medicines, batteries, pesticides, cleaning agents and other items from the kitchen, bathroom, garage and workshop — for sorting and safe disposal.

The waste company's regional manager Steve Kimber said the project aimed to teach children to recognise harzardous household substances, how to handle them correctly and dispose of them in an environmentally-friendly way.

Standards in the waste industry and South African waste legislation had been "a little bit slack" in the past, he conceded.

Of some 1 600 landfill sites in the country, only 40 were properly licensed.

Harzardous waste should be disposed of in specially designed class one landfill sites.

● The project includes a competition between 25 participating schools. For further information contact Vera Lawrence of the Fairest Cape Association, ☎ 462-2040, or Waste-tech, ☎ 946-2660.

Call to help prison children

AJCT 12/8/93

298

Staff Reporter

A PROPOSAL that Archbishop Desmond Tutu set up a commission to investigate the rehabilitation of prison children is among resolutions the Anglican diocese of Cape Town's synod will consider today and tomorrow.

The proposed resolution refers to concern at the "alarming number" of children held in jail in South Africa and their exposure to a high incidence of crime and gangsterism there.

It refers also to recent reports of children being abused and even murdered by hardened criminals while in custody, and says children in prison need protection.

The archbishop is asked to establish a commission that would investigate and recommend alternative rehabilitation measures, and the church's possible involvement in them.

The resolution calls for private sector funding for new rehabilitation methods.

The synod will also consider a resolution calling for the Diocese of Cape Town to be divided into three new and smaller dioceses.

Church plan for jailed kids

(298) CT 14/8/93

Staff Reporter

THE Anglican Diocesan Synod resolved yesterday to promote the participation of clergy and laity in children's prison programmes amid concern over the high level of abuse suffered by children in custody.

A commission would also be set up to investigate other forms of rehabilitation for these children.

Synod delegates heard that there are over 4 000 children in prisons countrywide, some as young as nine, and that they run the risk of gang rape, contracting Aids and of being murdered because "there is no juvenile justice system in South Africa".

The Rev Gilmore Fry of Hazendal said there were no places of safety for children awaiting trial in rural areas.

In the Peninsula there are only two places of safety.

On education, the synod demanded yesterday the resignation of Mr Peter Saaiman, Minister of Education and Culture in the House of Representatives

Although concerned the education crisis would "erupt and cause havoc", the synod refrained from endorsing the imminent South African Democratic Teachers' Union (Sadtu) strike.

1 Co-ordinating Committee's vision

Sowetan 24/8/93

Giving youth more say

By Mzwandile Jacks

REVERSING and preventing the marginalisation of young men and women in South Africa and equipping them with the necessary skills to combat violence is the vision of the National Youth Development Co-ordinating Committee. (298)

NYDCC is a nonpartisan, nonsexist youth forum that intends to be accountable to the National Youth Summit — held in June 1992 with representatives of youth organisations to discuss the predicament of youth in South Africa.

The organisation will be holding a workshop on September 1 in Natal on conflict and resolution, to equip the youth with necessary skills to combat violence.On September 10, 11 and 12, the consultative conference will be convened at the Eskom Centre, Johannesburg.

On September 26 and 27, the organisation will launch the National Youth Development Forum at the Eskom Centre with a logo launching competition.

Number of children in Pollsmoor up by 600%

Staff Reporter

THE number of children being held in Pollsmoor Prison has risen by 600%, according to the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation's (Nicro) annual report.

Nicro's Tygerberg branch reports the number of children in Pollsmoor prison has risen from 20 last year to 120.

CT 27/8/93

About 70% of the children are 16 years old or younger. (253)(298)

According to Nicro's report, most of the children aged 17 and 18 are being held for serious offences and present a danger to the community.

Life's tough, but the little kids get TLC and good grub

(298) ARG 28/8/93

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

TWO men who got to know the tough side of life as a orphans have bounced back and are helping needy children.

Walter Jones, orphaned at three, and James Ruiters, who grew up with foster parents in Elsies River, started handing out food and clothes to children in Mitchell's Plain at the beginning of the year.

Walter, who grew up in Namibia, said "Before that we just talked about it. We want to help all children, irrespective of race or religion.

"Every day we feed between 40 and 100 children."

James's wife cooks and makes clothes for the children.

The law does not allow James to put up more than five children at his modest Portlands home, but he is building on.

The two have also applied for a fundraising number for the Humble Children's Home

They concede they are not professionally trained to work with children, but, said Walter, a martial arts expert· "The training we have is what we've been through — that is the best training You can't learn from a book how to deal with children.

"Here in Mitchell's Plain there are between 500 and 800 children who need someone to take care of them.

"Sometimes when I walk in Tafelsig I see children used by gangsters to sell drugs. I go in there to take the children away from them"

James, married with three children, said: "I was six years old when my mother gave me away

"From the time I was 12 I always said I wanted to help children. Last year I met Walter and discovered we both had the same dream."

Walter and James have been spending hundreds of rands on food for children, but lately the community has helped

Portlands butcher Nazeem Essack said he regularly gave meat to the Humble Children's Home.

"We want to help the poor in Mitchell's Plain. My father always did the same. We all must look after the poor"

Among other helpers are Blue Ribbon in Salt River, the donors of bread, Cape Union Mart, who give material offcuts to make clothes and Pep Stores, the donors of 60 blankets.



□**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**: Walter Jones, who cares for needy Mitch ell's Plain children with his partner James Ruiters, hands out soup and bread to children in Tafelsig.

Picture BRENTON GEACH Weekend Argus

DP spotlight on youth

IT was crucial to show the amount of support the Democratic Party had among young people, national chairman of the DP Youth Fred Nel said at the 1993 national congress near Bloemfontein this weekend.

Mr Nel said young people would form the largest segment of the voters in the election, which would "hopefully" be held in April 1994.

He added that the DP was the only party committed to a new South Africa which did not have a military wing. — *Sapa*

Helping adults and children face the trauma of divorce

By PETA KROST and JENNIFER GRIFFIN

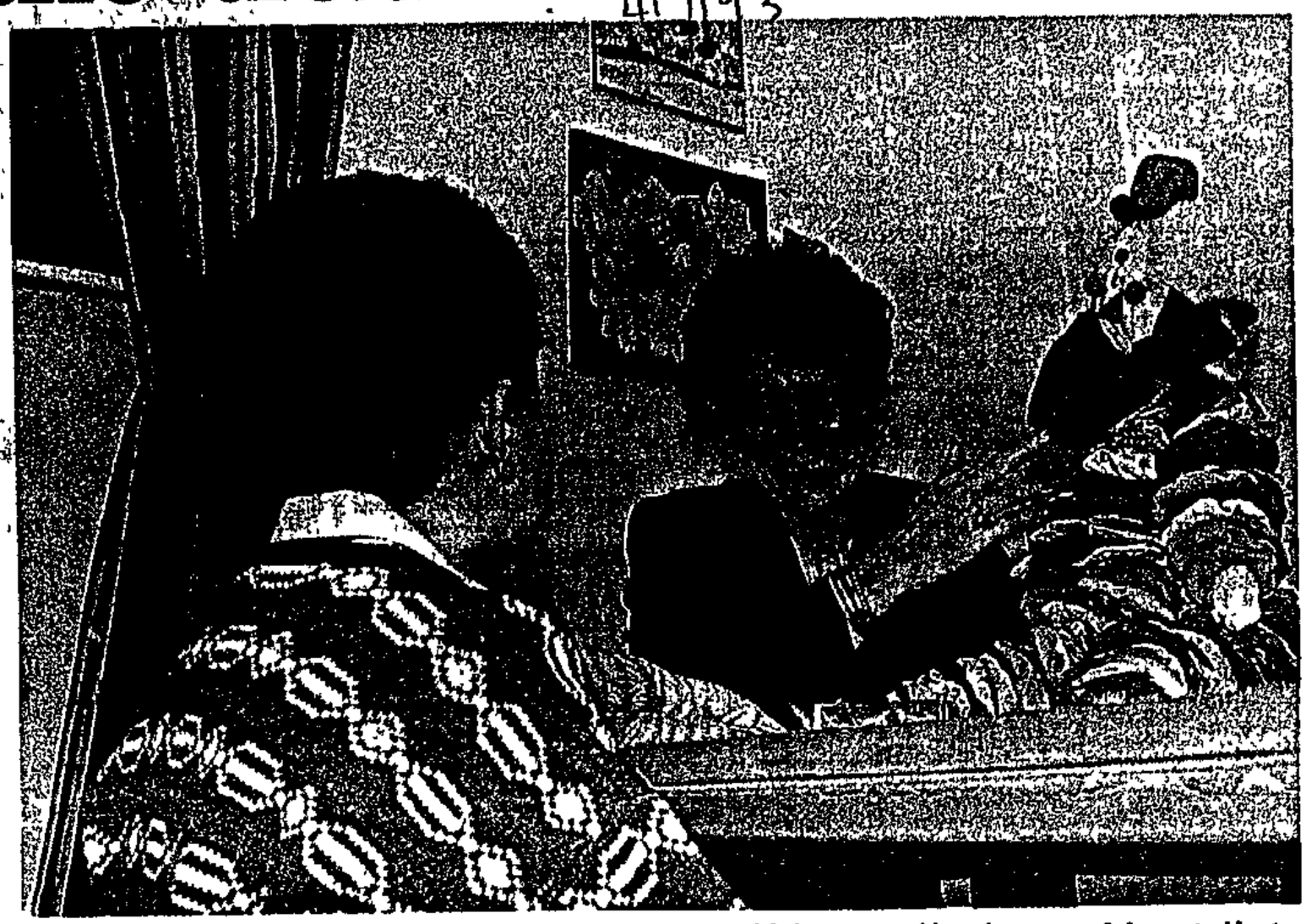
CHILDREN and their parents facing the trauma of divorce are now being given help to deal with the problems that this causes in their already shattered lives

It comes in the form of the Family Advocates Office, situated in a building next to the Supreme Court in Cape Town.

The office — filled with toys, children's artwork and brightly coloured curtains — are in direct contrast to the heartbreak that is part of the aproximately 56 cases a month that it handles

Advocate Hester Fouché, who heads the Office, comes across more as a comfortable mother than a high-powered legal person, said "Our main aim is to protect the children of divorced parents and ensure the best future for them — and this is our way of making all the parties feel comfortable here."

The Cape Town office, which opened its doors in November 1992, was the third of its kind in the country — following the opening of a similar office in Johannesburg and the original Family Advocates Office, which opened in Pretoria three years ago.



HELPING HAND . . . More like a comfortable mother than a high powered legal person. Advocate Hester Fouché with one of her 'clients' Picture: JACK LESTRADE

Counsellors

There are four advocates and three family counsellors manning the Cape Town office, which assists people from as far afield as Mossel Bay, the Namibian border and Three Sisters They have completed 968 investigations since they opened.

Five years ago the Hoexter Commission determined a need to create a mechanism to protect the children of parents in the throes of divorce. Family advocates collect information and assess a settlement most beneficial to the child. The objective inquiry occurs at no cost to the parents

The 10 Family Advocates Offices nationwide have already completed over 5 478 investigations.

Under the new system the advocate advises the judge which parent will best be able to care for the child whereas, previously, the judge relied on the testimony of the parents.

Most judges were unable to ascertain details of the family's home life for themselves and usually assumed that the mother should raise the children.

The creation of the Family Advocate's Office was seen as a preliminary step to the establishment of regional family courts in South Africa

"It was found the children were being used as pawns The child's rights needed to be protected," said Ms Francis Bosman, head of the Division of Family Advocates. "The purpose of these offices is to get them out of the arena and to enlighten the court."

The advocates explains to the children that they are there to protect them During the interviews — which also often draw on outside professional opinions — the advocate advises which parent should have primary custody of the child.

"We don't ask them to choose, but we talk to them and their parents about how they live now and what it will be like for the children with each one of them," said Mrs Fouché.

In effect, the family advocate is the child's lawyer.

After 15 years at the bar doing almost any case that came her way Mrs Fouché jumped at the opportunity to work in what she believed would be "the most important part of social justice in the country".

"Where you are working with children, there is always hope but that does not mean there aren't disappointments," she said

While some cases are "cut and dried" and can be concluded within an hour, Mrs Fouché has sleepless nights over others that can often take ages to solve — if it is at all possible.

Since the offices first opened, an increasing number of fathers have been granted custody of their children.

"There is a definite increase in the number of fathers who apply for custody and many more fathers are getting it."

The most difficult cases that the office deals with concern accusations of sexual molestation.

Trauma centre helps victims of violence

By BILL BLUMENFELD

THE Trauma Centre for Victims of Violence and Torture in Cape Town, which opened this week, has received a boost with a R1,18-million contribution from the Danish government.

The Centre will help people traumatised by imprisonment, torture, detention, combat, exile, civil unrest, and other political violence

More than 13 900 people are believed to have died in political violence in South Africa since 1984, according to background information supplied to the centre. Last year alone 3 499 people died and 5 685 were injured.

The centre is based at Cowley Centre — which until recently was used to accommodate returning exiles — a 19th century monastery in District Six leased by the Anglican Church.

It operates on a non-sectarian and non-party political basis and will be manned by members of the South African Health and Social Services Organisation.

Present at this week's official opening were Danish Minister of Development Co-operation and head of European Community Aid, Mrs Helle Degn; Danish Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Peter Bruchner, Prof Ole Esperson, president of the International Council for the Rehabilitation of Torture Victims in Copenhagen and Cheryl Carolus, a member of the ANC's national executive committee.

The head of the centre's management committee, Glenda Wildschut, said that as South Africa entered the fourth year in its transition to democracy, "unprecedented levels of violence grip our divided nation".

"Our country desperately needs peace, but we also need healing. The Trauma Centre is a place for healing the wounds of the past, mending the social fabric torn by years of endemic violence, and preparing our people for a hopeful future," Ms Wildschut said.

She said Centre aimed to:

- Offer counselling, medical advice, and social services to victims of politically motivated violence. They are multi-disciplinary, holistic and aimed at empowering "victims" to gain control of their lives so that they become "survivors"
- Train health care professions and non-professionals in helping people cope with the psychological trauma resulting from acts of political violence, and
- Monitor violations of human rights in relation to its effect on physical and mental health

The centre can be telephoned at ☎ (021) 45-7373. — Sapa

Children on holiday courses

Star 6/7/93

By Helen Grange

An innovative school holiday programme launched by Soweto's Mzimhlophe community is making a dent in the problem of youth marginalisation.

"Yesterday, about 220 schoolchildren from Mzimhlophe began holiday courses arranged through a community/parent committee launched two months ago and co-ordinated by ANC Youth League member Kevin Lethoko.

The children, ranging from seven to 14 years old, are learning journalism at the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism in Parktown, photography at the SA Communication Services department in Pretoria, computer training at the African Institute of Technology, music and arts at Soweto's Funda Centre and first aid through the Red Cross at a Soweto school.

Hugh Lewin of the Institute for the Advancement of Journalism said he spent yesterday teaching a group of 30 how to put together dummy newspapers. The group would be training for two weeks.

A photography company, Ilford, has sponsored the week-long photography course.

A small percentage of Soweto pupils are absorbed into the National Education Co-ordination Committee's winter school bridging programme held at the University of the Witwatersrand by undergraduate teaching students.

(298)

Efforts have also been launched by the Joint Enrichment Programme, a church-sponsored marginalisation project, to introduce skills training in the school curriculum.

The Free Market Foundation has recently embarked on a three-year economic literacy programme for high schools. To date, 40 Transvaal schools have introduced this course to the syllabus.

Council land for night shelter

Staff Reporter

THE City Administrator recommended yesterday that the Molo Songololo children's project should be granted a long lease over open land in Woodstock at a nominal rate, subject to rezoning.

A spokesman for Molo said yesterday that it intended to build a night shelter there for street children. (298)

The lease was recommended at R150 a year, the rental for similar leases. CT 9/7/93

11m children 'dying needlessly'

Guardian/WSJ W/mail

Victoria Brittain 9/7-15/7/93

ELEVEN MILLION children die needlessly each year in developing countries, the World Bank says. In its annual World Development Report, the bank calls these "preventable deaths", half of them resulting from diarrhoea and respiratory illness exacerbated by malnutrition.

But the report follows a World Health Organisation appeal which indicates that progress in these areas is being undermined by lack of funds. The WHO called last week for urgent funds to continue programmes which save the lives of 4 million under-fives a year.

The WHO says it may be forced to cut back work on diarrhoea and respiratory illness, and on training programmes, because member states are donating less.

The World Bank report, which is entirely devoted to health this year, starts on an optimistic note. Over a 40-year period, it shows life expectancy has risen from 43 to 63; one-in-10 instead of three-in-10 children die before their fifth birthday, and a major killer, smallpox, has been eradicated.

The bank has quadrupled its lending for health in the past six years, and calls for an increase in donor aid of $2 billion (£1.3 billion) a year, raising health's share of official aid from 6 per cent to 9 per cent.

But the bank warns of severe problems, such as Aids, which is expected to claim 1.8 million lives every year by the end of the century, and drug-resistant malaria. Levels of mother-and-child mortality, remain "unacceptably high", while disabilities from polio or blindness cripple huge numbers unnecessarily, it says.

Bank bows to pressure

Call for probe into teen-age behaviour

ST Times CC/Metro J
11/7/93
(298)

By CHIARA CARTER

A MAJOR study on risk-taking behaviour among adolescents in the Cape Peninsula has led researchers to call for urgent intervention

The study — the first of its kind in Africa — was completed by researchers from the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

The study involved more than 7 000 pupils in 16 Peninsula high schools falling under the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Education and Culture in the House of Assembly and Representatives.

Alcohol

Risky behaviour investigated included suicidal tendencies, alcohol consumption, cigarette smoking, drug use, road-related actions, violence and sex.

Principal researcher Dr Alan Flisher, of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Cape Town, said the situation was too urgent to wait for a future government's attention and called for the major stakeholders to come together and begin to implement programmes.

"The deaths and ill-health caused by risk-taking behaviour are mostly preventable. We focused on school-going adolescents because there is tremendous potential for implementing efficient health promotion programmes at school," said Dr Flisher.

Sexual

He said findings on students' sexual behaviour underlined the need for effective sex education which began in primary schools.

A fifth of the students surveyed did not complete the section dealing with sexual behaviour. Of those who did, 17 percent had experienced heterosexual intercourse with average age for first experience of 15 years. Sixty percent had used some form of contraception although relatively low proportions of Afrikaans and Xhosa-speaking males reported having using contraceptive measures on their last sexual episode. The researchers said that males and Xhosa-speaking students were particularly at risk from adverse consequences.

Health

Improved mental health programmes accessible to all were needed given the number of students who had contemplated suicide.

The survey found that 19 percent of students had seriously considered suicide, 12 percent had discussed ending their life and nearly eight percent had tried to kill themselves.

The researchers found cigarette smoking a matter of serious concern. As many as 18 percent of students smoked daily and of these two-thirds had already tried to stop smoking. While very few Xhosa females smoked, by matric more than a quarter of all males smoked daily.

Dr Flisher said stronger anti-tobacco legislation including a curb on tobacco advertising was needed.

The survey found that while alcohol abuse had not reached the level of abuse found in the USA, binge drinking was a matter for concern. More than half the students had used alcohol at some time, a quarter had drunk alcohol in the past week and 15 percent reported binge drinking.

Dagga

The most widely used drug was dagga with 7,5 percent having experienced the drug. A relatively low figure of 2,4 percent had smoked dagga in the past week while a very small group had smoked "white pipes" — a mixture of dagga and Mandrax. Nearly 11 percent of students had sniffed solvents. While the rate of dagga use was high among Xhosa-speaking males, of note was the small proportion of Xhosa-speaking females involved with drugs. According to Dr Flisher, the results suggest that most drug use is experimental.

The two major causes of non-natural fatalities among adolescents are road accidents and violence.

Seatbelt

The survey found that of students who had driven a vehicle, nearly two-thirds had done so without a license, 16 percent had driven an overcrowded vehicle and five percent had driven while under the influence of dagga or alcohol.

Nearly half the students who had been on a motorcycle had ridden without a helmet and more than 37 percent had failed to wear a seatbelt in a car.



TRAVEL QUEENS Amanda Schuddi 27, Tamara Frederic 22, Sharon Smith, and Paula De Cas are among the fro runners in next Sat day's regional finals Miss Travel Que competion.

Last held in 1986, competition w rlaunched by the T el and Trade Sp and Social club.

Entrants, who employed in vari sectors of the indu will be judged m on personality as winning candidate have to promote activities of the C

PIC: JACK LESTRA

Getting it right

IT was last week inadvertently implied that 4 000 members of the Western Province Local Authorities Workers Association intended ignoring the SA Municipal Workers Union's call for a national strike starting next month.

Samwu officials have pointed out that this was incorrect as WPLAWA officials were under no obligation to heed the strike call.

From 'tea b

(2

By KURT SWART

SOUTH Africans, both black and white, will have to dig slightly deeper into their pockets to help finance the reform

dren.

Born in New Brigh Port Elizabeth on 15, 1948, Mr Botha's story is one of acad study, frequently i rupted in the early

PAC airs jobs plan

Star 13/7/93

Property Editor

A new, democratically-elected government should use unemployed youth to provide housing, giving them on-the-job training in much the same way the present government had when it built townships such as Soweto and Mamelodi. (298)

So says Mosebjane Malatsi, senior policy analyst of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC). ([redacted])

Speaking at the recent Portland Cement Institute seminar, he said the provision of shelter was a critical issue for about 40 percent of the black population.

"The youth, most of which is unemployed, should be encouraged to get involved. They could receive on-the-job training after formal training of say, a year, and should later be able to obtain employment on the basis of their newly acquired skills or to start their own businesses as small or medium-scale contractors."

Law 'should ban' sale of solvents to children

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

298

SELLING solvents to children could be banned if a proposal to copy British laws goes ahead.

Abuse of solvents is widespread among Cape Town street children but a city administrator's report to the executive committee said it was beyond a council's powers to ban the sale of intoxicating solvents, or to enforce such a ban

Legislation in Cape Town alone would be ineffective if children could buy solvents in neighbouring municipalities ARG 15/7/93

The report said substances used for sniffing included contact adhesives, plastic cement, dry-cleaning fluids, nail polish remover, lighter fluids, dyes, hair lacquer, aerosol deodorants, insecticides, fluid erasers and thinners.

Banning the sale of these products to minors would be difficult.

The British Intoxicating Substances Supply Act bans the sale of "a substance other than a controlled drug" to people under 18 if the seller has reason to believe the buyer wants to use it to get intoxicated.

The report said the ban, coupled with publicity and education, had eased the problem.

It recommended the council to ask the Cape Province Municipal Association to lobby for a law modelled on the British legislation.

● Copies of applications to sell sorghum beer will no longer be given to the city council for scrutiny.

But they will be go to the city health department to aid planning of food inspections.

Until now, the council has been told about sorghum beer applications in the same way as liquor licence applications.

Several councillors have opposed sorghum beer sales, claiming its alcohol content rises when it is left to age and that discarded cartons cause a litter problem.

But an investigation found sorghum beer was classed as a foodstuff and all the law required was for the council to ensure it was properly stored and refrigerated.

● Consumers may soon be able to pay rates, water and electricity accounts with credit cards.

City treasurer Mr Eddie Landsberg said this would improve security and service.

● The new valuation roll will be open for inspection from July 26 until August 26 at the Civic Centre.

Rape terror: 10-year-olds on the pill

South 17/7 - 21/7/93.

(298)

By Shannon Neill

GIRLS AS young as 10 are being taken to family planning clinics to get contraceptives. Their mothers fear they will be raped and fall pregnant.

"We estimate that roughly 40 percent of the teenagers coming into the adolescent clinics at Langa and Guguletu come for this purpose," said Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) spokesperson Mr Krige Visser.

"As a result of the political violence girls are being raped. Obviously to stop that, we have to stop the violence.

"Until that happens all we can do is try and help the girls," Visser said.

The figure at the Paarl and Claremont adolescent clinics is much lower. There, about 10 percent of the girls are brought in for preventative contraception.

An unofficial source at a township clinic revealed that "quite a lot" of the girls brought into the clinics were younger than 14.

"We have had girls as young as 10 brought in," the source at the clinic said.

Before a girl is given a contraceptive she and her mother are assessed, as it is felt that the sexual activity of such young girls is as much their mothers' responsibility, as it is their own.

If the girl is already sexually active, she and her mother are counselled on the dangers of sexually transmitted diseases, and the possibilities of pregnancy.

If the girl is not sexually active but has started menstruating, and faces a real threat of rape, she will be put on contraception, said the source at the clinic.

Because the problems associated with teenage sexuality are different from those facing adults, the CPA has created the adolescent clinics to deal only with teenagers.

There are set procedures for dealing with rape survivors. If the girl wants to press charges she's seen by a district surgeon who treats her and precautions are taken that she won't fall pregnant.

Rape survivors can get counselling and advice from the adolescent clinics.

teenage health focus

Sex, drugs and suicide: the risks of being a teen

South 17/7 - 21/7/93

LIVE FAST, die young, have a good-looking corpse. This catchphrase from the fifties has frightening resonances in the nineties.

Teenagers are killing themselves at an alarming rate. A review of teenage deaths from 1984 to 1986 revealed that more than half of these deaths were caused by road traffic accidents, assault, suicide, and other causes that could have been prevented by lifestyle changes

Nearly eight percent of teenagers have tried to commit suicide in the past year— this is one of the more alarming facts to emerge from a recent survey into adolescent risk-taking behaviour conducted by the Medical Research Council and the psychiatry department of the University of Cape Town.

One tenth of male students carry knives to school every day.

The researchers questioned school pupils in the greater Cape Town area about suicidal behaviour, cigarette, alcohol and drug use, sex, behaviour on the road, and violent behaviour.

The need to educate teenagers about living less risky lives prompted the study, which can be used as the basis for a school-based awareness programme

But the survey demonstrated there is a big difference between being aware of dangerous behaviour, and actually avoiding it. For instance, while most of the teenagers realised the importance of wearing a seat belt while travelling in a car, few of them wore a belt every time they travelled.

"This reflects the challenge of trying to modify adolescent behaviour," says principal researcher Dr Alan Flisher, suggesting that greater emphasis should be given to safety measures which do not rely on individual responsibility. These include the provision of safer sidewalks, road crossings and recreational facilities — conspicuously absent from poor communities in South Africa.

Nearly one fifth of the pupils in the survey were regular smokers, and the majority of those had tried unsuccessfully to kick the habit.

"It remains an ongoing scandal that tobacco companies are still allowed to actively market their produce," Flisher commented.

Similarly, if the alarming number of teenage suicide attempts is to decrease, "we need to improve access to mental health services, and to find ways of restricting access to the means of committing suicide, especially firearms," Flisher says.

(298)

Teenagers are vulnerable to violent attacks: 13 percent of the youths in the survey reported being attacked in the past year, and 11 percent admitted to causing someone else an injury: perhaps not surprising when 10-percent of teenage boys carry knives.

"Many South Africans have come to regard violence as a legitimate solution to social conflict," Flisher said, adding that political progress would assist attempts to stop interpersonal violence.

He also said the use of corporal punishment in schools contributed to vandalism and interpersonal violence by the pupils.

The survey also indicated that a large number of teenagers are sexually active and that a "substantial proportion" of sexual encounters are risky in terms of unwanted pregancy and HIV infection.

Flisher said school programmes must be the basis of sex education, which must be treated comprehensively if it is to be effective.

"It is essential that the process not be retarded based on the religious or moral sensibilities of minority groups."

Drug use appeared from the survey to be mostly at an "experimental" level. Flisher suggested however that regular hard drug users often drop out of school, so their behaviour was not reflected.

Flisher suggests that urbanisation and the diminished influence of the extended family have left today's adolescents in an environment very different from what their parents experienced in their youth. This leads to a conflict between generations, which in turn lead to instability and stress.

The education programmes to be planned on the basis of the survey will be school-based. Flisher emphasises however that it is important to involve political and youth organisations in the education process, to make up for the schools' possible lack of credibility

He admits it is "a huge challenge" to reach youths not in school.

While education budgets may be short and teachers overworked, Flisher points out the urgency of tackling the problem. "It might be more expensive in the long term not to act." **JUSTIN PEARCE**

Child soldiers demobbed

FREETOWN: The Sierra Leone army has started demobilising its 1 000 child soldiers, boys and girls aged from seven to 15 who have been fighting rebels in the east of the country for the past two years.

A first batch of children aged between seven and 12 was brought to a rehabilitation transit camp here from the front on the border with Guinea and Liberia.

The 94 children seemed to be in good health but were looking dazed.

Among them was eight-year-old Amadu, who complained: "I feel restless, as I have not been so idle (since leaving the war zone)."

He saw rebels behead his parents, and said: "I don't think I have actually had my revenge. I wish the government had not taken us from the army."

Amadu had no intention of returning to civilian life. "What use will it be if the rebel war continues?"

Fatumata, 7, is the only girl in the group.

"I can't say how many, but I have killed dozens of rebels with my AK-47," she confided matter-of-factly.

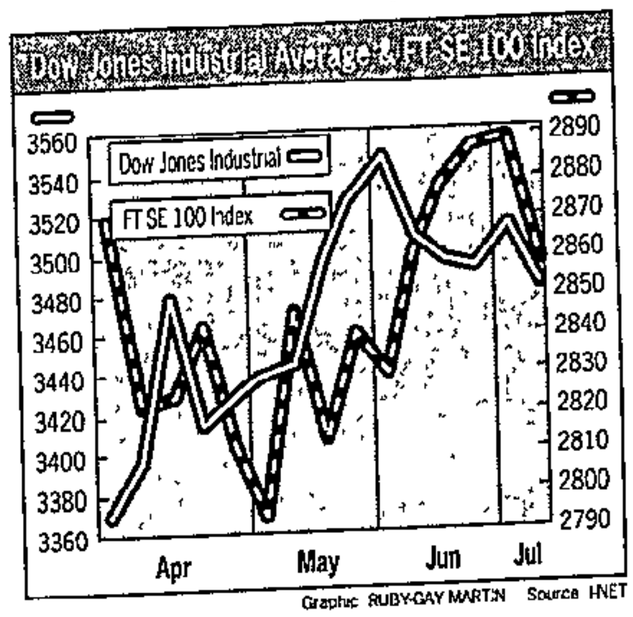
"Those stinking rebels raped my mother before slicing her throat open. She looked at me as I stood helplessly."

An army captain said about 200 of the estimated 1 000 child soldiers had been identified. There might also be some in the bush going on their own to track rebels, he said.

At the transit camp, they get three meals a day, but alcohol is banned. "So far we have got them under control and they are not restless," the captain explained.

Heavy fighting has been raging in north-west Liberia near the Sierra Leone border, involving the army and Sierra Leone rebels and two Liberian army factions.

Fighting has caused an exodus of more than 20 000 people to Yandohun, 40km to the south, according to humanitarian organisations who visited the area last week. — *Sapa-AFP*



FRIDAY'S DJ IA CLOSE: 3483,97

FRIDAY'S FT-SE 100 CLOSE: 2857,7

FRIDAY'S NEW YORK GOLD CLOSE: $385,90

YESTERDAY'S HONG KONG GOLD CLOSE: $386,65

'I speak for the children'

Star 3/7/93

NAZEER Suliman, a teenager from Lenasia, brought a message to the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna last month. He talked about it, and some of his dreams, to LOUISE MARSLAND.

NAZEER Suliman (17) intends to be president of South Africa one day And he is not kidding This articulate, confident youngster was chosen to represent the African continent's children at last month's World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna

He was selected from hundreds of other young people by the National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC) to represent the African child That was after the Conference on Assistance to the African Child in Senegal last year decided to highlight the plight of children here by having a South African child represent the continent this year

He made a speech on the new South Africa and addressed a press conference on the significance of June 16, which was chosen by the Organisation for African Unity (OAU) as the Day of the African Child after children in South Africa laid down their lives on that day

Dressed in bell-bottom jeans and a grunge flannel shirt, and relaxed and comfortable with his role as a young human rights campaigner, Nazeer is passionate about the rights of children



UNUSUAL YOUNG MAN: Nazeer Suliman with three members of his 'flock' — two of whom seem to reckon his efforts on their behalf are certainly worth dancing about.
● Photograph: MYKEL NICOLAOU

HE has been involved in drafting the Children's Charter in South Africa and, with the NCRC, conducts workshops around the country to make children aware of their rights.

Speaking on June 16 in Vienna, Nazeer told the assembled world press that apartheid was not dead, that there was still no equal education system, black people still had no vote and the reforms were slight and not fundamental

"The problems of South African children are not only domestic but international when you take it out of the apartheid context. Our children have been dehumanised, neglected, marginalised and forgotten, and that is why they live in poverty and have no education

"There is so much potential in children, yet nothing has been done here. We needed to draw up our own charter for children's rights and make sure it is part of a future constitution," Nazeer said.

The title of the speech he presented at the conference was "Where is the New South Africa you all talk about? Show us, because we do not see it" He told delegates that "tomorrow's nation" had largely been forgotten

(298)

"In South Africa children suffer in areas of conflict, violence, racial, political and tribal violence orchestrated by so-called political leaders and our Government, which has remained consistent in ignoring its future generation, declining to listen to our voices

"In an era of increasing awareness about the plight of children in Africa, it seems ironic to note that we still do not have shelter, food and equal education We demand to be top on the political and economic agenda in the present multiparty negotiations and that we, the children, be consulted on anything affecting us

"Need I remind the world that we are the leaders of tomorrow, whether we be put first or last on the agenda the seeds you sow will be the fruits we reap and the fruits we reap will be the consequences you suffer!" Nazeer's speech read.

The trendy teenager admits a new chapter has opened up in his life since becoming involved in the children's rights issue He does not regard himself as "lucky" to be sent on trips around the world — "I am doing it because I am sincere. I feel I have to do it"

HIS Vienna trip was a very rewarding and exciting experience, but also very distressing The graphic descriptions and presentations of human rights abuses around the world was shocking to him and his NCRC companions. They were overwhelmed with images of death, blood, torture and children dying

"It was so intense, your emotions just took over," Nazeer said

"It was so intense, your emotions just take over," Nazeer said

Nazeer is in Std 9 at the Lenasia Muslim School and is known as "the activist" He denies he is radical, just committed to the defence of human rights

He is also chairman of the school sports committee, a member of the students council and does speech and drama Apart from his aspirations in politics, he intends studying human rights law

Nazeer has some strong advice for his peers "With rights comes responsibility, and when you have rights it does not mean you can violate and impose on other people's rights, because then you don't have the right."

Boy's tale of tragedy has newsmen fooled

☐ Runaway's 'massacred' family alive and well

ARG 26/8/93 (298)

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — He is only nine years old, but S'thembela Magazi can certainly spin a yarn.

His storytelling is so good that he conned the press and a family of good Samaritans from Soweto into believing he was the survivor of a massacre in which his family was gunned down.

In fact S'thembela is not an orphan of township violence. He is a silver-tongued runaway and he has now been reunited with his parents.

S'thembela claimed yesterday that he had been a witness to a shack attack in which his mother, father and six-year-old brother were shot dead.

He then claimed to have wandered the streets and slept in the veld "for a month".

S'thembela first told the story to the kindly Mosunkutu family of Soweto, who took the boy in after their son found him in the street.

Aghast at his "experiences", they asked the Press to listen to his tale in the hope that newspaper readers would come to his aid.

But when S'thembela was taken back to his "destroyed shack" at the Power Park Squatter camp by reporters, he was exposed as a runaway.

When more reporters arrived later he had run away again, but a group of residents soon brought him home.

S'thembela's mother, Daisy, said the Sub B pupil often ran away and preferred sleeping in the veld.

Asked about the child's vivid description of an attack, Mrs Magazi said that S'thembela had seen many violent scenes, including a recent incident in which the family's neighbours were shot and killed and their shacks burned down.

S'thembela cut a pitiful sight and burst into tears when asked why he ran away.



CON BOY: S'thembela Magazi had them all fooled.

Fm 2/7/93

THE YOUTH

Not all lost

A nationwide youth survey in December finds that there are 3,5m youngsters who have been marginalised or entirely "ejected" by society. About 515 000 (of whom 465 000 are African) have been entirely ejected, with no hope for the future and no regard for social, political or legal processes.

Roughly 2,9m (2,5m African) are already marginalised from such processes and urgently need systematic help. About 4,7m (3,2m African) are at risk of marginalisation and must be reached. Only 2,7m (1,6m African) are functioning well.

Their circumstances are depressing. For example, 4m young Africans have no electricity at home and more than 5m have no running water, 3m youth of all races are jobless, 100 000 African teenagers have no schooling at all and more than 1m have only primary education However, their attitudes indicate that they can be engaged. For this reason the term "lost generation" may often be inappropriate.

"With carefully planned, well-resourced and urgent intervention, millions of young people can be drawn into educational, economic and legal life," the survey says.

Among myths identified in the Community Agency for Social Inquiry survey is the perception that youths are political and interested only in military involvement. On the contrary, the survey finds that only 12% of youngsters (15% among Africans) belong to political organisations and many more are involved in churches and choirs (38%) and sports organisations (32%).

Nor is it correct that they are not interested in education: only 12% of all African youth had studied as far as they planned, with the figure for coloureds 18%, Indians 30% and whites 58%. In all 69% want to study further and only 2% cited politics as the reason for not doing it. Nearly two-thirds of African youth (51% coloured, 53% Indian and 43% white) dropped out of school because they had no money.

Three million people between 16 and 30 are unemployed with most (79%) looking for work. The idea of a youth corps could well be part of the solution. Concern at the plight of the lost generation has given rise to the idea of establishing a National Youth Service & Peace Corps by the end of the year.

The proposal arises from of a recent workshop on youth initiatives under the auspices of the fledgling national youth development forum, which aims to ensure that the needs of young people remain firmly on the national agenda. (A similar proposal was made by the negotiations technical committee on violence at Kempton Park recently.) It is hoped that a technical commission to in-

cont-d

 Fm 2/7/93.

vestigate the creation of a youth corps will report within eight weeks of being appointed.

Behind the initiative is the Joint Enrichment Project backed by the SA Council of Churches and the SA Catholic Bishops' Conference. After two years of research and consultation, the project reported to a conference in March attended by 120 organisations. It was here that the formation of a national youth forum was proposed as part of the plan to implement a national youth development strategy.

The idea of a youth forum, say organisers, led by the project's Sheila Sisulu, represents the emergence of consensus on how this should be done. A two-pronged strategy is suggested to deal with youth marginalisation and development:

- ☐ Programmes to tackle problems youth face in employment, education, health and so on; and
- ☐ Long-term policies and lobbying to create the right environment for youth development.

A working group is envisaged, including the national forums on housing, the economy and education (when it's set up), relevant government departments, the technical committee on violence, the peace accord and other interested parties. This group will appoint the youth corps investigating commission.

Among the commission's objectives will be to examine the feasibility of a programme run largely through the State Budget; the availability of national administrative and physical infrastructure, and mobilising support from local and international commerce and industry. It will also look into ways of combating violence by involving a youth corps.

Among suggestions made in discussions leading up to the formation of a youth forum was joint ventures between youth and business to create jobs through community ventures, public works schemes, training programmes and short-term internships offered by the private sector ■

Prisoners of SA's brutal structures

CPress 4/7/93

By JENNIFER GRIFFIN

EVERY day for four months William Buleweni, 12, and Sello Manyai, 14, sat in their cold, damp prison cell and wondered when their social worker, Henry Makitla, who placed them there, would return.

He never did.

The homeless boys had approached Makitla for help. They no longer wanted to sleep on the dirty pavement with the other glue-sniffing street kids.

William and Sello's case has highlighted the fact that children imprisoned for a crime have more legal rights than the numerous, uncharged street children, who are held with increasing regularity in South African jails because social workers can't find homes for them.

"That a social worker knew about those kids being there and allowed them to sit there for over three months is cruel," said Amy Flickinger, an American missionary who visits the jailed children at least twice a week.

By law a child accused of committing a crime must be seen by a magistrate within 48-hours of his arrest. However, more and more homeless kids who land in jail have not broken the law – and there is no provision within the law to protect them.

"You can't underestimate the psychological and emotional trauma that a child undergoes when he is thrown into the back of a police vehicle when he hasn't done anything wrong," said Flickinger, who runs an outreach programme for Johannesburg street kids.

The Department of Correctional Services estimates that from March 3 1993 there were 1 490 children under the age of 18 in jail, 810 of whom were awaiting trial. Last year a report published by several human rights groups estimated that over 4 400 children were in prison.

(298)

Prison warders have been accused of abusing children in the cells. Some actually set the children up for assault and rape, a former 32-year-old prisoner told a newspaper. Sometimes the children sleep with the older prisoners in exchange for protection.

The problem was highlighted last year following the death of 13-year-old Neville Snyman in Cape Town's Robertson Prison. The older boys in his cell allegedly sodomised him, beat him and ruptured his internal organs when they jumped on his stomach.

"It's too bad in jail. When you come from outside the other prisoners hit you. They want money. If you don't have money, then they beat you," said Vuyo, a resident of Streetwise, a shelter for Hillbrow's homeless children. Vuyo, 17, was jailed briefly after being caught stealing.

After William and Sello were finally removed from their jail cell and sent to a government children's home, they still flinched when asked to speak about their time in jail.

"In the cells you can't even see a car moving," said William. "We didn't know what was going to happen to us."

Police and government officials seem unconcerned that jail cells have been converted into holding pens for kids from broken homes who have resorted to life on the street.

"We agree that a prison is not ideal, but some juveniles can be a threat to society," said former Correctional Services Minister Adriaan Vlok. "We have to accommodate them temporarily in anticipation of their appearance in court."

However, many of the children are never charged and never see the inside of a court.

According to a handbook published by Lawyers for Human Rights: "Most of the children in jail are black. Few white children are held in custody overnight."

The rising numbers of street children in the past few years has contributed to the increasing number of kids in prisons. And the problem isn't likely to improve under a new government.

Effort to address problems of youth

By Helen Grange

A multiparty technical committee has been formed to investigate practical ways of addressing the problem of socio-economic development programmes for marginalised youth.

The Committee on National Youth Development Strategy, steered by former Perm managing director Bob Tucker, is the product of a national youth initiative and has the full support of the National Peace Committee and parties to the National Economic Forum.

The committee's brief is to investigate youth development as an integral component of socio-economic development.

Trained

According to Paul Hattie, chairman of the multiparty negotiating process's technical committee on violence, the idea is to put together a 1 million-strong national youth service corps. Its members would be trained to contribute to the community.

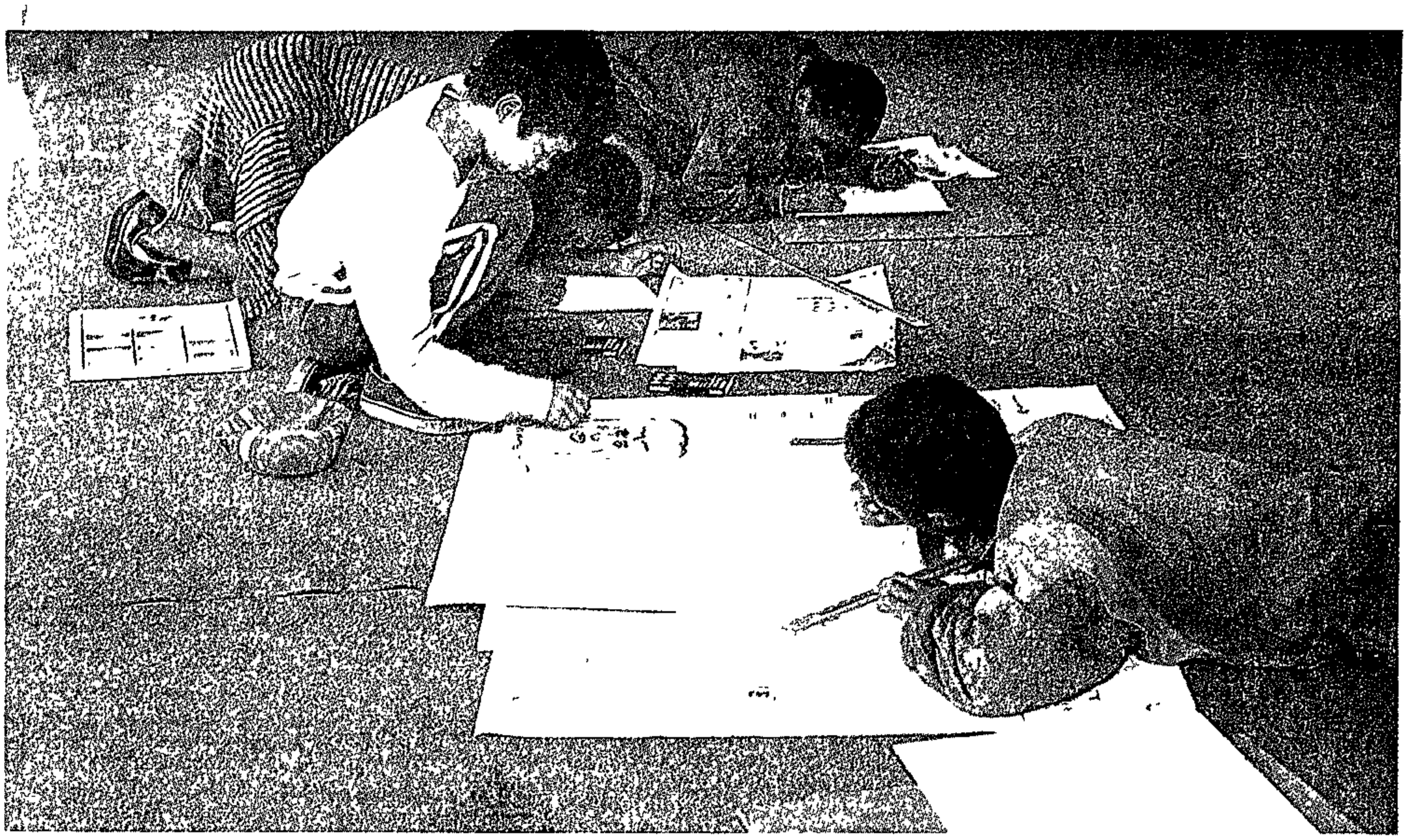
Observers said a clear distinction had to be drawn between the national youth service corps and the discussions by the technical committee on violence about a joint peacekeeping force.

Debate is continuing between the major political parties over the shape and mandate of a joint peacekeeping force, which, it has been proposed, would consist of between 5 000 and 10 000 soldiers drawn from the SADF, Umkhonto we Sizwe, the Azanian People's Liberation Army and the homeland armies.

However, defence experts have cast serious doubt over whether such a force could be trained and established before the April elections.

The Wits/Vaal Peace Secretariat is negotiating with political players to launch a 300-strong peace corps pilot project in a Reef township.

If the proposal is approved, the corps would monitor unrest in areas racked by violence.



KEEPING BUSY . . . A group of young street children are intent on their work as they paint on the floor of the shelter Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

Shelter for city street children facing crisis

STREETS, one of Cape Town newer shelters for street children, is facing tough times

Started about a year ago, the Woodstock-based art centre may have to close unless funding can be found within the next few months to cover running costs.

Filled with paintings and sketches done by children during a quick visit to catch a meal, the centre draws about 50 children a day, project initiator Mr David Fortune said this week.

Streets, like most similar projects, aims to find long-term solutions for the problems facing street children.

"We are teaching the children different forms of art, leatherwork, painting and photography so they can become self-reliant," Mr Fortune said.

"Giving them a slice of bread and a warm bed at night would not solve the problems," he said.

Not all the children roam the streets because they have nowhere else to go, he said.

One of the daily visitors included an 18-year-old boy from Malmesbury who

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

travels to and from the centre every day.

"I come here in the morning, but go home in the afternoon."

He did this, he said, because he did not go to school and would otherwise just wander the streets.

Peter, who has been visiting the centre for the past three months, has learnt to make leather belts with the help of one of the field workers at the centre. His belts would soon be sold at stalls on the markets, he said proudly.

Some of the children visiting Streets prefer to wander the streets to going back to unpleasant conditions at home, Mr Fortune said.

An interesting aspect of the shelter's operations is that they open a file for a child on first attendance.

"In this portfolio, we stick everything, from the poem he writes, the pictures he takes to the paintings he does.

"When he does go home one day, there is something to show," Mr Fortune said.

Bid to keep the street children out of jail

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

BEGGING and loitering will cease to be crimes if changes to a by-law are approved.

Amendments to the by-law for the Convenience of Persons Using Streets or Public Places are to be put to the city council executive committee today.

The proposed changes are a sequel to a council resolution last year to find ways to prevent street children being "drawn into the criminal justice system".

They include removing "annoyance" as a reason for acting against a person and allowing action only when an offender has been warned.

At present only police may act in terms of the by-law. This will be extended to council law enforcement officers.

Begging was not something which required legal sanction, a city administrator's report said.

"Very few people, if any, are prosecuted and in my view society no longer expects begging to be visited by criminal sanction.

"The criminal law must simply not be used to cure all social ills."

The report said street children were most likely to fall foul of by-laws dealing with loitering, begging, and sleeping in public places.

Homestead director Annette Cockburn said her organisation did not accept that loitering should be a crime.

The report said loitering had a wide meaning and people on legitimate business could be said to be loitering.

Sections of the by-law which will stay will forbid people from littering, or running, walking, sitting or lying in such a way that they obstruct traffic or pedestrians.

Eight shelters for vagrants to open

297 298 ARG 24/8/93

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

EIGHT new night shelters for vagrants are to open in the Cape Town municipal area.

Run by various organisations, the shelters will include one run by Molo Songololo in Salt River, a "Loaves and Fishes" shelter in Observatory, an "Owl" shelter in Lansdowne, and Haven shelters in Wynberg, Kalk Bay, Retreat and Kensington.

City council vagrancy committee chairman John Sonnenberg said the council did not contribute to the operating costs of shelters, but it helped them choose suitable land.

He said future councils could be entrusted with social welfare.

Constitutional proposals were that this would be the job of regional governments "but I would not be surprised if it were devolved to local level".

The council was changing by-laws to decriminalise begging and loitering, Dr Sonnenberg said.

He said the early work of the committee had been to persuade people there was a difference between vagrants and criminals.

Mayor Frank van der Velde said urbanisation meant squatters were coming to Cape Town in increasing numbers "armed with nothing but determination to make it in the big town".

The issue of street people could not be dealt with solely by the council and the state. Communities and business had to help.

Mr Van der Velde said the city council had spent R685 300 in the past four years on shelters and care centres for street children.

The challenge was "to give the throwaways of society pride in themselves".

The mayor paid tribute to those who worked hard to solve the problem.

Child help 'can be exploitative'

(298) CT 10/9/93

ADULTS should consider whether the domestic duties they required of their children were not exploitative labour, a University of Cape Town sociologist said Thursday.

Addressing a conference on child abuse here, Dr Henry Chipeya said it was generally accepted that exploitation of children through child labour was limited to factories and streets. In fact, it took place in the home as well.

It was accepted as natural and normal that young boys and girls "helped out" in the home, cleaning, cooking, doing washing and looking after younger children.

These duties might start at the age of seven or eight, and by the teenage years a child could be doing several hours of hard domestic labour each day. This released adults to do other work.

"We should consider whether these domestic duties are not exploitative labour," Dr Chipeya said.

He said child labour was an abominable practice and it had long been recognised that it needed to be eradicated.

● Child abuse: New cases soar — Page 5

Child abuse 'most in Cape'

298
CT 9/9/93

Staff Reporter

THE Western Cape has the highest incidence of reported child abuse in the country, delegates from all over Africa heard yesterday at the opening of the Second African Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.

Opening the conference, at which a comic on prevention of child abuse was also launched, Johannesburg development consultant Ms Leila Patel said Child Protection Unit figures showed there were 15 333 cases countrywide of child abuse reported in 1992.

Of this, 36% were in the Western Cape, but police estimated the figure of incidents of abuse to be 10 times higher than that reported.

"Living with widespread violence has created an ethos of tolerance and legitimised it as a form of behaviour," she said.

About 1,7 million children between the ages of five and 14 suffered from some form of psychological disorder which was caused by poverty, physical or sexual abuse, prolonged separation between parent and child, marital discord, large poor families and unstable family life, Ms Patel said.

"Families are the cornerstone of a child's development and require a range of support services.

"We need to acknowledge the need for family-oriented policies," she said.

Ms Patel said 66% of black children living in urban areas lived below the poverty line, compared to 88% in rural areas.

Causes of family disorganisation were migrant labour, influx control, homeland policies, apartheid legislation, poverty, lack of housing and increasing societal violence.

Ms Helen Starke, National Council for Child and Family Welfare director in Johannesburg, said there was a need for affirmative action in the delivery of primary health care services.

"Not only do we need to see a catching up of spending proportional to the population, but we need to see overspending on those deprived," she said.

Ms Starke said the development of a primary service was an essential concern for South Africa's future.

Programme

She also stressed that services needed to use workers from the community.

She said there was a need for a national programme for the development of family life.

Focus on healthy family life urged

Shelter overcrowded with street children

298 LT 16/9/93

THE Claremont Children's Shelter is overcrowded with 40 street children instead of 16.

And there have been times when up to 61 boys have crowded into the shelter.

These figures were disclosed by Mrs Heather Lewis, unit manager at the shelter, who said the overcrowding was a problem because there was not enough food, blankets, mattresses and clothes to go around.

She said the shelter received a government subsidy for only 16 children but because of the numbers of children coming in resources were strained to the limit. Other items like soap, toilet paper, washing powder and dishwashing liquid were also needed.

The youngest child living at the home is an eight-year old boy.

Of the original group of children who moved in about two years ago, 13 are now attending school and one is learning metal-working.

'Violence harms thousands of youngsters'

Children's plight moves Goldstone

Star 13/9/93

POLITICAL strife, intimidation and incest are problems afflicting minors in South Africa and need urgent attention 298

A United Nations report on the plight of children affected by South Africa's bloody political violence has touched Mr Justice Richard Goldstone.

He announced at the weekend that he would initiate an inquiry into the harm caused to children by violence and intimidation.

In a statement, he said: "Unicef and the National Children's Rights Committee have drawn to the attention of the (Goldstone) Commission the plight of tens of thousands of children in South Africa in consequence of political violence and intimidation."

As the commission's terms of reference entitled it to make recommendations on compensation for victims of violence, a preliminary inquiry would be held, on a date still to be announced, into:

- Cases in which children under the age of 16 have been prejudiced and harmed by political violence and intimidation.
- The whereabouts of such children and their short or long-term needs.
- The nature and cost of programmes and projects designed to meet their needs and sources of funding for these.

The judge said the commission would consider establishing a panel of both South African and foreign specialists to advise it on the recommendations it should make.

He invited organisations, authorities and individuals concerned with the welfare of children to make submissions to the commission.

- The incidence of incest is greater in South Africa than in the United States, delegates heard on Friday at a conference on child abuse and neglect at the University of Cape Town.

Addressing the conference, Professor Dianne Russell of the Institute of Criminology at the university said the "terrible silence" about incest increased the suffering of victims.

As in the case of sexual violence against women, incest had been "privatised and depoliticised", she said.

Child Welfare Society director Alan Jackson told the conference that in October 1992 Neville Snyman (13) was raped and killed in Robertson Prison while awaiting trial.

In June and July of 1992, between 200 and 300 children were jailed in Pollsmoor Prison awaiting trial or placement into children's homes, places of safety and schools of industry, he said.

Children were frequently released from prison onto the streets without any support services to help undo the harm caused by prison, he claimed.

Police tended to arrest children for minor offences such as urinating or drinking in public places, and loitering, and in many cases did not inform families. Jackson said there was no adequate juvenile justice system in South Africa and changes in legislation were needed. — Sapa.

Youths who won't be marginalised

Sowetan 27/9/93

By Joe Mdhlela

HARBOURING DESIRES They deny the are lost and look ahead: 298

AMID THE HOPELESSNESS of their situation, youths refuse to believe they are marginalised. On the contrary they are full of hope, harbouring a desire that they will one day have a decent education and job opportunities that go with it

However, the youth insists that society is lethargic, and to a large extent has contributed to the state of affairs that has led the youth from failing to constructively contribute to the well-being of the country

"We are being ignored by society," says Ncami Ntuli, an Alexandra Township youth activist.

"Guys with matriculation exemption resort to crime Their parents do not have money, so they can't go to university, where the fees can be as high as R8 000."

Young Ntuli's face is expressive. Sometimes anger, then frustration or hope.

"What angers me is that all the money goes to the elite, people who can afford to take their children to school. And we who cannot afford university fees are left to our own devices. What do we do? We often resort to theft, even though we have matric certificates."

But despite the disadvantages, Ntuli has high expectations

"As we go on, I hope life will get better ... we will have jobs, and a good life — and people will stop seeing us as marginalised, the lost generation," he said.

Rather than labelling the youth as being lost or marginalised, society should rather concentrate on the reason for this situation

This is the belief of Tebogo Matlhare, another youth prepared to rebuke anyone describing the youth as "marginalised" or "lost"

What parents overlook is the fact that "it is the socio-economic issues that aggravates the situation".

He says the unsound political environment, which disadvantages blacks, contributes immensely to the cancer eating away at black society.

"We cannot get tertiary education in the township ... we have to travel 10km or more to go to institutions providing that kind of education."

Besides, tertiary education is beyond the means of many parents.

He urges parents to listen and give a sympathetic ear to their children.

"Parents must listen to us. They should stop describing us as marginalised. They often mention this from the comfort of the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park where they discuss our future without our own input," he said.

Matlhare says he does not know what elections will bring about — "stability or war".

"But whatever happens, people must not expect drastic changes overnight."

The message is it's naive to describe them as either lost or marginalised.

If this were true, it would be equally true for all black people and that the youth is simply a reflection of the rot encompassing black society as a whole.

Mr Steve Mokoena of the Joint Enrichment Project says it is misleading to suggest that youth "is irretrievably lost".

"I am optimistic about the youth, but pessimistic about the manner in which society reacts to their plight.

"Leaders throw up their hands in dismay instead of doing something constructive to help," he said.

Ms Sheila Sisulu, director of Joint Enrichment Project, argues that the youth are the future

"If they are truly lost it must be equally true and logical that our future is also lost," she said.

"Often," she says, "it is the black youth, the urban youth and male youth who are supposed to be lost What about others who do not belong in the abovementioned category?" she asks.

Through the National Youth Development Forum, which was launched yesterday at Midrand, she said she was optimistic that the youth would be able to influence the process of reconstruction

"The National Youth Development Forum will seek to implement strategies to ensure that the youth will influence the reconstruction process.



Sheila Sisulu, director of the Joint Enrichment Project.

Shame of toddlers left all day alone

(298) ARG 18/9/93

■ Millions of South African pre-school children are left alone for hours every day because their parents have nowhere and no one to leave them with while they work.

MONICA OOSTERBROEK,

Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Casey was just two years old. She sat in her playpen, locked up in a flat, from morning till night waiting for her mother to come home from work — and this went on for a month.

Her mother, Sandra, 20, is a single parent and works as a cashier at a supermarket in Hillbrow.

She could not afford to send her child to a creche and had no money to pay a child-minder as she barely survived on her salary.

Sandra left her family and friends in East London and came to Johannesburg to find work at the beginning of the year — so she had no one to help her out with Casey.

Casey was just one of millions of toddlers in this country left to fend for herself. Until her mother found an illegal creche being run in the opposite building

Casey is now left with 20 other toddlers and one minder — but it costs only R30 a month and Sandra hopes it is safe.

Willie Botha, head of the Child Protection Unit in Johannesburg said the police were inundated with calls every week about children locked alone in flats for hours while their mothers went to work.

Neighbours get suspicious when they see toddlers looking out through the window day after day. Police usually find these babies hungry, with bad nappy rash, and lying in a sodden cot. They say mothers put toddlers in a playpen with a few bottles of milk and easy-to-eat food.

"If we had to respond to every unsupervised child report, we would have not time to concentrate on criminal acts like assault, rape and gross abuse," Botha said.

But in certain severe instances, where the child is badly neglected and his life is in danger, police do take action by removing the child.

Botha said that most of the youngsters reported missing to the SAP were cases where they were left alone at home while their parents went to work.

Shawn and Shane Arends, reported missing this week, were actually dumped at Park Station last Friday and told to wait until their parents returned.

Police found the children on Sunday morning — starving and riddled with fleas and lice. In this case, the children were taken into a children's home in Boksburg.

Thelma Mathee, from the National Council of Child and Family Welfare, said parents might be poor but there were alternatives to leaving the child alone.

Her organisations encouraged communities to rally together and form communal centres for children. Even in squatter camps, children could be placed in one shack or lean-to under the care of one, unemployed adult who could look after them.

The supervising adult was encouraged to attend Educare courses to learn ways to stimulate and teach children some pre-school skills

Child Welfare's Educare manager, Ros Austin, said her organisation ran several registered creches for children of working mothers in poor areas. But, there was a limit to the number of children the creches could accept and the need far outstripped resources.

In many slum areas, especially the over-crowded flatlands of Hillbrow and Berea, creches were run illegally where mothers paid a small sum to leave their children with a woman.

The South African Association of Early Childhood Educare (SAAECE) were presently launching a drive to promote employer awareness towards child-care facilities for employees.

Feeling of lowliness exposed by black children

(298)
ARG 18/9/93

TRISH BEAVER
Weekend Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — Chester Road Nursery School was the first nursery school to go multiracial in 1987 here. Today, it is a leader in multicultural education.

But despite its headstart, the nursery school has discovered that black children still suffer from a "victim" mentality.

The opportunity for equal education has not eradicated the feeling in black children of being less worthy than their classmates.

Bardine Saber, a school coordinator, says they started a melting-pot of cultures hoping the children would benefit from the input of different cultures.

School principal Celia Coburn is researching the special needs of black children integrated into western schools.

A problem she has singled out is their lack of self-esteem.

Ms Coburn says: "Many of the black children have a domestic worker as a parent who gets money from employers to send the child to school

"Although the child is given equal opportunities, he goes home to a backroom and does not have the same lifestyle as a white child.

"It is not unusual for him to feel inferior to children who have television, cars and big houses. We have to make an effort to get that child to feel as special

"Then there are black children from extremely wealthy homes, who do not know how to speak a black language. They feel different from other black children

"The answer is to get children to learn about each other's culture. In a way we have to break down barriers of language, culture and class."

This is what the children at Chester Road are trying to do.

Their shrieks of joy seem a long way away from the violence in the townships, but many of these children are part of this dark aspect.

Ms Saber says the school buys books and puzzles that depict a multiracial society — books showing black and white children playing together, black families and white families. She believes this is an important step towards making the children feel equal.

Ms Coburn has started a self-esteem enrichment programme and plans to incorporate it into the Chester Road school. Already she is dealing with clients who have been referred by psychologists.

She says: "The principle behind the programme is to make the child aware of their individuality. They must realise that being different does not mean being inferior."

City's loitering by-law to stay

Municipal Reporter

A BY-LAW against loitering in the streets will remain on the council's books for the moment, despite yesterday's concerted effort to have it removed for the sake of streetchildren.

Mr Chris Joubert of Sea Point tried to retain the loitering by-law only for those over 16 years old, but he withdrew his amendment after he was told it was not practical.

(298) CT 29/9/93

Street children to get new home

298
ARG 30/10/93

LIBBY PEACOCK
Weekend Argus Reporter

THERE are an estimated 18 million street children in the world and in South Africa probably far more than 12 000, but in Cape Town the Homestead project for strollers — initiated in 1982 — has become a model to other organisations.

Addressing a rather unusual annual meeting — attended not only by committee members, childcare workers and other interested parties, but also by a band of small, lively boys — chairman of the National Association of Childcare Workers Ashley Theron said the Homestead had "shown the way".

■ The Homestead project for street children in Cape Town has become a model for other similar organisations — and a new night shelter, the biggest yet in the city, should open next April.

He said: "South Africa is facing the dilemma of having First and Third World communities. Often First World standards are enforced in Third World situations.

"It is important that we should develop African models. The Homestead is an African model, which has proven to be effective and affordable."

The project was providing an essential service, he said, adding that it was important that one not only worked for the children, but with them.

A conference on street children to be held in Pretoria next week would hopefully be a starting point in developing a co-ordinated strategy on strollers in the country, Mr Theron said.

■ The Homestead's motto is "to help street children reconstruct their shattered lives" and the flagship of the organisation is the intake shelter in New Church Street, where there is always a meal and a bed for a hungry child in need of care.

Patrick's House, the "second-stage centre" in the city centre, was established in 1986.

Another initiative for strollers, Yizani, has grown from a small project run in St George's Cathedral hall to a daily programme attended by a growing number of street children.

Yet another step forward is about to be taken with the building of the Bridge night shelter under the freeway near the Good Hope Centre

Homestead director Annette Cockburn told Weekend Argus the Bridge was a new concept and would be able to accommodate 55 children. This would make it the biggest shelter in the city.

"It is a real community effort. The City Council gave the land, the British Council donated the roof and the UCT Graduate School of Business undertook a major fundraising drive. A lot of big companies are also contributing."

Mrs Cockburn said: "For some kids even the Homestead is too structured. At the Bridge they will come in at six in the evening for food, showers and beds, and in the mornings, porridge.

"At least they will get warmth, protection and food. Many of them don't want to be in an institution."

The shelter should be finished by April, but at this stage there is no money to equip or staff it.

NEWS FEATURE Illiterate children turned into literate pupils ready to join open schools

Street kids find hope and a home

Sowetan 25/11/93

■ UNIQUE SCHOOL A remedy for traumatised pupils who have had defective early education: (298)

By Joe Mdhlela

STREET children and pupils who have had defective early education have found a home — and hope — at Dunctonwood Bridging and Remedial School

It is also a school with a difference, employing full-time social workers to deal with traumatised children, giving them counselling so that they can cope with their problems

Another social worker working on a freelance basis deals with children who have lost their parents or close relatives through violence.

One feature that makes the school unique, is that it turns around illiterate children into literate pupils ready to join open schools.

School principal Mrs Barbara Hollman says their pupils are street children who have been abandoned by their parents.

"The school annually sponsors five street kids who would otherwise not have had an opportunity to get any form of education," says Hollman.

The school also deals with children who come from backgrounds that lack defined structures

"We have to begin to do things in a structured way, introducing children into problem and conflict resolution programmes

"Often it takes as long as four months to orientate street kids into their new environment

"Thank God, we have dedicated teachers, highly motivated to work with these children."

Some of the skills they impart to children include teaching them the ethics of negotiation and dialogue.

"We say to them that dialogue, and not conflict, is a better way of resolving differences. We also discourage them from resorting to fighting in order to settle disputes.

"That is the spirit we cultivate all the time at Dunctonwood," she says

What is remarkable about this institution is that it is not a school in the strict sense of the word: it is more of a centre preparing educationally disadvantaged pupils for the open school environment

Extreme tests

Without a facility of this kind, argues Hollman, it would be difficult for many children from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter open schools which requires of them to pass entrance tests.

"In many instances, children from such backgrounds fail to pass these tests If anything, failure to pass the tests is not a reflection on the children, but on the apartheid system which has formed the bedrock for the inferior education."

Hollman argues that invariably because of the quality of the education they receive, black children are denied an opportunity to attend better schools on the basis of failing these tests.

"I would certainly advocate the multiplication of feeder schools like ours to ensure that as many children as possible are helped to improve their education."

Hollman believes that a child's unhappy life, coupled with their own experiences, often have a bearing on the way they cope with their situation.

To be able to help a child cope and gain confidence in his or her learning environment, pupils are grouped not according to their classes, but their ages.

Through tests, children's weaknesses are identified. Once this has been achieved, teachers work on programmes aimed at rehabilitating the shortcomings in the child's make-up.

"On average it takes a year to elevate a child to the educational level consistent with their ages," Hollman said.

Head of the remedial school Mirna Lawrence says remedial problems, if not arrested at an early stage, can cause children to grow up as criminals or introverts, lacking in confidence and self-esteem.

Often, she says, it is not because of language problems that children do not cope She argues that pupils with remedial disorders often experience problems with sequencing, even in their own language

Close the gaps

"It is not the question of whether a child cannot understand English. The problem is to try to close the gaps which were created when the child was an infant. This principle is true of all people, irrespective of their language," says Lawrence.

She says it is possible to bring, for example, a child of 12 who is completely illiterate to a standard five level within two or three years. However, that can only come about when a child gets individual attention, on a one-to-one basis with their teachers.

The school, which is situated at Troyeville in Johannesburg, has an intake of 180 pupils with 12 highly qualified teachers. Augmenting the teaching staff are two social workers — one employed on a parttime basis and the other on a permanent basis.

"We are appealing to organisations in interested education to come to our aid"

The only problem the school faces is that it has a limited space which does not allow pupils to have a playing room.

"We are hoping that we can get bigger premises that will allow us to have an intake of at least 300 pupils. That will also allow children to have play grounds and a swimming pool," says Hollman.

Presently pupils take turns to go to neighbouring schools for their recreation.

The school, which charges R350 a month for ten months for bridging classes, and R400 a month for remedial classes, requires sponsorship.

Having been in existence since 1990, it manages to attract the best teachers. But it is its concern to reduce the fees that motivates it to want to get a sponsorship.

"A sponsorship will enable us to reduce the fee by half. In so doing we think this can only benefit the parents who will pay reduced fees. We are appealing to organisations interested in education to come to our aid." For further details contact Hollman at (011) 614-0684.

Street children: Call for action

(298) CT 10/11/93

PRETORIA. — A national standing committee should be established immediately to address the problem of South Africa's street children, a Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) report has recommended

The report was released here yesterday at a working conference presented by the Department of National Health and Population Development and the HSRC

The report recommended that the National Plan for Family Life, which was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly during the International Year of the Family, be implemented by January

The researchers found that a lack of coordination resulted in fragmentation and overlapping of services to the children

The children should be acknowledged as a group particularly vulnerable to Aids, the report said A concerted national effort should be undertaken to provide them with the necessary education and other means of Aids prevention.

The report warned that the problem of street children was expected to increase as the extent of urbanisation, unemployment, housing shortages, family disintegration and violence expanded.

Deputy Minister for Welfare Mr Glen Carelse said the state, welfare and other organisations, parents and the community had a joint responsibility to address the problem — Sapa

Studies of street people and children

298

Municipal Reporter ARGUS 1/12/93

At the request of the city council, adult street people and children are to be the subject of academic studies.

The universities of Cape Town and the Western Cape are to do the studies, said vagrancy committee chairman John Sonnenberg. The studies would cost ratepayers nothing.

The studies were aimed at rehabilitating people to society.

The Western Cape Regional Services Council and the city council will together pay R350 000 towards night shelters this year.

R100 000 provided to help uplift basic life skills of street children

(298)

ARG 15/12/93

SHARKEY ISAACS
Staff Reporter

THE Cape Provincial Administration has allocated R100 000 for holiday training projects for street children.

MEC for welfare promotion Themba Nyati said the projects were aimed at teaching the children basic life skills, developing their self-esteem and helping them develop a new perception of life.

Provision also will be made for the children's basic needs such as food, clothing, hygiene and shelter during courses.

The money from the Community Services Branch of the CPA was divided among seven shelters for homeless children, according to the number for which they catered.

Funds were allocated as follows — R18 000 Beth Uriel Project, Salt River (36 children), R17 000 — Streets Project, Khayelitsha (34 children), R15 000 — St Christopher Shelter, Port Elizabeth (30 children), R15 000 Mahanyele Shelter, Kimberley (30 children), R10 000 — Lukhanyiso Shelter, Uitenhage (20 children), R10 000 — St John's Shelter, East London (20 children), R15 000 — Indwe Project, Aliwal North (30 children).

There was a need for special programmes for homeless children to alleviate immediate needs in the short-term, especially during the holiday season, he said.

New chief for Parks Board

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

Minister Wynand Breytenbach said the appointment would be

Umzamo project aimed at ending hostels and raising social standards

ARG 15/12/93

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

UMZAMO Development Project, aimed at converting township hostels into family homes. has a good relationship with the SA National Civic Organisation, but is not controlled by it.

Umzamo public relations officer Welcome Zenzile said this in response to a report based on an Institute of Race Relations study on civil organisations involved in housing issues.

The project was a housing and social development organisation initiated by hostel dwellers. Other goals included skills development and job creation.

Sanco was a non-partisan watchdog for the community on all issues affecting their lives, Mr Zenzile said.

Umzamo was a development agency and was not affiliated to Sanco.

He confirmed there had been tension because some township dwellers thought the agency was Sanco-controlled.

But since meetings had been held to clarify the issue, this tension had eased.

On the relationship between Sanco and political movements, Mr Zenzile said Sanco had agreed to campaign under the banner of the African National Congress in next year's election but this did not signal abandonment of its non-aligned status.

After the election, the relationship would be reassessed and would change, he said.

● While the study referred to the Khayelitsha Civic Association, the organisation was in fact the Khayelitsha branch of Sanco and not a civic association in its own right.

Call for an ombudsman for children

ARG 22/12/93 (298)

Staff Reporter

SOUTH Africa should have an ombudsman to be "the eyes and ears" of children, according to National Children's Rights Committee director Shirley Mabusela.

Ms Mabusela said this before the launch of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) report *The State of the World's Children 1994* in Cape Town last night.

The Unicef report was launched worldwide yesterday but it was the first time the event had been marked in South Africa.

Ms Mabusela said it had been a blow to children's rights here that constitutional democracy negotiators had not agreed that pre-primary schooling be compulsory.

Unicef East and Southern Africa director Cole Dodge said this country had the ability to implement a national programme of action for children because of its economy and infrastructure.

Immunisation would be one of the major goals of such a programme, he said.

South Africa's immunisation effort covered about half the population. He believed this could be increased to about 90 percent within three months of an interim government being established.

Cape Town Archbishop Desmond Tutu said South Africans would ignore the Unicef report at their peril.

"Our newly elected leaders after April 27 must act urgently to end the scandal of malnutrition which has made us accept pictures of pot-bellied children as normal in a land that is a net exporter of food."

The new South Africa was doomed if it allowed its children to be the victims of abuse, poverty, hunger, ignorance and disease.

● See page 19

Child abuse on the increase

Staff Reporter

REPORTED incidents of child abuse nearly doubled between 1988 and last year, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee has disclosed.

Speaking at a function to mark today's launch of the far-reaching Prevention of Family Violence Act, Mr Coetsee said 4 149 cases of child abuse were reported in 1988, and this number had increased to 7 370 last year.

The new act specifically targets perpetrators of marital rape and child abuse.

A husband can now be charged with raping his wife and a person who suspects a child is being abused is compelled to report the matter to police or social workers.

The act also provides for magistrates to grant interdicts to prevent family violence. The procedure will be cheap and straightforward and can be done after hours.

Victims of family violence can report their plight to police stations, the Family Advocate's offices and magistrates' courts.

Mr Coetsee said the main advantage of the act was to enable victims of family violence to deal with the problem outside courts and to avoid the trauma of court procedures.

Boys' home breaks ground

Khayemnandi Home for Boys experimental approach to street children rehabilitation is starting to pay dividends

ARG 28/8/93 (298)

IRVING STEYN

WHEN Khayemnandi Home For Boys was started in 1986 it was the first of its kind and something of an experiment.

Seven years later, the experiment is far advanced and breaking ground that may lead to a whole new approach to the rehabilitation of street children.

The Khayemnandi Baptist Home for Boys in Langa is housed in the rebuilt single-quarters hostel which was used by migrant labour and was a derelict shell before being taken over.

Since then it has become an attractively secure haven for boys abandoned to the street and in many cases substance addicted, making their rehabilitation all that more difficult — which is why an experimental programme, often inspired, is seeing more and more of them returned to their families and society.

The home is at its capacity of 100 boys — the problem of street children is ever expanding — and while money is a problem, they are given every opportunity to become meaningful members of the community or be reabsorbed into their families.

Khayemnandi has a principal at its head, a social worker, 10 childcare workers, a large kitchen and maintenance staff and two cooks — altogether 18 staff, all living on the premises. The home is administered by a board of trustees who work in conjunction with the Western Province Baptist Association.

The home's function is to meet the primary needs of the boys, all of whom go to school.

Each boy is individually assessed with certain goals set for each. The ultimate success is for every boy to be returned to his family or at least placed in the care of foster parents.

Sometimes, heartbreakingly, nothing seems to work and boys leave by their own choice to return to the life they knew on the streets

Most react positively to the security and discipline offered by Khayemnandi to the extent that substance dependency disappears and their outlook becomes fixed on a future that has hope.

The home has now opened a satellite on the premises called Metterdaad House where some of the older boys are housed. The aim of this experiment is to make them more self sufficient and teach them life skills.

They make use of facilities in the community for activities like body building and athletics. Right now they are under the tutelage of gardening experts Stodels who are supplying gardening implements and seed to start their own vegetable garden. At the end of it they will be presented with diplomas certifying them as gardeners.

Three of the boys have been sent to the Oude Molen Technical High School in Pinelands to learn other skills.

Another ground-breaking experiment in progress is a programme to assess the boys educationally by looking at the potential of each. It is regarded as of such importance that it could be used as a pilot model for the rest of the country.

The concept behind the programme is to steer the boys into the appropriate type of education — formal or trade.

Khayemnandi is looking at an accelerated education programme. The boys are from two to six years behind the ideal and the aim of the programme is to bring them back on par with their peers, to catch up on the years of schooling they lost while on the streets.

The home is also undertaking a language enhancement programme because it is felt the boys would stand a better chance in life if they had the command of another language.

An education committee is being put in place to advise the board on future assessment and educational systems.

The home is about to appoint a field social worker to work more closely with the families of the boys and plans are afoot to establish satellite homes in the community. They will be small units with a well-trained community worker placed right in the townships.

Weekend Argus, August 28/29 1993

FW 'ignored child labour'

THE Labour Party yesterday criticised President F W de Klerk for ignoring the child labour on farms he visited during his Overberg "roadshow" and for visiting a town from which 'coloured' people had been forcibly evicted. ET 30/12/93

The LP adopted a resolution at its annual conference in Kuils River yesterday regretting and rejecting the "continued misuse of children as farm workers" as shown on television during Mr De Klerk's visit to Genadendal and the Overberg region.

"We take note that in its over-greedy attempt to recruit brown voters, neither Mr De Klerk nor any of his party noticed or felt unhappy about this exploitation," the resolution said.

It was passed after Mr G C Oosthuizen, MP for Swartland, strongly criticised the government for continuing to tolerate child labour on the farms.

The LP leader, Mr Allan Hendrickse, said Mr De Klerk had visited Greyton, which was originally a "coloured" town under the control of so-called coloured people. (298)

Kids evicted from bridge

298 4/29/93

Staff Reporter

STREET children living under a Rondebosch railway bridge were evicted yesterday by Metro staff after allegations by rail commuters that they had thrown stones at passing trains on Tuesday.

Ms Helen Badenhorst, who works for the Molo Songololo education trust, said the 18 children could not have been involved in the alleged stoning as she had held a workshop with them on Tuesday.

A Metro spokeswoman said Metro had received complaints from commuters and Rondebosch residents that the children were "noisy and should be removed".

Police 'ignored attack' by strollers on street child

298

HENRIËTTE GELDENHUYS
Staff Reporter

POLICE ignored a complaint at The Homestead in New Church Street that a 17-year-old street child had been attacked there with a panga and beaten up by three strollers, a child and youth care practitioner has told the Cape Town Magistrate's Court.

Mr Mogamat Bullock was testifying in the trial of Ralph Morgan, 20, who has pleaded not guilty to assaulting the street child by beating him in the face with his fists on August 17

Mr Morgan appeared with Ms Claudene Williams, 22, on a second count of assaulting another boy who lives in The Homestead and stealing R20 cash from him in Buitengracht Street.

Mr Bullock said he stopped a police van outside The Homestead immediately after the attack on the 17-year-old.

"I told them what happened and that one guy had a panga and a girl had a panga strapped to her side, but they just said 'How can the girl have a panga?' and drove off.

ARG 10/11/93

"They refused to do anything about it.

"But Security-Med officers arrived and started chasing the strollers," said Mr Bullock.

He said he saw Mr Morgan beat the 17-year-old in the face with his fists. At the same time, Mr Morgan's friend "Jackson" was hacking the children's playing board with a panga.

Mr Morgan also hurled a mug at Mr Bullock's colleague, who was phoning the police.

"At that moment, Jackson charged him (the 17-year-old) with the panga and beat him across his face," said Mr Bullock.

Ms Williams was remanded and Mr Morgan remained in custody. They have pleaded not guilty.

Magistrate W J Faught postponed the case to today. Leon Ackermann prosecuted The accused represented themselves

Streetkids lose 'home'

By Lovejoy Kweza and Joslyn Titus

THE last few days have been a living nightmare for a group of Cape Town streetkids. Last Tuesday the fourteen homeless children were "evicted" from their home under a bridge in Rondebosch by Metro police because they were "scaring white students".

Mr Eddie Petersen of the Cape Town City Council managed to secure weekend accommodation for the children in the change rooms of the Hartleyvale Soccer Stadium. On Monday morning they were back on the streets.

The children's plight was brought to the attention of Molo Songololo, a street children's project at Community House in Salt River. Molo provided food and after negotiating with the city council managed to secure another night at the stadium.

A council spokesperson at the Civic Amenities Department said efforts were being made to find accommodation for the children and that the matter would eventually land up in the mayor's office.

"We will try do whatever we can because we can't simply chuck the kids into the streets," he said. He asked not to be named "otherwise I'll get fired."

A spokesperson for Metro, Ms Cemelia Bam, said: "We've had a lot of problems since February. The children used the waiting rooms at Rondebosch station as toilets and the commuters complained."

One of the children, Jackson "Doc" Mnxuma, said the railway police accused them of drinking.

"We were arrested last Tuesday for trespassing and sleeping under the bridge. Only five of us appeared in the Wynberg magistrate's court on the same day but were later released."

On Friday the police asked them to leave "because we were scaring the white students".

Sixteen-year-old Patricia Zizi from Khayelitsha says she has stayed in Rondebosch for four years.

"I ran away from home because my mother's boyfriend used to come home, get drunk and beat me".

Michael Ncapai, 16, from New Crossroads has been on the streets for one year. "In 1990 I was arrested for breaking into a house in Claremont and sent to a reform school in Cape Town for two years.

"I ran away this year because they would not allow me to visit my parents."

"All we need is for someone to help us to find a decent home and a normal life where we can go back to school again," Jackson Mnxuma said. "Right now, this is no way for anyone to be living."

Loving 'parent' to 37 children in need of care

(298) AKG 24/12/93 (298)

☐ Paarl man shows true spirit of giving

AKG 24/12/93

LIBBY PEACOCK
Staff Reporter

CECIL John Mtyando grew up fending for himself on the streets of Queenstown in the Eastern Cape.

Now nearly 40, he is "father" and "mother" to 37 homeless, abandoned and orphaned children at Mbekweni Children's Shelter at Paarl

The living room looks like any other, with a lounge suite, a small television set, a hi-fi, some ornaments on a table and religious pictures on the wall.

The kitchen is small, the stove has only two working plates and there aren't enough big pots.

Five women volunteers help with washing, cooking and ironing.

Most of the boys live in rooms built in the backyard from corrugated iron and cardboard.

The living quarters are cramped and inadequate and there are no proper mattresses, but it's better than the streets ... and it's home.

Said 12-year-old Jeff Jack, who has lived there since 1986: "My mother had no job, my father was dead. My mother (Mr Mtyando) took me to live with him. I'm happy here."

On a bed are an Elton John tape, a radio and a physical science textbook. In another room a poster of Oliver Tambo decorates the wall.

Mr Mtyando said: "As a young boy I had it very difficult. I grew up without a father or a mother. I don't know who brought me up.

"In 1971 I came here from Queenstown. I stayed in a hostel and saw there were a lot of children without care. I started taking some in.

"In 1972 I had 12 children. Now there are 37.

"I need food and money, so that the children can go forward. There are boys who need to go to college. It is important that they study, so that they can look after themselves."

After years of battling to supply the growing number of children with food and clothing, living first in a hostel, then in a backyard shack, a friend gave Mr Mtyando the house that is now the children's home.

For many years the shelter survived on donations, but since last year the National Nutrition and Social Development programme of the Department of National Health and Population Development, which funds various welfare and non-government organisations, has been providing money for food.

The umbrella organisation through which the money is channelled to the shelter is the community-based Ikamva Labantu, which "discovered" Mr Mtyando and his work.

"I was struggling to pay school fees, clothes and food. Last year in October Mama Benge (Ikamva Labantu executive member Sophia Benge) came here and asked me who was helping me I said nobody.

"Things are a bit better, but I still need a lot of things A lot of children are sleeping on the ground in the *hokkies* at the back, or on the floor in the house," Mr Mtyando said

"I have to look after the children, otherwise they would steal or rob people to survive

"I am their father and mother."

Mrs Benge said: "It is the first time I see a young guy like this caring about children.

"He cried when he received the first food last year"

Mlungisi Fihlani, now 26, has lived with Mr Mtyando since he was in Standard 6.

This year he completed the final year of his teaching diploma at the Good Hope College.

"Some of us have parents, but they can't help us. I came to live with him. He loves us and treats us all as his own children," said Mr Fihlani.



HOME SWEET HOME: Cecil John Mtyando, middle front, with some of the children he cares for at the Mbekeweni Children's Shelter in Paarl.



VOLUNTEERS: Juliet Ndzombane and Sanna Nyangiwe (wearing the jersey) help with washing, cooking and ironing for the children. Pictures BRENTON GEACH, The Argus

How a 'piney' of thinners can wreak havoc for kids

298

ARG 12/7/93

☐ Church worker highlights pathetic plight of the street children

CLIVE SAWYER
Municipal Reporter

THEY call it a piney.

A piney can take away the fear and the pain for hours at a time, if you know how.

Street children club together to raise the money, between R4 and R5, to buy a litre of thinners from a cafe or a hardware store

Each with a piney — a plastic juice bottle filled about 1cm deep with thinners — they are ready to escape the harsh world.

The fumes are inhaled by mouth or by dropping a *lappie* (cloth) into the piney and sniffing it regularly

Patrick's House street worker Jules Levin was well acquainted with the effects the scourge of thinners had on street children

He had dressed stab wounds hardly noticed by street children sucking at a piney

"The absence of fear allows bravado to flourish, they will cross the road without looking and be run over Hallucinations can happen

"Violence escalates when thinners is around.

"It is extremely difficult to work with children high on thinners or glue

"Sometimes they will swear they've given up, but hunger, fear or pain can drive them back," he said

Businesses were making tidy profits from strollers.

A bottle costing R5 could last a day for 10 street children.

Most started using thinners from about 12, although much younger children were known to use it



Picture ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus

FLASHBACK: Youth programme worker Mr Jules Levin saying goodbye to some of the street children with whom he worked. He leaves soon for Israel.

Thinners abuse usually stopped at about age 18, by which time children were using dagga, cheap liquor and — when they could afford it — mandrax.

Those usually worst enslaved to thinners were children who were not sleeping in shelters or involved in a rehabilitation programme.

Mr Levin said: "It is all they have to get them through the night, even though many know it is bad for their health and leads to all kinds of trouble, including conflict with the police

"It is a group experience, a bunch of adolescents whooping it up in the only way they know For a homeless child, it is a means of group acceptance."

Jantjie, a street child, said he had given up, but knew where the other children bought solvents

Among those familiar with the problem, names of shops in the central city were mentioned

There were also places in Mitchell's Plain, Valhalla Park and Wynberg, said Jantjie.

Mr Levin said that, as a street worker, he found it inappropriate always to fight solvent abuse "in a warrior way"

Street children would scatter quickly when an adult who would confiscate precious supplies came along

"The rules are that they can't bring it into the Yizani training centre, where we do artwork, music, and legal and Aids education.

"If they want to come in, or come on an excursion to the beach, the deal is they must allow us to burn out the stuff or return it at the end of the day," said Mr Levin

Police response tended to confiscating solvents and burning them, and sometimes picking up the children for a few hours

Mr Levin warned there were high costs to society of the criminalisation of children.

The solution lay not merely in cutting off supplies at point of sale, he said.

"We need to reach out to children, to listen to their needs and generate resources to cater for those needs

"If they are hungry, they must get food, and if they are insecure they must get shelter and people who can genuinely love and care for them. They need a milieu where they can heal and be nurtured."

Chance for jobless youngsters

National youth service on cards

Star 20/10/93

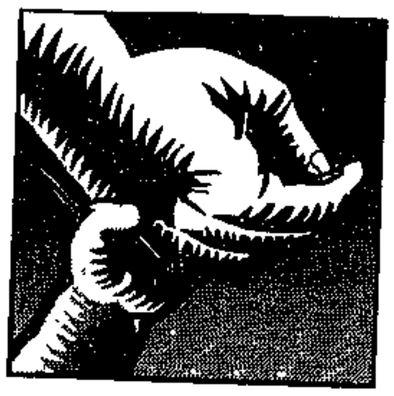
298

■ BY HELEN GRANGE

A national youth service — aimed at drawing marginalised youth into a range of community service projects — could be implemented by February.

The concept, based on the American "Peace Corps" initiative, has been adopted by the newly formed National Youth Development Forum (NYDF), a body representing young people across the socio-political spectrum.

Former Perm director Bob Tucker, who headed the NYDF's technical team looking into ways to address the issue of young people who fail to integrate into society, said the idea was to co-ordinate young people into a range of service projects in different sectors of the economy on a needs-driven basis.



The Star
CHILD CARE CAMPAIGN

"A development programme, including general education and vocational training, will be provided while they are in service. And instead of creating a new bureaucracy to manage the programme, existing institutions and religious organisations will act as the co-ordinators," Tucker said.

He hoped the project would bridge the gulf between formal employers and young people who have never been employed

Youths could participate in housing projects, the rehabilitation of urban infrastructure and environment preservation.

The NYDF technical team has recommended that:

- The service be voluntary and totally civilian.
- A daily allowance of R7,50 be paid, in addition to one free meal and a transport allowance, to be paid by the private sector.
- A gender balance and a balance between urban and rural programmes should be maintained.

'Child abuse' shock report

(298)

CT 30/10/93

HoR tells of sex in two homes

Staff Reporter

A SHOCKING report into two city children's homes detailing allegations of sexual abuse and mismanagement of funds has been compiled by a House of Representatives Department of Welfare investigation.

The investigation follows allegations of sexual abuse in two Cape Town City Mission Homes and the subsequent court appearance of two childcare workers who were found guilty on four counts of committing indecent assaults on young boys.

The report investigated allegations relating to childcare at the Bruce Duncan Home and the G C Williams Home and found that they had "perpetuate(d) the abuse cycle".

Referring to the Bruce Duncan Home, the report says: "..it appears now to be the 'custom' to initiate new admissions in this manner, thus introducing them to the continuation of sodomy within the home."

When social and childcare workers raised concern over abuse at the Bruce Duncan Home, the home committee "victimised, intimidated and instituted disciplinary hearings" against them.

Some of the allegations made by the investigation were:

- **Incidents of sexual abuse since 1989 appeared to have been "condoned" by the management, as no corrective actions were taken.**
- **Two staff members at one home claimed a child tried to indulge in sexual activities with them, "allegedly based on experiences he had shared" with another staff member.**
- **A child claimed he had watched "gay and blue movies" with a staff member.**
- **Two staff members at one of the homes claimed that they were told to keep their reports to management of child abuse confidential as "sponsorship could be jeopardised".**
- **Social workers also claimed to the commission there was a mismanagement of funds, with boys in an unkempt state who complained of inadequate nourishment.**
- **The board of trustees under which both homes are administrated in a statement to the Cape Times said yesterday: "The report correctly notes that allegations of sexual abuse have been made against a total of five persons who at some time or other during the last five years were engaged, either as employees or as volunteer workers, at the Mission's institutions."**

Allegations against Rev Duncan had been investigated and the attorney-general's office was "satisfied that there is nothing serious against him", the statement said.

If all remaining prosecutions were succesful, it would indicate a "wrong doing" by four staff members in five years, during which 50 staff members have been engaged.

The "exhaustive" department investigation did not uncover a "culture of abuse" which was suggested in some press reports

Children's situation 'disturbing'

CT 5/11/93 (298)

Staff Reporter

A CHILD welfare organisation yesterday hit out against child detentions, the threat of Aids and the increasing violence affecting the lives of the youth in South Africa.

In a drive to focus on Children's Day tomorrow, the SA National Council for Child and Family Welfare (Sanccfu) national director Ms Helen Starke said the organisation was deeply disturbed there were still so many children in prison and police cells.

The national council had called a meeting last year with authorities to discuss alternative accommodation with the police and prison authorities. Certain changes had been made, but it was "a lengthy procedure".

Sanccfu estimates there will be more than 500 000 children orphaned as a result of Aids within six years, although they will not necessarily be infected with the HIV virus.

Foster and adoptive parents and day care centres will be the only viable solution — which is costly, a spokesman for the Child Welfare Society of Cape Town said.

Professor Daan Eloff, chairman of Sanccfu, said increasing violence in communities was of grave concern and a solution needed to be found urgently because of the devastating impact on the youth.

More sexual abuse of kids in Peninsula

298 CT 8/11/93

Staff Reporter

THERE has been an alarming increase in sexual abuse against young children with 100 more cases reported in the last three months compared with the same period last year.

Peninsula child protection unit chief Major Johan Meyer said yesterday that most of the incidents were reported in the Cape Flats

He said cases of rape and sodomy had trebled and the number of indecent assauts had doubled. Incest was also on the increase.

"In the last three months we have had 100 more cases of sexual abuse against children aged 12 years and younger being reported than during the same period last year."

Major Meyer said it was difficult to pinpoint what caused the alarming increase but suspected that pornography and alcohol abuse contributed significantly to the problem.

He said that although cases of sexual abuse were difficult to combat, police had a success rate of 70% of all cases going to court. The two children's courts in Cape Town and Wynberg had vastly improved the prosecution of child abuse offenders.

Peep into world of glue-sniffing

(298) CT 10/11/93

PRETORIA. — A new report sheds light on the twilight world of street children, with their culture of begging, glue-sniffing, arcade game-playing and sleeping in doorways.

The Human Sciences Research Council report, released yesterday, said money, especially easy money, was the most important aspect of survival for South Africa's estimated 8 000 street children

They generally made between R5 and R30 a day but with prostitution their earnings could increase to R100 a day

The children saw the public as either hostile or friendly and had to be able to distinguish between a hostile person and a potential client, the report said

White English-speaking people were regarded as the best potential clients and the worst were blacks because they tended to blame and scold the children for being on the street The report said street children came from deprived, violent, disorganised backgrounds and broken families with step-parents

They preferred the adventure and freedom of street life to their intolerable situation at home. They tended to drift into crime and into more serious crime once they had come into contact with the juvenile justice system Street children had developed their own language, referring to glue as "good custard" which made them see "ghosts". — Sapa

NEWS FEATURE *Youths believe they can make life meaningful through community work*

Cleaning up Katlehong's streets

Sowetan 24/11/93

■ GOOD LIFE *To live in peace and harmony you need a clean heart:*



A group of students, AmaGents, responsible for cleaning up Katlehong.

By Joe Mdhlela

THE youth in Katlehong have got tired of the conflict. Through their engagement in community projects they believe life could be made more meaningful

Just as they have been in the forefront of the liberation struggle, the youth are taking a lead in trying to reduce tensions in the township.

With Katlehong having become a microcosm of the degradation of life in the black townships, youths in the area believe it is they who have the capacity and the will to turn things around for the better.

The cleaning campaigns initiated by the youths attest to the burning desire to get Katlehong back on the recovery path,"so that we get to the point of respecting human life"

Youth leader Thulani Mazibuko says the town councils, without exception, have failed to improve the lives of ordinary people in the black townships.

"That explains why the youths are now taking it upon themselves to do something for the community.

"We do not think criticising the system, without ourselves doing something to improve it , is good enough.

"By actively getting involved in the reconstruction programmes, we are sending a message to our people that everyone has a role to play in the process."

Mazibuko argues that the collapse of services in Katlehong, the escalating violence and the general breakdown of law and order, are the result of neglect by the Government and its surrogates, the "bantu councils."

The cleaning campaign, he says, is illustrative of the attitude that should prevail in the townships, "had things been normal". (298)

"In order to live in peace and harmony you need a clean heart. We engage in this process of making Katlehong beautiful because we think it is only the clean hearts and minds that can bring about a good life and understanding in our society."

How do they get funds to go about their business of enhancing the township of Katlehong?

The hat goes around for donations from motorists and other members of the community.

"Perhaps it is significant that part of the donations come from motorists. A lot of cleaning and decoration happen along the roadways. We normally ask motorists to become part of the cleaning exercise by asking them to contribute.

"Even the community contributes generously to the project. We are grateful to our community for helping us achieve our aims."

The youth are also showing entrepreneurial acumen. The streets, especially the main roads, are lined with a good number of shops selling a variety of merchandise to motorists and residents.

"We also need to be self-sufficient and generate funds for our projects and for our own self-esteem "

Some of the products they keep in stock include motor oil, vegetables and fruits, dairy products, mealie meal, sweets, meat and soft drinks.

As far as politics go, Mazibuko is emphatic the youth support the African National Congress and Pan Africanist Congress programmes.

"I am not sure what kind of support Azapo enjoys in the area, but I don't think anyone here supports the IFP."

As we drove out of the township, a graffito on the concrete walling slabs screamed at us to "please vote ANC and PAC".

It probably screams at the residents as well.

SA's child death rate high

KATHRYN STRACHAN

SA's child mortality rate was more than double what it should be in terms of the country's GDP, and was one of the worst in sub-Saharan Africa, national health director-general Coen Slabber told business leaders on Friday.

Addressing the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Slabber said SA ranked 18th out of the 29 countries analysed. In terms of its GDP, SA's child mortality rate should be expected to be 34, but it had reached 72.

The child mortality rating — according to the under-five child mortality rate per 1 000 — was internationally used as an indication of a country's development. It reflected the prevalence of disease and malnutrition, availability of clean water and the efficiency of health care services.

He said the strong link between health and development of communities had made it clear that SA could not afford to ignore the need for a broader health care strategy.

This meant SA would have to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its health care services.

A recent World Bank report showed that the child mortality rate was a significant predictor of economic performance and, as child mortality rates rose, economic performance decreased.

Slabber said reasons for the poor child mortality record included fragmentation of the health services with 11 autonomous departments of health, and an overemphasis on high technology instead of on preventative health care.

Maldistribution of resources was also a factor. As long as SA spent 47% of its total health expenditure on 23% of the population, and as long as 55% of doctors served only 30% of the population, health services would not improve.

Referring to the cost of health care, Slabber said government, business and individuals were faced with runaway medical inflation, with private and public health care services running out of funds.

"In SA we find a rapid rise in medical aid contributions when compared with the CPI or salary increases, and health inflation exceeds general inflation by 3 to 4 percentage points per annum," he said.

He said an investment in health care could be justified on purely economic grounds, as improved health care contributed to economic growth in terms of gains in worker productivity, improved utilisation of natural resources and reduced cost of health care.

'Big increase' in child abuse

CT 29/11/93 (298)

Crime Reporter

MORE detectives may be drafted into the Peninsula child protection unit following a sharp increase in the number of child abuse cases reported to police.

The unit's chief, Major J C Meyer, has applied for extra staff because of the number of child abuse cases reported to police, which has increased by about 30 a month compared to last year.

He said the unit was investigating charges of sexual abuse against staff at eight schools and childcare institutions in the Western Cape — the highest number of institutions investigated at one time by the unit

"We believe there has been a big increase in the incidence of child abuse, although people are feeling more confident about coming forward to report such crimes to us."

Staff at five places of safety and three schools — one a boarding school and another a school for handicapped children — were being investigated in connection with 11 charges of indecent assault and one of rape

A teacher at a well-known southern suburbs school has appeared in court in connection with allegedly fondling five boys while marking their work at desks in the classroom, and a teacher at a school for handicapped children has appeared in court for alleged indecent assault.

Neither of the teachers may be named as they have not yet pleaded in court.

Investigations into the other cases have either not been completed, or dockets have been sent to the Attorney General for a decision on whether suspects will be prosecuted.

Shocking child abuse figures

MORE than 15 300 cases of child abuse were reported to the Child Protection Unit of the South African police last year — and the Western Cape accounted for 36 percent of the national total.

This is one of the shocking facts which emerged in a report produced under the auspices of the National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC) and the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

Children And Woman In South Africa: A Situation Anaylysis was drawn up to, among other things, provide baseline data on the nature and extent of the health, education and social problems facing children and women in South Africa.

Children were subject to many forms of violence and had also been caught up in political conflict, the report said.

In 1992 police records showed 12 children killed and 102 injured in political violence, but the true figures "may be much higher, as the ages of the dead are often not reported".

Black children living on white farms were among the most vulnerable as their parents were paid low wages and worked long hours.

Housing was often rudimentary and the only health care was often monthly mobile clinics.

Children were often caught up in exploitative and hazardous employment which damaged their health and development and deprived them of education.

The most recent figure given in 1987 by the International Labour Organisation indicated that more than 60 000 black and coloured children between eight and 14 were employed as farm labourers in South Africa.

It was estimated that in 1991 781 268 black and coloured children between five and 14 were involved in child labour.

The police reported a doubling in the incidence of child abuse in the past four years More than 15 300 cases were reported last year, but police believed the real incidence was 10 times higher.

Of the reported number, 3 571 involved assault, 3 639 rape and 4 135 sexual abuse.

Child abuse in the Western Cape alone accounted for 36 percent of the national total.

One reason for the high incidence of abuse might be that large numbers of children were separated from their parents.

As migrant labour disrupted traditional family structures and created shifting communities, society's ways of protecting children had been weakened or destroyed.

In 1980 it was estimated that 17 percent of South African children lived away from their parents.

A study done last year estimated that 1,8 million children were permanently separated from their mothers, mainly because women were domestic workers in towns.

A growing number of children, possibly as many as 10 000, were living on the streets, fending for themselves. Some were as young as five. All were prone to physical, psychological and sexual abuse.

More statistics highlighting the situation of children in particularly difficult circumstances are.

- About 13 603 children were institutionalised and 28 988 placed in foster care between 1991 and this year.
- In 1991 about 30 873 children were affected by divorce and separation. As accurate numbers of black children affected by divorce are not known, estimates put the figure around five million.
- About 1,7 million children between five and 14 could have some form of psychiatric disorder.
- About 8 831 children are in refugee camps administered by the South African Council of Churches in the Northern Transvaal. The refugees are mainly from Mozambique.

The crippling, killing diseases

THE four most important threats to the survival of children in South Africa are preventable — diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections, malnutrition and child abuse.

This emerged in a report, *Children And Women In South Africa: A Situation Analysis*, which followed a study by the National Children's Rights Committee with the assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

The report said 20 percent of black children died before the age of five

As they got older, the risk of death from violence, car and other accidents increased, but preventable diseases were still major killers.

Official statistics suggested that about a fifth of child deaths were caused by diarrhoea and a survey among children in Cape Town showed children were more likely to develop the illness in overcrowded conditions, with no clean water or toilets.

In the winter months especially, many children died of pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, the report said.

Improving living conditions would be the most efficient way of preventing these deaths.

Other killers were tuberculosis, malaria, measles and hepatitis, all notifiable diseases.

In 1991, 96 percent of cases notified were in the black and coloured communities.

Universal Child Immunisation was the key to preventing most infectious diseases and saving children's lives and Unicef believed it should be possible for South Africa to immunise 90 to 95 percent of its children within the first 90 days of an interim government.

The report said government figures suggested that 70 percent of the child population had been immunised, but no comprehensive data was available in the "independent" homelands.

A 1988 study showed that only 30 percent of children between one and three were fully immunised

It was estimated that about 4,5 million South African children under 15 were disabled.

Disability among black children was often preventable and caused by factors such as measles, malnutrition and polio.

Violence was also a major cause and and it was believed for every person killed in violence, three were disabled.

Sliding backwards into poverty . . .

22/12/93 22/12/93

MORE than 220 million Africans live in absolute poverty, unable to meet their most basic needs.

Africa has begun sliding backwards into poverty, says Unicef's 1994 *State Of The World's Children* report

"... examined through all three of the lenses ... poverty, population and environment — the position of Africa is cause for the greatest concern," the report said

About three-quarters of all cultivable land was affected by soil erosion and at least 30 million people were under almost constant threat of drought and starvation.

Population growth showed little sign of flagging and on current trends population of Africa south of the Sahara was projected to rise from 640 million today to 1,6 billion by 2030.

Sub-Saharan Africa was also the region hardest hit by Aids — one in 40 adults had the virus.

A minimum of 7,5 million households had had their livelihoods wiped out by conflicts and many millions more had become refugees

The sub-continent's share of total world trade had declined from four to one percent in the past 10 years.

But the situation in Africa could yet be turned around.

Fundamental changes had created "a different and more hopeful framework" for development and in the past five years many African countries had undertaken "fundamental reforms".

There was "an almost continent-wide movement towards democracy".

Apartheid was coming to an end and economies had been liberalised. The climate for investment was improving and the Cold War no longer nurtured dictatorships

Small faces of despair

AOIT 22/12/93 (298)

Reports: LIBBY PEACOCK Staff Reporter

A FIFTH of the world's families live in absolute poverty and for many the environment is deteriorating and life is becoming increasingly desperate.

But, recent years have seen dramatic progress against some of the worst aspects of poverty and "spectacular gains" have been made against the common diseases which every year kill many times more children than all the world's wars and famines.

These fact emerge from the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) 1994 *State Of The World's Children Report*, which has been released in Cape Town.

The report is an assessment of the situation of children in the world within the framework of long-term development and international co-operation.

Unicef said in the report that child deaths from measles were down from about 2,5 million a year in the early 1980s to about 1 million this year.

Over the same period the death toll from diarrhoeal disease had been reduced from 4 million to fewer than 3 million a year.

There had been progress in the struggle towards making family planning universally available by 2000 and in only one generation the proportion of married women in the developing world who used some form of contraception had increased from about 10 percent to more than 50 percent

The average number of children a woman had decreased from six to fewer than four

But coverage of pregnant women with anti-tetanus vaccine had fallen from 56 percent in 1990 to below 40 percent this year and tetanus was killing a newborn baby every minute and a new mother every 10 minutes.

The little-known problem of iodine deficiency — the world's major cause of preventable mental retardation — was widespread and it was estimated that nearly 1,6 billion people in 110 countries were at risk

More than 500 million people had goitre, at least 30 000 babies were stillborn every year and more than 120 000 were born as cretins — mentally retarded, physically stunted, deaf-mute or paralysed — because their mothers lacked iodine.

Fortunately rapid progress was being made in many countries and in the past five years national salt iodisation programmes had gone into full operation in 24 developing countries — including China and India — which contained nearly half the developing world's children

Only about 10 percent of government spending in the developing world and about 10 percent of all international aid for development were devoted directly to meeting the basic human needs for adequate food, safe water, basic health care, primary education and family planning

These needs could be met if 20 percent of government expenditure and 20 percent of aid were dedicated to them

Only one or two percent of the world's children showed visible signs of malnutrition, but an estimated 190 million under five were chronically malnourished

An estimated 1.5 million children had been killed in armed conflict in the past decade

A further 4 million had been disabled, blinded or brain-damaged, at least 5 million had become refugees

Uncounted millions had post-traumatic stress disorder



LITTLE BOY LOST: Africa spends more on debt repayment than on health and education. Unicef says the continent is being exploited in its hour of need — and the heaviest consequences are falling on the children.

Hard days for children on trial

ET 7/12/93 (298)

JOHANNESBURG. — Children of colour suffer long and unnecessary periods awaiting trial because police fail to locate their parents quickly, according to findings by the Community Law Centre.

The executive director of the centre, Mr Mathole Motshega, said it was found that children were often incarcerated with adult prisoners who forced them to watch or participate in sexual acts.

Adult prisoners also at times took away the food provided for children, he added.

Mr Motshega said courts and cases had been researched and children interviewed in prison on the Witwatersrand, and in Maritzburg, Venda and Bophuthatswana.

In reaction, police said in a statement on Wednesday that every effort was made to locate the parents of children in custody, but "at times this is very difficult".

The statement said that according to police regulations children could "under no circumstances" be locked in a cell with adults and, if this was discovered during visits by senior officers to the cells, "departmental action is taken against the policemen concerned".

Department of Correctional Service spokesman Lieutenant Rudi Potgieter said an awaiting trial juvenile could be admitted to a prison only if a magistrate certified there was no other suitable facility

NCE



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Armenians homeless

5 YEREVAN (Armenia). — On the eve of the fifth anniversary of Armenia's earthquake, which killed more than 25 000 people and demolished densely-populated areas, the state department for refugees said 1,1 million of the former Soviet republic's residents were without permanent homes.

1,4-m children 'forced to work'

(29) 9AG 7/12/93

6 RIO DE JANEIRO. — About 1,4 million children aged between 10 and 14 are forced to work illegally in Brazilian cities. They contribute 30 percent of the income of poor families, says a report by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics.

R5,8m old master paintings stolen

7 LONDON. — Old master paintings worth more than R5,8 million were stolen from an art gallery here, police said. The thieves escaped with 15 works by artists including David Teniers, Jan van Goyen and Pieter Brueghel the younger.

Mexican 'drug kingpin' arrested

8 MEXICO CITY. — Mexican police have arrested Javier Arellano Felix, a suspected drug kingpin wanted in connection with the slaying on May 24 of a Roman Catholic cardinal in the western city of Guadalajara.

Linen

Brown urges US firms to invest in SA

□ Call to scrap codes of conduct

PETER FABRICIUS
The Argus Foreign Service

WASHINGTON. — United States Commerce Secretary Ron Brown has called on states and counties not to impose codes of conduct on firms doing business with South Africa.

It was important that the new leadership in South Africa made its own rules and regulations and that America did not do so for them, Mr Brown said in an address here yesterday to the Centre for National Policy about his trade and investment mission to South Africa which ended last week.

He was asked whether he would urge Massachusetts, in partcular, to change its policy.

This year Massachusetts repealed its sanctions but replaced them with a policy whereby US companies doing business there would be monitored to ensure they complied with a code of conduct obliging them to devote some resources to uplifting blacks.

Mr Brown said he would urge Massachusetts and others to change their approach.

One of the businessmen on the South Africa mission had told him that he was going to have to fight within his company to get it to invest in South Africa rather than China or Latin America.

"He told me that if there were obstacles or impediments which made South Africa less enticing he was going someplace else," said Mr Brown.

He said the Clinton administration had an important responsibility to urge state and local authorities to lift remaining sanctions, which were as much of an impediment to investment as federal sanctions had been.

He hoped his visit had sent that signal.

At an earlier briefing Mr Brown said he was convinced that every one of the 25 companies which had taken part in his mission would decide to do some form of business with South Africa.

Mr Brown disclosed that the Administration was discussing the possibility of granting South Africa preferential trade status under the US's Generalised System of Preferences, which lowers trade tariffs for developing countries.

He declined to put a dollar figure on what this might mean.

SA left out of war-law talks

The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africa is not represented at a milestone meeting of African armies taking place in Nairobi because it is not a member of the Organisation for African Unity. (250) ARG 7/12/93

The five-day workshop, on the law of war, has been organised by the OAU and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

ICRC representative in South Africa Nic Sommer said South Africa's non-participation was only because of its non-affiliation to the OAU.

Renamo keeps monitors waiting

Argus Africa News Service

MAPUTO. — While a number of Renamo soldiers have arrived at assembly points from which they will be demobilised, none has yet checked in with the United Nations monitors, a Mozambican government official said. (278) ARG 7/12/93

UN officials reported that by Sunday 1 580 government troops had arrived at their designated assembly points and 1 423 had checked in.

Mozambican Labour Minister Teodato Hunguana said he found the low Renamo turnout of 423 worrying.

Violence on kids: Appeal

298

T 20/12/93

JOHANNESBURG. — The Goldstone Commission has appealed for information to help it determine the effect of violence on children.

In a statement at the weekend, commission chairman Mr Justice Richard Goldstone said a working committee had emphasised the necessity of recommendations on both crisis intervention and long-term policy to ensure reasonable future development for children under the age of 16 affected by public violence.

"The inquiry is seen as of the greatest importance, particularly in the light of the reaffirmation by Mr F W de Klerk and Mr (Nelson) Mandela, expressed by the signing of the document relating to the World Declaration on the survival, protection and development of children," Mr Justice Goldstone said. — Sapa

US urged to lead the way for children

WM 23-29/12/93 298

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

UNICEF made a special plea to the United States this week to take the lead in promoting and supporting children's issues. It took advantage of President Clinton's oft-stated concern for children by presenting him with its annual report — the first time an American president has formally received the document.

The US now provides $120 million of Unicef's $950 million budget, and this week's presentation of The State of the World's Children 1994 to Mr Clinton gave the relief organisation a chance to plead for more American help.

Uppermost in Unicef's thinking is Mr Clinton's support for children's issues in September, at the United Nations General Assembly, he called for a new worldwide commitment to young people.

"What this country decides to do counts a hell of a lot," Peter Adamson, the main author of the report, said.

The study's most optimistic finding is the "untold story" of progress in the war against the illnesses which kill millions of children.

Child deaths from measles are down to about a million from 2.5 million a year in the early 1980s. Diarrhoea claimed fewer than 3 million victims last year — down a quarter. Tetanus deaths have been halved to 500,000 a year. Polio is nearly eradicated.

Unicef says the improvement is the result of its drive to immunise all children against the six most lethal diseases Some 80 per cent are now inoculated, "undoubtedly one of the greatest public health achievements of this or any other century", according to James Grant, Unicef's executive director.



Smiles of hope: Township children of South Africa face a challenging future PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL WREN

There is progress, too, in efforts to spread family planning in the developing world, where more than half the married women now use contraception, resulting in a fall in the average number of births from 6 to 3 7 per woman.

Unicef also found that some of the viruses that can leave children blind, deaf or brain-damaged are in retreat. Many more young people now live near safe drinking water, much of it treated with iodine. An iodine-deficient diet impairs development, causing more than 100,000 babies a year to be born with learning disabilities.

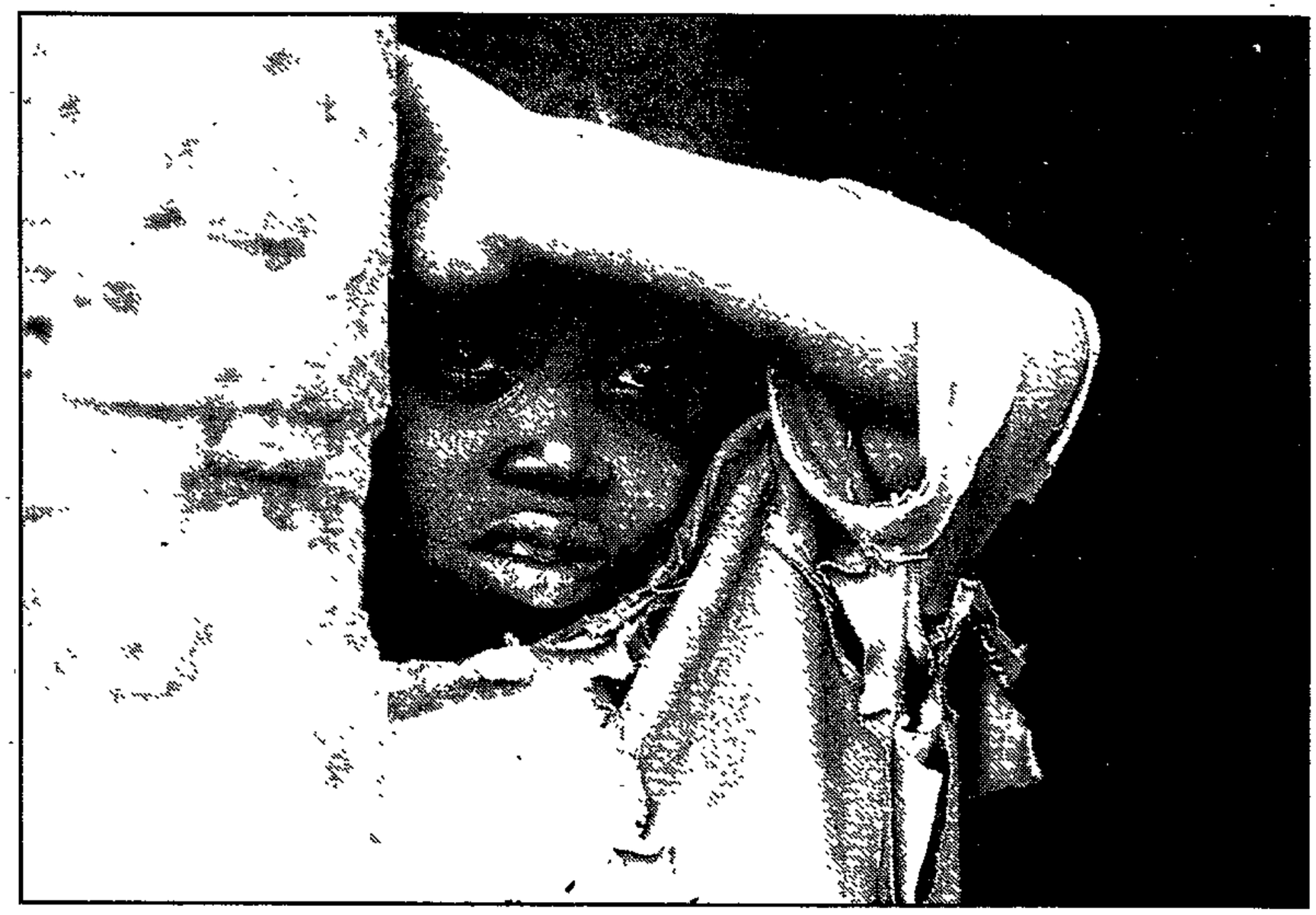
The bad news is that pneumonia is "virtually untouched", killing more than 3 million children a year, because cheap antiobiotics are not getting to villages in the developing world.

The bigger picture is just as alarming, says Unicef. The fund describes a spiral of poverty, population growth and environmental damage. Poor people tend to have more children — as future workers and as insurance against infant mortality — who then grow up to discover there is not enough food or work to go round. They start farming in "marginal lands", causing soil erosion which makes the land less productive. They end up poorer still

The solution, says the report, lies with the industrialised nations Lower trade tariffs, increased aid and forgiven debts would "allow the poor world to earn its own living and protect its own future".

Unicef wants the US to take the lead. With the cold war over, it wants the remaining superpower to make amends. "It's crucial this country lends its moral and political leadership to this cause," Mr Adamson said.

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Unicef optimistic about controlling crippling and fatal childhood illnesses*



Africa spends more on debt repayment than on health and education services. The heaviest consequences are felt by its children.

Unicef hopes on child diseases

BASIC NEEDS *Report says developing countries are trying to provide primary care:*

Sowetan 27/12/93

By Sizakele Kooma

AFRICA SOUTH of the Sahara is the only region in the world where poverty has been steadily getting worse, according to a Unicef report An estimated 30 million people in these areas are under constant threat of drought and starvation. Many health clinics have closed down for lack of staff and essential drugs

But despite the catalogue of African woes set out in the *State of the World's Children 1994* report, the overall picture depicted is optimistic

The report looks at progress in health, nutrition and education in the context of poverty, population growth and deterioration of the environment.

Final offensive

The world, the report encourages, may be seeing the beginning of the final offensive against some of the most common and dangerous diseases of childhood.

Child deaths from measles have been cut from 2,5 million a year in the early '80s to about one million today. The toll of diarrhoea is down from four million to less than three million a year. Also in retreat are some of the most common causes of childhood disability.

"More than half of the developing world's married women are now using some form of birth control"

298

The viruses and the micro-nutrient deficiencies usually leave haundreds of thousands of children deaf, blind, mentally retarded or paralysed The number of children being crippled by polio, for example, has fallen from about half a million a year in 1980 to an estimated 140 000 in 1992.

The report charts continued progress in family planning More than half of the developing world's married women are now using some form of birth control.

Most developing countries, the reports states, are trying to reach some of the goals, which include halving of childhood malnutrition, safe water for all communities, basic health care and education for all children by 1995

'Vagrants still need help'

298 ~~3[illegible]~~ **Staff Reporter** CT 24/8/93

THE lifting of the Group Areas Act saw people streaming into cities with nothing but hope and there were thousands of poor street people and children in need of care and assistance.

This was said by mayor Mr Frank van der Velde at a meeting of the city council's Vagrancy Committee at the Civic Centre last night.

Mr Van der Velde thanked the committee and individuals for their caring for the poor and impoverished but said more community and business involvement was necessary in the "mammoth task" of caring for street people.

* Cape Times, Wednesday,

R'bosch meeting divided on shelter

CT 11/8/93 (298)

Staff Reporter

YOUNG black community workers from Woodstock argued strongly last night against providing a night shelter in Rondebosch for street children.

Mr David Fortune, from a day-care project called Streets, told a Rondebosch Civic Association meeting his organisation felt shelters should be built in the communities the children came from.

"Residential care isolates children from their community The longer they spend in an institution, the more difficult it is to return to their families," he said.

Ms Annette Cockburn, a Homestead social worker, said a shelter would address the children's immediate needs and reduce crime.

Streets' option was a long and expensive one.

Haven's Ms Janet Perrot said: "We have an obligation not to be frightened about caring for children."

Mr Gerald Rosenthal said many residents were frightened of the children "with good reason".

No decision was taken at the meeting, and another is to be held on September 1.

STROLLING

down adderley street

South 3/7 - 7/7/93

Cape Town's street children are the subject of a new play. **JUSTIN PEARCE** joined an audience of strollers to find out more:

"WE'RE losing them," said the worried community worker, as small children wandered down the steps of the Baxter theatre.

He'd bought a party of street children to a Saturday afternoon performance of "Down Adderley Street", the show was a few minutes late in starting, and some of the strollers were starting to stroll.

The rest of them sat around the tables in the Baxter Studio foyer, a place from which under normal circumstances they'd probably be ejected by a security guard as soon as they wandered in the door.

Then "Down Adderley Street" began, Denver Vraagom and Keith Wa-Lehulere taking to the stage as Rooi and Kat, two street children.

"Check the madam," hisses Rooi, mocking a wealthy passerby. The audience cackles with laughter. It's repeated when Kat does his impersonation of the baas who asked him to do the garden.

Then, as the one-liners become less frequent, the audience slowly falls asleep. It was probably a long time since they've experienced a surface as soft as a Baxter seat, and strollers are accountable to nobody — no fears of parents telling them to sit up and pay attention.

And in any case, the play is about street children rather than for street children.

298

"It's aimed at influential people who can help them," Vraagom says.

The play started as a synopsis put together by Itumaleng Wa-Lehulere (Keith's cousin) who directs the show. Using this guideline, Wa-Lehulere, the two actors and assistant director Aziwe Magida constructed their show.

"We went out late at night to meet street children," Vraagom recounts. "They'd pop out of doorways whenever an expensive car went past, but when you try to chat, they get scared."

Keith Wa-Lehulere had more luck, hearing from the children stories of the squatter camp violence that had made them leave home — an incident which found its way into the play.

Existing books and research on street children helped to build up the plot, as did news reports of children dying in police custody.

Early in June the actors presented their first draft of the play to people who work regularly with street children, and who offered advice on exactly "how they smoke, what they do and how they sniff thinners", as Vraagom puts it.

All these sources flowed into a play that covers not only what children have to put up with on the streets — the harassment from the police, the mean or patronising attitudes of people in cars and houses — but also what drove them there.



STROLLERS: Aziwe Magida, Denver Vraagom, Keith Wa-Lehulere and Itumaleng Wa-Lehulere at work on "Down Adderley Street"

"Down Adderley Street" is uncompromising in talking about the sexual abuse and fear that makes children take to strolling

But the characters are fighters, not victims — hence the backchat that delighted the street children in the audience. They steal purses, they sing joyfully about being glue-sniffers.

It's their independent, defiant attitude that makes it so interesting playing a street child, says Vraagom, who, aged 21, makes a convincing 13-year-old in the play.

"Rooi has learnt a lot in two years on the street — he's forced to be an adult for himself."

1993

8 000 children live on the streets

B1Day 10/11/93

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — About 8 000 children scratched a living from the streets of SA and had no access to basic services such as medical care and literacy training, a conference on street children was told yesterday.

Human Sciences Research Council researcher Willem Schurink said street children had to contend with insufficient food, clothes and shelter, were usually between seven and 16 years old and often came from poor, overcrowded homes where they were ill-treated.

Most street children were boys, who survived by doing odd jobs, begging, prostituting themselves, abusing or selling drugs and committing minor and serious crimes, he said.

The general belief of the SA public that street children were a threat to the social order and should be locked up seriously undermined the constructive handling of the street child phenomenon.

Deputy Welfare Minister Glen Carelse told the conference the street child was seen as a nuisance. "He evokes ambivalent feelings of guilt, frustration, anger and even fear. He is a threat to business and the public who consider him a potential criminal and treat him accordingly."

Schurink said conventional approaches — such as the provision of "care" — and existing legislation and policy were inadequate to deal with a situation that occurred throughout the world.

Street children programmes were often underfunded, lacked suitable accommodation and trained personnel and battled in the face of legislation that did not make provision for the registration of shelters for street children. (298)

"The most serious problem is the lack of co-ordination between the various programmes and between these programmes and the authorities," he said.

A police spokesman told the conference that the police had not embarked on a "witch-hunt" against street children.

"Children are not detained in police cells unless no other place of safety is available and the crime for which the child is arrested necessitates his detention in a police cell," he said.

The police believed the street children problem could not be dealt with meaningfully by policing or correctional measures.

"The solution to the problem rests with the community itself," he said.

This view was echoed by a number of speakers, including Health Department assistant director Mihloti Mathy.

"One way of addressing the street children phenomenon is contact with communities of origin and working with them towards prevention though workshops and recreation," she said.

Role players including families, teachers, churches, community developers and social workers should be aware they had moral and social responsibilities towards street children.

Plan to keep street children out of jail

Municipal Reporter (298) (~~253~~) ARG 22/12/93

LOITERING is legal.

The city council yesterday recommended amendments to by-laws in a bid to prevent street children being jailed for petty offences.

The By-Law for the Convenience of Persons Using Streets and Public Places is to be amended by removing all reference to loitering, and dropping "annoyance" as a ground on which action can be taken.

A softer approach will mean a person will commit an offence only by refusing to comply with the order of a police or council law enforcement officer.

Arthur Wienburg said the changes were no way to deal with inappropriate imprisonment of children.

Black children 'hit hard by violence'

298 CT 9/9/93

Staff Reporter

MORE than one in 10 black children have suicidal wishes and many are full participants in the violence in the Natal Midlands.

Children also bear the brunt of disintegrating family life — and thousands under the age of 14 sacrifice education to help earn money for their families. These numbers include the 60 000 child labourers aged between eight and 14 who are employed on farms, the Second African Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, at the University of Cape Town, was told yesterday.

A study of 300 children had found that 12% had suicidal wishes.

In another study, in which 148 preschool children were asked to draw something that had happened to them, half of them drew figures who were fighting or pictures of the aftermath of violence, said Ms Beverly Killian, senior lecturer in psychology at the University of Natal, Maritzburg.

Seeing or being threatened by violence meant children had to be vigilant.

Many suffered "survivor guilt" and many used a defence mechanism that only compounded their problems, Ms Killian said.

A common defence mechanism was "dehumanisation" in which there was a diminished sense of one's own individuality and of the ability to see others as human.

Ex-policeman denies army claims at inquest

B/Day 12/8/93

PORT ELIZABETH — A former security police major denied during the Goniwe inquest yesterday that police had known there was a bomb in a car that killed three policemen and an informer.

Maj Deon Nieuwoudt was responding to allegations from the army's senior counsel, Anton Mostert.

He also denied that police had failed to properly investigate the incident.

Mostert alleged that Nieuwoudt was in some way involved in the blast because the men were threatening to "go public" with their knowledge of police involvement in the 1985 murder of Matthew Goniwe and three other political activists.

Nieuwoudt, an explosives specialist, was the first person to arrive at the scene of the blast.

He admitted that he was in charge of the operation the four had been involved in, and he had been only a few hundred metres away when the car had exploded.

Responding to what Mostert termed other strange coincidences surrounding the explosion, Nieuwoudt admitted the team of six explosives specialists, including himself, had failed to collect samples or to measure the crater caused by the blast, but said these activities would not have taken the investigation any further.

He had thought at the time that the discovery of a detonator at the scene told the police all they needed to know about the type of explosive used.

Mostert said the discovery of the detonator was another mystery because it was unlikely that an alloy detonator would survive the heat caused by the explosion of a 6kg bomb.

He said it was more likely the bomb had been detonated by radio.

Nieuwoudt admitted during cross-examination that the detonator found on the scene could be used with a number of explosive devices.

Mostert also found shortcomings in Nieuwoudt's theory that the bomb was attached to the car's rear axle.

He said an aerial photograph of the scene showed the rear axle had barely been damaged.

Asked why he had failed to correct the inquest magistrate's incorrect findings about the size of bomb used, Nieuwoudt said he had never read about them, despite submitting an affidavit to the inquest.

The hearing continues. — Sapa.

Police union plans march

B/Day 12/8/93

LLOYD COUTTS

THE Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (Popcru) hoped to mobilise 10 000 supporters in a march to Witwatersrand regional police headquarters on August 21, a spokesman said yesterday.

The march is from Popcru's Johannesburg offices to the Braamfontein police headquarters.

The ANC said earlier this week it had been approached by Popcru for its co-operation in arranging a demonstration similar to one held in Port Elizabeth on Sunday at which about 300 police men and women and prison wardens in uniform committed themselves to impartial policing. Police are investigating the incident.

ANC PWV chairman Tokyo Sexwale said on Tuesday Popcru's members were committing themselves to a democratic police force and reconciliation with the community.

The crime centre of Soweto

Pupils blamed for turning Diepkloof into a living hell

By THEMBA KHUMALO

FROM an oasis of peace and tranquility Diepkloof has become the crime centre of Soweto.

It has become a nightmare for the residents who moved in from other townships in the 60s in search of peace.

While political violence tore Soweto apart in 1976, Diepkloof remained unfettered by the events and most Sowetans wished they were residents of the township.

Groups of girls returning from parties and shebeens in the middle of the night were a common sight in Diepkloof. Murders and rapes were rare, and became the talk of the town whenever they occurred.

But today the sound of a gun in the township no longer raises eyebrows. The sight of a corpse lying on a sidewalk no longer sends shockwaves through residents.

Five-year-olds are amused rather than amazed by an ambulance rushing a dying patient to the nearby Baragwanath Hospital.

Nobody knows exactly what went wrong with "Calvers", as the township was affectionately called by youths during the quiet days.

Some people believe trouble started in 1985 after Makabasa, a notorious gang from the neighbouring Orlando East, fought pitched battles with Diepkloof pupils.

Although the pupils eventually won the bloody war, the situation did not return to normal.

Immediately thereafter the battle-weary pupils got involved in yet another war with the police during the State of Emergency.

From that period Bopasenatla High School in Zone 2 became a breeding ground for trouble in the area. The school principal of Diepdale High School and his colleagues were expelled in mid-1992 for what the Congress of South African Student said were their "reactionary tendencies and collaboration with the education authorities".

Local resident Senti Bhaduza thinks the wave of violence is caused by youths from other townships.

Last week the Soweto Council's housing director Estelle Bester was dragged out of her car by eight youths in a busy Diepkloof Street. They fled after they could not start the vehicle.

The police have called for reinforcements to deal with the increasing crime rate in the township.

Unicef's foreign staff leave

STAR 4/1/93.

MOGADISHU — The United Nations Childrens' Fund (Unicef) has pulled its foreign staff out of the southern Somali port of Kismayu despite the presence of hundreds of American and Belgian troops.

The move followed the killing on Saturday night of the officer in charge of Unicef in Kismayu, Briton Sean Devereux, by a Somali gunman 30 m from the agency's residence.



Sean Devereux ... murdered.

The withdrawal reflected the relief community's concern that their security was still not guaranteed despite the presence of more than 27 000 US and other foreign forces in Somalia to protect the famine relief operations.

Devereux appeared to have been singled out for murder. Two Somali Unicef staff who were with Devereux when the gunman struck were unhurt, according to a Unicef statement.

The Briton had spoken up last month about an orgy of clan killings in Kismayu and extortion of Unicef and other aid agencies by locally hired guards and drivers. — Sapa-Reuter.

Somalis drive out UN chief

MOGADISHU — Hundreds of stone-throwing Somalis, chanting "Boutros-Ghali go home" wrecked a trip to Mogadishu by the United Nations chief yesterday.

A helicopter whisked UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali back to the airport after 500 people laid siege to the headquarters of the UN Operation in Somalia (Unisom) he was supposed to visit. STAR 4/1/93.

Three of his close aides, including his under-secretary for political affairs, James Jonah, were among dozens of officials and journalists trapped in the UN headquarters.

Unisom officials said Boutros-Ghali had visited a feeding centre in Mogadishu but had abandoned plans to tour the UN compound.

Some of the demonstrators tore down a UN flag at the main gate and hoisted a Somali one instead. They stoned the building and pelted it with grapefruit skins.

Leaflets tossed into the compound by the protesters denounced Boutros-Ghali as a colonialist who had taken sides in the bloody clan feuding which has destroyed their country.

At least one UN van had its back window shattered by a rock when a convoy of UN vehicles ran the gauntlet of the demonstrators to enter the compound.

Western journalists who made their way through the crowd were set upon by Somalis but none was hurt.

The crowd, which included scores of women, set up makeshift wooden barricades outside the compound

Demonstrators sang "Glory, Glory Hallelujah" and "Allahu Akhbar" (God is Greatest).

Four hours after the protest began, the crowd was still milling outside UN headquarters. But it started to thin out as word spread that Boutros-Ghali had gone to the airport.

● Factions aligned with warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed said yesterday they would take part in talks on ending Somalia's conflict but denounced UN organisers of the meeting.

● The Somali National Alliance, grouping four clan factions, including Aideed's, said it would send "high-level delegations" to the talks in Addis Ababa today and tomorrow, to be chaired by Boutros-Ghali.

The statement did not make clear whether Aideed himself would attend the talks and accused "UN bureaucrats" of meddling in the clan conflict that has gripped Somalia — Sapa-Reuter



Before the storm ... UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrives at a feeding centre in Mogadishu, to smiles and applause. But his visit was wrecked by a protest later in the day. Picture: AP

It's school for children of 'prophet'

A self-declared prophet and his wife have been sentenced to three years in jail, suspended for five years, for depriving their children of equal education opportunities by withdrawing them from school and teaching them at home.

Andre Meintjies, of Vanderbijlpark, told TV news his spiritual convictions forced him to remove his three children from worldly influences, and that he preferred to raise them in conditions allowing spiritual and emotional growth according to maturity and not age.

He removed his children from school two years ago, but the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court ruled this week that they should be returned to normal schools.

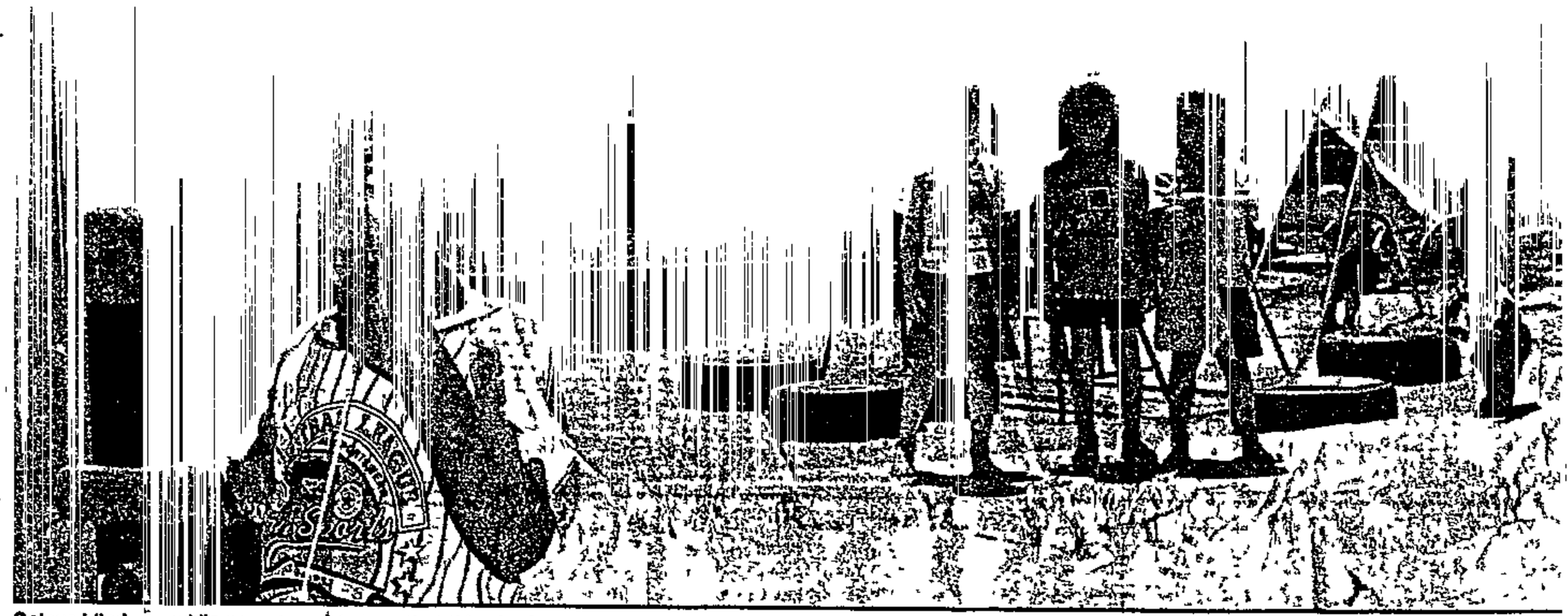
When interviewed on television, the children said they preferred the "tranquillity" of education gained from their parents, which they found more "relaxing" than that which would be acquired from a normal school. — Sapa.

Indecent assault case postponed (298)

A former committee member of Twilight Children, an organisation providing aid to Hillbrow street children, appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday on a charge of indecent assault on a boy who lived at a Twilight Children street shelter.

The case against Greg Jacobson (35) was postponed until February 8 for a probe into his alleged indecent assault of two other boys. The investigating officer had been unable to track any of the children. — Sapa.

STAR 6/11/93



Colour-blind . . . while parents are furious that this shy four-year-old is attending the Wonderland creche in Alberton, he is oblivious to the uproar and spends his time meeting other children his own age. Picture: Gary Bernard

Black boy in creche sparks row

(298)

STAR 8/11/93

By Monica Oosterbroek

Parents of 34 children yesterday withdrew them from an Alberton nursery school because a black child had been enrolled

Jan van der Merwe, who took over the Wonderland creche three months ago, pointed out that most of the children taken out of the school had been taken home to the company of a domestic worker

"Only parents see colour — children don't know the difference," he said.

Van der Merwe said his life had been threatened because he had allowed a four-year-old black boy to join the nursery

He told The Star he had informed the parents when he took over the school at the end of last year that he would be opening the school to all races.

However, the parents of 34 children were outraged when the little black boy joined.

Nearly half the parents decided they did not want their children sharing facilities with all races, but other parents felt the nonracial experience would assist their children.

The new pupil and his playmates, unaware of the furore, played happily in the large garden When asked whether he liked school, the quiet-mannered boy clutched the hand of another child and nodded.

One distressed parent, who did not want to be named for fear of endangering her son, said she was very upset by the racial incident and said she was shocked that narrow-minded and racist people lived in Alberton

"Some parents argued they had taken their children away because Van der Merwe's creche was badly run and unhygienic.

Van der Merwe said that that was a weak excuse because the Health Department visited the school regularly and a clinic came round to the school every month.

When approached for comment at his flourishing butchery — Vleis Paradise — Len van Niekerk, a parent who removed his child from the school, said. "It's my business and it has nothing to do with anyone else"

Key Cosag-Govt talks

STAR 8/11/93.

By Esther Waugh
Political Reporter

Crucial talks between the Government and the Concerned South Africans Group (Cosag) aimed at reconvening a multiparty negotiating forum start in Pretoria today

These talks — the first in a series of bilateral meetings — are regarded as an important indicator of the speed with which a full-scale multiparty negotiations forum could be convened.

The management committee of Cosag — the Inkatha Freedom Party, Bophuthatswana and Ciskei governments, Conservative Party and the Afrikaner Volksunie — gathered in Pretoria yesterday afternoon to plan its strategy for the meeting.

The agenda for the two-day meeting will be determined today when the groups meet at the Presidensie in Pretoria.

AV member Andries Beyers said last night he was hopeful the meeting could pave the way for multiparty negotiations.

Observers expressed "cautious optimism"

Wild Coast death: arrest

UMTATA — A man has been arrested in Transkei in connection with Sunday's murder of a Japanese teacher who was holidaying at the Wild Coast Sun.

The teacher, 34-year-old Yukiko Yoshimura, was from Johannesburg.

She disappeared on Sunday after she had gone for a walk. Her stabbed and beaten body was found the next day. Her camera, watch and handbag were missing.

Police think rape and robbery were the motive for the murder — Sapa

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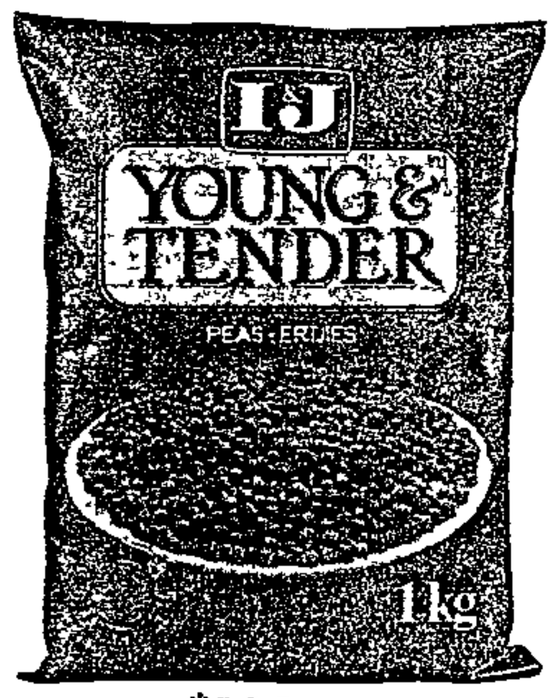

*I&J
Frozen Peas
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Child neglect alarmingly rising

Sowetan 8/1/93. (298)

SOCIO-ECONOMIC *Help for single mothers must be part of the solution:*

THE CASE of two young Illinois girls left alone at home while their parents went to Mexico on a nine-day Christmas vacation has drawn howls of outrage from parents everywhere.

Children's advocates say it is just one more case - albeit an extreme one - in an epidemic of child neglect in America.

Although in South Africa the number of neglected and abandoned children do not necessarily increase over the festive season, they remain alarming high and keep on increasing.

In the Witwatersrand area 91 children were abandoned or neglected in the first six months of 1992. In the Cape 200 children were abandoned during the same period In the Vaal Triangle 72 children were deserted in 1991 and 1992.

Baragwanath Hospital reported 21 abandoned children between January and June last year. There were three at Coronation and one at the Johannesburg General Hospital.

"We get an average of three abandoned children a week in the Witwatersrand area," said a spokesman for the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

"The causes of this problem are socio-economic and will only be solved through a multi-disciplinary effort. Other solutions would also be to give support to mothers who do not have an income or husbands through grants and the establishment of a stronger foster care service."

State child welfare agencies in America received 1,2 million reports of neglect nationwide in 1991 and investigators substantiated neglect in about 40 percent of them, according to the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse.

Reported cases are "just the tip of the iceberg," added Peter Berliner, spokesman for the Children's Alliance, an advocacy group in Seattle.

Alcoholic or drug-addicted parents regularly neglect their children, he said. Poor working parents, especially single parents, often leave their children alone because they cannot afford or find day care.

"While the Illinois case may be dramatic, it's only in degree," Berliner said "Kids get left alone more than we'd like to admit. A large number are essentially raising themselves."

Joy Byers, of the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, said child neglect "crosses all the lines - social, economic and racial."

David and Sharon Schoo lived in a comfortable, Tudor-style home in St Charles, a suburb of Chicago. The home has a pool, swings and a playhouse in the back yard.

The Schoos were arrested on December 28 on their return from Acapulco. Their children, 9-year-old Nicole and 4-year-old Diana, were discovered at home on December 21 after they called 911 because a smoke alarm went off accidentally.

The parents were charged with child abandonment and cruelty to children and freed on R15 000 cash bail each. The children were put in a foster home. Their lawyer, Gerard Kepple, said that when the facts were known, the case would "turn out quite differently" from people's impressions.

Consider the case of Brian Irish and Stephanie Hamilton of Puyallup, Washington. Their two children were asleep, and the parents figured it was safe to go out to buy some beer.

When they returned less than an hour later, their mobile home was ablaze, and their children, 11-month-old Alisha and 5-year-old Nathan, were dead. A jury convicted them in March of manslaughter.

In a study of 447 children aged five to nine, a Washington group found that 42 percent were left alone occasionally or regularly But most of the children did not know basic precautions such as not opening the door to strangers. - *Sapa-AP.*

'Spiritual soldier' fights to keep his children at home



HOME CLASSROOM: Andre and Bokkie Meintjies help their children Roy, Charmaine and Johan with their homework. ● Picture: COLIN DAVIS

Star 9/11/93. (298)

CAROLINE HURRY

FORMER SADF Sergeant-Major Andre Meintjies is waging war against the authorities to keep his children out of school. Undeterred by threats of jail, the self-appointed spiritual soldier says he answers to no one but God.

He and his wife Bokkie could face three years in jail if they don't register their children at a legitimate school — but Meintjies has no intention of following orders.

"It's a question of who is going to win the hearts and minds of our kids," he says.

His duties as a believer demand that he prepare his children for salvation and the second coming of Christ — concerns, he says, which are brushed aside by the Transvaal Education Department.

The intricacies of algebra offer scant protection against the onslaught of Armageddon, according to Meintjies, who has chosen to pioneer a path for like-minded parents who wish to protect their children from the perils of the current education system.

"Today's schools are a mess. Few consider the emotional, spiritual and physical needs of children. Instead, pupils are indoctrinated with irrelevant academia and grow up ill-equipped to deal with adulthood.

"The most important thing a child needs to learn is obedience. Salvation is founded on obedience. The entire divine concept rests on obedience," he says.

He, after all, has obeyed God's instructions to the letter: for the past six years he has sat at home cracking cosmic codes while his father supports the clan.

Spirituality

Bokkie recently took a job with an estate agency to boost the family finances. Prophecy, admits Meintjies, is not always profitable, but the Lord provides. And, of course, his parents ...

"Andre knows what he is doing. The Lord has called him," says his mother Joey. It was God, after all, who persuaded Meintjies to resign from the SADF in 1986 and move from Bethlehem into his parents' home in Vanderbijlpark.

As Meintjies understands it, God instructed him to remove his children from school and teach them the fundamentals of honesty, integrity and spirituality — subjects he sees as sadly lacking in the TED syllabus.

For two years he has taught Johan (14), Charmaine (14) and Roy (11) at home. He chooses their library books, selects what he believes they need to know from educational guides and monitors their progress.

"Putting my children into school where peer pressure could overwhelm them would be like throwing them to the wolves. They would be forced to conform to the mould of the masses.

"It's a parent's responsibility to protect offspring from harmful external influences. With children at school up to 10 hours a day, how are parents supposed to keep control over them?"

The atmosphere in the Meintjies' home is welcoming. The smell of freshly baked bread wafts tantalisingly from the kitchen where the children assist their *ouma* with lunch preparations.

They seem well-adjusted and delighted not have to endure the agonies of school. But unless they are registered in a school by January 19, they could find themselves orphans of our legal system.

Azapo, IFP make peace in Bekkersdal

Star 9/11/93.

PETER DAVIES

LEADERS of the feuding Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo) and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) last night agreed to halt hostilities and end the violence that has racked the West Rand township of Bekkersdal.

The meeting, held at the Carlton Centre offices of United Nations observer mission yesterday afternoon, was also attended by the African National Congress and the Pan Africanist Congress. It saw the parties reaffirm their commitment to a 1991 Bekkersdal peace pact.

Azapo and the IFP will also meet within five days to resolve differences. Should either party renege on this meeting, the aggrieved party will have recourse to the Bekkersdal monitoring committee.

Tensions

Last Sunday two township residents were hacked to death at the local taxi rank.

ANC officials said the victims were residents of Mandela Park, an ANC stronghold, who had been indiscriminately attacked by men wearing IFP T-shirts. Four others were hurt.

A local IFP official said Inkatha supporters had launched the attack to draw attention to their problems with Azapo members.

Azapo and ANC supporters this week blamed IFP supporters for the violence. The IFP blamed "thugs" from Azapo.

Row over SAP party for street children

ST Times Cape metro 10/1/93

By DIRK VAN EEDEN

THE police have come under fire from the director of The Homestead, a branch of Child Welfare Society, for their handling of a party for Cape Town's street children at the end of last year.

Mrs Annette Cockburn, head of The Homestead, a shelter for the homeless, said this week that police had not given any forewarning before patrol vans collected the children at 7.30am on December 9. The children had not showered or had breakfast.

Also, they were to have attended the Mayoress's party on the same day, Mrs Cockburn said.

When The Homestead staff objected, "the police officers made no effort to contact the social worker, or anyone else in authority, and simply removed the children". (298)

"Efforts later to contact police liaison officers were unsuccessful," Mrs Cockburn said.

"Such high-handed arrogance in what was no doubt intended as a public relations exercise, is unacceptable. To take children from a children's home, parade them past the media, pass them off as street children and make no effort to negotiate with the organisation concerned, is hardly consistent with an improved SAP image."

A spokesman for the regional commissioner of the Western Cape, Lieutenant-Colonel R W Dowd, said in reply that the party had not been "intended as a PR exercise — it was held as a surprise for these children".

Policemen manning the patrol vehicles had been instructed to collect children they found on the street that morning.

"The police officer to whom the task was allocated, in using his initiative, saw fit to invite not only the children he found on the street but also children at The Homestead," Lt-Col Dowd said.

This had been explained to adults at The Homestead and they had not seemed "at all perturbed by what was taking place".

There had been close contact between the police and members of The Homestead staff in the week after the party and no complaints had been made.

"It is a sad state of affairs that something intended by the police, in good faith and the spirit of goodwill, with the interests of the children at heart, is now construed as something devious," Lt-Col Dowd said.

The policemen had accepted in good faith that the adults who had been consulted at The Homestead were supervisors and could authorise the children to attend the function, he said.

Minding street kids brings joy

Soweten 12/1/93

298

By Pearl Majola

TRUE LOVE *Helping to rehabilitate young boys is no hardship for Nomfundo:*

AMONG THE BOYS at the Streetwise shelter in Hillbrow is a young woman who spends most of her time helping them in their quest to reform and get back to mainstream education.

Nomfundo Gwaai from Meadowlands, Soweto, has become a mother and friend to the boys at the shelter. She is a child-care worker and the only female in the team of four there.

A born-again Christian, 23-year-old Gwaai attended Meadowlands High School and was raised by strict parents. But she says that drew her close to them, especially her father, and later she realised how lucky she and her elder brother were to have loving parents who wanted only the best for them.

All this, she says, motivated her to work with the street children who she felt were unlucky not to experience the love of their parents.

Gwaai and her team are employed by Streetwise, the street children's organisation, to take care of more than 30 boys, aged between nine and 18, who come from the streets of Hillbrow looking for shelter and a better life.

While her counterparts enjoy the material benefits that come with their well-paying jobs, she has committed herself to working for a charity organisation.

"I love working with children and this is also the small contribution I have always wanted to make to the community," says Gwaai earnestly.

"Ideally no child should be on the streets and here we try to do the best for those who are unfortunate enough."

Gwaai's job entails making sure the boys eat, supervising their homework and ensuring they are ready for school.

Weekly clinic

She also checks on the sick and refers them to the volunteer doctors who run a weekly clinic at the shelter, prepares individual reports on the boys' progress and generally tries to be one of them.

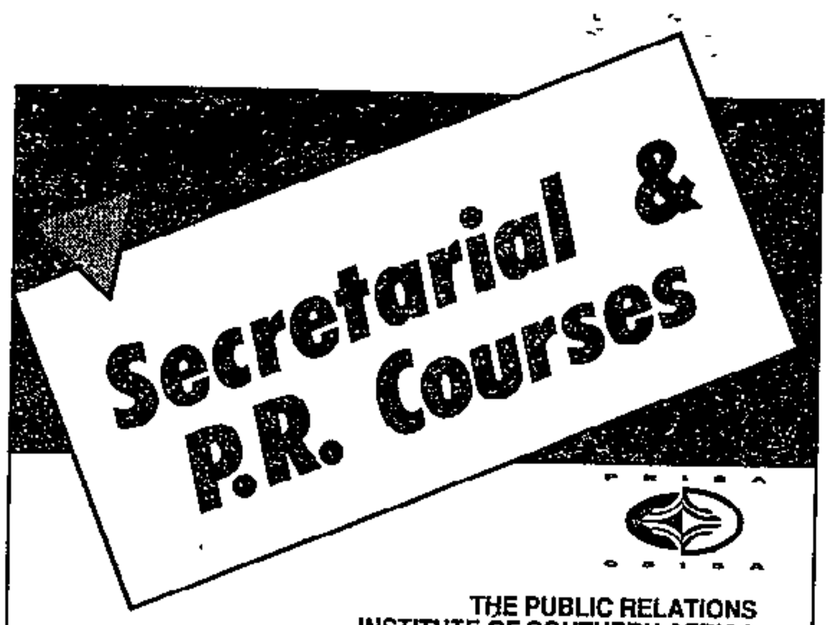
But Gwaai goes beyond her call of duty. She also cooks and washes the clothes of those who are still too young to do their own washing

"Streetwise thrives on donations and they can't afford to pay all the staff needed to do the work here. I am quite happy to cook and do the washing for the boys," she explains.

"I have become good friends with many of them. We talk about things, we watch TV and play games together, I help them with their homework and I enjoy it," Gwaai says

"We meet with the boys every Friday to discuss problems encountered during the week and to hear out their gripes."

"I want to make a difference in the lives of the less privileged and see the boys at the shelter leading a normal childhood and for those who are older to be independent, equipped with skills and earning a living."



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Radical youths blamed for many police deaths

B1Dam 13/1/93

ADRIAN HADLAND

PRETORIA — Radical youths and criminals had been mainly responsible for the increasing number of police fatalities, Brig Stefanus Abrie told the Goldstone commission yesterday.

The commission, which began hearing evidence yesterday on attacks on police officers, heard that during 1992, 269 policemen had been killed and more than 60 police stations and 95 private residences had been attacked.

In spite of efforts by the police to make themselves more acceptable to all parties, attacks on security forces — more than 2 000 last year — had increased steadily, Abrie said.

The fatality rate among the SAP had increased from about one a month in the '70s to two a month in the '80s. By 1991 the figure had risen to 13,4 police deaths a month, while last year the figure was 19,1.

"It is clear there exists a deep-rooted distrust towards the SAP, especially among young people."

He added that criticism of the SAP by political leaders was interpreted by radical youths as encouragement to continue the armed struggle.

Sapa reports that he also told the commission about 3 000 Umkhonto we Sizwe members had decided, before returning from Tanzania, to continue the armed struggle. This was contrary to ANC policy.

"The solution to the problem lies in a co-ordinated effort in which all political groupings co-operate in the spirit of existing multilateral and bilateral agreements towards effective policing," he said.

Attorney Brendan Barry, on behalf of the ANC and Umkhonto we Sizwe, said he had been given insufficient time to study Abrie's statement, and deferred cross-examination.

The PAC indicated it would not attend the hearings.

Det-Sgt Johannes du Plessis later told the commission that Apla and Umkhonto we Sizwe planned and committed attacks against police in East Rand townships.

Du Plessis said that between July 17 1991 and November last year there had been 60 attacks on policemen at Thokoza, Vosloorus and Katlehong.

Six attacks by Apla and six by Umkhonto we Sizwe were politically motivated.

Investigations were hampered by a lack of co-operation from the community. "They (witnesses) know they will be killed if they co-operate with police," Du Plessis said.

The Goldstone commission also recommenced its investigation yesterday into allegations made last year by Mozambican immigrant Joao Cuna concerning "third force" activities by the security forces.

ANC NEC member Mac Maharaj, who was named by Cuna as the mastermind behind a campaign to discredit the security forces, denied any knowledge of the campaign. He had never met or seen Cuna, he said.

During yesterday's tea break, Cuna identified Maharaj as the "tall man, with a beard and whitish hair" he had met "many times" and who suggested Cuna tell the story which appeared in Vrye Weekblad.

This was placed on the committee's record.

Both hearings will continue for the next two weeks.

□ A Goldstone commission sub-committee investigating causes of political violence in Natal, other than ANC-IFP rivalry, will sit in Empangeni today to hear preliminary submissions from people on the north coast. The committee, chaired by Malcolm Wallis, sat in Port Shepstone on Monday.

Joint bid to protect health staff

B1Dam 13/1/93

STEPHEN COPLAN

THE Medical Association of SA (Masa) and the SAP said yesterday that they had formed a combined working committee to counter the rise in attacks on health workers in the Vaal Triangle.

Masa had approached the SAP Commissioner after concerns that medical care would collapse in the area, a joint statement said.

SAP spokesman Col Mark Alton said police were unable to say why health workers, and in particular doctors, were being attacked but it appeared robbery was the motive as criminals assumed the victims were wealthy.

The statement said police would be deployed at clinics, surgeries and other health institutions in the area to ensure doctors' and nurses' safety. An emergency phone number had also been made available for their use.

Masa federal council chairman Dr Bernard Mandell said in a separate statement yesterday that the problem could only be solved in the context of a national reversal of the culture of violence and crime.

Health care centres should be protected and safe places for patients and medical personnel provided, Mandell said.

He said doctors sometimes worked irregular hours in close contact with people, making them soft targets and hindering security precautions. Doctors were also perceived by would-be criminals as being wealthy..

Recruiting doctors and nurses to work in the Vaal Triangle had become difficult, Masa profession development director Dr David Green said.

Police and Masa have appealed to Vaal Triangle communities to assist them in preventing attacks on health workers and ensuring the continuation of health services.

Police reported a Dr Mokabudi and another person were found dead in an open field in Sebokeng in May last year, while in September Dr J J Bornman was murdered near his surgery in Vereeniging. In December Dr H L Kuhn was murdered at her surgery in Evaton.

Attack on wilderness slammed

B1Dam 13/1/93

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Conservationist Ian Player said yesterday Richards Bay Minerals was insulting several religions by attacking the wilderness concept.

Player, founder of the Wilderness Leadership School, was commenting on a 15-page sponsored survey on RBM in Leadership magazine.

In the survey, RBM's public relations head Barry Clements was quoted as saying: "This talk of saving St Lucia by preventing mining is one of the biggest hoaxes in the annals of SA conservation.

"The anti-(mining) lobby would sacrifice massive

Bomb rips West Rand shop centre

Sowetan 14/1/93

Sowetan Correspondent

■ **SHOPLIFTERS** Attack believed to be revenge for beating of two boys:

A POWERFUL bomb ripped through a West Rand shopping complex early yesterday in what is believed to be a revenge attack for the beating of two young black shoplifters.

One of the boys died in the Baragwanath Hospital two days after the beating on October 1, possibly as a result of the assault.

The Elite Cafe and neighbouring Shorty's Fruit and Veg were completely destroyed and 18 other shops were badly damaged in the 1.10am explosion in Station Street, Randfontein.

Damage amounting to millions of rands was reported but no one was hurt.

Police said a person purporting to be a member of Apla telephoned the police toll free number this morning claiming responsibility for the blast. But police do not suspect the organisation at this stage.

The attack was apparently aimed at the Elite Cafe belonging to Jackie de Sousa.

This was the second blast at one of De Sousa's shops. On January 4 his Zuurbekom shop was badly damaged in a limpet mine explosion.

161 children spent Christmas in jail

Sowetan Reporter

■ **64 'dangerous' kids are still in custody:**

298

Sowetan 14/1/93.

A TOTAL of 161 children under the age of 14 spent last Christmas in jail.

A statement from the Deputy Minister of National Housing, Mr Glen Carelse, yesterday confirmed that "between December 1992 and January 7 this year 161 children aged 14 and younger trial were detained in police cells and prisons countrywide".

Sixty-one have since been placed in "alternative care", 43 reunited with their parents and 16 in "places of safety" and two in reformatories.

"At the moment 36 cases are being investigated and these children will probably soon be placed in alternative care.

The remaining 64 children are being detained for serious crimes, such as murder and cannot be transferred because they pose a danger to the community," he said.

161 children spent Christmas in jail

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Sowetan 14/1/93

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The remaining 64 children are being detained for serious crimes, such as murder and cannot be transferred because they pose a danger to the community," he said.

Child tells of police shooting

298

Star 14/1/93

By Cyril Madlala

An eight-year-old Soweto girl yesterday told the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court that she was playing with her doll in the street when she was shot by members of the Soweto Internal Stability Unit in Kliptown.

Gloria Mthethwa said that when the firing started she was afraid to look around in case "these things" (pellets) struck her.

She is one of 11 people who are jointly suing the Minister for R60 000 after they were teargassed and shot on February 1 last year. Ten are claiming R5 000 each. The 11th, Victor Mbungu, is suing for R10 000 for wrongful arrest and imprisonment.

In reply, the SAP said members of the unit were following up information on two stolen vehicles. They had arrested some suspects when a crowd gathered round, freed one suspect and began stoning policemen.

The other plaintiffs are Obed Gwebu, Tshishi Mbatha, Sofia Mbatha, Orio Letsholo, Yeli Skgoaelane, Johnson Zulu, Evaline Ndlovu and Florenah Nodisenjane.

The hearing continues.

61 under-14s freed from prison over festive season

Sixty-one children aged 14 and younger were released from prisons and police cells countrywide to be placed in alternative care over the Christmas season, Deputy National Housing Minister Glen Carelse said yesterday.

But 100 children under the age of 14 still remained in custody for serious offences such as murder, he confirmed.

Carelse said in a statement the releases were part of the Government's commitment to place awaiting-trial children, wherever possible, in the care of their parents or guardians, or alternatively, to place them in centres such as places of safety, industrial schools and reformatory schools.

Of the 61 released children, 43 were reunited with their parents, 16 were placed in places of safety and two were sent to reformatory schools.

Carelse said the cases of 36 of the 100 children still in custody were being investigated for alternative placement.

The remaining 64 were being detained for serious crimes such as murder. They could not be transferred to alternative care because "they pose a danger to the community", Carelse said.

The release project was coordinated and monitored in cooperation with private welfare organisations such as Nicro and the South African National Council for Child and Family Care.

Earlier, Carelse indicated that changes concerning the arrest and detention of children under the age of 17 were in the offing following the compilation of a report by the Esther Chikanda working group.

In an interview Carelse said that new legislation would be enacted to bring South Africa in line with the Beijing Rules on Children's Rights.

The Beijing Rules is an international manifesto adopted by the United Nations which sets minimum standards for the administration of juvenile justice.

The working group, led by Dr Esther Chikanda, a chief director in the Department of Manpower, Local Government and Housing, was appointed by Carelse to investigate the situation of children in detention. — Sapa.

Creche not a haven for TB — nurse

By BERENG MTIMKULU

AN East Rand creche has dismissed as "nothing but a cruel joke" a scary rumour that it runs a TB-infested operation which has put the lives of more than 69 toddlers in danger.

The creche's principal, Pauline Ngcatshe, 62, denied the rumours, which she said surprised her.

Infected

The story was doing the rounds that 69 toddlers had been infected with TB at her Zamani Preschool in KwaThema.

Only four children had been diagnosed as having the TB virus, Ngcatshe said.

She could not say how the four toddlers had become infected, although she said her 35-year-old son, Patrick Ngcatshe, had suffered from TB, but was now cured.

Angry

Angry at the allegations, a KwaThema Clinic nursing sister who wanted to be known only as Sister Debra, stressed: "Zamani Pre-school and Creche is rated the highest in adhering to hygiene principles compared with its 22 counterparts in KwaThema."

She said the four children were undergoing a three-month immunisation treatment following last year's routine check at the creche.

A "concerned parent" who asked for anonymity contacted City Press this week and claimed that the kindergarten in 74 Marule Street was not fit for children's day care.

Sister Debra said the "concerned parent" who made the allegation could be a jealous rival.

Pollsmoor minors fight for freedom

January 16/17 1993

ARG 16/1/93 298

■ Pressure from children's rights lobbyists and extensive media coverage has resulted in the first release from prison of children under the age of 14 awaiting trial.

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE release of 61 youngsters from South African prisons into alternative care has been hailed as a major victory for children's rights — but the battle is by no means won.

While Nicro has labelled the progress on the issue of awaiting-trial children under 14 as "phenomenal", they say the plight of children aged 15 to 18 cannot be ignored.

In October last year Weekend Argus revealed in an exclusive story that thousands of children, who had not been found guilty of crimes, were being held in South African jails and police cells in harsh and threatening conditions.

Now, says Nicro's senior social worker Rosemary Shapiro, only 20 children are left in Pollsmoor Prison, 11 of whom have been assessed and could not at present be placed in alternative care due to the severity of their crimes.

She said these children had been moved from the maximum security section where they were previously held to a "more suitable facility".

They also now had compulsory sport or outdoor exercise times as well as access to social workers.

In a statement this week from Glen Carelse, deputy minister of Local Government and National Housing, he said the releases were "part of the government's commitment to place as many children as possible who are awaiting trial in prisons and police cells in the care of their parents or guardians, or alternatively, to place them in centres such as places of safety, industrial schools or reformatories".

Of the total 161 children under the age of 14 being held between December 17 last year and January 7 this year, 61 children were placed in alternative care, 36 were being investigated for alternative placement and the remaining 64 children were being detained for serious crimes such as murder.

They could not be transferred to alternative care as they pose a danger to the community.

"The aspects that were considered during placement of children . . . were the type of crime committed by them, their social circumstances, the protection of the community and the interests of the child," he said.

According to the statement, the government was doing everything possible to place all children awaiting trial, including those aged between 15 and 18, in alternative care

The next phase of Nicro's campaign, Ms Shapiro told Weekend Argus, would be to see the establishment of one facility per region to accommodate up to 20 children under the age of 18 awaiting trial for serious crimes.

"It is simply not true that these children cannot be transferred into alternative care. We want to see prisons closed to all children, regardless of the charge against them. Prison is no place for children at all."

Speaking of the progress made since Nicro, the University of the Western Cape's Community Law Centre and Lawyers for Human Rights released a hard-hitting report *Justice For The Children: No Child Should Be Caged* at the end of October last year, Ms Shapiro said all but one of the demands contained in the report had been met.

"It's extraordinary how much work has been done in just a matter of months The only thing we haven't achieved is to see an independent ombudsman appointed to every juvenile court.

"We started with the children aged 14 and down, now we have to deal with those aged 15 to 18 which is a much larger group. "

Court orders boy moved from jail

ST Times [Cape Metro] 17/11/93

(298)

By AYESHA ISMAIL

A 14-YEAR-OLD boy, who has been in a Paarl prison awaiting trial since October, has been moved to a place of safety on the orders of a judge.

The youth had been charged with stealing his school teacher's purse containing R20 and was being held in the Hof Street Prison, Paarl, lawyers said in an urgent application on Friday for the boy to be transferred.

They said magistrate Mr D Nel of Paarl had refused, when the boy appeared before him in October and early December, to release him on bail or order that he be moved to a place of safety.

"The magistrate erred in not making any attempt whatsoever to examine or investigate the conditions under which the appellant was being held with older and, it would appear, aggressive inmates who allegedly assaulted him," the lawyers said.

"It is an any case unconscionable and not in keeping with civilised standards and legal norms internationally, to refuse bail in the circumstances pertaining to this case, causing our client to remain incarcerated while awaiting trial."

The youth was transferred on Friday to the Siyakhatala place of safety in Stellenbosch after Mr Justice Lategan granted the order.

He is to be sentenced by the Paarl Magistrate's Court on Tuesday.

In a statement after the Supreme Court hearing, the lawyers said the Department of Correctional Services had not met requests that it release the youth before Christmas in line with its undertaking to free children who were aged under 14 and awaiting trial.

"We find the attitude of an officer of our lower courts as the guardian of the rights of minor children to be somewhat surprising given the willingness of the state to order the early release of 7 500 convicted adult prisoners," the statement said.

A spokesman for the Department of Correctional Services said that the youth's name had been given to the regional co-ordinator of the Department of National Housing and Local Government and to a social worker for placement in a place of safety.

Child in rape, drugs ordeal

(298)

9/1/93

Sowetan

By Themba Molefe

A 10-YEAR-OLD girl was forced to sleep with at least three white men a day for 12 weeks after she was abducted at a shopping centre in Johannesburg last November.

The child, who may not be identified in terms of the Children's Act, yesterday told *Sowetan* about her ordeal after she was returned to her mother's Johannesburg flat on Friday.

Her mother has taken her to a gynaecologist who said she has an infected womb. She will return to the doctor for blood tests to determine whether she has an HIV infection.

On Christmas Day the girl not only witnessed a gruesome murder but reluctantly became part of an organised prostitution ring operating from a house in Yeoville.

Speaking about this yesterday, the girl said: "We were drinking beer when the other girl, Zizi, had a quarrel with one of the boys. She took a table knife and stabbed him. He died. I washed the blood from the knife and we buried the body in the Yeoville garden."

She said about five of the girls in the group of 15 were about her age.

On one occasion they were all arrested. They spent the night at John Vorster Square and were released into the custody of the pimp and his attorney the next morning.

The address of the house and the name of the man allegedly running the ring is known to *Sowetan*. Police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said the Child Protection Unit would investigate.

The girl, a Standard 3 pupil, said: "I was on my way to buy a soft drink at the shopping centre where I was with my aunt when I was forced into a red minibus by some men.

"That night I was made to smoke a mixture of a crushed tablet and dagga. I went blind after inhaling it. I was given different clothes, had my face and nails made up, supplied with condoms, shown how to use them by an older girl and ordered to go and wait for white men at a street corner. They forced me to sleep with the men every night - sometimes up to three a night," she said.

One night she tried to escape but was captured and assaulted by the pimp and an older prostitute. The girl's body is bruised and she showed healing marks.

She said the men who abused her paid her between R30 and R80 which was taken by the pimp who also charged the girls R30 rent. They slept at three different blocks of flats in the Hillbrow-Yeoville area and were always under guard.

Five youths in court over doctor's death

FIVE Soweto youths charged with the murder of a Baragwanath Hospital doctor will stand trial in the Rand Supreme Court on April 26.

Dr Stephan Walter (29) was shot dead in Diepkloof, Soweto, in September last year while driving on the M1 North highway close to

■ Dr Walter was shot in the head in his car in Diepkloof:

Baragwanath. The youths, all aged 16, also face a charge of attempted robbery with aggravating circumstances, two charges of unlawful possession of firearms and one charge of unlawful possession of ammunition.

They had previously pleaded not guilty.

The State alleges that two youths approached Walter when he stopped at the traffic light, while the others waited nearby. They shot him in the head after trying to open the door of his car.

Child prostitution probed

298

Sowetan 20/11/93

■ No arrest yet after girl was forced to have sex daily for six weeks:

By Themba Molefe

POLICE have yet to make an arrest after *Sowetan* yesterday exposed a child prostitution racket operating in Johannesburg.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman yesterday said: "The investigation will take a few days before any action can be considered."

The Child Protection Unit (CPU) yesterday took statements from the 10-year-old girl and her mother. She was forced to sleep with white men every day since being abducted at a Johannesburg suburban shopping centre early in November. *Sowetan* knows the address of the man - he has allegedly been operating the racket for more than two years

The girl said she witnessed a murder. About five girls in the group of 15 were about her age

"They forced me to sleep with the men every night - sometimes up to three a night From the first day they made me smoke a mixture of a crushed tablet and dagga, gave me different clothes and condoms," she said.

It was erroneously stated in yesterday's article that the girl said she helped bury a body in a Yeoville garden after a man was stabbed with a table knife by one of the older prostitutes.

She actually told *Sowetan*: "We were drinking beer when the other girl, Zizi, had a quarrel with one of the boys. She took a table knife and stabbed him. He died. I washed the blood from the knife and we buried it (the knife) in the garden in Yeoville before the police came."

Child attacks: New campaign

(298) ARG 21/1/93

LENORE OLIVER, Staff Reporter

CRIMES against children are causing deep concern in Mitchell's Plain and an intensive campaign is planned to protect them — especially on their way home from school, when they are most vulnerable.

Plans include a citizens' task force to monitor areas near schools.

Over the past year there has been a spate of crimes against children, ranging from sexual abuse to murder and, as schools opened this week, the Pan Africanist Congress branch in Mitchell's Plain called for action.

Branch chairman Mr Peter Roman said too little was being done to protect the children of the huge suburb.

"The police as law enforcers are not doing their job to protect the more than 500 000 residents of Mitchell's Plain Not enough is being done to prevent repeated crime."

He said the PAC planned a campaign in which they hoped to involve residents, businessmen and community organisations.

They also planned a task force to monitor areas near schools and to ask the city council to remove dense bush around schools and mend broken fences.

T-shirts bearing messages of support, informative pamphlets and a centre where victims could be helped immediately were also planned.

"Our starting point is to inform residents and to make the school environment safer," said Mr Roman.

"We cannot fold our arms and sit back in a situation where the lives of our children are in danger."

Mitchell's Plain CID spokesman Captain Jacob Nomdo said the police realised attacks on children were a problem in Mitchell's Plain, but did not have the manpower to station men at schools, he said.

"Children should be taught not to trust strangers, even if they are bribed with sweets or games," said Captain Nomdo.

He said most attacks happened when children were on their way home.

Captain Nomdo said the police would welcome help from the PAC and others in trying to combat crime.

- In October a man lured 10 children into a schoolground, sodomised one and performed indecent acts with others.
- In November a 12-year-old girl was abducted from her father's shop and left with stab wounds on Mnandi beach, near Mitchell's Plain.
- In December a 10-year-old boy was strangled, sodomised and left on a beach.

Boesak withdraws suit

WESTERN Cape ANC leader Dr Allan Boesak has withdrawn a R100 000 defamation and damages action against Nasionale Pers and the editor of *Die Burger*.

In papers handed in to the Cape Town Supreme Court, Boesak said he did not have the time or energy to concern himself with the matter, which he believed was raised by *Die Burger* to "harass me".

He brought the action after the publication of articles alleging Boesak was building a R250 000 house in Constantia on a R100 000 plot. - *Sowetan Reporters and Sapa.* Sowetan 22/1/93.

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Part of the crowd that attended the *Sowetan* seminar on *Raising and managing money* at the Central Methodist Church on Wednesday this week. PIC: VELI NHLAPO

Four boys 'sodomised'

Sowetan 22/1/93. (298)

Sowetan Reporter

■ BIG MANHUNT Police launch search for man who committed the indecent acts:

POLICE ARE SEARCHING FOR a middle-aged man who allegedly sodomised four schoolboys in Soweto this week.

The boys, aged between six and seven years, yesterday told *Sowetan* they were approached by the man while on their way home from school on Wednesday.

Police at Orlando confirmed having received reports on the incidents yesterday. They said they were following several leads.

The boys, all Sub-standard A and B pupils at a leading primary school, said they met the man while on their way home from school.

"The man told us that he wanted to go and show us how to swim at a swimming pool near Orlando Stadium. He then forced us to undress and started fondling us," the boys said.

The boys alleged the man then took them in turns to a bushy area where he sodomised them.

They said he later took them back where he had met them and asked them to meet him again yesterday so that he could buy them bicycles.

He, however, failed to turn up at the spot yesterday.

The boys said the man was in his late twenties, dark in complexion, tall and was wearing a "Delela" overall when they met him.

A mother of one of the boys said her child came home crying and told her about his ordeal.

"I took him to Orlando Clinic where the nurses confirmed the incident and said the damage was minimal."

The school's principal expressed shock at the incident. "It just shows how mean some men are in the townships," she said. She said principals and teachers should warn schoolchildren against accompanying strangers after school.

Child prostitute ring boss known to police

Star 22/1/93. (298)

By Charméela Bhagowat
Crime Reporter

A Johannesburg man who was implicated in a child prostitution ring by a 10-year-old girl this week was "well known" to the police and had been arrested previously on similar charges, The Star learnt yesterday.

But, even though the pimp was known to them, police have failed to arrest him or raid the brothel at which the young girl said she was forced to become a prostitute and to take drugs.

Amid speculation yesterday that the pimp had fled with the teenage girls forced to work for him, a police source said "We cannot confirm that he has fled but he is well known to the vice squad and has been arrested before."

The child told police she had been abducted in November and forced to sleep with at least three men a night until she escaped from the Yeoville brothel last Friday

She also claimed she had been forced to take drugs and that she had witnessed a murder at the brothel on Christmas Day.

The girl also pointed out a policeman at John Vorster Square as someone she had seen at the brothel.

SAP spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said it took time to investigate such cases "The police can't just close down a brothel overnight."

Evidence had to be collected and sometimes a brothel had to be infiltrated

He said it was possible the policeman had visited the place in an "official capacity"..

CASHING IN ON CHILDCARE SKILLS

ST Times [B455] 24/1/93

By MIKE HOLMES 298

WOMEN who want to work but feel committed to their young children have been offered an opportunity to train others in childcare skills — and they can do it from home.

Johannesburg-based Profam is looking for franchisees countrywide to train child-minders in basic childcare, mental stimulation, safety, first aid and emergency management.

Shelley-Ann Beckley and Jeni Kittel, mothers of young children themselves, founded Profam 15 months ago.

They had two goals: to run their own childcare courses and to pass on the techniques to entrepreneurs wishing to start childcare training ventures.

Kittel is responsible for training and development, Beckley for management and marketing. Both believe childcare education has been seriously neglected in South Africa.

Standards

Says Beckley: "There's a general assumption that because child-minders are parents themselves they will automatically be able to take proper care of someone else's children.

"How is this possible when there has been so little exposure in the child-minder's own environment to things like electrical appliances, poisonous household cleaners and swimming pools?"

Yet appropriate training can not only uplift childcare standards in more affluent communities but also in the townships, where most child-minders come from. The courses, Beckley says, take into account the high level of illiteracy among child-minders.

Profam's experience is that physical care is usually good but that, "in most cases, mental stimulation of the children being cared for is non-existent".

Home visits have been distressing.

"Care-givers lacked vital information, such as parents' work telephone numbers and emergency numbers. Most also had no idea what to do in an emergency, or even where the first aid kit was."

Yet, Beckley notes, children raised in a secure environment, and given proper physical and mental stimulation, are going to be far better prepared for schooling.

Training

Mental development is particularly important, she believes. The course deals in detail with the making and use of inexpensive puzzles and toys appropriate for child stimulation at different ages.

"The materials we use are things that would normally be thrown out, like cereal boxes and plastic soft-drink bottles."

The 25-hour course is primarily based on lectures, demonstrations and hands-on practice.

To accommodate working mothers, Profam suggests that training of students, whether beginners or already in jobs, be approximately three hours a week for eight weeks.

Franchises cost R5 000 to R10 000, depending on the size of the area. Training venues can be recreation centres, local churches or even private homes.

Franchisees, says Beckley, get all the materials and on-going support needed to run a successful training business.

NEWS

US legal suit planned over drip deaths

Staff Reporter

Sheer frustration at the outcome of the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court ruling that no one could be held responsible for the deaths of the 13 "contaminated drip" babies has led a Johannesburg couple to start legal proceedings in the US.

Marco and Anna Fiocchi, whose baby Roberto died in August 1990, are bringing a R60 million civil-court class action against Baxter Travenol Inc, the supplier and licencee of Sabax in South Africa.

"The wound doesn't heal very easily when you embark on this sort of action. But I can't accept losing a child under these circumstances. I don't think any of the other parents can accept it either," Marco Fiocchi said yesterday.

And while the inquest on the babies' deaths may be reopened following a claim by former Sabax employee Di Parker that inadequate controls were applied in one of the company's units, Fiocchi said he was very disappointed over the way the first inquest had been handled.

"It's difficult to say whether there was a cover-up, but we are not going to sit around and wait."

He said the class action — which does not exist in South African law — was being brought not only for the children who died, but also to prevent more such deaths. Noting that another eight babies died in September last year after being placed on contaminated drips supplied by Isotec Nutrition in Johannesburg, Fiocchi said there could be other deaths which the public did not know about.

A "drip baby fund" had been set up to finance the action in the US. Fiocchi estimated the initial costs of the application to be about R40 000 to R50 000.

"The inquest was very expensive. Lots of the parents will do what they can to help, but it will cost a lot of money. We are hoping the public will come forward and offer help."

'Prostitution ring': Police arrest man

Sowetan 25/11/93 (298)

■ Suspect to appear in court today:

By Themba Molefe

THE man allegedly behind a child prostitution ring in Johannesburg has been arrested.

He will appear in court today.

Police confirmed at the weekend that the man, who was operating his "business" from Jolly Street, Yeoville, would face abduction and rape charges.

Several other charges are also being investigated. They include drug-related offences and contravention of the Children's Act.

The arrest on Friday followed intensive investigations by John Vorster Square's Child Protection Unit after the ordeal of a 10-year-old girl was exposed in *Sowetan* last week.

The girl, who cannot be named, said she was forced to use drugs and had slept with at least three white men a night for more than six weeks.

The girl is believed to have identified the suspect when she revisited the house with the police on Friday.

The girl was abducted at a shopping centre in Bruma Lake at the beginning of November last year.

Justice will be done

She was found by her mother, who recognised her in a group of girls near her Hillbrow flat, on January 15.

Reacting to the news of the arrest, the 29-year-old mother said: "I'm happy. Let's hope justice will be done."

Activity at the Yeoville house seemed to have reached a dull ebb following the swoop on the premises.

Last week, young girls were found lounging on the balcony of the huge mansion.

With them was an older woman described by the 10-year-old girl as the "granny" of the group. She gave her name as Phumzile.

The girl said she recognised one of policemen who used to frequent the Yeoville house at John Vorster Square when she accompanied her mother to make a statement to the police.

Police have not denied the officer had frequented the house but said the suspect was known to them.

The suspect had been doing his "business" for more than two years and allegedly abducted girls from as far afield as Natal.

80 children on trial

Sowetan 25/11/93 (298)

A TOTAL of 80 children under the age of 15 were awaiting trial in South African jails at the end of August last year.

This was said by the Minister of Correctional Services, Mr Adriaan Vlok, in reply to a question from Mr M Rajab (DP, Springfield).

Another 851 children under 18 were also awaiting trial then.

The total of sentenced prisoners under 18 was 559.

80 children in jail

SOWETAN 28/1/93.

A TOTAL of 80 children under the age of 15 were awaiting trial in South African jails at the end of August last year, Minister of Correctional Services Mr Adriaan Vlok said in reply to a question in Parliament from Mr M Rajab (DP, Springfield) yesterday. (298)

Another 851 children under 18 were also awaiting trial then.

Shocking child care facilities

298
Sowetan 28/11/93

■ STACKED LOGS *Crowded, dirty crèches:*

By Sizakele Kooma

FOR MOST working parents peace of mind comes with good quality, affordable and dependable childcare.

But very little satisfaction is enjoyed by mothers and fathers from Witwatersrand crèches where a high number of business-minded "entrepreneurs" are cashing in on parents' desperation

A survey conducted by *Sowetan*, after a number of calls from parents complaining about various crèches, found overcrowding, under-staffing, lack of recreational material and poor diet to be among the common problems in most crèches.

At one crèche in Mercdalc, south of Johannesburg, more than 60 toddlers were stashed like logs on the floor of two small bedrooms while several older ones played, unsupervised on the veranda and others ate in the open-plan lounge. Three minders stood in the kitchen engrossed in conversation.

The principal-owner, Mrs Thembi Mdingi, from whose home the crèche is run, admitted to the overcrowing and said she was yet to have a meeting with parents to discuss cutting down the numbers.

Mdingi, a nursing sister with neither qualifications nor experience in childcare, said she set up the crèche early this year, responding to the need for the service in the black community.

"I had not envisaged the turnout. I have no alternative but to cut out all the infants and retain the older kids," Mdingi said.

She started the crèche without a permit because, she said, she had seen most people in Soweto doing the same thing.

On the haphazard way in which the crèche was run, she said none of her minders had had experience in a nursery school. She was interviewing teachers and was looking out for two whites "to help the children learn English".

Class dunces

Check bylaws of the regional health department.

Register with the department of social welfare and pensions.

Obtain a licence to operate from the Regional Licensing Authority.

A multiracial centre has to apply for a permit from the Provincial Administration.

At the Mockingbird Nursery School in Plein Street, endless rows of children lay in a dimly lit hall. The children, both toddlers and pre-school age, were sleeping, with no adult in the room.

One parent had complained of overcrowding and high staff turnover at the creche. When *Sowetan* got there, there was only one teacher and the cooking staff.

The principal, Mrs Moirah Nkosi, refuted claims of understaffing and said her school was under constant inspection from the regional health and housing department

"I have 55 children and a staff of three teachers, a cook and cleaner. I have never had complaints from any of the parents. I believe that if any one of them are not happy they should talk to me or withdraw their child," Nkosi said.

At one of only two crèches, of the six visited that seemed to be of approvable standards the principal, Mrs Joyce Mkhuwane, complained of two cases of malnourished children she had admitted from a crèche in Hillbrow. She said one of the children had to be referred to a doctor as his development had been retarded.

She said some creche owners would not turn back children, even when their numbers were above limit, because of greed.

Probe into grants for disabled children

298
CT 29/1/93

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

THE system of single care grants to parents of severely handicapped children is to be investigated by a committee of inquiry, the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, announced yesterday

The committee, under the chairmanship of Mr Olaf de Meyer, the chief magistrate of Johannesburg, is to report within six months.

It will investigate the policy of single care grants, the criteria to which a severely or profoundly mentally retarded child must comply in order to qualify for a single care grant, how these grants should be administered, whether these children should be certified and any other relevant issues.

Single care grants are awarded to parents who have to look after their children full-time because of their handicaps.

● Anyone wanting to make comments should contact the committee at Private Bag x 828, Pretoria, 0001, before February 22.



ALONE AND AFRAID ... These two toddlers were recently dumped at Baragwanath Hospital by their parents. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

The burden of poverty falls on Baragwanath

C/Press 3/11/92

By MOSES MAMAILA (298)

BORN to suffer. These words sum up the plight of babies abandoned by their mothers shortly after birth.

The agony of some of these children is not only life without parents, but the deadly disease – Aids.

City Press this week visited the innocent children, whom a social worker said were victims of poverty, at Baragwanath Hospital.

Of the 18 babies presently admitted at the hospital, four are HIV positive, according to social work department assistant director, Lea Smith.

The mothers of two HIV babies have died and when the social workers approached the fathers they refused to take responsibility, saying they were not legally married to the mothers.

Relating one of the heart rending tales they deal with on a daily basis, Smith told of four children from the same family who were abandoned by their parents in December last year.

She said the mother left the children in a shack at a squatter camp near Kliptown and headed for the Transkei.

Her husband also gave up the children aged seven, six, four and two. The children were found after a week of living alone. They were malnourished and appeared to be sick. C/Press.

They stayed at the hospital for a few days before being transferred to a place of safety. 3/11/93.

Smith said the matter was reported to the police and the parents have been arrested in connection with child abuse and neglect.

She told City Press that the problem of abandoned children was nationwide and on the increase.

Some newborn babies, who survived after being exposed to inhumane treatment by their mothers, were found wrapped in plastic bags and left in deserted areas while others were abandoned at the hospital by their mothers.

She said there was an incorrect perception that there was a unit for abandoned babies at Baragwanath.

Smith added that teenagers who were unable or unwilling to raise kids could give up their children for adoption.

She also challenged young people to practise safe sex, saying family planning costs nothing.

You're welcome!

Poverty knows no colour for those, black and white, who have nothing

By CECILE ANTONIE

POVERTY has brought black and white together – right in the heart of conservative Vereeniging

Retrenched and destitute folk of all hues are living harmoniously in the "Peacehaven" on the banks of the Vaal River under the care of community workers who defy social trends in the area

The "Peacehaven", an unoccupied school, serves as home for 120 adults and children Children attend playschool on the premises and three healthy meals are prepared daily for these families.

One particular "coloured" family, Andrew and Caroline Maritz and their three children, moved to the empty school last November

Andrew, an ex-security guard, left his job because his salary could not maintain his family. His wife was employed in a light factory but resigned because her child was continuously ill.

They claimed they had to leave their Noordgesig home because of the violence. "I am better off here than where I was before," he said.

But Gloria Moses, an ex-hairdresser, said that she saw no hope for her family. "All I wish for is a home of my own and a job."

She said she did not encounter any racial discrimination and they were treated as equals at "Peacehaven".

The man behind this project, Pastor P Brazer, and his right hand man, engineer Marius Muller, are members of the once whites-only "Apostolic Faith Mission".

Their interdominational committee, "Toevlugsoord", helps raise funds for this scheme.

Another project in the making is the establishment of a street kids' shelter 15 km outside Vereeniging, at De Deur.

The house, situated on a large plot, was donated by a Vereeniging woman to shelter homeless children, on condition they maintain the property

"Peacehaven" residents Chris and Victoria Rondganger have been delegated by the church to care for the street children. Chris is aided by 20-year-old Benedict Bapela, an ex-student

Chris, a qualified moulder, was retrenched from Murray and Roberts and has been unemployed for a year. He plays father to these children and assists with work therapy and preparation for school.

A strict code of conduct is practised. Children may not lie or steal nor leave the house without permission. If these rules are broken they face being reprimanded or punished.

Children are permitted to pay their parents monthly visits, if they know where their parents are.

Most of the children do not wish to go home as they have been subjected to both physical and sexual abuse.

The youngest victim, an eight-year-old, has been on the street for two years. He has no desire to see his mother as "she made him work" for her. He enjoys the freedom of his new home and friends

"I want to be a soldier one day, because my parents have ill-treated me – now I want to ill-treat others"

These were the embittered words of 18-year-old Andrew Mmutle from Orange Farm. He took to the streets two months ago when his parents handed him to the police for allegedly stealing from them

A 12-year-old, who was sexually abused by a white Vanderbijlpark doctor, said that his greatest dream was to be a policeman.

Scores of unemployed residents from surrounding townships waited outside the church every day to receive food parcels Over 400 families benefit weekly from this aid.

However, many residents have complained that the feeding scheme in the townships is corrupt. Residents from Evaton claimed that people assigned to distribute hampers were feeding their next-of-kin and not the community.

Pastor Sikhosane said he was not aware of this and did not know how to handle the problem He had not visited the other feeding sites.

But Pastor Braze is positive: "I believe there is hope in Christ. I am apolitical. The man in the street has been forgotten. Politicians don't realise what they are doing to the people . . we must care for one another. Our hope is in the will of God."



NEW START ... Black and white children play together at the Peacehaven creche established in Vereeniging to assist the needy. (Below) A destitute man and his wife braai fish on the banks of the Vaal River not far from the shelter at which they stay in order to receive three meals a day and a bed. ■ **Pic: EVANS MBOWENI**



Suffer

By JENNIFER GRIFFIN

The most powerful mediating factor for children exposed to violence are their parents. But in SA, parents are losing touch with their traumatised kids and the breakdown in communication worsens as, daily, families are torn apart and individual fears deepen. Children are insecure and as a result join political groups as a means to gain control. Reports reveal that one in two young activists during the past decade had no relatives and only one surviving parent. Journalist JENNIFER GRIFFIN takes a closer look at an angry generation striving for normality in an abnormal society.

The spiralling violence in SA not only claims victims, but it tortures the minds of our innocent kids

YOUNG Julia More lives in Alexandra's Beirut area. Every day on her way to school she walks past the Madala Hostel and worries that someone on the second floor will shoot her as she passes by.

Every day she waits for a packed taxi to take her on a one-hour journey to the predominantly white Fourways High School, far from the township violence. After school she retraces her journey, runs past the hostel and hurries home to make sure her mother is alive and their house intact.

Recently she lost all her books on the way to school when armed men opened fire on the bustling taxi-rank where she stood with her brother.

Thirteen-year-old Julia writes poetry to cope with the violence and pain she encounters each day.

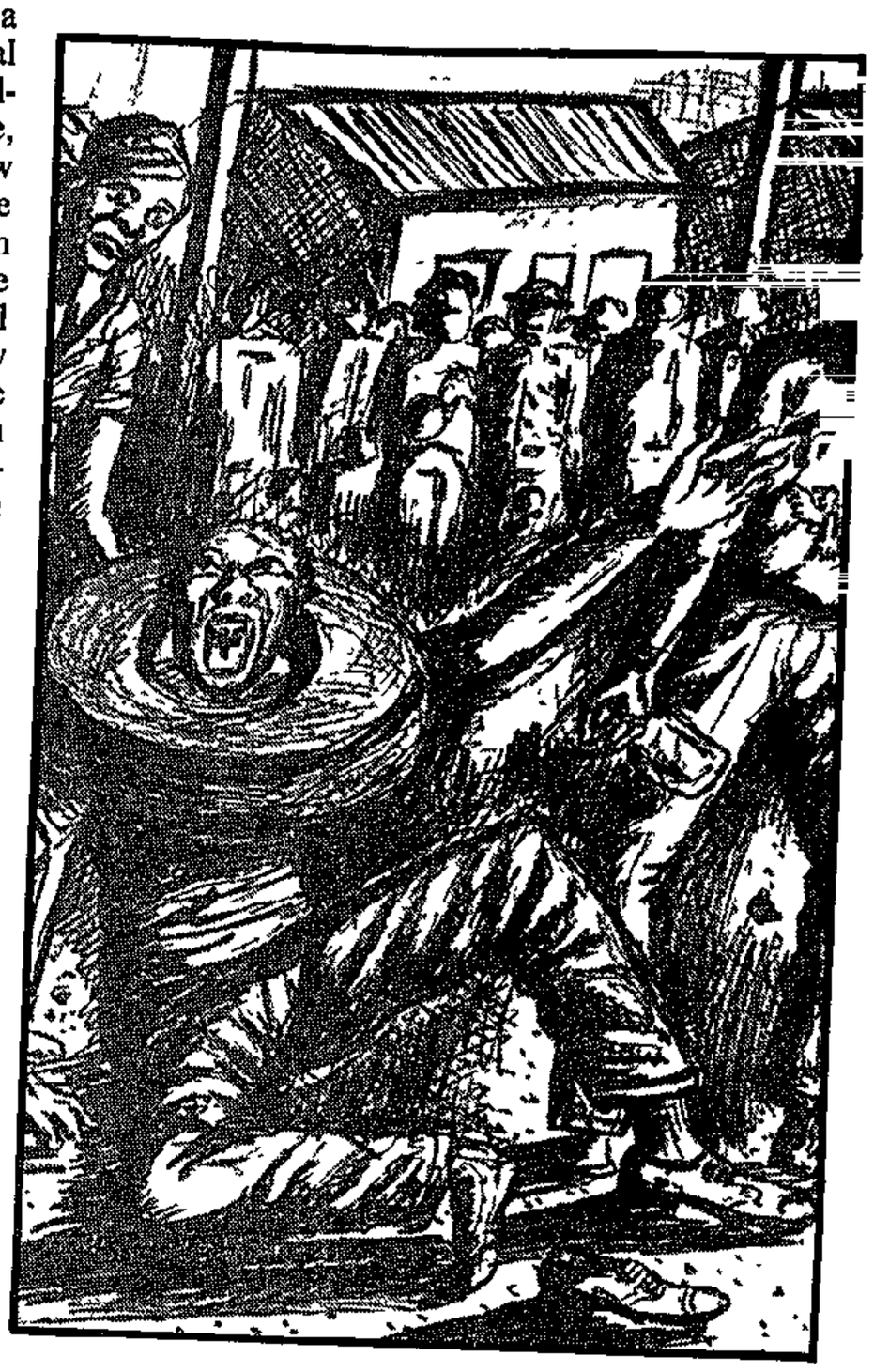
"Who will defend us from the men who aim well from the university of Madala Hostel?" Julia asks in a poem she wrote recently.

Violence is taking a physical and emotional toll on South African children, black and white, and parents do not know how to help them survive the repeated traumas in their lives. Children have become the psychological war-casualties and many demonstrate the tell-tale symptoms associated with post-traumatic stress syndrome – a condition often associated with soldiers.

Children react to the constant fear and pressure in one of two ways. They either act out and become more violent and aggressive, or they withdraw completely and direct their anger inwards. Many have become listless and depressed.

During an Art Educators Association workshop last year, township children were asked to draw pictures depicting their daily lives. The children drew houses with rickety frameworks; divided into compartments, representing modules of alienation. No people were shown living in the houses, which reflected that most families were broken and at least one parent was absent from the household.

One group of teenagers failed to draw any coherent image at all. They applied scattered marks to a page, suggesting their disconnected, fragmented existence within their community.



"Their ability to learn has been impaired," said Vivi Stavrou, a psychologist who works for the University of the Witwatersrand's Project for the Study of Violence

None of the children drew any heroes, leading one psychologist to conclude that there weren't any heroes in these children's lives. Themes of violence and death emerged throughout these drawings.

Township children ob-

ART FROM HELL ... Pictures submitted by youngsters portrays the brutal and violent society in which they live.

C Press 3/11/93 298

serve violent outbursts and encounter death almost daily. "Dead bodies no longer scare them. They talk about it as though they were watching a movie," said Thabo Motloung, vice-chairman of the parents' committee at the Thusong Advice Centre in Alexandra. His six-year-old son recently asked him for a gun.

Studies show the children who survive exposure to violence are the ones who come from stable families where communication is encouraged.But presently, in SA, both parents and children are withdrawing from one another.

Mothers no longer know how to control their children. They increasingly yell at their kids because they feel helpless and have no other outlet for their frustrations.

Not far from Julia's house in Alexandra, 50 families sought refuge at the East Bank Community Hall, all of them left homeless following the fighting between hostel dwellers and residents which has raged for the past two years.

"We use dishes for toilets and the toilets for bathing," said Noloro, who moved into East Bank in March last year. The families once lived opposite the Madala Hostel. They were a community.

The children living in East Bank have nightmares that chanting Inkatha impis are coming to attack their new home "They were chopping us, shooting us. They got into this hall and were doing whatever they wanted," said Tumisang Nyama, 17, who wakes up at least twice every night, often to hear her mother crying in the same bed as she.

Young girls awake only to be raped by drunken men that they know from the community. "They used to see these things on TV. Now they see it in real life. Children are exposed to sex at an early age," said Noloro, whose husband left her and their three children in East Bank Hall and moved into a house with relatives.

Director of the National Institute for the Criminal Rehabilitation of Offenders (Nicro) Jeanette Schmid, said: "Children have a hard time accepting the violence. They don't talk about it. It's just something that happens in life. They think that one doesn't talk about what happens to oneself."

Many of the children at East Bank complain that it is difficult for them to do their homework due to the noise and blaring music in the hall. Many suffer from insomnia and tension headaches which prevent them from concentrating at school – if they still attend classes.

Children have been subjected to ongoing violence throughout the world, but families did not split as they have in SA, where migrant work and a high divorce rate tears families apart.

In SA, the decision-making capacity has been removed from black parents. This has allowed children to become politically active.Many resent that their parents accepted apartheid for as long as they did. These children stopped obeying their parents and ceased attending school in the name of the struggle.

Parents admitted their relationships with their children had changed in the past two years of intense township violence.

The most powerful mediating factor for children exposed to violence is their parents. Children need to talk to their parents and feel that they are listening. Some kids are joining political youth brigades in order to feel as though they belong The comrades communicate with one another They have meetings and strict rules about listening to each other. One in two young activists during the past decade had no relative, according to psychologist Saths Cooper, who directs the Family Institute in Johannesburg.

Violence is interpreted by children as a legitimate way to attain power or control. "The most successful people in South African society are people who adopted violence to achieve their ends. The gangsters are particularly powerful role models in South African townships. They look great and they get what they want," said Stavrou.

Despite political reforms, black males continue to feel disempowered, according to psychologists. Household violence, child abuse and rape are on the increase. In 1990, reported rapes increased by 33 percent in Johannesburg, according to the University of Cape Town's Department of Criminology.

The increase in domestic violence is directly related to the uncertainties resulting from SA's transition to democracy. "Black males still find themselves in inferior positions in the workplace. This undermines the man's self-confidence and status. The one place he can rule is at home," said Nicro's Tammy van der Sandt.

Despite the legacy of apartheid in SA, white and black families are reacting similarly to the growing pressures resulting from rampant violence. Families in the northern suburbs are barricading themselves into their homes.

"The exact same thing is happening in the black community," said Stavrou. "Almost every home has burglar guards."

Identity crisis for US

Cpress 31/1/93

Can black Americans claim to be African? Or are they the first Western black people, with their own cultural trends, but part of the American culture? JOAO SANTA RITA in Washington reports on the growing search for African roots among black Americans.

their search for a cul- l identity, more black ericans are demand- to be described as can-Americans.
t the same time they demanding that more ntion be paid to Afri- history. In growing bers, they are also sing in west African s to demonstrate r African roots.

lack Americans now an end-of-the-year, n-day celebration bed Kwanza which kes African culture promote seven prin- es – unity, self-deter- ation, collective k, co-operative eco- ics, purpose, creativ- nd faith. Some of the n principles have n given African nes such as aama", the Swahili e for co-operative.
he Kwanza festival is g aggressively mar- d by some companies as a black equiv- or complement to stmas, and indica- tions are that it is becoming part of black Amerian culture.

Larry Weathers, owner of shop wich sells products commemorating the seven-day celebration, said there had been an increase in sales of Kwanza-related goods in December compared with the previous year.

"There is now more interest because there is a bigger community awareness and blacks are more conscious of the need for a positive cultural experience," he said.

Shoppers said they gave importance to the Kwanza celebration because it allowed black children "a cultural identity" and allowed them "to understand what it means to be African-American".

In this search for African roots some black Americans go even further, claiming that they are not American at all.

"In my opinion there is no such things as an Afri-



CROSSROADS ... New York mayor David Dinkins got the surprise of hi home' recently. Here he is seen at the movie set of *Sarafina*.

BECOME OUR 13TH MILLIONA
GOLD RUSH 13
CARE CERTIFICATES
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East Cape Co-op Newsletter 3

SAWCO's Principles

- democratic control by workers over decision making
- the development of individual and collective abilities to their maximum potential, but without the small business objectives of private gain
- the division of surplus according to needs
- the elimination of all division of labour which hinders democratic worker control of planning and production
- no discrimination on the basis of race, sex or religion
- a commitment to a worker controlled co-op movement

Lessons for Today

In the words of the SAWCO chairperson, Phillip Dlala, SAWCO is an example for workers today that workers can maintain a strike for a long time. Through their work, SAWCO members have formed a core of workers who have managed to keep their strike together for three years

SAWCO also is an example for all workers of democratic worker controlled production. If the experience of co-ops is to serve the workers movement, then their mistakes and successes must be discussed and understood by organised workers The example of SAWCO, raises important questions for workers today about the kind of future they want

COLUMNS: THE TEENAGE POINT OF VIEW

SHOUT OUT BY GLORIA

We must find a solution, soon

WHY is it that most times when people have differences and cannot sort them out, they resort to violence?

We dupe ourselves by thinking that fighting is the only solution to all our problems.

I'm sure most people do know the difference between right and wrong. They are aware that engaging in violent acts will not make things better but will create enemies.

How many people have lost their lives since 1976? Has violence brought peace and prosperity to this country?

One thing that really hurts is that taking another person's life seems to be a very small thing these days. That shows how much violence there has been — we have got used to it.

People no longer love and respect each other as they did before.

One is left wondering whatever happened to our moral standards. We seem to have lost the meaning of the phrase. Typical of this is Soweto, where I live. (298)



Gloria Neo Mochawane ... a matric pupil at Altem Secondary School in Soweto. Her interests include singing and maths.

I'm going to tell you a bit about this place because I was born and bred there. I am not going to paint a bad or good picture of Soweto but tell you the bare facts.

At first this place was quiet and peaceful, I am told. But now, look at what it has turned out to be. People kill each other at the slightest provocation.

Some people have even been killed at night vigils, which I regard as a disgrace. People no longer respect the dead. Unknown assailants, brandishing dangerous weapons, walk into these wakes and mow people down for no apparent reason.

Grannies, children, mothers and fathers are killed during these attacks which have left tongues wagging in astonishment. Even when you do something simple like going to school or work, people at home pray that you come back in one piece.

No place is safe these days.

Some people are even murdered in their very own homes. There is no place to hide.

Believe me when I tell you it is survival of the fittest, the law of the jungle. But despite all this bloodshed and mayhem children are born daily, into a world of crime and sorrow. The little loved ones in turn become the sacrificial lambs, victims in the battle zones.

Violence has become the order of the day to such an extent that even when peace accords are signed, violence continues. Many believe that if our leaders could sit down and talk, things will right themselves.

But I don't believe that it will ever materialise. We, the residents of the townships, should sort out our problems first.

As teenagers we live in fear as death is always stalking us. We no longer travel or hold parties as we are scared that something terrible might happen to us.

People sing peace, demonstrate for peace but all this does not help with the crisis we are faced with.

Many are fleeing their homes, afraid. We have in the past heard of people who get paid to kill others. Well, if money can make me kill my own brother or sister then I'm better off without it.

We need a solution to our problems as a matter of urgency. If not, the violence engulfing our townships will swallow us all, leaving no one to to tell the story.

So people, let there be peace and prosperity so that this Place can be a better one to live in. Let us all pray that peace prevails in our country.

IT'S TIME TO SHARE A LITTLE

Gifted child forum

298

Sowetan 3/2/93

■ **The joys and trials of raising gifted children:**

Sowetan Reporter

PARENTS of gifted children have been asked to attend a forum organised by the University of South Africa at the end of this month.

The forum will be presented by the Department of Psychology of Unisa to create an opportunity for parents and teachers of gifted children to meet with experts to discuss the joys and trials of gifted and talented children, Dr Shirley Kokot of the department said.

She said gifted children had problems and concerns different from those of other children.

The forum from at 9am to noon on February 27 is in the Samuel Pauw Building. The cost is R15.

Parents should book before February 24 at (012) 429 4583, 429 4618 or 62 1522 (after hours).

PEOPLE'S LIVES Solution found in new child-proof paraffin containers now available

Danger lurks in cool drink bottles

Soweta 4/2/93.

By Pearl Majola

MISTAKEN IDENTITY *Paraffin poisoning rife in townships without electricity:*

PETUNIA LETSOLO COULD BE playing happily with her peers in the dusty streets of Doornkop squatter camp in Dobsonville, Soweto, but her red, tear-filled eyes tell a different story

She has been like that for the past four months

Her mother Mabel is convinced that the trouble with Petunia's eyes is a result of paraffin poisoning to which the two-year-old fell victim in September last year.

It was about 8pm and the Letsolo family had just finished supper. Suddenly the baby, Petunia, was screaming and spewing all over the place

"When I saw the vinegar bottle which had contained paraffin lying empty on the floor, I realised what she had done and gave her milk to drink," recalls Mabel. "I rushed out looking for transport to take her to hospital. There are no ambulances here. My baby could have died."

Petunia was admitted to the Leratong Hospital an hour later and remained there for three more days. Since then her eyes have never been the same

Like hundreds of children about her age countrywide, Petunia drank half a mug of paraffin mistaking it for water or cool drink because it was within her reach and in a container which she could easily open and drink from.

The Doornkop squatter camp was electrified in December but the children are still threatened by paraffin poisoning because the electricity is out most of the time and the community still relies on paraffin for cooking and lighting.

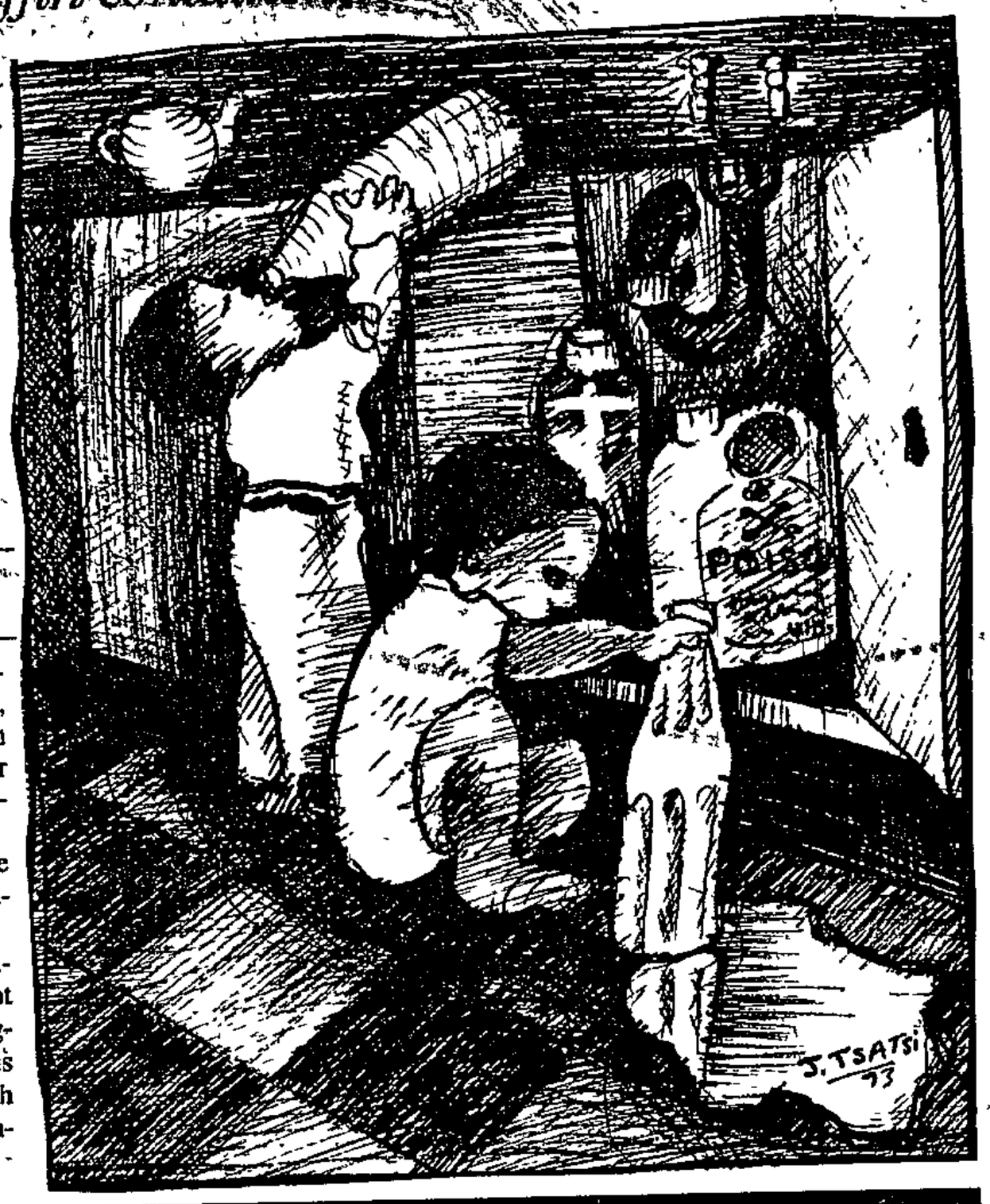
However, the danger has been reduced by the new child-proof paraffin containers which consumers are advised to buy.

Realising the growing problem, the Zola Voluntary Health Care Workers, an organisation which comprises about 10 women, decided to do something to curb it.

Meanwhile, the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa, with help from the Medical Research Council and Shell, were on a similar campaign to find a solution to the problem.

Now an effort is being made countrywide to distribute safe, child-proof paraffin containers.

The one and five litre plastic containers have a cap which children cannot open. They also have a warning in English, Zulu and Afrikaans that paraffin is not to be taken, must be kept out of reach of children and that it is highly flammable.



Paraffin Poisoning

- At Bara, at least 198 children were treated for paraffin poisoning in 1992.
- No fewer than 10 children a were treated a month.
- In 1990, 436 children were treated in hospitals and clinics around the Cape Peninsula. Of these, 63 percent were boys and over 80 percent were under three years old.
- Though statistics are not available, children are known to have died from paraffin poisoning or illnesses resulting from it.
- Children between one and three years old are most vulnerable. Paraffin poisoning is more rife in summer than in winter.

What to do

Precautions:

- **Keep paraffin out of reach of children and store in labelled, tightly closed containers.**
- **Avoid cool drink bottles as containers.**

In case of poisoning:

- **Take the child to a hospital or doctor immediately.**
- **Give the child a glass of milk to drink.**
- **Don't let the child vomit.**

Thursday February 4 1993 SOWETAN

PEOPLE

Plans for new child-proof paraffi

Danger lurks in cool drink bottles

Soweta 4/2/93 (298)

By Pearl Majola

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Youth swopping piggy banks for ATMs

298

ST Times (BUSS) 7/2/93.

TECHNOLOGICAL advancement, through the introduction of ATMs, has enabled the banks to crack open children's piggy-banks and develop a lucrative new market.

Competition among the financial institutions in the junior or youth market has become fierce, resulting in virtually every bank marketing youth ATM savings products with special incentives in order to secure a piece of the multi-million rand pie

Market research shows that the metropolitan segment of the youth market exceeds R1-m.

First National Bank, the first and largest player in the field, has over 500 000 junior account holders FNB's Pat Lamont, assistant GM, says research by the bank shows that account-holders starting with FNB as children or teenagers tend to remain with the bank as they move into adulthood

From the bank's point of view, Lamont feels that this is the underlying attraction of the market "FNB considers the youth market very important, believing that today's youths are tomorrow's corporate leaders."

He adds that the market has become highly developed, with products aimed at different segments from birth through to the early teens and eventually young adulthood.

FNB currently markets two products — 0 to 12 years of age and teens from 13 to 18 years — each of which are specially designed in physical appearance and product features to appeal to the different market.

Lamont notes that the "T" in BOB-T could by symbolic for "teen", "top", "trendy" and so forth.

He regards the introduction of youth banking as a natural extension of the education process in today's sophisticated age. Benefits for children include money management training, responsible awareness of money and its safe keeping.

Lamont adds that the process of banking also presses home, at an early age, the value of saving and the benefit of compound earnings growth.

Encourage

Perm GM Dave Harrison says that the sooner children start to save the better: "It encourages the discipline of keeping money for a rainy day or something special."

He adds that saving through a financial institution also educates children with the use of ATMs, thereby preparing them for life when confronted with more sophisticated personal financial management.

The youth products currently available on the market offer transaction-free facilities, normally up to the age of 18. Some of them also offer slightly higher interest savings rates and do not require a "minimum balance" on deposit.

Old Mutual manager strategic marketing Mr LD van Vuuren says the "young market" would also include people in the 18 to 34 age category.

He also points out the need to invest at an early age: "If you save R2 000 a year at a 15% return from age 23 to 27 you will have accumulated more money at age 65 than someone who saves R2 000 every year at the same return from the age of 28 until he or she turns 65."

■ To Page 2

some taxi drivers yesterday



MY ANGELS ... Proud Sibongile with her persecuted little albino girls.
■ Pic: THULANI SITHOLE

PIG MENTALITY

By NOMVULA KHALO

HOW horribly race obsessed and prejudiced SA has become!

We're not talking white on black here, we're talking about social cruelty being levelled by black people against a pair of little girls.

The girls' "crime"? They are albinos.

So vicious was the treatment meted out to little Busi, 10, and Rose, 11, that one of them threatened suicide.

Mother Sibongile had to remove them from a primary school in Protea North, Soweto, because they were being taunted and harassed by pupils – and teachers!

Then she tried the local Khuthala Lower Primary – in vain.

In desperation she took away Rose, who wanted to kill herself because she thought Busi would be better off "on her own".

But it wasn't long before her teacher allegedly refused to correct Busi's homework, and called her "a donkey".

Last week Busi ran home in tears saying she had been told to "move away" from her teacher "because she irritated her".

The next day Sibongile took Busi to the school for a showdown but was told that both teacher and principal were "unavailable" to speak to her.

The 'K' word cost racist R42 000

By ELIAS MALULEKE

A RACIST white farmer's foul abuse of the KwaNdebele chief minister and senior government ministers has cost him at least R42 000.

The Pretoria Supreme Court last week ordered Nylstroom farmer Attie Snyman to part with R42 000 and pay legal costs for forcibly evicting them from a "whites only" restaurant.

Snyman was ordered to pay Chief Minister Prince James Mahlangu R10 000 and four cabinet ministers R8 000 each.

Their ordeal started at the Rinzano restaurant in Nylstroom when an Afrikaans-speaking woman ordered them to leave.

When the ministers pointed out that they were senior government officials, she screamed: "F.. julle! Julle bly nog Kaffirs!"

Then Snyman interfered. "The man was like an enraged maniac. He punched and kicked us while insulting us and ordering us to f.. off," said Minister JL Mahlangu.

Reaching out to needy children

Sowetan 8/2/93. (298)

By Pearl Majola

■ FREE TOLL *Line will operate for two weeks to enable people to place pledges:*

REACHING OUT TO THE country's underprivileged children is only a phone call away and there is even more time to make your pledge for M-Net Red Nose Day

This is the message from organisers of the charity drive which starts on March 1 and ends on March 13 with a live broadcast of Red Nose Day on M-Net from 4pm to 9pm.

The concept of Red Nose Day as a fundraising campaign originated in Britain and is being used in the United States, Australia and here.

"This year, the fifth M-Net Red Nose Day, our target is the 'big five'," says project manager Mr Ian Thompson.

"For the past four years Red Nose Day has been an extremely successful project for all concerned. Last year we raised R4,2 million, every cent of which has already been handed over to the SA National Council for Child and Family Welfare. (The Council distributes the funds to its 176 societies and projects)

"Instead of giving the consumers only one day in which to pledge their support for this worthy project, we are extending the telethon to run for a period of two weeks from March 1 to 13. There will be a toll-free line, 0800 111199, sponsored by Telkom. Callers are also in line to win prizes," explained Thompson.

Red Nose products now on sale include noses at R2 each, gonks for cars at R5, pins or brooches for R3 and money boxes for which you have to pledge R20 to the M-Net Red Nose Day account at any Allied or United Bank branch.

The costs of manufacturing the products have been sponsored, which allows for all the money from sales to be donated to child welfare. Last year the sale of these products amounted to R2 million

Childhood trauma epidemic

298
CT 9/2/93

By CLAIRE BISSEKER

CHILDHOOD trauma has reached epidemic proportions in South Africa, delegates at an international child safety conference being held in Cape Town were told yesterday.

Dr Nelmarie du Toit, the regional director of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPFSA), said that on average 33 children with various injuries were admitted each day to the Red Cross Children's Hospital.

Most of the injuries occurred in the home and burns featured highly among the causes of trauma.

A review of all burn-related fatalities admitted to the Salt River State Mortuary in the past two years compiled by Dr Leonard Lerer of the University of Cape Town's department of forensic medicine, revealed that home fires accounted for 75% of all deaths.

The majority occurred during winter and over weekends and nearly all took place in informal settlement areas, Dr Lerer said.

Of the 358 burn fatalities, 19% were between birth and 12 years of age.

Boiling water accounted for 48% of the fatalities, paraffin heaters 23%, cooking fires 10%, electric appliances and paraffin lamps 8%.

"Armed with all the above information, preventive educational programmes have been formulated by the CPFSA aimed at the different target groups to promote greater awareness of potential hazards," Dr Du Toit told delegates.

Dr Lerer recommended the electrification of informal settlements as a measure that would have the most significant impact. He also stressed the need for an investigation into the efficiency of fire services, most of which are situated far from informal settlements.

'Accident' should be a banned word

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

ACCIDENT is a word that should be banned from the lexicon of childhood injuries.

This is the view of a group of experts who have gathered in Sea Point for a conference on child safety.

In the keynote address, Professor Kay de Villiers, head of neurosurgery at the University of Cape Town, said the word accident implied an event determined by chance.

The conference would show that very few childhood "accidents" were the result of chance and could be prevented.

Professor De Villiers, also a patron of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, described childhood injuries as a "needless epidemic" and South African society as an "accident-drunk".

This theme was reinforced by Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring, who in his opening address described childhood injuries as the "neglected disease of South Africa".

Figures showed 3 000 children under the age of 15 died of injuries each year and many more were permanently disabled, Mr Meiring said.

Also, the National Road Safety Council estimated that serious and slight road injuries cost an estimated R1,88 billion a year, a figure higher than the annual budget of the Department of National Health and Population Development.

"Prevention can be seen as an investment in the future of the country," he said.

Dr Olive Shisana of the Medical Research Council suggested that instead of talking of "accidents" one should refer to "injury control".

She suggested implementing a R25 fine for any delegate who used the word "accident", as was done at a similar conference in the United States, to highlight the preventability of childhood injuries.

Dr Shisana sketched the link between urbanisation and increased injuries to adults and children and called for the formation of a national co-ordinating body for injury prevention as a matter of urgency.

The MRC's "Birth to 10" study in Soweto had revealed that four percent of children in Soweto families had been affected by political violence.

Children in South Africa were the subject of child abuse and criminal and political violence, she said.

According to Dr David Bass, head of trauma at Red Cross Children's Hosptial, a large number of prospective delegates from African and South American countries could not attend the conference because of a shortage of funds.

Delegates include visitors from the United States, Britain and India.

Recommendations from the conference will be presented to Mr Meiring, who is also conference patron, at its conclusion tomorrow.

Call for bunk safety rail legislation

(298) CT 11/2/93

Staff Reporter

NEARLY 100 children each year suffer serious injuries from falling off bunk beds and the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of SA (CAPFSA) is seeking legislation that will make safety rails mandatory.

A Cape Times survey yesterday revealed that several local furniture stores are selling cheap pine and metal bunks beds without safety rails.

South African Bureau of Standards (SABS) specifications state that a rail must protrude by at least 16cm above the mattress on the top bunk, but this has yet to become law.

In the past six years almost 500 children have been admitted to the Red Cross Children's Hospital trauma unit from bunk bed falls, an international child safety conference in the city was told yesterday.

Most were under the age of four and suffered cracked skulls and injuries to their upper limbs. One patient died.

The majority of patients came from Mitchells Plain, Manenberg and Athlone.

SABS spokesman Mr Roger Titlestat said the SABS would welcome legislation making safety rails mandatory in all bunk beds and supported CAPFSA on this.

Mr Titlestat said that a number of manufacturers had submitted their products for testing, but that only two or three in the entire country complied with SABS specifications.

Dispute over child labour

PRETORIA. — The Department of National Health and Population Development yesterday denied claims that proposals by its working group would increase child labour.

The working group had recommended that the employment of children under the age of 15 be prohibited, but this excluded entrepreneurship and also casual work for "pocket-money".

The Network Against Child Labour believes this will increase child labour and has announced its withdrawal from the working group.

Boys 'more likely' to get hurt than girls

(298) ANC 11/2/93

ANDREA WEISS
Health Reporter

BOYS are at least three times more likely to get hurt physically than girls.

This is one of the findings to emerge during a conference on Child Safety in Cape Town.

Dr David Bass, head of the trauma unit at the Red Cross Children's Hospital, said — with the exception of child sexual abuse — boys were three to four times more at risk of injury than girls.

Reasons for the phenomenon had not been clearly established and were probably a combination of biological factors and the role models boys followed.

"We are living in a very male dominated society in which boys are expected to prove themselves by physical means This could lead to more risk-taking behaviour," said Dr Bass.

Another problem was that many children who were injured lived in families where fathers played a minimal role in child supervision and care. Generally, the burden of child care fell on mothers, aunts and grandmothers before fathers became involved.

In disadvantaged communities, there were also simply too few adults to supervise children adequately at peak risk hours — for instance after school and before working parents returned home.

The conference, which ended yesterday, made a number of recommendations to improve child safety and handed them to Cape Administrator Mr Kobus Meiring.

They include:

- The Cape-based Child Accident Prevention Foundation of southern Africa should extend its activities nationwide;
- Paediatricians and surgeons should be trained to collect data, which could be used to plan safety campaigns;
- Socially disadvantaged families should be targeted for child safety campaigns;
- Communities should be fully consulted and empowered to keep safety projects running.

Kids working for 'slave wages'

CT 12/2/93 (298)

JOHANNESBURG. — Thousands of children are working for slave wages in South Africa, say rights activists.

"Children as young as eight are working in the Soweto coal yards, as taxi cleaners and newspaper vendors," said Ms Jackie Loffell of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

Some childen were working for as little as R1 a day and some for no more than food and accommodation — "tens, perhaps hundreds of thousands of children throughout the country".

"This is slave labour," said ANC spokeswoman Ms Gill Marcus.

Six children's rights organisations grouped in the Network Against Child Labour withdrew from a government-sponsored working group on children at work on Wednesday because they said new government rules would exploit, not help the young.

Existing legislation barred the employment of children aged 15 or less but had no teeth, Ms Loffell said.

Mr Ken Margo, of the network's Rural Education Forum, said children as young as six and as old as 15 were working in feudal conditions on isolated farms — Sapa Reuter

NEWS LGNF to facilitate local democracy ● White parents don't want blacks at creche

Jan Smuts nursery accused of racism

Sowetan 12/2/93 (298)

By Sonti Maseko

■ Principal says white parents threatened to pull out their children:

A COLOURED couple accused a nursery school for children of South African airways employees of racism for allegedly turning away their two-year-old daughter because she is a "non-European".

But the principal of the Loubser Creche and Nursery School at Jan Smuts Airport, Mrs Leana Gradigde, vehemently denied the charge.

Creche was full

She said two-year-old Lee-Ann Meyer was turned away only because the creche was full by the time the mother turned up with her.

However, she said at the moment the creche had only white children, whose parents had threatened to pull them out if she ever admitted black children.

Lee-Anne's distraught mother, Mrs Anna Meyer, an aircraft cleaner, said when she took her daughter to the creche on February 1, the principal had expressed concern about what other parents (of white children) would say.

Democratic country

"I believe we live in a democratic country. Everything has changed. I do not see differences between human beings. We were born out of flesh from one person," an angry Meyer said.

She suspected that they had secretly hoped she would not be able to afford the deposit of R360 and the monthly fee of R165 because "that's too much money for our people".

The principal said Meyer should have paid the deposit earlier in January to secure a place for Lee-Anne.

She said she was still keeping Lee-Anne's application forms as she was prepared to admit her in future.



Mrs Annah Meyer's two-year-old daughter, Lee Anne Meyer, was rejected at a school because she is black. PIC LEN KUMALO

HEALTH *Enlargement of penis becoming popular* ● *Infant mortality hampers*

All stories by Mokgadi Pela

Plight of the child

Sowetan 12/2/93

■ BROAD STUDY *Looking at the factors affecting an urban child:* (298)

THE effects of urbanisation on child health is the subject of an intense study currently being conducted by the Medical Research Council.

Dubbed Birth to Ten, the project hopes to determine the biological, environmental, economic and psychological factors that are associated with the survival, health and development of children living in the urban areas by the year 2000.

Researchers, however, note that the task of obtaining information on mothers and their newborn is difficult as the infrastructure to compile such data does not exist.

Specific BTT data collection procedures have been initiated at delivery centres and child health clinics.

The study included all single births to mothers resident in Johannesburg and Soweto. All deliveries that occurred between April 23 and June 8 1990 were targeted for inclusion.

Of these deliveries, 47,5 percent were to Soweto mothers and 14,5 percent in Diepmeadow, while Coloured and Indian areas accounted for 21 percent and 5,5 percent from white mothers.

The researchers hope that the study, being the only longitudinal study of its kind in Africa, will make available unprecedented information on child health and development in the country's largest urban environment.

Bid to stem soaring rape, child abuse

Star 17/2/93 (298)

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Child rape has more than doubled in five years — from 1 707 reported cases in 1988 to 3 639 last year.

These shock figures were announced by Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee at the official opening yesterday of South Africa's first specialist rape court in Wynberg, Cape Town.

To be known as the Rape and Child Molestation Court, it would be up and running with a full roll within 10 days, Coetsee promised.

"Rape, child molestation and related crimes remain evils which are not only difficult to stamp out, but demand the stringent attention of the judicial system of any country.

"Statistics prove that rape and child molestation often go unreported," Coetsee said.

Proposals

Reported child rape has risen from 1 707 cases in 1988 to 3 639 cases in 1992, he said.

"The rights of the family, and particularly women and children, are a high priority, and for this reason the Government felt it necessary to address these issues in proposals for a future Bill of Rights."

Coetzee said he hoped the new court and amendments to various Acts, including the Criminal Procedure Act, would not only see to it that cases were handled speedily, but that they were handled more sympathetically.

He paid tribute to Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn who had launched a broad initiative to assist rape survivors.

"He took the initiative to establish the project in Cape Town. Under his guidance and under the leadership of Sandra Swart (a senior member of Kahn's staff) we are at the point where we can say we are past the teething stage and ready for the next," Coetsee said.

In terms of the initiative, a Cape Town rape committee was established comprising members of the police, the A-G's office, Nicro, Rape Crisis, the University of Cape Town's Department of Criminology, and the University of the Western Cape's Centre for Adult and Continuing Education.

New Deputy Attorney-General Natalie Fleischack, who was appointed specifically to assist the rape initiative, lauded Coetsee for becoming increasingly aware of the importance of women's rights in a rapidly changing society.

Fleischack is the only woman senior counsel attached to a South African attorney-general's office.

She said her office aimed to adopt a double-edged approach to the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences.

It would encourage complainants to come forward and cooperate with authorities and eliminate, as far as possible, the embarrassment and humiliation which complainants frequently had to endure during the investigation and trial.

"We hope to bring about these changes by the formation of teams of people who will include officials from the Department of Justice, the SAP, hospital services and social workers," Fleischack said.

Their objectives would be assisting survivors by prosecuting as efficiently and quickly as possible, and expediting their psychological rehabilitation.

The new court would contribute to speeding up the process, she said.

It would be used as a training ground for prosecutors and could, in the future, be a model for handling rape cases.



Gloria's YOUTH

Spare a thought for street kids

298

Sowetan 18/2/93 -

Society always seems to forget that there are people out there to whom we all refer as street kids.

You might just be wondering what caused me to think about them. Don't you ever think of your brother or sister who is out in the streets living in poverty with no decent shelter?

One often wonders what makes a person just leave the warmth of a home and decide to seek life in the tough and unfriendly streets. I know there are factors that force people to leave their homes but by saying this I am not encouraging it.

When things get tough outside you will regret it. Even if the home front is not a bed of roses, try and make the best of everything because there is no place like home.

Before we go any further, let us investigate the story of these street kids.

Most of the older boys have been subjected to the street culture for a long time and they lead the younger pack. They move in clans, say groups of 15. They eke out a living together, roam the city streets together, sleep and share whatever there is to eat for the night. A tough little world indeed.

They have their own codes of survival, how to avoid transgressing the law, how to avoid conflict with neighbours, how to make money and generally how to adhere to the ground rules of survival.

In the pack, the new ones who have run away from their homes pay a protection fee to the ringleader in the form of money or food. The money is earned the hard way by helping at parking bays, washing cars, helping shoppers carry their bags and at times resorting to petty crimes like pilfering and shoplifting.

Like animals in the wild, they have their own territories which they guard jealously against intruders. Favourite joints are vacant lots, public toilets, Saratoga Avenue and Harrow Road in Johannesburg, Berea, Nugget Street, Joubert Park, Doornfontein and many unused houses in the city.

Their daily diet is mainly bread, milk and Sweetaid, handouts from passersby and friendly cafe owners. At night they sit around blazing tyres and sleep on cardboard boxes. Only the lucky ones have blankets.

These kids rarely wash as they are complete strangers to water. Their dirty clothes cling to their skins and they are a smelly lot.

Glue sniffing and dagga are their daily bread. To the street kids, glue sniffing provides a form of escapism and comfort from the elements as well as hallucination.

Boys have been killed in the streets and wounded in fights between rival groups. The causes are often trivial, like fighting for 20c.

I am saying this to warn all the brothers and sisters who are contemplating running away from home.

Be a good kid and stick it out with mommy and daddy. They love you.

I would love to hear from other teenagers. Write to me at PO Box 6663, Johannesburg 2000.

Big Daddy leaving Boys' Town

STAR 19/2/93

298

The Catholic Bishop of Johannesburg and founder of Boys Town, the Rt Rev Reginald Orsmond, steps down as director of the movement this weekend. WINNIE GRAHAM reports.

WHEN Reginald Orsmond was a teenager in Troyeville, Johannesburg, about 50 years ago, he saw a film which changed his life.

The youth, who was later to become the Catholic Bishop of Johannesburg, was so inspired by "Boys' Town", an American movie starring Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney, that he decided to become a priest and start a South African version of the town.

The young Father Reg's dream became reality in January 1958, when he and 26 boys from Nazareth Homes moved to Magaliesburg to start the first boys' town on a property owned by the Dominican nuns of Oakford. He had hardly any money and was very much on his own, but from that first success several other boys' towns have arisen round South Africa.

The latest, at Robinson Deep, near Kagiso, is now being planned.



New boy in town . . . Joe Araujo, new Boys' Town director, with a "citizen" of the Kagiso home.

This Sunday, 35 years later, Orsmond will hand over the directorship to Joe Araujo, one of Boys' Town's first "citizens".

"The system we started then still works today," Araujo said this week. "Councillors with portfolios such as finance, justice, sport and recreation, along with a mayor, are elected by the citizens of Boys' Town, and they run the town."

Every citizen earns "credits" or "discredits", and monthly pocket money is determined by this. Caning is not allowed.

The first citizens of Boys' Town were deprived, neglected children in need of care. "Problem" boys are sometimes admitted, mainly because they respond well to the peer-group system, but Boys' Town is careful not to take too many naughty boys. Nor can it accommodate drug addicts, who need special care.

Araujo believes the structured environment at Boys' Town has been the saving grace of many youngsters. They have to obey the rules — or face the consequences from their peers.

"We no longer take boys whose parents cannot manage them," he said. "Instead we help with advice. The best place for any boy, if possible, is at home with his parents."

Araujo came to South Africa from Madeira after his mother died. He was delighted when Orsmond invited him to become a citizen of Boys' Town. He, like so many others, thrived in the environment.

Orsmond ran Boys' Town for 22 years until the Catholic Church elevated him to Monsignor. By the time he was installed as Bishop of Johannesburg in 1984, his movement had grown and new "towns" were being established.

In 1974 he visited the birthplace of the concept — the now famous Boys' Town in Nebraska, United States — to look at their child-care programmes.

"We started in the days when Elvis was king and 'ducktails' a threat," Araujo said. "Often our teacher waited months for his salary. There was always the thrill of going to town with Big Daddy when he tried to raise money to keep the place going.

"The best part, however, was the system which gave us guys the right to make decisions about our affairs, and which moulded us into good citizens." □

LABOUR

Legal loopholes may permit child labour

By PAUL STOBER

FARMERS have been accused of trying to entrench the use of child labour by supporting proposed regulations which create loopholes in the Child Care Act (CCA).

The Network Against Child Labour has quit discussions with the Working Group on Child Labour, convened by the Department of National Health and Population Development, in protest against the draft regulations drawn up by the group.

Network convenor Jackie Loffel said once the farmers realised they could not get around the Basic Conditions of Employment Act — which is being extended to farmworkers and forbids the employment of people under 15 — they began lobbying around the CCA.

Network argues that the proposed amendments to the CCA "would enable sectors which have been legally barred from employing children under 15 to begin doing so The proposed safeguards are unenforceable."

Said Loffel: "The draft regulations provide for exemptions and exclusions (to the CCA) and that's where the loopholes are."

The proposed regulations exclude from the prohibitions of the CCA "work ... of a child on his own initiative and for his own advantage", and exempt from the Act "persons who employ children between the ages of 12 and 15 years for the purposes of pocket money".

Exemptions are only granted if a list of conditions are met.

South African Agricultural Union representative Kobus Kleynhans dismissed the accusations.

"We do not see children as a source of labour. The fact is the only place they can earn pocket money is on the farms."

Soweto off limits over schoolchildren

(298) ARG 20/2/93

JOHANNESBURG. — Soweto police have advised businesses not to make deliveries to the township following the burning of three delivery vehicles yesterday.

The warning followed violence by schoolchildren.

A police spokesman said schoolchildren were concentrating on attacking vehicles with the aim of disarming security guards "in order to obtain firearms".

The police had used tearsmoke to disperse children

More than R1 million damage had been caused to vehicles in Soweto since Thursday, according to police estimates.

Meanwhile, the SABC reported that police claim to have evidence that Soweto schoolchildren have been sent out of the country for military training and that certain organisations had made plans to disrupt schools.

A police spokesman said this information had been obtained after the arrest of four youths for the murder of a policeman who died in a grenade attack while he was helping to remove a street barricade.

The spokesman denied that the reasons for school violence was high exam fees and the non-payment of a teacher last month.

He said the plans had been made last year to attack and disarm policemen and security guards accompanying delivery vehicles in order to get weapons.

Two vehicles valued at more than R160 000 had been burnt out in Emdeni and Thladi and other vehicles had been firebombed or stoned. — Sapa.

Pupil dies in death trap park

By Justin Pearce

Sowth 20/2-24/2/93. (298)

DENZIL Sampson got full marks for the last maths test he wrote in Sub A.

But the seven-year-old died on the Sunday before he was to start Sub B. He had fallen the day before from a swing in a park near his home in Bellville South

The swing frame is anchored in a concrete slab with broken corners of the slab exposed. It was onto one of these corners that Denzil fell, breaking his neck. He never recovered consciousness

Broken glass lies half-buried in the sand where barefoot children play daily.

Denzil was a "very bright child," said his mother, Mrs Sarah Sampson, and inseparable from his twin brother, Denroy.

"They can't call that place a park," Denzil's grandmother, Mrs Lena van Wyk, said angrily. "More children are going to die there."

"The children don't want to play there any more They say Denzil's ghost is there," Mrs Sampson said.

Yet the children do keep on coming back, as they have nowhere else to play within a reasonable distance of their homes.

Some Bellville South playgrounds have swings fitted with safe seats made of rubber tyres, with grass planted around them But the playground at Binnesingel remains a deathtrap.

Residents in the area are angry at how little public money is invested in Bellville South.

The Red Cross Children's Hospital in Rondebosch treated 175 cases of injuries caused by playground equipment in the first six months of last year

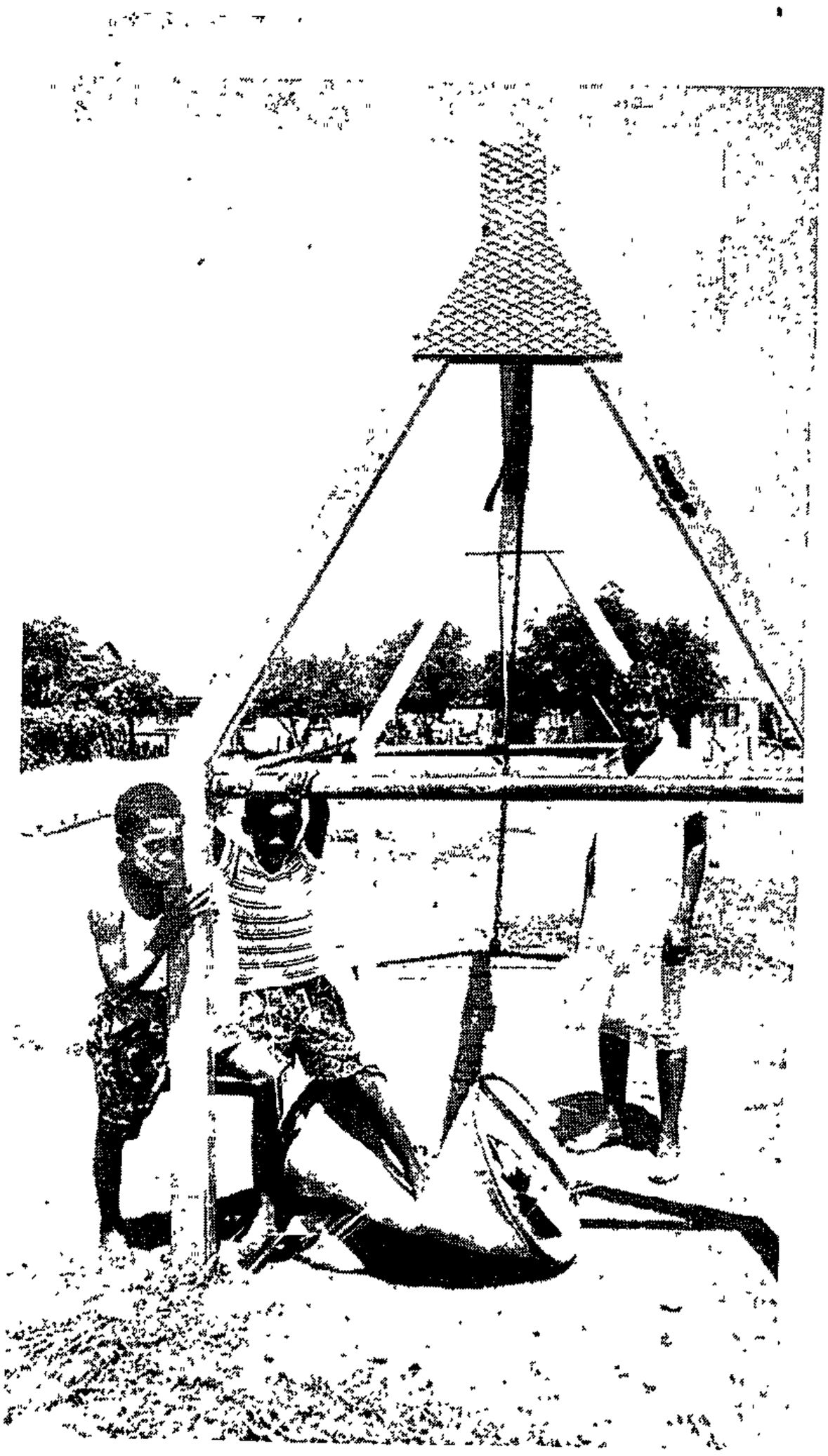
"That figure is high — playground accidents are not an uncommon cause of trauma," said Ms Debbie Melmed of the Childhood Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa (Capfsa)

Melmed said head and facial injuries accounted for most cases seen by the hospital Most were regarded as minor or moderate, with only two regarded as severe

Bellville city engineer Mr Alwyn Laubscher said Bellville City Council had no guidelines on playground safety When the Binnesingel playground was described to him, Laubscher admitted it sounded unsafe

"That must have been something that we did not pick up "

"They have built a new stadium in the white area of Bellville, and new lights on Voortrekker Road," Mrs Van Wyk said. "We don't use those facilities, but we are taxpayers."



DEATH PARK: Denzil Sampson's mother, Sarah, his brother and a relative at the swing where he was fatally injured



Denzil Sampson (right) with his twin brother, Denroy

Boland cops 'use dead bodies for confessions'

South 20/2-24/2/93 (298).

By Diane Coetzer

STELLENBOSCH police were this week accused of having shown four children dead and mutilated bodies and a decapitated head to intimidate them into confessing to theft.

The incident allegedly took place in the Stellenbosch mortuary on February 7.

Attorney Mr Rudolph Mastenbroek said he was instructed by parents of three of the boys to lay charges of assault and transgressions of the Children's Act.

Mastenbroek said they were also considering civil claims.

According to three of the children, two of who are 11 and the other 13 years, they were arrested in Stellenbosch by policemen on charges of housebreaking.

The three, and another minor, were then taken by one of the policemen to the local state mortuary to be "questioned".

After allegedly being manhandled by the policeman into the mortuary, each child was held by the neck and shown a number of dead bodies, some of them severely mutilated.

While being held by the neck, they were asked how many houses they had broken into.

One of the children was also shown a decapitated human head.

After the alleged incident, the children were taken to the Stellenbosch police station where they were told to remove their shirts and allegedly repeatedly hit on the stomach by another policeman called "Van Schalkwyk".

The children were then released and ordered to return home.

However, on February 11 they were all rearrested on the same charge and their fingerprints taken, after which they were locked in cells at the station.

Before they were released on bail the following day, the children were allegedly made to serve adult prisoners food from the kitchen — a violation of the Prisoners Act.

They were also allegedly made to clean their own cells in the early hours of February 12.

By deadline, the SAP had not responded to the allegations.



WINDIES' HAYNES: Students of Alexander Sinton Senior Secondary are enthralled by Desmond Haynes' guest appearance PHOTO: Guy van Raaij

filiated membership of approximately one million. During the sanctions debate of 1986 the organisation was largely responsible for ensuring that a ban on the importation of hunting trophies from South Africa to the United States of America was not included in the United States of America's federal sanctions legislation against South Africa A substantial number of members of the Safari Club International have over recent years spent millions of rands in South Africa on hunting safaris. The Safari Club International has also built a museum in Tucson, Arizona, housing a South African exhibition which displays South Africa's wildlife, thereby promoting tourism to South Africa.

At the time when the contribution was made, it was the task of all South African missions abroad to counter trade sanctions The contribution that was made by the then South African Ambassador in Washington, Dr P G J Koornhof, to the Safari Club International, occurred in this context.

Government Service Pension Fund: investments

*12 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Finance

(1) Whether there has been any change in the policy regarding the investment of accumulated funds of the Government Service Pension Fund, if so, (a) what change and (b) what effect has the change had in financial terms in regard to increased interest and/or dividends;

(2) whether it is the intention to extend any investment policy to utilize most or all of the accumulated funds of other State pension funds; if not, why not, if so, (a) in what manner and (b) over what period,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B168E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE·

(1) No;

(2) all the accumulated funds of other State pension funds are managed by the Public Investment Commissioners along similar lines as the funds of the GSPF;

(3) No. It should however be pointed out that the Commissioners have recently decided not to renew the management contracts for the six private sector portfolio managers who have been managing R3 billion of GSPF funds The experiment, over the past three years, has proved to be a costly exercise with limited benefits, while the PIC have managed to turn in a better performance than most of the private sector managers.

Universities/technikons: subsidies

*13 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education·

(1) Whether any universities or technikons are to receive in respect of 1993 the full amount which they should receive under the formula-funding policy administered by his Department; if not, why not,

(2) whether any of these universities or technikons are to receive less money from the State in real terms in 1993 than they did in 1992 in terms of the amounts determined by his Department; if so, which of these institutions;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B169E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION

(1) Since the Minister of Finance has not submitted the Draft Budget Bill for the 1993-94 financial year to Parliament yet, the details are not available at this stage

(2) Falls away

(3) No.

DET: distance education

*14. Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of Education and Training:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 7 on 4 February 1992, the interdepartmental committee appointed to investigate aspects of distance education has brought up a report; if not, why not; if so,

(2) whether he will make the report public; if not, why not; if so, when;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the effectiveness of the various television programmes aimed at assisting Black pupils broadcast in 1992? B170E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

(1) Yes

(2) No. An initial version of the report was recently submitted to the Committee of Heads of Education Departments. The Committee, of which the Director-general of National Education is the chairman, is considering the report, as well as the question concerning the publication thereof.

(3) The project is at present being evaluated by an independent consultant. A final report in this respect is expected by March 1993, after which it will be decided whether a statement will be made

Smoking: legislation

*15. Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) Whether she intends introducing legislation in respect of smoking during the current session of Parliament; if not, why not, if so, (a) when and (b) what will be the nature of this legislation;

(2) whether she will make a statement on the matter? B171E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(1) Yes,

(a) it has been put on the legislative agenda for the current session of Parliament and will be tabled as soon as possible and

(b) the Bill envisages the control of the use, sale and advertising of tobacco products.

It also empowers the Minister by regulation to—

— regulate the health warning and particulars regarding the hazardous constituents of a tobacco product which must appear on the packet and an advertisement thereof; and

— prescribe the claims which may not be made in the said advertisement

Provision is also made for a prohibition on the sale of tobacco products to persons who are under the age of 16 years;

(2) no.

Aids: orphans of victims

*16. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health

Whether any provision is being made for assistance to orphans of Aids victims in (a) urban, (b) rural and (c) peri-urban areas; if not, why not; if so, what is the nature of this assistance? B172E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH·

(a) Yes,

(b) yes and

(c) yes, Children who are orphaned as a result of the HIV/AIDS phenomenon are handled the same as any other orphans within the existing welfare structure If necessary the children are legally placed in substitute care

Rights of Child: UN/RSA

*17 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs·

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 19 on 19 February 1992, the South African Government will now consider becoming a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; if not, why not,

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B173E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) South Africa signed the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 in New York on 29 January 1993.

(2) The Minister of Justice, Mr H J Coetsee, MP, issued a press statement on 29 January 1993 and the media reported on the matter.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Whites stone black baby



Miss Francina More stands next to her unconscious daughter Boipelo at the Leratong Hospital near Krugersdorp. Boipelo, who is 11 months old, has suffered brain damage and is in a coma after being hit on the head with a stone thrown by a white boy at Swartruggens in the Western Transvaal. PIC SELLO MOTSEPE

By Abbey Makoe (298)

Sowetan 23/2/93.

AN 11-MONTH-OLD GIRL is fighting for her life at the Leratong Hospital near Krugersdorp after a stone thrown by one of a group of white boys hit her on the head last Wednesday.

Boipelo More is in a coma at the hospital. Her face is swollen and she is being fed through a drip.

Dr Christopher Cieplucha, who has been attending Boipelo, said yesterday: "She is in a severe condition. She suffered a fracture of the skull as a result of the injuries to her head."

Cieplucha said blood had flowed onto and put pressure on Boipelo's brain.

"In short, her brain has been damaged," he said.

Boipelo's mother Miss Francina More, said the girl was injured on Scheepers farm in Swartruggens in the Western Transvaal.

'A group of white men on the back of a bakkie threw stones at me as they passed us on the way from a nearby shop. One of the stones hit my child on the head," she said at Boipelo's bedside yesterday.

She reported the matter to the local police who rushed the child to hospital and took a statement from the mother.

Miss More said she took the bakkie's registration number and gave it to the police at Swartruggens.

A police spokesman at Swartruggens, Sergeant Attie Breedt, told *Sowetan* yesterday that they had opened an attempted murder docket against "young white males who were allegedly throwing stones from the back of a bakkie".

He said the suspects were known to the police but could not be arrested as "they are sitting for their exams".

"There is no use rushing the case as we are also waiting for the doctor's report," Breedt said.

He said police would investigate the matter "to the end, without any cover-up".

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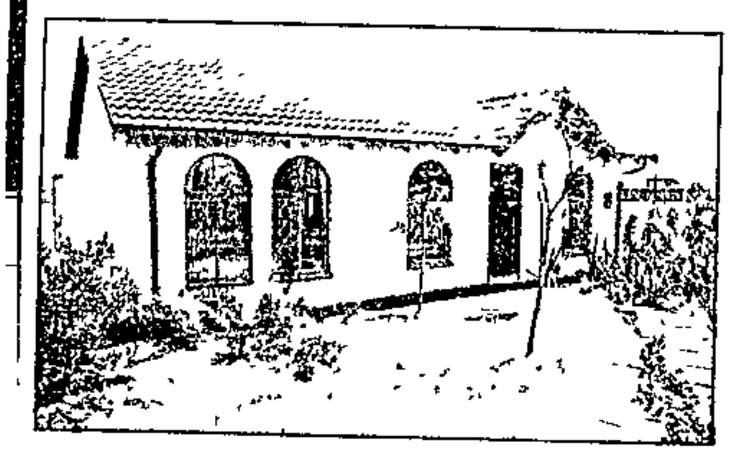

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PROPERTY DEVELOPERS

R 9553

I was personally in contact with the chairman of the management board of a very prominent agricultural school in the Western Transvaal, and this morning they were not aware of this at all In fact, they were very concerned about the situation

I also have a fax here that the director of financial assistance sent to that school on 17 February in which it was said that they did not qualify in terms of the carry-over scheme, and in which they basically told the school that the amount which the co-operative had incorrectly paid to the school had to be paid back immediately in terms of these measures.

Consequently we are very grateful for the very recent decision that has been taken I wonder whether the hon the Minister and the hon the Deputy Minister did not take the decision today in the bench where they were sitting talking. Nevertheless we are very grateful for it and we want to thank the hon the Deputy Minister sincerely.

I want to link up with my colleague the hon member for Potgietersrus and with the hon the Deputy Minister's standpoint on the importance of agricultural schools The role that they play in developing agriculture in South Africa can never be underestimated. We on this side of the House are very grateful that these schools may make submissions again

We want to request the hon the Minister to inform those schools as soon as possible through the Directorate Financial Assistance so that these reapplications may be made.

*Mr D S PIENAAR: Mr Speaker, the hon the Minister must not use the Government's decision which enabled agricultural schools to farm for their own account as an excuse for the rectification today, by means of this announcement, of a mistake which the Government made The hon the Minister's letter of 18 January contradicted all the arguments that he mentioned here today, which are good arguments and which we and others submitted to him on the strength of their merits In other words, if the hon the Deputy Minister is trying to get out of this in this way, I must tell him with respect that I am becoming concerned.

If a month ago the hon the Minister could submit the weakest arguments with so much conviction and today concede 100% that we were right initially and then try to hide behind an earlier decision of another department, he is denigrating a valuable and positive announcement which he made here in the interests of agricultural schools and in the interests of education and the interests of agriculture

I should have liked to take the opportunity to put in a good word for agricultural schools which do not receive State assistance for the incurring of costs in connection with production means My information is that they cannot make credit purchases or enter into production loans like normal entities in farming. They are therefore totally dependent upon cash trade Seen from that angle, they are in a weaker position that companies, close corporations and individual farmers In addition they cannot purchase diesel at the price at which individual farmers can do so The assistance regarding food which was available at one stage was not available to workers at agricultural schools either. [Time expired.]

*The DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT Mr Speaker, I should like to tell the hon member for Virginia that the Department of Agricultural Development and the ministry do not take overhasty decisions They are well-considered decisions If we had to sit here in the bench and take decisions, it would create chaos in South Africa [Interjections]

I want to return to the representations on the table I told the hon member for Potgietersrus that, even at the stage when we replied to his letter, we did not have the information at our disposal that the co-operative in that area had made the submission and we could give the necessary support in respect of the payment

The application of the school to which the hon member for Virginia referred landed on our table this week It opened the door to wider perspectives, seeing that in this case it was a recommendation by the co-operative The co-operative was of the opinion that it was a case with merit and that is why we reconsidered the entire matter

Against that background I do not want to say that there were no inputs from that side I appreciate the fact that inputs came from that side and that this matter was reconsidered We should therefore like to comply with the request

that these schools be notified as soon as possible This will enable us to dispose of the matter as rapidly as possible

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For oral reply:

Own Affairs·

Church: private school in Johannesburg

*1 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Housing and Works:†

(1) Whether a church, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, applied to his Department to obtain the buildings of a school in Johannesburg which has closed, with a view to establishing a private school; if so, what is the name of the church concerned;

(2) whether any other bodies or persons also applied to use the school buildings concerned; if so, what bodies or persons;

(3) whether these buildings have been handed over to this church or one of the other bodies or persons; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details,

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B128E

†The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND WORKS

(1) Yes. Die Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk.

(2) Yes

(a) The Open School

(b) Mrs E S Fourie on behalf of a crèche

(c) The Independent School

(d) City Council of Johannesburg

(3) Yes Four classrooms with suitable playing area to a Mrs Fourie for the use as a crèche The crèche is run by a non-profit Trust and is open to all population groups

Two hospital clinics with crèches, the SABC and other organisations in the vicinity have indicated that an urgent need exists for the establishment of a crèche as their employees have no other place to leave their children The existing crèches in the vicinity cannot accommodate more children The crèche will be staffed by qualified personnel

Remaining portion of the school to the Independent School This school is registered as an educational institution for all population groups and operates on a non-profit basis

Provision is made for children of all population groups who have to study under unpleasant conditions The aim of the school is *inter alia* to serve as a feeder for higher educational institutions in the vicinity.

(4) No

Housing assistance to Whites

*2. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Housing and Works.

What amount was spent by the State in respect of housing assistance to the White population group in the latest specified financial year for which figures are available? B187E

The MINISTER OF HOUSING AND WORKS.

R115 543 743,33 during the 1991-92 financial year.

Unsubsidized posts in schools

*3 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture·†

Whether there are any unsubsidized posts in schools under the control of his Department; if so, (a) how many such posts are there in (i) ordinary public schools and (ii) State-aided ordinary schools and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished? B193E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

Yes,

(a) preliminary figures for CS-educators are

(i) 0, Cont →

How to keep your

IDENTIFY INTELLECT
Picking out gifted children does not mean creating an elitist class, says an educationist. It means recognising their strengths to help them achieve their full potential.
PHANGISILE MTSHALI reports.

IF that black cloud zooming around your house is your surly, rebellious child, take heart. He or she may be the Einstein of tomorrow.

When children's giftedness goes unrecognised, they may tend to become frustrated and rebellious when trying to assert a natural inclination towards independence of thought and action, says Dr Shirley Kokot, co-ordinator of Unisa's gifted children's programme.

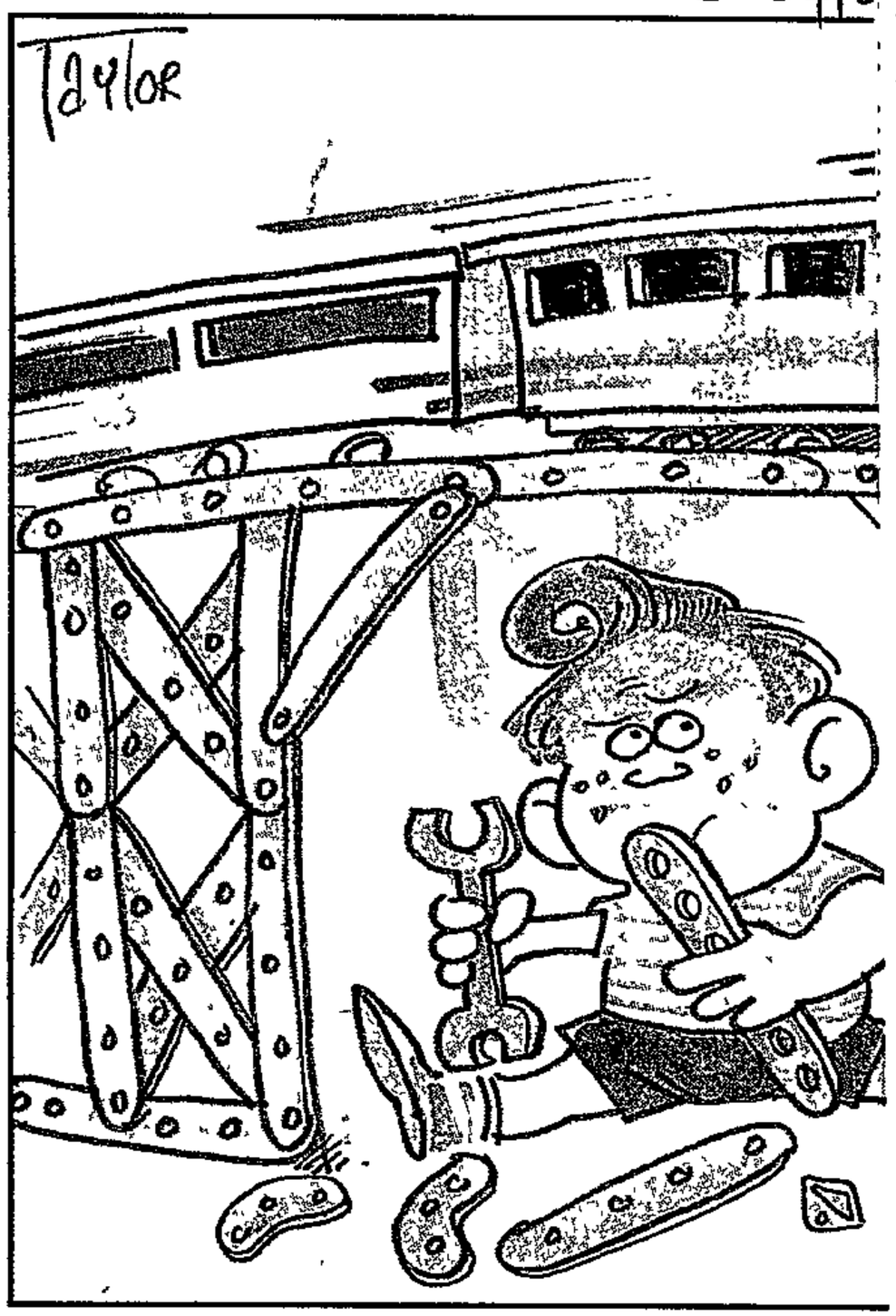
Kokot, author of *Understanding Giftedness — a South African Perspective* (Butterworths R71,50), and a senior lecturer in the educational psychology department at Unisa, will be holding a forum for parents of gifted children in Pretoria on Saturday.

Parents often don't know how to deal with exceptional offspring, and this usually hinders the nurturing process. Kokot says proper support by parents, teachers and other professionals is needed to harness and focus the child's development.

Nature can only supply the blueprint inherent in the genes to pass on the traits that make the child more capable than others.

Isolating gifted children does not mean creating an elitist class, says Kokot. It is merely recognising that they are different from their peers and placing them in an atmosphere in which they can reach full potential.

The difference between merely bright children and the gifted ones is in the way they synthesise information and deal with a variety of issues, says Kokot.



Bright children keep the system going by doing well to please their teachers and parents. They enjoy group activities, follow directions and seek adult leadership.

In contrast, gifted children are independent and avoid adult-dominated activities. They dare, lead, innovate, dream and solve problems.

A lot has been done in other countries to identify and harness gifted children, but many still go unnoticed. In SA only 2 percent of the population are recognised as gifted, although the percentage may be higher.

The South African education system is not geared properly to recognise and nurture gifted children, she feels.

"Teachers can be taught how to recognise and teach gifted children, but parents have a crucial role to play in

TOMORROW

A plan to map the blueprint for a human being promises freedom from disease. But squabbles threaten to delay the process.

Peter Gastrow appeared in The Star, January 28.

It seems to be widely agreed that the image must be demilitarised. Nothing is more significant in creating this image than the description, in terms of rank, of the members of the force. I believe that the ranks of the SA Police are substantially (if not completely) identical with those of the SA Defence Force. I would urge that the adoption by the SA Police of civilian ranks would be a major factor in improving the image.

In order to make a constructive suggestion I have looked into the titles of the SA Police ranks and those of the police forces in the United Kingdom, where there are about 50 (regional) forces and one large metropolitan force.

as follows:

In the SAP: General; Lieutenant-General; Major-General; Brigadier; Colonel; Lieutenant-Colonel; Major; Captain, Lieutenant; Warrant Officer; Sergeant; Lance Sergeant; Constable.

In the Metropolitan Police the equivalent ranks are: Commissioner; Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Assistant Commissioner; Commander; Chief Superintendent; Chief Inspector; Inspector; Sergeant; Constable.

I cite the United Kingdom because it is generally accepted that the image of the UK police is essentially non-military.

A L Bostock

Rosebank,
Johannesburg

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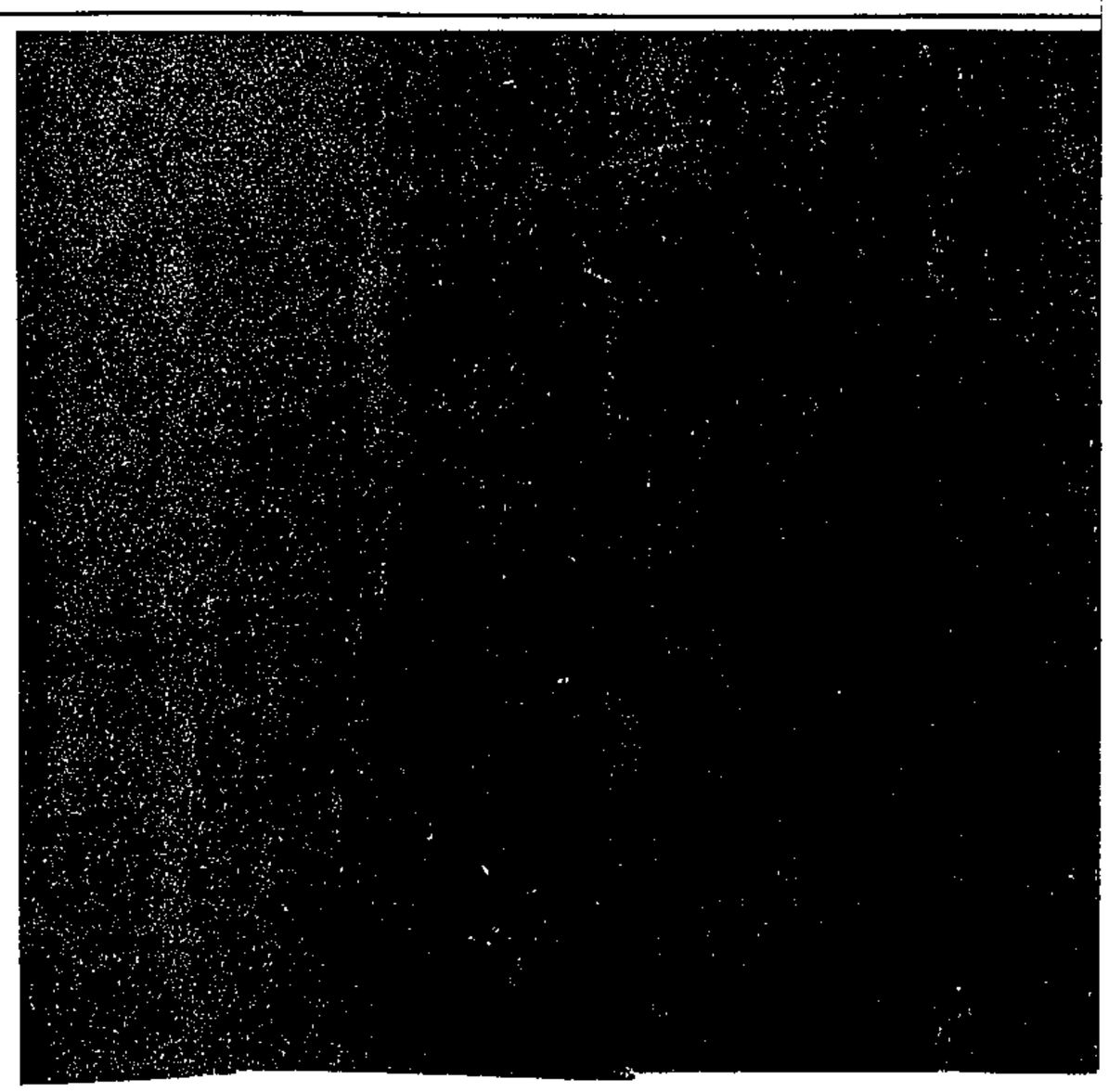

Babies for 'sale' probe

298

By Anna Louw STAR 24/12/93

A Germiston welfare official who allegedly charged an East Rand couple R3 200 to adopt a baby illegally is being investigated by the East Rand Child Protection Unit, police confirmed yesterday.

It is alleged the female official has "sold" up to 30 babies.

Police are investigating charges related to the prohibition of adoptions for remuneration as well as corruption.

The Star was told that a Kempton Park couple were charged R2 400 cash for a baby in November.

The official allegedly contacted the Kempton Park couple and told them to pay another R800 in addition to the R2 400 they had already paid for a girl born last week.

It is believed the couple may still adopt the baby after liaising directly with the mother's parents.

Boy appears in court over stoning of baby girl

298 Sowetan 24/2/93

By Abbey Makoe

■ Toddler will be permanently brain damaged:

A 17-YEAR-OLD youth appeared in the Swartruggens Magistrate's Court in connection with the stoning of 11-month-old Boipelo More who is in a coma' in the Leratong Hospital near 'Krúgérsdorp

The appearance of the Standard 9 white youth follows a report in *Sowetan* yesterday of an incident on a farm in Swartruggens in the Western Transvaal last Wednesday

Boipelo was reportedly hit by a stone thrown from a moving bakkie while her mother, Miss Francina More, carried her on her back

Western Transvaal police spokeswoman Lieutenant Belinda Kleynhans said yesterday the youth was not arrested but only summoned to appear in court yesterday He was accompanied by a teacher from his boarding school, Kleynhans said

"The youth is in the custody of the headmaster," she said.

On Monday, five days after Boipelo had lost consciousness, a Swartruggens policeman, Sergeant Attie Breedt, said police could not arrest the four youths as they were sitting for examinations

Stoning: police speak on arrests

STAR

298

Crime Reporter 25/2/93

Police could not arrest all four youths allegedly involved in the stoning of a western Transvaal toddler last week because there was no evidence to implicate the entire group, a police spokesman said yesterday.

He said police could charge only the youth who allegedly threw the stone that hit the toddler.

One member of the group, a 17-year-old youth, was arrested on Tuesday and has already appeared in the Swartruggens Magistrate's Court on a charge of attempted murder.

The youth was released into the custody of his school principal and the case was postponed to March 11.

Yesterday was 11-month-old Boipelo More's seventh day in a coma at Leratong Hospital, near Krugersdorp, after being stoned.

The baby's mother, Francina More, told police that Boipelo was injured when a group of youths on the back of a bakkie threw stones at her while she was walking with Boipelo.

A Leratong Hospital spokesman said last night that Boipelo's condition had not improved.

She sustained serious head injuries.

Black youths 'at risk in cells'

STAR 25/2/93.

298

By Garner Thomson
Star Bureau

LONDON — A British TV documentary team suggests any young black man now faces the risk of death in custody of the South African police — not just those with a political involvement.

Channel 4's *Dispatches* programme has come to that conclusion after an investigation into the work of pathologist Dr Jonathan Gluckman, who has conducted hundreds of autopsies after deaths in police custody.

The Gluckman Files, broadcast in the UK last night, draws on Gluckman's investigations, repeating his accusation of "uncontrollable savagery" and the claim that his medical findings have been ignored and covered up for years.

Among the accusations highlighted by the programme, directed by John Bridcut, are:

- State medical officials carry out fake post-mortems.
- Police ignore the evidence of crucial witnesses.

The claims are dismissed by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel as "bordering on a criminal statement".

Dispatches highlights a number of cases, including those of Simon Mthimkulu, found dead after allegedly being beaten by police, and Edward Malele, officially a victim of bronchial pneumonia, but who, says Gluckman, actually died of a brain haemorrhage.

NEWS Watchmen injured in second attack

Whites shoot boys

(298) Sowetan 25/2/93.

By Lulama Luti

■10-year-old boy to undergo emergency operation:

TwoDaveyton schoolboys, one now an amputee, are in the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital after they were shot by white men at the Etwatwa squatter camp last weekend

Fanie Mlambo (10) had to undergo an emergency operation to remove his left leg after it was shattered by a bullet.

The condition of his friend Solly Mailula (13), who was shot in the back in the attack on Saturday afternoon, was yesterday described as satisfactory.

East Rand police spokeswoman Captain Ida van Zweel confirmed the incident and said police were investigating a charge of attempted murder.

She said according to witnesses white men drove around the squatter camp on Saturday, February 20, and fired shots indiscriminately in the settlement

Fanie, a Standard 2 pupil at the Rolihlahla Primary School, was still shocked when *Sowetan* visited the hospital on Tuesday and refused to talk to reporters.

Called them to the car

His grandmother, Mrs Patricia Mlambo, said Fanie had told them they were on their way to a sports field when they were approached by two white men in a car.

"Apparently it was around 6pm when the men called them to the car." Fanie said they ran away towards the sports ground and the men followed them.

"He said the men shot at them and he was hit in the leg. Solly was hit in the back and the men drove away," Mrs Mlambo said.

A seriously wounded Solly dragged himself to a nearby house where he summoned help.

Fanie, who was bleeding profusely, managed to get a spent cartridge and put it in one of his shoes. On Tuesday one his relatives showed *Sowetan* the cartridge, which she said Fanie had probably retrieved as evidence.

After their ordeal the injured boys were rushed to hospital.

Sowetan could not speak to Solly as his parents could not be found to give consent.

Girl in station siege drama



Dlamini is whisked away by the police after a five- held her hostage at Johannesburg's Park Station last
PIC: PAT SEBOKO



COVERED ... Soweto school-girl Samuke hour ordeal in which a white criminal night.

Soweten 25/2/93

(298)

By Lulama Luti

A 10-YEAR-OLD SOWETO schoolgirl survived a five-hour hostage drama last night after she was held at gunpoint by a white man at Johannesburg's Park Station

Her ordeal ended soon after 9pm when he captor released her unharmed and then handed himself to the police

The girl, her face covered with a blue towel, came out of the station's cloakroom accompanied by police who whisked her away to a charge office on the stat on concourse where her anxious mother sat waiting

Her unidentified captor was later taken away by the police

The mother, whose name was later given as Angela Dlamini, burst into tears as arrived on the scene just after 8 30pm

The girl's name is believed to be Samukelisiwe and she attends school at Rosettenville, Johannesburg

Earlier scores of policemen and members of the Internal Stability Unit had surrounded the area while a psychologist and a senior police negotiator tried to persuade the man to free the girl.

Police spokesman Warrant Officer Andy Pieke said the man had past criminal offences and had "often clashed with the police"

The man was also wanted by the Hillbrow police

He had grabbed the girl, who was in school uniform and with three friends, at the first class concourse of the station and forced her to the cloakroom The other girls fled

Police said both the girl and her captor had remained calm, although the man had kept pointing his 38 revolver at the girl.

They said he had kept changing his demands but said he had nothing against blacks. The man had earlier demanded to speak to a white journalist from the SABC

A woman, said to be the captor's sister, sat in a car outside the concourse as the drama unfolded She later gave her name as Desiree Brits and said she did not want to speak to the man because she hated him



Mr Willem Basson of Old Mutual

Educate your child with ease

298
Sowetan 26/2/93.

■ In 10 years' time, a B Comm degree will cost more than R175 000:

By Mzimkulu Malunga

AS subsidies on tertiary institutions continue to dry up, sending a child to university or technikon is getting out of the reach for many families.

But calculative savings could reduce the burden.

Various financial institutions sell unit trusts which are aimed at assisting parents to cope with their children's future education requirements.

"It does not help if a person invests money without a particular purpose. We feel that education is one the crucial issues in any society, hence we initiated the education trust," says Old Mutual Unit Trusts production manager Mr Willem Basson

Education trusts operate the same way as other forms of unit trusts

Yield substantial sums

The investment is spread across a variety of companies whose returns yield substantial sums of money.

The money is then shared among unit trust holders in accordance with the number of units an individual investor has.

Though they are regarded as medium to long-term investment ventures, money invested in unit trusts is relatively accessible

An investor can withdraw a required amount, perhaps for education purposes, when the need rises, leaving behind the rest.

It is, however, advisable to invest the money for a period of about five years to allow market fluctuations at the stock exchange to stabilise.

A minimum lump sum investment that can be made into an education trust is R500. This can be followed by monthly savings of R50.

Increase the monthly contributions

This, however, varies from one company to another.

The investor can increase the monthly contributions anytime, depending on his capabilities.

While there is a desperate shortage of skills in the country, acquiring them has become an expensive exercise, even for the well-off families

Five years ago, tuition fees for a B Com degree was about R3 000. This increased to R7 000 in 1992

If boarding fees and other expenses are included, a B Com degree costs an average of R33 500.

In 10 years time, the same degree will cost about R175 500.

Estimates suggest that parents of a child who enters school this year will have to pay more than R300 000 in fees by the time the child goes to university.

The cost of tertiary education is increasing at a rate higher than inflation, so it is wise to strengthen your financial capacity now.

I was scared – hostage girl

Sowetan 26/2/93. (298)

Sowetan Correspondent

THE PETITE TEENAGER who was held hostage at Johannesburg's Park Station for five hours on Wednesday night said she did not hate her captor, but felt sorry for him.

"I don't hate him at all. I feel sorry for him for what he did to me He needs help — and anyway he said he was just trying to protect himself," said 15-year-old Brenda Dlamini.

There were few signs of Wednesday night's traumatic experience on the girl's face as she paced restlessly around in a room at the Park Station police charge office yesterday.

Smiling shyly, and sometimes giggling at police officers and reporters, Brenda said she had already recovered and all she wanted was to go back to school and "catch up with the work I missed today".

Her mother, Mrs Angela Dlamini (32), a nurse, seemed to be suffering more after-effects than Brenda While she did not sleep, Brenda — who was sobbing hysterically as she was escorted from the station late on Wednesday night — had been sedated and said she "slept well"

Brenda said her captor, Mr John Donavan Clute (32), spoke to her all the time.

Clute will appear in court today.

Witwatersrand police spokesman Captain Eugene Opperman said they were investigating charges of kidnapping, theft, assault and unlawful possession and pointing of a firearm against Clute.

Brenda said: "I was really scared but there was nothing I could do, so I just listened to him.

"When I asked him if I could go to the toilet, he said I should just wee on the floor. But I refused to do that," said Brenda.

Mrs Dlamini said there were times when Clute threatened to kill himself and Brenda — but the police persuaded him not to do so.

Brenda said she could not even remember how Clute got hold of her.

"All I know is that he was walking towards me with two policemen and then he grabbed me and held a big gun to my head. My books went flying but I was so scared I didn't even scream," she said.

Where children bear the brunt of social malaise

w/mail 26/2-4/3/93-

(298)

Two incidents of violence against children this week elicited vastly different responses from the countries in which they occurred. While Britain mourned, South Africa was indifferent.

By **EDDIE KOCH** *and* **JACQUIE GOLDING**

IN Britain a two-year-old toddler is abducted by a couple of older kids from a shopping mall and his badly battered body is found on a railway line near Liverpool a few days later.

Back home, in the same week, a teenager spots a baby on its mother's back on the side of the road in the Western Transvaal town of Swartruggens and stones her. The 11-month-old baby's skull is fractured and she goes into a coma.

The cases are similar. The victims are innocent toddlers. The victimisers are themselves youngsters. The violence they commit is seemingly mindless.

Only the public response is different.

In Britain the entire nation agonises. The Archbishop of Canterbury says the murder of James Bulger symbolises a "moral malaise at the heart of society". The English media describes a culture of anger that has gripped their country.

In South Africa, young Boipelo More's assailant is released into the custody of his headmaster — and the story makes a filler on page 13 of a Johannesburg newspaper.

The contrasting treatment of these two incidents is a measure of how indifferent South Africans have become to the violence hat surrounds them.

England and Wales had 795 murders in 1991 while 18 000 people — about 20 times the British figure — are killed every year in South Africa, making this country the "murder capital of the world".

Welfare workers believe the level of violence directed at children follows a similar pattern. The number of children murdered in England is in fact very low. In 1991 only 74 people under the age of five were murdered.

Statistics released by the South African Council for Child and Family Welfare show a starkly different situation here: last month the organisation received reports of 1 771 children being sexually abused, 1 572 incidents of severe physical beatings and a staggering 5 702 cases of child neglect.

There are no statistics for the number of children who are murdered each year in South Africa but it is believed the figure is well over 1 000.

Typical cases reported by child welfare officials in Johannesburg include babies being dipped into baths of boiling water, toddlers being placed on hot plates as a form of punishment and being burnt on their bodies with cigarettes.

These incidents are just the tip of the iceberg, for one startling reason. Unlike the assaults on Bulger and More, most of the violence directed at children in South Africa comes from within the family. As a result they occur in the privacy of the home and go unreported.

The evidence suggests that the abuse of children — beatings, abandonment, incest, emotional neglect and even murder — is indeed a barometer of social malaise in this country. Yet it is almost completely ignored.

"Children are abused in every single manner in this country and this happens in every sector of this society. We have a society with all the factors that cause tension — unemployment, poverty and violence," says Celia Theart, assistant director of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

"Add a bit of wine and you have a situation where social breakdown spirals out of control. What starts as a hiding by a parent ends up as a murder."

She said the situation was so bad that there was a severe shortage of foster parents in the city, where welfare agencies are forced to deal with thousands of children who cannot live at home because they are likely to be beaten or raped.

Another representative of the Child Welfare Society, who asked not to be named, said these forms of child abuse showed no respect for class or racial barriers. Very few made their way into the press and assaults on middle class children were fairly easily covered up, primarily because parents had access to medical care.

"Emotionally neglected and abused children are often found in affluent families while physically neglected and abused children are found in the poorer, working class homes," he said

"The societal abuse of children is much more common in this country because of the constant bloodshed and fighting that occurs People in this country are more likely to overstep their stopping mechanisms because of the situation we're in."

Dr Merryll Vorst, senior psychiatrist at Sterkfontein Hospital, put it differently: "Life seems cheap these days. People are virtually prisoners in their own homes."

Two 10-year-old boys held over UK toddler's murder

TONI YOUNGHUSBAND and SAPA-REUTER

LONDON — Two 10-year-old boys were yesterday arrested for the abduction and murder of toddler James Bulger, whose battered body was found next to a railway track near Liverpool

Merseyside police said the boys were being interviewed and would probably be charged with murder Their arrest followed the release on Thursday night of enhanced video pictures of the two, taken by a shopping centre security camera as they led James away from his mother.



A nation in shock ... James Bulger made headlines, but it is believed over a thousand children under the age of five are murdered every year in South Africa

Albinism is often seen as a curse

STAR 27/2/93 · 298

ALBINOS have started an organisation to fight their cause, reports JOE LOUW.

JEFF was 11 when he first thought about killing himself because of the relentless — teasing he suffered from other children and the shame his parents seemed to feel every time they looked at him.

His problem was that he was white in a black world.

Jeff, now a fully grown man with a family of his own, was born with a hereditary genetic condition known as albinism. He is pure white with deep red patches scattered about his face, his hair is yellowish and since boyhood he has worn a deeply furrowed brow — developed from constant squinting to protect his weak and sensitive eyes.

Insulting names

He walks with a stoop, wears a big floppy hat, his teeth are bad and he is deeply shy.

As a child, he played a lot by himself. The children in his neighbourhood called him all kinds of insulting names — from "white man" to "amper baas" (almost "baas") to unprintable ones.

Even his parents seemed to be deeply disappointed and puzzled by his condition. "I used to run crying home to my mother and would ask her why I wasn't like other children, and she would say she didn't know and would tell me to go out and play. When I was a kid I always thought about killing myself. I still don't know why I didn't do it."

His neighbours in the township had a simple explanation. It was a curse, they said.

Most albinos have heart-rending stories to tell, and the theme that runs through them is of deep prejudice and suspicion, even of wanton cruelty, in a society scarred by an over-sensitivity to skin colour.

Now these abused people have formed an organisation to protect and promote themselves. More than 250 albinos from all walks of life — teachers, housewives, professionals, labourers — met in Soweto to form the Soweto Albino Society with Sonti Mazibuko as chief executive.

"We launched our society to alleviate the trauma suffered by people with the condition of albinism, to combat the prejudices faced by them and to educate the public to the idea that albinism is not a curse but a genetic disorder," Mazibuko says.

"People with the condition are shy, withdrawn, angry and bitter. Many albino children are abandoned at birth because the mothers may not be able to deal with the so-called shame. Families are torn apart as couples blame each other for the 'curse' or 'affliction', and society blames their parents, other races and even almighty God himself."

She says albinos are doubly discriminated against: they are not integrated socially or in work situations.

Research has shown that one person in 17 000 has some type of albinism and that it is caused by genes that do not make the usual amounts of a pigment called melanin. Most albinos suffer serious eye problems because of a lack of pigment in the retina.

Mazibuko herself was one of 10 children — five were born albino and five were normally pigmented — yet four of her five own children are normally pigmented.

"There is an appalling amount of cruelty against people with albinism — especially children," she says.

Mazibuko, a strong, proud woman who has overcome her shyness, is determined to make a success of the albino society. She wants the organisation eventually to cover most of South Africa and to help carry out research on ways of alleviating the condition.

Help needed

"Like many other groups in this country who are fighting this kind of prejudice we need help — help with setting up an office, help to educate the public through the media and through public awareness programmes. But most of all we need help to restore the self-esteem of our people and to help them confront and overcome the afflictions society heaps on them daily."

1993

Baby's burial too expensive

By MOSES MAMAILA (298)

THE family of the nine-month-old baby who died in police custody two weeks ago is unable to bury her – because they have no money. CPress 28/2/93

Little Nana Tsiane died in police custody in Pietersburg following the arrest of her mother, Maria, 40, for shoplifting.

Maria, released on warning after the death of her baby, was away from home this week trying to raise funds for the funeral.

Her aged mother, Mamorwesi said: "I will have to borrow money from other villagers in the area so that I can buy chicken legs for the funeral."

Bitter

When City Press visited the poor family in the remote village of Manaka, about 100 km from Bochum this week, we found a sad tale of poverty, crime and misfortune.

Tsiane lives with her parents, two other children and relatives. The family of nine has no breadwinner.

Maria allegedly stole from a shop and is facing a criminal charge. She and her sickly baby were locked behind bars for about four hours before Maria informed the police her child was seriously ill.

According to police, the baby died on the way to hospital.

Police spokesman Maj Arno Vogel confirmed in a statement the woman had been arrested for shoplifting.

He said the woman told them her baby was sick but when arrangements were made to take her to the doctor, it was found that the child had already died.

While it is common practice for infants to be taken into custody to be with their mothers, Lawyers for Human Rights and local villagers are bitter with the system which allows innocent babies to be locked behind bars.

LHR spokesman George Masanabo said police were insensitive to put the baby in the cell with her mother.

"The mother was supposed to have been released and warned to appear in court," he said.

These sentiments were echoed by several villagers.

"But tell me, what was my granddaughter doing in the cell? Those are not conditions that a baby should be exposed to," complained Mamorwesi.



MOURNING ... Granny Mamorwesi has to borrow funeral money from villagers. ■ Pic:THULANI SITHOLE

Outrage over 'legal' child labour

OUTRAGE was expressed this week over the possible legalising of child labour following reports the government was considering making it lawful for "children to be hired for pocket money".

The regional office of the Black Sash in Cape town and the SA National Council of Child Welfare lashed out at the move.

A recent report by the Network Against Child Labour said it had withdrawn from discussions with the Department of National Health and Population Development. It accused the department of conniving with employers to increase child labour, "rather than eliminate it".

Abey loses eye to four white racist thugs



ASSAULTED . . . Father of three, Abey Mokgeledi, lost an eye after three white youths beat him up in Florida this week. ■ **Pic: EVANS MBOWENI**

By BERENG MTIMKULU City Press 28/12/93

AGEING Abey Mokgeledi had never taken kindly to the word "kaffir", though he never picked an argument about it. (949)

But this week, when he retorted "So what!" to four white, racist youths who called him a "kaffir", it cost him an eye.

One of the three white youths answered by smashing Mokgeledi's one eye with a hefty metre-long stick.

Mokgeledi 49, of Swanieville, was admitted to Leratong Hospital in Krugersdorp where his bleeding eye was removed on Friday. (298)

Speaking to City Press from his hospital bed, Mokgeledi said at about 9 pm he came out of a cafe in Florida, near Church Street.

A red Mazda 323 vehicle pulled over and four Afrikaans-speaking youths, one armed with a stick, alighted. Mokgeledi, a father of three, said one of them said to him: "Jy's 'n kaffir." (You're a kaffir.)

"When I asked him whether my being a kaffir bothered him, a youth hit me with the stick on my eye," Mokgeledi told City Press.

Mokgeledi said three of the youths drove away while one went into a nearby house.

He said he reported the matter to the nearby Florida Police Station where an ambulance was called.

Mokgeledi claimed the police refused to take a statement from him even though he told them one of his assailants had gone into a nearby house.

"They just had no time for my explanation even when I asked them to fetch the boy who had gone into a nearby house so that he could tell us about his three accomplices," he said angrily.

Station Commander Capt W van Zyl admitted Mokgeledi's allegations against his police station were serious and that he would investigate.

"If the allegations are true, then the policeman who did not act promptly to Mokgeledi's claims does not deserve to be in the SAP," he said.

The attack on Mokgeledi is the latest incident in this week's spate of attacks by racist whites on blacks.

Eleven-month-old Boipelo More was this week still lying critically ill at the Leratong Hospital. She was struck on the head with a stone thrown by a gang of white youths in a passing bakkie in Swartruggens, western Transvaal on Wednesday.

A 17 year-old white youth appeared briefly before the Swartruggens Magistrate's Court in connection with the incident.

The youth was however released and is reportedly in the custody of his boarding-school headmaster.

Fanie Mlambo of Daveyton had his left leg amputated at the Boksburg-Benoni Hospital while his friend, Solly Mailula, 13, is said to be in a satisfactory condition after he was shot in the back.

Two white men indiscriminately fired shots at the Etwatwa squatter camp, near Daveyton on February 20 this year, seriously injuring the two teenagers.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT

1992/93 financial year:

Cape Province	13,94%
OFS	4,18%
Natal	4,46%
Transvaal	14,57%

Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage: population numbers

209. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

How many (a) male and (b) female (i) Whites, (ii) Coloureds, (iii) Asians and (iv) Blacks were there in the magisterial districts of (aa) Port Elizabeth and (bb) Uitenhage or the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage metropole as at the latest specified date for which information is available? B467E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(aa)	(a)	(b)
(i)	70 983	73 318
(ii)	76 963	82 415
(iii)	4 286	4 211
(iv)	182 517	175 960
(bb)	(a)	(b)
(i)	19 746	19 854
(ii)	21 937	23 189
(iii)	506	545
(iv)	48 614	48 160

1991 Population Census, 7 March 1991. Final data after having been adjusted for over- and undercount.

Mortality figure

215. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

(a) What was the mortality figure in each province for the 1991 calendar year and (b) what percentage of the total population in each province does each such figure represent? B451E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

	(a)*	(b)
Cape Province	50 610	0,8
Natal	26 330	1,1
Transvaal	62 958	0,7
Orange Free State	14 484	0,7

* Mortality figure not available. Figures represent death registrations.

Public telephones: cost of repairs

219. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

What was the estimated cost of repairing public telephones in the Republic during the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available? B465E

The MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

The Managing Director of Telkom SA Limited replied as follows to the hon member's question:

The estimated cost of repairing public telephones in the Republic during the 12-month period ending 28 February 1993 is R35 245 000,00

SAA cabin crew members: retrenchments/gratuities/lump sum payments

225. Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

(1) Whether the South African Airways are currently retrenching any cabin crew members: if so, (a) how many have been retrenched, (b) at what total cost and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether any (a) gratuity and/or (b) other lump sum payments were made to any of the crew members so retrenched; if so, (i) what was the total amount so paid, (ii) how many crew members were involved, (iii) how many such gratuity and/or other lump sum payments amounted to between (aa) R100 000 and R150 000 and (bb) R150 001 and R200 000 and (iv) in respect of how many years of service was each such payment made in each of the two categories referred to in subparagraph (iii) above? B495E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited has furnished the following reply to the hon member's question:

(1) No.

(2) Falls away.

Bophuthatswana: guarantees/sureties given by State

227. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether any guarantees or sureties were given directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to any person or organization for (a) loans granted, (b) lines of credit granted and (c) other specified financial services rendered to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Bophuthatswana in the 1991–92 financial year; if so,

(2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding in terms of such guarantees or sureties as at the latest specified date for which information is available;

(3) whether foreign currencies are involved in any of these guarantees or sureties; if so, (a) what currencies, (b) how much is involved and (c) who is responsible for bearing the potential cost of exchange rate fluctuations? B515E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

(2) and (3) Fall away.

Transnet: office accommodation

232. Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

(a) What proportion of the office accommodation owned or leased by Transnet in certain buildings, particulars of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, is currently utilized by Transnet in respect of each such building and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished? B528E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited has furnished the following reply to the hon member's question:

		Per cent
(a)	Paul Kruger Building, Johannesburg	100
	South Station Building, Johannesburg	100
	Park Chambers Building, Johannesburg	100
	Union Square Building, Johannesburg	61
	NZASM Building, Pretoria	91
	Station Building, Pretoria	100

(b) 23 March 1993.

Children in Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage

242. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

How many (a) White, (b) Coloured, (c) Asian and (d) Black children of school-going age in the (i) pre-school, (ii) primary school, (iii) secondary school and (iv) 18 to 22 years age categories were there in the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage metropole as at the latest specified date for which statistics are available? B548E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
(i)	7 342	13 844	585	24 287
(ii)	18 776	32 564	1 391	62 000
(iii)	15 166	22 795	936	44 288
(iv)	16 973	23 691	867	50 661

Notes

The age categories are compiled as follows:

(i) 3 to 5 years
(ii) 6 to 12 years
(iii) 13 to 17 years
(iv) 18 to 22 years

Contd.

1991 Population Census, 7 March 1991. Final data after having been adjusted for over- and undercount are furnished. The Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage metropole comprises the magisterial districts of Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage.

298

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Self-governing territories: size in hectares

208. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

What was the size in hectares of each of the self-governing territories as at 31 December 1992 or the latest specified date for which figures are available? B464E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

QwaQwa	103 428 hectares
Kwandebele	266 539 hectares
Kangwane	364 229 hectares
Gazankulu	743 954 hectares
Lebowa	2 138 644 hectares
KwaZulu	3 167 242 hectares
Total	6 784 036 hectares

The above information differs from the figures provided in reply to Question No 187 of 20 March 1992 as the extent of all categories of former South African Development Trust properties (former quota and non quota land) as well as land in the possession of individuals situated within the area of jurisdiction of self-governing territories, are being verified and computerized.

Nuclear power: accident at Pelindaba

236. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

(1) Whether an accident occurred at the nuclear enrichment plant of the Atomic Energy Corporation of South Africa, Limited, at Pelindaba in or about December 1992; if so, (a) when, (b) where and (c) what was the (i) nature and (ii) extent of the accident;

(2) whether this accident was reported to the Council for Nuclear Safety; if not, why not; if so, when;

(3) whether any emergency measures were taken in respect of members of the public in the vicinity; if not, why not; if so, what measures;

(4) whether (a) uranium hexafluoride and/or (b) any other radio-active material was released into the atmosphere; if so, (i) in what quantities and (ii) what was the extent of the area affected by the material released as a result of this accident;

(5) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B539E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(a) 9 December 1992.

(b) At the Feed, Waste and Product Handling Section of the Enrichment Plant

(c) (i) Release of uranium hexafluoride at natural isotopic concentration to the immediate environment as a result of failure of the nuts used to secure a blind flange.

(ii) It is estimated that between 100 kg and 150 kg uranium was released. Of this quantity, approximately 29 kg is estimated to have escaped throgh the stack to the environment outside the process hall.

(2) Yes, the accident was reported to the Council for Nuclear Safety telephonically and in writing on 9 December 1992.

(3) Internal emergency measures were taken to assess the size and possible consequences of the release. An evaluation during the accident, using an estimated size of release and a dispersion model to the environment indicated that the environment outside the plant as well as the public will not be affected. Measurements were taken in the direction of the expected dispersion and these gave no values above background. No emergency

Cont'd

Screams of dying children ignored by gunmen

Star 3/3/93

10 minutes of horror

(298)

By Bronwyn Wilkinson and Own Correspondent

Merciless gunmen ignored the screams and pleas of 14 children as they mowed them down in an ambush on the bakkie that was taking them to school in the Table Mountain area near Maritzburg early yesterday, witnesses said.

At the end of the 10-minute horror, six children — including three sons of the local Inkatha Freedom Party chairman — lay slaughtered. They were shot at close range.

The ages of the dead ranged from nine to 19. Six other children were injured.

The children killed have been identified as brothers Thulani (19), Nduna (13) and Thule Mkhize (9) — the sons of IFP regional chairman Bernard Mkhize, Wanda Ngubane (12), Nomsa Gwala (12) and Ngce Mkhize (10), who was not closely related to the three Mkhize brothers.

Injured were Cynthia Ngwenya (14), brothers Lloyd (16) and Goodman Majola (13) — sons of a prominent local IFP Women's Brigade organiser, Thule Mngadi (22), Thokozani Gcwabaza (14) and Sydney Ntuli (15).

Police spokesman Captain Henry Budhram said the gunmen had sprayed the bakkie with AK-47 and .303 rifle fire in what was a "well-planned ambush" about 1 km from their school in the Mboyi district.

Witnesses said the 14 children in the bakkie, all pupils of the Mbabangalo School in Maqongqo, screamed and pleaded with their attackers not to shoot them.

The driver of the bakkie, Phikalithethwa Ngubane (23), said he had just driven around a corner when several men appeared in front of the vehicle and opened fire.

"Other gunmen then ran to the side of the car and started shooting at the children.

Bushes

"I stopped the bakkie and jumped out and ran down the hill towards some bushes, and hid until the shooting and the screams of the children had stopped," he said.

It was the second day he had taken the children to school.

Ngubane's brother, Fihlukusa (25), was also in the front of the bakkie.

"One bullet hit the windscreen above my head. We swerved and came to a stop. I saw men standing beside the bakkie shooting at the children," he said.

"One man started to fire at me and I opened the door and ran into the bush. The shooting carried on for about 10 minutes and I could hear the screams of the children as they pleaded with the men not to shoot them," the shocked passenger said.

A policeman who arrived on the scene shortly after the attack said he was stunned by the brutality.

"There were bodies lying everywhere. Children were covered in blood and not moving. A schoolgirl about 10 years old was sprawled on the ground. She had been shot several times," he said.

According to a statement released by the IFP's information centre in Durban yesterday, an IFP investigating team arrived at the scene to find total carnage. Sweets lay scattered in the pools of blood surrounding the bullet-riddled bakkie, the statement said.

Budhram said some of the children had crawled out of the bakkie under heavy fire and scrambled under the vehicle in a desperate bid for shelter.

Peace monitor Bill Fairbairn, a Canadian, told The Star last night he would never forget the scene at the ambush site at about noon.

The van was riddled with

● To Page 3



Lucky Fihlukusa Ngubane, brother of bakkie driver Phikalithethwa Ngubane, was slightly injured but managed to get away when attackers opened fire on the vehicle, killing six schoolchildren.

Six children massacred

Star 3/3/93

(298)

● From Page 1

bullet holes, particularly towards the rear, where the children had been packed in under a fibreglass canopy.

A spokesman for the hospital to which the children were admitted said last night they were all in a stable condition. He asked that the name of the hospital not be published for the children's safety.

Police quickly launched a massive hunt for the killers.

More than 100 police and army personnel were called in and, using tracker dogs and three helicopters, combed the mountainous terrain.

But by last night no one had been arrested.

The IFP said the survivors had identified their attackers as local ANC supporters.

ANC Natal Midlands chairman Harry Gwala said ANC members no longer lived in the area. He dismissed the IFP's claims as wild allegations.

ANC head office spokesman Carl Niehaus said he was horrified to hear of the ambush and urged the community of Mboyi to remain calm.

Democratic Party MP for Maritzburg Robin Carlisle said the war between the ANC and IFP in Natal had brought the province to the brink of ruin.



Dancing in the rain . . . not a modern ballet company let loose in the city, just two Johannesburg commuters showing a clean pair of heels as soaking rains blanketed the city yesterday.
Picture: Ken Oosterbroek

Even full programme cannot pay for Civic

B/DAY 3/3/93.

MARIANNE MERTEN

THE Johannesburg Civic Theatre had a full programme of shows for 1993, but the staging of productions would never recoup the R132m spent on the theatre's restoration, Johannesburg City Council cultural and recreational committee chairman Cecil Bass said this week.

"A theatre like that never, ever, can recoup costs without the help of government or the council," he said.

Acoustic problems which occurred after renovation had been corrected.

"The acoustics at the ballet are wonderful," Bass said.

Civic Theatre executive director Michal Grobbelaar said: "We are slowly getting back into the minds of the people of Johannesburg."

The theatre hoped to attract disgruntled Johannesburgers back to the theatre by offering an interesting and varied programme this year.

The main attraction would be Mbongeni Ngema's new musical Magic at 4am, which was set to run for at least three months. The show was commissioned by the Civic Theatre as part of its inaugural programme, said Grobbelaar.

He said attendance at shows so far had been excellent.

The theatre's ballet season closed recently and Pact has planned an opera season, starting in July with The Merry Widow, followed by The Taming of the Shrew in August and Don Carlos in September.

Pact has also booked two months at the Civic for the musical The Buddy Holley Story, starting in November.

Plans to improve the theatre's economic viability include setting up a restaurant in the complex.

The project would be discussed by the Civic Theatre subcommittee later this week, said Grobbelaar.

At the moment, a trial run was being held in the complex's cafeteria.

Solution sought for child care problem

ERICA JANKOWITZ

298

LACK of child care facilities for working women is an issue being tackled by Cosatu's more influential affiliates and negotiations on the topic are being conducted in the retail and auto sectors, as well as certain municipalities and the Post Office.

The Shopsteward editor Fiona Dove, writing in the SA Labour Bulletin, said that with maternity rights secured in most industrial sectors the more pressing problem of caring for children while parents were at work was being addressed.

Companies involved in negotiations had run into problems as a result of disagreement on whether child care facilities should be provided in the community or at work and how women whose only source of income was child minding would be affected.

She said that as many single mothers were discriminated against at work because of their child raising responsibilites, it was envisaged that child care schemes would engender a greater sense of loyalty from employees, as well as earn employers tax rebates. B/DAY 3/3/93.

Dove noted that the successful maternity rights campaign launched in 1986 had resulted in an average of an additional three months' paid maternity leave, as well as paid leave for ante- and post-natal care.

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6/DBM 3/3/93.

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Rains salvage crops

GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Soaking rains over much of the summer grain belt in the past few weeks had rescued the maize industry from another potential crop disaster, Nampo said yesterday.

But according to Nampo economist Kit le Clus, it was "touch and go". Had January rains held off, the damage could have been catastrophic. B/DBM 3/3/93.

The first official Agriculture Department estimate is a crop of 7,4-million tons.

But Le Clus cautions that there are still risks ahead. Because of late rains much of the crop was planted late and would be vulnerable to frost.

In some parts, too, crop rot had set in because of excessive rain.

But barring further problems, a 7,4-million ton crop was likely. Of this 6,6-million tons would be delivered to the Maize Board while the rest would be retained on farms.

About 3,5-million tons would go to the domestic food market and another 3-million tons to the animal feed market.

Firms pay up for Kyalami suites

RAY HARTLEY

AN ELITE group of 35 companies have paid between R90 000 and R300 000 a year for the privilege of treating staff and clients to a ringside seat in luxury company suites at the March 13 Grand Prix and other motor-racing events.

Motor Racing Enterprises spokesman Rory Brown would not confirm the price-tag for the suites, but said all 35 had been leased on one and three-year contracts and there was a long waiting list for the exclusive suites.

He said facilities included one-storey suites, which could take between 80 and 120 people, two-storey suites holding up to 200 people and smaller "one-off" entertainment areas for between 15 and 30 guests.

The smaller suites came with a bar and television set, but larger ones were leased as "basic shells" which companies could decorate themselves, he said.

The old pits at Kyalami had been converted into one-off suites to cope with the demand for spectator accommodation during the Grand Prix, he added.

The remaining section of the pits had been used to build a modern hospital with full intensive care facilities, he added.

Access to the suites on race day had been made easier by colour-coding parking areas and suites.

Detailed maps showing the most convenient route to suites and grand stands were available, he said.

Brown said Kyalami's about 4 000 people would enjoy the Grand Prix from the suites, while 90 000 others would have to be content with a grand stand view of the contest.

Reserved seats on grand stands were almost sold out, but there was still space on unreserved stands where seats would be allocated on a "first come, first serve basis," Brown added.

Children accused of market thefts

CT 3/3/93 (298)

By JILYAN PITMAN

GOODS worth hundreds of rands have been stolen from about 10 stallholders over a period at Rondebosch market by street children, adult vagrants and some shoppers.

This was said by Mrs Monica Sutherland, executive of the Rondebosch Civic Association. She said the next step would be to report the matter to the police.

A new signboard has also been stolen from one side of the corrugated iron shelter which houses the market which is on the one side of the Rondebosch library building.

Mrs Sutherland said: "Street children appear in groups and distract the attention of the stallholders and then steal from them. The older vagrants do this too and so do some shoppers.

"The stallholders are also angry about the fact that one of their new boards has been stolen from the side of the market.

"I don't believe in shelters because these children are still able to roam at will. They should be taken away from the streets and put into places of safety where they can attend school and be turned into productive citizens."

The market now trades on Tuesdays as well as Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Plan to help street kids

ANOTHER children's shelter in Claremont? This might be the case because Claremont police are preparing to meet child welfare workers, state prosecutors and representatives from the Claremont Children's Shelter and other interested parties to discuss plans for helping street children in the area.

Warrant Officer Fienie Nimb of the Claremont police said: "One lady in Rosmead Avenue has been feeding street children from her kitchen.

"She contacted us to find out whether there was some place to which she could send the children so we have decided to find out whether we can do something about these kids."

□ Inquiries to W/O Nimb on (021) 61-0440.

Sowetan 4/3/93

Sowetan Correspondent

BAKKIE AMBUSHED *Screams and pleas ignored as 14 school children were shot:*

MERCILESS gunmen ignored the screams and pleas of 14 children as they mowed them down in an ambush on the bakkie that was taking them to school in the Table Mountain area near Maritzburg early on Tuesday, witnesses said.

At the end of the 10-minute horror, six children — including three sons of the local Inkatha Freedom Party chairman — lay slaughtered. They were shot at close range.

The ages of the dead ranged from nine to 19 Six other children were injured.

Police spokesman Captain Henry Budhram said the gunmen had sprayed the bakkie with AK-47 and .303 rifle fire in a "well-planned ambush" about 1km from their school in the Mboyi district.

Witnesses said the 14 children in the bakkie, all pupils of the Mbabangalo School in Maqongqo, screamed and pleaded with their attackers not to shoot them.

The driver of the bakkie, Phikalithethwa Ngubane (23), said he had just driven around a corner when several men appeared in front of the vehicle and began shooting.

Shooting and screams

"Other gunmen then ran to the side of the vehicle and started shooting at the children. I stopped the bakkie, jumped out, ran down the hill towards some bushes and hid until the shooting and the screams of the children had stopped," he said.

It was the second day he had taken the children to school.

Ngubane's brother, Fihlukusa (25), was also in the front of the bakkie.

"One bullet hit the windscreen above my head. We swerved and came to a stop. I saw men standing beside the bakkie shooting at the children," he said.

"One man started to fire at me and I opened the door and ran into the bush. The shooting carried on for about 10 minutes and I could hear the screams of the children as they pleaded with the men not to shoot them," the shocked passenger said.

A policeman who arrived on the scene shortly after the attack said he was stunned by the brutality of the shooting.

"There were bodies lying everywhere. Children were covered in blood and not moving. A schoolgirl of about 10 years old was sprawled on the ground. She had been shot several times," he said.

According to a statement released by the IFP's information centre in Durban yesterday, an IFP investigating team arrived at the scene to find total carnage. Sweets lay scattered in the pools of blood surrounding the bullet-riddled bakkie, the statement said.

Budhram said some of the children had also crawled out of the bakkie under heavy fire and had scrambled under the vehicle in a desperate bid for shelter.

Peace monitor Bill Fairbairn, a Canadian, said on Tuesday night he would never forget the scene at the ambush site at about noon The van was riddled with bullet holes, particularly towards the rear, where the children had been packed in under a fibreglass canopy All the windows were shattered Pools of blood surrounded the vehicle.

Fairbairn said he was concerned to see two carloads of heavily armed IFP officials near the ambush site. One of the men was prominent IFP leader and KwaZulu MP David Ntombela, he said.

He said the site had given the gunmen a "perfect ambush position".

The road wound up a steep hill and bush and scrub supplied a good hiding place right next to the road. He said the site also gave a clear view of the road and the gunmen would have been able to watch the bakkie climbing the hill, he said.

Police quickly launched a massive manhunt for the killers.

More than 100 police and army personnel were called in and, using tracker dogs and three helicopters, combed the mountainous terrain. But by last night no one had been arrested.

According to the IFP the survivors had identified their attackers as local ANC supporters

The IFP said the children had been an easy target as they had been forced to travel from Mboyi to Maqongqo as the Mboyi schools had been closed after ANC supporters had attacked and intimidated teachers and children.

ANC Natal Midlands chairman Harry Gwala said ANC members no longer lived in the area and he dismissed the IFP's claims as "wild allegations".

ANC head office spokesman Carl Niehaus said he was horrified to hear of the ambush. The ANC was not only unequivocally opposed to such attacks but would "never have a part in anything like this".

He urged the community of Mboyi to remain calm

Statement

The IFP statement said the organisation was trying to placate its members in the area but warned the ambush would have "catastrophic" consequences for the battle-torn Natal Midlands.

The ambush sparked fears of revenge attacks and Budhram said police would maintain a heavy presence and would try to defuse the "very tense" situation.

Democratic Party MP for Maritzburg Robin Carlisle said yesterday the war between the ANC and the IFP in Natal had brought the province to the brink of total ruin and had led to the "wholesale destruction of both human and democratic rights".

The children killed in yesterday's ambush have been identified as brothers Thulani (19), Nduna (13) and Thule Mkhize (9) - the sons of IFP regional chairman Bernard Mkhize; Wanda Ngubane (12), Nomsa Gwala (12) and Ngce Mkhize (10), who was not closely related to the three Mkhize brothers.

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He asked that the name of the hospital not be published for fear of the children's safety

NEWS FEATURE *Six children — including three sons of local IFP leader — lay slaughtered*

Gunmen did not show any mercy

Sowetan 4/3/93

298

Sowetan Correspondent

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SURVIVOR ... bakkie driver Mr Phikelithethwa Ngubane.

STUART WEITZMAN

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Kriel posts R250 000 reward as police search for children's killers

B/Day 4/3/93.

RAY HARTLEY
and TIM COHEN

GOVERNMENT yesterday offered a R250 000 reward for information leading to the conviction of the killers of six Natal schoolchildren ambushed on Tuesday.

The reward, thought to be one of the highest arising from a single incident, was offered by Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel, who said he deplored the "senseless murder of our children".

He said every effort was being made to apprehend the killers, who used AK-47 and .303 rifles to shoot at the 14 bakkie passengers on their way to school in the Natal Midlands district of Mboyi.

"The government and the SAP are deeply shocked and outraged by these killings. We appeal for calm in the area. Revenge attacks will not be tolerated as they will solve nothing except to contribute towards further violence," Kriel said.

An intensive manhunt by police foot patrols continued the search for the killers of six children yesterday.

Internal stability unit police reinforcements moved into the area, where tensions had escalated following reports that three of the slain children were relatives of a local Inkatha leader.

Police spokesman Capt Henry Budhram said no arrests had been made, but police were following "several positive leads".

The incident sparked concern among government members that attempts were being made to derail negotiations.

One senior government source said there seemed to be an increase in violence every time the negotiations process promised results.

National peace committee chairman John Hall condemned the brutal killing and said that "no stone must be left unturned in tracking down the perpetrators. Let this hideous act focus the minds of the people of SA on just how far we have gone down the track in being desensitised to a culture of violence."

The ANC, the SACP, Inkatha and Azapo also expressed their shock and outrage at the killings.

"We condemn this criminal act in the strongest possible terms and demand that its perpetrators be apprehended and prosecuted to the full extent of the law," the ANC said, describing the incident as "an outrage that beggars description" and suggesting it was part of an effort to derail multiparty talks.

SACP general secretary Chris Hani said he hoped the killers would be "brought to book as speedily as possible".

Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi warned that negotiations and elections would not succeed "if this is the pattern of what is going on. It's absolutely vital that we should pay more attention to peace than anything, because we cannot succeed with the negotiation process if we cannot achieve peace here." He said the children's killings showed "the extent to which we have been dehumanised".

Sapa reports. Azapo called on warring factions in Natal to set aside their party political objectives and meet speedily to lay a foundation of peace, stability and prosperity.

LOST GENERATION FM 5/3/93 298

Greatest threat

A programme to train and employ millions of marginalised young people is being developed by the ANC Youth League. It proposes a partnership between businessmen, public authorities and the youths to tackle what is arguably the most serious socio-economic problem facing SA.

ANC economics spokesman Tito Mboweni says it is critical to find ways to draw the marginalised youth into the economy. He adds that the core of the group is 2m children between seven and 16 who have had no schooling. Their numbers swell annually by 300 000 who do not complete standard four and are effectively illiterate. Another 250 000 complete only primary school.

He outlined the plan at a symposium with Cape Town business people last week.

FM 5/3/93. 298

Mboweni says SA needs an emergency national youth programme aimed at education and employment generation. An eight-point plan has been put forward by the League and is under consideration. It includes:

- ☐ Training and development for self-employment;
- ☐ Training aimed at assisting people in finding formal jobs;
- ☐ A public works programme aimed at revitalising and adding to infrastructure;
- ☐ Agricultural and rural development training in certain parts of the country;
- ☐ Part-time and casual work (in collaboration with the trade unions to avoid conflict);
- ☐ The establishment of a national youth opportunity trust funded by the public and private sectors and managed by the youth;
- ☐ The provision of adequate recreational facilities for young people; and
- ☐ On-the-job training.

Mboweni says the business community's role in the programme should include: efforts in every company to employ young people; support for the proposed national youth opportunity trust; subcontracting whenever possible to businesses run by young entrepreneurs; the avoidance where possible of retrenchments affecting young employees; adult education programmes within companies; and support for outside academic and other education programmes.

He warns that the economy is already under severe constraints and time to deal with the problem is running out.

Youth League president Peter Mokaba says "frustrated youth" posed a greater threat to SA's stability than either the Right or a reactionary bureacracy. ■

Did six kids die to disrupt peace talks?

W/Mail 5/3 - 11/3/93.

298

Weekly Mail Reporters

THIS week's massacre of six children in the Table Mountain district of Natal has raised the spectre of deliberate spoiling in advance of the resumption of multi-party talks.

On Tuesday this week, mystery gunmen ambushed a bakkie carrying schoolchildren in the Inkatha stronghold of Mboyi, shooting six dead at close range and injuring a further six. The father of three of the dead children is Bernard Mkhize, local Inkatha Freedom Party chairman.

During a visit to Table Mountain, near Pietermaritzburg, yesterday, Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu bluntly stated that the killings were an attempt to derail national negotiations.

And in a statement, the deputy chairman of the African National Congress' Natal Midlands region, Blade Nzimande, said: "This is part of a pattern ... seen in the past, where violence is deliberately intensified when there is an important event in the national political calendar. All indications point to the fact that violence is going to be escalated in the lead-up to the reconvening of multi-party talks this weekend."

Research organisation the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (Case) has in the past observed a pattern of violent upsurges at key points in the negotiations process. It pointed out that violence peaked when the Pretoria Minute was signed in August 1990, during the ANC's constituent assembly campaign in September 1990, during the ANC's consultative conference in December 1990, when the National Peace Agreement was signed in September 1991 and again at the time of the white referendum early last year.

FAROUK CHOTHIA reports that ANC president Nelson Mandela will tour the Natal Midlands next week. Nzimande said the visit would take on greater urgency as tensions were set to intensify in the region.

He said the ANC had asked the regional dispute resolution committee and international monitors to watch developments, as the organisation feared a new wave of violence.

In a marked departure from its usual militant approach, ANC Midlands leadership condemned the killings, expressed its condolences with the bereaved and kept the door ajar on the proposed summit between Mandela and IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

The Midlands region was still against the summit, Nzimande said, but the issue was open for discussion with Mandela. He also said the region would ask the ANC president to press for a meeting of all signatories of the National Peace Accord as soon as possible "to really focus on Natal".

Nzimande insisted that as Mboyi was a "no-go area" for the ANC, the killings were the work of the "third force" or the result of an internal feud in Inkatha. He claimed Inkatha elders in Mboyi wanted to hold "night camps" to which the youth were opposed.

The ANC had also been blamed for the Trust Feeds massacre in 1988, he stressed. In the subsequent court case, policemen had been convicted of the killings.

But Inkatha leaders argue that at least one of the attackers was a "comrade" who knew the area well. According to reports, the driver of the ambushed vehicle, Phikalithethwa Ngubane, told Inkatha that one of the attackers was known to him. The father of the alleged attacker told a local newspaper that the attacker in question "had rebelled against his family, run away from home and become a comrade".

To compound the confusion, local newspaper reports have also claimed that the driver of the bakkie is a member of the kwaZulu Police.

● **See Derek Bauer's cartoon on page 18.**

Young of all races share dreams

Star 6/3/93

298

MICHAEL CHESTER

WHITE suburbia's image of most black teenagers as a "violent lost generation" have been debunked as a myth by new research studies.

The vast majority of black teenagers, along with their white counterparts, agree that "violence is not necessary to bring about change in South Africa", the study, conducted on both sides of the racial and social tracks by Integrated Marketing Research, showed.

Above all else, social and political peace were listed with equal emphasis as the greatest goal of black and white youth. The aim of the survey, commissioned by Partnership in Advertising, was to draw a profile of the main ambitions and worries of the modern generation of black and white youth aged between 13 and 19.

Researchers travelled from squatter camps to affluent white suburbia to find a representative cross-section. Blacks accounted for 60 percent of the poll.

"Peace emerged as by far the strongest single desire among all the teenagers," said Partnership marketing director Arnie Gelber when the poll was analysed.

"The results contradict many common assumptions," he added. "Many analysts have described black youth as a violent, lost generation. Others have debunked this as a myth. The survey shows it is indeed a myth.

"The great majority of black youth are not angry, aggressive and destructive revolutionaries who overwhelmingly support the 'liberation before education' rallying cries. They are very much like their white brothers and sisters," he said.

"The survey has produced a treasure-house of information of incalculable value to marketers and communicators engaged in long-term planning." Among the principal findings:

- Peace was listed as the most desired goal by blacks and whites alike.
- Education was the greatest single worry among black youth.
- White teenagers put environment problems as their biggest worry.
- There was unanimous agreement between both groups that violence was not necessary to bring about political change and that blacks and whites could live together in peace and harmony.
- Three in every four black youths believed the future would be worse if whites quit South Africa.

Added Gelber. "Only 4 percent would have a photograph of a political leader on his or her bedroom wall. Like white teenagers, they prefer pop stars or film stars.

"In general, black and white youth are not materialistic. Peace, safety, good health and family happiness rated highest among personal desires."

Viva helps care centre

Sunday Times (Cape) 1/3/93

THE Sunrise Special Care Centre for profoundly mentally handicapped children in Cape Town has used a R10 000 donation from the Viva Trust as part payment for a new minibus.

The centre is one of the latest Western Cape recipients of donations from Viva.

Viva distributes all money it raises in a region to charities it supports in the area.

The Sunrise Centre, which is using a house in Heathfield until it has raised sufficient money to build premises in Lavender Hill, cares for 16 children every day.

Decay in the black community

Soweton 9/3/93.

By Musa Zondi

■ What do young people in Soweto do in their spare-time? There are no recreational facilities: (298)

IN the smoke-filled tavern in Diepkloof, Soweto, two boys stumble towards the counter. There is no guessing as to how sober they are.

The younger one is leading. He is probably 14 or 15 but he is tall and he's got a deep voice like a man. An earring dangles from his one ear and his two-cent haircut seriously needs updating.

There is a certain degree of urgency about him He calls for the attendant who is busy serving someone else. He orders a bottle of Louis X1V brandy ("If you have to ask the price, you probably can't afford it.")

His buddy, standing behind him, reaches for his pockets and out comes the notes. He pays, picks up the bottle and stumbles away.

These young men are a product of the social breakdown in our community. They are a manifestation of the problems and the decay we are facing.

But what do young people in Soweto do during their spare-time? What is there to do? There are hardly any recreational areas. There are a few cinemas and the emphasis is on blood, sweat and gore. This is the staple diet of our movie houses.

These youngsters come back and try to emulate their screen heroes in real life.

The other real alternative is going to the drinking dens and drowning the problems and frustrations in the holy waters. Except that in such cases, once these youngsters are drunk, they start fights.

Even on Saturday mornings there is little one can do. If you want to play tennis, for instance, you have to have a friend who lives in the suburbs and belongs to some club — and then maybe you can manage it. If you like swimming, well, find someplace for a dip.

If you have a knack for ten pin bowling, you are doomed if you think you will find a place in our townships.

Even the football grounds that used to present an escape are being taken up as more houses are built in these areas.

For a picnic you have to find a place in town or in the suburbs. There are places in Soweto that could be beautiful parks, such as the Five Roses Bowl and that stretch of land, and many other areas as well.

There is no place where you can spend some free time. Take the Rockville lake for instance This would be a perfect place to hire a boat and take your loved ones or children on a mini cruise. But no, the lake is just lying there, idle and filthy.

Crime will continue to be a plague until these problems are addressed.



Muddy pools of stinking water in Dobsonville. Residents say the pools have been there since the start of the rainy season last year.

(d) The ECB will consider the comments of Durban and Ballito on 17 March 1993 In terms of Section 13 (5) of the Electricity Act, 1987 the ECB may, at its discretion, hear the objections in public at a time and place of which at least 14 days notice shall be given to the applicant, the transferor or transferee, as the case may be, and every objector.

(e) The ECB will decide on 17 March 1993 on the next step to be taken in the search for a solution, to ensure that a correct decision is taken which will be in the interest of the efficient supply of electricity, the consumers of electricity and in the public interest, in terms of the provisions of the Electricity Act.

(2) No.

Broadcasting licences: moratorium

*24. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

(1) Whether a moratorium has been placed on the granting of new broadcasting licences and the upgrading of broadcasting facilities; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether any services of the South African Broadcasting Corporation have been extended and/or upgraded while this moratorium has been in force; if not, why not; if so, what services,

(3) whether any extension and/or upgrading of services is being envisaged; if not, why not; if so, what is being envisaged;

(4) whether any permission for new licences or the extension and/or upgrading of facilities has been granted to other radio stations during the moratorium period; if so, what are the relevant details? B340E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(1) The Task Group on Broadcasting in South and Southern Africa recommended that no further broadcasting licences or extensions on existing licences be granted until the recommendations of the Task Group's Report have been evaluated and implemented, but no final decision has been made to implement a moratorium.

In accordance with policy and the spirit of the task group's recommendations, no further new licences or extension of any existing licence has been issued to the SABC, since the publication of the above-mentioned report

With regard to the upgrading of broadcasting facilities no moratorium has been recommended by the task group or been implemented.

(2) Bearing in mind the afore-mentioned approach to honouring a moratorium, no services of the SABC, which would have required supplementary licensing, have been extended. However, various services have been upgraded and/or replaced in the course of the SABC's normal programme of rendering an improved service to listeners.

(3) The extension, upgrading and improvement of the SABC's services are constantly under review in terms of the corporation's aim to adjust and improve services to listeners.

(4) Apart from a landline link between Radio Bop's studios at Sandton and their transmitter in GaRankuwa and a few very limited and temporary licences which have, *inter alia*, been granted to Radio Tuks, Voice of Wits, Showtime Music Radio and others, no permanent licences or extension and/or upgrading of facilities have been granted to other radio stations

Police cells: detainees

*25. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(a) How many persons under the age of 18 years were being detained in police cells as at 31 January 1993 and (b) how many of these persons (i) had been charged and (ii) remained to be charged as at that date? B342E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) 722

(b) (i) 611 were charged with a crime at police stations.

(ii) 75 were not yet charged with a crime at police stations as they were only still suspects.

Note:

36 were released on the same day because investigations revealed that they could not be charged.

Department of Forestry: newsletters in English only

*26. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:†

(1) Whether his Department has distributed a notice entitled: "Rationalization of forestry technology—newsletters" in which it is stated that newsletters will in future be issued in English only; if so, (a) how is this justified and (b) what are the further particulars;

(2) whether his Department will consider issuing these newsletters either in both official languages or in Afrikaans and English alternately; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B347E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(1) Yes.

(a) To save costs by means of rationalizing publications, especially where 75 percent of the readership is English speaking and to allow for changing needs and to achieve new goals.

(b) The Forestry Technology Newsletter is an internal publication to keep the Forestry Extension Officers of the Forestry Branch of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry up to date with technological developments in commercial forestry and also contains handy information and hints regarding forestry matters. The Newsletter was initially launched as a service between the researchers and the Extension Officers, but in the course of time this publication was also supplied free of charge to private timber growers

(2) Yes, for the time being the publication concerned will still be available in both official languages.

(3) Yes There are mainly two aspects which gave rise to this particular decision and on which I would like to elaborate to provide perspective on the decision Firstly, with the view to the commercialization of the forestry and woodprocessing activities of the State with effect from 1 April 1993 it was necessary to consider the mission of the Chief Directorate: Forestry Development of the Forestry Branch of the Department as this Chief Directorate will not be commercialized and will remain under central Government control, and secondly, it was necessary to look critically at all the facets of the future expenditure of this Chief Directorate due to the fact that only limited funds are available.

The Directorate: Forestry Extension and Conservation of the Chief Directorate: Forestry Development, which is responsible for the distribution of publications such as the one under discussion, will in future focus on the development of agroforestry and not commercial forestry activities. The reason for this change in accent is firstly to be found in the fact that certain parts of South Africa are degrading to such an extent as the result of over-utilization of vegetation that this has become a menace for the country as a whole and secondly, in the commercialization of the commercial forestry activities of the State.

I have already referred to the question of limited funds and, it having been decided that the Chief Directorate: Forestry Development will rationalize its publications so as to effect savings on direct and indirect expenditure, I can announce today that it is the intention to cease the publication of the Forestry Technology Newsletter with effect from 1 June 1993. This does not mean, however, that the transfer of information will be impeded by such a step The Extension Leaflet which was distributed separately in the past, will still be published in

Public sector's pension/provident funds: investment

*7. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) What percentage of the funds available for investment in the public sector's pension and provident funds is being handled by the private sector;

(2) whether there has been any change in the position regarding the investment guidelines for such funds since his reply to Question No 3 on 25 March 1992? B335E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) 8,12%.

(2) No.

Mossgas project: cost

*8. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

(1) (a) What is the latest estimate for the final total cost of the Mossgas project and (b) in respect of what date is this estimate furnished;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B336E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) Total Project Cost—R10,7 billion Peak Funding—R11,1 billion, which excludes interest of approximately R950 million on foreign loans, payable by CEF.

(b) January 1993

(2) No, a statement will only be made once the report of the Auditor-General on the economic viability of Mossgas has become available.

Sasol: tariff protection

*9. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

(a) What, expressed in cents per litre, is the current rate of tariff protection extended to Sasol and (b) what was the total value of the protection tariff to Sasol during the 1990–91 and 1991–92 financial years, respectively? B337E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Petroleum Products Act, 1977, it is not possible to provide detailed information through which Sasol's production can be calculated However, to assist the hon member, I can reveal that the only products in respect of which Sasol enjoys protection are:

— petrol

— illuminating paraffin

— alcohol

— diesel, and

— liquid petroleum gas

In reply to the hon member's question, I submit the following:

(a) The average tariff protection enjoyed by Sasol during the 1992 calendar year amounted to 3,1 c/ℓ spread over all liquid fuel products sold in the RSA.

(b) R222,5 million and R537,5 million respectively for the 1990–91 and 1991–92 financial years.

Bank robberies

*10 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(a) How many bank robberies occurred in the Republic of South Africa in 1992 and (b) what was the total value of the money and valuables stolen in such robberies? B341E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) 241

(b) R12 687 031,02.

Hoedspruit area: automation of farm lines

*11. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications:

Whether, with reference to the reply to Question No 5 on 18 March 1992, it is still the intention to complete the automation of the farm lines in the Hoedspruit area during the second half of 1993; if not, (a) why not and (b) when is the project expected to be completed? B343E

The MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS:

No.

(a) and (b) The project has been expedited and is now expected to be completed during the first half of 1993.

Will amended by Supreme Court: bequest to children

*12. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Justice:†

(1) Whether two judges of the Cape of Good Hope Division of the Supreme Court, whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, ordered in a recent judgment that a provision in a will be amended so as not to limit the bequest contained therein to White children only; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether he intends taking any steps in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B320E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(1) Yes. The following information was obtained from the judgment in the application of *The Trustee of The Marsh Memorial Homes—Re· The late William Marsh Will Trust*, which judgment was delivered on 5 February 1993.

The late William Marsh *inter alia* made provision in his will for the establishment of a trust, which had to be applied to "founding and maintaining a home for destitute white children, upon the same principles as those of Dr Stephenson's Home in London.".

The Court pointed out that over the passing years, through socio-economic changes, the number of white children eligible for entrance to the Marsh Memorial Homes had apparently decreased. There were, however, a number of children of different pigmentation in destitute circumstances, for whom the Marsh Memorial Homes would provide a sanctuary, but could not do so because of the provisions of the will In view of the needs of destitute coloured and black children, the trustee of the Trust applied to the Court in terms of the Trust Property Control Act, 1988 (Act 57 of 1988), *inter alia*, for the alteration of the will by deleting the word "white" in the relevant paragraph

The court held that in order to succeed with the application the applicant (trustee) had to satisfy the Court that—

(a) . . . the late William Marsh neither contemplated nor foresaw that a time would come when his charitable act in providing for a home for destitute children would be frustrated by a dearth of persons eligible to benefit therefrom as a result of a qualification imposed by him when he signed his will .

(b) the provision in question is in conflict with public interest.

The Court granted the application on the statutory ground relied on and held that the particular provision in the will has brought about consequences which the late William Marsh neither contemplated nor foresaw and that—

. . . it was clearly his intention to model the institution he had in mind on one in London to which he referred as "Dr Stephenson's Home". This institution is now known as the National Children's Home, it admits (and apparently always admitted) children of all races. It is today not possible for the Marsh Memorial Homes to function fully and properly upon the same principles as those of the National Children's Home, which it was the intention which the late William Marsh had in mind when signing his will He certainly never foresaw that his expressed desire to provide here what Dr Stephenson had established in London would, a century later, be frustrated and become incapable of fulfilment because of a limitation on eligibility based on restriction which did not inhibit the good doctor who gave his name to a home in London for destitute children It was to the care of destitute children that Dr Stephenson devoted his Home; it was

for the same cause that the late William Marsh sought to make provision in his will

With regard to the requirement that the provision in question must be in conflict with the public interest the Court *inter alia* held that—

. the interest of the public in this country, the inhabitants of which are mainly non-white in colour, cries out for the need to house and to care for destitute children, whatever their ethnological characteristics may be.

(2) No.

(3) A statement is not necessary.

Melamet Commission: transcriptions of telephone conversations

*13. Adv J J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Transport:†

(1) Whether he intends making public the contents of transcriptions of telephone conversations of a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, which were submitted to the Commission of Inquiry into the Affairs of the Multilateral Motor Vehicle Accidents Fund (Melamet Commission) in 1992, if not, why not, if so, (a) when, (b) in what manner and (c) what is the name of the person concerned;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B321E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(1) No because I never received the transcriptions and their contents are therefore also not known to me.

(a), (b) and (c) fall away

(2) No

Unlawfully absent teachers: salaries

*14. Mr J M BEYERS asked the Minister of Education and Training †

(1) Whether there are currently any teachers in the service of his Department to whom, while they are unlawfully absent from duty, teachers' salaries are still being paid; if so, (a) how many and (b) what is the total estimated amount paid out monthly by his Department in respect of such teachers during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available;

(2) whether he is constantly kept informed of developments in this connection; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(3) whether he intends taking any remedial steps in this connection; if not; why not; if so, what steps;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B323E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING:

A teacher who is unlawfully absent from duty is not entitled to the payment of a salary for the periods of absence.

During the period of twelve months ending 28 February 1993 altogether 2 249 teachers were at some time or another unlawfully absent from duty. An amount of R1,895 million is at present being recovered from them

It happens from time to time that teachers stay away from service unlawfully and that information about such absences reaches the Department's regional offices after salary cheques have been issued As soon as this is established, the payments for periods of unauthorised absence are disallowed Such payments are recovered from the individuals without delay.

The administration of the salaries of personnel is according to Financial Regulations 1 (1) (g) and (i) issued according to the Exchequer Act, 1975, the responsibility of the accounting officer, who is accountable to Parliament The Minister is therefore not constantly informed regarding the situation concerning the disallowances account

The phenomenon of salary disallowances occurs in all departments This phenomenon is exacerbated in the case of the Department of Education and Training since it employs a large number of personnel and administers schools country-wide and in isolated places

The Department introduced a new personnel and salary system during 1992, which improves the control over this problem The

improvement of personnel administration is continuously attended to.

Private accommodation of political office-bearers: compensation

*15 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Public Works:

With reference to the reply to Question No 33 on 23 February 1993, (a) when was the scheme introduced in terms of which compensation is paid to political office-bearers who occupy private residences as official accommodation, (b) why was this scheme deemed necessary, (c) subject to what conditions is approval given for a political office-bearer to reside in private accommodation and (d) what total amount was so paid to political office-bearers since the introduction of the scheme up to and including 28 February 1993? B324E

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

(a) From 1982 until 31 December 1990 individual requests were approved on an ad hoc basis The present scheme, as dealt with in the answer to Question 33, has been in operation since 1 January 1991.

(b) Due to a shortage of official ministerial residences at the time and in view of the high cost of administering and maintaining the official residences, this optional scheme was approved to provide an equitable basis to compensate political office-bearers for expenses should they elect to use private dwellings as official residences.

(c) To qualify for full participation in the scheme, a private residence must be of similar status to official residences and comply with guidelines set by the Department of Public Works for evaluation purposes. In cases where comparative standards are not met after evaluation, the Minister of Public Works has been empowered by the Cabinet to approve a reduced compensation, after consultation with the Chairman of the relevant Ministers' Council or the Administrator where applicable.

(d) From 1982 to 28 February 1993 a total amount of R4 785 520,95 has been paid.

N3 bypass road: Pietermaritzburg

*16 Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Transport:

Whether a final decision has been made on the routing, construction and financing of the N3 bypass road at Pietermaritzburg; if so, what are the details? B327E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

No Three routes have been identified and evaluated from an environmental viewpoint A draft report in this regard was submitted during December 1992. There are no real differences between the three routes and a decision regarding a route will be taken based on engineering principles.

In the meantime the Department is still undertaking the evaluation of the effects of fog conditions on the routes. This year was not favourable for this evaluation because fog conditions seldom occurred. This evaluation will most probably be done during the next rainy season.

Until the above-mentioned investigations are completed the Department will not be able to make any recommendation regarding a route to the South African Roads Board.

City/town councils: Coloured/Indian representation

*17. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Local Government:

Whether he intends introducing legislation in terms of which Coloured and Indian management and local affairs committees will be granted full representation on city and town councils; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details? B328E

The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

Yes, but as part of comprehensive and negotiated reform steps.

As I stated in reply to question 10 of 17 February 1993 and the Interpellation Question of the hon member for Pinelands on 3 March 1993 concerning the political management of the whole matter, an acceptable formula will have to be found in consultation with all interested parties and through negotiation, so as to arrive at restructured local authorities,

Cont—D

Plea: Report sexual abuse

JOHANNESBURG. — An appeal that all cases of sexual abuse of children be reported was made yesterday by South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare national director Ms Helen Starke. (298)

Making the call following charges of abuse of girls as young as eight at a school near Fourways, she said reports should be made to the Child Welfare Society or the SAP's Child Protection Unit. ST 23/3/93

"It is essential that sexually abused children receive counselling to ease the trauma."

She expressed concern at this exploitation by adults "in a culture of violence". — Sapa

Father's agony at boy's bloody spree

ST Times 21/3/93

HE could not hide his sorrow — behind his glasses the father's eyes reflected a deeply troubled soul.

"Sorry, I really can't talk to you now," he said quietly as he left for his home in Pretoria. "Certainly some other time, but not now, please. And don't forget that he is under-aged, so don't publish his name."

It was Friday afternoon outside the Koster magistrate's court. The man had heard earlier that his 17-year-old son had been referred to the Sterkfontein psychiatric hospital for 30 days' observation after allegedly murdering a black woman and child and burying their remains on a farm.

The youth's father is a member of a family prominent in Pretoria legal circles. He is a former state

By CHARLES LEONARD

prosecutor. A few years ago he could have been standing in the little Koster court telling the magistrate that the fate of the youngster with protruding ears could not be decided without a psychiatric report, which will establish if he is fit to stand trial.

Now he could only look helplessly at the teenager in his checked shirt and jeans without a belt — his boy, whose mother died when he was a child.

On Sunday, February 21, he allegedly slit the throats of the woman and girl with a hunting knife, chopped off their ears with the same knife, buried the woman and burnt the child to ashes on a farm outside the small western Transvaal town where he worked as a farmhand.

The day before, the youth apparently attended an Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging meeting in the Free State, which was addressed by the Ventersdorp leader of the party, Eugene Terre Blanche. The boy is believed to be a card-carrying member of the movement.

The father had to wait until after the brief court proceedings to speak to his son for the first time since he was arrested after an extensive manhunt in the mountains near Vivo, in the far northern Transvaal, on Wednesday.

It took Pietersburg detectives two days to track down the youngster with the help of a helicopter and trackers.

While police would not confirm this, the youth apparently made a full confession after being arrested.

He accompanied detectives to the farm Geyerspan outside Koster, where he allegedly pointed out the location of the bodies. The woman had been buried in a deep grave. A senior policeman said yesterday that in all his years as a detective he had not experienced anything similar.

"When we uncovered the woman's mutilated body, flies shot up from under the ground," he said. "I could not believe it.

"We are still waiting for the woman and child to be positively identified. That should happen on Monday."

The girl's charred body was buried under a pile of rubbish about 600m from the woman's grave.

Late on Friday afternoon, the farm owner, Mr Piet Botha, was not on his farm. According to his wife, her husband, a well-known right-winger, was in Pretoria having a truck repaired.

Visitor

She refused to discuss the youth, who worked on the farm for eight months until about the end of last month, when he left suddenly.

Geyerspan, which looks more like a fort than a farm, had a visitor on Friday afternoon who came to offer support — AWB "chaplain" Rev Coenie Snyman of Ventersdorp.

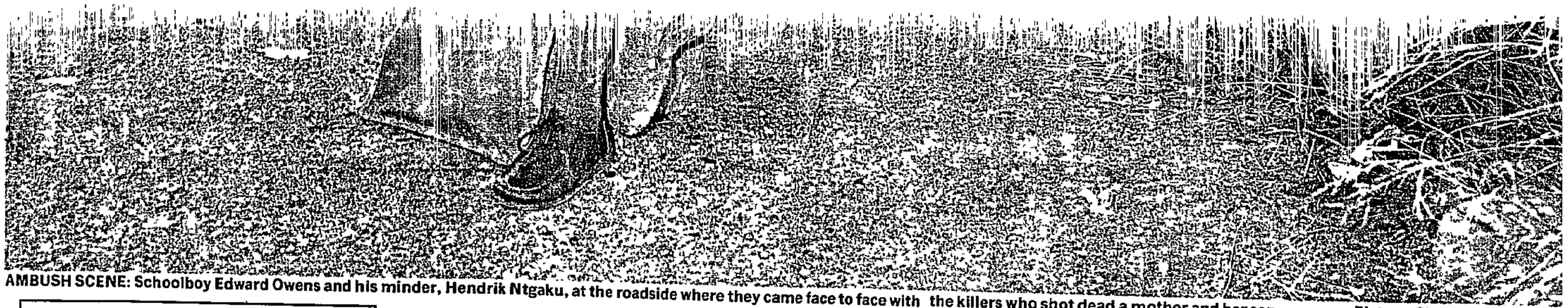
On a tower-like construction, four flags left no doubt about Mr Botha's sympathies: the Vierkleur, the Free State Republic flag, the German flag and the Odal flag — which belongs to a European fascist group.

● How killers in green BMW cold-bloodedly staked out their target . . . and asked two children: Where is the school bus?

DEATH WATCH

298 21/3/93





AMBUSH SCENE: Schoolboy Edward Owens and his minder, Hendrik Ntgaku, at the roadside where they came face to face with the killers who shot dead a mother and her son Picture: CHRISTINE NESBITT

By JOCELYN MAKER and NICK OLIVARI

COLD-blooded killers carefully plotted the slaughter of a bus-load of white schoolchildren south of Johannesburg this week.

The four murderers first quizzed locals in Walkerville about when the bus was due and how full it would be. Then they patiently waited 30 minutes for it to arrive.

But when the bus did come, they mistakenly thought it was nearly empty because the heads of the passengers — mainly tiny primary school children — could not be seen from the road.

And so the killers, not to be disappointed in their quest for victims, randomly turned their guns on a passing car, killing a 35-year-old mother and her 14-year-old son.

This chilling sequence of events, leading to the killings of Sandra Mitchley and Sean Nel, was yesterday recounted to the Sunday Times by three key witnesses.

The murders have outraged the country, prompted police to extend protection to rural school buses and aroused new fears of sporadic racial violence in response to what is being seen as a politically-motivated attack.

Two of the witnesses, young black children, were approached by the killers only moments before the shooting and asked "When is the bus due?"





Identikits of two of the men being sought by police

Bullets

Earlier, they had asked the same question of a labourer at the nearby Eikenhof NG Kerk

Now under police protection, the two children narrowly escaped death when the killers returned in their car and sprayed them with bullets as they



LUCKY TO BE ALIVE . . . Mr Norman Mitchley before being discharged from hospital yesterday

Sunday Times how two of the men left a green BMW parked directly opposite the bus stop, walked across the road and asked two black children waiting for a mini-taxi what time the bus was due.

Edward had walked the short distance from home to the bus stop with his "minder", Hendrik Ntgaku, 25, around 7am.

"I was the only white child waiting," he said yesterday.

"I sat on the rock that I always sit on to wait for the bus and Hendrik stood next to me We saw a green BMW across the road with four men inside.

"One of them was half lying down on the back seat. The driver was a fat man, and their clothes were untidy

"After a little while, two of the men got out of the car and walked over to speak to two black children who were standing next to me

"I did not think they were strange A little while went by, and then the bus picked me up"

Mr Ntgaku said that while he was waiting with Edward, he saw two of the men get out of the car and urinate in the veld

The driver, he said, was a short, round man who was wearing blue trousers and a green jacket Police later disclosed that the driver had been hijacked by the four men and forced to accompany them on the raid

"I thought they were waiting to pick someone up. I then walked up Grasmere Road to work," said Mr Ntgaku.

Minutes later, it appears, the killers became impatient with waiting and decided to pick the best available target — the family car driven by Mr Norman Mitchley, 47.

In the car were his wife, Sandra, her son, Shaun Nel, and two school friends, Claire Silberbauer, 13 and Craig Lamprechts, 16 As the car stopped at the intersection, the green BMW pulled up next to them and opened fire.

Mrs Mitchley and Shaun were fatally wounded in the hail of AK-47 bullets, while Mr Mitchley and the two other children were seriously injured

Edward's father, Henry, 38, who owns a general dealer's store about 80m from the intersection, heard about the shooting within minutes

Screamed

"I went down to the scene. There were about four ambulances and police everywhere. I was in a panic, as I wanted to know where Edward was Someone told me the bus had already left for school," said Mr Owens

"That afternoon the two children who were approached by the killers at the bus stop came to my store and told me that the men had asked them where the school bus was and

□To Page 2

Killers quizzed kids

□From Page 1

what time it was due to arrive.

"The two also said that just as the bus came around the corner, they heard one of the men say they were not going to hit it as it was not full enough and that there were only three children in it

"They told me that they watched as the men got back into their car. A few minutes later, as the

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ources matters were

alleged that Dr Bertie Loots, the deputy auditor-general, had once warned him to "stop playing policeman"

At the time he had been investigating massive corruption in the now defuct Department of Develop-

the running of Tolcon and Tolway, the two private companies that run South Africa's toll roads

The probe centred on allegations that no proper records were kept to account for a monthly pay-

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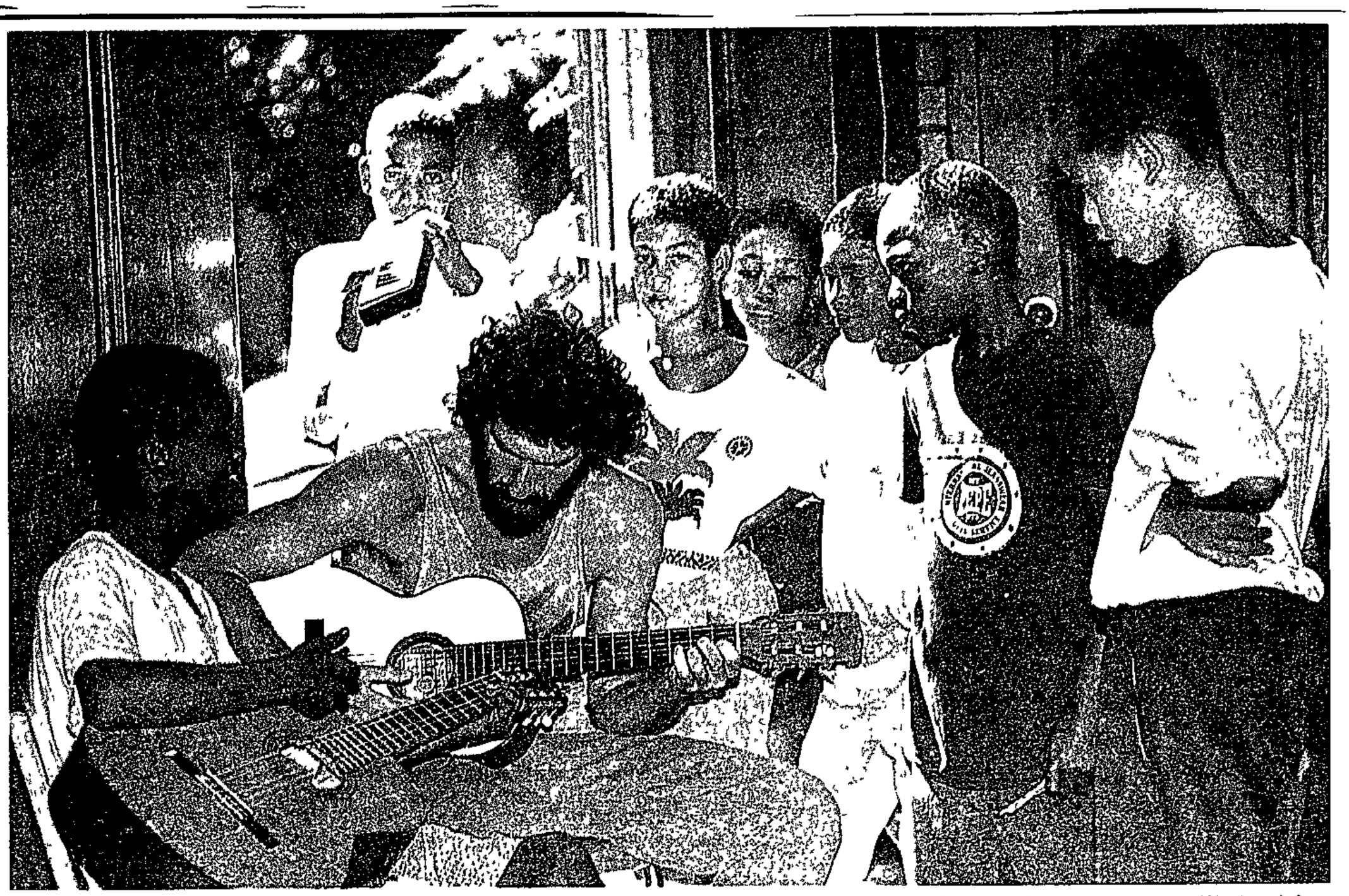


Pictures: WILLIE de KLERK, Weekend Argus.

□ **MUSIC AND MIRTH:** Street worker Jules Levin, who monitors the welfare of the city's street children, shares a laugh with young friends. Musical appreciation is part of the programme on offer to the children and is always popular.

Kids escape streets to find food, skills and some childhood

298

ARG 20/3/93

DI CAELERS, Weekend Argus Reporter

AMID the controversy over what's right and what's not for Cape Town's street children, a group of dedicated volunteers have skipped the talk and gone straight into action

They have set the wheels in motion to ensure a brighter future for the youngsters with Yizani (Come everyone), a series of daily skills training sessions, combined with wholesome soup, which ensure not only education and improved nutrition, but also a rare opportunity "for the children to really be children".

The project is a joint effort between The Homestead Projects for Street Children and The Cathedral Foundation of St George's

Sessions are held daily from Tuesday to Friday.

About 20 children attend each day, according to director Annette Cockburn, who said they were taught woodwork, ceramics and music and educated in important contemporary issues like Aids and street law.

"What we have created is a drop-in centre where we teach them skills and let them be children for a while. We get them off the thinners for a few hours and try to motivate them in a different direction."

Yizani co-ordinator Mr Paul Hooper explained that the long-term aim was the creation of possibilities for generating income He would like to see the children contracted out for painting, rubble or furniture removal.

"What I'm most interested in is job-preparedness training. Drawing and creating with clay is fine, but it doesn't equip them with marketable skills The painting, car-washing and removals are ways to bring in money," he said.

Ms Cockburn told Weekend Argus the success of Yizani depended on professionals offering their skills to extend the scope of the training sessions. They also need sponsorship for a salary for a full-time co-ordinator.

Anyone wanting to help out should contact her at 419 9764.



□ **BUILDING SKILLS:** Architect Jon Jacobson spends two hours once a week to educate street children in the finer points of woodwork. Here he shares his knowledge with Shaun, 18.



Waiting game ... Pretty haunts the streets of Hillbrow in search of a customer Photos: GUY ADAMS

Hillbrow's

W/Mail 19/3 - 25/3/93 (298)

Hotel rooms and apartments in Hillbrow provide the stage for a trade in prostitution in which girls as young as 14 live in fear of assault and even murder.

By **PHILIPPA GARSON**

WEARING only a tiny bra, Pretty, as she calls herself, sits up in bed, smoking a cigarette Her frail body is squashed between two girls who are fast asleep on either side of her on the small double bed in a hotel room in Hillbrow

It's early in the morning and Pretty's young face is drawn with exhaustion. Evidently, last night was a busy one, with one "steamer" after another using her and her friends' services On the floor is a used condom and on the table lie the leftovers of last night's takeaway chicken, together with a row of garish valentine cards

Pretty, who claims to be 17 years old but appears much younger, has been living in hotel rooms for the past three years. She ran away from home in Sebokeng when her father's brother stabbed her while attempting to rape her.

"My mother is alive but she's staying with another man so I can't live with her I don't like her husband

"I'm sad at the moment," she sighs "I haven't got enough money I owe rent My boyfriend needs R1 000 to get out of jail I can't go home because I'm not living in peace at home If my family knew what I was doing they would come and fetch me, but then they will treat me bad.

"I don't feel well in this job. It wasn't my intention to do it. At any time I can leave it I tell myself when I get a stable boyfriend I can leave everything "

But clearly, she has nowhere to go. "Have you got another job for me, can you help me?" she asks repeatedly.

A couple of days later she appears more cheerful, wearing smart clothes, make-up and sporting a new hairstyle. She also has a black eye — the work of a "steamer" who hit her.

She and the handful of friends that use her room say they are frequently assaulted by men who grow violent when asked for money or when refused sex. They live in fear of a

No way out for kids on the street (298)

W/Mail 19/3 - 25/3/93

By PHILIPPA GARSON

HOMELESS girls who flock to the city centre in search of work or to escape unhappy circumstances in the townships face two unenviable options: to disguise themselves as boys and join the throngs of streetchildren, or to become prostitutes.

Either way, they are likely to sell their bodies to survive. With few facilities and no shelters for homeless girls in the greater Johannesburg area, they are catapulted into a sleazy underworld of crime, violence and sexual abuse from which they cannot escape.

In Hillbrow and Johannesburg's back streets, hundreds of girls — some no older than 14 — are shacked up in sleazy hotel rooms, selling themselves to stay off the streets. Others team up with the throngs of boys living on the pavements where "chip chop" — sex for money — is an integral part of staying alive.

The recent arrest of a man allegedly harbouring an 11-year-old "sex slave" in a house in Yeoville brought the escalating problem of sexual exploitation of minors into the public arena. According to a *Weekly Mail* source, the accused pimp had allegedly been running a sex racket with girls as young as 10, bringing "fresh blood" from violence-torn areas in Natal, and putting them up in the Yeoville house and seedy flats around Joubert Park. Police say three or four other girls were staying in the Yeoville house.

Psychologist Hlengiwe Mkhize, who co-ordinates a project on children and violence at Wits University, is counselling an 11-year-old prostitute. The child left Transkei a few months ago with a hostel dweller in search of her mother. She was kept at a hostel for a couple of weeks and then dropped off at an hotel.

"She is now prostituting. She dresses provocatively and has become addicted to indiscriminate sexual life," says Mkhize. He adds that he has encountered other homeless girls employed in shebeens who have been instructed to dress scantily to "boost business" and eventually coerced to offer sex.

***The Weekly Mail* spoke to several girls working as prostitutes in Hillbrow. Most claimed to be "20-something", but looked no older than 15 or 16.**



Protection in numbers ... Street children huddle together while they sleep on a Hillbrow pavement

They described how they had fled unhappy, broken homes in nearby townships to find work and start anew in Johannesburg. They all spoke of how they wished to leave their "jobs" but had nowhere else to go. Clients, or "steamers", were frequently violent towards them and business was getting worse.

According to the Johannesburg Vice Squad's Captain Johan van der Merwe, under-age prostitutes, when encountered, are "referred to the relevant welfare authorities". He adds that "the big problem is proving they are under age (under 16). We might well be charging underage girls (for soliciting) who claim to be older. They don't carry their ID books and they tend to look older than they are."

Men who have sex with girls under 16 years are liable to prosecution. The state also charges prostitutes who are, in terms of the Sexual Offences Act, committing a crime by having sexual intercourse for financial reward.

Women arrested for soliciting generally pay an admission of guilt fine of between R200 and R300, and are usually back on the streets a few hours later.

Constable Dave Hallas, of the Child Protection Unit — whose primary aim is to catch the perpetrators of child abuse, like the pimps and escort agencies who employ minors — says white girls as young as 14 have been found working in city massage parlours and escort agencies. The CPU encounters an average of one case a month, Hallas says, and refers the girls to industrial schools, foster homes or children's homes.

For the many black children on the streets, prostitutes included, there are few options. If the police arrested them, they would have no place to take them.

Says Hallas: "Hillbrow is full of runaways. We all know it's a problem. It's very unfortunate that we don't have the manpower to police the situation. You've got 10 to 12 policemen trying to cope with thousands of runaways and a massive prostitution problem. There simply isn't the infrastructure."

Without sufficient police or welfare manpower, "you're fighting a losing battle," he says.

The overstretched health and welfare authorities, still hopelessly fragmented and grinding along wornout apartheid paths, would simply crumble if the police were to descend in force and clean up the streets. "If we could load up all the youngsters in Hillbrow alone, we'd sit with 1 000 kids. What would we do with them?"

Though facilities are no longer segregated, police continue to refer white and black minors to separate departments. White minors are referred by the CPU to the Department of National Health and Population Development, where social workers and institutions are readily available.

Black minors are dealt with by the Transvaal Provincial Administration, which is simply unable to cope with the load. Added to this is the fact that there are few alternatives for under-age girls besides the TPA's several "places of safety", which are little better than prisons, according to street children who have spent time there.

Homeless girls are often referred to Mina Motaung, who co-ordinates Streetwise's Soweto branch. After cleaning them up and giving them clothes, she encourages them to attend daily classes at the centre in Ipelegeng. But she has no place to house them.

Almost without exception, the girls disappear a few days later and Motaung doesn't see them again. She is trying to raise funds to open a shelter for these girls in Soweto.

The Johannesburg City Council is making available a large building in the city centre, formerly occupied by the TPA, for the homeless. The four-storey building, which can house up to 350, will open its doors in May to homeless people of both sexes and all ages.

Various organisations are tendering for the running of sections of the building. The council has identified homeless girls as a top priority for the new shelter.

pretty babies

w/mail 19|3-25|3|93. (298)

light-skinned black man they call "the ghost" who they claim terrorises them. Pretty's friend, Elvine, was beaten so badly by him she suffered broken ribs and internal injuries and spent three weeks in hospital. Her face, too, is bruised.

"I'm scared I'll get killed," says Elvine. They claim that several girls living in hotels have been found strangled or thrown out of windows.



Last week a woman was murdered at the Little Roseneath hotel, one of Hillbrow's notorious prostitute dens.

Days go by when Pretty and her friends get no customers, and sometimes they charge no more than R20 a time — "especially from the black guys who don't have money," says Pretty.

"You get more money if you stay at places like the Nest Inn, the Diplomat and the Royal Park hotel. At this hotel you get less and if you don't pay rent for three days (R55 per night) you get locked out. I was making R1 000 a night, now I'm making R200.

"Sometimes a day will go and you don't find one person. Business is bad these days. I used to walk the streets but now I'm afraid of the cops. They want money in exchange for not arresting you."

At the slummy Golden Key apartment block in Hillbrow's Quartz Street — a 24-hour hangout for prostitutes and drug pedlars — the security guard claims there are six or seven under-age girls shacked up in the building. "Fresh blood," snickers a prospective customer eavesdropping at the door.

Attempts to interview 15-year-old Lulu prove fruitless. She stumbles to the door, buttoning up her shorts A few friends are sitting on her bed; the air is thick with the chemical smell of Mandrax. "No," she says swaying, "no interview," and pushes the door closed.

At the Little Roseneath nearby, girls who look as young as 14 stream up and down the stairs. None admit to being younger than 18. They use each other's rooms, paying the owner R5 each time they bring a customer upstairs.

"The other girls here show you how to do things," says Pretty, though often the young girls are persecuted by the older ones for stealing business. "The men like the young ones like us," she says.

They claim to be vigilant about visiting the city council's Outreach Clinic regularly for medical check-ups and using condoms. But baby-faced Elvine admits: "If I've got no money sometimes I'll do it without a condom."

How boys are bought for 'chip chop'

u/mail 19|3-25|3|93 (298)

HOMELESS girls are not the only youngsters who fall victim to sexual exploitation. Boys living on the streets are constantly used for sex by their older contemporaries and by adults who pay for their services.

Comments Gill Swart-Kruger, founder and honorary president of Streetwise: "Street children are especially vulnerable to sexual exploitation because their social status as deviants in society allows people to exercise power over them with impunity.

"Adult street dwellers tend to take sex by force but other members of the community pay for it. There are street children who 'service' homosexual bars, waiting for clients outside, and others who provide kinky sex to women in flats. w/Mail 19|3-25|3|93

"Children as young as seven years old and who are new to street life are enticed to people's homes with the offer of food and clothing. On arrival they are given a bath, food and clothes, then shown sex videos and asked to copy the actions."

At the Streetwise shelter in Hillbrow a group of boys, ranging in age from 10 to 16, are seated around a table, discussing their sexual experiences. The very young ones speak with a heartrending wisdom about sex, enthusiastically relating their street lingo for various sexual practices. *"Matanyula"* is conventional sex, *"bezu"*, anal sex and *"skomora"*, masturbation. The youngsters are reluctant to confess their own involvement, ascribing "chip chop" — sex for money — to other boys. Most admit however that they are regularly approached with offers of sex in exchange for other rewards. They are generally introduced to sex at a very young age, either on the streets where they are sodomised by older boys, or in the homes they ran away from.

Two teenage boys at the centre were recently found frequenting a sleazy hotel nearby, where two women were paying them for sexual favours. The two disappeared shortly after the matter surfaced.

"Sipho" tells how he and friends were lured into a woman's flat with promises of food, fun and games. Physical games soon turned sexual.

"She paid us to play with our 'pipis'," he says. "I was still little. I didn't realise that according to the Bible this was not the right way to play with children."

Street children are often confused by their sexual experiences, says Swart-Kruger, and may disappear from the shelter if probed too much. Though the culprits exploit them, they may also offer the much-needed kindness and warmth rarely encountered by street children.

Sex by force is not uncommon, particularly by others living on the streets. A 10-year-old recently limped into the centre, having been raped in a nearby park. He vanished shortly afterwards.

Several boys complained they were being molested by the employee of a nearby café, who gave them food in exchange for their helping out in the shop.

The boys tell how men in parked cars wait for them under a nearby highway each morning as they walk to school. 'We don't talk to them, we run away. Sometimes they chase us in their cars. They say 'come', 'come'," says a youngster, aged 11.

How does he know they want sex? "You can see it in their eyes," he says.

National Institute For Local Government And Development

New Senior Management Positions

Applications for the following posts are invited from highly motivated people, with potential, who share the University's commitment to the establishment of a non-racial, democratic society

The National Institute for Local Government & Development is a nationally co-ordinated policy research and training initiative which aims to build institutional capacity for the democratic transformation of local government, urban and rural development.

Executive Director

You will be responsible for the overall establishment and management of the Institute, leading and co ordinating the activities of a high-powered management team for the realisation of the Institute's goals Tasks will include the integrated management of the Institute's research and training programmes, overall financial responsibility and the further development of the Institute as an accessible, relevant resource agency in the post-apartheid era To this end, you will network with a range of governmental and non-governmental organisations, and play a crucial public liaison role

You will therefore need ● an extensive background knowledge of local government and development issues with particular experience in managing research and training programmes ● previous involvement in community organisations and a demonstrable commitment to progressive goals ● the ability to interact with a wide range of organisations and institutions at advanced level ● an appropriate postgraduate qualification ● proven leadership and organisational skills

Programme Manager

You will be responsible for the development of the Institute's organisational structures, support systems and work programme during its successive phases Tasks will encompass the mobilisation of all resources, as well as the establishment and supervision of the necessary systems and infrastructure for the realisation of the Institute's functions This includes the development of administration and management systems, the co-ordination of programme activities, liaison with participating organisations and personnel management

Consequently you will need ● an in depth understanding of, and experience in, developing organisational systems ● skills in the areas of project design and initiation, budgeting, fund-raising, programme development and co-ordination personnel management ● a working knowledge of local government and development issues ● a commitment to progressive goals ● appropriate management qualifications

Research Manager

You will be responsible for the establishment, integrated management and ultimate quality of a major research programme, including the establishment of research management systems, the co ordination, monitoring and evaluation of research activities, the successful mobilisation of research products You will also develop and co-ordinate a team of project leaders dealing with a broad spectrum of local government and development policy issues, while assuming direct responsibility for the elaboration of a set of policy research themes through the different projects

Besides an appropriate postgraduate qualification, you will need ● extensive background experience in managing research projects with particular involvement in major programmes ● the ability to lead and manage a complex policy research process during the current transition ● an in-depth knowledge of local government and development policy issues in the South African context, as well as of resource and database systems ● proven contract and general management skills

Training Manager

You will be responsible for the establishment and co-ordination of a national training programme for the Institute, including the development of a framework for human resources development for local government and development, the co ordination of training activities within this framework, the development, initiation and supervision of various training initiatives, and the management of a team of training co-ordinators

You will therefore need ● the ability to lead and co-ordinate the trainer team in the design, implementation and management of training projects ● a sound background in training programmes management ● OD skills and an in depth understanding of the needs of progressive organisations ● the ability to interact with diverse organisations, including local authorities ● a willingness to travel extensively ● an appropriate postgraduate qualification

On offer are highly negotiable and competitive remuneration packages

For further information, please contact Mrs Seafield on (021) 959 3276/2501

Applications, including a detailed CV, covering letter and appropriate support documents, should be sent in strict confidence to The Administrator, Local Government Policy Research Project, UWC, Private Bag X17, Bellville 7535

Closing date for applications 5 April 1993

University of the Western Cape

ADMARK (CAPE) 74656

Ex-Minister's case settled

AN application brought by dismissed Ciskei minister of foreign affairs Tamsanqa Linda was settled out of court in Bisho yesterday.

Linda was demanding that his ministerial home and government vehicle — confiscated after his dismissal - be returned to him.

An attorney representing him said the conditions of the settlement were confidential and declined to comment further on the issue.

Police probe boy's death

■ A-G to decide on prosecution of cops:

TWO Alberton policemen have been suspended following the fatal shooting of a six-year-old boy in an East Rand squatter camp in February this year.

Constables JM Deysel and SM Nkambule were suspended on Tuesday last week, East Rand police spokesman Major Ida van Zweel announced on Monday.

The two officers were allegedly firing off rounds in an open veld near the Tintwa squatter camp, near Tokoza, Alberton, when the child, Johannes Lebakeng, was struck inside a shack by a stray bullet. The incident happened at 10am on February 26, Van Zweel said.

She said initial reports that a man had got out of a blue Ford Meteor car and had opened fire on the shack had been refuted on investigation.

The police probe was continuing and the case would be referred to the Attorney-General for possible prosecution, Van Zweel said. — *Sapa.*

Cops beat 3 - Cosas

■ Mamelodi pupils allegedly assaulted while in police custody:

By Alinah Dube

THREE Mamelodi pupil leaders were allegedly assaulted while in police custody, the Congress of South African Students claimed yesterday.

Branch secretary of Cosas Mr Michael Nkosi, two other members, Mr Harold Milanzi, and Mr Philemon Mokoena sustained injuries after allegedly being assaulted by police while in custody, Cosas charged.

Police spokesman Colonel Royce Merton could neither confirm nor deny the claims yesterday. He promised to investigate

The three pupils were allegedly arrested last Thursday night. They were each released on R100 bail at the weekend.

Six other Cosas members were allegedly arrested at the Mamelodi Magistrate's Court yesterday during the brief appearance of the three.

R4m raised on Red Nose Day

JOHANNESBURG. — South Africans pledged more than R4 million for child welfare during the M-Net Red Nose Day project on Saturday, spokesman Ms Janet de Kretser said yesterday.

She said that by 9pm on Saturday, a total of R4,004m had been raised with over R2m coming from corporate sponsorships and the sale of Red Nose products. — Sapa

Star 29/6/93

Govt rejected for child upliftment scheme

(299)

By Shirley Woodgate

Wide-ranging proposals for uplifting children in South Africa have been formulated by the National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC), but the present Government has been rejected as a vehicle for the implementation of the plans.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, NCRC director Shirley Mabusela announced the formation of a national children's rights forum in September where all organisations representing children's rights and issues would be represented.

She said it was vital that children's issues should not be marginalised.

NCRC board member Mathole Motshekga outlined the strategy adopted at the children's summit organised by the NCRC and United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) in Midrand this month

Aims included making global goals appropriate to South Africa, making recommendations to the multiparty Negotiating Forum, demanding legislative changes and ensuring that massive resources trapped inside "apartheid institutions" were unlocked for children.

Motshekga insisted that although the programme must be outlined immediately, the Government would not be urged to adopt the forum's strategy.

"The SA regime and its local and provincial authorities are not the appropriate institutions for the attainment of global goals as it is still practising apartheid despite noises about constitutional reform," he said.

Backing for wide-ranging programmes would be sought from Unicef, the business community and other international organisations, but SA bodies should not abdicate their responsibilities to Unicef.



PAC women march on the Sebokeng Police Station where they handed a memorandum protesting against the harassment of the organisation's members. See page 4.
PIC:FANI MAHUNTSI

Children's Day observance

Soweton 11/6/93

By Kenosi Modisane

298

VARIOUS organisations on the Witwatersrand will today hold pickets, picnics and meetings to celebrate International Children's Day

Vice president of the ANC Mr Walter Sisulu will lead a march to the Orlando police station at 11am. Cosatu will launch the National Child Care Campaign which will negotiate with employers for child care facilities at work places

The Hillbrow-Inner City Awareness Campaign will kick off with a picket whose themes are "the plight of children in custody" and "the need for shelters for homeless girls"

There will be a picnic and various fun events at 9am for Alexandra children at the Alexandra Organic Market. Soweto pre-schoolers will gather at the Five Roses Bowl in Mofolo Park at noon Support groups for parents living in Hillbrow, Berea and the inner city will meet at the Department of Welfare (House of Assembly) in Johannesburg. The Johannesburg Child Welfare Society will hold picnics and braais at their pre-school and after-school centres.

The Transvaal Provincial Administration will today launch a wide-ranging programme to emphasise the rights of abused and neglected children as part of International Children's Day.

● **See Page 7**



Mokwena . . . will help to launch upliftment project in August. Picture: Stephen Davimes

Offering new hope to the 'lost generation'

Star 21/6/93

(298)

There are about three million young black people who face a bleak future if something is not done to re-incorporate them into productive society. Steve Mokwena is a key player in attempts to rescue them.

THE MENDERS

by Helen Grange

FOR many of us, the mention of marginalised youth conjures up images of an unsalvageable mass of hopeless, unemployable youths, bent on torpedoeing hopes of peace in their communities.

This concept remained unchallenged until the Joint Enrichment Programme (JEP), a youth marginalisation programme sponsored by the churches, commissioned CASE researchers David Everatt and Mark Orkin to investigate the "lost generation".

They found in the unemployed black youth a well of frustrated ambition and self-confidence, coupled with a surprising lack of vindictiveness despite the violence they had seen and suffered.

Steve Mokwena, the young and articulate projects co-ordinator at the JEP, has developed a deep interest in these youths. His quest is to find ways to harness their energy constructively in education and upliftment projects, to afford them a second chance at life.

Mokwena is certain it can be done and indeed, must be done if the new South Africa is going to succeed economically.

"The general perception is that youths who are disengaged from society or seen as 'lost' are the primary perpetrators of violence. My view is that violence is only a barometer to measure the level of frustration in a community.

"Now that we understand the motivations and the needs of the youth, it is time to consolidate youth in a national forum which would engage various programmes of upliftment and job creation," he says.

To this end, the JEP's proposal to form a National Youth Development Co-ordinating Committee, involving all political parties, has been broadly accepted by political parties and business and is scheduled for launch in September.

Mokwena staunchly supports this idea, because until now projects by the Government and the private sector directed at black youth have been largely unco-ordinated.

"We lack an integrated approach. We need to put all the identified problems among township youth into an integrated whole, analyse the country's resources and strategise projects around that.

"This won't be easy. It may mean redirecting some projects to needs which are going unfulfilled. Many projects are traditionally not directed at the young, and a change of attitude is needed," he says.

Mokwena acts as a broker in identifying needs among marginalised youth, and then accessing resources to fulfil them. "Networking" is how he describes it.

This means working closely with alienated youths and their organisational structures, and undergoing a sensitive process of consultation to establish their requirements in education, skills and community participation.

Mokwena has noticed that funding is far more readily available if the projects are short-term. "But society must understand that education is costly It is an investment in the future. There's a lethargy when it comes to long-term programmes."

At the same time, he has noticed a strong will to enhance youth initiatives. He is slightly sceptical about this "People want to help, and sometimes want the label of being politically correct without understanding marginalisation. To address this issue requires a great deal of commitment."

Mokwena will be co-ordinating a huge youth upliftment project — entailing weaving basic skills training into the school curriculum — to be launched in Soweto in August.

"The notion that you must either have matric or you have nothing is a very detrimental one. We want to put a skills package together to equip youths for life ahead, even if they don't complete their schooling."

Mokwena's interest in the marginalised sector grew out of a personal understanding of the background of township youths and a university education which led him to join the Wits Centre for the Study of Violence for a short while before starting at the JEP in 1991.

Challenge

"These issues are personal to me. Quite often, the people I am dealing with are close to me — a cousin, a neighbour's child. It goes beyond the numbers and you realise these are real lives.

"There are about three million youths out there who need urgent attention. Where do you start? Somebody, somewhere has got to begin to give.

"It will be a challenge to the new government as well as the private sector.

"I believe the problem can and must be tackled and resolved." □

FOCUS: *Immunising young children against the killer Hib disease*

Serious gap in routine shots

W Mail 18-24/6/93

298

CRITICAL CONSUMER

Pat Sidley's weekly column on controversial issues



PARENTS of young children, who can afford to, should be asking their doctors to immunise their children against Haemophilus Influenzae B. This is *not* the flu we know but is called "Hib disease", which kills many children annually.

It hits children aged mainly between six and 12 months, though there have been some cases involving children as young as two months. Mostly, it affects children before they are five years old.

It may cause the deadly, infectious and notifiable meningitis, as well as specific types of ear infections which lead to deafness, arthritis, septicaemia and pneumonia.

In the United Kingdom, according to the *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin*, the newer vaccines should prevent the deaths of 55 children annually and prevent serious illness in another 1 100.

In South Africa, the problem is a great deal more serious, as it is known to affect poorer populations more seriously.

In other words, the vaccine ought to be given to all black children, along with other routine vaccinations, like those against measles, tuberculosis, etc. But, because of the costs involved — a private shot will cost around R50 — it is not yet supplied by local authorities.

In the UK, it has recently been introduced along with all the other routine innoculations.

Research shows that children under five years in South Africa have a one in 250 chance of falling ill with the disease. According to the research, black male children are most at risk.

It is a highly contagious disease, easily spread in schools, creches and the like.

In the UK, two types of vaccine are available — here so far, only one, known as HibTITER and made by Lederle. According to local doctors, the vaccine is safe and effective, and it eliminates a major cause of child deaths.

The *Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin* says when it is given with the usual diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis shots, and then with polio shots, it will provide protection to children from four months old. And according to studies in the UK, no booster shots are needed afterwards.

The *Bulletin*, which is an independent and authoritative publication, says that large field studies "show a rapid and marked reduction" in the incidence of the disease as a result of the vaccination. And in one pilot immunisation programme in the UK, the incidence dropped to zero.

According to the *Bulletin*, there are few side effects from the vaccination.

The conclusion of the *Bulletin* — which mirors what the drug company says, and gives it more weight — is that immunising against Hib disease "saves lives and reduces serious morbidity (deaths) in very young children. We welcome its inclusion in the routine vaccination programme."

Naturally, the drug company would like to see its product included in local-authority health programmes as this would represent a great deal of cash for the company. But, it seems, as usual, money and other problems will delay this.

Taking the overseas evidence into account, along with the advice of local doctors this Critical Consumer spoke to and the South African research which shows we are at greater risk than European groups, the obvious conslusion is that the health authorities ought to introduce it as soon as possible and parents should ask their doctors for protection as soon as they are able.

Cause of boy's death unknown, court finds

Star 18/6/93

By Gien Elsas
West Rand Bureau

A Carletonville inquest court magistrate was yesterday unable to determine the cause of death of a 16-year-old boy who died on January 16 1990 while in police custody.

Magistrate Charmaine Potgieter said the cause of Nickson Phiri's death had not been established in evidence before the court and added that no one could be held accountable.

She said there had been so much contradictory evidence — both by the police and the family — that she was unable to make a finding.

Nickson collapsed while being interrogated at the Welverdiend police station after being arrested. According to evidence, he started breathing heavily while being questioned. He started shaking and fell into unconsciousness.

When senior SAP officers arrived at the scene, Nickson was dead. The officer in charge did not deem it necessary to have photographs taken of the body.

Nor was the boy's name entered in an occurrence register.

This was the second finding made on Nickson's death. The family asked for a formal inquest to be held after expressing their dissatisfaction when the first finding — that the cause of death could not be determined and no one could be held responsible — was made.

Star 18/6/93

Call to start youth training scheme

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — The Government has asked the National Peace Committee to deal urgently with proposals for a Service and Training Youth Battalion (STB) so that the scheme can start to benefit the marginalised youth as soon as possible.

It had to be acceptable to the main players and be dealt with in a credible way, said Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte. (298) (7

The Government's proposal, tabled at the multiparty conference, is that an STB be established under the auspices of the National Peace Committee.

The Government, the private sector and international agencies could help fund it.

The STB would draw voluntary recruits for six months or a year and provide job training. Programmes would include community services.

Report reveals chilling facts on women, children

By Shirley Woodgate Star 7/6/93

About 1,8 million children in South Africa were last year permanently separated from their mothers, most of them domestic servants working in towns, according to a report released yesterday. (298)

A two-year study, "Children and Women in South Africa: A Situation Analysis", was conducted by the National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC), assisted by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). (299)

Other chilling facts are that a quarter of all black children have no education at all, child abuse has doubled in the past four years, and about 10 000 street children are living in towns countrywide.

The findings, released at the Johannesburg Civic Theatre ahead of the launch of a Day of the African Child conference starting today, are based on indications that women and children are "extraordinarily" disadvantaged in South Africa as a result of past policies dating back to pre-colonial days.

The report, which is considered a milestone in a series of planning and advocacy initiatives by the NCRC and Unicef in South Africa, comments: "The changes needed in health care reflect the changes needed in society as a whole."

Proposal for youth training 'battalion'

B Day 16.6.93

CAPE TOWN — Government has proposed a multimillion-rand programme to set up a service and training "battalion" to address the problem of marginalised youth

Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte announced yesterday that government had proposed the "battalion" to the negotiating forum technical committee on violence.

The proposal recommended a training programme of six months to a year, during which time participants would be paid an allowance and receive a lump sum on completion of the course.

The forum ought to be created under the auspices of the national peace committee and would draw financial support from government, the private sector and international agencies.

Training in specific enterprises — such as agriculture, car repair, masonry and electrical repairs — should be supported, government's proposal recommended.

The programme should also include inputs on "discipline, neatness, fitness, sport and recreation", Schutte said in a statement.

TIM COHEN

Sapa reports Schutte said these programmes should include community services such as road cleaning, repairing of facilities and planting of grass and trees, and should address the housebuilding needs of informal settlements.

He said serving the community was the first step to returning marginalised youth to the mainstream and placing them on the road to a vocation or career.

Government's proposal suggested the forum should liaise with all role players in the public and private sectors to assist in establishing projects.

Schutte said "the unenviable situation of the country's illiterate and jobless marginalised youth" had been receiving government attention.

"Notwithstanding this initiative of establishing a service and training youth battalion, government also plans to use governmental infrastructures to give urgent attention to solving this problem by means of other training and service programmes," he said.

Star 16/6/93

Youth training

(298)

The Government yesterday proposed the establishment of a Service and Training Youth Battalion at the multiparty conference in Kempton Park. The provision of training to render services to the community could be a first step towards mainstreaming marginalised youth, Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte said. — Staff Reporter.

Mom's agony over son's cell death

By Abdul Milazi

"Come to the police mortuary, there is someone there who looks like you," Maria Phiri (40) was told by three policemen on the day after her son had died while being interrogated at the Welverdiend police station in Carletonville.

"I almost fainted with shock when I found that the person they were talking about was my son Nickson. He was dead," Phiri said tearfully.

Nickson Phiri (16), who was a member of the ANC Youth League-affiliated Khutsong Youth Congress, died on January 16 1990 while being interrogated at the police station which has since been closed.

A three-month inquest into Phiri's death ended inconclusively last week because of "contradicting evidence" by police and the family.

Phiri, an illiterate domestic worker who lives in a tiny shack in Khutsong, attended the inquest without the faintest understanding of the proceedings.

"Our lawyers told us that they had opened a case against the police because my son died in their custody. I was told to come and speak in court. That's all I knew," she said.

Police claimed Phiri had died of an epileptic seizure.

Earlier in the inquest, independent pathologist Dr Jonathan Gluckman testified that he had found evidence of bleeding in Phiri's brain. There were bruises on his head and body and his lungs had been congested with blood. He had also found a "large amount of free blood" in his stomach.

A witness arrested with Phiri, Ishmael Booysen (22), told the court that he had seen three policemen assaulting Phiri.

For the domestic worker, her oldest child was her only hope for a better life. But he is gone, and so are her hopes.

ERSONAL DUCH
ıe use of ell-known ersonalities or ıaracters to ell ınvenience ods to ildren is eady well-tablished in outh Africa. ıis could be at e expense of eir health.

Ads 'threaten child health'

Star 22/6/93. (298)

SOUTH AFRICAN food companies risk following the British example and creating "brand loyalty" in children at the expense of their health.

Research in a British consumer magazine recently concluded that heavily advertised foods, high in sugars and fats, were no longer bought for treats, but made up a large proportion of the average child's diet.

A recent issue of Which? Way to Health says "these heavily promoted foods are affecting the way children eat"

In the UK, more than half the 140 children's foods launched in 1990 were confectionery, soft drinks and snacks, Which? says Last year, one in four secondary schoolchildren ate more than two packets of crisps a day and nearly half had two or more chocolate bars or sweets. One in four had no fruit or vegetables.

Research also showed that children were brand-conscious by the age of four and could be influenced by cartoon characters, increasingly used to market convenience foods.

For many years companies have used well-known personalities or characters such as Mickey Mouse and the Ninja Turtles to sell foods to children. More recently they have moved into computer games to promote products that are high in sugar and fat.

A child who watches commercial television for an hour after school and all Saturday morning would see 92 food and drink advertisements, 80 percent of which were for foods high in sugar and fat, while only 10 percent could be said to encourage a healthy diet, the UK survey found

In South Africa, statistics on children's eating habits are not easy to come by. But the use of well-known personalities or characters to sell convenience foods to children is already well established.

Children can buy Dinosaur and Ninja Turtle pizza, after the popular US television shows, and KTV pizzas, after the local children's television programme.

Aubrey Parsons, chairman of the South African Association of Food Science and Technology, says children, like adults, are brand-conscious. But he believes "children are not that gullible". Advertisement time on TV is also when children toddle off to the toilet, he says

Most members of the South African public, particularly mothers, are quick to spot misleading or devious marketing methods, and they hold the ultimate deterrent: "They don't buy," he says.

Brand-consciousness allows people to select their preferences and thereby encourages quality competition from various manufacturers It also helps in eliminating inferior products, he says

Morris Hazan, managing director of a local company that sells pizzas aimed at children, says that with more and more women entering the workplace, "the household is losing the cook" His company has introduced the pizza aimed specifically at children to lighten the load of working mothers.

Who are the child shoppers?

There are two kinds of child-shoppers identified by UK marketing specialists as having influence on what goes into their parents' trolley:

- **The first is the "trolley loader", who surreptitiously fills up the trolley with unwanted goods. Placing products on low-level shelves makes this easier.**
- **The second is the "nagger" or "pest", who exasperates parents into buying products.**

But Dr Charlotte Prout-Jones of Sandton, who practises a form of alternative health therapy known as Life Science, is not so sanguine: "Children are helpless members of society and they are the biggest target of junk-food pushers," she says.

The average person knows very little about the nutrition in a product. Children especially "know very little about what really constitutes healthy eating".

Prout-Jones says television is only one persistent force undermining eating habits Another is a plethora of vested interests, including the food industry in general. These generate propaganda, and "false education on eating habits", which is perpetuated in schools.

Children are "educated" to believe that "(white) sugar gives you go", meat gives you muscle, growth and strength, and dairy gives you strong bones.

Prout-Jones says the four basic food groups were concocted years ago by the US agricultural department with the main aim of selling more of their products. The marketing campaign proved so successful that the concept has been adapted into educational systems worldwide.

She believes the whole concept is a myth. "You can get all the nutrition you need from a diet high in raw fruit, vegetables and nuts — food for which the body is biologically adapted.

"The food industry remains oblivious to that message, however, because it undermines their whole reason for being."

Mike Shapiro, director of consumer and corporate affairs at Kellogs, says dietary habits begin in the home, regardless of brand consciousness.

He advises parents and children to embark on a high-fibre, low-fat diet, to decrease intake of animal foods, to quit smoking, to exercise in moderation and to learn to relax. "This will go a long way towards helping the nation become healthy," he says.

MPINE QAKISA
and THE INDEPENDENT



Brand loyalty . . . the popular local children's television programme KTV is used to sell pizzas to children. Picture: M-Net.

Child Welfare Society pleads for a lifeline

ARG 23/6/93

298

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter

CAPE TOWN Child Welfare Society has appealed to citizens and businesses to help it provide essential services for children at risk

The society needs kitchen and other equipment urgently for its centres in Khayelitsha, Guguletu, Hout Bay and Philippi

Development manager Ms Jetty Botes said the organisation was continually challenged by the need to protect children and ensure their right to food, shelter, basic education and a caring environment.

"Last year we assisted more than 14 000 children and their families in the Peninsula," she said.

"The kitchen equipment required will be used not only to prepare food at the various centres but for the preparation and storage of vast quantities of foodstuffs used to sustain underprivileged communitites catered for in our aid programmes."

The principal of Hout Bay Educare Centre, Mrs Jackie Layman, said its stove was 14 years old and only two plates worked.

"We must prepare our meals the day before and heat them," she said.

"In winter the food does not go sour, but when the weather is hot we have to throw away pots of food.

"This is very sad, because for a large percentage of our children this is the only cooked meal they get each day."

The centre caters for 100 and since the beginning of the year 15 have left because their parents could no longer afford fees

"We filled their places as our waiting list is very long, but it is sad to lose children because of economics

"Most children's parents work in the fishing industry, and in winter work is scarce Many get retrenched until the summer

"We try to accommodate their children and work out ways for them to pay off fees, but some have no income and are forced to take their children out"

Fees are calculated on a sliding scale, depending on parents' income. They pay an average of R40 a month.

At the Siyazama crèche in the Imizamo Yethu squatter camp, 63 children are crowded into the community hall with hardly any equipment or toys.

Teacher Ms Nothabile Ndilele said: "If the weather is good we allow them to play outside with sand and water and take them to the field, where they can run around and play ball.

"When it's raining the children, whose parents pay R10 a month, draw and paint and share whatever toys are available."

The centre also provide cooked meals, prepared on a two-plate gas burner.

Ms Botes said the society pioneered educare in Cape Town and offered a full day-school readiness programme with limited state funding.

"The backbone of our financial support is donations and we need this assistance to continue to enable us to provide services to communities where the need is greatest"



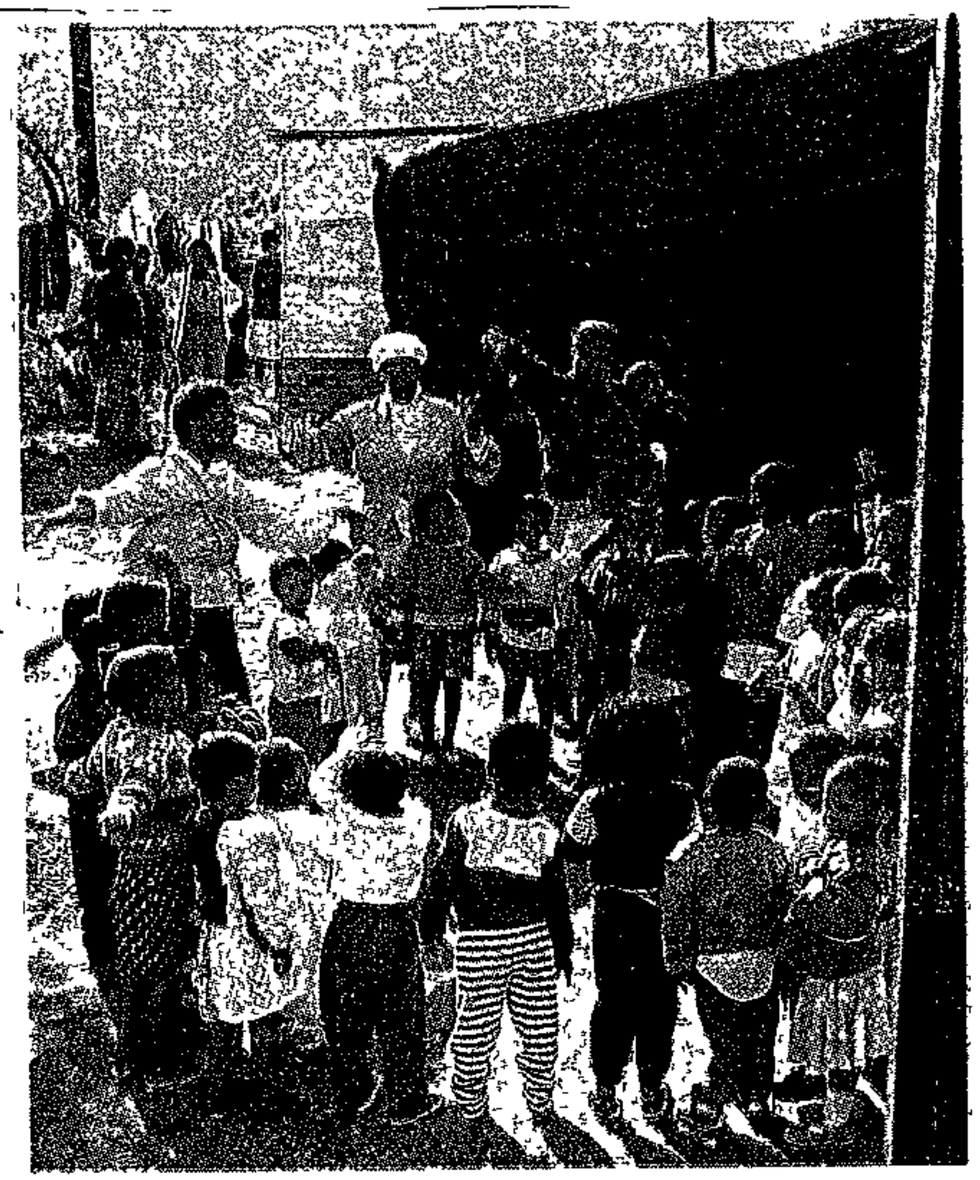
Centre fill the more land is

CROWDED: Some of the 100 children at Hout Bay Educare centre's playground. The playground is small and although available it is overgrown with dense bush.



Pictures OBED ZILWA, The Argus

PLAY TIME: Children at Hout Bay Educare Centre are overawed by their task — to build a model of their school with building blocks.



OUTDOORS: Teachers Mrs Nolwandle Manentsa, Mrs Elizabeth Tulela and Mrs Nothabile Ndilele lead Siyazama Crèche children in song.

□ Shortage of equipment, toys, money

Myth dispelled about violent black youth

Sowetan 24/6/93.

Sowetan & Radio Metro

Talkback



with Tim Modise

By Mzimasi Ngudle

BLACK youths are not violent. They want to study and get work, guest speakers told the *Sowetan*/Radio Metro Talkback Show last night.

Talking on marginalised youth or the so-called lost generation, Ms Sheila Sisulu of the Joint Enrichment Programme (JEP) dispelled myths that black youths were violent, lazy and loathe to study.

Sisulu said a study commissioned by the JEP after a conference on the lost generation identified unemployment and violence as major causes of the crisis facing young people.

"Research showed that many unemployed young people were actively looking for jobs," she said.

Sisulu said many youths experienced political and domestic violence.

"A frightening number of young people grow up in violent homes. Some have been beaten up and subjected to sexual abuse.

"The question is, is the youth or society violent," she said.

Sisulu said violence was an indictment on South African society which had a tendency to use the youth as scapegoats.

She rebutted allegations that young people were used by political organisations as canon fodder in the liberation struggle.

"They youth have felt the power of leadership since 1976 when parents stood idle and did nothing about things directly affecting their children.

"Since then the youth have felt parents tend to cower in the face of police brutality and confronted issues on their own. The only solution is that parents and political organisations be duly responsive," Sisulu said.

Mr Na'eem Jeenah conceded that young people tended to be violent because violence had been shown to them as the only way of solving problems.

"We live in a highly militarised and violent society where youths see caspirs and guns daily. Some are beaten by their partners and other sexually abused and raped," he said.

"I am grateful MaSisulu dispelled the myth that our youth are not interested in education."

Bogey, Springs

news in brief

1 069 children in detention

MORE than 1 069 children under the age of 18 were awaiting trial by June 11 this year, the Department of National Health and Population Development said yesterday (2 98) Sowetan 24/6/93

The department said the large number of youngsters under the age of 18 awaiting trial was a matter of grave concern to the Government and the public.

Street kids — another salvo of complaints

(298)

CT 24/6/93

By JILYAN PITMAN

TENANTS in two blocks of flats have sent letters of complaint to the Rondebosch Civic Association about the behaviour of street children and other vagrants in the Rondebosch and Rosebank areas.

The first letter to the RCA came from some tenants in Rustenburg Centre in Rondebosch and the second letter was from the Parkwood Body Corporate, a block of flats in Lower Nursery Road, Rosebank.

These are the latest complaints in the on-going saga of vagrancy in the area

Mr John Lilley, chairman of the RCA, said: "A great deal has been written about street children and vagrants in this area. This situation does not appear to exist in the northern suburbs Together we must find a solution — it's a matter of urgency now"

One of the letters to the RCA, signed by Ms Marjorie Bull, Professor Stuart Reiner, chairman of the Trustees, Miss Renée Taylor and Mr Lionel Pead, all of Rustenburg Centre, stated: "Groups of 'squatters', including the street children of Rondebosch, frequently gather in the vicinity of the canal and railway line next to the border of our grounds, Tannery Park and St Joseph's College school grounds. They shout, sing, chant and laugh in high volume, particularly late at night and into the small hours of the next day" The letter further stated that the residents have called the Rondebosch police on many occasions. "They have been very helpful but we feel they should come around every night and when they find them ask them to move on"

In doorways

Ms Bull added· "This type of behaviour does not happen every night but when it does it wakes us up. Even we have asked the groups of vagrants to move away During the day a lot of them are still asleep in doorways in Rondebosch — this is because of their night-time activities"

Ms Bull said she was in favour of a shelter in the area, if the children could be persuaded to use it "Everybody has rights but none of us has unlimited rights. There is no future for these street people if this is the way they are allowed to carry on. We are also concerned about their general anti-social behaviour, their uncleanliness and their safety, especially when they play games around and over the railway lines"

The second letter sent to Mr Lilley was signed by the Parkwood Body Corporate. It stated that "residents in the block wish to place on record our very strong objection to the suggestion that a night shelter for the so-called street children might be built near Rygersdal Sports Club".

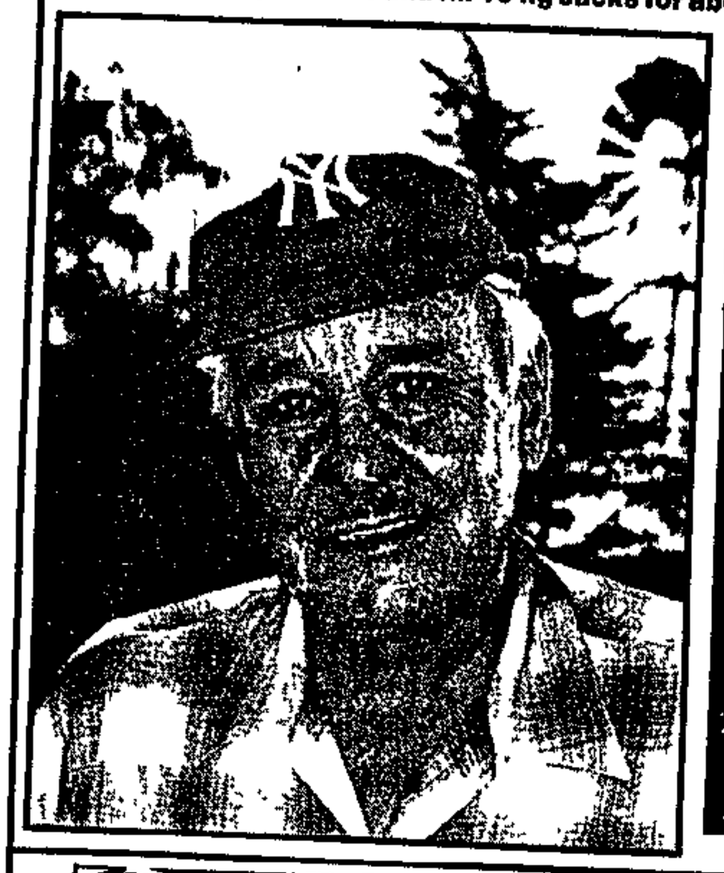
The letter further stated that "it would be far better to accommodate these youths in their own areas where they could be helped to learn skills by people who speak their own language"

The letter said that the people in the area had had more than enough of "these undisciplined youths"



SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN . . . Bethal farmer Gert Slabber (below) says local children come to him begging for jobs. Children as young as nine years old pick potatoes and fill 10 kg sacks for about R40 a month to help their povery-stricken families.

■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA



A life of hard labour when child's play is out of reach



By MONWABISI NOMADOLO

CHILDREN as young as nine years old are being employed on potato farms in the conservative town of Bethal, in the eastern Transvaal.

They earn a meagre R40 to R55 each month.

After a thorough investigation City Press learned that some of the children had been "forced out of school by their employers" while some work permanently on the farms.

Those fortunate enough to attend the local farm school return to the farms to do manual work after class

During the week, children work from 1 pm until 5 pm while on Saturdays they work from 8 am until 1 pm

Child labour in SA is prohibited by law

But one of the most prosperous potato farmers in the area, Gert Slabber, the farms included picking up potatoes and filling 10 kg bags or digging up potatoes left in the ground by the tractor during harvesting

Slabber, who claims to have played with black children in his childhood days, said "It is not unreasonable to employ the children from nearby"

He pointed out that people in the area were poverty-stricken

"They are very poor The children are helping their parents and thereby bringing in more money"

Mkhaleni countered that Slabber was cutting costs as extra accommodation would be needed to house and feed an adult workforce

Slabber, who is fluent in the local Ndebele language, said he treated his labourers "well"

"Here on the farm, unlike you people



SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN . . . Bethal farmer Gert Slabber (below) says local children come to him begging for jobs. Children as young as nine years old pick potatoes and fill 10 kg sacks for about R40 a month to help their povery-stricken families. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA



A life of hard labour when child's play is out of reach

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Child labour in SA is prohibited by law

But one of the most prosperous potato farmers in the area, Gert Slabber, confirmed he employed children on his farm, adding that "it was a light job done on a part-time basis"

Slabber, feared by local blacks even on surrounding farms, said he was forced to employ the children because of "pressure from the children and their parents"

He said he had tried to explain that child labour was illegal, but the children were persistent,

The illegal practice has been going on for the past three years, an informant told City Press.

Slabber, known by locals as "Msanandini", is the owner of seven farms in Diepfontein, which occupy many acres of land He employs 150 labourers

Unreasonable

Slabber claimed the children came of their own free will to his farms

However, it was alleged that Slabber frequently went to the local farm school and openly invited children to come to his farms

He denied the allegations

According to a spokesman for the Rural and Farm Association, Meshack Mkhahleni, several teachers were allegedly intimidated by Slabber for withholding children and have subsequently consulted their lawyers for advice

Mkhahleni said Slabber was "exploiting the children because he contributed towards the school's building costs"

Slabber said children worked on the farm so that they could also earn some money to buy school uniforms

"They help in the store room In fact its play for them, you know!"

On the contrary, children interviewed by City Press said their work on the farms included picking up potatoes and filling 10 kg bags or digging up potatoes left in the ground by the tractor during harvesting

Slabber, who claims to have played with black children in his childhood days, said "It is not unreasonable to employ the children from nearby"

He pointed out that people in the area were poverty-stricken

"They are very poor The children are helping their parents and thereby bringing in more money"

Mkhaleni countered that Slabber was cutting costs as extra accommodation would be needed to house and feed an adult workforce

Slabber, who is fluent in the local Ndebele language, said he treated his labourers "well"

"Here on the farm, unlike you people in Johannesburg, we live like a family Colour is not important When someone has died, we cry and pray together as a family

"When I promise to pay my workers R10, I give them R10 and not R9,95 But they must work for that R10," a finger-wagging Slabber said

Slabber alleged that he had been threatened by the local branch of the PAC

When City Press visited his farm, Slabber and his wife, his two sons and a daughter-in-law were armed to the teeth with handguns and hunting rifles

While Slabber confirms the abject poverty of the people in his area, he and his family live a life of luxury

Bethal potato farms rose to notoriety in the '50s when appalling work conditions were exposed by the late doyen of black journalism, Henry Nxumalo, whose report in *Drum* magazine was later confirmed in an official inquiry.

A spokeswoman from Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, Jackie Loffell, condemned the employment of children on farms

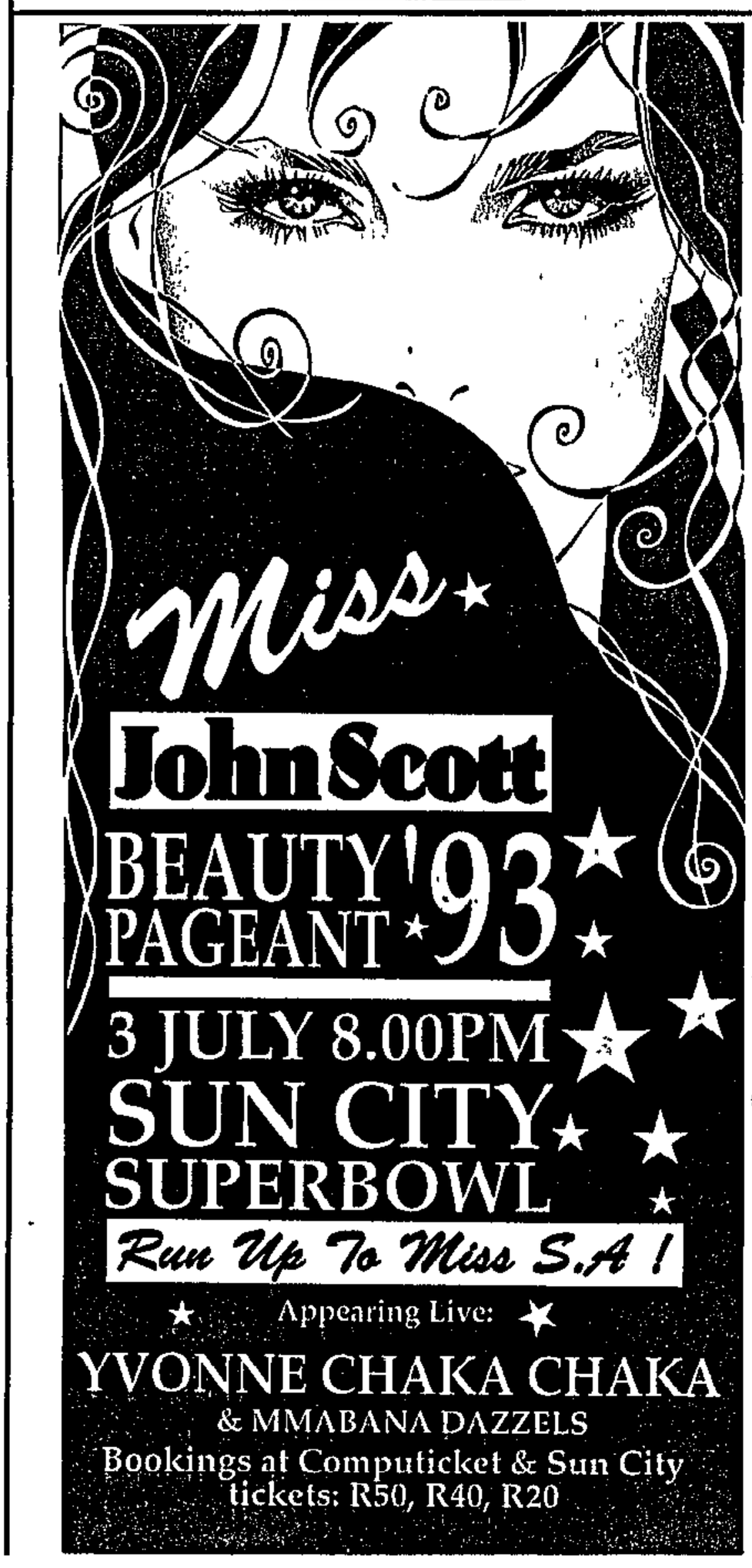
She said her organisation was against child labour

However, the matter would be referred to the Black Lawyer's Association, she said

She added that the farmer was breaking the law

The society is also against the agricultural union's minimum age suggestion of 12 years old

Loffell advised concerned adults in the area to report child labour cases to the Manpower Department



Don't cage our kids'

298

ARG 26/6/93

■ A new system of justice for South Africa's youth? There's still a long way to go, say a group of advocates who have worked in Cape Town's courts for the past six months.

DI CAELERS
Weekend Argus Reporter

THERE are bouquets for Cape Town magistrates, public prosecutors and even corrrectional services officials — but, for the South African Police only a firm thumbs-down.

That's the "score" from a group of youth advocates, following six months of work in the Cape Town courts. Their firm message is that the police must be educated about children's rights — and learn to respect them — before a new system of justice for youth in trouble with the law can operate successfully.

In a new book, *Letting In The Light: Seeking Justice For The Children Of South Africa*, officially launched last week, the final-year law students of the University of the Western Cape detail their often heart-rending experiences during the first public-defender project of its size for children in trouble with the law in South Africa.

A project of the Youth Advocacy Unit of UWC's Community Law Centre, the book is described as "a workbook for children in trouble with the law and their families, friends and advocates".

Discussing its relevance, project director and long-time children's rights activist Ms Michelle Morris told Weekend Argus that confusion over the system of justice for children was resulting in families believing their children were "bad children" and that prison was the best place for them, or people thoughtlessly writing off the country's youth as extremely violent

"We want to motivate people to start thinking of alternatives in dealing with the problems faced by the youth We felt a need to take this discussion beyond the child activists and into the schools and communities."

She explained that the six-month project had followed the release last year of a report, *Justice For The Children: No Child Should Be Caged*, which called for the release or relocation of all children awaiting trial in prisons and police cells.

It was one of the first steps towards "the recreation of a culture of children's rights" and a small part of the nationwide movement towards the reform of the juvenile justice and welfare systems for children in trouble with the law.

Ms Morris said: "Through the youth advocates' work in Cape Town and the outlying areas, the magistrates and public prosecutors slowly are becoming more aware of the desperate need for child-friendly courts and police officers.

'The justice system must be one that protects children, not one that is used to terrorise and destroy the hope of the youth."

South African Police Planning has already been carried out for the optimal utilization of Commando members for these purposes.

The hon the State President has already announced that Commandos are to be utilized to a greater extent in rural areas He did so during his opening speech this year.

SAP: legal fees

*20 Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Law and Order:

What was the total amount paid by the Government during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available for the legal fees incurred by members of the South African Police in respect of (a) defence in (i) criminal and (ii) civil cases, (b) inquests, (c) commissions of inquiry and (d) other legal actions? B503E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

Accounts for the payment of legal fees do not specify the required categories, and as a result thereof the system of the South African Police has not been adapted in order to differentiate such categories. The differentiation cannot be made, as a result of the extent of the administrative process.

JSE: protection of investors

*21. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Finance.

(1) Whether the Johannesburg Stock Exchange Guarantee Fund established in terms of section 30 of the Stock Exchanges Control Act, 1985 (Act No 1 of 1985), has shown any shortcomings in respect of the proper protection of local and foreign investors in respect of defaulting brokers; if so, what is the (a) nature and (b) extent of these shortcomings;

(2) whether he and/or the Registrar of Stock Exchanges has investigated or intends investigating these shortcomings with a view to bringing about improvements; if not, why not; if so, when;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B504E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) No The Act and rules contain requirements regarding the settlements of certain securities transactions and the rules of the JSE and its Guarantee Fund provide that in the event of a broker not complying with these requirements, claims of clients (classified as "general claims") shall be paid in full by the fund Other claims (classified as "limited claims") are subject to a maximum payment of R1 million per defaulting stockbroking firm.

In terms of the rules of the JSE and its Guarantee Fund claims on the fund shall first be met out of the proceeds of any claim on an insurance policy taken out by the JSE on behalf of broking firms and only after the estate of a defaulting broking firm has been excused. In the interim, however, due to the time required to finalise a full audit of the accounts of the defaulting firms to establish the extent of the default and to categorise clients' claims, the JSE decided to assist investors and has paid all general claims that have been proved from its own funds.

In addition to protection under the Guarantee Fund, the JSE has insurance cover of R100 million. Upon the exhaustion of the R100 million cover in any one year catastrophe cover of R50 million for any one occurrence per broking firm immediately becomes applicable. Claims in respect of the losses of three firms involved have been submitted to the JSE's insurers. One claim had to be reconstituted and a resubmission of the revised claim is imminent

(2) The matter is currently under active investigation by the JSE in consultation with the Registrar of Stock Exchanges to determine in what respect, if any, the protection envisaged for investors in the event of default of a broker could be improved.

(3) No

SADF: printing press

*22. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether the South African Defence Force (SADF) has purchased or intends purchasing a multi-colour printing press at a cost of more than R1 million; if so, (a) for what purposes and (b) what is the (i) make and (ii) purchase price of this press;

(2) whether the SADF has received any objections to this purchase; if so, (a) what objections and (b) from whom? B505E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) Yes.

(a) To meet die SADF's classified printing requirements.

(b) (i) Heidelberg Speedmaster, model 102FP+L.

(ii) RM 4,62.

(2) Objections were submitted to the Department of State Expenditure and a working group was appointed with representation from the SA Defence Force, the Government Printer and the Department of State Expenditure. The objections were thoroughly investigated taking the SA Defence Force's requirements for rationalisation of posts, security considerations, centralisation and cost efficiency into account. The conclusion was reached that the cost was justified in the light of these factors

(a) The objections were

— that a large surplus capacity exists in the RSA printing industry;

— that there is under-utilized printing capacity at the Government Printing Works; and

— that in a time of scaling down the SADF should not purchase equipment of this nature.

(b) A tenderer and the Printing Industries Federation of South Africa

Prisons: mothers with children

*23 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

How many mothers were confined to prison with their children in 1992? B507E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

In the interests of the infants, small children and the parents involved, as well as in the absence of suitable alternatives, imprisoned mothers are allowed to care for their dependent children in South African prisons.

On 31 December 1992 there were 202 mothers together with one or more children in prison.

In line with international practice, regulation number 94 of the regulations promulgated in terms of section 94 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959), makes provision for a female prisoner to keep her child with her in prison during the period of lactation and for such further period as may be necessary, subject to prescribed conditions The necessary clothing, food and medical treatment may be provided by the State for the period for which a child remains in a prison.

Standing departmental directives also determine that a child may remain in prison with the mother for as long as is deemed necessary for medical and nutritional purposes Thereafter it should be endeavoured to remove the child from prison, subject to a certificate by the medical officer to the effect that the child would not suffer psychologically or physically if separated from the mother In a case where removal from prison is appropriate, it is a requirement that a suitable home should be obtained for such a child beforehand. Social work personnel of the Department of Correctional Services investigate the placement possibilities for these young children in cooperation with external social work organizations. When placement is arranged the mother, family, foster family or institution personnel, as applicable, are consulted

All children are examined by the medical officer as soon as possible after admission to a prison or after birth in order to determine which medical treatment and nutrition is to be prescribed. The child's mass is taken monthly and the necessary injections and immunisation as applicable are administered by a qualified nursing sister, or otherwise arrangements are made for the administration thereof at the local clinic.

At every prison where children stay with their mothers, a member of the nursing profession is responsible for the necessary super-

cont.—>

vision This member sees to it that all prescribed directives regarding the care of the children are strictly adhered to and that the children's general health and well-being are promoted.

In general it can be mentioned that the Department of Correctional Services places a high premium on the medical treatment of all persons entrusted to its care. In this regard the nursing staff of the Department of Correctional Services are guided by the medical officer (district surgeon) and his prescriptions and directives are meticulously carried out This includes general treatment which can be provided in the prison and prison hospitals, hospitalization in private or provincial hospitals and treatment by specialists.

SADF officer attached to State Security Council

*24. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Defence.†

(1) Whether, with reference to his replies to Question No 28 on 17 February 1993 and Question No 21 on 3 March 1993, a former senior officer of the South African Defence Force, whose name has been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was employed by the Defence Force during the period in which he was attached to the Secretariat of the State Security Council; if so, what is the name of this officer;

(2) whether this officer made direct or indirect contact with any chief ministers or governments of the self-governing areas at any time during the above-mentioned period; if so, what was the (a) nature and (b) extent of this contact,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B508E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) and (2)

The former senior officer whose name has been furnished to me was functionally in the employ of the Secretariat of the State Security Council and only fell under the SA Defence Force administratively The finer details of the contacts he may have made during this period are consequently not known to my department

(3) No

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Press freedom

*25. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

Whether, with reference to the free flow of information and reporting by the Press, any further steps have been or are being taken or are being contemplated in respect of the repeal of the 11 Acts referred to in the reply to Question No 7 on 18 March 1992; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) when? B509E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

As stated in the reply to Question No 7 of 18 March 1992 (Hansard, Column 419), of the 11 Acts referred to, the Department of Home Affairs administers only the Electoral Act, 1979 (Act 45 of 1979), and for the reason furnished in the aforesaid reply, it is still not the Department's intention to repeal the provision concerned.

I further recommend that my colleagues who administer the other Acts concerned be consulted by the hon member in that regard

TBVC states: pension funds

*26. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

(1) Whether he will furnish information on whether pension funds in the TBVC states are being monitored in any way; if not, why not; if so, (a) in what way are these funds monitored and (b) what is the state of each of these funds;

(2) whether any large payments were made by any of these funds to any individuals in the past 18 months; if so,

(3) whether he will furnish details of such payments; if not, why not; if so, what are the details? B510E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes, but it is primarily not my function

(a) On the one hand, pension funds in the TBVC States are administered by the independent state in question and monitoring occurs in terms of the pension and financial instructions as well as through auditing by the Auditors-General of those states On the other hand, it is monitored in terms of Structural Adjustment Arrangements if actions regarding the pension funds have a fiscal impact on the adjustment measures In such cases the Chairman of the Structural Adjustment Committee, in accordance with the agreement, would take the matter up with the two governments.

(b) I refer the hon member to the latest reports of the Auditors-General of the various states.

(2) Yes

(3) According to available information the Venda Government decided to privatise its pension fund and in the process amounts were paid to financial institutions on behalf of individuals Members of the pension fund were unhappy about this and this led to strikes To solve the crisis the Venda Government appointed the Venda Pensions Crisis Committee to investigate all payments made from the pension fund The Venda Government is assisted by Dr J de Loor in the investigation The Committee has made good progress with its investigation and according to Dr De Loor a report will soon be submitted to the Venda Government.

Regarding the pension funds of the other States, the calculations of the amounts were made in accordance with the formulae laid down in the laws of the respective countries

It must be stressed that the various TBVC States, as independent states, administer their own pension funds

SADF: legal fees

*27. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Defence:

What was the total amount paid by the Government during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available for the legal fees incurred by members of the South African Defence Force in respect of (a) defence in (i) criminal and (ii) civil cases, (b) inquests, (c) commissions of inquiry and (d) other legal actions? B513E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

R2 907 389,53 since 1 April 1992. The figures are unfortunately not available in the cost components specified and the time and effort required to calculate them thus cannot be justified.

Reply substituting reply to Question No 9 on 17 March 1993, put by Dr F H Pauw (col 592)

National Cancer Association: funds

*9. Dr F H PAUW asked the Minister of National Health:†

(1) Whether the State makes any funds available to the National Cancer Association; if not, why not; if so, (a) what was the total amount so made available during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available and (b) on the budget of which State Department or Departments are donations to this association indicated;

(2) whether it is required of this association to apply the above-mentioned donations on a racial basis; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) why and (b) what procedure is being followed? B397E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) Yes,

(a) R465 000 for the financial year 1992/93 and

(b) Administration: House of Representatives,
Administration: House of Delegates,
Provincial Administration of Transvaal,
Provincial Administration of the Orange Free State,
Provincial Administration of the Cape of Good Hope;

(2) no, the Association applies for subsidy at different State institutions who subsidise social worker posts for Blacks, Coloureds and Indians The application of these personnel is not prescribed.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Youngsters agog at armed police escort

STAR 24/3/93

By Charmeela Bhagowat (298)
Crime Reporter

Waiting for the school bus could not have been more exciting for the young pupils of Danie Theron Laerskool

Oblivious to the terror that has gripped the Vaal Triangle after three ambushes on white motorists since Friday, and unaware of the subsequent decision by police to escort school buses as a safety precaution, the wide-eyed youngsters curiously looked at the armed police officers, their Nyala vehicles and the journalists who had gathered to report on the unprecedented police action.

But for worried parents waiting in their cars at the Kibler Park school south of Johannesburg, the day could not have been more nerve-wracking. They wanted to leave as quickly as possible — to get off the roads and into their homes without delay

Clinging to the metal fence around the school, dozens of children tried to talk to armed police stationed at the gate.

"What are you doing here?" and "Are you waiting to shoot someone?" they asked.

On the bus, a police officer told the children to dive to the floor if they heard gunshots. But they paid scant attention to the warning.

Bedazzled by the heavy police presence and SADF motorcycles, their heads poked out of the window most of the time

The mood of their worried parents was summed up by Walkerville mother Annalie Barnard, whose two children use the school bus daily: "I am so angry and so sad for the people who died. All I do in the morning is tell my children to lie on the bus floor if they hear gunshots and 'may God be with you'."

Relief

When the bus, with two armed policemen in it, SADF escorts on motorcycles in front and a heavy armoured vehicle in the back, reached her stop 10 minutes late, Barnard heaved a sigh of relief. Her children were home.

But Maria Vermaak, who drives her daughter to and from school, said she refused to be scared. "I've been expecting the attacks. We are sitting ducks and I just refuse to bow to the pressure.

"How long are these armed escorts going to last? Our children are going to grow up with fears and complexes we never had," she said angrily.



Riding shotgun . . . Sergeant Andre Duvenage on the school bus to Elkenhof and Walkerville yesterday. Picture: Joao Silva

Our youth need to be looked after

■ Adults consider the lost generation.

By Sipho Mthembu

A FUTURE government should introduce a policy that will not only provide compulsory primary education but also set a two-year syllabus to rehabilitate "the marginalised youth".

Speaking on the first day of a four-day conference on youth development on Monday organised by the Joint Enrichment Project in Broederstroom, Child Literacy Project director Mrs Jean Pease said: "The most marginalised youth are irretrievable, so are those who are most economically and politically deprived."

Speakers at the conference identified illiteracy, unemployment, substance abuse, poverty and violence as "manifestation of marginalised youth".

Representatives also made proposals for the urgent introduction of projects to counter substance abuse, poverty, lack of shelter and other problems facing the children and youth.

The conference ends tomorrow.

Speakers challenged the conference to produce useful solutions. Leaders from across the political spectrum, including Inkatha Freedom Party national chairman, Dr Franklin Mdlalose, Mrs Albertina Sisulu, ANC Youth League president Peter Mokoba and representatives from the Canadian and Japanese Embassies, attended.

(b)	(c)	Finding/Action
20 May 92	Assault	Member awaiting trial.
20 May 92	Assault	Member awaiting trial.
20 May 92	Assault	Members awaiting trial.
04 Jun 92	Assault	No grounds found for complaint.
19 Jul 92	Murder	Member awaiting trial.
19 Jul 92	Murder	Charge withdrawn.
03 Aug 92	Rape	Case still under investigation
18 Aug 92	Murder	Charges withdrawn.
15 Oct 92	Misconduct	Member tried, found guilty and disciplinary action taken.
06 Dec 92	Shooting incident	Case still under investigation.
21 Dec 92	Shooting incident	Case still under investigation.

Aids: HIV-positive statistics

184. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) How many (a) White, (b) Black, (c) Coloured and (d) Indian persons in the Republic tested HIV-positive in the latest specified calendar year or 12-month period for which statistics are available;

(2) whether she will furnish the House with corresponding statistics in respect of each of the (a) independent Black states and (b) self-governing territories; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant statistics? B369E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) (a) 230,

(b) 18 201,

(c) 368 and

(d) 78

for the period 31 January 1992 to 6 January 1993;

(2) (a) yes,

Transkei	0
Bophuthatswana	1
Venda	0
Ciskei	0 and

(b) no, furnishing of statistics is voluntary and no statistics have been received.

Children: places of safety

199. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Health:

(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? B447E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) (a)

Whites	7
Coloureds:	9
Asians	1
Blacks	13 and

(b) (i)

Whites:	487
Coloureds	845
Asians:	75
Blacks:	1 749 and

(ii)

Whites	467
Coloureds	623
Asians	84
Blacks	1 339

[Information furnished on 4 February 1993.]

(2) no, not per race group, but globally,

(a)

under 14 years:	249
15 to 18 years	662 and

(b) 15 March 1993.

Immunization programmes: money allocated

216. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) (a) What sum of money was allocated to immunization programmes in the 1992–93 financial year and (b) what immunization programmes were undertaken;

(2) whether these programmes could be implemented fully out of the sum so allocated; if not,

(3) whether additional funds were allocated for this purpose; if so, from what source? B452E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) (a) R5 818 000 [vaccines only] and

(b) — the Expanded Programme on Immunisation [EPI] makes provision for vaccination of children against tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and measles. It also makes provision for the vaccination of pregnant women against tetanus in order to prevent neonatal tetanus [protection of the newborn]

— the prevention of yellow fever in order to comply with the International Health Regulations Act, 1974 [Act 28 of 1974]

— post-exposure prophylactic treatment against rabies

— prevention of typhoid epidemics;

(2) yes;

(3) falls away.

Own Affairs:

Additional staff at schools

22. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(1) Whether he or his Department has agreed to supply additional staff, according to existing staffing quotas, to Model B, C and D schools whose 1993 enrolment is greater than that of 1992; if not, why not; if so, how many additional teachers were made available;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B280E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes, 739 additional posts were allocated;

(2) no.

Loss of permanent/temporary teachers

23. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:†

How many (a) permanent and (b) temporary teachers did his Department lose in each province in 1992 (i) on account of (aa) marriage, (bb) retirement, (cc) ill health, (dd) termination of service, (ee) death, (ff) the acceptance of non-teaching posts and (gg) further study and (ii) for other reasons? B281E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

			Cape	Natal	OFS	Transvaal
(a)	(i)	(aa)	38	7	7	62
		(bb)	209	71	29	325
		(cc)	74	18	21	228
		(dd)	1 121	216	118	3 695
		(ee)	8	4	2	31
		(ff)	345	24	47	101
		(gg)	9	4	2	34
	(ii)		48	134	22	769
(b)	(i)	(aa)	1	2	0	3
		(bb)	47	7	3	5
		(cc)	0	0	7	0
		(dd)	0	91	40	161

FM 26/3/93

TERRORISM

Supping with the Devil

Some crimes are so awful that condemnation of them cannot be qualified in any way by a civilised society. We have had a few such crimes recently: the gunning down of children on their way to school in Natal; the ambush of a car on the Vereeniging road; the night attack on a bar in Fort Beaufort; and the shooting of a five-year-old girl at Nigel.

Children died in two of the shootings. To all the families whose lives have been ruined, the expressions of outrage from politicians must sound hollow and futile. But such expressions are important; they reveal to us where our leaders stand. And all too often these leaders cannot resist qualifying their condemnation with a political point from their own agendas. In doing so, they unconsciously reveal the special and seductive barbarism of moral relativism.

The SA Communist Party, for instance, condemns the Vereeniging attack — but then goes on to call for the resignation of Law & Order Minister Hernus Kriel and talks of government passing "a Budget giving R3,7bn of taxpayers' money to the SADF secret special defence account. The Apla question pales in significance against this huge secret fund for De Klerk's own private army." The implication is clear: government is also responsible.

The Wit Wolwe rightwing group denies responsibility for the shooting of a five-year-old black girl at Nigel, apparently in revenge for the Vereeniging shooting — yet admits that one of its members "lost his self-control" and allegedly shot the girl. While the Wit Wolwe had not "issued instructions" for the Nigel shooting, the group "has full understanding for the frustrations and anger of its members." In other words, he needn't feel too badly about it.

On Tuesday, PAC secretary-general Benny Alexander had the cheek to make an appeal to all political leaders "to remain calm and meticulous in working to find lasting solutions to the violence in the country." He said he was "aware of the implication" that Apla, the acknowledged armed wing of the PAC, was involved in the killings on the Reef and in the eastern Cape — but he did not confirm or deny Apla involvement. Then came the inevitable moral evasion: Alexander accused other parties and government of being implicated in the violence — as if this somehow justified the murder of children.

The effect of these cleverly qualified condemnations is to excuse barbarism and, therefore, to encourage it.

Whether or not Apla is responsible for some of the attacks, the PAC is trying to ride several horses at once. There is an instinctive sympathy with the emotional call by a Conservative Party MP for the arrest of the PAC leaders on the grounds of conniving in murder — and for the return of the death penalty.

The PAC should certainly be excluded from all negotiations, as the Democratic Party's Bob Rogers has demanded. There is no point in dealing with patently unreasonable people. The PAC has shown itself to be devious, nasty and untrustworthy, riding on the wave of slaughter for its own political ends. Will it ever stick to any agreements?

More to the point, surely it is now time for the ANC to break off relations with the PAC, to renounce the Patriotic Front and to demand that the PAC condemn the murders which Apla may or may not have committed. If the ANC cannot find the courage to do this, it must stand accused of the same vicious blend of feebleness and cynicism which makes the PAC so repulsive to South Africans. ■

General calls on shot child

(298)

STAR 26/3/93

Pretoria-Witwatersrand-Vereeniging (PWV) police regional commissioner Lieutenant-General Koos Calitz yesterday paid a courtesy visit to five-year-old Nzwandile Morojane in the Nigel Hospital.

Nzwandile is recovering from a bullet wound in the arm.

The child was wounded while walking outside the town on Sunday afternoon by a shot allegedly fired by a motorist.

The child's father, Simon Morojane, flagged down Sergeant Johan Lourens who gave chase and eventually arrested a suspect.

The Wit Wolwe have claimed responsibility for the shooting, but the extreme right-wing group's leader, convicted mass murderer Barend Strydom, has since distanced the organisation from the incident.

Mike Muller (46), of Krugersdorp, has appeared in the Nigel Magistrate's Court on charges of attempted murder and drunken driving.

He was not asked to plead and the case was postponed until May.

Hunger needs R60 million for this year ● Gazankulu leader dies

More kids die from hunger

Sowetan 26/3/93

■ Alarm at the increase of victims under five years of age dying of malnutrition and starvation: 298

By Ruth Bhengu

OPERATION Hunger is alarmed at the rapidly increasing number of children under five years who are ill because of starvation

Executive director of Operation Hunger Mrs Ina Perlman told journalists yesterday that the biggest cause of infant deaths in the country was malnutrition and starvation.

The children, from urban and rural areas, whose parents had sought help from her organisation, needed not only food but medical attention as well.

"We are terribly worried about the dramatic deterioration of children's health countrywide. The reports we are receiving from our regional directors are cause for concern," she said

South Africa needed a massive famine prevention programme to help the increasing number of people who could no longer afford food, she said.

According to Perlman, when Operation Hunger was started in 1980, 55 percent of all black deaths were children under five years of age, compared to 7 percent among whites

"By 1986, when we were feeding a million children, the number of deaths had dropped to 26 percent Now that figure has shot up to 40 percent,"she said, adding that it was a disgrace.

"The situation is critical as compared to that of 1992 and is becoming worse by the day with a 40 percent increase in clinically diagnosable malnutrition," said regional director of the Orange Free State, Judith Mokhetle.

"Statistics of child deaths from one hospital are at 45,7 percent, the main cause being gastro-enteritis, malnutrition, TB, measles and upper respiratory diseases," she said.

The number of people needing food was increasing at a shocking rate and Operation Hunger was finding it almost impossible to cope.

Perlman said her organisation needed at least R60 million this year to feed people who are starving all over the country She said the Government had given her organisation only R10 million instead of the R27 million they had asked for.



Star 26/3/93

Arrested 'are schoolboys'

Political Reporter

The Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) said yesterday that police had arrested 20 of its members — 14 of them "schoolboys" from Ficksburg in the Free State.

The PAC's angry claims, made at a media conference in Johannesburg by the organisation's president, Clarence Makwetu, followed Wednesday's announcement in Parliament of the arrest of 18 "Apla members".

Makwetu disputed President de Klerk's announcement, saying that the 14 "schoolboys" arrested in Ficksburg in the early hours of Wednesday, were first detained and then released in October last year after the Free State Attorney General had "found that their arrests were frivolous and unwarranted".

Makwetu said emotions were running high in the area as a result of the arrests and that the local community was planning a mass rally to demand their release.

Soon after Makwetu's briefing, SAP Commissioner General Johan van der Merwe told a press conference in Pretoria that the suspects — who were "not schoolchildren" — had admitted to police that they were Apla cadres.

"As far as I know, they are not schoolchildren, and we have sufficient information at our disposal to legally charge them," Van der Merwe said.

He challenged the PAC to furnish the names of the two additional detainees.

Makwetu had released the names of the 18 people apprehended.

The PAC president said those arrested included Bloemfontein construction worker J Jikila — also detained in October last year for possession of firearms for which he had legal licenses — PAC Bloemfontein

● To Page 3

Detainees are schoolboys from Ficksburg — claim

Star 26/3/93

● From Page 1

regional organiser C Mbelebele, and Sebokeng teacher Musa Msundulwana, son of the organisation's former representative to the United Nations, Dr Count Pietersen.

Makwetu said those arrested were clearly not Apla members and accused De Klerk of "playing cheap political games".

The other names he released at the press conference were Themba Lenyatsa (16), Moshuti Lipadi (15), Desmond Thabiso Mohala (22), Clement Molefi Libada (20), Esia Senapo Maseko (17), Hector Paseka Tsolo (16), Esia Tajane Chaotsane (20), Hendrik Paseka Motsoenyane (23), Charles Biljoen (21), Phatswa Mosae (13), Lawrence Sematla (19), George Teatea (21), Gilbert Ntuli, Solomon Masano and Joseph Masano. The ages of the last three were not given.

Commenting on the attacks by whites allegedly by Apla since last Friday, Makwetu said it was not his organisation's policy to kill women and children.

The PAC, he said, was "not involved in a race war against whites." The PAC would only consider suspending the armed struggle once "the ballot is secure". Makwetu was twice asked if he condemned the attacks on whites in Walkerville last week, and twice he responded: "We regret any killing, irrespective of colour."

Govt is blamed for high infant mortality

B/DAY 26/3/93

(298)

GAVIN DU VENAGE

GOVERNMENT was impeding hunger relief and was directly responsible for the growing infant mortality rate, Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman said yesterday.

She said government was playing "political games" with relief funding, and getting in the way of other organisations that were trying to assist starving people.

Perlman said in some areas infant mortality had jumped by up to twice their mid-'80s levels as a direct result of government interference. For instance, it was preventing relief organisations operating in areas where state poverty aid was functioning, to prevent "unnecessary duplication"

However, the state's efforts were inadequate and often carried out by officials who had no interest in their tasks, other than safeguarding their jobs As a result, she said, aid was reaching only a selected group — specifically those who were already ill from malnutrition — instead of reaching families before their health was destroyed by hunger.

Where government assistance was available, it usually came with "unacceptable conditions". For example, homeland governments may be allowed direct control over funds administered by aid organisations

"Under the pretext of not duplicating services, or of people not looking after the money available, elaborate structures were set up," said Perlman "This has led to a huge deterioration in services."

Perlman said R60m was needed to fund present feeding schemes, excluding Operation Hunger's various self-help programmes.

She estimated the number of families living under the bread line at 80% of the population.

Perlman said the latest Budget would make the situation worse, as any relief from the extension of VAT exemptions would be negated by a rise in the fuel price.

☐ Operation Hunger would launch Gold Rush 14 at the Rand Easter Show on April 10, with one of the biggest fireworks displays yet seen in SA, Perlman said. The pyrotechnic display will take place on three different nights, after the concerts by British group Duran Duran.

Police eyes in the sky are here to stay

B/DAY 26/3/93

STEPHANE BOTHMA

RESIDENTS on the Reef will have to get used to police helicopters circling suburban areas if they want a relatively crime-free society, Witwatersrand police liaison officer Major Eugene Opperman said yesterday

Referring to regular complaints about the noise made by the helicopters, Opperman said the current crime rate warranted their use.

"The individuals who complain about air-patrols must now decide what they want — a crime-ridden society or an area which is relatively free of crime," he said.

Police were often accused of not doing enough to curb crime but air patrols were one way of fighting crime effectively, he said

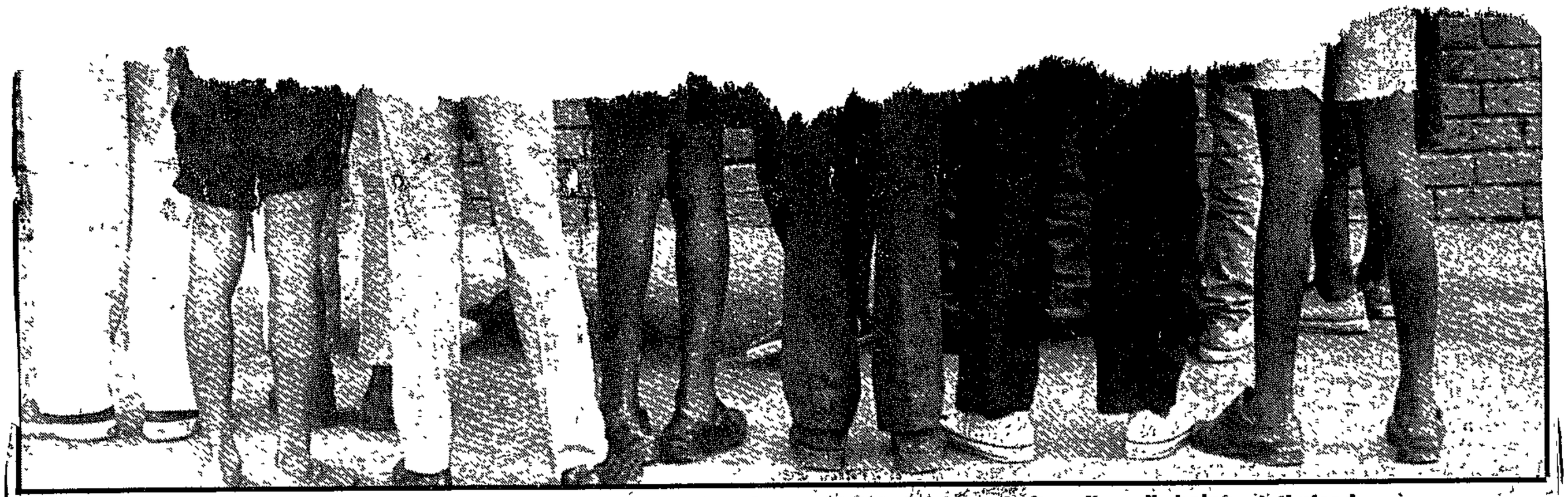
In a typical month, the air wing of the SAP on the Witwatersrand would take part in 440 or more assignments of all kinds

The unit has made meaningful contributions in arresting robbers, tracing stolen and hijacked vehicles, dagga search operations and aerial photography, he said.

The helicopters were also used as observation and communication platforms in the sky, Opperman said.

The SAP helicopter pilots were among the best in the world and therefore the public had nothing to fear.

"No modern police force can do without air support," he said.



GANGSTERS . . . Members of the notorious Toaster gang who sought refuge at an Inkatha hostel after allegedly being victimised.
■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

Toasters turn to Inkatha

By MOSES MAMAILA (298)

THE most feared gang in Thembisa, the Toasters, revealed this week they joined Inkatha for protection after being frustrated by double standards displayed by the local ANC leadership.

In a "behind the enemy line" interview at Vusimuzi Hostel, the gangsters said they joined Inkatha so they could effectively fight some leaders in the ANC who had declared war on them.

The youths, aged between 14 and 25, told how they were forced to flee their homes and drop out of school after ANC executioners destroyed their homes and killed their relatives.

Sixteen-year-old Vusi Shambi said: "We were committed to the ANC and actively participated in their activities. We risked our lives by taking part in underground operations of the self-defence units where lethal weapons were used.

"Following consultation with other members, a life for a life resolution was adopted."

But a few weeks later, an ANC leader in the area shot dead a 14-year-old youth after the youth had refused to join the self-defence unit, according to the Toasters.

"We thought that the leader would be killed as a matter of principle but nothing was done. When we questioned the apparent double standards of the leadership, we were labelled rebels who wanted to kill leaders," said Shambi.

They said the comrades then launched a series of attacks on their homes, killing their relatives.

"We were forced to regroup at the hostel to form the Toaster gang and launched the best form of defence – attack. We know our targets, and when we strike, we strike hard. But this notion that we have declared war on the residents of Thembisa is simply not true," said Toaster member George Mazibuko. Cipren 28/3/93.

The gangsters said they were forced by conditions to join Inkatha

"We realised that the we could not fight ANC effectively in the township because most residents supported it But we knew that if we were based at the hostel as Inkatha members we could wage and sustain our war against some people in the organisation," the youths said.

Thembisa residents have linked the Toasters to several cases of murder, rape, car hijacking and a series of other offences.

'Your melon plot failed!'

C/Press
28/3/93

(298)

Mom claims farmer framed her little girl

By MOSES MAMAILA

THE mother of a nine-year-old girl who was arrested and locked up for a week in a Krugersdorp police cell, this week accused a farmer of "framing" the girl

Salome Kopano claimed the arrest of her child was the result of "a ploy by the racist farmer" to keep his labourers under control

Charges against the girl, three youths and a 50-year-old woman were withdrawn in the Krugersdorp Magistrate's Court two weeks ago.

No evidence was led.

The group were accused of stealing 24 watermelons from CJ van der Berg's farm in Hekpoort.

This week Kopano claimed Van der Berg wanted to "blackmail" the workers into working seven days a week.

Kopano said: "When they refused he framed them saying they had stolen the watermelons."

Kopano claimed that a report in City Press had made a big difference to the issue.

She said she found it "very strange" that while the police could not trace her for more than a week after her daughter was arrested, she was traced within hours after City Press made inquiries.

Kopano, who is employed on another farm, said the police had been wrong to let a little girl sleep with adults in a cell.

"If a child has done something wrong, you can discipline her in so many ways. You can approach the parents and give her a hiding, but to take a child to the police for such a minor crime is just not right," she said.

Her little daughter said she had stopped working for Van der Berg.

"I have never been to school and I want to go to school if I can get the money," she said.

Her family is too poor to afford the fees.

Attempts to contact Van der Berg were unsuccessful.



FRAME UP ... Angry but relieved Salome Kopano comforts little Maria who spent a week in a Krugersdorp police cell with adults. ■ **Pic: TLADI KHUELE**

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Better to keep pre-schoolers in their own environment, says expert*



PLAYTIME ... Children play house at Leratong Educare Centre.

Asha puts the young ones first

Sowetan 29/3/93.

By Pearl Majola

PITTER PATTER *Township créches are still the best says Asha:* (298)

AMID THE ROWS of matchbox houses in the densely populated Klipspruit in Soweto, there is a distinct pitter-patter of little feet and laughter from a happy group of children at the Leratong Educare Centre.

The centre, run by the African Self Help Association, is one of about four child care facilities in the area.

Despite the social problems in the township, it has managed to provide for the past 25 years an adequate child care service designed to give the children good grounding for school.

However, Leratong, like the 37 other Asha créches spread all over Soweto, is beginning to experience problems drawing enough children.

One of the reasons is the exodus of toddlers to other child care facilities that have sprung up in town, especially those that use English as a medium of instruction.

Asha is convinced people send their children to institutions in town because of ignorance about the competitive service in the townships or are attracted by the trend to ferry toddlers in kombi taxis between the township and town.

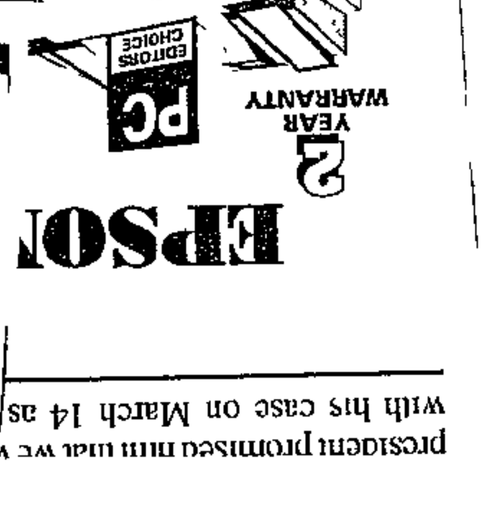
"Some people say they have a problem with our créches because we have not been teaching English all along," explains Mrs Catherine Sekhonyane of Asha.

"We have started teaching it. The only reason we didn't do it before was that we felt the children needed to have a good knowledge of their mother tongue first before they could take on a second language, especially at pre-school age.

"It is not only an expensive exercise in terms of transport costs. Children also have to go through the strain of waking up early in the morning and travelling tiresome distances in the often overcrowded taxis."

Some parents argue that it is expensive to enrol their children in Asha créches which, at R98, charge about R50 more than day mothers. They feel they should not have to pay more for a service that is in the township and would rather take them to town.

"But they don't consider the range of services offered here. Apart from qualified staff for every créche, we provide three healthy meals a day. We also have a variety of activities and toys," said Sekhonyane.



president promised that that we w
with his case on March 14 as

NEWS Development forum launched to benefit youth of all persuasions in the country

Youth in bid to bridge chasms

■ Young South Africans put differences aside to tackle challenges that face them:

By Sipho Mthembu

YOUTH unity in South Africa came a step closer when youth organisations from across the political and religious spectra agreed to form a national youth development forum at the weekend

The forum will culminate in a broad youth development programme, if all the resolutions taken at the four-day conference are implemented

The decision to form the forum was reached at "National Youth Development" conference held at Broederstroom last week.

The conference was an offshoot of similar conference held in 1991 when delegates from 81 youth organisations gathered under the theme "Marginalised Youth" to discuss development programmes.

In reaching agreement on various issues in last week's conference, the youth beat the country's politicians, who are still battling to reach consensus on various political matters, to the finishing line.

The task of getting the forum on its feet has been entrusted to an interim committee consisting of the National Youth Development Co-ordinating Committee and the Joint Enrichment Project

The forum, which was given at least three months to implement decisions taken at the conference, will draw members from all civic, business, church and labour organisations nationwide The youth would be required to play a central role in the policy issues of the forum.

Most of the recommendations of the conference were based on the findings of a professional research conducted by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (Case), which was briefed by the 1991 conference.

In its findings, Case had put emphasis on education and Aids education research, particularly, on marginalised youth.

In one of their recommendations, the agency stressed the urgent need for a single education ministry with increased State intervention.

The State would, under the proposed plan, also fund such things as adult basic education.

The conference also focused on Aids as an epidemic with a heavy social impact on marginalised youth, who knew little about the epidemic.

Comparative studies

Other issues discussed at the conference were youth and violence, youth employment, youth and politics and comparative studies of Kenya, Uganda and Botswana.

Speaking at the conference, Philippines' Institute for Popular Democracy representative Father Ed de la Torre, said it was vitally important for a country in transition such as South Africa to arm the youth with democracy and development training skills.

"The skills should be based on the principles of mutual respect for each other's views, mutual bargaining, having a stake in each other's development and personal linkages.

"Our youth must also be taught not to expect a conversion after every conversation," he said

The interim committee was also assigned to look at ways of bringing in the youth from far right political structures to the fold.

More than 150 organisations attended the conference.

More than just the diverse youth structures, prominent leaders from different political organisations graced the historic conference and put their weight behind the initiative by the youth

Among those who attended were Azapo president Dr Itumeleng Mosala and publicity secretary Dr Gomolemo Mokae, ANC deputy president Mr Walter Sisulu, IFP national chairman Mr Frank Mdlalose, PAC vice-president Mr Johnson Mlambo and university academic Dr Mamphela Ramphele

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs

Juvenile prisoners

15. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(1) (a) How many (i) awaiting-trial and (ii) convicted juvenile prisoners are being detained in gaols falling under his control and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether any juvenile prisoners were released in 1992 in terms of (a) general amnesty or (b) any other such concessions; if so, (i) how many, (ii) when and (iii) in terms of what other concessions;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D65E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

Juvenile delinquency is an alarming worldwide phenomenon which in fact deserves more public attention than it receives in South Africa and in many other countries.

In accordance with section 1 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) a juvenile is any person under the age of twenty-one years

In accordance with section 1 of the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act No 74 of 1983) a child is any person under the age of 18 years.

(1) (a) (i) *Awaiting-trial children:*

Younger than 15 years: ..	81
15 but younger than 16 years:	134
16 but younger than 17 years:	225
17 but younger than 18 years:	356
Total	796

Awaiting-trial juveniles (excluding the above mentioned children):

18 but younger than 19 years:	1 479
19 but younger than 20 years:	1 321
20 but younger than 21 years:	1 256
Total	4 056

For the sake of completeness, I refer to hon member to the stipulations of sections 50 and 71 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977), which are self-explanatory To summarise, statutory provision has been made that a probation officer and the parent or guardian of a person under the age of 18 years who has been arrested, must be informed of the arrest. Any arrested person must also be brought before the court within a period of 48 hours, whereafter the court may issue an order for his further detention and determine the date of the next appearance in court.

Section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) stipulates, *inter alia*, that a person under the age of eighteen years who is accused of having committed an offence, shall not be detained in a prison prior to his conviction unless his detention is essential and no suitable place of detention as mentioned in the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act No 74 of 1983) is available for his detention In every such case the particular judicial officer issues a certificate to this effect. In deciding on the suitability of the place of detention, the nature of the offence with which a person is charged in taken into account as well as age, sex, character, etc.

A juvenile who is detained in terms of section 29 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 shall not be permitted to associate with a person over the age of 21 years who is in custody, excluding such a person who was charged jointly with him, provided that the Head of the Prison is of the opinion that such association will not be detrimental to him. Juveniles are also separated with regard to age groups where facilities permit.

Discussions take place regularly between the Department of Correctional Services, the

local magistrates, prosecutors and the South African Police with a view to keeping awaiting-trial juveniles out of prison.

(ii) *Sentenced prisoners*

Younger than 15 years: .	4
15 but younger than 16 years:	31
16 but younger than 17 years:	165
17 but younger than 18 years:	623
Sub Total	823
18 but younger than 19 years:	2 166
19 but younger than 20 years:	3 061
20 but younger than 21 years:	3 713
Sub Total	8 940
Total	9 763

South African courts do have the option to, amongst others, impose prison sentences on juvenile delinquents.

Section 21 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) stated, *inter alia*, that any part of a prison may be used for the detention, treatment and training of juveniles Existing prisons or parts thereof are therefore set aside when required for this purpose and sentenced juvenile prisoners are transferred to these prisons on a regional basis for detention, treatment and training.

In regions which do not yet have separate prisons for sentenced juvenile prisoners or where centralised detention has not yet been implemented, they are accommodated in prisons in separate sections or cells as far as possible, and depending on their needs, the available programmes are also offered to them if feasible.

Furthermore, it can be mentioned that the centralised detention of sentenced juveniles in certain regions is a direct consequence of the successes obtained with the youth centres and programmes at Leeuwkop (since 1986) and Pollsmoor (since 1987).

Generally the intention of these programmes is to equip the juvenile with the life skills which could contribute to his successful reintegration into the community after release.

The following basic guide-lines are followed:

— The achievement of a certain level of maturity in order to facilitate adaptation into the community. In other words—acceptable norms and values must be acquired.

— Education and training as the basis of the programme. Depending on the present level of education, intellectual capabilities of prisoners and the term of sentence it is endeavoured to achieve a specific level of education.

— Meaningful utilization of time which is aimed at a positive attitude after release.

— Maintenance of present social structures to counteract institutionalization and consequently prevent recidivism e.g the maintenance and strengthening of family ties.

— Meaningful realization of religious needs.

— Healthy physical development through physical training and care.

contin—D

Should the need arise, the further centralised detention of sentenced juvenile prisoners will be considered at certain centres which are deemed suitable for this purpose

(b) 21 March 1993.

(2) (a) No

(i), (ii) and (iii) Fall away.

(b) No.

(i), (ii) and (iii) Fall away.

(3) No, except to conform that the Government has taken the initiative of addressing the problem of juveniles in custody by means of a Working Group with regard to Alternative Centres for Juveniles in Custody under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Minister of National Housing. This Working Group has already made good progress and issued various reports. Should the hon member require more information in this regard, I suggest that he contact the Chairman of the Working Group concerned.

Strait-jackets used on prisoners

19. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(1) Whether any strait-jackets were used on prisoners in prisons under the control of his Department during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available; if not, why not; if so, (a) on how many occasions, (b) at which prisons and (c) for what reasons;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D93E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

(1) Yes

(a) During the period 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1992 strait-jackets were used on sixty-one (61) occasions

(b) Brandvlei Medium Prison
Goedemoed Prison
Graaff-Reinet Prison
Groenpunt Maximum Prison
Helderstroom Maximum Prison
Helderstroom Medium Prison
Klerksdorp Prison
Krugersdorp Prison
Middelburg Prison (Cape)
Oudtshoorn Prison
Paardeberg Prison
Rustenburg Prison
St Albans Maximum Prison
St Albans Medium B Prison
Stellenbosch Prison
Uniondale Prison

(c) Section 80 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) provides *inter alia,* for the application of mechanical restraints when and for as long as it is urgently and absolutely necessary to restrain any prisoner who has displayed or is threatening violence.

(2) No It should, however, be mentioned in general that the use of strait-jackets as a restraining measure in South African prisons is applied in accordance with the relevant stipulations of the internationally accepted Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Specific policy instructions exist in this regard.

Strait-jackets are not used as punishment but to restrain a prisoner who has become uncontrollable to staff and fellow-prisoners by threatening violence or self-injury, damaging property etc. Prisoners are only kept in strait-jackets for as long as is absolutely necessary, under strict and continuous supervision. A prisoner must also be examined by a medical officer after being placed in restraint.

A high premium is placed on the professional execution of all policy directives pertaining to the use of strait-jackets and strict control is exercised by Heads of Prisons in this regard

It should be stressed that the decision to use a strait-jacket is taken with great circumspection and only in those cases where there is no other alternative.

Where restraints are not used in accordance with the stipulations, such practice is contrary to the policy of the Department of Correctional Services and is not tolerated

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language

General Affairs:

SABC: new board of directors

1. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Interpellation No 2 on 24 February 1993, any arrangements have been made for the appointment of the new board of directors of the South African Broadcasting Corporation which is due to assume office on 1 April 1993; if not, why not; if so, what arrangements;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B625E.INT

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, regrettably it has not been possible to settle the matter of the reappointment of the board of directors of the SABC by 1 April, as was envisaged.

When this matter was previously debated in Interpellation No 2 on 24 February, it was believed that it would be possible. However, as I have said, that has regrettably not been the case.

On that day I said that negotiations by the interested parties were in progress. Those discussions have continued unabated over this whole period, in fact as late as yesterday. They will probably be continued tomorrow and the day after tomorrow as well.

Wide consensus on most of the points has already been reached However, some of these points were agreed to only during the past few days. There still remain a number of unsettled matters which will have to receive further attention

Therefore I intend issuing the following press statement this afternoon:

Radio and television are bound to play a cardinal role in the forthcoming elections. The Government is therefore desirous that, as far as broadcasting is concerned, the playing field should be perceived to be level for all political parties With the goal in mind that the SABC Board shall be recognised as being neutral and impartial, the Government has during the past three months conducted extensive bilateral consultations with political parties, inside and outside Parliament, as well as with other organisations.

The abovementioned consultations have been conducted with a view to appointing a new board on 1 April 1993 and that the term of office of the present board would not be extended.

It does, however, now appear that, in order to achieve the abovementioned goals, it would not be possible to conclude the process of consultation in time and that it would inevitably be necessary to extend the term of office of the existing board for a period of two months.

Further negotiations are being conducted on an urgent basis and a further statement will be issued as soon as possible.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, the hon the Minister says it has not been possible to come to a conclusion on the issue of the Board of the SABC. The board's life, as he has mentioned, expires at midnight tonight.

I want to say it has not been possible to come to a conclusion because of the Government's action and that of the NP, not because of anybody else. He says that there has been wide consultation. I know he spoke to my party on one occasion earlier this year. There has been no wide consultation; he has not come back to us to ask for our further views. [Interjections.]

He spoke once to us, but he has been speaking to the ANC. That is typical of this Government. It has been dragging its heels on this issue for some considerable time in an attempt to continue to influence events by refusing to change the Board of the SABC. Now the life of the board has to be extended for two months

We agreed in May last year that the board should be reconstituted. That is ten months ago What did this hon Minister do? He sat on his

15 and pregnant — what now?

Soweten 31/3/93.

By Sizakele Kooma

■ NOT FREE *Women and girls cannot decide their own future with abortions:*

NTOMBI Sokhulu* is 15. In school uniform she looks no more than a tender 13. She is pregnant. Ntombi is at the Baragwanath social work department with both her parents. They have just been through the second session with the social worker to try and get her a legal abortion.

The social worker has passed her case to the psychiatric department.

If all goes well and the psychiatrist finds justifiable reasons to grant her an abortion she will probably be free of child within the next five days.

But Ntombi was not raped and her life is not at risk from the pregnancy.

Too young

She has only started Standard Eight, she feels she is too young to have the child and her parents say they cannot afford to feed an extra mouth.

But all this will probably not be enough to stir sympathy from the psychiatrist.

Although distressed, Ntombi does not look "desperately depressed" and according to Dr Smadar Kometz, consultant psychiatrist at Baragwanath, the hospital can only grant a therapeutic abortion "if the threat to the woman's mental health is permanent

"We discount all the financial and social aspects. We only look at the mental health," Kometz said.

Psychiatric problem

"The woman's perceptions must be severely disturbed or she should have a major psychiatric problem. We do consider immaturity or potential psychiatric problems as grounds for giving an abortion."

In South Africa over 70 percent of legal abortions are granted on psychiatric grounds.

The social work department at the hospital sees about 10 applicants, single or married women and aged from 13 upwards, a week.

Of these only a few will be referred to the psychiatrists.

Some will be turned down or will default

Baragwanath performed only 31 legal abortions in 1991 and 38 in 1992. Illegal abortion cases treated by the hospital for the same years were 3 252 and 2 967.

Said Kometz: "When we turn them down we always know for certain that they are going to the back street. But until the law is changed there is very little we can do.

"Abortion for psychological reasons is the only legal loophole to an abortion. Some women come to us just to try their luck. We have to be very careful of this.

"I would prefer the hospital be seen as conservative on the issue of abortion. I wouldn't like to see a flood of women coming to us, thinking they can get an abortion when the law only considers particular cases."

Both the social workers and psychiatrists see the applicants at least twice, in one hour sessions, before they make a decision.

"This, said social worker Buyi Ngidi, helps the woman to reconsider her application.

"Very often they don't come back after the first session.

"When you give them a chance to explore other options they never do.

"Another factor that deters them is the long procedure They get discouraged when they realise they have to be seen by a string of people before they can get an abortion," Ngidi said.

Rape, she said, was the one most likely basis on which an abortion could be granted, but only when consent had been given by a magistrate.

(* Not her real name)

● *More on abortion tomorrow*

Over 1 600 children in prisons

Political Staff

NEARLY 800 awaiting-trial children were being held in prisons and 823 more children were serving sentences in jail, Minister of Correctional Services Mr Adriaan Vlok said yesterday.

A further 4 056 awaiting-trial juveniles and 8 940 convicted juveniles were also being held in jail, he said in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by Mr Mahmoud Rajab (DP, Springfield).

After an uproar last year over the jailing of children the government appointed a working group on alternative centres for juveniles in custody under the chairmanship of the Deputy Minister for Housing, Mr Glen Carelse.

Mr Vlok's reply yesterday indicates that little progress has been made in reducing the number of children in jail.

He said statutory provision had been made that a probation officer and the parent or guardian of people under the age of 18 under arrest had to be informed.

The government had taken the initiative and Mr Carelse's working committee had already made good progress, Mr Vlok said.

PEOPLE'S LIVES *Agency recruits and places professionals to help parents and institutions*

Unique first in child care

Sowetan 24/3/93

USEFUL LINK *First of a kind as parents, child minders get to know each other :* 298



Qualified child care workers are soon to get help from the Orange Grove-based Child Care Agency.

By Pearl Majola

Informed Child Care Agency is sure to provide a useful link between parents who want professional care for their children with qualified child care workers looking for jobs.

The agency, based in Orange Grove and the first of its kind in South Africa, specialises in recruiting and placing fully qualified and trained staff in institutions, private homes and nursery schools or créches.

It was started early this year by two personnel consultants, Barbara-Lee Valente (28) and Claudia Gianoglio (37).

"We are here to provide a service that should have been there long ago," says Valente.

"There are many qualified child care workers who can offer a good service but are unemployed because nobody knows about them.

"At the same time more parents are realising the value of having a professional looking after the children instead of the nanny who is too busy with the washing, cooking and cleaning anyway.

What is needed is an agency to link these people and that is what we are trying to do," she said.

The agency's work does not end once the employer and employee have been matched.

"We have a support group to which people we have placed can come for professional psychological help for any stress they experience in their work," said Gianoglio.

"If a person is placed to look after children from a family going through emotional problems like divorce or death, it can be stressful for the employee. Counselling and somebody to talk to is needed and that is what our back up service is all about," she explained.

Both types of applicants (employers and employees) are required to go through a thorough screening process to ensure satisfaction for both parties.

"We started this agency to make sure that children get the best care from qualified people. The is also a good indication that parents are prepared to use the services of qualified people," concluded Valente.

(ii) (aa) Lesotho (Maseru)
(bb) from 01.12.92 to 01 12.96

(i) Ambassador T van der Walt
(ii) (aa) Bophuthatswana (Mmabatho)
(bb) from 01.11.92 to 01.11.95

(i) Ambassador A Venter
(ii) (aa) Kenya (Nairobi)
(bb) from 06.01.92 to 01.01.96

(i) Ambassador E du Toit
(ii) (aa) Norway (Oslo)
(bb) from 05.12.92 to 01.12.94

(i) Ambassador L M Brand
(ii) (aa) Chile (Santiago)
(bb) from 01 02.92 to 01.02.96

(i) Ambassador H E Janse van Rensburg
(ii) (aa) Transkei (Umtata)
(bb) from 01.03.92 to 01.03.95

(i) Ambassador J P Roux
(ii) (aa) Austria (Vienna)
(bb) from 01 11.92 to 01.11.96

(i) Consul-General R Goris
(ii) (aa) Thailand (Bangkok)
(bb) from 08.09.92 to 01.09.96

(i) Consul-General W F Schoombee
(ii) (aa) United States of America (Beverly Hills)
(bb) from 01 07.92 to 01.12.95

(i) Consul-General R V Franken
(ii) (aa) Slovak Republic (Bratislava)
(bb) from 01 09.92 to 01.05.95

(i) Consul-General N S Schoombie
(ii) (aa) Germany (Frankfurt)
(bb) from 01 01.92 to 01.01.96

(i) Consul-General S J Kruger
(ii) (aa) Madeira (Funchal)
(bb) from 01 04.92 to 01.07 93

(i) Consul-General D Meyer
(ii) (aa) Germany (Hamburg)
(bb) from 01.02.92 to 01.02.96

(i) Consul-General M J Farr
(ii) (aa) Hongkong
(bb) from 01.09.92 to 01.09.95

(i) Consul-General D G M Fourie
(ii) (aa) Germany (Munich)
(bb) from 01.01.92 to 01.01.96

(i) Consul-General J Stauch
(ii) (aa) United States of America (New York) [Consulate General]
(bb) from 01.06.92 to 01.06.96

(i) Consul-General R de Jongh
(ii) (aa) Brazil (Sao Paulo)
(bb) from 24.07.92 to 01.08.95

(i) Consul-General P J Botha
(ii) (aa) Singapore
(bb) from 01.09.92 to 01.09.94

(i) Consul-General L Mullinder
(ii) (aa) Russian Federation (St Petersburg)
(bb) from 02.10.92 to 01.10.96

(i) Deputy Consul-General W Zastrau
(ii) (aa) United States of America (New York) [Consulate General]
(bb) from 01.02.92 to 01.02.96

(i) Representative J S Aldrich (Rank Ambassador)
(ii) (aa) Namibia (Windhoek)
(bb) from 16.02.92 to 01.03.96

TRANSFERRED IN 1993:

(a) (i) Ambassadors 8
(ii) Consuls-General 1

(b) (i) Ambassador C F Jacobs
(ii) (aa) Turkey (Ankara)
(bb) from 01.03.93 to 01.03.97

(i) Ambassador N Steyn
(ii) (aa) Australia (Canberra)
(bb) from 01.01.93 to 01.01.97

(i) Ambassador D van Schoor
(ii) (aa) Ukraine (Kiev)
(bb) from 01.02.93 to 01.02.95

(i) Ambassador W P Steenkamp
(ii) (aa) Gabon (Libreville)
(bb) from 12.01.93 to 01.01.97

(i) Ambassador L Crewe-Brown
(ii) (aa) Malawi (Lilongwe)
(bb) from 01.03.93 to 01.03.97

(i) Ambassador V C R Dewing
(ii) (aa) Uruguay (Montevideo)
(bb) from 01.01.93 to 01.01.97

(i) Ambassador A van Zyl
(ii) (aa) Korea (Seoul)
(bb) from 23.02.93 to 01.03.97

(i) Ambassador C C Prins
(ii) (aa) Japan (Tokyo)
(bb) from 01.03.93 to 01.03.97

(i) Consul-General A D Pelser
(ii) (aa) Turkey (Istanbul)
(bb) from 01 03.93 to 01.03.95

Children of inmates of prisons

13 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(1) (a) How many children of inmates of prisons are there in prisons under the control of his Department, (b) how many such children have been there for more than (i) one year, (ii) two years and (iii) three years and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D64E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

(1) (a) In the interest of the children and parents concerned and in the absence of suitable alternatives, 201 young children are being accommodated with their mothers in South African prisons in terms of special arrangements

(b) (i), (ii) and (iii)

The statistics are unfortunately not centrally available in the format as requested and can only be obtained by means of an expensive and manpower intensive countrywide return.

The following information with regard to the ages of the children who were in prison with their mothers on 31 December 1992 may, however, be of value to the hon member:

0–1 years old = 126
1–2 years old = 17
2–3 years old = 44
3–4 years old = 14

(c) 31 December 1992

(2) Yes.

In line with international practice, regulation number 94 of the regulations promulgated in terms of section 94 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959), a female prisoner may be permitted, subject to such conditions as are prescribed, to have her child with her in prison during the period of lactation and for such further period as may be necessary. The necessary clothing, food and medical treatment may be provided by the State for such period as a child remains in prison.

Standing departmental orders also determine that a child may remain in prison with the mother for as long as is deemed necessary for medical and nutritional purposes. Thereafter it should be endeavoured to remove the child from prison, subject to a certificate by the medical officer to the effect that the child would not be harmed psychologically or physically if separated from the mother In a case where removal from prison is appropriate, it is a condition that suitable abode should be obtained beforehand Social work personnel of the Department of Correctional Services are involved in investigating the placing out of these young children in co-operation with external social work organizations. When placing out could be arranged the mother, family, foster family or institution personnel, as applicable, are consulted.

All children are examined by the medical officer as soon as possible after admission to a prison or after birth in order to determine which medical treatment and nutrition is to be prescribed. The child's mass is taken monthly and the

necessary injections and vaccinations as applicable are administered by a qualified nursing sister, or otherwise arrangements are made for the administration thereof at the local clinic.

At every prison where children are with their mothers a member of the nursing profession is responsible for the necessary supervision. This member sees to it that all prescribed directives regarding the care of the children are strictly adhered to and that the children's general health and well-being is promoted.

In general it can be mentioned that the Department of Correctional Services places a high premium on the medical treatment of all persons entrusted to its care. In this regard the nursing staff of the Department of Correctional Services are guided by the medical officer (district surgeon) and his prescriptions and orders are meticulously carried out. This includes general treatment which can be provided in the prison and prison hospitals, hospitalization in private or provincial hospitals and treatment by specialists.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs

Revenue/deficit before borrowing: categories

102. Mr G C ENGEL asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether he will furnish information on the (a) latest estimate of State revenue for the current financial or tax year in respect of each category of revenue and (b) expected deficit before borrowing; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant figures? B263E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

The Minister of State Expenditure stated in his Additional Budget Speech on 15 February 1993 that, given the total expenditure figure of R104,877 billion and the estimate of total revenue at that stage of R75,057 billion, the buget deficit may amount about 9 per cent of GDP. This remains the latest state of affairs. As in the past details of the revised estimates of revenue for the 1992/93 financial year will, however, be published in the Budget Review on 17 March 1993.

Land and Agricultural Bank of SA: farms bought

115 Mr A A B BRUWER asked the Minister of Finance:†

Whether the Land and Agricultural Bank of South Africa purchased or bought in any farms during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available; if not, why not; if so, (a) why and (b) how many in each province? B240E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

Yes.

(a) During the period of 12 months ending 31 December 1992 the Land and Agricultural Bank of South Africa was compelled to buy in farms at public auctions in 129 cases in terms of the provisions of the Land Bank Act No 13 of 1944, since offers to satisfy the Bank's claims could not be obtained at the auctions. The relevant auctions occurred due to the following reasons:

1	Insolvencies of the mortgagor	54 cases
2	Attachments by other creditors of the property mortgaged to the Bank, in pursuance of an order of the court	9 cases
3.	Abandonment of farming by the mortgagor	23 cases
4.	*Mortgagor's total burden of debt has escalated to such an extent that the Bank's security margin was eliminated and financial recovery has become impossible	43 cases
		129 cases

*In these 43 cases the Bank launched a final rescue attempt in co-operation with the State, but the relevant mortgagors could not be furnished with any form of assistance.

(b)

Cape Province	24
Natal	3
OFS	59
Transvaal	43
	129

Powers of Directors-General

123. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) Whether any steps have been taken to implement the recommendation contained in the First Report of the Joint Committee on Provincial Accounts (C5–91), dated 19 June 1991, to the effect that his Department should determine the powers of Directors-General of the Provincial Administrations to compel

ANC and allies to join forces for election

■ 100 organisations expected to attend conference:

THE ANC and its allies within Codesa have begun discussing the possibility of forming a broad election alliance to jointly fight South Africa's first all-in election, it was revealed yesterday.

Making the disclosure in Johannesburg, ANC deputy secretary-general Jacob Zuma said the possibility of his organisation entering into an election pact with its Codesa allies had been discussed at a meeting of these organisations yesterday.

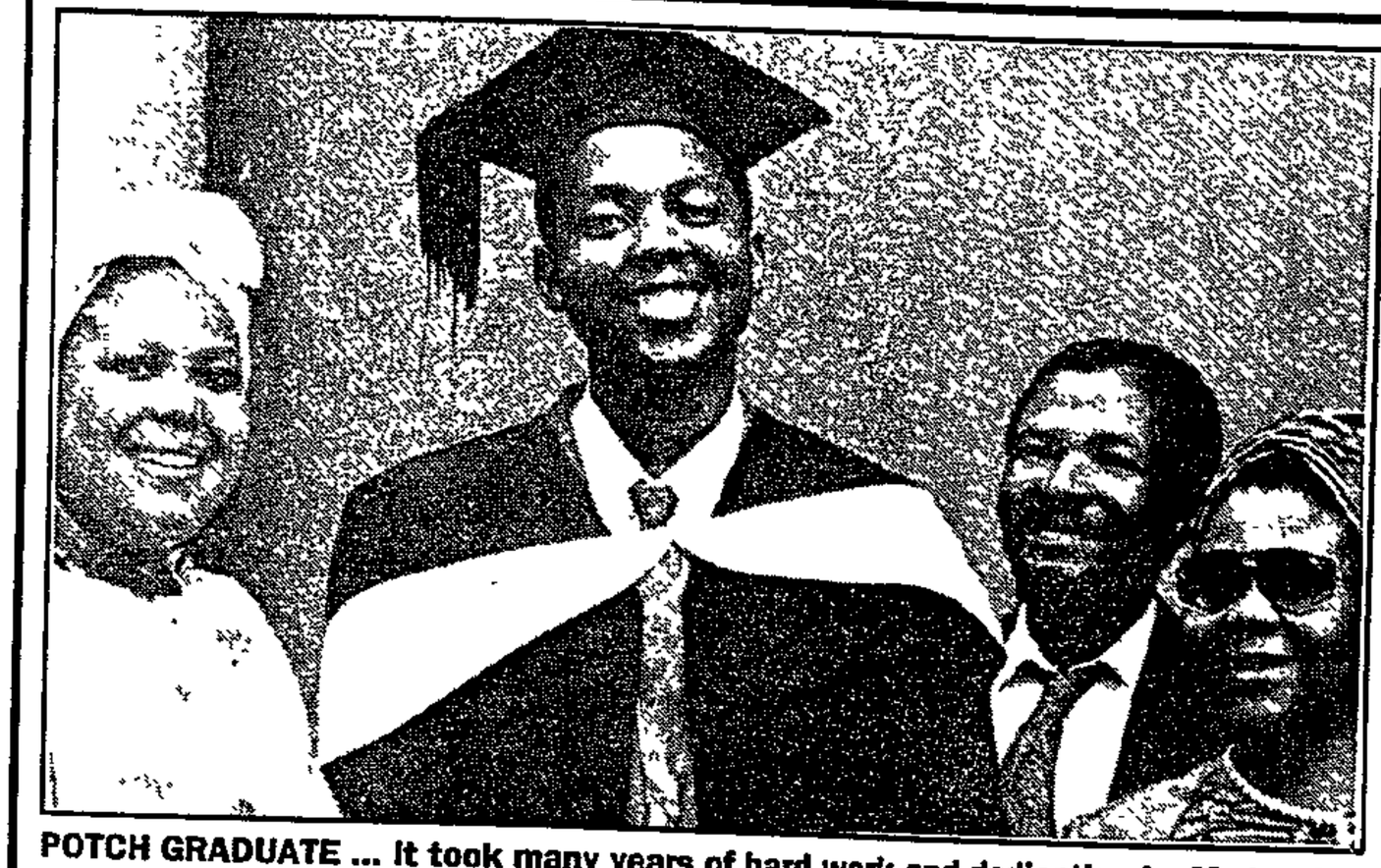
Zuma said Azapo and the PAC could be party to such a pact once the "'broad Patriotic Front" - formed in Durban in October 1991 - was off the ground and functional.

Matter is receiving attention

No further details of the proposed pact were divulged, and the matter was said to be receiving attention among the different organisations.

Organisations represented at yesterday's meeting were the ANC, the South African Communist Party, the Labour Party, KaNgwane's Inyandza National Movement, Lebowa's United People's Front, the Transvaal Indian Congress and the governments of Transkei and Venda.

Following the meeting, it was announced that at least 100 organisations are expected to attend the PF conference to be held in Lenasia, south of Johannesburg, towards the end of this month. - *Own Correspondent*



POTCH GRADUATE ... It took many years of hard work and dedication for Mr Jacob Thamae (centre) to get his BA degree. Thamae was joined by his sister Mrs Julia Mashigo (left), Mrs Tickie Ntsibe and Mr Kaybe Ntsebe at the graduation ceremony at Potchefstroom University this week.

Social pensions to be equal

■ Budget announcement expected:

By Ismail Lagardien
Political correspondent

BLACK pensioners will receive the same pension as their white counterparts before the end of the year, possibly by October, Government sources have confirmed.

The announcement is expected to be made in Parliament next Wednesday when the Minister of Finance, Mr Derek Keys, tables the Budget for 1993/94.

The Budget then has to be passed by all three Houses of Parliament.

The present breakdown of pensions is as follows: Whites R345, coloureds and Indians R318 and blacks R293.

Besides parity, pensions are also expected to increase by the usual annual average of 10 percent.

Smoking curbs likely

■ STRONG SIGNAL Bill will include clause to ban the sale of tobacco to under 16s:

LEGISLATION to control the use, sale and advertising of tobacco products is to be tabled in Parliament this session, the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, said yesterday.

The Bill will include a clause to ban the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 16, she said at a media conference.

It will also empower the Minister to prescribe by regulation the health warning and details of dangerous substances of a tobacco product which have to appear on the packet or in advertising and to determine which claims may not be used in tobacco advertising.

Anyone selling cigarettes to minors will be guilty of an offence punishable by a fine or imprisonment, or both similar to that of selling liquor to a minor.

Venter said it would be difficult to impose the ban on selling cigarettes to people under 16.

"There has to be a strong signal sent out on this and I hope the community and all responsible adults will help by laying a charge against people who supply children with cigarettes."

To prevent young people smoking, it was necessary to both reduce access to tobacco and inducements to smoke it.

Although a health warning has been displayed on cigarette packets since 1986, most smokers had become accustomed to it and ignored the warnings.

"For warnings to be effective, we need a series of clear, well-presented, sizable, rotating health warnings which stress the harmful health consequences and the benefits of giving it up." - *Sapa*.

Judges' order on 'racist' will revealed

CAPE TOWN — Two Supreme Court judges had ordered a will altered last month so as not to limit a bequest to white children only, Minister of Justice Kobie Coetsee said yesterday.

Replying to a question from Jurg Prinsloo (CP Roodepoort), he said the judgment had been delivered in the Cape Division on an application by the trustee of the Marsh Memorial Homes.

The late William Marsh had provided in his will for the establishment of a trust to be used to found and maintain a home for destitute white children on the same principles as those of a home in London.

The judges noted that the London institution admitted and had apparently always admitted children of all races.

"The interest of the public in this country, the inhabitants of which are mainly non-white in colour, cries out for the need to house and to care for destitute children, whatever their ethnological characteristics may be," the judges said. STAR 11/3/93

Coetsee said he did not intend to do anything about the matter. — Sapa.

Gwala believes ANC men massacred kids

Harry Gwala admits that some ANC members — but not the ones arrested — may have been responsible for the massacre of six children in Natal last week. **FAROUK CHOTHIA** *reports*

THE African National Congress Natal Midlands chairman Harry Gwala admitted this week that the organisation's supporters may have been responsible for the first ambush in Mboyi in the Table Mountain area early last week which left six children dead after heavily armed gunmen fired on a bakkie they were travelling in.

And indications are that Inkatha followers were behind the two subsequent ambushes, in which 14 people died. The death toll in the three ambushes stands at 20 with another 26 injured.

Gwala believes that police have put the wrong men — all of them ANC members — on trial for the Mboyi massacre and the murderers, unknown to him, are still free.

He suggested that the murder of the six children was a mistake and that the real target was Inkatha "killers" in the area. He said: "Inkatha killers generally use the bakkie when they move to kill. It is never mentioned. The impression is being created that this was a cold-blooded murder."

Gwala claimed the bakkie was driven at the time of the ambush by a kwaZulu policeman, Phikalithethwa Ngubane. Among the six dead were three children of Inkatha regional chairman Bernard Mkize.

Gwala admitted: "It may be ANC people (who did the massacre) but not those in custody."

Last week Gwala issued a statement suggesting that the killings were as a result of an internal feud within Inkatha. However, he did not reiterate this claim in the interview this week. But another ANC leader in the Midlands, regional executive committee member Mpume Sikhosana, repeated the charge. He argued that police involvement could not be ruled out either — even if ANC supporters were behind the massacre.

"It did happen before. Police supplied weapons to both ANC and Inkatha supporters at the height of war in Table Mountain," Sikhosana said.

Three ANC members — Sibusiso Zulu (19), a 17-year-old who may not be named and Jeremia Zulu (33) — appeared in the Pietermaritzburg Magistrate's Court on Monday in connection with the massacre.

"I'm not sure they are the right people. They are innocent victims of what's going on there (in the Table Mountain area)," Gwala said. He argued that the ambush had to be seen in the context of the "on-going war" in Mboyi.

He added that he had no intention of launching his own investigation to track down the culprits.

However, he still has faith in one policeman, Captain Frank Dutton, who he believes should investigate all three ambushes "and the cover-ups".

Gwala said Dutton — whose splendid work led to the successful prosecution of policemen for the Trust Feeds massacre in 1988 — would have the ANC's "maximum co-operation".

If ANC members were arrested and found guilty they would be expelled from the organisation, Gwala said.

Judge Richard Goldstone, meanwhile, has announced that the Natal Investigating Unit of his commission will look into the three ambushes.

Gwala appealed for an end to the killings. "I recommend to people to stop the killings and revenge attacks do not benefit the killer (nor the) killed. The only time you kill is when you are attacked — but don't set up ambushes."

In the aftermath of the Mboyi massacre, two other ambushes followed. Gwala put the blame squarely on Inkatha's shoulders. Last Friday, 10 people were killed when gunmen fired AK47s, R-1 rifles and shotguns on a minibus while they were on their way from Pietermaritzburg to the Nkanyezini area of Table Mountain.

Another three men — Mabhungu Absolom Dladla (24) of Mboyi, Nkayiso Wilfred Ndlovu (21) and Phi Sifiso Mkhize (21), both of Nkanyenzeni — appeared in the Camperdown Magistrate's Court on Monday and Tuesday on 10 counts of murder. They were represented by a prominent Inkatha lawyer, Shane Matthews. The accused were remanded in custody until March 22.

Confusingly, journalists reported that they saw a man — identified as Inkatha supporter Mlungisi Majola — being arrested on the scene of the shooting. However, his name does not appear on the charge sheet.

In the third ambush on Monday, four people were killed when gunmen opened fire on a bus carrying passengers to Pietermaritzburg. Gwala said that the driver of the bus, Mafuta Ndlovu, had been "threatened" by Inkatha supporters in the past for transporting ANC-supporting passengers.

No arrests have been made in connection with this ambush.

An Inkatha spokesman this week refused to comment on the political affiliations of the people involved. "It is incumbent upon us to stop pointing fingers," he said, adding that the accused should be presumed innocent until proven guilty.



Picture: JOHAN SCHRONEN, Weekend Argus

☐ **OPERATION STREETKID:** Pastor Greg Grobler welcomes street children at The Ark after they were rounded up off city streets. With them are "arresting officers" Constable Rodney Franks, centre, and Constable Brian Meyer, right.

Street children must choose to be cared for, experts say

JOHAN SCHRONEN and KARIN SCHIMKE
Weekend Argus Reporters

(298) ARG 13/3/93

EXPERTS are questioning the effectiveness of the "arrest" of street children and their removal to a Tokai mission. They claim that unless the children want to go, it simply won't work.

Their reaction follows the news that several dozen children were put in police vans and taken to The Ark Christian Mission, in Tokai, this week, with the intention of them being looked after, fed and educated.

Police spokesman Colonel Raymond Dowd explained that "operation streetkid" did not involve the arrest of children and they were free to leave the mission if they wished.

"Being homeless is not a crime, but when people complain about children roaming the streets and harassing passers-by out of desperation, the police are expected to do something," he said.

However, Ms Annette Cockburn, director of The Homestead Projects for Street Children, said while she was "in absolute agreement" that homelessness was no crime, the reality was that "the only prognosis for the rehabilitation of street children must rest on self-referral".

"For years we have been encouraging police to use the shelters rather than police cells, but unless the children choose to be there, nothing works."

Nicro's senior social worker, Ms Rosemary Shapiro, said the move "would go completely contrary to everything we have worked towards unless it is done in consultation with street children workers".

Pastor Greg Grobler of The Ark said the children would get a "warm bed, food and lots of love" and would never be forced to stay.

Shock as child, 9, is jailed

By MOSES MAMAILA

A BAREFOOT nine-year-old black girl is being held at the Krugersdorp police cells with adults – because she allegedly stole a watermelon.

City Press can reveal that the girl, who may not be named because of her age, has been in police custody since March 4.

Detailing her horrifying tale, the girl said she was arrested by police after a white farmer accused her and her friends of stealing a watermelon.

Speaking from her cold cell in Krugersdorp; the barefoot little girl said that her mother stayed on a farm at Hekpoort.

She could not say when she was arrested or explain whether she had appeared in court . . . all those terms sounded too sophisticated for a girl longing to be out playing with her friends.

To the law enforcers it appears she is a suspect guilty of a crime serious enough to be locked away until her case is heard.

Trying to justify the incarceration of the girl, Krugersdorp senior prosecutor R Benade said the girl had to be kept in the cell because her parents could not be traced.

"She will stay in the cell until there is space for her at the reformatory," said police spokesman Tienie Halgryn about the incarceration that has shocked the West Rand community.

While police claim that the parents could not be reached, the girl maintained that she was never asked about her home and knows where her mother stays.

The policeman present when she was visited by City Press admitted that the investigating officer merely assumed that the girl had no parents.

While police continued to duck and dive about the girl's plight, Lawyers for Human Rights and the ANC have strongly condemned the "insensitive action" of the police.

LHR spokesman Andries Nel said it was an astounding demonstration of contempt for human rights.

"It is a shocking example of the double standards of the system that only two weeks ago white youths who had seriously injured black pedestrians by throwing stones at them were not arrested because 'they were in the middle of writing tests'."

Dismissing the police version that the parents could not be traced as "cheap propaganda", ANC spokesman Ronnie Mamoepa called for the girl's immediate release into the custody of her parents.

The girl is expected to appear in court on March 18.

City Press was informed on Friday afternoon that efforts to trace the parents were being "seriously" made in a desperate bid to cover up the apparent gross child abuse.

C/Press 14/3/93

These are the real war victims

By CECILIE ANTONIE

THE children of Mzimhlophe Hostel could become the new "lost generation"

They live in fear of the mere thought of attending school.

The violence which erupted in 1992 between hostel inmates and the residents of Mzimhlophe, known as Zone 11, has cost these children an education as they too have been ostracised by schoolmates.

To prevent these children from getting into mischief, six matriculants, under the auspices of Nelson Mbatha, took the initiative and established a primary school for the children at the hostel.

298

Volunteers

Empty buildings, surrounded by high security fences serve as a "school" for 219 children

Volunteers provide the chalk and dusters, as they have no funds and no school fees are being paid

Children sit in dimly lit classrooms on chairs from the local recreation hall.

Education crisis in focus

Volunteer "teacher" Praise God Mdluli said the children are doing their best. "They last attended school in January, 1992 They are positive and I want to believe that the results will be good."

Parents of the ostracised children formed a committee recently to address the education issue.

A memorandum was sent to the DET in February demanding the employment of qualified teachers, a principal, books, tables, blackboards, and salaries to be allocated to volunteers

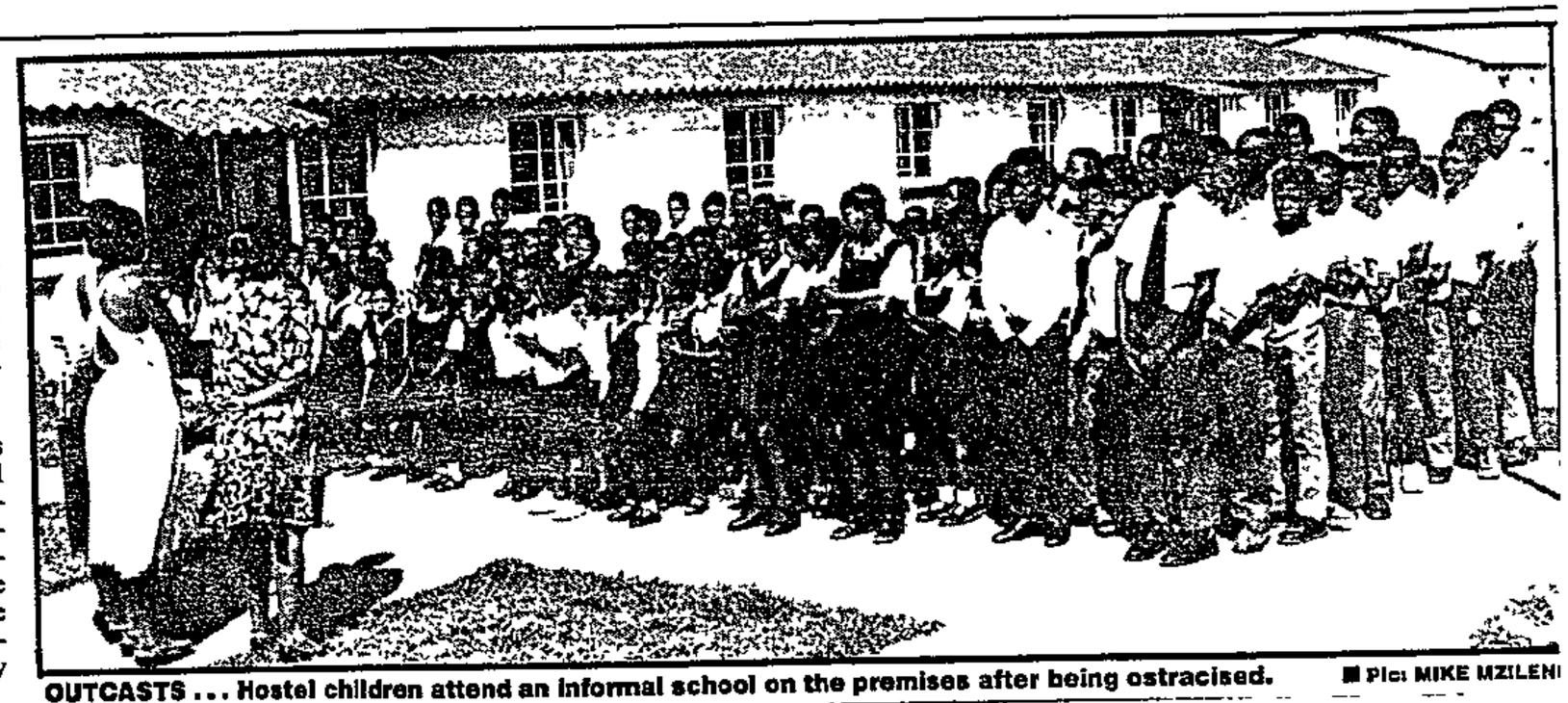
Parents are still waiting for a reply.

Harassed

Vivian Mbele has two children attending the "school" She said parents were in favour of the school as they could not risk sending their children to any other school because of victimisation.

But her 16-year-old daughter, Tule, an ex-scholar of Anchor School in Mzimhlophe, does not attend classes as there are no facilities for high school children. She stays at home with her mother all day.

ANC Women's League member, Isabel Khumalo, said she favoured the idea of a parent's committee and regarded it as a positive move "The fact that the children were being harassed makes us feel very bad," she said.



OUTCASTS ... Hostel children attend an informal school on the premises after being ostracised. ■ Pic: MIKE MZILENI

SA tourists fall into cheap labour trap

S/Times 21/3/93.

A CHEAP labour racket using illegal white workers from South Africa — has been uncovered in Britain.

The scheme, in which penniless tourists are hired to work illegally on farms for pitiful wages, was revealed after 23-year-old Layton Beard of Sunnyside, Pretoria, appealed to the South African Consulate in London for help

"My first trip to England was to be an adventure of a lifetime. But when I ran out of money after backpacking around the countryside, I got conned into a situation which left me with no money and without my passport, " Mr Beard said this week after arriving in Pretoria.

He was told in London he could earn cash by picking daffodils on a farm in Norfolk. After arriving at a labour recruitment office in the town, which is run by a South African woman, he was told the job was his if he paid a £30 (R150) deposit for accommodation on the farm

"I did not have enough money so I foolishly surrendered my passport, thinking that after I had earned enough money I would get it back Little did I know it was going to be the beginning of a nightmare," he said. He was given a caravan to sleep in which he shared with three other tourists working on the farm

"There were about 20 old caravans for workers The one I stayed in was a mess, but I decided I could live with the situation

"The following morning we were taken by bus to the farms, where we were given a bucket filled with elastic bands to tie the bundles of daffodils with

Arrested

"It was freezing cold and the work was back-breaking I worked with tourists from all over the world and very soon many of us realised we were being ripped off.

"After a few hours we knew we would never be able to pick enough daffodils to earn the £40 they said we would be paid on a daily basis.

"The foreman, an Afrikaans-speaking South African from Natal, was quite ruthless, he was not interested in our complaints. Very soon groups of people, one a pregnant woman, began giving up

"The foreman did not give a damn and made it quite clear we had to work or leave and lose our deposits In my case it was my passport," he said.

By the next day, Mr Beard said, he had decided to give up daffodil picking and return to London.

But when he went to fetch his passport at the recruitment office, the "gangmaster" refused, saying he had to pay the £30 accommodation deposit.

Passport

"I told them I had no money, but they still refused to return my passport. When I arrived in London I went straight to the South African Embassy

"I was in a state, but they were wonderful They organised a temporary passport for me to get home," he said

Alerted by the South African authorities, British immigration officials swooped on a workcamp in west Norfolk and arrested 10 South Africans for working illegally in Britain

The tourists, aged 20-25, were held at Kings Lynn police station before agreeing to leave the country voluntarily

The South Africans — seven men and three women — took up jobs with an employment agency



SLAVE LABOUR ... Susan Altenroxell, Mary Harrison and Jill Rackham, who were paid a pittance for working in Britain

By PETER MALHERBE and JOCELYN MAKER

Phone-A-Worker, in a bid to raise money for their travels.

They were housed in rundown caravans and endured back-breaking work for "slave wages" A full box of daffodils — 100 bunches consisting of about 20 blooms a bunch, earned them a mere £3 (R15).

In addition to the £30 deposit for accommodation, the workers were forced to pay £28 (R140) a week towards living costs in the caravans

One of the workers, Mary Harrison, said they were woken at 6.15am each day and worked for nine hours, seven days a week. She earned £85 for seven days' work, but did "not have a lot left" after deductions

Complaint

Fellow South African Jill Rackham complained to a Norfolk newspaper "We are overworked, underpaid and living in terrible conditions."

She said they had realised they were working illegally, but had been told not to worry about it by their employers.

Miss Rackham said they had been told they would not be refunded the £30 deposit if they did not work for three weeks

However, Phone-A-Worker owner Roger Verner said this week the 10 workers had been paid in full before their departure.

He rejected claims that he was a gangmaster running a slave labour camp, saying many South Africans continued to ask for work on the farms

He had not requested work permits in the past, but the risk had become too great and he would now only employ those holding British passports.

Mr Verner said workers had to pay £30 to prevent damage to the property where they lived In most cases, the money was returned to them

He denied the workers were paid slave wages, saying they got higher rates for harvesting potatoes, cauliflowers and turnips

A British Home Office spokesman said the authorities could not act against employment agents as the onus was on workers to ensure they were legally allowed to work in Britain

Tears of the innocent

Does the horror ever leave their minds?

Clipped 14/3/93

(298)

By PEARL RANTSEKENG

"I SAW a man standing next to the bakkie with a gun in his hands. I jumped off and ran into the forest with tears in my eyes and I knelt down and prayed."

This is the painful recollection of Mthokozisi Majola, 15, one of the children who survived the recent Table Mountain massacre that left six children dead.

It's a spine-chilling scenario which Natal children face almost daily as violence escalates in the region.

Some of these children have witnessed their peers, parents and family being killed and maimed. Some of them, like Mthokozisi, have actually survived massacres and attacks.

Does the fear, trauma and anger ever leave their minds?

When City Press spoke to Mthokozisi's schoolmate Velani Mkhize, 12, who lost three of his brothers in the massacre and managed to escape unscathed, he seemed to be the strongest of all the survivors.

Velani was very calm. He was able to speak about the incident without showing his grief.

But, according to experts who have studied the issue of pyschological effects of violence on children, Velani could possibly be the most disturbed.

University of Durban-Westville senior clinical psychologist Dr Simangele Magwaza, said there were two ways in which children would show their distress: By being depressed, bed-wetting and unable to sleep at night, or by being simply non-emotional.

"Those who are non-emotional give the impression of doing well and they won't show any signs of being afraid.

"He might be in a state of shock and denial, refusing to accept the situation," said Magwaza.

She said those who completely withdraw and become fearful and depressed, feel very insecure and do not want to leave their homes. They have separation anxiety; they do not want to leave their parents and in most cases they don't want to go to school or associate with other children.

Pinetown Family and Child Welfare director Priscilla Mckay said she had personal experience of living with two boys, aged five and seven, who survived when their parents and brothers were killed and their house burnt down.

"In the beginning the children were very terrified. They would lock the doors and windows at five in the evening because they feared an attack. At night they would cry and have nightmares. But they gradually relaxed when they realised nothing was going to happen to us," said Mckay.

She said what really helps children to survive such an ordeal is the comfort they get from a member of their family.

"Most of those children who have lost all members of their families have difficulty dealing with the trauma. They usually need a lot of help to stabilise and adjust to the situation," she said.

"A lot of them become criminals because they are very angry. They turn to drugs and alcohol and others are on the streets of Durban. They are victims of violence and they live by crime. They would grow up unable to function as normal adults," she said.

She added that living with the two children made her realise that children needed to get back to a normal situation as soon as possible.

"We are trying to give these children a life that is normal in an abnormal situation," she said.

Maritzburg Family and Child Welfare social worker Mark Cele said: "They are bitter, afraid and they've learnt to mistrust. Others end up being used by people and taught how to kill. They lose their conscience and do not have any value for life. They are very disorganised and do things their own way."

Experts all agreed that parental control was very important to help deal with children who had been caught up in the spiral of violence.

Magwaza explained: "Where parents or care givers are not traumatised but instead are stable and secure, they tend to give support to the child. In turn he becomes more resilient and less vulnerable."

But she said some children rose above the trauma.

Emotions run high at children's burial

SIX children, killed by a death squad armed with AK-47s last week, were buried alongside each other at the foot of Table Mountain near Maritzburg yesterday afternoon.

Speaking at the funeral attended by more than 1 000 people, including the grieving parents of the children, Kwazulu chief minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi said he shared the community's outrage at the senseless killings.

"We stand amongst terrible heartbreak and the anger that is produced by the kind of inhumanity that targets for extinction children on their way to school," he said.

Mr Buthelezi arrived in the Mboyi valley by helicopter and was greeted by an impi of spear and stick-wielding Zulus.

A marquee was erected in the centre of an open field and the six coffins draped with IFP flags were surrounded by wailing relatives. Some women were overcome with grief and had to be carried out from the searing heat of the tent.

Disgrace

Busloads of IFP supporters streamed through the hills to the tiny Mboyi village which has shot to international prominence since the six children were gunned down in the back of a van on their way to school.

"What kind of people are these who can just blow out the brains of young children with AK-47 rifles for political reasons?" asked Mr Buthelezi.

"Are we still human beings or animals?

"Must we black people go on killing our fellow blacks for political reasons? Must we, as Zulus, continue killing other Zulus to fulfil our political agendas?

"Disgrace hangs over us because we failed to protect these flowers of our nation," he said.

By GEORGE MAHABEER

ANC president Nelson Mandela planned to grieve with the families of the dead, but his trip to the funeral had to be cancelled due to "security reasons".

Mr Mandela's presence was believed to be unwelcome and police said on Friday that it might not be safe for him to be in the predominantly IFP stronghold, according to ANC officials.

An ANC source said its Natal Midlands branch, led by fire-brand Harry Gwala, objected to Mr Mandela's visit.

Inkatha's Natal organiser Senzo Mfayela described Mr Mandela's decision to attend the funeral as "playing politics by announcing his intentions a day before the funerals".

Vigil

Members of the SAP, Kwazulu police and the SADF stood at strategic positions on the koppies overlooking the funeral site.

There were emotional scenes as three hearses brought the coffins.

Members of Inkatha's Youth League holding candles stood next to the coffins in silent vigil.

The children were shot at point-blank range on March 2 as the bakkie which was taking them to school laboured up a steep winding dirt road in Table Mountain near Maritzburg.

Those who were slain were Thulani Mkhize, 19, Nduna Mkhize, 13, Ngce Mkhize, 10, Wanda Ngubane and two girls, Thule Mkhize, 9, and Nomusa Gwala, 12.

The graves are about 500 metres from the home of Inkatha Freedom Party's Emboyi chairman, Bernard Mkhize.

Three of the children who were buried yesterday were the sons of Mr Mkhize.

Business hit by street children

By JILYAN PITMAN

RONDEBOSCH businessmen want urgent action taken against street children and vagrants, who, they claim, are harassing women shoppers.

"Our businesses have been affected by child and adult vagrancy for about a year and a half," said one angry businessman. "We know that many women don't want to come and shop in this area because of the street children who pounce on them as they get out of their cars."

He said there had also been complaints about women shoppers being sexually harassed by street children.

"Complaints have been lodged with the security team at the Fountain Shopping Centre, which belongs to Old Mutual.

"Because of the high rents we have to pay we feel we are entitled to protection.

"I blame the magistrates for this situation because they do not enforce the child vagrancy laws."

Mr Chris Kleynhans, a security officer with Strategic Office Corp, said: "We have received up to 25 complaints from shoppers that they have been harassed for money by street children. More than 15 women have complained about being pinched by street children.

"Definitely 90% of the problem in this business area is caused by them. The kids are aware of the fact that we can't use force against them so we have to call the police to help us."

Captain Martin Swanepoel, of Rondebosch Police station, said: "Some street children were taken to court for housebreaking and theft recently. The charges were dropped and they were taken to various places of safety, one of them the Siyhakhatala Place of Safety in Stellenbosch.

"We would like social workers to come forward to help these children."

The police were available at all hours to help parents trace their missing children, Captain Swanepoel said. (298)

"If we can't help, we will put concerned relatives and friends in touch with social workers and staff at the Claremont Children's Shelter." CT 1/4/93

School, what IS school?

C/Press 28/3/93 (298)

By MOSES MAMAILA

CHILDREN as young as nine years old are toiling on farms at Hekpoort in the far West Rand – for as little as R30 a week.

A City Press investigation revealed that some of the children never had the slightest chance of seeing the inside of a classroom.

A nine-year-old girl who was packing tobacco leaves in a dark room filled with smoke said she had never been to school and could not remember when she started working on the farm – though she said it was a long time ago.

She said she worked from 7 am until 5.30 pm five days a week.

The girl said the money she earned was not enough. "All she wanted was a R5 increase.

"It is too hot here and the place is filled with smoke, but it is better than on the farms where we get rid of the weeds," she said, describing the appalling conditions in which she works.

"Even if it is raining, we work outside on the farm," said the girl, echoing the sentiments of dozens of other children employed on the farm.



BLEAK HOUSE ... Children labour on this farm for slave wages.

■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE

There were about 20 people in the small building packing tobacco leaves, but most of them were children.

The owner of the farm, Jan van der Berg, refused to talk to City Press, instead evicting reporters from his farm and threatening to dismiss workers who spoke to the press.

Adults employed on the farm said they earned R120 a month, but added that their employer preferred children because they were easy to manipulate.

Some parents worked with their children and earned the same amount.

Asked why he allowed his child to leave school to come and work on the farm, a middle-aged man said he had no money to take the child to school.

The employees said they were trapped with nowhere else to go. If they complained about the low wages, the farmer accused them of theft and took them to the police station where "the baas never lies".

Health from child to child

South 3/4 - 7/4/93 -

By Justin Pearce (298)



SELF TAUGHT: Children's play activities can be used as a way of learning about health

HELP the children help themselves — that's the idea behind the child-to-child approach to health education which has succeeded in over 70 countries and has just been introduced to South Africa.

At a recent health conference in Bellville Professor Vijaya Bhalerao of the University of Bombay told how the power of children as bearers of information became apparent to her while she was working on a school feeding scheme in a Bombay slum. The organisers were relying on unemployed mothers of schoolchildren to help prepare food, but the women's interest soon waned.

"With a feeling of desperation and frustration, we told the children that we might not continue feeding if their mothers did not co-operate," Bhalerao said.

"To our surprise, within an hour all the absconding mothers not only rushed to the school kitchen but were busier than usual in helping out."

If children could sway the opinions of parents so readily, they were surely able to educate one another as well. This inspired Bhalero and others to start encouraging children to formulate health-awareness programmes.

Under the child-to-child method, a health education teacher acts as facilitator while children formulate their own means of communication by making up stories and songs, acting out plays or doing drawings.

At about the same time as Bhalerao and others were developing the child-to-child method in India, two Englishmen were having similar ideas.

Mr Hugh Hawes, now director of the Child to Child Trust, recounted how he was approached by primary health care expert Dr David Morley to develop the child-to-child approach.

They spoke to people from all over the world who had been involved with helping children help each other, and distilled the ideas into activity programmes which they disseminated around the world. The scheme got off the ground just in time for the International Year of the Child in 1978.

While the Child to Child Trust still has its head office in London, each country develops it own programme according to its needs.

"We throw ideas around the world, and people take it up and run with it," Hawes said. "We don't peddle anything, but we have experience from around the world to share."

Child-to-child has developed particularly well in African countries where it has been common practice for older children to look after younger children.

But the child-to-child approach is increasingly growing into a child-to-adult approach.

"We started with older children helping younger children, but now children are going into the community and passing on what they have learnt to adults," says Professor Barnabas Otaala, a Ugandan who lectures in education at the University of Namibia and promotes the child-to-child approach.

The conference in Bellville brought South African educators and health workers into contact with child-to-child workers from Britain, India, Namibia and Uganda.

South African educationalist Mr Alan Kenyon pointed out that health education in South Africa is often badly taught or disregarded completely. The approach is didactic and the lessons easily ignored or forgotten.

Other delegates at the conference criticised the distance between health and education authorities in South Africa.

Ms Violet Mugisa, a child health worker from Uganda, said the success of the programme in her country was due to the co-operation between the government departments involved. She added that neither a top-down nor a bottom-up approach is adequate on its own.

"People must use the benefits of their own enthusiasm, participation and competence to devise their own programmes," she said. "Then they can invite the ministries to help where they can."

Food and clothes wanted

STAR 5/4/93

2B

Children of former prisoners in the Johannesburg, Roodepoort and Sandton areas are in need of clothes and food to see them through the winter. The South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilation of Offenders (Nicro) says donations can be dropped off at their offices on the 4th floor of Challston House, corner of Commissioner and Delvers streets.

Monday, April 5 quotations for unit trusts:

General Equity Funds:

ABSA	140,12	131,05	5,51
BOE. Growth	156,70	146,38	2,94
Community Growth Fund	112,02	105,80	na
CU Growth	119,19	111,27	3,73
Fedgro	127,89	119,42	4,81
Guardbank Growth	2546,02	2370,14	4,73
IGI Life:	128,64	120,33	3,37
Metfund	193,51	179,58	4,26
Metlife	117,66	109,92	6,37
Momentum	252,80	236,90	4,20
NBS: Hallmark	923,13	861,89	4,59
Old Mutual Investors	2627,54	2449,33	3,93
Sage	2359,14	2201,08	3,81
Sanlam	589,67	1489,35	3,50
Sanlam Index	1229,16	1151,67	3,93
Sanlam Dividend	446,71	419,15	5,01
Southern	205,46	192,38	3,95
Standard	1182,00	1110,64	7,00
Syfrets Growth	294,27	275,59	4,59
Syfrets Trustee	115,73	108,47	4,30
UAL	2065,94	1939,84	

Beating the Rising Cost of Education

South 10/4 – 14/4/93. 298

Like most parents, you need to spend a great deal of time thinking about your children's future — What career will they choose? Who will they marry? Will they find work?

Every parent wants their children to get a good education so they can find secure jobs. The recession has resulted in approximately 30% of the workforce being unemployed. The job market is flooded with people looking for work and finding a job is becoming increasingly difficult.

A good education has now become a necessity rather than a privilege. However, paying for children's education has resulted in the need for careful financial planning.

One savings method which is becoming increasingly popular is to save through unit trusts.

A unit trust is an investment on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE). A unit trust company pools a group of people's money and buys a spread of top quality shares on the JSE.

Each individual investor becomes part owner of a number of shares, which are represented by units. The pooled money is invested by an expert investment team, who select shares they believe will provide the best long term growth for you.

Over the years a unit trust investment has proved to one of the surest ways of beating inflation.

Old Mutual Unit Trusts, a unit trust company, helps parents save for their children's future by offering them an investment capable of providing inflation beating returns — Old Mutual Education Trust.

You can invest as little as R50 a month, or a minimum single amount of R500, for your children's future. These investment amounts can be increased at any time.

One of the biggest advantages of investing in Old Mutual Education Trusts is that you are able to withdraw your money whenever you need to.

This is of particular benefit for education purposes as you are able to withdraw amounts as the need arises, whilst the rest of your money remains invested.

But remember! the longer you leave your money invested in unit trusts, the better chance it has to grow. Stock market prices continually move up and down and only time will give your investment a chance to achieve steady inflation-beating growth.

South Africa is in desperate need of skilled manpower in order to ensure economic growth and a drop in the unemployment rate, consequently our children need to be well educated.

Give your children a head start in their working careers, by investing in unit trusts. For more information on unit trusts phone Old Mutual, free of charge, on 0800—234 234.

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Street kids angry over losing home

By PEARL RANTSEKENG C/Press 11/4/93

UNDER pressure from about 200 irate street children who need shelter, the Durban Child Welfare Society has turned to the Durban City Council for a R50 000 grant to secure accommodation for the street kids. (298)

The children recently staged a march to the offices of the welfare society and vowed to burn down their old shelter, Zamani Home, protesting against it being handed over to Indian Child Welfare.

Zamani Home, funded by the Round Table, is on Indian Child Welfare property and was handed back earlier this month, according to local welfare assistant director Esther Maharaj.

Zamani is Durban's only home for street children.

Welfare groups now intend buying a three-storey building in St George's Street which it will convert for use as a shelter for children as well as a pre-school stimulation programme for poverty-stricken families in the city.

"The children want to be in town, so the welfare society chose the Albert Park area because it is a central place where most of these street-kids are found," Maharaj said.

End to child labour urged

(42) (298) CT 15/4/93

JOHANNESBURG. — Children from black homelands are being trucked to work for a pittance on white farms, where they are often abused, South African human rights and child welfare activists said yesterday.

In sprawling Soweto illegally employed children often turn to glue addiction as a palliative while shovelling and hauling bags of coal to people's homes.

"Child labour must be outlawed," Ms Jackie Loffell, of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, told a news conference.

She said recent surveys by welfare groups in the Northern Transvaal region had shown that children from the homelands were working on farms under contract. "There are reports of brutal treatment," she said.

Time magazine photographer and children's rights activist Mr Peter Magubane said both blacks and whites were exploiting children.

He said boys in Soweto coal yards earned about R30 a week and slept in broken-down vans and old baths.

Existing laws bar the employment of children of 15 and under but contain too many loopholes, say activists. — Sapa-Reuter



LEFT ALONE: The Aids pandemic has left thousands of children without parental care. Photo. Yunus Mohamed

Namibian Aids orphans are long on struggling, short on help

South 17/4 - 21/4/93

298

By Eben Freedman

MRS LENTINA Gowases, a 54-year-old domestic worker in Namibia, is restless because she suffers from high blood pressure.

She fears she may be admitted to hospital and there will be no one to look after her five grandchildren whose mother died of AIDS. Their father died a long time ago

"I am a sickly person I am a domestic worker and have to take care of my grandchildren," she said.

Her daughter died from Aids last year after testing positive during her third month of pregnancy. The baby died a month after birth

The disease is claiming the lives of more and more working adults here, but the Namibian government appears unwilling to help the growing number of children left behind.

The National Aids Control Programme (NACP) said it does not know the number of orphans in Namibia and has not yet started to support them.

"The numbers are not big. They only go through the welfare department like all other orphans.

"It is difficult to say how many orphans there are but the numbers are rising fast," said Mr Abner Xoagub, the NACP programme officer.

Mr Amos Hardley, co-ordinator of the National Network of Aids Services Organisation (Nanaso), said most of the orphans were adopted immediately by relatives.

Hardley said Nanaso was trying to establish the number of Aids orphans It also plans to set up care centres in the rural areas.

"The situation is very serious in rural areas where relatives who are taking care of orphans rely heavily on subsistence farming Some complain that they cannot continue to look after the orphans because of a lack of money," said Hardley.

Xoagub said the department of social welfare helped young victims of Aids, like other orphans, but Gowases said support did not come easily.

In her case, the department provided food for four orphans, but she must pay for education, health, housing and clothing. And she has to fend for the fifth child, who is mentally ill and was abandoned by her father before the mother died

"They (the welfare department) have refused to give any allowances to the last-born, who is disabled, unless her father comes to sign the documents. I must take the child to hospital every week, with the little money I earn," she said.

Gowases said despite the stigma attached to Aids, her neighbours gave the orphans some support. "Aids is killing and it is here to stay. What can we do? My appeal to the community is not to reject those who are suffering from Aids or their relatives," she said.

The SOS Children's Village, an orphanage in Windhoek, says although it took children referred by the department of social welfare, it had not received any Aids orphans.

Officially, 90 people died of Aids in Namibia. Without giving any details, the NACP says this is only the tip of the iceberg — AIA

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Namibian Aids orphans are long on struggling, short on help

Sowth 17/4-21/4/93

298

By Eben Freedman

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LEFT ALONE: The Aids pandemic has left thousands of children without parental care. Photo: Yunus Mohamed

These Soweto kids are streets ahead

C1Press 1-18/4/93

298

By ZANELE VUTELA

"I WON'T let you take my picture if you are going to refer to me as a street kid. I am no longer a street kid," David Tshabalala, 18, resplendent in his school uniform, told City Press.

David is one of the 35 children being sheltered by the Soweto branch of Street-Wise. These children have come a long way since they were wooed from the streets of Soweto, Kliptown and Lenasia by project director Minah Motaung and her colleagues.

Street-Wise Soweto was originally intended to be an educational project "to keep the children off the streets during the day", said Motaung.

A school was established at Ipelegeng community centre. The children were taken directly from the street each morning and given a shower and breakfast at Ipelegeng before school.

Lessons comprised an hour of academic subjects – Maths, English and a vernacular language – each given an hour on consecutive days, "because their power of concentration is very weak at this stage", says Motaung. The rest of the day is spent on music, art and drama.

During this stage at Ipelegeng the children undergo a period of orientation, a "glimpse into ordinary life". They are also given remedial lessons. It is only when they "graduate" from Ipelegeng that they can be infused into ordinary schools.

During this period the children are particularly difficult. They may refuse to bath and often still bring their glue to school.

The glue is taken by their teachers and handed over to the principal "for safekeeping". It is given back when they are dropped off after school.

"We cannot act harshly with them, especially at the beginning, because they'll run off," said Motaung. Sometimes the children even ask for their glue at break – then the principal has to refuse.

Nevertheless, the controlled periods of abstinence form the basis for "kicking the habit". This takes about three months.

At some point during this stage the children begin to dread the prospect of returning to the streets and the need for sheltering arises.

There are few sheltering facilities as Motaung has always concieved of family units where the children are assimilated into particular families.

She persuaded her parents to make available their back rooms in Orlando West for the first shelter in Soweto. "I had to educate my family to develop a positive attitude towards the situation."

Motaung's mother, Dikeledi, said: "I felt it was a trial from God. When they came to me they were in rags, unwashed. But my daughter said, 'Don't worry, just take some antiseptic medium and wash them and we'll burn their old clothes'. I even had to teach them to brush their teeth. My daughter told me that no one else wanted these children."

Today the children call her Koko. The shelter has been named "Koko's Shelter".

Street-Wise has since established another shelter in Dube.

Because of limited resources many more children cannot be brought from the street, although they do attend the day school.



NEW DIRECTION .. Dikeledi "Koko" Motaung with some of the youngsters she took into her Orlando West home. ■ Pic: ANDRIES MCINEKA

...d. Unauthorised mildness, is reserved

Children's champ Ullmann cancels movie in protest

ST News 15/4/93

298

By CHARIS PERKINS

SCANDINAVIAN actress and Unicef goodwill ambassador Liv Ullmann cancelled the one screening of her acclaimed movie *Sophie* this week out of respect for the day of mourning for Chris Hani.

Sofie, an intimate portrait of a Jewess and her struggle to reconcile her Judaism with her desire for independence, was due to be screened at Johannesburg's international film festival on Wednesday.

It is the first film written and directed by the distinguished actress. But Miss Ullmann, who was in Johannesburg this week as guest of honour at the film festival, decided it would not be appropriate to show it.

"Sometimes art speaks better by being silent and shocked," she said.

Events planned for her work as Unicef goodwill ambassador also did not go according to plan.

She had hoped to visit women and children in Alexandra and Soweto, but was advised against doing so.

Instead, she discussed the plight of children in South Africa at a meeting with organisations working under the umbrella of the National Children's Rights Commission.

She also met Nelson Mandela and won his support for a study of the needs of women and children in this country.

Conducted under the auspices of the National Children's Rights Commission, it will be released on June 16, the Day of the African Child.

Formal meetings with official representatives are not Miss Ullmann's usual style.

Unicef programme adviser Scholastica Kimaryo said: "She doesn't like meetings. She wants to go out into the field to talk to and touch people."

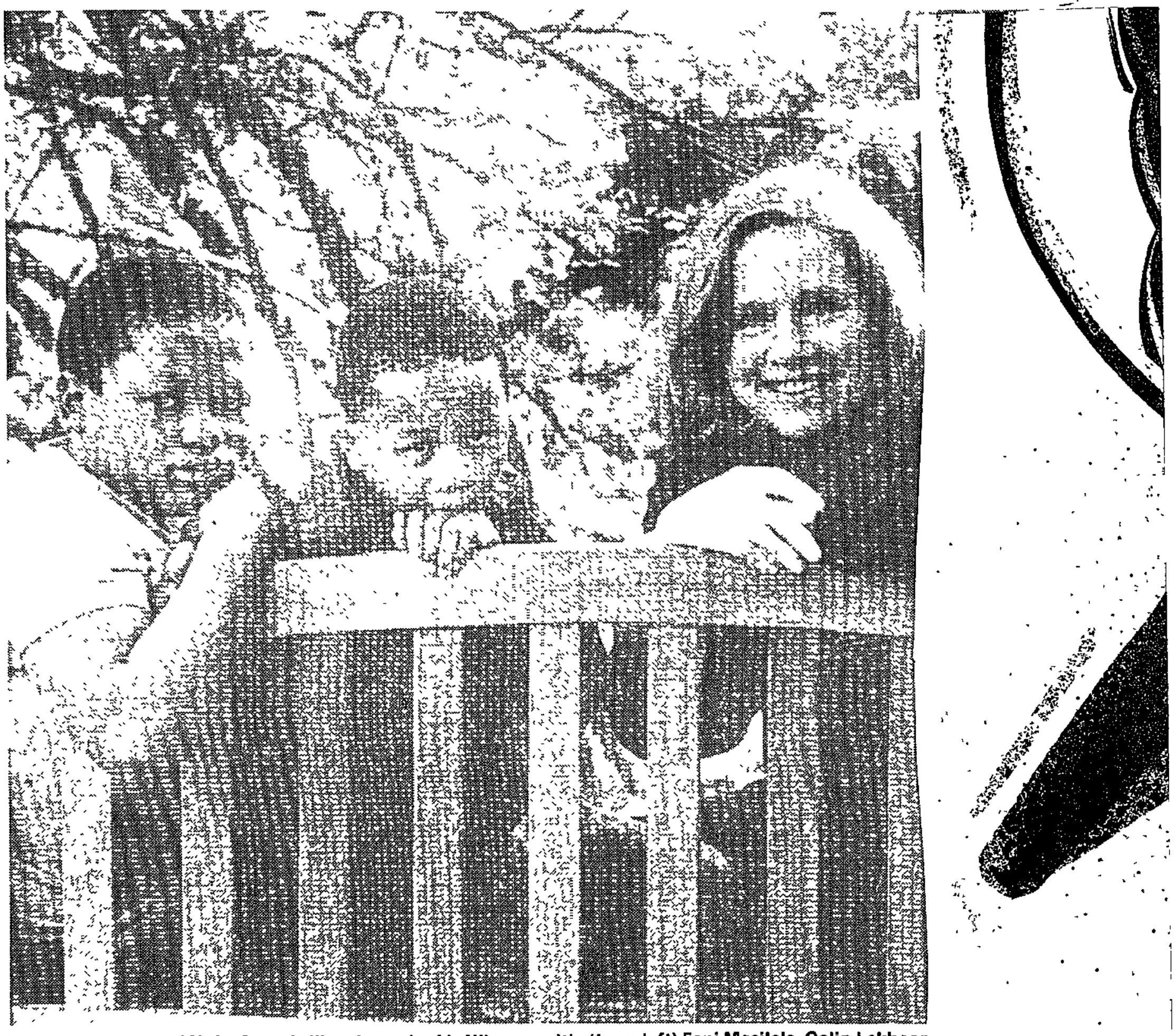
This was certainly the case when she met three Hillbrow street children for a photographic shoot on Friday.

Miss Ullmann was late for a lunch date with the mayor, but she ignored her tight schedule to spend a while coaxing the three shy youngsters, Fani Masilela, Colin Lekhaona and Bongani Moraladi, into telling her about themselves.

"Can I have a hug?" she asked as she left, having conclusively won them over.

Miss Ullmann joined Unicef in the 70s after she was invited to visit refugee camps in Thailand.

She hopes to return to South Africa soon.



Swedish actress and Unicef goodwill ambassador Liv Ullmann with (from left) Fani Masilela, Colin Lekhaon

Mum tells how kids were shot

298

Sowetan 20/4/93

By Joshua Raboroko and Joe Mdhela

■ Black gunmen burst into home and fired:

"The death of my sons will remain in my mind"

A SEBOKENG mother yesterday described how she fought off four black gunmen who shot dead two of her children in her Zone 12, Sebokeng, home on Sunday night.

Grief-stricken Mrs Annah Kheswa of 6817 Zone 12 said the four men burst into her house at about 8pm while she was in the kitchen and fired blindly at her and her children.

Her two children, Given (9) and Godfrey (5), who were sleeping in one of the bedrooms, died on the spot.

The two children were among 19 people killed by four gunmen who randomly shot at residents in the Vaal Triangle township on Sunday night.

"The death of my sons will always remain in my mind. Oh! God, why did this happen to me. My life is shattered," Kheswa said.

Kheswa, who was wounded in the thigh, was treated at the Sebokeng Hospital and later discharged.

Those who survived the attack were admitted to the Sebokeng Hospital.

One of them, Mrs Mirriam Moshoedi (67) of Zone 12, said she was in her house about 8pm when the door was flung open and balaclava-clad gunmen burst in.

She said: "The men fired shots at everybody in the house. A bullet hit me in the face and I do not know what happened until I found myself in hospital."

Mrs Sarah Ndaba, wounded in the chest, said she was walking in the street in Zone 12 when a grey Jetta stopped next to her.

One of the gunmen said to her: "Do you see what your children are doing in the townships?"

Before she could answer one of the men fired shots at her, hitting her in the chest twice. The gunmen then drove off.

Two friends, Mr Patrick Masike and Mr Andrew Mpoka, said they were walking back home when shots were fired at them from a grey car that later drove off at high speed. They were wounded in the legs and thighs.

Youth corps plan has FW's backing

B1DAY 20/4/93 298

CAPE TOWN — President F W de Klerk yesterday backed widespread calls for urgent measures to address SA's so-called lost generation of marginalised youth.

Speaking during the State President's Budget vote, De Klerk said imaginative steps were needed. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, ANC president Nelson Mandela and slain SACP general secretary Chris Hani had made proposals concerning the "lost generation".

Government had instituted a working group to examine the problem, which had already completed important preliminary work, De Klerk said. Government was ready to co-operate with all those able to contribute and would pursue the proposal in bilateral and multilateral discussions

The DP welcomed De Klerk's indication that the idea of a peace or youth corps might be taken up. MP Dene Smuts said such a corps could be named after Hani, who had advanced the idea of a peace corps in the days before his death.

De Klerk also said government would ask the national peace committee to organise the holding of a countrywide moment of silence in remembrance of all the victims of violence.

He said government would call for an urgent meeting of the peace accord signatories to discuss the crisis in the country.

De Klerk said Hani's death had plunged SA into crisis and that the radical forces unleashed by the event had placed multi-party negotiations and the economy in the firing line.

He warned that the latest spate of racial killings could spark "a devastating conflict" in SA. He invited all parties inside and outside of Parliament to band together to pull the country "like a piece of burning wood from the fire which threatens".

Hani's killing had revealed in the starkest terms the dangers which confronted SA when passions and violence were permitted to determine events, instead of negotiations and reason.

Political Staff

The climate of hope and good expectations that had prevailed two weeks ago had been overshadowed by concern among some and anger among others.

"Emotions which vary from anger to fear, from aggression to despair, are threatening to destroy the hopes of all peaceloving South Africans," De Klerk said.

The tendency to seek the solution to all the country's problems in politics and a new constitutional dispensation was short-sighted, he warned.

"Violence is also fanned by the economic and social problems of our society."

He called on all leaders to prevent any further disruption of education and to tackle the issue of unemployment.

Extending a hand to the ANC/Cosatu/SACP alliance, he said a solution to the pattern of violence and murders lay within the grasp of the leaders taking part in the negotiating process.

But De Klerk attacked its plan to engage in a six-week mass action campaign, which he said would release new tension and anger. It would also undermine national and international confidence in the economy and damage the prospects of a better life for hundreds of thousands of South Africans.

There was no need to put pressure on government to proceed rapidly with negotiations or to move quickly towards the establishment of the transitional executive council and the setting of an election date for a constituent assembly.

Government was committed to the process and the target dates now demanded were the dates which it had itself already set, he said.



Mourners cling precariously on yesterday's burial of slain SA

DP walks out of solidarity after 'gesture is spurned

B1DAY 20/4/93 298

CAPE TOWN — The DP and Solidarity walked out of Parliament yesterday when the Speaker refused a request to postpone proceedings "as a gesture of sympathy and solidarity" until the end of Chris Hani's funeral.

Angry opening exchanges of the debate on President F W de Klerk's Budget vote were also marked by the expulsion from the chamber of CP MP for Stilfontein Piet Groenewald.

He had interjected "bulls--t" during comments by Speaker Eli Louw on regret over recent violence.

When De Klerk rose to speak he addressed a joint sitting without DP or Solidarity members present. There were no Labour Party members but one did wander in and take a seat during proceedings.

The sitting began with a point of order from MP for Groote Schuur and DP whip Dene Smuts, who asked that the business of Parliament be suspended until 5pm.

"It is our view that it would be inappropriate to pursue the business of Parliament this afternoon as if April 19 were just another day in the life of SA," she said

"It is inappropriate to meet as members of the tricameral Parliament, representing those who have the privilege of the vote, when millions of our fellow unenfranchised South Africans mourn the death of a leader of unique abilities."

Political Staff

Solidarity MP for Southern Natal Kisten Moodley said his party concurred.

However, Louw ruled that on such a sensitive issue a decision could not be taken unilaterally by the Speaker.

He should have been approached collectively by party leaders or whips and as this had not happened he could not accede to the DP request. All DP members present then left the chamber amid sharp exchanges with the CP.

When De Klerk opened his debate he said the fact that Parliament was sitting should not be interpreted as insensitivity.

If Parliament was true to its traditions and character it should use the opportunity offered by the debate to discuss Hani's death in a sympathetic, constructive and dignified manner.

Parliament had not been suspended following the deaths of other individuals and to do so now could be more divisive than conciliatory, he said.

Sapa reports the MPs returned to the chamber at 5pm when the funeral had ended.

Probe into aftermath

PRETORIA — The Goldstone commission is to hold a preliminary inquiry in Pretoria into the violence which erupted during and after the Chris Hani mass protest on Wednesday April 14.

The preliminary inquiry will begin at the Sinodale Centre Buildings in Visagie Street, Pretoria at 9am on April 29, commission chairman Judge Richard Goldstone said yesterday. B1DAY

People with relevant information were requested to submit details in writing to the Secretary of the Commission, Private Bag X858, Pretoria, 0001 not later than noon on April 26. 20/4/93

People who wished to remain anonymous or required protection for any period, were asked to phone the secretary at (012) 320-4640.

Goldstone said the commission regretted and condemned the many acts of violence, deaths, injuries to people, and the damage to property in the aftermath of the assassination of SACP general secretary Chris Hani.

"Each of these acts was a victory for the perpetrator of the murder and those who support such conduct calculated to derail the peace process."

The commission called on all South Africans to heed the call of their leaders for disciplined, dignified and peaceful demonstrations. — Sapa.

Move to restrict surrogate births

B|DAY 29/4/93

TIM COHEN

CAPE TOWN — The SA Law Commission has recommended legislation to legally restrict and control surrogate motherhood.

The 183-page report, tabled in Parliament yesterday, was initiated in 1987 after it became known that a Tzaneen woman would give birth to her own grandchildren as a surrogate mother after being artificially inseminated.

The report states it is of the utmost importance that illegal surrogate motherhood be discouraged.

Included in measures intended to restrict surrogate motherhood, the commission proposed legislation to prohibit artificial insemination unless it was approved by a court.

It would also not be permitted unless it was proved that the commissioning wife was unable to give birth because of a medical condition. The commissioning parties should be legally married.

As a general principle, it should be a prerequisite that the married couple should not have other living children born from their marriage. An exception could be made provided the non-material interests of the other children would not be prejudiced, the commission said.

Surrogate motherhood should be permissible only if the "gametes" (the generative cells essential for human reproduction) of a least one of the commissioning parents were used.

The commission also rejected surrogate motherhood for financial gain and said the mother should not be allowed to be a surrogate unless she had given birth to her own children.

The written, informed consent of all the parties concerned should be a prerequisite for the validity of any agreement, the commission said.

A child born of a surrogate mother following a legal surrogate motherhood agreement should, from birth, for all purposes be considered to have the legal status of a legitimate child of the commissioning couple.

A surrogate motherhood agreement and the parties involved should be subjected to a strict screening process before implementation.

Believing that the issue of surrogate motherhood should not be fragmented into various existing Acts, the commission published proposed legislation.

The proposals suggest that failing to comply with any provision of the legislation should make the guilty party liable for a fine of up to R20 000 or a year in prison.

Heroes visit homeless children

(298) STAR 22/4/93.

By Michael Sparks

The Twilight Children never before had so much excitement in one day, as when two heroes came to visit their shelter beneath the Hillbrow Tower.

While many of them were too young to remember Muhammed Ali, they certainly knew who he was and what he did, and gave him a rousing welcome, flocking around him and scrambling to be close to him on his tour of their home.

Ali demonstrated his legendary shuffle and jab to the youngsters.

Another boxing enthusiast, ANC president Nelson Mandela, also received a rousing welcome, not just from the children but also from passers-by, who waved and ululated as he entered the shelter.

In a moving speech Mandela said he had come to the shelter expecting to see depressed children with sad faces, wrinkled by the hardship of their short lives. But the children's human spirit had turned disaster into victory, giving him new hope.

In turn Mandela gave the shelter hope, with the promise of a R10 000 cheque from the ANC to be delivered to the shelter first thing this morning — a big boost to the shelter, which receives no funds from either the city or the Government.

"If we were able, we would give more. We are a poor organisation, but we are prepared to share our poverty," he said.

Mandela also called on all people who were thinking of leaving the country not to go, since their skills and expertise were needed to help provide jobs and make the country work.

Mandela said that without white skills, expertise and education, South Africa could not make any progress.

He said he could understand minority fears of change but urged people to forget the past, to think of the present and to exchange ideas on how to build a new South Africa.

He added: "These young street children are teaching us a lesson. Whatever position they have had in life, they have been able to turn it into a victory."

Two killed: white youth faces charge

■ Woman's body buried on farm:

By Abbey Makoe

A 17-year-old white boy appeared in the Koster Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the gruesome murder of two black women in Geyerspan early this year.

The youth, who may not be named because of the Child Protection Act, appeared before Mr JP Potgieter.

He was remanded into police custody until April 28. He was not asked to plead and no charges were put to him.

His appearance is a sequel to the police discovery on a farm where he worked of the body of a woman murdered and buried.

The youth was also arrested following the discovery of another woman's body on a rubbish dump.

She was reportedly found with her throat slit. The body was decomposed and partly eaten by a wild animal.

The suspect's parents were not in court.

Attempts by the prosecutor, Miss JC Kruger, to contact them by telephone failed.

The State indicated it was seeking accommodation for the suspect at a psychiatric institution for observation.

Millions of world's children die needlessly

Star 22/4/93

298

TERRIBLE TOLL
Millions of children around the world die each year. Not from war, earthquakes or violence, reports **PAULA FRAY**, but from malnutrition, preventable diseases and inadequate basic health care.

MEETING the needs of all the world's children for adequate nutrition, clean water, basic health care and primary education would cost about R79 billion a year, according to the 1993 State of the World's Children report from the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

And, reaching these goals would save the lives of more than 4 million children each year and help to lower birth rates.

Yet thousands of children die needlessly each day.

"The suffering of children in particular emergencies, whether in Afghanistan, Somalia or the former Yugoslavia, rightly occupies much of Unicef's attention at this time," says Unicef executive director James Grant.

"But it should never be forgotten that every day malnutrition and disease are tragedies on a far greater scale.

"No famine, no flood, no earthquake, no war, has ever claimed the lives of 250 000 children in a single week. Yet malnutrition and disease claim that number of child victims every week. And for every child who dies, many more live on with ill health, poor growth and illiteracy," says Grant.

There are some signs that the problems of the world's poorest children are beginning to be taken more seriously. In the 1980s, for example, immunisation levels have climbed from less than 20 percent to more than 80 percent — saving an estimated 3 million young lives each year and protecting many millions more from disease, malnutrition and disability.

"The immunisation achievement proves that it can be done," says Grant.

However, diseases that vaccines can prevent are still killing nearly 6 000 children every day in the developing world.

At present, almost 60 percent of the 13 million child deaths each year are caused by just three diseases: pneumonia, diarrhoea and measles — all of which can now be prevented or treated at very low cost.

Biggest killer

Pneumonia, with 3,5 million victims a year — is now the biggest killer of children in the modern world. In most cases, all that is needed is a course of antibiotics costing about R2,25.

Diarrhoeal disease kills 3 million children a year — a quarter of all childhood deaths. Life-saving oral rehydration therapy (ORT) is now used by one family in three and saves a million lives a year.

Vitamin A deficiency, which threatens up to 10 million of the world's children with blindness and early death could be controlled for about 90c per child per year.

Even traditionally more expensive propositions — adequate nutrition, clean water, safe sanitation and basic education — can be tackled at much lower cost because of new technologies and community-based strategies, says Unicef.

The R79 billion also includes making family planning services universally available — a service Unicef sees as vital for protecting the health of mothers and children as it is for slowing population growth.

The report argues that targeting particular problems, such as disease and illiteracy, is attacking causes as well as symptoms.

In South Africa, the battle has already begun. More than 15 000 cases of measles were reported throughout the country last year, according to the Department of National Health and Population Development.

Replying to questions on the state of South Africa's children, the department said a total of 15 056 cases of measles was reported for 1992. It said about 90 percent of the country's children have been immunised against the disease.

The department says South African children are vaccinated against polio, measles, tuberculosis, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough.

Research done in 1990 showed about 61 percent of South African children were immunised against tuberculosis, 81 percent against polio, 84 percent against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough and 90 percent against measles.

According to Unicef, high levels of routine polio vaccination and the absence of any reported polio cases in the western hemisphere during 1992 marked the first step towards the eradication of the crippling childhood disease.

However, while vaccines have cut the toll by 80 percent in the other half of the globe, polio still paralyses over 100 000 children each year.

According to the department, no cases of polio were reported in South Africa last year while only two cases were reported in 1991 and five in 1990. Since 1988, there have been 198 cases of polio in South Africa.

The Department of National Health has listed six priorities for taking care of South African children during 1993. These are:

- **To extend obstetric services so that more pregnant women can be attended to by health personnel during labour.**
- **To prevent tetanus neonatorum in children by immunising all pregnant women against tetanus.**
- **To promote the health of mothers by implementing a feeding programme and by placing more emphasis on family planning services.**
- **To promote the growth of children by placing more emphasis on breast-feeding.**
- **Continuing the life-saving oral rehydration therapy programme.**
- **Extension of primary health care services to disadvantaged communities through the establishment of clinic services.**



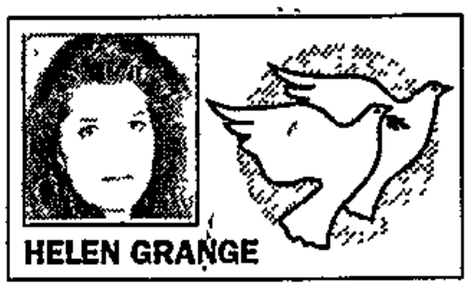
Worth the pain . . . nearly 6 000 children die each day from diseases that vaccines can prevent.

Bringing in the alienated youth

Star 22/4/93

298

Youth marginalisation has worked its way on to the Government's agenda at a time when militancy is rising in the townships.



HELEN GRANGE

THE crowd marches, thumping out rhythmic chants. They are orderly and the spirit is good.

Suddenly, a group of feisty youths sprint down a side street. On the way, they grab anything that's solid and sharp. Adrenalin is rushing, and the excited expectancy in their faces sends an ominous signal to onlookers: violence is on the cards.

Such a scene was witnessed, in various forms, during the past week's mass action activities, and it again brought to the fore the urgent questions around South Africa's voiceless, marginalised black youth.

The "lost generation", as they have been unfortunately dubbed, is now a burning issue for the Government, as it will continue to be for its eventual replacement.

President de Klerk has said the Government is willing to work with anyone with ideas on dealing with the problem. He added that bona fide attempts by the State to address the issue were continually hampered by activists using social and economic problems as springboards for politically inspired actions.

His words highlight the fact that legitimacy plays a major role in co-opting particularly the black youth into programmes.

Graeme Simpson, acting director of the Centre for the Study of Violence, comments that the political culture of the youth was born of the liberation struggle, and it is therefore natural that the most effective rehabilitation programmes will be those formed from within the liberation movements.

Thus, the role of the ANC/SACP/Cosatu Alliance is critical.

Simpson remarks that the ANC has attempted to be seen to occupy militant youths through its mass action campaigns in order to contain them. But in the long term, the ANC's programmes will need to look at redeveloping a political role for them, primarily by means of economic empowerment.

In seeking ways to achieve this, a great deal of research has been conducted, and the results consistently stress that a holistic approach needs to be adopted.

A recent study by the Community Agency for Social Enquiry (Case), commissioned by the Joint Enrichment Project (a youth developement agency) identified three categories of youth marginalisation:

- The "antagonists", who are more politically alienated, racially antagonistic and hostile to the older generation than average.

Abused

- The "outsiders", more often than average coming from broken families.
- The "victims". These were abused as children, or are being violently abused by their partners or have had a wide exposure to political violence.

The picture painted overall is that of a brutalised, alienated generation with no vision of the future.

The political changes of the 1990s have heralded no solutions and in fact, have pushed frustration levels even higher.

Comments Simpson: "There were very high expectations after the ANC was un banned in 1990. Three years later, there has been no delivery in terms of practical benefits and no perceived progress to a new government."

In the Case report it is briefly recommended:

- That a new policy and institutional framework be set up at Government level to deal with education and training, in particular, post-secondary education. A post-secondary education and training sector — incorporating adult basic education and continuous skills formation — would give the uneducated a second chance.
- That a nationally co-ordinated, community-based youth structure be launched to facilitate the implementation of a wide variety of youth programmes.

Programmes would include setting up youth groups or youth clubs in every community, as well as democratic student representative councils and parent-teacher student associations in every school; the widespread dissemination of a code of conduct (agreed by the National Education Co-ordinating Committee; initiating community tutoring groups for standards 8 to 10 and mobilising for material support for the NECC's "Back to School" campaign.

However, success in recapturing the "lost generation" is mostly dependent on economic recovery. □

THE WEEKLY MAIL

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Review Law 23/4 – 29/4/93 298

The first in a series looking at human rights issues in SA

Know Your Rights

Children's Charter of South Africa

This charter was adopted by the Children's Summit in Cape Town on June 1, 1992 on behalf of the children of South Africa

article 1

1. All children have the right to protection and guarantees of all the rights of the Charter and should not be discriminated against because of their or their parents or family's colour, race, sex, language, religion, personal or political opinion, nationality, disability or for any other reason.
2. All political parties, the government, the future government, communities, families, and parents should do everything possible to ensure that children are not discriminated against due to their or their parents or family's colour, race, sex, language, religion, personal or political opinion, nationality, disability or for any other reason

article 2

All children have the right to a name and nationality as soon as they are born.

article 3

1. All children have the right to express their own opinions and the right to be heard in all matters that affect their rights and protection and welfare.
2. All children have the right to be heard in courtrooms and hearings affecting their future rights and protection and welfare and to be treated with the special care and consideration within those courtrooms and hearings which their age and maturity demands.
3. All children have the right to free legal representation if arrested.
4 All children have the right to participate in the government of the country and special attention should be given to consultations with children on their rights and situation

article 4

All children have the right to freedom to practise their own religion, culture or beliefs without fear.

article 5 Violence

1. All children have the right to be protected from all types of violence including physical, emotional, verbal, psychological, sexual, state, political, gang, domestic, school, township and community, street, racial, self-destructive and all other forms of violence.
2 All children have the right to freedom from corporal punishment at school, from the police and in prisons, and at home
3. All children have the right to be protected from neglect and abandonment
4. All children have the right to be protected from township and political violence and to have "safe places" and community centres where they can go for help and safety from violence
5. All children have the right to be educated about child abuse and the right to form youth groups to protect them from abuse.
6. All persons have the duty to report all violence against, abuse of and neglect of any child to the appropriate authorities.
7. Children should not be used as shields or tools by the perpetrators of violence.
8 Children have the right to say no to violence.
9. The media has the duty to prevent the exploitation of children who are victims of violence and should be prohibited from the promotion of violence.
10. All children have the right to be protected from violence by the police and in prisons.
11 Children should not be obliged or forced to follow adults in their political involvements
12. All children have the right to be free from torture, detention or any other physical or emotional violence during apartheid or at times of unrest or war.
13 All children have the right to be protected from drug and alcohol abuse by their parents, families and others and to be educated about these forms of violence
14 Children have the right to a special children's court and medical facilities to protect them from violence
15 Special groups and organisations should be formed within the communities to protect and counsel victims of all types of violence.
16. No child should be held in prison or police cells at any time.

article 6 Family Life

1 All children have the right to a safe, secure and nurturing family and the right to participate as a member of that family.
2. All children have the right to love and affection from their parents and family.
3. All children have the right to clothing, housing and a healthy diet.
4. All children have the right to clean water, sanitation and a clean living environment.
5 All children have the right to be protected from domestic violence.
6. All children who do not have a family should be provided with a safe and secure place to live and clothing and nutritious food within the community where they live.
7 Special protection should be given to children who are orphaned or abandoned as a result of violence or any other reason or are refugees or returning from exile and every effort should be made to place them within a safe and secure "family".

article 7 Health & Welfare

1. All children have the right to adequate health care and medical attention both before and after birth
2. All children have the right to be protected from harmful and toxic substances such as cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol and to be educated about the effects on their health and environment.
3. All children have the right to free and comprehensive health services, especially in schools, including screening of diseases, treatment of diseases and physical and psychological treatment and services.
4 All children have the right to demand health and medical care without the permission of their parent or guardian
5. All children have the right to be protected and educated about AIDS and to be given adequate health care and protection. Any child whose family is infected with AIDS should be given special care and protection.
6. Disabled children have the right to special health care and protections.

article 8 Education

1. All children have the right to free and equal, non-racial, non-sexist and compulsory education within one department as education is a right, not a privilege.
2. All children have a right to education which is in the interest of the child and to develop their talents through education, both formal and informal.
3. All teachers should be qualified and should treat children with patience, respect and dignity All teachers should be evaluated and monitored to ensure that they are protecting the rights of the child
4 Parents have the duty to become involved in their children's education and development and to participate in their children's education at school and at home.
5. All children have the right to play and to free and adequate sports and recreational facilities so that children can be children.
6. All children have the right to participate in the evaluation and upgrading of a curriculum which respects all the traditions, cultures and values of children in South Africa.
7. All children have the right to education on issues such as sexuality, AIDS, human rights, history and background of South Africa and family life.
8. All children have the right to adequate educational facilities and the transportation to such facilities should be provided to children in difficult or violent situations.

article 9 Child Labour

1. All children have the right to be protected from child labour and any other economic exploitation which endangers a child's mental, physical, or psychological health and interferes with his/her education so that he/she can develop properly and enjoy childhood.
2 All children, especially in rural areas, should be protected from hard labour including farm, domestic or manual labour or any other type of labour.
3. All children have the right to be protected from prostitution and sexual exploitation such as pornography.
4 There should be a minimum age of employment and no child should be forced to leave school prior to the completion of matric for the purposes of employment.
5. There should be regulations and restrictions on the hours and types of work and penalties for those who violate these regulations.
6. All children have the right to be protected from child slavery and from the inheritance of labour or employment from their parent or family.

article 10 Homeless Children

1. No child should be forced to live on the streets
2 Homeless children have the right to be protected from harassment and abuse from police, security guards and all other persons and every person has the duty to report any abuse or violence against children
3. Homeless children have the right to a decent place to live, clothing and a healthy diet
4 Street children have the right to special attention in education and health care.
5. Communities and families have a duty to protect their children from becoming homeless and abandoned
6. All persons should be made aware of the plight of homeless children and should participate in programmes which act to positively eradicate the problem of homeless children.
7. The government has the duty and responsibility for homeless children

SOWETAN Friday April 23 1993

NEWS 'Defend yourselves'

Mandela's call to Vaal youths

Sowetan 23/4/93

■ Pupils urged to go back to school

ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela yesterday called on youths in the Vaal Triangle to join Umkhonto we Sizwe in order to defend themselves following a spate of violent acts in the area in the past month.

Addressing a huge crowd at a stadium in Sebokeng after visiting families and survivors of last week's Sebokeng massacre, Mandela said the residents had the right to defend themselves against their enemies.

Mandela, however, warned that those who intended joining MK should first acquire an education, at least a matric certificate, in order to be able to understand modern technology.

"We need a disciplined army that will be trained in Africa and abroad. We will not give up until we have achieved our liberation," he said.

Mandela had earlier visited survivors of last Sunday's massacre at the Sebokeng Hospital.

Meanwhile, major roads in the Vaal Triangle have been barricaded with stones and rocks.

Sanity test for white boy on murder rap

298

C/Press 25/4/93.

By DAN DHLAMINI

A 17-YEAR-OLD white teenager from Koster who allegedly cut off the ears and slit the throats of his black victims before burying them, is to be sent for mental observation.

However, the teenager, who cannot be named because of his age, cannot undergo the tests as there is no space for him at the Sterkfontein mental hospital.

The appearance of the youth this week in the Carletonville Magistrate's Court was a sequel to the brutal murders of Maria Kwakwa, 25, and her daughter Johanna Makena, 12, whose mutilated, decomposed and charred bodies were discovered at Geyerspan near Koster last month.

Kwakwa and Makena had been reported missing since February 21 this year. Their bodies were discovered on March 17 following the youth's arrest.

Police evidence is that Kwakwa and Makena had their throats slit and their ears cut off.

Makena's charred remains were retrieved from underneath a rubbish heap on a farm belonging to well-known right winger, while Kwakwa's body was exhumed from a deep grave on the farm.

This week magistrate JP Potgieter, who during the previous hearing referred the accused for 30 days' mental observation, adjourned the case to April 28, pending the availability of accommodation at the psychiatric institution.

100m street children in world

CT 26/4/93

WASHINGTON. — There are 100 million street children in the world, and they are particularly at risk for drug and sexual abuse, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a report.

The WHO has aid programs for children in 10 cities including Lusaka, Bombay, Cairo and Rio de Janeiro.

"Almost 100% of street children (use) drugs in Rio de Janeiro, Toronto and Montreal," the WHO said in a statement

"In Rio de Janeiro, 55% of those interviewed claimed that they had attempted suicide. Every day they search for food, shelter and care, often fearful of their lives," the report added.

Of the 100 million street children, 20 million live in developed countries, 40 million in Latin America, 25 to 30 million in Asia and nearly 10 million in Africa. More than 70% are male.

Most of the countries with street children have nicknames for them. In Bolivia, they are called "moths", in Cameroon, "chicks", in Vietnam, "children of the dust", in Colombia, "bed bugs". — Sapa-AFP

(298)

Surrogacy laws unwise, Govt warned

STAR 26/4/93

298

By Shirley Woodgate

Proposals to legally restrict and control surrogate motherhood have been labelled "unwise at this stage" by the National Council for Child and Family Welfare, which says the Government should not act without more information on the subject.

A recommendation in the 83-page report tabled by the SA Law Commission said surrogate motherhood should be discouraged.

But NCCFW director Helen Starke suggested a 10-year waiting period before laws were placed on the statute book. She said a more acceptable alternative at this stage was to make minor amendments to the Child Care and Human Tissue Acts of 1983 and the Children's Status Act of 1987.

"Children will still be born, with or without legislation, but we feel existing laws could be amended to protect such a child against abuse, neglect and other situations," Starke said.

Stressing the child's welfare was the most important issue at stake, Starke said it was unacceptable that the rights of the "intending couple" superseded those of the child in the proposed legislation.

New legislation gave no guarantee that children would not be conceived in circumstances where the State's prescribed guidelines would not be followed, she said.

Measures aimed at restricting surrogate motherhood included prohibiting artificial insemination unless it was approved by a court; and the prerequisites that a couple have no other living children from their marriage and that the wife is unable to give birth because of a medical condition.

Starke emphasised that her organisation had submitted its viewpoint to the relevant authorities before the publication of the new legislation.

How to stay healthy

p14. Sowetan 26/4/93.

SIMPLE RULES Practice personal hygiene and teach your children how to keep clean:

298

IT'S NOT ONLY a mansion that should be clean. The tiny four-roomed house or a tin shack at the back of the yard is still your place.

There are simple rules and guidelines suggested by the Department of National Health that can be followed:

● Always wash your hands with soap when you get up in the morning, after going to the toilet and before eating.

● Bathe daily when the weather is hot and when you have been working hard.

● Brush your teeth in the morning and last thing at night. If you don't have a toothbrush or toothpaste.

Before eating and drinking:

● All drinking water that does not come from a pure water system should be boiled It is especially important to boil all drinking water for babies and small children at times when there is diarrhoea, typhoid fever, jaundice or cholera.

● Keep flies away from rooms where food is stored. Cover food at all times to prevent flies crawling over it because they carry germs and spread disease.

Avoid leaving dirty plates and scraps of food lying around as these bring flies and food scraps offer germs a place to breed.

● Wash all fruit well before eating. Do not let children pick and eat food that has fallen to the ground without washing it.

● Eat meat that is well-cooked and does not have raw parts in the middle when cut Be especially careful to cooking pork well. Raw pork carries dangerous diseases.

● Do not eat food that is old or smells bad. It may be poisonous. Do not eat tinned food if the tin is swollen before being opened. Be especially careful with tinned fish. Once opened, transfer fish to another container to be eaten or stored but never store in the tin as this may turn food poisonous.

● People with infectious diseases like tuberculosis or flu should eat separately from others. Plates and eating tools used by sick people should be boiled before being used by the healthy members of the family, so they do not become infected as well.

How to protect children:

● Sick children or those with sores, itchy skin and lice should always sleep separately from those who are well until they are free from infection

● Children in the home where one member has tuberculosis should be vaccinated against it.

● Children need regular baths, and their fingernails must be cut short. Germs and worm eggs often lodge beneath long fingernails.

● Treat children with infectious diseases as soon as possible to avoid spreading the infection. Teach your children to follow simple rules to cleanliness. Explain the importance of cleanliness.

Cle

(2)

	Wrote	(a) *Passed (HG)*	(b) *Passed (SG)*	(c) *Passed (LG)*
Physical Science (HG)	3 918	3 262	608	No Higher Grade marks are converted to Lower Grade

(3)

	Wrote	(a) *Passed (SG)*	(b) *Passed (LG)*
Physical Science (SG)	1 788	1 627	145

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Children: assault/sexual abuse/neglect

217. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) How many (a) ~~Black~~, (b) Indian, (c) Coloured and (d) White persons were convicted on charges of (i) assault on, (ii) sexual abuse of and (iii) neglect of (aa) male and (bb) female children under the age of 16 years in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992, respectively;

(2) how many of the persons so convicted were (a) male and (b) female (i) family members of and (ii) persons (aa) known and (bb) unknown to the victim;

(3) how many of the abuses committed by these convicted persons took place in (a) urban and (b) rural areas? B456E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1)

		1989	1990	1991	1992
(i)	(aa)	341	343	355	345
	(bb)	364	344	425	423
(ii)	(aa)	585	556	608	526
	(bb)	501	505	737	598
(iii)	(aa)	150	159	190	146
	(bb)	164	213	115	136

(2) The required information is not readily available. In order to obtain the information, the case dockets concerned will have to be perused This is, however, not possible due to the extent of the task and the costs involved.

(3) (a) 6 380
(b) 5 483

Note: Statistics with regard to the different race groups are not kept.

Rape cases reported

223. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many cases of rape were reported in the Republic in 1990, 1991 and 1992, respectively? B488E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

1990—20 321
1991—22 761
1992—24 360

Noordgesig area: crime statistics

269. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many cases of ~~(a)~~ murder, (b) culpable homicide, (c) assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, (d) common assault, (e) rape, (f) robbery, (g) theft of vehicles and cycles, (h) theft of other items, (i) damage to property, (j) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft, (k) possession of drugs, (l) drunken driving, (m) vagrancy and (n) prostitution were reported in 1992 at police stations serving the Noordgesig area in Johannesburg? B613E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) 289
(b) 53
(c) 756
(d) 726
(e) 268
(f) 809
(gi) 182
(gii) 5
(h) 464
(i) 415
(j) 525
(k) 157
(l) 32
(m) 0
(n) 0

Note: (gi) —motor vehicles
(gii)—bicycles

Alexandra area: crime statistics

270. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Law and Order:

How many cases of (a) murder, (b) culpable homicide, (c) assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm, (d) common assault, (e) rape, (f) robbery, (g) theft of vehicles and cycles, (h) theft of other items, (i) damage to property, (j) housebreaking with intent to

cont'd

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

Own Affairs:

Education and Culture: bursaries

27. Mr C I NASSON asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(a) How many students registered at (i) teacher-training colleges and (ii) universities under the control of his Department receive bursaries from his Department, (b) what are the amounts of these bursaries in each case and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished? C82E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(a) (i) 3 727 (ii) 1 768

(b) (i) R2 800 (ii) R4 200

(c) March 1993.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Rapes reported: persons charged/convicted

16. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(a) How many (i) females and (ii) males (aa) over and (bb) under the age of 16 years reported to the South African Police in 1992 that they had been raped and (b) how many persons were in that year (i) charged with and (ii) convicted of having committed rape? D85E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) (i) (aa) 23 675
(bb) 685

(ii) (aa) and (bb) Fall away.

(b) (i) 14 979
(ii) 6 131

Note: A male cannot be raped by a male or a female, according to common law.

SAP: recruitment

25. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(a) How many (i) White, (ii) Indian, (iii) Coloured and (iv) Black persons (aa) applied to join and (bb) were recruited into the South African Police Force in 1992 and (b) how many of these recruits were former police officers who re-enlisted? D167E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(a) (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) (aa) 25 377
(bb) 10 135

(b) 270

Note: Applications for enlistment as well as the appointment of members of the South African Police are not dealt with on the basis of race, and statistics cannot therefore be provided with regard to the different race groups.

SOWETAN Wednesday April 28 1993

NEWS Court told of Baragwanath doctor's death

Youths on murder charge

■ 16-year-old claims he doesn't know how to fire:

A 16-YEAR-OLD youth accused of murdering Baragwanath Hospital doctor Stephan Walter claimed yesterday he knew nothing about guns, except seeing them being used on TV

Giving evidence in camera in the Rand Supreme Court, the youth said he knew from TV that people sometimes died when they were shot

He said guns did not always go off when pointed at people on the small screen.

He claimed he did not know how a gun was fired.

The youth and four of his co-accused have pleaded not guilty to murdering Walter on September 28 last year. He claimed the gun went off accidentally during an attempted car hijacking in Diepkloof.

The youth, who allegedly fired the fatal shot, said he became frightened when he saw Walter reaching for a gun as he and the other youths tried to open the door.

In his testimony before Mr Justice MC de Klerk, he, however, said Walter held something in his hand. The youth said he thought it might have been a gun

Walter's alleged gun was not mentioned in a statement made to the police.

The youth blamed the court interpreter for differences between his evidence before the court and his earlier version, saying the interpreter had misunderstood him.

indication of whether they are in fact going to play a role. [Time expired.]

*The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Mr Chairman, I believe the hon member for Groote Schuur made a positive contribution, and this also applies to the advantages she mentioned.

I merely want to mention the fact that up to 60 000 ID documents are being issued by this department at this stage, and that soon this figure will increase to 90 000. This is proof that this department is doing everything it possibly can at the moment.

*An HON MEMBER: Per month?

*The MINISTER: I am talking about per week. [Interjections.] As a result, 85 % of possible voters already have those identity documents.

I want to suggest that in the context of Africa, in which it is calculated that 60 % is a very high percentage, this percentage is already a very good indication at this early stage of the thorough work that is being done by this department.

As far as the election is concerned, detailed planning is already being done in regard to the number of ballot boxes that will be needed. The number is 7 700. I can tell hon members that thousands of ballot boxes have been and are being manufactured in preparation for this. [Interjections.]

I nevertheless believe that the hon member for Durban Central did have a point. It think it is important that we should reach a decision on the structure of these issues as soon as possible, and this should take place at the multiparty conference as soon as possible. If it does not take place at that conference, the Government will have to take the initiative.

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

General Affairs

Knysna forest: elephants

*1. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Water Affairs:†

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(1) Whether his Department has made a survey to determine how many elephants there are left in the Knysna forest at present; if not, why not; if so, what is the relevant figure in respect of the latest specified date for which information is available:

(2) whether any research has been done on the potential rate of increase of these elephants; if not, why not; if so, what are the findings;

(3) whether promises have been made by the authorities that the number of elephants will be supplemented; if so, (a) when and (b) in what manner is it intended to carry out such promises;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B591E

†The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

(1) No, as the elephants do not move around in a herd and are only sighted by chance in the Knysna forest. Continual monitoring has revealed that there are currently four elephants, including a cow and a calf, an old bull and a young animal—probably a bull—present in the forest.

(2) No, as it is of no use to do research on the potential rate of increase of such a small group of elephants. The present number of elephants is too small to be a viable breeding group.

(3) Yes.

(a) 26 April 1991.

(b) The relocation will commence once the conditions set as a prerequisite for the relocation of the group of elephants has been met.

(4) Yes. The Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and the State Attorney are at present negotiating with the Rhino and Elephant Foundation for a guarantee that will exempt the State from any claims which may arise from the relocation of the elephants in the forest. Although the sentiment surrounding the continued existence of the elephants in the forest is understood and supported, the State must also look to the interest of the public, especially where the forest

is a popular place of call and is traversed by walking and hiking trails. The events in the recent past when the actions of elephants resulted in loss of life have again drawn attention to this important aspect. Once the State has been exempted to its satisfaction from claims, the relocation programme can commence.

Factory production

*2. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Home Affairs:†

(1) Whether the 6 to 9 period moving average of the physical volume of factory production is showing a downward trend; if so, (a) since what date and (b) what was the percentage decrease during the period 1 May 1989 up to and including 31 December 1992;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B592E

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) The 6 to 9 period moving averages of the physical volume of manufacturing production show a downward trend since approximately the end of 1988.

With the official publication of the monthly physical volume of manufacturing production a 13 period weighted moving average, after the effect of seasonal variation has been eliminated, is calculated (the so-called Henderson curve). According to this data the volume of manufacturing production showed a decrease of 9,7% from October 1988 through to July 1992, after which it increased by 1,8%. Over the period October 1988 to December 1992 the decrease was 8,0%.

(b) 7,8% (according to the aforementioned 13 period weighted moving average).

(2) No.

Criminal proceedings: open court

*3. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Justice:

(1) Whether he or his Department has received proposals from the South African Law Commission on draft legislation relating to circumstances in which criminal proceedings may not take place in open court; if so,

(2) whether he intends introducing legislation to amend section 153 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No 51 of 1977), with a view to giving effect to these proposals; if not, why not; if so, when;

(3) whether provision will be made in such legislation for an intermediary to act as a shield between court processes and child witnesses in respect of crimes relating to child abuse; if not, why not; if so, what provision;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B643E

†The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (for the Minister of Justice):

(Reply partially laid upon the Table with leave of House):

(1) Yes. In its *Report on the Protection of Child Witnesses* the South African Law Commission proposed that a new section (section 153A) be inserted in the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977), to *inter alia* provide that—

(a) a child under the age of 18 years who testifies be assisted by an intermediary; and

(b) a child under the age of 18 years may give evidence elsewhere other than in an open court.

(2) No. It is not intended to amend section 153 of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977. The proposals of the South African Law Commission have already been effected in sections 1 to 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1991 (Act 135 of 1991) which on account of technical reasons have not yet been put into operation.

(3) Yes. Above-mentioned legislation already provides for this. Section 3 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1991, inserts section 170A in the criminal Procedure Act, 1977, whereof the relevant part determines as follows:

cont

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

"Evidence through intermediaries

170A. (1) Whenever criminal proceedings are pending before any court and it appears to such court that it would expose any witness under the age of eighteen years to undue mental stress or suffering if he testifies at such proceedings, the court may, subject to subsection (4), appoint a competent person as an intermediary in order to enable such witness to give his evidence through that intermediary.

(2) (a) No examination, cross-examination or re-examination of any witness in respect of whom a court has appointed an intermediary under subsection (1), except examination by the court, shall take place in any manner other than through that intermediary.

(b) The said intermediary may, unless the court directs otherwise, convey the general purport of any question to the relevant witness.

(3) If a court appoints an intermediary under subsection (1), the court may direct that the relevant witness shall give his evidence at any place—

(a) which is informally arranged to set that witness at ease;

(b) which is so situated that any person whose presence may upset that witness, is outside the sight and hearing of that witness; and

(c) which enables the court and any person whose presence is necessary at the relevant proceedings to see and hear, either directly or through the medium of any electronic or other devices, that intermediary as well as that witness during his testimony.".

(4) Statement

It is with pleasure that I announce that the actions regarding the implementation of sections 1 to 3 of the Criminal Procedure Amendment Act, 1991, which have the object of protecting child witnesses, by *inter alia* providing that a child under the age of 18 years who testifies be assisted by an intermediary and may give evidence elsewhere than in an open court, have now progressed to such an extent that the sections can be put into operation on 30 July 1993.

Actions regarding the purchase and installation of expensive and sophisticated equipment (which includes television sets and cameras, microphones, earphones, speakers, amplifiers and sound-dividers) had to be completed before section 1 to 3 could be put into operation. Such equipment, all of which is not readily commercially available and had to be custom made according to specifications, has been purchased after being properly tested and approved by the South African Bureau of Standards. The equipment will be installed in 10 supreme courts and in 59 magistrates' courts across the country. (A list of these names is attached to the reply.) Installation of the equipment will commence in the near future and it is anticipated that installation will be completed during July 1993.

The determination of categories or classes of persons who are competent to be appointed as intermediaries will also be effected on 30 July 1993 by notice in the *Government Gazette*.

COURTS WHERE EQUIPMENT WILL BE INSTALLED

Supreme Courts

Bloemfontein	Durban
Grahamstown	East London
Johannesburg	Cape Town
Kimberley	Pietermaritzburg
Port Elizabeth	Pretoria

Chief Magistrates' Courts

Cape Town	Only at Regional Court
Port Elizabeth	Only at Regional Court
Wynberg	Only at Regional Court
Bloemfontein	Only at Magistrates' Court
Verulam	Only at Regional Court
Pretoria	Only at Regional Court
Durban	Only at Regional Court
Johannesburg	Only at Regional Court
Randburg	Only at Regional Court
Kempton Park	Only at Regional Court
Germiston	Only at Regional Court
Pietermaritzburg	Only at Regional Court
Pretoria North	Only at Magistrates' Court
Kimberley	Only at Regional Court

Decentralized offices of Regional Courts

Welkom	Potchefstroom
Bethlehem	Krugersdorp
Kroonstad	Klerksdorp
Harrismith	Boksburg
(Klipskool)	Vryburg
Virginia	Upington
Sasolburg	East London
Scottburgh	Wynberg
Ladysmith	Paarl
Port Shepstone	Worcester
Eshowe	George
Empangeni	Oudtshoorn
Vryheid	Bellville
Newcastle	Queenstown
Germiston	Middelburg (C)
Randburg	Beaufort-Wes
Roodepoort	Middelburg (Tvl)
Vanderbijlpark	Witbank
Randfontein	Ermelo
Springs	Pietersburg
Nigel	Nelspruit
Kempton Park	Rustenburg
Benoni	

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Johannesburg: rapid rail transit system

'4 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Transport.

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 5 on 19 February 1992, any research has been undertaken regarding the financial aspects of a rapid rail transit system for Johannesburg; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom, (b) what was the (i) nature and (ii) extent of this research and (c) what were the findings;

(2) whether the data pertaining to this research is available to the public; if not, why not; if so, in what manner? B646E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

(1) Yes.

(a) By the South African Roads Board in collaboration with interested bodies such as the Department of Finance, the Transvaal Provincial Administration, the relevant regional services councils, the Johannesburg City Council, JOMET, ORMET, private business organisations as well as public and private transport organisations. Full details of the organisations and people consulted appear in volume 1 of the study report.

(b) (i) A full feasibility study into a mass transit system for Johannesburg. This included, among other things, a further six transportation alternatives of which several variations were tested Four modes of transport, namely transport by train, bus, taxi and also private transportation were included.

(ii) A comprehensive study covering all relevant modes of transport and also consideration of financial, economic, environmental, operational, institutional and legislative implications of various transport strategies. The study started during February 1989 and came to an end towards June 1991

(c) The complete findings are contained in the study report and cannot readily be summarised.

(2) Yes, the report comprising 9 volumes is available from the Department of Transport or from the Central Witwatersrand Regional Services Council, which is responsible for the implementation of the findings as it deems fit.

Sasol fuel

*5. Mr G C ENGEL asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs

(1) What percentage of the fuel sold in the Transvaal over the latest specified 12-month period for which information is available was petrol blended by Sasol;

(2) whether any additional pipeline costs are incurred in respect of the transportation of petrol to be sold in the Transvaal; if so, (a) what did these costs amount to per litre as at the latest specified date for which information is available and (b) how were these costs made up;

cont'd

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Child abuse figures

Star 28/4/93

A total of 8 830 people had been convicted of 11 863 offences of assault, sexual abuse and neglect of children under 16 between 1989 and 1992, Minister of Law and Order Hernus Kriel said yesterday. — Sapa.

298

NEWS IN BRIEF

Young witnesses

JUSTICE Minister Kobie Coetsee told Parliament yesterday that measures aimed at putting child witnesses at ease, while giving evidence, would be put into operation from July 30. The new measures would allow witnesses under 18 to give evidence in an informal setting out of court.

Youths guilty of doctor's murder

SUSAN RUSSELL

FIVE Soweto teenagers who took part in the fatal shooting of a Baragwanath doctor during a robbery attempt last year, were found guilty of murder in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

The youths, whose ages ranged from 15 to 17 at the time, attacked Stephan Walter in his car at a Diepkloof intersection on September 28 last year.

Walter was shot in the head by one of the teenagers and died in hospital later that day.

The youths admitted they had been waiting for a vehicle to rob so that they could sell the wheels. They fled after the shooting.

The youths pleaded guilty to attempted robbery with aggravating circumstances.

Due to the youth of the five accused, Judge M C de Klerk ordered that the trial be heard in camera.

The court rejected their evidence that they knew nothing about firearms or that the pistol in the possession of one of them was loaded with bullets.

The judge also rejected the evidence of the youth who fired the fatal shot that the gun had gone off accidentally.

De Klerk rejected the youth's evidence that the pistol went off after he got a fright, thinking that Walter was reaching for a firearm of his own.

But, he added, even assuming this had been the case, shooting at Walter would still have been unlawful because the doctor would have been entitled to protect himself.

The youth, he said, had intended to shoot Walter and the other four must have foreseen that someone could be killed.

The trial has been postponed for evidence in mitigation.

Gold

From Page 1



CHILD'S PLAY: The Uluntu Centre in Guguletu will be run by the community from May 1

Community control at last

SOWETAN 15-5-1993

THE Uluntu Centre in Guguletu will finally be owned by the local community when an independent trust is launched at the centre on Sunday, May 2.

The centre has been a landmark in the township, providing the community with facilities and resources, recreational activities and educational support programmes.

The centre was formed by the Urban Foundation with community organisations and has been run by a working committee.

The trust deed will ensure that the community now has full control over the centre.

The keynote speaker at the trust's launch on Sunday is Professor Njabulo Ndebele.

For more information contact: Nombulelo Mkefa at Uluntu Centre at 637-969, or Wendy Hendricks or Durieyah Samsodien at Urban Foundation at 477-006.

Arise, the new South Africa is here

Cl Press 21/5/93

298

By NOMVULA KHALO

IT'S midnight at the Skukuza camp in the Kruger National Park where 124 children are gathered for a children's rights festival.

Two white youngsters are toyi-toying through the caravan camp singing "Wake up, the new South Africa is here – get up and hold your black brother's hand."

Not the way to win friends and influence people, especially if they are tired out, and most of them are white.

The reception was mixed Some campers angrily waited for the sun to rise, packed their bags, and demanded refunds. The more tolerant laughed it off as a prank.

But this interlude did not cloud the spirit of the festival

The children, aged 10 to 20, and from all racial groups and backgrounds, agreed that children should enjoy the same rights as adults.

It was a happy occasion, and many made new friends. Street kids hugged children from less traumatic backgrounds, and were hugged back.

When they were not game-watching or discussing the Declaration of Rights of the Child Charter adopted by the United Nations, they enjoyed organised entertainment

Terror in the Twilight zone

By MOSES MAMAILA

A JOHANNESBURG Twilight Children's Home official and so-called "weekend parents" have been accused of terrifying acts of sexual abuse by a young street kid who returned to his parents' Soweto home this week.

The boy from Senaoane, who left his home seven years ago at the age of 12, said he decided to return to his parents because he was tired of being brutalised by rich, white sex maniacs who never got enough.

'I wished the sun wouldn't set. At night the horror began'

Nightmare

He said he went to the Twilight Children's Home in the city hoping to get accommodation, but it turned into a nightmare when he and other children were persistently sodomised by the older boys at the institution.

"It was an everyday thing. I sometimes wished for the sun not to set because I knew once it got dark, the horror would begin," said the boy, adding that among the children who were sodomised were minors as young as nine.

He said on Fridays rich white men, including doctors, would come to Twilight and take them to their homes for weekends.

"Although I was taken to homes of various people, I cannot forget the doctor who behaved like he was married to us – the four of us.

Sodomised

"Almost every weekend he would come and take us to his home. He would give us a shower and clean clothes before sodomising us," said the boy.

Explaining the acts, the boy said one of them would lie on his stomach, the doctor would climb on his back and the second boy would climb on the doctor and penetrate him from behind.

The doctor, who stayed in a northern suburb of Johannesburg, paid them between R20 and R40 each.

The boy said even when he ran away from Twilight, there was no place of safety as old white men abducted them from the streets and sodomised them in the park toilets.

The boy gave the name of a Twilight official who allegedly abused children to City Press.

Asked to respond to the allegations, the official, a white executive, vehemently denied molesting the children but said the allegations had been made several times before.

The official said the allegations had led to his arrest by the police last year. The case against him was withdrawn due to lack of evidence, he said.

Twilight children assistant manager John Malome denied all allegations against the shelter, but said the children housed there were from the street and penniless.

Selling bodies

"Selling their bodies for money is not uncommon to them, but should we catch one child molesting another at the home, we will send them for counselling or, alternatively, keep them off the premises.

"As far as the allegations against 'weekend parents' are concerned, we have never heard

To page 9.

Schoolboys save scores of lives

S/Times [C/Metro]

2/5/93.

298

By PETA KROST

TWO young Guguletu schoolboys have saved scores of commuters' lives by alerting the police to a limpet mine on the railway line close to the Nyanga station

The boys, aged 12 and 14, each received a R2 000 reward on Friday from the deputy District Commissioner General Nick Snyman for "their heroic deed".

The boys were crossing the tracks 800m from the Nyanga station to visit a friend late in the afternoon of April 14 when they spotted the mine.

"I recognised it immediately because I had seen one on the post office wall," said the 12-year-old.

"We started running towards the police station when we saw a police van and told the men inside that we had found a bomb," he said.

After informing the police the children ran to tell their friends not to go there because "it was dangerous".

The two boys were excited about their reward, with which they intend to further their education, but said "we only did it to stop the bomb hurting people".

Police spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Raymond Dowd said: "It is actions like these that give us hope for the future of this country.

"These boys saved hundreds of lives by recognising the mine and reporting it to the police."

Claims of kids held in jail cells

S1 Times [CC | Metro]

2/5/93

By NAZEEM HOWA

DESPITE moves last year by authorities to ensure that children awaiting trial are held at places of safety rather than in jail cells, juveniles are still often being detained at police stations, a legal researcher claims

Michelle Morris warns that the present situation will continue unless there is a complete overhaul of the justice system

Ms Morris said "While the law stipulates that juveniles under the age of 18 may not be held with adults, an exception allows for children to be held in cells if no alternative place can be found"

Police claim that juveniles in custody never share cells with adults According to Ms Morris, the authorities have started to improve the conditions under which children are held at Pollsmoor prison

"Additional staff have been appointed to the juvenile section which has been moved away from the main building"

These changes came about after an intensive campaign by several children's rights advocacy groups and the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape

The campaign also resulted in the government releasing all children under the age of 14 who were awaiting trial before Christmas last year from prison

But, according to Ms Morris, these changes have only addressed half the problem



JUVENILE ARREST . . . Police in Cape Town after they arrested and handcuffed a young boy suspected of theft (298) Picture. BENNY GOOL

"From the moment of arrest until just before their first court appearance, children follow virtually the same judicial process as adult awaiting-trial prisoners In fact, children are slightly worse off in that the Legal Aid Board doesn't prioritise their cases as the charges are normally for petty offences like shoplifting or loitering," she said

She said research showed that both children and parents were usually unaware of their legal rights and rarely had legal representation

In an attempt to ensure that children awaiting trial spend as little time as possible behind bars, the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape — with the assistance and support of Nicro and the attorney-general's office in Cape Town — has launched a youth advocates project which attempts to increase the scope of legal and social services for children at risk or in trouble with the law

"Final-year law students visit each of five Magistrate's Courts in greater Cape Town regularly to offer assistance to children in the holding cells"

Ms Morris said students found between 15 and 20 children daily in holding cells at the Cape Town and Mitchells Plain Magistrate's courts, while between five and six children were found in cells at the smaller courts

Once a child offender has been identified, the students try to establish whether the parents have been contacted and whether they need legal assistance

"After the initial interview, the student will meet with the senior state prosecutor to discuss the case

"For some of the more serious charges we will negotiate a postponement until we have managed to engage legal assistance for the child," said Miss Morris

While last year's campaign has resulted in some gains for children's rights advocacy groups who now have access to children being held at Pollsmoor, children being held at police stations are still a major concern

"To see a child being held at a police station you must be a lawyer and you must have the child's name," Miss Morris said

Another initiative in the Western Cape has seen several children's rights advocacy groups propose that a police liaison officer for juveniles be appointed

Police liaison officer Captain Ciska du Plessis said in terms of the Prisons Act no juvenile under 18 may be detained in a police lockup with adults

Where a bed is home

S1 Times [CC | Metro]

2/5/93

LONG hidden from public view, hostels for migrant labourers in the Transvaal have in recent times gained notoriety as theatres of violence

But because the bloodshed was largely restricted to areas north of the Vaal River, migrant labour hostels at Nyanga, Guguletu and Langa have not really attracted much public attention

Now a new book by UCT deputy vice-chancellor Dr Mamphela Ramphele offers a unique insight into Cape Town hostels

Due to be launched on May 4, A Bed Called Home documents the lives of the hostel-dwellers of Cape Town, for whom a bed is literally a home for both themselves and their families.

"A major concern I've tried to share with readers is the fact that the migrant labour system may be off the statute books, but that does not mean the hostels are going to disappear. Unless organisations like the National Housing Forum take firm and strong action immediately, people will continue to live in those conditions for a long time to come"

The book is based on research Dr Ramphele did for her PhD which was awarded by UCT in 1991.

She undertook the research in an attempt to discover how people made sense of living under very severe constraints.

Dr Ramphele said. "There is a lot of resilience out there People have managed to lead meaningful lives, but those who were successful have paid personal and social costs for being confined to such limited physical space.

"When people think of hostels they seem to forget that there are many decent humans beings living there who have managed to keep their humanity and dignity in spite of the indignity they have been subjected to," she said

NEWS Pensioners' food parcels worth R15 000 missing after minibus is hijacked

Youths slash wrists of suspected thief in Alex

Sowetan 3/5/93

A YOUNG man suspected of participating in the hijacking of a minibus carrying food parcels to the Phuthaditshaba Care for the Aged was caught by Alexandra Township youths and had his wrists slashed.

Old women and men at the weekend joined groups of enraged youths in search of the culprits.

They found the vehicle and its trailer but all the food parcels, valued at about R15 000, were missing.

After apprehending the youth, the residents then started searching for three other suspects, who are now believed to have fled their homes.

Pensioners at the centre, which caters for more than 1 000 people, expressed anger at the theft.

Director of the centre Mr Linda Twala confirmed the incident.

Role of youth examined

BIDAY 3/5/93.

298

HEROES OR VILLAINS, Youth Politics in the 1980s, by Jeremy Seekings (Ravan, R28,50)

MUCH has been made in recent weeks of the role of the youth in SA's political future. The assassination of Chris Hani threw into sharp relief the political militancy of this poorly defined section of the population.

It was a group of youths who booed Nelson Mandela at the FNB Stadium during commemorative proceedings for Hani and it was youths who went on the rampage outside the stadium five days later during funeral speeches.

In Cape Town, Durban, Maritzburg and Port Elizabeth it was "groups of youths" who participated in incidents of looting during city centre marches.

Heroes or Villians? is an attempt to understand what happened to the youth in the '80s when they were at the forefront of efforts to make townships "ungovernable".

The significance of Jeremy Seekings' book extends beyond its 100-odd pages as it represents the most thorough attempt to understand the political role of youth in the '80s.

He spends much time trying to define "youth" He says that as SA went through social upheaval in the mid-'80s "childhood, youth and adulthood became blurred as the natural progression from home to school, and then to work became anything but commonplace" In this context "youth" came to be understood as those having particular attitudes and behaviour, rather than those belonging to a defined age group

Two divergent stereotypes of youth as "apocalyptic" or "liberatory" developed as a result.

In the apocalyptic stereotype "youth are not only associated with violent behaviour; violence is largely understood in terms of the youth".

"In the more extreme versions of this view, the youth had become synonymous with savagery," he says. This in turn led to the false perception that youth were exclusively involved in violence

"The liberatory view of the youth, in contrast with the apocalyptic view, focuses on the political commitment of the youth and their struggle for justice and liberation"

The liberatory view saw youth as "young lions" who formed the core of political revolution.

While Seekings identifies the two stereotypes, the rest of his book does little to develop or dispel them

Instead, he merely states that "studies suggest that neither political youth nor anarchic youth constitute a majority of the total population of young people". Perhaps this is because the two stereotypes have such wide resonance with South Africans who primarily encountered youth in these two roles.

Seekings manages to capture the politicisation of the youth in the '80s and the role played by organisations such as the SA Youth Congress in mobilising and channelling militancy into political struggle.

He goes some way to describing the degeneration of this political mobilisation into a growing involvement in acts of political violence and ultimately the establishment of violent gangs within politically organised youth.

But Seekings fails to give enough attention to how the active encouragement of youth to engage in quasimilitary activity with direct political aims created the space in which this degeneration occurred.

For the most part, he describes the political leadership of the youth as disappointed bystanders powerlessly observing the decay of their noble ideals

Many youth leaders no doubt detested the violence of their supporters but there can be no question that violence was actively encouraged by others who sought to use the youth as political cannon fodder in the war against "puppet structures" in the townships.

A case could be made that the ambivalence in the political leadership, some of whom believed insurrection was possible, led to the failure to rein in the youth when this was still an option in the mid-'80s.

Seekings does, however, make the point that "the insurrectionary beliefs of many youth leaders led them to prioritise struggle rather than organisation-building", adding that many of the "first generation" youth leadership were removed by the state and replaced by less sophisticated militants.

Seekings admits to being unable to say whether youth were inherently predisposed to violence, or encouraged to this end.

"Are young people distinctively militant, politicised or involved in violence? This remains unclear," he says While they played a central role in many protests and intitiated violence, there was no clear contrast between their actions and those of older people

Seekings fails to answer the question "heroes or villians?", but he goes a long way towards understanding youth politics.

With the future of the politically directionless youth uncertain, it is a timely work that deserves attention from those grappling with ways to eliminate violence and establish a new culture of tolerance

RAY HARTLEY

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

Section 52A of the Child Care Act: exemptions

28. Mr K PADAYACHY asked the Minister for National Health and Welfare:

(1) Whether any exemptions in terms of section 52A of the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act No 74 of 1983), have been granted since the commencement of this Act for children under the age of 15 years to be employed; if so, (a) how many and (b) to whom in each case;

(2) whether she will make a statement on the matter? D183E

The MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) No,

(a) and (b) fall away;

(2) no.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

INTERPELLATIONS

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

General Affairs:

Military units dissolved/bases closed

*1. Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of Defence:

(1) Whether any military units were dissolved and/or bases were closed during the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available; if so, how many;

(2) whether any further units will be dissolved and/or bases will be closed; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

B754E.INT

*The MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Mr Chairman, at the outset I want to say that I appreciate the interest of the hon member in this case. I also appreciate his concern and that is why I should like to put the matter in perspective

The process of rationalisation in the Defence Force was not limited to the past year, and has been applied for the past four years at least. This arises from the changing security situation in Southern Africa. A large-scale conventional threat is not foreseen in the immediate future. Certainly, the Defence Force's military successes of the eighties brought a large measure of stability to Southern Africa.

Since 1989 the budget of the Defence Force in real terms has been pruned by an average of 10 % per annum. Over the past five years it has been curtailed by 45 % in real terms. This does not apply to the SA Defence Force only, however. Since 1986 NATO countries have pruned their expenditure on defence by an average of 6,5 % Since the same year the USA has pruned military expenditure by 13 % in real terms and plans to reduce it by yet another 18 % over the next four years.

Rationalisation and/or expansion is taking place continuously as part of the SA Defence Force's strategic management process Decisions are not taken lightly in this connection, but only after thorough evaluation by the SA Defence Force. Over the past 12 months all divisions of the Defence Force were considered thoroughly and specific rationalisation took place. If my time does not permit it, I shall deal with this more fully in a separate statement.

In any case I now want to deal with a matter that the hon member for Pietersburg probably has in mind. It deals with the group headquarters of the SA Army. I should like to bring perspective to this and make an announcement. Certain group headquarters are being amalgamated as follows: Group 14 headquarters at Potgietersrus with Group 45 headquarters at Pietersburg, with the retention of the name Group 14 headquarters at Pietersburg; Group 19 headquarters at Rustenburg with Group 20 headquarters at Klippan, with retention of the name Group 19 headquarters at Klippan; Group 34 headquarters at Welkom with Group 24 headquarters at Kroonstad, with retention of the name Group 24 headquarters at Kroonstad; Group 26 headquarters at Jagerfontein with Group 35 headquarters at Bloemfontein. It now becomes Group 35 at Bloemfontein. [Time expired.]

*Dr W J SNYMAN: Permit me in this first round to welcome the hon the Minister back in Defence Force ranks after being a Deputy Minister in earlier years at the time when former State President P W Botha was the Minister Those were very good, prosperous years in comparison with what is happening in the SA Defence Force now. Nevertheless the hon the Minister is wished everything of the best with this task from this side, because we have always been very strongly in favour of a strong, prepared Defence Force. A strong, prepared Defence Force was without doubt always the best insurance policy against a communist takeover of the RSA.

That is why we shall keep supporting the SA Defence Force on one condition—I repeat, on one condition—namely that the Government will not bow to pressure to place the SA Defence Force under the control of a subtransitional council. If the Government does that, it will have to shoulder the blame and the responsibility for the consequences which will follow such a

The MINISTER No, Mr Chairman, there is no reason to answer a question at this stage [Time expired]

Mr A RAJBANSI Mr Chairman, on a point of order. Complaints carrying my signature were lodged in Pretoria Only when they were investigated

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! That is not a point of order.

Debate concluded

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply·

General Affairs

Adoption of orphans from Bosnia/Eastern Europe

*1 Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

(1) Whether any representations have been made to his Department with a view to allowing orphans from Bosnia and/or other Eastern European countries to come to the Republic for purposes of adoption, if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom, (b) when and (c) what was (i) the purport of and (ii) his response to these representations;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D205E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Home Affairs):

(1) During February 1990 a request for the adoption of 500 Rumanian Muslim children was received from the Muslim Board for Prison Welfare and State Institutions via the Department of Foreign Affairs. A request dated 12 June 1990 was also received directly from the aforementioned organisation. However, as the adoption of foreign children by South African couples falls outside the functional scope of the Department of Home Affairs the organisation was requested to clear the matter with the Department of Health Services and Welfare: Administration House of Delegates before the Department would consider the admission of the children to the RSA.

A request by Dr I I Sooliman dated 31 March 1993 for the temporary care of children from Bosnia was also received by the Department. The request has been referred to the Department of Foreign Affairs to clear the matter on diplomatic level with the authorities of that country. The matter will receive further attention as soon as feedback from the Department of Foreign Affairs is received However, the attention must be drawn to the fact that this request is in respect of homeless children and not so much in respect of orphans This request is that the children concerned will be taken care of in South Africa for a period only and that they will thereafter return to Bosnia.

(2) Falls away.

Mr A RAJBANSI: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, is he prepared to answer any supplementary questions?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do not think that would serve any purpose I would, however, like to suggest to the hon member . . . [Interjections] No, I do not think the hon member should take any joy in this. If the hon member wishes to raise any additional questions he should take the matter up with the hon the Minister of Home Affairs

Mr A RAJBANSI: Did the hon the Minister say I should not take any joy in this? [Interjections.] That is arrogance! That is typical NP arrogance and the hon the Minister must change his attitude.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member must take his seat. The hon the Minister may proceed

The MINISTER: When the hon member cools down I would like to suggest to him . .

Mr A RAJBANSI: Do not tell me to cool down. You are arrogant and we will put a stop to that.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order!

The MINISTER: The hon member may take this matter up with my colleague during the debate on his Vote

Mr A RAJBANSI: To hell with you! We will take it up during the election.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! Did the hon member for Arena Park say "to hell with" the hon the Minister?

Mr A RAJBANSI: Yes, Mr Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member must immediately withdraw that remark

Mr A RAJBANSI: I will withdraw it, but I will take him in an election.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member must withdraw the remark unconditionally

Mr A RAJBANSI. Mr Chairman, I withdraw it unconditionally

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon the Minister may proceed.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I wish to repeat my invitation to the hon member to take this up with my colleague in the debate on his budget Vote on 13 and 14 May [Interjections.] Otherwise the hon member can either deal directly with Foreign Affairs or with the Administration: House of Delegates.

Ombudsman: investigation of complaint re land allocation

*2 Mr A RAJBANSI asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department requested or was involved in requesting the Ombudsman to investigate a complaint (file reference 7/2–37/93) relating to land allocation matters concerning the Administration: House of Delegates; if so, what are the relevant details,

(2) whether his Department has received any response to this request; if so, what response;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D206E

The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

(2) No

(3) Falls away

Mr A RAJBANSI: Mr Chairman, on a point of order: I tabled this question for the hon the State President to answer. The hon the Minister should have done his homework and checked my question. He seems to take joy in this.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! The hon member must take his seat. The question on the Question Paper is directed to the hon the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs and he has answered it

*3 Mr M F CASSIM — Finance. [Question standing over.]

Own Affairs

Chairman of the Ministers' Council

Sale of shopping complex in Ladysmith

*1. Mr A RAJBANSI asked the Chairman of the Ministers' Council:

(1) Whether the Ministers' Council (a) took any decision in respect of, or (b) was involved in the sale of, a shopping complex owned by the Housing Development Board in Ladysmith, if so, why;

(2) whether the Ministers' Council determined a selling price in respect of this complex; if so, what was the (a) price so determined and (b) market value of this complex,

(3) whether the Ministers' Council was at any time involved in the sale of other shopping centres; if so, what are the relevant details? D166E

The CHAIRMAN OF THE MINISTERS' COUNCIL

(1) (a) Yes, the Ministers' Council referred representations made to it to the Housing Development Board for its urgent consideration.

(b) No.

(2) No.

(a) and (b) fall away.

(3) No. Not that is known.

Mr A RAJBANSI: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Chairman of the Ministers' Coun-

Star 6/5/93

13 000 children raped

More than 13 000 rape cases involving children under 14 have been reported over the past five years to the South African Child Protection Unit, it was reported at a news conference in Pretoria yesterday. — Sapa.

298

The war of the cultural workers

w/End Mail in W/Mail · 7/5-13/5/93 · (292)

Does the ANC really have the interests of artists at heart or was its Culture and Development Conference an elaborate way of making culture a weapon once more — this time an election weapon?

MARK GEVISSER *investigates*

"YOU keep interrupting me ... If this is a sign of things to come, I am very worried." These words were spoken on *Agenda* last Thursday night by Professor Njabulo Ndebele, internationally acclaimed writer with impeccable African National Congress credentials. What was astonishing about these words is that he was talking, not to an "enemy of the people", but to one of his supposed comrades, Mewa Ramgobin of the African National Congress' Department of Arts and Culture (DAC).

Ndebele had been trying to explain why his National Arts Initiative (NAI), launched last December as a broad-based lobby of artists and arts administrators, had made the decision to be non-aligned and had decided to negotiate with state structures and accept state money. Ramgobin, who was touting the ANC's own arts initiative, the Culture and Development Conference (CDC) which took place last week, would not let him get a word in edgeways. It was the latest volley in a territorial war that began when the DAC was piqued at having being excluded, along with all other political parties, from being a participant at the launch of NAI in December.

What Ndebele said on national television was echoed by many following the week-long ANC conference on the future of the arts at the Johannesburg Civic Theatre. In an open letter to Ramgobin and DAC head Wally Serote, the NAI's general secretary, Mike van Graan, took up the cudgel (see page 15). The ANC, he wrote, "is threatened by independence in the arts, and ... seeks to control and manipulate the arts in ways not too dissimilar to our past rulers ... We watch again as the arts are sacrificed on the altars of political expedience, held ransom by the egos of commissars, conscripted by p ty political agendas."

T way in which Ramgobin vilified NAI is, Van Graan feels, a dire hallenge to artists' indepen- den "Those of us who fought alo ide you against apartheid, thou that now at last we will have the s e to create, to sing, to laugh, to criti e, to celebrate our visions, - uni red. We were wrong."

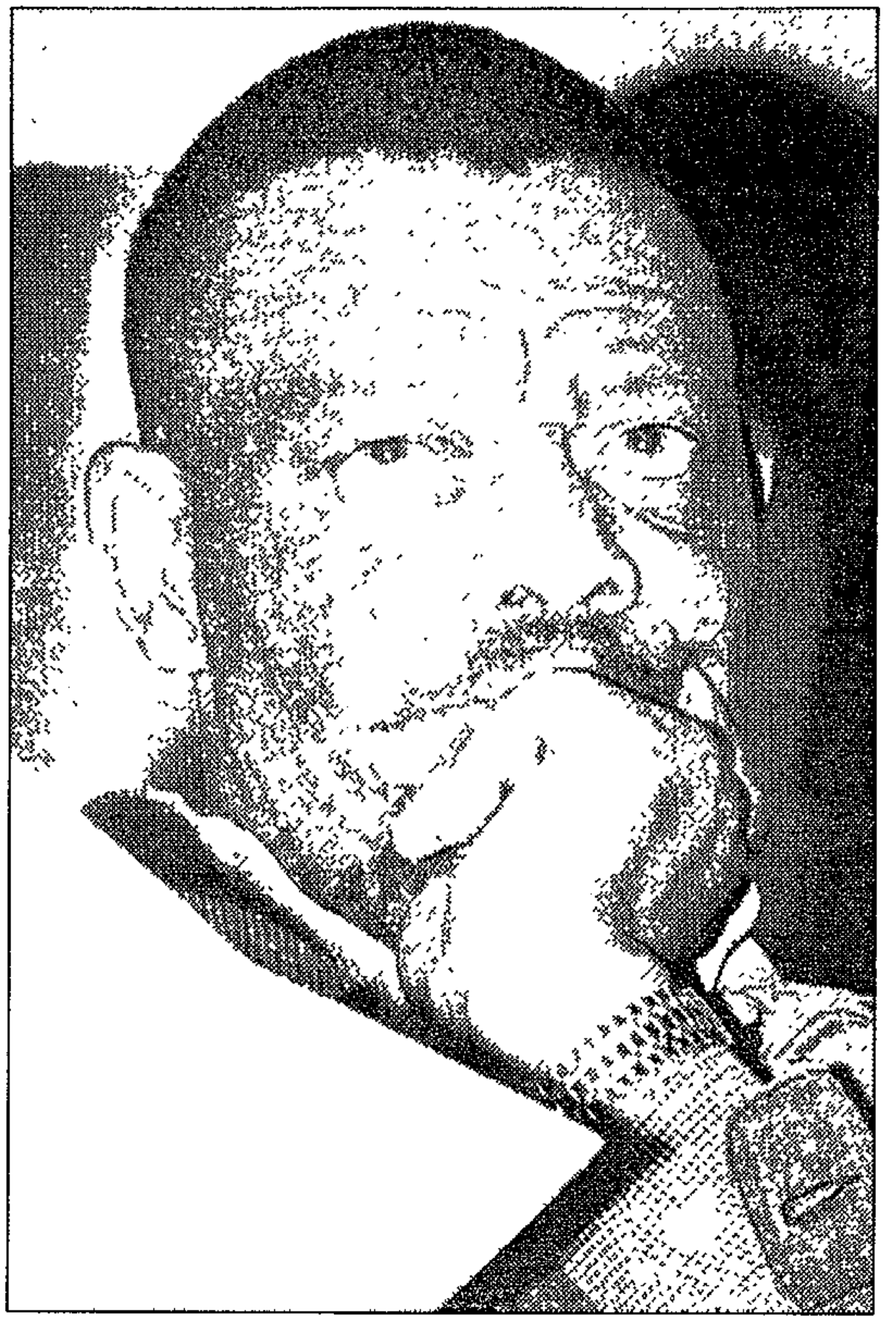
W the CDC conference came up with veral laudable — if predictable — resolutions (such as the need for a separate ministry of culture in a new South Africa), many of the DAC's own delegates are infuriated by the way it was held. "What I saw," says one, "was a crude notion of asserting ANC control rather than a broad exploration of the role culture can play." (Like all the delegates spoken to, he insisted on remaining anonymous despite intense dissatisfaction with the DAC in the arts world, Van Graan alone is willing to go public.)

The DAC objects to these characterisations and Serote says he is "surprised" at Van Graan's allegations, as "the NAI was invited to participate fully in the Culture and Development Conference but rather chose an observer status."

At the conference, Serote tried to assuage fears by insisting that "the future government should enshrine the principle of artistic freedom". Both he and Ramgobin claim they have demonstrated the DAC's commitment to independence and non-sectarianism by appointing a board of trustees during the conference.

According to Serote, these trustees will not only administer a Foundation for Arts and Culture (which was launched with Jackie Mason's R100 000 donation), but will be "the guardians and custodians of the resolutions of the conference, responsible for implementing these resolutions and for negotiating with other structures."

Serote is adamant that this board is an "organ of civil society and not of the ANC". He also says that all those appointed have "low political profiles". They include Nadine Gordimer, the rectors of three black universities, playwright/director Mbongeni Ngema, major arts funder Ivan May of Nedcor, Hazel Feldman, formerly of Sun International, Stellenbosch economics professor Sampie Terreblanche, and several others.



Wally Serote ... Still singing the struggle tune? **Photo: SYLVIA MORESCHE**

But, in his letter, Van Graan takes issue with the board's appointment, saying that "many of them are ANC members or known ANC sympathisers" and points to the irony of the ANC criticising the government for unilaterally installing an SABC board of directors while doing the same themselves.

Once more, Van Graan's comments are backed up by DAC delegates who attended the conference. "The board of trustees was presented as a fait accompli," says one. Indeed, no discussion was allowed on the matter at the conference, and there was not even the show of a democratic election. Even more strangely, only five of the 15 new trustees were present — most had not even attended the conference: "How can they be the custodians of our resolutions," says the delegate, "if they don't even know what the resolutions were?"

Serote says the new trustees were kept informed "every step of the way about resolutions, even if they weren't there." But Hazel Feldman, who was only informed about the conference just before it was to begin and thus did not attend it, still has no idea about its resolutions. While she is "totally supportive of the concept of a foundation as a step in the right direction", she recalls that DAC once asked her in passing if she would be interested, but never came back to her. She was thus surprised to learn of her appointment.

Serote feels the conference was successful on three scores: it came up with "broad objectives around redressing apartheid cultural imbalances"; it made sure that "democratic culture will become mainstream"; and it explored the role that the state is to play in culture. It worked, he says, "as a facilitating conference enabling people from different spheres to work together, and also as a consultative conference, at which the ANC heard ideas that will be the basis for policy."

But a senior player in the cultural world feels it failed on both the latter counts: "Firstly, it should have laid the basis for a broad unity with NAI, and in fact the very reverse occured. Secondly, it was about policy-formulation, and yet its policy was weak and vague."

Indeed, the most disappointing thing about the CDC was its lack of vision: the conference's rhetoric seemed to ride upon the easy clichés of the past — "redressing the imbalances of apartheid"; "democratising culture"; "returning culture to the people." But, with the exception of a paper on restructuring the performing arts councils by Carol Steinberg of the Performing Arts Workers Equity, there was little creative and pragmatic thought about how this might be done.

One delegate feels that "this whole conference was an electoral strategy — an attempt to bring arts workers behind an ANC electoral campaign."

Peppering the proceedings were "cultural events", praise-poems to the struggle: it was a revealing throwback to the 1980s, to the days when culture was a weapon. Clearly, the ANC needs to use whatever culture it can find to help it win an election, and that is its prerogative. But a conference putatively about "development" is more than a little dissembling. At its best, CDC committed the ANC to an active role in supporting culture once it comes to power; at its worst, CDC attempted to commit arts workers to an active role in the service of an election campaign.

A pint-sized praise poet steals the show

W/mail 7/5-13/5/93.

One of the most surprising 'speakers' at Oliver Tambo's funeral was seven-year-old praise poet Hartie Dasuga.

By **FERIAL HAFFAJEE and JACQUIE GOLDING**

"ONE setttlller ... one bullet ... Peace among men ... Izweleeethu!" shouted seven-year-old praise poet Hartie Dasuga at Oliver Tambo's funeral last Sunday.

He's so cute, you could easily forgive this popular young *imbongi* his ideological contradictions. Dasuga came with a group of African National Congress supporters from Phola Park, Wattville and Thokoza, almost invisible among a forest of pangas, steel pipes and traditional weapons.

Intent on getting into the graveyard, the group caused a few moments of panic for suited security men before more persuasive Umkhonto weSizwe soldiers got them to sit outside in the early winter sunshine.

A megaphone — well-worn and held together with tape — was hauled out and a "speaker" called to stave off boredom.

Instead of the usual rambling ideologue, the slightly built and rather shy Dasuga, dressed in a "Top Action" tracksuit, was lifted from an old man's lap and hoisted to the front of the crowd.

From the moment the megaphone was lifted to his mouth, all coyness was forgotten. He launched into a five-minute incantation of praise to a range of leaders from Nelson Mandela to — wait for it — Margaret Thatcher.

His voice rose and fell, it shouted and chided, his hands moved, showing the crowd when to ululate and when to be quiet. The convoy of dignitaries due to arrive was temporarily forgotten by the entranced audience.

The young *imbongi* also preached the virtues of armed struggle, ending on a note that captures the South African contradiction: "One settler, one bullet ... Peace among men!"

By then, a disparate group of peace monitors, MK soldiers and armed hostel-dwellers had gathered around him, pressing money into his hand, imploring him to do it again.

An MK cadre pushed a hat on to his head, a woman from Transkei gave him five cents and a wealthier marshal pressed a crisp R10 note into his hand.

Members of the crowd wielded their pipes and axes, telling loudmouths in the group to *"Ai wena, shoosh!"* as they craned to listen to their tiny muse. Proud father William Dasuga gave him a drink of Coke and made him go again, nervously mouthing the words, willing his son to get it right.

Hartie goes everywhere with the group: "We all know him," said one of the few women around. And this was obvious from the way he mingled comfortably with everybody, moving aside a spear here, a pipe there to make a space for himself on the grass.

He attends school but speaks no English. His father speaks via a translator explaining that his son has always been interested in the singing and toyi-toyiing of his older counterparts in the Phola Park squatter camp.

"Hartie is my last-born and he likes the poetry of Mzwakhe," says Dasuga senior, a hawker in the township. "He's always with us when we march to rallies or funerals," he says, rubbing little Hartie's head, "and he's going to be a great leader one day."

But Hartie has no intention of following in Mzwakhe's footsteps, making incantation his daily work. Instead, he looks down at the grass, shifting a stone with his takkie and whispers: "I want to be a lawyer."

Youth League warns media

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — The Western Cape branch of the ANC Youth League warned the Press and the SABC yesterday to "lay off the youth"

The media was threatened with protest action if reporting continued to portray the youth in a way which made them "vulnerable to right-wing attacks".

Secretary Neville Naidoo said at a news conference that while the league supported the freedom of the Press, the organisation could not allow the media "to create conditions for threats and assassinations of youth leaders"

Examples of the attacks on youth were that statements and songs of league president Peter Mokaba were blown out of proportion and the youth described as marginalised, militant, radical, violent and ill-disciplined

Naaidoo announced the launch of a programme of action including the targeting of institutions of power such as police stations and administration buildings.

This would begin after May 15 if government failed to commit itself to holding elections and satisfying other demands.

Chairman Mcebisi Skwatsha said if the youth league felt the ANC was not acting in a way it accepted, it would take its own line and adopt its own tactics.

Violence claims 12 lives in two days

AT LEAST 12 people were killed in violent incidents across the country yesterday and on Wednesday.

Gunmen killed five people, including a one-year-old child, in an attack on the house of a KwaZulu policeman in Umgababa on the Natal south coast on Wednesday night, police said yesterday.

Durban police spokesman Capt Bala Naidoo said four gunmen wearing balaclavas and armed with AK-47 rifles shot dead Const Alson Mkhize, 51, and one-year-old Sithebile, and injured Mkhize's wife Gladys at their home.

Naidoo said the attackers stole a 7,65mm pistol and ammunition before fleeing and shooting at the house, killing three more people.

Police were offering a "substantial reward" for information leading to the arrest of the killers, said Naidoo.

The ANC and Inkatha said yesterday they were investigating the incident.

Yesterday two people were shot dead near the Natal Midlands town of Wartburg. Police said five men opened fire on a kraal with shotguns, killing a man and a woman who had not yet been identified.

Meanwhile, youths in Dundee's Sibongile township in northern Natal stoned police vehicles in retaliation to alleged teargassing, said the ANC.

Maritzburg police spokesman Capt Henry Budhram confirmed there had been confrontation in the township but could not immediately give details.

Dundee ANC secretary Desmond Budhram said Inkatha supporters had held a meeting in Sibongile township on Wednesday night. He said the meeting ended peacefully. However, ANC-supporting youths continued to "keep watch" in the area and police arrived at midnight and allegedly began teargassing them.

He said youths began stoning police vehicles when police again fired teargas at them yesterday.

Budhram said police would respond to the ANC claims later.

In Cape Town yesterday, three men were shot and killed and a woman was seriously wounded when violence flared again in Boystown, Crossroads.

Residents of the settlement near Cape Town claimed they were shot at by attackers when they tried to run to the local police station for help.

Two badly charred bodies, one with shotgun wounds, were found in the same area on Wednesday, bringing the death toll to five. A number of shacks were torched

Lt John Sterrenberg said police were still trying to esablish the motive for the attacks and killings.

In other incidents of violence two bread delivery vehicles were attacked and burnt in Umfeleni, Kuilsriver. The attackers made off with bread worth about R10 000 and caused damage estimated at about R170 000 to the vehicles.

The Human Rights Commission reported yesterday that violence had claimed 46 lives in the past week.

Sebokeng in the Vaal Triangle emerged as a focal point of violence, accounting for 13 of the deaths.

At Tigane township in the western Transvaal, violence centred on the funeral of an Inkatha member and six people died

Attacks on whites in the PWV and Border regions claimed five lives. There were 16 attacks against security forces, resulting in two deaths.

Natal's toll of 10 (in the week) showed a decrease from the 30 recorded the previous week and from this year's weekly average for Natal of 23. — Sapa.

TRANSNET LIMITED

TENDER NO. PPN 1/12/3/4024/1
SALE OF LAND:
EAST LONDON
ON THE BANK OF THE NAHOON RIVER

Propnet, a Business Unit of Transnet Limited no 90/00900/06, invites tenders for the purchase of certain land in East London, in extent approximately 13,1225 hectares being portion of Erf 10337 East London, situated on the bank of the Nahoon River, also known as Lot Silverstrand.

Tender documents, containing full particulars of this proposed sale are available at

Mandela visits slain boy's parents

CHRIS BATEMAN

LONDON — ANC president Nelson Mandela saw the ugly face of racial violence in Britain yesterday when he met the London parents of a black matric pupil stabbed to death by a gang of white teenagers.

He emerged from the encounter to express "great concern" at the resurgence of racism worldwide.

"This is a very disturbing development ... especially in a place like Britain, the home of parliamentary democracy. We are used to this kind of thing in SA, but I have a sense of deep concern that it should happen here."

He spent 20 minutes talking to Neville and Doreen Lawrence, whose son Stephen, 18, was stabbed twice by a group of four to six white teenagers while waiting for a bus in southeast London two weeks ago. Police, who have yet to make an arrest, said the attack was unprovoked.

Doreen Lawrence said they had received no messages of condolence from the British government; "yet a leader of a country from abroad can be interested".

The couple say they passed on the names of their son's killers to the Metropolitan police, whom they accused of being "cavalier and patronising".

Scotland Yard said a "dedicated" team of officers was investigating the Lawrence murder "diligently and with total professionalism".

Music soothes kids affected by violence

ST Times 9/5/93

By RYAN CRESSWELL

TWO women are using music to take youngsters from gangland to the bandstand.

Musician Sharon Katz, 38, and sociologist Marilyn Cohen, 42, are bringing hope to children traumatised by violence as they work their way through schools in Natal and Kwazulu.

The two claim music therapy teaches co-operation and helps instil a sense of self-worth and purpose.

"It also seems to turn gang leaders into band leaders. After playing an instrument or singing they open up and start speaking about their problems."

Last Christmas, the therapists spent the day with friends in a township near Durban.

Mrs Katz was playing her guitar when a group of youths started to stone them. She continued playing and a youth carrying a toy AK-47 began strumming it as if it were a guitar. Then all the stone-throwers took turns to strum her guitar.

The duo are currently training 500 children from 20 schools in and around Durban to take part in a music celebration for peace in conjunction with Napac.

Music therapy has been used successfully for years overseas but it is fairly new to South Africa.

Said Mrs Katz: "Children from all communities, black and white, are traumatised and suffering from various degrees of stress because of violence. Music makes meetings between children from different communities possible."

Mrs Katz has a master's degree in music and music therapy from Temple University in Philadelphia and fronts her own band, Afrika Soul. She met Mrs Cohen, an American and former director of Philadelphia's Mental Health Department, while she was living in the United States.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply.

General Affairs:

Early childhood education: expenditure

303. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

What percentage of the (a) overall budget and (b) education budget for 1993–94 has been allocated to early childhood education? B698E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

In the allocation of funds to the respective departments of State responsible for education by the Minister of National Education, no provision is made specifically for preprimary education However, all the departments, including those of the Self-Governing Territories, provide for preprimary education in their budget.

Transnet pension funds: actuarial deficit

311. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

(1) Whether any pension funds of Transnet show an actuarial deficit; if so, (a) which pension funds, (b) what are the deficits in each case and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) when (a) were the last actuarial valuations of these funds undertaken and (b) is it estimated that the funds will be fully funded at the current rate of contributions? B710E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES

The Managing Director of Transnet Limited has furnished the following reply to the hon member's question:

(1) Yes.

(a) Transnet Pension Fund.

(b) R10 472,4 million.

(c) 31 March 1992

(2) (a) 31 March 1992.

(b) The current contribution rate contributes marginally towards the funding of the shortfall but is not sufficient to cover the discounting rate by which the shortfall increases. The balance of the deficit will be paid to the Pension Fund as lump sums out of profits of Transnet within ten years.

Own Affairs

Model B/D schools: monetary allocations

58. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(1) Whether any of the provincial executive departments of education make funds directly available to Government schools (Models B and D) in the form of monetary allocations, over and above salary payments to teachers; if so, (a) what policy is followed in this regard in each such province and (b) what sum is provided, *per capita*, for (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools;

(2) whether any changes were made to the above-mentioned policy in 1992; if so, what changes,

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? B669E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) No,

(a) and (b) fall away;

(2) no;

(3) no.

Private schools: subsidies

62. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(1) Whether any private schools in (a) the Transvaal, (b) Natal, (c) the Cape Province and (d) the Orange Free State (i) applied for and (ii) were granted a sub-

Child abuse draft bill

LEGISLATION which would compel all people to report child abuse was being prepared, Deputy Welfare Welfare Boy Geldenhuys said yesterday. (298)

The law currently obliged only doctors to report abuse.

REPORTS, Business Day Reporters, Sapa

BDAY 12/5/93

deputy; ... moumeme. Dr Abdelmoumeme ... suspended when he announced his decision to stand.

... partment Japan ... off fish imports from the Maldives ...

Unicef acts against child labour

Guardian 14/5-20/5/93 (298)

By John Rettie in New Delhi

UNICEF, long criticised for being too soft on India, has gone public in an offensive against the use of child labour in Indian industry. As part of its new campaign, it is also co-ordinating efforts by non-governmental organisations to get Western buyers to refuse to buy Indian carpets made with child labour. The aim is to put pressure on the Indian government, as well as manufacturers, to act against the abuse.

With the boycott gathering strength in Germany, and the Harkin bill on the verge of enactment banning such sales in the United States, Christian Aid and Anti-Slavery International are working to expose to British consumers the conditions under which children produce many Indian carpets. A new labelling system is being planned to show carpets' origins.

In Delhi, Unicef held its first press conference on the exploitation of millions of children in India. Eimi Watanabe, the UN agency's representative said from 94 million to 100 million children from the ages of six to 14 were working instead of attending school.

In 1986 India approved a law regulating child labour, though not actually banning it. But Dr Watanabe said: "Enforcement is at best haphazard. The lack of political will to do so is a serious constraint. Of course nobody says they're in favour of child labour, but they shrug their shoulders and give poverty as an excuse."

In fact, she said, Unicef believed that making children work long hours for minimal pay in dirty and often dangerous conditions actually entrenched poverty. It ensured that they grew up uneducated and undernourished, perpetuating their poverty into future generations.

In the past child labour has been treated as a matter of social welfare. But Unicef has now understood that it is a broader question of development. Not only do children have the right to at least primary education, but they should no longer be used as cheap and submissive labour that depresses adult wages.

"It is a question of establishing the ethic that childhood is a time for growth and education, not labour," Dr Watanabe said. To press for this, Unicef was taking advantage of India's recent ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989.

Though child labour is common almost everywhere, the south of India is far ahead of the north in fighting it. The state of Kerala, where literacy is well over 90 per cent, even among women, has almost eliminated the practice.

Now the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu is following in its footsteps. The use of the state's children in the dangerous business of manufacturing fireworks has almost been stopped, but many are still working in unhealthy small factories or cottage industries making matches by hand. Most are girls.

In this year's budget speech the state finance minister, V. R. Nedunchezhiyan, promised legislation to make primary education compulsory, and a five-year campaign to eliminate child labour — problems which Dr Watanabe described as "two sides of the same coin".

She pointed out that, unlike many other Asian countries with more successful economies, India spends much more on higher education than on primary education. This widens the divisions in society. At the same time, the vast sums going into rural development "are often misdirected, benefiting those with connections and knowhow rather than the poorest," she said.

All the same, "a total political commitment is coming in Tamil Nadu, and it is already there in Kerala. We hope it will soon move up to Maharashtra and Gujarat," states on India's west coast.

There is still no sign of such a government commitment, however, in the Hindi heartland of the north.

: and terror ● SAP now seen in a better light

'Sister shot 8 times'

Soweten 14/5/93.

298

■ **CASH CALL** Men demanded money

By Tsale Makam

A 14-YEAR-OLD was shot eight times and an eight-year-old stabbed to death with a spear as they hid under a bed at their home in Boipatong on June 17 last year

This was said by matric pupil Miss Alice Nonjoli as she recounted in the Delmas Circuit Court yesterday how her family was attacked that night.

Thirty-two Inkatha Freedom Party members have pleaded not guilty to 45 counts of murder resulting from the massacre at Boipatong.

The accused, all dwellers of the KwaMadala Hostel near the township, are each on bail of between R500 and R1 000

Nonjoli told Mr Justice AJ Smit that she peeped through the window and saw about 150 men at a street corner wearing blue overalls and white headbands.

"I grabbed my four-month-old daughter, who was asleep, and hid with her in the wardrobe. Fikile (14) and Ndo (8) were sleeping under the bed."

Two men entered the bedroo dragged Fikile from under the bed a demanded money.

"When she told them it was mother who had the money one of men shot her eight times with a pist The other leaned over the bed a stabbed Ndo," she told the court..

"I did not leave the wardrobe unt heard neighbours' voices in the hou We found my mother-in-law lying the dining room floor with bullet a hack wounds."

NEWS Girl tells of Boipatong murder and terror ● SAP now seen in a better light

Police image is improving - NPS

■ **Better relations established with black community:**

Ismail Lagardien
Political Correspondent

THE perception that the police were the "strong arm" of the Government was fast disappearing, Mr Antonie Gildenhuys of the National Peace Secretariat said yesterday.

In his report on the NPS, tabled in Parliament yesterday, Gildenhuys said the "poor relations between the South African Police and the black community" had been a serious impediment to peace in the past.

"This relationship is changing for the better," he said.

The SAP's department of community relations was playing a vital role in building confidence between police and ordinary citizens in black communities.

"Much more so than in the past, the police are prepared to act pragmatically as circumstances require," Gildenhuys said.

'Sister shot 8 times'

By Tsale Makam

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"I did not leave the wardrobe until I heard neighbours' voices in the house. We found my mother-in-law lying on the dining room floor with bullet and hack wounds."

Youths highlight child abuse

Sowetan 18/5/93

By Don Seokane

2.98

■ Youngsters at parenting workshop to promote culture:

A WORKING group comprising youths in Seshego and Lebowakgomo has been formed to promote culture and the arts and to highlight the ills of child abuse.

The group was formed during the Pick 'n Pay-sponsored *Sowetan* Nation Building workshop at Seshego's St Paul Lutheran Church on Sunday. Group co-ordinator Mr Lerato Ramodisetsi of Lebowakgomo said experts would be invited to workshops and seminars to inform communities, particularly the youth, on child abuse.

Street demonstrations would also be embarked on to make communities aware of child abuse. The workshop, which was addressed by social workers and psychologists, heard how the use of harsh language to children qualified as child abuse.

"Nicknames that relate to a child's physical characteristics usually extend from family to school and later become names that belittle the child," social worker Ms Ntepu Moselenyane

Edited by Marika Sboros

parenthood are enough to make them take the final step in contraception. By middle age, sterilisation is the most popular form of contraception for both sexes. — The Star Bureau.



Unshaken by the big split

Star 19/5/93

298

DAMAGE DENIED: Couples about to get divorced can take heart. Breaking up may temporarily sadden their children, but needn't lead to permanent emotional damage, a new study shows.

CHILDREN are not usually permanently damaged by divorce, says a 10-year study which challenges the widely accepted view that marital break-up leads to a high incidence of depression, and emotional and behavioural problems such as dropping out of school and drug abuse.

In the study, Australian academics Rosemary Dunlop and Ailsa Burns, of Sydney's Macquarie University, contradict world famous research by Californian psychotherapist Judith Wallerstein which was widely publicised in the late 1980s.

The Australian study of 78 children, half of whom had divorced parents, shows that the children of divorced parents do experience some problems such as depression and disfunction.

But, Dunlop says, psychological tests revealed identical problems among the children whose parents were not divorced.

"I therefore question whether attributing these difficulties to divorce is valid," she says.

"We conducted long interviews with all the children at three stages of their development during a 10-year period, and certainly those whose parents had divorced were sad and unhappy about it, but there was no evidence that they were permanently harmed."

The American study, which tracked the emotional state of 131 children of divorced parents, was the basis of a best-selling book by Wallerstein called *Second Chances*.

It backed other US research showing a high incidence of depression, and emotional and behavioural problems such as dropping out of school and drug abuse. It also suggested that some subjects experienced difficulties as young adults in forming permanent, committed relationships.

A report by Dunlop on the Australian study indicates that adolescents who do not have a healthy and strong relationship with at least one parent are more depressed and have lower self-esteem whether their parents are divorced or not. Although children might be emotionally distressed by divorce, if they had a strong relationship with at least one parent they emerged, in many cases, better than if they had lived in an intact family in constant upheaval.

"It is the level of conflict that matters most," says Dunlop.

A Johannesburg divorce lawyer, who cannot be named for ethical reasons, says that although many South African psychologists might disagree with the findings, he agrees that divorce may be better for children than letting them stay in a family riddled with tension.

South Africa has one of the highest divorce rates and is fast approaching the American rate of one marriage in two ending in divorce. On the Witwatersrand, which has the highest divorce rate in the country, more than half of marriages end in divorce, the lawyer says.

SAPA-AFP AND
PHANGISILE MTSHALI

Star 19/5/98

Divorce: courts to protect children

By Shirley Woodgat

298

Family courts will provide better protection for children caught up in divorce cases since the law will become more accessible to the parents, said Helen Starke, national director of the South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare.

Family courts operating on a regional basis would make the law more user-friendly and would also destroy the outdated apartheid structures of black divorce courts.

Since the court would form part of a new lower court system, the lower rates of black divorce courts would apply to everyone.

"Greater accessibility to the law is an ideal of all judicial systems worldwide, but high legal costs usually shatter this ideal. The recommended family courts will make this ideal a reality in South Africa," Starke said.

Other advantages included the availability of the services of the Family Advocate for all children and the provision that particularly difficult cases relating to children would still be heard by the Supreme Court.

Starke said although the recommended new court was not a fully-fledged institution as recommended by the Hoexter Commission, it was hoped the children's and maintenance courts would soon form part of the family court system.

Frederick Cleary recalls the 1933 Roosevelt labour corps scheme, and suggests it could play a key role here

Helping our lost generation will pay us dividends too

Star 19/5/93

(298)

WHAT is to be done about the so-called "lost generation", those thousands of young people now in their late teens and 20s, with little or no education and without any skills or training by which they could earn a decent living, even if the economy did improve?

We know the root cause of this sorry situation — the grossly inequitable distribution of resources for black education under the apartheid system, plus its politicisation, which for years has severely disrupted everyday schooling. The result: yearly, thousands of youngsters are turned loose on society, ill-equipped to make a contribution.

Idle and despondent, they roam the cities and townships. Many do seek work, but there is that hard core which resorts to crime and will be attracted to whatever political demonstration is on offer, making the most of the moment to assault, loot and damage.

Aware of this sociological monster in our midst, the Government is reported to be working on a solution, and Nelson Mandela and other concerned leaders are said to have offered suggestions.

So far no concrete proposals have been published, but it is generally agreed that ways must be found to harness as many of these youngsters as possible and channel their energies into constructive uses.

MPs call constantly for an organisation similar to the American Peace Corps. It is a wrong analogy. Instituted by President Kennedy in 1961, the Peace Corps comprises, in the main, educated and skilled young men and women willing to give two years of their lives to help train and help less fortunate people in Third World countries.

The United Nations and other countries have since formed similar bodies, and today thousands of these volunteers are to be found in Asia, Africa, South America and wherever else they are needed. They are usually educators, medical staff, administrators, social workers, technicians and such, supplementing the work done for so long by missionaries.

A better model for South Africa to emulate is the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), created in 1933 by President Franklin Roosevelt as part of his New Deal policy, when he set out to pull the United States out of the maelstrom of the Great Depression.

With an estimated 250 000 young people drifting about the country, "the boy and girl tramps of America", as writer Thomas Minehan called them, Roosevelt offered all young people aged between 18 and 25 an opportunity to work in conjunction with the massive public works projects he was embarking on as part of his "first 100 days" campaign to revive the economy

The CCC caught the nation's imagination and by 1935 half a million young men, plus several thousand ex-servicemen, were deployed into 2 500 camps around the country on labour-intensive schemes, particularly in conservation.

Glad to earn even the low wage on offer, they worked on erosion control, wildlife protection, restoring historical sites, helping in national parks and building dams.

Their pride was restored, they earned money and they were useful members of society. By the time World War 2 arrived three million young men and a million ex-servicemen had passed through the CCC ranks.

It should not be beyond the initiative of the State and private enterprise in this country to create similar labour-intensive projects. By agreement with trade unions and related authorities, roads could be built and repaired, trees planted, rivers cleansed of pollutants, townships cleared of rubbish and maintained; the list is endless.

If and when political issues are resolved and, hopefully, the economy picks up, those showing an aptitude for skilled jobs could be guided into that direction.

There will always be the rogue element and the indolent, but there may be a surprisingly large number who, having become used to earning regular income, will want to continue to do so.

A South African CCC would cost money, but in the long term it would be a well worthwhile investment. □

Abandoned children need a family's love

By Shirley Woodgate (298) Star 20/5/93

Four months ago a Xhosa-speaking youngster called Andile, who has a sister called Zodwa, was found wandering near the Meadowlands police station in Soweto.

Except for these three slender details he is a non-person.

He has been given the surname Hadebe, which is conferred on all lost or abandoned children placed in the care of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS)

No one knows where he lives, who his parents are or when to celebrate his birthday — even he is unaware of it.

He is one of about 16 children being cared for at any given time by the JCWS, said spokesman Sarah Hudleston

Speaking ahead of International Child Protection Week from June 1, Hudleston said the private welfare organisation was bursting at the seams and in desperate need of foster parents to care for youngsters in the PWV area.

Call social worker Mosima Mogashoa at (011) 331-0171 ext 2279 or see her on the 17th floor, 112 Main Street, Johannesburg.

Just where do they fit in?

Star 21/5/93

298



Disaffection among South Africa's restless township youth is recognised as having the potential to wreck any settlement likely to be reached at the World Trade Centre. Health Writer DAVID ROBBINS talked to a psychologist who is doing something about the plight of the youth.

THEY grew up in a tradition of death or glory, but for millions of them the options are now far less glamorous. Worse still, they often perceive no options at all. They've been called "marginalised" and "lost". They're South Africa's urbanised black youth, and they constitute a problem which will dominate the inner terrain of the country for a long time to come.

"There'll certainly be no quick fixes," says Melvyn Freeman, a psychologist who has worked extensively with township youth and heads the mental health programme at Wits University's Centre for Health Policy.

"Black youth have been in the forefront of the struggle which has transformed the country over the past 30 years, but in many ways they have been denied a fitting climax. They never had the hero's moment, the victory, the recognition of past endeavour. Now they stand on the sidelines of the negotiating process, being told — even by their own leaders — to do this and do that."

Freeman is in the process of setting up pilot programmes in Soweto schools where suitable psychological intervention can be used to help those young people caught in what he sees as a severe identity crisis.

But what is suitable psychological intervention? Freeman believes that a sound understanding of the reality is crucial here, and in his quest for this he has overlaid modern thinking on adolescence on to the South African phenomenon of black township youth.

Crises

Particularly useful have been the theories of Scandinavian/American youth psychologist Erik Eriksen, who sees human development in terms of an individual responding to a series of crises throughout life, the most important of which is the identity crisis which occurs just before adulthood. The young person is confronted with a series of questions: Who am I? What am I in relation to others? What am I to become?

Eriksen identifies several crucial factors coupled to this identity crisis. The first is that, certainly in adolescent males, [illegible] is a "craving for locomo[illegible] through sport and danc[illegible] to participation in the [illegible] political movements [illegible]. There is also a crav[illegible] and a sense [illegible] a group.

[illegible]tant factor is Eriksen's realisation that people can't be isolated from their time and place, and that the "social historical" context is "inseparable from and incorporated within each individual".

It was perhaps this combination of the vitality of youth with the enmeshed psycho-social nature of humanity which illumined most clearly for Eriksen what he called the rejuvenative power of youth.

"Adolescence is a vital regenerator in the process of social evolution," Eriksen wrote. "Youth can offer its loyalties both to the conservation of that which continues to feel true and to the revolutionary correction of that which has lost its regenerative significance."

While acknowledging that South Africa's township youth is by no means a homogeneous group, Freeman uses Eriksen's general views to establish a psychological understanding of the involvement of youth in the political struggle.

Although resistance to white rule began long before 1960, and although the youth had always been prominent in it, it was only after the Sharpeville killings that young black people began to rebel against conservative adult leadership. The rise of Black Consciousness in America during the mid-1960s, and the liberation of countries in Africa, further encouraged young blacks to take responsibility for the liberation of their country.

"In Eriksen's terminology," Freeman explains, "the adolescent identity crisis was being resolved by the external reality. Young blacks began to see themselves not so much in relation to a more complex future as adults, but more clearly in relation to the struggle. They were freedom fighters: this gave them their strongest sense of identity and purpose and allegiance."

The Soweto uprisings of 1976 reinforced with fire and blood what had been started a decade and a half before. The young were the liberators of their people. The youth took control of black communities.

All through the tumultuous 1980s, this process continued with the formation of political organisations, street committees, people's courts.

Contact between the youth and the stabilising effects of adult influence all but collapsed. The youth's craving for allegiance and solidarity often took the form of brutal intolerance. The youth themselves were killed, detained and tortured.

"In spite of all the excess, all the physical and psychological oppression, this was a time of real power and surety for the township youth," Freeman says. "They had a vision of the future. The liberation which they had engineered was now within their grasp. The country was in crisis, and the identity of most black adolescents was intimately tied to the struggle.

"Remember the slogan Liberation before Education? That was perfectly illustrative of the mood, and it also showed how many of the more personal questions inherent in the adolescent identity crisis — especially those related to their personal futures — had been shelved."

But what has happened since February 1990? The rationale for millions of black youth has to a large extent evaporated, and underneath is an identity crisis of enormous proportions. As freedom fighters they have indeed been marginalised, and many youths are confused and often deeply pessimistic, forced now to ponder the elemental adolescent questions: Who am I? What am I in relation to others, and to my own country? What am I to become?

How, in short, are these youngsters to develop an identity which is different from the freedom-fighter identity which has existed and sustained succeeding generations for the past three decades?

"We need to return to Eriksen," Freeman suggests. "He talks of the power inherent in the youth to evaluate the reality of their society, to rejuvenate what feels true and to reject what is decayed. In just such a way, the concept of liberation felt true, while the conservatism and defeatism of the older generation was seen as decayed.

"I think we need to accept that the future being offered to them now does not ring sufficiently true. The problems inherent in that future are enormous. Think only about the crises in education and employment. How can we expect the youth, demoralised by these impediments, to suddenly change from freedom fighters to nation builders? We cannot."

Nevertheless, Freeman believes that specific psychological interventions could be crucial to improving the situation. He is not saying that individual development is the easy way to social reconstruction, but he is saying that reconstruction needs the input of psychologically healthy people.

"This, coupled with comprehensive material and social changes, would go a long way towards building a socially productive society," Freeman says.

His pilot programmes in Soweto schools will be owned by the youth who make use of them, and they are likely to include segments which help young people to deal with their own past, both personal and social, and others which deal with life skills such as communication, conflict resolution, and personal relationships and generation conflict.

The Witwatersrand Mental Health Society will help train the facilitators to be used in the pilot intervention programmes.

Contribution

"But, above all, right now, everyone needs to understand and to proclaim that the youth have a specific historical role," he says. "By history, I mean the broad continuum of human activity. We need to help them to find their place in that continuum. We need to acknowledge that the youth have made a major contribution to recent historical processes, and that their future role is just as important, even though it might not be as glamorous."

Freeman adds: "Helping to start a process in which the youth see themselves as socially significant, and in which their natural regenerative power is channelled towards the development of a new social order, will be one of the most important tasks confronting South Africa during the next decade." □

'Ambitious' is the most popular word

Star 21/5/93

298

THE picture of black youth which emerges from the CASE youth survey is very different from the popular stereotype of red-eyed anarchists hellbent on political confrontation and violence. Some are frustrated and confused, certainly, but most are also ambitious and happy.

This is by their own admission. The several thousands of respondents to the CASE questionnaire were given a list of 30 adjectives with which to describe their feelings. They were asked to choose three.

The most popular word, chosen by 21 percent of respondents, was "ambitious". Next came "happy", then "caring", then "confident" and "honest".

The first negative adjective to appear on the combined list, "confused", was chosen by 4 percent of young people, while 2 percent went for "angry" and 1 percent for "violent".

Although "frustrated" was selected by only 3 percent, the level of disaffection which must exist among young black people was forcefully expressed when 62 percent of the respondents felt that they could not fulfil their potential.

Interestingly, 44 percent of their white counterparts felt similarly.

The main reasons given for this inability were lack of money, unemployment and poor education. The survey sheds revealing light on these crucial areas.

Just over 40 percent of the black youth sample are making it to senior secondary standards in school, and only one in 20 is going on to get diplomas or degrees.

More than a million black children have a primary level education only. Main reasons for the high dropout rate are: lack of money (65 percent of respondents); pregnancy (13 percent); poor health (5 percent); lack of interest (2 percent); and political activity (1 percent).

Unemployment plagues black youth, who are assumed throughout the CASE survey to be between ~~16 and 30~~.

Around 3 million of them are unemployed, and 15 percent of these have been unemployed for six years or more. The situation is worst in the 16 to 19 group where more than 80 percent are not working.

White youth unemployment, on the other hand, stands at a modest 4 percent.

The inequity continues in the workplace. Of the black youth who are working, 82 percent earn below R1 500, while 75 percent of employed white youth earn above that.

Yet in spite of these frustrations, life goes on for the vast majority of South Africa's 8,2 million black youth.

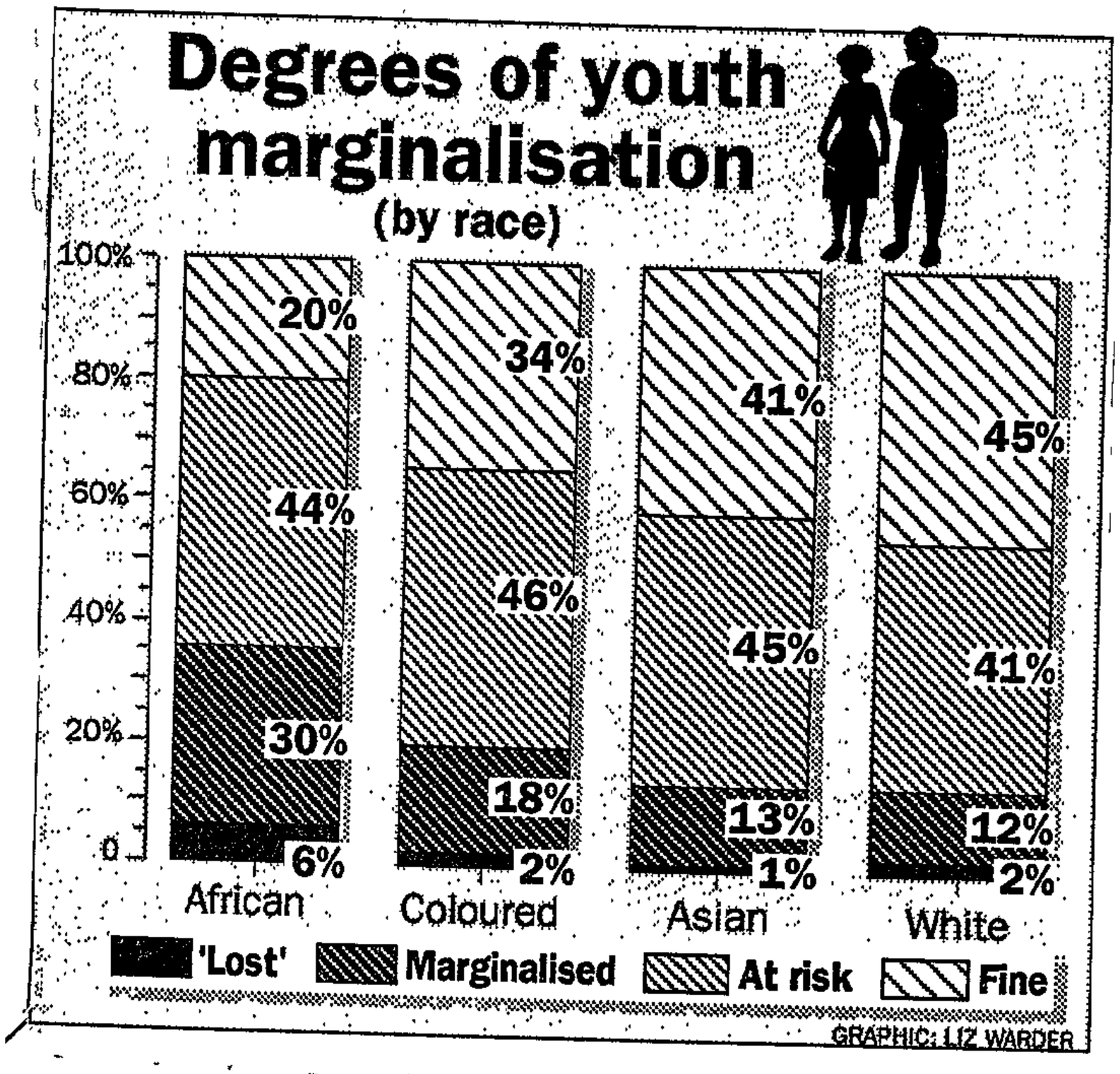
It's a life of dangerous ignorance for some. The survey revealed that nearly 300 000 young people have not yet heard of Aids; of those who had, the majority believed they were not at personal risk.

It's also a life of frightening violence. The youth are often called a violent generation. More accurately, they are a brutalised generation.

Probing specifically into domestic violence, the survey found that 2 percent of young people had been abused, either by physical violence or sexually, when they were children (about 160 000 cases), and that a further 22 percent knew of others who had been; that 1 percent of women questioned admitted to having been raped, and that 25 percent of them knew others who had been; and that 5 percent of young people are being beaten by their partners.

Yet it's a life of surprising faith and devotion. Most popular churches are Methodist (17 percent); Zion Christian Church and other independent churches (16 percent); Apostolic and Catholic churches at 13 percent each.

Religious affiliation is by far the most important organisational involvement for black youth. More than 40 percent are formally affiliated, while 32 percent are members of sports bodies, and only 15 percent are attached to political organisations □



Examining a bruised and battered group

Star 21/5/93

298

WHAT is to be done? When commissioning the CASE youth survey, the Joint Enrichment Project specifically requested that the survey results should lend themselves to the design of programmes which target the country's bruised and battered youth.

The CASE researchers have done just that, and they have also produced a comprehensive set of recommendations for action.

The emphasis is on a holistic approach, says research co-ordinator Dr David Everatt.

"By allowing youth to express their views on a mix of socio-economic, political and psychological concerns, the survey highlights the fact that, for example, economic security does not necessarily lead to emotional and mental well-being.

"A national youth development policy or interventionist programme must not approach youth merely as potentially productive units in the labour market, or numbers in an education strategy.

"Young people are complex individuals who have signalled the range of their concern through the survey.

"This complexity must be recognised, and to be successful any youth development programme must deal with the full range of these concerns simultaneously."

The concerns of youth range from economic, educational and social issues, to psychological scarring and conflict in the family.

The survey found that respondents tended to describe themselves in positive terms (ambitious, happy, caring), but they were also pessimistic about the future.

Positive

"The task of policy makers and programme designers," say the CASE researchers, "is to harness the positive aspects of our youth, their energy and affirmative self-image to a set of interventions which will allow young people to overcome the negative future they perceive."

Specific suggestions are aimed at various strata within youth society.

For those young people categorised as "fine": provide leadership training; encourage them to act as peer educators and role models; identify what makes them "fine" and draw on their ideas and experiences.

For those in the "at risk" group: encourage the establishment of small local enterprises and self-employment; provide skills training; improve the resources of the voluntary organisations in which they participate.

For the "marginalised": apply all the measures above, and also encourage communities to re-integrate and sustain this group; devise programmes to encourage them into the norms of the community, and to re-channel aggression; provide assertiveness and communication training; multiply crisis centres and counselling clinics.

For the "lost" youth: provide skills training and education, perhaps leading to a remission of sentence for those in prison; introduce community service for appropriate crimes, with community support for these activities, as a means of re-integrating the "lost" into the community; provide individual and family counselling by lay practitioners who have graduated from the various youth development programmes. □

Rebels without ...ing ...on's ...rd

Star 22/5/93

A GENERATION is growing up with no stake in society, writes JOE LOUW, and we ignore them at our peril.

ON A bleak Sebokeng township street, two weeks ago, a nightmarish scene unfolds. The distraught father of a 16-year-old girl, who was murdered the night before by being shot three times in the back, leaves his petrol-bombed and gutted home to confront a group of six youths allegedly involved in the killing.

Enraged, the man shoots dead three of the boys and critically wounds a fourth. Hours later, the man is advised to flee the township — no one, especially not the police, can guarantee his safety.

Another scene, this time in Meadowlands, Soweto. A tobacco and cigarette salesman has just parked his brand new company car in front of a tavern when a small group of youths come around a corner and spot the car.

Seconds later, they go into battle formation and start stoning the vehicle, smashing its windows. They make several unsuccessful attempts to set the car alight.

That night, the car's owner, armed with two pistols, sets out to find the boys "one by one". He locates one of them in a backyard shack, and yet another scene of brutality occurs — he sticks one of his pistols into the boy's mouth and threatens to blow his brains out The boy's hysterical mother prostrates herself before her son's would-be killer, begging for his life.

Somewhere in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg, the chilling cruelty of a group of young black "marauders" has made an impression on a well-known liberal journalist.

A Staffordshire bull-terrier, he reports, was tied to a tree, doused with petrol and set on by fire by "township louts" whom he also describes as "pubescent males, breaking free of all restraint to form hunting packs to pillage and burn — they can lay waste an entire civilisation".

These and many other examples are typical of the kind of wanton acts ascribed to the "lost generation"

"We are a nation at war with its future, for we have turned our children into a generation of fighters — battle-hardened soldiers who will never know the carefree joy of childhood," wrote newspaper editor Percy Qoboza in the mid-'80s.

"What we are witnessing is the growth of a generation which has the courage to reject the cowardice of its parents

"There is a dark, terrible beauty in that courage ... a source of great pride, but it is also a source of great shame that this is our heritage to our children the knowledge of how to die and how to kill."

Increasingly, in the past two years, the grave crisis experienced by young black people in South Africa and the frightening escalation of violence appear to give Qoboza's words the chilling certainty of a prophecy

The battle-hardened township children who so courageously defied Casspirs with stones and petrol bombs in the 1980s have now grown into young adults. And a massive segment of these young people are part of what, for the lack of a better term, is being labelled the lost generation. They are angry, frustrated and left out — out of schools, out of work, out of hope — and as a result they are often volatile and violent.

They have little or no respect for authority — any authority

Steve Mokwena, a youth worker attached to the Joint Enrichment Programme



LIVING DANGEROUSLY: Township youths catch a ride to the funeral of slain SA...

dents to take pride in their restructured municipality; acceptance of joint responsibility and involvement by all in the running of their town; recognition of the necessity to pay for services, rentals and rates as well as maintenance of the town without the threat of boycotts "as a political tool"; the creation of jobs; the urgent upgrading of Alexandra, and provision of housing.

Also on Gardiner's agenda is achieving a secure environment throughout the town, enforced, if necessary, by a municipal police force.

His most important and immediate task is to present a budget. Sandton will make provision for funds for Alexandra from revenue collected from business rates.

The uncertainty felt by residents, ratepayers and municipal officials about their future must be addressed, he says.

Gardiner sees the growth of office space in Sandton, which has be-

Rebels without a cause

Star 22/5/93

298

A GENERATION is growing up with no stake in society, writes JOE LOUW, and we ignore them at our peril.



LIVING DANGEROUSLY: Township youths catch a ride to the funeral of slain SACP leader Chris Hani. ● Photograph: JOE LOUW

ON A bleak Sebokeng township street, two weeks ago, a nightmarish scene unfolds. The distraught father of a 16-year-old girl, who was murdered the night before by being shot three times in the back, leaves his petrol-bombed and gutted home to confront a group of six youths allegedly involved in the killing.

Enraged, the man shoots dead three of the boys and critically wounds a fourth. Hours later, the man is advised to flee the township — no one, especially not the police, can guarantee his safety.

Another scene, this time in Meadowlands, Soweto. A tobacco and cigarette salesman has just parked his brand new company car in front of a tavern when a small group of youths come around a corner and spot the car.

Seconds later, they go into battle formation and start stoning the vehicle, smashing its windows. They make several unsuccessful attempts to set the car alight.

That night, the car's owner, armed with two pistols, sets out to find the boys "one by one". He locates one of them in a backyard shack, and yet another scene of brutality occurs — he sticks one of his pistols into the boy's mouth and threatens to blow his brains out. The boy's hysterical mother prostrates herself before her son's would-be killer, begging for his life.

Somewhere in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg, the chilling cruelty of a group of young black "marauders" has made an impression on a well-known liberal journalist.

A Staffordshire bull-terrier, he reports, was tied to a tree, doused with petrol and set on by fire by "township louts" whom he also describes as "pubescent males, breaking free of all restraint to form hunting packs to pillage and burn — they can lay waste an entire civilisation".

These and many other examples are typical of the kind of wanton acts ascribed to the "lost generation".

"We are a nation at war with its future, for we have turned our children into a generation of fighters — battle-hardened soldiers who will never know the carefree joy of childhood," wrote newspaper editor Percy Qoboza in the mid-'80s.

"What we are witnessing is the growth of a generation which has the courage to reject the cowardice of its parents.

"There is a dark, terrible beauty in that courage ... a source of great pride, but it is also a source of great shame that this is our heritage to our children: the knowledge of how to die and how to kill."

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They have little or no respect for authority — any authority.

Steve Mokwena, a youth worker attached to the Joint Enrichment Programme (JEP) of two major church groups, says most of these "marginalised" youths — he refuses to refer to them as the lost generation — feel they owe nothing to the "civilisation" referred to by the journalist.

"This so-called civilisation," he says, "has systematically brutalised, isolated, imprisoned and ripped apart the very fabric of its own communities. A civilisation that killed hundreds and maimed thousands more, and sent children into exile and detention. They feel they owe it nothing because most of them have nothing and are getting nowhere."

There are, according to social analyst Colin Bundy, serious social and structural pressures in South African society that increase the marginalisation and alienation of huge numbers of young black people — quite independent of their rebellious disposition.

A major factor is economic. A recent survey just published by the JEP reveals that more than half of all employable South Africans between the ages of 16 and 30 — about 3 million young people — are unemployed.

And this pool of "dropouts" is fed by an average of 300 000 school-leavers every year who have not been able to secure either jobs or the opportunity of further education.

Mokwena believes that much of the positive political culture of the '80s is now turning sour. "The generation gap has brought with it increasing conflict between youngsters and their elders," he says. "Where they used to occupy centre stage in determining what happens in the township, leadership is now with the returned leaders who have come back from exile.

"And when the organisations were unbanned, there was a heightened expectation of a better deal — better housing, schools, jobs etc. But the very slow progress being made, coupled with these unrealistic expectations, turned zeal into frustration and has in itself become a recipe for further violence."

Joining street gangs and finding an outlet for their frustration in criminal activities has become almost like a survival tactic, Mokwena says.

Station guards assault street children with plank

SOUTH 22/5 – 26/5/93



MISSING: 16-year-old Ikaram Johnson disappeared from the Grand Parade in Cape Town on Tuesday. He is physically disabled and unable to talk, although he can understand when he is spoken to.
Ikaram is 1,6m tall, weighs about 50kg and has brown eyes of which the right one is squint. He was last seen wearing blue trousers, a yellow and white shirt, white North Star tackies and maroon socks.
Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to contact Sergeant Steven du Plessis at (021) 461-4370, (021) 461-7282(ext 244), (021) 461-4326 or 10111.

By Donald Zake 298

A SECURITY company charged with patrolling Cape Town station has been administering its own rough justice to street children found in the area — with a half-metre long piece of plank.

On Saturday a SOUTH reporter saw a uniformed Springbok Patrols guard beating a street child in the company's glass-fronted office at the station.

Several other children, under the watchful eye of a truncheon-bearing guard outside the office, appeared to be in line for a beating.

Another child emerged crying in pain, appearing to have already been hit.

At least five other blue-uniformed Springbok guards were inside the office while the boy was hit. The boy who appeared to be about 12 years old, later gave his name as Samuel Johnson.

Asked why the boys had been beaten, the guard who had administered the hiding replied: "Did you see me hitting them?" and tossed the plank he was holding out of sight behind a cupboard.

The guard refused to give his name. Another guard covered up his own identity card.

"These children cause problems, *meneer*," one guard said. The Springbok employee outside the office let the remaining children go as the reporter emerged.

The Director of the Homestead project for street children, Ms Annette Cockburn, said it was "absolutely unacceptable" to beat street children in this way.

"As far as I know it's not legal either. It seems to me like common assault," she said.

"If the public or security guards want to lay a complaint against street children, there are legal channels for them to do so. But to take the law in hand and beat them up, I believe is unacceptable."

A spokesperson for Metro, the Cape commuter train service, said: "We obviously don't condone any behaviour like that," and asked that any such incidents be reported to Metro's own security chief, Mr Andre Roets.

Springbok Patrols' manager Mr Martin Fraser said he knew nothing of the incident, and promised to investigate. "We are very strict about things like that," he said.

Mandela calls for lower voting age

ST Times 23/5/93

298

Sunday Times Reporter

ANC president Nelson Mandela told supporters at a rally in Dundee yesterday the organisation would demand that the legal voting age in South Africa be reduced to 14.

Mr Mandela said the ANC would "put tremendous pressure" on those wanting to retain the present voting age of 18, so that ANC youth could take part in elections.

"They say a person under 18 can't think correctly and make a wise choice. We reject that, and demand the voting age should be 14.

"ANC youths left school from the age of 12 to join Umkhonto we Sizwe, and now that we have to vote, we are told those at the forefront of the battle must not vote. We reject that.

"Those who fought for freedom are the very people it is said should not vote," said Mr Mandela.

He said 14 was the legal voting age in at least seven countries, and "in our country there should be no exception".

Mr Mandela made an impassioned plea to his supporters to seek peace with their Inkatha Freedom Party rivals, adding that several initiatives were under way for a summit between himself and IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

He said despite reported denials by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini that he would facilitate an ANC/IFP presidential summit, plans were still under way for the meeting.

THE CELL BLO-

C1Press

City Press takes a look at the plight of SA's baby jailbirds

By MOSES MAMAILA and JUSTICE MOHALE

THE prisons story remains the same The good, the bad and the ugly

Perhaps these words describe the story of the infants who are innocent, but are in jails where their mothers are serving sentences

City Press this week visited the Johannesburg Prison, also known as Sun City, where some of the 189 children under the age of four are kept

This is what our investigations revealed

The good Most mothers are happy that the law allows them to stay with their babies and children, some of whom were born in prison

A 27-year-old mother, who was jailed in May last year after being convicted on fraud charges, said her 10-month-old baby was born in prison.

"I am very happy because I am staying with my child My boy keeps me happy and stable I do not have many things to think about because I have the company of this boy," said the woman

She said the prison authorities had done everything humanly possible to make the child as happy as possible, adding that there was very little that could be done to improve the situation

"The prison provides milk, food, toys and creche facilities for the children What more can they really do?" explained the mother

Most mothers were pleased that the old racist laws had been scrapped and that prisoners were not divided along racial lines

"We are leading the way to the new SA We are living here happily side by side, without any racial hatred," said a white Bolivian mother who was arrested in 1991 at Jan Smuts Airport after being found in possesion of drugs.

The bad Most mothers however maintained that prison was not the right place to bring up kids



INSIDE STORY ... This toddler is just one of a 189 such cases in SA jails today. Although the mites are being well looked after, others say jail is no place to bring up a child.

"Despite all the facilities for the kids, prison remains a prison and this is not an ideal place to keep children," said a 32-year-old mother who was arrested after being found in possession of dagga

"This place is too cold. It is not healthy for crawling toddlers because the floor is very cold," she added.

Another prisoner said that children were being punished for the deeds committed by their mothers

"We must admit that we are responsible for the suffering of these kids Right now they cannot go and play in the garden or sit in the sun because they are imprisoned," said the worried mother

The ugly: The women prisoners expressed their concern over the fact that children were exposed to fighting among inmates.

"There are all these evil fights in the cells over men although we are all natural women," said a 19-year-old mother who was more explicit about sex in jail

"Fights are triggered by petty things in the cells Sometimes one would complain that another woman had taken her lover You see what makes it all a joke is that all these people are women, but they have divided themselves into sexes

"This is the evil that the children are exposed to in jail," said the woman, adding that the place was hell

According to deputy director communications of the Correctional Services, Col Danie Immelman, between March and May this year there were 189 children under the age of four in prisons countrywide

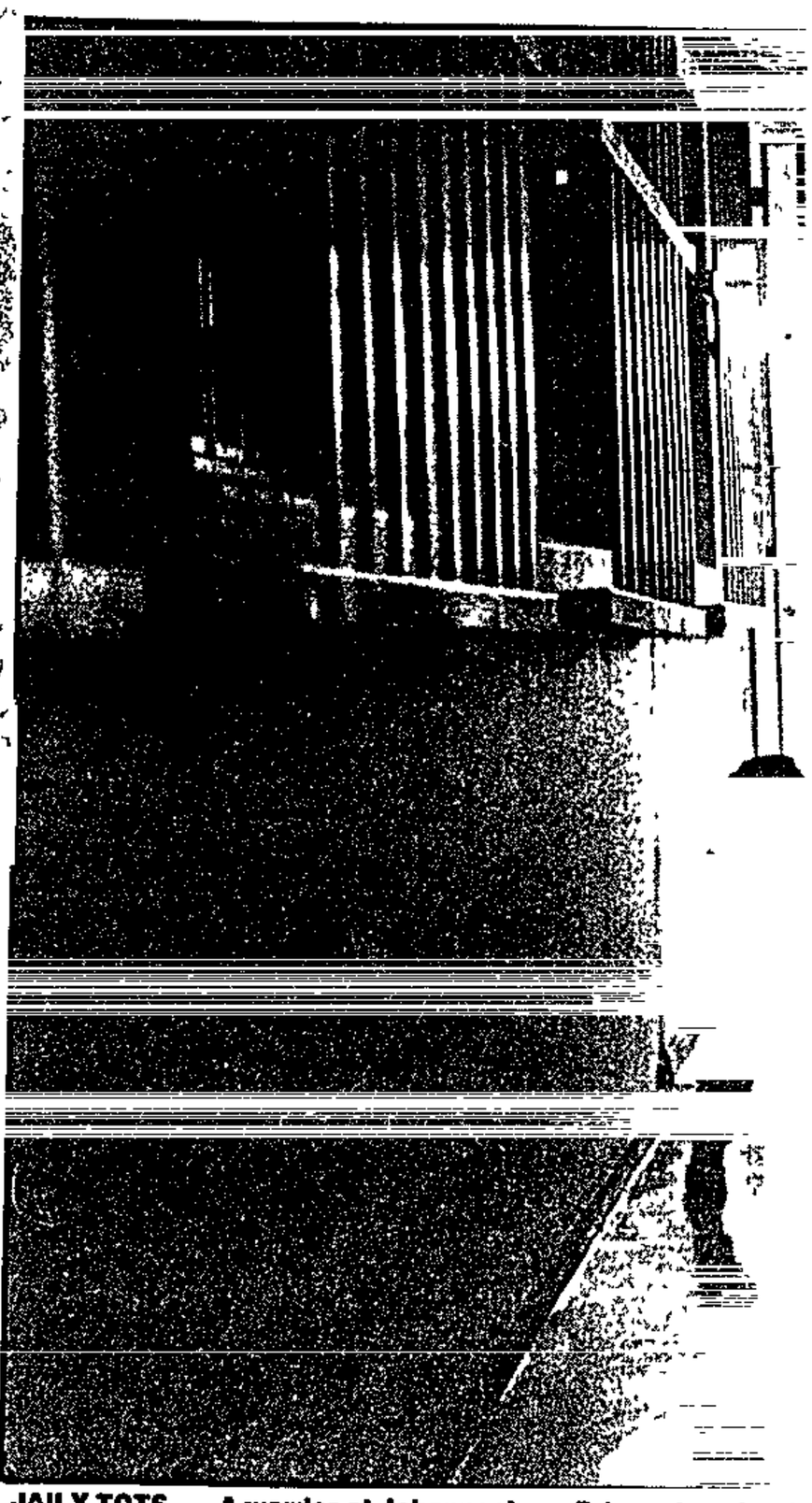
Of this number, 154 are black, 30 coloured, three white and two Asian

A total of 53 of these children were born in custody.

Immelman said everything possible was being done to secure the interests and welfare of the children

The children were visited by a doctor twice a week. Although there was a hospital at the prison, those with serious cases were referred to an outside hospital

■ A programme on children in prison will be televised on TV1's *Agenda* tonight



JAILY TOTS ... A warder at Johannesburg Prison does her [illegible] responsible for the suffering of these kids," said one [illegible]

Shot hairdresser 'damaged for life' – awaits verdict

A HEALTHY young Gugulethu hairdresser became "a profound cripple" after being assaulted by a fellow resident, the Cape Town Supreme Court was told this week

This assessment was contained in a medical report by an orthopaedic surgeon in a R1,1-million damages claim brought by former hairdresser Linda Goba

According to the report she was paralysed from the chest down after she was shot in the neck almost seven years ago

The massive claim has been brought against Gideon Malingozi

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By MARTIN NTSOFI

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IE CELL BLOCK KIDS

C1Press

City Press takes a look at the plight of SA's baby jailbirds.



and play in the garden or sit in the sun because they are imprisoned," said the worried mother

The ugly: The women prisoners expressed their concern over the fact that children were exposed to fighting among inmates.

"There are all these evil fights in the cells over men although we are all natural women," said a 19-year-old mother who was more explicit about sex in jail.

"Fights are triggered by petty things in the cells Sometimes one would complain that another woman had taken her lover. You see what makes it all a joke is that all these people are women, but they have divided themselves into sexes.

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Of this number, 154 are black, 30 coloured



JAILY TOTS ... A warder at Johannesburg Prison does her best to keep these yardbird youngsters entertained. "We must admit that we are responsible for the suffering of these kids," said one worried mother. "Right now they cannot go and play in the garden or sit in the sun."

■ Pics: MIKE MZILENI

ANC's 'Vote at 14' call wins no support

Star 24/5/93

By Brendan Templeton

ANC president Nelson Mandela's call for the voting age to be dropped to 14 was rejected outright by other political parties yesterday.

Mandela made the call yesterday and on Saturday while speaking at rallies in northern Natal.

The ANC was perfectly correct in calling for a lower legal voting age, particularly because previous white elections had led to tragic mistakes, he said

Mandela said the ANC would exert "tremendous pressure" to support its proposal

"They say a person under 18 can't think correctly and make a wise choice.

"We reject that and demand the voting age should be from 14," he said.

But political spokesmen from other parties pointed out that the voting age was set at 18 in all democratic countries.

Democratic Party leader Zach de Beer said: "I take note of Mr Mandela's argument that some of these youngsters have fought for freedom.

"This argument was used years ago and was always met with the statement that all sorts of juniors and even animals have taken part in wars, but this did not entitle them to the franchise"

Conservative Party leader Dr Ferdi Hartzenberg accused the ANC of trying to ensure it could intimidate children into voting for it.

"It's absolute rubbish . . . if you take a 14-year-old and give him the vote, you might as well give it to a 10-year-old.

"Schoolchildren are easily intimidated as they are not responsible voters. If this was the case, then it would have been started in democratic countries many years ago," he said.

Home Affairs Minister Danie Schutte said on Saturday that Mandela's suggestion would not receive serious consideration in a civilised country.

"Internationally, 18 years is regarded and used as the most acceptable voting age and there is no reason why the reduction of this age should even be considered in South Africa," Schutte said.

Youths to promote tourism

In an effort to engage township youths in promoting peace, the tourism industry and ANC are planning to train youths to take part in one of South Africa's potential growth industries.

The idea behind the planned training programmes is that if the youth understands that the tourism industry is a potential source of jobs, it might be inclined to co-operate in promoting peace.

A meeting to set up a steering committee to launch the programme was held between ANC representatives and members of the travel industry during a recent travel expo in Durban.

It was attended by ANC Youth League president Peter Mokaba, Tourism Liaison Council chairman Rupert Lawlor, SA Tour and Safari Association (Satsa) executive director John Rothschild, and Satsa member Clive Strugnell.

Lawlor said capital for the programme would be raised from the private sector and the Government would be approached to match private sector investment.

— Staff Reporter.

Youth may be cynical but they still have hope

Star 24/5/93

298

Most members of the mooted peace force are likely to be recruited from the ranks of the youth. ABDUL MILAZI spoke to young people in Soweto to find out their views on violence and prospects for peace.

DEEP cynicism has found a fertile breeding ground among South Africa's marginalised black youth, but there is hope. This was the impression gained from interviews with more than 100 young people in Soweto.

Many said the violence in the townships was an outlet for their bottled-up emotions and anger.

The recent attacks on whites were seen by some as a way of "hitting the Government where it hurts most". Eighty percent accepted violence as a means of forcing the Government to speed up the process of change.

Still, virtually all supported the establishment of a peace corps.

Sakum'zi Jele (20) said whites believed blacks did not understand politics and thought they knew what blacks wanted.

"We all want peace but, as long as blacks are treated as subhumans and passengers in the country, there can never be general co-operation and positiveness."

Thomas Motaung (25) said the peace corps would be a partial solution to the violence. The only solution was a new government representing all citizens, black and white.

"We used violence to defend our communities because the Government has always used violence against our communities. But we want peace."

Steven Mlaba (19) said he welcomed a peace corps, but peace structures would only work if the Government and its security forces changed their attitude towards blacks.

"The whites do not understand why we are a violent youth because the Government has not subjected them to the kind of violence and social conditions that we have been subjected to."

Twenty-three-year-old Francis Phiri said he would take part in the peace corps only when the Government stopped attacking black communities, while Ted Ndhlovu (20) said he wanted peace but the Government and the security forces would have to learn to be peaceful as well.

Siphiwe Ngcobo (20) said most black youngsters wanted peace but they were not given a chance to live peacefully by security forces and Government agents in the townships.

"Sure, I would take part in the peace corps but on one condition, that they be established in right-wing areas as well. There is no point in us creating peaceful townships, only to be subjected to violence (by rightwingers)," said Ngcobo. □

'Angry generation' can wreck SA talks

■ Unemployable school dropouts should be ignored at our peril:

By Mathatha Tsedu
Investigations Editor

WHAT do the millions of black youths who have dropped out of school because of political and financial reasons and are unemployed and unemployable have to gain from the talks at the World Trade Centre?

If the answer is not much, what capacity do the youths have to wreck whatever settlement may be reached there?

These are the burning questions that concern sociologists and politicians alike, especially after the Cosas victory over the DET concerning the examination fee issue

For that capitulation by the Government is indicative of the power that youths in general have.

The Community Agency for Social Enquiry (Case) undertook a 14-month study of youth groupings and found that millions were lost.

The study coincided with the publication of a book by Jeremy Seekings, "Villains or Victims? Youths in Politics".

The R28,50 book published by Ravan Press however falls short of tracing the youth's hopes and fears as it only chronicles the ANC-aligned youth groupings.

No assessment

Nowhere in the book is there any assessment of other youth groupings such as the Azanian Youth Organisation (Azayo) of the Black Consciousness Movement, or the Azanian National Youth Unity (Azanyu) of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

Instead of Azayo, Seekings talks of the Azanian Students Movement (Azasm) as if it were the equivalent of a youth organisation.

He also mispells Azanyu.

These are glaring errors and omissions that mar an otherwise worthy project.

Youths must be authors of their destiny

Sowetan 25/5/93

298

Sowetan & Radio Metro

*Talk*back



with Tim Modise

By Mzimasi Ngudle

AFRICAN National Congress president Nelson Mandela's call for the voting age to be brought down to 14 came under the spotlight during *Sowetan*/Radio Metro Talkback Show's open line last night.

Mandela had said at a Press conference in Newcastle at the weekend that the ANC's proposal would be taken to a multiparty forum where a final decision would have to be endorsed.

He said there was no reason for anyone to insist that the voting age remain at 18 while voters over the age of 18 had voted for a Government which had been a disaster.

Host Tim Modise asked a caller whether a 14-year-old youth should stand for office and be elected president.

The caller responded: "A 14-year-old cannot lead but he can vote for a president.

"I agree with what Mandela said. We, the youth, are the leaders of tomorrow."

Sibongile of Johannesburg endorsed the call that 14-year-old youths should be eligible to vote, saying:

"We are going to be the leaders of tomorrow. We must be the authors of our own destiny. We must make sure we have the right people at the top.

"A 14-year-old knows everything these days," she said.

Some of the topics covered last night included lobola, the position of whites within Inkatha Freedom Party ranks and the insensitivity of white policemen to black demonstrators.

"An exorbitant lobola impacts on the relationship between a man and a woman. It turns the woman into a chattel," said a caller.

Solly of Meadowlands said whites who occupied senior positions within the IFP were racists.

"These people are fighting against the liberation of the people. You can see they have a racist attitude towards blacks."

A black policeman, Jimmy of Tembisa, said white policemen did not handle "our people as dictated in the book of law".

He said he would not obey unlawful commands as happened in Tokoza on Saturday.

"I am angry about what happened in Tokoza. That was a wrong command which the courts would clearly not uphold," he said.

Extending the vote to 14-year-olds would stall elections — experts

BIDM 25/5/93

(298

RAY HARTLEY
and GERALD REILLY

GIVING 14-year-olds the vote could delay SA's first nonracial elections by at least 18 months, political scientists said yesterday.

They said that to extend the vote to the estimated 1,8-million 14- to 17-year-olds would create massive logistical and organisational problems, leading to delays.

They were responding to ANC president Nelson Mandela's proposal to lower the voting age to 14. While politicians heaped scorn on the proposal, the ANC Youth League endorsed it, saying the ANC feared militant youths would destablise an election if they were excluded.

League spokesman Parks Mankahlana said youths could pose a "serious problem ... they could mobilise to undermine the election". But he conceded that the minimum age of candidates in the election would have to be higher than 14.

TIM COHEN reports from Cape Town that derision greeted Mandela's proposal when it emerged that no country in the world gave 14-year-olds the vote. Parliamentary officers asked the ANC to prove his statement that at least seven other countries had voting ages of less than 18 and the ANC sent back infomation derived from the now outdated 1991 edition of World Factbook, produced by the Central Intelligence Agency. It cites, for example, 16-year-olds voting in Yugoslavia, but the country no longer exists.

DP education spokesman Roger Burrows said an analysis of 150 countries' electoral systems indicated that 19 countries had voting ages of 21, nine of 20, three of 19, 112 of 18, three of 17 and four of 16. This information was obtained from a 1993 Inter-parliamentary Union study.

In Africa, only one country has a voting age under 18 — the Seychelles, where the limit is 17 — and some set the limit at 21.

Burrows said: "The absurd suggestion that children of 14, whatever horrific or heroic experiences they have undergone, should be permitted to vote in SA's first attempt at democracy cannot be seriously considered."

NP executive director Olaus van Zyl called Mandela's idea "ridiculous".

Stellenbosch University political science department head Prof Hennie Kotze said the countries mentioned by Mandela were hardly shining examples of democracy.

Wits University political studies head Prof Alf Stadler said the population figures showed unemployed and school-going youth could "wag the political tail"; their political clout could help to neutralise the votes of taxpayers and workers who had the maturity to make political decisions.

He also said it would be an impossible task to prepare voters' lists and issue identity documents to the huge number of teenagers by next April.

● Comment: Page 10

DAILY

Patrick Laurence examines Mandela's call for the voting age to

Star 26/5/93

Playing to rebellious g

Devilishl going ba

NELSON MANDELA'S call for the qualifying age for the vote to be lowered to 14 has taken South Africa by surprise, astounding his political opponents and perhaps even catching some officials in the African National Congress off guard.

His call, made during a tour of Natal, comes in the wake of, and in contradiction to, an ANC submission to the multiparty negotiation forum that the qualifying age for the vote should be 18.

The timing of Mandela's call and his apparent willingness to contest the official ANC view, as defined in the submission to the multiparty talks, suggests that his stand was prompted by political considerations in the past few days.

One view, expressed by Ken Andrew of the Democratic Party and Piet Coetzer of the National Party, is that Mandela is attempting to gratify the restless youth in the black community.

"It has more to do with placating a rebellious youth constituency than influencing the constitutional negotiations," Andrew declares. Coetzer argues: "It is clear to all of us that the ANC has lost control and influence over large sections of its youth."

There is some evidence to support these contentions: during the student boycott in protest against examination fees, ANC calls for them to return to class were largely ignored.

The celebrated case involving Allan Boesak, ANC chairman in the Western Cape, is pertinent: when he urged protesting students in the Western Cape to desist from actions which could jeopardise their lives, Vuyiso Tyhalisisu, a student leader declared in full view of television cameras: "Comrade Boesak is ill-informed. We are in charge, not Comrade Boesak."

Mandela's reaction to calls by young blacks for guns is also relevant. Instead of rebuffing them and urging them to concentrate on their studies, he has advised them to join the ANC's guerilla army, Umhonto we Sizwe, so that they could have guns as members of a disciplined force rather than as individuals.

These episodes support the inference that Mandela's call for the vote to be extended to 14-year-olds is a bid to get on-sides with them, to placate them in order to retain their allegiance.

There is, however, an alternative, more cynical explanation doing the rounds among journalists. The supposition is that the ANC is in the process of making major concessions at the multiparty negotiations and that the call to enfranchise 14-year-olds is a diversion, an attempt to camouflage its reported conciliatory stance at the talks.

Mandela's rationale for extending the vote — that children from the age of 12 have contributed to the "liberation struggle" and are therefore entitled to the vote — is interpreted as an obfuscatory dance of dust and flies.

But, against these interpretations, ANC officials and/or ANC sympathisers argue that the pressure to lower the voting age has not built up suddenly but, on the contrary, has been maturing steadily over the last few months.

Ronnie Mamoepa, a spokesman for the ANC's department of information and publicity, recalls that Mandela first raised the question of lowering the voting age at an election workshop at the beginning of the year.

Mandela challenged the orthodox view that 18 was an appropriate age to receive the vote during a discussion at the workshop, Mamoepa says, quoting his leader as countering objections with the argument that 14-year-olds who are old enough to fight for freedom are old enough to vote when it is won.

At that conference, Mamoepa adds, Mandela listed seven countries where people younger than 18 can vote: Afghanistan, Brazil, Cuba, Iran, Indonesia, North Korea and Nicaragua

Mandela, according to statements attributed to him during his Natal visit, now believes that these countries have established an international norm to which South Africa should conform. "Our country should be no exception," he is reported to have said.

Zola Skweyiya, the ANC's constitutional expert, points to another link in the chronological chain leading to Mandela's advocacy of giving the vote to 14-year-olds: a conference of religious leaders where the idea of lower-

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O'Byrne, Percy Baneshik, Rodr
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derstand me, we each had our o
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We were there to welcome t
BBC broadcaster John Amis,
My music and *Talking abo*
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As my table companion, the d
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she saw me, "What do *you* kno
about music?" Actually that que
tion mark was really an exclam
tion mark.

I said I liked Dolly Parton.
once heard her introduced as: "An
here they are! Dolly Parton!". An
years ago I watched *La Bohem*
in Wolverhampton right up unt
the third intermission.

John Amis — cousin of Si
Kingsley Amis — is famed for hi
vast knowledge regarding classic
music and his witty way of impar
ing such knowledge. It emerged h
is also familiar with rock and po
and probably Parton.

Amis, a big grey-haired man i
his 60s who wears character-fille
trouser braces and flamboyan
ties has fallen in love with Soutl

Patrick Laurence examines Mandela's call for the voting age to be lowered

Star 26/5/93

Playing to rebellious gallery

NELSON MANDELA'S call for the qualifying age for the vote to be lowered to 14 has taken South Africa by surprise, astounding his political opponents and perhaps even catching some officials in the African National Congress off guard.

His call, made during a tour of Natal, comes in the wake of, and in contradiction to, an ANC submission to the multiparty negotiation forum that the qualifying age for the vote should be 18.

The timing of Mandela's call and his apparent willingness to contest the official ANC view, as defined in the submission to the multiparty talks, suggests that his stand was prompted by political considerations in the past few days.

One view, expressed by Ken Andrew of the Democratic Party and Piet Coetzer of the National Party, is that Mandela is attempting to gratify the restless youth in the black community.

"It has more to do with placating a rebellious youth constituency than influencing the constitutional negotiations," Andrew declares. Coetzer argues: "It is clear to all of us that the ANC has lost control and influence over large sections of its youth."

There is some evidence to support these contentions: during the student boycott in protest against examination fees, ANC calls for them to return to class were largely ignored.

The celebrated case involving Allan Boesak, ANC chairman in the Western Cape, is pertinent: when he urged protesting students in the Western Cape to desist from actions which could jeopardise their lives, Vuyiso Tyhalisisu, a student leader declared in full view of television cameras: "Comrade Boesak is ill-informed. We are in charge, not Comrade Boesak."

Mandela's reaction to calls by young blacks for guns is also relevant. Instead of rebuffing them and urging them to concentrate on their studies, he has advised them to join the ANC's guerilla army, Umhonto we Sizwe, so that they could have guns as members of a disciplined force rather than as individuals.

These episodes support the inference that Mandela's call for the vote to be extended to 14-year-olds is a bid to get on-sides with them, to placate them in order to retain their allegiance.

There is, however, an alternative, more cynical explanation doing the rounds among journalists. The supposition is that the ANC is in the process of making major concessions at the multiparty negotiations and that the call to enfranchise 14-year-olds is a diversion, an attempt to camouflage its reported conciliatory stance at the talks.

Mandela's rationale for extending the vote — that children from the age of 12 have contributed to the "liberation struggle" and are therefore entitled to the vote — is interpreted as an obfuscatory dance of dust and flies.

But, against these interpretations, ANC officials and/or ANC sympathisers argue that the pressure to lower the voting age has not built up suddenly but, on the contrary, has been maturing steadily over the last few months.

Ronnie Mamoepa, a spokesman for the ANC's department of information and publicity, recalls that Mandela first raised the question of lowering the voting age at an election workshop at the beginning of the year.

Mandela challenged the orthodox view that 18 was an appropriate age to receive the vote during a discussion at the workshop, Mamoepa says, quoting his leader as countering objections with the argument that 14-year-olds who are old enough to fight for freedom are old enough to vote when it is won.

At that conference, Mamoepa adds, Mandela listed seven countries where people younger than 18 can vote: Afghanistan, Brazil, Cuba, Iran, Indonesia, North Korea and Nicaragua.

Mandela, according to statements attributed to him during his Natal visit, now believes that these countries have established an international norm to which South Africa should conform. "Our country should be no exception," he is reported to have said.

Zola Skweyiya, the ANC's constitutional expert, points to another link in the chronological chain leading to Mandela's advocacy of giving the vote to 14-year-olds: a conference of religious leaders where the idea of lowering the qualifying age to 16 was mooted.

But to show that Mandela's stance is the product of a process, and not a sudden whim, does not explain why he chose to go public on what had been an in-house debate and still less why he decided to contradict the official ANC position in the midst of delicate negotiations.

The ANC Youth League backs his call and rejects "with contempt" those who interpret Mandela's plea as political opportunism. The Youth League labels them "apologists of the National Party".

But there is no doubt that the ANC would be the immediate and main beneficiary of a decision to enfranchise South Africans from the age of 14. ANC support is concentrated overwhelmingly in the majority black community and it is primarily black voters whose numbers will be augmented if teenagers between 14 and 17 are added to the estimated 22 million eligible voters.

J M Calitz, a demographer with the Development Bank of Southern Africa, notes that the median age of the black population is 17,1, meaning that half the black community is 17 years old or younger.

Enfranchisement of the 14-17 age cohort will add 4,7 million black voters to the electorate, against, in round figures, 320 000 whites, 202 000 coloureds and 80 000 Indians.

But any gains Mandela may make for the ANC, by pacifying the restless teenagers in his constituency with sympathetic rhetoric, are likely to be lost in the long run.

Mandela has implicitly put himself and the ANC in the same camp as regimes which, with one or two exceptions, are seen as tyrannical by the established multiparty democracies. He has reinforced anxieties first raised by his proclamations of fraternity with, and admiration for, Yasser Arafat, Fidel Castro and Muammar Gaddafi.

A future ANC government may thus find its task of attracting foreign investment to the "new South Africa" complicated, a development which may make it vulnerable to the same angry and disaffected youth. □

INTERPELLATION

The sign * indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

Own Affairs.

Children in places of safety: rules/steps

1. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Welfare:

(1) Whether there are specific rules governing the admission of children to places of safety; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether any steps are taken to ensure the physical and spiritual well-being of children cared for in such places; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

B878E.INT

The MINISTER OF WELFARE: Mr Speaker, children in all places of safety are referred to such places of safety for various reasons, mainly by children's courts, but also by criminal courts. Depending on the vacancies in places of safety, children are accommodated according to their needs, and not according to their behaviour patterns.

The facilities are not constructed in such a way as to provide for the separate detention of difficult children The staff do everything possible within their means to help each child individually with its specific problems, bearing in mind why the child is in the place of safety, but without labelling the children, which would place a further unnecessary burden on them. Although lengthy detention is not the policy, a child's specific circumstances may require this. Special arrangements are made in accordance with the spiritual needs of the children. Many major churches are incorporated in the programmes.

In places of safety they have sports grounds. Children are encouraged to participate in physical games such as ball games and swimming. Programmes for these types of activities are drawn up in conjunction with the children. Meals are prepared according to prescriptions of the State's dietician Children with special needs, for medical reasons or owing to cultural requirements, are fed accordingly and under the supervision of a dietician.

Children are allowed to wear their own clothes As far as sleeping arrangements are concerned, the majority of children are accommodated in dormitories, as only a few single and double rooms are available.

*Mr SPEAKER: Order! Hon members must lower their voices, please. The hon the Minister may proceed.

The MINISTER: All children have their own bedside cupboards. Sleeping hours are programmed for each group. Children, especially the younger ones, are woken separately by the staff on duty. Medical facilities are also available.

*The problems attached to the care of children in places of safety have been investigated. I have the recommendations of the De Meyer report here. Specific problem areas are identified in this report. At present the department is engaged in carrying out all these recommendations, for instance, making professional teams available at every place of safety.

At the moment there are certain of the places of safety which have a full multidisciplinary team available which evaluates children according to their specific requirements

We are experiencing problems, however, because at present we are upgrading certain facilities. The building structures have to be changed to make provision for children whose behaviour differs. [Time expired.]

Mr B B GOODALL. Mr Speaker, I thank the hon the Minister for her reply

I think we need to discuss the issue of places of safety, because unfortunately they have a very negative image amongst the public. Many people see them as reformatories It is unfortunate that we need places of safety, but there are children who have been abandoned by their parents and who have been physically and psychologically abused by their parents. There are also children who have become so alienated from society that they have in fact resorted to violence

I think the important thing to realise is that the children who are in places of safety are in a crisis situation, and none of them actually wants to be

there. Places of safety cater for those children whom nobody can handle or wants to handle.

Places of safety are not pleasant places, but we have to have them. We most probably have a shortage of facilities at the present moment, judging by the number of people who are being kept in police cells as places of safety.

I would like to make some suggestions with regard to places of safety. There are children who have serious behavioural disorders, and those children can seriously affect other children who may be in a state of crisis for different reasons. If we cannot physically separate children who have serious behavioural disorders from the rest, as is being advocated by the SA National Council for Child and Family Welfare, then we have got to realise that these children require more intensive therapy and that we therefore need more staff in places of safety.

I agree that we have come a long way since the De Meyer report in establishing a multidisciplinary and holistic approach towards children in places of safety, but I think the hon the Minister will agree with me that the key people are in fact the care officers and that the whole system does not work unless the care officers do their job. The Americans call them behavioural practitioners.

These people have a very difficult job, because people have to be looked after 24 hours of the day. They are dealing with difficult children They are often dealing with children who have been severely traumatised.

However, what do we pay them? The system care officer is on a scale of R790 to R1 012 per month. A care officer is on a scale of R1 012 to R1 679 per month I am surprised that we get people to do such demanding work at such a low income. [Interjections.]

The second point I want to raise concerns the fact that I was told that the courts had a very rigid approach towards placing children in places of safety One often gets a court order stating that a child must go to a foster parent or to a children's home. Children's homes do not want to take in difficult children. There is no suitable accommodation, so they are immediately placed in places of safety. [Time expired.]

†Dr F H PAUW: Mr Speaker, the question which is the basis of the interpellation of the hon member for Edenvale is certainly relevant and also timeous, especially in the circumstances in which we find ourselves

If the people of a country go mad, one has disorder, and then it is the children who suffer Children are the ones, more than anybody else, who are defenceless. [Interjections.] It is their safety and welfare that is being threatened. [Interjections.] This is specifically why places of safety are going to become more important in the future.

I want to tell the hon member for Edenvale that the people of this country went mad after the Government took over the DP's constitutional policy Is it not a direct result of their policy that a leader of a great church jumped up and down like a mad baboon wearing a dress and shouted "we are unstoppable" at a funeral? This is the type of thing that disturbs the order and leaves children without parents. This is the type of thing that brings the economy to a halt and makes it impossible for parents to care for their children.

The reply to this first part of the question is set out in detail in the Child Care Act A child who is homeless and needs care may be admitted to a place of safety and protected until he can get more permanent care. Of course, foster care, adoption and children's homes are preferable, but the place of safety has an important function as an interim measure to offer shelter and care

I believe that the hon member's problem lies in the so-called difficult to place children and other cases in which children sometimes have to stay in places of safety for longer periods These places can hardly provide children with complete spiritual welfare Nor does the Act require that religious and culture orientation should be fundamental, as in the case of foster parents and children's homes [Time expired.]

*The MINISTER OF WELFARE. Mr Speaker, the hon member Dr F H Pauw's pathetic attempt to score cheap political points here of something which is a fundamental question simply does not hold water His attempts to link the problems that are attached to places of safety with Mr Chris Hani's funeral and so on simply does not hold water. I think that the hon member is either uninformed or he did not do serious research and is now trying to politicise the matter.

I want to thank the hon member for Edenvale for his constructive thoughts on places of safety and I agree with him that serious attention should be given to the training of personnel in places of safety and that the salary structures of these people should receive attention. I think that this also emerged clearly from all the inquiries

(298)

I want to bring it to the attention of the hon member, however, that last year, after specific problems had been singled out with reference to the children in detention in police cells and in other prisons, an interdepartmental committee was appointed to investigate these problems. At present we are examining the recommendations of this committee, but it is a very difficult problem because we are going to need many, many hundreds of millions of rands to be able to supply relief even in the short term in this regard.

At present we are examining what we can do in the short term, however, at least to bring about an improvement in conditions, to differentiate between the behaviourally disturbed child and the child who is being detained in a place of safety because his parents are not in a position to care for him [Time expired.]

Mrs C H CHARLEWOOD: Mr Speaker, with regard to the question of the physical and spiritual wellbeing of children in places of safety, one of the concerns is that there are conflicting reports about the situation I refer to one in particular as an example, although others have been in the spotlight in the past Allegations include testimony from the children themselves that they are terrified of being locked in a solitary confinement cell, apparently used to punish wayward children. The social workers, however, claim that the children love going there as they can have privacy.

The cell is believed to consist of a room with bars and a bare mattress on the floor. The hon the Minister has said that food is provided according to cultural requirements, yet I can tell her about a young Jewish girl who had been placed in a home after being removed from her family because of abuse. She asked not to be given pork to eat, but was constantly served it Eventually a rabbi visited the place of safety and was told by the superintendent that pork was never served. The dietician was called in and it was confirmed that pork had, in fact, been given to her to eat, and on a Friday, the Jewish Sabbath.

As another denial of her religious rights, the girl was apparently not allowed to attend synagogue services, which was surely not in the interests of her spiritual wellbeing.

Satanism and homosexuality are alleged to be rampant in these so-called places of safety, and yet the official response is that the allegations have been investigated, that the children referred to have received the best possible treatment and attention and that their best interests are considered at all times.

Where does the truth lie? Is it somewhere in-between or is there a complete distortion of fact from either one side or the other? I think it is important that this is cleared up. What opportunities exist for persons other than officials of the department to inspect these places?

As my colleague the hon member for Edenvale has already said, many of the children in places of safety are there through no fault of their own, and many have already suffered abuse at the hands of their own families Surely what they should be offered is refuge and a real place of safety. [Time expired.]

Mr B B GOODALL: Mr Speaker, no institution can function in isolation If our objective is the reintegration of these children into the community, the community itself has to play a role We have to sustain these people, both from private and public sources. We have to sustain these children and their parents as we reintegrate them into society.

We talk about the importance of the youth to our future Unfortunately talking is all we tend to do. Massive numbers of our youth are either lost or marginalised. I know it is a complex problem, but we have to start tackling it.

I believe we need a national reconstruction programme which will deal with the economic, educational, social and psychological needs of our youth, and we need to set it up urgently. If we do not, the spectre of Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge lies before us

Places of safety are, in fact, a symptom of a problem. They are not the problem, because the children there are often better off than those who are outside, but we have to start tackling the problem. [Time expired.]

The MINISTER OF WELFARE: Mr Speaker, it is clear that the hon member for Edenvale has studied the report of the De Meyer Commission. One of its recommendations was that the community in which such a facility is located should become involved in the whole process and that the institution should reach out to the community. I believe that it is very important to see to it that these recommendations are carried out.

*I want to assure the hon member that I support his standpoint. I shall give attention to it and ascertain to what extent progress has already been made with it. I did not receive specific feedback on the point that the hon member mentioned, but it is certainly an important matter.

(298)

†The hon member for Umbilo raised a very important question. She wanted to know what the truth was. If it had not been for the fact that I personally worked in such an institution, I would have thought that we had a problem, but because I understand the problems of these children, I know that they tend to overdramatise their problems. I am not saying that we do not need to take cognisance of what they are saying We need to be there for them. We need to involve our professional staff in order to establish whether they are telling the truth.

I received a full report on the case that she referred to. As soon as the officials at the institution heard about the problem with the food, about the pork being served, they took steps to rectify the situation.

*It was reported to me that the officials took immediate steps when this was brought to their attention for the first time

These children are traumatised and seek attention They are children who were subjected to unacceptable living practices. [Time expired.]

Debate concluded.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs

School cadet camps/outings

*1. Mr E W TRENT asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(254)

Whether any specific safety regulations are in force in respect of school cadets attending camps and outings sponsored by the South African Defence Force; if not, why not; if so, (a) what regulations and (b) who is responsible for ensuring that these regulations are complied with? B837E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(254)

Yes, apart from the Military Disciplinary Code of the SA Defence Force (Schedule I to the Defence Force Act, Act No 44 of 1957) instructions regarding safety measures exist in each provincial education department and in the SA Defence Force,

(a) these instructions are contained in the Emergency Plan for all education institutions and offices of the provincial education departments, the Manual for the Presentation of a Cadet Bivouac and the Standing Orders of the SA Defence Force,

(b) it is the responsibility of the superintendent of education, school principal, education personnel concerned and the South African Defence Force, if directly involved, to make sure that these instructions are carried out

Mr E W TRENT: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, when children are taken on a cadet camp they are accompanied by a cadet officer Does that cadet officer have the final authority? Is he the officer in command of that camp, or is he subservient to a member of the SA Defence Force? In other words, does the school or the Department of Education have the final authority for discipline over our children?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, regrettably I am not in a position to reply to that follow-up question. Should the hon member wish to see me, or if he would like a written reply, I would be delighted to accommodate him Otherwise, he can put another question on the Question Paper.

Mr R M BURROWS: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, when a child participates in school cadet activities, at what point is the legal responsibility for the control of that child, *in loco parentis*, shifted from the hon the Minister's Department to the Ministry of Defence, if indeed it ever is?

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cont→

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, once again I regret that I do not have those specific details with me. Perhaps it would be advisable for the hon member or the hon member for Port Elizabeth Central to put another question on the Question Paper.

Mr E W TRENT: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I would like him to give us an assurance that he will investigate the whole system of cadet camps, the authority pertaining to such camps and how these camps are conducted so that something like this does not recur in the future. Can he give us the assurance that the Department will investigate this issue?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the matter is already the subject of an investigation.

Medihelp: teachers on early retirement

*2. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(1) Whether he or his Department have had or are engaged in discussions with Medihelp and/or any teachers' organizations regarding the funding of the State portion of contributions to Medihelp in respect of teachers on early retirement who have reached the age of 60 years; if not, why not; if so, what is the (a) nature and (b) purport of these discussions;

(2) whether such teachers were informed that the State portion in respect of contributions to Medihelp would cease after their reaching the age of 60 years; if so,

(3) whether this information was subsequently repudiated by Medihelp; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,

(4) whether he intends taking any steps in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps? B842E

†The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1) Yes,

(a) officials from the Department and the Department of National Education held discussions with Medihelp and the Commission for Administration. The matter was also raised in talks I held with teachers' organizations. I am still in discussion on the matter with the Chairman of the Commission for Administration,

(b) to establish what the State's future subsidization policy regarding Medihelp will be;

(2) I do not have knowledge of any such information having been given to teachers;

(3) falls away;

(4) as already stated, I am in discussion with the Commission for Administration which, as I have been told, will take matters relating to Medihelp further.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply.

General Affairs:

Certain person arrested in Hankey

*1. Rev A D GOOSEN asked the Minister of Law and Order:†

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was arrested in Hankey on or about 9 May 1993; if so, on what charge;

(2) whether this person has appeared in court; if not, why not; if so, when;

(3) whether the said person was released on bail; if not, why not; if so, what was the amount of the bail;

(4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? C108E

†The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

(1) Yes. Murder.

(2) Yes. 10 May 1993.

(3) No. The person was released on his own recognisances.

(4) No

Mr M A HENDRICKSE: Mr Chairman, arising out from the hon the Minister's reply, can he tell us why the local police or the investigating officer delayed the search for the victim of this gruesome murder after it was reported? I believe that some time elapsed before an investigation was launched into this disappearance.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I do not believe I have that information available. The hon member will appreciate the fact that it happened far away from Cape Town and that I was not present. There was no suggestion in the question whatsoever that a delay took place. I was under the impression that the question was asked specifically to talk about whether bail should be granted or not I therefore apologise to the hon member for not having the answer to that question available. If the hon member insists on a reply, however, the information can be made available.

†Mr J C OOSTHUIZEN: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, for what reasons was this person who is charged with murder released on his own recognisance?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, neither the Minister of Law and Order, nor the police, nor the Minister of Justice has any say whatsoever over whether a magistrate grants bail or not. It is judged by the magistrate in every case and therefore it is not within my jurisdiction to react to it.

The LEADER OF THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION: Is that the normal procedure?

The MINISTER: Yes The hon the Leader of the Official Opposition may believe it or not, but I was also a prosecutor in my younger days. The test is really whether an accused will stand trial or not. On numerous occasions, when I was still a prosecutor and was certain that somebody would stand trial, I did not apply for bail to be posted.

Mr M A HENDRICKSE: Mr Chairman, I do grant the hon the Minister that the final decision does rest with the court and the magistrate in question, but further arising out of his reply I would like to know whether the SA Police, and specifically the investigating officer, opposed any application for bail or opposed the fact that the murderer was to be released on his own recognisance?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, that happens after evidence is led In other words, it is at the discretion of the magistrate. It is not at the discretion of the SA Police

Mr M A HENDRICKSE: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, we know that the final decision rests with the magistrate, but did the police and the prosecutor in the particular case lodge their opposition

cont—p

for which information is available and (d) for what purposes are these lounges used by Ministers? D245E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

No, the relevant VIP lounges are made available free of charge to dignitaries.

(a), (b), (c) and (d) Fall away.

Child welfare agencies: food aid

*2. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister for National Health and Welfare:

(1) Whether it has been brought to her or her Department's notice that child welfare agencies and other recognized bodies involved in dispensing food aid to the indigent were called upon to expend unusually large amounts of money shortly before the end of their financial year; if so, why were these agencies and bodies called upon to expend such amounts;

(2) whether any problems have been experienced by the said agencies and bodies in respect of planning and performing their activities properly; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what problems;

(3) whether she will make a statement on the matter? D271E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE:

(1) No;

(2) yes, firstly some of the organisations thought that it would take less time to get programmes established This did not evolve and therefore they over-estimated and could not utilise all the funds before the end of the financial year on 31 March 1993. These funds had to be paid back to the State coffer Savings realized in this manner will be included as a supplementary annexure to the first report on the State of the Expenditure Budget of the Department for the 1993/94 financial year and made available to the National Nutrition and Social Development Programme, and secondly smaller organisations are not yet properly geared to expend funds according to Treasury Instructions;

(3) no.

Air hostesses/flight attendants: hours worked

*3. Mr N SINGH asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

(1) Whether any (a) air hostesses and/or (b) flight attendants on flights of the South African Airways were recently required to work longer hours than is normally the case; if so, why;

(2) whether reports have been received that, as a result of these longer hours, some of these persons were too tired to perform their duties efficiently; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so,

(3) whether any steps have been taken or are being contemplated in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps? D272E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (for the Minister for Public Enterprises):

The Managing Director of TRANSNET LIMITED has furnished the following reply to the hon member's question:

(1) (a) and (b) Yes. To obtain greater productivity and improved passenger satisfaction on the Johannesburg—Taipei flights.

(2) Yes.

(3) Yes. The extended hours were originally agreed to by the trade union after a ballot was conducted amongst their members. However, after a further ballot it has been decided to implement a new cabin crew schedule for the Taipei flights with effect from 31 May 1993. This will entail that the cabin crew to and from Taipei will be rotated in Singapore.

Expropriated land: price/return

*4. Mr M NARANJEE asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) Whether it has been decided that land acquired or expropriated in terms of racially based legislation was to be returned to the former owners of such land at the price paid at the time of the acquisition or expropriation thereof in terms of the said legislation; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;

(2) whether any such land (a) has been and/or (b) is to be so returned; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, to whom? D274E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:

(1) No The Advisory Commission on Land Allocation investigates all claims regarding the restoration of ownership rights in terms of the provisions of the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act, 1991 (Act 108/1991), on the merits of each case and submits thereafter its recommendations to the State President for consideration. The final decision regarding the conditions and the prices at which the identified properties could be alienated, rests with the State President-in-Cabinet after considering the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation. The ultimate decision of the State President-in-Cabinet is binding.

(2) (a) and (b)

On the recommendation of the Advisory Commission on Land Allocation, the State President-in-Cabinet has decided that the following identified state owned properties may be alienated to the former owners, namely:

Roosboom	(Ladysmith)
Charlestown	(Newcastle)
Groote Springfontyn	(Melkbosstrand)
Asiatic Bazaar	(Pretoria)

The Advisory Commission on Land Allocation is at present investigating a number of claims regarding the restoration of ownership over identified land, the details of which are not yet available.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! I wish to inform hon members that the time allotted for questions on general affairs has expired. However, I am going to proceed with the rest of the questions, so that we can get the replies while the hon Ministers are here.

Housing subsidy scheme: capital subsidy coupon

*5. Mr M F CASSIM asked the Minister of National Housing:

(1) Whether, with reference to information furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, he or his Department intends introducing a housing subsidy scheme in terms of which a capital subsidy coupon is provided to an eligible first-time home buyer; if not, why not; if so, when is it anticipated that such a scheme or a similar one will be introduced in the Republic;

(2) whether he will make a statement on the matter? D262E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES (for the Minister of National Housing):

(1) The hon member will be aware of the fact that the Task Group which investigated a new housing policy and strategy has recommended that a capital subsidy should form part of the solution to South Africa's housing problem. The possible utilisation of a capital subsidy coupon along the lines of the Chilean model is addressed in the report

As the recommendations by the Task Group are at present serving as an important input in the negotiation process between the Department of Local Government and National Housing and the National Housing Forum, it would be premature to commit oneself at this stage to the feasability of detailed issues

cont-p

NATION BUILDING The 1993 Nation Building programme gains momentum

Parenting projects hit Duduza

Sowetan 26/5/93. 298

FIRST WORKSHOP Community gets a chance to talk about development

Pick 'n Pay
Let's make it better together

By Pearl Majola

THE FOREVER GROWING *Sowetan*/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops project moves to Duduza this Saturday after the project's successful run in Pietersburg earlier this month.

The parenting project launches the first Nation Building event in this Nigel township.

At the inaugural workshop on Saturday, the community will discuss the importance of development and parenting.

"Parenting workshops involve people and provide them with the common identity they need," says head of the project Mrs Anne-Gloria Masetle.

"People participating in the project have become a family. We have youth exchange programmes where the young from different areas visit one another and provide entertainment and support whenever there are community events.

"A kind of brotherhood-sisterhood is being established and I think we are finally gradually achieving the goals of Nation Building," she says.

"In Duduza it was a young man who organised the community and formed the committee which approached us to start Nation Building there.

"We are proud of this and of that community which realised they had issues to resolve and decided to do something towards that."

Masetle added that the parenting workshops were bringing a positive relationship among the people, which is what had been lost for a long time.

The Duduza workshop will be held at the Community Resource Centre from 9am. For further information contact Ms Thabi Manthata at (011) 880-9243.

● Meanwhile, a task group aiming to create awareness about the child abuse scourge in Pietersburg has already been set up since the Seshego workshop earlier this month.

One of the first steps the task group will take will be to organise additional training for teachers

Committee proposes 18 as minimum voting age

B|DAY 26|5|93. 3 SEPTA 298

A NEGOTIATIONS technical committee yesterday recommended 18 as the minimum voting age — in line with the ANC's submission to the committee.

The recommendation is in proposals for a draft independent electoral commission and comes in the wake of the proposal by ANC president Nelson Mandela that children of 14 and older be allowed to vote.

It was also learned that nobody under the age of 18 could join the ANC itself, but could join only its Youth League.

The committee's proposal was yesterday presented for debate by the 26-party negotiating council at the World Trade Centre. The draft election Bill defines eligible voters as "all SA citizens of 18 years and more, including citizens of the TBVC states, with the exception only of such persons as may be disqualified from voting by reason of criminality, mental disorder or other provisions of this Act and of the regulations".

The draft legislation makes detailed recommendations for SA's first non-racial elections, scheduled to be held before the end of April next year.



BILLY PADDOCK

An Independent Electoral Commission will, in terms of the draft, assume responsibility for conducting democratic national elections for a new Parliament to function in terms of an interim constitution.

The commission will be required to determine and certify the final results of the elections within a period of 21 days after completion of the ballot. It will also declare whether elections have been free and fair.

The draft proposes the commission should not have more than 11 members, and at least eight have to agree on the result of an election for it to be certified.

If the commission found a poll was partly unfree and unfair, it would be empowered to take appropriate steps to achieve a free and fair election result, the report stated.

"This could enable the commission to take limited action in a particular region, without having to hold a completely new national election, in the event that there were unacceptable conditions in a limited area only."

The draft makes provision for the secondment of representatives from accredited international organisations and/or foreign governments.

Prospective electoral commission members may not have held political office in the three years prior to the date of the transitional elections and, upon ceasing to be a member of the commission, will not be eligible to accept appointment to any public office for three years.

The draft envisages that the commission set up three separate directorates: an Election Administration Directorate; an Election Monitoring Directorate; and an Election Adjudication Directorate.

The administration directorate's responsibilities would include voter education, determining the eligibility and identification of voters, enforcing the electoral code of conduct and pomulgating regulations governing political advertising.

The monitoring directorate would have investigative powers and the adjudication directorate would serve as the final arbiter of claims and disputes affecting the campaign, conduct and results of the elections.

Opinion polls would be prohibited during a period of six weeks before the transitional elections began.

The children's charter of South Africa

We, the delegates of the International Children's Summit held from 27 May to 1 June 1993·

Realising that
all children are created equal and are entitled to basic human rights and freedoms and that all children deserve respect and special care and protection as they develop and grow and

Recognising that
within South Africa, children have not been treated with respect and dignity, but as a direct result of apartheid have been subjected to discrimination, violence and racism that have destroyed families and communities and have disrupted education and social relationships and

Acknowledging that
At the present time, children have not been placed on the agenda of any political party, or the existing government or within the Codesa negotiations and are not given the attention that they deserve.

Taking into consideration the cultural values, languages and traditions of all the children and

Recognising the
urgent need for attention to improving the life of children and protecting their rights in every region, and in particular those regions which have been especially subjected to violence, political unrest and poverty, have agreed upon the following:



BE HAPPY: The charter protects all children

PART I

Article One
For the purposes of the charter, a child means any person under the age of 18 years old, unless otherwise stated.

Article Two
Children have been and continue to be abused, tortured, mistreated, neglected and abandoned by the people of South Africa. Children are not treated with the respect and dignity that every human being deserves, but are instead subjected to violence, poverty, racism and the ignorance of adults. Children continue to suffer from the inequalities of apartheid, especially in the area of education. Children do not receive proper health and medical care and attention, yet do not have the right to demand treatment. Children are arrested, tried without lawyers and held in prisons.

Children are beaten and abused by the police and by gangs and by other adults. Children are the future leaders of tomorrow, but they are not given the right to participate in consultations or negotiations about their future. The government and other political parties have put children last, not first.

We therefore set forth that all children of South Africa are entitled to the following rights and protections:

PART II

Article One
1. All children have the right to protection and guarantees of all the rights of the charter and should not be discriminated against because of his/her or his/her parents' or family's colour, race, sex, language, religion, personal or political opinion, nationality, disability or for any other reason.
2. All political parties, the government, Codesa, the future government, communities, families, and parents should do everything possible to ensure that children are not discriminated against due to his/her or his/her parents or family's colour, race, sex, language, religion, personal or political opinion, nationality, disability or for any other reason.

Article Two
All children have the right to a name and nationality as soon as they are born.

Article Three
1. All children have the right to express their own opinions and the right to be heard in all matters that affect his/her rights and protection and welfare.
2. All children have the right to be heard in courtrooms and hearings affecting their future rights and protection and welfare and to be treated with the special care and consideration within those courtrooms and hearings which their age and maturity demands.
3. All children have the right to free legal representation if arrested.
4. All children have the right to participate in the government of the country and special attention should be given to consultations with children on their rights and situation.

Article Four
All children have the right to freedom to practice their own religion, culture or beliefs without fear.

Article Five
Violence

1. All children have the right to be protected from all types of violence including physical, emotional, verbal, psychological, sexual, state, political, gang, domestic, school, township and community, street, racial, self-destructive and all other forms of violence.
2. All children have the right to freedom from corporal punishment at school, from the police and in prisons, and at home.
3. All children have the right to be protected from neglect and abandonment.
4. All children have the right to be protected from township and political violence and to have "safe places" and to have community centres where they can go for help and safety from violence.
5 All children have the right to be educated about child abuse and the right to form youth groups to protect them from abuse.
6. All persons have the duty to report all violence against, abuse of and neglect of any child to the appropriate authorities.
7. Children should not be used as shields or tools by the perpetrators of violence.
8. Children have the right to say no to violence.
9 The media have the duty to prevent the exploitation of children who are victims of violence and should be prohibited from the promotion of violence.
10. All children have the right to be protected from violence by the police and in prisons.
11. Children should not be obligated or forced to follow adults in their political involvements
12. All children have the right to be free from torture, detention or any other physical or emotional violence during apartheid or at times of unrest or war.
13. All children have the right to be protected from drug and alcohol abuse by their parents, families and others and to be educated about these forms of violence.
14. Children have the right to a special children's court and medical facilities to protect them from violence.
15. Special groups and organizations should be formed within the communities to protect and counsel victims of all types of violence.
16. No child should be held in prison or police cells at any time.

Article Six
Family Life

1. All children have the right to a safe, secure and nurturing family and the right to participate as a member of that family.
2. All children have the right to love and affection from their parents and family.
3. All children have the right to clothing, housing and a healthy diet.
4. All children have the right to clean water, sanitation and a clean living environment.
5. All children have the right to be protected from domestic violence.
6. All children who do not have a family should be provided with a safe and secure place to live and clothing and nutritious food within the community where they live.
7. Special protections should be given to children who are orphaned or abandoned as a result of violence or any other reason or are refugees or returning from exile and every effort should be made to place them within a safe and secure "family".

Article Seven
Health and Welfare

1 All children have the right to adequate health care and medical attention both before and after birth.
2. All children have the right to be protected from harmful and toxic substances such as cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol and to be educated about the effects on their health and environment.
3. All children have the right to free and comprehensive health services, especially in schools, including screening of diseases, treatment of diseases and physical and psychological treatment and services.
4. All children have the right to demand health and medical care without the permission of their parent or guardian.
5. All children have the right to be protected and educated about Aids and to be given adequate health care and protection. Any child whose family is infected with Aids should be given special care and protection.
6. Disabled children have the right to special health care and protections.

Article Eight
Education

1. All children have the right to free and equal, non-racial, non-sexist and compulsory education within one department as education is a right not a privilege.
2. All children have a right to education which is in the interest of the child and to develop their talents through education, both formal and informal.
3 All teachers should be qualified and should treat children with patience, respect and dignity. All teachers should be evaluated and monitored to ensure that they are protecting the rights of the child.
4. Parents have the duty to become involved in their children's education and development and to participate in their children's education at school and at home.
5. All children have the right to play and to free and adequate sports and recreational facilities so that children can be children.
6 All children have the right to participate in the evaluation and upgrading of curriculum which respects all the traditions, cultures and values of children in South Africa.
7. All children have the right to education on issues such as sexuality, Aids, human rights, history and background of South Africa and family life
8. All children have the right to adequate educational facilities and the transportation to such facilities should be provided to children in difficult or violent situations.

Article Nine
Child Labour

1. All children have the right to be protected from child labour and any other economic exploitation which endangers a child's mental, physical or psychological health and interferes with his/her education so that he/she van develop properly and enjoy childhood.
2. All children, especially in rural areas, should be protected from hard labour including farm, domestic or manual labour or any other type of labour.
3. All children have the right to be protected from prostitution and sexual exploitation such as pornography.
4. There should be a minimum age of employment and no child should be forced to leave school prior to the completion of matric for the purposes of employment.
5. There should be regulations and restrictions on the hours and types of work and penalties for those who violate these regulations.
6. All children have the right to be protected from child slavery and from the inheritance of labour or employment from their parent or family.

Article Ten
Homeless Children

1. No child should be forced to live on the streets
2. Homeless children have the right to be protected from harassment and abuse from police, security guards and all other persons and every person has the duty to report any abuse or violence against children.
3. Homeless children have the right to a decent place to live, clothing and a healthy diet.
4 Street children have the right to special attention in education and health care.
5. Communities and families have a duty to protect their children from becoming homeless and abandoned.
6. All persons should be made aware of the plight of homeless children and should participate in programmes which act to positively eradicate the problem of homeless children.
7 The government has the duty and responsibility for homeless children.

Children will no longer remain silent about their rights, but will speak and even shout out about their needs and demands.

Approved on this the 1 day of June 1992.

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Sowetan 29/5 - 2/6/93

Educating children for peace

298

By Justin Pearce

Every Zulu-speaking family in Natal has lost at least one member of their extended family owing to the political violence of the last three years, says Mrs Noreen Ramsden, who is involved in peace education in Natal.

One of the biggest challenges to educators in South Africa's war-zones is to rehabilitate children for whom violence, death and injury have become part of the daily routine.

Ramsden recalls a classroom session where children were asked "what did you see on the way to school today?". One child responded by saying: "I saw the boere coming to collect the bodies."

Another child, when a teacher approached during playtime, shouted: "Hide, they're coming to shoot us."

"It may not affect them then, but as they get older the memories are still with them," Ramsden says.

She mentions children in Mozambique who were taught to shoot people at the age of 12, and were suffering psychological breakdown by the age of 17.



CO-OPERATION: Children from New Crossroads who have come together to plan a youth centre for the area, involved in a game

This is why the process of educating children for peace must start when children are as young as possible — even three years old is not too young to start.

"You need to teach a preschooler that if he or she hits a friend, it does not persuade the friend to co-operate. It is not a solution to the problem."

One way of encouraging children to talk rather than fight is to have a "peace table" in the classroom as a way of structuring solutions to problems.

With older children one can teach the techniques of problem-solving, Ramsden says.

"You need to teach them to arrive at a winner-winner solution rather than a winner-loser solution."

However, it is not healthy for children to deny or repress their memories of death and violence. Counselling is the ideal solution, but it is seldom available when relief money is taken up by providing food and rebuilding houses.

Children who constantly pick on weaker children grow up to be teenage gangsters, with devastating effects on whole communities.

The benefits of starting peace education at a young age have been shown in Chicago in the United States. There, communities where peace education had been applied in the schools recorded a marked drop in the rates of juvenile delinquency.

One way of building self-respect and to encourage responsible education, is to respect and listen to children.

Ramsden believes listening to children is a way of countering the dehumanising effects of political violence and child abuse, but education methods have seldom encouraged this — particularly in overcrowded Department of Education and Training schools which serve the most brutalised communities.

Star 29/5/98

One 14-year-old, one ballot?

'Rather let us drive cars'

(298)

Hard to penetrate the bubble gum

A RANDOM survey has disclosed that middle-class white 14-year-olds would rather have the age limit for driving licences lowered than be given the vote.

They also know more about the plots of TV soap operas than the state of the nation

Giggling self-consciously, while biting their nails and coyly squirming in their seats, a group of white, middle-class teenagers from the south of Johannesburg proudly professed absolute ignorance of the political situation in their country.

What becomes clear is that they do not want the vote, do not care if they are given the vote and would probably not even exercise their right to vote if handed to them on compact discs. The general response to questions of a political nature were: "Uh ... I don't know."

LOUISE MARSLAND

think he was with Inkatha," said Natasha, flicking back her glossy mane of hair

When Jason asked why Mandela had been freed from prison, another answered that it was because his life sentence "was finished".

The one exception who boasted that he knew what giving 14-year-olds the vote would mean was "the boff" of the group, Warren Adams (15), who said he watched a lot of television news. "Some kids are aware that Nelson Mandela wants us to vote because he wants to get the younger blacks to vote for him. They aren't so well educated and Mandela could brainwash them," he said confidently.

To him, the most important political leaders are F W de Klerk, Mandela and "whatshisname" (Buthelezi). "But we would rather go out with our friends and play cricket," he admitted.

Lana believes that the voting age should be left at 18, even though, in her opinion, most 18-year-olds also did not know much about what was going on, especially her older brother and his friends who "talked rubbish all the time".

HEY kid, d'ya wanna vote? JOE LOUW and LOUISE MARSLAND bounced the question off some 14-year-olds and came away wondering what the president of the ANC could possibly have had in mind when he suggested lowering the voting age. When the names Mandela and De Klerk pierced the adolescent haze, it did not lead to a political discussion — it made them giggle . . .

● See Editorial — Page 8

IF EITHER Nelson Mandela or F W de Klerk were to make it past most Soweto 14-year-olds they'd have to be able to rap like M C Hammer, dribble a ball better than "Shoes" Moshoeu and read comics.

No amount of talk about democratic government or electoral responsibility will do. Most kids that age just chew their bubble gum intently, and if that kind of talk goes on even one sentence more, they simply blow a bubble, and when it pops they're out of there . . . double time.

In an afternoon of

JOE LOUW

searching, I tried in vain to have a discussion about politics with 14-year-olds. Most just stuck their fingers in their mouths and giggled.

I found two — Moses and Sechaba, both Std 5 pupils in Klipspruit — on their way from a chore.

Did they know who Mandela was? Of course. And FW? "Who? A white man," comes the response from Sechaba. What does FW do? "Well, he's a white man who is .. uh." Did either know what it means to vote? "Yes," says Moses. "It is to say . ." — then silence. Who would they *choose*? "Mandela." It's unequivocal. But neither could explain *why*.

Thandeka Twala is in Std 6, parents both professionals, wants to be a chemical engineer, does well at school, likes rap music and magazines. Very likable. But she just doesn't like or have any interest in politics, she says. What if she had to choose between FW, Mandela and M C Hammer? She hedges her bets. "All of them".

Gabisile of Dobsonville goes to school in Mayfair. She likes *Upbeat* magazine, maths and English and her favourite TV cartoon is Mickey Mouse. Asked about politics, she giggles, hides behind other kids, then bolts.

What soon became clear was that Mandela made an astute suggestion with his proposal that 14-year-olds should be allowed to vote. Once his name was mentioned, support for him was solid. I couldn't find a single kid in Soweto who said they'd vote for FW.

So I tried another tack: What if Mandela told them to vote for FW? No ways. Even Johnson Ramotsoa, a Grade 1 dropout, shakes his head. Okay, what if somebody gave them R100 to vote for FW? Nope, it was Mandela every time.

In fact, they know more about their cricket heroes and favourite actors than the policies of the politicians. And they are more worried about the loads of homework forced on them, and the lack of their parents' ability to help them, than having a say in running the country.

Jason Murphy (14) of Brackendowns said he was not interested in voting. "We don't have enough insight. All I know is that blacks and whites are fighting and we will probably have civil war ... I wonder who would win?" he mused.

Another youngster, Stuart Chase (14), could not name the leaders of the various political parties he managed to identify — the NP, DP and KP. "We'd vote for who our parents do," he said.

The most important thing to Lana Richie and Natasha Bredenkamp, both in Std 8 at Mondeor High, is to get through school, have fun and wear the trendiest clothes when they go to the mall.

"We hear what is going on from our parents, but I'm not really interested in politics," said Natasha. Her friend Lana replied that when her parents started discussing politics, she left the room.

They are more concerned at how many black kids each had in their schools and the vague "civil war" that was sure to come from all the blacks and whites fighting each other.

"Who was Chris Hani again?" asked one teenager, mildly curious. "I

Cops face child abuse charges

South 29/5 - 2/6/93. 29B

By Christelle Terreblanche

TWO STELLENBOSCH policemen are to be prosecuted for child molestation and assault after charges were laid by the parents of four juveniles in February, the attorney general has decided.

The charges follow an incident that took place in the Stellenbosch mortuary on February 7. The children claim they were shown dead and mutilated bodies and a decapitated head to intimidate them into confessing to theft.

According to attorney Mr Rudolf Mastenbroek of Chennels Albertyn, the children were then taken to the police station where they were told to remove their shirts and allegedly repeatedly hit in the stomach by a policeman before being released.

On February 11 they were all rearrested on the same charge, and had to allegedly serve food to adult prisoners — a violation of the Prisons Act.

The policemen who will stand trial have been identified only as Mr AJ Le Roux and Mr G Van Schalkwyk, and their ranks not given. The trial starts on July 7.

More than half the victims in Soweto younger than 16

Veronica (5) a rape statistic

Star 29/5/93 : (298)

MANDY JEAN WOODS visits the Soweto Medical Legal Unit and finds that rape is on the increase — with girls under the age of consent increasingly at risk.

FIVE-YEAR-OLD Veronica (not her real name) was often sent to the nearby spaza shop by her mother to buy things they needed for their home in Soweto.

This week, when her mother routinely asked her to go to the spaza, Veronica cried and said she did not want to go because "the boy there makes me go to bed with him".

Hard to prove

Veronica is just one of many horrifying cases of rape of girls under the age of consent — 16 — which are reported in Soweto daily.

District surgeon Dr Thamsanqa Bomvana of the Soweto Medical Legal Unit (which deals specifically with rape and sexual abuse cases) says rapes in Soweto are on the increase. And more than half the victims are under 16.

Of the under-age victims, about 10 percent are girls between one five, he says.

Even more staggering is the fact that about 60 percent of all the rape patients treated at the Medical Legal Unit (based at Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto) are victims of gang rape. Many rapes are executed by men armed with knives or guns, making force an even more difficult element to prove in subsequent court cases because the victim often has no apparent signs of abuse.

About half of all the legal abortions performed each month at Baragwanath Hospital are on girls under the age of 16 who have fallen pregnant due to rape, Bomvana says.

"If one extrapolates the figures of the number of rapes reported, one could estimate that about 2 000 rapes are committed each month in Soweto alone, most of which go unreported," he says.

When the special abuse unit opened in January last year, Bomvana consulted with between 80 and 90 patients a month. Last month it reached a peak of 210 patients.

Bomvana attributes the increase in rape cases to the growing incidence of drug (mainly dagga and Mandrax) and alcohol abuse, rising unemployment and the hopeless housing situation in Soweto.

Small girls often fall victim to unemployed menfolk of the family or friends of the family, he says, while the older girls are often victims of strangers and gangs of criminals who see rape as an extention of the crimes — such as housebreaking and car hijacking — they are already involved in.

Most commonly in cases reported to the unit, the abuse has been going on for between three and four months before the deed is discovered.

One great concern about the increasing rapes in Soweto is the possibility of victims contracting the deadly HIV virus, causing Aids. "The problem is that it costs about R80 to conduct one Aids test; each victim may have to be tested two or three times.

"At the current rate, it could cost more than R32 000 a month to test the rape victims and we just don't have the money," Bomvana explains. So victims go untested unless they pay for it themselves.

Shock figures

"The fear of contracting Aids is one of the main fears of the patients I see," he says.

A recent study by the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders found that one in four women in South Africa would be raped in their lifetime, with about 380 000 rape cases being reported each year in South Africa. In 95 percent of the reported rape cases, the victims are black

Good preschools give children a vital start

Souker 2915 - 29/6/93

298

By Justin Pearce

EDUCATION begins when a child is six years old, not before — that's the South African government's view. At present early childhood education receives no state funding.

"The government's education renewal strategy does nothing to indicate that the situation is likely to improve," says Mr Eric Atmore of the Grassroots Educare Trust, a body which helps to set up educare centres and home-care facilities.

At present only 10 percent of children receive pre-school educare. For black children the figure is only seven percent. The facilities that exist are provided entirely by non-governmental organisations.

Yet educare — the early education and care of the child, including health and nutrition — is a crucial foundation for the child's development, and ultimately for social well-being.

"Research indicates that when compared to children who did not attend a high-quality preschool, those who did were more likely to complete high school, half as likely to require special remedial education, less likely to commit a criminal offence by age 15 and for females, less likely to have a child while still a teenager," Atmore says.

Educare is a means of breaking the cycle of poverty and bad education. Of the six million black preschoolers in South Africa, the majority come from communities characterised by poverty, endemic violence and poor health services.

Atmore is optimistic that a future legitimate government will make funding available for educare, either by contracting the existing organisations to work on its behalf, or by absorbing the NGOs into government structures, or by funding NGOs that may also choose to continue.

With funding, the educare NGOs could use expertise they have already developed to reach many more than the 10 percent of children already receiving pre-school education and care.

- International Children's Day on June 1 will be marked by the screening of a new film about South African children on TSS television.

"Die Duiwel maak my hart so seer" highlights the need for educare facilities in South Africa. The film examines working-class communities, urban and rural, African, coloured and white.

The film shows Bellville South as an example of a community where children play in the street while their parents are at work, leaving them vulnerable to traffic and crime. The title comes from a song sung by the Bellville children as they play

While the children in the film have shown their resourcefulness by devising their own games and activities, the message of the film is clear: these children need supervision.

The film is being distributed on a non-profit basis from the Grassroots Educare Trust's shops at 350 Victoria Road Salt River, and 335a Klipfontein Road, Gatesville.

Children don't have to die doctor

298

South 29/5 - 2/6/93

Dirty water and open fires are child killers. These and other aspects of impoverished living conditions, coupled with a lack of primary health care facilities, are responsible for most deaths of South African babies.

Dr Marian Jacobs of the Child Health Unit at the University of Cape Town points to the statistics on the causes of infant mortality.

"The top killers are preventable causes," she points out.

Infant mortality is generally taken to mean the number of babies dying before their first birthday — in 1989 more than 36 000 children died in the first year of life.

Of the babies who die before their first birthday, 56 percent are perinatal deaths: that is, occuring during labour or within the first four weeks of life. Jacobs says most of these deaths could be prevented by a proper system of pre-natal, obstetric and post-natal care.

A further 17.3 percent of infant deaths are the result of intestinal infections, with diarrhoea a common symptom — these infections are largely the result of unsanitary living conditions. Respiratory diseases account for another 10 percent of child deaths — electrification of homes could help prevent such diseases, which are most common when children are living in smoke-filled houses or shacks.

Diseases caused by inadequate nutrition account for three percent of infant deaths.

Among older children, deaths caused by traffic accidents and drowning could be reduced with better road planning and recreation facilities in townships.

These findings are part of a report which Jacobs has compiled on child health as part of the Situation Analysis of Children and Women in South Africa, which the National Committee on the Rights of Children (NCRC) is to present to the United Nations Children's Education Fund in June.

The report also illustrates how strongly the infant mortality rate is linked to socio-economic status. Babies whose families can provide private medical care, and who live in clean, electrified houses, are more likely to live past their first birthday.

In South Africa, racially skewed health services mean that race as well as income group has an effect on whether a child can expect to survive the first year of life.

While the infant mortality rate among high-income white communities is 7.3 a thousand, among low-income black communities it is as high as 25.2 a thousand.

Concentration of health care facilities in urban areas means that rural children are more likely than urban children to die during infancy.

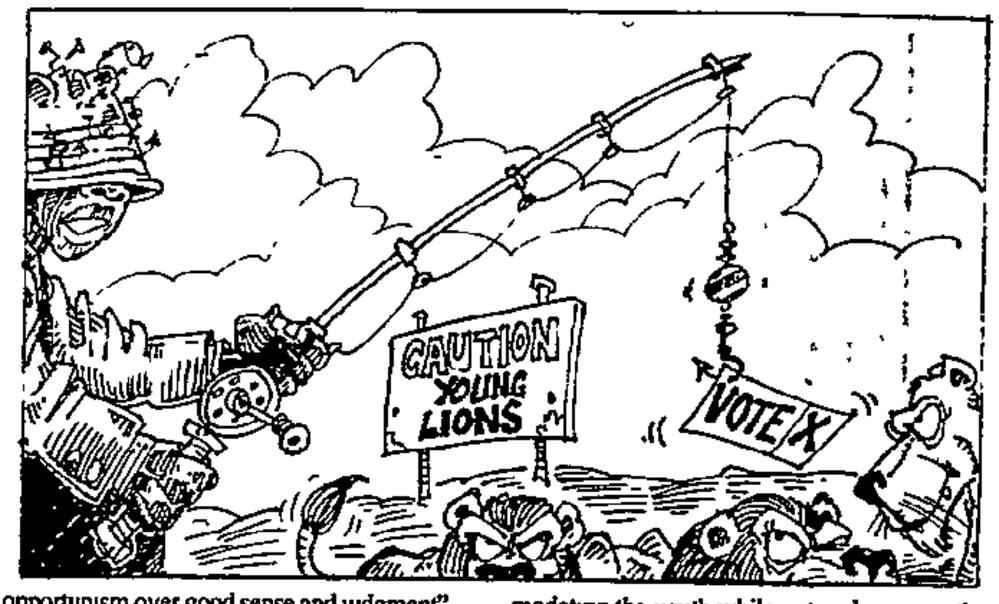
"The infant mortality rate is the most sensitive indicator of children's well-being," Jacobs says.

She also suggests the mortality rates for African children, especially in rural areas, may be even higher than reported, owing to unreliable registration and census data.

Will the vote win back the youth?

W/Mail 28/5 - 3/6/93.

Nelson Mandela's suggestion that the voting age be lowered to 14 has caught even the ANC by surprise —and raised serious questions about how the marginalised youth can become integrated into society By **MARK GEVISSER**



WHEN African National Congress president Nelson Mandela declared last weekend that the voting age should be lowered to 14, every other political organisation, from the Pan Africanist Congress on the left to the Conservative Party on the right, reacted with amazement that so impetuous an idea should emanate from so measured a man

But nowhere was the surprise greater than in the ANC itself Zola Skweyiya, head of the ANC's department of constitutional affairs, reiterated that official ANC policy put the voting age at 18. An ANC negotiator was more blunt "One of the very few things we have managed to agree with the government on was that the voting age would remain at 18 Now we read in the papers that Mandela will table his request at the negotiating forum"

Mandela has even out-radicalised the radical youth of his own organisation the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) had previously called for the voting age to be lowered to a more reasonable 16 Now the league has come out in support of the 14-year-old proposal, but the truth is that even it is astonished at Mandela's stand. The ANC's national executive committee recently rejected ANCYL's proposal for a lower voting age and, at a conference on election monitoring held in Durban only two weeks ago, ANCYL deputy president Lulu Johnson told delegates the league had conceded to the ANC's wishes.

So what is going on? Senior ANC sources feel that Mandela's demand can only be a negotiating ploy, and that he would be willing to settle at the more acceptable 16 But this strategy could backfire terribly an alienated youth constituency might become even more disenchanted with its leadership once the 14-year-old sticking-point is compromised upon.

As well as being politically risky, Mandela's remarks were clearly without adequate homework He stated that he knew of at least seven countries where the voting age was lower than 18, including Brazil, Nicaragua, Cambodia, Afghanistan and North Korea Of these, only Brazil has an entrenched and successful democracy, and even there the voting age is 16, and not 14

The North Korean example is as laughable as the Cambodian one is ominous the reason for the low voting age in the latter country is an attempt to bring the young murderers of the Khmer Rouge into the system They have rejected the palliative, however, and threaten to plunge the country back into civil war after last week's elections.

Commentators have seen Mandela's stand as naked electioneering political analyst Professor Sampie Terreblanche said earlier this week that the ANC had a vested interest in lowering the voting age, as the percentage of blacks younger than 18 was approaching 80 percent. Democratic Party leader Zach de Beer said he was "deeply disturbed" at what "seems to be a victory for political opportunism over good sense and judgment"

Inkatha spokesman Ed Tillett said "This is a politically expedient ploy resulting from the fact that the ANC's national leadership has come under increased pressure from militant youth who are impatient with the process of change and who see the leadership as being too conciliatory"

This problem has been particularly acute in Natal, where Mandela made the statements.

The ANCYL has responded that criticism of Mandela's statement "has so far come from those who stand to lose something from the advent of democracy and the granting of political rights to blacks" But this is not true even the ANC's main competitors for the constituency of radical black youth have slammed the suggestion The PAC youth wing said 14-year-olds were simply too young to shoulder the responsibility of voting.

And Azanian People's Organisation spokesman Gomolemo Mokae said "While we recognise that, due to apartheid, young children have been forced to take mature decisions, we feel that there is danger in deifying the youth Some have taken the 'young lions' name too literally, and we have seen demonstrations of the worst animalistic instincts We must find a way of accommodating the youth while not ending up with a monster that could swallow us all."

While no-one except Mandela and the ANCYL has gone as low as 14, the arguments for a younger voting age are precisely to prevent a restive youth from "swallowing us all" And these arguments have come from some very respectable quarters.

At a recent seminar, religious leaders from the South African Council of Churches, the South African Bishops Conference and the World Conference on Religion and Peace reached consensus on a 16-year-old voting age Behind the rhetoric, their reasoning was as follows the greatest threat to democracy in this country is the possibility that the process — and thus the electoral results — will be rejected, as happened in Angola.

Barry Gilder, spokesman for the Matla Trust, which is spearheading voter education put it this way "It is critical to persuade the militant youth that this process is a good thing. They are more likely to accept this if they feel they are able to have their say and be part of the process."

In a well-motivated discussion paper on the issue, the ANCYL notes that "youth from a very early age have played a key role in the struggle against apartheid ... To deny a section of the you the right to participate in [the] election to usher the end of apartheid, is denying their contributi in making such an election possible in the fi place"

Clearly, the pressure for lowering the voti age comes from the fact that there is already highly politicised youth in South Africa B senior social work policy-maker Dr Leila Pa argues "It does not necessarily follow th because children have had to behave like adu under apartheid, they have the emotional a intellectual maturity of adults. In fact, it could argued that they are more vulnerable and ther fore entitled to stronger protection precise because they have grown up in a conflict-ridd and authoritarian society."

The issue boils down to a very difficult cons tutional question: do children have the right to l part of their country's electoral process, or do becoming voters abrogate their rights by givi them the premature status of adults and thi depriving them of their legal privilege as minor National Children's Rights Committee direct Shirley Mabusela has noted that "we need recognise the abnormality of the South Africa situation and be open to all suggestions" Neve theless, she felt the implications of 14-year-o voters are "far-reaching", as "a lot of other leg provisions would have to be reviewed"

The ANCYL counters that the age for right and protection are already differentiated in Sout Africa, where a 14-year-old can obtain a firearm licence, where 16-year-olds can get married with out special consent and be criminally liabl where 17-year-olds can be conscripted, take ou life insurance and consent to medical surgery, an where children as young as six have been detaine without trial under a state of emergency

Certainly, Mandela's remarks have raised cri ical issues. If the "marginalised youth" are indee South Africa's greatest problem, creative way will have to be found to include them in the demo cratic process.

In Uganda, for example, an elaborate system o youth councils has been set up to elect specia youth MPs, even there, however, only 18-year olds can vote for these members, and the systen has been criticised within Uganda as tokenism.

A similar comment could be made about Man dela's proposal. will a lower voting age reall guarantee young people a voice in the system, o will it merely be used as a political ploy while more difficult issues like education and employ- ment are ignored?

And because the abnormality of this country has put boys (and the occasional girl) on the receiving end of gunfire, does that mean they have the right to vote? "Our children," said Mabusela, "have a right to enjoy childhood without being burdened with the responsibility of deciding what direction the country should take"

44 convicted of infanticide in SA

EIGHTY people were prosecuted for infanticide during the past year, of whom 44 were convicted.

In a written reply to a question by Mr Lester Fuchs (DP Hillbrow), Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetsee said 61 men and 19 women had been prosecuted, of whom 31 men and 13 women had been convicted. — Sapa. (298) CT 28/5/93

Hopes fade for leaders' meeting

HOPES that ANC president Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi would meet soon to address political rivalry between their organisations dimmed yesterday.

Mandela, who had said he was happy to meet Buthelezi if King Goodwill Zwelithini brokered the meeting, said yesterday the Zulu monarch had withdrawn as a facilitator.

Mandela said the king's position was that "TV got it all wrong", Sapa reports.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said the withdrawal did not necessarily mean a meeting between Buthelezi and Mandela was off.

"It does, however, complicate matters," he said.

The king apparently called on Buthelezi and Mandela in recent weeks to meet to address violence.

TIM COHEN reports that Buthelezi said Inkatha had proposed that the issue of violence should top the agenda of multiparty talks, with particular attention on the disbanding of private armies.

He told a news conference in Cape Town that whenever Inkatha raised the matter, the ANC and government were "virtually apoplectic", accusing Inkatha of trying to delay negotiations and of raising the matter prematurely.

Buthelezi said he found the "hype" about the need for an election date astonishing.

It amounted to "putting the constitutional cart before the constitutional horse".

Inkatha CE and head of the party's general election campaign Joe Mathews refused to announce the party's support targets in an election, but said the party was "playing the game to win".

If this did not occur, Inkatha hoped

WILSON ZWANE

to be the strongest opposition party, holding the balance of power.

Matthews said Inkatha had set itself three major ojbectives in the first nonracial election:

☐ To win a sufficient percentage of the overall vote to be an essential factor in any coalition government;
☐ To do well in several regions so that Inkatha would form an essential part of any coalition at the regional level; and
☐ To perform well in the KwaZulu/Natal region where Inkatha expected to win, either in its own right or in coalition with another party.

Meanwhile, Mandela told school children yesterday that pupil mass action was not incompatible with a call to pupils to return to class.

Addressing pupils during a tour of Witwatersrand township schools, Mandela emphasised the importance of education.

"Education is the only weapon if you want to be a leader of your people," he told them.

However, the ANC president also endorsed his organisation's support for striking teachers and urged pupils to join the "fight" for equal education.

Mandela held a news briefing at King Edward VII High School in Houghton.

☐ GERALD REILLY reports council chairman Allan Powell said yesterday that the Teachers' Federal Council had requested an urgent interview with National Education Minister Piet Marais over the education crisis.

After an extraordinary meeting of the TFC's executive committee, he said the present situation was cause for grave concern.

Certain facets called for most urgent attention.

Cosatu push for child care

ERICA JANKOWITZ

COSATU has called on its affiliates to celebrate international children's day on Tuesday by persuading members to take their children to their work places.

Cosatu gender co-ordinator Dorothy Mokgalo said yesterday different regions were planning events as well as a two-phase strategy intended to promote Cosatu's parental campaign.

The two campaign demands were for 20 days' paid child care leave a year and subsidised child care facilities for workers.

She said both parents should be entitled to child care leave to handle school problems and look after sick children.

She said employers should take some responsibility for the provision of child care facilities.

She said affiliates were taking up the issue at individual company and industry level and would present management with demands on Tuesday.

A snap Business Day survey showed most companies were unaware of Cosatu's plans.

SA Breweries said no one under the age of 18 was allowed on its factory premises. It felt the union would not try this tactic.

AECI said chemical factories were hazardous and children would not be allowed into factory areas "for their own safety".

Pick 'n Pay said when Cosatu a few years ago had first suggested bringing children to workplaces, very few employees had complied. However, the group would accommodate children as far as possible.

An East Rand metal factory said Numsa had approached management about bringing children to work. Children would not be allowed on to the premises, and the union had agreed with the decision. A spokesman said the issues raised would be discussed.

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Goldstone panel advisers named

PRETORIA — A former Watergate prosecutor and Zimbabwe's electoral commission chairman are among the members of a panel appointed to advise the Goldstone commission on election violence.

Sapa reports that Judge Richard Goldstone said yesterday a public inquiry into "ways and means" of curbing violence and intimidation in the forthcoming election would be held in Cape Town in August.

On the panel are acting US attorney-general and former Watergate prosecutor Charles Ruff and Zimbabwe's electoral commission chairman Prof Walter Kamba. Other members are John Olivier (HSRC), Prof C Shearing, (University of the Western Cape), Prof T Geldenhuys (Unisa), Prof Otty Nxumalo (Zululand University), Canadian deputy chief electoral officer Prof Ron Gould, Prof J Elklit of Denmark and Ghanaian ambasador Theresa Stiggner-Scott.

☐ WILSON ZWANE reports that an HSRC report has found that an effective system of rumour control will help curb violence between township and hostel residents.

In the reporthanded to Goldstone yesterday, the organisation said a lack of communication between hostels and surrounding communities was at the bottom of the conflict.

FM 28/5/93

A question of judgment

Perhaps nothing should surprise us any more, dulled as we are by routine massacres, an endemic education crisis and the general cycle of hope and despair. Even so, ANC president Nelson Mandela's remarks about giving 14-year-olds the vote are astonishing. As Cape Town political scientist Robert Schrire has pointed out, Mandela will come to regret having made them.

What can Mandela have been thinking of? Surely he cannot in his patrician heart believe that children should vote. The more obvious and cynical explanations have already been put forward by puzzled and anxious observers: that Mandela is trying to court and placate teenagers who would otherwise ignore his appeals to reason; and that the ANC is desperate to build electoral support.

If the first, Mandela is being naive indeed if he thinks that the feral children who roam the townships will give permanent allegiance to anyone but their own savage codes. If the second, he is doubly naive, because there is no guarantee that enfranchised teenagers would support the ANC; they would be more likely to vote for the PAC, or even more radical adolescent groupings that would inevitably spring up to take advantage of the new constituency.

Even the Azanian People's Organisation, known for its quixotic policies and dangerous rhetoric, has made a more moderate call. Spokesman Gomolemo Mokae has argued that the voting age should be lowered to 16 — but also warns that "lionisation" of the youth often went to their heads.

"Even up to this day," says Mokae, "we are still reaping the whirlwind of such deification of the youth. Some of them still exhibit the rabid intolerance and animalism of the mid-Eighties."

Other ANC leaders were clearly taken aback by Mandela's call; official ANC policy is that the vote should be extended to all South Africans aged 18 and over. Now they will have to try somehow to undo the damage — and already the wild children are savouring the prospect of more time off school to campaign. We have enough problems without this.

So much for the immediately dangerous aspects of Mandela's absurd call. The sad and more profound part is that we must begin seriously to question his political judgment. ■

Pupil killed at school

■ POINT-BLANK 10-year-old Soweto boy is shot dead by white cop: Sowetan 28/8/93

298

By Lulama Luti

A 10-YEAR-OLD Soweto schoolboy was allegedly shot dead at point-blank range by a white policeman in the schoolyard of the Bhukulani High School in Zondi on Wednesday afternoon

Mthokozisi Ndlovu, a Standard 2 pupil at the Emathafeni Primary School, was shot in front of his brother Mduduzi (8), his friends Ndo, also aged eight, and S'fiso Ngwenya (13)

Soweto police spokesman Major Joseph Ngobeni confirmed the incident

Ngobeni said Mthokozisi was shot in the head opposite the school by a member of the Flying Squad who had gone with other policemen to investigate a report that a girl was being gang-raped at the school

He said Mthokozisi was shot as he ran away after he had been warned twice to stop He said police were investigating

According to S'fiso, all four boys were playing soccer in one of the classrooms at the school when Mduduzi spotted a policeman coming towards them "We all thought of running away but I told them that we would explain that we were only playing," said S'fiso

Mthokozisi climbed out through a window and ran away "When this policeman came up to us we told him that we were only playing soccer

"A few minutes later we heard gunshots and the policeman we were talking to pointed a firearm at us and said we should not move," S'fiso said S'fiso said when they were allowed to go he spotted Mthokozisi lying on his back and bleeding from the head

An ambulance took him to the Baragwanath Hospital but he was certified dead on arrival

Star 27/5/98

Refugees flock to crowded Natalspruit Hospital

By Charmeela Bhagowat

Philemon Mavuso stumbled through crowds of refugees at Natalspruit Hospital in Katlehong yesterday, searching for a woman who had disappeared after leaving her two-year-old son with him.

Mavuso, from the Christian Development Centre, said the woman — known to him only as "Mathikulu" — left Banele with him on Monday morning and promised to return after salvaging some of the goods from her burnt-out Mavimbela house.

She never returned and he did not find her yesterday.

As an icy wind blew through Natalspruit Hospital and sirens wailed around Katlehong, about 300 refugees from the war-torn East Rand township huddled in groups along the hospital's lawns, waiting for supper.

The desperate group, mainly women, sought refuge at the hospital after fleeing their homes on Monday morning.

They fled with their children and a few belongings, some not knowing whether their homes would be burnt; others knowing that their homes had already been gutted.

There were few men and young boys at Natalspruit — most had remained at home to protect their property, or to avenge the murder of their friends and family members. Many women have not heard from their husbands and sons they left behind.

Precious Matensha (23) left her Mavimbela home and the continuous rattle of gunfire on Monday morning after it was fired upon during the night.

Huddled under one of the two blankets she saved from her damaged home, she breast-fed her three-year-old son and pointed to a small bag of clothes when asked what she had brought to the hospital.

Never returned

She did not know where her husband was and said she just "ran away from the fire and the guns".

She made her way to the hospital after news filtered through the community that people could seek safety there.

Martha Matshobani (48), from Mgadi Section, left home on Monday to go to Baragwanath Hospital for a medical check-up. She never returned to her home, and her sister still does not know where she is.

Lindiwe Noguka (28) said she left her home "with a heavy heart" and Happiness, her five-year-old daughter.

Lying over her child to protect her from the cold wind, Noguka was surrounded by the only things she could carry — some of her daughter's clothes, a 2 litre soft drink bottle for water and two blankets.

She too did not know where her husband was. She left her home unguarded.

Cynthia Nzuza (23) said she did not sleep on Sunday night. "Houses were burning and people were burning. I could smell them," she said.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) spokesman Nic Sommer said about 800 people slept in the hospital's clinic on Tuesday night. Some returned to their homes in the day or went to work, he said.

Last night, the ICRC was expecting the number of refugees looking for a peaceful night's sleep to swell to about 900.

Sommer said the ICRC was providing some blankets and a Germiston bakery was supplying the refugees with bread.

Red Cross workers evacuated a number of people from Katlehong on Monday and Tuesday and took them to the hospital.

Sommer urged people to let the Red Cross carry out their work unhindered. Red Cross workers were forced to leave the township on Tuesday because of burning barricades and increasing violence.

	Howick	40
	Estcourt	53
(b)	Pietermaritzburg	745
	Glencoe	39
	Howick	53
	Estcourt	74
(3) (a)	Pietermaritzburg	734
	Glencoe	39
	Howick	53
	Estcourt	74
(b)	Pietermaritzburg	11
	Glencoe	0
	Howick	0
	Estcourt	0

Reserve Bank/Corporation for Public Deposits: profits

353. Dr W J BOTHA asked the Minister of Finance:†

(1) Whether the Reserve Bank showed a profit (a) during the period 1 January 1921 up to and including 31 December 1988 and (b) in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992, respectively; if so,

(2) whether any portion of this profit accrued to the State during the periods mentioned in paragraph (1) (a) and (b); if not, why not; if so, what was the amount, in each case;

(3) whether the Corporation for Public Deposits has shown a profit since 1 January 1984; if not, why not; if so, what is the relevant figure in respect of each calendar year since that date? B828E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(2) The total profits after a dividend of not more than 10 per cent and a transfer to the statutory reserve fund of 10 per cent of the remaining profit, is paid to the Government annually in terms of the South African Reserve Bank Act, No. 90 of 1989.

The following amounts have been paid to the State:

Financial year ended 31 March	*R(millions)*
1921–1988	405,1
1989	48,7
1990	147,1
1991	70,9
1992	139,4

(3) The Corporation for Public Deposits has realised the following profits since its inception in 1984:

Financial year ended 31 March	*R(millions)*
1985	10,4
1986	16,7
1987	16,7
1988	15,7
1989	19,0
1990	35,6
1991	31,7
1992	27,1

UESTIONS

ndicates translated version.

or written reply:

eneral Affairs:

Illegal abortions: persons charged

2. Mr M RAJAB asked the Minister of ustice:

(a) How many persons were charged with illegally performing abortions during the latest specified period of three years for which figures are available and (b) how many of the persons so charged were convicted on this charge? D233E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

The following statistics were obtained from the Central Statistical Services:

	July 1988–June 1989	July 1989–June 1990	July 1990—June 1991
(a) Number of persons prosecuted	33	44	33
(b) Number of persons convicted	26	36	20

wn Affairs:

Financial assistance to institutions

. Mr A RAJBANSI asked the Minister of elfare:

Whether any financial assistance was given by his Department to certain institutions, the names of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, in the 1991–92 financial year; if not, why not; if so, what was the (a) nature and (b) extent of the assistance given to each of these institutions? D282E

e MINISTER OF WELFARE:

Yes.

(a) Granting of subsidies

(b) (i) Aryan Benevolent Home Council—Chatsworth

Children's Home	R1 166 021,16
Home for the Aged	R 504 015,48
Home for the Handicapped	R2 777 829,24
Service Centre for Aged	R 28 199,98

(ii) Cheshire Home—Chatsworth

Adult Home	R 101 576,24
Children's Home	R 76 433,26

(iii) Chatsworth Child and Family Welfare Society R 563 773,15

ANC says no thanks to voters at 14

298 – RAY HARTLEY

THE ANC's national working committee said "thanks, but no thanks" yesterday to a suggestion by ANC president Nelson Mandela that the minimum voting age be reduced to 14.

The committee said in a statement it had discussed Mandela's suggestion and concluded that "the generally accepted position that all SA citizens who have attained the age of 18 and above should be entitled to the franchise was reasonable".

It said Mandela's remarks had made a contribution to the debate on the voting age, adding that "continuing debate around this issue can only enrich our political culture and is to be welcomed. The national working committee wishes to underscore that the ANC recognises the immeasurable contribution and sacrifice made by SA youth to the liberation struggle and shall always value it."

ANC Youth League spokesman Parks Mankahlana said his organisation accepted the working committee decision, but he continued to believe that the minimum age should be reduced to 16. He noted that two league officials were represented on the ANC's national working committee.

SA gets vaccine to protect babies

By Zingisa Mkhuma Star 3/15/93

A vaccine to protect infants against the relatively unknown Hib disease which claims the lives of thousands of children worldwide, and leads to meningitis, has been made available in South Africa for the first time.

The vaccine, called Hib-TITER, is specifically designed to protect infants from as young as two months against the highly contagious Haemophilus influenzae typ-b bacterial infection which causes Hib disease.

Disabling

Toddlers and infants infected with the virus may suffer from spinal meningitis, often with severely disabling side effects such as deafness, seizures, paralysis, hearing and vision impairment. and mental retardation in infants and toddlers.

According to Dr Lyne Leibowitz, a microbiologist from the SA Institute for Medical Research, 95 percent of the cases of this invasive disease are children under the ages of five. Sixty percent of victims develop meningitis, 6 percent die and up to 30 percent suffer permanent disabilities.

Hib disease is very contagious and is easily spread through casual contact. Researchers have found that infants attending play schools have a significantly greater risk of infection from the disease than other children in the community.

The risk is even greater in lower socio-economic population groups because of overcrowding and the general absence of preventive primary health care.

Leibowitz said 23 cases of meningitis linked to the Hib virus were reported at the Johannesburg Hospital between January 1992 and March this year in children between the ages of three months and three years.

Overseas studies have indicated that children have a 1:200 chance of developing some form of invasive Hib disease before their fifth birthday. In South Africa the figure is 1:250.

A spokesman for the company that imports the vacaccine, Neville Huxam, said that very litle research has been conducted to determine prevalence of the disease in South Africa.

Widespread

However, Huxam said, preliminary data indicated that the incidence of the disease may be more widespread than was suggested by officials.

South Africa has joined group of over 14 countries that are using the HibTITER vaccine to protect infants from the age of two months against the disease.

The vaccine is available on demand and at a cost from chemists and doctors.

Child abuse comes under spotlight

(298) Sowetan 21/6/98

Sowetan & Radio Metro

Talkback



with Tim Modise

By Abbey Makoe

SOUTH Africa could have more than 500 000 orphaned children by the turn of the century as a result of the Aids virus.

This was said by Mr Peter Fitzgerald of the Twilight Children Society during the *Sowetan*/Radio Metro Talkback Show last night.

He and colleagues Mrs Jackie Louveld, Mrs Dorothy Mokgalo and Mr Buti Motlhako were host Tim Modise's guests on the show to mark the International Children's Day.

Motlhako said the number of children roaming Johannesburg streets was often alarmingly high in winter.

He said the three "trouble spots" identified by his organisation were Johannesburg Station, Braamfontein and Hillbrow, where the children were regarded as a "nuisance".

He said this attitude was a result of thefts committed by these children at nearby shops. He said it was also the result of ignorance on the part of many people.

Respectable people

Louveld said child abusers included people who commanded respect in their communities. She said some of them were staunch church-goers.

Several activities dedicated to the International Children's Day have been organised throughout the week.

There will be a march from Ikwezi Station to Ipelegeng Community Centre at White City Jabavu, Soweto, at 9am today.

The march will highlight the plight of abused children.

People interested in taking part in the activities should phone (011) 331-0171.

A caller, Moira of Pinetown, bitterly complained about her domestic worker, saying she was not properly looking after her children.

"I reported her to Child Welfare Society two weeks ago and I am still waiting for a response," she said, adding: "My maid is not educated."

"How are children abused by their fathers going to respect them?"
William Kekana, Mamelodi

"My maid laughs when I tell her to care for her children."
Moira, Pinetown

"Street children are not recognised per se."
Peter Fitzgerald

Booklet on juvenile law launched

Buss. day 21/6/93

WILSON ZWANE

LAWYERS for Human Rights (LHR) has published a booklet which highlights problems encountered by children caught up in SA's criminal justice system.

At yesterday's Johannesburg launch of the booklet, titled Children in Trouble with the Law, author and LHR applied criminal justice director Ann Skelton said the booklet did not tackle the issue of reforms in the juvenile justice system. (298)

"It looks, instead, at how the current law — imperfect as it is — can be used creatively to assist children who are arrested, held and tried for criminal offences," Skelton said.

She added that the 76-page booklet was a practical guide for legal practitioners, court personnel and other professionals such as social workers.

The booklet identifies alternatives to incarceration

These include pre-trial community service, an arrangement whereby the accused enters into an agreement with the state undertaking to do a set number of hours of community service, or attends a juvenile school with a curriculum which is specifically designed for children in trouble with the law.

Skelton said that the booklet was the first document of its kind because it synthesised relevant aspects of legislation affecting children.

Copies of the booklet are available from the LHR's head office in Pretoria.

Youth shot dead by mistake, say police

Star 2/6/93

298

Own Correspondent

A policeman allegedly shot dead a youth "by mistake" at the Houtkop police station in Sebokeng on Sunday.

Lucas Mohapi said he last saw his son Edgar (19) alive on Friday morning.

Edgar, a Std 9 pupil at the Raphele Secondary School at Orange Farm, who is said to be a PAC activist, was arrested at Orange Farm on Friday with his friends Bheki Malevu and two others identified as Bakeng and Veli.

"Police informed me on Sunday evening that my son had been shot in the head by mistake," Mohapi said yesterday. "They told me to go to the police station and inquire.

"When I went there, a police officer told me Edgar was sitting with his friends smoking in an office when he was shot in the head. He asked if police could do any thing to help."

Vaal police spokesman Major Piet van Deventer yesterday confirmed the shooting: "It seems it was an accident. The matter is under investigation."

Van Deventer said the policeman involved had not been arrested. "We can't reveal his identity."

Rita Malevu said her son Bheki was seriously assaulted.

"His face was badly swollen. Initially, police told me he was not being held there. When I went to inquire again on Sunday, I saw him being fingerprinted.

Suicide

"I was informed that Bheki tried to commit suicide by cutting his stomach with a sharp object. I don't understand why police initially said he was not being held there."

Mohapi said police informed him that the boys were arrested for illegal possession of two 9 mm pistols. He could not confirm that his son was a member of the PAC.

"I am baffled by the police contention that my son was shot by mistake. They told me he was co-operative. I can't understand the circumstances under which my son was killed. I feel the police are hiding something about the way he was killed," he said.

PAC youth shot in jail

Sowetan 2/6/93.

(298)

By Bongani Mavuso

A POLICEMAN allegedly shot dead a youth "by mistake" at the Houtkop police station in Sebokeng on Sunday.

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Children at Cosatu's child care day carry placards protesting against the violence that has affected children. Cosatu has called for state and private sector-funded preschool facilities to form part of its campaign for free and compulsory education for all. Picture ROBERT BOTHA

Buss. day 21 6 93

Moves for creche subsidies

ERICA JANKOWITZ

WORKERS are to lobby employers and the state to subsidise creche facilities, especially in the black communities, Cosatu gender co-ordinator Dorothy Mokgalo said yesterday.

Speaking on Cosatu's child care day, she said additional educare facilities were urgently needed, with increasing numbers of women also becoming involved in the work process. (298)

Currently, only about 2% of black children have access to adequate facilities as most families cannot afford the average R260 a month charged for preschool care. Currently, only 6% of educare facilities were funded by big business, she said.

Cosatu would also demand 20 days' paid child care leave per annum at both factory and industry level, she said.

Cosatu put increasing pressure on employers to comply with workers' demands, she said. Employers in the auto sector, such as BMW, had provided educare facilities for workers, but they were the exception rather than the rule.

In addition, Cosatu would press for these demands to be put on the agenda of either the National Manpower Commission or the National Education Forum. This would form part of its education campaign.

Cosatu also demanded a living wage so parents are able to support their children, a 40 hour week to enable parents time with their children, housing, electricity and water to ensure the comfort of children and "joint control of the security forces to bring peace to our communities".

Booklet on juvenile law launched

Buss. day 21 6 93

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Govt 'protects child rights'

(298) CT 4/6/93

Political Staff

PROOF of the government's commitment to the protection of children's rights had been demonstrated in the Prevention of Family Violence Bill, said Minister of Justice Mr Kobie Coetsee yesterday.

He also said the second of the government's three proposed bills on women's rights — a bill to abolish gender discrimination — would also be tabled this week.

The provision in the Prevention of Family Violence obliging any person who suspects that a child is being ill-treated to report the matter to the police was "a major development in the safeguarding of our children", Mr Coetsee said in a statement.

"Society has an obligation to defend abused and ill-treated children

"It is quite appropriate that this bill was tabled in celebration of children's week."

The measure proposed a swift procedure to enable a judge or magistrate in chambers to grant an interdict against a member of a family to prevent any acts of family violence.

Foster children need homes

Star 4/6/93

298

Staff Reporter

A critical shortage of foster parents means dozens of children have no chance of being raised in a family environment, acording to the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society.

The JCWS ia making a concerted effort during Child Protection Week, which ends on Sunday, to recruit new long and short-term foster parents, a spokesman said.

"The society believes foster care is a far better alternative to children's homes since this provides the ideal family environment with love and family care.

"Children are usually placed in foster homes because the natural parents fail to meet their child's needs due to physical or mental abuse, alcoholism or drug addiction, severe neglect and desertion.

"Foster parents receive a monthly grant which helps with the child's keep, education, medical expenses and education," the spokesman said.

Prospective foster parents must be at least 25 and married for two years.

Telephone the JCWS foster care department at (011) 331-0171 for details.



ENTHRALLED: NP MP Patrick Mackenzie amuses the ANC's Kader Asmal Photo: Shadley Lombard

Answering to the children

South 5\6-9\6\93

(298)

By Justin Pearce

POLITICIANS don't normally listen to children. But when it's International Children's Day, the politically correct thing to do is to send a party representative along to listen while a panel of teenagers read (and sometimes misread) questions from their prepared notes. This is what happened at the Baxter Theatre on Tuesday night.

As ANC President Mr Nelson Mandela reminded the audience with striking unoriginality, "our future is the children".

The occasion was the launch of the Children's Film Festival which aims to bring the entertainment and educational value of cinema to children who cannot normally reach the medium.

The ANC, National Party, Democratic Party and Azapo had volunteered representatives to face the panel of youths.

Although Mandela gave a brief talk at the beginning, he left early and was not there to answer questions on his controversial call for the lowering of the voting age to 14.

It was left to ANC constitutional expert Professor Kader Asmal to answer why he personally did not support giving the vote to 14-year-olds.

"Nelson Mandela's greatness lies in his ability to open debate," Asmal replied with a barely-suppressed smile, reminding the audience that the ANC's policy was that the voting age should remain at 18.

He added that it was important to discuss such questions rather than be content with "a system run by 40-year-olds with large stomachs".

The National Party didn't even manage a token appearance from its top brass. Instead, the Nats were represented by Bonteheuwel MP Mr Patrick Mackenzie, well-known as the smoothest tongue in the House of Representatives.

Asked about the continuing inequality of education in South Africa, Mackenzie surprised the audience by saying: "No decision about schools should be taken without consulting parent and teacher organisations."

When a Cosas member in the audience asked: "Why must we be killed before we are answered?", Mackenzie replied: "Sir, it is very difficult to answer a question like that.

"We're saying let's have an election now-now-now in order to give all South Africans the right to be in parliament."

A cry from the audience of "your hands are dripping with blood" was rebuked by the chairperson.

Azapo deputy president Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe said the "trickle down effect" would not ensure the redistribution of wealth in South Africa.

"If Azapo became the government tomorrow, we would make money available from the budget to deal with the question of disadvantaged communities."

He warned that "whoever comes to power runs the risk of being overthrown by the youth.

"They sacrificed their education for the cause of freedom, and they will not be content to sleep in the streets."

Asmal concluded by telling children "you are not going to inherit the world. I only hope that normality will occur — we have never had normality in this country.

"As they say in America, keep on hanging out."

● The Children's Film Festival, organised by Molo Songololo, runs until July 15. Ster Kinekor has made cinemas available for morning and midday screenings, which will reach 30 000 children. Thousands more will be able to see films at community centres, schools and libraries throughout the Western Cape.

Part of the purpose of the festival is to maintain an awareness of children's rights in the forthcoming constitutional debates.

Cosatu call for child care funds

THE Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) is to lobby big business and the government to subsidise child care facilities.

At a press conference on Monday, Ms Dorothy Mokgalo, Cosatu's gender co-ordinator, said Cosatu would forward proposals on the lack of facilities to the negotiating committee.

Cosatu would also lobby for 20 days paid "child care leave" a year, to enable working parents to attend to the concerns of their children in emergency situations.

Ms Geraldine Fraser, SACP central committee member, said the evolution of working women had created a need for better educare.

"Women need assistance. Only two percent of black children have access to child care facilities."

Fraser said most black families could not afford the average R260 a month in creche fees.

Mr Jay Naidoo, Cosatu general secretary, said big business and the state should provide child care funding.

He said if "wastage and corruption" were "removed from the education budget, at least 25 percent of the R22 billion budget could be used to provide resources currently lacking.

Cosatu held the Johannesburg press conference amid huge clamour from the approximate 100 children gathered there from three different creches to commemmorate National Child Care Day. **SAPA**

South 5/6 - 9/6/93

Doing well in sub A — aged 12



LATE START: James Sophe, 12 years old in Sub A

By Lorelle Bell

JAMES SOPHE is 12 years old. He started school for the first time this year.

In his sub A classroom, most of his classmates are six years old or younger. James is worried about having started school so late, but he had no choice.

"My family moved to Wallacedene two years ago. Before that we lived at Muldersvlei and before that we lived on a farm. There were no schools," he said.

James' days were spent minding cattle. "I am happier now that I am at school. I am making a lot of friends and the lessons are easy for me."

His parents, like those of most of his schoolmates, are unemployed. But James has dreams and says that he wants to be a doctor.

His teacher, Ms Nondela Tomose, shares a tiny classroom with two other teachers and between them they teach 96 children at a time.

"I have three 12-year-olds in my class. James is doing very well," Tomose said.

"The two other 12-year-olds, Mthyafisi Dlaza and Funani Mapoli, are also coping easily, but Mthyafisi has to cycle from a farm far away and when it rains he can't come to school."

Tomose would have liked to give the three boys extra work and promote them to sub B by June because they grasp so quickly.

"But that could only happen if the situation improved. It is difficult to work in such overcrowded conditions, especially when one is competing with two other lessons taking place."

Big Apple beckons Tshepo

Express 6/6/93

By BERENG MTIMKULU

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD standard five Attridgeville pupil Tshepo Moyo jetted to New York City this week to represent the African continent at a UN Day for the African Child ceremony.

The ceremony – scheduled to last for 2 to 3 weeks – starts next week and will be attended by 10-to-14-year-olds from across the world. Each child will address delegates for three minutes on the experiences of children in their respective countries. (298)

The itinerary includes briefings with US non-government organisations, an African Film Festival, lectures, educational and cultural events.

According to the speech which Tshepo – a staunch Pan Africanist – hopes to deliver "teachers are using pupils and our education as pawns to drive home their demands concerning salaries". He said this was done through stay-aways and had to stop.

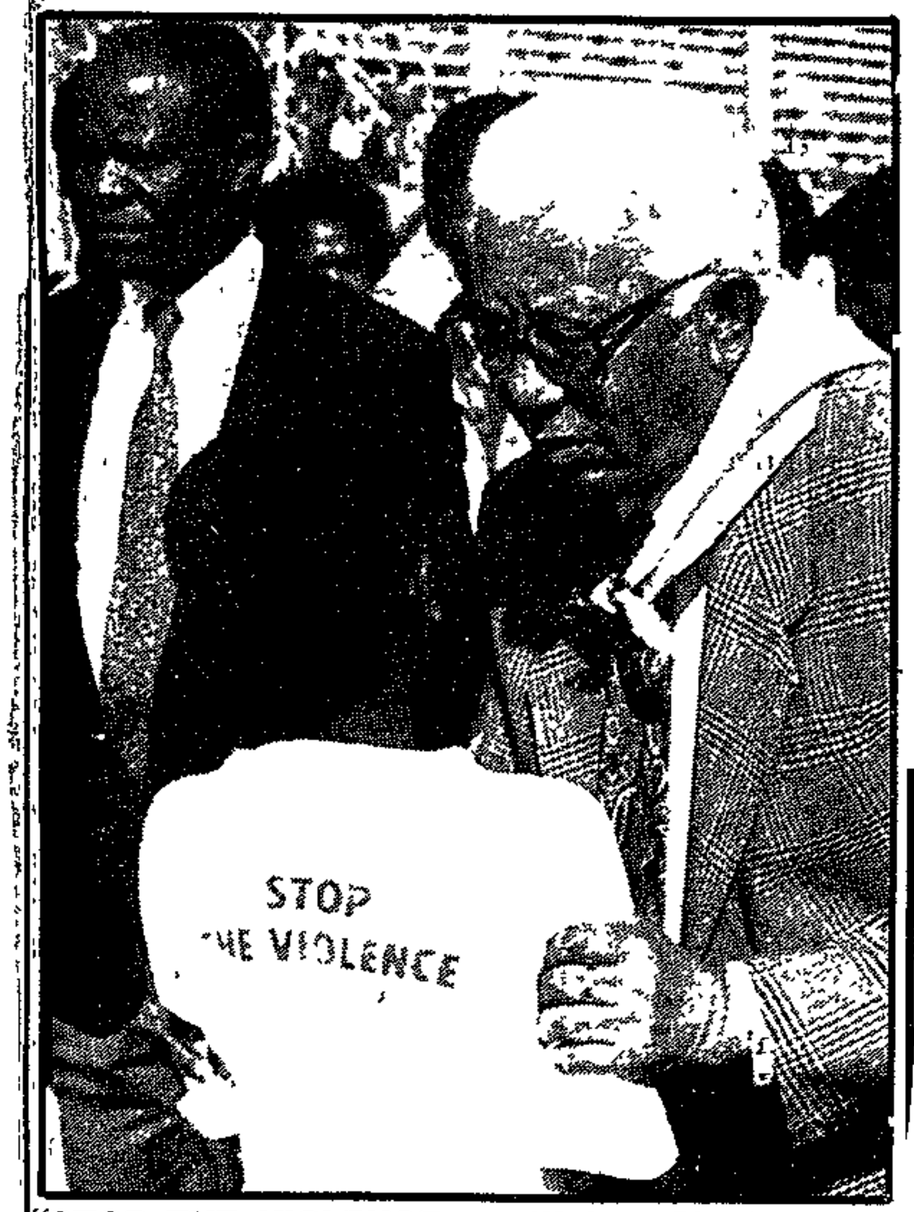
"We say teachers must stop toyi-toying when pushing for gains for political organisations. They are well educated and must therefore not withhold the food of education from us.

"We however sympathise with them and their needs. But we say that while political organisations are still fighting for our rights, we feel education must not be disrupted while a peaceful political settlement is being reached," he added.



RAPPING THE NATIONS ... Tshepo Moyo will address children worldwide. ■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE

Helping children in trouble with the law



STOP THE VIOLENCE ... Walter Sisulu commemorates International Day of the Child.

By ZANELE VUTELA

LAWYERS for Human Rights marked the International Day of the Child, June 1, by launching a book entitled *Children in Trouble with the Law.*

This pratical guide written by Anne Skelter concentrates on how the present law, imperfect as it is, can be used to help children who are arrested, held and tried for criminal offences.

Skelter, LHR's director for Applied Criminal Justice, decided to write the book because when she worked as a prosecutor she realised children were disadvantaged in the criminal justice system.

When she joined LHR four years ago, she worked as a defence lawyer for children facing charges. Last July she started a project in which she used to go to the courts every day and see every juvenile who faced charges with the aim of getting him or her legal representation and a speedy release from custody.

In her work, she tried to use the existing law as creatively as possible. The book, according to Skelter, should be used as a quick and efficient guide for legal practitioners, court personnel, social workers and psychologists, as well as paralegal and child-care workers.

It highlights some of the problems encountered when children are caught up in the South African justice system. It also identifies some possible solutions and alternatives.

ANC needs youth for democracy

Citizen 6/6/93

THE ANC and its allies cannot afford to be drawn into battle by forces which rejected political engagement, ANC head of economic planning Trevor Manuel said yesterday. (HP) (298)

"We need to be very careful and understand the traps that lie ahead," he told about 80 delegates at an ANC Youth League summit at the Peninsula Technikon in Cape Town.

He said an urgent effort was needed to recruit youth organisations as they were the ones who "would create the conditions in which democracy would either flourish or founder". – Sapa

Magistrate told to pay costs

By DIANA STREAK

THE Cape Town Supreme Court has ordered a magistrate to pay costs and overturned his decision in a maintenance case which cancelled a father's payments for child support.

Describing it as one of the strangest cases he had encountered, Mr Justice Leslie Rose-Innes ordered magistrate Henry van Breda and the father to pay the legal costs of the case.

He also ordered that the monthly payment of R150 for the man's daughter, ruled "unnecessary" by the magistrate, be reinstated and backdated.

The case arose after a Joostenbergvlakte woman applied for an increase in maintenance for her 15-year-old daughter and was told that the previous agreement had been cancelled.

Her son, 13, had gone to live with his father because of "disciplinary" problems and the couple had agreed he would pay maintenance for the daughter only.

At a meeting with the father and the maintenance officer at the Kuils River magistrate's court last October, the father argued that he should not have to pay maintenance since each parent was now responsible for the expenses of a child.

The mother refused to accept this and was told the matter would have to go to court.

According to the mother, the magistrate agreed that each parent should be solely responsible for the resident child's expenses and told her that she should not receive further maintenance for the daughter.

She told the magistrate that while she had no income or significant assets, her ex-husband had a fixed income, a house, motor vehicles, a caravan and a caravan site at Pearly Beach.

Mr van Breda responded that this did not matter and she could "go out and earn a living", she claimed.

Mr van Breda told her it would be pointless for her to try to get the maintenance order changed because she would then be liable to pay her ex-husband the same amount for her son as he paid her for the daughter, the woman claimed.

Mr Justice Rose-Innes described this reasoning as "nonsense".

Acknowledging that it was "extraordinary" for a magistrate to be ordered to pay the costs of legal action, Mr Justice Rose-Innes ruled that Mr van Breda and the father could share the costs or they could be borne by one of them.

A spokesman for the Department of Justice said it had taken note of the judgment, but until officials had had time to study the contents and investigate the matter, no decision on possible steps against Mr van Breda could be taken.

Girl dying of Aids after rape

Sowetan 7/6/93 ·

■ Two men jailed after infecting 11-year-old girl with killer virus:

298

INa similar case to the Yeoville girl who has tested HIV positive after being raped (see page 1), an 11-year-old Cape Town girl is dying of Aids after being raped by two men.

A man and his uncle were last year jailed for eight and 10 years respectively in the Kuils River Regional Court for raping the girl

Phillip van Rheede (23) and Martin Jooste (24) were acquitted on a further charge of attempted murder as the State could not prove that Jooste had known he was infected with the HIV virus when he raped the then 10-year-old girl in October 1990.

Both men had raped the girl on separate occasions while she was alone at her grandmother's home in Belhar

The state prosecutor said said she doubted there could ever be a severe enough punishment for the men.

She said the child's family had no money for treatment and she just lay in hospital every day with a death sentence hanging over her In passing sentence, the magistrate told the men: "It is a crime which disgusts the community and calls for the maximum It is indeed a heartbreaking story The child never had a chance."

illion have no pre-school facilities

Video depicts an unsafe environment

Sowetan 7/6/98

■ Children talk about things that concern their lives:

By Sizakele Kooma

THE 55-minute video *Die duiwel maak my hart so seer* is a vivid depiction of the unsafe environment that South African children, both rural and urban, grow up in (298)

The children, all races and from various areas in the country, talk about "adult" issues that impact on their lives — drought, unemployment, nutrition, punishment, domestic violence and violence.

In almost all the interviews a shared concern for the lack of recreation facilities also comes out. Growing up in deprived communities that do not have any playgrounds — the few that are there are unsafe — the children still show a resourcefulness that typifies their lot.

When Jonathan could no longer bear the "boredom" that he and his friends in Macazar were subjected to, he formed a drama club In Lebowa, Tshepo and his friends kept themselves busy making wire cars and playing traffic officers or staging bullfights with the clay animals they made, while another group filled their day playing party games behind their ramshackle homes in Cape Town.

According to the producers of the video, Idol Pictures Production, six million children in South Africa have no access to pre-school care facilities, a factor that is seen as contributing to bad academic performance and the high rate of school dropouts

> **"Growing up in the deprived communities that do have any playgrounds the children still show a resourcefulness that typifies their lot"**

The video is available to the public. Proceeds from the sales go to early educare projects. It can be ordered from Grassroots Preschool Creche, PO Box 38055, Gatesville 7764 Phone (021) 638-3111 ext 212.

The cost is R35 to pre-schools, R60 to NGOs and individuals, and the charge to libraries, technikons, training colleges and universities is R90.



Clowning around . . . Lillet Mngoma (4) of Soweto has her face painted at the Johannesburg Zoo children's celebrations yesterday. Picture: Alf Kumalo

Children revel in the fun on their special day

Star 7/6/93

By Abdul Milazi (248)

Hundreds of children from all over Johannesburg and Soweto were treated to a day of fun yesterday at several events to highlight the plight of homeless children and to celebrate International Children's Day

The Johannesburg Zoo resembled Disneyland as children, some as young as two, came in droves to watch animals and enjoy a fun-filled day with lots of entertainment

Johannesburg City Council public relations officer Lydia Rolando said the council had organised the outing to make people aware of the plight of homeless children and at the same time to celebrate World Environment Day

Rolando said children and the environment constituted the future, and that the two were inseparable.

In another Children's Day celebration organised by Actstop and the ANC alliance, Joubert Park danced to the beat of African drums as the Twilight Children traditional dance group displayed their talents to passers-by.

Budding street poets narrated poems to attentive ears, and young actors held spectators spellbound. It was a day filled with fun and sadness some of the women in the crowd wept openly

One of the organisers, Lona Motsoahae, said the Children's Day celebration was the beginning of an ongoing project to relieve the plight of homeless children

Motsoahae suggested the establishment of shelters for girls because all existing shelters catered only for boys She said this imbalance made homeless girls easy targets for child prostitution syndicates since prostitution was often the girls' only means of survival.

● The Johannesburg Zoo entrance fee for Monday to Sunday from 8.30 am to 5 30 pm is R6 for adults and R4 for children. Sunday, June 20 is Fathers' Day and fathers will be allowed in free if accompanied by at least one child.

Parents on murder and abuse charges

Star 7/6/93

298

By Philip Zoio

A Pretoria couple are to appear in court today over the murder of one of their baby boys and chronic abuse of their two other infant children, police said.

The man, a 24-year-old former SADF corporal, and his wife (26) were arrested on Friday after the Pretoria Attorney-General decided to prosecute them on charges of murder and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

SAP spokesman Lieutenant Evan Johnson said the police believed that the couple killed their first child — a two-year-old boy — in 1991.

The child was admitted to 1 Military Hospital in Voortrekkerhoogte after the couple had claimed the boy injured himself in a fall. The child later died.

A post-mortem revealed that the child's intestines had been ruptured and a number of ribs had been broken, Johnson said.

Bruise

At that stage, it could not be proved that the child had been assaulted, Johnson said.

He said the woman gave birth to a girl in January last year. Two months later, the baby was brought to a doctor with a 7 by 2 cm bruise on her stomach.

The case was heard by a children's court, which took the baby away from her parents and placed her in foster care, Johnson said.

On March 1, the couple had another baby boy. On May 11, the child was admitted to H F Verwoerd Hospital with severe injuries

He was screaming continuously, suffering convulsions and intermittently lapsing into a coma, said Johnson. Five of the baby's ribs had been broken, some of them on several occasions. Some of the fractures were up to five weeks old, Johnson said.

The couple are to appear in the Pretoria Regional Court today.

NEWS FEATURES *Search for child care facilities ● Six m*



Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo with his son Kami at the launch of the National Child Care Campaign, are flanked by children from crèches in the CBD.

Sowetan 7/6/93

Cosatu crusade

■ KIDDIE CARE *Campaign must also be seen as a national issue:*

By Pearl Majola

THE CHOICE is difficult for most mothers who find themselves with sick children on working days. Either stay home and lose the day's earnings or go to work and worry the whole day.

As more women enter the job market, the issue is more than taking leave because of sick children.

It also involves the availability of affordable child care facilities which will ensure that, while parents are at work, their children receive medical care.

In recognition of the importance of child care rights, Cosatu has officially launched its National Child Care Campaign which calls on the private sector and the Government to provide subsidised child care facilities

The campaign, which has been going on for about a year, also calls on employers to provide 20 days' paid leave for parents to take care of their children's needs. like that of education and health.

"This campaign is about persuading employers and Government to place aside resources to properly educate children at child care stage so that they have a good foundation before entering formal school," says Cosatu general secretary Mr Jay Naidoo

"Ultimately the campaign is about free and compulsory pre-school education for all children," Naidoo says.

"The provision of child care facilities means more than just allowing parents to do their work without worry about children," says Cosatu's Gender Programme co-ordinator, Ms Dorothy Mokgalo.

"It also means that women, who have always carried the responsibility of rearing children, can get time to do and getinvolved in other activities.

"Another important aspect of this campaign is that it will create awareness that child care is in fact not only the women's responsibility Parenting involves both mothers and fathers," she says.

The campaign's objectives have been divided into short, medium and long term

"The immediate goal will be the paid leave for school meetings. children's health and other needs. The medium term aim is to get the Government and the employers to make provision for facilities near the workplace or support established facilities in communities where the employer's majority of workers live."The long-term aim is to involve the State, political, civic and other organisations in setting up good and affordabl. facilities," Mokgalo says

According to Cosatu, some employers — particularly in the motor industry — have responded positively to the call.

Girl contracts HIV virus after rape

DEATH SENTENCE for 11-year-old

SPECIAL!!

N SWEET HOME

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GROW

Sowetan EXCLUSIVE

By Themba Molefe

AN 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL is under sentence of death after her mother revealed yesterday that she had tested HIV positive

The girl was abducted at a Johannesburg shopping centre last November and kept as a sex slave for three months, sleeping with at least three white men a night at a house in Jolly Street, Yeoville

The girl may not be identified in terms of the Children's Act Her ordeal was first published in *Sowetan* on January 19, a day after she was reunited with her mother After a medical examination a uterine infection was diagnosed

On March 5 the girl turned 11 and her mother threw a mammoth party

The 29-year-old woman's worst fears were confirmed on May 7 when a letter from the Johannesburg Hospital said her daughter had tested positive for HIV

"I could not believe it at the time, however, last Thursday I was devastated when doctors at the hospital confirmed the diagnosis," said the mother The girl was admitted to hospital on May 24 for what the family believed were routine gynaecological tests

The woman said she intended petitioning the Minister of Law and Order, or "I will be forced to take the law into my hands" She claimed that police had known about the man behind the prostitute ring for years

Speaking about her ordeal in January, the girl said she was kidnapped while she was buying a soft drink at the shopping centre Her abductors took her to a house in Yeoville, Johannesburg That night she was made to smoke a mixture of dagga and Mandrax tablets, had her face made up and given new clothing and condoms

From that night and afterwards she joined five other girls about her age in picking up white men at street corners

She said about 15 girls stayed at the house and earned between R30 and R80 each a night for sleeping with the men The money was collected by their pimps

The girl said she recognised one policeman whom she identified only as Steve, as being one of those who frequented the Yeoville house

Mr Bhonoto Mpungose (38) first appeared briefly in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on January 25 on charges of kidnapping and prostitution and was released on R1 000 bail The case is continuing



The house in Jolly Street Yeoville where the 11-year-old girl was held as a sex slave. See page 2.

The HIV statistics

Sowetan 11/6/93

- About 500 people are infected with HIV daily in South Africa.
- Already more than 200 000 South Africans are infected. Of these more than 20 000 who carry the virus are Soweto residents.
- Four out of every 100 babies a week acquire the virus at Baragwanath Hospital.

Test on sex slave girl reveals HIV

Own Correspondent

An 11-year-old girl, allegedly abducted and forced into prostitution for three months, has tested HIV-positive.

The girl was abducted at a Johannesburg shopping centre last November. As a sex slave, she slept with at least three white men a night at a house in Jolly Street, Yeoville.

The girl may not be identified in terms of the Children's Act. Her ordeal was first published in the Sowetan on January 19, a day after she was reunited with her mother. At the time a uterine infection was diagnosed.

The 29-year-old mother's worst fears were confirmed on May 7 when a letter from a Johannesburg Hospital said her daughter had tested positive for the Aids virus, HIV.

A 30-year-old man appeared briefly in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on January 25 on charges of kidnapping and prostitution and was released on R1 000 bail. The case is continuing.

Credit agency fights poachers

MARIANNE MERTEN

CORPORATE and consumer credit information is being used to trace illegal rhino horn and ivory traders.

Kreditinform financial director Peter Sullivan said yesterday the company had given conservation agencies "unlimited access" via modem to a network which contained about 160 000 corporate and directors' names in its corporate database and more than 9-million names in its consumer database.

The donation — worth about R20 000 — was made because "as individuals and as a company we are interested in conservation", Sullivan said.

Although the arrangement was planned initially for only one year, the company would like to repeat it, he said.

A conservation agency source said yesterday it was a sensitive operation which "has already helped conservation agencies in tracking poachers".

"SA was an outlet for illegal trade in both ivory and rhino horns because of its ports and international trade relations."

The databases did not contain any confidential information, but provided contact names used to trace illegal dealers.

Wits unveils plan to redirect youth skills

JOHN DLUDLU

THE WITS Mental Health Unit will soon launch an intervention programme to rechannel township youth skills into social reconstruction, according to programme coordinator Melvin Freeman.

He says the programme's main objective is to equip the youth in violence-torn townships with the skills of coping with the current transitional period and the future SA, which demands more than just militancy.

The youth, he says, have to be credited for having contributed significantly to the current political negotiations through their militant struggles in the 1980s.

"Over the years skills such as leadership and militancy were built. But in the New SA militancy will have to be reharnessed to reconstruct the country," he adds.

He says youth energy and initiative developed in the 1980s will have to be rechannelled to "more progressive and constructive" programmes of rebuilding the country.

The intervention programme will consist of two parts. One part will be a pilot study that will evaluate a more effective way of training the youth in developing the coping skills.

"We want to involve the communities as volunteers.

"So the study will determine if it's a good idea to use volunteers or social workers as trainers."

The other part will be the training of the youth in what Freeman terms "life skills", which will include negotiating skills, conflict resolution skills, and skills that will help them understand themselves and other people better.

Freeman says the programme will also try to build trust among adults and the youth to normalise the relationship between the two groups. "Adults have so much to learn from the youth and the youth in turn has much to learn from adults," he adds.

Several youth wings of political organisations have already been consulted and some have expressed support for the project.

The project will be financed by a private local foundation and non-governmental bodies will be approached.

While the programme will have psychological aspects to address the after-effects of the current violence in the townships on the youth, more emphasis will be placed on practical intervention, Freeman says.

"In our intervention we have to acknowledge the traumatic past and deal with it, as well as equip people for the future," he adds.

Call on non-governmental organisations

GAVIN DU VENAGE

THE local business sector should take over from foreign donors in supporting non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Gerald Kraak of the Interfund aid agency said in the latest Corporate Social Investment newsletter.

Kraak said NGOs, traditionally dependent on overseas support, were facing a reduction of resources as western governments cut their aid budgets and revised their policies towards SA.

If organisations were forced to shut down it would mean a loss of valuable expertise, experience and "the vision of a democratic social order which the NGO sector came to embody", said Kraak.

A "burgeoning movement" of NGOs had sprung up in SA over the past 15 years, active in education, health, education, welfare and local government, he said.

They had developed innovative strategies to confront social needs and forged close ties with communities.

NGOs also had a keen understanding of conditions on the ground, and were also able to operate where government bodies were viewed with suspicion, he said.

Apart from their role in providing services service, NGOs formed the core of civil society in SA he said, and could play an important role in building a stable democracy.

Donor countries had actively promoted the developmental role of NGOs, but their support was no longer certain: "There can be no doubt that this aid contributed substantially to the building of a strong NGO sector in SA," said Kraak.

The local corporate sector had only recently begun looking at these organisations as conduits to help disadvantaged communities.

A few large corporations had set up funds to help NGOs, but these needed to be extended into a broader partnership between business and organisations.

This would make it possible for the corporate sector to respond directly to community needs, said Kraak.

June 16 celebrations underway

Sowetan 10/6/93

GREAT DAY *OAU and Unicef dedicate important occasion to African child:*

By Pearl Majola

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY for the celebration of the Day of the African Child on the African continent, June 16, organised here by the National Children's Rights Committee and Unicef

The day was declared by the Organisation for African Unity and the United Nations in memory of the June 16 1976 victims.

298

Children's report

This year's South African celebration coincides with the launch of the State of South African Children Report which takes place at the Johannesburg Civic Theatre.

The comprehensive report is the result of a two-year national study of the situation of women and children in South Africa

It examines their needs and concerns from the viewpoint of ensuring their survival, protection and development. It also addresses their health, education, welfare and legal status within the socio-political and economic context of this country

The launch will also be a curtain-raiser for the two-day national conference on the State of South Africa's Children to be held on June 17 and 18.

"The aim of this whole programme is to get South Africa to start looking seriously at the protection, survival and development of children," says Ms Shirley Mabusela of the NCRC

"June is generally an important month for children but we want it to go further than that. At this time of transition, we want to ensure that children's issues are on the national agenda"

Shirley Mabusela of the National Children's Rights Committee

"June is generally an important month for children but we want it to go further than that At this time of transition, we want to ensure that children's issues are on the national agenda," she said

"The information on the report will be useful to a wide spectrum of organisations dealing with children and it will also assist them in beginning to think about developing a national programme of action for this country's children"



In memory of Hector Peterson, a 13-year-old who was the first victim of the June 16 1976 shootings in Soweto the Day of the African Child is also to remember the children who suffered and died during the riots.

South 12 6 6/6/93

Fighting the roots of TB

By Mluleki Gantsho

SANTA Sunshine creche in Elsies river has become a beacon of hope for children suffering from tuberculosis.

It is a community-based project for children who suffer from TB and those who are at risk.

"This is a unique creche in South Africa that deals with children who come from deprived families or whose parents are alcoholics," said Mrs Dulcie Erasmus, community project manager.

There are also programmes which involve parents, like gardening skills. Parents are also given food parcels.

"We recruit members from the community to be trained as community health workers. Their tasks are to supervise and support TB patients and to encourage them to take treatment regularly," said Erasmus.

(298)

The recruits also assist in finding new patients and refer them to the clinic. Sometimes they have to treat patients in their homes.

Erasmus said TB is curable but because of ignorance and the stigma attached to it — it is seen as a poor person's disease — it becomes difficult.

"TB can be cured in less than six months if people take treatment regularly, and if one suspects that he or she has TB they should visit the nearest clinic immediately."

People should take note of these signs and symptoms: coughing for more than three weeks; loss of appetite and weight; shortness of breath; tiredness; sweating at night; and coughing blood.

Erasmus said anyone with any of these symptoms should visit a clinic for a check up.

"You may not be suffering from TB but remember an early diagnosis means an early recovery," she said.

The Sunshine Creche is one of the community health projects run by the South African National Tuberculosis Association (Santa), a non-governmental organisation which has been combatting TB since 1947.

Santa is committed to a community-based approach to fighting TB, says community services and planning manager, Ms Louise Remmers.

"Previously the community has been seen as recipients rather than participants, and it is going to take a while to switch that perception."

"The emphasis in South Africa has been on curative medicine," adds Santa public relations manager, Ms Julia van Heerden.

"We want to change that attitude but it doesn't happen overnight. And major problems lie in the fragmentation of the health services."

The creche, started in 1978, now has 80 volunteers, nine health advisors and 13 staff members paid by santa.

Organisations like the Christmas Stamp Fund and private donors contribute to its existence. Food is subsidised by the goverment.

"We are very thankful to the community of Elsies River for their support. If it was not for them things would have been very difficult," Erasmus says.

This page was made possible with the support of Warner-Lambert

Pupils in court over AK-47s

Star 14/6/93

Three Kelokitso pupils from Soweto — members of the ANC — appeared briefly in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court on Friday on charges of attempted murder, robbery, and possession of two AK-47s. — Staff Reporter.

298

15/Sep 15/6/93

SA office for Unicef

THE UN Children's Fund would open an SA office soon to pay greater attention to the suffering of black women and children, Unicef said in Paris yesterday. The announcement accompanied a report stating that the social needs of black SA women and children should become a top priority. It said two-thirds lived in extreme poverty, with that figure climbing to 80% in rural areas.

(298)

Star 16/6/93

Too little too late?

Many children are being caught up in the Aids crisis as orphans, and they will remain long after the epidemic has subsided. Health Writer DAVID ROBBINS looks at the scale of the problem in South Africa, and at what is being done to prepare for it.

RECENT predictions indicate that the Aids epidemic will have left about 10 million children without parents in Africa by the year 2000. More than 500 000 of them will be living in South Africa.

In most sub-Saharan countries, the problem is extensive. As adults die, their children are left dependent on the aged, on themselves, and on collapsing community structures.

"In the rest of Africa they discovered the problem when it was already smothering them," says Support Aids Families and Orphans (Safo) co-ordinator Claire Fleming.

"Since South Africa is some years behind the rest of the continent in terms of the Aids epidemic, we are ideally placed to prepare ourselves. But very little is being done."

Safo, which was launched in Soweto in February last year, is the only organisation dedicated to offering practical assistance.

Working with the HIV clinic at Baragwanath Hospital, which refers the families of Aids sufferers to Safo, the organisation is assisting 54 Soweto families to cope with the manifold problems associated with the terminally ill.

"Children are often traumatised by seeing their parents die," says Safo's only field worker, Nana Ntuli. "They are different to normal orphans. They are undergoing pain and insecurity over a long period.

"Our work is to offer them support and love, so that it will not be too difficult for them to fit into society as adults."

At the moment, Safo stands virtually alone against these difficulties. But it's a small organisation — a committee and two part-time workers — which has met with a lukewarm response from the authorities.

Safo applied for a fund-raising number in November 1991. While the authorities considered the application, the fledgling organisation received support from the British government, and later from the Americans and Australians.

Prompted by an inquiry from The Star last week, the Directorate of Fund Raising has now issued Safo with a fund-raising number valid for two years.

"We're thrilled," says Fleming, "but concerned that no one is paying much attention to this vitally important aspect of the epidemic. Even the minutes of the Aids Advisory Group (AAG) reveal no urgency."

Professor Alan Fleming, chairman of Baragwanath Hospital and the Soweto Clinics Aids Committee, warns that the pressures which will be placed on these Aids orphans will be enormous.

As communities collapse because of the death of breadwinners and leaders, children will be forced prematurely into the adult world of work and decision-making, often to the detriment of their educational and emotional development.

"So far," he says, "little has been done to plan for the social consequences of this premature entry into adult life.

"Failure to adequately prepare could expose the young to the influences of the unscrupulous, who may encourage socially disruptive behaviour including substance abuse, prostitution, urban violence or even banditry and civil war."

Claire Fleming adds: "As if the existing problems of our street children and marginalised youth aren't enough. But I think sometimes the authorities are hoping the problem won't materialise. Look at the minutes of the AAG meeting held on February 5 this year."

The minutes refer to the projection that more than 531 000 children will soon be orphaned by Aids, then continues: "If it is accepted that 10 percent of these children will require care and other social assistance, by the year 2000 approximately 53 000 more children will be the responsibility of the welfare system."

"How is that for reducing the problem by 90 percent?" asks Claire Fleming. "I simply can't understand where they get that 10 percent to make their calculation. All these orphans are going to be the responsibility of the welfare system, but we certainly don't advocate that they all be institutionalised."

Both Claire and Alan Fleming emphasise that the experience in the rest of sub-Saharan Africa should be examined to formulate a policy for South Africa. Most of the work with children bereft of their parents through Aids has been left to a few dedicated non-governmental organisations, with State authorities doing little to assist.

Asked what Safo would do if it had access to funds, Claire Fleming said immediately: "An office in Soweto; a workshop where the families and children of the terminally ill can generate income and build up a sense of belonging; a few salaries for full-time staff; training programmes for volunteers to work in the community.

"We admit we have a lot to learn," she added. "And we need all the help we can get. It would be terrible if South Africa learnt nothing from the countries to the north."

Telephone (011) 678—9908 for further information on Safo. □

Programme will advance SA children

Star 16/6/93

By Shirley Woodgate

Sweeping aims to achieve basic education for 80 percent of South African primary school children, a massive reduction in infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates and the halving of adult illiteracy have been announced by the National Children's Rights Committee in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

The national programme of action for children is based on a situation analysis of children and women in this country, aimed at meeting most of the World Summit for Children goals for promoting the survival, protection and development of children.

More than 40 African countries were committed to implementation of the programmes and the two organisations hoped South Africa would join their ranks.

Goals include the reduction of infant and under-five child mortality rates by one third, or to 50 and 70 per 1 000 live births respectively, whichever is less.

Infant mortality rates would be partly reduced by Universal Child Immunisation (UCI); maternal mortality rates would be cut by improving nutrition and eliminating Vitamin A and iodine deficiency disorders.

Measles, polio and neo-natal tetanus must be eliminated by the end of 1994.

Maternal mortality rates and severe and moderate malnutrition among under-fives should be reduced by half by 2000.

There must be universal access to safe drinking water and sanitary means of excreta disposal.

(298) 2/6/93

CHILDREN'S DAY FILM FESTIVAL

Vision of a place in the sun for every child

(298) ARGT 2/6/93

Staff Reporter
TYRONE SEALE

OVEREXPOSED to violence and hatred and forced into early adulthood, South African children need to "enjoy the sunshine again".

With this plea, African National Congress president Mr Nelson Mandela urged politicians across the political spectrum to design an education system which would "deal with the horrors apartheid has forced into our lives" and called for "an overall plan that will give our children the necessary skills to face the future with confidence".

Marking International Children's Day and the launch of the Molo Songololo Children's Film Festival, Mr Mandela addressed an audience of teenagers and children's rights activists in the Baxter Theatre last night.

The event gave young people an opportunity to see Mr Mandela, Democratic Party leader Dr Zac de Beer, Azanian People's Organisation deputy president Mr Pandelani Nefolovdwe, ANC national executive committee member Professor Kader Asmal and National Party MP Mr Pat Mackenzie and to question their visions for the future.

For the hopeful young people filling only one third or so of the theatre, Mr Mandela's arrival was in itself a reminder of the toll of building the more considerate, more protective society the ANC leader was to sketch in his brief address.

Appearing drawn, Mr Mandela was flanked by bodyguards who carefully scanned the audience before introducing their all-important charge to the venue.

While Mr Mandela had been scheduled to take part in the panel discussion, the hostess, 15-year-old Shehaam Abass, announced that Mr Mandela would in fact leave early and be represented by Professor Asmal.

However, the damper of Mr Mandela's departure was soon offset by a lively, alternately poignant and ironic exchange between the teenagers and the politicians.

With his first question, 15-year-old Brian Claasen, of Mitchells Plain, unlocked what was to become Mr Mackenzie's trademark for the evening: a flood of apologies for the evils of the past; he was not merely wiping egg off his face, but cracking a few over his own head and enjoying it.

He was not the only one enjoying it. The audience soon came to regard the chairman of the Joint Committee of Parliament for Home Affairs as the court jester and hissed and chuckled at every response.

The only protocol at work here was the honest cruelty of youth.

"When and how will unitary education come about?" Brian asked.

"We know the present education is still racist and based on apartheid and we are in a stage where the government has no right to take unilateral decisions; the facts is (sic) just as it is (sic)," Mr Mackenzie said. "The errors of the past has (sic) no doubt been an infringement on the rights of children and their education."



Pictures OBED ZILWA, The Argus

THE PRESIDENT AND THE FUTURE: ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela on the Baxter stage last night, sharing his vision for the youth of South Africa.

Answering a question from 17-year-old Jennifer Petersen, of Mitchells Plain, about the rehabilitation of street children, Mr Nefolovhodwe said children's issues should not be addressed in isolation. The answer lay in breaking down the political system that forced children on to the streets.

He warned that growing numbers of illiterate young people would present any future government with the risk of being overthrown by youths who would say they had sacrificed their education, to liberate the country "and we are not interested in sweeping the streets".

The gap between uneducated street children neglected by apartheid and their failure to find jobs because of technological advances could trigger "another war", he said.



ADVICE WELL TAKEN: Part of the audience during Mr Mandela's speech at the opening of the Molo Songololo Children's Film Festival at the Baxter Theatre.

Asked about the economic exploitation of children in South Africa, Professor Asmal drew word pictures of two polarised, parallel South Africas.

The first South Africa, he said, nourished, enriched and supported children.

"Then there's another, a nether South Africa that objectifies our children" and left them without homes and care, Professor Asmal said.

It would be a proud moment when South Africa ratified international agreements on the rights of children and an even prouder moment when these conventions were enforced, he said.

Dr De Beer warned against a simple transfer of wealth from rich South Africans to their poorer compatriots.

The country needed to produce more wealth to provide for everybody's needs, he said.

When a Fazeka High School pupil, identified only as Cyril, asked Mr Mackenzie why township children had to die before their grievances were discussed, the MP for Bonteheuwel said: "It's very difficult to answer a question like that. There's been no other road of action that the majority could take because they don't have the vote.

"Therefore it's imperative and we are saying let's have an election now, now, now You're laughing, but that's what I'm saying.

"I've always said if there's a poor white in this country he's a stupid person, because he had all the opportunities in life."

Seconds later, Mr Mackenzie lost his sense of urgency about an election. "I believe we should not vote for a person, but for a political party that will be more responsible as a group. Sweat it out for another few months so we can have that election and correct what's been wrong throughout the years."

Professor Asmal was less ambitious, but a great deal more popular with the audience when he said "Young people want a quiet, normal life. I hope normality will occur for young people.

"Keep on hanging out, do your thing. We value your might and power. Be a left-winger (sic) or a right-winger (sic)," he said, promoting rugby above politics.

"Be a poet and do Latin and German and other irrelevant things at university."

Then it was time for the first film of the festival. A collection of short films about the plight of children around the world. It was hardly festive. Hardly the stuff children should see. But it should be compulsory viewing for every politician, businessman and abusive parent who has helped to make this world a prison for the innocents.

Cosatu drive for child care

JOHANNESBURG. — Cosatu is to lobby big business and the government to subsidise child-care facilities.

At a news conference here yesterday as part of National Child Care Day, the federation's gender co-ordinator, Ms Dorothy Mokgalo, said proposals would be put forward soon.

Cosatu would also lobby for 20 days paid "child-care leave" a year, to enable working parents to attend to the needs of their children in emergencies. — Sapa

Kids grill politicians at festival

(298)

TWO sets of children had emerged from apartheid — one knowing detention and torture, the other depicted in media adverts of happy family life, Professor Kadar Asmal, ANC executive member, said at the opening of the Children's Film Festival Molo Songololo last night.

His vision for South African children was normality to "worship the small and the beautiful and to hang out".

The launch of the festival at the Baxter Theatre was presided over by ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela, whosaid children had the "right to laugh", before he left soon after delivering his speech.

But children aged about 16 grilled Democratic Party leader Dr Zach de Beer, National Party MP Mr Patrick Mackenzie, Prof Asmal and Azapo deputy president Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe.

Keynote speaker Ms Miriam Patsanza of Zimbabwe's Talent Consortium said South Africans had missed the lessons of childhood. ET 2/6/93

Mr Mackenzie was the target of many questions and admitted apartheid had "punished our children".

A question by a person identifying himself as part of the "lost generation" said he was hoping for a cure to the diseases of unemploymenmt and illiteracy and was told by Mr Mackenzie "to hold on and sweat it out for a few more months".