

SOCIAL SECURITY - CHILD CARE

1992

JANUARY — MARCH

# Happy New Year ahead for a project built on love

"Let's start the New Year right, with the clock tonight..." Remember that rather syrupy song, with its sentiments, nevertheless, in exactly the right place?

One of the early columns in Stoep Talk last year dealt with one of the country's most intriguing pre-school institutions, an early learning and care centre on the seventh floor of a building bang in the centre of Johannesburg.

We are talking about the Floc (For Love Of Children) centre, run by the Methodist Church community, full-timers as well as enthusiastic volunteers, and it seems as good a way as any to kick off the New Year with the news that, so successful has the project been, the launching of Floc II is planned for this month.

It will open in the YMCA in Braamfontein.

Builders have been busy with alterations, staff have been appointed, and children are presently being enrolled.

Funding to a large extent has come from the Central Methodist Deaconess Society.

The centre will cater for 90 three- to six-year-olds. It will occupy the main large hall, the roof over the hall and some office space.

As with the entirely indoor situation of Floc I, the new centre has its own special problems as regards suitable furnishings. A variety of equipment and furnishings is still being sought.



Happy note... struck by a youngster at the Floc centre.

These include beach umbrellas for shade on the roof, carpet samples or car mats, small cupboards and bookcases, hose-piping, buckets, old tyres, indoor plants.

Just two letters to Floc illustrate how worthwhile a cause it is, this creche for inner-city children of all races, who have nowhere else to go while their parents — people less privileged than others — are out at work.

Isobel and Craig Manning decided to become sponsors

"We had no idea there could be so many inner-city children," the couple write, "and the idea of a 7th floor pre-school centre was intriguing."

## Stoep Talk

MICHAEL SHAFTO



"We decided to sponsor a child..."

"As sponsors we have been rewarded with continued contact with this successful project through newsletters, concerts, reports etc."

"This makes us feel part of the project."

Two Johannesburg College of Education students, Robyn and Caren, decided to give of some of their free time as volunteer workers.

Robyn writes: "Caren and I would like to thank you for offering us the wonderful opportunity of interacting with a group of Floc children. We had a wonderful time and learnt a great deal."

"It was challenging to be involved with children who are exposed to completely different experiences compared to other groups. The more time we spent with them, the more rewarding it became..."

If any reader would like to become involved in Floc, you can write to the Central Methodist Church Office, Box 10376, Johannesburg. Or you can telephone (011) 337-5938.



# Take this STEP, forget resolutions

STAR 3/1/92

(298)

## PARENTING

The great Yuppie accessory of 1991 was children. Ranked higher than Porsches or video cameras, they showed off a superior lifestyle. Shopping in Sandton was only a pleasure if you had well-dressed — and well-behaved — children in attendance. Dressing them is easy, but what about behaviour?

IF CHILDREN were not in your New Year's resolution for 1992, you probably don't have them or they have grown up. Most parents will have promised to spend more "quality" time with them. Some may have decided to discipline their children more/less, delete whichever is not applicable.

But how do they do this? STEP (Systematic Training for Effective Parenting) could be the answer.

It's rather like a rushed MBA in parenting, with case studies, role playing, group therapy — the whole number.

Some theories of STEP seem a little hard to swallow at first bite. Here are some of the more controversial.

- Praise discourages children.
  - Don't be a "good" parent.
  - Punishment and reward must be replaced with democratic values.
- Sensible readers should now be saying "Nonsense! Praising children is a good thing."

Yes, it is, but encouragement is far better, and knowing



the difference helps change a child from a dependent requiring praise to a self-confident individual aware of their own worth. Praise tells children they are worthwhile when they please a parent; encouragement gives children the courage to be imperfect, to gain self-confidence, and to take responsibility for their own behaviour.

It's a subtle difference, but a major one. The difference between saying "I'm so proud of you" and "You must be very proud of yourself". Think of it from the child's point of view and you'll get the difference.

STEP needs nine sessions of two hours a week to mature and hone parenting skills, which a short article can't do. For those who have done it, it underlines sound

For two parents who have different ideas on how to bring up children, it helps them formulate a single, agreed-upon plan.

Our group was a disparate one. Of the six couples, some parents already had problems with their children, others were trying to prevent them, we were new parents and some were simply improving their adult education.

We all came away believing STEP made a substantial difference to our behaviour without altering our value systems. It is not a way of dealing with problem children, it is adult education of the best sort.

The person conducting the STEP group is important, according to a psychologist friend. Ours was wonderful. She had a great sense of humour, essential to making Monday nights fun.

"Yes," she said, "I know — you just want to give the little shit (excuse my French) a bloody clap and here I am telling you to offer him a choice without losing your cool. But I never said it was all easy, hey!"

Many parents think they don't need STEP. Yet our child-rearing practices come from our experience of having been a child, which is abysmal training or preparation for parenting.

Traditional methods of disciplining children, by reward and punishment, are no longer effective. They fail to achieve what parents want most, to raise responsible children who will grow up to be responsible adults.

Children and parents have changed in the past three decades. Values are different.

Today's children insist we acknowledge and respect their human worth and treat them like equals — a difficult task without training.

STEP also teaches how to control anger, sibling rivalry, family meetings, natural consequences, effective listening, how to deal with interfering mothers-in-law, and (surely only in South Africa) how to educate the domestic help in parenting.

It will not be a panacea for all problems, but the training it gives will certainly be much better than any New Year's resolution.

● For information on costs and how to enrol, phone Hazel Aremband at 783-6996.



# Babies sent to us to die, says doc

C/PRW 5/1/92.

(70) 298

PATIENTS are dying unnecessarily at Mdantsane's Cecilia Makiwane Hospital, near East London, because of inefficient and badly supervised staff at satellite hospitals, a medical doctor has claimed.

However, senior hospital staff have denied knowledge of an alleged increased mortality rate at the hospital.

The Border National Medical and Dental Association secretary Dr Clarence Mini on Friday claimed the reason for the increase in deaths in paediatric and obstetric wards was "mainly the national crisis in the health sector and the decay in effective health administration in the area".

Mini, an obstetrician,

said with fewer doctors on call over the festive season more mothers and babies were dying.

Satellite hospitals as far afield as Hewu, Mount Coke and Keiskammahoek were referring patients to Cecilia Makiwane "in an improper way", he said.

Patients were often referred in a serious condition, with pregnant mothers suffering dehydration and hypertension.

Nurses and doctors at the hospital were hostile, feeling that outside patients were being "unfairly dumped" on them.

"Babies are being sent to us to die," Dr Mini said.

"The attitude of doctors at some hospitals is

that a problem transferred is a problem solved. Hospital authorities may deny this but evidence of the practice lies in our records.

"We hope that by highlighting this situation something will be done to rectify it. A restructured national health policy is necessary but we can't wait around for Codesa to solve the health crisis while lives are being lost. Something needs to be done in the interim."

Head of the paediatric ward, Dr Felicity Goosen, could not confirm the alleged increase in the number of deaths to mothers and children.

Superintendent Dr R Stringfellow said he was not aware of the problems - Sapa



# Look after our children - they're the future

Cases of molested children are fast becoming a common feature in our society: One in four girls and one in eight boys are sexually abused by the age of 18.

How safe is your child from molesters?

What makes this subject even more difficult is that it is impossible for parents to protect their children completely because they cannot be with them all the time.

They have to work and usually it is while they are away from home that their children face the threat of sexual abuse.

Since you cannot be with your child all the time, then you can prepare and teach them to guard against potential abuse situations that may occur.

They should be taught that an abuser is not always a stranger but sometimes a person known to them.

Abuse varies from rape to molestation by touching a child's private parts in a way that causes the child discomfort.

## TEACHING

The main reason why children are vulnerable is lack of knowledge. Parents are closest to their children and therefore are most capable of teaching them what to do in potential abuse situations.

When teaching your child:

- \* Use direct and simple language. This includes using the correct names for body parts, starting from what the child already knows.

- \* Do not dramatise the situation, instead be calm and present the information in a positive way.

- \* Teach by using games. The "what if" game helps the child anticipate what can happen. For example if you ask her "what if a stranger offers you a lift?" then she can think what she will have to do, remembering what you told her.

The purpose of the game is to find out what your child thinks, the possible solutions to the problem and to help you agree on the best solution.

## REMEMBER:

- \* Try and let the child find out answers independently. This teaches them to be resourceful.

- \* Never teach by giving horrible examples. The aim is to teach skills without adding fears and anxieties.

- \* The "what if" game can become role-play where situations are acted out.

## SAFE AND UNSAFE TOUCHES

- \* Parents should explain to a child that touching which feels bad or uncomfortable is unsafe.

- \* An unsafe touch is when one touches them in a way that makes them feel uncomfortable.

- \* Safe touches will make the child feel warm inside.

- \* Teach about safe and unsafe touches by asking the child how she would show love, for example by kissing or hugging.

- \* Teach the child that her body belongs to her alone and she has a right to refuse when someone wants to touch or kiss her.

## THE RIGHT TO SAY NO!

- \* Children have a right to say NO even to someone they love. Teach your child that it is alright to say NO to adults when they make her uncomfortable.

- \* They have a right to control what happens to their bodies.

- \* To say NO must become automatic in situations where a child is made uncomfortable by someone else's touch.

- \* Here are polite but firm ways of saying no:

- \* "Please stop that, I don't like it."

- \* "Leave me alone."

- \* "Stop!"

Children must say NO even to adults and figures of authority like a policeman, teacher or principal if they recognise an unsafe touch.

## THE RIGHT TO ASK AND TELL

Offenders rely on children being willing to keep secrets. If they are not they are forced into silence by threats like "If you tell I will kill you".

- \* Children do not often lie about being abused. So if a child reports abuse, it is likely that it is happening and you should not take it lightly.

- \* Teach the child she has to tell you or someone else in the family whom she trusts.

- \* Let the child know you will not be angry if she tells you something. Show the child your support.

- \* Listen to the child when she tells you something like that and

# The unseen menace

**This is the sixth and last in the Sowetan's weekly feature on safety for children. The series has been sponsored by Mobil and the Child Accident Prevention Foundation. This week we look at sexual abuse.**

act immediately to ensure that if the child is abused it can stop on time.

- \* **REMEMBER**, it is not always possible for a child to say No, particularly where there is violence. In that case teach the child to go along with the demand but seek help and tell afterwards.

Children are curious and often ask questions. They hear things on the radio, television or from conversation with friends or overheard from you.

- \* Never ignore these questions.

- \* Give honest answers as much as possible.

- \* You do not have to give all the information to the child, which could frighten or confuse the child. Just give enough information to answer the question.

- \* If you give honest answers the child will trust you and ask again.

- \* Let them ask questions because it also gives you the opportunity to teach them the correct information and safe behaviour in an honest way.

## THE DEVIL'S TRICKS

- \* Secrets - offenders rely on children being willing to keep secrets. Teach your child never to keep quiet if anything happens to them that made them feel uncomfortable. Teach them never to keep a secret from you and never ask them to keep a secret.

- \* Bribes - Molesters often offer children bribes like sweets, money and other gifts, in exchange for sexual favours. Teach your child never to accept these gifts, especially if they are in exchange for something else.

Teach them to tell the person to give the gift to you, the parent. Teach them that GIFTS are given FREELY but there is a PRICE for BRIBES.

- \* Here are other lures that might be applied by an abuser:

- \* Affection - most people think a molester is a sleazy character or a stranger sitting suspiciously in a car near the school grounds. But in most cases the abuser is known to the child and she or he loves or trusts him. You must take the responsibility to question an adult who has a lot of interest in your child.

- \* Assistance - the molester asks the child for help with directions or to carry an armload of packages to the house or to the car. Teach your child that adults ask other adults for directions or help.

- \* Authority - the molester takes advantage of the child's respect for adults and authorities.

Often molesters dress like police, priests or firemen. Tell your child that these uniforms can be faked and worn by other people. Tell the child to politely refer the authority to an adult and keep her distance.

## DANGER SIGNALS

Here are things to look out for in your child, but some of them do not always necessarily mean that the child has been abused. Possibly something is wrong if:

- \* Your child has more money and gifts than usual and you do

not know where she gets them from.

- \* Uncle or aunt or another person wants to take out only one child all the time.

- \* Your child takes much longer to get home from school or the shops.

- \* Your child's behaviour towards a certain person changes suddenly.

- \* The child makes strange comments about a certain person.

- \* Her personality suddenly changes and she clings to you all the time.

- \* Her appetite suddenly increases or lacks.

- \* She lacks concentration.

- \* She suddenly wants to be isolated and becomes withdrawn.

- \* She starts bed wetting, has nightmares and can't sleep at night.

- \* Has medical problems like chronic itching, pain in the genitals or venereal diseases.

- \* Has a lot of sexual knowledge for his or her age.

- \* It is also possible that a child may show no outward signs and hide what is happening from everyone. Keep a close watch on your child at all times.

## IF YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN MOLESTED

It is important to stay calm. You must believe your child because it is highly unlikely that he will lie about being abused.

- \* Question the child gently.

- \* Do not make the child feel guilty because it is not his fault.

- \* Tell the child you are glad he told you, that you are sorry it happened to him and that you will help.

- \* Get professional help.

## \*\*\*\*\* EMERGENCY NUMBERS \*\*\*\*\*

**The South African Police Child Protection Units are available in various areas.**

- \* **Johannesburg - (011) 477 1390, extension 251.**

- \* **Pretoria - (012) 325 1800 extension 141.**

- \* **Bloemfontein - (051) 30 4006.**

- \* **Durban - (031) 23 1102.**

- \* **Cape Town - (021) 45 3003 or 45 3697.**

**The Child Emergency Line - toll-free 0800 123 321.**

- \* **Johannesburg - 484 3044.**

- \* **Durban - 303 2222.**

- \* **Cape Town - 461 1111.**

**You can also send refer your child to a local clinic or child welfare society social workers.**

**TRANSVAAL:**

**Johannesburg General Hospital - (011) 488-3108**

**FREE STATE:**

**Universitas (emergency) (051) 475-353**

**CAPE:**

**Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital - (021) 689-5227**

**Tygerberg Hospital - (021) 931-6129**

**Child Accident Prevention Foundation - (021) 685 5208.**

**Information brought to you by Mobil and the Sowetan in the interests of child safety. In association with the Child Accident Prevention Unit.**

**Videos on child accident prevention available on loan from Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa P.O. Box 13115 Sir Lowry Road 7900 Tele: (021) 685-5208.**



# Call to protect children from violent behaviour

STAR 8/1/92

(298)

Parents must become aware of the increasing number of young children being traumatised by the violence around them, the SA Association for Early Childhood Education said yesterday.

The SAAECE was reacting to a Christmas Day incident in which a two-year-old boy was set alight by friends who had seen a mob burning a man.

"Horror happenings like this are merely the

tip of the iceberg and it is time to face up to what is actually happening to children exposed to the violence in South Africa," the council said.

National co-ordinator Joyce Matube said the association aimed to show the adult world the importance of positive role modelling for young children.

"Young children learn more before the age of six than at any other time ... if we want to stop violence spreading

from generation to generation, we must protect our children from violent behaviour and set an example ourselves of positive conflict-resolution," Ms Matube said.

The association has compiled a "peace pack" which includes a poster, booklets and cartoons giving ideas on how to cope with violence and build a peaceful community. The Peace Pack is available from SAAECE, Box 673, Pretoria 0001.  
— Sapa.



# Sowetan, Eskom help bereaved families

SOWETAN and Eskom have donated R1 500 towards helping the bereaved families of the 12 children who died in a motor accident on the East Rand last week.

Sowetan editor Mr Aggrey Klaaste, who visited St Joseph's Primary School in Actonville, Benoni, said: "The love for children drove me there. The pain that all people felt after the tragedy caused by the death of the 12 children has to be expressed."

St Joseph's Primary School is modestly situated

By KENOSI MODISANE

inside the yard of a church.

Klaaste said Sowetan had donated R500 and Eskom R1,000.

Eskom's communication manager, Mr Bongani Khumalo, said: "The donation is made to bring light to the darkness that overtook the families and relatives of the dead children."

"Eskom is gearing itself for a powerful and prosperous future for South Africa, and has made electrifica-

tion of schools a priority.

"We are always looking at the plight of schools in rural areas, squatter areas and other disadvantaged communities. Our hearts are with the teachers and parents of this tragic little school."

Khumalo said other companies and individuals should send donations to Standard Bank, Benoni. The account number is 021010552

Meanwhile, the National Funeral Undertakers's Association has offered to bury the children for free.

# Creches with a difference

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Soneka  
14/11/92

**THREE** teachers have come up with a teaching concept they hope will bring a breath of fresh air to the system of preparatory education.

Sister Louisa Brainen, a teacher, Mrs M Killop, who has 25 years teaching experience and former DET teacher, Mrs Zandile Mathibe put a lot of research into their teaching programme.

The scheme will be tested in two model centres: the Bramley and the Yeoville Fun Education Kindergartens



By SIZAKELE KOOMA

stimulate and meet the developmental needs of children in the four groupings.

Children will be grouped according to their ages, starting from 18 months to six years.

Their education, most of which will revolve around singing and playing, conducted in the English medium, will include pronun-

ciation, simple arithmetic and later mathematics, identification and writing of their names, figures, vowels and later alphabets, identification of facial features, body parts and animals and learning about the environment.

Registration closes on March 1. Contact the teachers at (011) 331-3867.

## Equal

During research, Mathibe explained, the teachers concentrated on:

- \* Teachers and teaching aids involved in the teaching process.

- \* The different methods of teaching youngsters.

- \* Methods that will prepare children for an equal education.

- \* Factors leading to children not coping with education at tertiary level.

- \* Gifted children and less gifted children.

- \* Extra mural activities like dance, music and painting.

## Stimulate

- \* Making education fun.

"Most township creches stress nutrition while white ones regard education as vital. But even so, parents cannot guarantee that the education their children receive is the right one," Mathibe said.

She said the Fun Education Kindergartens have a programme designed to



# White boy appeals sentence for rape

*Sowetan* 15/1/92  
A 17-YEAR-OLD white boy who was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for raping a 10-year-old black schoolgirl has been granted leave to appeal against his sentence.

The boy was sentenced to 10 years' jail, five of which were conditionally suspended, for raping the girl at an abandoned Delmas house in May 1990.

In papers filed in the Pretoria Supreme Court, counsel for the boy argued that the punishment was "shocking and severely out of line".

Mr Justice Curlewis and Mr Justice Heyns granted the application.

Both the boy and his co-accused, a 13-year-old white boy, stood trial in August last year for rape and attempted murder.

The State had claimed that the boys took the girl to a remote house, where she was raped before being assaulted and kicked on her private parts.

The boy denied the rape charge.

His co-accused was sentenced to an effective seven year imprisonment on both charges. - *Sowetan Correspondent*.

# Drips killed babies doctor tells court

Sowetan 15/1/92

**Sowetan  
Correspondent**

A DOCTOR yesterday described the drama of how three relatively healthy babies had died and said he had no doubt that drips were responsible for their fatal infection.

"We've worked in these (neo-natal) units for years. We haven't just had babies dying like this," said Dr Jack Kussel, a paediatrician, about the babies who died in private clinics shortly after taking intravenous fluids from Sabax drips in 1990.

He was testifying at an inquest in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court into the

deaths of 13 babies at Park Lane and Morningside clinics between March and September 1990.

Kussel said that baby Heinrich Hamel's health suddenly deteriorated rap-

idly after he was fed on K-cocktail Sabax fluids at Park Lane Clinic from September 19 1990.

"I had previously suspected that the drip was responsible for infections. This time I had no doubt," Kussel said.

He believed that David Braun, born on April 14 at

Garden City Clinic and sent that day to an intensive care unit after suffering from mild aspiration, would have survived if he had instead been sent to a ward.

"It needed a massive concentration of something to end the baby off in such a short period of time," Kussel said.

**Discover the excitement  
and challenge of  
PUBLIC RELATIONS**



# New group to encourage the youth

A NEW organisation, the Young Entrepreneur Foundation, has been formed to stimulate, motivate and encourage black youths to develop a culture of entrepreneurship.

YEF's assistant executive director and projects manager, Mr Stanley Mohapi, said the denial of opportunities and access to capital has created a culture of dependence in black youths to the private

sector as a sole provider of job opportunities.

To promote this culture of entrepreneurship, the YEF will:

- Facilitate the provision of training, counselling and advisory services related to commerce, industry, engineering and agriculture;
- Organise lectures, workshops, seminars, competitions and educational tours aimed at exposing the youth, and to

stimulate greater interest towards business;

- Provide a link between schools and youth groups and network of economic resources and opportunities;
- Provide information, technical assistance and analysis to help youth establish businesses and improve their business skills; and

- Form a bursary fund to assist students in need who wish to pursue commerce, technical, engineering and agricultural-related courses in various recognised institutions of higher learning.

"The prevalent perception among youth, particularly in black communities, as we move

- Form a bursary fund to assist students in need who wish to pursue commerce, technical, engineering and agricultural-related courses in various recognised institutions of higher learning.

"The prevalent perception among youth, particularly in black communities, as we move

towards a new nonracial form of government, is that distribution of economic opportunities will automatically follow the same line as that of political voting rights, he said.

He added: "If this perception is not accommodated in the new political dispensation, South Africa will experience devastating youth rebellion and a dangerously high crime wave.

"There is an urgent task facing both the private sector and responsible professionals to begin preparing youth for economic opportunities and to encourage them to become active participants in the mainstream economy."

Mohapi said private sector social responsibility funds should be redirected to efforts and programmes aimed at inculcating a new culture of youth entrepreneurship.

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

September 16/11/92.

15/10/92

# Farmers 'tortured youth for 9 hours'

By ELIAS MALULEKE

A FRAIL, 17-year-old youth says he went through a frightening ordeal when two elderly farmers assaulted and tortured him for nine hours this week.

Vusumuzi Phungwayo, a Std 6 pupil at Vukubone Combined School in Rooikop, a trustland in Driefontein in the eastern Transvaal, said the nightmare would haunt him for life.

Other locals in the area claimed farmworkers were often beaten indiscriminately and that police were not doing anything about it.

## Sjambokked

Phungwayo alleges that the two farmers picked him up on the road and drove for about 10 km to a farm, where they punched, kicked and sjambokked him and then hung him by the neck and one hand before setting a dog on him.

The dog then mauled him on the private parts and legs before the farmers pulled it away.

Eastern Transvaal police liaison officer Maj Pienaar said that at about 2 15 pm on Tuesday, Phungwayo was found at an enclosed camp among a flock of sheep and when he allegedly tried to escape he was tackled by a dog.

During his re-arrest he suffered an injury in the right eye and bruises on the back.

He was handed over to the police at 4.45 pm and was taken to a doctor at Wakkeestroom for observation.

## Investigating

Pienaar said Phungwayo was subsequently charged with entering enclosed land intending to steal stock and had since laid a counter-charge of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. Police were investigating.

Phungwayo showed City Press marks all over his body which he alleges were caused by the beatings.

Phungwayo said a black policeman and a white policeman had arrived at the farm at about 9 am on Tuesday and had questioned him.

He was taken to a doctor in Wakkeestroom, where he alleges the doctor looked at him without checking him. He then gave him a cream and tablets.

Afterwards he was taken to the Dirkiesdorp police station where he was locked up for two days until he appeared in court on Thursday. He does not know why he was arrested or taken to court. No charges were put to him and he was released on R300 bail.

Political comment and newsbills  
by K Sibya, headlines and sub-  
editing by S James, both of 2 Herb  
Street, Johannesburg



# Race row over special school

PLANS to start a school for mentally handicapped black children in Durban have triggered threats from the far-right and petitions from residents against the move.

Residents of Woodlands and Montclair, are doing everything in their power to block the sale of the old Kenmont School premises. The school is earmarked to become the Ningizimu School for about 90 mentally handicapped children.

An anonymous right-winger has also threatened trouble if the new school opens.

But Dr Tina Jonker, director of the Durban Men-

By RYAN CRESSWELL

51 Times 19/11/92  
tal Health Society — the governing body of schools for the mentally handicapped — said plans to buy the school with R2-million put up by the Department of Education and Training were going ahead. It would cost about R5-million to build a new school.

Dr Jonker said the many objections were based on "misconceptions and ignorance".

On the other hand, Woodlands Civic Association chairman Bob Steyn said: "We have held meetings

about the issue and I have heard that thousands of residents are signing petitions against the move. These will be sent to the government."

The chairman of the Democratic Party in the area, Mr Fred Jenkin, is drumming up support for the new school.

Mr Jenkin said the leaders of the drive against the new school were creating "fantasy fears".

"Their modus operandi is identical to their attacks in 1991 on certain creches in the community. Their targets once again are children and their motives are racially based," he said.

# Whites forget Act is dead

C. 19/11/92  
CP Correspondent

THE Group Areas Act may be dead, but not in the hearts and minds of white residents of two Durban suburbs.

The residents of Woodlands and Montclair are protesting the proposed sale of the vacant Kenmont School to Ningizimu, a school for mentally retarded children.

Ningizimu, a former Port Natal Administration Board creche in Lamontville, was given to the retarded children for temporary use in 1976, according to Durban Mental Health Society director Dr Tina Jonker.

It has four classrooms which accommodate 60 children from all over Durban, and there is no playground or other recreational facilities.

"We have been searching for 10

years to find appropriate accommodation for the children, and the Kenmont School premises were God-sent," said principal Constance Ngubane.

The children are transported to and from school everyday by minibuses from all over Durban's townships and squatter camps.

However, amid the excitement of finding new premises, some residents of Woodlands and Montclair are up in arms over a black school "in our neighbourhood".

"This school is near a garage, and these mentally ill children can kill us anytime (using petrol)," a Conservative Party member in Montclair told City Press this week.

In its letter of objection to the Department of Education and Training (DET), the Woodlands Civic Association said it was

"grossly unacceptable" for the State to fund the sale, because other schools were forced to finance themselves.

The reason for the objection to the establishment of the school was racial, said another resident who is in favour of the school in the area.

"There are many people in the community who have no objection at all," local councillor Connie Galea said.

"After all, we are hoping it will be a multiracial school for retarded children," he said. (298)

The Department of Education and Training, which has put up R2 million to buy the school, is in a quandary. DET special school inspector Phillip Theron said it would cost at least R5 million to build a new school.

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In its letter of objection to the Department of Education and Training (DET), the Woodlands Civic Association said it was

"grossly unacceptable" for the State to fund the sale, because other schools were forced to finance themselves.

The reason for the objection to the establishment of the school was racial, said another resident who is in favour of the school in the area.

"There are many people in the community who have no objection at all," local councillor Connie Galea said.

"After all, we are hoping it will be a multiracial school for retarded children," he said.

The Department of Education and Training, which has put up R2 million to buy the school, is in a quandary. DET special school inspector Phillip Theron said it would cost at least R5 million to build a new school.



# Infants rapidly got worse after going on Sabax drip, says doctor

SEVEN months after the first death of a baby from klebsiella septicaemia, the manufacturer of the drips allegedly responsible for the infection told doctors the products were above suspicion.

Testifying this week at the inquest into the deaths of 13 babies between February and September 1990, Johannesburg paediatrician Dr Jack Kussel said he had suspected Sabax drips used in neo-natal clinics could be contaminated after the death of David Braun, born on April 14 at the Garden City Clinic. "I had no confirmation of my suspicions, and we continued using the drips because we were repeatedly assured by Sabax that they were clear."

## Farmer gets top IFP job

BY ROY RUDDEN

INKATHA has appointed well-known Natal farmer, socialite and polo player Maurice Mackenzie as chief executive of its new national office to be established in central Durban.

The IFP is about to acquire 126 Umgeni Road from Argus Holdings using funds donated by the United States last year.

It is understood that Mr Mackenzie, 55, was nomi-



MAURICE MACKENZIE

nated for the position by IFP president Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

Mr Mackenzie, a Midlands timber farmer, holds the sport and environment portfolios on the Inkatha Central Committee.

Mr Mackenzie, a former Natal polo player, said he was looking forward to the challenge. "I spoke Zulu before I spoke English. I have tried to serve the Zulu people, with whom I have had a deep affinity, all my life," he said.

"But when Heinrich Hamel died, there was no more doubt in my mind. His condition deteriorated rapidly after he was fed on E-cocktail Sabax fluids in the Park Lane Clinic," said Dr Kussel, who has been dealing with neo-natal cases for 24 years.

Heinrich's symptoms became apparent on September 19. He was admitted to the intensive care unit.

## TOXIC

Blood cultures taken before treatment began were negative. He was put on a Sabax-manufactured drip, and showed signs of improvement, but 24 hours later he became feverish and started bruising.

"It looked again as if this was an acute type of toxic shock. In the next few hours, the baby's condition deteriorated rapidly, and I began to suspect without doubt that it was the drips."

"Deterioration at such a rate within 12 to 14 hours was not compatible with airborne infection," Dr Kussel said.

He ordered seals placed around the bottles. Samples were taken and sent to three laboratories.

"That afternoon, I was informed that a klebsiella had been grown from the fluid, indicating that it was contaminated."

"I suggested that the Sabax-manufactured bottles of intravenous fluid should be sealed and specimens taken before the bottles were touched or handled. This was done."

Laboratory reports handed to the court indicated that contaminated fluid was found in the bottles.

Two days later, Dr Kussel and other doctors were again assured the Sabax drips were not suspect.

"I realised that we had an epidemic on our hands. It just never happens that you have three or four or five babies dying on you — but we were unable to identify

## Deaths continued despite assurances

the source of the infection," Dr Kussel told the court.

The inquest is being conducted by regional magistrate TJ Le Grange, assisted by assessors Dr Gerrit Coetzee, regional director of the SA Institute of Medical Research in the Western Cape, and Dr Fanie Naude, lecturer in paediatrics at Pretoria University.

The parents of the 10 boys and three girls who died have waited nearly two years to find out what killed their babies.

Much of the evidence presented in the packed courtroom this week came as a shock to parents, but what angered and upset them was the realisation that

their children need not have died.

Professor Alan Rothberg, head of the Johannesburg Hospital paediatric and neonatal units, testified on Tuesday that all 13 babies stood a good chance of surviving at birth.

While there was strong evidence in only two of the cases that contaminated drips had been the cause of death, Professor Rothberg said that even if the primary source of infection in the other 11 babies had not been the drips, contamination from the intravenous fluid would "certainly" have lowered their survival chances.

Mrs Yvonne Nalsmith, 31, whose first child, Christopher, died at the Mornag-side Clinic on March 19 1990, was despondent after hearing the evidence of the doctors.

"The pain and suffering these babies endured after septicaemia set in was horrible."

"As parents, many of us are still angry, and it is so painful to go through all of this again. Even though I now have a six-month-old daughter who is precious to me, she can't replace Christopher," said Mrs Nalsmith.

## Growths

Professor Rothberg said total sterility could not be achieved in hospital wards. A 10-percent "acceptable" rate was the norm.

A report compiled by Sabax about conditions in the laboratory where the intravenous fluid was prepared indicated that on a specific day, there had been "a wealth of bacterial growth" on the floor.

Professor Anton Janse van Rensburg, head of Pretoria University's department of medical microbiology, testified that a laboratory technician, Mr Alan Davies, had probably not complied with the strict quality-control standards of a medical laboratory.

However, Mr C Cohen SC, for Sabax, pointed out that the most likely source of contamination had been base products which arrived at the laboratory in so-called sterile containers.



DISTRAUGHT . . Cheryl Pritchard, who lo



FILM-MAKER John Varty hugs fiancée Gillian van Houten at Jan Smuts airport after bringing home a top American film award this week.

Former newsreader Gillian said she was "thrilled and very proud" of Varty, who won the International documentary section of American Cable TV's annual ACE awards for his film *Swift and Silent*.

Varty was up against 250 top international documentary makers in his section.

The adventure documentary on the

world's great cats includes rare footage, captured in the Amazon, of the shy and elusive jaguar *Swift and Silent* took Varty three years to complete.

But the "Leopard Man of Londolozi" and Gillian laughed off questions about when they were getting married.

The couple, who announced their engagement over a year ago, have apparently not yet set a date for their big day.

Picture: JAMES SOULLIER

STAR 22/11/92

## '5 years before equal pay' rejected

The Johannesburg Child Welfare Society (JCWS) has rejected the Department of National Health's proposal of five years to pay equal welfare grants and pensions

to all races.

Director Dr Adele Thomas called for immediate parity, saying such racial discrimination could not continue. —  
Municipal Reporter.

(298)



# Daily sardine run a taxing trial for kids

Sowetan 22/1/92

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

PALESA Ngomezwa is four years old. At 6.45 every morning, while her schoolmates in the northern suburb of Randburg, where she attends school, are still sleeping, she is already on her way to school.

Little Palesa has been at the creche for two years but she has still not come to terms with her 6am wake-up call.

Her nursing sister mother, Mrs Tryphosa Ngomezwa, says she has to endure her daughter's cries every time she is awakened.

In hundreds of other homes in black townships Palesa's cry is echoed by other children of her age and older.

These children, like the 13 who died in an accident on their way home to Tsakane from school in Brakpan, are taken by their parents to schools in white areas believed to offer a better education.

The inconvenient location of these schools always leads to problems for black parents about the welfare of their children.

The death of the Tsakane children highlighted one of them - transport.

As most of the schools are in white areas and almost impossible to reach via public transport, parents have been forced to organise minibuses to ferry their children to and from the schools at a cost of up to R150 a month.

The "taxis" have not proved to be the perfect solution, as shown by the Brakpan accident.

Parents' grievances include inconsistency, failure to keep time, lack of good strategy, overcrowding and serious allegations of verbal and sexual abuse, among others.

Ngomezwa said when the taxi picks Palesa up in the morning it is supposed to go straight to Randburg. But it doesn't.

"After collecting other kids in Meadowlands, Mzimhlophe and Orlando East, the taxi shoots to the owner's house in Diepkloof, where other children are waiting," Ngomezwa said.

"The children are then sorted out into different taxis according to destinations.

Sowetan witnessed 25 children from Emmarentia and Greenside primary schools being bundled into a 15-seater minibus.

Two of the teenagers, Thembi Zulu and Nompumelelo Tshabalala, said:

"We do not like being squashed in like this. We complain but the driver dismisses our objections."

Parents complain, threaten and act but very seldom do they get results.

Journalist Mr Louis Mazibuko's daughter switched to four different minibuses last year.

"On the third occasion the driver just disappeared," Mazibuko said.

"We had all paid the driver in advance. When his vehicle allegedly broke down, he did not inform us. Breakdowns are common."

These difficulties can affect the children's performance at school. Mabona Selebogo (12) nearly missed her ballet examinations last year following an accident involving the taxi she was travelling in.

Mabona was injured but she did not let the bruises hold her back.

She did the exam and passed, said her mother, Mrs Sotsanyana Selebogo.

But the 13 Brakpan pupils' story did not have a happy ending.

Their deaths have rekindled parents' suppressed fears.

"We think of the risks but do not dwell on them because we do not have an option which would ensure our children's safety and a good education," Selebogo said.

"We let them travel long distances because we want the best education for them.

"If I had the money I would drop my children off and pick them up myself, or ideally buy a house within walking distance of the school," she said.

Selebogo blamed the "prevailing social order". If it were not for apartheid there would be no need for black parents to remove children from township schools.

Orlando East taxi driver Mr Thabo Semesa, who has operated a taxi for four years, came out subtly but strongly on the side of drivers.

Semesa said drivers entered into binding, even though unsigned, contracts with parents and most of them, including himself, always strove to honour their side of the bargain.

## Good shape

"I keep my vehicle in good shape and I am always on time for the children.

"But some parents are difficult. They listen to what their children tell them and do not listen to what the driver has to say.

"I think it is important that both parties communicate. If a child gives me problems, I always tell the parent," Semesa said.

Accidents happen and they are not always entirely the taxi drivers' fault, he said.

"I do not think any normal thinking man would deliberately fling a kombi-load of children on to another car.

"And no one can say which one of the two drivers involved in any accident was wrong, unless he or she was there."

FOCUS  
EDUCATION





**Emmarentia and Greenside Primary schoolchildren packed into a taxi like sardines.**

# Plight of the youth tops the agenda

A conference under the theme, "Empower the Youth and Secure the Future", will be held at the University of Natal from February 7 to 9.

Delegates from several organisations will discuss the plight of the youth in the province.

The conference is a follow-up to last year's national conference which discussed the problems of marginalised youth as well as the challenges facing the South African society in this regard.

Newspaper (Evening News) Investigate 24/11 - 30/11/92

Last year's conference was an initiative of the SA Council of Churches and the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference through the Joint Enrichment Project.

The Natal conference follows a workshop held in the province last month where the Natal Youth Development Planning Committee was established and mandated to investigate the possibility of forming a Youth Forum for the region.

## Proposed

In terms of the mandate, the Youth Forum would be open to the youth of all political affiliations and it would combine a broad range of sectors including culture, religion and sport.

The workshop also proposed the establishment of a Youth Empowerment Centre where skills training, general services and facilities would be provided to the youth.

Next month's conference will discuss these proposals in detail, said the planning committee's convenor of publicity, Kumi Naidoo.

# ANC plan to train its 'lost generation'

THE ANC has launched a scheme to train the "lost generation" of its young lions — the teenage street fighters of the 1980s, the exiles and Umkhonto we Sizwe soldiers.

ANC programme co-ordinator of human resources Papie Moloto said yesterday the ANC had recognised that a generation of South Africans had lost out on skills development and that they were "people with problems".

As a start, a seminar on skills development would be held next month to explore the options available in the development of skills that would be vital regardless of who constituted the next government.

"We are looking especially at those who were involved in the struggle as activists. They can toyi-toyi today, but we need the skills to produce," he said. The ANC realised it was not enough to criticise. "The criticism has to stop and it is time to look at what has to be done," Moloto said.

The seminar will focus on education through production programmes in Africa and South America. It will be addressed by Zimbabwe Federation for Education with Production director M Fungati and a skills development specialist from Latin Ameri-

ca, Palmari de Lucena.

Other speakers include ANC secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa and a speaker from Cosatu who will be asked to explain the trade union federation's approach to skills development.

Moloto said the ANC had recognised that regardless of the gains it may make at Codesa, it would not be in a position to turn them to advantage unless people possessed skills that would enable them to improve their standards of living.

The ANC envisaged skills development being undertaken in the fields of mass electrification and squatter settlement.

Moloto said the first seminar of this sort took place in Harare early last year. The ANC realised that skills could not be developed in isolation and that it was important to tap into existing structures. The ANC was anxious to learn from the experiences of other developing countries and to avoid making their mistakes, Moloto said.

The seminar is entitled Shaping the Future and will be conducted for three days at the Braamfontein Hotel from February 14.

PATRICK BULGER

Azap  
yest



# Youngsters proud to be S Africans, says survey

STAR 25/1/92 (298)

DESPITE widely varying feelings about the political situation in South Africa, most black and white urban dwellers aged 14 to 24 feel proud to be South African, Markinor has found in a national survey.

The research group held in-depth discussions with 12 groups of young people in the metropolitan areas last September and asked their views on a wide range of topics, including music, sport, money, drugs, sex and Aids.

The full results are not available yet, but Markinor chairman Nick

Green says the findings so far "have proved very interesting and will undoubtedly surprise a lot of people".

White and black youth are similar in many respects, the survey found.

For one thing, all the respondents agreed English would be the language of the future.

## Equality

For another, both groups spend a great deal of time listening to music and prefer overseas artists to local ones.

Both groups want peaceful co-existence between the races. How-

ever, blacks focused more on the need for equality between the races while the whites' hopes centred on personal fulfilment.

The study was sponsored by Cinemark, Edgars, Hunt Lascaris, M-Net, Royal Beechnut, the SA Communications Services, the SABC, Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery and Times Media.

A full quantitative study among 860 young people — the second phase of the Markinor Youth Survey — will be completed by Markinor within the next week or two.

# Desperate moms leave children at hospitals

DESPERATE mothers have taken to abandoning their children — some only months old — in hospitals through out South Africa.

The plight of more than 100 abandoned children has come to the attention of Saturday Star, but this is believed to be only the tip of the iceberg.

Overwhelmed by a combination of poverty, unemployment, homelessness and hopelessness, more and more mothers are simply booking children into hospitals, under false names and with non-existent illnesses, and leaving them there.

Some of the children may then lie in the hospitals for over a year — unvisited and unloved — before the slow wheels of bureaucracy move them to foster homes or orphanages.

The problem seems to be worst in rural areas, where figures are hardest to come by. But the figures for the larger population centres provide enough food for sombre thought.

Most of the 28 abandoned children in Baragwanath Hospital have been there since October last year, according to Baragwanath chief social worker Lea Smith.

The children ranged in age from just a few months old to 10 years, she said.

Clairwood Hospital medical superintendent Dr Dayalan Dorasamy said the hospital could have between 80 and 100 abandoned children in a year. "Abandonment is most definitely related to unrest in the area," he said.

"We saw an increase last year when the situation was particularly violent and many people had to flee their homes," he said.

Very few parents ever claim their children, he added.

King Edward Hospital in Durban presently has 27 abandoned children, while Ngwelezana Hospital in Empangeni has between 10 and 15.

Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town had six abandoned children in 1989, two in 1990 and five in 1991, a hospital spokesman said.

## Concerned

A Groote Schuur Hospital spokesman said that the hospital had an average of seven abandoned children a year in children's wards and between 36 and 40 in the maternity section every year.

Johannesburg Child Welfare director Dr Adele Thomas said she was concerned about the growing number of child abandonment cases, particularly at Baragwanath and the Hillbrow Hospital.

She attributed the increase in recent years to the poor economic climate and the migrant labour system.

"Rural men have affairs (in the cities), leaving young girls pregnant, and then return to their rural families. The girls are left little choice but to abandon the baby," she said.

She added that there was a shortage of good facilities for looking after these children. Children's homes in Soweto, such as Othandweni and Orlando, were always filled to capacity, she said.

"The problem needs to be addressed in a multi-faceted way. Poverty, migrant labour and family planning are the key issues."

The problem seems particularly acute in the Durban region.

Durban Child and Family Welfare director Andre Kalis felt that Durban suffered more abandonment cases than Johannesburg because of the influx of squatters into the greater Durban area.

He said the problem was closely linked to socio-economic conditions.

King Edward VIII Hospital social worker Xolisa Bheengu said most abandoned children were babies, although some were as old as three.

Some of the children had been living at the hospital for a year, she said.

Moving the children to children's homes was often impossible, as the homes were mostly full, she said.

"If we are in need of free beds in the section, we transfer the children to Clairwood Hospital, where Child Welfare will eventually place the children in homes or places of safety, such as Othandweni Children's Home or Umlazi Place of Safety."

Parents who abandoned their children usually gave false addresses and could not be traced, she said.

Medical superintendent Dr Peter Haselau, of Ngwelezana Hospital in Empangeni, said that he had heard from community members that the problem often arose when husbands working on the Reef left their wives to support children alone. Children were dumped at the hospital out of sheer desperation, in the hope that they would be cared for, he said.

What can be done about this tragic situation?

Child Welfare has a campaign called Outreach for Children aimed specifically at the black community.

The campaign tries to stimulate public awareness by means of pamphlets, taped broadcasts and action committees made up of key community figures.

Education was the only long-term way to decrease the number of teenage pregnancies, a spokesman said, but the most pressing need was to find homes for abandoned children.

"It is difficult to recruit foster parents from the rural black community as adoption and fostering is still a foreign concept in these communities," said the spokesman.

"In the short term we need more sponsorship, not for buildings and facilities, but for grants for foster families."

Government grants for black foster children were unsatisfactory at a meagre R158 a month, he said. Grants for white children were R222 a month.

# Tragedy of SA's why

STAR 25/1/92 (298)

# real men



# Farmer blasts youth

City Press 26/1/92

*[Signature]*

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(298)

By DAN DHLAMINI

A PUPIL in Std 7 at Jouberton's Metebong High School was peppered with shotgun pellets last Saturday night when a Klerksdorp farmer shot at fleeing youths, two of whom had been fighting.

The boy's alleged assailant has not been arrested or charged.

This was confirmed by western Transvaal police spokesman Lt Petrus Ramatsoele, who said an attempted murder docket had been opened and police were still investigating.

Ramatsoele said the docket would be sent to the public prosecutor for a decision on whether to prosecute as soon as investigations were complete.

Victor Tshepo Mogoerane, 17, told City Press he was shot and injured by farmer Christo de Klerk without any provocation last Saturday night.

He had visited a friend who lived on De Klerk's farm, near another farm which has been converted into an entertainment centre called Oom Andries se plaas.

Mogoerane said that later that night a fight broke out between two other youngsters at De Klerk's farm shop.

De Klerk came from his home wielding a gun and everybody, including those engaged in the fight, scattered in different directions, scared they would be shot.



Victor Mogoerane, 17, shows the shotgun pellet wounds he sustained in the incident.

"As I was running I heard a shot fired and the next moment I felt a burning sensation in my left shoulder blade and right thigh.

"I continued running but I became weak," said Mogoerane.

Mogoerane said he ran to Oom Andries se plaas

entertainment centre where a black man took him back to De Klerk and asked why he had shot him.

He said De Klerk then apologised and took him to Tshepong Hospital, where he was treated and discharged the following day.

Mogoerane said that the following day De Klerk took him from hospital back to his farm where he gave him a small bottle of antiseptic liquid and tablets and pleaded with him not to lay a charge against him.

The boy's furious father, Monnapule Mogoerane, said he went to De Klerk to ask him why he had shot his son.

He said the farmer told him he was sorry and was prepared to pay for medical expenses.

Mogoerane said he then took Victor to Klerksdorp Police Station and was surprised when a Warrant Officer Oosthuizen was reluctant to take a statement.

He said Oosthuizen told him a statement had already been made on behalf of Victor and that it was not necessary to make another one.

Mogoerane said that after Oosthuizen had refused to read to him the statement which he alleged had been made on behalf of his son, he insisted that Oosthuizen take another statement from Victor in his presence.

"Oosthuizen took the statement reluctantly and I will not rest until the matter has been brought before a court of law," he said.

Ramatsoele denied the officer was reluctant to take a statement and gave City Press a crime report number as proof that the statement was taken.

City Press could not contact De Klerk.



# Schooling at any cost

By LULAMA LUTI

City Press 26/1/92

## Pupils and toddlers cram hostel

SHARING a hostel complex with inmates would be unthinkable to many a township school-d - but certainly not to pupils at Siyathemba in Balfour, a the dorpie in the Eastern Transvaal.

Children flocked to schools last week only to be confronted with a shortage of facilities.

The shortage of schools and classrooms in the area has reached alarming proportions so the children are forced to share the only free schools available.

Anxious to have a place to call their own, after sharing with fellow pupils at Vusumuzi primary for two years, children at Bonukhanya Primary converted an unused section of the local hostel into classrooms and now go to school in the cramped conditions.

There are up to 60 children in a class and because there are only two windows in the rooms, the heat in them is unbearable.

The hostel previously accommodated employees of Siyathemba Town Council, half of whom have since moved out to the local squatter camp just outside the township.

The other school is Isifiso Sethu High School, whose pupils will be divided between Qalokusha and Vusumuzi primaries and Seisheng High School.

Said a local principal who is an executive member of the South African Democratic Teachers' Union, "We are entering the third week but teaching has not started. It is impossible."

City Press asked why more pupils are taken on when facilities are inadequate.

"We cannot send the children back to the streets. That would be condemning them to a life of poverty and perpetual slavery," the principal, who declined to

be named, said the pupil intake increased every year and the only high school in the area also had to accommodate pupils from the 16 primaries from neighbouring farm schools.

Pupils at Bonukhanya are not the only ones forced to share the hostel. Toddlers who go to the Maria Mbhele Memorial Creche are accommodated in the other two rooms.

Creche Principal Maria Vilakazi told City Press of the dwindling number of children because the place was a health hazard. Parents withdrew their children every year.

"The creche is usually full and we used to have close to 200 children. We've since stopped taking on more children because the place is too small and gets unbearably hot in summer and very cold in winter."

"We have not had water in this area for ages. There is no electricity and the cooks have to get to the creche very early every morning in order to get the braziers ready."

The situation is unbearable," she told City Press, pointing at rubber dustbins used to store water fetched from town.



SHARING... Facilities are so scarce that many children have to share them. ■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE

# Banker wins custody of former girlfriend's child

APR 29/3/92

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LOS ANGELES. — A judge has ruled that an investment banker should have full parental rights to the child of his former girlfriend, even though he is not the boy's natural father.

"I raised this child from birth and, in every respect, this child is my real son," Mr Larry McLinden told reporters after the court ruling.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Dana Henry ruled that on the basis of a report by a court-appointed psychologist, four-year-old Larry McLinden Jr should live primarily with Mr McLinden instead of his mother, Miss Karen Munyer, 34.

The judge also ruled that Mr McLinden should have primary responsibility for the boy's education.

"I knew she (the judge) was going to do this a long time ago. We knew after the psychologist's report," Miss Munyer said, fighting back tears.

"I hope my son can live with it. I hope it doesn't hurt him, being away from his mother," she said.

The boy's natural father gave up his parental rights.

Mr McLinden and Miss Munyer began a relationship and moved in together in 1986. Four months later, the court was told, she revealed she was pregnant and told Mr McLinden the child was his.

The child was born in 1987 and the three lived together as a family. — Sapa-Reuter.



# Abandoned

What do your loved ones feel when you leave them to fate

do not remember where and how we were found. I was still very young then. I only remember when I was doing Sub A.

We - myself, my younger brother and sister Andrew and Sylvia - were living with a foster-mother in Orlando, Soweto.

Our elder sister, Sylvia, was not living with us.

We were later taken to a Catholic orphanage in Natal called St Vincent. The nuns there were very good to us. I often hear some people who grew up in welfare institutions talk of cruel housemothers and being ill-treated. It did not happen to me.

I was brought up by God-fearing people. They abhorred evil.

I did not feel like there was something lacking in my life. There was no difference between me and the other children who lived with their parents. We ate the same food and wore the same clothes. They had their homes and I also had mine.

It does hurt when other children talk about the things they do with their mothers or fathers. But when you are in my position, there is nothing you can do. You have to ac-



In attempt to understand the causes and the effects of the respective issues we will invite people who have had first-hand account of the problems to tell us how it happened, how they felt about it and how they dealt with it.

This time the analysis will not come from the experts, it is the victim's

narration that will explain.

Today we address the problem of abandoned babies and Nomgqibelo Ndaba, one of four siblings who were abandoned by their mother as children, tells us about growing up in a children's home and her recent "unification" with her mother.

**THIS is the first in a series of features Sowetan Woman will run monthly on subjects that affect our daily lives.**

*Sowetan 29/1/92*

**By SIZAKELE KOOMA**

cept and live with your situation.

I cannot say the same about my feelings when I turned 16 and had to leave St Vincent.

I was leaving my brother and sister behind and I was not happy about that.

I came to Johannesburg

and stayed at Ipelegeng with a housemother. I continued with my studies.

I was commuting to school and money was obviously always a problem. I would struggle to get the fare.

The congregation at the church, St Paul's, was very supportive and I never missed a day at school.

I wrote matric in 1990



The Johannesburg Child Welfare works with just under 10 children's homes and cannot cope with the flood of cases.

and passed I wanted to do nursing, but first I wanted to improve my mathematics symbol. I cannot do both because I am putting both my sister and brother through high school. They rejoined me at Ipelegeng, where I am now employed. I am the breadwinner in the house.

I am not angry at the way things turned out for us. I am not even angry with my parents. I know

there was a reason that led to them abandoning us.

I do not begrudge them or feel they owe me an explanation. It will not make any difference. We cannot start all over and change things.

I never thought of my parents as dead. Something always told me that they were alive and I would see them one day.

It was my sister who

never stopped searching for them.

She eventually traced my mother to Mondeor, a suburb in the south of Johannesburg.

I was the last to meet her again. I could not go when my family went to visit her because I was busy with final-year examinations.

It was not an emotional reunion. I suppose we both did not know what to say to each other. She just

commented on how all of us had grown.

I would like to see all of us living together. My mother is looking for a house.

I would not like my children to grow up the way I did. I have a four-year-old son whom I love dearly and cannot let out of my sight.

I had a comparably better upbringing than most children in my situation. But a mother's love can never be replaced.



Creches and playgroups help tremendously, but a child needs a home environment where they can bond and learn to trust.

*'I am not angry at the way things turned out for us. I am not even angry with my parents. I know there was a reason that led to them abandoning us'*



# 200 babies are dumped every day

Sowetan 29/1/92

WOMEN who abandon their babies contravene Section 50 of Act No 74 of 1983, the Children's Act, and can be prosecuted for the crime.

But the prospects of spending time in jail if caught have not stopped the women from leaving their children in hospital beds, railway station toilets, supermarkets, secluded veld or in the custody of elderly women.

Almost 24 000 babies were abandoned or neglected during the first four months of 1990. This means 200 babies were abandoned countrywide every day.

As the socio-economic status of most people in the country continues to drop, chances are that more and more women will continue to abandon their children, putting pressure on child welfare associations who already experience problems meeting their obligations on the limited budget they have.

The Johannesburg Child Welfare works with just under 10 children's homes in the area and cannot cope with the flood of cases.

Fewer adoptive and foster care parents are coming forward to help.

The objective to raise the children in a home environment where they can bond and learn to trust fails. The children then develop emotional scars and their capacity to love and trust is severely damaged.

The following agencies could be contacted for information on adoption, foster care and reports on abandoned babies:

- The Johannesburg Child Welfare 331 -0171
- Othandweni 984-4911
- Orlando Home 935-1209

# No one liable for deaths of 11 babies

298 SA Press Association

A JUDICIAL inquiry yesterday ruled that no one could be held responsible for the deaths through infection of 11 babies at three hospitals in Johannesburg in 1990.

The presiding officer, Mr T le Grange, also found that contaminated intravenous drips supplied by Sabax company could not, on a balance of probabilities, be linked to the deaths of the babies.

A finding could not be made on liability in the deaths of two other babies.

## Precautions

Le Grange found there had been no negligence on the part of staff at the intensive care units of the hospitals and that he was satisfied that all reasonable precautions had been taken.

He also found that Sabax had complied with international standards on the prevention of infection.

The source of the infection which had killed the babies could not be determined beyond doubt, he said.

"WHEN I KILL someone in revenge, I feel great. Just for that time I feel very happy but when I think about it afterwards I start regretting it and I think it is wrong — but at the time it is very different."

"When I am looking for revenge I get very angry. There is nothing else in my mind, except the need to kill."

These are the words of a member of the Jester Kids speaking from his gang's headquarters. Gang members do not want their names to be used when they speak to the press. They claim what they say could easily become their deathwish.

The Jesters have recently declared a truce with their main rivals, the Hard Livings.

Although Manenberg residents are sceptical, the Jesters are confident the truce will last.

# Let there be peace, say rivals

Sc 16 3-11-5 2192

"We certainly do not want gang warfare to flare up again. I believe it will last, we have to think positively about it," the Jester Kid said.

"It has been very difficult. But once we met to discuss peace, it became a very emotional thing as we had been fighting each other for so long."

"We see one another as friends now but we are always cautious."

The gang members refused to say how the conflict started as they were anxious that this might create further tension between the two "families".

There are positive signs that gang wars between the Jesters and the Hard Livings may end. Yet there are a host

of other issues that have to be resolved first.

In this township there are up to 143 gangs.

Residents say that in every street there are two to three drug dealers who each look to a gang for the protection of their territory.

It is also common knowledge in Manenberg that police are bribed to keep out of the drug dealing.

In an internal memorandum last year, police admitted that corruption is a problem in the Athlone district.

"The cops are the only ones who get rich from the gang warfare. Often it gets to the point where two rival

gangs pay money to the same policemen for their protection," a gang leader said.

"They get to the scene of a battle five minutes after it has ended and always bring an ambulance — knowing there will be deaths and injuries," a resident alleged.

"They say that they are short of staff but when there is a political meeting we see them out in full force."

"Another reason why the police do not get involved is that they believe that their job is made easier if gangs wipe one another out."

"When gangsters are sentenced, they get away with light sentences. Often

a murderer can be out on the streets after serving three years," the resident said.

The root of the problem though lies in the inadequate socio-economic conditions of Manenberg, according to residents.

With unemployment rife in the area, the legacy of apartheid still grips the township. With no jobs, no sport or recreational facilities available — youths are driven to join gangs in the hope of gaining respect and money.

Police spokesperson Captain Hendrik Opperman said: "There is an internal investigation on the way looking into allegations of police corruption in the Athlone district. Before the findings of this investigation are made known, we are not in a position to comment."



PEAKING face to face with the Jester Kids is like being in a mafia movie. I am in their territory with one of their leaders when a BMW pulls up, carrying four members of the "family", all wearing hats, sunglasses and impeccably dressed.

After a brief discussion they are satisfied I am not from "Jump Street" — a police unit — and agree to being interviewed, on two conditions: no names and no photographs.

The following is the story of one of their members, whom I have called David.

David has been a member of the Jesters for 18 years. He joined when he was 12 and has since been stabbed in the neck, shot in the wrist and been in prison twice, once for murder. He completed matric in prison.

He has a quiet aura of dignity, and the only telltale signs of his tumultuous past are his scars and his shaking hands.

He is currently studying Business Management and hopes to write a book on his experiences in gangs and prisons.

# Gangs are a source of 'support and security'

Soult 30/11-5/2/92

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"There were many reasons why I joined — there were problems at home. There was no love in my family and I looked to my friends for that support and security," David says.

"There is a lot more security if you are in a gang. Another factor was poverty.

"We are not gangsters, we are a family. We are business people where everybody has a say in what we do but it is also a process of building a family.

"There are good guys and there are bad guys, but whatever happens, we stick together.

"A lot of us love our friends and find more security with them than our parents."

David's first experience with gangsters was when he was five years old and living in District Six.

He remembers his mother grabbing him and fleeing from a chasing mob.

"At that stage I developed a sense of hate for gangsterism but when we were moved to Manenberg we fought a war with the Sialags and I got stabbed in the neck," he says.

"By the age of 15 I was made to be evil and very bitter. I shot the person who stabbed me in the neck and was imprisoned for three years."

In David's circle of friends, pangas and knives are souvenirs of their youth. Now it is guns that do

their talking when their "business" arrangements are threatened.

David is not willing to say what line of business he was involved in.

"In our case anybody can die — from the day I got involved I accepted that anything could happen to me, I know that I can die at any time," he says.

"When you are fighting it is a test of your brain. You have to be very careful and be able to move very quickly.

"It is a personal matter and no two people feel the same way — for me it is one big combination of being embarrassed, scared, brave and aggressive."

When at war with another gang David can go for long periods without sleep and explains that they operate similarly to an army — being constantly alert and taking turns to keep watch while others try to catch a few hours sleep.

For David, like many of his kind, years of gang warfare have taken their toll and, at 30, he is looking for a more peaceful life through his writings.



# The code is broken, the battle begins

In battle-hardened Manenberg where murders occur daily, a gang skirmish in which no one dies would be classed as a light scuffle. **QUENTIN WILSON** uncovered a world where killings, drugs and police corruption are the unwritten laws which govern Manenberg:

**T**ODDLERS ARE scooped off the streets and taken indoors. Parked cars start up and hurriedly leave. Flat windows are filled with spectators while the bold venture outside for a ringside spot. It is the middle of a Friday afternoon, I'm in Playboy territory and the Americans have crossed their turf. For the two Manenberg gangs, the unwritten code has been broken — preparations for a street battle have begun.

At one end of the street, the Americans taunt. Pargas are twirled and knives are flaunted while the odd half brick is thrown at the Playboys who stand their ground 50m away.

The Playboys casually sidestep oncoming missiles. Keeping their eyes on the "enemy", they fling a couple



**GANGLAND:** Graffiti marks out the turf of the more than 143 gangs in Manenberg

PIC: YUNUS MOHAMED



**FOCUS:** *Many questions remain unanswered in the drip deaths tragedy*

# Why did the babies die?

W/Mail 3/11/92 - 6/2/92

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**N**OBODY can be held responsible for the deaths of 11 babies in private clinics during 1990, a Johannesburg magistrate has ruled.

To a lay person that means it just happened. It was, if you will, an act of God or fate — a terrible co-incidence.

Several of the 11 babies were in the same small set of top class clinics — it was not a phenomenon spread among a number of hospitals and clinics with a baby dead here and a baby dead there. There were unusual clusters of babies who just died.

They all seemed to have the same bacterial infection. And they all had, for differing reasons, the same type of drip supplied by the same manufacturer.

To top it all, they had some of the best-known doctors in Johannesburg attending to them for their short lives — and at least three of the babies had the same doctor.

It's not even that rare, in this country, to have problems with contaminated drip bags. Some years ago, a factory which was manufacturing contaminated drips was closed.

The magistrate, TJ le Grange, has found that Sabax, the manufacturer of the drip bags used in the tiny patients, was not to blame for the deaths. While the bacteria was found in the mixture in the bag, it could have been introduced through the mixture. Sabax's standards were adequate.

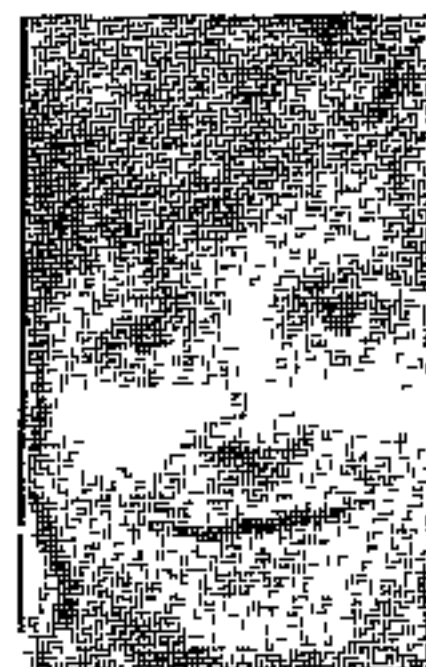
Parents, longing for some way of putting their trauma to rest, think this was unjust.

Le Grange also exonerated the behaviour of the doctors and the clinics. There are several questions raised by the whole issue which have to be asked. Here, for instance, are some:

●What are the rates of death from hospital acquired infections at each hospital in the country? This information is collected, but not normally available to the public. If a prospective patient was to be admitted to a hospital that had more infections than others, he or she could decide not to go. This information should be

## CRITICAL CONSUMER

Pat Sidley's weekly advice on what to buy ... and what to avoid



accessible to the public and perhaps be tabled in parliament.

●It may be usual practice for doctors to remain silent even when they "lose" an unusually high number of patients, but is it correct? Would the public not have more confidence in doctors who exhibited their concern when things go badly wrong and make it known that they expect something to be done so this cannot happen to their patients again. Some members of the public may be wondering, however unjustifiably, if the doctors were incompetent.

According to reports, at least one doctor would not even speak to the bereaved parent of one of the babies. When the story was broken in this column — in 1990 — doctors clammed up as tight as the hospitals did. And it has not yet become clear what they did about the fact that they lost so many little lives.

●The hospitals may have cleaned up the mess and called in investigators. But it seemed at the time that efforts to investigate the problem were accelerated only after newspapers published tales of dying babies.

●If there is a question in the public mind over who is to blame and whether their own newborn children will suffer the same fate — and there surely has to be one now — should the authorities not be clamouring to sort out the problem? Instead of announcing investigations which are then seen to take place, making statements to the press to allay fears and calling on the hospitals, medical suppliers and hospital staff to be accountable for their actions, the

authorities have been strangely silent.

Private hospitals are regulated by the Department of Health in the House of Assembly and have to comply with certain standards. Have these hospitals in which the babies died been asked to revise procedures, prove that it cannot happen again or show their infection figures? If not, why not? And if they have, why is the public not told?

●The Medicines Control Council, which regulates the safety of medicines, has said it is not responsible for problems that may have existed at Sabax. This was stated before any public inquiries. The council said the problem was a "dispensing" one and implicated the Pharmacy Council which regulates the activities of pharmacists. One scapegoat has been found (and exonerated in the judgment) — an assistant with dirty shirt sleeves.

Should the MCC not now be asked to ensure that in future it will take responsibility when drip bags are contaminated?

●The magistrate would not hear evidence about babies who died in apparently similar circumstances at a hospital in GaRankuwa. Since there is now officially no answer to parents' question on how their babies died, should this avenue not be pursued?

●Finally, if this were to have happened in a country like the United States, the chances are that all the players in the tragedy would have acted in the same way, barring two.

The legal system, with punitive fines and aggressive lawyers among other factors, would have enhanced a feeling among the public that its interests were being taken care of.

The other factor would have been the public itself and its voluntary organisations. A sense of consumer rights, with the institutions to back this up, would have ensured that the players — hospitals, doctors, authorities, drug manufacturers and so on — behaved very differently, making it unlikely that the tragedy could happen again.

Can the South African public, after this inquest, be sure of that?



bed. She said despite her massive weight she managed 30 minutes later.

# Ready for winter weather

By MONWABISI NOMADLOLO

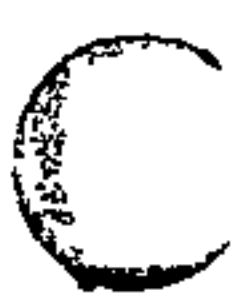
THE children of Emdeni Orphanage in Soweto are gearing up for the cold winter days ahead. They will be presented with blankets this afternoon.

The donation comes from the Masi-fundusane Women's League, a burial society formed 10 years ago in Emdeni

Extension.

A league spokesman said the blankets were originally donated to the society by the Sandton-based Intxma company.

The presentation will be made at noon at the Salvation Army orphanage by the president of the league, Francis Nxumalo.



# Tshepo is no ordinary pupil

By LULAMA LUTHI

AT first sight, 15-year-old Tshepo Mbatha resembles an ordinary township teenager.

Dressed in grey trousers, blue shirt and a black tie, Tshepo looks like any other Soweto schoolkid.

But Tshepo is different. He has not known any home other than the Orlando Children's Home in Soweto.

This week he became the toast of the Orlando Home when it was announced that he was the first boy ever in the home to graduate to a high school.

A former student at the Dr AB Xuma Primary School, Tshepo was one of seven pupils at the Home who received prizes for doing well at school.

Said Tshepo, who got a wristwatch for diligence: "When I finish my matric, I want to study law."

Other pupils who received prizes are Mpho Msimang, Siceliseni Majola, Moses Mabunda, Nonhle Majola, Lindiwe Msimango, Jostinah Lentswe and Matshidiso Msimango.

Asked what she would



**BENEFACTOR ... Joy Simpson with two children from the Orlando Children's Home.**

like to become when she grew up, Nonhle Majola, 9, who obtained a 71 per cent average while in Std 2 last year, replied without hesitation: "I am going to be a social worker. Because I would like to help other people too."

The awards, held annually at the home, are sponsored by former teacher

and public relations consultant Joy Simpson.

"As an ex-teacher I know the importance of an award and I am horrified that children in schools under the DET do not get any prizes or acknowledgement for doing well at school," said Simpson.



## Land sought for children

B/day 3/2/92  
Own Correspondent

MARITZBURG — The Maritzburg City Council's planning committee will today consider an application for land to be made available to house children abandoned in hospitals in Natal and KwaZulu.

In a letter to mayor Pat Cornell, paediatrician Dr Neil McKerrow proposed that a village be established to accommodate about 150 children.

He said the home could also be used to ease overcrowding in children's homes and places of safety. Once land was available, money could be raised for buildings.

McKerrow said SOS Children's Villages, an Austrian charity with experience throughout Africa, were prepared to undertake the project.

McKerrow said there were 64 abandoned children in Edendale Hospital alone. Early last year, a survey showed at that stage there were 289 — 176 in KwaZulu.

# Trust to focus on 'lost generation'

B/day 3/2/92

THE "lost generation" will be the main focus of the R500m Joint Education Trust launched last week.

Marginalised youth — those who had fallen out of the spheres of both school and work — needed serious attention, trust spokesman Brian Whittaker said at the weekend.

The trust would work with organisations already involved in the area, such as the Joint Enrichment Programme.

Funded by 14 companies and involving people of all political shades, the trust wanted to promote long-term fundamental change in the quality of SA education.

Funds would be used for projects ranging from early childhood "educare" to basic adult education and literacy, said Whittaker.

Projects would be carried out by organisations already set up in communities.

The main things the trust had to offer, he said, were knowledge, skills and influence. "One of the reasons we have decided to come together is that the possibility of change is much greater now than before and the education authorities are more susceptible to the advice of others."

The trust aimed to alleviate the dire

KATHRYN STRACHAN

shortage of facilities in black schools and would provide basic resources such as textbooks and classrooms — as well as look towards providing a better curriculum and upgrading teacher qualifications.

The trust also hoped to widen the concept of work in both the public and private sectors and to encourage self-employment schemes and continuing education programmes in the workplace.

The trust would be responsive to outside advice and would work in co-operation with other development organisations and financing agencies.

Whittaker said it would operate independently in its day-to-day functions while remaining accountable to the founding organisations and the communities it served. Like any other trust, it would like to see the best return on investment.

Trustees would meet at the end of February to finalise strategic direction and to develop criteria for guiding the allocation of funds. The trustees had been warned that they had to think hard about a clear strategy so that they did not become yet another all-purpose fund, said Whittaker.

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## Child abuse up 54% last year, says Leon

CASES of serious assault, child neglect, rape and sodomy of children under the age of 14 increased 54% last year, Mr Tony Leon, Democratic Party MP for Houghton, said yesterday.

Mr Leon, speaking in debate on the Criminal Law Amendment Bill, also quoted statistics from Durban's Phoenix Child Abuse and Welfare Centre which indicated that 81,4% of cases of child abuse were carried out by family members — and 61,3% by parents.

He said the amendment would "speed up the evidentiary and investigative aspects of child abuse cases involving parents".

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## Shooting of youths slated

Lowveld Bureau

BARBERTON — The fact that it was a black policeman who shot two white youths — killing one and wounding another — is not what has upset townsfolk here.

What concerns them is that the youths were shot in a public walkway allegedly without provocation, said company director Ernest Davis.

On Sunday, Herman Dique (16) of Wagner Street was shot dead and his friend wounded, after a policeman fired four shots at the youths. Police were probing a burglary at a shopping centre at the time.

"Those innocent boys happened to be in an area where police had been looking for burglars," Mr Davis said.

"Herman had a part-time job at a local bakery and was to have reported for duty at 2 am. His friend accompanied him" STAR 7/12/98

# A 'button kop' and just a kid

Sault

298  
27/2 - 4/3/92

**W**HEN 10-year-old Ashley goes to the park, he doesn't spend time playing on the swings. Instead he huddles in a corner with the "rookers".

While his classmates look forward to buying sweets from the corner cafe, Ashley's idea of a good time is a "white pipe", a mixture of dagga and mandrax.

At 10, Ashley is a drug addict. He started using drugs at eight.

He is hooked on mandrax and is known in Woodstock as a "button-kop", street lingo for a mandrax junkie.

Tousle-haired, with wide eyes and a ready smile, Ashley looks like any other primary school pupil.

But already yellowed fingers indicate Ashley is involved in a far deadlier game than other children his age.

Ashley readily admits to smoking mandrax and dagga. He says he smokes "now and again". His neighbours tell a different story. They say he smokes every day.

With two years' smoking experience behind him, Ashley is already a drug connoisseur. The names and prices of different brands of mandrax — from "Germans" to local "no-name brands" — trip off his tongue. Ashley's knowledge of drugs is not surprising.

During the week he stays with a relative who is a well-known drug merchant in lower Woodstock. Ashley "helps out" in the business.

Does his mother, who lives in Atlantis, know he is an addict? Are his teachers aware of the problem?

"Not really," says Ashley who becomes tongue-tied when asked why he uses drugs.

"It's lekker. Everyone does it," he says vaguely.

His smoking companions, mostly in their early teens, agree.

"Pipes are no big deal," they say.

*(In terms of the Child-Care Act, we cannot use Ashley's real name or in any way reveal his identity).*



# Dumped toxic waste burns children

By Carina le-Grange

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STAR

6/2/92

At least 15 Alexandra children received medical treatment yesterday after they suffered serious chemical burns on Tuesday as a result of illegal and dangerous dumping in the township.

It was later established the burns were caused by a substance called Xylol.

One child, six-year-old Thomas Mabhena, was admitted to Tembisa Hospital.

The other children, and at least one mother, were treated at the Alexandra Health Clinic. More children, with less serious chemical burns, were expected to come for treatment yesterday afternoon.

The chemical burns were suffered after a truck illegally dumped tins of a paint-related substances on an empty site near to a children's informal playground — in Alexandra on Monday. Residents believe the truck came from Wynberg.

An official of the Department of National Health and Development said last year, during a visit to Alexandra by the director-general Dr Coen Slabber, that it was known "agents" from outside dumped refuse in the township.

While The Star visited the site yesterday, another unmarked truck arrived to illegally dump its cargo of waste.

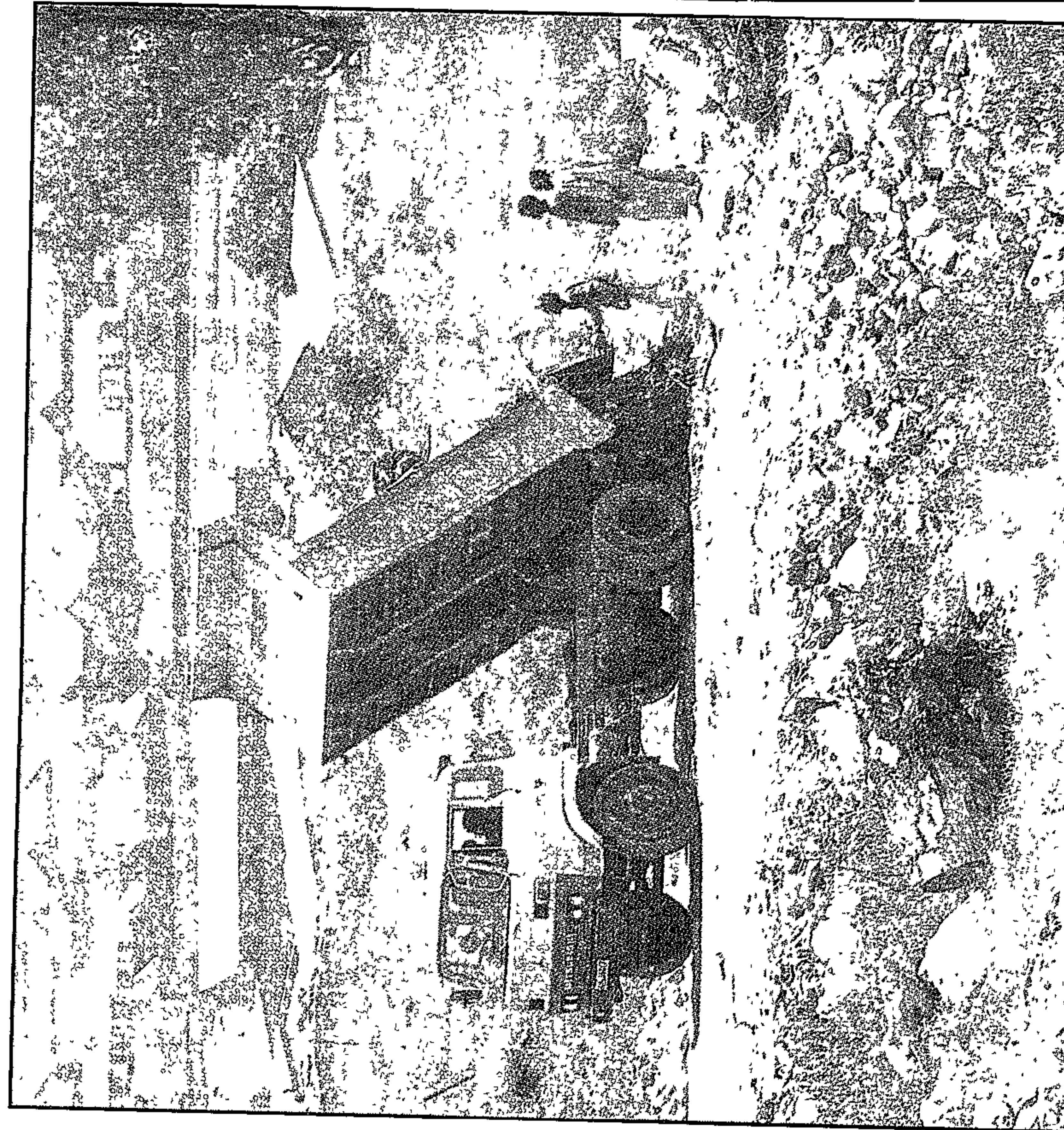
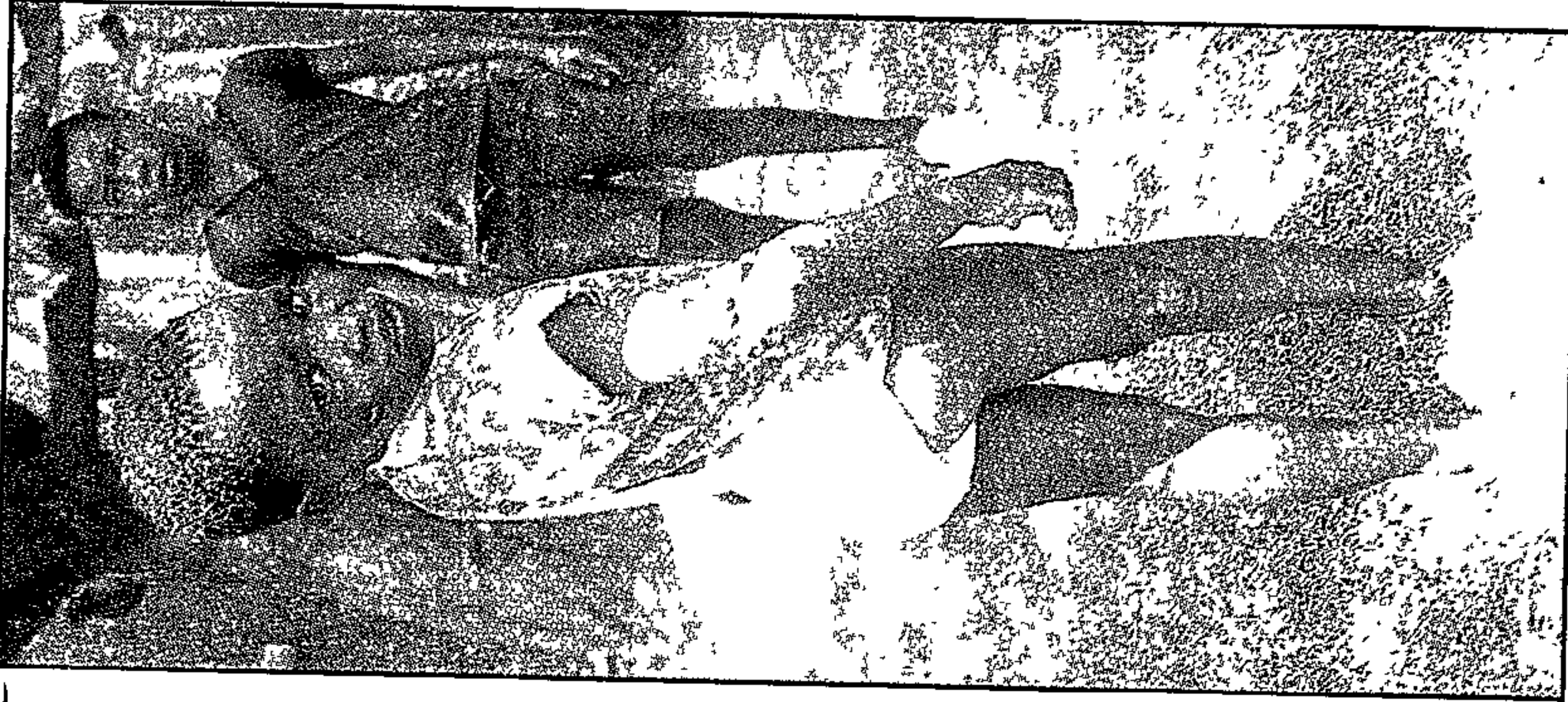
Moses Sedane, who works for excavators on the site, tried in vain to stop the driver and three passengers.

Sandton Environmental Health Services officer IP Ferreira, yesterday assisted the Alexandra Health Centre to establish the identity of the substance to expedite the correct treatment.

He said the area fell outside the jurisdiction of Sandton.

He said the substance had been identified as Xylol and it was a member of the benzene family. Xylol was used for purposes similar to paint stripping and was very dangerous.

Among other things, it could penetrate soft tissue, cause respiration failure and lead to can-



Picked up on the playground ... six-year-old Thomas Mabhena (above left) shows the chemical burns he sustained while his friend, who also sustained burns, looks on. (Right) A truck dumps its waste illegally in Alexandra yesterday.

cer and toxic dementia

He said Sandton was investigating the matter and would take the necessary steps via the Department of National Health when they had established the origin of the substance.

Alexandra medical manager Dr Pascal Ngakane said his staff had been told that children had come into contact with the dangerous substance on

Tuesday, and that they woke up yesterday with blisters over large parts of their bodies and suffering burning sensations.

He said the clinic would monitor the children's condition over the next 48 hours.

Monica Rakoma, whose son Josiah (19) sustained burns, said the children were playing on a small soccer field when they were told by men on the un-

marked truck that dumped the dangerous cargo that they could help themselves to the "paint".

"The children got excited and played with the paint," she said.

Among the other injured children were Grant Mbedze (8), Arnold Mbedze (13), Justus Mponyane (13), Siphwe Janji (11), and brothers John (9) and Bongani (3) Mabhena.

pressed anger about what had happened, and said if white people had lived nearby the dangerous waste would not have been dumped.

"There have always been strange things dumped in Alexandra at times food which had gone off is dumped and the children, being children, would eat it and become ill," one mother

Regional Services Council chief executive officer Len de Wet said the responsibility for preventing illegal and dangerous dumping usually lay primarily with the local management who could contract with other bodies to execute the task.

It was not possible yesterday afternoon to establish who was responsible for environmental safety in Alexandra.

● Pictures Herbert Mabuza.



# Landmark ruling on unmarried dads' rights

The time had arrived for the recognition by courts of an inherent right of access by a natural father to his illegitimate child, a Rand Supreme Court judge ruled in a landmark judgment yesterday.

He allowed rights of access to a Pietersburg father of an illegitimate son.

Mr Justice van Zyl accepted a report by a family advocate recommending that Frans Constant van Erk, an inspector at the Transvaal Provincial Administration, should have access to his son, who lives with his mother, Genevieve Holmer, in Roodepoort.

Mr van Erk and Mrs Holmer, who lived together between 1988 and January 1991, including the first two years of their son's life, reached a settlement, granting Mr van Erk reasonable access to the child, which was made an order of court.

The judge said that the rights of access by a natural father of his illegitimate child should be recognised was amply justified by the precepts of justice, equity and reasonableness and by the demands of public policy. It should be removed only if the access should be shown to be contrary to the best interests of the child.

In Mrs Holmer's case, she did not prove that the granting of access to the child's father would be in conflict with the child's best interests.

The judge said in his view public policy dictated that as there should be no distinction between a legitimate and an illegitimate child, just so there was no justification for distinguishing between the fathers of such children.

One of the strongest motivations for an improvement in the legal position of the unmarried father, was what was perceived as the gross injustice which occurred when a father was compelled to pay maintenance for a child whom he might never be able to see or visit. — Sapa.



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Dad gets access to son

9 "THE time has arrived for the recognition by our courts of an inherent right of access by a natural father to his illegitimate child," a Rand Supreme Court judge said in a landmark judgment yesterday. (298)

Mr. Justice van Zyl allowed rights of access to a Pietersburg father of an illegitimate son.

He said in his view public policy dictated that as there should be no distinction between a legitimate and an illegitimate child, just so there was no justification for distinguishing between the fathers of such children.

5/10/92 6/12/92



Miss Virginia Motau, construction worker Mr Moses Ntsibande and Dr Garth Japhet inspect the dumping area where the chemical substance that burned the children was found. Pic: MBUZENI ZULU

## Chemical burns 15 children

AT LEAST 15 children, some as young as three years, were severely burnt by chemical substances while playing at a dump in Alexandra, not far from the residential area, a local doctor confirmed yesterday.

The children were treated at Alexandra Health Centre on Monday, the same day they tampered with chemicals left at the dump.

Four elderly women were also treated for burns at the clinic, Sister Lizzie Montwedi said.

The incident occurred after a truck believed to be from a chemical processing company offloaded drums containing paint and other substances.

Dr Garth Japhet said the burns on the victims were so severe that the children would have to be kept under strict medical supervision.

Thomas Mabhena (6) had to be admitted to Tembisa Hospital.

*Sowetan 6/2/92*

By JOE MDHLELA

Japhet said health authorities would try to trace the people responsible for the dumping with a view to prosecution.

He hoped the clean-up campaign launched by the Sandton municipality and Alexandra's local authority would include means of eradicating the dumping problem.

"We need to make Alexandra a habitable place by removing dumps which are a health hazard," he said.

Japhet said tests conducted at a laboratory yesterday confirmed that the chemical used by the children was "Xylene", a paint-removing substance.

Mrs Monica Rakoma, one of the four women burnt, said they had used the chemical thinking it was "thinners" which they could use to remove paint from their hands.



# A young man tries to explain why his buddy went berserk with a handgun

Words and pictures by  
PHILIPPA GARSON

W/12-13/2/92  
X-POLICEMAN Johannes Wilhelm

Saunders told his friends at a brass last Saturday afternoon that he was going to the toilet. Instead he went into the streets and, it is alleged, embarked on a Barend Strydom-style shooting spree.

Armed with a friend's gun, the "tallish, well-built man" is believed to have walked a few hundred metres, shot at an old man sitting on a street corner and missed, then walked up to a couple and shot the man. He strode on towards two women a distance away and shot one of them.

Why did he do it? Many residents of the little eastern Transvaal town of Kriel are anxious to stress how drunk Saunders was. Said Hemmen Smit: "He was really drunk. He couldn't even stand on his feet. It wasn't a racial thing, he didn't realise what he was doing."

But according to the Kriel police station commander "He was under the influence but he wasn't drunk. When I talked to him he was quite normal."

An apprentice from Witbank Colliery Training College, Saunders had completed a year of practical training at Kriel where he stayed in the men's single quarters. His home is Vereeniging, where his family lives.

"He was going on leave on January 31 and was very excited about it," said an 18-year-old friend, Traans Snyman, another apprentice whose room was a few doors away from "Willie's" in the single quarters. He described Saunders as "always cool and laughing", a person who showed Snyman the ropes as he was new in the town.

"His relationships with blacks was always good," said Snyman. "He always made jokes and he was good friends with them. He told other people that when he was in the riot squad he left others to do the shooting."

According to Snyman, the fact that several blacks had moved into the single quarters at the beginning of the year may have contributed to Saunders' frustration, but he said this wasn't

enough to push him over the edge. Snyman's interpretation gives an interesting insight into the frustrations of young white men raised in a conservative environment. He and his family are CP members. He also admitted, with reluctance, his allegiance to the AWB.

"There are many AWB people in town, but you never know exactly who they are. Most people, when you say you're AWB, think you're nuts. So we don't talk about it."

Several blacks this year moved into the Kriel single quarters, where many of the occupants are British, Polish and Portuguese immigrants.

"A black moved in two rooms away (on the Thursday before the shooting). I was a few rooms away. I was really very angry and felt confused. I told Willie I was going to do something and he said I mustn't." Snyman said Willie had warned that he would only create trouble.

But the next day, he said, Willie had asked for a room in the new quarters, which are not yet "open", and also asked a friend with a house if he could rent a room.

*(298)* But there wasn't anything," said Snyman, adding "One incident like that can't push a guy to start shooting. In Willie's case, politics played a role, but he wasn't politically minded. "Look, I come from a farm. We are young people and all these changes in the land are happening so suddenly. Where I grew up you didn't bother them and they didn't bother you. Now we are eating with them, sleeping with them in the same corridors. It's a bit tough on a guy."

However, said Snyman, Willie was more accustomed to this, having been an apprentice for longer.

"The person to shoot should have been someone like me, because everything is new. Everything is *deurmekaar*. Sometimes you feel angry, sometimes you feel like your hands are cut off. But then you think you must live with it, you can't do anything about it."

"The reason the young people are losing their heads is they don't think of what'll happen after they crack. Something was pushing him that we didn't know about. It can happen to anyone."



*We are young people and all these changes in the land are so sudden. Where I grew up you didn't bother them and they didn't bother you. Now we are eating with them, sleeping with them in the same corridors. Everything is deurmekaar. Sometimes you feel angry, sometimes you feel like your hands are cut off.*



## Educate parents to cut hospital costs

PARENTS should be taught how to recognise and deal with acute respiratory infections in children, thus avoiding unnecessary hospital visits. (248) (248)

Dr Karen Wolmarans, who won the Triomed Scholarship for Medical Research, says about 20 percent of the out-patients who visited the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town could have been managed at home without medication. (248) (248)

"Acute respiratory infections, particularly pneumonia, are very serious in children and the death rates in South Africa are up to 270 times higher than those recorded in Western Europe. Sowetan 7/2/92

"At the same time, many of the out-patient visits are for trivial infections which could be managed without antibiotics at home," Wolmarans said

Managing director of Triomed Dr Pietman Botha said Wolmarans' suggestion was important to child health in the country. - Sowetan Reporter.



# Ruling on father's rights to illegitimate son welcomed

STAR 7/2/92 298

By Shirley Woodgate

Sociologists and child care experts have welcomed a landmark ruling in the Rand Supreme Court that a Pietersburg father must have rights of access to his illegitimate son.

Heather Regenass, of the National Institute for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of Offenders, said the ruling by Mr Justice Deon van Zyl was a clear indication of the value of the family advocate, whose recommendations were endorsed by the judge.

"We were unsure about the effectiveness of family advocates when the role was created, but this report instigated a positive move

with far-reaching implications for what may be termed a nation of absentee fathers."

She saw the ruling as a guideline which showed the importance of fathers in the development of children.

Mrs Regenass said the judgment brought South Africa in line with the norm in the US and UK.

Lecturer Terry Sacco of the social welfare department at the University of the Witwatersrand hailed the ruling as "incredibly progressive".

It was in the child's best interests and needs that it should see both parents in order to develop a wholesome idea of self while growing up.

She said it was psychologically and emotionally vital that a youngster

who would grow up a balanced human being should not have to split his or her parents into a "good mother/bad father" situation.

Refusing a father access to a child was detrimental, she added.

Mr Justice van Zyl said there should be no distinction between a legitimate and an illegitimate child, nor between their fathers.

He said one of the strongest motivations for an improvement in the legal position of the unmarried father was what was perceived as the gross injustice which occurred when a father was compelled to pay maintenance for a child whom he might never be able to see or visit.

# Doctor fails to attend rape trial

STimes 9/2/92 (298)

By DIANA STREAK

A CAPE Town youth was found not guilty of raping a seven-year-old girl because the district surgeon who examined the child after the attack failed to attend the trial to give evidence.

The acting attorney-general of the Cape, Mr Frank Kahn, has launched an investigation.

William von Vicht, 18, of Valhalla Park, was given five cuts and a suspended sentence for conviction on a lesser charge of indecent assault.

## Statement

Mr Kahn said rape and child abuse were seen in a "very grave light" by his office, and he appointed the deputy attorney-general, Mr A Niehaus, and state advocate Mrs Sandra Swart to investigate why the Bellville district surgeon, Dr MJ Siroky, had failed to appear in court.

"We are investigating the matter and will release

a statement soon. Until then the matter is sub judice," Mr Niehaus said.

Dr Siroky was not available for comment. His receptionist said his director had told him not to speak to the press.

The prosecutor, Mrs Niki Okes, was relying on Dr Siroky's medical evidence and said she had sent two subpoenas to Dr Siroky. His staff had refused to accept a third.

She had also asked the investigating officer to phone him on the day before the trial as well as on the day of the trial to remind him to be in court.

The magistrate, Mr Dirk Louw, said he could not find Von Vicht guilty of rape because of the lack of medical evidence. He also said that "a child's evidence is sometimes fantasy".

Dr Siroky has denied he

received any subpoenas, saying he was not obliged to attend such court cases. The case was postponed twice after he failed to appear.

"The investigating officer said Dr Siroky had said he had orders from his superiors not to testify unless the instructions were from the Supreme Court," Mrs Okes said.

## Rectify

Dr Siroky said he had been instructed by Dr MS Hassim, senior medical superintendent of the Western Cape, not to leave the Bellville district to testify in other districts "in case something happens".

But Dr Hassim said if a district surgeon was subpoenaed, he had to appear in court.

"Due to a regrettable misunderstanding Dr Siroky did not give evidence, but steps have been taken to rectify this matter," he said.



# KIDS in the CROSSFIRE



**WAR ZONE . . .** Pupils from John Pama Lower Primary School, where a girl was shot dead this week, show the bullet shells littering the area.

By CHIARA CARTER

298

**CHILDREN** have become the innocent victims of the latest outbreak in the Cape Town taxi war.

An eight-year-old girl was shot dead on her way to school on Wednesday morning when police opened fire to disperse taxi drivers.

She is a pupil at the John Pama Lower Primary School which is situated opposite the notorious Nyanga terminus, scene of much of the fighting.

At least two other Nyanga children were injured and a woman also broke both her legs when people stampeded to get off a bus which was being stoned.

The John Pama principal, identified only as Mrs Monti, wept as she told how staff and pupils daily risked their lives to go to school.

She has lost hope that the fighting will end. She only hopes that the battle moves else-

where. The school has almost 700 pupils under the age of 12.

This week only five turned up for school. The others were kept home by concerned parents.

"How can we do our schoolwork when the children cannot come to school for fear of their lives? The terminus must be moved," Monti said.

Also under fire is the nearby Oscar Mpepha High School where classes were last year disrupted by the taxi conflict.

On Wednesday about 300 women marched to the Gugulethu Police Station to demand that the terminus be moved.

The year-long taxi war erupted again last weekend, two days after the warring associations, Webba and Lagunya, had agreed to settle their differences. They agreed to form one organisation and share routes.

The killing of Lagunya member Vuyisile Matyelo appears to have sparked the fresh outbreak of violence. At least two people have been killed and more than 20 injured the past week.



**RUN FOR YOUR LIFE . . .** These commuters took to their heels this week as Cape Town's taxi war flared up again, just when everyone thought the year-long battle was finally over.

PHOTO: FRANK JACOB

# Parents' war is killing the kids

5 Times 9/2/92  
By TERRY VAN DER WALT

CHILDREN are being maimed and dying in a war that has nothing to do with them.

That is the bitter message from parents who are preparing to bury their children killed in an ambush on an Inkatha leader in Imbali township near Maritzburg this week.

The three children, Precious Chiliza, 6, Noluthando Mkhize, 11, and Nkanyiso "Maxwell" Sithole, 9, were on their way to Berg Street Primary School in their neighbour's car on Wednesday morning when they were riddled with bullets fired by about 16 men on the side of the road.

## Sobbing

Local IFP leader and deputy mayor of Imbali, Abdul Awetha, 56, and his 16-year-old son, Ismail, ran for their lives, leaving the two little girls and boy in the car.

As the two escaped, the men moved forward, shooting at the screaming children.

Their parents were called to the scene minutes later.

The moment was captured on television — a woman kneeling next to the open car door, holding her head and rocking and sobbing hysterically for her only child.

She was Mrs Prisca Chiliza, 39, who battled for years to have a child after marrying in 1980.

## Failed

Her neighbour, Mr Mandla Sithole, is bitter about losing his little boy.

"If you want to write about how I feel, just write about how any father would feel after losing a child this way," he said.

The little boy's aunt, teacher Eunice Madlala, said: "Nkanyiso means 'light' ... he was going to be our light, but now we have failed him."

Further down the potholed Mhlankosi Street — also known as "Hit Street" — lives Mrs Cynthia Mkhize, 28, and her family.

Her daughter's little red and white dress, which she never got to wear, is neatly laid out on a white sheet on the floor.

Noluthando's grandmother, Mrs Grace Mkhize, 56, said: "She was an innocent child who did not belong to any party — she was just going to school."



# Viva makes a dream come true

ST Times 9/2/92  
By JANICE HILLIER

DEPRIVED children from one of the Western Cape's oldest townships this week began moving into their own community centre — thanks to Viva Trust

The aim of the Ulwazi Community Centre, a brightly coloured building measuring about 800m<sup>2</sup>, is to enrich the lives of children in the community.

"It's just like heaven ... a dream come true for us. The building is nothing like I envisaged," said a delighted Mrs Mpumi Ngogo, one of the project's founders.

The R800 000 building, which will be opened officially on April 11, is just one of many projects around the country which will benefit from Viva Trust, an umbrella welfare organisation which recently launched South Africa's first national charity sweepstake.

## Deprived

The sweep, which gave away R2-m — including a R1-m first prize in the first draw last month — is aimed at obtaining resources to create jobs for the disabled, feeding the hungry and helping abused children.

Ulwazi Community Centre, which is situated in the heart of Langa in Cape Town, will offer deprived children — aged from five



PLACE OF HOPE ... founders and some of the children who may benefit hold the keys to the Ulwazi Community Centre

Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

to their early 20s — a chance to participate and share in recreational, educational and drug prevention programmes.

"The project is aimed at keeping children off the streets. Ulwazi is a preventative centre offering an

alternative to joining gangs and using drugs," said anti-drug campaigner, Mrs Adele Searll, who led the fundraising drive for the building.

Mrs Searll said the Ulwazi project received R50 000 a month from Viva

Trust and that by the end of the year it would have received R1-m in total.

● The next Viva sweep is on Red Nose Day, March 14, with a first prize of R1-million. Results will be published exclusively in the Sunday Times.



in, (d) failed, and (e) obtained (i) A, (ii) B, (iii) C, (iv) D and (v) E aggregates in, his Department's 1991 Senior Certificate examinations?

*Handwritten signature*

B38E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING.

- (a) 81 021  
(b) 31 439  
(c) 7 837  
(d) 49 582  
(e) (i) 7, (ii) 68, (iii) 489, (iv) 3 514 and (v) 5 400.

Senior Certificate examinations: Other schools

19 Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Training

*Handwritten signature*

How many pupils at schools not falling under the control of his Department (a) wrote, (b) passed, (c) obtained matriculation exemption in, (d) failed, and (e) obtained (i) A, (ii) B, (iii) C, (iv) D and (v) E aggregates in, his Department's 1991 Senior Certificate examinations?

B39E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- (a) 203 659  
(b) 81 738  
(c) 21 892  
(d) 121 921  
(e) (i) 13, (ii) 139, (iii) 1 167, (iv) 8 964 and (v) 14 428.

Places of safety: number of children

22 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Health:

*Handwritten signature*

- (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?

*Handwritten signature*

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

(1)	(a)	(b)	(i)	(ii)
Population group	Number of places available	Accommodation of children	Number of children	
Indians	2	200	84	
Whites	7	505	447	
Blacks	12	1 645	1 188	
Coloureds	8	715	610	

Information as at 29 January 1992 in respect of Whites and Indians, 31 December 1991 in respect of Coloureds and 30 May 1991 in respect of Blacks,

- (2) no,  
(a) and (b) fall away

Teacher/pupil ratio

23 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Training

*Handwritten signature*

- (1) (a) What is the teacher/pupil ratio in his Department for (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished,

(2) whether his Department has statistics on the teacher/pupil ratio in the education departments of the self-governing territories, if so, what are the relevant ratios?

*Handwritten signature*

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- (1) (a) (i) Primary schools. 1 41,00  
(ii) Secondary schools 1 35,76  
Total: 1,39,41

(b) 5 March 1991

- (2) Yes

	Primary	Secondary
OwaOwa	1 33,66	1 31,39
Lebowa	1 40,42	1 33,84
Gazankulu	1 43,02	1 33,73
KwaZulu	1 53,50	1 41,29
KwaNdebele	1 39,85	1 36,69
KaNcwane	1 40,33	1 35,63

# HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version.

For written reply.

General Affairs:

## State pension funds: contributions

11. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Finance.

- (a) What amount of money is there in each specified State pension fund, (b) what percentage of each pension contribution is made by the (i) individual and (ii) State and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B28E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE.

(a) Government Service Pensions Fund	R29 703 729 988
Associated Institutions Pension Fund	R 4 656 510 176
Temporary Employees Pension Fund	R 3 059 436 695
Associated Institutions Provident Fund	R 11 144 252
Pension Fund for Persons in Authorities' Service	R 3 362 126 205
Superannuation Fund for Persons in Authorities' Service	R 170 012 929

(b) (i) Government Service Pension Fund	26,68
Associated Institutions Pension Fund	32,89
Temporary Employees Pension Fund	33,33
Associated Institutions Provident Fund	40,00
Pension Fund for Persons in Authorities' Service	32,89
Superannuation Fund for Persons in Authorities' Service	43,48
(ii) Government Service Pension Fund	73,32

Associated Institutions Pension Fund	67,11
Temporary Employees Pension Fund	66,67
Associated Institutions Provident Fund	60,00
Pension Fund for Persons in Authorities' Service	67,11
Superannuation Fund for Persons in Authorities' Service	56,52

(c) 31 March 1991

State pension schemes: number/value of assets

12. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Finance:  
(a) How many State pension schemes were there as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) what are their names and (c) what was the (i) State's contribution in respect of, and (ii) total value of the assets held by, each of these schemes as at that date?

B29E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

- (a) Three as at 31 December 1991.  
(b) Members of Parliament and Political Office-Bearers Pension Scheme  
Members of Statutory Bodies Pension Scheme  
Military Pension Scheme  
(c) As benefits payable by the schemes are financed from the State Revenue Fund, no employer contributions are made by the State  
The amounts mentioned hereafter therefore present the total expenditure of the benefits paid out of Revenue for the 1990/91 financial year  
(i) Pension Scheme for Members of Parliament and Political Office-Bearers Pension Scheme for members of Statutory Bodies  
Military Pension Scheme  
(ii) Nil

R57 150 777

R 461 984

R51 250 792



## 29 safe places for children — Venter

THERE were 29 places of safety other than police cells or prisons for South African children, said Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter.

Replying to a written question by Mr Roger Burrows (DP Pinetown), she said her department did not have statistics on the number of children being held in police stations as places of safety.

There were 12 places of safety for black children of whom 1 188 were accommodated out of potential accommodation of 1 645 on May 30 last year, she said.

There were seven places of safety for whites, accommodating 447 children on January 29. The total accom-

modation available was 505.

Eighty-four Indian children were in two places of safety on January 29, with a total accommodation of 200 places.

Eight places of safety held 610 coloured children on December 31, and had a total capacity of 715, Dr Venter said. — Sapa. (298) ARC 11/2/92

## 29 places of safety (298)

STAR 11/2/92

There were 29 places of safety other than police cells or prisons for children, Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

Replying to a query by Roger Burrows (DP Pine-town), Dr Venter said her department had no statistics on children held in police sta-

tions as places of safety

There were 12 places of safety for black children, accommodating 1 188 children, on May 30 1991, seven for white children, with 447, on January 29; two for Indian children, with 84, on January 29; and eight for coloured children, with 610, on December 31. — Sapa.



# Saving black

## Women

## Culture

2948  
Sewetan  
12/12/13

we will be there for as long as it is necessary," she said.

The 23-year-old Dobsonville lass, the youngest nominee in the run of the Woman of the Year award, is as dedicated to her other project, SM Communications as she is to Sedibeng/Emthonjeni.

She believes it is important for people involved in community projects to communicate with each other.

"We have to share information and assist each other wherever we can. I have offered my services to community organisations to consult me when they need people to address their meetings or want assistance with planning a seminar or workshop.

"I want to make things easy for the public to get information through this network," she said.

**AWARD-WINNING community worker Smakaleng Mokhele believes that black culture is under threat of extinction.**

She is worried that "black people have forgotten who they are, where they come from and where they are going."

**By SIZAKELE KOOMA**

The two projects that the 1990 *Sowetan* Woman of the Year runner-up initiated last year are aimed at bringing back and keeping alive *ubuntu* among her people.

Sedibeng/Emthonjeni Cultural Project was started with the purpose of highlighting youth cultural activities, be they theatre, poetry, music, dance or fine arts, with competitions and workshops.

"It is aimed at encouraging youth participation in cultural activities. I believe that if we give young people incentives and enhance their talents with proper training they would be motivated and we would in turn have increased participation," Mokhele said.

She said society did not give young people involved in cultural activities the same respect as those involved in popular Western music. This made it look as though cultural activities were less important than those of the West.

### Cultural competitions

Sedibeng/Emthonjeni started off with 20 youth clubs from Dobsonville and will spread to Soweto and other areas. Committee members had already planned seven cultural competitions, which will be followed by workshops this year.

The winners in the different categories will be awarded trophies and all those taking part will receive certificates.

"The certificate and sculpture I received from *Sowetan* spurred me to work even harder for my people. I see that happening to our youth too.

"I also hope youth clubs that stopped functioning because of violence and political strife might be revived in the process. There is still a lot to be done in the project and



# 'Granny' Leah's mine of enterprise

WIMCO 14/2-20/2/92

In a rural Natal village, an impoverished family runs its own 'coal mine'.

By RAYMOND NXUMALO

A VISIT to "Granny" Leah Mhlophe is like taking a trip back to Johannesburg's gold-digging days more than a century ago. Her "opencast mine" may not be as lucrative, but it is certainly no less enterprising.

Her grandchildren and their friends queue up to help out at her "mine" in Blaauwbosch, near the kwaZulu township of Osizweni on the outskirts of Newcastle.

They follow her to the site, a stone's throw away from her house, where 42-year-old Phincas Shabangu waits with pick-axe in hand.

"You know your positions," Leah reminds her little "labourers" as they arrange themselves into a human chain inside the hole. Nkosinathi Buthelezi (10) lines up the buckets while above Shabangu starts digging.

"Bhasobha," Nkosinathi warns as a loose rock almost hits Nomusa Mhlophe, whose duty is to shovel the falling soil and fill the waiting queue of buckets.

As soon as all eight plastic buckets are filled, the human chain goes to work. Sbhongile Mkhize (12) picks up a bucket, throws it to Zanele Masondo (12), who in turn passes it to Lindiwe Myeza (13), then on to Nomusa Mhlophe (14), Sizakele Mncwango, Beauty Mhlophe and finally to Granny Leah, who throws the soil into a nearby pool of stagnant water.

Then she throws the bucket back down to Nkosinathi and the whole process begins again.

All this is done with a degree of disregard for the mine wall hanging menacingly above their heads. There is no doubt that the slightest tremor triggered by a blast at the Utrecht mine, some 90km away, could bring down the wall — instantly burying them under tons of soil.

Why does she subject herself and the children to such dangerous work? The object is to get coal out of the "mine".

"The coal-merchants who come around in trucks are expensive, and we need this rock. They charge R2,80 for a 20-litre paraffin tin and you can only make fire about four or even three times with that," Mhlophe explains, shaking her head in disapproval. To her, R2,80 is a lot of money.

I asked if it took very long to reach the coal. "It takes less than five hours to dig a grave, and we have the whole day to ourselves," she said, peeling dry skin



Human chain ... Little 'labourers' pass along bucketsful of soil

Photo: RAYMOND NXUMALO

from the palm of her hands. And at the end of the day she usually takes three, sometimes four, bucketsful of coal home.

While Granny Leah's interest in this process are domestic-oriented, Shabangu's are more entrepreneurial. He sells the bricks he makes from the yield of the hole.

"I use the clay that I dig here to make bricks. I bake the bricks with the coal to make them hard," he

explains. He charges R12 for 100 bricks. Most of the surrounding houses are built from home-made bricks.

There are 19 other holes owned and "mined" by other families, according to Shabangu's "employer", Goodness Ximba. She says anyone who has freehold rights to a piece of land with coal just beneath the surface can be an owner. And unlike most employers, she doesn't have to worry about staff wages. "Their wages are what they dig from that hole."



## Children's Home needs volunteers

THE Orlando Children's Home has appealed for volunteers to help in its clean-up and refurbishing campaign which will be held on February 22.

The home has also asked people to bring along scrubbing brushes, brooms, household cleaner, anti-septic, paint, stimulating toys for baby cots, powdered soap, paper towels, nails, window cleaners, yellow dusters, a lawn mower, turpentine, stepladders, crack filler, light bulbs and garden tools. (298)

Mrs Solani Mazibuko of the home asks that volunteers contact her at 935-1209 or 933-2560 after hours.

Sowetan 12/2/92

## Taxpayers to fund bulk of sponsorship

TAXPAYERS will fund a substantial bite of Sasol's sponsorship of the Jordan Formula One Grand Prix team.

Tax consultant Michael Steyn said yesterday if the sponsorship amounted to \$10m, the actual cost to Sasol could be \$1.36m while government would have to foot the balance as tax rebates.

Sasol public affairs spokesman Jan Krynauf did not disclose the cost of the sponsorship yesterday, but said it was less than the speculated \$10m.

Steyn said Sasol would qualify for the 100% write-off against tax of all advertising and promotional costs accorded to all companies.

It would also be able to claim an 80% rebate for sponsoring an international event in SA which attracted overseas sportsmen and visitors.

This meant that, notwithstanding the 48% company tax rate, Sasol could be due for a 180% rebate on its sponsorship.

Price Waterhouse tax consultant Tienie Lategan said most companies battled to

EDWARD WEST

get the full 80% rebate and normally only received 30% to 40%. He believed the rebate would soon be phased out.

Krynauf did not deny the company would receive tax rebates, but said interest costs and the unclear nature of the legislation considerably reduced Sasol's ability to receive full rebates.

He said one of the main objects of the sponsorship was to promote the export of Sasol products overseas and gain foreign exchange. *bid 12/12/92*

Sasol chemicals and solvents are used in various engine and body parts of the Formula One car.

Krynauf said the sponsorship of Formula One sport, generally accepted as the most technically advanced sport in the world, would promote Sasol internationally as a hi-tech company.

This was essential to the joint ventures it hoped to enter with overseas companies and to the new export markets opening up.

## Attorney-general loses appeal bid

WITWATERSRAND Attorney-General Klaus von Lieres was refused leave to appeal in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday against an order which found him liable for R100 000 in legal costs incurred by himself and Vrye Weekblad in a recent defamation case.

Von Lieres sued Vrye Weekblad and editor Max du Preez for R35 000 after the newspaper published two articles in January and February 1990 which defamed him.

Shortly before the matter went to court early last year, Vrye Weekblad tendered R15 000 plus costs in settlement for the first article and a further R5 000 plus costs for the second.

Von Lieres agreed to settle the first claim for R15 000, but went ahead with his R35 000 claim in respect of the second article.

Du Preez admitted the articles were defamatory, but challenged the amount of damages sought by Von Lieres.

Vrye Weekblad also published a full retraction and apology.

Mr Justice A P van Collier awarded Von Lieres R5 000 damages, plus costs, for the second article.

Vrye Weekblad then went back to court in August last year, claiming

SUSAN RUSSELL

that Von Lieres was legally obliged to pay the costs incurred by both parties from the date that he had been offered R5 000 in settlement.

It was argued that Von Lieres should pay the costs from that date because the amount awarded had been equal to or less than what had been offered to settle the claim.

Mr Justice van Collier found in favour of Vrye Weekblad and ordered Von Lieres to pay costs incurred from the date the R5 000 had been tendered until settlement of the case.

Von Lieres was also ordered to pay the costs of the court hearing on the question of costs.

The attorney-general, represented by L. Weinstock SC, applied yesterday for leave to appeal against the judge's finding. During his argument Weinstock said the costs involved were not "trivial" and referred to a sum of R100 000.

Mr Justice van Collier dismissed the application, saying there was no reasonable prospect of another court coming to a different conclusion.

The judge ordered Von Lieres to pay the costs of yesterday's application, including costs of two counsel.

## Life as seen by Soweto's youth

THEO RAWANA

MARKETERS, strategic planners, social responsibility executives and others interested in the black market will be given insights into the youth of Soweto in a study to be published next week.

The Alternative Consultancy's Gill Stacey interviewed 200 young people in Soweto and has put her findings into a report entitled *Insight into Soweto Youth*.

Publicity for the report describes the township youth as SA's fastest-growing market.

It says the report will show what a wealth of information emerges when suspicion of outsiders by black youths has been removed. Stacey spoke to people between the ages of 15 and 25.

"They were from all income groups and educational levels, including the so-called 'lost generation' (children who dropped out of school during the lengthy education crisis).

"The youths opened up on issues as diverse as fashion styles, crime, political views, AIDS, the environment, education and spending patterns," says the consultancy's brochure.

At the launch on February 19, Soweto youths who participated in the research will describe the various sub-cultures to which they belong.

**ABERDARE**  
GROUP



Senior assistant editor Joe Latakomo sees grim history repeating itself in Meadowlands

# First fathers, now the children

STAR 12/2/92

**W**HAT children? There are no children here, declared a woman as I asked her what the response of the children in the area has been to the attacks by hostel inmates — a situation which usually exacerbates violence.

She did not mean that there were literally no children. What she meant, she explained, is that those who should have been just children have been exposed to so much violence, virtually from the crib, right through their school lives up to the present.

Heaven knows, the woman added, these children have been through more than most of us had gone through in our lifetimes.

Like many of the residents of this part of Meadowlands, memories of the first attacks on them by hostel residents in post-1976 were still vivid. Then, men who had frequented some of the shebeens in the vicinity, indeed, who had fairly firm relationships with the folk from the township, seemed to just turn against anyone who was not a hostel resident. At issue had been what hostel residents described as their right to refuse to participate in a work stay-away.

Reports claimed that the weekend before the planned stayaway, the then chief of the police in Soweto had gone to address the hostel residents and asked them whether they had come all the

way from Zululand to stay away from work.

Police protection was promised to those who would go to work, and because of the contract nature of the employment of most of the hostel residents, many decided not to heed the call for a work stayaway.

Those who did go to work, also did so well-armed.

On their way to work, they were simply taunted by youths. But it was on their return that they were attacked as they alighted from trains at Mzimhlope station.

The hostel residents had to run the gauntlet of residents, and finally by the time they reached the hostel, the three sons of a resident on the main road had been killed.

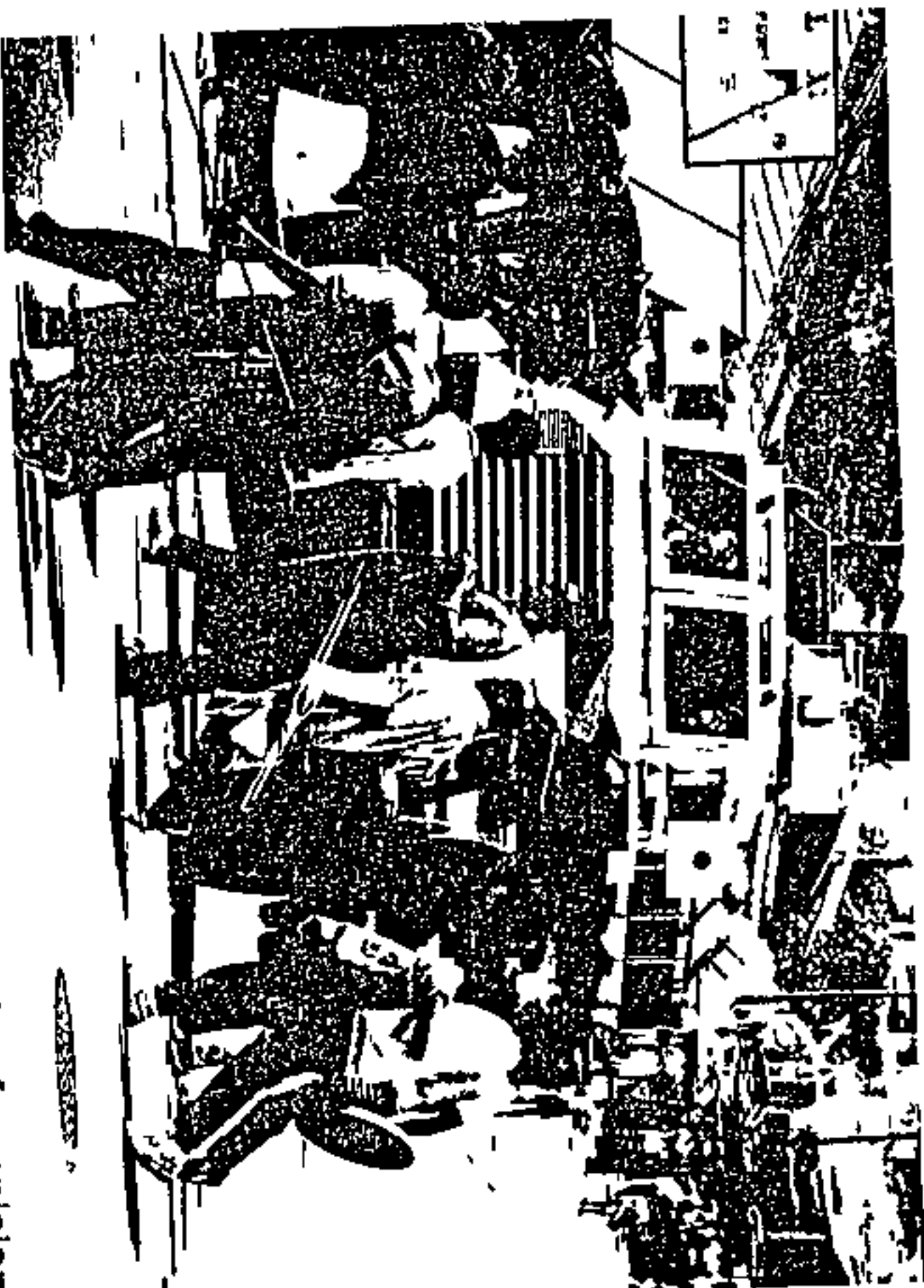
It was this killing that sparked off furious clashes.

That Tuesday night, residents further away from the hostel, fearing a spread of attacks from the hostel dwellers, banded together to help protect those closer to the hostel.

They wore white headbands to identify themselves, while those who remained at home barricaded themselves.

The fighting went on through the night, and remains one of the bloodiest clashes between residents and hostel dwellers. Daily, the death toll mounted.

At one point, a figure of 48 was suggested, most of them township residents.



Police and armed hostel-dwellers... the seeds of suspicion were sown years ago.

For the first time, then, the role of the police was being questioned, and their impartiality doubted.

By the Thursday, calls had gone out to Chief Buthezi to intervene. He did so at a meeting on the Sunday, and for the first time that week, calm returned to the area.

Since then, residents have tried to mend the broken relationships, and the shaky truce held.

While the hostel dwellers and township residents did not quite hold each other's hands in love,

gone to address the hostel residents and encourage them to defy the stayaway call?

The answer will never be known. The problem is that the first seeds of distrust of police in dealing with residents-hostel dwellers matters were sown.

The peace held — until the death two years ago of Meadowlands mayor Joseph Khumalo, who was also an official of Inkatha. He was gunned down during the campaign to force councilors from office.

Following his funeral, there was a brief clash between hostel dwellers and residents.

The focus of resident-hostel dwellers' clashes has, over the years shifted from Meadowlands and Dube Hostels to Nancefield Hostel, from whence several attacks have come.

Residents of nearby Klipspruit have borne the brunt of these attacks, and there have also been suggestions that attacks on trains, most of which have occurred between Nancefield Station and Orlando, were carried out by hostel dwellers from Nancefield.

But this week, after a lull in resident-hostel dweller attacks, violence has once more broken out between the Meadowlands Hostel dwellers and township residents.

Some talk of fathers, mothers or brothers they will never know. And the question is: what would have happened had the police not

before we knew what was happening, they were hacking, beating and stabbing us. And then they set our houses on fire," he said.

Nobody seems to know why the violence started. Some suggest that the attacks followed a funeral of a hostel resident who was killed in the township.

Both the Inkatha Freedom Party and the African National Congress believe that "professional hitmen" are responsible for sparking off the attacks.

They believe it is an attempt to derail Codesa, and in line with other previous attempts every time a peace initiative was under way.

Other residents believe that the attacks were sparked off by the killing, in Natal, of Inkatha leader Winnie Sabelo, who was gunned down in his Umhlanga shop Mr Sabelo was involved in local peace initiatives.

ANC leader in the area, Skumbuzo Ngunwenya was killed in an apparent revenge attack.

Once more, the element of a "Third Force" has been mentioned. There is also an element of disillusionment with the National Peace Accord, which, in the view of many ordinary township residents, has failed to deliver peace.

Meanwhile, residents around Meadowlands are waiting (and, perhaps, planning). The tragedy continues to play itself out. □



# Fathers have rights too

Sowetan 11/2/92

298

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

**RAND** Supreme Court judge last week condemned the law that gives an unmarried mother sole rights over the child.

Mr Justice van Zyl, when going to grant a Pietersburg father the right of access to his three-year-old son, said the time had arrived for South African courts to recognise the inherent right of access the fathers had to their illegitimate children.

According to South African law, an unmarried father has no rights to a child born out of wedlock.

He has to make an application to the court for access, if he can prove it is in the child's best interest.

## Caution

Justice van Zyl's rejection of the law was supported with caution by a child custody social worker who said that the father should be given access only after a social worker had investigated his social circumstances.

"Socially, a child must continue to see its father. He and she should not be denied contact with each other, especially if the child is a boy, because he needs his father as a role model," the social worker said.

She said she thought it was not fair that the rights of the child should be determined entirely on one side.

The Women's Legal Status Committee co-convenor, Mrs Roberta Johnston, said she thought each case should be decided individually.

"This matter needs a lot of investigation. Things are not good the way they are and it does not mean they will be better either



Eddie Stephens enjoys watching his child Zulfic figure out how to drink an orange juice.

Pic: LEN KUMALO

way," Johnston said.

She said fathers should be allowed access but only after the family advocate had assessed his situation.

But how do single mothers with illegitimate children feel about Justice Van

Zyl's comments?

Miss Molly Senokwane said change in the law would only help to confuse the child.

"I do not see the point in maintaining a relationship that will not be consistent I

do not allow the father of my child access to him because he is not maintaining him.

"But even if he did I do not think the occasional visits would mean anything to the child. It would not

strengthen the relationship between him and his father," Senokwane said.

She said there were reasons why mothers refused fathers access. The mothers were not necessarily driven by bitterness at the end of

the relationship.

"She would not be happy, she said, if her 16-month-old son visited his father only to be left with the man's girlfriend or wife who would ill-treat him.

## WOMAN

Do fathers want to be involved in the rearing of their children or are there other reasons to their insisting on seeing their offspring?

Thami - he did not want to give his surname - wants to see his children because he wants to be sure if the money he pays for their maintenance is used for that purpose.

"I have not seen my children for a year but I maintain them. How do I know if they are being clothed and fed on the money I give their mother every month? It hurts when you do not know what is happening to your children," Thami said.

Thami and his wife were divorced two years ago. He said he knew there were legal steps he could take if he wanted to see his children and his heart cried out to unmarried fathers who had no legal grounds as far as their children were concerned.

The formation of the Unmarried Fathers Fight, an unmarried father's association which believes that maintenance and visiting rights laws should be reviewed, forced the Government to take a fresh look at the present laws.

A working committee of the South African Law Commission is investigating the possible review of the legal position of fathers of illegitimate children.

Their proposals, if passed into law, could ensure that unmarried fathers who sincerely want to be a part of their children's upbringing are given the same rights as the mothers.



# Trust will cater for returnees

By PORTIA MAURICE

SOUTH AFRICAN returnees have given up the fight for an empty government school to accommodate their children and have instead formed a trust to handle the integration process.

The Batlagae Trust was created by the National Co-ordinating Committee for the Return of Exiles after the July bombing of Hillview High in Pretoria, which was to serve as a reception school. Negotiations to secure alternative accommodation from government subsequently broke down, the trust's executive director Mohamed Tikly said this week.

Batlagae — which means "those that are coming home" in seTswana — was established to address the education problems of returnees from preschool to adult level.

More than 700 children, many of whom come from the African National Congress' Solomon Mahlangu College (Somafo) in Tanzania, have returned to South African schools. The trust, which is said to be non-partisan, has disbursed R2,5-million in scholarships.

Tikly said most children had been placed in independent schools, some of which were subsidising their fees. However, this was far from ideal and they still required a central facility to meet special needs such as counselling, language difficulties and unique schooling histories.

"The children from exile have no choice but to enter this national disaster," he said. "They must already cope with the trauma of being uprooted from familiar surroundings to 'return' to a country they may never have known, and previous schooling hardly prepares them for the conditions they are likely to find."

Batlagae's board of trustees comprises representatives from the ANC, Pan Africanist Congress and the churches. Tikly said most funds had come from Scandinavian donor agencies, but that the trust had to stall on its flood of requests because of shortages.

Somafo is winding down its operations this month, and only 65 secondary students writing Form 5 exams remain.

Tikly said Batlagae would facilitate the return of its educational archives, along with those of other liberation movements, to be displayed in a museum at the University of Fort Hare.

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

B70E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

(1) (a) 9 132 (inclusive of Municipal Police and Police Assistants)

(b) (i) 1 733

(ii) 5 February 1992

(2) No

Mr P G SOAL, Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, while indicating how pleased I am that there appears to be an increase in the number of policemen who have been trained, I should like to ask him whether he will please assure the House that he will have a discussion with his Minister about how to allay the fear and concern of suburban residents about the increase in crime. I want to assure him and the House that there is indeed great concern and worry about this increase in crime.

The DEPUTY MINISTER, Mr Chairman, we are also concerned about the high crime rate, and this question has already been addressed by the Department and the hon the Minister

Illegitimate children: rights of access to fathers

\*7 Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Justice

Whether it is the intention to introduce legislation in terms of which rights of access will be granted to fathers of illegitimate children, if not, why not, if so, (a) when and (b) what is envisaged in this regard?

298

B78E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The rights of a father regarding his illegitimate child are being investigated by the South African Law Commission. A working paper is being compiled at present and it is expected that it will be published during this year.

SARCC: protection of commuters

\*8 Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Transport †

(1) Whether the South African Rail Commuter Corporation recently announced additional measures for the protection of commuters, if so, (a) what is the extent of

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these measures and (b) what is the cost involved in these measures,

(2) whether any other State departments are involved in the application of these measures, if so, (a) which State departments, (b) to what extent and (c) at what cost?

B79E

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

(1) Yes.

(a) and (b)

(i) The five-year security programme which would have been completed on 31 March 1995, has been accelerated and will be completely phased-in by 31 March 1993. This entails that all stations will be secured for policing by erecting security fencing, providing lighting, introducing access control and providing on-site accommodation for the SAP Communication between the train driver, control room and the SAP is being improved to permit the speedier reporting of dangerous situations and incidents. The costs involved in this are estimated at R9,5 million for the 1991/92 financial year and at R18,24 million for the 1992/93 financial year.

(ii) An investigation into the desirability of opening end doors of coaches is being conducted. All trains are also regularly stopped and searched for dangerous weapons. On the Soweto section a number of metal detectors are employed on a trial basis. The costs involved in using these metal detectors is R40 838.

(iii) Toll-free telephone numbers for reporting crime are in operation in all regions and cash rewards are offered for reporting useful information. The Corporation reacts continuously on any media reports regarding security and the media and commuters are continuously informed of

steps taken to improve the security situation. The cost involved in the toll-free crime reporting numbers as well as the cash rewards is estimated at R60 000 for the 1991/92 financial year.

(iv) Security personnel are used to support the SAP in their actions. The cost involved in this is estimated at R15,3 million for the 1991/92 financial year.

(2) Yes

(a) and (b) The SAP is responsible for manning the stations which are already secured for policing and for the maintenance of law and order on premises and trains. Stations not policed on a full time basis are intensively patrolled. The SA Defence Force renders a support function at the request of the SAP.

(c) The costs involved to this is not readily available and will be furnished to the Member who posed the question as soon as the information has been received from the organisations concerned.

Damaging of ozone layer: research

\*9 Mr J CHIOLE asked the Minister of Environment Affairs †

(1) Whether any independent research in respect of the damaging of the ozone layer is being undertaken by South Africa at present, if so, (a) to what extent is his Department involved in this research, (b) (i) what amount has been budgeted for it and (ii) how many researchers are involved in it and (c) what do the findings indicate so far,

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

B80E

†The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS, Mr Chairman, I reply to a question of the hon member for Pretoria West whom I also do not see in the House [Interjections.]

(1) Yes

(a) The Department of Environment Affairs provides financial backing for a joint Weather Bureau/Natal Univer-

sity programme, namely the South African National Ozone Research Programme (SANORP). The Department of Environment Affairs in collaboration with the Department of National Health and Population Development also provide financial backing for the Cape Point Trace Gas Research project implemented by the CSIR.

(b) (i) For the 1991/92 financial year R280 000 was allocated towards SANORP. Financing for the 1992/93 financial year has not yet been authorised. R130 000 per annum is allocated towards the Cape Point Trace Gas Research project.

(ii) Two researchers of the Weather Bureau and two professors of the University of Natal and a number of student researchers are involved in SANORP. There are three researchers involved with the Trace Gas Project.

(c) A comparative study between ozone data of the mid-1960's and data collected since August 1989 show that in the stratospheric ozone layer (between 12 and 36 km altitude) ozone concentrations have decreased by 6%, relative to the earlier period. The decrease in ozone concentrations in the stratosphere between the 1970's and 1980's alone was 3% to 4% over South Africa and 17% at SANAE. Ozone concentrations in the lower atmosphere over South Africa have, conversely, increased. Comprehensive information is available from the Department of Environment Affairs.

(2) No

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament

Codesa: costs paid by State

\*10 Adv J S PRINSLOO asked the Minister of Constitutional Development †

(1) What part of the expenditure in respect of the institution called Convention for a

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



# The MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL HOUSING

- (1) (a) The property has been expropriated in terms of the Expropriation Act, 1975 (Act 63 of 1975), which determines that market value must be paid for the property. As valuations are still being awaited, the amount payable has not yet been determined.
- (b) It is envisaged that the compensation for the purchase of the property will be financed from the Community Development and Revolving Fund.
- (2) No claims have been received yet. The prescribed legal procedures will be followed in respect of any claims received.
- (3) Safety of the residents is the responsibility of the Minister of Law and Order.

## Bank robberies: number/value of property

\*14 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (a) How many bank robberies occurred in the Republic of South Africa in 1991 and (b) what was the total value of the money and valuables stolen in such robberies?

B199E

## The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.

- (a) 2 536 (including Post Offices and Building Societies)
- (b) No statistics are kept with regard to the amount of money involved

## Citizens from TBVC countries: number/identity documents

\*15 Mr J H MOMBEMBE asked the Minister of Home Affairs.

- (1) (a) How many citizens from the TBVC countries were living in South Africa as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) how many of them were eligible for South African identity documents and/or citizenship as at that date.
- (2) whether he intends issuing identity documents to all such persons living in South Africa, if not, why not?

B201E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

# The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS

(1) and (2) ~~asked the Minister of Home Affairs.~~

It is not possible to furnish the information as citizens of TBVC states are exempted from visa requirements and the possession of temporary residence permits. The entry into and departure from the Republic of TBVC citizens are thus not monitored or recorded. All that is required of these citizens to sojourn legally in the Republic is to be in possession of a valid travel document, which for this purpose could also be an identity document.

Identity documents are issued to these citizens who are permanently living in the Republic, should they apply therefor. If an applicant for an identity document should qualify for South African citizenship in terms of the Restoration of South African Citizenship Act, 1986 (Act 73 of 1986), he would be issued with an identity document indicating that he is a South African citizen. If at that stage he does not qualify for SA citizenship, he will be entitled to an identity document indicating that he is not a South African citizen.

## Theft of scheduled medicines

\*16 Dr W J SNYMAN asked the Minister of National Health +

Whether her Department has been notified of and/or has received complaints or representations about large quantities of scheduled medicines allegedly stolen from dispensaries under the control of the State, including the provisions, subsequently being repacked and re-channelled into the medicine market, if so, what are the details of the malpractices in this regard?

B203E

## The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

Yes, I am aware of the allegations made regarding this matter. There is however at present no proof about this and therefore no details regarding the alleged malpractices are available. A task group has been appointed to investigate the whole matter of the theft of medicine, in both the public sector and the private sector.

# Department of Manpower: money for two organizations

\*17 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) Whether his Department spent any money on two organizations, the names of which have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, if so, (a) how much was spent on each and (b) what are the names of the organizations in question.

- (2) whether a committee headed by a certain professor, whose name has also been furnished to the Minister's Department, was given any information on the above organizations, their operations and financing, if not, why not; if so, what information?

B204E

## The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

- (1) No.

- (a) and (b) Fall away

- (2) No. The Department is not aware of any information requested by the committee concerned or supplied to it by the Department in regard to the organizations concerned.

## Fight against crime: SADF members

\*18. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Law and Order

- (1) Whether he will request the Minister of Defence to make available members of the Commandos and other South African Defence Force personnel with a view to deploying them in the fight against crime; if not, why not;

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B205E

## The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Members of the Commandos and other units of the South African Defence Force are already, as the need arises, at the disposal of the South African Police. At present an intensive investigation has been instituted to determine in which ways members of the Commandos, especially in rural areas, can be employed to

assist the Police in a co-ordinated manner to prevent crime

(2) No, but most certainly after completion of the relevant investigation

## UN Convention on the Rights of Children

\*19. Mr L FUCHS asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether South Africa is 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?

B206E

## The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

- (1) and (2)

No. I would like to refer the hon member to the address of the State President at the opening of Parliament on 24 January 1992. The relevant section reads as follows.

A new constitution cannot be separated from a bill of fundamental rights. The Government is committed to the principle of a justiciable bill of fundamental rights as part of a new constitutional dispensation. That is why it took the initiative that led to the recent publication of the South African Law Commission's Interim Report on Group and Human Rights.

In conjunction with this, the Government has also taken the initiative in making a study of international conventions on fundamental rights, including the rights of women and children and the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights. We have already progressed a long way with this in the realisation that it is necessary for South Africa to come into line with the international community.

When we look at transitional constitutional arrangements, I believe fruitful consideration could also be given to whether a first phase of a bill of fundamental rights should not be part of them.

Such a phased arrangement could contribute a great deal to the establishment of a culture of fundamental rights and the orientation of governmental institutions, the legal fraternity and individuals to a coming, fully fledged bill of rights dispensation. It would also give the courts an opportunity to develop judicial precedents in accordance with a rights dispensa-

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



(298) lion and begin to create consequent judicial certainty in connection with the matter. In general such a step should contribute towards a successful transition from the present system to that of a *Rechtsstaat* or constitutional state in which the rule of law prevails.

#### Cape Peninsula: pollution level of sea

\*20 Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs

- (1) Whether any tests were conducted recently to determine the level of pollution of the sea around the Cape Peninsula, if not, why not, if so, (a) (i) when and (ii) where were these tests conducted and (b) what was the finding in respect of the pollution level,
- (2) whether this pollution constitutes or at any stage constituted a hazard to human and marine life, if so, what are the relevant details?

B207E

#### The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS.

(1) Yes

- (a) (i) — Heavy metals in black mussels every six months since 1985
- Radioactivity weekly in sea water and quarterly in biota since 1980
- Faecal coliform levels are measured every two weeks in sea water

- (ii) — Heavy metals at 30 positions between Bloubaaistrand and Pringle Bay
- Radioactivity measurements made in sea water at Silverstroom Strand and Melkbos and in biota at Yzerfontein, Dassen Island and Melkbos
- Faecal coliform measurements made at 55 sites around Cape Peninsula between Milnerton and Monwabisi

- (b) — Heavy metal concentrations in black mussels were in most cases

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

below those set internationally for human consumption

- Radioactivity levels were well within internationally acceptable limits
- Faecal coliform levels at most sites complied with EEC bathing water standards EEC levels were exceeded on occasions in Hout Bay, Mouille Point, Rocklands, Three Anchor Bay and at some sites in False Bay (mainly in the winter)
- (2) — No None of the monitored pollution levels pose a threat to marine life
- Faecal contamination has the potential to impact on human health in some areas, at times Comprehensive information is obtainable from the Department of Environment Affairs

#### Union buildings: partially vacated

\*21. Adv J R DE VILLE asked the Minister of Public Works:†

Whether any section of the Union buildings is to be vacated, if so, (a) when, (b) for what reasons and (c) who and/or which State department is accommodated in this section at present?

B209E

#### The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

No, (a), (b) and (c) fall away

#### SADF: certain organization financed

\*22 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Defence.

- (1) Whether a certain organization, the name of which has been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, was at any stage financed or otherwise supported by the Defence Force; if so, (a) for what (i) purpose and (ii) period was it so financed or supported and (b) what is the name of this organization,

- (2) whether such financing or support was provided through front organizations?

CONFIDENTIAL B210E

#### The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) and (2)

This matter is presently being investigated by the Commission of Enquiry into the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation (also known as the Goldstone Commission) 1, therefore, do not consider it advisable to anticipate the findings of the Commission

#### SADF: training of two persons

\*23 Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence

- (1) Whether two persons, whose names have been furnished to the South African Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply, have at any stage undergone training by the Defence Force or any of its associated companies; if so, what are the names of these persons,
- (2) whether the Defence Force or any of its associated companies provided training at any stage for Transvaal members of or persons sympathetic to a certain organization, the name of which has also been furnished to the Defence Force, if so, what is the name of this organization?

This matter is presently being investigated by the Commission of Enquiry into the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation (also known as the Goldstone Commission) 1, therefore, do not consider it advisable to anticipate the findings of the Commission.

#### The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

(1) and (2)

This matter is presently being investigated by the Commission of Enquiry into the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation (also known as the Goldstone Commission) 1, therefore, do not consider it advisable to anticipate the findings of the Commission.

#### SADF: financing of secret camp at Mkuze

\*24. Lt-Gen R H D ROGERS asked the Minister of Defence.

- (1) Whether the South African Defence Force financed, through front organizations, the establishment and equipping of a secret camp at Mkuze in Northern Natal; if so, what was the cost of this project,
- (2) whether, at this camp, Caprivi trainees were housed and front organizations trained leaders and activists of a certain organization, the name of which has been

furnished to the Defence Force for the purpose of the Minister's reply; if so, what is the name of this organization,

- (3) whether the trainees were linked to the South African Defence Force, if so,
- (4) whether the Defence Force's involvement in the Mkuze project was discussed with and agreed to by the leader of the organization referred to in paragraph (2) of this question,
- (5) whether this project has been suspended; if so, why?

B212E

#### The MINISTER OF DEFENCE

(1) to (5)

This matter is presently being investigated by the Commission of Enquiry into the Prevention of Public Violence and Intimidation (also known as the Goldstone Commission) 1, therefore, do not consider it advisable to anticipate the findings of the Commission

#### Targeted aid schemes: spending of amount budgeted

\*25. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of National Health:

With reference to the R226-million originally budgeted for the targeted aid schemes, as well as any further allocations that may have been budgeted for this purpose, (a) how much of the budgeted amounts has been spent, (b) by which Government Departments or organizations was it spent and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B217E

#### The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

- (a) R94 550 000,00 is in the process of being paid out,
- (b) State Departments and State infrastructures

\* Clinics operated by local authorities and provincial administrations

- \* TBVC States
- \* Self-governing Territories
- \* Non-governmental organizations
- \* Southern Transvaal:
- \* Imqalife
- \* Food Gardens Foundation
- \* Street-wise

CONFIDENTIAL HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY





Professor Nic Wiehahn chairs the Instructa '92 Education and Training Conference at Nasrec in Johannesburg yesterday.

Picture: ROBERT BOTHA

## Children 'must be part of decisions in education'

BIP  
12/3/92

THEO RAWANA

298

CHILDREN should have the right to criticise and take part in decisions on educational issues, ANC education head John Samuel said in Johannesburg yesterday.

Samuel told the Instructa '92 Education and Training Conference that while he was in Colombia, Latin America, he was surprised to see an eight-year-old child negotiating with a teacher projects for the coming week.

Samuel said the unilateral restructuring of education by government must be halted immediately and a transitional educational negotiation forum should be created.

Education in a democratic SA should be a basic right, he said, calling for an education Bill of rights.

The Bill of rights would ensure that young and old had access to educational facilities, Samuel said. It is the ANC's belief that everyone should be entitled to a basic education.

The education and training conference, part of the Instructa '92 Educational resources Conference held at Nasrec, was organised by The Conference Co-ordinators and the CSIR Conference Centre and Services.

Samuel said to turn around the educational crisis in SA, there should be a transitional mechanism, a negotiation forum in which major political players would negotiate the financing and restructuring of education.

"This should be the basis for short-term intervention."

"The transitional authority should work out an educational plan for SA. Education should be a national interest, not a party-political interest. "Education is not only for experts and bureaucrats, parents, students, teachers — all have interest in it."

Samuel said vocational training should not be marginalised and removed from education, but should be improved for a better relation between education, training and education.

**POLICE** are investigating allegations that three naked white men were seen running from a church where seven children were burnt to death and 12 injured in Pretoria on Wednesday night. (298)

Northern Transvaal police spokesman Captain Marietjie Louw said yesterday that police were investigating a case of arson following the pre-dawn fire at the Elim Church in Sunnyside. Sowetan 13/3/92

### Street children

Several "street children who are not white" were normally housed in the church building at night. The building, in Jeppe Street, was completely destroyed.

Police would not release the names of the dead children until their next-of-kin had been informed.

Witnesses said they saw three naked white men

By ALINAH DUBE  
and Sowetan Correspondent

running through Sunnypark, opposite the church, about two hours before the fire started.

Street children sleeping outside the church said they saw the three men - all naked except for one wearing a pair of underpants over his head - run from the church into the shopping centre across the road.

Sunnypark security confirmed the incident and, according to their logbook, the incident took place at 11.20pm, about two hours before the fire was reported.

They chased the men through the centre and the parking lot to a car parked in Greeff Street.

The men got into the car and escaped.

The security guards were unable to note the registration.

● To page 2

## Fire tragedy

Sowetan 13/3/92

● From page 1

Journalists were yesterday not allowed to see the victims as their guardian, Mr Jeremy Kruger of the Youth Initiative Project, said they were still in a state of shock.

He said Kalafong Hospital authorities had been requested not to give information on the children, who were taken there after the tragedy. (298)

Two of the 22 homeless children, some as young as four years, who lived on the premises escaped uninjured.

Kruger said he did not know who was responsible but it was "tragic for this to happen at this particular time".





Little else besides the twisted shell of the streetchildren's shelter remains after the blaze  
Photo: GUY ADAMS

# Streetchildren deaths: Arson or an accident?

W/Mail 13/3-19/3/92

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*A fire swept through a children's shelter. Those who did not jump from the second floor died in the blaze. By PHILIPPA GARSON*

**W**HETHER arsonists were responsible for the burning of a streetchildren's shelter in Sunnyside Park, Pretoria, early on Thursday morning, which left seven children dead and 11 youths injured, is the subject of growing controversy.

One man claimed he saw four white men alight from a white bakkie late on Wednesday night, break windows of the shelter (the former Elim Church) in Sunnyside Park and throw petrol inside, igniting a massive fire which in the space of half an hour engulfed the entire three-storey building.

Police are still investigating charges of arson, but, according to Colonel Willie Vlotman, the witness' claims are "nonsense. We have no witnesses except those in the building. Any witnesses must report to the Sunnyside police station".

On Thursday, Vlotman was still awaiting reports from the fire brigade and police forensic department for evidence of arson.

But Jeremy Kruger, leader of the Youth Initiative Project which, together with Streetwise, runs the shelter said his assistant had spoken to the witness and was sure of his facts.

Kruger himself spoke to another man shortly after the incident at about 1.30am on Thursday morning. The man, who was seated in a restaurant overlooking the building at the time of the fire, confirmed he saw a white bakkie drive through a robot nearby. The vehicle did not have its lights on, he said. Five minutes later the building was engulfed in flames.

The seven youths, who were sleeping in a small room without a door, were believed to have died from asphyxiation.

Other children broke windows of their second floor room and jumped in panic from the building. Among them was 23-year-old Sipho Zele, the children's supervisor.

*The Weekly Mail spoke to Zele in Kalefong*

Hospital shortly before he underwent surgery for his fractured leg. On each side of him lay two small boys, covered in cuts and bandages. One was whimpering in pain.

Five of the injured are in a serious condition and one is in a coma at HF Verwoerd Hospital.

Zele said the heat engulfing the building woke him up. "I woke the others up. There was no place we could get out. We had to break the windows and jump out."

Zele said he felt terrible about the death of the seven younger boys who were his "bosom friends". He said he had "no idea" how the fire started, but believed it to be an accident.

Kruger, however, said: "My personal viewpoint is that it was arson. How else could the fire spread so quickly? We have two independent reports confirming the possibility of arson."

The children, who slept on the second floor, once frequented the ground floor where four tons of dry wood were stored, but had long since stopped doing so, he said.

Meanwhile, the building is no more than a charred shell. Nothing remains of the children's possessions except a few steel beds and desks. Abandoned blankets of those who jumped lay strewn outside, among the blood and broken glass where the panicking children landed.

Zele said whites in the crowded business district, where the church is housed, were helpful and often brought provisions for the children. But he told how a drunk white man had entered the building one night a few weeks ago and assaulted the children. The children allegedly threw him out of a window, injuring him.

A man at the garage next to the shelter said "yay" when asked his reaction about the incident. He said he was glad the streetchildren, whom he said stole radios from the cars in his garage and sniffed glue, were gone — though he regretted that some of them had died.



# Adoption's no child's play... if you're gay

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*When dad's a man and so is mom, that's when the trouble starts for couples wishing to adopt a child in South Africa,*  
reports **LINDA RULASHE**

**M**IGUEL is like most of his friends and classmates in a northwestern Johannesburg suburb. One parent drops him off at school on the way to work, the other fetches him in the afternoon and helps him with his lessons. On weekends, the family goes on outings — to parks, to films.

The only real difference is that 10-year-old Miguel is black and his adoptive parents — one black and the other white — are both male and gay.

They don't consider this to be unusual or abnormal. Perhaps this is because they are American, and adoptions by homosexual couples are increasingly legal in several US states, where welfare organisations "can't sit around waiting for two heterosexual parents".

Miguel's adoption, however, was not without its problems.

After going through the normal channels of being interviewed, having a medical checkup and being fingerprinted to check for any criminal records, they had to wait for two years because the social worker couldn't deal with their relationship. "The social worker felt that we weren't the right people," they said.

South Africa has yet to embrace homosexuality, let alone allow the adoption or fostering of children by gay couples, although it's not prohibited by law.

Miguel — not his real name — was tortured, starved and beaten beyond recognition for the first two and a half years of his life before being deserted. He went through four different foster homes and one adoptive home before his final adoption.

"He was basically someone's punching bag," is how one of his parents, Raoul, or "daddy", describes it.

Pappa Wayne — his other parent — says: "Everybody predicted the worst."

"There was one social worker who said Miguel was a one-year-old in a three-year-old's body. She said the year after he would be a one-year-old in a four-year-old's body, a one-year-old in a five-year-old's body and so on."

"To me it sounded like, 'How are we going to dump this kid that's never going to amount to a piece of shit'."

**M**iguel's parents believe there are a lot of people in the social work profession who have to have their credentials examined because whereas it was believed he would never probably be toilet-trained or speak well, "with a lot of love and patience he is just about where he should be now".

Ironically, while local gay couples with children have come out of the closet about their gayness, several refused to be interviewed, photographed or named with the child.

South African law — with particular reference to the Child Care Act No 74 of 1983 — does not mention the adoption or fostering of children by homosexuals.

According to child welfare philosophy, if a couple — whether gay or not — wanted to adopt or foster a child, "the best interests of the child" would be paramount in making a decision regarding the child's future.

In the English legal system the court's approach in proceedings such as wardship, custody or access,

adoption and fostering is based on the same principle. The feelings of either one or both parents may be disregarded if the parent's actions or attitudes are judged detrimental to the child's wellbeing. No case can be a precedent for another, each must be dealt with individually.

If one or both parents is homosexual, the court must decide whether this has a bearing on the child's welfare.

Locally, in terms of section 17 of the Child Care Act, a child may be adopted.

(a) by a husband and his wife jointly if the child is born of neither,

(b) by a widower or widow or unmarried or divorced person who is not the natural parent,

(c) by a person married to the parent of the child.

A *Weekly Mail* survey among the country's main child welfare centres found the policy

**In our very discriminating society, the child has to cope not only with the problem of adoption but also the stigma of living with a couple who are different.**

regarding gay adoptions differed slightly and that overall, if homosexuals did want to adopt, their application would almost certainly be turned down by social workers whose sole discretion it was to place children.

Johannesburg Child Welfare head of adoptions Marionka Manias said: "We would prefer placing children with heterosexual couples who are the same ethnic group and are of similar religion to that of the child, where possible."

"Placing children with homosexual couples would be very difficult in a very discriminating society like ours. Ideally, we would like a problem-free situation where the child would simply have to cope with the problem of his adoption and not have a double burden of having to handle the stigma of living with a couple who's different, ie homosexuals."

"There is the dilemma of having to keep children in homes on a long-term basis or using people of this affiliation who wanted to adopt, subsequently subjecting the children to society's discrimination," she said.

In a society where homosexuality is more acceptable, this would not necessarily apply, she added.

Manias believed a homosexual adoption would only be warranted if the child were in his or her teens and showed similar tendencies to that of the prospective parents.

Port Elizabeth Child Welfare's head of adop-

tion, Eugene Kommel, was however adamant she wouldn't consider an application made by gays at this stage.

"Besides," Kommel pointed out, "we have hundreds of applications from heterosexual parents for very few babies in this area."

Durban Child Welfare director Andre Kalis said child welfare societies in this country were not really geared for this kind of adoption or fostering.

He could not say it was a definite "no no" and was also reluctant to say "yes" to the idea, as there was uncertainty as to how the child would be affected and whether it would be provided with a suitable role model or identity.

Besides also having to consider the general community's attitudes and values, "there is also the problem of the child being stigmatised", Kalis added.

**C**ape Town Child Welfare head of adoption Eileen Jordan said her department would preferably consider applications from married heterosexuals and single people.

"However, if that gay couple were able to offer the child proper care, they would be considered if they were the best," Jordan said.

She hastily added they wouldn't go out of their way to consider it but that they "would keep an open mind about it".

A British study done last year to explore the concerns over homosexuality and parenthood echoed the same sentiments expressed by the

child welfare social workers.

It states there is the belief that homosexual parents might consciously or unconsciously provide inappropriate role models for children's sexual development.

There is also the fear they might convince their children of the desirability of homosexuality or disturb them by overt expressions of affection for each other.

Other fears are that homosexual parents might have sexual relations with their children, and that children might be stigmatised by others, particularly their peers, intolerant of the parents' sexuality.

There is an explicit assumption in South Africa that homosexuality is undesirable and its development in the child is to be avoided.

However, "Peter" and his gay wife have decided to transcend these fears and have a child — not try to adopt one.

He said his wife's parents have accepted the fact they are both gay and decided to have a child but his have not.

"Prior to us having the baby, we were fully aware of what our sexuality was. The common notion among people is that gay parents have a child and only then realise their sexuality and gayness."

"People often said: 'How dare you as homosexual have a child?' There is the assumption that you cannot be a decent or responsible parent if you are gay."

"However, we are obviously concerned about the child's upbringing and want to have brought up in a loving, secure and stable environment."

"It is grossly unfair that children have to be ostracised because of people's bigotry and homophobia. Nothing that I do will place me at a disadvantage but the bigotry and homophobia being targeted at the child will."

"Fortunately, the kind of people we mix with are not the kind that would tend to ostracise because they are 'generally progressive people'. It's not that rejection hasn't occurred but is least likely to happen with them. Certainly we had negative responses we wouldn't mix with these sort of people."

**S**imon Nkoli, co-chairman of the Gay and Lesbian Organisation of the Witwatersrand (Glow), says he has always wanted children. His lover has two children from a former marriage and he sometimes looks after them.

Glow's membership is mostly black, the majority of whom are over 30 and there are lots of married black gay men in Soweto — according to Nkoli — who have children.

"People must know we (gays) want children and we cannot have children of our own. We disagree with people who say these children won't be loved."

"My heart bleeds when I see children between five and 10 roaming the streets of Hillbrow, for instance, because some of us don't want to see those children homeless."

Nkoli said gay people should be allowed to adopt children and that society had to be educated about homosexuality.

One way of doing this is of course educating children when they are young and, perhaps, one can take cognisance of the story Miguel's parents tell of how their son's school friends dealt with it.

The school teacher explained: "Remember there are lots of different families."

"There are families that have a mom and a dad and there are some with a stepfather or stepmother."

"Then there are single mothers and single fathers and there are two women who live together or two men who live together. Miguel just happens to have two men who live together as parents, one of whom he calls daddy and

another whom he calls pappa Wayne. "One happens to be white and the other happens to be black."

To this, the teacher reported, Miguel's classmates simply shrugged their shoulders, and accepted.



**The teacher explained: 'There are lots of different families. There are single mothers and single fathers. Miguel's parents just happen to both be men.'**



# Violence takes its toll on kids

By KURT SWART

CHILDREN living in violent areas are increasingly nervous, anxious, unable to concentrate and have learning difficulties, new research shows.

In a project started in September last year, the South African Association of Learning and Educational Disabilities drew its findings from a survey of Cape Peninsula schools.

The survey, aimed at identifying difficulties children have in learning, reading, fluency and understanding, found a number of those diagnosed as learning disabled were troubled because of urban violence.

Of 97 responses to a questionnaire, 31 percent of the teachers said violence was a primary cause of learning problems.

Miss Maureen Archer, the association's president and a lecturer on learning disabilities at the University of Cape Town, said: "Teachers have noticed an escalation in anxiety in children who come from areas where violence is endemic."

This was especially the case in areas affected by the Western Cape's long-running taxi war between rival associations, which has killed about 30 people.

Schoolchildren at John Pama Lower Primary, in Nyanga, have learned to lie face down on the floor when shooting starts at the adjacent taxi rank.

Teachers at a creche which also borders the taxi rank have to cope with hysterical toddlers during gunbattles involving taxi

drivers and the police. One of the staff said: "There is no way we can soothe them. We can only wait until they calm down by themselves."

A teacher in another area said "many" children were exposed to violence.

"Their fathers and older brothers are taxi drivers involved in fights. This causes anxiety and fear in the children."

"Lack of concentration and nervousness in class promotes slow progress."

Miss Archer said the violence influenced the children to the extent that it

occupied their minds. "Some can be fluent at reading, but when questioned, they reveal they have not understood what they have read. Comprehension is impaired when the mind is elsewhere," she said.

"This is also the case in mathematics, where there is a need for speed, accuracy and sustained concentration."

"Children also exhibit anxious behaviour. In one case, a child would start to cry as soon as the teacher looked at him."

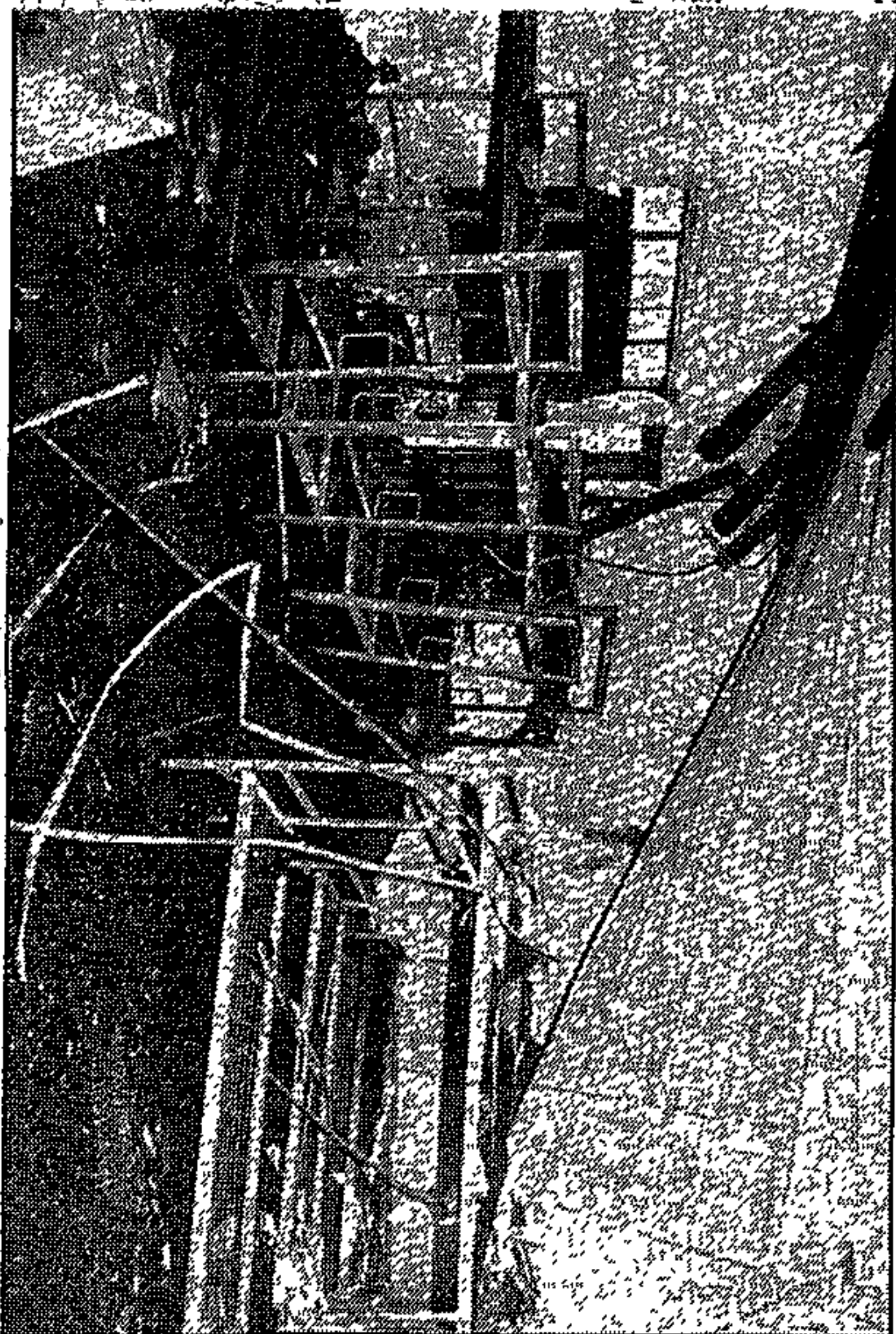
The violence also caused

absenteeism, with many children being kept from school for long periods by fearful parents.

Some children are being kept in hiding following a spate of abductions of schoolchildren. Children of taxi drivers are rumoured to have been kidnapped by rival taxi association members as a means of gaining leverage.

"Solutions to the learning problems lay with teachers and the community giving much-needed support and assistance to the children," Miss Archer said.





**BURNT DOWN ... The remains of the building which used to house streetkids in Sunnyside, Pretoria.**  
Pic: TLADI KHUELE

## Eight die in fire: rightwingers suspecte

By MONWABISI NOMADLOLO

THE gruesome burning to death of eight streetkids in a Pretoria church this week was the culmination of running battles between rightwingers and the youths, sources close to the church said.

City Press investigations have revealed that the youths, housed at the Elim, "Place of Water" Church in Sunnyside, were regarded as a "menace" by rightwingers in the neighbourhood who wanted them out of the area.

A mystery fire broke out at the church on Thursday night, and shortly afterwards four na-

ked white men were seen running from the scene. The youths were trapped in their rooms and burnt to death, while others leapt to safety from second storey windows.

The mystery of the fire deepened when police ruled out arson. However, they said the arson docket would not be closed and investigations would continue.

A white man at the scene, Bill Victor, said there were "bad elements" who stayed at the centre. He said there were cases of theft involving some inmates of the centre.

"You should have seen the slogans painted on the build-

ing," he remarked to a friend.

Kate Molomo of Mabopane said whites in the area often complained about blacks sleeping in the church while whites (hoboes) slept in the parks.

The building was used by the Youth Initiative Project, which looked after runaway children.

Forensic expert Lieutenant Froneman said there were no traces of inflammable substances at the scene.

Police said 14 of the injured were taken to HF Verwoerd where they were later transferred to the predominantly black Kalafong Hospital in Atteridgeville.

Asked why the injured were

transferred to Kalafong, HF Verwoerd Hospital spokesman Dr PJ van Rensburg said there was an "easy answer". He said it was no major secret that there was a shortage of beds at the hospital.

Curious bystanders at the scene of the fire believed the fire was the work of arsonists.

Frans Dladla, of Mamelodi, said it was clear it was the work of ultra-rightists.

"Blacks lived there - who else could set fire to that church?" he asked.

Nelly Motlha said it was unacceptable that so many youths died in the fire.

"It's really heartbreaking," she said.



# Red Nose Day huge success

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CT 16/3/92

Staff Reporter

RED NOSE DAY has been a staggering success, with Cape Town raising almost three times more than it did last year.

The Mother City raised R330 000 for Child Welfare, placing it second only to the Southern Transvaal. Last year it only managed to raise R120 000.

Mr Eddy Cassar, the co-ordinator for Red Nose Day in the Western Cape, was "extremely pleased" with the result.

He attributes the massive increase in donations to the extensive media support the event has enjoyed this year.

This year's target was an ambitious R4,5 million and R3,29m in donations have poured into the coffers of Child Welfare so far. However, there are still 400 000 red noses outstanding, which could raise another R800 000 for charity. Last year R4,2m was raised.

"The collections have far exceeded

TURN out your pockets and empty all your drawers because you may just be the incredibly lucky winner of the R1,5 million Viva Red Nose Draw.

None of the first three prizes in the Viva Trust charity draw had been claimed yesterday.

The organisers have no record of who the ticket-holders are, so if you have lost your ticket you might just have thrown away your fortune unwittingly.

Only six of the 20 cash prizes have been claimed so far.

my expectations" said Mr Ian Thompson, M-Net's special events co-ordinator.

M-Net's station chief, Mr Mike Glover, said the private sector had given the event tremendous support. This was illustrated by the fact that the Telethon alone netted R1,3m.

The remaining R1,99m was made up of corporate donations, he said.

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# Victims of church fire making progress

Pretoria Correspondent

Seven of the street children injured in the fire at the Elim Church are still in the Kalafong Hospital in a satisfactory condition.

Eight young people died as a result of the fire. Hospital superintendent Dr Blomerus Nieuwoudt said the injured children were making progress but it was difficult to say when they would be discharged. The church, which for many children was their only home, was destroyed.

Dirk van Niekerk, who

is taking care of contingency plans for the children on behalf of Tuks Youth Initiative Project, said arrangements had been made with World Mission to shelter the children. Negotiations were under way with the N G Kerk in Mamelodi and with the Pretoria City Council.

The Pretoria Child and Family Care Society, which has provided therapeutic services to the children, has called on the public for assistance. Anyone wishing to get involved is asked to call Karin Engelbrecht at (012) 806-7045.



# 'Dad' Percy takes a break after 42 years

CLARE van der GAAST

FOR 42 years Percy Bartley was "dad" to thousands of homeless, destitute young men at Christopher House, Woodstock.

Yesterday it was officially re-named Percy Bartley House and its founder was there to unveil a plaque, commemorating "his years of love, dedication and service".

"I only wish I could do more for my boys," said Mr Bartley, beaming as brightly as the red braces on his snow-white shirt.

The recently retired Mr Bartley still has pots of energy. And he kept his most famous one — the porridge pot at Percy Bartley House — bubbling until his 85th birthday.

It all started when Mr Bartley came to Cape Town from England with his wife and sister.

He had planned to work as a pharmacist, but was so saddened by the plight of our street children that he chose to find a home for them instead.

"There were many more of them in those days ... jobless, barefoot, hungry and cold. I had this calling to give them a loving home and brighter future."

So Mr Bartley set up a club for "his boys" at Mary's School, Woodstock. He raised funds by staging plays — his own, in which they acted — at Woodstock Town Hall.

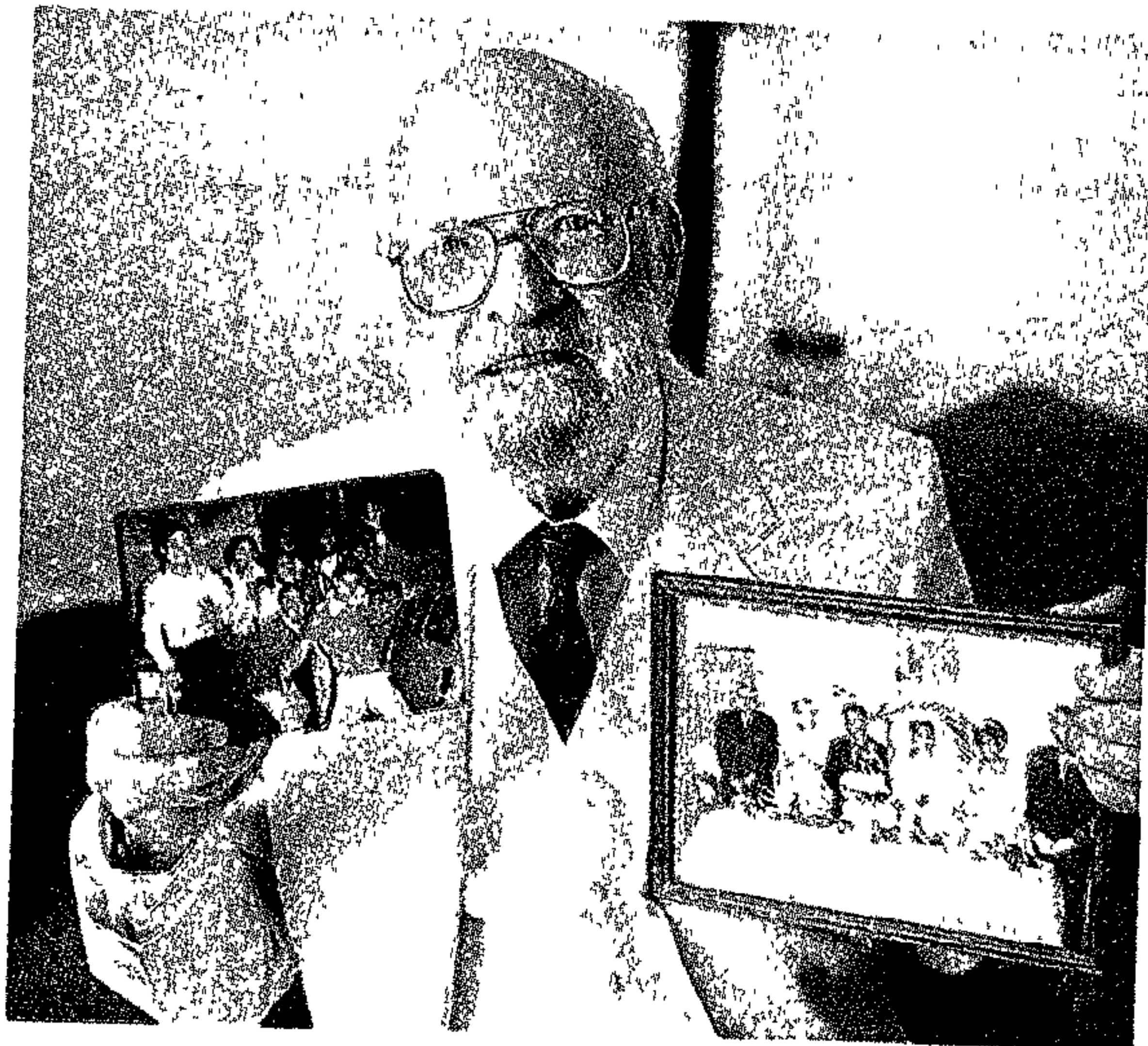
"They showed the boys how they could get on if they did the right thing," he said. "Then the Rotarians built them a large wooden hut, with showers and rooms for boxing, PT and games."

"Soon the club grew from 10 to 700 boys, who were winning shields for soccer and PT."

But they still had nowhere to sleep — for many, bed was under a bush, and one boy even slept in a hole in the ground.

With the help of charities, two old Woodstock houses were bought. A hurricane of hungry boys moved in ... with Mr Bartley, his wife, his sister and a very big cooking pot

Ever since that first night — when the boys enjoyed a hot meal they



Picture. OBED ZILWA, The Argus

**MEMORIES:** Percy Bartley with tangible proof of his time as "dad" to the city's homeless boys.

will never forget — the hostel has had a waiting list.

It houses 33 teenage boys, who still uphold the only rules ... that they should not mix with "skollies" or smoke dagga, and that girls be permitted in the lounge only and no further!

But rules were always tempered with love "We gave them special care, tried to show them, that whatever happened, they were wanted," said Mr Bartley.

"If a boy went off the rails, I would reprimand him But I would say ... I only tell you this, because I love you, because I care for you

"I want you to grow well, to marry a decent girl one day, and bring up your children in your own house, possibly with your own nice garden and car."

Every Sunday, Mr Bartley held an early morning prayer service, and in the evenings, he and his "sons" would read a hymn and talk together. "They didn't have to come, but most did," said Mr Bartley.

He helped every new boy — there were over 17 000 — find a job he liked. Mr Johannes Swarts was one of those boys. Today he has his own factory outside Stellenbosch, designing and making school clothes.

"I walked into Christopher House barefoot," recalled Mr Swarts. "I had nothing. Mr Bartley and his sister accepted me with open arms, and found me a job

"And when I went to tailoring classes at night. 'Mums' Bartley kept my supper warm in the oven. Those two were like angels who had been sent from heaven to help me."

## Arson did not start killer blaze — police

STEPHANE BOTHMA

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POLICE forensic experts yesterday ruled out arson as a possible cause of last week's Pretoria church blaze which left eight street children and vagrants — aged between 9 and 24 — dead and thirteen injured.

Fire brigade investigators and police believe the fire, which completely gutted the Elin Church in Sunnyside, Pretoria, was started inside the building.

The possibility that someone sniffing a highly inflammable glue started the fire, was being investigated, fire brigade sources said.

Three naked young men, one with his underpants over his head, who had been seen running away from the church about two hours before the fire started, were traced and questioned by the police.

"There was no truth in the allegation that the three had anything to do with the fire. They turned out to be students who streaked through Pretoria's streets in the early hours of the morning after being dared to do so," Col Willie Vlotman said.

The pre-dawn fire broke out in the disused church where about 22 street children, including some older vagrants, and their project leader, Jeremy Kruger, were sleeping.

The victims were all from the Youth Initiative Project run by Pretoria University students in conjunction with Streetwise.

Seven burned to death on the scene. An eighth victim died later in hospital.

It was earlier speculated the blaze may have been the work of right-wingers as a protest against the visit by President F W de Klerk to Pretoria University last Friday.



# Trust Feed accused tells of threat to life

STAR 18/3/92

Own Correspondent

**MARITZBURG** — Former special sergeant Dumisane Ndwalane told the Supreme Court yesterday that some time after taking part in the Trust Feed massacre of 11 people, an officer, Captain Jacobus van den Heever, threatened to shoot and kill him for refusing to go into hiding.

He also told of an incident when he was attacked by two people who looked like policemen he knew: Constable Willem de Wet and a Constable Steenkamp. They fired at him, but he escaped with an injured leg after he struck a rock when he fell.

Later he came to be-

lieve this attack had been carried out in error as he had heard that Constable de Wet had told other special constables he had thought at the time he was chasing someone else.

Mr Ndwalane, with Captain van den Heever and five other policemen — Captain Brian Mitchell, Sergeant Neville Rose and special constables Kehla Ngubane, Marshall Khambule and Thabo Sikhosana — is appearing before Mr Justice Wilson charged with 11 counts of murder and eight of attempted murder arising out of the attack on a house in Trust Feed on December 3 1988.

All the accused have pleaded not guilty.

Mr Ndwalane said the threat on his life by Captain van den Heever was made at Mpumalanga, on

an occasion when the officer and Sergeant Rose had arrived in a BMW.

Previously, Sergeant Rose had come to visit him several times and had kept urging him to go into hiding, saying the situation was bad.

On this occasion Captain van den Heever had said the "only thing he was going to do, because I did not listen, was he was going to shoot and kill me", he said.

Mr Ndwalane told the court the reason he and the others had decided not to go into hiding was because they believed it was not necessary since, in taking part in the attack, they had only followed the instructions of Captain Mitchell, station commander at New Hanover, who had told them terrorists were inside the house.

The hearing continues.

## Arson killed children. says analyst

By Bronwyn Wilkinson

An independent investigation into the fire which gutted Pretoria's Elim Church and killed eight street children last week has contradicted police claims that the fire was not started deliberately, the children's guardian said yesterday.

Jeremy Kruger, director of the Youth Initiative Project, which housed the 22 children in the building, claimed police were covering up.

Police forensic reports on Monday ruled out arson, saying white men seen in the area before the fire started were "streakers who had nothing to do with the blaze".

But Mr Kruger said an independent analyst checked the building before it was demolished. "He concluded for six or seven reasons that the fire was caused by arson."

# Boy tells court of assault at Sunday School outing

Sowetan 18/3/92



By MATHATHA  
TSEDU

A SIX-YEAR-OLD boy described in the Pietersburg Magistrate's Court this week how he was knocked down when men who appeared to be AWB members allegedly attacked black children on a Sunday School outing.

Vuledzani Lukhwareni told the court that after being knocked down by the van driven by a white man he fell on a stone, injuring his head. He was about four years old at the time.

Vuledzani was one of 334 children of the Apostolic Faith Mission from Dzanani, Venda, who travelled to Louis Trichardt on November 24 1990 on a church outing.

Fifteen men are standing trial on charges of public violence and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm. They all pleaded not guilty before Mr WJ Fourie at the start of the trial on Monday morning.

Yesterday the presence of an armed AWB marshal in full uniform inside the courtroom caused a stir among black spectators, with a wide berth left between him and other people in court.

Vuledzani said they had been playing in a park waiting for the Rev George Muhali, who had gone to see the local priest of the AFM, when a group of whites with sjamboks, fan belts and other weapons arrived.

He said a van drove into the group of children, causing them to flee in all directions, as they left for the bus stop at Eltivillas.

"The van knocked me in the leg and I fell on a stone and injured my head. I know the car and I saw the driver but I cannot remember him now. It is long ago," the boy said.

A few minutes later Thizwilondi Denga (23), a paralysed man, hobbled into court amid giggles

from the accused.

Denga said he was assaulted with sjamboks by more than one person and sustained injuries as a result. He too could not identify the assailants.

Denga's assaults had been earlier described by insurance broker Mr Dokotela Makhado, who said he was so touched by what he saw that he abandoned the vehicle he was driving in the middle of the road to rescue the disabled man.

"I ran towards the two men who had cornered Denga beating him in a manner that was very painful. When I got close to them, they left Denga and came for me and he ran away, trying to scale a fence.

"I slowly walked back to lure the men away and succeeded. When they were close to me and about to hit me, a policeman shouted at them not to do anything to me," Makhado told the

court. Other evidence was that police, including the former security police chief in the town, a Captain Dreier, were present all the time the assaults took place.

Of the 34 witnesses who testified on Monday, only four could identify at least two of the accused as having been present at the scene.

The two are Mr Bernard Tereblanch (46) who was identified as the leader of the group, and Mr Phillip Tereblanch.

The other accused are Lucas Beyer, Bernard Jordaan, Jeffrey Sculliard, William Schaap, Christoffel Wolvaard, Gerhardus van der Linde, Stephanus Jacobs, Jan Beyers, Albertus Pretorius, Ignatius Terreblanche, Johan Nagel, Johan Kruger and Stephanus Boshoff.

The trial continues today.



# Making children Hippy

By PEARL MAJOLA

SINCE Dr Avima Lombard started the Home Instruction Programme for Pre-school Youngsters (Hippy) in Israel, she still loves educating children and visits countries like South Africa that have adopted the programme.

On her fourth visit to South Africa since the country adopted the programme in 1988, Dr Lombard said she was impressed by its progress.

"I am in South Africa to evaluate and assess the progress of Hippy," explained the 62-year-old professor in the School of Education at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

"I am fascinated by the multi-lingual aspect of the South African programme," she said.

"Another interesting aspect here is that we are dealing with an impoverished society that is riddled with other problems like violence, but the parents have interest in the education of their children.

"They seem to have pride and I believe that helps them look at themselves and their families as worth investing in," she commented.

Hippy started in Israel in the 1960s after Dr Lombard's experience as a student researcher in the United States. It has now been adopted in seven countries around the world.

"I am not about to give up my work. I am still involved with the Hebrew University and if all goes well I will still be there in another five years," said the energetic educator.

"I was in a group working with children from poor families. I was shocked because they were shy and had never been in situations that required them to perform in ways different to what they are used to.

"They were not interested in learning anything. You could ask them to play a new game and, unlike other children, they would be totally uninterested.

"Then we checked their family backgrounds and in most cases the parents had a sense of inadequacy about their ability to help their children learn.

"I went back home and asked if we had the same problems and I was told we did. Then I started Hippy as a programme that involves parents in educating their own

children, regardless of whether they were literate or not," she explained.

Dr Lombard boasts that she has education in her bloodstream and receives no better reward in life than seeing children grow and learn.

"I am a daughter and grand-daughter of educators. I have always been interested in young children and to see them growing is a very rewarding area for me," she said.

Since Hippy began in South Africa it has reached 1 500 families and has spread from Orlando East to eight other areas, including Bloemfontein. Hillbrow will be starting a programme soon.

Hippy works in the home and gives parents a chance to educate their own children at times that are convenient for the family.

Before the programme is started in one community a meeting is held with people to determine their need and interest. Parent leaders from the group are chosen and they discuss with Hippy co-ordinators work to be done on a weekly basis.

The material given to mothers is a worksheet with 10 activities for the child to follow, instructions for the parent leader and a story book. The focus of Hippy is language development, visual discrimination, problem-solving and perceptual skills for the child.

"The programme increases the chances of the child to succeed at school. It is not a pre-school programme, so a Hippy child can still attend pre-school. The advantage is that if the parents cannot afford to send him there, he is still school-ready through the programme," Dr Lombard said.

"It empowers parents in that they can contribute to their children's future. It is growing and because of that it must be evaluated at all times to be in step with changes that are taking place in South Africa and in other countries," she said.

Women



## Showbiz

# Actors want to replace crime with art

By ELLIOT MAKHAYA

**BECAUSE** of increasing crime and juvenile delinquency in Evaton, two local actors have decided to start an arts centre in the area.

Matongtong Sedumo and Siphiwe Tshabalala have founded the Bulamadiboho Community Arts Association which comprises actors, musicians and poets.

"We discovered that there was a lack of respect in parent and child relationships, and that our kids were roaming the streets and destroying our learning culture," said Sedumo.

### Uplift art

Tshabalala said that one of their aims was to develop social norms and uplift art and culture in Evaton.

"We also like to promote peace and justice among our people, and develop a good relationship within the society," he said.

The two actors said that they found it most urgent to start an arts centre which never existed in the area. They have already acquired the use of a church, where drama workshops are in progress.

"The launch of other projects is being delayed by lack of a proper building. And we are appealing for sponsorship or any other help," said Sedumo.

### More actors

Sedumo has produced and acted in a play titled *On My Way to Heaven*, which is due for the Standard Bank National Arts Festival in July. The play was previously staged at the Wits Theatre in Johannesburg.

Tshabalala acted in Gibson Kente's *Laduma*.

The two are still looking for more actors for their first drama project. Those interested should meet them at Maarogane Church Hall, opposite the bus terminus on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm and on Saturdays from noon to 5pm.



## LHR claim church fire was arson

LAWYERS for Human Rights said yesterday they would reveal startling evidence today of an alleged police cover up in the death of eight "street children" in a fire a week ago.

A spokesman for the LHR said they had "strong evidence of arson which is in direct conflict with po-

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Sowetan 20/3/92  
By ALINAH DUBE

lice statements on the issue". A Press conference would be held to reveal their own findings.

Sowetan has established that the LHR appointed a forensic expert to investigate the gruesome deaths of the eight children who were burnt to death in the Elim Church, Sunnyside, last Thursday.

A police spokesman said earlier this week that arson was not suspected. He also said three naked white men who were seen running from the church before the fire started were streakers and had nothing to do with the incident.

Five of the eight victims will be buried at the weekend. Mr Toots Guinness of Falcon Funerals has offered to bury the victims free of charge.

Charlie Aphane (12) and Enoch Mabunda will be buried at Suurman and Temba in Hammanskraal tomorrow while Sinkie Mnisi, of Soshanguve, will be buried at the local cemetery.

## Women

# Child abuse increasing in urban areas

*Sowetan 24/3/92*  
By GRACE RAPHOLO

**FIVE-year-old Mandla was admitted to hospital with burns, bruises and fractures of long bones.**

Mandla had poor skin hygiene and some degree of malnutrition. It was obvious that this was a case of child abuse but the parents refused to admit it.

Instead they contradicted themselves when describing the injuries and were irritated when questioned about Mandla. They gave no indication of feeling guilty about their lack of care for their child.

Mandla is one of the many children who have to endure abuse from parents, relatives and even strangers.

A child-care worker, Kgomoiso Madala, from Maritzburg in Natal, says abuse appears to be on the increase especially in urban areas.

"The incidence of child abuse cannot be correlated with educational achievement, social status or income level of the parents."

Child abuse not only occurs in the home, but also in institutions such as day-care centres, schools and child-care agencies. Madala points out that different types of abuse include neglect, abandonment, physical and sexual abuse.

She defines sexual abuse as an instance when children or adolescents are made to participate in sexual activities they do not truly understand and to which they are unable to give consent.

This includes incest, which is sexual intercourse between members of a family or relatives. It also includes fondling, mutual masturbation and involvement in pornographic materials such as videos and photographs.

"Neglect occurs as a result of parental failure to protect the child from obvious physical danger, while in abandonment, the parent does not want the child. The child is consequently dumped."

## Aggressive impulses

Madala postulated that some abusive parents and caretakers have a defect in character structure which allows aggressive impulses to be expressed too freely under stress.

"In some instances, the parent tends to release his anger on one particular child because he may serve as a symbol of something that once caused the parent unhappiness."

A child born out of wedlock is often targeted for abuse.

"Such parents are chiefly concerned about themselves, are frequently dependent people who criticise the child and show no indication of having any perception of how the child might feel."

Madala said there was a so-called "cycle of child abuse". Many parents who abuse their children were themselves victims of child abuse. Sometimes the spouse is not responsible for abusing the child but is a passive person who allows the abuse to continue.

"Children who are cared for and loved turn to their parents for safety in life - battered children endure life as though they were alone with no real safety in a harmful world."

The typical forms of behaviour manifested by neglected children are crying in a hopeless manner or very little crying even when uncomfortable, lack of expectation of comfort from parents and apprehension when touched.

Developmental delays in thinking, language and motor skills are also evident, she added.

"In cases of head trauma, mental retardation may result."

Children who are abused perceive themselves as bad, unlovable and unwanted.

"An abused child may have difficulties in developing relations with others, lack the ability to trust and fail to manage aggression."

The effects of sexual abuse on children depend on the age of the child. There may be direct evidence of genital damage, bleeding, inflammation and symptoms of sexually-transmitted disease.

Madala added that pregnancy is a possibility in teenage girls.

A host of effects ranging from emotional through to behavioural may be displayed. Guilt and shame are common reactions, according to Madala. Children tend to blame themselves. Anxiety and fear also occur. The anxiety could be manifested in relations with the opposite sex and through phobias and nightmares.



nday March 23 1992

# Lawyers suspect police cover-up

Soweto 23/3/92

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**LAWYERS for Human Rights said at the weekend they suspected a cover-up in police investigations into a Pretoria church fire which claimed the lives of eight children.**

LHR executive director Mr Brian Currin told a Press conference on Friday that, contrary to the police version that arson was not the cause of the fire, their independent investigation had found otherwise.

The children were burnt to death in the Elim Church, Sunnyside, east of Pretoria, early on March 12 and the church building was completely destroyed.

Following police conclusions that no arson was

By ALINAH DUBE and Sapa

suspected, LHR appointed a forensic expert who, assisted by two experts from the Sunnyside Fire Brigade, searched the building for clues.

In their investigations, the three established that the pattern of the fire suggested it was caused deliberately.

Currin said he was concerned about a "clear police cover-up".

"What I find disconcerting is a different approach by authorities in the administration of justice to black and white incidents.

"There is no doubt that if eight white children had died there would be a long

list of experts - the best in the country - and assurances from the police that they would turn every brick of the building to get to the bottom of the fire and bring the culprits to book," he said.

Northern Transvaal police spokesman Colonel Frank Alton yesterday emphatically denied there was any cover-up by the police.

"A premature statement by the investigating officer based on a preliminary forensic report did not originally exclude arson as the possible cause of the fire. Continued investigations have indicated that arson cannot be summarily ruled

out," he said.

Currin said it was surprising that after the police's subsequent conclusion that there was no arson and a directive had been issued for the demolition of the church, the police forensic team decided to join the LHR's appointees in their work.

The LHR's forensic team also found that: The fire spread with "extraordinary rapidity" through the building, far too quickly for a normal fire to spread;

The fire was burning simultaneously on all the floors, with the possible exception of the top floor where there appeared to be normal fire spread.

The fire burned for between 20 to 30 minutes as

indicated by the amount of charring which was remarkably even throughout different parts of the building;

The fire pattern on the front door strongly indicated a liquid accelerant burning on the right-hand side of the door;

The soot-stained lintels gave credence to the spread of the fire. Seven of the children were buried separately at the weekend.

Those who were buried on Saturday and Sunday were Charlie Aphane, Enoch Mabunda, Seuntjie Mnisi, James Makwinda, Jacob Sibande, Magoa Makou and Eric Napho.

The eighth, David Mokoena, will be buried in Garankuwa this week.

# Mother to every child

Sowetan 23/3/92

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WHEN pensioner Morongoa Mothiba realised she had nothing to do with her open days, she volunteered to run a school for mentally handicapped children in rural Sebayeng, outside Pietersburg.

Mothiba offered to mother and train the children, although she had no proper training to run the rehabilitation programme, whose need was identified by community developers.

There was no place to accommodate the children and no facilities to carry out the rehabilitation programme.

But Mothiba would not be deterred. Once she had found a quiet spot in the veld she started the school under a tree with 12 children.

## Skills

She taught handicrafts, gardening, art and writing, physical exercise, simple communication skills, perceptual skills and socialisation.

Affectionately known as Aunt Nelly to the children, she also played the role of cook, nurse, messenger, physiotherapist and speech therapist. Her own domestic worker assisted her with running errands such as fetching water, washing dishes and feeding the children.

On realising her dedication and self-sacrifice in her venture, a Good Samaritan offered her a room to operate from during bad weather. She brought along her own furniture - chairs, a carpet, a gas cylinder, pots and plates.

## Working

She still had to use her home as a storeroom for groceries sponsored by Imqualife Children's Fund in Johannesburg. The groceries was augmented with the vegetables she grew in her yard.

Mothiba involved parents in a working committee to help raise funds.

Today, five years later, the school is registered and subsidised. Bana ba Thari Mental Health School, as it



is called, boasts an enrolment of 25 children, three teachers and a cook.

The children are now able to bath themselves, make their beds at home and do gardening in the schoolyard. Some can even write their names.

Mothiba's services were recently rewarded when

she was honoured as the Glodina-Procare Award winner for 1991. She says she will not rest until all the needs of the school, like classrooms, transportation, electricity, telephones, a workshop, rest rooms, bathrooms, a storeroom, an office and proper sanitation, are met.

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

# She cares for the helpless



# Church fire

## cover-up

STAR 21/3/92

## suspected

(298)

IAN STIFF and JOHNNY MASILELA

PRETORIA — Accusations of a police cover-up of events surrounding the Elim Church fire which saw eight street children die have been levelled by Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) and the Youth Initiative Project.

LHR executive director Brian Currin told a news conference that contrary to the police version that arson was not the cause of the fire, their independent investigation had discovered otherwise.

He said an independent expert appointed by the LHR — whom he would not identify — had spent six hours at the site on Tuesday morning, looking at the fire pattern and conducting forensic investigations.

With the assistance of two experts from the Pretoria Fire Brigade, the expert had also combed the building for clues.

The three had established that the patterns and dynamics of the fire strongly suggested deliberate human intervention. They also found:

- The fire had spread with abnormal speed through the building.

- The fire was burning simultaneously on all the floors, with the possible exception of the top floor, where there appeared to be normal fire spread.

### Accelerant

- The fire blazed for between 20 to 30 minutes, as indicated by the amount of charring which was remarkable even throughout different parts of the building.

- The fire pattern on the front door strongly indicated a liquid accelerant burning on the right-hand side of the door.

- The multiple soot-stained lintels gave credence to the whole spread nature of the fire in its early stages.

- The tide-mark puddles and the carpets on the ground floor strongly suggested a liquid accelerant having been used.

"The burn pattern on the first-floor door and the lifting of paint on the fire escape again give strong indication of deliberate human intervention," the threesome said.

While reluctant to say outright that the police as a force were responsible for the suspected cover-up, Mr Currin said he could not rule out that an element within the force was responsible.

During the LHR appointee's forensic work at the building, a police forensic team suddenly

● TO PAGE 2

## Arson evidence<sup>(298)</sup>

● FROM PAGE 1.

joined them. Mr Currin said given the "enthusiastic" manner in which they went about their work, he could only feel they were out to disprove any findings the independent team might have made. *STAR 2113 192*

He said the police expert was by his own admission a chemist who was only qualified to do forensic tests and could not look at burn patterns.

He said LHR had not yet given a copy of their report to the police, but was "astounded" that the police had not consulted the fire department before making their report known.

Brigadier Wilhelm Bignaut of the Criminal Investigation Service is "personally" conducting the ongoing SAP investigation.

"A premature statement by the investigating officer based on a preliminary forensic report did originally exclude arson as the possible cause of the fire," a police spokesman said.



**T**HE horrifying discovery of the mutilated bodies of two children in a sewerage dam in Eldorado Park has jolted local communities into taking action against child abductions.

The two, brothers Shadrach (6) and Adriaan (8) van Wyngaardt, were abducted by the occupants of a white BMW while on their way to school, according to a classmate. Their bodies were found by police earlier this month.

Less than a week after they were buried, their mother, Sharon van Wyngaardt, discovered the body of their stepfather, Charles van Wyngaardt, who had committed suicide in their home, a sub-jet garage.

The incident sparked conflicting reactions in local communities, which assisted in the search for the missing children.

Parents, fearful for their own children's safety, immediately set up neighbourhood watches and imposed curfews in the township. But the publicity secretary of the local civic association, Vicky Coetzee, called the actions taken by residents a "mob reaction".

Residents said they did not believe the police could prevent further abductions because they had been unable to find other missing children in the past.

The civic association stepped in at this point and held a meeting with residents to organise a protest march—the first step in what will become an ongoing awareness campaign called "For the Safety of our Children".

Says John Riches, chairman of the Kliptown, Eldorado Park, Klipspruit West Interim Democratic Civic Association (Kekidika): "No arrests have yet been made in connection with the case of an 18-month-old girl abducted from a railway station in Eldorado Park two years ago. According to the police, the case is still

# Missing, but no action

*Parents in coloured and black communities say police are not doing enough to prevent the abduction of their children. BEATHUR BAKER reports on their counter-campaign*

paign include the African National Congress' Eldorado Park and Kliptown branches, the ANC Women's League, the Pan Africanist Congress, the Azanian African People's Organisation, the South African Democratic Teachers' Union, the Black Housewives' League and the Eldorado Park Violence Prevention Programme.

Among the demands listed were that police increase patrols in the areas to assist in the protection of children; that the communities be informed of the progress made on investigations; that the

police and the communities work together on a plan to step up safety measures for children; and that the two parties should meet within 14 days after the handing over of the memorandum.

Kekidika and the 14 signatories to the memorandum have planned a second community meeting as a report-back session on developments and to inform residents on the result of the meeting with the regional police last week. Among the issues raised in the memorandum was why abductions of children in white areas appear to be dealt with

more speedily and receive lots of publicity to assist police investigations.

The instance of the six missing white school girls whose pictures appeared on milk cartons countrywide is regarded by residents in coloured and black communities as an example of police, media and public discrimination when handling such cases.

A Pretoria police spokesman said reported cases for 1991 show a total of 916 missing or abducted children: 153 of them white, 558 black and 181 coloured.

There is no specific pattern to abductions, he added, but there is an annual increase of 15 to 20 percent in the reporting of crimes against children, including abductions. "The SAP has not therefore experienced a spate of abductions in black and coloured areas, but we are alarmed with the actual incidence of this crime with regard to all population groups."

Other questions raised in the memorandum were:

● Why the public is not informed about children who go missing in black areas.

● Why regular reports on the progress of investigations into abductions are not supplied by the police.

● Why not enough is done by the police to trap abductors.

'open'.

"We are tired of these senseless killings and the abduction of our children. We believe that, due to the lack of evidence, the murder of the two boys cannot be linked to ritual killings, as the police believe."

Also still missing is the daughter of Eldorado Park's Eunice Adams, who was abducted by a domestic helper three years ago. "Initially the police kept me informed about progress with investigations, but gradually they failed to keep me updated," says Adams.

On February 29, the civic association led residents in a protest march to the police station in Kliptown, where a memorandum was handed to members of the Child Protection Unit. Organisations which support Kekidika's cam-

# 4 acquitted of beating black kids

Sowetan 20/3/92

By MATHATHA  
TSEDU

**FOUR** of the 15 whites accused of assaulting black children in Louis Trichardt were yesterday acquitted after the State closed its case.

Pietersburg Regional Court magistrate Mr WJ Fourie said there was insufficient evidence against Mr Bernard Jordaan, Mr Stephen Jacobs, Mr Albertus Pretorius and Mr Ignatius Terblanch.

Earlier, the court had heard that the white rightwingers who attacked black children had also assaulted an off-duty policeman with knobkerries.

Constable Basani Mahlatji said when he identified himself to his three white attackers as a policeman, one of them told him: "Polisieman se moer" and hit him three times without provocation.

Mahlatji was testifying in the trial of 15 alleged AWB members who are facing charges of public violence and assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

The State alleges they assaulted black Sunday School children of the Louis Trichardt Apostolic Faith Mission in November 1990 with sjamboks, sticks, knobkerries, fan belts and other weapons. They had all pleaded not guilty to all charges.

In further testimony yesterday Captain Pieter Andries Dreyer, head of the security branch in the town, said some of the accused had driven into the crowd of children in their vehicles at high speed. One vehicle

had knocked down a child.

He also saw a rottweiler dog running among the screaming children, biting them. He identified Mr Barend Terblanch, as the man who had insulted him and told him he was talking "s...t" when he told the rightwingers to move away.

"He told me the AWB was in charge," Dreyer said.

Terblanch later allegedly assaulted a youth with a stick in his presence and ordered other policemen to arrest him.

"I was later told that Nagel, accused No 13, had stopped them from effecting the arrest," Dreyer said.

Earlier evidence was that Nagel, a former policeman, had told a policeman he would assault him if he carried out the arrest.

Dreyer said the rightwingers chased the children, beating them at random, all over the area.

The court also heard that one of the accused will testify that he, a policeman and another man had sprayed teargas on the children and laughed before the assaults began.

This submission was made by defence attorney Mr O de Meyer.

The remaining accused are Mr Lucas Beyer, Mr Feffrey Sculliard, Mr William Schaap, Mr Christoffel Wolvaard, Mr Gerhardus van der Linde, Mr Bernard Terblanch, Mr Jan Beyer, Mr Phillip Terblanch, Mr Johan George Nagel, Mr Johan Frederrick Kruger and Mr Stephanus Hendrik Boshoff.

The case was postponed to June 8.

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†Mr J J LEMMER. Mr Chairman, further arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, does he possibly know where "doctor" is?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER (Dr T G Alant): He is sitting in some dark corner writing.

#### Pension/provident funds: handling by private sector

\*3. 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 the said funds are subject to or are to be subject to the investment guidelines laid down for private sector pension funds, if not, to what guidelines are they or are they to be subject?

B410E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FINANCE (Dr T G Alant).

- (1) At this stage, about 7% of the funds available for investment in the public sector pension funds is being handled by the private sector
- (2) The said funds are at this stage not subject to the investment guidelines laid down for private sector pension funds. The funds are being handled strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Public Investment Commissioners Act.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE. Mr Chairman, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, can he perhaps tell us where the hon the State President is at present.

†The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE: Order! No, that does not arise from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply. [Interjections.]

#### Child witnesses: protection

\*4. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether any provision has recently been made for the protection of child witnesses; if not, (a) why not and (b) when will such provision be made; if so, (i) when, (ii) in terms of what statutory provisions and/or regulations and (iii) what is the purpose of the provision so made?

B411E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

Yes

- (a) and (b) Fall away.

(298)

(i) and (ii) The Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1991 (Act 135 of 1991), was assented to on 27 June 1991. Section 170A of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act 51 of 1977), is inserted by section 3 of the Amendment Act. The Amendment Act will, in so far as it relates to the protection of child witnesses, be put into operation as soon as all the administrative steps have been finalized.

(iii) Section 170A of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977, provides, *inter alia*, that whenever criminal proceedings are pending before a 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 appoint a competent person as an intermediary in order to enable such witness to give his evidence through that intermediary. The court may direct that such evidence may be given in another room, provided that the witness and the intermediary are visible and audible by the court and other persons, such as the accused. The section provides further that if a court has appointed an intermediary, all questions to such witness, except questions by the court, should be directed through the intermediary.

#### Pharmacy Act: managing directors

\*5. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) Whether she has received any representations for the amendment of the provisions of the Pharmacy Act, No 53 of 1974, relating to the position of a managing director in terms of the recommendations contained in the Browne Commission Report, if so, from whom;
- (2) whether she intends taking steps to implement the relevant recommendations; if not, why not, if so, (a) what steps will be taken and (b) when?

B412E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH

- (1) No,
- (2) no, according to the White Paper on the Browne Commission's Report the matter

cont

was referred to the Pharmacy Council for its recommendation. No recommendation has yet been received.

#### INTERPELLATION

The sign \* indicates a translation. The sign †, used subsequently in the same interpellation, indicates the original language.

#### Own Affairs

Pupils compelled to attend private/state-aided schools

\*Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) Whether he is going to compel any pupils of school-going age to attend private schools or state-aided schools in cases where no ordinary public state schools are situated within reasonable reach,
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B417E INT

\*The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: Mr Chairman, compulsory school attendance is prescribed in section 53 of the Education Affairs Act, Act 70 of 1988. The conversion of state schools to state-aided schools entails no change to the principle or the practice of compulsory school attendance. Compulsory education can be undergone in any school which is officially recognised by the department. The Minister does not force anyone to attend a specific school for fulfilment of compulsory school attendance. The concept "within reasonable distance" is relative. What might, for example, be "near" in rural terms, might be far for a city child.

The availability of transport and accommodation also makes a difference. The conversion or non-conversion of state schools to state-aided schools, depends on parental choice. Indications are that in the foreseeable future there will still be a choice of various types of schools available. In order to facilitate making a choice, school bus transport and hostel facilities are still available. As a matter of fact more than 8 000 places in hostels are available. Needy pupils will continue to receive transport bursaries according to existing sliding-scales at least until the end of 1993.

The department will continue to grant bursaries for boarding on the same basis as at present. The reply to the question, therefore, is "no".

\*Mr A GERBER: Mr Chairman, I have serious problems with the standpoint that a government may enforce compulsory school attendance as well as compulsory tuition fees. In my opinion these are two irreconcilables. A government is not allowed to compel people to make use of a service which has to be paid for. But what is more, a government may not abolish the normal public state schools, as it is doing now, and then compel parents to provide their children with normal education.

That is exactly what is happening in South Africa at the moment with regard to the White section of the population. As from 1 April there will hardly be any public state schools for Whites in South Africa. The State is phasing out its responsibility to provide state schools.

At the same time, however, it is enforcing compulsory school attendance on White pupils. Hon members must understand that I am very strongly in favour of compulsory school attendance. It is one of the most important reasons why our nation has developed to the present level. However, I also say that we cannot enforce compulsory school attendance if we force people to pay for it. [Interjections.]

The Government's decision to do away with normal public state schools will ultimately—and the day is not far off—lead to education becoming for the most part the financial responsibility of the local community. Furthermore, it will lead to compulsory school attendance falling by the wayside, to the detriment of our people. We are headed for a situation in which only the rich will be able to provide their children with a proper secondary and tertiary education. I should like to put a few questions to the hon Minister in this respect.

It is alleged that at a meeting on education in Kimberley he ostensibly said that controlling bodies of model-C schools—i.e. state-aided schools—may not expel pupils if their parents refuse to pay. If that is true, I ask the hon Minister to repeat it to us here, so that parent communities in South Africa can know that they only have a moral duty to pay those fees.

Secondly, I want to ask whose responsibility it will be in future to enforce school attendance. Is

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



# Police link with fire probed

THE possible involvement of a young policeman in the Pretoria Elim Church blaze which left eight "street children" dead and 11 injured, was being investigated by the SAP, sources said yesterday.

Official police sources would not confirm or deny the investigation, but said an earlier statement that "arson was excluded as the cause of the fire" was premature and based on preliminary findings by forensic experts.

A cover-up by the police was strongly denied.

An investigation into the fire at the disused church,

which housed 22 homeless youths between the ages of nine and 24 as part of the Pretoria University's Youth Initiative Project, continued last week when Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) claimed a police cover-up.

Following the police's dismissal of arson shortly after the blaze, LHR had called in its own forensic experts who, in collaboration with fire department experts, examined the ruins and found evidence that the fire had been started by

somebody, LHR executive director Brian Currin said.

Points indicating this included the rate at which the fire spread, the fact that it was burning simultaneously on most floors and evidence suggesting use of a liquid accelerant.

Sources close to police investigations said the whereabouts of a 24-year-old policeman — believed to be a member of the Sunnyside Criminal Investigation Unit investigating the fire — at the time of the start of the pre-dawn fire, was under scrutiny.

The docket on the blaze has been handed to one of the country's top investigative policemen, Brigadier Wilhelm Blignaut.

The gutted Elim Church was demolished shortly after the initial police reaction, excluding arson, was issued.

Earlier, project leader Jeremy Kruger said an intoxicated plainclothes policeman had visited the church several days before the blaze. An argument had started between some of the youths and the policeman, who said he was investigating theft charges.

The policeman had been attacked by some of the youths and was forced to flee, Kruger said.

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- Grand Gold Medal — Monde Selection, Brussels





Women

# Search for family of heartbreak girl

*Sowetan 26/3/92 298*

By PEARL MAJOLA

A MOZAMBIKAN girl found at the Carlton Centre in Johannesburg is moving between homes while social workers and other concerned people try to reunite her with her missing family or relatives.

Yolanda Nhampolo, who is eight, was found by the CNA staff outside the shop at about 5pm on March 16. She was wearing a turquoise polka dot dress, a dark grey-and-red top and black shoes. She carried an orange school bag. She speaks Zulu and is fluent in Portuguese and Shangaan.

Apparently she lived with her sister in Orlando, Soweto. But she does not know where in Orlando. "My grandmother, Nora Nhampolo, took me shopping on Monday. When we got to the Carlton Centre she told me to wait outside one shop while she went somewhere," explained Yolanda.

That was the last she saw



Yolanda Nhampolo and Mrs Gwen Boshof.

of her grandmother.

After she was found a Turffontein woman, Mrs Gwen Boshof, took her home, where she has been staying for the past week.

"We phoned the TPA welfare department but they could not find accommodation for her immediately," explained Boshof.

"In desperation, I contacted the Child Protection Unit but they told me she could be put in a juvenile cell. I could never allow that, so I decided to take her myself."

"I was brought up to believe that all people are

the same so I could never let an innocent child spend even one night in a juvenile cell."

"My family just loved her and it has been wonderful staying with her. She is very well brought up. I hope her family comes for her soon because she really belongs with them," she said.

TPA social worker, Miss Reklie Tladi, said that Yolanda will be placed at the Christian Centre until her family is found. Anyone who can help trace Yolanda's family should contact Miss Reklie Tladi at (011) 334 0868.





**REJECTED:** All Leroy Mnguni wanted was to be with his chums, so he tried to sign up with the Voortrekkers.

● Photograph: JOHN HO...

## Boy Scouts prepared to rescue Leroy

THE Boy Scouts have come to the rescue of Leroy Mnguni, the child who this week threw the entire Voortrekker establishment into disarray.

After the national Voortrekker leadership rejected Leroy's membership, the entire executive of the 42-year-old Jan Celliers Voortrekker Commando resigned in protest over the "whites-only" membership policy.

Into the breach stepped the Randburg branch of the Boy Scouts, which said it would be delighted if Leroy joined them.

All Leroy wanted was to be with his mates, said his foster mother, Penny Steyn. Leroy is a Grade One pupil at the Jan Celliers Laerskool in Johannesburg. His three closest friends are Voortrekkers.

"Initially when he asked me if he could join, I tried to dissuade him because I personally felt the Voor-

CAROLINE HURRY

trekkers were a bunch of nerds. But he was so keen I finally sent in the application forms," said Steyn.

Leroy's real mother, Lina Mnguni, works for Steyn's father. Steyn looks after Leroy as she does not work during the day.

Voortrekker movement leader, the Rev Johan van der Walt, told Steyn he had personally written a letter to Leroy explaining why he was not allowed to join the organisation.

The Voortrekkers, he said, were unlikely to become multiracial.

Steyn said Van der Walt would be visiting her home on Tuesday to deliver the letter and explain in person to Leroy why he may not be a member of the organisation.

"The whole furore hasn't seemed to

bother Leroy too much. I told him he had not been accepted because he was too young to join, but after overhearing a few conversations, Leroy has realised the real reason is because he has a black skin," she said.

A representative of the Jan Celliers Voortrekker Commando, which has now withdrawn from the national movement over Leroy's treatment, said it would consider "other nonpolitical cultural movements like the Boy Scouts and the Wildlife Society".

He said Leroy's membership "was not the issue. There has been a difference before between the movement leadership and the Commando and it would have come to a head at some point. We have wanted to enrol members of colour in the past, which we have no problem with if they underwrite the Christian values and norms of the movement."

STAY 28/3/92



# Minister to open Takalani

*Sowetan 27/3/92*

*298*

THE Takalani School for the Mentally Handicapped will be officially opened by the Minister of Education and Training, Mr Sam de Beer tomorrow.

The school, which has a boarding home, was built by the Anglo American and De Beers Chairman's Fund at a cost of R7 million. The running costs and staff are funded by the DET.

Takalani is the first school to cater for the mentally handicapped in Soweto, a city with an estimated 15 000 handicapped people.

Takalani admits 200 children, many of whom are residents in the home.

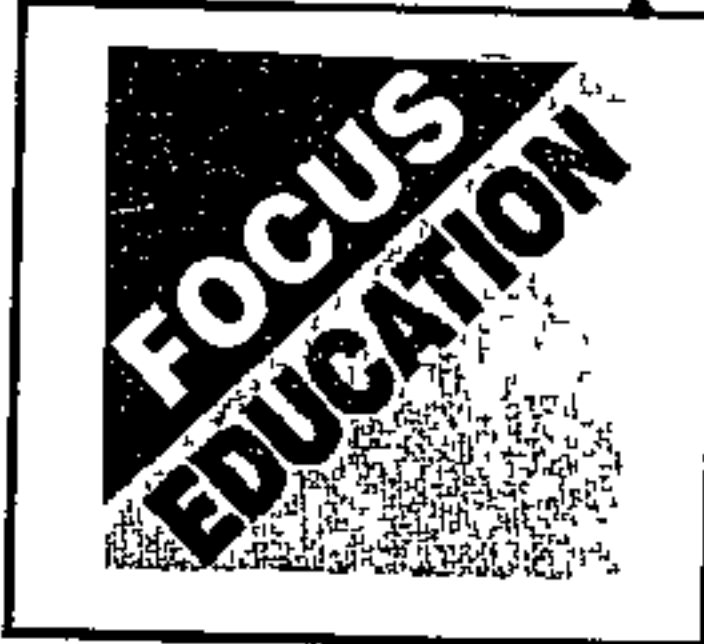
●Meanwhile the Natal-spruit Upjohn Hospital School was officially opened this week.

The school, sponsored by Upjohn Pharmaceutical with the blessing of the DET, caters for children who are hospitalised. A full-time teacher and principal, Mrs Idlette Matetola, said she taught children from Sub A to Standard 5.

This helps the children to catch up easily with their peers when they are discharged from the hospital.

A new loan scheme for students has been set up by the Ernest Oppenheimer Memorial Trust, First National Bank and the University of Witwatersrand.

EDMT will pump about R500 000 into the scheme each year until 1995 with FNB as security for loans approved under a Student Loan Indemnity Fund Scheme.



Mr Bobby Godsell, Professor Jerry Steele, Professor Robert Charlton and Mr Pat Lamont

June.

Interested pupils should

give the name of their schools, their locations, the classes they are doing and

the accounting topic they would like to cover. Details should be sent to

Mr Phillip Mmutle, Abasa, Box 5282, Johannesburg, 2000 or at (011) 331-6923.

## Subsidise

Wits will select needy students according to its normal criteria. The interest will be used to subsidise the interest charged on individual loans. Repayments will be structured to suit individual students and may be spread over 10 years.

Students must apply for the loans at the Milner Park branch of FNB with a letter of introduction from Wits.

●The Education and Development Trust will hold a series of Career Planning Workshops for youth leaders this winter.

The two-day workshop will train representatives of student bodies, companies, youth clubs, service clubs and other community organisations to run career workshops for the youth.

They cover self-assessment study and career options as well as job-seeking skills. They will be held between April and June.

For more details contact EDT's training coordinator, Muriel Connell at (011) 976-4788.

●The Association of Black Accountants of South Africa invites Standard 9 and 10 commercial pupils to a winter school in

# TED tells principal to readmit pupils

STAR 28/3/92  
CAROLINE HURRY

A HIGH-SCHOOL headmaster whose staff resorted to "irregular" methods to get rid of a number of "problem" pupils thought to be giving the school a bad name has been ordered to re-admit them and apologise to their parents.

Simeon Tobias of The Hill High School near Rosettenville, Johannesburg, has reportedly been ordered by the Transvaal Education Department to re-admit the pupils after inquiries about the matter by Saturday Star.

● See Page 3

His school allegedly used methods that included bringing in a SAP drug-squad officer to threaten the pupils with arrest on the grounds that they were part of a dagga-smoking ring, as well as showing them graphic photographs of corpses of drug users who had died from overdoses.

A number of boys involved were told by the policeman and the guidance teacher, Gerald de Villiers, that if they did not leave the school voluntarily they would be sent to a "clinic school" until they were 21, where they would hardly ever see their parents and where pupils were so unhappy that they tried to hang themselves.

Parents were threatened with prosecution by

● TO PAGE 2

## Readmit

● FROM PAGE 1.

the guidance teacher for neglecting their children's welfare if they did not consent to their removal.

According to information in the possession of the Saturday Star, the boys had smoked dagga occasionally after school.

Russel Rehbok, an ex-pupil and law graduate from Wits University, said the incident had been brought to his attention by teachers.

"On February 3, one teacher informed me that during a staff meeting Tobias had congratulated De Villiers for dispensing with a group of trouble-makers, and said if any other teachers were having problems with pupils, they should in-

form him and he would get rid of them," said Rehbok.

"This teacher and others were upset by Tobias's disposable children policy and approached him for a meeting to discuss the matter.

"Tobias assured the concerned teachers that all correct procedures had been followed. He said the narcotics branch of the SAP had approached the school and informed him a police computer had identified a group of drug-dealers at the school.

"He said the SAP had advised that the group be broken up and that the parents be contacted."

However, when the Saturday Star brought the matter to the attention of the TED, which sent an inspector to the school, Tobias denied ever speaking to the police.



# Boys 'blackmailed' to quit school

STA-2  
2-8/3/92

A SATURDAY Star investigation has revealed that serious irregularities may have occurred in the removal of a group of boys from a Johannesburg school because they were thought to be giving the school a bad name.

This newspaper is in possession of affidavits from pupils and parents stating that early last month Lieutenant Werner Pretorius of the SAP Narcotics Bureau used "intimidation and threats of violence" against boys at The Hill High School which were designed to make them leave the school.

The pupils were told to write statements saying they were dagga-users and suppliers. The statements were filed, but according to the school the file has "unfortunately gone missing, despite every effort to locate it".

Pretorius, whose presence at the school was allegedly requested by one of the teachers, was introduced to each boy as the "narcotics chief".

One of the Standard 8 boys concerned said "Lieutenant Pretorius took my address and said there would be a summons in the post."

"He said I was lucky he didn't send his men to 'f... me up' and the best thing I could do was to leave the school."

## Drug Squad threatened violence, say parents

**CAROLINE HURRY**

involved. Although he and Mr de Villiers (a teacher) had said I might have to appear in court, another teacher told me the police could not prosecute unless they found me in possession of dagga.

"But I was still very worried that the police had become involved."

According to some of the pupils and parents, the boys had admitted to smoking dagga at a party, but never on school premises. They denied dealing in or supplying the drug, but were allegedly told by De Villiers that by sharing a joint of dagga they were guilty of supplying the drug.

Pretorius allegedly told the boys their statements were sufficient evidence to prosecute and convict them, but he could arrange to have the matter dropped if they left the school.

According to the statements sworn by the boys and their parents, De Villiers said that if the boys were not removed, they could be sent to a "clinic school" until they were 21.

A 16-year-old Std 9 pupil said: "I was told to go and speak to Lieutenant Pretorius, who said if he saw me in the street smoking dagga, he would f... me up and throw me in jail."

A Mr Rehbock, an ex-pupil and a law graduate, says he approached a police station for advice relating to the legitimacy of the policeman's conduct and was told to speak to a Colonel Kruger at John Vorster Square.

"He was abrupt and rude and asked me what my problem was. He told me Pretorius was acting within the scope of his duties."

"In my opinion, this school has abused legal and educational procedures. In order to expel a child, legislation prescribes strict procedures to be followed as well as specific misdemeanours on the part of the child."

"In my opinion this process seems to have been circumvented by the use of pressure to remove troublesome children."

Headmaster Simeon Tobias refused to speak to Saturday Star.

Dr Ken Paine, executive director of the Transvaal Education Department, said: "As the matter is still under investigation, the department is not in a position to comment. The matter is handled internally according to the policy of the department, and in the best interests of education and those who are involved."

"At this stage, no further comment can be made."

# **Boshoff: this would be fatal**

STAR 28/3/92

**FRANS ESTERHUYSE**

CAPE TOWN — The Voortrekker youth movement will cease to exist in its present form if it opens its membership to all races, says right-wing intellectual Professor Carel Boshoff.

Boshoff, a former national leader of the Voortrekkers, yesterday condemned the controversy over the membership of Leroy Mnguni (7), saying it had been contrived to embarrass the movement.

"I have no doubt that this incident was calculated as an arm-twisting move to create an embarrassing situation. The humiliation of the boy and of the Zulu nation rests on the shoulders of the little group of people responsible."

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# Colour-blind Leroy 'confused'

CIPRESS 2913192

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## ■ From Page 1

ordered Leroy out.

He claimed the "constitution" only permitted white Afrikaner children to be members. Yesterday rightwinger Professor Carel Boshoff, a former national leader of the Voortrekkers, said the movement would cease to exist in its present form if it opened its membership to all races.

But all the officials of the Jan Celliers Voortrekker troop, which had admitted Leroy a fortnight ago, resigned in support of him.

The troop, with 50 children, was then disbanded. The parents of the other children were unanimous in supporting Leroy.

The ex-commandant of the troop, Johan Goosen, said: "I have been a member of the Voortrekkers since I was a boy 30 years ago, but it has no future under its present constitution in a new SA."

He said that Leroy, who is popular at his Afrikaans school in Parkview, Johannesburg, where he is in Grade 1, was accepted by all the children in the troop.

Goosen said that at the beginning of the school year the Jan Celliers division had sent out pamphlets to the Afrikaans schools in the area encouraging children to join the Voortrekker movement.

Leroy was among those who had applied to join and was accepted with other boys from his class. He was a most enthusiastic member, said Goosen.

Leroy has two mothers - his biological mother and Penny Steyn, who has helped raise him in Blairgowrie since his birth, and whom he calls Penny, but tells you in pure Afrikaans is his mother.

Penny said: "The most difficult thing was telling Leroy he couldn't go back to Voortrekkers."

"I told him they said he was too young, but he is obviously confused."

Penny says Leroy was born in her home and she helped raise him as an only child until she gave birth to a blonde daughter, Lauren, more than two years ago.

"He was so excited when I was going to have a baby. I told him I was

going to buy a baby in Sandton, and he couldn't wait for me to come home.

"Leroy watches over Lauren and disciplines her."

Asked who Leroy was, Lauren answered proudly: "My broer."

With Lauren's arm around his neck, Leroy just as naturally described her as "my sister".

A moment later Lauren disappeared into the garden and returned with a beach bucket filled with sand.

Leroy affectionately but firmly took it away from her.

"Laurie you know you must not bring sand into the house," he told her in Afrikaans. Lauren did not complain but let her big brother take it.

Leroy, who attended a nearby nursery school for a year before starting "big" school, said his favourite pastime was swimming. Penny's home has a pool and both children take swimming lessons.

Penny said Leroy did well at maths at school, but his favourite subject

is drawing.

Leroy's biological mother works in an office in a business which also employs Penny's father. She lives in Penny's parents' home in Ferndale.

"Every morning my oma (Penny's mother) takes me to school by car from Ferndale," said Leroy, "and after school Penny fetches me and brings me here. In the evening I go back to my other mother and oma."

Penny says that sympathisers have phoned to wish them well and to invite Leroy to join other organisations.

"Leroy has been invited to join the cubs' section of a local scout troop and I will probably enrol him next term," said Penny.

Goosen said a meeting was held on Thursday night by ex-officials and parents of members of the defunct Jan Cellier troop.

"It was decided unanimously that we would all remain together and join one of the several non-racial and non-political organisations which have invited us to join them," he said.



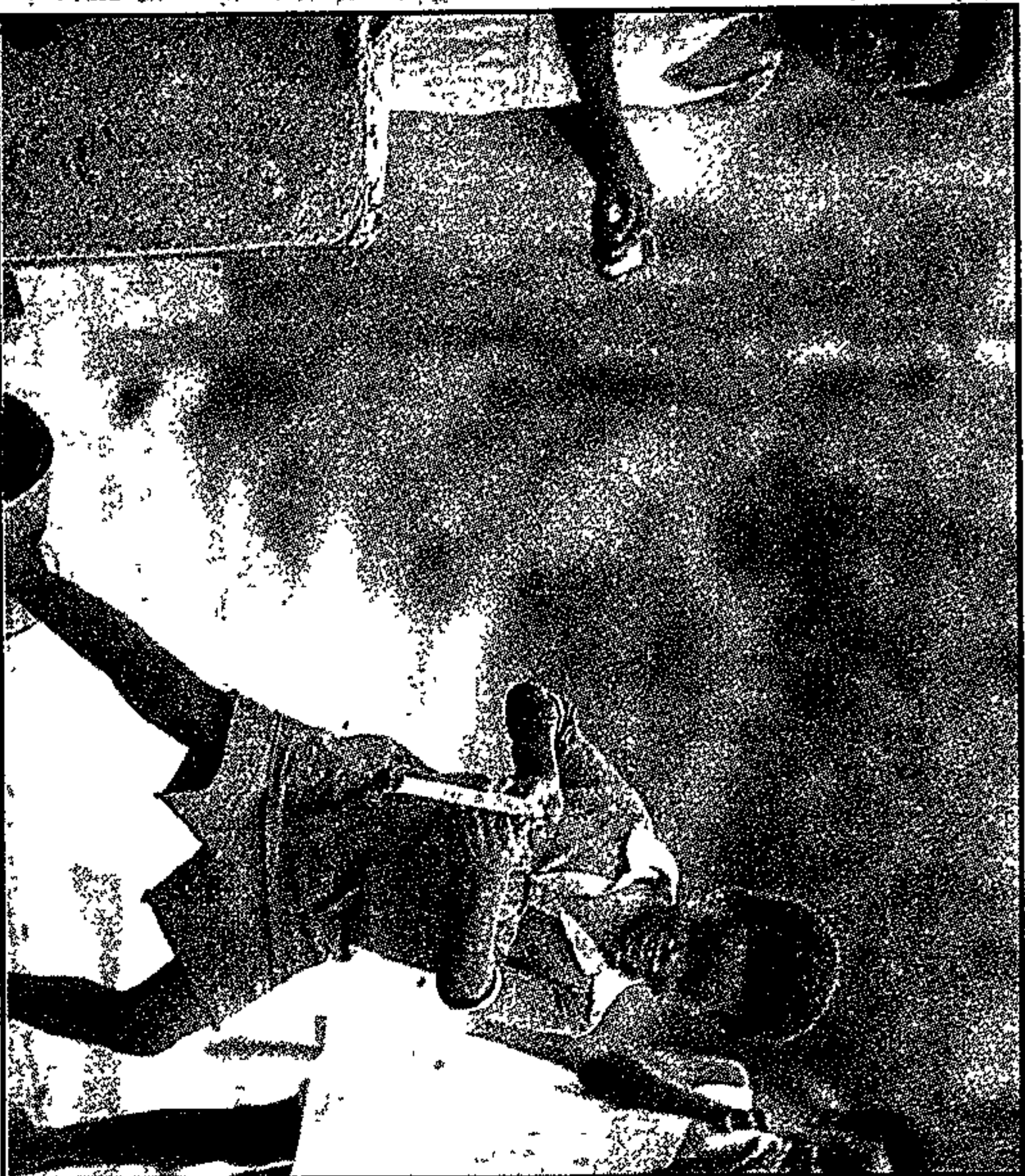
# Suffer

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# Little children

PAGE 12

CITY PRESS, March 29, 1992



**IMITATING LIFE...** The culture of weapons has taken root in Soweto society.  
■ Pic: TLADI KHUELE

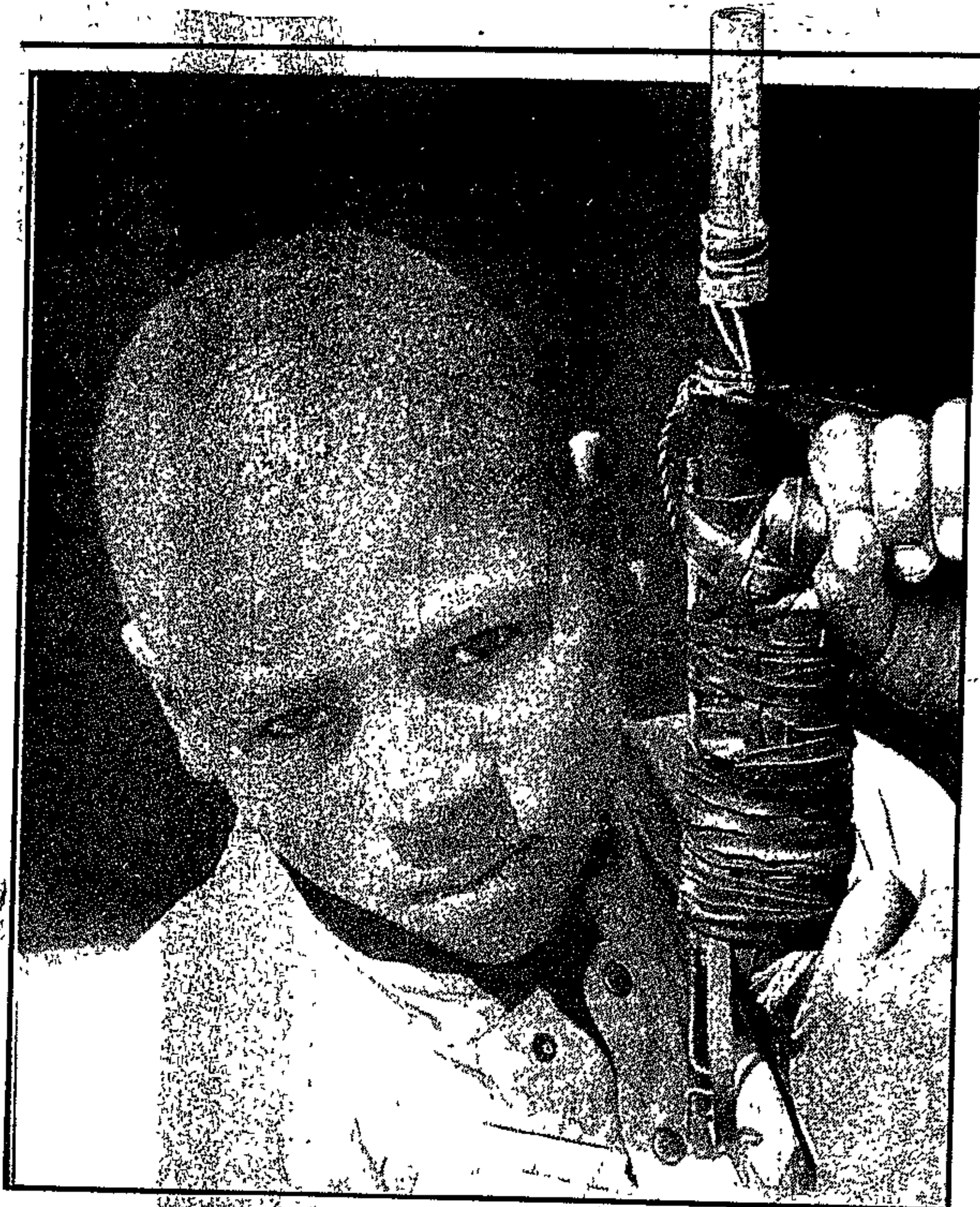


**DOUBLE TROUBLE...** Are they really Inkatha members? Even these Alex twins are 'cardholders' of the organisation.  
■ Pic: SIPHIWE MHLAMBI



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C/PRESS  
29/3/92



**BANGI BANGI YOU'RE DEAD ... A youth in Alex wield his homemade gun.**

■ Pict SIPHIWE MHLAMBI



C/PRESS 29/3/92

# Millions below poverty line

By SOPHIE TEMA

MORE than three million rural blacks in SA under the age of 15 are suffering from malnutrition, according to Operation Hunger executive director Ina Perlman.

This problem is highlighted in the latest paper released by the Foundation for Research Development (FRD) which emphasises the plight of 13 million illiterate and poverty-stricken people living in rural areas.

The FRD says the misery of their degrading environment is compounded by one of the highest population growth rates in the world, and most rural people are living below the survival threshold.

The paper says more than 50 percent of SA's blacks are below the age of 20, and approximately the same percentage are illiterate. This fuels the vicious cycle of ignorance and poverty.

Operation Hunger has calculated that in 1991 the cost of feeding a fam-



**SKIN AND BONES ... Women in the rural areas bear intolerable burdens.**

ily a palatable and balanced diet in Soweto (red meat excluded) was R565,87 a month, while more than 84 percent of the people in this country had a monthly family income of less than R600 00.

Nutrition education must, therefore, receive urgent attention.

Children under the age of six face the greatest deprivation. For many of them depressed socio-economic conditions, widespread environmental

degradation and an impoverished education system leave little hope for a productive adult career.

"It is common knowledge that education for black children is still not compulsory in this country. Recent statistics have shown that approximately 25 percent of those who do reach the classroom, fail the first grade, and many of them drop out, never to return.

"There are many contributory factors including overcrowded classrooms, under-trained teachers, inappropriate curricula and pupil malnutrition," it says.

FRD has revealed that only one in every 10 000 black school entrants matriculates with university entrance qualifications in mathematics or science.

The paper also emphasises the vital role that women play in rural areas.

"They are responsible for caring for their children, collecting wood and drawing water, household

chores and providing the cultural underpinning of communities in which a large percentage of the men are absent.

"In many instances, rural women bear an intolerable burden and are denied the opportunity to improve their skills and education," it says.

According to the FRD, there is scarcely any activity among rural people that cannot be improved by introducing appropriate technology. This includes university development and school and technology programmes.

Urgent attention needs to be given to better agriculture, forestry and veterinary science.

"The critical shortage of water in rural areas should be given the highest priority," it says.

The FRD is a major partner in joint ventures with the Department of Water Affairs and the Water Research Commission, and co-ordinates several important studies in this field.



## Nation Building

# Parenting workshops just keep on growing

Sowetan 30/3/92

By PEARL MAJOLA

THE Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops keep improving with time and their success can only be measured by the enthusiasm and commitment of the communities where they are presented.

In a seminar to launch the project for 1992, representatives from the PWV area, Pietersburg and Bloemfontein praised the project and reported on community projects that have been inspired by the seminars in their areas.

Almost all the representatives reported that their communities wanted to be more involved in the project.

It therefore takes on a new shape this year and will be presented in the form of workshops instead of seminars in order to allow more participation.

Another dimension of the new-look project is a team of multi-professionals, all committed community workers, who have been selected to form a co-ordinating committee.

This committee will oversee the running of the workshops and offer professional advice.

Sub-committees have also been set up to help the co-ordinators with publicity, arrangement of guest speakers and choice of topics.

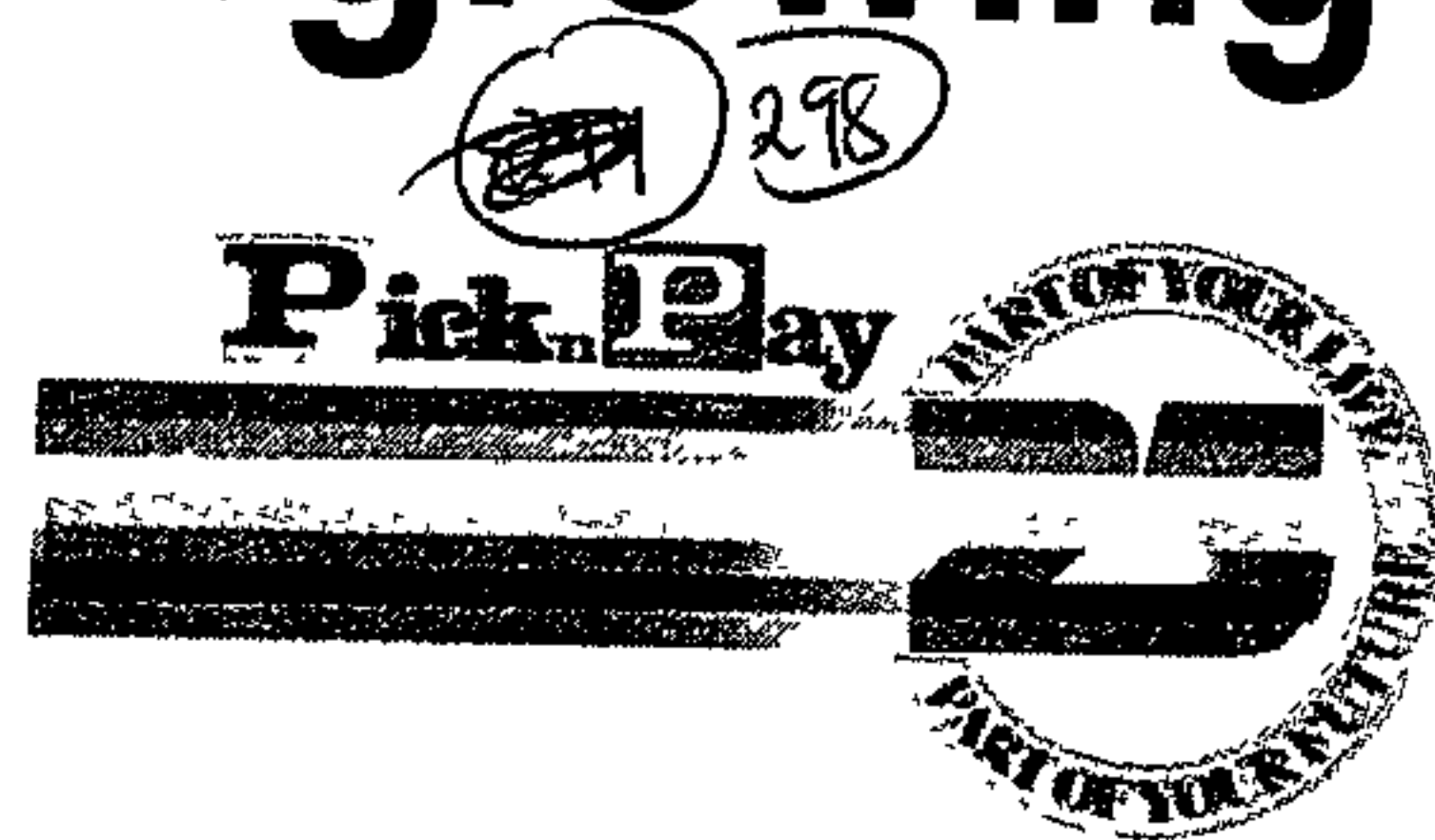
Topics to be covered at this year's workshops have already been proposed by the communities and they range from child abuse to solving the education crises to Satanism.

Spearheading the project is clinical psychologist, Mrs Anne-Gloria Mascle of Medunsa, who injects the valuable experience of her profession and a selfless commitment to community upliftment.

"In almost all the communities we have been to, people have shown complete support and interest in the project," said Mascle.

"They have committed themselves to the extent where projects like the Mamelodi Education Project have been started and continue to work successfully.

"This year we want to co-ordinate all resourceful projects that people are not aware of in order to prevent duplication and service our people better," she explained.



The project has the support of Pick 'n Pay who are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year and who have sponsored it since it started three years ago.

"Pick 'n Pay sees itself playing a major role in restoring the priority of parenting, for the sole purpose of developing the child," said the supermarket chain's Marketing Director, Mr Martin Rosen.

"Today our children are experiencing developmental problems brought about by the redress of socio-political injustices. As a result children's needs have been ignored," he said.

### THE SOWETAN/PICK 'N PAY PARENTING WORKSHOPS DIARY

The first workshop takes place at Funda Centre, Soweto, on April 4 and 5.

Bloemfontein - April 25 and August 8.

Pietersburg - May 24 and September 27.

Daveyton - May 9 and August 22.

Pretoria - April 11 and July 25.

Soweto - April 4, 5 and July 11.

Carletonville - June 27.

Vaal Triangle - June 13.



# Govt targets children in campaign against AIDS

CAPE TOWN — Children, as sexual innocents, are the target of a new government AIDS-prevention programme to curb the lethal virus which infects 300 people a day.

The AIDS and Lifestyle Education Programme for Teenagers, was launched yesterday by National Health Minister Dr Rina Venter.

Government's AIDS Unit head Dr Manda Holmshaw said the challenge of fighting AIDS was based on the fact children between the ages of three and 13 were universally free of the disease.

"If we can keep them so as they move through their teenage years to adulthood, we will successfully meet and beat the African AIDS pandemic," she said.

Venter said there were insufficient funds to combat AIDS in SA.

However, government was able to cope with the R14m allocated to the disease. Of this, R6,5m has been set aside for education and publicity.

She said the Cabinet had

accepted a decision that all children should be "AIDS literate" by Standard 5.

Venter said more than 200 000 people were already infected and 300 new cases were reported a day.

"As AIDS is overwhelmingly spread by ordinary sexual activity, those not sexually active, such as children, are essentially AIDS-free.

"We intend to maintain this status," Venter told educationists and other interest groups at the project's launch in a Sea Point hotel.

She said the new AIDS package for teenagers would be presented in three formats.

A basic, comprehensive and expanded model will be available and the programme will be on floppy disk.

Venter said she hoped the programme would turn around predictions of how many people would get AIDS.

Holmshaw described the new educational drive as an African programme shaped by African needs and conditions.

AIDS was pandemic in Africa, she said, and was mostly transmitted by heterosexual intercourse.

This meant the general population was at risk, Holmshaw said.

The new AIDS and Lifestyle programme was based on comprehensive research to ensure it tackled relevant situations in an appropriate manner.

No similar programme had ever been attempted, Holmshaw said.

She said results and experiences would be shared with SA's neighbours.

"We are all Africans, and are all engaged in the fight against African AIDS," she said.

The State President's wife Marike de Klerk also addressed the subject yesterday at the official opening of St Luke's Hospice in Cape Town.

She said what SA needed in an age threatened by the scourge of AIDS was "people who can channel their caring attitude into deeds".

Meanwhile in Johannesburg Syncom director Albert Spier told an AIDS seminar SA appeared to be at the early stages of a potentially massive HIV epidemic.

Spier, whose organisation Syncom was described as "a national policy think tank involved in aspects of constitutional and institutional reform", told members at the Department of Manpower's seminar on the implications of AIDS on labour relations that government's R20m AIDS budget was not enough.

However, he pointed out that it was pointless raising the AIDS prevention expenditure if there was no joint strategy between the public and private sectors.

Spier said by the year 2000, between R5bn and R10bn could have been spent on the disease in SA.

— Sapa.



# Protect us, people tell cops

*C11/ren 11/3/92*  
ABOUT 200 people yesterday marched to the Kliptown Police Station and handed a memorandum to the station commander on the safety of children in Eldorado Park.

The march, organised by the Kliptown, Eldorado Park, Klipspruit West Interim Democratic Civic Association (Kekidca), was attended by members of the ANC, the PAC, Azapo, and religious and sporting bodies.

It followed on the abduction and killing of two young brothers last month. Their bodies were later found in the Kliptown Dam. Unable to cope with the tragedy, their father later committed suicide.

*(298)*  
In the memorandum handed to the station commander and the child protection unit, Kekidca protested that the public was not alerted about the missing kids.

It claimed that if a similar incident had happened in a "white" community, police would have reacted much quicker.

All communities should be treated equally and the police should increase patrols in the area, the memorandum stated, demanding that police should meet with Kekidca within two weeks to work out a plan for making the community safer. — Sapa

# Have we seen last toyi toyi in Soweto?

By SOPHIE TEMA

*q/wen 1/3/92*

ARE the days of toyitoying over for township youths, and what does the future hold for them?

Although the suspicion of outsiders made authentic information difficult to get, after months of in-depth interviewing in Soweto – the trend-setting township – researcher Gill Stacey of The Alternative Consultancy, (TAC) believes she has some of the answers.

She is convinced that against the backdrop of crime, violence, school disruptions and drug and alcohol abuse, there is still some hope for Soweto youth.

Stacey estimates that by the end of this century 75 percent of the black population will be under 25, and it was this type of statistic that prompted her to research Soweto's so-called "lost generation".

## Head spinners

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One of her aims, she says, was to provide insight into the thinking of young people in Soweto.

"I spoke to many and found that some of my preconceptions about them were turned on their heads.

"They openly discussed their family structures, education, consumption patterns, saving habits, religious and political beliefs, leisure activities, media preferences, Aids, sub-cultures, groups, drugs, alcohol, crime, the environment, their attitudes towards whites, the importance of an African identity, their goals and their ambitions," said Stacey.

## Pantsulas, Punks

It was encouraging to find that most of them had clear ideas about what they wanted.

"Our days of toyitoying are over. Now we are looking at the future," said one of them.

Stacey said her findings were that:

■ The majority of young people in Soweto group themselves according to various sub-cultures, such as Pantsulas, Rappers, Punks or Hippies, and all favour distinctive fashions, hairstyles and music.

■ Most of them were not interested in branch-level party politics, but in an open election, 90 percent said they would vote ANC.

■ They regret that crime and violence are worsening, and that the teenage pregnancy rate is high.

■ The problem of drugs and alcohol at schools is also getting worse. Most users go for Mandrax and dagga.



# Upgrade child abuse services, report urges

STAR 2/3/92

By Shirley Woodgate

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A hard-hitting report on child abuse in Greater Johannesburg claims that almost all aspects of the service system dealing with abused and neglected children are in urgent need of upgrading.

According to the report, delivered on Thursday by a task group set up in 1989 by the Johannesburg branch of the South African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Saspacan) at its annual general meeting, the increase in help for victims, family units and also for perpetrators lags behind the increase in public awareness of the problem.

A report concentrating on child abuse in Soweto alone indicates there is no specialised preventive programme of social-work services for the abused child in the strife-torn area.

"There are currently no accurate figures (of child abuse) — most remain unknown.

"Some solutions have been introduced but much more will have to be done if real progress is to be made," said the Soweto report.

The Alexandra Health Clinic views the nationwide problem of "abandoned children and inad-

equate social resources" as a matter of urgency.

Examples of the type of abuse identified at this clinic in the past year include one girl aged seven identified with gonorrhoea and syphilis; four four-year-old infants beaten with a fist, buckle and belt; a one-year-old was the victim of an attempted strangling; and 65 children (mainly girls aged between six and 12) were sexually abused.

The Saspacan report states:

## Hampered

● There is a distinct danger that the uncovering of abuse and the accompanying trauma may not be matched by the essential protection and help which is essential in these cases.

● The task group says it was hampered in determining even reported incidences of child abuse because of an absence of any uniform system for collecting data.

"But the reported cases are the tip of the iceberg," the report said.

● A major problem was the lack of affordable and accessible psychological assessment and treatment facilities.

● There was a scarcity of treatment possibilities for perpetrators of abuse.

● Delays in obtaining medical examinations from some sectors were also a source of concern.

● Lack of clarity about reporting procedures raised doubts about the recently instituted (racially based) child protection registers.

● Residential and foster care was in short supply and training offered to these people was "borderline or less than adequate when dealing with abused children".

● There was a serious lack of financial and service back-up for foster families.

● The very small number of specialised staff handling abuse was "very alarming".

● The lack of sufficient staff with intensive specialist training and of clearly defined procedures to be used by all employees was seen as an indication of the general lack of a systematic approach to child abuse based on local and international experience and practice.

● Duplication, unco-ordination, fragmentation and individualistic functioning characterised the services dealing with child abuse.

Recommendations to resolve the problems included an emphasis on intensive ongoing staff training and the rationalisation of services.

# Aussie police deny big SA membership

By John Dunn  
Star Foreign Service

MELBOURNE — A former Australian Prime Minister says the tough attitude of the Western Australian police towards juvenile offenders, particularly Aborigines, was due to a South African influence.

Gough Whitlam said that many members of the police force in the western state had migrated to Perth from South Africa.

A police spokesman denied this, saying there were few, if any, South Africans in the force.

Mr Whitlam urged the Federal government to over-ride strong new state laws, passed following recent incidents with cars driven by

young people.

One law provides for a maximum sentence of 20 years for reckless driving causing death.

Another sets a minimum 18 months' jail for youths convicted of repeated violent crimes.

Mr Whitlam said Aborigines made up 73 per cent of Western Australia's jail population.

He added: "One is loath and, in fact, condemns the use of stereotypes, but there is a significant attitude in the Western Australian police flowing from the fact that many of its members migrated from South Africa."

His statement immediately produced denials from police headquarters in Perth.



# Relief as maintenance laws changed

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

THE sight of thousands of women, with wailing babies on their backs standing in long, winding queues at the Department of Home Affairs to collect maintenance money has always been a spectacle.

For many the trip to 15 Market Street in Johannesburg was very painful. Hurting in the sense that after the long wait in the hot sun they had to go back home empty-handed because the father of the child did not deposit the *pap geld*.

Most working mothers, from far away places, had to forfeit a day's salary because of the long wait at the department.

But that has come to an end with the amendment to the Maintenance Act, which was gazetted yesterday.

Mrs Nomundo Gaba, not her real name, said the amendment would be a great relief from the humiliation women found themselves in.

She said she had been receiving maintenance for

her three children through the courts for more than 10 years but could count the number of times she has gone to Market Street, only to return without a cent.

"I'm going to ask that the money be deposited into my savings account. That way I will not have to be shunted around the Department of Home Affairs," she added.

The amendment gives the courts more powers to ensure that maintenance dodgers comply with the law and support their children.

Provisions of the new legislation list the following:

- The assets of liable people who complain they do not have sufficient funds to pay their maintenance, order will be attached.
- Details of defaulters will be given to credit bureaux to make them ineligible for credit.



- A picture of each person found liable for maintenance will be taken to ease tracing.
- The person found liable will retroactively be liable for maternity and medical costs.
- Payment would be made through any bank or financial institution as well as directly to the beneficiary and not necessarily through the courts.
- Courts will be able to call any person to give evidence on the whereabouts of defaulters.
- The onus of proof will shift to the person liable for maintenance.
- Anyone who has appealed against a maintenance order will remain liable until the appeal has been completed.

In a case where the man wins a paternity dispute he would be able to reclaim his money through a civil court or the Small Claims Court, said Johannesburg Magistrate's Court control prosecutor Ms J Griesel.

Griesel said the magistrate's court had about 20 000 files of maintenance cases. The court, she said, did not keep constant checks on payment of maintenance claims. It relied on claimants to report defaults.

"We would not know if a person defaults unless we receive a complaint. We then act by issuing a summons for the person to appear in court or a warrant of arrest is issued, depending on the history of the case," Griesel said.

She said the decision of the court hinged on the circumstances of the defaulter. If his reason for defaulting is unemployment, he is given a chance to look for a job.

The highest sentence a defaulter can serve is 12 months. A first offender serves six months.

# Focus on suffering children

PARIS - Half of the world's 17 million refugees are children and they suffer the most, the United Nations Children's Fund, Unicef, said here yesterday.

The number of refugees in the world has soared. Unicef added that 80 percent of them were in Third

World countries. Unicef cited the largest groups as 5 million Afghans, 300 000 Cambodians and 200 000 Vietnamese in Asia, 2,3 million Palestinians and 700 000 Kurds in the Middle East, plus 5 million refugees in Africa and 2 million in Cen-

tral America. (298)

Children among displaced populations suffer huge mortality rates.

Most of them are victims of diseases like tetanus, measles, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoea or respiratory illnesses. - Sapa-AFP.



# 'Education will remain segregated'

By Carina le Grange

For the next 50 years, most children in South Africa would continue to be educated on a racially segregated basis due to the fact that they lived in segregated areas, educationist Dr Franz Auerbach said in Pretoria yesterday.

Dr Auerbach said one of the ways in which the education process could promote mutual respect and tolerance would be integration at school level. Whether the education system could teach children to live meaningfully.

He was one of the speakers on the first day of the national

conference of the National Council for Mental Health.

The aim of the conference is to prepare a strategy for the formulation of a child mental health policy to be presented to Minister of National Health and Population Development Dr Rina Venter.

But Melvyn Freeman of the Centre for Health Policy at the University of the Witwatersrand questioned whether it was appropriate to present Dr Venter with the strategy "as if she should restructure (child mental) policy at this time".

"We must think of where we want to be going with a representative strategy — not only to

this constituency (the conference) but also to a wider one

"It is not enough to have representatives from (progressive) organisations like the National Education Co-ordinating Committee and the Organisation for Appropriate Social Sciences to say that this is a representative meeting," Mr Freeman said

Earlier, he had said it was not necessary to be too pessimistic on the outlook for child mental health, since SA would get a new government that would care for people's needs.

He said the best way to improve mental health was to effect changes in educational, political and economic structures



Franz Auerbach . . . need to promote mutual respect.

# Corporate caring via company creches

(298) ARG 6/3/92

**The need for quality child care facilities for working mothers and the fact that it is an economically viable proposition, are two factors which emerged from a seminar on the corporate creche hosted in Cape Town. CHARLENE CLAYTON explains.**

RECENT surveys indicate the numbers of skilled and managerial staff available to companies is rapidly diminishing and by the year 2000 there will be a serious shortfall.

Considering that 56 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 64 — many skilled and academically qualified — are not working because they have young children, some form of corporate child care assistance makes good business sense. This is the view of Mrs Dyllis de Leiburne, head of the Round Nursery Creche Consultancy in Rivonia, Johannesburg, one of the guest speakers at the seminar.

It's obvious that organisations in high skill-dependant industries will need to compete for these skills and ensure that existing skills are retained in the organisation.

"Private sector child care is inadequate for the under-threes," she says. "Most women in the relevant age group have little or no alternative but to drop out of the work force when they have children."

"If possible, they may leave their child in a private facility and return to work — often experiencing extreme guilt and mental absenteeism, which must affect their productivity," she says.

"Companies who have the insight to meet the

needs of the working mother will regain and retain her skills to their benefit."

Many companies dismiss the idea of corporate child care — "the office creche" — as being too expensive, but according to Mrs De Leiburne, the cost of replacing an experienced employee is a year's salary, whereas subsidised child care for the first four years costs about half of that.

The Round Nursery Creche Consultancy started after Mrs De Leiburne helped with the successful establishment of a corporate creche in a Johannesburg company.

Fifty percent of the company's skilled workforce is women — and the child care facility has operated for three, highly successful years, since its establishment.

A recent company survey reported:

- A return to work after giving birth three to six months earlier than previously, with most mothers having returned after three months maternity leave.

- Every mother that returns "in time" saves the company a substantial recruitment fee which could be as high as R20 000 a head.

- All mothers reported an increase in productivity of between 10 and 20 percent due to peace of mind and no mental absenteeism or guilt feelings.

- The survey also showed a high level of loyalty to the company which is seen to care for its employees; considerable company time was saved because of the on-site creche and money was saved in recruitment and training.

"I think it is reasonable to say that capital pay back can be expected in a year to 18 months, depending on the value of the worker and allowing time for sufficient confidence to develop in the facility to produce optimal results," says Mrs De Leiburne.

For further information contact Mrs De Leiburne at (011) 803-2039.



## RED NOSE DAY

# Dedicated efforts behind the scene

STimes (CM) 8/3/92 (298)

BEHIND the fun and frolic of Red Nose Day runs a well-oiled organisational machine involving thousands of dedicated people — employees of the numerous sponsoring companies

These people give their time and enthusiasm to ensure that no one in the country will be ignorant of what this great charity drive is all about.

They all have one thing in common: they are giving of their best for love, just as much as for money.

And this goes for people from the "top of the heap" — Mr Ian Thompson, special events manager for M-Net Television and Director of Comic Relief — to the cleaners who will be clearing up on Saturday night after the excitement is over and, hopefully, the coffers are full.

The Comic Relief drive is somewhat unique in that all the money raised goes where it is intended — straight to Child Welfare.

For that we have the word of Mr Bernie Thixton of M-Net, who handles the Comic Relief bank account. The vast administration and publicity costs are all carried by the major sponsors, and many of the minor ones as well.

M-Net, who undertook to be official organisers of Red Nose Day, have seconded numerous fulltime staff mem-

bers to exclusively administer and coordinate the Comic Relief project, as part of its "social awareness" campaign.

Work started as early as August last year, and the cost in employees' salaries, air-time and effort are enormous.

But it is all worthwhile, says Ian, because the involvement of the corporate sector is vital for the success of any major charity drive.

As South Africa careers rapidly along the road to eradicating inequalities in all socio-economic areas, charity, more than ever, must begin at home with the involvement of the private sector.

This year more companies than ever have "come to the party", ensuring that there should be no hitches on Red Nose Day.

It is unfair to single out individual corporations for special mention, there are a few examples of great dedication to the cause.

Mobil have been synonymous with Red Nose Day from its inception four years ago and their countrywide service station network is a major sales outlet for noses and "gonks", involving a great deal of administration.

And everyone "nose" by now that the nifty noses themselves come from the Addis factory.

Besides the regular outlets, the 110

Spur steak ranches throughout South Africa have joined in the fun this year offering "nose roses" to customers.

Allied, official bankers for Red Nose Day, have this year also sponsored a schools competition for children.

Technical systems have been improved for the Telethon drive with the input of a toll-free number from Telkom.

Imperial Car Rental are sponsoring all the national eventing — a huge undertaking — and Capital Radio have decided to come in with a "Radiothon" in Natal.

Advertising and publicity are the key to success in a drive of this nature.

For that, expert help has come in the form of the services — offered free — of Young and Rubicam advertising agency.

There people like creative director Hein Botha, art director Francois de Villiers and copywriter Howard Fisher have put their many talents to use to capture the public's attention.

A host of celebrities will appear on M-Net and at venues around the country to further the cause.

The list goes on and on — and all you have to do to add your name to it is to make your pledge, and honour it, on Saturday.

# Child Welfare helps the needy to help themselves

*St Times (cm)* 8/3/92 (298)  
HELPING the needy to help themselves has become an important focus of the National Council for Child and Family Welfare, with the establishment of 360 community development projects countrywide which will benefit enormously from the generosity of the public on Red Nose Day.

The Council has appointed Dr Anna-Marie du Toit — a highly qualified social worker and former Manager of educational radio and television programming at the then South West Africa Broadcasting Corporation — to the post of Manager: Community Development.

"Human potential is the most valuable natural resource in any country," Dr Du Toit was quoted as saying in the Council's newsletter. She has pledged to help the disadvantaged discover and develop their potential, so changing their lives and uplifting their communities.

A typical example of the success of such a project is already there for all to see at the Khutsong community on the West Rand.

Since the Council's community developers moved into Khutsong last year great progress has been made, despite recurrent periods of unrest in the community.

The Wildlife Society of Southern Africa has donated the use of an old

building at Khutsong which has been renovated by the community with funds from the Goldfields Foundation. It now serves as a thriving self-help centre.

So keen are the sewing group that they now call themselves the Jemini Dress Designers and have a thriving business going. Another group have undergone special training in sewing school uniforms and have secured contracts to provide uniforms for two schools in Khutsong.

The nine pre-schools in the Khutsong area have also benefitted from the guidance of the Council's professional consultants, having formed a central committee for bulk buying and training of teaching staff. Teachers attend workshops and are developing food gardens to augment the nutritional intake of the pupils.

Logically if adults are earning, children can be fed and cared for; thus on the basis that "prevention is better than cure" funds channeled into self-help projects by Child Welfare are well-spent.

As Bernie Thixton, organiser of the Red Nose Day Telethon for M-Net said: "What I think is worthwhile about helping Child Welfare is that they help people to help themselves and don't just give handouts — it is like giving someone a fishing rod instead of a fish."



# Now you'll have to pay up, Daddy

w/menl 6/3 - 12/3/92

By FERAL HAJFAJEE

WITH one in two marriages ending in divorce and more and more women choosing to be single mothers, an amendment to the Maintenance Act, which took effect at the beginning of the week, comes at an opportune moment.

The Act is an attempt to plug the many holes in South Africa's maintenance procedure.

The new provisions were also probably the reason the grey maintenance building at the west end of Johannesburg was unusually quiet this week.

Normally it buzzes with women anxiously awaiting news of a delayed maintenance payment. And in the middle of the month about 2 750 women queue from five in the morning to collect their money.

Now payments will be made straight into women's accounts or they can be paid directly. White, coloured and Indian women up to now collected their money from magistrate's courts while black women were paid at the Department of Home Affairs.

The Act allows for the attachment of the assets of defaulters and also says that their details must be sent to credit bureaus making them ineligible for credit.

In addition, it imposes a sentence of six months for multiple offenders.

In terms of the new Act, the onus of proof of payment has been shifted to the liable person. Previously, women had to lodge complaints with the maintenance officer for three consecutive months and produce their cards to prove that they had not been paid.

Another boon in the Act allows women to claim retrospectively for maternity and medical costs.

It also provides that where a person appeals against a maintenance order, he must continue paying until the appeal is granted.

On Thursday, a representative of the Legal Aid Bureau said that of the 30 domestic cases that morning, half were maintenance complaints. "This indicates the severity of the problem," she said.

"The new system will pull people up short and make them realise that maintenance is no longer a joke."

But she cautioned that the new Act created severe problems for unemployed men who just could not pay. Predicting that hundreds of men would go to jail under the stringent new conditions, she questioned whether this Act would not become a new pass law.

Maintenance problems are also structural, she said.

"Many men have so many children that they just cannot support them."

During this year, the Legal Aid Bureau took up the case of a woman who had three children and was receiving R40 a month for each child from her husband. When they investigated, they discovered the man had 21 children from four wives and a few girlfriends.

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BLACK MARKET

# Brand loyalty in Soweto

182 298 1000 FM 6/3/92



The common image of Soweto youth as being a "lost generation" of violent, lawless people without hope may be a long way from the truth. Market researcher Gill Stacey, who spends much of her life trying to construct a more accurate picture of the black market, has done a myth-shattering study which she calls "Insight into Soweto youth."

Its results are summed up by this quote from a 19-year-old Jabulani youngster called Thabo: "Our toyi-toying days are over. We are now looking for a future."

Stacey, who runs her own company, The Alternative Consultancy, specialising in black market research, spent 600 hours conducting in-depth interviews with 200 Soweto youngsters aged 15-25, to obtain a rare picture of the modern generation.

The results, while reflecting the deep-seated problems of crime, drugs, unemployment and social breakdown in black urban areas, also carry an uplifting message of hope. For the youngsters recognise many of the causes of their problems and are not short of sensible suggestions on how to solve them.

"The so-called lost generation has been reduced to a small minority," Stacey says. "Youths are disillusioned with party politicking. Only 5% of those interviewed attend political meetings or canvass political membership. However, 90% would vote ANC."

The picture Stacey paints is a startlingly familiar one of kids who love movies, buy Aramis and Gucci after-shave on their mothers' Edgars' accounts and read *Cosmopolitan*, *Fair Lady* or *Femina* for fashion tips, often scanning them in the CNA.

Only those with the lowest income and education levels are still under the sway of the older African traditions. Most feel these traditions will be swept aside as a totally new

type of African *persona* emerges.

They group themselves into distinctive but peaceable lifestyle cults, which marketers



Stacey ... youths disillusioned with party politicking

will be delighted to hear are defined to a large extent by their brand preferences.

The Pantsulas, for example, are a hip, self-confident group, distinguished by their swaggering walk and clothes — Brentwoods (trousers), tackies for informal wear, Crockett & Jones shoes for dressing up, both worn "tubeless" (without socks).

Stacey, an Englishwoman who holds a BA in industrial studies from Newcastle-upon-

Tyne Polytechnic, carried out a 1988 study of spaza shops for Perry & Associates, a management consultancy. She learnt Sotho and Zulu and uses her good grasp of township slang and urban black cultures to gain the confidence of her subjects ■

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## Drawing in the young

ONE is never too young to be charitable, and one of the major sponsors of Red Nose Day, 1992 — Allied Bank — has decided to bring the kids into the picture.

The bank has put up R64 000 in prize money for youngsters and their schools in a countrywide competition being run on K-TV for four weeks.

To qualify, youngsters simply open an Allied Bank Disc account, which requires no minimum balance, carries no bank charges, pays interest on daily balance and offers instant access to your money. For each account opened during the competition Allied will donate R1 to Comic Relief funds.

Once you have your account you qualify for the competition draws on K-TV of which there are two left — on Wednesday and on Saturday. Four winners will be drawn on each occasion, who will win R2 000 for their personal account, R2 000 for their school and R2 000 for Comic Relief.

In addition Allied Bank has also encouraged schools to raise funds for Child Welfare through Comic Relief. On Saturday the name of the school which has raised the highest amount pro rata to enrolment will be announced on K-TV and be awarded R10 000.

# Non-racial, non-violent non-sense on big day for charity

S/Times (CM) 8/3/92. 298

IF ever South Africa needed an infusion of non-racial, non-violent, non-political and non-negotiable non-sense it is now, so "don't worry, be happy" on Red Nose Day, March 14.

Thousands of people throughout the country — from company directors and celebrities to garage forecourt attendants and shop assistants — are "busting their guts" to make sure that you split your sides on Saturday, and split open your wallets too.

Red Nose Day, or Comic Relief, is a major charity drive being run, mainly by M-Net, "for the sake of our children", for the fourth year running.

This year's target amount of R4,5million is earmarked for distribution among the hundreds of Child Welfare Societies operating in the cities, towns and villages of South Africa.

Red Nose Day 1992 was launched in merry style "on the air" in a special morning television broadcast on February 4. Revelers enjoyed a "Mad Hatters Tea Party", hosted by Alice (comediienne Amanda Forrow), a rather bedraggled white rabbit (funnyman Dennis McLean) and Tweedle-Dee (portly Eddie Eksteen).

The new-look noses were unveiled and as the grand finale guests were introduced to "Rudolph" — the fluffy life-sized red nose who will become a familiar sight at this year's Red Nose Day events.

The first Comic Relief campaign in 1989 was originally mooted by Dr Adele Thomas, director of the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, as a local project. M-Net's help was sought, but being a national cable television station the company decided to mount the fundraiser on a countrywide scale.

Although the need is tragic, the organisers decided that the best way to open the hearts and purses of the public would be light-heartedly. The idea is to get the country's children laughing, so on the principle that "smile and the world smiles with you", the public of South Africa are exhorted to wear red noses again on March 14 this year, and laugh along with the comedians and funny events to be featured on M-Net's all-day Telethon.

Saturday March 14 is Red Nose Day, and South Africa will be asked to open its hearts and pockets for the sake of its children. But what is the story behind this huge event, and what will be happening on Saturday in the Western Cape? LUCILLE PARKER reports.

For those who still don't know, after four years, Comic Relief works like this:

Red noses for faces, "gonks" for cars, "knockers" for doors and walls, T-shirts, shorts and caps are all on sale at sponsor outlets. Buy them, wear them and laugh at them — ALL the proceeds go to Child Welfare.

Most importantly, M-Net will run an all-day Telethon on Red Nose Day, when viewers can call up and pledge donations at six regional bases around the country. After the event the pledges will be collected for Child Welfare.

This year there will also be a "Faxathon" aimed at corporate donations, and of course individual organisations and the major sponsors have organised dozens of fun events — such as a "Nerd" Competition and a baby triathlon — to raise money and laughs on the big day.

The Sunday Times has compiled this special feature to ensure that readers get the most out of Red Nose Day (and give the most, too!).

So, to repeat one of the phrases coined by Comic Relief publicists: Join in the fun and make sure you sport a red nose and not a red face on March 14.



# next? of children

By SIZAKELE  
KOOMA

So we can 9/13/92 (298)

**THANDI Gule** has no children of her own but she teaches, feeds and makes hundreds of needy township toddlers happy.

Her greatest love in life is listening to the pitter-patter of little feet and excited shrills from her charges at creches and childminding centres in Tsakane where she is a little Mother Shoe.

And this hard-working woman divides her time between being PRO of the Tsakane Early Childhood Association and Sunday school teacher of the local Methodist Church.

Likeable Gule is kept on her toes the whole week looking after children at 21 creches and childminding centres in the vast East Rand township.

"The fact that I do not have children could be a reason that I dedicate my entire life to the little ones. I value them a lot," Gule said.

## Big success

Her involvement with children started four years ago when a community worker asked her to start a childminding centre at her home.

She did and it was a big success with hundreds of children, learning and running around her small yard. After two years in the business, creche owners in the area asked her to be supervisor for all the creches in the township because she had a way with children.

She agreed and was elevated to the post of public relations officer full time. But she had to close her creche as she did not have the time to run it and oversee the others.

"It is our duty to provide children with all the things that will make life enjoyable and pleasant for them as they grow up. But some minds believe that only nutritious food is the one thing should be concerned about. It is wrong.

## Stimulate their minds

"Diet is important but we also have to offer children the education that will stimulate their minds and help them develop," she added.

Gule has studied childminding to improve her lot. She has also done a course in gardening and hopes the staff at the various creches will plant vegetables and fruits.

"It would be a perfect way to save money. At the moment we buy cheap vegetables from the market and the fresh veggies would supplement whatever we purchase," she said.

This energetic single woman is also on the management board of the Tsakane Old Age Home where she helps raise funds.

'I dedicate my  
life to the  
little ones ...'



THANDI GULE



# Eight children perish in Pretoria church blaze

STAR 12/3/92

(298)

Pretoria Correspondent

Eight street children burnt to death and 14 were injured — five seriously — as a fire ripped through a Sunnyside church early today, destroying the building.

One child suffered serious head wounds and others broke limbs as they tried to escape the blaze, some leaping 8 m from the window of the second-floor room they were sleeping in.

The cause of the fire was still being investigated today by police and senior fire brigade personnel who combed the scene for clues.

An eyewitness described the scene as "heartbreaking", saying some of the children dragged out of the building looked no older than seven or eight.

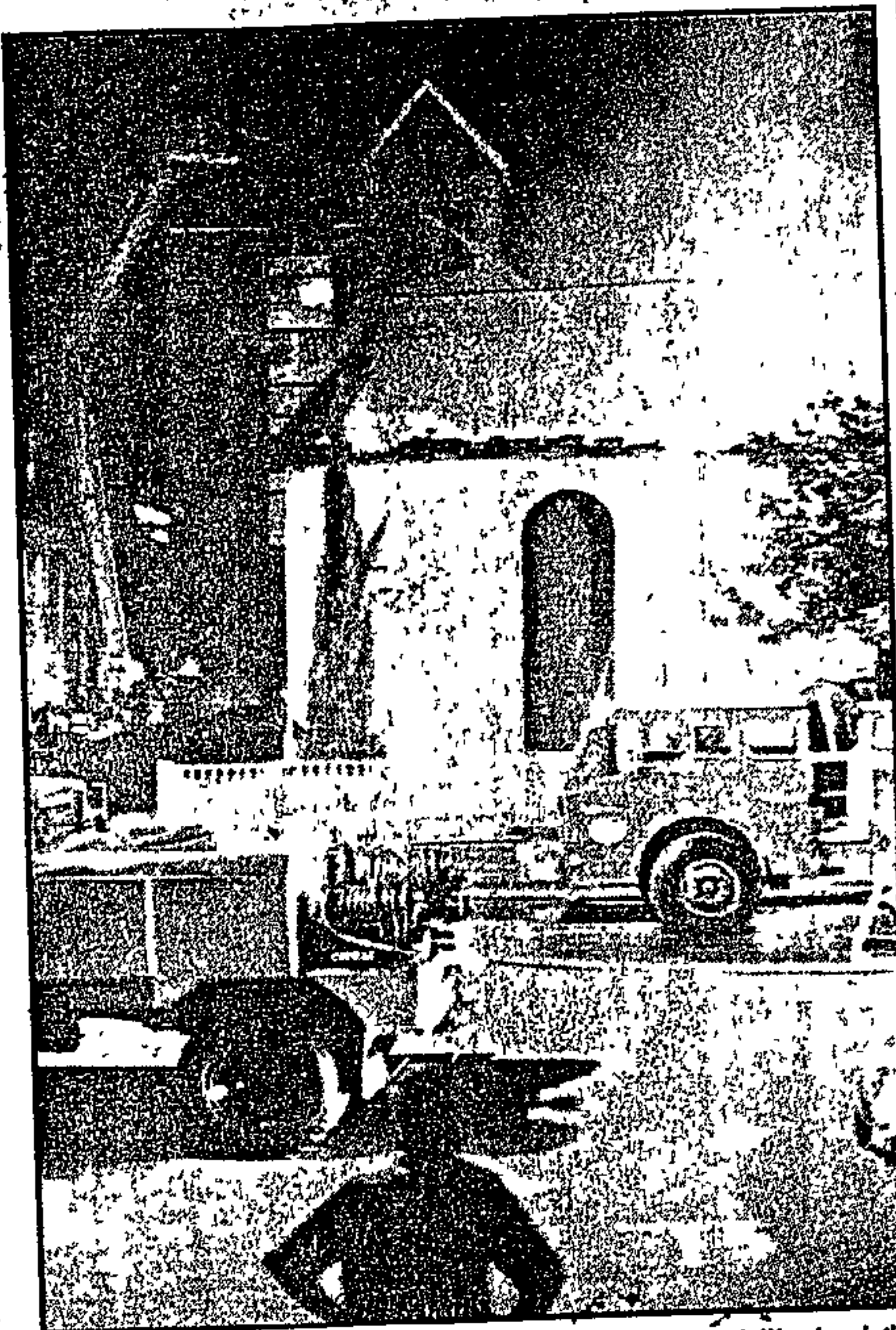
Police and emergency personnel cordoned off Beatrix Street between Esselen Street and the Sunnyside Post Office in the early hours of the morning as crowds of onlookers gathered to watch the blaze.

At one stage, the flames leapt metres into the air.

The children were sleeping in the former Elim Full Gospel Church in Beatrix Street opposite Sunnypark shopping centre when the fire broke out shortly after 1 am.

A police spokesman said the children were unable to use the fire escape because the door leading to it was blocked by a double bunk bed.

The children were all from the Youth Initiative Project run by Pretoria University students in conjunction with Streetwise, said one of the project leaders



Hellfire . . . the cause of the fire which killed eight children in a church is not known. Picture: Jon Hrusa

who was on the scene.

Altogether 22 children and their project leader, Jeremy Kruger, were believed to have slept in the building.

Mr Kruger managed to escape the fire together with a number of the children, and accompanied them to the H F Verwoerd Hospital.

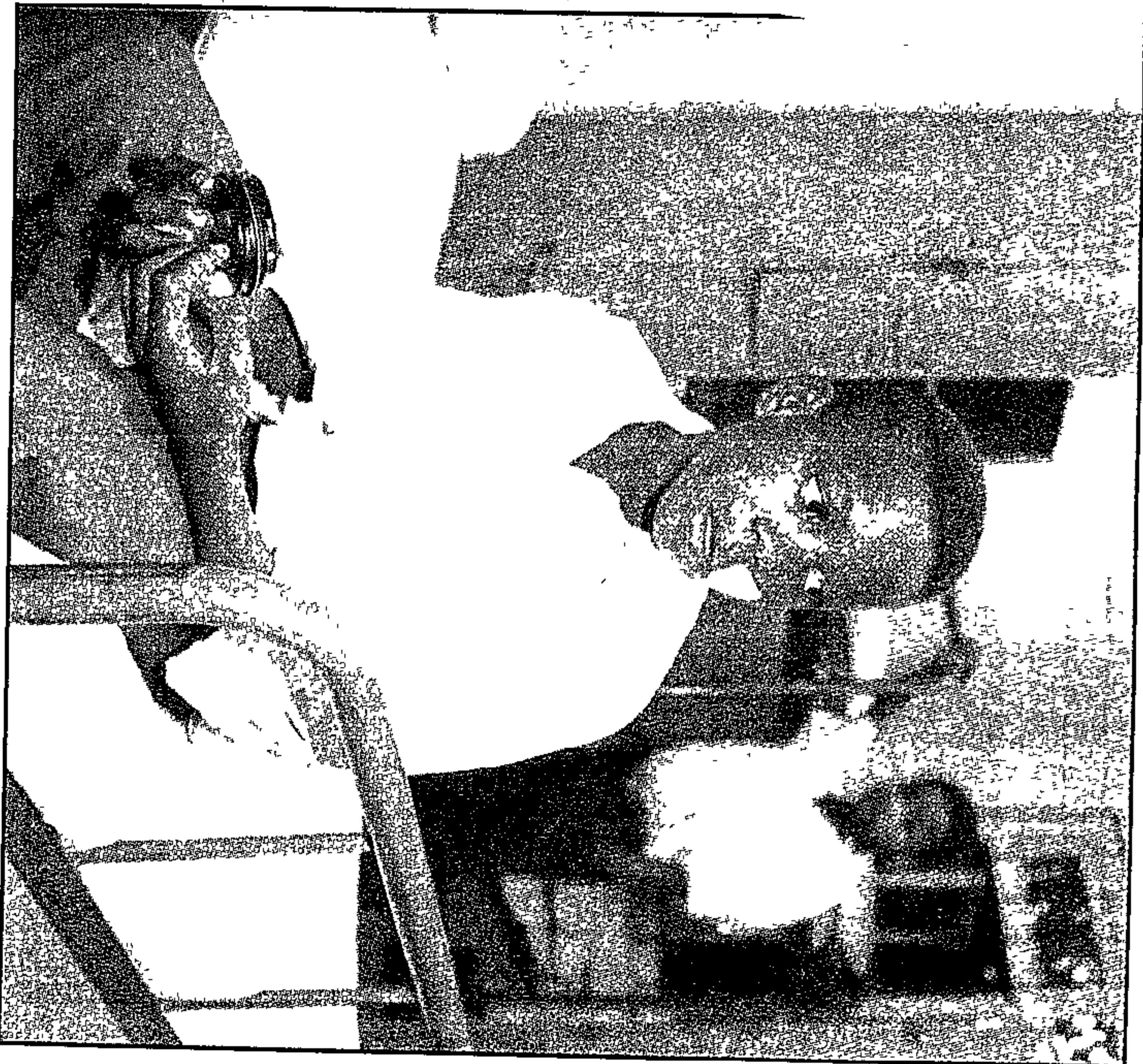
Firemen battled to douse the blaze from 1.30 am to 3 am before being able to

search the smouldering rubble for the bodies of the remaining children.

Police forensic experts and fire brigade personnel looking for evidence that would give them some clue as to the origin of the blaze cordoned off the vicinity.

They would not comment on the possibility that the fire had been started deliberately.





Forlorn . . . township violence victim Themba Nhlapho.

Picture: Joao Silva

## Sanctuary followed flight from violence

By Brian Sokutu (298)

Themba Nhlapho did not leave home to roam the city streets for the love of it, before being rescued by Hillbrow's Twilight Children organisation.

The 12-year-old Tokoza schoolboy was forced to flee.

At the organisation's annual open evening this week, Themba fought back tears as he recalled being torn from his parents at the height of violence in the East Rand township last year.

"At about 8 pm on that evening of the attack, armed men came for my family.

"They broke windows. And through the back door, I safely escaped with my mother, but we ran in different directions."

He never saw her again.

Devastated and without a cent in his pocket, the boy managed to board a train to Jeppe Station.

"After explaining my position to the inspector, he let me stay," said Themba.

After leaving the train, he wandered at a loss through the streets of Johannesburg.

"I later found myself in the streets of Hillbrow, with

nowhere to go until a kind person took me to Twilight, where volunteers washed me, took details and gave me food to eat."

With the help of Twilight Children management committee chairman Peter Fitzgerald, he enrolled as a Sld 2 pupil at Mpanza Primary School in Diepkloof, Soweto.

"But I will never be happy until I trace my parents. I once went to my home in Tokoza but found nobody. Neighbours could not say where my parents were, and I came back to Twilight."

But today, at least, he says, "I'm in safe hands".

Themba is just one of 90 street children, aged between 10 and 16, accommodated and cared for by volunteers of Twilight Children.

About 300 homeless, mainly black children roamed the streets of Hillbrow and surrounding areas, said Mr Fitzgerald.

He attributed the increase in black street children, to "the rapid changing demographic profile of the area, from being a predominantly white area to a predominantly black area" and called for more financial support

# Youth must 'join forces'

By IKE MOTSAPI

THE youth should consult and work with one other towards the establishment of a new democratic South Africa, listeners of the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show heard last night.

Leaders of the ANC Youth League and the Azanian Youth Organisation agreed that there was a need for the youth to consult with their leaders before embarking on "certain programmes of action."

Mr Peter Mokaba, president of the ANCYL, called for the formation of a youth front which would be structured along the lines of the Patriotic Front launched in Durban last year.



## TALKBACK

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He said the front would strive to work towards the political and economic empowerment of the oppressed "black people of South Africa."

Mokaba said the front would also "act like a Youth Parliament", where important decisions regarding contributions the

youth could make for the establishment of a non-racial and non-sexist democratic government could be taken.

Azayo's president Mr Thami Mcerwa said while his organisation agreed to the concept of a youth front, it had reservations about its success.

Mcerwa said the front could be successful if it could "be revolutionary in a disciplined way".

He said: "The front will be a success only if it delivered the goods."

"It should be a fighting front because the ultimate goal is total liberation."

"Any quick-fix solutions will present problems in future."





NEW EXPERIENCE... These toddlers are learning English at kindergarten. ■ Pici SIPHIWE MHLAMBI

## Pre-school breaks new ground

By STAN MHLONGO

AMID the squalor of Evaton township in the Vaal, lies an example of hope for a better, new South Africa.

Shirley's Day Care Centre – the first kindergarten in the Vaal townships that uses English as a medium of instruction – is breaking new ground.

The kindergarten has been specifically created to meet the demanding needs of the model B schooling system.

For Tex and Shirley Tsotetsi, a husband and wife team of qualified teachers from Small Farms in Evaton, the challenge for a "new"

education system dates as far back as 1990.

"It became clear to me that there was a communication breakdown experienced by black children who were entering Model B schools in large numbers," she said.

The couple then decided to help prepare township children for admission into English-medium schools.

However, opening the kindergarten on January 6 this year was a rough ride. First the couple had saved for almost three years to see their plan get off the ground.

The couple hired two qualified

teachers, whom they concede they are paying "far below their worth". They are also forking out "considerable" amounts from their own pockets for teaching materials.

"For toys we bought word puzzles – the intention being to teach children while they are playing," said the one teacher, Sophie Thinteng.

To ensure high quality, kindergartens in white suburbs were scrutinised closely, added her colleague, Meadow Ramagaga.

Admission costs R80 (R50 for tuition and R30 for food), but the school is also looking for sponsors.

War.

# KwaMadala sex slaves

By SOPHIE TEMA

THE notorious KwaMadala Hostel in the Vaal has been implicated in yet another major scandal in which young girls have been held captive and abused as sex slaves by hordes of lusty inmates.

So far, one of the girls has been identified as an HIV carrier while three others are pregnant.

Arrangements are to be made by a local church group to have all the victims - who managed to escape from KwaMadala - HIV tested.

The girls' ages range from 12 to 18.

Vaal residents have made shocking claims that women are often abducted in broad daylight from the taxi rank in Vereeniging,

and taken to the hostel.

In one affidavit a 16-year-old girl has told how she was gang-raped by at least 16 inmates on one night.

"The experience was awful and I passed out after the 16th man," the girl said in tears.

In signed affidavits compiled by a team of lawyers a 12-year-old girl also told of her ordeal at the hands of the men.

"I cried and pleaded for mercy but the men were brutal and showed no pity at all," she said.

Most of them said they were abducted in neighbouring townships and taken to KwaMadala Hostel.

Some of the girls said that after being abducted they were taken to

a house in Sebokeng's Zone Six, where they were first "doctored" to subdue them.

They said they were kept at the house for not less than three days before being transferred to KwaMadala.

City Press has obtained the names of some of the men who played a major role in the abduction and abuse of the girls.

One of the girls revealed how the gang took them on sprees in which shebeen queens and other people were robbed. They managed to escape one night while the gang was out on such a mission.

The victims have not reported the incidents to the police, whom they accused of "collaborating" with their assailants.



# sanity of Soweto's sub-cultures

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shoes with no socks, "jeans" — preferably Brentwoods — worn low on the hips and shirts and jerseys from Pierre Cardin, Christian Dior and Pringle.

They also wear Samsons overalls, often with one shoulder strap loose.

The interesting point for marketers, says Gill Stacey of The Alternative Consultancy, is that the Pantsulas and the members of the other sub-cultures know exactly where to buy their high-fashion goods.

"The Pantsulas go to Sandton City for the labels and to an outfitters in Jeppe Street for the pants.

"To me they're the most interesting because they have their own language and way of walking, and the music they listen to is mostly South African — disco singers such as Brenda Fassie and Yvonne Chaka Chaka."

The Pantsula language, helped out by exaggerated gesticulations, is based on "tsotsi taal", includes Zulu, Sotho, English and Afrikaans words and is continually evolving.

Members of the Hippy group, also known as Ivy or Cat or Iso, speak English, listen to Whitney Houston and other elegant soul singers, wear leather jackets and permed hair and are regarded as the gentlemen of the Soweto youth — "the Pantsulas' elder brothers".

The Rappers model themselves on the United States rap craze; and the Punks favour very short hair and colourful shirts worn loose over jeans.

Members of these and other groups like looking through fashion magazines such as Cosmopolitan.

They are, says Ms Stacey, very aware of advertising, especially TV commercials. "They all sing the jingles"

Their most popular commercial at the mo-

ment is Coke's "Rap".

What turns them on in a commercial is its entertainment value and its music. "It came up again and again — what they like are ads that tell a story."

Surprisingly, perhaps, because he is white, Radio 702 talk show host John Robbie is rated particularly highly by all the sub-cultures.

Among other topics dealt with in Ms Stacey's study were the youths' attitudes to crime, Aids, education, religion, the future and race relations.

The predominant attitude to whites was that the youths wanted to make friends with them, however, negative views were also expressed, especially by black pupils at white government schools.

Petty crime emerged as a fairly common way of earning money — the youths estimate between 50 and 80 percent are involved occasionally in, for instance, shoplifting.

But crime is not a popular option, being turned to only when other possibilities of raising money have been exhausted.

Politics is also not popular. The general feeling among Soweto youths is that there are too many politicians, all of whom talk too much, and that a black government in South Africa would solve nothing.

In general, says Ms Stacey — whose report on spaza shops was the first on this phenomenon — the study has left her hopeful for the future.

"The youths in Soweto are not at all like the image many white people have of toyi-toying mobs. They're far more thoughtful than white youngsters and very realistic about what can be done about various problems."

The study will be launched at the Ibis auditorium, Crown Mines, at 5 pm on Wednesday.



CRUISIN': Pantsulas.



ULTRA SMOOTH: A Pantsula.



COOL DUDES: "Rappers".



FAR OUT, MAN: A "Hippy".



# Fashion, music and

STAR 15/2/92

A BREAKTHROUGH study has been completed on how youths in Soweto behave and think.

It will be unveiled on Wednesday by The Alternative Consultancy.

The findings, gleaned from 200 in-depth, small-group interviews with male and female youths

aged between 15 and 25, are likely to surprise many marketers.

Among them is that most youths in Soweto and other major metropolitan areas in the PWV belong to one or another of several clearly defined sub-cultures.

Some of the sub-cul-

**MALCOLM FOTHERGILL**

tures are modelled on American lines, but others are home-grown. All co-exist happily and all lean heavily on high-priced fashion.

The Pantsulas, for instance, wear All-Star sneakers or top-of-the-range



# Courts give foster parents certain legal rights over the children in their care

When neglect or child abuse is proved against parents, a court may order an ill-treated child under 18 to be removed from the custody of the parents and placed in a foster home for two years, or until the child turns 18. If the two-year period is extended by two years the court has the power to put the child up for adoption. Foster parents are people

who care for a child who is not their natural child. The effect of a foster care order is to take away the child's natural parents' right of control and custody of the child. These rights are handed to the foster parents or person in charge of a foster home. The natural parents keep their common law rights to visit their child at all reasonable times unless the court

says they may not do so. Foster parents are given the right to exercise moderate discipline over and punish the child. They may not:

- (a) Deal with the child's property.
- (b) Consent to the child's marriage.
- (c) Consent to an operation or treatment where there is a serious danger to the life of the child — unless there is no

What are the rights of foster parents? Professor David McQuoid-Mason, dean of law at the University of Natal, looks at this question in his "Street Law" series (published by Juta, R15). (298)

time for anyone else to consent. ● (d) Consent to the child entering into an employment contract. Welfare organisations place children in foster homes because their natural parents are unable or unwilling to look after them. Children in foster care are usually those who

- (a) Have been rejected by their parents.
  - (b) Do not lead a satisfactory emotional life in their natural parents' home, and
  - (c) Have no close relatives prepared to look after them.
- When selecting foster parents, welfare organisations usually take into account:
- Age of parents (they prefer people between 25 and 50)
  - The ability of the foster

parents to pay for an additional member of the family. ● The education or qualifications of the foster parents. ● The number of children already being looked after by the foster parents, and

- (f) The reason why they want to foster a child.

Welfare organisations try to find foster homes similar to those of the natural parents of the child.

After the child moves into its foster parents' home the family is often visited by social workers from the welfare organisation that placed the child. Foster parents who need assistance may receive a monthly maintenance allowance for each foster child. Natural parents who have voluntarily placed their child with foster parents and were not ordered to do so by a court may remove the child at any time.

# More should be spent on children

Rina Venter  
8/Day 25/2/92  
Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — The amount of welfare money spent on children's and family organisations was hopelessly low and could be one of the factors contributing to the high crime rate, Health Minister Rina Venter said yesterday.

The welfare budget, excluding all the homelands, for the 1990/91 financial year was R3,474bn, she said at a Women's Federation seminar in Pretoria.

However, 82,3% was spent on social allowances and 12,3%, or R427,6m, was paid to national councils or welfare organisations in the private sector for professional services.

Venter said 49,39% of this R427,5m went to old age organisations, 26,61% to children's and family organisations and 10,77% to the handicapped.

These figures show hopelessly too little is spent on children's and family services.

The question can indeed be asked whether this is not one of the factors which must be put right if we want address the high crime rate."

Venter added she was worried welfare organisations might be burdening their communities with unaffordable projects.

The test lay in whether a welfare organisation raised at least 30% of costs.

Sapa reports the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association said yesterday there were no "piecemeal" solutions to health care problems in SA and this should be recognised by Minister Venter.

Venter has invited the medical fraternity to a meeting on Friday this week to discuss cutting medical costs.

Executive director of the Association Johan Toerin said health care was in crisis and it was vital that a strategy should be developed.

"What we need is a health 'Codesa' and not a forum such as that which Dr Venter is planning to hold in Pretoria on Friday," Toerin said.

The ANC said it would not attend the forum.

"The PMA will be present because we want to put across our point of view," Toerin said.



## Woman of the Week

# Growing up in safe hands

*Soweto 24/2/92*

CRECHES sprouting in township backyard rooms are seen by some people as a money-making venture.

But people who actually run these kindergartens like Mrs Lily Mphuthi tell a different story.

It is five years since she and a group of women started a childminding project called Buhlebuzile in Molapo, Soweto, and she says she has hardly made a cent from it.

Buhlebuzile, now run from one of Mphuthi's backyard rooms, was started with the aim of helping children whose parents could not afford formal crèches.

The idea was conceived by the local branch of the Federation of African Women, of which she is a member.

Initially parents contributed R10 which went towards children's meals. When the garage got too small the 30 toddlers were moved to Jabavu Community Centre.

"The federation ran out of funds and we could not find a sponsor. There was no money to pay the six

teachers, including myself. All we could afford was transport and meals for the 70 children.

"I wanted to close shop but I couldn't convince myself that it was the right thing to do. We had promised parents that we would look after their young ones. We could not leave the children in the lurch. We had to go on," she said.

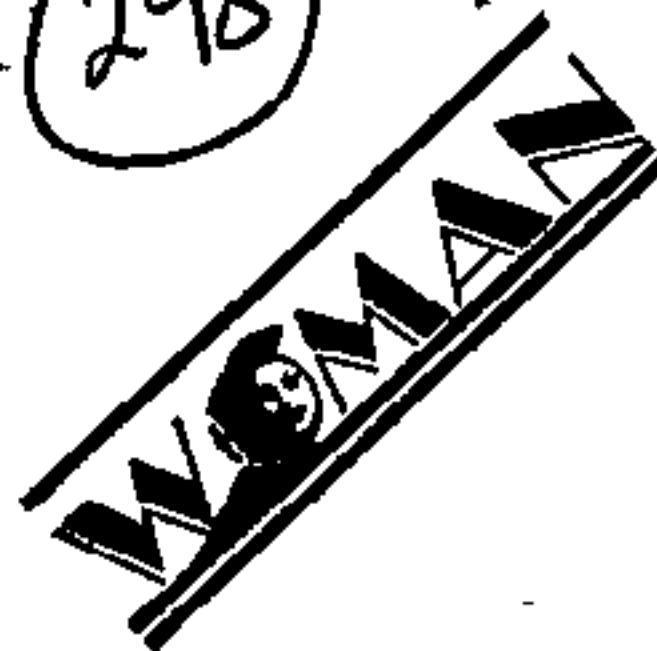
They moved back to their original premises.

She prides herself on having started the project - relatives donated the pots and she bought the rest.

"But I need a lot of help to make this project a success. We need a bigger community-based organisation to adopt us," she said.

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

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Staff Reporter

FIVE children — including two eight-year-olds — were held in custody at the Grabbouw police station for two nights despite their parents being willing to take responsibility for them, a community worker claimed last night.

Mrs Elspeth Bentley, community worker and the wife of the manager of Mara farm, said she had assisted the parents of the five children who apparently had been involved in house-breaking on Eikenhof farm.

She said the chil-

## 'Children needlessly jailed' (298) — claim

dren had been taken into custody on Saturday and were kept in a room at the jail.

The mothers were willing to accept responsibility for the children and to take them to court today.

She said the mothers had been allowed

to see the children twice yesterday.

Police spokesman Captain Attie Laubscher said last night five children were being held, but no eight-year-olds.

Two children were remanded for house-breaking, while three 14-year-olds were in custody for other crimes, he said.

He said the two had allegedly broken into the house at Eikenhof on Friday but no charges were laid. When the house was ransacked again on Saturday they were arrested, he said.



(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? B227E

**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:**

(1) (a) No.

(b) Yes, a guarantee in respect of overdraft facilities to the Government of Venda

(c) No.

(2) (a) R200 Million

(b) R200 Million

(3) No

(a), (b) and (c) fall away

**Guarantees/sureties: Bophuthatswana**

83. 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 1990-91 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? B228E

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**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:**

(1) No

(2) and (3) fall away.

**Swanenville: attack on hostel dwellers**

85. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Law and Order:

(1) Whether he or the South African Police have been informed of the allegations that the Police aided hostel dwellers in an attack in 1991 on squatters in Swanenville; if not, why not, if so,

(2) whether an investigation is being conducted into these allegations, if not, why not, if so, what progress has been made,

(3) whether any persons have been (a) arrested and (b) charged in connection with this incident; if not, why not, if so, how many in each case;

(4) whether, on the day of the above attack, a large number of hostel dwellers moved through Swanenville without being stopped; if so, why were they not stopped? B230E

**The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:**

(1) Yes.

(2) Yes, a full investigation was instituted. There is no evidence that the South African Police was involved in the attack.

(3) (a) 12 persons.

(b) 12 persons were arrested on 28 counts of murder and on 1 count of public violence.

(4) Approximately 200, Zulus with traditional weapons, were stopped approximately 800 meters from Swanenville on their way to Kagiso. At this stage there was already a group of approximately 1 000 Zulus in Swanenville.

At the same time, a few thousand blacks gathered at Kagiso with the intention to attack the Zulus. Numerous structures in Swanenville were on fire at this stage. In an attempt to keep the groups apart, the Police escorted the Zulus past Kagiso to their hostels.

**Summer daylight saving**

86. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Manpower

(a) With reference to the reply to Question No 9 on 30 April 1991, what progress has been made in regard to the investigation into the possibility of the introduction of a programme of summer daylight saving and (b) when is it expected that a report on this matter will be made available? B231E

**The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:**

(a) and (b) This matter is being investigated by the President's Council and the Department of Manpower can therefore not answer this question

**Period of time between arrest and sentencing**

87. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(a) What, in respect of persons awaiting trial in prisons, was the average period of time that elapsed between arrest and sentencing calculated as at the last day of each month in 1991 and (b) what was the (i) age and (ii) gender distribution of persons awaiting trial in that year? B232E

**The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:**

(a) The precise information cannot be provided to the hon member as it is, *inter alia*, not centrally available and there are various practical problems with the recording of such statistics.

Statistic out of an exercise which was done on 2 January 1991 of all awaiting trial prisoners who were detained in South African prisons on that day, are as follows:

25,7% — 1 day until 14 days  
30,5% — 14 days until 1 month  
33% — 1 month until 3 months  
8,3% — 3 months until 6 months  
2,5% — Longer than 6 months

A further spot check at the Johannesburg, Pretoria, Pollsmoor, Witbank, Durban and Port Elizabeth Prisons on 13 February 1992 where a total of 10 999 awaiting trial prisoners were in detention on that

day, delivered the following statistical data:

26,33% — 1 day until 14 days  
22,48% — 14 days until 1 month  
32,74% — 1 month until 3 months  
2,16% — 3 months until 6 months  
16,29% — Longer than 6 months

(b) (i) and (ii)

As on 31 December 1991.

AGE	MALE	FEMALE
Younger than 20		
Years .....	4 559	137
20 Years and younger than 25		
Years .....	6 573	233
25 Years and older .....	11 294	524
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>22 426</b>	<b>894</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL: 23 320</b>		

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 before his conviction, not be detained in a prison unless his detention is necessary 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 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 is 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, provided that he may be permitted to associate with such a person in custody who has been charged jointly with him, if 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

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



South African Police with a view to keep awaiting-trial juveniles out of prison.

#### Civil claims against SAP

89 Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Law and Order.



- (1) How many civil claims were instituted against the South African Police in 1988, 1989, 1990 and 1991, respectively;
- (2) in respect of each such year, (a) (i) how many such claims were settled out of court and (ii) at what cost to the State and (b) what total amount in damages was awarded against the Police by the courts?

B234E

#### The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	1988	1989	1990	1991
(1)	3 903	3 768	5 456	4 791
(2) (a) (i)	360	277	229	231
(ii)	R699 594,86	R686 135,78	R611 132,48	R107 304,69
(b)	R209 995,74	R182 422,28	R845 317,67	R847 209,91

#### Labour disputes/work stoppages/strikes: SAP called

93. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Law and Order.

In how many instances were the South African Police called to the scene of (a) labour disputes, (b) work stoppages and (c) strikes in 1991?

#### The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (a) 287  
(b) 113  
(c) 523

#### Pinetown police district: crime statistics

95. Mr R M BURROWS 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) damage to property, (i) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and (j) possession of drugs were reported at each specified police station in the Pinetown Police district of the Natal Region in 1991?

B241E

#### The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Bellair . . . . .	1	12	27	150	5	21	59	27	83	322
Hillcrest . . . . .	47	20	34	178	43	148	158	66	150	828
Kwa-Dabeka . . . . .	65	15	187	137	74	117	92	—	117	285
Malvern . . . . .	17	15	73	267	15	77	151	22	140	629
Mayville . . . . .	13	12	23	200	25	72	288	17	152	542
Pinetown-West . . . . .	64	23	251	236	85	366	151	5	290	636
Westville . . . . .	8	11	27	106	10	74	84	54	102	635

Note

- (g) — vehicles  
(gu) — bicycles

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#### Durban South police district: crime statistics

96 Mr R M BURROWS 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) damage to property, (i) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and (j) possession of drugs were reported at each specified police station in the Durban South Police district of the Natal Region in 1991?

B242E

#### The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(gu)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Amazantoli . . . . .	51	57	57	220	33	194	360	76	163	656	163
Brighton Beach . . . . .	36	14	73	302	25	166	251	49	161	602	147
Louis Botha Airport . . . . .	—	—	—	6	—	—	29	—	12	2	—
Montclair . . . . .	55	32	98	256	51	323	167	16	148	365	211
Wentworth . . . . .	19	11	207	689	24	128	103	11	370	234	240
Lamontville . . . . .	41	16	73	185	58	182	12	7	79	128	—

Note:

- (g) — vehicles  
(gu) — bicycles

#### Pretoria police district: crime statistics

97. Mr P G SOAL 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) damage to property, (i) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and (j) possession of drugs were reported at each specified police station in the Pretoria Police district in 1991?

B246E

#### The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER.

	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(gu)	(h)	(i)	(j)
Atteridgeville . . . . .	29	7	638	991	200	400	115	2	498	337	215
Brooklyn . . . . .	4	27	98	341	32	112	961	753	289	2 800	194
Erasmia . . . . .	11	5	64	106	16	46	36	16	70	290	37
Verwoerdburg . . . . .	7	31	72	164	20	83	396	170	164	1 099	55
Pia Central . . . . .	21	37	243	910	53	537	983	67	426	932	579
Pia West . . . . .	18	8	99	517	58	121	297	96	314	659	233
Sunnyside . . . . .	8	13	33	501	17	55	1 042	134	629	1 140	170
Wierdabrug . . . . .	11	14	105	247	38	101	243	173	207	1 286	81
Laudium . . . . .	6	2	75	201	23	42	101	—	128	248	132

Note.

- (g) — vehicles  
(gu) — bicycles

#### Crime statistics: Cape Town police district

103 Mr C W EGLIN 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) damage to property, (i) housebreaking with intent to steal and theft and (j) possession of drugs were reported at each specified police station in the Cape Town police district in 1991?

B263E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



# Emergency is gone, but children are still suffering

South 27/2-4/3/92  
By Justin Pearce

**T**WO YEARS after the state of emergency was lifted, children still suffer arbitrary arrests, detention without trial and physical abuse in police custody.

The victims remain victims because they are children. Too young to speak up for themselves, they find their most fundamental rights ignored by state and family structures.

A conference to be held in May will be the first concerted attempt to look at children's rights in South Africa, and will make representations to Codesa for the inclusion of children's rights in a new constitution.

It is being organised by the Department of Community Law at UWC, the National Committee on Children's Rights (NCCR) and the Molo Songololo project which works with street children.

A series of workshops on violence against children, child labour, juvenile justice and disabled children will lead up to the conference.

Most vulnerable to the excesses of state violence are those children who have lost the support of adult guardians — the street children.

Sibusiso (not his real name) is 16, but looks 13. He sleeps on the Parade.

"The police catch me and my friend in the playground. They say we break into houses and cars. They take us to the police station and they beat us with a stick."

"The next day they take us to the station again and klap us, and say you've got dagga. They say we must clean the police station and then they kick us out. They say 'If I see you here I hit you every day'."

Freddie, 15, says he has been taken in by the police three or four times in the two months he has been living on the streets.

"The police hit a person with a sjambok or the buckle of a belt and they swear at you."

Freddie lived with his aunt in Mitchells Plain before running away.

"My Ma lives in Hanover Park. She drinks, and shouts at me when she is drunk. I don't know where my father lives. I haven't seen him for a long time."



**IN THE COLD:** Street children huddle together for warmth on a Cape Town pavement

Pic Yunus Mohamed

Joseph, 18, says police chased him with sjamboks from where he was sleeping under a bridge in Rondebosch, and dumped him in Atlantis.

He has been sleeping under the bridge "for many years".

In a world where politics is run by adults, children's rights have traditionally received no acknowledgement. The life stories of the street children — the most abused group — tell of deprivation, racial discrimination, and the turbulent home lives that are the consequence of the migrant labour system.

The brutality now reported by children was just a few years ago encouraged by the powers accorded to the police by the emergency regulations.

"Even after the state of emergency laws have gone, we are still seeing the same patterns of arrest," says Mr Gasan Omar, researcher into children's rights at UWC's Department of Community Law.

The legislation governing child welfare is the Child Care Act No 74 of 1983, which emphasises proper parenting.

Ms Brigitte Mabandla, senior research fellow at the UWC Department of Community Law, pointed out that while the wording of the law sounds progressive, it is an anomaly in that it operates within an inherently discriminatory system.

"The provision which requires parents and/or custodians of the child to provide food and care for the child, puts an unfair burden on African families who live in abject poverty to provide what they in fact do not have," Mabandla said.

The NCCR was formed following a conference in Botswana in 1990 on the plight of children under apartheid, and after consultation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the ANC and other South African non-governmental organisations.

The conference recognised that children in South Africa could not lead a normal life until the effects of apartheid had been eradicated, and stressed that a future constitution must make provision for the special needs of children.

It is with these commitments in

mind that the NCCR and other organisers are approaching the conference.

"A bill of children's rights is not enough," says research fellow Ms Michelle Morris. "Positive legislation is needed."

At the first of the workshops leading up to the conference, participants pooled their experiences and insights to identify the commonplace assumptions that result in discrimination against particular groups of children, and against children generally.

Children in rural areas and in informal settlements, and "invisible" children who were never registered at birth were identified as being particularly vulnerable to deprivation since they were out of reach of social services such as education and welfare.

One question that emerged posed a challenge to the way in which debates around children's rights have been conducted up to now. Why were the people whose lives would be affected by the decisions not represented in the discussion?



# 'Chasers of the dragon' are

South 27/2-4/3/92

(298)

THERE is a term used in Europe that sums up the elusive, mythical and hazardous dimensions of a very fatal attraction — smoking heroin.

It is "chasing the dragon" and can apply equally to South Africa's favourite version of "white death" — mandrax.

Picture this:

**The scene:** a backyard, dark streetcorner or vacant lot.

**The actors:** young, mostly male, momentarily bonded.

**The plot:** instant nirvana or what passes for heaven on the streets.

The action begins. Small greyish-white tablets or "buttons" are removed from a twist of foil, crushed into a powder and mixed with cleaned dagga.

The concoction is then stuffed into a bottleneck pipe which slowly passes from hand to hand, mouth

to mouth. One man is the "pilot". He gets the last drag.

The smoke tastes acrid at first, but the warmth promises better things to come. Forget about the spit hanging in the corner of the mouth or the dazed facade. From the initial "hit" where the hot, sweet smoke curls right down to the pit of the stomach, the pipe takes users on a "pluck", beyond themselves — somewhere else where things feel good and nothing is quite what it seems.

There's a ritual that goes with smoking. Some don't like smoking with strangers; others are concerned only with the pipe. Regular users spend hours discussing the virtues of various brands of dagga and mandrax, who sells "majat", which "smokkie" offers the best price.

There's a feeling of heavy empti-

ness to the conversation. Perhaps it's this vacuum of pointless city afternoons that the drugs fill.

The white pipe is a temptress and as with the best seductions, the allure lingers on, drawing the user back for just one more hit. It's a desperate love affair. Dagga is easier to control; buttons tend to rule the user.

The streets speak eloquently to experts generalisations of addicts.

## Stealing to score

TAKE LEON. Slightly built, charming, devious and a self-confessed "button-kop" at 15. His habit forces him to score at least once a day. From this point on, there's an inevitable series of events.

Mandrax doesn't come cheap. If you're lucky you pay R15 a tablet

# haunted by the sharp sting in the tail

South 27/2-4/3/92

(298)

— not the kind of money a working-class Woodstock boy has. So Leon, like many of his friends, turns to petty theft.

His mother, a somewhat hysterical pattern-maker, objects to having her purse continually emptied and threatens to evict Leon from her house. Next step is stealing tapes from cars. A botched burglary follows.

Clearly Leon has moved beyond parental control. So the court sends him to a place of care.

Up against hardcore delinquents and harsh discipline, Leon can't cope. He runs away and within hours returns to the streets, the crime and the pipes.

Leon says he wants to change but he can't quite get there.

"I want to go to a proper school and give up smoking. But I need buttons," he says.

*'I can't stop and no-one can help me stop.*

*Some friends have been to rehabilitation.*

*They all come back to smoking in the end.'*

There's no room for theorising or analysis at bottleneck level.

"Why do I do it? It makes me feel cool," Leon shrugs.

## Whoring for the habit

Girls have more options.

Lena has been smoking "whites" since she was 14. Initially from Mitchells Plain, she now lives in the city. At night she walks a beat along Woodstock Main Road. Her boyfriend hangs out on the corner with her and jots down registration

numbers — a meagre form of protection for Lena as she climbs into a stranger's car.

Lena's no made-up, hardened whore. She's very sweet and fragile. Ironically, the term that springs to mind is innocent. Her eyes are the giveaway. Long lashes frame blue-grey eyes that are permanently watery and glazed from drugs.

Lena's prostitution pays for her habit and her boyfriend's. It's a vicious circle. She needs the drugs to cope with prostitution; she

needs the pick-ups to pay for the drugs.

"I'm one of thousands of kids who smoke," Lena says defensively.

"I can't stop and no-one can help me stop. Some of my friends have been to rehabilitation. They all come back to smoking pipes in the end. It's an addiction."

Her eyes widen. "If I didn't smoke, how would I rest? I need buttons to sleep at night."

To observers it seems that for addicts like Leon and Lena paradise has closed down. What appeared to be a ticket to heaven has become a ticket to an urban hell.

But, despite the vows to reform, in their hearts not one of them would agree. All they want is to pass the pipe and chase the dragon — to hell with the sting in the tail.



# Drug pushers stalk the playgrounds

**A** BUSE OF DRUGS is spreading fast and younger children are becoming drug users as pushers stake out their turf at school grounds.

Children in Cape Town as young as 8 are taking mandrax and sniffing substances like Tippex regularly.

At some schools drugs are readily available to pupils who want to experiment or are desperate for their next "hit".

At any nightclub's drugs form part of the teenage social scene and teachers at high schools say as many as one-third of pupils "do drugs". While there are no statistics for drug abuse at Cape Town schools, Mrs Ronelle Sartor of Sancta (SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence) said a recent survey conducted in Johannesburg's more affluent schools revealed "shocking" statistics.

## Working class

The survey found at least 25 percent of high school pupils had experimented with drugs, including dagga. Sartor said the figure was probably higher in working class schools.

Dr Colin Bower of the psychiatric unit at Tygerberg hospital said a conservative estimate was that between 20 and 30 percent of all South African high school students use smoked dagga. About 10 percent became drug addicts.

While most drug use appears to be placed after school hours, teachers report finding bottle-neck pipes in playgrounds, dagga smoking in toilet stalls and children sneaking it to drink and smoke dagga at neighbouring houses.

Students at an elite girls' school in the southern suburbs say they smoke joints next to the netball field, at a neighbouring boys' school dagga is hidden in the ceiling. In Woodstock, the latest trend among the youth is to sprinkle opium on "white pipes" — dagga mixed with crushed mandrax. Said a teacher at one inner-city school "Almost one third of the students in the higher classes are involved in drugs. Some are assisting merchants (dealers)."

"Drugs are not sold on the



Chiara Carter Associate Editor

A SOUTH investigation found children as young as 10 years old are addicted to hard drugs. These drugs are readily available to pupils who light up even during school hours.

Salk 27/2-4/3/92

premises but are available just outside the gates. The rival groups fight over turf outside the school."

Local principals said while there were pupils who used drugs, this did not take place on school grounds and wasn't unique since all schools shared the problem.

A principal at an inner-city school said the problem lay in the area "There is a flourishing trade in drugs. Brothels, merchants and

**'We know that users are getting younger. We are now getting primary school children who regularly abuse alcohol and drugs'**

gangs flourish here," he said. A Woodstock principal said his school was "highly aware" of the problem. While there had not been a problem with drugs on the premises, the school referred pupils with drug problems for counselling.

"When we have a disco, we notice some students arrive under the influence of alcohol or drugs and the youth who hang about appear under the influence," he said.

Sancta social worker, Ms Judith Shopley, said because most drugs were illegal, it was difficult to assess

the extent of drug use.

Most cases treated at clinics involved mandrax and dagga but those involving "affluent" drugs such as cocaine, heroin and LSD were "hidden" since users could afford private treatment.

"We know that users are getting younger. We are now getting primary school children who regularly abuse alcohol and drugs. The natural progression of becoming an addict within 10 years means we are seeing teenage alcoholics and drug addicts," Shopley said.

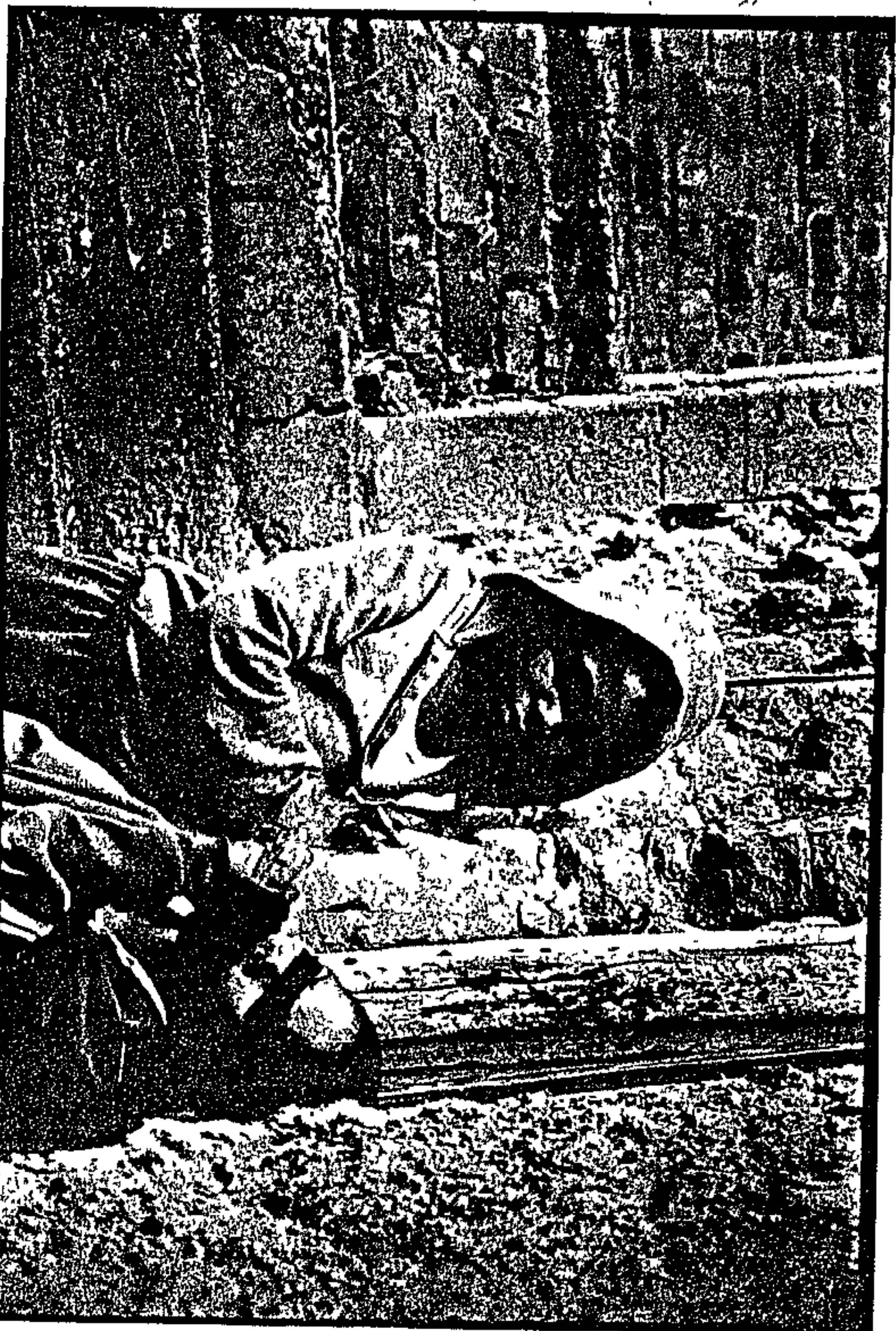
## Recreation

Ms Cathy Rogers, a counsellor at the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre, says although drug users do not come from any single social stratum or area, the lack of recreational facilities in poorer areas, coupled with socio-economic problems, aggravated the situation, as did the prevalence of gangs where drugs are part of "gang culture".

The number of people treated at the centre has been steadily rising. Statistics for 1990 indicate almost 75 percent of people counselled are under 30, and one in four is a teenager.

About 90 percent abused dagga, either alone (26 percent), or in combination with mandrax (64 percent). Rogers said dagga is a "gateway" drug — it often leads to use of heavier drugs. She says there are increasing encounters of intravenous drugs ranging from the opiate Wall-conal to mecamine bought over the counter.

Mr Lutfie Omar, a fieldworker with the community-based Salt River Co-ordinating Council against Drug Abuse, says there is an



CAUGHT YOUNG: Two of Cape Town's child drug users.

Salk 27/2-4/3/92

urgent need to quantify the extent of a "growing crisis".

Commented Omar: "It is obvious that even at primary school level the snuffing of petrol and Tippex is rife."

Omar said workshops recently conducted with children under 12 indicated the extent to which drugs are part of children's environment.

## Foreign drugs

A report on a Lavender Hill workshop notes the response to questions on drug abuse was "shocking and horrific".

The counsellor commented: "Not only did they mention drugs foreign to me, but they could also describe how they looked and were used. They mentioned common drugs like dagga, mandrax and alcohol, and new ones like 'snowballs' (a cigarette with two mandrax tablets and dagga), 'Germans' (a brown tablet with the initials SJ inscribed) and a 'gol-tok' (a half-yellow, half-cream tablet)."

"The children displayed an awareness that would surprise and shock most people."

"The problem arose when the group discussed ways to stop drug abuse and how to say no to drugs."

Said Omar: "There is an urgent need for an anti-drug programme in our schools. At least 75 percent of our addicts became involved while at school and at least 40 percent of addicts' children go on to become addicts themselves. Drug abuse is not only a school issue but



BOOM TIME: Most drug users are adults, as above, but teachers find bottle-neck pipes in playgrounds.





**DANGEROUS INNOCENCE:** These children aged 10 and 11 should be at school. Instead, they are on the streets. Their masterful handling of a bottleneck pipe shows they are more than familiar with Cape Town's fast-growing child drug scene. <sup>(298)</sup> FOR THE FULL REPORT SEE PAGE

South 27/2/92 - 4/3/92



# PPA issues manual on sexuality

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*Sowetan 27/2/92*  
FOUR thousand babies are delivered to teenage mothers each year in Cape Town.

This fact has motivated the Planned Parenthood Association to compile a comprehensive instruction manual to promote responsible teenage sexuality.

"We found that teenage pregnancy rates in Cape Town have remained relatively constant over the past five years," said Mrs Erica Greathead, the director of PPA in the Western Cape.

"However, the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases among Cape Town teenagers has been on the increase."

Greathead said she felt this was because "we fail to educate our youth specifically on these issues for fear of corrupting them".

Thousands of teenagers were consulted and it was interesting that their teachers thought they needed to know far less than the pupils themselves were asking, Greathead said.

Another startling discovery made by the researchers was that, in Cape Town, the average age of those engaging in their first sexual activity was coming down.

"We feel this has something to do with the fact that the average age of menstruation is being reduced, due to better nutrition."

The manual specifically concentrates on helping teenagers to cope with their new found sexuality in the sphere of relationships. It collates the responses of local teenagers, their problems and queries, into a series of instructive modules.

"Date rape was an issue that we had not thought to be important when we started researching," Greathead said. However "it soon became apparent that many girls were subject to date rape but were failing to realise it was this".

Close dealings with the youth had shown that the breakup of relationships was the cause of great psychological distress. - Sapa



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Students at an elite girls' school in the southern suburbs say they smoke 'joints' next to the netball field, at a neighbouring boys' school the dagga is hidden in the ceiling.

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298

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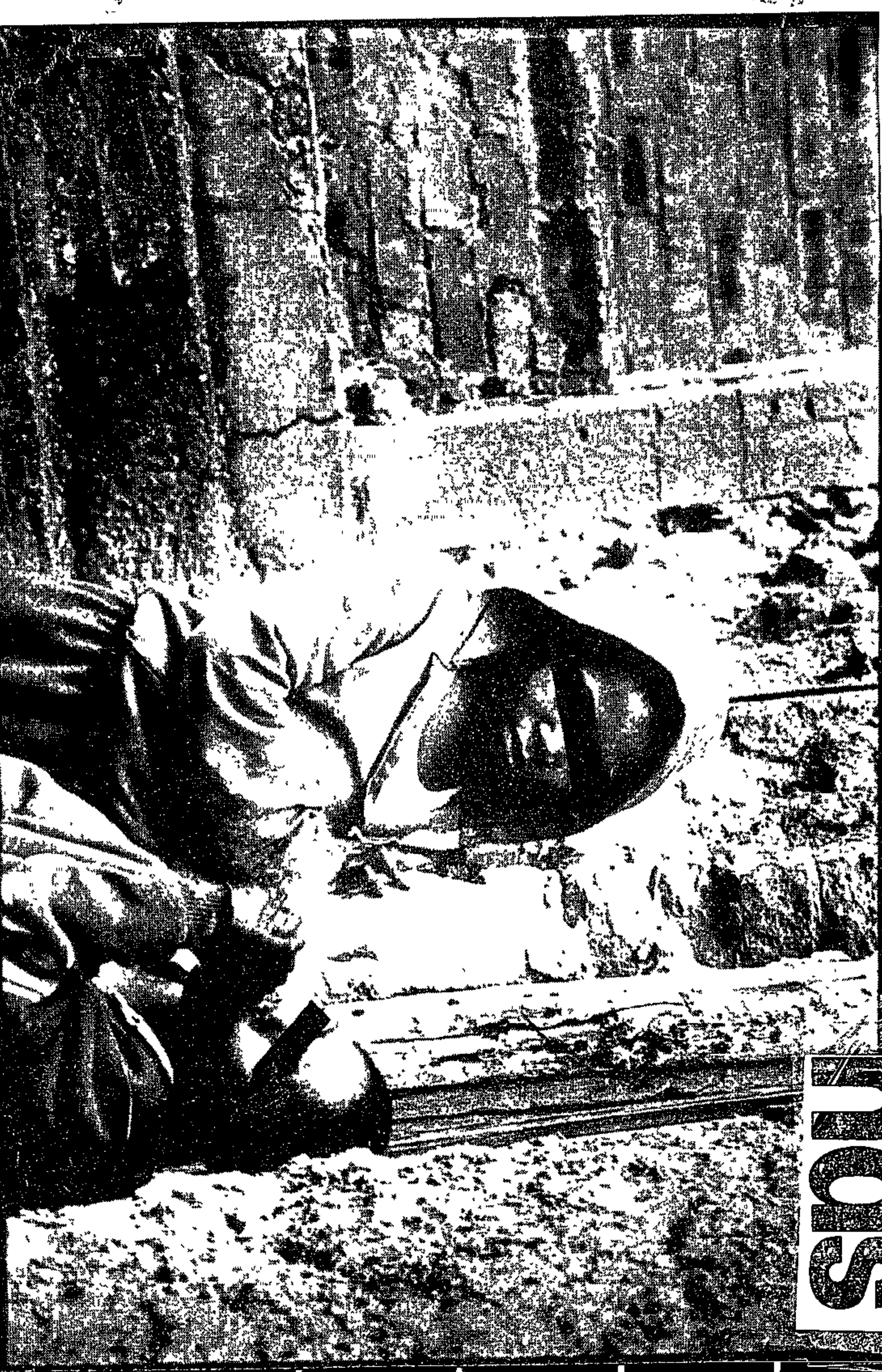
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Sault 27/2 - 4/3/92

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# Courts get tough on child support

*Sowetan 27/2/92 (298)*  
MAINTENANCE defaulters have been warned: You can run but you cannot hide.

From March 1 courts will have greater powers to prosecute maintenance defaulters.

Tracing defaulters has also been made easier as the new legislation, embodied in the Maintenance Amendment Act of 1991, provides for a picture to be taken of each person who is found liable for maintenance by the courts.

The courts will also be able to call any person to give evidence on the whereabouts of defaulters.

Maintenance payments can, from next week, also be done through any bank or financial

By ISMAIL LAGARDIEN  
Political Correspondent

institution, as well as directly to the beneficiary and not necessarily through the courts.

The onus of proof of payment has been shifted to the person liable for the maintenance.

Retroactive liability has been included in the new legislation for maternity and medical costs.

Any person who has appealed against a maintenance order will remain liable until the appeal

● To page 2

## Child support

● From page 1

has been completed. *Sowetan 27/2/92*

The most stringent measure in the new Bill makes it possible for the court to order the attachment of assets of liable people who complain they do not have sufficient funds to pay the maintenance order.

Defaulters' details will be given to credit bureaus making them ineligible for credit.

"These amendments are aimed at creating a more streamlined and effective maintenance procedure," the Deputy Minister of Justice, Mr Danie Schutte, said in Cape Town yesterday.

He said "hundreds of thousands of people" defaulted on maintenance payments across the country.

"The main problem is tracing defaulters. This has proved difficult in the past," Schutte said.

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*Sapa*



# Maintenance, assessor laws in effect shortly

STAR 27/2/92

By Martin Challenger  
Political Staff

(298)

CAPE TOWN — Two important pieces of legislation — the tightening up of maintenance payments and the introduction of lay assessors in court cases — will come into effect on March 1, Deputy Minister of Justice Danie Schutte announced yesterday.

The Maintenance Amendment Act resulted from a wide-ranging investigation dating back to 1987 on the system of maintenance payments.

The Bill was passed by Parliament on March 15 last year.

At present, payments have to be made to a Government institution. This will be changed so that maintenance payments can be made into an account or directly to the beneficiary.

Maintenance courts can from March 1 issue orders for lying-in expenses, arrear maintenance and medical expenses.

The investigation showed that one of the main problems was

tracing people liable for maintenance. Now, more particulars of a defaulter or person liable to pay will be obtained.

There will now be an obligation on people to give evidence to a magistrate on the whereabouts of a defaulter.

Courts can in future award maintenance retroactive from the date of birth and to cover pregnancy and childbirth costs.

A court may order the attachment of assets of a person failing to pay maintenance.

The onus of proof of payment of maintenance will rest with the person liable for maintenance.

Provision is now made for maintenance payments not to be suspended where an appeal is lodged against the amount.

The appointment of lay assessors is made possible by the Magistrate Court Amendment Act. Legislation dating back to 1944 determined that a magistrate could appoint one or two expert witnesses to assist him in a trial, with the permission of the Minister of Justice.

The new Act allows a magis-

trate to call in lay assessors. The Minister of Justice does not have to give his consent to this. This should involve the broader community to a larger extent in the administration of justice.

This Act was approved by Parliament in June last year. It stems from work done by the Hoexter Commission which investigated the structure and functioning of courts.

In considering whether an assessor should assist at the trial, a magistrate will consider the cultural and social environment of the accused, the accused's educational background, the nature and severity of the crime, and possible punishment.

Assessors will help magistrates to judge factual disputes and in determining appropriate sentences, with a view to a community-based sentence.

Each magistrate's office will draw up a list of assessors.

President de Klerk said in his opening speech to Parliament last year that initiatives would be taken to give communities greater involvement in the legal process.

## Teen lashed to death

By DAN DHLAMINI

1/3/92  
THE death of a 16-year-old labourer following a severe lashing, allegedly by his boss, has sent shockwaves through the western Transvaal black community.

Daniel Bongone, who worked for Jan Tromp at Hartebeestfontein's Doornkom farm, had allegedly stolen money and had been "disciplined". He was whipped with a fanbelt in a farm store-room. (298)

According to the police, Bongone was taken unconscious to a doctor who certified him dead six-and-a-half hours later.

A police spokesman said a murder charge was being investigated. Nobody has been arrested.

Bongone's family said they would seek legal advice from Lawyers for Human Rights, because

they felt that the farmer who allegedly whipped their son should not have taken the law into his own hands, even if the theft accusation was true.

"He (the farmer) should have called the police to arrest him, but he deemed it fit to act brutally by whipping Dan with a fanbelt until he died," alleged the dead man's brother Oupa.

The ANC's western Transvaal regional chairman Zakes Molekane said his organisation condemned in the strongest terms the brutal killing.

Western Transvaal regional director of the Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) Igbal Motala also condemned the brutal way in which Bongone was killed. He said LHR would not hesitate to act where a person's rights had been violated.



SOCIAL SECURITY - CHILDCARE  
1992

APRIL - AUGUST.

# Workshops pay dividends

Sowetan Reporter

TWO years of Nation Building Parenting Workshops are beginning to pay dividends and black communities are eager and better equipped to solve local problems.

This is the view of clinical psychologist and key organiser of the workshops, Mrs Anne-Gloria Masetle.

According to Masetle the workshops, sponsored by Pick 'n Pay for the third year in succession, have inspired strong support for the ideals of Nation Building.

"Our efforts have primarily been concerned with identifying community problems, giving an insight into the problems and directing the people to the local resources available to provide help," Masetle said.

"This year we have progressed to the stage where the communities have identified their own problems and are anxious to resolve them on their own.

"The workshop situation provides a forum to discuss an action plan and to appoint members of the community to apply the 'treatment'.



Nation  
Building  
The Power  
is in Your  
Hands

"The commitment is there and we have more people than we can cope with who want to become involved in the healing process.

"The positive attitude and great enthusiasm we have witnessed are crucial to the success of Nation Building and we are confident of seeing real changes as a result."

The first workshop is to be held this weekend at Funda Centre in Soweto. The two-day event begins at 9am on Saturday when the topics "Crime and Violence in Soweto" and "The co-ordination of services, projects and programmes" will be discussed.

On Sunday the group will tackle "Education in its broader aspects and career guidance" and "Parental involvement in children's lives".

Admission to workshops is free and all are welcome.



# Sowetan parenting workshops at Funda Centre

Sowetan 2/4/92  
By PEARL MAJOLA

THE first of the Sowetan/ Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops for 1992 starts this weekend at Funda Art Centre in Diepkloof, Soweto.

The workshop, which marks the beginning of the Nation Building events this year, will start on Saturday morning and end on Sunday afternoon.

According to Co-ordinating Committee member, Mrs Anna Mosia, involvement of professional and ordinary members of the community in the workshops is important.

"Local participation is fundamental to the success of the workshop," said Mosia.

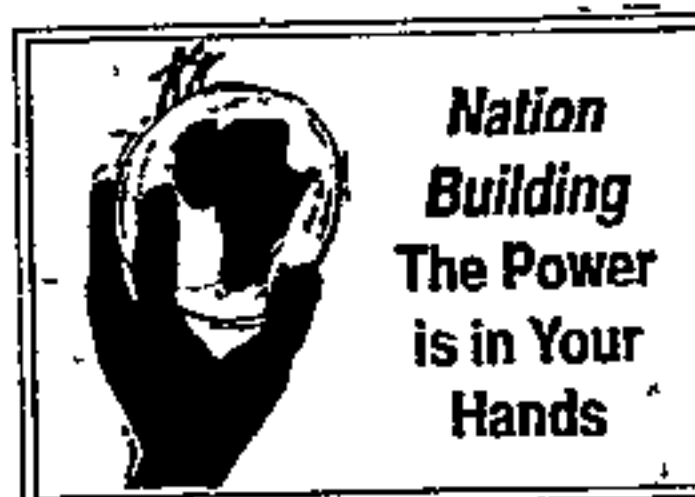
"We urge all professional members of the community to join us in our attempt to improve local structures.

"This year the workshops will require more involvement from community members present as we prepare our blue print to solve local problems.

"The Soweto Committee will deal with issues like the co-ordination of services, projects and programmes and crime and violence," explained Mosia.

According to Mosia, it will not be all work and no play at the two-day event.

"Light relief will be provided by the Meadowlands Youth Club



who will perform a role play on the subject of Aids. The St Joseph Catholic Choir will entertain with traditional choral music.

"On Sunday the day begins with an examination of the topic on parental involvement, an increasingly important issue as more parents place activities like burial societies before emotional needs of their own children," Mosia said.

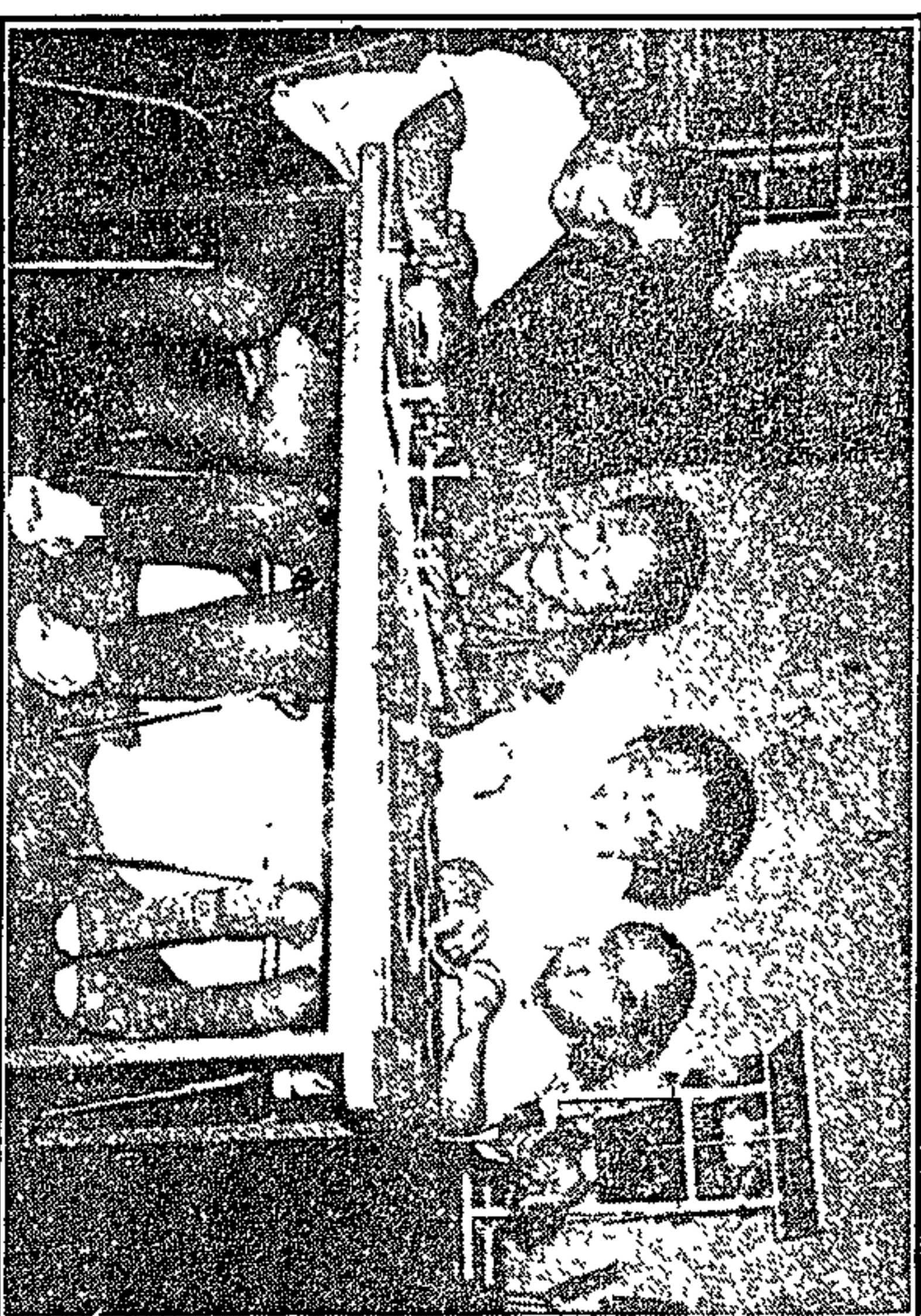
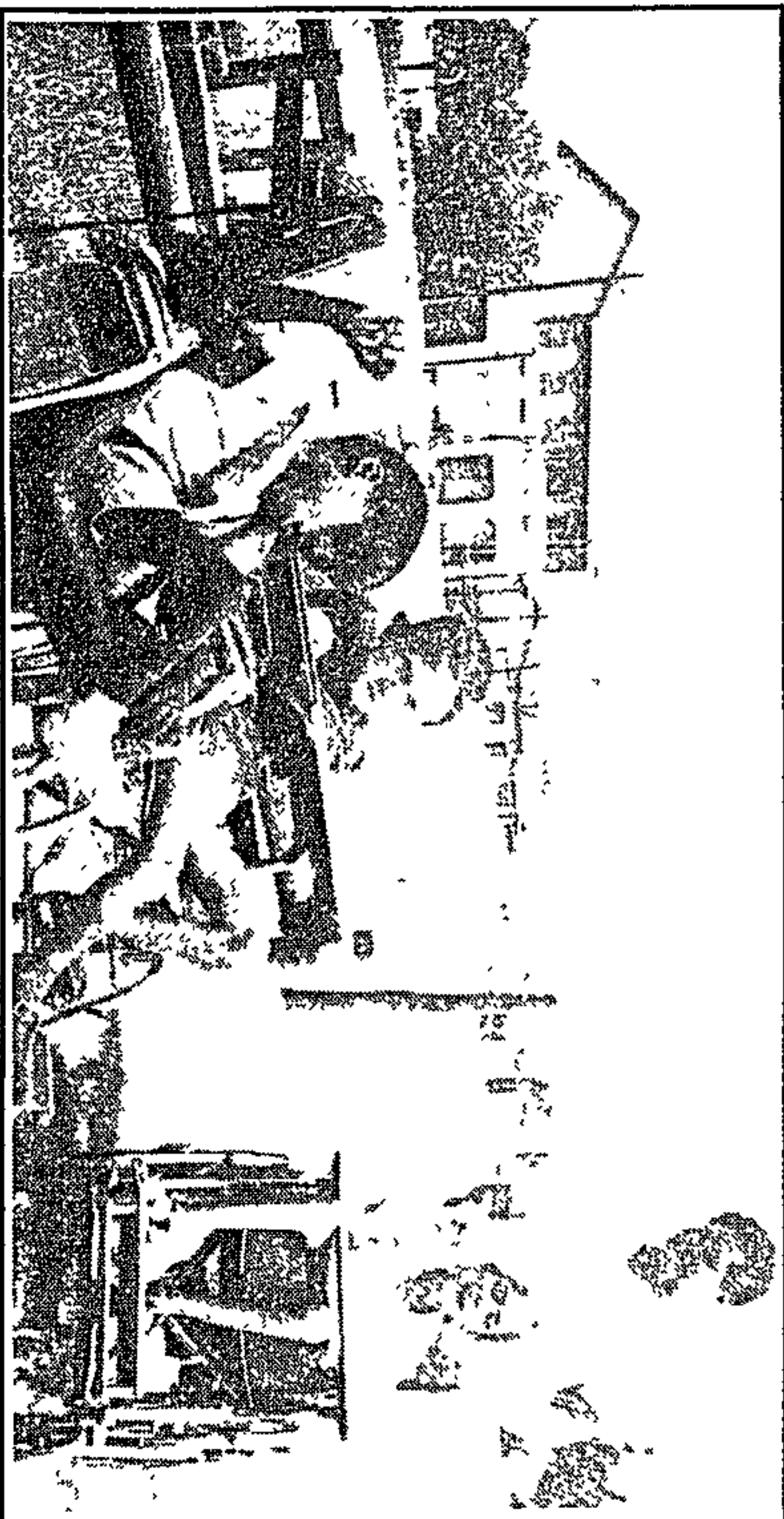
"The result is an emotional breakdown in communication with the youth, who in turn reject educational, recreational and religious structures," she explained.

"The youth and parents will present their perspectives before the group breaks up into the workshop situation to decide on problem-solving procedures."

A presentation on education and career guidance will conclude the weekend's event.

Everyone is welcome to the workshops and there is no admission fee. For further details Anna Mosia can be contacted at (011) 984 4422.





ABOVE: Children enjoy a break in the sun. **RIGHT:** A teacher, Mrs Josephine van Zeeburg, trains a group of children in motor activities, eye to hand co-ordination and stimulation. The children are (from left): Adrian Visagie, Zain Ewents and Rhys Wilson.

By MIKE  
TISSONG

**SCHOOLCHILDREN** have raised more than R50 000 and provided temporary relief for a school for handicapped people in Eldorado Park which faced closure because of a lack of funds.

The Harvey Cohen Centre, which provides care and training for about 200 mentally and physically handicapped adults and children, has considered the option of closure, but will do its best to survive, one of the teachers, Mr Yunus Cassim, said.

The director of the centre, Mrs Dorothy Cornelius, said school-

# Children raise R50 000 for school

**FOCUS  
EDUCATION**

children in Eldorado Park and Coronationville had helped, tremendously in selling tickets for a car competition.

The draw to choose the winner will be held at Highgate shopping centre in Industria tomorrow at 11am.

The car, a Mazda 323 sedan, was donated by V&R Engine Spares.

Other prizes are a lounge suite, a microwave oven, a TV and a car radio.

Members of the community and staff of the school have embarked on several other fund-raising activities for the year.

Cornelius has written letters to hundreds of professionals in the Johannesburg area seeking assistance for the school.

Very few have responded. She said the school served people from the

Bosmont, Coronationville, Westbury, Noordgesig, Riverlea, Eldorado Park, Kliploven and Soweto areas.

"We also run a hostel which provides a place to stay for handicapped children from as far as the East-

ern Transvaal and the Free State."

She said their monthly expenditure exceeded R50 000 which includes salaries for a physiotherapist, an occupational therapist, a social worker, qualified teachers, child care workers and non-teaching staff.

"Our transport costs are high because we provide three buses which travel from the authorities and we

will not relent in our efforts to increase this subsidy.

"For the last few years we have barely managed to cover our expenses. In such a desperate situation where the survival of the centre is at stake, we have no choice but to appeal to the kindness of members of the community."

Staff and other supporters of the school will be appealing for donations at Eastgate shopping centre in eastern Johannesburg on April 23. A street collection will be held in Johannesburg on April 28 and 29.





Imparting life skills to children at Streetwise

Photo: GUY ADAMS

# Off the streets and into the classrooms

w/mail 3/4 - 9/4/92 (298) (50)

By BEATHUR BAKER

STREETWISE is the only organisation which provides streetchildren with a basic education.

The project — based in Johannesburg, Soweto, Pretoria and Durban — started out as a "pavement education project" and now has between 250 and 350 registered pupils, according to Streetwise national education co-ordinator Robin Kirkham.

In 1986, he recalls, they "literally worked off the streets". But now they are able to offer these children six years of primary education. They aim to teach them life skills which will enable them to find jobs and maintain themselves independently once they finish high school, says Kirkham.

Until January this year they got no government assistance, but now they get food provisions from a Department of Health feeding scheme. They survive on R2,5 million a year, but almost double this is required to provide a full service.

They get by on donations from the European Community and local churches but feel these streetchildren are a South African problem and local sources should fund them. They are presently negotiating with the Johannesburg City Council for sponsorship.

Each child who comes off the street through the outreach programme is thoroughly assessed to determine at which school

level he or she should be placed. Many suffer brain damage or are traumatised from physical and sexual abuse.

Their education is inconsistent, though. They may register at Streetwise, but attendance is not regular. "We try to give them basic literacy, food and a place to sleep," says Kirkham. Where possible, they continue to high school.

Streetwise uses an "activity-based learning method" — relating selected topics to areas of teaching which help them understand concepts in maths and English. Streetwise also runs a homework supervision programme in its shelters, manned by volunteers.

At the Johannesburg branch of Streetwise, Kirkham runs a drama project with 15 Streetwise pupils and an equal number of pupils from King David school.

The concept arises from his experience in the Middle East, where Jewish and Arabic children were brought together through drama to forge friendships and understand each other's lifestyles.

The two-week-old project is a form of drama therapy. "For both sides it is a novelty; kids are kids and they love it," he says.

"What we want is to produce self-sufficient, independent kids — not institutionalised ones."

Ideally, the work done by Streetwise should be a government responsibility, he says.



# One-person agency grows to a full-scale service organisation



**SUE KIRBY of Super Sitters takes another booking call**

*STimes Cape metro 298 514192*  
**SUPER SITTERS** of Cape Town has grown in three years from a one-person agency to a full-scale service organisation offering babysitting, lift schemes, companionship for the elderly, entertaining at children's parties and pet care — plus qualified men who will house-sit for high-profile executives who are always travelling and away from home.

It now operates throughout the Southern Suburbs, along the Atlantic seaboard and as far as Stellenbosch.

The service has also been extended to Johannesburg, where local people are being trained to cope with the demand.

Supper Sitters was started by Vicky Weinberg from her Sea Point home and has grown to such an extent that she is now thinking of franchising the operation around the country.

Meantime, she continues with the main service of babysitting during the day and in the evening, using specially-trained child-carers from all race groups.

Vicky and a few hand-picked colleagues also offer a special service of living in with children while parents are away from home.

These "surrogate mums" move in and take the mother's place in the physical and emotional care of the children, handling the shopping, housework and lifting, and running the home with the aid of the resident maid or maids.

They are experienced in child care and home management as well as in first aid. In fact, Super Sitters' child-carers have an approved first aid textbook with large pictures for use in emergencies.

A surge in demand in recent months and the advent of the New South Africa have led Vicky to offer to all interested people, irrespective of race, special training courses in child care, home management and first aid emergencies.

"All candidates will be interviewed for aptitude, and the standard of education will have no bearing on their acceptance or rejection for the training course," says Sue Kirby of Super Sitters.

"In this way people from all walks of life will have the opportunity of a qualification in a specialised field."

"Also, career-orientated parents will know their children are in the care of properly-trained adults in their absence — surely something that one cannot put a price on."

"As Vicky often points out, some employers are sending their domestic staff to sewing and cooking courses, but who is minding their most precious possessions?"

"They would do well to sponsor their nannies for these courses — those same nannies who have borne the most tremendous responsibility for years without having had the training necessary for handling such responsibility."



## 53 of every 1 000 black infants die

CAPE TOWN — The national average infant mortality rate for blacks in 1990 was 52,8 per 1 000 live births, compared with 7,3 per 1 000 live births for whites, Minister of National Health Dr Rina Venter said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

In a written reply to a question by Mike Ellis (DP Durban North), she said official South African urban and rural infant mortality rates were not available.

Infant mortality for last year will be available only at the end of 1992, or in early 1993.

Dr Venter said the 1990 infant mortality rate for coloureds was 28 per 1 000 live births and 13,5 per 1 000 live births for Indians.



Rina Venter . . . highest mortality rate in TBVC states.

A further breakdown of black infant mortality rates shows that the TBVC states had the highest rate — 59,8 per 1 000 live births.

The equivalent figure for the self-governing territories was 54,4 and for the remainder of South Africa the figure was 50. — Sapa.

# Youth camp director 'took R1m'

By RONNIE MORRIS  
Supreme Court Reporter

THE national director of the South African Exploration Society and his mother are being investigated by the police and the government for allegedly misappropriating over R1 million in public donations.

In papers before the Supreme Court,

police alleged that among other irregularities, Dr John Clayton had given himself a salary of R74 000 and had awarded himself R100 000 for receiving two degrees.

The police allegations were placed before court when Dr Clayton brought an urgent application to have a government notice on March 6 — barring him and his mother, Ms Gertrude Heckler,

from running the society until June 5 — set aside.

Dr Clayton brought the application two days later, on a Sunday, but the application was dismissed with costs as Dr Clayton could not prove urgency.

Dr Clayton and Ms Heckler are now under investigation by both the police and the government's Business Practices Committee.

(298) e 9/4/92

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To page 3

national activities.

Dr Clayton is also employed by the Cape Education Department.

In papers opposing the application, Captain Gordon Duguid, of the commercial branch, said in October last year various people had complained that Dr Clayton and his mother were misappropriating the society's funds.

A police-appointed auditor found that Dr Clayton and Ms Heckler misappropriated about R1m of the society's monies.

"As things stand at the moment the auditor has already confirmed an amount of R581 000 which has been unlawfully siphoned to Dr Clayton and Ms Heckler for their personal use and benefit."

And, Capt Duguid said, it was further found that: "Dr Clayton was paying himself R50 000 for a film 'Conquest' made by him in 1966.

An amount of R50 000 was in the process of being paid by the society for certain film equipment and slides sold to it by Dr Clayton. The equipment was however outdated and of no use to the society, Captain Duguid said;

R150 000 of the society's money was in the process of being invested for Ms Heckler's benefit to be paid to Dr Clayton at her death.

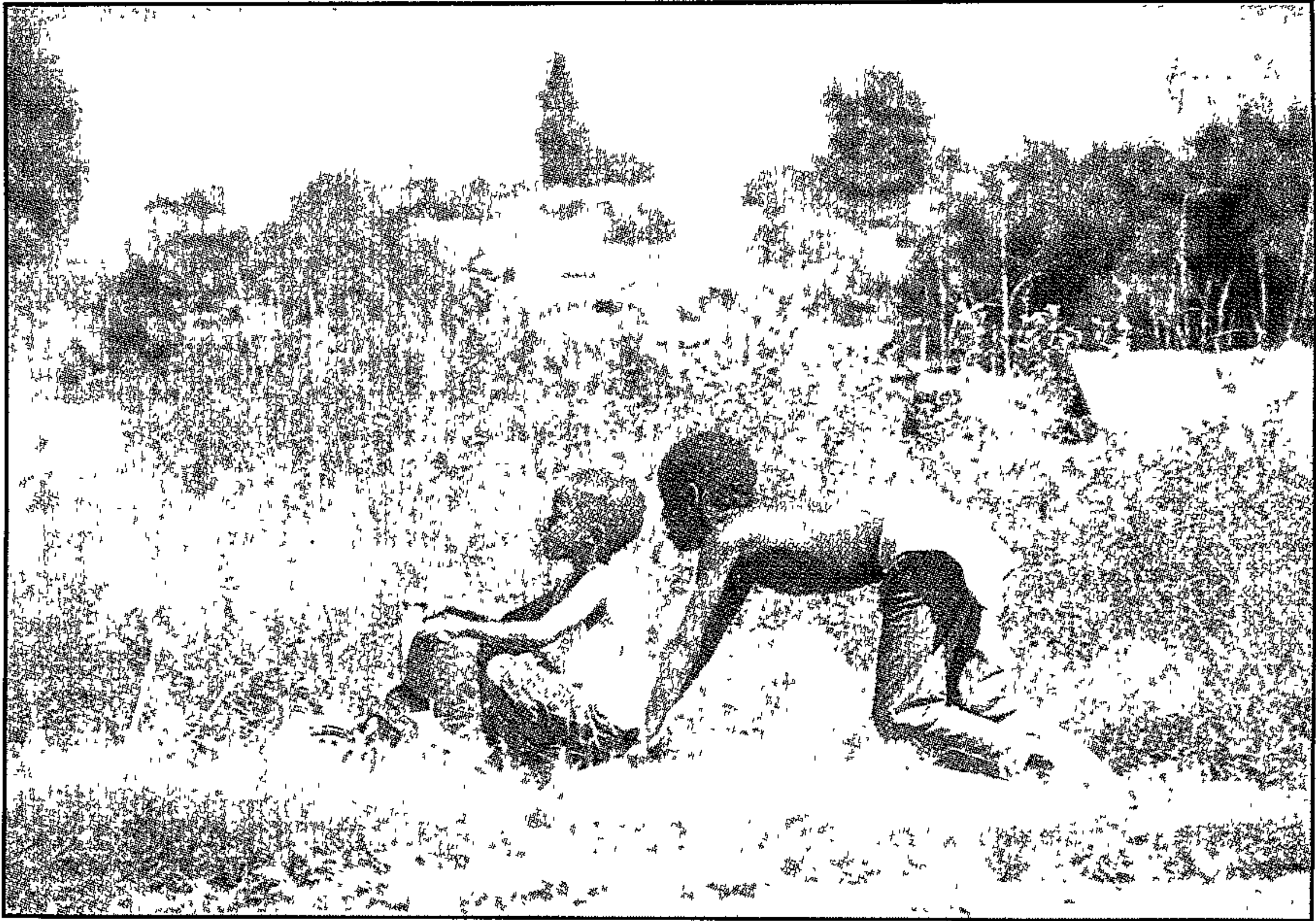
Capt Duguid was further in possession of letters sent by Dr Clayton to potential state witnesses from which it was clear he was interfering in a criminal investigation.

It was clear he was in the process of enriching himself further from the society's funds, Captain Duguid said.

Captain Duguid said the society's 27 year-old constitution empowered "two individuals" to control the society's public generated funds.

According to the constitution Dr Clayton was in charge for life and had total control of the society's funds.





Happy days . . . informed parents can go a long way towards ensuring optimum health in children.

## Pinpointing minor and major ills

STAR 9/4/92

(298)

**S**ICKNESS in children is often accompanied by panic in parents who have difficulty distinguishing between everyday ailments and serious illness, particularly when the child is very young.

A new book can help to alleviate the distress parents feel when faced with a sick child, and can go some way towards reducing unnecessary visits to the doctor in times of spiralling medical costs. It is written by a prac-

tising paediatrician and a nutritionist.

"A South African Parents' Guide to Childhood Ailments" by Stephen Levenstein and Deidre Randall (Struik Timmins) offers information to help parents identify signs and symptoms of serious illness and recognise minor ailments that can be treated at home.

The book is in the form of an A to Z guide to common childhood ailments. Entries

identify cause and symptoms and advise treatment.

There is an immunisation schedule as well as descriptions on how to administer first aid in an emergency and treatment for a variety of common injuries, ranging from bites and bee stings to broken bones, choking and poisoning.

The final chapter is devoted to nursing the sick child and hospitalisation.

The book contains a guide

to organisations and associations related to some of the conditions mentioned, as well as useful telephone numbers.

Information, data and advice are based on medical experience in South Africa and treatment of local children.

The authors do not provide exhaustive coverage of each illness, and anyone needing more information should consult their doctor.

MARIKA SBOROS



# Greenhouse looks after the children

80wcten 9/4/92

298

IT nestles between two towering double-storey houses in the serene black suburb of Spruitview, Vosloorus.

The palatial red brick abode with a green roof is the most talked about children's nursery in the area.

It is from the green roof that it got its name - The Greenhouse.

The reception area of the Greenhouse and all the rooms, as we were to find out later, are grey. The room is lit by colourful stimulating graphics and children's art hanging on the walls.

Pictures and full details of the daily menu from Monday to Friday also hang curiously on the wall overlooking the door.

The homely atmosphere is amplified by the cushy velvet settees that line the room and the thick grey carpets that also cover the corridor and the rest of the rooms.

Our host, Octavia Lukhele, supervisor of the nursery, explains that the menus on the reception wall are put up for parents to see what their children eat.

"Parents are also allowed to pop in at any time of the day to check if what is on the wall is what we give their children," she says.

The parental inspection is not the only feature that makes the Greenhouse special. It employs a full-time nursing sister, has a mobile clinic and a medical doctor coming in every Friday for immunisations and medical checkups. It also has a child psychologist who is called in every time she is needed for assessment of a problem with a child or a parent.

This nursery, extended home to 84 babies and toddlers, is a 24-hour operation. Parents drop off their children in the morning and can collect them any time until 10pm. It also has boarding facilities and presently has four boarders.

For Lukhele, who lives at the house with some of the staff, there is no time off.

"When you have committed yourself to helping other people, you have to satisfy them at all costs. We deal with professional people who sometimes have to be at work

## Women

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

on weekends and major holidays. We have to make the service available at all times," she said.

The children are grouped according to their ages and each of the four groupings has two minders, or teachers in the case of pre-schoolers. The 10 infants have a third minder, a nursing sister, who makes their feeds and does general observations.

The medium of instruction is English and both pre-school classes are handled by white teachers.

The brain behind this very successful venture is Gloria Serobe, who surprisingly is employed in a shrewd business environment that has nothing to do with children.

"The idea came from being a mother and a career woman, and wanting the best out of both," Serobe, a mother of two sons aged 12 and eight, said.

Serobe and the committee that she later established set out to create a creche where the child would have an environment similar to that at home.

"We were trying to attract a market that had highly professional people. They did not need us. They could take their children wherever they wanted. Since we did not have a prestigious suburb to attach to the creche name, we had to establish a service name," she said.

Image was to become Serobe's and her committee's obsession. The package offered by the Greenhouse - the meals, the working hours structure, the health care and child development programmes - was to be among the best in the country.

The costs of running this expensive project are absorbed by the fee structure. Monthly fees for children from two weeks to 18 months are R220 and from 18 months to six years, R180. Boarders pay R350 a month and the weekend fee is R30 a day.





It is playtime and what could be better than spending it on the swings?

# Killer 'should get lengthy sentence'

STAR 12/4/92

Court Reporter (298)

One hundred and one sexually related child murders took place in South Africa between January and June last year, the Rand Supreme Court heard yesterday.

State advocate B Edwards said this in her argument for a lengthy jail sentence for child-killer and molester Llewellyn Namhing, who has been found guilty of indecently assaulting and murdering three-year-old Samantha King at Newclare Station on November 21 1990.

Pathologist Russell Johnson told Mr Justice Z Sutej that Namhing's assault on Samantha was "the most destructive degree of assault on a child I have ever come across". Dr Johnson was called to give evidence by the judge.

He said the left side of Samantha's skull was fractured and the cracks had extended to the right side. The court heard earlier that Namhing had picked

her up by one of her legs, swung her over his head and smashed her head into a steel construction near the railway.

Mrs Edwards said Namhing's "shocking crime must make every person feel sick. It was a gruesome murder and the community is outraged".

"The child was entrusted to his care and he took her for a long walk to a relatively deserted part of the railway. The murder was premeditated — he took her to a secretive place to molest and murder her," Mrs Edwards said.

Namhing's lawyer, L Beukman, argued his client would have tried to hide the body if he had planned the murder.

He had pleaded guilty, was a first offender and had shown genuine remorse, Mr Beukman said. Asking for a long jail sentence, he said Namhing should be given a chance to rehabilitate himself.

The trial was adjourned to Monday for sentence.



## Child-sex killings shock

The Argus Correspondent 298 ARG 10/4/92

JOHANNESBURG. — Some 101 sexually related child murders took place in South Africa between January and June last year, the Rand Supreme Court heard.

State advocate B Edwards said this in her argument for a lengthy jail sentence for child-killer and molester Llewellyn Namhing, who has been found guilty of indecently assaulting and murdering three-year-old Samantha King at the Newclare Railway Station on November 21 1990.

Pathologist Russell Johnson told Mr. Justice Z Sutej that Namhing's assault on Samantha "was the most destructive degree of assault on a child I have ever come across."

The trial adjourned to Monday for sentence.

# Shock figures of SA child-sex killings

JOHANNESBURG. — About 101 sexually-related child murders occurred in South Africa between January and June last year, the Rand Supreme Court heard yesterday.

Advocate Ms B Edwards made the statement in her argument for a lengthy jail sentence for child-killer and molester Llewellyn Namhing, who has been found guilty of indecently assaulting and murdering three-year-old Samantha King at the Newclare railway station on November 21, 1990.

Pathologist Dr Russell Johnson told Mr Justice Z Sutej that Namhing's assault on Samantha "was the most destructive degree of assault on a child I have ever come across".

Sentence will be passed on Monday. — Sapa.

CF10/4/929 298



Whether they live in Inkatha or ANC strongholds, on the East Rand or in Cape Town, the children of township violence tell the same poignant tales...

**A**T the blast of a shotgun, children at the John Pama Primary School in Nyanga, Cape Town, drop to the floor.

They may not comprehend the myriad complexities of the taxi war raging on the school's doorstep, but they know enough to try and keep out of the cross-fire.

It's a lesson they've learned the hard way in February, an eight-year-old pupil lost her life when police opened fire to disperse warring taxi-drivers. The Nyanga terminus — a taxi-war battleground — abuts on the school, and every now and then bullets whizz through the schoolyard.

Pupils at the school were asked to draw pictures about the conflict. One depicts a scene in the next-door terminus. A helicopter hovers above vehicles, armed men and people running. Police figures wearing caps point guns, a body lies dead and bleeding. The sun is behind a cloud and in the foreground is a figure carrying suitcases and weeping.

A second drawing shows a man firing at a burning

## Paintings that cry with

W/Mail 10/4 - 15/4/92

house, a small figure lies bleeding, another is running away. Its creator is a little boy whose sister was killed when their house was attacked. His is the fleeing figure.

Drawing pictures such as these, or playing games in imitation of fierce, adult battles, are important activities for young children swept up in frightening violence, according to psychologist Andy Dawes.

An associate professor at the University of Cape Town, Dawes has had extensive experience in counselling children caught up in conflicts. He is currently training people who work with refugees in ways of providing support and thus decreasing the risks faced by such children.

"Very young children — those under the age of six — tend to be more vulnerable to violent

**Fierce games of conflict are important activities for children caught up in violence, say psychologists. By GAYE DAVIS**

upheaval, especially where their parents are also affected," he says. "To them, the violence is unexpected and unintelligible — giving rise to high levels of fear and terror."

If a young child's parents or older brothers and sisters are frightened and unable to cope, their presence no longer acts as a buffer for the child and the effects are compounded. In response, young children "become quite clingy, nervous. They may experience difficulty in sleeping or nightmares

# Children in the

W/Mail 10/4 - 15/4/92

**C**HILDREN lived here. You can tell from the single baby shoe in a still smouldering shack in Zonkeziwe squatter camp on the East Rand, from a plastic motorbike in the yard of a burnt out shack at Crossroads squatter camp in Kaitshong.

Township children are often the victims of adult contests for territory and political power they do not understand and did not ask to play.

Over the past two weeks, during the raging battle and in the tense aftermath, *The Weekly Mail* visited the children of the battle-weary warzones of the PWV: Alexandra in the north, Kaitshong in the east and Soweto in the south.

Everywhere the children tell the same story, whether they live in African National Congress or Inkatha strongholds: they are scared, they want to get out, they have witnessed attacks, they have seen people killed.

A boy in Soweto acts out an incident in which he saw a hostel dweller burnt to death, two children in Zonkeziwe look for their friend Sipho, whom their mother has yet to tell them died in an attack on the Crossroads camp.

Two children, one in Alex and one in Meadowlands, have been abducted into hostels but miraculously escaped to tell their story.

But children, with their characteristic resilience and short memories, play on. A little boy leads his wife Rolls Royce around the remains of a gutted shack in Zonkeziwe. In a house bordering the

**A Soweto boy acts out how he saw a man burnt to death; two children wander about in search of a dead friend; a little boy plays with his wife Rolls Royce in a gutted shack; all of them children trapped in the violence**

**By BEARTHUR BAKER, FERAL HAJFAJEE and RAYMOND NXUMALO**

Mzimhlophe hostel in Meadowlands, a 14-year-old girl is knitting a red jersey for herself — "one plain, one pearl", she mutters as she goes. In a refugee hall in Alex, a mischievous 10-year-old playfully punches everyone in sight with Coca-Cola boxing gloves donated by a big brother.

**A**T the height of the fighting between residents and hostel dwellers in Alexandra, injured people stream into the Alex clinic for treatment. Amid the scores of hacked, shot or wounded victims, a group of children play games to pass the time — oblivious to the bloodstains on their clothing.

In the street outside, with the sound of gunfire booming across the township, a boy says he is ready for battle.

"I am 13 years old and I will fight for my mother and my father. They will never take us, we are going to stay here — we will die

here," he announces.

Other children become part of the refugee exodus. By the time the battle subsides, a sense of community has developed among the refugees at the East Bank recreation hall in Alexandra. This has become home for some of the residents of 'Beirut' — the new name given to the battle site around Madala hostel on Third Avenue.

The hall is so full that there is very little light, the air is musty and permeated with the smell of urine from the one toilet everyone uses.

Peter Mohade (13) lives here now. His home was destroyed in the fighting three weeks ago, and his family moved to the hall because they have no relatives.

"I helped carry the furniture and all our things," he says proudly. "We had to leave many things behind, some got lost on the way. But I don't want to go back, there you can't sleep at night because they'll come and kill you."

**T**HE Crossroads squatter camp across the railway from Kaitshong in the East Rand has become the eastern front of the Reef wars.

Twenty-two people were killed on Friday night and scores injured. The residents are not all Zulu but they are all Inkatha supporters.

The camp used to be a pot-pourri of organisations but on August 19 last year, by committee decision, all African National Congress supporters moved out into the nearby Holomisa camp.

Residents allege that last week people from Holomisa came back to loot the camp. According to Rosie Nzimande, the Crossroads representative, "It was them who came back. We recognised some of them. They want their shacks back, that's what they said."

Four children were killed. Only two have been identified, one a baby and the other a four-year-old called Sipho. Four of Sipho's little friends sit in their grandmother's half-burnt shack this week.

When asked if they know Sipho, they nod. Asked if they know where he is, they say simply they do not know.

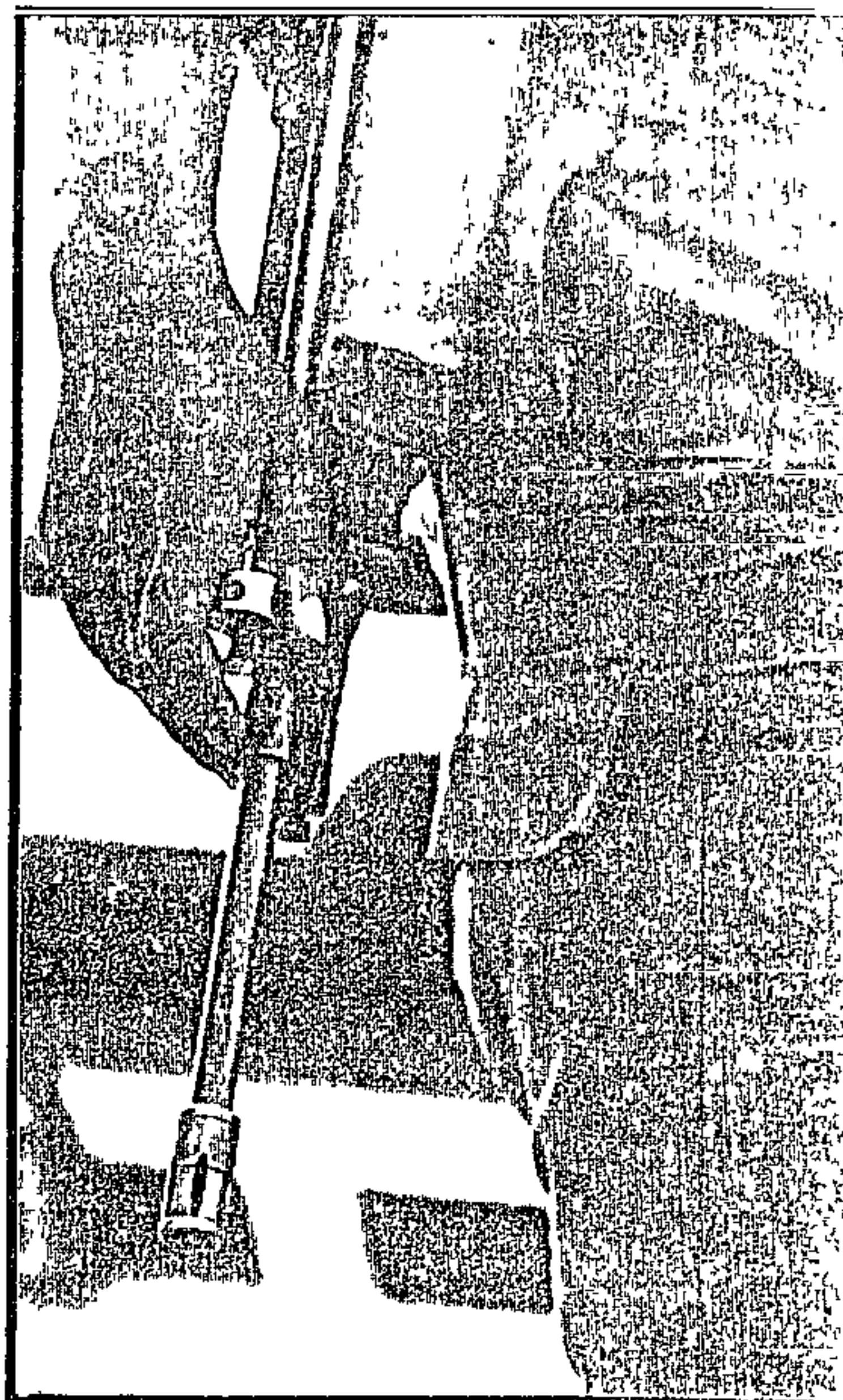
Their mother whispers "They don't know that he's dead."

One of these children was hit when Xhosa-speaking men came into his grandmother's shack and pulled the blankets off him. His only reminder is a swollen arm. But his main concern now seems that he has nowhere to play.

"We are scared to go and play, because the place has been burned," he says.

About 10 minutes from Crossroads lies the Zonkeziwe squatter camp, which was attacked in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

A mother of 10, Rosie Ndlovu, was sleeping when armed men attacked her shack. Twelve hours later, she sits disbelieving and



**Too young to hate? A toddler stares with silent, dry-eyed rage at**

hopeless next to her totally gutted shack. The ruins are still smouldering and hot to the touch.

Her children were in the shack when it was attacked. One of them is missing, the others have been sheltered to safety by the neighbours.

Her neighbour, Francina Dlamini, is luckier. Her shack was also set on fire, but the attackers put out the flames when she gave them R30 and brought her television set, radio and blankets out of hiding.

However, while the shack was "spared", her 16-month son, Tshepo, was not. He was woken up and hit by the attackers. Luckily for him, they left him when his mother brought out her possessions.

Tshepo, whose name means "hope", has already forgotten the incident, at least on the surface. He smiles and plays with a reporter's pen, oblivious to his badly swollen black eye.

Another neighbour's son, nine-year-old

Jabu Skhansana, comes out to fear "I don't know what I will come again," he says. "I will hide under the bed. I will burn

HE main road from Johannesburg, V... Meadowlands, in Mzimhlophe hostel. In weeks hostel dwellers have been passing cars and — "surrounding streets."

Catherine Maponya, 4... old, has been forced with her into her grandmother's... Street. It is not much safer, it's further away from it.

Her grandmother now in 30 in the four-roomed house in shack hastily constructed. Even in this house of refuge be on constant lookout "W side of the house to alert"

## A peaceful haven amid the terror

**By FERAL HAJFAJEE** (298) W/Mail 10/4 - 15/4/92

**C**HURCHES have an air of serenity and peace about them and St John's Church in Benmore is no different. It's a world away from Alexandra, the home of the almost 30 children who have sought refuge here.

Birds chirp in the many trees in the grounds, it's sparkling clean and there are signs advertising soup kitchens, classes and an employment scheme run from the church.

Last month, when the violence flared again in Alexandra, the church offered to take in some of the children who had fled their homes in Beirut — the section of Alexandra under siege.

Other children are being housed at community halls and churches in Parkview, Bramley and Bryanston.

Fourteen-year-old Ivory, who has been staying at the church for about a month, sits combing her hair in the afternoon sunlight. She says she won't go back to Alex until "those people have gone away and there is peace".

When the children are asked what they are scared of, they answer in unison. "Inkatha".

On Saturday, Constance Hlekiso, also 14, a slightly built girl with scared black

eyes, was abducted by five men when she went to fetch her school funds from her mother who stays in Beirut. She alleges that they carried her into the hostel and only let her out when her brother and others begged them to let her go.

Other girls describe men coming into their homes and carrying out "pots, groceries and clothes"; their mothers holed up at the Alex Council offices, and able to visit them only at weekends, watching people being killed.

At St John's, their topsy turvy lives have found some order. With pride they point out the big bright playroom the boys sleep in. The girls sleep three to a room in the Sunday school's classrooms. They have no beds but they do have mattresses and blankets.

The church provides their meals. The children spend their days playing on the swings and the slide. When it rains, they play "doll's house" in the church hall. Ordinary activities for children, but for these it is a lifeline in an existence destroyed by war. Asked whether they want to go back to Alex, they all shake their heads vigorously. "No".

Says one, "When we sleep, we feel free here. At Alex, when we sleep, we feel fear."



## anguish

Some might regress — become little again — their way of showing they need more attention than their age would suggest. Where parents are resilient and organised, the impact is lessened.

Children's aggressive play and violent drawings might horrify teachers and parents, says Dawes, but "it's a part of being very young. Children use it as a way of making sense of what is going on around them — a way of exercising some form of control over their fears."

He suggests that teachers and parents allow children to talk about their drawings and games in a way that makes the children feel safe to do so. "This can provide containment and support."

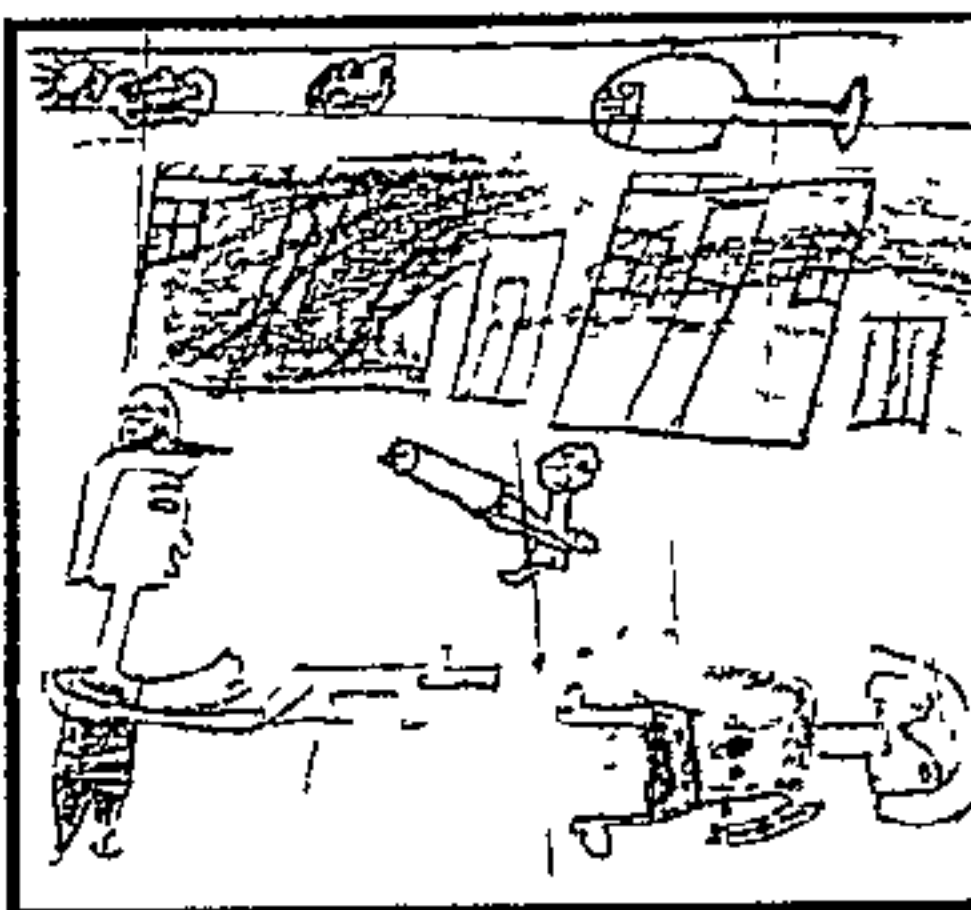
All children will react to violence in different ways, according to their ages, their individual

make-up and their home environments. According to Dawes, those most at risk are children who lack support from parents or siblings, or who have experienced the death of someone close to them (perhaps seen it happen), lost their homes and been displaced or injured themselves.

For such children, especially where such events happen to the same child, one could predict long-term effects.

But Dawes dismisses the notion that the violence will throw up an entire brutalised generation, with dire implications for the future. "Many children in townships are brutalised already by life itself," he points out, adding that only a small proportion of children will manifest more serious long-term effects, becoming depressed, asocial and withdrawn.

For many, violence can become understood as the way problems are solved. "Young children often have quite aggressive fantasies anyway. When they see the outside world being aggres-



Childhood memories ... and a lifetime of pain  
sive, the boundaries can get blurred.

Adolescents' greater ability to understand the violence acts as a form of protection but, says

Dawes, their tendency to get involved in more risky behaviour also put them in greater danger.

Removing children from violent areas, unless they went to other, familiar family members, is not necessarily a solution, says Dawes.

"Children will tend to be concerned about what is going on at home and will tend to inflate the dangers faced by those left behind. When things get difficult, it is better to keep people close to those they can rely on.

"What's necessary are support groups — for teachers, parents and siblings — perhaps linked to civics and street committees, acting as channels for information to help them to cope. There aren't the resources to give everyone therapy.

"The main thing is to avoid people becoming emotionally isolated. They need the opportunity to talk, share their terrors and losses — not just to ventilate but to think of constructive ways of finding out how to cope. If adults and older siblings cope better, so will the children."

# war zone



the burnt-out home he once lived in at Crossroads squatter camp in Kallahong

Photo GUY ADAMS

to talk about his will do if they too scared to to death"

Soweto to Road in past the past few to shoot forays into

12-year family to move on Vincent but it is better

47 people and 17 in the yard they have to even eat out inside when

the hostel people come," says Catherine

The house is on the corner next to the taxi rank where, three weeks ago, a minibus full of people going to work was sprayed with machine gunfire. A week later, again not far from her home, a hand grenade was hurled into a bus returning workers from town. Miraculously, no one was killed. Six people were injured.

As Catherine speaks, a tremor runs through the ground. The children instinctively duck low. Some run away, bent double to avoid bullets. Catherine puts on a brave face and dismisses the others as "cowards." But it is clear she is shaken.

Like most children her age, the Easter school holidays have come as a welcome relief.

"When we wash, preparing to go to school, the hostel people would come towards the township and we have to run out into the street naked, there is no time to dress up," says Catherine.

Just three weeks ago, her cousin, 12-year-old Jacob, was ambushed by hostel dwellers crouching in the alley he has to pass on his way to school. Pellet marks around his eye now scar his face.

"I was walking through a passage, and suddenly I was grabbed and taken to the hostel by these men," says Jacob. "I screamed loudly. I thought they were going to kill me inside that place. They were hitting me all the time and then one guy, I can recognise him, told them to let me go because our people had been alerted."

At the Ikhayalam pre-school near Mzimhlope hostel, principal Caroline Tikolo says the children are affected by the violence. All her charges are under six years old and "when they hear guns they panic and run around and then want to watch what's happening at the fence."

Last week, she found a five-year-old drawing a stick instead of the usual mommy and daddy pictures. He said "I am drawing

Inkatha"

During playtime they play their favourite game "Inkatha, Inkatha." They use plastic bags to make headbands, grab anything that will suffice for a "traditional weapon" and run around "killing" each other.

One of the children playing in the street near the crèche says "I saw a man from the Inkatha hostel being burnt just there in the next road three weeks ago." He points to a distant line of abandoned, gutted houses which form a border between township and hostel residents.

"When I heard people talking about him, I followed because I wanted to see what was happening. He was dead and lying there on his back looking upward like this."

He lies down on the grass and demonstrates how the man lay stiff, and indicates that a hole in his head was oozing blood while many parts of his burnt body still smouldered. "But I was not scared, I was only disgusted," he says.

## Playing games among the ruins

W/Mail 10/4 - 15/4/92

By BEATHUR BAKER

ALL that's left alongside the flattened shacks of families wiped out in an attack on Crossroads, a predominantly Zulu squatter camp next to Kallahong on the East Rand, are the trampled remnants of once-thriving vegetable gardens.

Now, children who survived the onslaught and are on holiday from school, play among the ruins.

At first sight, they appear unaffected by the brutality of the attack — which was a rare and savage example of children joining their parents as specific targets of township violence.

When asked who they think is responsible for the attack, the survivors, some as young as five, have no doubt. "It's the Xhosas, we heard them talk as we were hiding — that is how we know."

After the early morning attack last Friday, mothers, fathers and children were left for dead in the smouldering ruins of their corrugated iron shacks.

One mother, identified only as "Kgampane" by a neighbour, was asleep with her husband and two children when, shortly after 1am, a group of men armed with knives, knobkerries and pangas barged into their shack demanding money.

In confusion they said they had none, hoping the attackers would leave, but the men rained blows on them, mercilessly beating them, the neighbour told *The Weekly Mail*.

While trying to ward off the blows, Kgampane tried to protect her one-month-old daughter, holding the child close to her body. But she could not defend it from the blows, and the baby was struck on the head by a panga, leaving a gaping back wound across her tiny forehead. She was lucky — she survived.

All the while her terrified four-year-old brother stood hugging his father around the legs, crying hysterically as he watched him being hacked to death.

His "interference" by holding on to his father so angered the attackers that they hit him repeatedly, slashing his forearms and wrists and before killing his father.

The boy is also in hospital, fighting for his life.

This family was the first to be attacked, but they were not the last.

Vera Ndlela (19) was also asleep when the men barged into her shack. They immediately began beating her, and demanded money from her. She said she was a student, and had no money. On hearing this, they told her that they wanted her 18-month-old baby to remove parts of his body. She tried to hold on to the boy, but repeated blows from knives and knobkerries forced her to let go. As the men took the boy, she broke away and ran. They flung him into the ruins, and chased Vera among the dense reeds of a nearby stream.

For three days, Vera lay in the smelly, marshy stream running alongside the squatter camp.

Unable to move after her severe beating, she remained stuck on the stream bank until she heard people nearby and let out a weak scream. Residents found her and took her to the Natalspruit Hospital.

Her son is missing, and police do not know whether he is one of the injured in hospital, or a body in a morgue.

By Wednesday, five days after the attack, the police could not confirm the names or number of children injured or killed. The only incidents they were able to give details of were the cases of two children, both believed to be younger than one year, whose bodies are at the Germiston mortuary. Both suffered "excessive burn wounds" and are thought to have died as a result of their burns.



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## Nation Building

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# First workshop a big success

Sowetan 10/4/92

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**THE first Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshop for 1992 held in Soweto was a big success and the beginning of better things to come.**

In the true character of a workshop, issues ranging from crime, violence, parental involvement in their children's lives, teenage pregnancy and the education crisis, were presented by experts chosen by the community itself.

Thereafter the enthusiastic audience, comprising mainly the youth, broke into groups for discussions and returned with concrete resolutions and a remarkable determination to fulfil them.

"I was just too impressed with what I saw happening at that workshop," said Pick 'n Pay Southgate consumer adviser Ms Selina Mogare.

"The number of people who attended and the way they got involved means that our people are now prepared to take social responsibility and resolve whatever problems exist in their communities.

"Normally people are casual about such things, they don't take them seriously and they are not bothered to take their time to attend. But what I saw at that workshop was different. I hope that people everywhere will start doing the same," she said.

A young man from Standerton, Foza Mhlanga, who spent the weekend with his relatives in Soweto particularly to be at the workshop, shook the audience with emotion when he rendered a poetry item: "You fools, the time for violence is now over. Let us change our hearts to the light of love."



**FOZA MHLANGA**

The Parenting Workshops are part of Nation Building and since their beginning three years ago, they have been sponsored by Pick 'n Pay.

The next workshop is to be held in Pietersburg on May 24. Don't miss it!



It's a choice between life on the streets or travelling through them in taxis for many young fare-collectors reports

## Mbuyiselo

Mtshheketshe:

South 11/4-16/4/92

**F**ROM INSIDE a mini-bus taxi a voice calls out the destination to potential passengers as it makes it way through peak-hour traffic.

"Nou ry, gou ry," says the voice. Chances are the voice belongs to a child who works as fare-collector and door-keeper.

Mini-bus taxis are flagrantly disregarding the law banning child labour by using children to collect fares because they are small and do not take up passenger space.

Last year the government banned the employment of all children under the age of 15. The employment of children to collect fares is growing in the Western Cape.

The majority of the fare-collectors are boys between 12 and 17 years. They claim they work long hours, some starting at 4am and finishing at 11pm.

Sandle Ciko is 13 and collects fares between Nyanga and Cape Town ranks.

# Destination unknown for taxi-fare children



**TEEN TRAVELLER:** One of the many child fare-collectors that can be seen at the taxi ranks across the Peninsula



He comes from Knayelitsha. After his father died in a car accident, his mother moved to Kimberley, leaving him with his grandmother. She never returned.

Sandile started hanging about on the streets. He was among hundreds of children who have flocked to the city in recent years to attempt to provide for themselves.

Sandile told SOUTH that on one occasion he was arrested for loitering and fined R50. After he was released he went to the taxi ranks of Langa where he asked one of the taxi drivers for a job to collect fares and open and close the door for passengers.

Sandile says he earns R15 to R20 a day. Like most of the fare-collectors, he has no formal education.

Many of these boys express a deep sense of hopelessness and despondency about their lives.

Their hopes for a better future are hampered by the lack of formal education. They say they enjoyed going to school but left to supplement the family income.

Taxi owner Mr Ismail Diedricks says his son used to collect the fares after school and during holidays.

But he says: "I don't like a fare-collector in my taxi because recently I had to pay R80 for overloading."

Other drivers say they employ the boys to keep them off the streets and to help them supplement the family income.

Taxi commuters say they feel relaxed where there are fare-collectors because they don't have to open or close the door.

Mrs Maggie Moloi of Nyanga has a son, Xola, who was a fare-collector before she sent him to Khayamandi Home for Boys, in Langa.

She says the money these boys earn makes up a significant portion of household income.

She says this money can be saved and the boys sent to school the next year.

Another child collector, Enoch Meyers, works at the Athlone rank. He says taxi collectors should be

*'Many of these boys express a deep sense of hopelessness and despondency about their lives'*

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insured against accidents while on duty.

Meyers left school in Standard Three because of financial difficulties. His uncle asked him to travel with his driver.

Welfare worker Mr F Moerat says trade unions and welfare organisations have begun push for the state to enforce child labour laws.

He says the establishment of a general age for employment is a necessary, though a difficult, step in any programme aiming to eliminate child labour.

Mr David Fortune of the children's magazine, Molo Songololo, says child labour is based on the "ideological perspective of white domination".

For white children a job was "something they do outside of school hours over weekends or holidays and for pocket money, while for black children a job is for maintenance and survival".

Fortune says in many cases if they did not work "they would starve or turn to crime".

Mr Dawie Bosch of the Centre for Rural Legal Resource Studies says children are often used because they are much more easily exploited.

Child labour is not a simple matter as thousands of families, facing poverty and unemployment, depend for their survival on the income of their children.

"If a near-total ban on child labour was implemented, many families could possibly starve," Bosch says.



# Waiting for food or death

By SOPHIE TEMA

**SOUTH AFRICA'S** shame is hidden away from us in the hills and the desolate places. Here the "matchstick people" sit about in silence — waiting for food or death. They need R81-million to get through the next nine months, according to the organisation on the frontline of the issue, Operation Hunger. The victims in these areas are those least able to fend for themselves — mainly infants, little children and the aged. Ina Perlman, head of Operation Hunger, said to feed (keep alive) the present starving masses would cost R9-million a month for the next nine months. City Press visited some sites in the Orange Free State last week with Perlman where we saw shocking scenes of little children with bulging, staring eyes, puffy faces, distended bellies and reed-thin legs. They sat rigidly and in silence. One could almost feel the life draining out of the place, like a clock



**STAYING ALIVE...** An old couple eats to survive. ■ PIC: EVANS MBOWENI

winding down. Perlman said this tragedy was heightened by the fact starvation is taking place in obscure rural areas, especially in the homelands. The drought

was the "last straw". Chronic malnutrition, she said, would be with us as long as there is no minimum wage for farm and domestic workers. F Diale (not his real

name) said he worked for seven years on a farm for R60 a month until paralysed down one side by a stroke. He was instantly dismissed and no attempt was made by the farmer to assist him in obtaining his disability pension. I was shocked to see that Diale and 19 others live in one room in an abandoned farmhouse. I spoke to Mapule, a stunted six-year-old girl, who lives in a shack with three younger brothers and a baby sister. Their mom recently picked up a job as a domestic worker in Bloemfontein and can only visit on Sundays. So little Mapule cooks, cleans and takes care of four younger siblings...

Mapule said a dozen potatoes used to be their only food, but Operation Hunger arranged that one of the neighbours come to their soup kitchen for a daily ration for the little ones.

I looked around. A lifetime spent working on a farm had resulted in one bed, one table and three beat-up chairs.

Perlman said squatters' numbers were swelling as destitute, dislocated people set up hovels and prepared to battle for their lives.



**HARDEST HIT...** Will this child make it? ■ PIC: EVANS MBOWENI

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# Court sets aside burnt youth's sentence

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Pretoria Supreme Court has set aside the sentence imposed by a Louis Trichardt magistrate on an 18-year-old youth who had been welded to a steel table and set alight by a white farmer.

Mr Justice McCreath and Mr Justice de Villiers found that regional magistrate Mr AGH Bouwer did not have sufficient evidence to impose a proper sentence in the theft case involving the youth, Frank Mukhwathi.

The judges found that the sentence was improper, but they lacked sufficient evidence to impose a proper sentence themselves. They then referred the case back to the regional court to allow Mukhwathi to lead more evidence in mitigation.

In particular, the judges ordered that the physical and psychological effects of the beatings and fire on Mukhwathi be properly investigated and psychiatric treatment and evidence led.

Mukhwathi was found guilty and sentenced to an indefinite period in a juvenile centre in October last year for the theft of a R750 TV set. He had pleaded not guilty.

His case aroused great interest because a white farmer who made a citizen's arrest welded him to a steel table, poured petrol over him and set him alight. The youth, as a result, sustained serious second degree burns that took over four-and-half months of hospital treatment to stabilise. He is at present on bail.

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Sowetan 15/4/92

# Children want jobs and justice in charter

By FERAL HAJFEE (298)  
FROM parties to peace on earth — the participants who drew up a children's charter over the weekend had all their angles covered.

About 200 children met at a Johannesburg school to draw up the Transvaal version of the charter and elect eight delegates to represent them in Cape Town, where a children's summit will be held at the end of May.

They came from diverse backgrounds and one could see it in their shoes: purple suede pumps and trendy Gothic-punk black clodhoppers competed with more practical L.A. Gear takkies — all of which cost more than R200 a pair. At the other end of the scale stood a pair of scuffed, too-big red shoes, and a pair of old Northstars with a toe sticking out of the front.

The workshop was planned by the National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC), a South African organisation run by the United Nations International Children's Education Fund (Unicef).

Delegates' ages ranged from 10 to 16 years. Contrary to expectations, it wasn't the older children who ran the show. The little ones had a clarity of ideas and confidence the more gangly teenagers lacked.

The younger children had the most keen political sense and most of their demands related to the violence they had witnessed in their townships.

This group's scribe, 12-year-old Portia Hlubi, confidently declared she was from White City Jabavu and that "schools should have heaters, and broken windows should be replaced and the violence must end".

A boy from her group, Don Chila (10), was the youngest and the shortest. But he made up for this with a booming voice and an air of confidence honed at Observatory Primary School.

Neil (13), from Jeppe Boys High, said "uniforms sucked" and included in his charter, "the right to choose your own clothes and to go to parties and to discos".

The group's demands generally reflected teenage concerns, like more freedom, "responsible allowances" and understanding teachers and parents.

In the older teenage groups, the black children were surprisingly quiescent. It transpired that most of them were from remedial schools and did not feel confident to speak out. When they did express themselves, many of their proposals centred on rights for disabled children.

By the end of the day the children had sorted out what they wanted in the charter. It was a mixture of the UN Convention on Children they had been read that morning and their own party and peace clauses.

NCRC representative Jabulile Mvula says the contributions from children all over South Africa will be collected in Cape Town. The NCRC will then formulate the charter which will be discussed at a policy conference at the University of the Western Cape.

Its final destination will be the Convention for a Democratic South Africa or an interim government, where it will be debated for inclusion in a new constitution.



# The plight of others comes first

From page 22  
Sowetan 7/4/92  
hundreds of children to be able to attend school and dress presentably.

Tatane and her peers also hold jumble sales and sell other commodities and live comparably well.

In 1976 she retired from teaching and this gave her a chance to be actively involved in another undertaking, assisting pensioners on their pay day. (298)

A pensioner herself, she sees to it that the elderly people are placed in the right queues and they receive the amount they are entitled to.

## Parties

She also takes part in organising Christmas parties for them every year.

Tatane gets a lot of satisfaction from her work and does not feel she is overworking herself.

"It keeps me young," she joked.

"I come from a family that cared about the welfare of others. My parents would help to house any one in need," she said.

A widow and mother of five children, Tatane lives with one daughter and her school-going grandson.

This amazing old woman sings soprano in the local Anglican church.



MMONI TATANE

Woman  
of the  
Sowetan 7/4/92  
Weekly

MRS Mmonli Lily Tatane of Alteredville, Pretoria, is a frail 79-year-old woman who for almost all her life has put the plight of others before her own.

BY AMBER  
NCITYANA

Tatane's active community involvement goes as far back as 1970 when as a teacher and chairperson of the National Council of African Women, she initiated a child care programme to help working

mothers who did not have anywhere to leave their children.

The mini creche, run from the local Methodist Church and named after the then NCAW president, Minah Soga, grew into a bigger venture with subsequent financial assistance from the town

council.

Tatane's involvement in projects that concern children continues to date.

She is a committee member of the Child and Family Care, an organisation which has taken upon itself the task of looking for needy children and referring them to social workers.

This system has helped  
To page 23.

# Khayelitsha 'crisis courts' take over

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ARG 18/4/92

**VUYO BAVUMA**  
Weekend Argus Reporter

**SEXUAL** abuse of children in Khayelitsha's sprawling squatter camps has reached crisis proportions, say social workers and doctors who work in the area.

However, parents of abused children are fighting back — with their own "crisis courts". Culprits are "tried" in them and punished before being handed over to the police.

Community workers, who may not named for professional reasons, said the rate of sexual assaults on small girls was increasing.

Since the beginning of the year more than 15 sexually-molested children had been treated, said a Khayelitsha Day Hospital doctor.

He wrote medical reports of the victims, but claimed that most of these documents were not collected by police for investigation.

Some of the documents dated as far back as 1989.

In certain areas, especially in Makhaya, the residents have been taking the law into their own hands to deal with the alleged abusers and several men have been assaulted in the people's "crisis courts".

Last month in Philippi, a toddler of 23 months was raped and murdered, allegedly by her stepfather, while her mother was in hospital.

The man was later beaten up before being turned over to the police.

Last November, a Khayelitsha man, who allegedly had sex with his daughter, had head injuries after being assaulted in a "people's court".

A Site B man was beaten up after he admitted having molested four children in his area.

Last year, an 18-year-old

youth was assaulted and severely injured after he was convicted in a people's court of raping a six-year old.

The doctor spoke about the patterns of the crimes.

Some children were sexually abused either by stepfathers or their mothers' boyfriends at their homes while their parents were at work.

Sometimes, the abusers were family breadwinners and the victim's mother might be reluctant to go to the police, fearing the loss of the family support. Others did not report abuse as they feared they would be disgraced.

Most victims were referred to hospital by parents or teachers.

Social workers said overcrowding and shortage of creches in the squatter areas contributed to abuse. In many

cases parents shared bedrooms with their children.

In one case, the doctor said he had treated a sexually molested 12-year-old who was brought to him by her relatives.

She had been molested "over a long period" by her mother's boyfriend. The child was now fearful and refused to be left alone.

In July, a stranger raped two five-year-old girls. He had asked the girls to follow him after he gave them each R1.

Recently, a 12-year-old fell pregnant after she was sexually assaulted by her 19-year-old brother.

Last month, the doctor treated a five-year-old girl who had been abused by her uncle over a long period.

On March 13, the uncle ap-

peared in the Mitchell's Plain court and was acquitted.

A social worker in Khayelitsha said it was difficult to get the alleged abusers convicted in court.

"The child becomes afraid to give evidence against the adult. The child also is shaken by the court as it is a foreign and intimidating experience.

"As a result, out of fear, the child fails to point the accused. In spite of the medical evidence, the accused is acquitted."

The doctor added: "There's just lawlessness in the camp. The people who are carrying out these despicable acts know they won't be caught.

"I feel that the police are not doing enough to catch the people who carrying out these crimes."

Another problem was that children were afraid to tell their parents because the abusers threatened to punish or even kill the child if she told.

A Khayelitsha police spokesman confirmed that child abuse in his area was increasing, but denied they were not taking action.

The victims were sent to Red Cross Children's Hospital and then medical reports were followed up. In most cases, police found it difficult to get the convictions where the families were involved.

He said: "When it comes to court, most family members hold back information and refuse to co-operate. This really hampers the investigation.

"In some cases, the children are too young to identify the culprits. We warn parents to leave their children in the hands of a capable person or crèche."

There is no branch of the Child Protection Unit in the townships.

## Abuse of children goes on regardless . . .

**MARK KEOHANE**  
Weekend Argus Reporter

**CHILD** abuse in South Africa continues to spiral — as do rape, indecent assault and general assault of children.

Last month the police Child Protection Unit arrested 581 people for child-related offences — including 190 for rape, 95 for indecent assault and 69 for assault.

Last month's crime statistics were released in Pretoria this week.

The Murder and Robbery Unit arrested 737 people in connection with murder, 1 980 for armed robberies and 43 for rape.

The Vehicle Theft Unit re-

covered 1 580 vehicles with a total value of R37 million. Of those vehicles, 949 were identified as stolen and 732 people were charged.

The Diamond and Gold Unit arrested 311 people and more than R1 million rands worth of diamonds, gold and other precious metals was seized.

The Commercial Crime Unit closed 365 cases involving nearly R39 million and made 388 arrests.

The Narcotics Bureau arrested 2 762 people and seized nearly 300 000 Mandrax tablets, 31 879 kilograms of cannabis, 1 827 grams of cocaine, 200 units of LSD and 600 grams of heroin.

A further 72 788 people were arrested for serious offences.



By Teresita Bagasao

BETWEEN 50 000 and 70 000 streetchildren are involved in prostitution in the Philippines, and neither the government nor non-governmental organisations (NGOs) can estimate rates of HIV among youth involved in the sex trade.

Although illegal, prostitution and child prostitution peaked in the seventies with the creation of a Ministry of Tourism by the Marcos regime which hyped the country to tourists for much-needed currency.

Tourism became one of the top five gross dollar earners, and tourists — mostly males — flocked to the islands for "cheap" women and children raised by society to be hospitable and available to guests, particularly foreign ones.

By 1986, with a shift from dictatorship to democracy, a liberated media began to publicise stories of widespread child prostitution, causing civic-minded groups and the government to join forces in eradication efforts.

### Sweeping raids

Police and immigration authorities launched sweeping raids, resulting in deportation of paedophiles and the temporary closure of some brothels which catered for them.

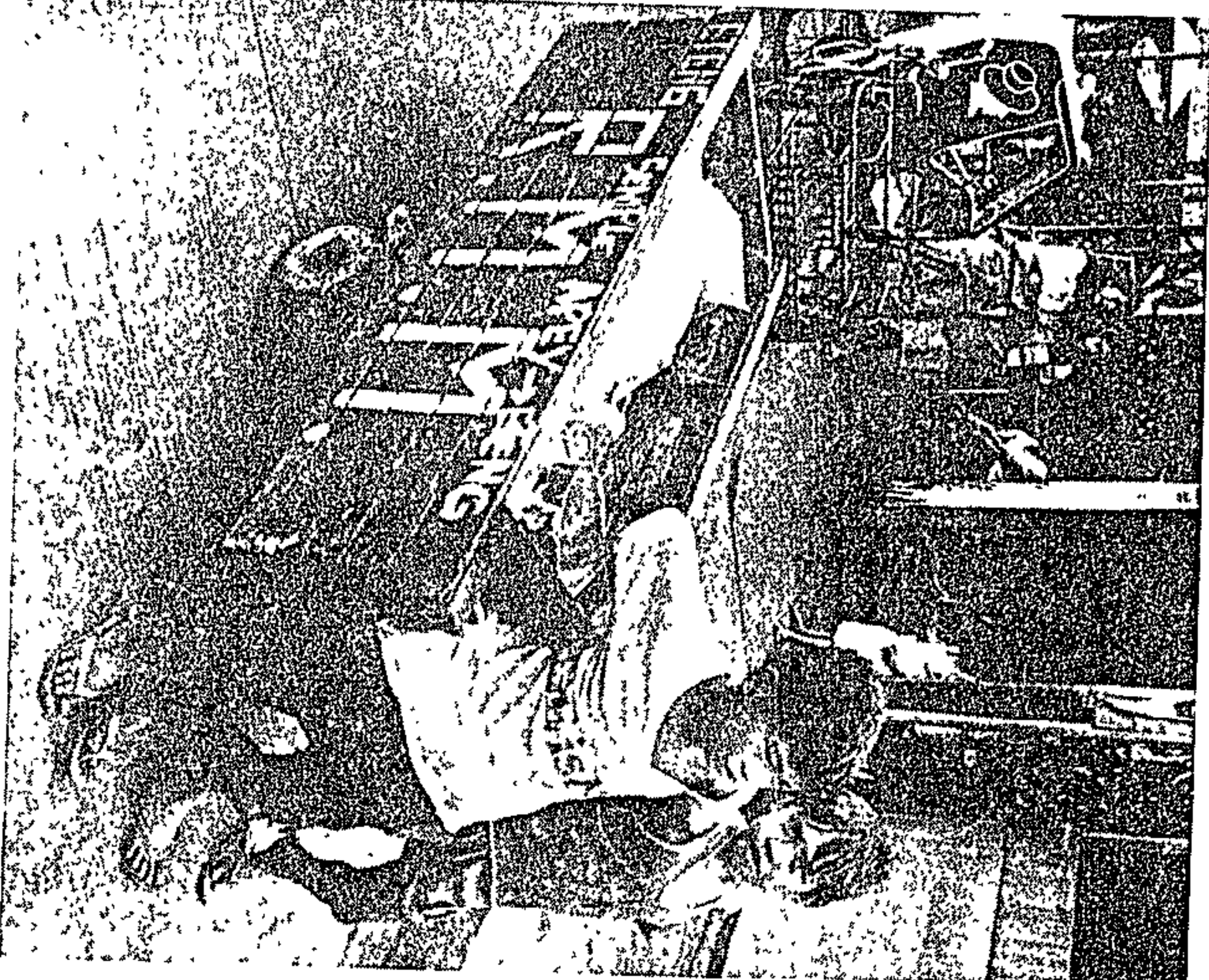
Despite these moves and new stringent laws against prostitution and child exploitation, grinding poverty forces thousands of children to engage in unsafe and unwarranted sex to survive.

Ten-year-old "Randy" ran away from an impoverished broken home. On the street, he worked for a pimp who may have been a former sex worker, a policeman or, ironically, a barangay tanod (a locally appointed civilian law and order officer).

As a "freelance" sex worker (working outside a controlled venue), mainly servicing foreign males, Randy earned approximately \$US20 (P50) per customer — making him one of the highest paid

# Tough battle to keep kids off the streets of shame

South 18/4 - 23/4/92



**SEX FOR SURVIVAL: Between 50 000 and 75 000 street-children sell sex for a living in the Philippines**

streetchildren.

But when he grew too tall, he lost his childish image which was his strongest selling point. Now 19 years old, he lives off what he earns from pimping for a younger brother and other children.

Nearly all streetchildren share a

**'Sex work**

**provides homeless youth with a means to survive — which is why some parents either tolerate or encourage it'**

sense of freedom absent in their homes — children flock to the cities. But lack of education and marketable skills, combined with their status as minors, leave them few alternatives to sex work.

However, sex work provides homeless youth — and their relatives — with a means to survive, which is why some parents or close kin either tolerate or encourage it.

"Anna", aged 10, was guided by her mother to "direct her charms" at wealthy foreigners rather than Filipinos. Now at 14, she is training to be a "dancer" to work in Japan and earn more money.

And the parents of "Jose", aged 12, do not object to their son living with an older man, since the latter financially supports the entire family.

One NGO which seeks to educate young sex workers about the risks of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV is Kabalikat ng Pamilyang Pilipino (Partnership with Filipino Families).

In 1988, with the support of the Health Ministry, Kabalikat reached out to sex workers in bars and massage parlours and discovered that at least 20 percent of the supposedly adult men and women were minors who lied about their age to obtain permits.

Because no other NGO was addressing their urgent health needs, Kabalikat began to intervene with Aids prevention education among streetkids, despite the risk that the public might wrongly perceive that the NGO condoned child prostitution.

### Stumbling block

Workers soon identified a major stumbling block: how could they get kids to demand that clients practise safe sex if it meant loss of money and the chance to eat a decent meal and have comfortable shelter for a night?

But through talking to them and, more importantly, listening to their concern, the NGO inspired trust among the children who realised Kabalikat was not out to reform them, turn them over to an institution, or do anything against their will.

Only then could workers initiate sessions on health, substance abuse, sexual health and condom use, nutritional support, counselling and offer referrals for structured care and support.

While helping streetkids who remain in the sex industry learn to negotiate condom use with their clients, Kabalikat also attempts to reach their customers.

After barely one year of working with streetkids, the NGO feels it is too early to gauge if it is gaining in the fight for survival and against Aids.

The increase in the number of kids who come to the Kabalikat's drop-in centre for information and support is rewarding, but workers warn against complacency.

"Too many streetkids in other cities are caught in the same poverty trap and we are active in Manila alone," says one educator.



**Magistrate**

Subdirector-General  
Inspection Services  
(Departmental Inspector)

**Assistant State Attorney**

State Attorney, Durban  
State Attorney, Johannesburg

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Wynberg

**Justices of the peace**

Queensdown

Krugersdorp

Johannesburg

Kuils River

Port Elizabeth

**State Advocate**

Attorney-General,

Cape Town

Attorney-General,

Johannesburg

**Estate Controller**

Master of the Supreme Court,

Cape Town

**State Law Adviser**

Head Office, Pretoria

(cc)

**Prosecutor**

Camperdown

Kranskop

Verulam

Chatsworth

Durban

Scottburgh

Pietermaritzburg

Johannesburg

Dannhauser

Kimberley

Stanger

Soshanguve

**Magistrate**

Durban

Verulam

Stanger

Ladysmith

Chatsworth

Pinetown

Port Shepstone

**State Advocate**

Attorney-General, Johannesburg

Attorney-General, Durban

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2

1  
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In an effort to be of assistance to the hon member, the following information for the period 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991 was obtained from the Central Statistical Services:

	Male	Female	Total
Prosecuted for infanticide	31	12	43
Convicted of infanticide	17	11	28

**Legal Aid Board: financial obligations**

146. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice:

- (a) What were the unpaid (i) financial and (ii) contingent financial obligations of the Legal Aid Board as at 31 January 1992 and (b) what cash funds did the Board have at its disposal as at that date?

B361E

**The MINISTER OF JUSTICE.**

- (a) (i) There were approximately 15 000 accounts on hand which still had to be taxed and paid. Calculated at an average amount of approximately R744,00 for each account, the outstanding amount is more or less R11 million. This was due to a backlog of approximately 14 weeks regarding the payment of accounts. Due to the institution of special measures, the backlog should be overcome during the second half of April 1992.

- (ii) Available information and calculations done by actuarial consultants indicate that the Board should receive accounts of about R59,7 million in respect of pending cases over the next six or more years.

- (b) On 31 January 1992 the Legal Aid Board had R14 783 400,00 available. This figure includes the balance of funds granted, interest earned, legal aid costs recovered and the obligatory contributions that successful litigants have to make from financial advantages they received. (Since 1 April 1989, 5% of the financial advantage received by litigants who have made use of legal aid, must be paid over to the Legal Aid Board.)

The allocation of an additional

R10 706 000,00 out of the contingent reserve brings the total amount allocated by the Government for the financial year that ends on 31 March 1992 to R35 206 000,00.

The Legal Aid Board will be able to meet all its financial obligations which is payable in the present financial year with the available funds.

**Legal Aid Board: legal aid services suspended**

147. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice:

- Whether any legal aid services were suspended by the Legal Aid Board in 1991; if so, (a)(i) which services and (ii) for what period and (b) why were these services suspended?

B362E

**The MINISTER OF JUSTICE.**

No legal aid services were suspended by the Legal Aid Board in 1991 in the sense that and for certain cases and/or specific procedural steps were excluded from the Legal Aid Board's legal aid scheme.

Certain prescriptions which the Legal Aid Board included in its legal aid manual in 1988, to ensure that funds are appropriated for worthy cases are, however, still in force. These prescriptions pertain to legal aid for appeals in criminal and civil matters and determine that and will not be granted unless the Director of the Legal Aid Board is convinced that there is a reasonable prospect for success on appeal.

Legal aid for claims justiciable in the Small Claims Court was also not granted in 1991.

The policy that authorization for instructions to advocates for appearances in lower courts and instructions to senior advocates only be given by the Director in exceptional cases, was maintained in 1991.

The restrictions that were imposed on money payable to legal practitioners in April and December 1988 were maintained during 1991 in the following matters:

- \* Divorces and related cases
- \* Petitions and applications after the imposition of the death sentence
- \* Industrial court cases

Cost - - 0



# Come and meet your fete

298  
so wetan  
23/4/92

THE Soweto Council's pre-primary department invites children and adults to a fete at the Orlando Stadium on May 5.

The aim is to raise funds and promote parental and community involvement in childhood education.

Six crèches and seven toddler's clubs with about 1 000 children make up the department.

Soccer, swimming, family racing, a fashion show and other activities will keep everybody entertained. Food stalls will also be available.

# A sister to all children

**Women**

She is a shield  
against abuse





## Sally Legodi - no ordinary nurse.

AT first sight, Sister Sally Legodi (53) is just another nurse in the busy wards of Meadowlands Clinic in Soweto. *Sowetan 23/4/92*

But speaking to her you discover a woman with more concerns than just her daily work at the clinic.

A grandmother of three, Legodi would be expected to go straight home from work to be with her family.

Instead, she spends most of her spare time - after work, weekends and even her annual leave - lecturing about child abuse and counselling victims.

In three years' time she will retire a happy woman. Not because of the pension benefit or all the leisure time she will have, but because she will have time for the project which she has been nurturing for four years now.

Her interest in the project was prompted by the growing number of children attending the clinic with symptoms of child abuse.

It was also a belief she had that if child abuse can be reduced, the money and resources spent treating its complications could be used for other serious diseases.

She then joined the Bara/Soweto Child Abuse Liaison Group, an organisation of multi-professionals, youth and parents, concerned about the scourge.

After joining the organisation in 1990, Legodi was sent on a course in counselling and later went on another where she trained as an educator. Both courses centred on child abuse awareness and prevention.

"Naturally I love children," said Legodi passionately. "But as a paediatric and primary health care nurse, it is also my duty to be able to recognise abused children when they come to the clinic.

"The aim is to help both the victim and

By PEARL MAJOLA

the perpetrator because he also has problems. *(298)*

"I come across many cases of abuse at work but there isn't enough time to give them attention when there is a long queue of other patients waiting to be attended to.

"I do most of the work during my spare time. I just returned from two weeks of leave which I used going around schools educating the children," she explained.

Legodi said despite all this work, she still finds time for her family.

"My family is very important to me and I will always have time for them," she said.

"I think if people understood the evil of child abuse and if children know their rights when it comes to treatment from parents and adults in general, we could win the war against this affliction.

"It saddens and angers me to see the Health Department spending money on treatment of complications caused by something that can be prevented like child abuse."

She does not only teach children in schools but also health care workers from other clinics who in turn teach people in their own communities.

"The idea is to reach as many people as we can. I have been invited to many schools and private organisations. But time always is a problem.

"That is why I am looking forward to my retirement because then I will be able to give this project all the time it needs," she said enthusiastically.

When we spoke to her, Legodi was busy helping to organise for National Child Protection Week which will be on May 4 to 10.



# Giving birth to Africa's big problem

Sowetan 24/4/92

## Women

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

**CHILDBEARING** among adolescent African women is a relatively common event, a recent study on 11 sub-Saharan African countries reveals.

The study was prepared for an Inter-African conference on adolescent health.

It was conducted by the Population Reference Bureau in collaboration with the Institute for Resource Development/Macro International.

The 11 nations surveyed were Botswana, Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Togo, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The survey data, presented as a chartbook, determines that teenage motherhood in the above countries occurs at a time when African "social organisations that traditionally provided support to young mothers are weakening".

### Risks

"It stunts young African women's economic potential and can carry significant risks for both the mother and her infant," it says.

Mali rated highest with a total of 51 percent of young women, aged between 15 to 19, having been pregnant or with a child during the time of the survey.

Liberia and Uganda had the second and third highest rate of teenage mothers, scoring 45 percent and 37 percent respectively.

But in most of the countries a majority of the pregnancies occurred after marriage. In Mali, for example, 80 percent of the teenagers fell pregnant after they had been married and virtually all sexual experience occurs within the context of marriage.

### Needs

The survey shows high unmet needs for family planning, especially in Botswana and Kenya where 62 percent of unmarried, sexually active women were not using contraceptives but did not want to get pregnant soon.

It also reveals that infants born to mothers under 20 years of age are at greater risk than infants of women in the middle of their reproductive years.

The elevated risk is particularly pronounced in

and out of school.

Programmes to help young women stay in school, even if they have children.

Information, education and communication programmes aimed at the partners, parents and other relatives of adolescent women;

Policies that increase access to high-quality, appropriate family planning services and counselling for sexually active adolescents, and

Maternal and child health programmes that seek out teenagers who may not know what health care they and their babies need or where to obtain services.



Mother and children . . . sexually active women are not using contraceptives.



By Quentin Wilson

**SUPERVISORS** at Porter Reform School in Tokai are demanding guns, uniforms and danger pay following a series of planned attacks on them by juvenile inmates trying to escape.

The school tries to rehabilitate juveniles sent by the courts for crimes ranging from housebreaking to rape and murder. It falls under the Department of Education and Culture of the House of Representatives.

Mr Joseph Lewis, one of the supervisors and a minister of religion, said the boys "often gang up against us and attack us to get the keys so that they can escape".

According to Lewis, these assaults take place "about once a week".

The school is made up of four sections each housing up to 110 inmates. In each section there is one unarmed supervisor and an assistant to look after them. Only one of them is on duty in each section during the night-shift.

Another supervisor, who did not want to be named for fear of losing his job, said he was "constantly in fear" and always carried a broom

# Call for guns at reform school after violence

Solt 25/4 - 30/4/92

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with him in case he was attacked. He said the inmates had tried "many times" to attack him.

"One day I went out with about 30 boys to the garden where they were working with spades. Earlier one boy had tipped me off and told me, 'Meneer, they want to attack you today,' so I had taken something along to protect myself.

"I fought off the attack ... I won't

tell you what I used but I do have a wife and kids and I have to protect myself," he said.

Lewis told of one of his experiences earlier this month.

"They were a group of about 40 boys who tried to attack me and my assistant to get the keys. They used broomsticks and knocked my assistant unconscious. They just left him lying there, they would feel nothing to kill.

"It is not the worst I have encountered, but because it happened to me — a minister of religion — it just makes it worse. Thank God they only had broomsticks that time otherwise my arm would have been knocked off."

Both supervisors who spoke to SOUTH want permission to carry guns and wear a uniform.

"Apart from guns and danger pay, we need uniforms. It shows

that we are in authority. In fact, the whole situation needs to be reviewed. We are going to have a meeting with the principal this week and we will raise the issue of our security with him again," Lewis said.

The principal, Mr JD Ackerman, refused to talk to SOUTH and was outraged that we had entered the school without his permission.

A supervisor said that "presently he (the principal) is very worried and he does care, but he can't do anything. It's up to the DEC and the House of Representatives."

Mr Henry Jansen, director of Communication Services at the DEC, said: "The Department is presently arranging for a meeting to be scheduled with the supervisors in order to discuss the matter. It is the prerogative of the supervisors to approach the principal or the inspectors of education if there are any problems which they wish to discuss.

"Cognisance should be taken of the fact that the supervisors have laid a complaint to the principal, who in turn has brought it to the notice of the department in writing. The inspector of education is investigating the issue."

# Church comes to aid of destitute children

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Soweto 28/4/92

By MATHATHA TSEDU

THE Salvation Army has taken three of the five destitute children of Seshego cancer victim Mrs Johanna Mpya and they are now attending school at a Soweto centre.

Seshego church leader Lieutenant John Mabaso said yesterday the three girls, Rosina (11), Joyce (8) and Kgadi (5), were taken to the Bethany Girls Home in Meadowlands last week.

"The centre which is a place of safety, is run by the Salvation Army.

"There was a problem with Kgadi because only those aged seven or above can be admitted to the school but we had to bend the rules given the special circumstances of this case," Mabaso said.

Mabaso said another daughter, Philippine (15), would also be taken to Bethany this week to continue with her schooling.

She was in Standard Six when she

stopped schooling in 1990 due to lack of funds.

Also yesterday, it was confirmed that the eldest son, Matthews (18), had been admitted to Khaiso High School in Seshego.

The head of the regional education secretariat of the Azanian People's Organisation, Mr Jacob Dikobo, who has been handling the matter, thanked Khaiso for its attitude and said Matthews would report for classes today or tomorrow.

"We still have to get him school clothes and other basic necessities."

The children's mother has terminal cancer of the womb and is at the Knobbels Hospital outside Seshego.



## Children air their views

By TSALE MAKAM

*Soweto 30/4/92*  
CHILDREN will get a chance to air their views when they take part in "Child Protection Week" competitions at the Carlton Centre in Johannesburg from May 4 to 10.

The main themes are a poster contest titled "Protect children abuse" and a letter writing contest "My Hopes and Fears".

Judges will be specialists in children's art, writing and child care.

The Child Protection Forum and other organisations hope to highlight the needs of children around the country.

The posters and letters will be on display and thereafter shown at other centres.

STAFF  
15/192

# 'Mother' to all of nation's children



Shafto's People

A run of the mill Soweto-born girl is today one of the most influential women in Bophuthatswana — and in the capital, Mmabatho, runs an ultra-modern centre that sits at the very heart of Batswana culture.

It is known as the Mmabana Centre and provides recreational facilities it would be hard to match anywhere in the world.

Rosemary Mangope, the centre's executive director, explains that Mmabana means "Mother of the children", adding: "That is everyone — all the nation's children."

It couldn't have been better named: it literally has something for everyone, though its chief function is the provision of educational, recreational, medical and dental facilities for the young of the Batswana nation.

But no one is forgotten. There is, for example, a quilting section where exquisite needlework and machine sewing is done by handicapped people, taught by a craftsman, himself a quadriplegic.

body-toning equipment. Imagine all this and you're beginning to get an idea of how the centre looks — that is, if you add the social welfare, medical and dental, remedial and psychology sections and the usual departments for arts and crafts, dance and drama.

Rosemary is married to Dr Mangope's eldest son, Kwena, who is with the army. She has an MA in sociology from the University of the North. She also has a infectious tinkling laugh, a kind word and smile for everyone, and earlier this month turned 33.

Mother of two, she has very firm views on the role of women in society, but says she is not — repeat NOT — a feminist. Her mission in life is to remind her people of women's true place in society; for there to be "a proper balance" between male and female influence. She quotes the Red Indian analogy of a bird which to fly straight needs two evenly ba-

lanced wings. "If the male wing is too dominant and the female too weak, the bird cannot fly."

"So it is with people: women must make a meaningful contribution to the development of a nation. This is the basis for peace and prosperity."

But these are her private views and entirely separate from her life as Mmabana Centre executive director.

Hundreds pass through the centre daily. The early learning section caters for 100 children and many more underprivileged slightly older children in the afternoons. Seven hundred children a month visit the dental clinic, 1 500 a month the medical department. The comfortable modern theatre seats 200, and the music department caters for every conceivable instrument. Curriculums in dance, drama and music are the same as those followed by Mmabana's "Royal" counterparts in England.

MICHAEL SHAFTO

Ro.

YDE PARK

ATTITUDE

NEW





# LIVING with the DEAD

By CHIARA CARTER

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GRAVES are the last resting place for the deceased. But not all the occupants of the Cape Town cemetery are dead.

A graveyard next to Groote Schuur hospital in Observatory is home to a group of street children who sit between the crumbling angels.

Each night the children eat their supper before retiring to their spooky beds.

During the day their laundry lends a festive air to the fences around the grave

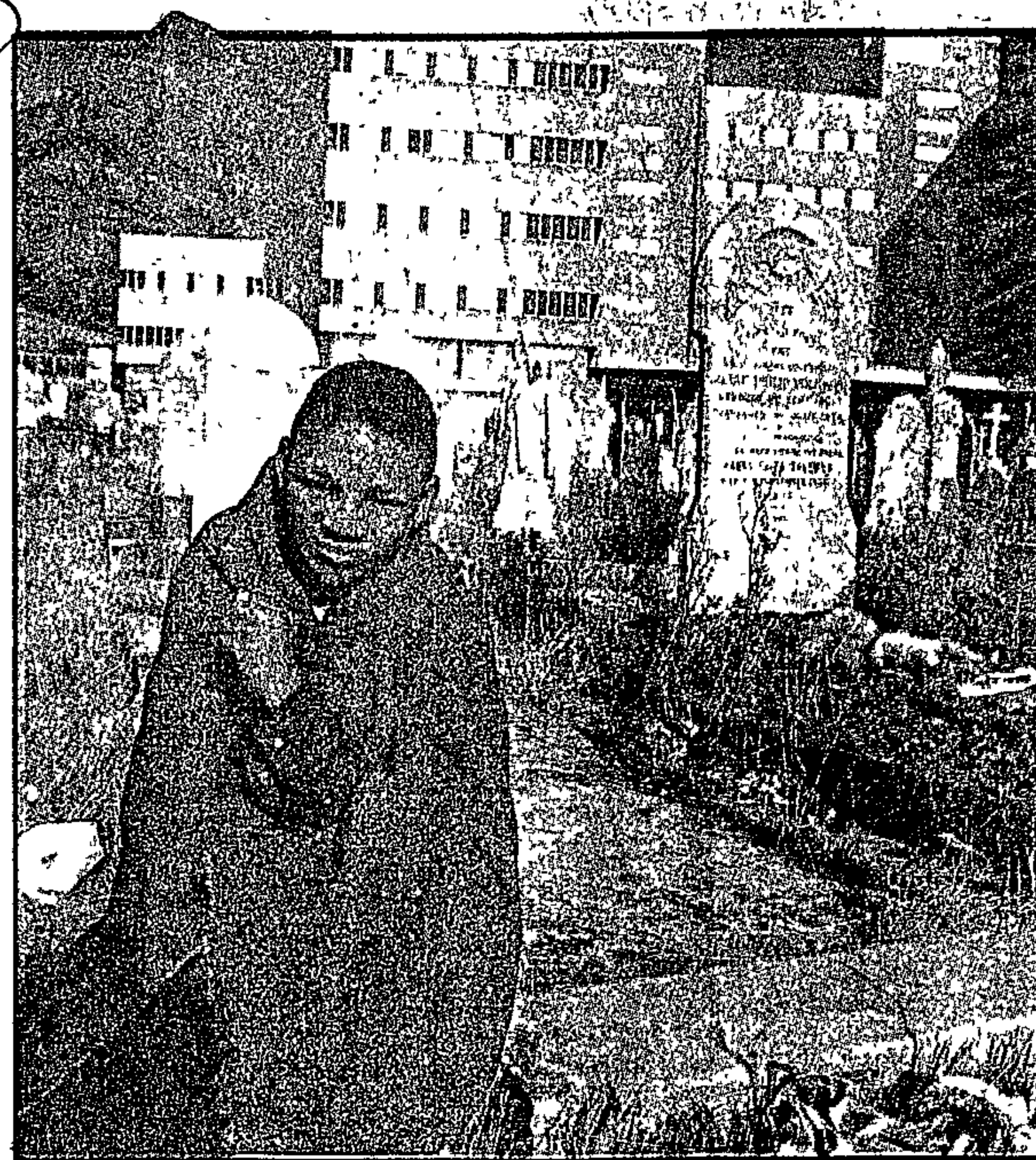
The children, whose ages range between 10 and 18, are reluctant to give their names or discuss their background.

They say they have "run away" because of domestic unhappiness and now find themselves unemployed and homeless.

"We decided to live here because it's near the shopping areas and nobody minds us being around," said 12-year-old Jerome.

"It's the kind of place where there aren't many passers-by."

Aren't the children scared of their dead 'com-



**GRAVE CHILD . . . A homeless child takes refuge from the Cape winter.**

panions?" "We try not to think about spooks and ghosts. I am sure that the corpses don't mind sharing their space with us.

We even clean some of the graves," said Jerome.

However, these graveyard kids are not unique. Fieldworkers said the

number of street children in South African cities is on the increase.

Their plight will be discussed at the Children

Summit taking place in Cape Town at the end of May.

The summit, which will also be attended by children from outside SA, will discuss education, health, welfare, violence, child labour and family life.

The children will draw up a charter on rights for African children based on the United Nations' declaration and convention on children's rights.

They will present the charter to an international conference on children's rights in Cape Town on June 13.

The summit and conference are be co-hosted by *Molo Songololo*, a Cape Town-based children's magazine and the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape.

The conference hopes to develop a quality proposal for the survival, protection and development of South African children.

This proposal will be presented to Codesa and other bodies so that the rights of South African children are enshrined in law.

June 1 is International Children's Day.



*HemSard*  
MONDAY, 4 MAY 1992

we are arrested for committing further crimes. The Department is not aware of any further cases which allegedly could possibly have been involved in criminal actions.

Thus only 3% of the total of persons placed under correctional supervision up to 31 March 1992 reverted to crime and this testifies to the success of the system of correctional supervision

On 1 April 1992 facets of correctional supervision as alternative sentence option were extended to the proclaimed magisterial districts and on 8 May 1992 and 1 June 1992 will be further extended to a considerable number of magisterial districts in different regions. It is envisaged that the system should be operative in all magisterial districts in the Republic of South Africa by the end of March 1993

(b) 31 March 1992

*Reply substituting reply to Question No 230 on 27 April 1992, put by Mr A Gerber (col 832)*

**Certain organization: funds raised/financial statements**

230 Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of National Health:

- (1) Whether a certain organization, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of her reply, obtained a fund-raising number from her Department, if so, (a) for what purposes was this number allocated and (b) what is the name of the organization;
- (2) whether her Department is exercising any control to ensure that the funds raised are utilized for the above-mentioned purposes by the organization concerned; if not, why not, if so, (a) to what extent and (b) with what result;
- (3) whether, in view of certain allegations which are being made in the media in respect of this organization and particulars of which have been furnished to her Department, she intends inquiring or causing such an inquiry to be made into the financial statements of the organization concerned; if not, why not;
- (4) whether she will make a statement on the matter? B539E

**The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:**

(1) Yes,

(a) to establish a special fund for the making of awards to, or the funding of projects of one or more organizations which, in the Republic of South Africa, including those territories which previously formed part of the Republic of South Africa—

\* provide opportunities to people, preferably self-employed or unemployed, in the form of business advice and practical skills-training; or

\* provide opportunities in the form of sports training and the provision of better sporting facilities to disadvantaged communities; or

\* finance further education in the arts and music among disadvantaged communities; and

which are authorized to collect contributions in terms of the Fund-raising Act, 1978 (Act No 107 of 1978), or organizations approved by the Director of Fund-raising, and

(b) the Ithuba Trust;

(2) yes,

(a) the relevant organization must in terms of the provisions of the Fund-raising Act, 1978, submit annually audited financial statements. On basis of these statements it is determined whether the organization has disposed of the collected contributions in terms of its authorised objectives, and

(b) during the first year (1989/90) of its registration the organization has made a few donations to unregistered organizations, which was not in accordance with its objectives. This matter was rectified after it was discussed with the trustees of the organization. The auditors of the organization also pointed out certain management problems within the organization. These problems were

*HemSard*  
MONDAY, 4 MAY 1992

also rectified by trustees after actions were taken by the Director;

(3) no, as indicated at (2)(a) the audited financial statements are checked annually. In terms of the Fund-raising Act, 1978, the Director may further inspect the affairs of any organization if requested thereto by a person and if he is satisfied on the ground of facts declared under oath by such person, that an inspection is necessary or desirable.

Although several allegations were made by the public and in the media against the said organization, no substance for such allegations could be found by the Director;

(4) no.

**Land bought: Development Trust and Land Act**

232 Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) What was the total (a) area of land which had been bought in each province in terms of the Development Trust and Land Act, No 18 of 1936, as at 31 December 1991 and (b) amount paid for this land,

(2) what area of land (a) was bought in each province in 1991, (b) was added to each self-governing territory and independent Black state in that year and (c) remained to be bought in each province as at 31 December 1991;

(3) (a) what area of land was added to each such territory and independent Black state as compensation for the removal of Black spots, and (b) what was the total area of land held by the South African Development Trust, as at the latest specified date for which figures are available? B541E

**The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS:**

(1) (a) Transvaal	4 884 310 hectares
Natal	580 579 hectares
Orange Free State	202 407 hectares
Cape	1 551 205 hectares
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7 218 501 hectares</b>
(b) R1 367 134 934	

(2) (a) Transvaal	7 852 hectares
Natal	1 240 hectares
Orange Free State	2 419 hectares
Cape	3 824 hectares
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15 335 hectares</b>

(b) KwaZulu	Nil
Lebowa	Nil
Gazankulu	Nil
KaNgwane	4 946 hectares
KwaNdebele	Nil
Owaqwa	Nil
Transkei	Nil
Bophuthatswana	32 424 hectares
Venda	Nil
Ciskei	Nil

**TOTAL** 37 370 hectares

(c) In view of the abolition of the SA Development Trust and the consequent repeal of the provincial land quota by the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act, 1991 (Act 108/1991), no land has been acquired within the meaning of the 1936 quota. The areas of land mentioned hereunder must, however, still be acquired in terms of parliamentary and cabinet decisions

Transvaal	5 104 hectares
Natal	5 844 hectares
Orange Free State	Nil
Cape	5 675 hectares
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16 623 hectares</b>

(3) (a) The required information is not readily available

(b) As at 1 April 1992  
None

**Persons under 18 years: prison sentences**

237 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

(a) How many persons under the age of 18 years were serving prison sentences on (i) 30 June and (ii) 31 December 1991 and (b) in which prisons were these persons serving sentences? B550E

**The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:**

(a) (i) 302  
(ii) 413



were arrested for committing further crimes. The Department is not aware of any further cases which allegedly could possibly have been involved in criminal actions.

Thus only 3% of the total of persons placed under correctional supervision up to 31 March 1992 reverted to crime and this testifies to the success of the system of correctional supervision.

On 1 April 1992 facets of correctional supervision as alternative sentence option were extended to the proclaimed magisterial districts and on 8 May 1992 and 1 June 1992 will be further extended to a considerable number of magisterial districts in different regions. It is envisaged that the system should be operative in all magisterial districts in the Republic of South Africa by the end of March 1993.

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B539E

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

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Orange Free State

Cape

TOTAL

(b) KwaZulu

Lebowa

Gazankulu

KaNgwane

KwaNdebele

Owaqwa

Transkei

Bophuthatswana

Venda

Ciskei

TOTAL

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Transvaal

Natal

Orange Free State

Cape

TOTAL

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(b) As at 1 April 1992:

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Persons under 18 years: prison sentences

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(a) How many persons under the age of 18 years were serving prison sentences on (i) 30 June and (ii) 31 December 1991 and (b) in which prisons were these persons serving sentences?

THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

(a) (i) 302

(ii) 413

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(b) Allandale	Pollsmoor Medium A
Barberton	Pollsmoor Medium B
Barberton Maximum	Pomeroy
Beitlehem	Port Elizabeth Male
Blomfontein	Port Shepstone
Boshof	Potchefstroom
Brandvlei Medium	Pretoria Female
Brits	Robertson
Bulwer	Sasolburg
Burgersdorp	Seventeen
Caledon	Somerset East
Craddock	Staart van Paardeberg
Dordrecht	St Albans Maximum
Durban Medium B	St Albans Medium A
Dwaarsrivier	St Albans Medium B
East London Medium A	Standerfont Medium B
Ermeelo	Stanger
Eshowe	Stutterheim
Estcourt	Tzaneen
Frankfort	Uppington
George Female	Van Rhyndorp
Goedemoed Medium A	Verulam
Grahamstown	Voortrekkerhoogte
Groenpunt Medium	Walvis Bay
Groenpunt Maximum	Waterval Medium A
Hawequa	Waterval Medium B
Helderstroom Medium	Witbank
Helderstroom Maximum	
Johannesburg Female	
Johannesburg Medium A	
Johannesburg Medium B	
Kimberley Male	
King William's Town	
Klerksdorp	
Kroonstad Medium A	
Krugersdorp	
Kuruman	
Ladysmith (Cape)	
Leeuwkop Medium B	
Losperfontein	
Malnesbury	
Matatiele	
Middelburg (TV)	
Middelburg (Cape)	
Modderbee	
Nelspruit	
New Hanover	
Nigel	
Nylstroom	
Odendaalsrus	
Patensie	
Pietermaritzburg Medium A	
Piet Relief	
Pollsmoor Female	
Pollsmoor Maximum	

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Section 21 of the Correctional Services Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) states, inter alia, that any prison or any part of a prison may be used for the detention, treatment and training of juveniles. Existing prisons and 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 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 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 orientation after release
- Maintenance of present social structures to counteract institutionalization and in so doing prevent recidivism, e.g. maintenance and strengthening of family ties.
- The fulfilment of religious needs
- Healthy physical development through physical training and care

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

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# Parenting stirs interest

✓ AFTER the success of the first Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshop held in Soweto in April, people in Pietersburg, where the next workshop will be held, can hardly wait their turn.

If the preparatory workshop held there on April 12 is anything to go by, the Pietersburg workshop will be a hard act to follow for the other areas.

The major concern of the community there is the abuse of alcohol and drugs, especially dagga and neglect of children by parents.

According to the Parenting Workshops' co-ordinator, Mrs Anne-Gloria Masetle, the feeling of the community is that unemployment has led to drinking resulting in parents neglecting children.

"What they don't realise is that in the process they abuse the children.

"They give them money instead of spending more time and with them and take an interest in their school work. Money is not a substitute for love.

"This money is, in turn, used to buy

4/5/92 (298)  
By PEARL MAJOLA

alcohol and drugs. The children too complain that the place is full of shebeens and bottle stores but there is a shortage of recreation centres," she said.

"The community needs more information through workshops, a co-ordination of existing projects in order to provide a better service for the people.

"A reach-out programme for the rural people who are robbed of any progress because they are far from everything; and the creation of projects to help solve the different problems facing the community," she added.

The Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops are part of the Nation Building programme.

A glimpse at the programme promises a day of fun. The workshop will be on May 24 at the Seshego Community Hall. It will start at 9am and entrance is free.

## 32 alleged ANC members in Swaziland are children

Thirty-two alleged ANC members being held in Swaziland were schoolchildren from Durban and had paid more than R100 to be transported to the border, the head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday.

Gary Perkins said the youths, aged between 16 and 18, had requested assistance to travel to a third country but the UN agency had turned them down.

"We simply do not provide that kind of assistance. We are

currently repatriating ANC members from Tanzania," Mr Perkins said.

The allegation that the group belonged to the ANC has threatened to create a row at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. *STAR 5/5/92*

After the reports last week, the Government said it would raise the issue at the talks.

The ANC has said the 32 are not members of its organisation. — Sapa.



# Tackling the issue of AIDS orphans

THE plight of children orphaned as a result of their parents dying of AIDS is one of the greatest problems stemming from the epidemic.

It has been predicted that there could be as many as 97 000 such children in SA in three years' time.

They will be healthy, but alone; and many will be left to fend for themselves.

To find ways of dealing with the impact of AIDS on children, the AIDS unit of the Health Department began its first national conference in Pretoria on the care of AIDS orphans yesterday.

Dr Manda Holmshaw, head of the AIDS unit, told the conference that at present such orphans were simply abandoned.

There was a total lack of any kind of facility to provide care for them.

Drawing an alarming picture of the present situation of HIV infection in SA, Holmshaw said one in 66 pregnant mothers had AIDS, and a third of them would pass on the infection to their unborn babies.

The number was predicted to be one in 40 by the end of this year.

Of the 100 children who were born with the virus each week, most became sick and died within two years.

There were 400 new infections a day, she said.

Although structures to deal with the abandoned children were desperately needed, there were no simple solutions, Holmshaw said. Government could not possibly deal with such a large problem.

Although there were the obvious physical needs to be met, the greatest intervention would be needed to cope with the enormous social and psychological effects suffered by orphaned children.

Children had also been psychologically damaged because their parents were often too sick before their deaths to care for them properly.

Holmshaw appealed to all sectors of the community, especially non-governmental organisations and

## KATHRYN STRACHAN

churches, to mitigate the effects of the disaster by making their services available.

To call for the building of orphanages was a last resort, she said. The orphaned child, once there, was uprooted and made anonymous. Social and psychological problems were more numerous than if the child was cared for in the extended family.

Holmshaw said the whole range of government services and taxation should be re-examined to share the burden and to relieve the pressure on the most vulnerable groups.

The Education Department would have to make sure the children were provided with free schooling, and the Department of Finance would have to provide tax rebates to people who were prepared to foster orphans.

Zimbabwe-based Elizabeth Matenga of the Southern Africa Network of AIDS Service Organisations said AIDS orphans often dropped out of school, and out of sight of any health or counselling service their parent attended in their final months.

In some cases, orphaned children born and brought up in town were sent home to grandparents in a village.

The dispersal of AIDS orphans meant there was no one obvious context in which to find them, either to count or to help them. Health authorities attempted to reach the children while their parents were in hospital.

Experience had shown that children should be maintained within the family entity as far as possible, said Matenga.

However, in recent years the safety net provided by the extended family had become increasingly frayed. If there were no relatives, experience in other African countries had shown it was better if children stayed in the family home and were helped by neighbours and child carers, she said.

## Second 'ANC group' in Swaziland

MBABANE — A group of 13 youths claiming to be ANC members en route to Zambia or Tanzania for military training arrived in Swaziland on Monday night.

The youths are being kept under police supervision in the southern town of Big Bend. A police spokesman described the youths, who range in age from 16 to 20, as "very arrogant and threatening violence if they don't get what they want."

The statement followed the arrest of 32 youths, also claiming to be ANC members, who crossed into Swaziland illegally at the weekend.

The ANC denied the 32 were members. — Sapa.



ground is Patrick Tayi, leaning over the

# Future looks bleak for graveyard kids

ANDREA WEISS  
Staff Reporter

298  
ARG 6/5/92  
THE graveyard kids, a band of street children who have made a home in an old tomb in the deteriorating cemetery close to Groote Schuur Hospital, face an uncertain future.

They have been given their marching orders by three men who claim to be hospital security.

But the hospital says that no official ultimatum has been issued and the land belongs to the Cape Provincial Administration Works Department.

The children are also being investigated by the CPA's squatter division after complaints about their presence there.

Most of the children, including three girls, are in their teens. They clamber into the tomb at night through a hole in the roof. Some have been living in the cemetery for six years. They left their homes for a variety of reasons.

Social workers are actively trying to rehabilitate the children who have formed a kind of street family.

Many of them go to Molo Songololo

in Salt River every morning where they get food and attend workshops on subjects such as health, Aids, street law, reading and writing and conflict resolution.

An application has been made for a piece of land in Salt River where a shelter can be built, but permission has not yet been granted and money can't be raised until it is.

In the meantime, winter approaches and the children are hoping they will be allowed to stay because their "home" is warm, dry and secure.

But it does not look as if they will have their wish.

At the weekend, they were visited by three men in plain clothes, one with gun on his hip, who told them they would have to move or their blankets would be burned.

A social worker said the children were ready to move into a more secure home if they were offered one.

He said a street shelter was not necessarily the answer as they had formed themselves into a community.

"A street shelter is really just a doss house. They are ready for much more than that."

## 'Homicide the leading cause of death in SA'

ANDREA WEISS Health Reporter

HOMICIDE is the leading cause of death from external causes in South Africa, according to a new report by the Department of National Health and Population Development.

Entitled *Health Trends in South Africa* it shows that accidents, poisoning and violence are the leading cause of mortality, overtaking circulatory diseases.

A breakdown of this category shows that homicide is the major problem among all sectors of the population, except whites where traffic accidents take precedence.

Homicide and other forms of violence account for half the accidental deaths, road accidents a quarter and suicide and accidental drowning five percent each.

A population breakdown also shows that homicide is highest among the coloured population group and a "particularly important cause" of death in young males.

Suicide comes third as the leading external cause of death — but here the problem is mainly among Asian and white groups.

Drownings, mostly in fresh water,

are on a par with suicide and account for a high percentage of deaths in children under 10. Fires and accidental falls are also cited as important causes.

Use of alcohol has been linked to all categories. ARG 6/5/92

"Based on clinical observation, 35 percent of injuries were noted to be alcohol related in trauma cases attending State and private health services in the Cape Peninsula," the report says.

If the same proportion were applicable to deaths in South Africa, about 10 000 deaths a year would be alcohol related.

Alcohol was the direct cause in up to 50 percent of severe road accidents and road accident fatalities. Injury due to violence also shows a strong association with alcohol.

On the more positive side, the infant mortality rate is now 47 in 1 000, comparing favourably with World Bank estimates of 78 for developing countries and 15 for developed countries.

But the birth rate is still too high at 32 in 1 000 compared with 31 in 1 000 for developing countries.



# Journal Police



**STRIKE BREAK**... Langa pupil Nondumiso Basi, 16, puts her feet up in class while teachers were on strike this week. Some pupils at Langa Comprehensive School tried to carry on with their studies yesterday b early as 10am.

From page 1

Quoting the most recent statistics available to police, covering the last six months of 1991, Captain Meyer said the Child Protection Unit alone had received more than 1 250 child-sex abuse complaints in the Western Cape area. This was higher than the previous six months.

"These figures are worrying, especially with the abuse being on the increase in the Western Cape (298)

"However, the courts are taking the problem seriously. Over the last two weeks, two magistrates sentenced two first offenders to eight years' imprisonment each for raping young girls" (26/5/92)

Captain Meyer said that from July 1 to December 31 last year 294 girls under the age of 14 were raped in the Western Cape, and 68 children under the age of 14 were sodomised.

"We also received 310 complaints of assault with intent to cause serious bodily harm and 124 cases of indecent assault," he said.

## Police (298)

cr 6/5/92

## Sex rings trail city

Staff Reporter

**POLICE are closing in on two child-sex rings, operating in Cape Town.**

This was disclosed yesterday by the head of the Child Protection Unit, Captain Johan Meyer.

He said one of the rings forced young boys to perform lewd sexual acts with men.

He would not give details of the other ring for fear of driving its members underground.

Captain Meyer said police had seized pornographic photographs of young boys and men in the Cape Town area last week after an informant had tipped the unit off about the rings' activities.

He said boys were targeted by syndicate members, who then photographed them with men.

"The investigation only started last week and we have a number of leads," said Captain Meyer. "As far as we know the people involved have no previous criminal records." Captain Meyer gave these details after disclosing that the Western Cape had the highest recorded incidence of child sexual abuse in the country. Next was the Witwatersrand area, he said.

To page 3



# Doing it for the kids

**Thulani Ngubo, spokesman for the hostel dwellers, speaks:**

*Sowetan 6/5/92*

*248*

**T**HULANI NGUBO's love for children and his concern for their future is the driving force behind his quest for peace in this troubled area.

A self-confessed Inkatha Freedom Party supporter and spokesman for the residents of the troubled Meadowlands Hostel, Ngubo spends most of his time in his fatcakes shop preoccupied with one thing only - peace.

Who could blame him? His six-year-old daughter has not been able to attend classes since the outbreak of violence between township residents and hostel dwellers in February.

And the school is only 200 metres from the hostel in the nearby township of Killarney.

None of the 1 000-odd children living at the hostel has been allowed to go to school because township residents have threatened to kill hostel children, says Ngubo, pointing in the direction of Killarney.

"These children are the future leaders. We can kill one another for as long as we want, but we mustn't let the war affect their education," he says, throwing his hands in the air as if in despair.

"What's wrong with us?" asks Ngubo, the Natal-born man who arrived in Johannesburg in 1981.



***'We mustn't let the war affect the children's education'***

Since arriving in the metropolitan city, Ngubo worked for three different employers and always lived at Meadowlands Hostel.

He supports his parents by sending them money back home. During public holidays he takes the opportunity to travel with his wife and child to his place of birth.

And his recipe for peace is firm - it does not involve top politicians, he stresses.

The war, as he describes the mayhem in the area, involves grassroots members in both camps and, therefore, they are the ones who are likely to bring about an acceptable solution.

Ngubo does not see the involvement of African National Congress president Mr Nelson Mandela and Inkatha leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi as paramount to the achievement of stability in the area.

To him, it is people who are dying who have the capacity to restore order in Meadowlands.

"And God willing, this is one dream I hope to realise soon," says the slightly-built, bespectacled Ngubo (27), his moustache neatly trimmed and dark hair well combed.

In fact, he looks like an accountant. He says the SA Police have to be called in to intervene between residents and the hostel dwellers - as mediators.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Persons under 18 years in police cells

236 Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Law and Order

 (298)

How many persons under the age of 18 years were awaiting trial in police cells as at 31 December 1991? B549E

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

595 persons.

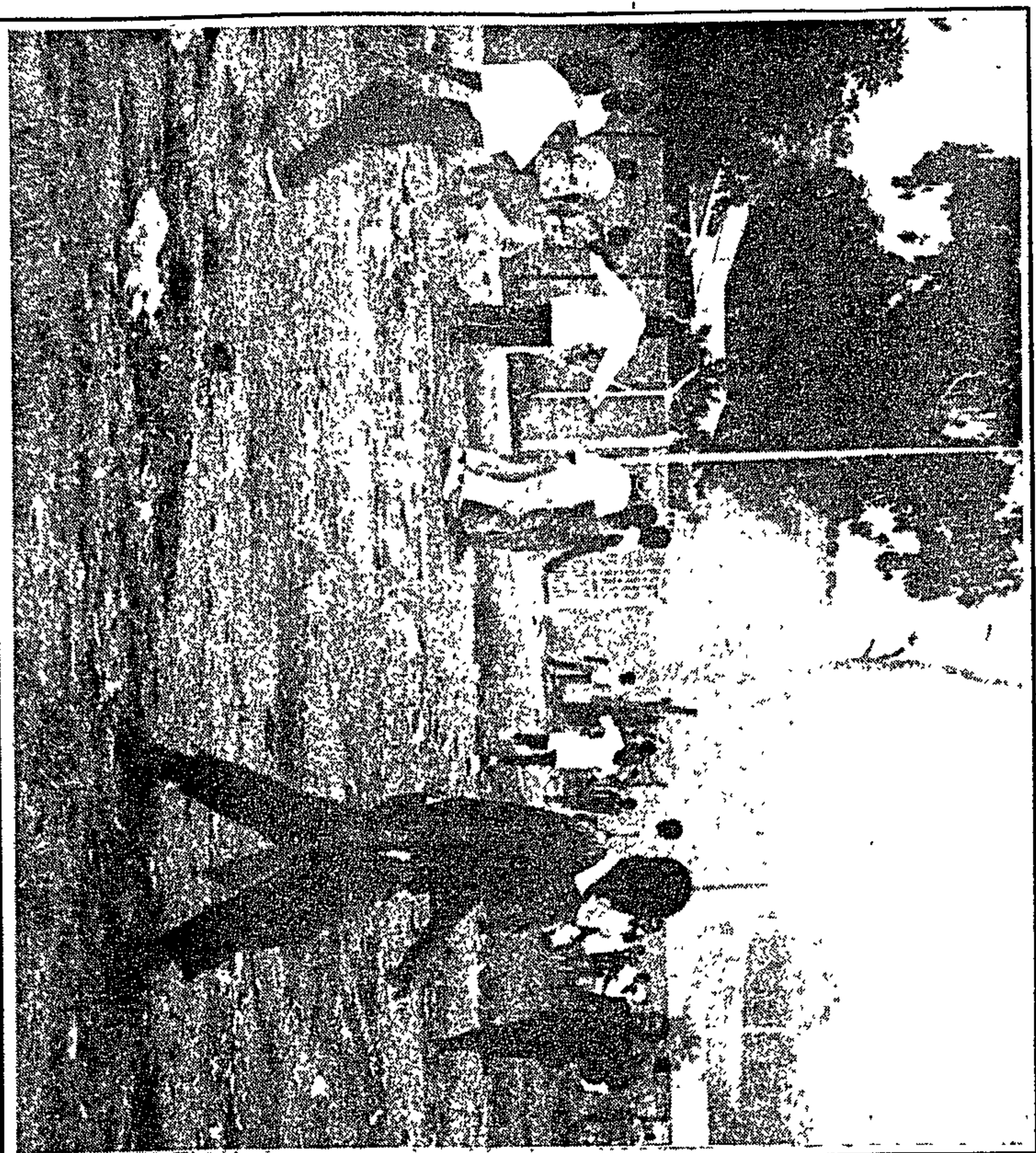
QUESTIONS

Indicates translated version

For written reply.

General Affairs:





Youngsters in Meadowlands, Soweto, are caught in the thick of the violence tearing through this community. Many have graduated from axes and stones to self-made guns called Qwashi!

# One qwashi

Sowetan 7/5/92

**Q**WASHI is a new gun fashioned by teenage boys in the backyards of Killarney and Meadowlands in Soweto.

The boys, some as young as 15, are commanders in the local "defence unit" in the war around the Meadowlands Hostel.

The boys say they use their guns against the police and hostel dwellers in the strife-torn area.

Since February, when a township woman was killed in a hand-grenade attack allegedly by hostel dwellers, parts of Killarney and Meadowlands near the hostel have become a "no man's land".

According to the boys, three groups are fighting for control of "no man's land". They are the boys themselves, hostel dwellers and the police.

The boys say they were driven to take up arms to protect "our parents and our living space".

Some of them wear army jackets. None of the boys would say who

came up with the idea of the homemade guns, but all seem to know how to make them.

The name Qwashi comes from the sound the wooden firearms make when the bullet goes off.

Any kind of bullet can be used without difficulty, the boys say.

They say their speed equals that of conventional guns.

They will not disclose the source of their bullets. All that 16-year-old Tsholofelo will say is, "We have connections."

Tsholofelo has dropped out of school.

Other weapons the boys use in their night patrols are knives, iron bars, pangas and anything they can use for an effective attack, on the police and the hostel dwellers.

During the two hours of interviews at the boys' headquarters in Meadowlands, I am addressed as "my brother".

"Our problem, my brother, is that we don't have enough weapons to launch a fullscale attack on the hostel," one says.

I joined a defence unit at 8pm on a Wednesday.

**We are trying to protect the community with our lives. Hostel dwellers waste no time when they've captured one of us**



# and you're dead, broer!

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## FOCUS ON



## VIOLENCE

Meadowlands is a place where life has become increasingly cheap, so have the weapons. The 'qwash' gun — which gets its name from the sound it makes — is not only cheap but very nasty. **ABBEY MAKOE** reports on the children who use this low-tech instrument of terror:

A military-like planning session is in progress. I sit on a comfortable chair in a big, electrified shack.

A woman in her fifties sits quietly in the far corner of the shack used as a kitchen, judging by the two-plate stove, dishes and the kitchen table. She is knitting something in wool. A litre of cold drink is on the table.

"My broer, I no longer walk around in Killaaney during the day," says

Kepile (15), a Standard 2 pupil.

"Old women hate me and I fear they may point me out to the police."

The boy looks younger than the 15 years he claims to be.

"We caught a hostel dweller. There were arguments about whether he should be killed or surrendered to the police."

"I got angry at the women wasting time, look out my knife and stabbed him

to death," says Kepile, without remorse. "The women think I did something wrong."

"You see, my broer, we're trying to protect the community with our own lives. Hostel dwellers waste no time when they've captured one of us. I didn't have to waste time ..."

It's 10pm. The sound of gunfire erupts less than 3km from the headquarters.

Lesley takes out his Qwash!

Tsholofelo becomes noisy and wild and wants to go outside, where another group is patrolling.

Lesley slaps Tsholofelo. Half the house supports Lesley, the other doesn't. There's pandemonium.

"If you don't respect each other how can you win any battle outside?" asks the knitting woman and the hubbub subsides.

When the boys emerge their first targets are hostel dwellers, and then the police.

The SAP patrol vehicles are recognised by their sounds. In Meadowlands, the police cars are described as "Iron

Fist", in Killaaney as the "A-Team". It's 11pm. Sporadic gunfire continues to sound from nearby.

The boys want to go out to help comrades at Bakwena Street.

We go out into the streets. Like any duty officers, they take positions at dark corners of the narrow streets.

They move towards the hostel, communicating by whistling.

Everyone is a leader. It's yet another day of do or die.

I'm urged to come along amid the gunfire.

George (17) complains about the elderly men sleeping while the war is being fought.

"Don't be afraid, come with us," he says.

Throughout the night gunfire can be heard.

The next morning at 5 o'clock, George and his men have left. A new shift has relieved them.

Already, they are at the taxi rank and a bus stops. To a stranger, they look like people going to work.

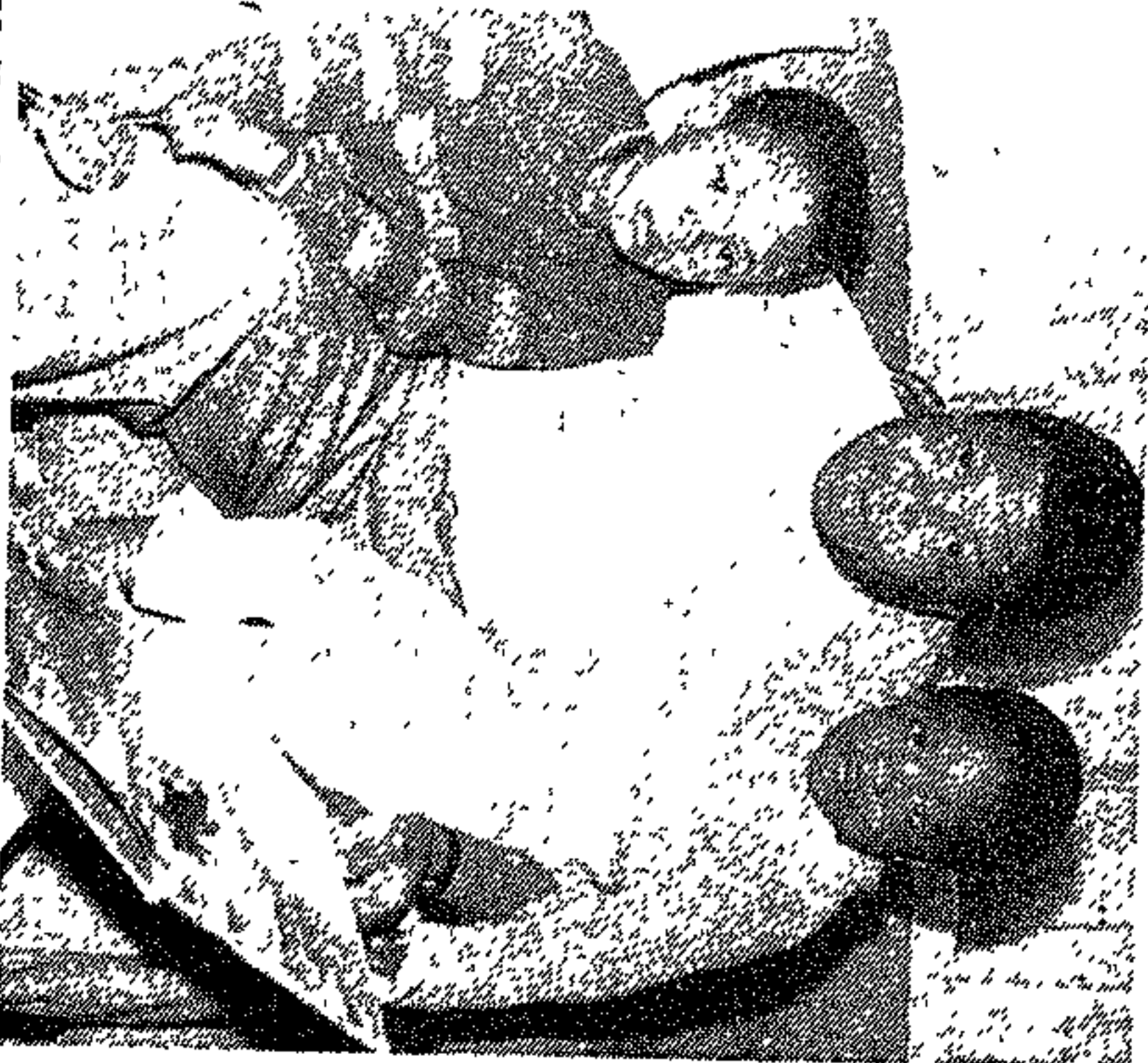
## Tomorrow — The effects of violence on children

### Features of the qwash

The main feature of the gun is wood covered with black insulation tape.

- Then follows a thick wire, about 15cm long, which is placed inside the gun-shaped wood.
- The wire, connected to a small rubber spring, is used as a trigger. There is also a spring on the rear side. A short nail is inserted on the rear side as well, making the ring on which to rest.
- To shoot, the holder of the gun uses one hand to pull the rubber back. The spring forces the bullet out.





Mzikayise Edom and his two daughters Dimpho (left) and Mathabo (right).

**BEHIND the rocketing divorce rate and childbearing - out of wedlock - another obscure subculture is emerging, that of male single parent families.**

Once, when men were forced into single parenting roles by death of their spouses or a court decision, the children would be reared by female relatives.

But today a growing number of men are defying convention and raising their offspring alone.

Journalist Mr Mzikayise Edom has been living with his two daughters Dimpho (5) and Mathabo (4) since his divorce in 1989. He wanted custody, he says, because he believed they

# Fathers Who

Sowetan 7/5/92

W. 1011 L. 1011

BY SIZAKELE KOOMA

would be better off with him.

"I do not think men are less equipped to rear children than women. I have done a good job so far - better than some women would have," Edom said.

He does not believe that his children should be brought up by his relatives. They are his responsibility, he says.

He could have swallowed these words at the beginning when he realised

## Problems of the single father

- They learn on the job since they are not brought up to be caretakers.
- Most have problems discussing the facts of life with teenage girls.
- Have difficulty finding partners who will accept their children.
- Have to give up care-free lifestyles to spend time with their children.
- Have difficulty filling the need for a mother's love.

that life as a single parent, and not only as a single father, was not easy.

Juggling family life and

a career required more effort and commitment.

"I have a maid who assists me during the week. On holidays and weekends I'm usually on my own.

"While housekeeping was a hassle at the beginning it has become more of a routine now. I couldn't and never cooked when I was married but now it has become a hobby."

A journalist's job can never be confined to a scheduled shift but Edom said he always has time for his children. His employers know and are sympathetic. Learning to clean and cook is not the only adjustment he has had to make as a single parent. Edom has also found that he could not be a single father and have a full social life.

"I do not have as much time to socialise as I used to in the past. Socialising would mean having money



# are mothers

Sowetan 7/5/92

to spend on outings, which I don't. There is no money to spend on luxuries I only spend on what I think is necessary."

Relationships are almost always a problem in single parent families and Edom has not been an exception. He admits that it is difficult to keep both satisfied. His children have always come up during quarrels with lovers.

For bachelor Mr Siphso Jacobs, who has lived with his daughter Vangile (14) since she was three months old, choosing a partner who would accept his child is of the essence.

"My daughter has never been an issue in the relationships I have had. It could be that I always search carefully into the background of a partner before I get involved," Jacobs says.

His daughter and her mother have not seen each other since the day he took her as an infant. Vangile's mother married another man and had a family. He says he did not want to in-

terfere in her life.

"She grew up thinking that her grandmother was her mother but now she knows. I told her when I thought she was old enough.

"I am arranging that she meets her mother soon. She is free to make her own decision. She can go and live with her if she so wishes. I will not stop her," he says.

It has been a fun and fulfilling experience to bring up a child on his own, even though the facts of life were left up to an aunt to unravel, but Jacobs says he would not do it if he had a second chance.

Neither would Mr Magono Pule, a father of five children aged between 24 and six. After 18 months of living with his children, following a divorce, he has given up on filling the gap left by their mother.

"You cannot make children forget their mother. It is impossible to fill the need for her love. Single parents should strive to give what they are capable of," Pule

says.

Clinical psychologist Ms Thandeka Mgoduso said single fathers face more challenges than single mothers when bringing up children.

Patrilineal societies which saw women as slaves and exonerated men from full participation in raising children, made it difficult

for single fathers to adjust to child-rearing.

"But some men are sure about their manliness. They accept their role and eventually get to enjoy it," Mgoduso says.

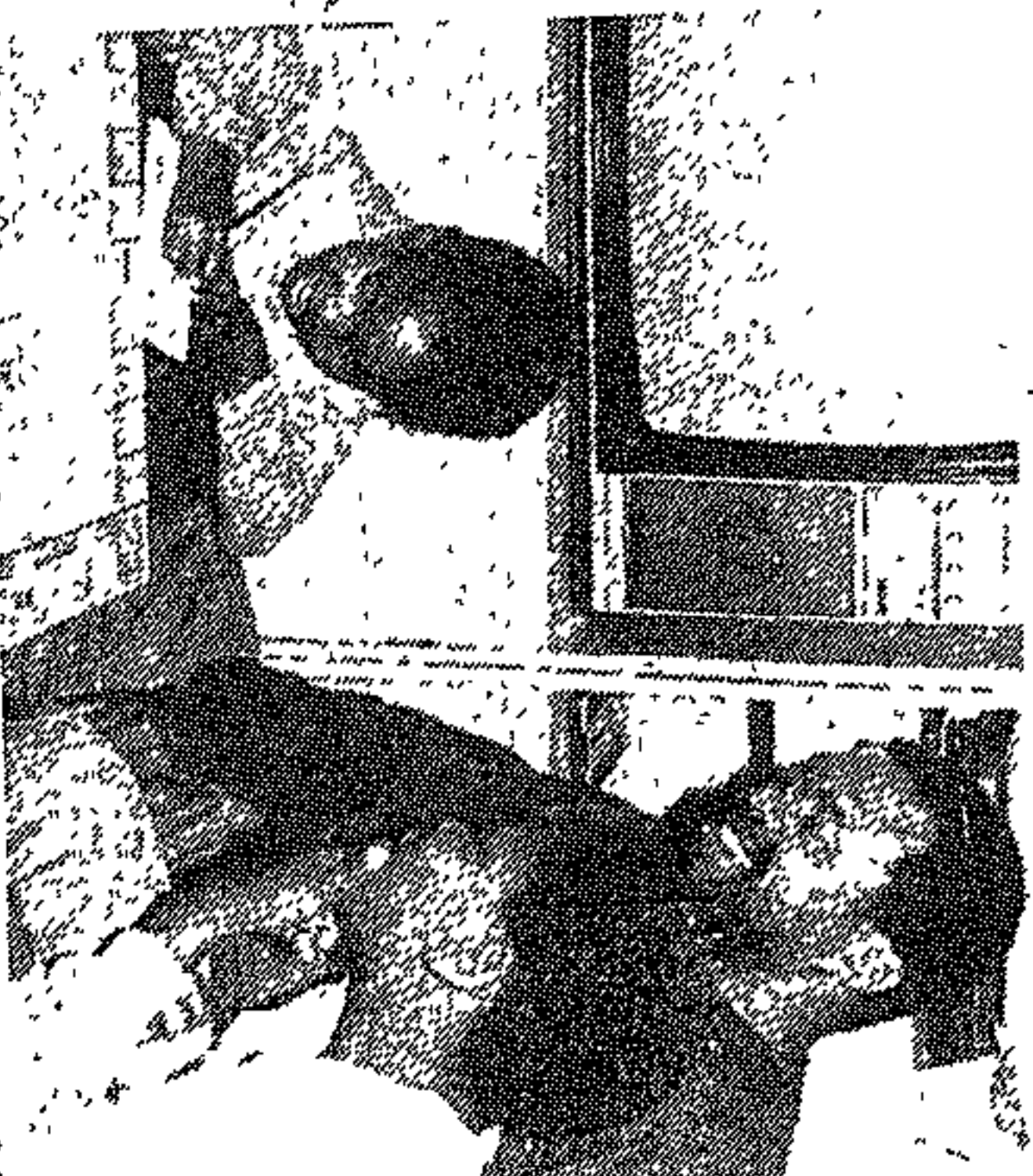
The reality of society today was that many children were being raised in single parent families and the situation was not about to

change.

"We have entered a phase where parenting will have to be redefined. Society must rethink its ideal from what is reality and move beyond stereotypes.

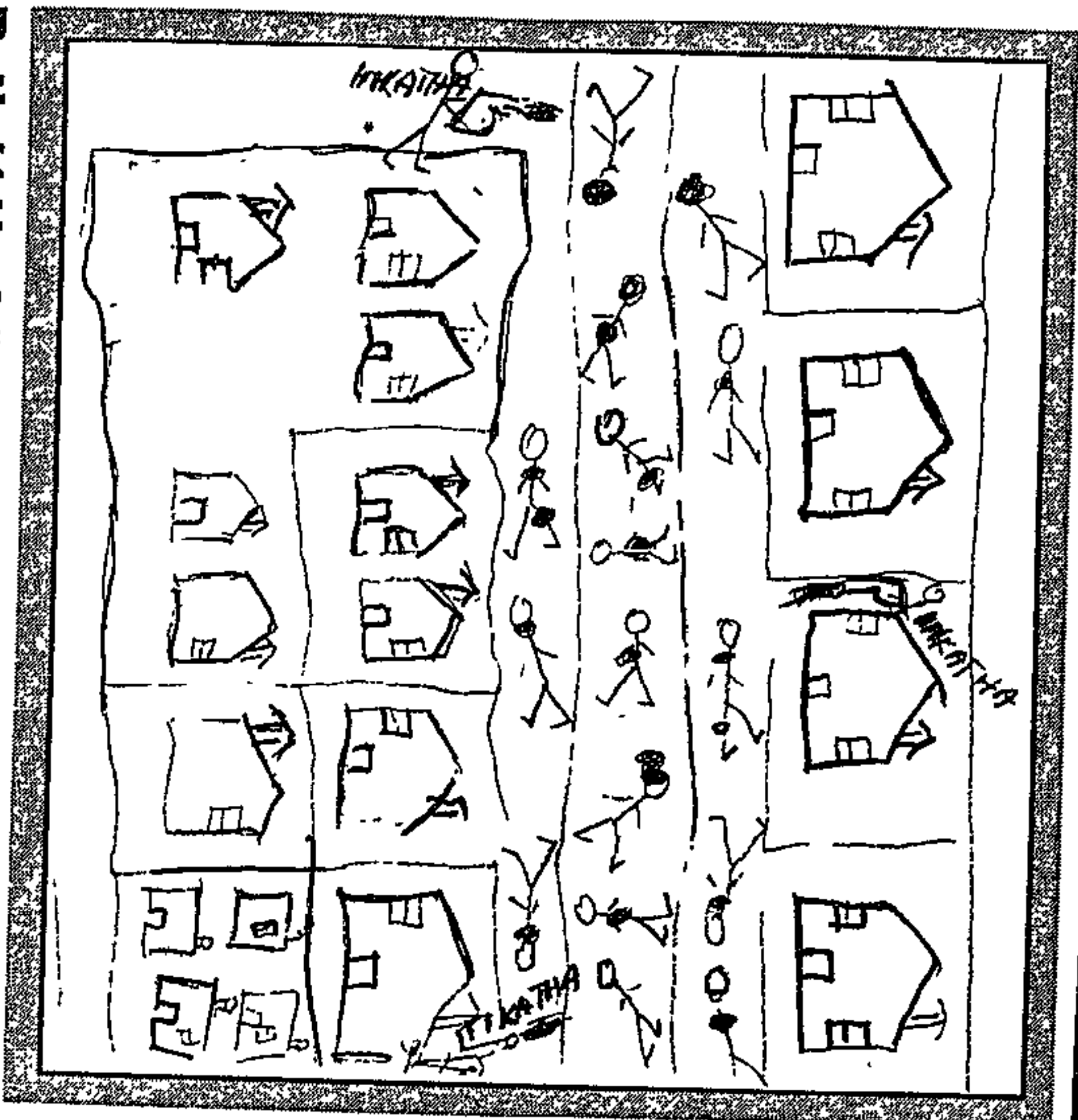
"A family is no longer one that has two parents only. Everything now depends on how the child-rearing job is done.

"Observation and research have revealed that children brought up in single parent families can be as balanced as those brought up by two parents."



Magono Pule plays a game of Monopoly with daughters Thawana and Tsholofele.





**Ruth (11) of Alexandra** reflects her impression of the violence in this graphic she drew:

- 16 people lay dead in the streets ● Two Inkatha members open fire from two opposite corners ● The scratching at the barrel of the gun, held by the Inkatha men, are painted in red, denoting fire
- The dots on the people are also painted in red, this time denoting blood ● Houses have now been left empty by their owners.

# A brush with

FOCUS ON

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(298)



VIOLENCE

In our continuing series on violence, **ABBEY MAKOE** visited Lloyd Vogelmann, director of the Project for the Study of Violence at the University of the Witwatersrand. He was given a dossier on the research the centre has been doing on the effects of violence on children:

**T**HEY were fighting and killing... They were killing with axes, AK-47s... We are ducking bullets at 8 o'clock - they start shooting people and doing nonsense...

An eye-witness account from Beirut? No. From a 15-year-old Alexandra township girl. It was her comment on a drawing she had done and which she repeated to Kerry Gibson, Ntshiseng Mogaie and Robin Friedlander, researchers of the PSV.

The PSV reported: "Children are psychologically affected by violence simply because they are aware of it. That is a significant feature in their lives."

The PSV researchers say they came across one mother describing how her 11-year-old daughter fled her primary school with friends as Inkatha attacked their classrooms:

"They just all ran around crying and not knowing where to go. They jumped over the fences and dropped their books."

Another mother told the PSV how, after a similar experience, her 12-year-old son was unable to eat "and jumped when he heard a sound".

The PSV says: "Children must be expected to feel afraid, not only for their

own physical safety, but for the safety of those around them."

The fear is increased by the children's experience that nothing is reliable and trustworthy around them. And this was demonstrated in most of the children's drawings and responses during interviews with the PSV.

"Their drawings seemed to suggest fearfulness and anxiety," the PSV reports.

"In some cases the quality of the lines was light and sketchy."

"Figures were drawn floating in what appeared to be mid-air, perhaps suggesting a feeling of insecurity. One drawing had legs that could not have allowed individuals to stand."



# anguish

Sowetan

8/5/92

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The children also expressed, through pages, their desire for closeness with their people.

e PSV says in a number of pictures, 'en drew human figures walking in

other boy, desperate for protection, resented the PSV with a picture of himself, holding a dog and a leash and a guard outside his home.

'n asked what in draw such a the boy said he d to see a lost child crying for his mother.

He said he was also sad to see people being killed.

Later, the boy's mother told the PSV that the boy had experienced a great deal of anxiety when she went to work during times of violence.

Other drawings showed the effects of the violence the children endured, revealing "restrictions on their imagination". They suffered a decrease in the capacity to use symbols.

The PSV says:

"Their constant hiding of things limited their capacity to think freely."

Some of the pictures they drew were empty and rigid

"These showed stereotypical stick figures, faces empty of facial features and houses empty of people."

"It was as if they were afraid to fill the empty spaces for fear of filling pages with their fear and then having to confront the same fear themselves."

Another child drew a stick figure, saying through a voice bubble: "Please don't kill us."

Caught in political conflict, children knowing politically dangerous information and knowing, at the same time, of the more

general things, suffered serious learning difficulties, the PSV says.

Children observed by the PSV also suffered from depression, hopelessness and anger. Under the circumstances, these children are forced to respond to violence with anger.

"It is a powerful cleansing force in the face of repressive violence," says the PSV.

In conclusion, the PSV says the violence traumatises the children, and is "likely to evoke significant symptoms of distress in almost everyone of them".

As one mother puts it: "When you leave your child alone in the home she is not safe. In the street and at school she is not safe. There is nowhere she can go and be safe. Someone in a car may stop and say 'get in'. In the street they may be raped by men with guns. Sexual abuse is so common some girls stop going to school."

**6 Figures were drawn floating in what appeared to be mid-air, perhaps suggesting a feeling of insecurity. One drawing had legs that could not have allowed people to stand**

## The very picture of suffering

The mother of these two children, Sindiswa Motha (36), had just been killed by a stray bullet fired from the Dube Hostel in Soweto when this heartrending picture was taken last year.

We publish this picture again to show what society is doing to its children in defiance of the gentle injunction: "Suffer little children to come unto me."

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Sowetan  
8/5/92

PIC: MBUZENI ZULU





## UN doubts 'ANC' boys

*South Africa 8/5/92*  
THE head of the United Nations agency for refugees in Swaziland yesterday expressed doubts that 45 South African youths being held in the country were bona fide members of the ANC. ~~298~~ ~~298~~ 298

Mr Gary Perkins said: "They are being told to contact Swazi police and the UNHCR for assistance to go to a third country," he said.

Swazi police had been unable to trace people involved in the youths' illegal entry in Swaziland, he said.

The ANC has distanced itself from the youths.- *Sapa*

# Many child abusers getting off scot free

298 REC 8/5/92

**ANDREA WEISS**  
Health Reporter

THE legal system is failing children who are abused.

This is the loud, clear message from people working in the field of child abuse.

This week is Child Protection Week and many voices have been raised about the vulnerability of children.

Some child workers claim that far from the abuse stopping with prosecution, it continues in court where children are traumatised at the hands of the law.

Red Cross Children's Hospital chief social worker Ms Hollingshead describes it as statutory abuse.

She maintains that when perpetrators of child abuse are ac-

quitted there are huge ripple effects for children.

"Children can be very resilient and recover," she said.

But the courts often perpetuated the abuse. She knew of one case still running after five years. The child, who was eight at the time of the first hearing, was now 13.

Many magistrates and lawyers had no idea how to talk to children and confused them by using adult language, said Ms Hollingshead.

And then the children were made to face their abusers, sometimes having to look them in the eye.

She said in a recent case a child was made to touch the accused in court during an identification process.

In another the accused walked free because he per-

suaded the court there was a mix-up in identification between him and his brother.

Newlands resident Mrs Jackie Keeton added her voice this week when she discovered an example on her doorstep.

She spoke on behalf of an employee's six-year-old daughter whose alleged rapist was acquitted because the child was too terrified to point him out in court.

The child, who has no mother, apparently had to face the court ordeal alone as her father was at work.

Mrs Keeton said the child's father arrived home after work to find his daughter bleeding and traumatised after being raped by a 50-year-old neighbour in a squatter camp.

The child was now in a foster home, but deeply upset that

the man went free.

Mrs Keeton said, after extensive research into the background of the case, that there were too many rapists who repeatedly appeared in court but where acquitted because the dice were loaded against the children.

She said a register should be kept of all people who appeared on these charges, even if they were acquitted, and cases should be re-opened if they were suspected of being repeat offenders.

"The justice system protects the guilty and not the innocent," she said.



# Children in summit to decide on their rights

By EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

THE first South African Children's Charter is to be drawn up by 200 children from all over South Africa at an historic Children's Summit in the Western Cape at the end of this month.

The children aim for the ideals enshrined in the Charter to be incorporated into a Bill of Rights as well as into the new South African constitution.

"It is the first time the children of South Africa will have a direct say in their future," said co-ordinator of the summit, Miss Ghadiya Vallie.

The summit will be followed by an adult conference titled "Putting Children on the Agenda" to be held at a Somerset West Hotel in June. The summit and conference are a

direct result of debates at the September 1987 Harare Conference on Children.

"Since the Harare Conference, people concerned about children's rights have been working to unite independent organisations, political groups and individuals engaged in the campaign," said Miss Vallie.

"We have now reached the stage where there is a call from international and national representatives from all these groups, as well as a plea from the youth of South Africa, to ensure that children's rights are placed on the agenda in the constitutional debate."

The summit, to be held from May 28 to June 1, aims to create the opportunity for children to express their needs, feelings and experiences, to promote

the International Convention on Children's Rights as a basis for a South African Children's Charter and to use the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights as a medium to encourage children to campaign for their rights within the framework of a Bill of Rights and a new constitution.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu will deliver the keynote address at the adult conference which will be attended by delegates from Sweden, the US, the UN and Barbados.

Molo Songololo, organisers of the Children's Summit, the Community Law Centre of UWC, the co-ordinators of the conference and the National Committee for the Rights of Children will also dedicate the month of June to South African children.

# Bomb destroyed far more than a school building

STAR 11/5/92

I watched something grow which was destroyed by the bomb that all but demolished the old Hillview High School building in Pretoria in July 1991.

Maybe if I spell it out in some detail, Koos Botha will begin to understand some facts of South Africa of which he is clearly ignorant and to which he was hostile enough to destroy public property probably worth a million rands.

For about a decade, the African National Congress ran a school at Mazimbu in Tanzania; a school with classes from nursery school to the top of the high school, and catered for several hundred children whose parents were exiles from the land of their birth.

It was called the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College. It was a good school, and many on the staff were dedicated teachers, hailing from many lands.

When it became possible for exiles to plan their return, after February 1990, the ANC realised the children would also return, and the school would have to be wound down.

This involved several hundred children, ranging in age from about five to well over 20, for young people studying in exile were often the victims of the disturbed circumstances of their parents' lives, and therefore at times "over age".

The ANC planned the return of the "Somafo" children — this was no easy task. People were sent from South Africa to Tanzania to assess all the pupils; many details of their school and life histories were obtained.

Committees were set up in Johannesburg to study the reports which our colleagues had compiled after their visit.

It was hoped to bring the children back in mid-1991, and after much debate it was decided that it would be best for these several hundred young people, if it were possible, to keep them together for the rest of the year; to house

them and provide them with schooling in one or two places, so that the togetherness of their previous school experience would not evaporate as soon as they reached South Africa.

That involved approaching the State and eventually a reasonably suitable place that was standing empty was offered — the old Hillview High School.

The building was in some state of dilapidation, and the State undertook to restore it so that it would be ready to receive perhaps 300-400 of the young people who were sitting at Mazimbu waiting to come home.

There was some press publicity — it may have been leaked by some people secretly opposed to the whole idea. After that there were threats — made by people who, whatever else they knew, didn't seem to know that the whole operation was planned to be temporary. (Obviously the young returnees would later join schools in various parts of South Africa).

Then, on July 14, came the bomb, destroying both a building and the belief that the State could effectively protect this — and therefore any similar — school and hostel.

But the bomb also said — and as a member of the committee I really was close to tears when we eventually had to accept it — that South Africa 1991 could not guarantee the safety of a few hundred children home from exile if they are being given a home and a school together, so that they might help one another in the difficult task of adapting to new and strange circumstances.

And all that destruction was, it seems, done by an elected Member of Parliament who thought it was better to destroy perhaps a million rands' worth of State-owned educational buildings than to allow them to be used by the "wrong kind" of South African children. □



# Irate residents of Dube reject child shelter

By Zingisa Mkhuma (298)

At least 10 destitute boys have run away from the Soweto branch of Streetwise after angry Dube residents made it clear that their presence in the area was undesirable, according to the education co-ordinator of the home, Minah Motaung.

Mrs Motaung said the home, which was bought by Streetwise through donations from the private sector, had been vacant for some time before the group of about 20 boys moved in.

The homeless boys were found in Soweto, Kliptown and Lenasia, Mrs Motaung said.

She said the older boys left the home saying they felt uneasy because the residents were hostile towards them.

When The Star visited the area, some of the residents admitted they did not want the boys in their neighbourhood and said they feared the destitute children would set a bad example for their own children.

Mabel Taukobong said she did not believe the boys belonged in the neighbourhood

STAR 12/5/92

and added that no Dube residents wanted them in the area.

"These children need to be housed in a juvenile home where they can be disciplined."

"We are elderly people and we fear that our grandchildren will be lured into that house, which lacks discipline. We told Mrs Motaung that we are prepared to give her donations, if she could just remove them from this area. She promised us that she would sell the house as soon as she found a buyer," Mrs Taukobong said.

Another resident, a Mrs Mavi, said she had received death threats because of this issue, and wanted to make it clear she had intervened only on behalf of those residents who wanted the boys out of the area.

Mrs Mavi said her neighbours had complained about noise coming from the boys' home.

Mrs Motaung told The Star she had invited some of the residents to a meeting to explain the boys' presence in the area, and they had made threats and accusations which had scared the boys away.

The matter had been handed over to the civic association, Mrs Motaung added.

# 17-year-old girl lays rape charges against policeman

STAR 13/5/92  
By Jo-Anne Collinge

A 17-year-old Katlehong girl has laid charges against a member of the SAP's Internal Stability Unit whom she alleges raped her early on Monday morning in the back of an armoured vehicle.

The young girl's lawyer battled fruitlessly until late on Monday night to persuade policemen at Katlehong to act on "reasonable suspicion" and immediately arrest the policeman concerned.

The girl who laid a rape charge yesterday was able to name the policeman in question. Through her lawyer, Stephen Hardie, she made a full statement to the station commander at Katlehong police station and provided the police with a medical report and swabs taken during an examination earlier that day. Two other witnesses testified to seeing her being removed from her home.

Although no arrest was made on the day of the alleged rape,

(298) (984)  
yesterday a line-up was held in Katlehong in order to allow the plaintiff to point out the alleged rapist, Witwatersrand police spokesman Colonel Dave Bruce confirmed.

Mr Hardie took the view that the line-up was unnecessary in the light of his client's confident identification of the man by name and her statement that she had known him for about three years.

Colonel Bruce would not say whether any positive identification was made at the line-up. He cautioned against the notion that arrest was automatic even when a serious crime was under investigation.

Both the girl and her boyfriend are ANC members and were accompanied to the police station by ANC staffers including national executive committee member Gill Marcus.

The rape allegedly took place after members of the armed section of the Internal Stability Unit raided the couple's home to search for weapons.



# Community uproar over boys tied to lamp-post

298

ARC 14/5/92

## Staff Reporter

AN incident in Villiersdorp involving two schoolboys and a shopkeeper, in which the boys were tied to a lamp-post with "I am a thief" signs around their necks, has caused a furore in the community.

The boys claim they were beaten up by the shopkeeper and were tied to the lamp-post in the main street with their hands and feet behind their backs after one of them tried to steal a Vienna sausage. The boys said they tried to steal the sausage because they were hungry.

Cecil Deelman, 13, said he and his friend Louis Williams, 15, went to the shop last Thursday to buy potatoes for Cecil's mother.

"We walked around the shop first and Louis went over to the meat counter, where he took a Vienna and hid it under his shirt," said Cecil.

But a shop assistant saw him and approached the boys. She found the sausage on Louis and called the shopkeeper.

Cecil claimed the shopkeeper

took them into the cold storage room and hit Louis.

"I tried to duck, but he also hit me. He kicked Louis in the face and in the ribs."

The boys were then taken outside and made to stand back to back on plastic milk crates with their hands and feet tied to the lamp-post. Cardboard signs were hung around their necks which read: "Please look at me. I am a thief. I steal."

Cecil said they were tied up for about an hour before Mr Thomas Jansen of the Villiersdorp Civic Association and Mr Johannes Nellie freed them.

Mr Jansen said Mr Nellie came to his house on Thursday afternoon after seeing the children tied up in front of the shop.

"We went there and immediately cut them loose. Their feet and hands were badly swollen and there was a mark under Louis' eye."

Mr Jansen said he went into the supermarket to ask the shopkeeper about the incident.

"He just shouted that we can't look after our children properly and that we can't provide them with food to eat. He also said the shop was his prop-

erty and he could therefore do as he pleased."

The Black Sash in Cape Town has investigated the matter. Organiser Ms Sandra Haydon said she had spoken to many witnesses, who confirmed the incident.

The shopkeeper refused to comment, saying "politics are involved in the matter".

A police spokesman said the shopkeeper had laid charges against the boys, but had withdrawn them.

Mr Jansen said the civic organisation had decided to call for a boycott of the shop.



WE CAN DO IT

# Things looking up for Tladi

52

Sowetan 14/5/92

**T**HE Independent Development Trust has pledged its support for the revival of the culture of education at Tladi Technical High School.

This week IDT director of communications, Mr Jolyon Nuttall, said the Trust would be able to help in the reconstruction of the school after the formation of a Tladi Community Trust consisting of parents, teachers and other interested parties.

"I was encouraged to hear about the formation of the Monitoring Committee which is community based," Nuttall said.

They may decide on the priorities in reconstructing the school and to provide a genuine community based interest in the venture.

IDT staffer Mr Naledi Tsiki would help with the formation of the trust and other legal steps.

Nuttall said the Tladi community should raise 10 percent of the required amount as the IDT would not provide more than 90 percent of the rebuilding costs.

"Relevant non-government organisations such as Teachers Opportunity Programmes, and Science Education Project, which we fund in part, will be encouraged to provide their expertise in the fields of teacher upgrading, management training for school principals and maths and science."

Things are looking up for Tladi Tech. IDT has stepped in and promised to repair the school. The Monitoring Committee is also meeting with DET, teachers and pupils to grapple with the problems. By PHANGISILE MTSALI

FOCUS  
EDUCATION

Father Emmanuel La Fonte of the Tladi Tech Monitoring Group



Mr Jolyon Nuttall of the Independent Development Trust.

*"The 'We Can Do It' initiative clearly has a great potential and we would like to help you take it further."*

Independent Development Trust director of communications, Mr Jolyon Nuttall

## What Tladi Tech Community needs to do to secure IDT Funding.

**STEP ONE:** Establish a legally constituted community trust with broadly based representation which includes all those with bona fide interest in education. This could include local business, parents, teachers, the civic organisations etc.

**STEP TWO:** Explore possible community contribution to the school-building process, which might include assistance with electrification, the donation of building material, trees, and donations of books for the library. Obtain community up front cash of 10 percent of total cost of building.

**STEP THREE:** Design an appropriate structure which is in keeping with community norms and IDT technical and costing parameters.

**STEP FOUR:** Ensure local contractors and labour are utilised so that an appropriate amount of money goes into the community and local jobs are created.

**STEP FIVE:** Interact with local education department from an early stage in the process to secure State provision of books, teachers and equipment.

**STEP SIX:** Determine the multiplicity of uses the school will have within the community context, for example literacy classes, wide use of hall.

Note: These are the broad guidelines that all communities eager to obtain funding for building or upgrading schools through the IDT's help should follow.



# A Perm favourite

Company creche  
is a big success

Sowetan 14/5/92 (298)

THE grey facebrick house, with colourful swings and toys scattered around the huge yard, looks like the home of an affluent family.

It is in fact Permocchio - the crèche that serves the staff of the Permanent Building Society.

Since last October the house, which stands behind the society's head office at Perm Park, has been a hive of activity with children of staff members of the eight branches in the Johannesburg area.

Their day begins at 7.30am when their parents start bringing them in. Breakfast follows. Later they break into three groups and engage in activities that fill their day.

Pick up time is any time after the midday nap until 5pm or later if necessary.

Permocchio was the Perm's way of living up to its equal opportunities policy.

The crèche's founder member and human resources employee, Ms Lungi Ndlovu, wanted to create an environment that would encourage female staff to reach their poten-

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

trial. "We wanted to give our staff the best of both worlds. They could share in the development of their children while also building their careers," Ndlovu said.

She said that the parents were being provided a reliable and professionally run facility for their children while the company benefited from their contentment, which made them more productive in their work.

The crèche principal, Ms Cathy Louw, pointed out that the on-site facility also made it easy for children to settle in without any trauma.

## Care

"It is easy for them to adapt when they know that their parents are just up the street.

"Parents are also comfortable when they know their children are taken good care of and they can come in and see them when they have time," Louw said.

Company crèches are a new trend in South Africa. While most companies are still weighing the advantages and disadvantages of the service some have gone straight ahead and initiated them.

Both England and America, where company crèches are common, have shown a reduction in staff

## Women

turnover and an improvement in the general morale and relationship between management and staff.

Some local companies that have shown concern for the balance between family and work commitments are BMW, M-Net, Metro Cash and Carry and Van Reenen and Nicholls.

These companies, backed by studies, have highlighted a link between low productivity and problems associated with lack of child care.

Individually they have profited from the exercise through increased employee productivity.

A 1990 study conducted by psychologist Ms Jenny Gillies for a pharmaceutical company she worked for accentuated the link between output and child care availability.

Gillies found that in the company 78 percent of black and coloured parents could not find child-care facilities for their children.

## Stressed

The facilities were either full or non-existent. Some 84 percent of the staff were worried about their children while they worked and were concerned that it affected their performance.

They felt stressed and this impacted on their productivity. Thirty one employees arrived late every day and the company lost 145 days a year in absenteeism.

She said while most companies that provide child care for their employees only undertook the exercise as a social investment project and were not benefiting from it financially, the elimination of child care problems and the subsequent increase in productivity made it a worthwhile undertaking.

Most companies which have pondered setting up child care facilities for employees have often been turned off by the high cost involved and the stringent municipal by-laws.

"It costs up to R500 000 just to build. The by-laws also impact on the cost in terms of the strict health requirements that must be met.

"A relaxation of these

in turn stimulate competition for skills and exert pressure on those who do not provide the facilities to do so," Gillies said.

Aside from relaxing by-laws, which she hopes a new Government might do, Gillies believes that there

are innovative ways that companies could adopt to reduce the cost of setting up crèches. These include using:

- \* An existing building.
- \* Existing facilities for catering; and
- \* Existing staff, eg nurses

# IES

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MY GIRL (ALL)

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## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs

Children's homes

(298)

238. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

(a) How many children's homes are there for each population group in each province of the Republic, (b) what are their names, (c) how many children can be accommodated in each and (d) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B551E

## THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(a) Blacks

Cape Province

Orange Free State

Natal

Transvaal

Whites

Cape Province

Orange Free State

Natal

Transvaal

Coloureds

Cape Province

Orange Free State

Natal

Transvaal

Asians

Cape Province

Orange Free State

Natal

Transvaal

(b) Blacks

Cape Province:

Khayamandi

Maskhule

Philippi

Masigane

30

(c) and

(d)

31 March 1992

80

78

30

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

King William's Town Children's Home

MTR Smith

Kinderoord

Marsh Memorial Home

Môreson

Kinderhuis

Murray

Kinderhuis

Nazareth House (Cape Town)

Nazareth House (Port Elizabeth)

Oosterland

Kinderhuis

Oranjia Jewish Children's

Home

Salesian

Institute

St John's Hostel

St Michael's

Children's

Home

Suid-Afrikaanse

Kinderhuis

Teen Centre

Orange Free State

Charlotte

Theron Children's Home

Gedenk

Kinderhuis

Ons Kinderhuis

President

Kruger

Kinderhuis

Winburg

Kinderhuis

Natal:

Boy's Town

Durban Children's Home

Joseph Baynes House

Kinderhuis van SA

Vervoerdienste

Môrester

140

60

88

60

80

120

40

40

120

40

60

80

120

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120

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80

(298)

NG Kerk Kinderhuis

Greytown

NG Kerk

Kinderhuis

Durban

Pietermaritzburg

Children's

Home

St Martin's

Diocesan Home for Children

The Ethelbert

Children's

Home

William Clark

Gardens

Wylie House

Transvaal:

Abraham Kriel

(Langlaagte)

Abraham Kriel

(Nylstroom)

Abraham Kriel

(Pretoria)

Abraham Kriel

(Potchefstroom)

Albert Herbst

Arcadia Jewish

Children's

Home

Boy's Town

Bramley

Kinderhawe

Catherine

Robson

Child Welfare

Home

(Johannesburg)

Cotlands Babies'

Sanctuary

Epworth Child-

ren's Home

Firlands Child-

ren's Home

Jac van

Belkum-Huis

Johannesburg

Children's

Home

Louis Botha

Lushof

Maria Kloppers

Kinderhawe

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72

(298)

NG Kerk

Greytown

NG Kerk

Kinderhuis

Durban

Pietermaritzburg

Children's

Home

St Martin's

Diocesan Home for Children

The Ethelbert

Children's

Home

William Clark

Gardens

Wylie House

Transvaal:

Abraham Kriel

(Langlaagte)

Abraham Kriel

(Nylstroom)

Abraham Kriel

(Pretoria)

Abraham Kriel

(Potchefstroom)

Albert Herbst

Arcadia Jewish

Children's

Home

Boy's Town

Bramley

Kinderhawe

Catherine

Robson

Child Welfare

Home

(Johannesburg)

Cotlands Babies'

Sanctuary

Epworth Child-

ren's Home

Firlands Child-

ren's Home

Jac van

Belkum-Huis

Johannesburg

Children's

Home

Louis Botha

Lushof

Maria Kloppers

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Kinderhuis

Durban

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Diocesan Home for Children

The Ethelbert

Children's

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William Clark

Gardens

Wylie House

Transvaal:

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(Langlaagte)

Abraham Kriel

(Nylstroom)

Abraham Kriel

(Pretoria)

Abraham Kriel

(Potchefstroom)

Albert Herbst

Arcadia Jewish

Children's

Home

Boy's Town

Bramley

Kinderhawe

Catherine

Robson

Child Welfare

Home

(Johannesburg)

Cotlands Babies'

Sanctuary

Epworth Child-

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Firlands Child-

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Jac van

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Louis Botha

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Durban

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Children's

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St Martin's

Diocesan Home for Children

The Ethelbert

Children's

Home

William Clark

Gardens

Wylie House

Transvaal:

Abraham Kriel

(Langlaagte)

Abraham Kriel

(Nylstroom)

Abraham Kriel

(Pretoria)

Abraham Kriel

(Potchefstroom)

Albert Herbst

Arcadia Jewish

Children's

Home

Boy's Town

Bramley

Kinderhawe

Catherine

Robson

Child Welfare

Home

(Johannesburg)

Cotlands Babies'

Sanctuary

Epworth Child-

ren's Home

Firlands Child-

ren's Home

Jac van

Belkum-Huis

Johannesburg

Children's

Home

Louis Botha

Lushof

Maria Kloppers

Kinderhawe

60

98

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72



Nazareth House President	42	"	St Mary's Children's Home	40	"
Kruger Kinderhuis			The Homestead	24	"
(Johannesburg) President	91	"	James House	20	"
Kruger Kinderhuis (Pretoria)	63	"	SOS Children's Village Port Elizabeth	120	"
Princess Alice Adoption Home	16	"	Steinthal Kinderhuis	644	"
SAVF			Heatherdale Children's Home	60	"
Kinderhuis St George's	50	"	Patrick's House	30	"
Home St Mary's Children's Home	70	"	Moria Kinderhuis	40	"
Strathgry Girls' Home	60	"	Ons Plek	16	"
The Guild Cottage	18	"	Kidshelter Highway Home	15	"
Villa Lubet Kinderdorp	220	"	Natal Bethshan Children's Home	30	"
Coloureds			St Monica's Home	84	"
Cape Province: Anne Starck Village	60	29 April 1992	St Philomenas	80	"
Habibia Children's Home	18	"	St Theresa's Home	105	"
Boys' Town			St Thomas' Home	60	"
Macassar	60	"	Transvaal St Joseph's Home	118	"
Bruce Duncan House	70	"	SOS Children's Village	160	"
Christine Revell Kinderhuis	49	"	Johannesburg St Nicolas Home	65	"
Holy Cross Children's Home	120	"	Asians		
Lelebloem House	72	"	Natal Aryan Benevolent Home	102	"
Herberg	100	"	Lakehaven	80	"
Kanneskroon	132	"	Motata Children's Home	15	"
Poladder			Darul Yatama-Wal	66	"
RK Sendung Kinderhuis	74	"	Maskaen Sunlit Gardens	60	"
Kanneskroon			Children's Home	55	"
GC Williams Children's Home	60	"	Boys' Town	10	"
St Francis Home	10	"	Genazzano Boys' Town		
Margarets House			Verulam		
St George's House	40	"			

Places of safety			
(a) and (b)	(c) and (d)		
246 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health	Coloureds	Transvaal	65
(a) How many places of safety are there for each population group in each province of the Republic, (b) what are their names, (c) how many children can be accommodated in each and (d) in respect of what date is this information furnished?	Wurwaterstrand	30 April 1992	
	Cape Province		
	Bonnytown	200	"
	Vredelus	90	"
	Rosendal	80	"
	Erica	100	"
	Nerina	50	"
	Mimosa	80	"
	Outenikwa	100	"
	Natal		
	Oceanview	75	"
The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:			
(a) and (b)	(c) and (d)		
Whites			
Transvaal			
Norman House	85	29 January 1992	
Tutela	90	"	
Jubileum	75	"	
Cape Province:			
Protea	50	"	
Tenderden	60	"	
Natal			
Excelsior	78	"	
Orange Free State			
Monument	50	"	
(a) and (b)	(c) and (d)		
Asians			
Natal			
Greenfields	80	29 January 1992	
Valley View	120	"	
Blacks			
Transvaal			
Tsotoso	200	30 May 1991	
Van Ryn Deep	140	"	
Cape Province:			
Nomzamo	20	"	
Siyakathala	140	"	
Koelenhof	115	"	
Galeshewe	100	"	
Lorato	100	"	
Enkusewem	100	"	
Siyalinga	100	"	
Natal			
Pata	100	"	
Bayhead	370	"	
Orange Free State			
Tshuresong	160	"	

Positions occupied in top five post levels

258. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

(a) How many persons from each race groups occupy positions in the top five post levels of the Department of National Health and Population Development and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B617E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH.

(a) Top five post levels	Population Group	White	Indian
Director-General	1	—	—
Deputy-Director-General	2	—	—
Third post level e g	16	—	—
Fourth post level e g	26	—	—
Fifth post level e g	73	1	—
Deputy Director			
(b) 4 May 1992			

Per capita allocation of health funds

259 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health

What was the per capita allocation of health funds in each of the four geographical regions of the Republic for the (a) 1991-92 and (b) 1992-93 financial years?

B619E



Villiersdorp boys are beaten, displayed on the streets after stealing sausage

# Boere(wors) justice

South 16/5-21/5/92

298

Punishment reminiscent of the stocks of the Middle Ages occurred in Villiersdorp, reports **QUENTIN WILSON:**

**T**HEIR crime was stealing a sausage — their punishment was to be assaulted and publicly humiliated in full view of passersby, the two boys accused of shoplifting spent nearly an hour tied to a telephone pole.

Hanging from their necks were cardboard signs which read "I am a thief I steal".

These events took place at the Trio Supermarket in the Boland town of Villiersdorp last Thursday.

A shop assistant caught Louis Williams, 15, allegedly hiding a sausage under his shirt. She called the manager, Mr Waldo Visser.

Visser allegedly assaulted Williams and his friend, Cecil Deelman, 12, and then he allegedly tied the boys to a telephone pole.

The two boys were tied to the pole for about an hour before astounded onlookers called on local ANC leader Mr Thomas Jansen to intervene.

An outraged Jansen, who untied the boys, was threatened with being charged for interfering with Visser's private property — the rope used to tie the boys.

"I was shocked by the fear on the faces of these children," Jansen said.

Eye-witnesses, who do not want to be named for fear of police harassment, said an off-duty policeman, a Sergeant Benadie, saw the tied-up boys and did nothing to free them. They also claim they saw a police van drive past.

Jansen, accompanied by two witnesses, went to ask Visser to explain his actions. Visser said he could do what he wanted and demanded that Jansen leave his shop.

Jansen refused and Visser threatened to phone the police.

"I didn't have a problem with him phoning the police as I also wanted to lay a charge," Jansen said. "He was looking all over for their number and eventually I told him what the number was."

"I told him that his actions were unacceptable to us in the community. It was wrong for anyone to steal but the kids are not his property — it is up to the magistrate to determine the punishment," Jansen said.

"When the police came, they went to Visser to listen to his complaints. I was told to wait outside on the pavement, which I did."



**TO THE RESCUE:** Mr Thomas Jansen, the local ANC chairperson, who freed the two boys

"When I told one of the policemen that I also wanted to lay a charge, I was told to go to the police station."

While Visser was attended to immediately, Jansen had trouble getting any attention. Along with the two youths and two witnesses, Jansen went to the station where he was told to wait for the acting station commander.

After waiting ten minutes, he was told that he could not lay a charge because he was not a parent of one of the boys.

Then the mothers of the boys walked in. When Jansen explained Visser's actions to them, both women wanted to lay a charge. They were told to go back to the supermarket and lodge a complaint with the police who were there.

They went to the supermarket only to be told to return to the police station — which they did.

The mothers' scurrying back and forth finally ended when Visser decided not to press charges.

African and coloured residents are to boycott the supermarket.



**ACCUSED 1:** Louis Williams, 15



**ACCUSED 2:** Cecil Deelman, 12

## 'He smacked me in the face and then kicked me in the ribs'

"MY BODY was shaking, I was so afraid. When he tied me to the pole, the rope was very tight around my hands and feet which hurt me very much. It gave me a horrible headache."

Cecil Deelman, 12, could not have predicted last Thursday's events after going to the shop for his mother.

"My mom sent me to get some potatoes and I went with Louis Williams, my friend. When we went into the supermarket, Louis saw the sausage and hid it inside his shirt."

"We went to the lady at the till to ask where the potatoes were as we couldn't find them. She asked him what was inside his shirt and we didn't say anything."

"Then she asked Louis to take

out the sausage. He took it out and she then called the manager of the supermarket."

"He took us by the arms and pushed us into the cold store at the back of the supermarket," Cecil said.

Louis, 15, sporting a swollen eye, said he stole the sausage as he was hungry. "The man smacked me across the face. I fell over some groceries that were on the floor and then he kicked me in the ribs and face."

"He swore at me and asked 'why the f... did you steal the sausage?'. I told him I was hungry and that I was sorry."

"After slapping Cecil across the face, he left the room and returned with some rope in his hand. He took us outside and tied us

very tightly to the telephone pole. I still had the sausage in my hand."

The two slight kids, small for their age, said they felt "skaam" being left tied to the pole.

"He hung cardboard signs over our necks and left us until Mr Jansen came," Cecil said.

"I felt humiliated. Lots of people gathered round us, including some of our schoolmates. One of my schoolfriends shouted at the manager to untie us and to call the police instead."

The two softly-spoken kids said they could not face going to school the next day as they felt very ashamed.

"I felt so hurt and embarrassed but my mom said I didn't have to be," Cecil said.

## Trio manager says that the incident was 'a little thing'

APPROACHED for comment on the incident last Thursday, Trio supermarket manager Mr Waldo Visser brushed off the incident as "a little thing", suggesting "it's not a good idea to do a story on this."

I met Visser, a burly man over six feet tall, in an office overlooking the deserted supermarket floor. On his desk lay a concealed hand-gun.

In his early thirties, the supermarket manager tried to justify his actions.

"I have people stealing from me daily. I just arrested the two until the police came and then some guy came along and took them away."

Visser, who would not allow photographs to be taken of him, denied assaulting them and suggested the story be dropped.

"Who told you about this anyway?" he demanded to know.

He refused to answer any more questions and said, "I will do my talking in court, if necessary."

"I dropped the charges against them because of their young age," he said.

While talking, he suddenly blurted out "Here they go again", and frantically joined his assistant in the aisle to watch every move of their latest 'suspect'.

An African man had entered and looked at goods at the back of the supermarket. After a few anxious

moments, the 'suspect' turned out to be a bona fide shopper.

"No really, I have nothing to say about what happened, just put down 'no comment'. You really shouldn't do this story anyway, nothing happened," he said.

After leaving the supermarket, I went to the police station about 600m away, to get their side of the story.

Walking into the charge office, I was greeted by a Sergeant Benadie. I hardly explained the issue I had come to get comment on when he interrupted by repeatedly saying he knew nothing about it. Shaking his head and waving his hands, he suggested I speak to Warrant Officer Johannes Reyneke, who was not in.

Benadie did not know when he would return exactly.

Later over the phone, Reyneke explained the police's position.

"The supermarket owner reported the case (the theft) to the police, who went down and got a statement. When the police returned to the station, the owner phoned and said we should not go ahead and register the charge."

"We believe there are rumours the children were tied to a pole but we didn't see it," Reyneke said.

Asked to respond to allegations the police had seen it, he said "I don't know about that, as far as I know, they didn't."



## More homes <sup>298</sup> for white kids-

Political Staff

THERE were more children's homes for whites than for all other race groups, the Minister of National Health, Dr Rina Venter, revealed yesterday <sup>ET 16/5/42</sup>

There were 69 such homes for whites, 34 for coloureds, 18 for blacks and seven for Asians.

The 6449 places for white children was also higher than the total for all other children.

# Kids terrorise Mamelodi tipplers

*C/News 17/5/92*  
A GANG of kids are allegedly terrorising residents and hostel dwellers in Mamelodi West.

The youths, whose ages range from 10 to 15, have been labelled by residents as "The Zafios" - a name derived from a CCV drama series *Diwele Mago-lela*. They are accused of assaults, muggings and murder.

However, members of the Akajoe "clan", which organises parties for fee-paying members, say that residents had falsely branded them as "The

*(298) (298)*  
Zafios" because a few members were thugs.

Residents say The Zafios operate mainly in Block B, E and F, where they have been accused of disrupting parties and robbing patrons leaving shebeens.

Hostel dwellers said they were regularly robbed in the area - even in broad daylight - and most of the victims have been stabbed.

A 13-year-old youth called "Murphy" is alleged to be the leader of the gang which has forced



**MURDERED ... MK's  
Jabu Buthelezi.**

residents and hostel dwellers to start street patrols at night following the April 6 death of Jabu "Lalela" Buthelezi, 31, a married father of two who was an MK cadre, a senior member of the Mame-

lodi Civic Association and the Campaign Officer for the SACP in Mamelodi.

Buthelezi was allegedly stabbed and stoned to death by members of the gang when he tried to confront them over a mugging at an Akajoe party.

Police spokeswoman Capt Marietjie Louw said two people whose ages were not yet known have been arrested in connection with Buthelezi's death. She asked people with information about the Zafios to contact the Mamelodi police.



## FW does a good job, say SA teenagers

SA teenagers of all races, except young whites, white boys and Afrikaans-speakers, believe President F W de Klerk is doing a good job, a new survey has found. It found that 53% of all white teenagers and 74% of black teenagers supported De Klerk. The poll, conducted door-to-door by Research Surveys, established that 63% of teenagers of all races believed De Klerk was doing a good job. White teenagers entitled to vote, those between 18 and 20, gave De Klerk above-average (65%) support.

However, only 46% of white boys between the ages of 13 and 15, 44% between 16 and 17, 46% of all white teenaged boys in general and 44% of Afrikaans-speaking white teenagers agreed. The highest percentages of those who did not think De Klerk was doing a good job were whites aged between 16 and 17 (35%), white males (29%), Afrikaans-speakers (32%) and those living in the PWV area (30%). *B10/Day 19/5792*

Black teenagers of both sexes and all ages felt De Klerk was doing a good job with support of between 72% and 75%. Those between 18 and 20 (19%) and black males (18%) did not agree. The highest backing for De Klerk came from Durban (80%) and Soweto (74%) among black teenagers, and Cape Town (71%) among white teenagers, but the lowest support was from white teenagers in Durban (40%) and the PWV area (49%). Research Surveys said.

## ANC moots second-properties tax

CAPE TOWN — A capital gains tax on land to discourage speculation, and a tax on second properties, have been mooted by the ANC. *B10/Day 19/5792*

In an interview, ANC national co-ordinator on local government and housing Thozamile Botha said a capital gains tax would discourage developers from buying up large tracts of land, subdividing them, and selling them off at a large profit and at prices beyond the means of lower income families.

Other measures the ANC would consider to curb land speculation would be the application of high municipal rates on well located, undeveloped land, and the use of legal arrangements and tenure forms, which would take land and housing transactions "out of the market and guard

Own Correspondent

against downward raiding by the relatively more affluent groups".

The ANC was opposed to the privatisation of large tracts of state-owned land at this stage. "By privatising this land — much of which is close to the city centre — private developers will be the only ones to benefit ..."

Botha said a capital gains tax on second properties, and higher rates and taxes on these properties, were also seen as an ideal mechanism to aid redistribution.

White residential areas, he said, could also expect to pay more for electricity in a post-apartheid SA. In future electricity charges would have to be loaded in favour of lower economic areas

## CHILD CARE

# Taking care of children

STAR 19/5/92

The world's greatest asset is not its vast mineral wealth, or its diamond and gold deposits, the dense indigenous forests, the great oceans and mountain ranges or even the staggering diversity of the animal kingdom. Our children are.

Of course the planet must be saved and most of the wide-ranging programmes and activities around the world aimed at protecting the environment should certainly be maintained, if not increased.

But unless we look after those who will be responsible for protecting tomorrow's world, our efforts will be wasted.

How do we teach our chil-

dren to save the world?

According to Brenda Robson, managing director of the Institute of Child Caring Companies (ICCC), children have first to be taught to save themselves. To do this, she says, children have to understand their rights.

### Love

Colgate-Palmolive, one of the founding members of the ICCC, also recognised this need, and compiled a simplified version of the United Nations' Convention for the Rights of the Child.

"Education, health, nutrition, security and, above all, love are vital for a child's balanced upbringing, and these are all covered in the Children's Bill of Rights," says Colgate's Community

Affairs manager Linda Rowell.

(298)

"One of the main motivations for drawing up the Bill of Rights was the growing need for children to learn to protect themselves, particularly in the often turbulent South African situation," says Ms Rowell.

"By knowing what their rights are, children are better equipped to protect and defend themselves."

Health care for the child under the age of five is the ICCC's prime concern, and the focus of all their community work is on proper nutrition, hygiene, health and stimulation.

"If a child has all of these by the time he reaches the age of five, then the ground-

work should be in place for a bright future," says Ms Robson.

### Appeal

Posters and bookmarks printed with the Bill of Rights are being distributed by the ICCC's community nurses, and are already enjoying pride of place on many of noticeboards in schools and playgroups all over the country.

"Our ultimate aim is for every parent and every child to at least be aware of the Bill of Rights

"We support the appeal many organisations made to Government to endorse the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child," she says.

*Institute of Child Caring Companies.*



# Outlaw 'barbaric' beatings in schools, pleads MP

SOUTH AFRICA is apparently the only country in the Western World that still allows corporal punishment in schools and has not forbidden it by law, Mr Tony Leon (DP Houghton) told parliament.

Most European countries had

abolished it and Britain, where "this form of brutalisation" was perfected, had abandoned caning, he said during the own affairs Education Budget Vote

A recent Department of Education and Culture report had said there could be no doubt

that legal action would be brought against the department as a test case when South Africa had adopted a charter of human rights

"It seems antiquated, barbaric and senseless for our educators to wait until a Bill of

Rights is introduced before taking the simple step of removing corporal punishment as a method of discipline from our schools." **ARG 19/5/92**

Departmental guidelines were too wide and open to abuse, he said. — Sapa.

# Man in court over church fire

**Sowetan Correspondent**

A 33-year-old unemployed white man appeared in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the deaths of eight children in a fire at a church in Sunnyside.

The fire took place on March 12. No charges were put to Mr Johannes Stephanus Vorster and he was not asked to plead.

Vorster, of no fixed address, appeared before Mr DVZ van der Merwe. The case was postponed to May 27.

His appearance followed his arrest on Saturday in the Johannesburg suburb of Newlands.

Police arrested the suspect after they had received information from a member of the public that a man who matched the identikit published in newspapers was in a Newlands pub.

Vorster was being sought in connection with the death of eight street children inside the Elim Full Gospel Church building in Jeppe Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria, which was allegedly set alight on March 12 this year.

The building, which served as a shelter for street children, was gutted about 1.30am while the chil-

dren were asleep.

Those who died in the blaze included Enoch Mabunda (16), Magowa Makou (8), Sinkie Mnisi (16), Charles Aphane (12), Jacob Mahlangu (17), James Makwinda (16) and David Mokoena (13).

Police liaison officer Captain Marietjie Louw said the accused would be held pending the completion of investigations into the fire that killed the eight children.

## 'Cover-up'

At the time of the incident, police said investigations by the fire brigade and forensic experts had revealed that no arson had been committed.

Police intensified their investigations after Lawyers For Human Rights, which conducted its own investigations, accused the police of "a cover-up."

The organisation said their experts had found that the building was deliberately set on fire.

Police then released identikit pictures of two brothers wanted for questioning regarding the alleged crime.



## Caning in schools may be on way out

MICHAEL MORRIS  
Political Correspondent

CANING could be on the way out in South African schools as educationists consider draft recommendations for a new approach to classroom discipline.

The Minister of Education and Culture, Mr Piet Marais, told parliament yesterday that the department was keen to avoid violence in education while applying educationally acceptable punishment.

He was replying in a debate to the Democratic Party MP for Houghton, Mr Tony Leon, who said on Monday that "it seems antiquated, barbaric and senseless for our educators to wait until a Bill of Rights is introduced before taking the simple step of removing corporal punishment as a method of discipline from our schools."

Mr Marais said his department would soon issue recommendations on corporal punishment in schools.

The Teachers' Federal Council and heads of the provincial education departments had recently been given a draft report on corporal punishment for comment. Recommendations would follow.

Mr Leon had said South Africa appeared to be the only country in the West which still allowed caning at schools.

# 'IFP ordered silence even under torture'

STAR 21/5/92

Top Inkatha leaders at meetings at Soweto's Nancefield hostel in 1991 told supporters that if anyone was arrested for being in possession of guns or for murder, they should not say anything to the police, even if tortured.

This was said in Pretoria yesterday by a witness, who may not be named, before a Goldstone Commission committee inquiring into violence on trains.

The witness said Inkatha Freedom Party members Themba Khoza, Musa Moyeni and Humphrey Ndhlovu told the meetings lawyers would be arranged for those arrested.

He said while living at Nancefield hostel from 1989 to 1991 he noticed Zulu leaders on various occasions addressing dwellers and encouraging them to fight ANC followers, especially because of attacks on IFP members in Tokoza at the time.

The witness told the commit-

tee a reason for the violence was that Zulus did not want to be ruled by Xhosas.

He said the attacks on trains stemmed from songs and slogans in coaches which insulted IFP leader Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi. The songs were referred to at the hostel meetings.

The witness said that in 1990 he heard of a reward being offered by the police for information on illegal weapons.

Later that year he went to Soweto's Protea police station where he met Detective Warrant Officer Sjula Sithebe, who was in the firearms unit and involved in the reward offer.

"I was introduced to (a) Captain Kruger and I gave him information about people who were in possession of firearms. Acting on this information the police went to the hostel and found the firearms, and I was paid for the information."

He continued working for the police and attended many meetings at the hostel, some of which were addressed by Mr

Khoza. He said he volunteered to join a group that was prepared to use spears and pangas.

He continued reporting people with firearms, and arrests were made as a result of his information. He also identified people who took part in attacks.

The witness described a number of meetings at which plans to attack train commuters at railway stations were discussed, and how the attacks were carried out.

He said that in November last year he was told by his cousin, who also lived in the hostel, that he (the witness) was to be killed because he was a police informer. He escaped through a window.

Later he was told by his contact at the police that a Captain Vermaak had sold him out to the hostel dwellers.

He said he was not paid R10 000 for information about a train attack in June 1991 nor R30 000 for additional information on a train attack in October the same year. — Sapa



Dive into your pocket . . . and make a donation to employees Victoria Mall and M M Gooler.

## Respite for black property owners

STAR 21/5/92

Political Staff

CAPE TOWN — Untangling the bureaucracy of apartheid is proving a time-consuming business.

The Government has been compelled to give black property-owners who bought land in the name of a white buyer more time to transfer the property into their own names.

Provision for this was made in the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Amendment Bill that was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

The Group Areas Act was repealed by the Abolition of Racially Based Land Measures Act that was passed last year.

One of the provisions of the Act says the cases where black people bought their land in the name of white people in

conflict with the Group Areas Act were deemed "not to be an illegal transaction or a transaction which constitutes an offence".

The buyers and their fronts were given six months from when the Act came into effect on June 30 last year to request the Registrar of Deeds to transfer property from the front to the real owner.

The six months ran out on December 31.

A memorandum on the amendment Bill said the requirements of practice indicated that this period should have been longer, and "this Bill seeks to extend the period to two years".

"The extension is to be made with retrospective effect, so that there will be no interval in the currency of the authorisation granted."

## Detained youths due home from Swaziland

STAR 21/5/92

MBABANE — A group of South African youths, who were detained after allegedly crossing illegally into Swaziland and claiming they were ANC members on their way to undergo military training, were expected to re-

turn home yesterday.

This was according to a three-person ANC delegation which interviewed the 47 youths — who have been held in Swaziland's Big Bend prison for about two weeks — on Tuesday.

At a press briefing yesterday, delegation leader Jackie Selebi said the youths had told him they had been recruited in Natal, although not through the ANC offices.

Mr Selebi said his or-

ganisation was investigating. (298)

Some of those involved in the recruitment were known to the ANC, and at least one was a member, Mr Selebi added — Sapa.

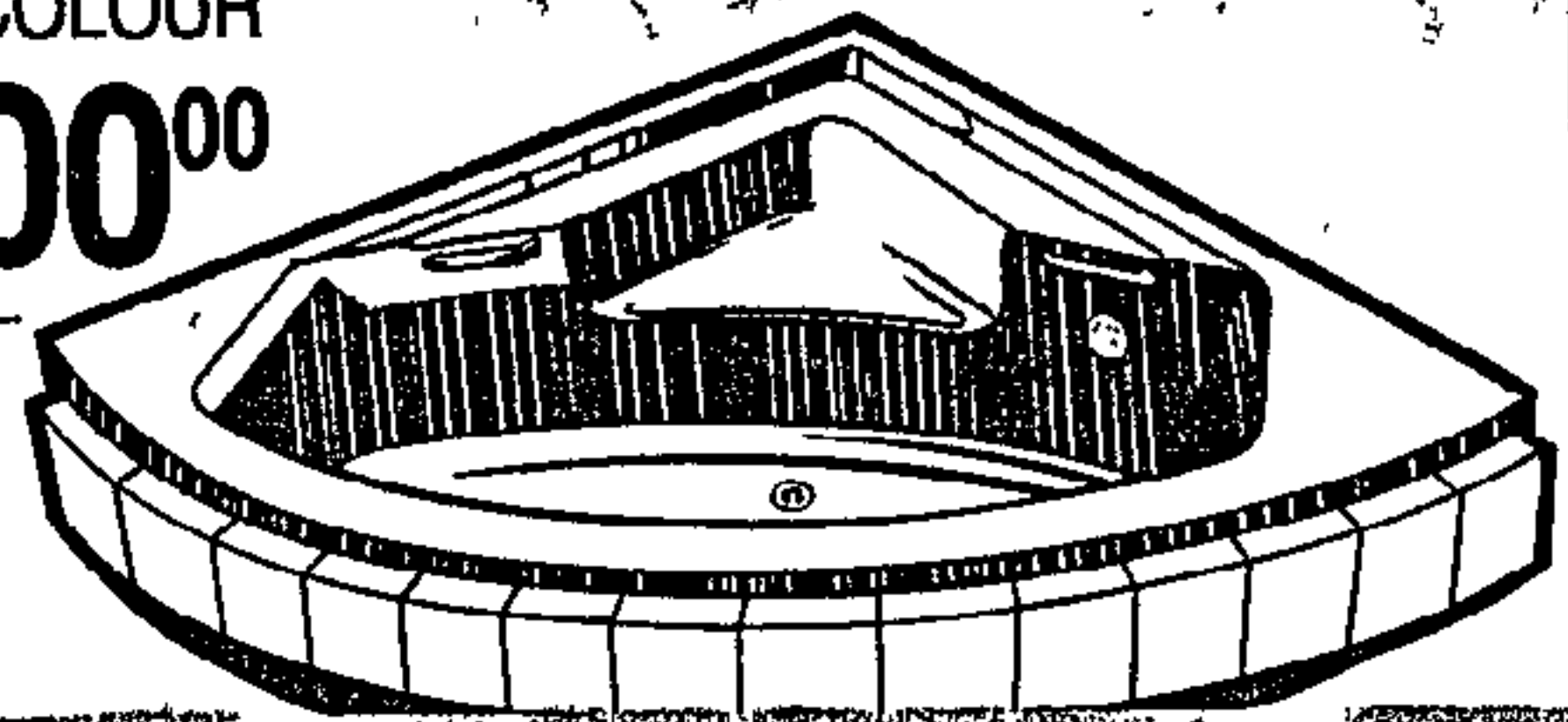
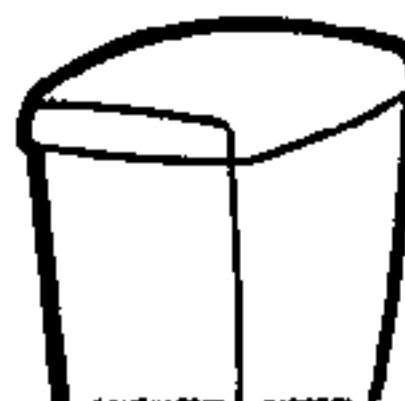
ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE CITY

BATHROOM BONANZA

WHITE OR COLOUR

R1300<sup>00</sup>

VAT INCL.





### ANC quizzes youths

AN ANC three-man delegation visited Swaziland this week to interview the 47 youths detained after allegedly crossing illegally into Swaziland and claiming they were ANC members on their way to undergo military training.

Delegation leader Jackie Selebi said in Mbabane yesterday the youths said they had been recruited in Natal, although not through the ANC offices. Some of those involved in the recruitment were known to the ANC and at least one was a member.

B/Dam 21/5/92

(298)

(6/11)

# Many wives, minors now drug addicts

STAR 2/5/92

By Paula Fray

There has been an alarming rise in drug addiction among housewives and young children, according to a senior member of the South African Association of Retail Pharmacists.

Addressing delegates at the national conference of the Pharmaceutical Society of SA in Somerset West yesterday, David Bayever said 25 percent of all dagga seized worldwide was found in South Africa and 90 percent of worldwide Mandrax production was sold in SA illegally.

He said that while national figures were difficult to establish, 27,5 percent of patients requiring rehabilitation in a well-known Transvaal centre were housewives.

A further 5 percent of patients admitted were minors between the ages of 10 and 14.

While there would be regional differences, these proportions were roughly correct for the country in terms of Indian, white and coloured groupings.

Indications were that drug dependency in the black community was not as prevalent, but was increasing with growing urbanisation, Mr Bayever said.

Another cause for concern was South Africa's position as a favoured target for exploitation by drug traffickers.

"The growth in cocaine trafficking in this country is significant in this context.

"While 1 183 g of cocaine was seized during the entire 1991, 1 800 g was discovered during one 1992 'bust' alone."

He said cocaine was expensive — at a current street value of about R400/g — and therefore had become fashionable only among upper-income drug abusers.



# Detained youths due home from Swaziland

STAR 2115792

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turn home yesterday.

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At a press briefing yesterday, delegation leader Jackie Selebi said the youths had told him they had been recruited in Natal, although not through the ANC offices.


Mr Selebi said his or-

ganisation was investigating.

Some of those involved in the recruitment were known to the ANC, and at least one was a member, Mr Selebi added. — Sapa.

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# Drug addiction hitting housewives, children

31 Day 21/5/92 (298)   
DRUG addiction among housewives and children was growing at an alarming rate, SA Association of Retail Pharmacists spokesman David Bayever told delegates at the national conference of the Pharmaceutical Association of SA in Somerset West yesterday.

Although national figures were difficult to establish, 27,5% of patients in a major Transvaal rehabilitation centre were housewives and 5% of patients admitted were children between 10 and 14.

Bayever said world expenditure on illicit drugs and psychotropic substances was second only to armaments. Ninety percent of worldwide mandrax production was sold in SA, and 25% of all dagga seized worldwide was seized locally. Illicit drug traffickers regarded SA as a major target.

Cocaine was also rapidly becoming more prevalent. In 1991, 1 183g of cocaine were seized; this year 1 800g were discovered in one bust alone.

There were indications that drug abuse among blacks was increasing with growing urbanisation.

Among upwardly mobile urban blacks there was a trend to change from tradition-

al sorghum beer to spirits, which would make alcoholism a more serious problem in the near future.

Health Department spokesman Peter Hearn told the conference his department's expanded measles immunisation programme last year had resulted in a 77% decrease in the cases of measles reported and a 93% decrease in the number of deaths and disabilities. Hearn said immunisation was one of the strongest weapons for fighting the disease.

Measles remained one of the major causes of death and hospitalisation among black children, but the reduction in such cases represented a drop of about 117 000 cases and 46 000 hospital admissions.

The immunisation programme formed part of the department's expanded primary health care strategy, which was aimed at lowering the inappropriate use of the more expensive secondary and tertiary services. Expanding primary health care was the only affordable method left for the state to provide health services to all, Hearn said.

KATHRYN STRACHAN

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## 'Material values come first'

A SURVEY of 860 black and white households has found that material values rather than political ones motivate most young South Africans. (298)

The study by the Markinor group and Hunt Las-caris TBWA concluded that most young people did not approve of violence.

The survey of 860 households found that 80% of respondents felt it was "extremely important" for whites and blacks to get along well and a similar percentage said they were proud to be South Africans.

Markinor chairman Nick

Green said: "The agenda of SA youth seems to be largely non-political, although they endorse reform. Typically, they tend to think it is proceeding a little slowly. But personal goal-setting is usually qualification- and career-orientated. The young South African living in formal housing is a materialist, not a Marxist."

The survey was carried out in conjunction with a syndicate comprising Bakers, Cinemark, Edgars, M-Net, Royal Beechnut, the SABC, the SA Communications Services, Stellenbosch Farmers' Winery and Times Media Ltd. — Sapa.

# ANC to help return youths home to SA

*Sowetan 21/5/92*

*298*

MBABANE - An ANC delegation has told the Swaziland government it will co-operate in repatriating youths who arrived in that country demanding to be sent to Zambia for military training.

The arrival of the 47 youths, all claiming to be ANC members, baffled the Swaziland govern-

## Sowetan Africa News Service

ment and refugee officials in Mbabane because the practice of sending political refugees abroad for military training ended when the ANC was unbanned in South Africa.

Officials at ANC headquarters also denied knowledge of the youths, who entered the country illegally, apparently from Natal. They have been held in prison at the southern town of Big Bend since their arrival.

On Tuesday an ANC delegation, led by Mr Jackie Selebi, head of the ANC repatriation programmes, had talks with the youths, together with Swaziland Interior Ministry and United Nations High Commission for Refugees officials.

### Confirmed

Later Selebi confirmed that the ANC was no longer sending people for military training abroad.

He said: "On the other hand, some or all of these young persons could be members of our organisation. They mentioned some names of high-ranking ANC officials, people who had directed them to come to Swaziland and then proceed abroad."

"I will not reveal those names. We have to carry out thorough investigations when we get back to South Africa."

The youths are expected to be returned to South Africa soon, according to the ANC delegation.



## Juvenile justice

A WORKSHOP on the identification of training needs for social workers and public interest lawyers will be held at the University of the Witwatersrand on Saturday. (298) (288)

The workshop will be hosted by the Community Law Centre of the Institute for Public Interest Law and Research, and it will focus on juvenile justice administration and the generation of proposals for the reform of the correctional service system.

*Spine farm 22/5/92*  
Among the speakers are Professor MCJ Olmsdaal of Natal University, Ms Michelle Morris of the University of the Western Cape and an advocate, Mr M Motshekga of the University of South Africa. - Sapa.

# Give us this day our daily bread

FILED

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South 23/5-27/5/92

IT'S NOT unusual to find pensioners queueing outside the payout point in the Worcester township of Zwelenthenba at 2am.

It's also not unusual to find that many have not slept before coming to Zwelenthenba as they have to walk for hours from distant farms or small towns.

And many pensioners come from surrounding farms and villages only to find there is no money for them.

"Ignorance is the biggest problem we face in trying to organise pensions and other state benefits for people in the rural areas," said a Cape Provincial Administration (CPA) official.

"A lot of people don't know just how old they are and if mistakes were made when they applied for their identity documents, then the Department of Home Affairs will not correct it without a birth certificate, which many old people just don't have."

It is also a battle to get child maintenance grants.

Married women qualify for state assistance for only four children, and in rural towns some women have large families.

"Another problem is that the aid is only available until the child turns 16, not until he completes his schooling, so most children don't stand a chance of reaching matric,

they just become farmworkers like their parents," the official said.

Unmarried women can only receive support for one child, at R70 a month, and it is not unusual in rural towns to find entire families living off the allowance.

Disabled people complain about stringent regulations which make it difficult for them to receive grants.

A number of cases reviewed recently by the Worcester district surgeon have been disqualified from state support with the recommendation that they find "tight work".

But the biggest problem facing people at the Zwelenthenba payout point was the long wait between an application for financial aid and the time the money became available.

Last Monday, many people who had walked long distances and waited for hours, left empty-handed.

Mrs Evelyn Mbaxa left after queueing for five hours, empty-handed and spitting mad.

"I applied for a pension and have been coming here for a year and five months already to see if my money has arrived," Mbaxa said.

"I share a house with my mother and today we have nothing to eat. Our neighbours are getting tired of us coming to beg for food all the time."



TO THE QUEUE: A pensioner is helped to payout point



# Child's play is hard work

CP Reporter

*Cipren 24/5792 (298)*

IT'S impossible to be too careful in a home where there are small children.

People who look after them cannot watch over them every second of the day and it is therefore vital to rather make the home as childproof as possible to avoid accidents.

Here are some useful tips:

■ Until children are steady on their feet, put a safety gate at the top and bottom of all flights of stairs and be sure that they are fixed firmly in place at all times. This does make moving around the house quickly difficult for adults, but means you can be sure that unsteady toddlers will remain on the floor where they're meant to be.

■ Fit safety glass or safety film to all areas of glass against which a child might fall: panels in doors, patio doors, low level windows. Install special window locks on upstairs windows so that they can be left open to allow air in, but can be opened no further than a few centimetres to prevent a child from falling out.

■ Kitchens are hazardous areas for everyone, especially children. Always turn pan handles inwards when you are cooking. Store knives in a drawer or cupboard with a safety catch. Keep equipment well to the back of a work surface and fit child-proof locks to cupboards. Always take a child with you out of the kitchen if you go to answer the door and never leave one alone when an iron is on or cooling down.

■ Small children love poking into holes. Fit all low level socket outlets with special socket guards so that they are blocked.

■ Take care not to leave things lying around on which a child could get hurt, such as workbaskets or half-finished sewing or knitting, tools, garden equipment, anything heavy which could be pulled or tipped off a surface.

■ It is absolutely imperative that children and fire should be kept as far apart as possible. Keep matches and cigarette lighters well out of reach and – as with medicines – try to avoid letting a child see you use them. All sources of heat should be well guarded, especially open fires. Fireguards should be large, stable and difficult for a child to dislodge and should be left in position at all times that a child is likely to go into the room where the fire is lit.

■ You're busy bathing the baby. The phone rings, don't go! Doorbell goes, don't leave! It doesn't take much water or much time for a baby or toddler to drown if they slip and can't get up. So NEVER leave them alone in the bath. Ignore the phone, doorbell or anything else, UNLESS you take the baby with you.

■ Toddlers explore cabinets and cupboards and hands go straight to mouths. Put these somewhere out of reach: pills, medicines, nail varnish, aftershave, hair remover, face cream, shampoo, razors and blades, and cleaning materials like bleach and lavatory cleaner. Nasty stuff for kiddies. Better still, keep such things in a locked cupboard.

■ Cold night – it's tempting to dry toddlers in front of the fire. But don't leave them there towel-wrapped and close. A loose corner can scorch and burn. Make sure you've a larger fireguard. As soon as you take baby out of the water, wrap him or her in a warm towel to dry. Babies get cold very quickly when wet.

■ Slips mean bangs and bruises and big baths are slippery places when kiddies grow big enough for them. Use a non-slip mat or teach them not to stand up.

■ Be vigilant in playgrounds and at other people's homes where there is outdoor play equipment. Some may be too high or difficult for your child to play on.

■ Don't allow children to play with toys which are for older kids; age ranges are usually suggested on packaging.

# FUND LAUNCHED FOR BEATEN BOYS

City News 24/5/92

By SHARON CHETTY

NOVEMBER 21 and 22, 1990 will remain etched in the memories of nine Messina schoolboys as the day they saw the wrath of the "witbaas".

They were taken from their homes and farm school in Weipe, driven in farmer Wynand Erasmus' bakkie to his home and stripped and beaten.

The incident made national news — and when Erasmus was convicted for the assaults, the boys' parents hoped they would be compensated for their pain and trauma.

Wynand Erasmus last year pleaded guilty to nine charges of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm and was sentenced to R12 000 or two years and a three-year suspended sentence.

An employee of Erasmus, Mark Muleya, who had assisted in the floggings, was sentenced to a fine of R1 000 or 300 days, and a suspended sentence of one year.

Another employee, Naisan Mbedzi, failed to appear in court.

Alpheus Munzhelele, Rifos Muleya, Alfred Manenzhe, Sampson Shi-

vambu, Philemon Dubani, Emmanuel Kobe, Aron Mabasa, Hendrik Shrivambu and Tsapane Makokoropo, were aged between 8 and 16 when they were beaten.

After the case, the schoolboys' attorney, Mrs Kate Owen, filed a civil suit totalling R255 525 against Erasmus for assault, injury and unjustifiable restraint on personal liberty.

The claims included R525 for loss of earnings and accommodation for Alfred Manenzhe who worked as a gardener and R2 000 for two wounds on Tsapane Makokoropo's arms.

A tenth person — Erasmus's employee William Munzhelele, father of Alpheus Munzhelele — was also represented in this claim for damages after he sustained a cut eye and injury to his ribs when Erasmus allegedly attacked him.

However, before the civil claim could be made against Erasmus, the farmer's mother, Mrs Martha Magda-



DESTITUTE: Aron Mabasa, Philemon Dubani, Hendrik Shrivambu, Alpheus Munzhelele and Rifos Muleya who cannot claim compensation from farmer Wynand Erasmus

Picture: COBUS BODENSTEIN

lenas Erasmus, applied to the Pretoria Supreme Court to have her son sequestrated.

She said in her application that her son was indebted to her for R50 000 and he had told her that he could not fulfil his obligations to his creditors.

Liabilities of R717 500 and assets of R276 325 were listed.

An order approving the sequestration was granted on July 9 last year.

Erasmus has since left the Messina area, but he has left more than a physical scar on the boys he beat up.

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The parents of the schoolboys are angry and bitter that Erasmus "got away" without compensating them.

Each family's income ranges from R95 to R120 a month. Their livelihood is dependant on the farmers they work for in an area already showing the devastation of drought.

And when the schoolboys were interviewed, they spoke of their fears of the white farmers in the area.

"Wanneer die wit baas kwaai word moet ons hardloop (when the white boss gets angry, we must run)," said 10-year-old Aron.

He, together with Sampson, Philemon, Emmanuel, Hendrik and Tsapane were taken away from their classroom at the Skutwater farm school on Thursday, November 22.

Alfred was fetched from a nearby farm where he worked as a gardener and the youths were taken to a garage on Erasmus's farm where they were made to strip, tied to a plank and beaten by the farmer who was assisted by Mark Muleya and Naisan Mbedzi.

Schoolteacher Peggy Phiri said: "Erasmus came here with a slip of paper with the boys' names — I don't know where he got them from but I could not question his actions. Over here, the farmers' word is law."

Esther Makokoropo echoed the feelings of the other parents when she said: "Out here there is only sorrow and anger — we are like the grass in the veld — we get stomped on all the time but still we survive."

"If the farmer did pay us, it could never put right his evil deeds. But for us, more money would give us a chance to educate our children and maybe send them away so that they could live better lives."

The law firm Denneys Reitz rendered free legal assistance.

An appeal has been made for donations to assist the families. A fundraising number — W/O 088 002 010 003 — has been secured and a trust fund will be set up. Donations can be sent to PO Box 61334, Marshalltown, 2107.



By Abdul Mliazi

THE culture of violence in South African townships could have dire consequences for peace in the future.

Mothers in strife-torn townships live in constant fear for the survival of their children - and themselves.

A Tokoza mother of three, Mrs Unna Sechele, said children were exposed to violence at a tender age.

# Mothers raise children in a culture of violence, fear

"Nobody has ever thought what it does to a child to see his parents or relatives killed in front of him," said Sechele.

Sechele said it was difficult to cope with their own fears, let alone their chil-

dren's

She said it was difficult to predict where and when the enemy would strike.

"Sometimes I wonder if my children will make it home from school," said Sechele.

A 65-year-old Tokoza

mother, Mrs Janet Ntuli, whose son Sam was gunned down less than 1km from his home last year, said her grandchildren had no fu-

ture. "Since Sam was killed

we fear that the same people who killed him might come back for his children," said a tearful Janet.

The death of former Cast general secretary, Mr Sam Ntuli left two children fatherless, the second being

born a week after Sam's burial.

"Their chances of receiving a good education are slim. We cannot manage to pay for their schooling since none of us is employed."

An angry Phola Park mother, Mrs Anna Mkhize, said their children were subjected to violence "left, right and centre".

"Here we are facing political, criminal and police violence," said Mkhize.

Mkhize said children became the victims in the end.

Constant panic, fear and the pain of raising children amidst violence is a reality for mothers in strife-torn townships.

# With Julia they are never alone

*Sowetan 25/5/92. 298*

By SIZAKELE KOOMA

**JULIA Tladi is totally committed to her consuming work at Emdeni Children's Home.**

Tladi's involvement with Soweto's street urchins dates back to 1983 when she and her husband, a Dutch Reformed Church minister, moved from Diepkloof to Emdeni to help establish a shelter for abandoned children.

The children had been left destitute when a priest who had been living with them since 1979 died in an accident. The Tladis took over.

## State subsidies

"We had no capital. The children then received no State subsidies. We ran the project on donations from individuals and organisations," said Tladi, who left her job as a lifeline counsellor to work fulltime on the project.

"We were not getting enough financial support because most people did not know about us. I would use every op-

portunity I had when introduced to people to tell them about the home.

"I was not doing it for myself. I was doing it for the children. They did not belong to the church. They belonged to the community. They had to survive," she said.

Emdeni Children's Home today houses 60 children aged between six and 18 in the three dormitories that were erected with the help of caring donors. The children are no longer taken off the streets. They are sent to the home by the children's courts. At their service is a fulltime social worker and Tladi, the matron, who handles the administration and day-to-day running of the crèche.

"I am a parent and a community member. I always intervene where I see wrong and I am interested to know what happens where I live. I attend meetings

called by the community and often find myself co-opted into the committees formed to address particular problems," said the mother of five children.

When the local clinic was under threat of closing down because of recurrent vandalism, Tladi intervened. She and a group went to the people and retrieved all the articles stolen from the clinic.

## Confession group

She is chairperson of the neighbouring Fontana Secondary School's Parent Teacher Association and previously held the same position at Madibane High School in Diepkloof.

Tladi is just as active in the church. She served on the desk of a Dutch Reformed "confession group" that made it possible for members of all races to worship together.

● Tladi qualifies for the *Sowetan*/Eskom Woman of the Year award.

## Woman of the Week

### Julia Tladi

- Lifeline counsellor during 1976 uprisings.
- Founded the Thabo Care for the aged in 1979 in Diepkloof.
- Initiated a Youth Club in Diepkloof, 1980-83
- Volunteered to start Emdeni Children's Home in 1983.
- The only woman in the Soweto Civic Association at the height of rent boycotts around 1986.
- Founded the Emdeni Care for the Aged, 1992.



JULIA TLADI



1147

Hansard

TUESDAY, 26 MAY 1992

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## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

(2518)  
The reaching of parity is planned for 1 August 1992 with effect from 1 April 1992

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

General Affairs

Total number of children in children's homes  
239. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health.

(1) (a) What total number of children of each population group (i) can be and (ii) is accommodated in children's homes in the Republic and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished;

(2) whether capitation grants are paid annually in respect of children residing in such homes; if not, why not; if so, (a) by whom and (b) what capitation grants in respect of each population group? B552E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1)(a) (i) (ii) (b)

Blacks 1 639 1 459 31 March 1992  
Whites 6 449 5 234 31 October 1991  
Coloureds 2 648 2 229 1 April 1992  
Asians 403 378 29 April 1992

(2) no, capitation grants are paid monthly/quarterly in respect of every child committed to a children's home in terms of the Child Care Act, 1983 (Act 74 of 1983),

(a) by the welfare departments of the Administrations: House of Assembly, House of Delegates and House of Representatives as well as by the four provincial administrations and

(b) Blacks  
R378 per child per month

Whites  
R639,80 per child per month

Coloureds  
R564 per child per month

Asians  
R976,61 per child per quarter

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

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Hansard

TUESDAY, 26 MAY 1992

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(5) whether the professional forum (a) is obliged to consult or (b) does consult such non-professional bodies before making a recommendation? B656E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) The names of the professional associations who established a liaison forum are the following:

The Dental Association of South Africa  
The Pharmaceutical Society of South Africa  
The Chiropactic Association of South Africa  
The Medical Association of South Africa  
The Psychological Association of South Africa  
The South African Association of Occupational Therapists  
The South African Homeopathic Association  
The South African Association of Hospital and Institutional Pharmacists  
The South African Association of Radiographers  
The South African Nursing Association  
The Social Workers Association of South Africa  
The Health Officials Association of South Africa  
The South African Society of Physiotherapy  
The South African Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists  
The Association for Dietetics in Southern Africa  
The South African Speech-Hearing-Language Association Health Unity Forum  
The Association of Ambulance and Emergency Care Personnel (SA)

(2) yes,

(a) their names are unknown and  
(b) the liaison forum determines its own criteria for membership,

(3) (a) Mr R Magenius  
Dr A Bruwer  
Professor M Concha and

(b) (i) Executive Committee and

(ii) handling of day to day issues and the preparation for meetings  
Attending scheduled meetings of the Health Matters Committee unless the liaison forum decides otherwise;

(4) no;

(5) (a) no, the liaison forum decides for itself  
(b) no

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

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# 'SA youths patriotic and materialistic'

6/Day 26/5/92  
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YOUNG South Africans are likely to be patriotic and materialistic, a Markinor study entitled Tomorrow's Values has found. (298)

The study claims to be applicable to 2-million people aged between 13 to 24 with a total income of R9bn. Seven different segments were identified according to lifestyle, values, activities, interests and self-perception, and took into account all racial groups living in SA's major metropolitan areas.

The survey shows national pride could become a sought-after positioning for a product with broad appeal. Eight out of 10 respondents said they were proud to be South African. (93)

"This view flies in the face of conventional wisdom which in the past has been that patriotic positioning was a double-edged sword in a country with so many adverse, sometimes antagonistic groups," Markinor chairman Nick Green said in a statement. (42) (128)

He said young people's agenda seemed to endorse reform, but was largely non-political. "But personal goal-setting is usually qualification and career orientated. The young South African living in formal housing is a materialist, not a Marxist."

Other findings were a consensus on the need for the races to work together to build a better future; that almost all had "towering aspirations" often irrespective of current educational levels; and money, education and top jobs rather than revolution were seen as the route to a better future.

Markinor conducted 860 interviews countrywide for the survey, and its research was developed with Hunt Lascaris TBWA

JP  
DT2659



# Little children suffer in jail

Soul Searcher  
2/6/5/92

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THE process of justice, or is it injustice, sometimes slips up and innocent people end up in jail.

But for the 41 children in the Johannesburg prison, it is really a question of innocent but jailed.

While the Bible speaks of suffer little children, for the kingdom of God is theirs for these kids, the only thing that is theirs is the cell.

These are the children whose mothers are serving jail terms and they were too young to be left at home or there was no one at home to look after them.

Consequently they end up in jail, there to sit and grow in an environment that lacks family influences and love. While their mothers go through their chores in prison, the children are looked after by nannies who are themselves prisoners.

A special cell has been converted into a crèche where they spend their day, to rejoin their mothers for the night when the day's work is done.

Babies and infants who are still breast-fed are served pasteurised milk but mothers are also given time to breast-feed them, as Warrant Officer Loraine Malone, a qualified nursing sister, explained.

Public relations chief Brigadier Enca van Zyl who headed a women's prison in Kroonstad for 11 years, said the department preferred not to keep children in prison because "it is a terrible place".

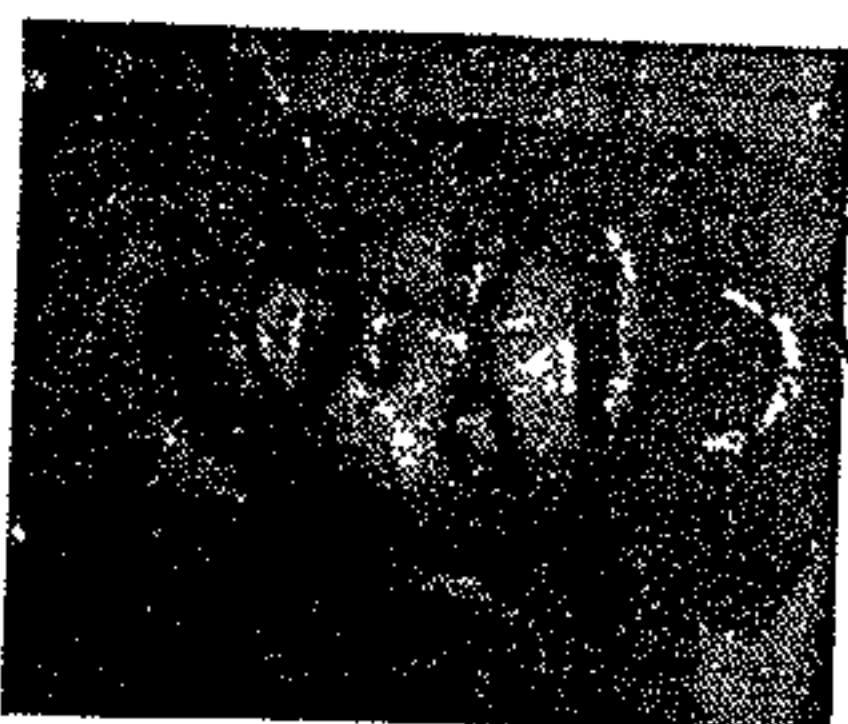
"But the reality is that we are forced by circumstances to keep children here and when that happens, we try all means to make their stay here as comfortable as we can.

"There is a special unit in the kitchen that cooks the children's food and their milk and bottles are made in the hospital section under strict supervision" Van Zyl said.

● To page 13



Toddlers in a crèche at the Johannesburg prison with their toys and a prison warder.



By MATHATHA  
TSEDU  
Investigations Editor



All smiles . . . children are usually happy if they are fed, clothed, healthy and stimulated.

# Teaching parents how to meet their children's needs

STAR 27/5/92

How can we define being happy? People's perceptions of happiness differ greatly and what makes one person happy will not necessarily please another.

That however, applies in the main, to the adult world. Children are far easier to please, and their being happy largely depends on their needs being met.

Children are usually happy if they are fed, clothed, clean, healthy and stimulated. Adults are ultimately responsible for making a child happy. We have to provide the food, the care, the shelter, the clothes and the stimulation. So while a

The Institute of Child Caring Companies (ICCC) covers the individual rights of the child of which the first, and most important right, is that of the child to be happy. (298)

child can demand these, parents often need to be empowered to provide.

The ICCC's community nurses and oral hygienists who visit creches, clinics, schools, recreation centres and individual homes have one specific objective — health care for the mother and child under the age of five.

Brenda Robson, the ICCC's

managing director says: "We aim, with our limited resources, to teach parents how to make their children happy. By using child-caring products from 1000 companies, like Ajax, milk products, flour and cereals, we teach parents the essentials of nutrition and hygiene and we hope to teach parents how to make their children happy."

His fizzy drink

Increase



# Children speak on rights

(298)

APR 27/5/92

**Strollers (or street children), homeless youngsters and children living in squatter communities — all between 12 and 16 years old — will be among 200 delegates from 20 regions of South Africa who will gather in Somerset West for a summit meeting on the children's rights. GILLE WEINTROUB reports.**

TWO hundred delegates from all over the country will gather at a posh hotel in Somerset West for a national summit starting tomorrow

Nothing unusual about that — until you hear that the delegates are children, all aged between 12 and 16, who will be attending a National Children's Summit on the Rights of Children in South Africa.

Among the delegates are children from squatter communities, homeless children and street children.

The object is to draw up a charter based on the UN Declaration of Children's Rights with a view to including the rights of children in South Africa on the agenda of constitutional debates in this country.

Child delegates will actively take part in the summit together with international representatives from the National Committee for the Rights of Children and the United Nations Children's Fund.

Themes for the summit include health and welfare, violence, education, family life, homelessness, street children and child labour.

The summit, which continues until Monday, will be followed by a conference from June 10 to 13 at which basic guidelines resulting from summit discussions will be presented to relevant policy-makers

## Death rate among babies on the rise

THE worsening economic situation is affecting the health of the general population, according to the Department of National Health.

In a survey of health trends in 1990, the department found that infant mortality rate and total deaths occurring in under one year olds has increased since 1986. The higher death rate is particularly pronounced among coloureds.

Fifty out of every 1 000 SA infants die, compared with 10 in Europe and 12 in the US. In 1988, 57,5 out of every 1 000 coloured infants died, compared with 17,4 Asian, 13,2 white and

57,4 African infant deaths.

In SA 22% of all deaths are caused by infectious and parasitic diseases, against 5% in developed countries. The biggest killers are tuberculosis, measles, malaria, typhoid fever and viral hepatitis.

### Mortality

According to the survey, the health of women directly affects the mortality rate of infants and children. Research shows that deaths of infants could be reduced by 25% by avoiding high-risk pregnancies.

High risk pregnancies are classified as pregnancies before 18 and after 35, pregnancies after four

births and pregnancies less than two years apart.

The teenage pregnancy rate is 330 per 1 000 women younger than 19 years. And 430 women out of every 1 000 over the age of 35 fall pregnant — increasing the risk of death for the child by 50%.

Contraceptives are used by 50% of people in SA, compared with 70% in the developed world and 7% in West Africa.

Public expenditure on health has averaged between 11% and 12% of overall state expenditure since 1986. The rate of increase in private sector health expenditure has been much higher than in the public sector.



# 4 teachers probed on sex molestation allegations

CT 29/5/92 (298)

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

FOUR teachers at four Peninsula non-racial government primary schools are being investigated by their principals for alleged sexual molestation of pupils.

This was revealed yesterday by the Rev Bruce Duncan, director of Safeline, a counselling service partly subsidised by the government.

Six girls had allegedly been sexually abused by four male teachers, he said.

The school principals, including two heads of top state schools,

had contacted Safeline to request supportive counselling for the pupils in most cases, he said.

A 12-year-old pupil had also contacted Safeline with allegations against a teacher, said Mr Duncan.

The principals were investigating three cases of alleged sexual intercourse, he said. One child claimed that intercourse took place with a teacher in a stockroom, said Mr Duncan.

The families of the children had decided in all cases not to contact the police, he said.

"It is up to the various education departments to take action,"

Mr Duncan said and noted that a new awareness of child molestation had been created during Child Protection Week from May 4 to 10.

Department of Education and Culture communications director Mr Henry Jansen declined to comment.

"The department is only able to confirm that where allegations of sexual molestation of pupils are received, a full departmental inquiry is held. Specific punitive measures are prescribed if the allegations are found to have substance," he said.

Colesberg in the Karoo, New Bethesda and Doerbaai, the temperature dropped to -6 deg C.

## League ligns in

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## Children want their say

A new group is seeking representation in Codesa. Nearly 200 children of all ages and races are spending four days discussing their rights and formulating a "Children's Charter" to be sent to the 19 political organisations taking part in Codesa. (298) Page 8

## Brothers knocked down

Two young brothers were killed in Durban's Bluff when they were knocked down.



# Children demand Codesa voice

STAR 29/5/92

(298)

SOMERSET WEST — Scores of children demanding a voice in political negotiations began drafting laws yesterday designed to protect youth in South Africa.

The 190 delegates, representing all races and ranging in age from 12 to 16, will spend four days discussing their rights at a summit organised by the University of the Western Cape and a children's magazine.

The resulting "Children's Charter" will be sent to the 19 political organisations negotiating

the country's new constitution at the Convention for a Democratic SA.

"This summit is important because we have never been given a chance to voice our opinion," said 16-year-old Nazeer Suliman.

SA is not a signatory to the 1959 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child or the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Delegates included Bonowakhe Hlongwane (14) and Sibusiso Dlamini (15), both former street children.

"Children must have proper houses and must be loved by their parents," Bonowakhe said. "The Government must understand that children need equal rights no matter what colour or sex."

A physically disabled boy, Bomkazi Yalezo (13), called for an end to child labour.

"They must not work when they are under 15 because their masters will abuse them. They don't know the law," he said. — Sapa-AP.



# Behind the w/ mail 29/5-4/6/92 rage, a cry for help

By PHILIPPA GARSON

SPORTING leather pants, slick pointed shoes and rings on his fingers, Abraham Sithetho is a cool dude — the kind you'd expect to find sauntering around the Carlton Centre.

But Sithetho's mission is a lot more urgent than window-shopping. Immersing himself in "life and death" battles in his home town of Sebokeng is a full-time job. Erecting barricades, organising street committees, keeping watch after dark and forcing the children off the streets are his immediate tasks.

In between, he dreams of going to India for "military training and education". After failing his matric some years ago, he's been unemployed. But one day he wants to be a lawyer.

Unlike most youth, Sithetho dreads the weekends — it's then that the fighting really starts.

Ever since gunmen in a car opened fire on his friends playing soccer a fortnight ago, killing three and injuring six others, youngsters have poured en masse on to the streets, setting up barricades at every turn.

Sporadic fighting between Inkatha supporters in the kwaMadala hostel on the outskirts of Vanderbijlpark and African National Congress-supporting residents continues. Young criminals from Sebokeng have been recruited by Inkatha and are also holed up in the compound, claims Sithetho. Schooling has been disrupted, particularly in Zone 7, the scene of most of the fighting.

When night falls, the youths stand on street corners tapping their watches. "Time up, time up," they yell.

Time for taxi drivers to stop their rounds. Time for all cars to leave the streets. And time for the mysterious Nissan Sentras to cruise the township, firing at random targets.

It's dark and the youth, clumped in groups on street corners, some with guns, stop every car. Those that don't stop are stoned or set alight. How can they be sure of their targets?

"We know their number plates," says Sithetho, admitting that sometimes the wrong people are the victims.

According to Peter "Gift" Moerane, of the Vaal Council of Churches, the youths are as volatile as they were in the mid and late 1980s. "They've have taken the law into their own hands." They spend their hours patrolling the streets, "defending the community. But they don't know what they're looking for".

"It's anger that brings us on to the streets," says Sithetho. "The young ones are angry too. They feel unsafe — at home, on the playing



Youths vent their anger ... But who is the enemy?

Photo: KEVIN CARTER

fields, attacks can occur. They only feel safe in a mob. The youths believe in mobs. Being in a mob is safer.

"The youngest (involved in the fighting) are about nine years. We tell them to go home but when the violence happens we'll find them around us again."

The little ones have no fear, he says. "Sometimes you'll see a seven-year-old looking at a corpse and fear becomes dead to him. We don't fear death because death fears no one."

Before dusk, a group of teenagers playing dice stop to talk after some persuasion by Sithetho. Others sullenly refuse, saying they're busy.

"My life is worse than before because this situation is not normal. It makes me do terrible

things," says 18-year-old Jabulani Khumalo. "Our schools are overcrowded, there are no jobs. Even at school we are afraid. This thing will doom the future of many young people because they aren't going to school."

And Khumalo's ambitions? "I wish I could go to Lusaka for training so I can protect my family."

"We are not like ordinary young people because we have no happiness," says Raymond Vilikazi. "We can't even entertain ourselves. We have to have parties in the day because after six they come to shoot."

They brighten up briefly when the Kine Centre in town is mentioned. "Yes, we go there. We fully enjoy it. We feel a little bit safe there."



## FOCUS ON THE SPIRALLING TOWNSHIP VIOLENCE ...

# Frustrated youths fight a faceless foe

**S**OWETO youths were back in the news last week, igniting horrifying images of the future reign of the "lost generation" of the brutalised youth.

They were protesting against the raising of examination fees by the Department of Education, but their message stretched far wider than this. "Start noticing us, do something about our problems — or face the consequences," they seemed to be saying.

While an uprising like that of 1976 seems unlikely, aimless revolts by gun-toting 1990s youths, unemployed and hardened by the factional violence of the past two years, may be a lot worse. Already anarchic, misplaced violence is part of township life.

*While the seemingly aimless revolts continue, PHILIPPA GARSON spoke to youths and community leaders to find out what lies behind the latest upsurge of protest violence*

In the 1980s, targets of resistance were clearly defined: killing councillors and other government officials, petrol bombing houses and company vehicles and defying consumer boycotts were legitimate activities, according to anti-apartheid movements intent on rendering the townships ungovernable.

Now, when the "enemy" is a faceless man lurking in a car with no number plates, when warring parties are locked into peace agreements and when torching indiscriminate targets is condemned by all, where do the youth turn to vent their anger?

According to youth and community leaders grappling with the upsurge of violence, when targeting delivery vehicles, a petrol tanker and innocent people, the youths were expressing frustration at their lack of direction: no jobs, poor schooling, violence, poverty and little to look forward to.

The 1990s have so far delivered only degenerating conditions and growing despair, pouring a cold dose of reality over hopes of what imminent

freedom will bring.

African National Congress Youth League secretary general Rapu Molekane says his organisation has recognised the level of anger among the youth, exacerbated by the hiatus in negotiations. "That anger must be channelled or we'll have anarchy." In his opinion, the seeds of a revolt are there and the government is "watering them".

Molekane admits to a growing militancy among ANC-supporting youths, who are demanding weapons and protection and are impatient for change. While their frustration mounts they nevertheless continue to support the Youth League, he claims.

But what does support for an organisation mean? These days political understanding hardly counts. Fighting prowess and having a gun are far more important.

"Where there's lots of violence they organise themselves around the one who's brave and able to lead them in battle. We don't have the same political leadership as before," says Molekane. In the current climate everyone yearns for a gun — for self-defence or crime.

"In the 1980s if you had a gun, you didn't tell anyone. Now it's the fashion," says Molekane. Whereas the "thugs" of the past could be disciplined by organisations, those of today are armed, dangerous and untouchable.

Molekane believes it's not too late to channel the anger and energy of the youth into organised forms of action like consumer boycotts and general strikes. If not, "we could have an outbreak — something we really don't want to see".

Some are more sceptical about the potential, and consequences, of mobilising today's youths.

With the unhanning of organisations in February 1990, a new space opened up for people to hurl themselves into formally forbidden politics, says Monique Marks, of Wits University's sociology department, who is researching the youth and political violence in Diepkloof.

Now the form of political organisation is different. In the 1980s those involved were committed activists, willing to risk detention and repression. In the 1990s involvement has become popular, with seemingly no risks, and "political suss" less of a requirement, says Marks.

Youths with little or no political understanding became card-carrying members of political groups. "Now the 'old' youth leadership, either disillusioned or in unions or new political positions, have left. A huge gap has been created and into it has stepped an immature leadership, opening the space for aimless criminals to tag along."

In Marks' opinion, the activities of the youth "seem to have gone way off". Lacking guidance, harbouring growing frustrations and bearing the responsibility of defending their families against violence, they are using the same "ungovernability" tactics of before. "Now their strategies are different but their tactics are the same." In fact, they seem to have no strategy at all and "their targets are completely random".

Unlike the late 1980s, when the youth acted in tandem with unions and other groups, they now act on their own.

In Mark's view, most youths want the obvious: peace, school and jobs. Gone are the revolutionary ideals of communist liberation. But with the current violence they fantasise about guns and glorify Umkhonto weSizwe. "They see themselves in the forefront of the violence today as they were then. But they aren't recognised for it."

Marks recalls the bitter comment of one youth: "When Mandela came out of prison he didn't even thank us."

## Behind the rage, a cry for help

By PHILIPPA GARSON

SPORTING leather pants, slick pointed shoes and rings on his fingers, Abraham Sithetho is a cool dude — the kind you'd expect to find sauntering around the Carlton Centre.

But Sithetho's mission is a lot more urgent than window-shopping. Immersing himself in "life and death" battles in his home town of Sebokeng is a full-time job. Erecting barricades, organising street committees, keeping watch after dark and forcing the children off the streets are his immediate tasks.

In between, he dreams of going to India for "military training and education". After failing his matric some years ago, he's been unemployed. But one day he wants to be a lawyer.

Unlike most youth, Sithetho dreads the weekends — it's then that the fighting really starts.

Ever since gunmen in a car opened fire on his friends playing soccer a fortnight ago, killing three and injuring six others, youngsters have poured en masse on to the streets, setting up barricades at every turn.

Sporadic fighting between Inkatha supporters in the kwaMadala hostel on the outskirts of Vanderbijlpark and African National Congress-supporting residents continues. Young criminals from Sebokeng have been recruited by Inkatha and are also holed up in the compound, claims Sithetho. Schooling has been disrupted, particularly in Zone 7, the scene of most of the fighting.

When night falls, the youths stand on street corners tapping their watches. "Time up, time up," they yell.

Time for taxi drivers to stop their rounds. Time for all cars to leave the streets. And time for the mysterious Nissan Sentras to cruise the township, firing at random targets.

It's dark and the youth, clumped in groups on street corners, some with guns, stop every car. Those that don't stop are stoned or set alight. How can they be sure of their targets?

"We know their number plates," says Sithetho, admitting that sometimes the wrong people are the victims.

According to Peter "Gift" Moerane, of the Vaal Council of Churches, the youths are as volatile as they were in the mid and late 1980s. "They've have taken the law into their own hands." They spend their hours patrolling the streets, "defending the community. But they don't know what they're looking for."

"It's anger that brings us on to the streets," says Sithetho. "The young ones are angry too. They feel unsafe — at home, on the playing



Youths vent their anger ... But who is the enemy?

Photo: KEVIN CARTER

fields, attacks can occur. They only feel safe in a mob. The youths believe in mobs. Being in a mob is safer.

"The youngest (involved in the fighting) are about nine years. We tell them to go home but when the violence happens we'll find them around us again."

The little ones have no fear, he says. "Sometimes you'll see a seven-year-old looking at a corpse and fear becomes dead to him. We don't fear death because death fears no one."

Before dusk, a group of teenagers playing dice stop to talk after some persuasion by Sithetho. Others sullenly refuse, saying they're busy.

"My life is worse than before because this situation is not normal. It makes me do terrible

things," says 18-year-old Jabulani Khumalo. "Our schools are overcrowded, there are no jobs. Even at school we are afraid. This thing will doom the future of many young people because they aren't going to school."

And Khumalo's ambitions? "I wish I could go to Lusaka for training so I can protect my family."

"We are not like ordinary young people because we have no happiness," says Raymond Vilikazi. "We can't even entertain ourselves. We have to have parties in the day because after six they come to shoot."

They brighten up briefly when the Kine Centre in town is mentioned. "Yes, we go there. We fully enjoy it. We feel a little bit safe there."



# Young voices raised

DALE KNEEN

Weekend Argus Reporter

CHILDREN from all parts of the country have gathered in Somerset West this weekend to thrash out their demands in a new South Africa.

About 200 are there, at the first summit on the rights of children in South Africa, which began on Thursday and ends on Monday.

The aim of the children, between 12 and 16, is to formulate a charter on children's rights to be incorporated in a Bill of Rights.

The charter will be presented at an international conference next month on the rights of the child.

The organisers of the summit, and the conference, are the Community Law Centre of the University of the Western Cape, the National Committee on Children's Rights (NCCCR) and the Molo Songololo project, which works with street children.

The conference, *Putting Children On The Agenda: Their Survival, Development And Protection*, is a follow-up to a conference held in Harare in 1987.

At the Harare conference, the first-hand accounts of children who had been held in detention shocked the world and gave fresh impetus to the anti-apartheid movement.

Children from all sectors of society and chosen from preliminary workshop groups are attending the summit, which has health and welfare, violence, education, family life, homelessness and street children as its themes.

According to Mr Dullah Omar of the Community Law

## Children gather to write charter

20/5/92

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exploitation and abuse at the hands of members of the public and private sectors.

"Children of all races and economic classes have been subjected to the racism and discrimination of the apartheid education system," he said.

Mr Omar said the absence of adequate legislation and a supporting infrastructure of facilities to ensure protection of children had been worsened by unemployment, poverty and disintegration of the family unit.

Jennifer Petersen, 15, an Aloe High School pupil from Lenteguer, who opened the summit, said rights for children barely existed in South Africa.

"The homeless, the hungry, the child who is exposed to exploitation, the abused and the neglected child, are all realities we are up against in South Africa.

"We must speak or even shout out so that people can hear our cry for help," she told the delegates, among whom were children living on the streets or in children's homes, as well as disabled children.

Jennifer said children had the right to free education, protection, equality and health and to have a name, to be loved, to receive special care and to get enough food.

She said the country's leaders were busy negotiating the future and children had to present a charter to the negotiators so that their rights would be protected.

Ms Veronica Plaatjies of Molo Sogololo said there was a possibility of a "pressure group" being formed at the end of the conference to defend children's rights in South Africa.



Picture OBED ZILWA, Weekend Argus

□ **OUR FUTURE:** Some of the children at the summit on their rights in South Africa are, from left, Sibusiso Diamini, 15, and Bohokwankane Hlougwane, 14, both street children from southern Natal, and Cardine Kryne, 17, who lives in a children's home in Johannesburg.

Centre, at least two generations of children have grown up in South Africa knowing "nothing but the daily vio-

lence and inequality of apartheid and its destructive consequences".

"Over the years we have been a par-

ticular target of violent repression by security forces and the justice system. Many children have witnessed the

deaths of family members and school friends

"Countless others have become innocent victims of ex-



# It's Tuff work easing the father of all battles

AS THEY say in the classics — when the going gets tough, the Tuff get going.

Tuff is an acronym for The Unmarried Fathers' Fight, which is headed by Durban lawyer David van Onselen. He believes the legal system leads to "graft and corruption" on the part of unmarried mothers.

Although Tuff has been on the go for only 2½ years, according to Van Onselen its effects are already being felt in legal circles. Unmarried fathers are starting to demand the right to play an active role in their children's lives instead of only footing the bill each month.

Often in opposition is a legal system which for years has

tended to follow the principle that mothers make better parents. Judges are inclined to grant custody of children — especially young ones — to mothers in divorce cases while unmarried fathers have obligations but no rights.

They are required to pay maintenance, yet it is sometimes up to the whim of the mother whether unmarried fathers get to see their children.

Van Onselen says the children are also suffering. "Any decent child psychologist will tell you there should be a ba-

lanced input from the mother and father, but this principle is not legally supported."

He says he has found it commonplace that women use their custody of the child as a weapon to get back at their former husbands and lovers.

According to a worker for Lobbyists for Equality After Divorce (LEAD), 70 percent of

people calling them are fathers distraught over not being able to see their children.

While there is no law in South Africa which says women make better parents, Charles Cohen, of Divorce Mediation, says that is the way courts have tended to work.

"But now there is a new generation of fathers who do not

take it so simply, because the role demarcations are not as clear as they were."

Moreover, the law is changing. In the past year, two decisions in the Transvaal have granted unmarried fathers right of access. And the Law Commission has also been looking into the matter.

Van Onselen points out: "In

gitimate father should have right of access."

He says Tuff's aim is to raise the status of the unmarried father to that of the divorced father. It wants fathers to be able to apply to special courts for elevation of status to that of a "participating parent". The wife would then have a right to reply, stating why he should not have access.

Cohen believes unmarried fathers often bring their woes on themselves by trying to shirk their responsibilities.

Regarding divorce, Cohen

one noted case, the judge said common law was incorrectly founded; the test that should be applied had nothing to do with whether the child was illegitimate or not. He said each situation should be judged individually.

"This year the court said the time had arrived that the ille-

and Van Onselen agree that the mother is often better suited as a parent during the child's early years. But as the child's needs change, so access should be open to review.

It also often happens that the mother may not be suited to parenthood.

They are also adamant that trying to settle the matter through the courts is the worst path. Mediation, where the couple try to work out a solution instead of adopting a standpoint and fighting from there on, is the answer, they say.

A worker at LEAD suggests joint custody as an answer, where the father and the mother continue sharing the parenting responsibilities.



# Youngsters chart course for justice

## 'Negotiators must protect us'

Star 30/5/92

**CAPE TOWN** — About 200 children are attending the first South African summit on children's rights.

The children, aged between 12 and 16, intend to formulate a children's charter of rights to be incorporated in a bill of rights.

The charter will be presented at an international conference on children's rights in June.

The summit, which began on Thursday and ends on Monday, was organised by the Community Law Centre of the University of the Western Cape, the National Committee on Children's Rights and the Molo Songololo project, which works with street children.

The conference, entitled Putting Children on the Agenda for Survival, Development and Protection, is a follow-up to a conference held in Harare in 1987.

The first-hand accounts at the Harare conference of children who had been held in detention shocked the world and gave fresh impetus to the anti-apartheid movement.

Children from all sectors of society, chosen from preliminary workshop groups, are attending the summit. The themes are health and

**CHILDREN from around the country have gathered in Somerset West this weekend to thrash out their demands for a new South Africa, reports DALE KNEEN. (2/8)**

welfare, violence, education, family life, homelessness and street children.

Dullah Omar of the Community Law Centre says at least two generations of children have grown up in South Africa knowing "nothing but the daily violence and inequality of apartheid and its destructive consequences."

"Children have been a particular target of violent repression by security forces and the justice system. Many children have witnessed the deaths of family members and school friends."

"Countless others have become innocent victims of exploitation and abuse at the hands of members of both the public and private sectors."

"Children of all races and economic classes have been subjected to the racism and discrimination of the apartheid education system."

Omar says the absence of adequate legislation and a sup-

porting infrastructure of facilities to ensure children's protection is exacerbated by unemployment, poverty and disintegration of the family unit.

Jennifer Petersen (15), an Aloe High School pupil from Lenegau, opened the summit, saying rights for children barely existed in this country.

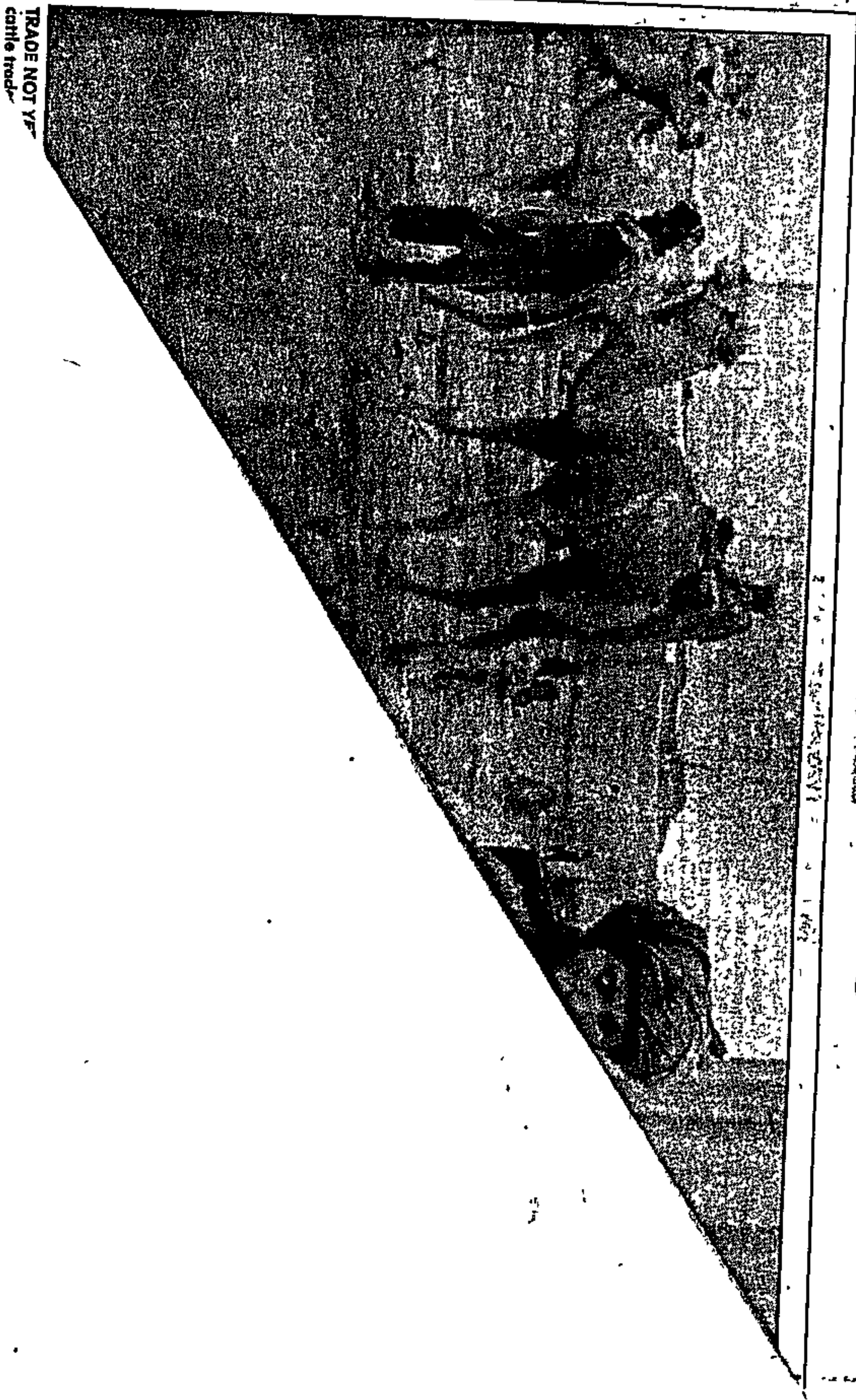
"The homeless, the hungry, the child who is exposed to exploitation, the abused and the neglected child are all realities we're up against in South Africa."

"We must speak or even shout out so that people can hear our cry for help," she told the delegates, among whom were children living in the streets or in children's homes as well as disabled youngsters.

Jennifer said children had the right to free education, protection, equality and health and to have a name, to be loved, to receive special care and to get enough food.

The country's leaders were busy negotiating the future, and children had to present a charter to the negotiators so that their rights would be protected, she said.

Veronica Phaffies of Molo Songololo said it was possible that a "pressure group" would be launched at the end of the conference to defend children's rights in South Africa.



TRADE NOT YF  
cattle trad-



Over 40 percent of children in South Africa are born outside of marriage. In some communities the figure reaches 70 percent.

Why is it so high? And does it matter?

**Rehana Rossouw**

reports:

**T**O BE born "illegitimate" once carried a grave social stigma with severe legal disabilities. In Europe this has changed, and single parenthood has become an accepted and often chosen alternative to giving birth within marriage.

But in South Africa social and policy recognition of change lags far behind reality, a team of academics and practitioners in the fields of law, anthropology, religion, clinical psychology and psychiatry writes in a recent book, "Questionable Issue — Illegitimacy in South Africa".

Illegitimacy figures for South Africa are high compared to many countries of the world, and rising particularly sharply in some sections of the population.

The Health Department of the Western Cape Regional Services Council reported that in 1988 46,6 percent of all births within the area were illegitimate. In 1990 the figure rose to 48,4 percent.

The Medical Officer of Health for Cape Town reported that during 1989 and 1990 the proportion of illegitimate births was 45,7 percent — 19,6 percent for whites, 44 percent for coloured people; 7,3 percent for Asians and 69,8 percent for Africans.

As his report excludes squatter camps and all except two African townships, it is likely illegitimacy figures for Africans in Cape Town are actually higher — and the norm in that community now is giving birth out of marriage.

"Such statistics have major implications for the future of South African society," said the editor of "Questionable Issue", founder member of the Centre for Cross-

## 'Love-child' stigma still alive in SA



Cultural Research on Women, Ms Sandra Burman

"They indicate that the entire pattern of the country's family structure is undergoing a radical — but largely unrecognised — change.

"The widespread poverty and disorganisation resulting from, or aggravated by, apartheid have so disrupted certain sections of society that the concept of illegitimacy has lost nearly all significance."

Burman said it was "abundantly evident" that being born out of marriage and reared by a single mother puts children at a severe disadvantage with their peers who are born into two-parent families.

Families headed by unmarried mothers have to make do without state assistance for housing, welfare and maintenance provision.

Western notions of illegitimacy cannot be imposed on South Africa, she said, where many communities continue to use mainly their own

laws, even where they clash with national laws.

For example, Muslim marriages are not recognised by the state but are often the only form of marriage for many people in the Cape.

Most African languages have no term for illegitimacy.

Some of the anger and distress felt by a family when a woman has a child out of wedlock is dissipated in most African communities when reparation in the form of "damages" is paid by the father's family.

It is standard practice for the baby of an unmarried woman to be cared for and reared by her parent and the child takes the name of the mother's father.

Sometimes the man may claim his child by giving "cattle" to legitimate the child without marrying the mother.

In the coloured community the incidence of teenage pregnancies has aroused deep concern over the

last two decades.

Of the 20 590 babies delivered at Paarl Hospital from the beginning of 1973 to the end of 1983, teenage mothers numbered 6 284 — 30 percent.

"Unless the motivation to avoid early pregnancy is present, educational programmes and the provision of contraceptive advice will not necessarily lead to a decrease in the number of teenage births," remarked Ms Eleanor Preston-Whyte, professor of social anthropology at the University of Natal.

"Teenagers themselves must see the need to prevent pregnancy, as must their parents. Both need desirable alternatives to early motherhood."

"In the short term, these might be a reasonably well-paid job, possibly a career, and the likelihood that marriage will not be delayed by general unemployment, lack of housing and poverty."

"In the long term, education and the widening of female horizons beyond the home and childbearing seem to be the directions which intervention and policy should take."

Although there is a greater incidence of birth out of wedlock and greater societal tolerance in the white community, the issue also appears to generate ambivalence.

Even if mothers choose to have a child outside marriage and are economically able to rear the child in comfort, there are still likely to be repercussions for both mother and child when they interact with people in their community.

"The saddest thing of all is that, believe it or not, people pretend to be caring and ask the most intimate questions and then, behind your back call you the child with no name, or the bastard," said an adult in response to a survey on illegitimacy.

"Yet we illegitimate children were made out of love, although our parents made big mistakes."

"We are love children, because, despite the past, this is what we are and will always be."

## Teen mothers say: 'What's the problem?'

South 30/5 - 3/6/92 (298)

**"I**S IT SO bad?" seemed to be a typical response from young unmarried mothers interviewed in two Durban suburbs, Kwamashu and Mpumalanga.

"If one listens to what teenagers themselves are saying, it will become clear that in their perception unwed motherhood is not necessarily an unmitigated disaster," said survey leader Ms Eleanor Preston-Whyte.

These are some responses from teenage girls in Durban.

"Other teenagers laugh at you and say you are old-fashioned not to sleep with a boy, and they tell you that you are not in the country now."

"I knew I might get a baby, but I had been going with my boyfriend for over a year and my girl friends were beginning to laugh at me. They whispered that I must be sterile. Even my boyfriend asked why I was not having a baby. Then, when I did get pregnant, my mother and father were very cross, but I was pleased as it showed everyone that I can have a baby after all."

"It is alright for me. I don't want more babies, but I would rather my daughter had the baby than went for the injection. You don't menstruate and that means you can't get a baby. What if that goes on and she never has one?"

"I left school when I was in Standard 4 because my father lost his job and could not pay school fees any more. I just stayed home because nobody wanted me to work for them. But I got lonely and had nothing to do. Then I saw how nice it was for my friend to have a baby. So I thought why shouldn't I have a baby too? Maybe my boyfriend will marry me when he loves the baby ... Well, it is nice, even though that boyfriend has left me, but it is hard to feed my baby and buy her everything."



# Kids to have their say at Children's Summit

children

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**S**OUTH AFRICAN children will have an opportunity this week to discuss their rights and provisions for a charter of children's rights.

organise and facilitate a national forum for children to exchange views with each other, reflect on their rights and how these rights are violated in South Africa.

The Children's Summit, to be held at the University of the Western Cape, brings together children from around the country to participate in the drawing up of a Charter of Children's Rights.

The aim of the summit is "to

The delegates will represent various races, genders and classes say the organisers of the summit, National Committee for the Rights of Children, Community Law Centre of UWC and Molo Songololo. Disabled children will also be represented.

also served to enhance their understanding of concepts such as rights, policy, a bill of rights, a children's charter and resolutions.

The themes of the summit are: health and welfare; violence; education; family life; homelessness and street children; and child labour.

The themes were also discussed in the regions.

The summit will use the UN's

Declaration of Children's Rights to encourage children and child advocates to campaign for their rights within the framework of whatever bill of rights is enshrined within a new South African constitution.

The summit proceedings will form a basis for the International Conference on the Rights of the Child from June 10.

JUSTIN PEARCE

(199205)

# Children's summit draws up charter of rights for new SA

STAR 11/6/92

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SOMERSET WEST — A children's summit yesterday drafted a charter of rights it wants written into law when minority rule ends in South Africa.

"We have been totally ignored in the unsteady political process of this country," said Nazeer Suliman (16) one of the almost 200 delegates of all races at the International Summit on the Rights of Children in

South Africa "We are a force of change."

The four-day summit will present its charter to the Government, the African National Congress and other groups negotiating the country's political future.

Delegates applauded as the charter was read out and sang songs to end the conference

The charter said children's

rights had been ignored by all political parties and the Government. Under apartheid, it said, children were "subjected to discrimination, violence and racism that has destroyed families and communities"

All children under 18 should be protected from discrimination and violence, including corporal punishment, the charter said.

It demands free health care and compulsory education for all children. Education is not yet compulsory for blacks in South Africa.

Several delegates were "street children", and their plight received special mention in the charter. It said children had a right to housing and protection from "harassment and abuse". — Sapa-AP.



# Summit calls for children's rights

SOMERSET WEST — A children's summit yesterday drafted a charter of rights it wants written into law when white minority rule ends in SA.

"We have been totally ignored in the unsteady political process of this country," said Nazeer Suliman, 16, one of 200 delegates of all races at the International Summit on the Rights of Children in SA. "We are a force of change."

The four-day summit, organised by University of the Western Cape and the children's magazine Molo Songololo, will present its

charter to government, ANC and other groups negotiating the country's political future.

The charter said that under apartheid children were "subjected to discrimination, violence and racism that has destroyed families and communities".

All children under 18 should be protected from discrimination and violence, including corporal punishment, the charter said. It demanded free health care, compulsory education and a minimum employment age.

Several delegates were "street children" and their plight received special mention in the charter. It said children had a right to housing and protection from "harassment and abuse".

The summit demanded that political groups negotiating a new constitution stop ignoring children's rights.

Scholastica Kimanyo, representing the UN International Children's Emergency Fund, said she would send the charter to the UN and ask for the world body's support — Sapa-AP.

# BUS drivers protest over Arrow layoffs

ARG 2/6/92

**SHARON SOROUR**  
Labour Reporter

POLICE monitored proceedings as Golden Arrow bus drivers from depots in Paarl, Strand and Malmesbury gathered outside the company's Woodstock headquarters to protest against pending retrenchment.

About 70 workers, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, took part in the protest, with union leaders demanding a meeting with management.

Golden Arrow general manager Mr Fred Mayoss said 274 staff members would be retrenched from June 28 when the company

closed its Boland operations.

Mr Mayoss said the Boland commuter division had been operating at a "very substantial loss" and careful forecasts for the 1992 operating year indicated that it stood to lose more than R6 million in spite of "rigorous cost-cutting measures".

Mr Mayoss said a fair retrenchment package was negotiated with the union during the last wage negotiations.

However, union branch secretary Mr Harald Harvey said the union condemned the decision to retrench the workers and the manner in which it was taken.

Mr Harvey said it was clear management had been "toying"

with the decision to close all its Boland operations "for some months", but the workers were informed only last week.

"At no stage were either workers, their union or the organisations of the Boland people consulted," Mr Harvey said.

Company PRO Mrs Jeanne Welsh said in terms of the agreement with the union, the company was required to give employees only a week's notice of retrenchment.

"The company decided it was in the best interests of all concerned to announce the decision now and not wait until a week prior to the end of June," she said.

## Children want to be heard at Codesa

ARG 2/6/92

**ANDREA WEISS**  
Staff Reporter

(298)

CHILDREN from throughout South Africa have demanded to be placed firmly on Codesa's agenda.

"We have been left out. We want to be heard by all the political parties. We want to be involved," said Jennifer, who chaired a press conference at the close of a four-day summit in Somerset West attended by 200 children from 20 regions.

"Children will no longer remain silent about their rights, but will speak and even shout out about their needs and demands," a resolution at the end of the charter reads.

Children are also sick of "boring teachers", in the view of a delegate from the southern Cape.

Rejecting Jan van Riebeeck and NP Van Wyk Louw as "boring", she exhorted teachers to "teach us what we want to know".

The children have demands

ranging from the right to citizenship, education and health to the right to be protected from abuse.

The charter, which carries the United Nations Children's Fund blessing, is to be presented to a policy conference on children to be held from June 10 to 13 under the auspices of the University of the Western Cape's community law centre.

The children are also demanding that the Children's Charter be taken up in a future constitution.



# Millions of kids robbed of youth

GENEVA. — Hundreds of millions of children worldwide toil in fields, factories and even brothels, sacrificing their youth, health and innocence for pitiful wages, according to a new UN report.

The 105-page report published today by the International Labour Organisation urged governments to tighten legislation against child labour and improve enforcement and education. The most pressing concern is to remove children from the most hazardous work sites, such as glass factories, stone quarries and garbage dumps, it said.

About half the children working in Pakistan's carpet industry die before the age of 12 because of malnutrition and disease. Children under 14 account for up to 11% of the work force in some Asian countries.

Children in light bulb factories in Indonesia work a 48-hour week for about R8 and child coffee-pickers in Zimbabwe earn the same for a 60-hour week, the report said. Such wages are less than half the average pay in those countries. Although children have traditionally been used as prostitutes in many countries, the problem has been worsened in Asia by the growth in tourism. — Sapa-AP

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# Alexandra starts the big task of Nation Building

By PEARL MAJOLA

HISTORY is to be made in Nation Building circles this Sunday when Alexandra hosts its first ever Parenting Workshop at the Thusong Youth Centre.

The Alexandra community was introduced to the programme by the youth who attended the Soweto workshop in April.

The youth then asked the Nation Building Parenting Workshop Committee to assist their community in the repair process. That saw the planning for the Alexandra workshop.

"Violence has had devastating effects on community life and all the social structures have suffered as a result," said Mrs Anne-Gloria Masetle, a clinical psychologist and head of the Nation Building

Parenting Workshops' Committee.

"Alexandra tips the scale at the highest unrest level among township areas. Naturally the effects of violence, particularly on education, is a primary issue.

"The youth of Alexandra are very concerned about the effects of the unrest on their education and their interest in Nation Building confirms this," she said.

The organiser of the Alexandra workshop, Mrs Pat Nethanani, said the youth were working hard to whip up support for the

workshop.

"The youth councils are working hard to encourage as many parents as possible to take part in the workshop and to carry out programmes which will curb and combat the growing effects of violence in Alexandra," Nethanani said.

According to Masetle, the violence causes anxiety among children and they worry about whether they will survive the night and go to school the next day.

"High anxiety levels have had a negative impact on their concentration, their ability to grasp what they are taught and on their memory.

"Research on children aged between seven and 10 years confirmed our fears. When asked to draw something, all the children produced horrifying scenes of violence.

"This shows that violence is constantly on their minds and it is manifested in all areas of their lives, including their creativity," Masetle explained.

Topics to be discussed at the Alexandra workshop include the education crisis and sexual violence.

The Parenting Workshops are sponsored by Pick 'n Pay and they are part of the Nation Building programme. Everyone is welcome at the workshop, which will start at 10am, and entry is free. Further details can be obtained from Nethanani at 984 4778.

NATION BUILDING

The power is in your hands



Soweto 2/6/92

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S 6230



## GOD'S GIFTS

Trans-racial adoption is no quick-fix for unwanted babies and frustrated adoptive parents. It is a hotly disputed political issue, reports ADAM GORDON.

# Parents adopting a new perspective

**B**IOLOGICAL birth is Nature's way of giving children to parents; adoption is God's way. That's the well-worn adage in child adoption circles.

In the great South African ethnic stir-fry, only the gods would dare guess what is best for unwanted children or what lies down the road for trans-racial families.

Until June last year it was illegal to adopt a child of a different race. Then reference to race was deleted from the Child Care Act. Child Welfare has since placed 14 "coloured" children with white families around the country, and has many other such babies and toddlers looking for good homes.

But the trans-racial family is no quick-fix solution for unwanted babies and frustrated adoptive parents. It is a hotly disputed issue among the world's social workers. Most are dead against it.

They believe placing children where they manifestly look out of place puts undue stress on them and the family; the children grow up always having to "explain" their presence. (It also rubbishes the adoption lore of "matching" the baby to a family most similar to the one it comes from — right down to, for example, placing a child of a musician in a musical family.)

Black American adoption professionals have led the political argument; they say that

removing children from the country and culture of their birth and giving them to First World white parents is a particularly pernicious extension of colonial exploitation.

Countries which historically helped to create the economic conditions of overpopulation, starvation and family breakdown are on hand to pick up babies that cannot be cared for on the whim of barren privileged yuppie couples.

There are 10 000 Korean children in Sweden. Blonde-haired and blue-eyed kids of southern Brazil are notoriously popular in the United States, and the situation is not made any easier by corruption in many "donor" countries where illegal baby trafficking is rife

Stm 3/6/92

Elke and Lothar (first names only) to protect their anonymity, naturalised South Africans of German descent, were the first to adopt legally across the colour line in Johannesburg. Elke is the picture of motherly bliss and Timo (1), facing life in an institution, has been given another chance at life.

Says Elke "The political objections are all very well in theory, but what do you actually do with the unwanted children?"

"Maybe a black baby will grow up more securely when placed with a black family, a white baby with a white family — but that is not the choice social workers are faced with."

"At any given time there are many babies and toddlers

waiting at the Princess Alice Adoption Home. The wretch that waits for two years in a hospital or children's home doesn't have an identity and a culture to be robbed of," says Elke.

"In South Africa trans-racial adoption babies are not transported across the world. A black child is not a curiosity in this society — it is the white parents who are the exotic ethnic minority. The child can go to a mixed school, and mixed-race opportunities will increase in the normalisation of South Africa."

Adoptions manager at Johannesburg Child Welfare, Marionka Manias, says: "We hope trans-racial adoption will be only a small part of our ac-

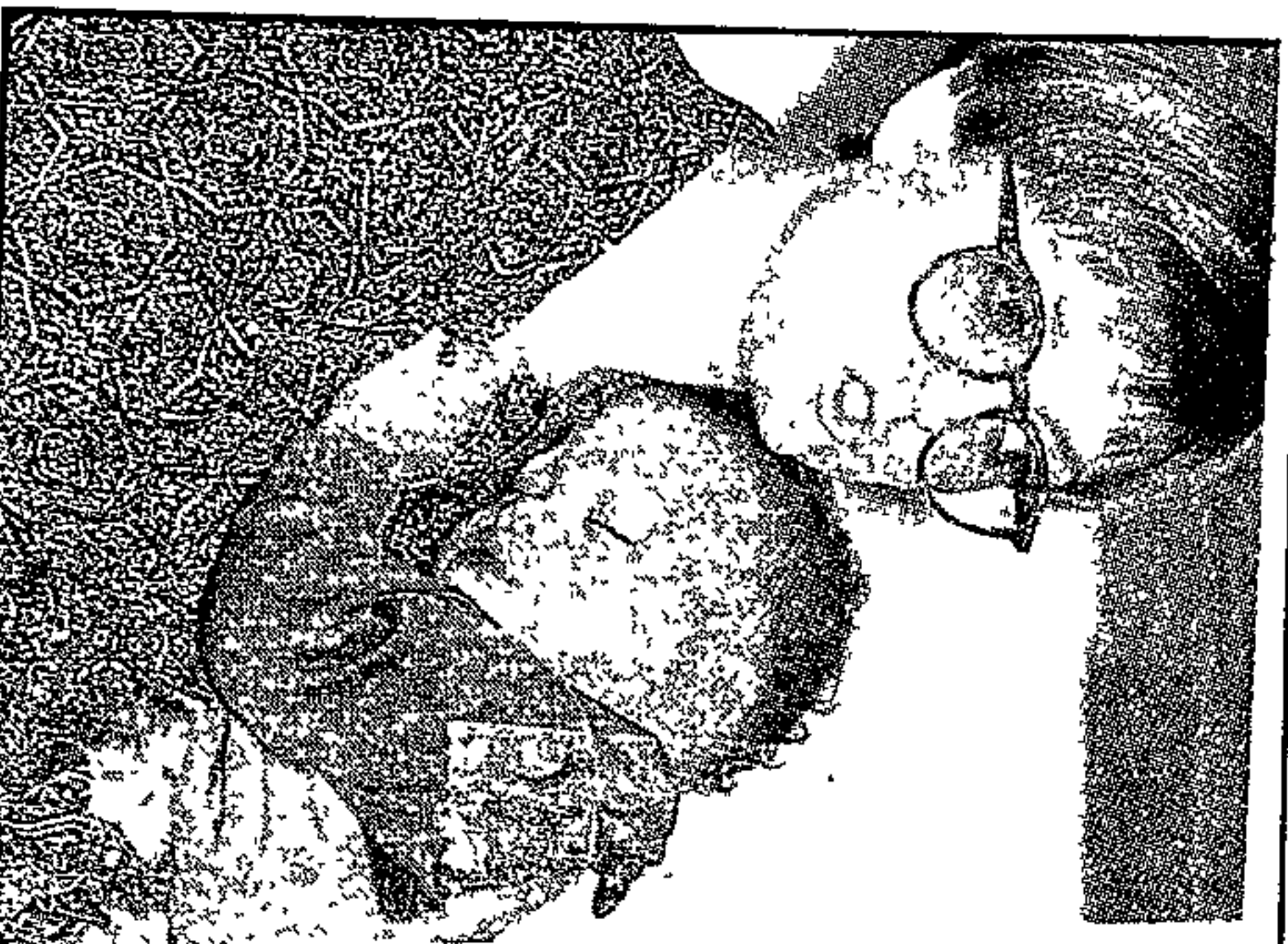
## Active

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tivities. The black community is against it and is calling for a better long-term solution.

"We are working very hard to recruit black adoptive parents but we have to empower the black community to adopt, and that probably means financially subsidised adoption."

"But in times of recession and violence things are not getting any easier. And we are faced with practical realities — babies are abandoned every-day here"

● A morning seminar on trans-racial adoption, directed at possible adopters, will be held at the University of the Witwatersrand on Saturday, June 6. For more information call 793-4490.



That's my bundle . . . Elke and Timo.



preservation commodities. Possible losses may be revealed. The investigation is also of a technical nature and may be time consuming.

(4) No

†Mr J CHIOLE: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, can he let us know, just in respect of Land Rovers, how many Land Rovers that have covered less than 30 000 km were scrapped in the past two years, because proper preservation had not been applied?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, on my third day in office I have not yet counted the Land Rovers in the SA Defence Force, but I think the hon member should just wait until the investigation has been completed, then we shall know how many Land Rovers and other things are involved. [Interjections]

#### Children orphaned as a result of Aids

\*5 Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Health:

(1) Whether her Department keeps statistics on children orphaned as a result of their parents having died of Aids; if not, why not, if so, (a) how many such children are there in South Africa and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished.

(2) whether the State has formulated a policy to deal with children orphaned in this way, if so, what are the details of this policy?

B685E

#### The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH:

(1) No, because the final diagnosis is often unknown or not disclosed by health care workers or surviving family members.

To say that the parents had died of Aids could lead to discrimination and stigmatisation of the children.

(2) no

†Dr W J SNYMAN: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I just want to ask—there is a whole series of Aids-related illnesses—whether she does not think it necessary that routine Aids tests ought to be carried out in those cases, in order to be able to compile statistics like this

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Short term monitoring is also done to investigate problems and complaints.

(2) Yes,

(a) by the Department of National Health and Population Development the various local authorities and the other institutions involved in monitoring, and

(b) results are mainly made available on request. Results will also be presented at conferences and similar meetings as well as specially arranged public meetings. Results of the Vaal Triangle, Kempton Park, Edenvalle and Modderfontein monitoring are made available in the form of press releases on a six monthly basis. Results are also given in annual reports, complete or in summarized format.

The CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE Order: I clearly hear the hon members for Wynberg and Houghton talking. I have called them to order twice now. I am not going to do so again.

#### Disposal of toilets

\*7. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Regional and Land Affairs:

(1) Whether any plans have been made to dispose of the toilets to the value of approximately R15 million which were purchased by the former Department of Development Aid and are allegedly not in use at present; if not, why not; if so, what plans;

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

B691E

#### The MINISTER OF REGIONAL AND LAND AFFAIRS

(1) The Department is not of the intention to sell the toilets. Preliminary surveys indicate that all the unused toilets will be utilized within governmental context. The majority of the toilets which have originally been purchased have already been utilized at approximately 30 sites such as for example at: Botshabelo, Lethlabile,

Frischgewaagd, Craig, Tshame and Inanda.

(2) The utilization of approximately 4 600 toilets which are not being used presently and of which the initial purchase value amounted to approximately R2 900 000, is being investigated and it will, according to needs, *inter alia* be allocated to the following instances:

— The Provincial Administrations of Transvaal, Natal and the Cape

— The Government of KwaNdebele

Decisions have also been taken regarding the utilization of toilets at the following areas

— Elandsdoorn

— Zaaiplaats

— Hartbeesfontein

— Langkloof

†Adv C D DE JAGER: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him whether he thinks he now has enough toilets for governmental use, or does he need more?

†The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, such intense interest in toilets to my opinion takes the population growth into account. There will always be more people, therefore there will always be a need for toilets.

Mr P G SOAL: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to ask him the following question. When he has provided for those which are necessary for use in the Government context, would he then consider making the surplus toilets available to informal communities, communities living in informal settlements throughout the country? I am aware of the fact that there is a great need for them in those communities. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I have already indicated that all toilets would be utilized. Some will be allocated to the provincial administrations of the Transvaal, Natal and the Cape Province, as well as the KwaNdebele government service. These will be utilized for informal settlements.

†Mr C J W BADENHORST: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I would like to know from him whether the

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY



YOUTHS from embattled Alexandra are pleading for an end to the violence *Sowetan*

"The violence must stop!" says youth group leader Abram Mathekga *4/6/92*

"It has had a devastating effect on our lives and what is left of our community will probably collapse if the unrest continues"

"We decided to appeal to Sowetan's Nation Building for assistance in getting the people of Alexandra together to decide on a programme to solve our problem"

"We want to continue with normal schooling but we cannot do so in the current situation. As a result Sowetan has agreed to host a workshop on Sunday June 7 at the Thusong Youth Centre in Alexandra"

Abram is one of more than 2 000 youths struggling to restore order to the township

Their activities at local educational centres and schooling have been affected

"It is very difficult to learn under the present circumstances," says Abram

### Unpredictable

"Every day we are faced with unpredictable situations that fill us with anxiety. Will we survive the night? Will we be shot on the way to school where we are exposed daily to random gunfire and physical attack?"

"Will our homes still be standing when we return and if so, will it be safe to live in them?"

It is almost impossible to concentrate when one is preoccupied with township problems and we are struggling to keep up with our educational programmes"

Sowetan has held several workshops under Nation Building. They have assisted residents implement programmes to deal with local problems and rebuild structures

The success of the workshops inspired the Alex Youth Group to ask for similar support

Clinical psychologist Mrs Anne-Gloria Masetle, co-ordinator of Nation Building workshops, said

"The situation in Alex has deteriorated to a stage where even the parents are unable to provide a healthy, emotionally stable environment for their children to grow up in"

### Status

"Further, the status of parents in the family has been superseded by township politicians and the youth regard this highly visible group of people as role models and look to them for direction"

"It is vital for the parents to get involved in their children's lives and to provide some stability for the young adults"

"Recent research required a large sample of township youths to draw a picture of their choice. Without exception, each picture depicted horrific scenes of violence"

"The uncertainty in daily routine has produced anxiety levels so high that even the creativity of the youth is affected"

"Sunday's workshop will provide a forum for the youth and parents to identify and prioritise their problems. The Nation Building team of professionals guiding the workshop will then assist local people in developing a plan of action to deal with the problems"

The Nation Building workshop at the Thusong Youth Centre starts at 10am. There is no admission fee and all Alex residents are welcome

# Alex group in plea to Nation Building



Troops on patrol in Alexandra after unrest rocked the township earlier this year.



Alexandra township in turmoil again this year when police took action against an illegal march.

# Giving youth a new hope

(298)

By Education Reporter

THE Soweto City Council has organised a youth seminar for the July school holiday to highlight the importance of education in the present political climate.

The seminar is organised by the youth section of the Department of Community Services which is responsible for 16 youth clubs in the city. *Sowetan*

It will look into factors that make children lose their vision about education and explore means to revive the interest of youth in education and instill a sense of responsibility.

The seminar will also be geared to impress on the youth that schools are learning institutions. *4/6/92*

The Soweto Council's chief social worker, Miss Priscilla Mpemnyama, said the seminar and areas to be discussed were asked for by members of the city's youth clubs.

"Many said they did not know why they went to school because many of their peers were no longer attending," Mpemnyama said.

"Others said they attended school to please their parents. On further interviews, we learnt that the breakdown of discipline, dagga smoking and lack of respect for authority were among the factors demoralising the youth," Mpemnyama said.

The Community Services Department is said to reach about 4 000 children aged between five and 25 years.

The seminar will be at Soweto College of Education on July 10.

Those who are interested can contact Mpemnyama or Phindile Lakaje at (011) 930 3616/7/8.



# Children's Charter given to grown-ups

298 AUG 15/6/92  
LINDA GALLOWAY, Staff Reporter

THE Children's Charter of South Africa, adopted at the recent Children's Summit at Somerset West, has been handed to the adult international conference on the rights of children.

Delegates from the Children's Summit handed the document to Mrs Gertrude Shope of the National Commission on Rights for Children and president of the African National Congress Women's League at the conference in Cape Town last week.

Children told delegates they believed adults could learn from them.

"We met for four days and sorted out our problems. You have been meeting for a year.

"We listened to one another and if no direct agreement could be reached, we compromised," the children's spokesman said.

# Know your rights? Just ask the children

By GAYE DAVIS

THE most relevant question at the press conference marking the end of South Africa's first summit on children's rights came not from a journalist but one of the youthful delegates.

What, she wanted to know, was going to happen to the two homeless children who had attended the event? "Will they go back to homes, or to the street?"

A National Children's Rights Committee (NCRC) staffer watched a small, intent figure inscribe ball-point pen slogans on his cap. Oblivious to the activity raging around him, David Solomons carried on with what he was doing. In careful capitals, he wrote: "We want peace for a new South Africa", before shifting his cap on his knee to find space to pen the words "Stop Child Abuse".

The slightly built 15-year-old knew what he was talking about. He lived in Mowbray, he said, or in Observatory: it depended on where he and his friends — all streetchildren like himself — decided to bed down for the night.

He had never known his father and no longer knew his mother's whereabouts. For a time he was in foster care, but the woman, he said, was a drunk and abused him and his half-brother. "So we left." That was about three years ago he had just completed Standard Four. He hadn't been back to school since.

Last weekend, David — along with fellow streetchild Simphiwe Masimini — found himself among 190 children from all over the country, brought together by the NCRC and the children's magazine, *Molo Songololo*, to draw up a charter of children's rights.

Over four days, he slept in a bed with sheets and blankets, ate regular meals, watched TV and enjoyed all the manifest delights of the summit's venue — a five-star hotel at Somerset West.

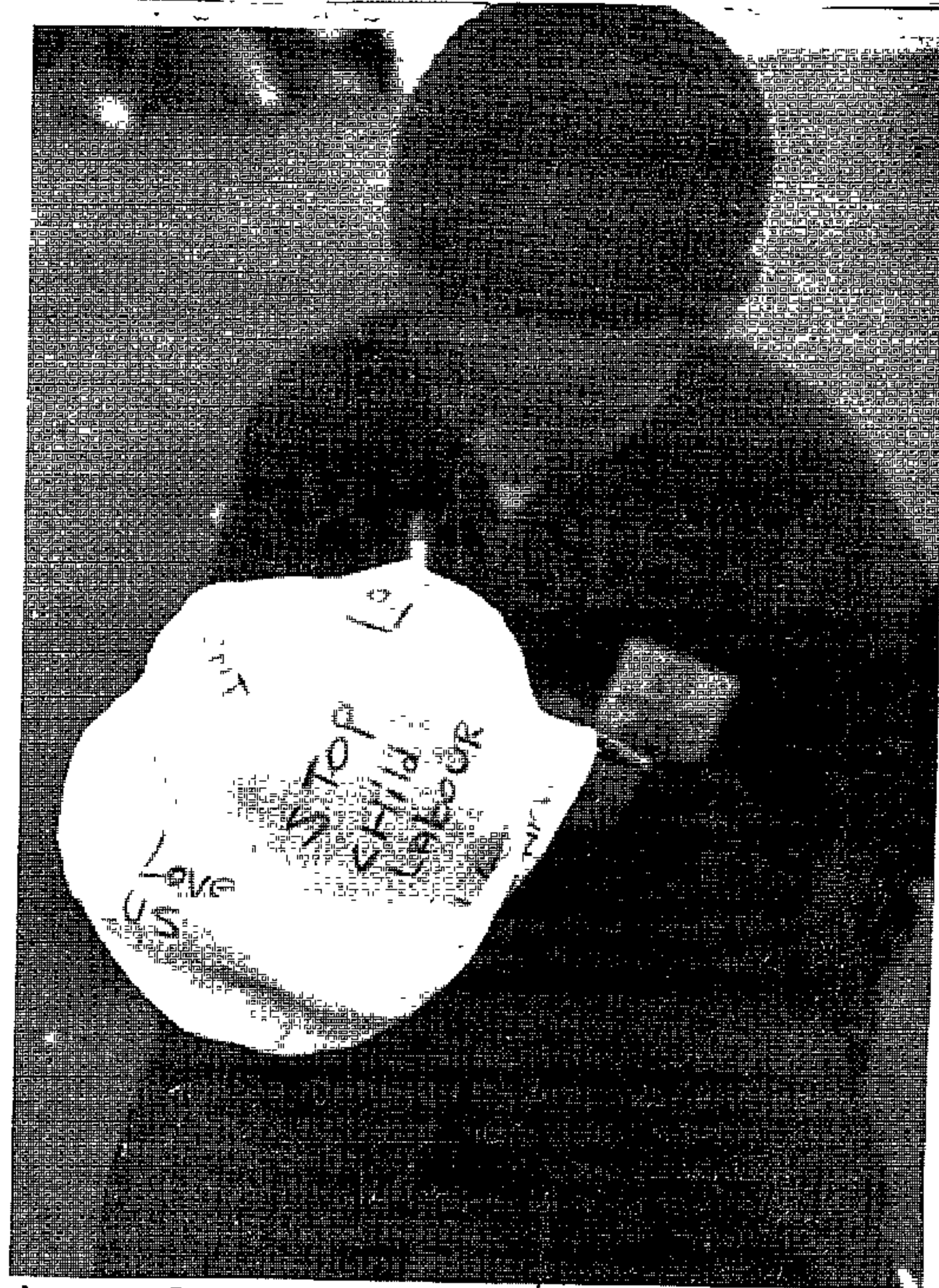
In the mornings, he joined the other children in a vast conference hall decked with children's art and banners. "Ask the children", said one. There he watched short sketches, devised by the children themselves, dealing with the summit's themes: health and welfare, education, child labour, violence, family life and its antithesis — homelessness.

The afternoons saw David and his fellow-delegates taking part in smaller workshops, where facilitators led them through more in-depth examination of the issues at hand — using games, role-play, quantities of newsprint and cardboard boxes. At each session's end, these would be covered with proposed resolutions offered by the children themselves on his box, David wrote. "Children should have the right to food".

Each child — ages ranged from 12 to 16 — had his or her say. Some of the children came from wealthy middle-class homes, others from rural poverty-traps. Among them were children in wheelchairs, or otherwise disabled. Facilitators took care that those with better speaking skills did not dominate workshop discussions and guided the debates.

Said Caleb Kenyon, 16: "After the summit we're going to go back to school to share these things we've learned with the kids there. We just hope the government and the other political parties at Codesa will hear us."

During the summit, the children learned not only about their rights but



Love us ... Streetchild David Solomons knows what he is talking about  
Photo: ERIC MILLER

about each other: in one workshop on violence, a township child volunteered how he had seen "soldiers" shoot three children, and how it had "stayed in my heart forever".

With four days of workshops and plenaries behind them, the delegates showed little signs of conference-fatigue as they gathered for the final press conference to unveil the fruits of their deliberations: a draft children's charter.

It was also the moment when brute reality cast a shadow over the fine sentiments expressed on paper. The

fact that two children among them would not be returning to homes and families was a cause of major concern: didn't the charter say that no child should be forced to live on the streets? What would happen to David and Simphiwe?

● Western Cape delegates at the summit will present the charter to the policy conference on the "Survival, Development and Protection of Children" hosted by the University of the Western Cape's community law centre from June 10 to 13.



# Nation Building gains momentum



By PEARL MAJOLA

AS word about Nation Building spreads and interest in it grows, particularly the parenting workshops, more communities are getting involved, especially the youth.

As a result, a conference organised by the youth section of Nation Building's Soweto Parenting Committee is to be held at Vista University (Soweto campus) on June 20.

The aim of the conference is to unify the youth in Soweto and co-ordinate the various youth projects to render a better service to the community. This is the youth's contribution to Na-

tion Building.

Another objective of the conference is to create an awareness of the Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops and Nation Building among the youth.

"There are many youth projects in Soweto. But they are scattered and need to be co-ordinated," explained a spokesman for the youth.

## Common

"There is a need for a forum where all projects are represented and we could discuss how to make our work more effective."

The conference will provide that forum as well as enable the youth to discuss common problems,

unhindered by political, religious or any other differences," said the spokesman.

"The youth has been divided into groups that will research various issues. These include problems experienced by youth in education and projects

available to help, and job creation projects like small businesses and sewing projects for the youth.

"The groups will report their findings at the conference. A council will then be formed whose duty will be to execute resolutions taken," he said.

"We are going to hold three plenary meetings where each group will report on its progress before the conference."

"We have managed to reach about 24 youth groups and appeal to those we may have overlooked to come forward. We believe this conference can only succeed and will only have impact if every young person from Soweto is involved," he said.

Mrs Anna Mosia, a representative of the Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Nation Building Committee, is working with the youth to co-ordinate the conference. She can be contacted for further information at (011) 984-4422 during office hours.

Sowetan 5/6/92  
**Pick 'n Pay** Hypermarkets

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# Talk on adoption

A seminar on trans-racial adoption, directed at possible adopters, will be held at the University of the Witwatersrand tomorrow. (298)

The Adoptive Parents' Association, supported by the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society, will conduct two sessions at the Dorothy Susskind Auditorium.

The organisers hope to pave the way for wider adoption choices at orphanages and adoption agencies.

A donation of R10 would ensure registration between 8.30am and 9am. *howefam 5/6/92*

Professor Rita Simons of Washington State University in the United States will be the guest speaker.

Theoretical aspects will be presented by a team of researchers from the university



# Mother's iron rule unleashed Wahceda's violence and revenge

By Justin Pearce

South 6/6-10/6/92

(298)

**S**HE WAS described by her friends as "quiet", "happy" and "normal". But this intelligent university student was party to a particularly gruesome murder the victim, her adoptive mother

The fascination aroused by the murder trial of Wahceda Suliman, 19, and her boyfriend Facez Talep, 21, has centred on the apparent normality of the maternal daughter.

Yet a closer look at the background to the case and the personalities of murderer and victim make the crime seem almost inevitable

Wahceda's biological mother died during childbirth and it was Mrs Koolsum Suliman who cared for Wahceda almost since birth. She was the only mother Wahceda knew

Mrs Suliman gave Wahceda "everything she wanted materially" but would not let her go out alone and strongly disapproved of her relationship with her boyfriend.

This kind of maternal protectiveness is not unusual in the community in which Wahceda grew up. What distinguished Mrs Suliman from any number of other Muslim mothers was the harshness with which she imposed her will upon her daughter.

Ms Washceda Hillburg, who had lodged with Mrs Suliman,

described in court how Wahceda had been beaten regularly. On one occasion her mother punished her by locking her in the bathroom for a night.

Mrs Suliman was unable to bear children herself, a factor which could have explained her extraordinarily possessive attitude towards Wahceda, the court was told.

Wahceda's biological father "gave" Wahceda to Mrs Suliman. As a single person it is unlikely Mrs Suliman would have been able to adopt a child through the usual procedures.

"It is possible in this kind of situation for an adoptive parent — or indeed a biological parent — to exercise his or her emotional needs without any understanding or regard for those of the child," says Mr Terry Dowdall, senior lecturer in clinical psychology at the University of Cape Town.

Wahceda's outburst of violence almost certainly relates to the abusive treatment she received at the hands of her mother.

"The old tenet applies, that violence begets violence," Dowdall says. "By treating a child abusively, you teach the child that violence solves problems."

Yet Wahceda's previous record of behaviour was anything but violent.

Her problems were compounded by her apparent inability to stand up to her mother, or even to express her feelings to anyone other than Facez.

Former schoolfriends said she showed no sign of what she was going through at home. Washceda Hillburg suggested to Wahceda that she report her mother to Child Welfare. But Wahceda preferred not to upset her mother in this way.

"Often in situations where there appears to be a history of normality, you also find a history of emotional or physical abuse and of frustration," says Mr Lloyd Vogelmann, director of the Project for the Study of Violence at the University of the Witwatersrand.

"The experience of abuse can build up to a level where small incidents provoke violence," he says.

The "small incident" in this case seems to have been Mrs Suliman's behaviour towards Facez.

Wahceda described in a statement to the police how she had entered her home with her boyfriend, thinking her mother was asleep.

The sight of Facez provoked Mrs Suliman to begin beating her daughter. When Facez tried to intervene he was also beaten.

At this stage, Wahceda said, she "couldn't take it any longer" and fetched a knife.

Dowdall suggests that the threat to Facez, who was Wahceda's only source of understanding and security, could have been what finally prompted the violent expression of rage in the form of murder.



VICTIM AND MURDERER: Wahceda Suliman and her adoptive mother she killed

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# Bottle up! Call to curb paraffin poisonings of black children (298)

SOUTH 6/6-10/6/92.  
month group.

**H**UNDREDS of toddlers are poisoned each year by paraffin. Now researchers are calling for stricter safety measures in bottling methods.

Paraffin ingestion is the most common form of child poisoning in many developing countries.

Among black communities in South Africa, paraffin accounted for up to 82 percent of recorded poisonings in childhood.

In hospitals serving a wider mix of population groups, paraffin poisoning ranks second to drugs, including all types of medicines found in the home.

At the Red Cross Children's Hospital, paraffin accounted for 40 percent of poisonings treated in 1990 — 2,7 percent higher than 1983.

During 1991, 436 children were treated at six Peninsula hospitals for paraffin poisoning.

"Although care was taken to trace cases, 436 is a conservative figure," said Dr Blanche de Wet of the Medical Research Council, who recently completed a study titled "Paraffin Poisoning in Childhood — a Problem Unaddressed".

Most of the children affected were younger than three years old, notably in the 12- to 36-

month group. "This has important implications for preventative measures," De Wet said.

Because victims of paraffin poisoning are under three years old, educational materials such as pamphlets and posters will not affect their behaviour.

De Wet said researchers had advocated labelling paraffin bottles with a skull and cross-bones.

"The ultimate solution therefore remains a paraffin container which cannot be opened by a young child," De Wet said.

"It has been shown that this single measure has yielded the most dramatic and permanent results in preventing childhood poisoning."

De Wet said the most effective educational tool for small children could be puppet shows where children are taught to imitate correct behaviour.

Paraffin is more frequently ingested by children in summer, probably due to thirst and the fact that paraffin is sometimes decanted into containers similar to those of drinkable substances.

Most parents notice that their children have ingested paraffin when the child makes a gagging sound and begins to breathe

faster or they smell the fumes.

"The fumes seem to be more dangerous for the children's lungs than the liquid is," explained De Wet.

"The paraffin forms a thin film over the lungs and the child feels as if he or she is not getting enough air to breathe."

Parents are warned not to induce vomiting after the child has drunk paraffin as it enhances the inhalation of the fumes.

Even if the child merely spills paraffin on his clothing, this produces enough fumes to warrant a trip to hospital.

Fortunately, children suffering paraffin poisoning can be treated fairly easily at hospital if they get there soon and seldom require more than one day's stay.

• Meanwhile, a bid is being made to reduce deaths due to childhood accidents by 25 percent by the year 2000.

The deadline, set by the Child Accident Foundation of Southern Africa, has been accepted by the World Health Organisation.

The foundation has embarked on a series of courses, workshops, videos, posters and leaflets to inform communities of the seriousness and extent of childhood injuries.



Children from all over South Africa gathered last week to hammer out a charter setting out their rights in the new South Africa. Most left the five-star hotel they were staying at to return to their homes. For the others it was back to the streets. Justin Pearce reports

# Children plan charter to make a brighter day



**RIGHT TO BE HEARD:** Children from around South Africa present their demands at the end of the Children's Summit  
Photo: Justin Pearce

**T**HIS WAS real. Children of all colours, classes, and religions talking together, sharing ideas, making friends and leaving enriched.

It was the Summit on the Rights of Children in South Africa, held in Somerset West. The conference was the culmination of the first-ever initiative enabling children to determine their needs under a future democratic government.

The outcome was the Children's Charter of South Africa, a statement of children's rights regarding legal representation, religious and cultural freedom, protection from violence, family life, health and welfare, education, child labour and homelessness.

Delegates were elected from regional workshops, which included school children, and those participating in the National Committee for the Rights of Children (NCRC).

Although the races and genders received proportional representation, Ms Nora Ramsden, NCRC co-ordinator from Durban, regretted the selection process had inevitably led to a bias towards children who have regular contact with NCRC, and those from private schools who were more receptive to the idea of delegates being elected to the regional workshops and conference.

Special attention was also given to bringing street children, children from rural areas and informal settlements, and disabled children to the conference, bringing to light demands that would never have emerged without this consultation.

"Children under eight years old have the right not to carry loads of over 25kg on their heads," said Ms Bongwe Dlamini, NCRC promoter from the squatter settlement Inanda near Durban.

Some children — the older, the

more eloquent and the more educationally privileged — emerged as the leading lights at the press conference held after the summit. Some seized the chance to talk to the press and public — another could only offer the following exchange:

"What did you think of the summit?"

"I don't know."

"Why did you come to the summit?"

"In an aeroplane."

Gregory Marimuthoo, 13, and Iris Lawrence, 12, both from Durban, were less reticent. "Very exciting," bubbled Gregory. "We learnt a lot. We learnt about the rights of children. We learnt children have the right to make mistakes and learn from them. Children have the right to share their talent with their brothers and sisters. Children have the right to be protected."

Iris kept quiet until prompted further. "I thought you were interviewing Gregory," she said before continuing. No, it was rather a matter of Gregory being first off the mark, and this led to an enquiry about whether the summit, like its

adult counterparts, was male-dominated.

Iris assured me this was not the case.

Unbridled excitement about the event was the prerogative of those children already well provided for, the less privileged seeming understandably sceptical about where it would all lead.

## Youth document uniquely South African

SOUTH 6/6/92 - 10/6/92

SO, what's in a charter? The Children's Charter of South Africa, adopted at the Children's Summit last weekend, will be handed to Codesa by the PWV delegation. However, the implementation of the charter has not yet begun.

It contains all the usual demands about racial and gender equality and freedom of conscience characteristic of any charter drawn up on behalf of oppressed groups the world over. But a number of unconventional and challenging clauses mark it as the work of a diverse group of people sharing a common oppression they previously were not allowed to express.

The needs expressed, arising out

"Teachers must stop being boring," declared a representative from the Southern Cape. But for other children even the most basic education was still an ideal needing to be transformed into reality.

It was the street children who most poignantly showed up how far the task of children's liberation had to go. Where were they to go after

four days in the five-star opulence of the Lord Charles Hotel, delegates at the closing press conference were asked.

Eager delegates rattled off the section from the newly drafted charter that deals with street children.

The questions persisted. What was to be done in practical terms? Were the children going back to the streets, or had places in homes or shelters been found for them?

It took one of the adult facilitators to make the painful admission that the street children would be sleeping on the streets that night.

One of the street children, who identified himself only as David, at first gave the off-pat response shared by every child to whom I spoke. "It feels great to see us all sitting down talking about children's rights."

Asked how it would affect his own life he said cautiously, "I think we will get shelters."

How would the summit help him get shelters?

"Tough question," he replied, and then after a long silence, "I'll see when it happens."

What was it like for a child who seldom sees a bed, a hot meal or running water to stay in a five-star hotel?

"Something I always dreamt about. I don't like today because we are leaving. I will tell my friends a lot about this place."

of years of repression and political violence, make the charter a specifically South African one. Refugee children, children returning from exile, and children orphaned or abandoned as a result of violence received special provision.

The effort to bring homeless children to the summit paid off in a whole article of the charter devoted to them. Article 10 concludes with the blunt assertion "the government has the responsibility for homeless children."

What sets the charter apart from other documents of rights is the demand that children decide on issues that affect their lives.

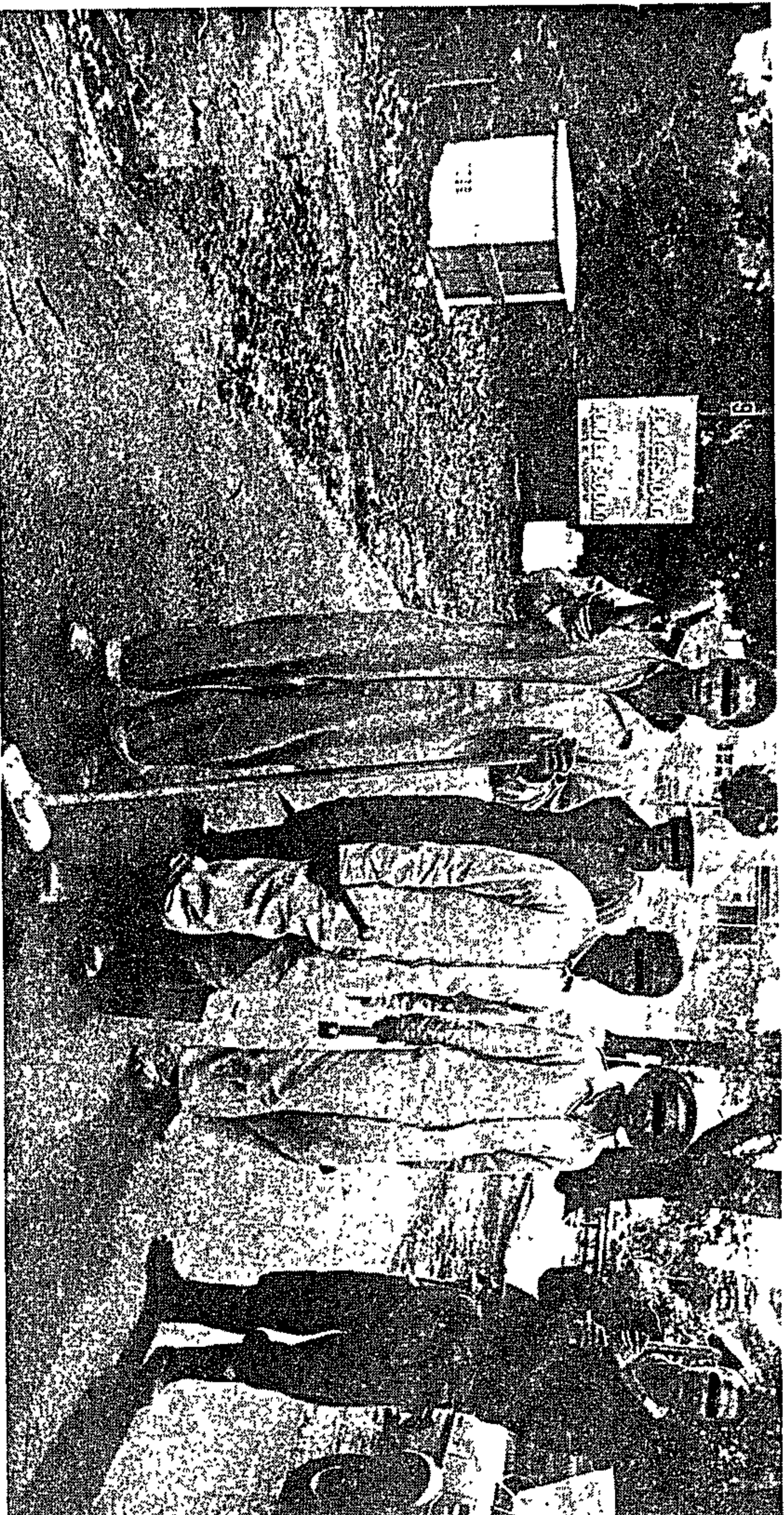
Article 3 mentions children's

rights "to express their own opinions and be heard in all matters that affect their rights and protection and welfare", to free legal representation and "to participate in the government of the country."

Article 8, on education, states: "All children have the right to participate in the evaluation and upgrading of a curriculum which respects all the traditions, cultures and values of all children in South Africa."

Regarding health and welfare, Article 7 includes the statement that "all children have the right to demand health and medical care without the permission of their parent or guardian."





WORK TEAM: Juveniles at the Porter Reform School where workers complain of attacks

Photo Yunus Mohamed

# Reform school workers launch safety campaign

By Quentin Wilson

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THREATENED workers at the Porter Reform School in Tokai have been forced to form a committee to campaign for their safety after persistent attacks by inmates

Officials are asking for guns, uniforms and danger pay, alleging inmates have launched a series of planned attacks on them while trying to escape from the school

Porter tries to rehabilitate juveniles convicted of crimes ranging from housebreaking to rape and murder. It falls under the Department of Education and Culture in the House of Representatives.

SOUTH AFRICA

Part of the "reform treatment" involves forcing the boys to do manual labour on the school grounds. It is their access to garden tools such as spades, hammers and shears which poses the biggest security threat to the officials.

Spokesperson for the newly formed committee Mr Joseph Lewis is confident their demands for greater protection will be met.

"The fact that this group was formed is the best thing that has happened at Porter Reformatory School in the last 100 years. If it doesn't work, we might have to consider other steps."

"For the moment, we will continue to ask that our demands be met through talks with the department. If this does not work we may consider strike action," Lewis said.

According to Lewis, there have not been recent attacks apart from "a few minor scuffles".

The school is made up of four sections each housing up to 110 inmates. In each section there is an unarmed supervisor and an assistant. Only one of them is on duty in each section during the night-shift.

A supervisor who did not want to be named for fear of losing his job, said he was "constantly in fear" and always carried a broom with him in case he was attacked. He said

inmates had tried "many times" to attack him.

"One day I went out with about 30 boys to the garden where they were working with spades. Earlier a boy tipped me off and told me 'Mencer, they want to attack you today,' so I took something along to protect myself."

"I fought off the attack. I won't tell you what I used but I do have a wife and kids and I have to protect myself," he said.

Mr Henne Jansen, spokesperson of the Department of Education and Culture, said his department would respond soon to the demands of the officials.



# A mother of mercy to dumped babes

S[Times] [C[Met]o] 7/6/92.

(298)

By RENÉ DU PREEZ

GUGULETU pensioner Mrs Margaret Cupido has been a mother to dozens of abandoned babies — even though she has children of her own

Over the past 15 years, numerous babies have been left on her doorstep but Mrs Cupido, 82, has tried lovingly to raise them on a domestic worker's wage and, recently, only her pension of R210.

Today, she still shares her two-roomed home with five abandoned children — Magoduyka, four, Tafile, three, Ndeleni, two, Tapile and Nompucuko, 15 — and five members of her family



## Pension

Mrs Cupido said many of the mothers who had abandoned their children had returned after a few days to "reclaim" them

"Die Here het hulle gedruk," she said

She has supported her household on her pension of R210 since having to stop work as a domestic worker three months ago because of a "troublesome knee"

"Every morning when I open my front door I expect to find a child on my doorstep," said Mrs Cupido

**MOTHER MARGARET . . . Mrs Margaret Cupido, 82, is mother to abandoned children in Guguletu and feeds a family of 10 on her R210-a-month pension. Among her "adopted" children are Magoduyka, left, Tapile, Ndeleni and Tafile**

"I have had babies — like Tapile — who were only a few days old and wrapped in newspaper

"The amazing thing is that in all the years only one of the babies has died.

"I believe God has blessed me and my house and takes special care of all my children.

"I will never abandon them as I have come to love them as my own"

Although she has tried to find the babies' mothers, she has not succeeded

Mrs Cupido believes that if their mothers knew how wonderful their children were, they would come back for them

"They may be abandoned children, but they are very special to me."

A disciplinarian, Mrs Cupido demands that the bigger children bath before going to bed.

"They are more disciplined than my children were. I believe this is because God knows I'm old

and that it's His duty is to give me good children"

Asked who their mother was, Magoduyka, Tafile, Ndeleni and Tapile, healthy and warmly dressed in home-knitted jerseys, hugged Mrs Cupido

A tear trickling down her care-worn cheek, Mrs Cupido said she would do it all again if the occasion arose

"All children need a chance in life and as mine is coming to an end, I must try to give these children some hope for the future"

One question bothers Mrs Cupido — the registration of the children

## Adoption

Although Mrs Cupido does not know her "adopted" children's birthdays, she remembers the dates on which they were left at her home

She is not familiar with adoption procedures, but wants the children to share her surname and to be given a date of birth

"Although I don't know the days on which they were born, I know the years and months.

"When I have a R10 to spare I will register them at the office.

"They are my children and only God can take them away from me."

Picture: FANIE JASON

# Homeless children to get skills centre

By **AYESHA ISMAIL**

A SKILLS training centre for homeless children is to be built in Salt River soon on land leased from the city council by children's organisation Molo Songololo.

Molo Songololo's project co-ordinator, Mr David Fortune said a lease plan was received from the city council this week — nearly a year after the organisation had applied.

The organisation and its architects would meet the council to discuss the lease conditions, Mr Fortune said.

A drop-in centre, which would take about 120 children, would also be built on the site.

Based at Community House in Salt River, the organisation co-ordinates a series of programmes — including Aids awareness, health care, education and social activities — for homeless children.

Molo Songololo staff members picketed the Cape Town Magistrate's Court this week in protest against the arrest of homeless chil-

ren for illegal squatting.

Eight people aged between 16 and 40 appeared in court for "illegal squatting" in Salt River.

The charges were withdrawn but they were told they would be arrested again if they returned to the site without permission.

Mr Siphwe Masimini, 18, who was arrested with the group, did not appear in court. He is required to pay an admission of guilt fine by the end of June.

## Assault

He claimed he had been assaulted by a policeman during his arrest.

Police liaison officer Captain Attie Laubscher denied the assault had taken place, saying Mr Masimini had been released because he had asthma.

Molo Songololo staff member Mr Patric Solomon said it was unacceptable that children were arrested because they were homeless.

The government allowed informal settlements, he said, yet children who built shelters against the rain were charged.



# Toddler not spared in hostel hitjob

By SOPHIE TEMA

CIP/12/11 7/6/92

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD girl watched in horror as gunmen shot and killed her father and three-year-old sister in cold blood in Iscor's KwaMasiza hostel in Vanderbijlpark on Wednesday night.

Xoliswa Betshe sat wide-eyed and petrified as two men pumped bullets into her father Sithembele, 41, who was sitting on

a chair with sister Khayakazi, 3.

Sithembele fell to the floor and crawled behind Khayakazi and the callous killers continued shooting, ripping bullets into both father and daughter.

It is believed one of the weapons was an AK-47.

Xoliswa sat on her parents' bed, mute with terror, as her screaming mother Sylvia sprang through the bedroom window on to an outside balcony with

three-month-old baby Mzwandile strapped to her back.

People close by came running but the two killers had gone.

It was another ghastly and cold-blooded killing in a week of continuing violence on the Reef.

Earlier the killers had confronted sub-tenant Bennet Dumile and demanded to be taken to Sithembele. Holding guns at the back of his head they frogmarched him to the Betshe's

living quarters.

They stormed into the kitchen past Sithembele's eldest son, Nkululeko, and into the bedroom.

Nkululeko said: "One of the gunman called my father by his name 'Bhayi' and when he answered they shot him at close range."

The killers were strangers to the quiet Transkei.

See pages 2 and 6

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# Youth

## 'Codesa'

## falters

*CP Press 7/6/92*  
By JOHANNES NGCOBO

MUDSLINGING between the Inkatha Freedom Party Youth Brigade and the ANC Youth League this week forced a planned "mini-Codesa" summit to be postponed.

The "Mini Convention for a Democratic South Africa" was to have accommodated a large number of South African political youth movements at the World Trade Centre near Kempton Park this weekend.

However, the IFP youth brigade declined to be part of it.

A well-placed IFP youth source said the organisation's leadership would not share the stage with the ANCYL because its president, Peter Mokaba, had told a gathering at Richmond that the IFP was the enemy of the people.

"What he said on the day in question is what we consider to be wartalk. We will only participate if he withdraws that statement."

Political groups which were to have taken part included the National Party Youth Action and the Democratic Party youth wing.

The event was sponsored by the Institute for a Democratic Alternative for SA (Idasa).

Issues on the agenda included peace and the democratic process in SA.

Prior to the postponement, ANCYL's Geoff Brown and a member of the special committee on National Youth Unity, said: "The main aim of the conference is to bring together political youth



**GUN CULTURE . . .** A child in Sebokeng shows off one of the area have taken to making.

organisations from across the ideological divide."

Other issues for discussion at the conference were the youth rights in the future SA, international exchange and readmittance of South African youth to the United Nations' youth structures.

Idasa's Transvaal liaison officer Patrick Banda said: "We cannot confirm or deny that the conference is taking place."

The aborted conference was to have been attended by 300 delegates from all over SA.

## MK man on

CP Reporter

THE Rand Supreme Court this week heard how an Umkhonto weSizwe soldier and four others unleashed a Chicago-style bout of shooting during a bank robbery.

Appearing before Judge Hartzenberg and two assessors are Thabana Petros Zitha, 23, of 1254 Emdeni Soweto, and self-confessed MK member Thulani Trevor Ndlovu, 25, of 1236 Mailula Park, Vosloorus.

The court order to Thulani Ndlovu is not a murder grave assault cause harm and arms. A rity hard court ing it





**TOILET TERROR . . .** These kiddies must take to the gale-lashed Cape flats' bush to do their thing.

■ Pic: FANIE JASON

# Cruel life of Cape babes

CIP news 7/6/92

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Gen.

## CP Correspondent

FOR most the call of nature brings pleasant relief, but for two hundred little people on the Cape Flats the act is brutal and terrifying.

Come wind or hail – the Cape is currently being lashed by vicious polar storms – the toddlers must venture outside into the thick, desolate bush to do their thing.

The Albertina Sisulu “creche” – two cold and cavernous metal containers at Brown’s Farm in Philippi, Cape Town – has no toilet facilities.

Five childminders and two cooks – all volunteers – must look after 200 kiddies.

So how do they do it? They

rely on the amazing generosity of hundreds of surrounding shack dwellers, mostly poor and struggling themselves, who are not prepared to shrug off the fate of others worse off than themselves.

The creche that the community funds in an effort to provide a measure of pre-school education, has been going for a year.

And, despite its desperate circumstances, numbers are growing.

Monica Papiyana is the driving force behind the project. She is fiercely determined that the children should have that little extra in their start to life.

“Of course things are tough, especially when you do not know whether you will have a

meal for the children the next day or how to keep 200 children warm with six blankets during the Cape’s winter months.

“But with a wonderful band of workers and amazing help from families – who themselves are battling to feed their own, we have managed to provide these children with two meals a day,” said Papiyana.

The children also get music lessons, Bible studies, medical inspection by qualified nurses three times a month and tuition in basic reading, writing and picture-cutting.

“The wonderful response we get from the children – their appreciation for what we are doing for them – is there to see on their little faces.

“So, irrespective of our financial shortcomings, nothing is going to stop us from giving these little innocents some kind of start in life.”

Fighting talk yes, but Monica went on to describe the bad days when there’s not enough food, when the kiddies must learn to share when it really hurts – even if it means one precious spoonful each . . .

Yet, she claims no one tells them to share.

“They are totally unselfish in their habits which I believe is a wonderful start in life.”

Although Monica and her team are faced with many problems, the most disturbing is having to send a child to the bush toilet.





GLORIA SEROBE: "I wanted the best of both worlds."

## GLORIA SEROBE - Woman of the Week

# Developing the child's potential

IT nestles between two towering doublestorey houses in the serene black suburb of Spruitview near Vosloorus.

The comfortable red brick abode with a green roof is the new, most talked about nursery in the area.

It is from the green roof that it got its name - The Greenhouse.

And the brains behind this successful venture is Gloria Serobe, who surprisingly, is employed in a business environment that has nothing to do with children.

"The idea came from being a mother and a career woman, and wanting the best out of both," Serobe, a mother of two sons aged 12 and 8, said.

Experience with her own children, who had to wake up early for transport to crèches in the white suburbs, taught her that not all crèches take early child-

hood education seriously

"There are certain things that are not done in some crèches.

Some do not cook because, they say, it is expensive. The children have to bring their own food. Others do not offer their services beyond a certain time and most avoid weekends.

"The hiring of skilled and specialist people is also another problem. You cannot take shortcuts on health and education, but most crèches do," she said.

Serobe and a residents' committee she formed set out to establish a crèche where the child would experience an environment and care similar to that of its own home and get an education that would help it develop.

The Greenhouse started in her own house.

She had to move out and

make way for the toddlers

"We were trying to attract a market of highly professional people. They did not need us.

"They could take their children wherever they wanted to. Since we did not have a prestigious suburb name to attach to the crèche, we had to establish a service name," she said.

Image was to become Serobe and her committee's obsession. The package offered by the Greenhouse is impressive. The service - meals, the working hours' structure, the healthcare and child development programmes - is among the best in the country.

The Greenhouse is the extended home to 84 babies and toddlers and is a 24-hour operation.

Parents drop off their children in the morning and

can collect them any time until 10pm. It also has boarding facilities and presently has four boarders.

The children are grouped according to their ages and each of the four groupings has two minders or teachers in the case of pre-schoolers. The 10 infants have a third minder, a nursing sister, who makes their feeds and does general observations.

The medium of instruction is English and both pre-school classes are handled by white teachers.

Pictures and full details of the daily menu from Monday to Friday hang on the wall overlooking the front door. The homely atmosphere is amplified by the plush velvet seaters that line the room and the thick grey carpets that also cover the passage floor and the rest of the rooms.

Serobe is a nominee of the Sowetan/Eskom Woman of the Year Award.

BY SIZAKELE KOOMA

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# Making youth business wise

Sowetan 8/6/92

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THE Young Entrepreneur Foundation has been formed to promote business culture among the youth.

The YEF's policy is to create a culture of business among the thousands who leave school every year.

Executive director Mr Oscar Mamba said their aim is motivate youth to be active in the mainstream of the economy.

"We want to develop with the local people, progressive youth structures and schools, create a cul-

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

ture of entrepreneurship as a model in building a growing and prosperous economy in a free and democratic South Africa.

"One of our objectives is to facilitate the provision of training, counselling and advisory services related to commerce, industry, engineering and agriculture," Mamba said.

The formation of the foundation comes in the wake of the surging number

of unemployed youths, the majority matric dropouts and school leavers.

Statistics provided by the Research Institute for Education Planning in July 1991 showed that the dropout rate among African pupils in 1990 was the highest at primary level.

## Statistics

The statistics showed that the total number of dropouts in 1990 (814 562) was 10 percent of the total 7 924 991 pupils enrolled from sub A to Standard 10.

"The queues are swell-

ing and these children cannot find work. The situation is getting worse as the recession takes its toll and the drought begins to bite. We need to do something for them," Mamba said.

A seminar is scheduled to take place at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange Auditorium on July 14-17.

The foundation is also offering bursaries to high school pupils and university students. All enquiries should be directed to YEF at telephone number (011) 483-3280 or Fax (011) 483-3282.

# Can child witnesses be trusted?

The lid is being lifted on child abuse cases. According to one MP, the problem has increased by as much as 54 percent since last year. The question now being asked is "can the evidence of young children be relied on?" Criminologist FANNY GROSS reports.

INVESTIGATION has shown that although children, like adults, do tell lies, the contention that they are inclined to lie more often cannot be substantiated. Indeed, many experts believe that the opposite is true.

Studies on false allegations confirm the general opinion of child psychiatrists that false complaints of sexual offences usually emanate from the older age-group. Moreover, psychological studies show that adults are able more easily to unravel children's lies.

There can be no doubt that children are inclined to indulge in make-believe. The critical issue, however, is whether they are unable to distinguish fact from fantasy in the context of their allegations. To date, there is apparently no psychological research or medical case study which suggests that they are unable to do so.

In recent years, a number of self-respect studies have shown that a very much bigger proportion of the population suffers sexual abuse in childhood than was previously thought to be the case.

In order to enable children to furnish the evidence required of them without undue psychological distress and harmful after effects, new and advanced methods in keeping with those employed overseas, are being adopted locally.

Thus, child witnesses will be enabled to give evidence by means of closed-circuit television to avoid the oppressive and often traumatic experience for an abused youngster of relating what happened to him/her in open court.

Another technique, used in Britain, which might be introduced in South Africa to assist child witnesses is the use of anatomical dolls.

The problem remains, however, to distinguish whether a child is lying or making up the allegations of sexual abuse.

There are few studies that provide detailed and reliable information about the extent to which assertions of child abuse are definitely false.

However, according to a study conducted by two child psychiatrists in the USA on 576 reports of suspected sexual abuse made to the Social Services Department in Denver, Colorado, during 1983, they found that there were 439 cases where there was sufficient information to judge whether or not sexual abuse had actually occurred and, in only 2 percent of these, children had made false allegations of such abuse.

The Child Line toll-free network, which has been in operation since August 1989, and the thousands of calls for help that it has handled since then from physically, sexually and emotionally abused children in this country, serves as a worrying barometer of the extent and seriousness of the problem.

Methods must be developed to enable relevant authorities to act upon the evidence provided by these youngsters without unnecessary delay.



# AWB kid-bashers get R3 000 fines

Sowetan 10/6/92

By DON SEOKANE

FIVE members of the AWB were found guilty in the Pietersburg Regional Court yesterday on charges of public violence.

The charges relate to assaults on black children who were on a Sunday School outing in Louis Trichardt in November 1990.

The men were each fined R3 000 or 18 months imprisonment and a further 18 months imprisonment suspended for five years.

They are Christoffel Wolfaardt (45), Barend Terblanch (50), Phillip Terblanch (43), Johan Nagel (25) and Hendrik Boshoff (44).

At the beginning of the case, 15 men were charged but the cases against four of them were withdrawn on March 19. Six were acquitted yesterday after the court found there was insufficient evidence against them. In November 1990, a group of alleged AWB

members armed with sticks and sjamboks attacked children from Venda who were having a picnic at a municipal park.

In passing sentence the magistrate, Mr WJ Fourie, said the State had to take into account that the accused were first offenders and that some of them had lost their jobs and their businesses because of the trial.

However, he said that during the assault, the accused were in charge of the situation and that when a policeman, Sergeant MR Botha, tried to arrest Bernard Terblanch, he was told that "die AWB is in beheer" (the AWB is in charge). He said the group of whites armed with sticks and sjamboks had pounced on the innocent children and that most of them had sustained injuries because

of the beatings.

"A vehicle also knocked down a six-year-old child who had testified that after being knocked down by the vehicle he fell on top of a rock and sustained head injuries," said the magistrate.

Pleading in mitigation, defence counsel Mr Oelof de Meyer argued that the case had to be seen in the circumstances that people who were at the park were not residents of Louis Trichardt and that a march had been organised by the African National Congress on that day.

He said people were tense about the proposed march.

The court should not find the accused guilty on a charge of public violence because there was a potential for danger because of the large number of people at the park. He submitted that the victims had suffered no grave danger.

Since the case resumed on Monday, the accused have denied having assaulted the children and Bernard Terblanch, who was reported to have been the leader of the group, admitted having carried a stick on that day. However, he denied assaulting anyone with the stick.

Nagel denied having told Botha that if he continued with arresting Terblanch he would be beaten up.

Witnesses who testified since the case began included a six-year-old boy, a paralysed Mr Thizwilondi Denga - who entered the court amid giggles from the accused - testified that he was beaten with sjamboks and sticks, Sergeant Botha and Captain Andries Dreier of the security police.

In one instance, a spectator dressed in the uniform of the Ystergaarde - the commando wing of the AWB - came into court fully armed.

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# Peace a necessity for trans-racial adoption

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Sowetan 10/6/92

By LULAMA LUTI

UNLESS there is a peaceful transition in South Africa, adoption across the colour line could be in jeopardy.

This was the message to prospective trans-racial adopters during a seminar at the University of the Witwatersrand at the weekend.

International expert on trans-racial adoption Professor Rita Simon told more than 100 participants that if South Africa could go through the transitional phase with minimum violence, this adoption would work out.

"There's been a great deal of success up until now," said Simon. "Many of the parents we've interviewed so far have expressed that things are going on

very well.

"They've been able to develop a strong sense of bonding with the children and they feel that things will work out."

"The real test will come when the children grow up and develop their own interest. That is why I feel there has to be follow-ups within the 10 to 15 years of their placement," she said.

Social worker at the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society Mrs Roshen Khota said they were forced to consider adoption across the colour line because there were no prospective adopters within the black community.



# Youths want say on their destiny

By IKE MOTSAPI

THE present education system must be completely overhauled and restructured to suit the expectations of the pupils, a youth leader said last night.

Mr Steve Mokoena, co-convenor of the National Youth Summit which starts tomorrow, was speaking in the Sowetan/Radio Metro Talkback Show.

Mokoena said the youths were not benefiting from the present system.

"During the past years there has never been a significant move to overhaul this horrible education system," Mokoena said.

He said the three-day summit would deal with problems that had "clearly marginalised the youth".

"We have come to a point where the youths want to become agents of their future and authors of

**SOWETAN**  
Building the Nation

**RADIO METRO**  
**TALKBACK**

their destination," Mokoena said.

Mr Willie Mvambo, also a co-convenor of the summit, said the weekend gathering would develop strategies aimed at "empowering the youth" to secure a better future.

Mvambo said: "We want to make the youths capable of doing things on their own instead of always blaming the State."

One caller, Don, however, had a differing view.

He said some children were afraid of going to school because "schools have been turned into war camps."

Today's topic

# Rush to adopt babies after TPA plea

Staff Reporter and Sapa (298)

Hundreds of people yesterday responded to a call by the TPA — broadcast on radio — for couples to adopt abandoned babies.

The TPA said the number of babies being abandoned in the Witwatersrand had increased

dramatically as a result of social upheaval and a downturn in the economy.

In one hospital alone this week, 20 babies were awaiting arrangements for alternative care.

Between 4 pm and 5.30 pm yesterday "hundreds of people" had already responded to the

contact number provided in the radio report.

Interested couples can get more information from Naomi Koutoulogeni at (011) 825-3235 between 8 am and 4 pm or by writing to her at Box 57, Germiston 1400; or by contacting the chief social worker at their nearest TPA branch office.

STAR 11/6/92





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**Building**  
**The Power**  
**is in Your**  
**Hands**

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their professions;

● Intense career guidance programmes should be introduced to pupils from Standard 5.

There should also be a revision of subject grouping so that a pupil takes subjects relevant to a career path he or she wishes to follow; and

● There should be leadership training courses for members of the Student Representative Councils from all the schools in Alexandra.

"We are very pleased with the way the workshop went," said Mrs Anne-Gloria Masette, head of the Parenting Workshops Committee.

"The youth showed incredible concern at the present education crisis and this is a very positive sign. All we need now is for parents to resume their role," she said.

The next Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshop will be held in Daveyton this Sunday.



The Minerva High School choir entertained during the workshop.



Some of the youth who attended the first Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshop in Alexandra at the weekend.



Oupa Thibile and Solomon Zikhayi concentrate during the Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshop in Alexandra.





# Parenting

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Sowetan  
11/6/92

**THE Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops could not have reached Alexandra at a better time.**

In the past few months the community has experienced the worst violence in addition to existing socio-economic problems such as overpopulation and unemployment.

The violence has left many families displaced and children separated from their parents.

In Alex, as in many other black townships, education has been disrupted because of violence.

But the youth of Alexandra did not wallow in self-pity at their situation. In an impressive show of concern they took action

By PEARL MAJOLA

and called on Sowetan's Nation Building for help.

This resulted in the first parenting workshop held there at the weekend. The workshop was sponsored by Pick 'n Pay.

The youth turned up in their hundreds but there was a noticeable absence of parents in the audience.

But that did not deter the youth and some concerned professionals and members of the community from coming up with concrete resolutions.

An interim committee was formed to investigate and present problems facing the youth to the Parent

Teacher Association and the DET's local education council

Some of the resolutions were:

- Parents should be required to sign their children's exercise book every evening to ensure that they have checked it.

This system should be used by teachers as well so that parents are able to check that the teacher is doing his or her work;

- Teachers should be given study leave so that they can give the children their undivided attention;

- The community, even those who are not parents, should take interest in the education of the children. Role models should visit schools and give talks about



# AWB fascism led to abuse of black tots

By MATHATHA TSEDU

IMAGINE a group of black people attacking white children aged between four and 15 years on a Sunday afternoon in the presence of police.

Hard as it may be, try again to imagine feeble attempts by the police, without summoning extra help, to halt the assaults and being told that the organisation to which the group belongs is in charge and that police have no business to be there.

Imagine in the end no one being arrested as wounded children are carted off to hospitals for treatment of wounds inflicted by dog bites, sjamboks and other weapons.

Except for the race of the children and that of the attackers, this was precisely what happened in Louis Trichardt on November 24 1990, when AWB members attacked black Sunday School children on a church outing.

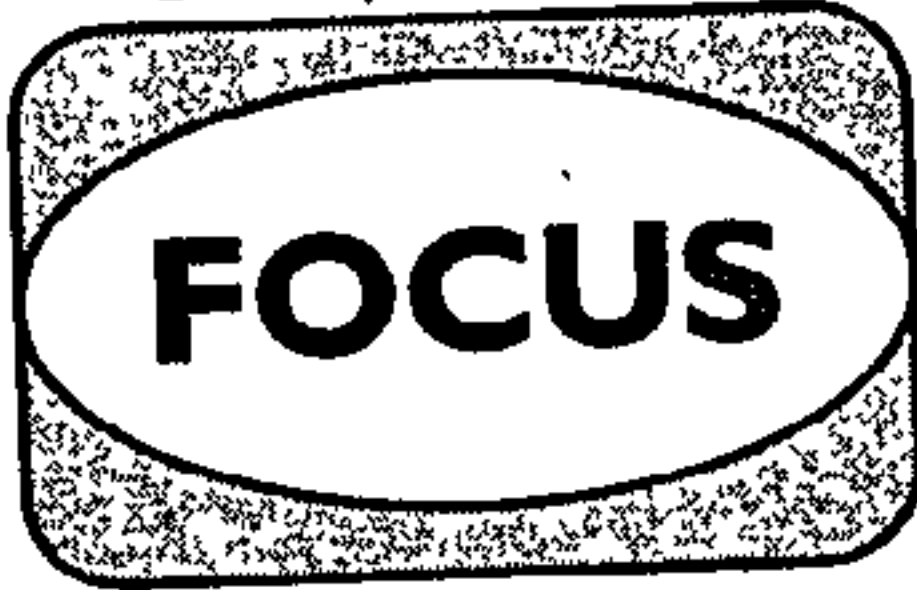
At the root of the attack was the fascist belief of the AWB that black people were lesser human beings who should not mingle with whites.

The ugly faces of fascism and racism had reared their heads again and many people later asked whether the police, who allowed the anarchy to take place in their presence, would have reacted the same way if the attackers had been black, and their victims white.

It is an assertion that is not to be dismissed lightly, for during the trial, the police's own ingrained racism came out loud and clear.

As in their testimonies about the events:

"Die mense het die swartes gejaag. Ek het een van die klein swartetjies opgetel en op my bors gesit maar die swartetjie was bang want ek was nie in my univorm nie en het blykbaar gedink ek was een van die mense".



(The people chased the blacks. I picked up one of the little blacks and held (him) to my chest but the little black was afraid because I was not in uniform and apparently thought I was one of the people).

This was a typical testimony of the police officers.

The trial itself was some kind of battlefield. The AWB trialists came in uniform, with enough supporters to almost fill the hall.

Their first appearance was attended by AWB leader Mr Eugene Terre'blanche. In later appearances one of their supporters came in dressed in the black uniform of the Ystergaarde, armed with a pistol.

He was allowed into the court room with the gun, having passed through the ultra-modern electronic monitoring devices.

The practice was only stopped after *Sowetan* reporters asked whether they too would be allowed to bring their own guns.

In one instance, a black spectator who was seated at the back was threatened with assault if he did not leave the "white bench".

Other black spectators joined in the argument, insisting that the man would not move.

The AWB members then left the bench. For the black people involved in that scuffle, it was a victory that brought grins and smiles.

But it was the testimony of the children and a crippled youth that almost brought tears to the eyes of many.

Almost invisible in the witness box designed for much older wit-

*"I saw whites with sjamboks and I could not understand why they were beating us. I was knocked down by a car and fell on a stone, injuring my head."*

nesses, a tiny and slender eight-year-old boy, Vuledzani Lukhwarani, recounted the horrors of the assault and said he had been scared.

"I saw whites with sjamboks and I could not understand why they were beating us. I was knocked down by a car and fell on a stone, injuring my head. My foot was also affected," he said.

A crippled youth, Thizwilondi Denga, hobbled into court and spoke of how two white men had cornered him near a fence and waded into him with sjamboks.

When he fell down he was kicked. He was saved by a church elder, Mr Dokotela Makhado, who risked his own life to save the invalid.

A black policeman, Constable Basani Mahlatji, was also assaulted at the taxi rank as he alighted from a taxi heading for work. He said when he told the whites he was a policeman, they replied "Polisieman se moer" and hit him three times before moving on. Taxis were also attacked.

And while the testimonies shocked people, it was the hissing of the accused as the toddlers passed near them to go and testify that shocked many black people.

For if any proof was needed at all that the hatred was more than just a passing fad, this was it. For these men, it was not enough that they had beaten children on a church outing who had done nothing wrong.

For them, the children remained black children who were not neces-

sarily people to be respected, loved and assisted.

Out of the crowd that beat up the children, only 15 were arrested after prolonged media pressure. Of the 15, only four were found guilty in the Pietersburg Regional Court on Tuesday and fined R3 000 each.

They were also given suspended jail terms of 18 months.

Attacks of blacks by whites have been occurring in the region and many believe that sentences such as these help keep the practice alive.

The incident itself dates to that day on November 24 two years ago when the Apostolic Faith Mission in Nzhelele, Venda, had planned a visit to their white counterpart church in the town, to, in the words of their priest, "show the children what to do for God".

This was supposed to mean the nicer church building, the better ornaments inside, the green grounds. But it was not to be, for soon after the children arrived in town later than anticipated and went to relax at the local park, trouble started brewing.

The white rightwingers, who had been expecting a march by a consumer boycott committee, gathered at the park with dogs, sjamboks, fan belts, sticks and other weapons, baying for the blood of the now scared and trembling children.

With AWB attacks on blacks in many areas, the question in many people's minds is why police allow this to happen in the first place.



## Daveyton talks about problems

(248) By PEARL MAJOLA

AFTER two successful *Sowetan*/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops (previously called seminars) held in Daveyton in the past two years, the township is to have another workshop this Saturday.

Scores of youths, parents and professionals are expected to attend the workshop at Isidingo Technical College.

Topics for discussion include the aims and objectives of the parenting workshops as the community sees them, ineffective parenting and teenage pregnancy.

"The Daveyton Parenting Committee has asked that the aims and objectives of the parenting workshops be discussed in order to explain to the community what they are involved in," said Mrs Anne-Gloria Masetle, workshop co-ordinator. *Sowetan 11/6/92.*

"The workshops provide the community with a forum for the views - of both adults and the youth on problems facing their community - to be heard."

"Professionals who supervise the proceedings are able to offer their advice and help the community to develop solutions," she said.

The workshop starts at 10am and entrance is free. For further details Mrs Pearl Peloeahae can be contacted at 424 1005.



# Cops will probe infant deaths - A-G

THE Attorney-General of the Transvaal, Dr Jan D'Oliveira, says the report into the 1990 strike at Garankuwa Hospital contains sufficient indicators to warrant police investigations.

The report found that at least 10 babies had died as a direct result of the strike at Garankuwa Hospital, near Pretoria, in April 1990.

The commission of inquiry could not reach a finding on deaths among adults during the strike.

The Attorney-General said he viewed the report in a serious light and it warranted police investigations into charges of homicide, public violence, intimidation, malicious damage to property and other offences.

D'Oliveira said he would ask the Commissioner of Police to investigate the matter as one of priority. Sapa.

# More kids need remedial school than estimated

DI CAELERS

Weekend Argus Reporter

(298) 13/6/92

THE number of South African children in need of remedial education has been grossly underestimated, according to the South African Association for Learning and Educational Difficulties (Saaled).

In the light of new figures to be released at the association's annual congress in September, Saaled has urged parents, teachers and professionals working with children with special needs to "acquaint themselves with the goals of school reform and restructuring".

Saaled media spokesman Dr Anita Worrall said the needs of children at risk of school failure, including those with learning disabilities, should be addressed when new goals and policies for education were set.

"To ignore the abilities and potential contributions of children with learning difficulties would impoverish the country as a whole."

Saaled's congress will centre on the issue of individualising classroom instruction and empowering teachers and parents to deal with the individual needs of each child.

The National Education Conference in Broederstroom in March noted that parents were "the most disempowered actors in the school situation".

"The parents' role is traditionally accepted as the nurturers or rearers. Their role as educators is not accepted, in spite of the fact that the parents are the most influential teachers of their young children in the first four years of life when so much learning takes place," she said.

The role of parents was vital in creating a climate for reading; supporting and guiding the child in the enjoyment of reading and literacy, and helping and supporting those children who, for various reasons, fell behind with literacy.



# 'To free the child, you must free the mother'

(298) ARG 13/6/92

■ As long as mothers are oppressed, exploited and subjected to violence, their children will suffer the same fate, prominent lawyer Mr Dullah Omar has warned the international conference on The Rights of the Child.

**LINDA GALLOWAY**

Weekend Argus Reporter

VIOLATIONS of human rights, including children's rights, are likely to continue in South Africa in the short term, the director of the Community Law Centre at the University of the Western Cape, Mr Dullah Omar, has predicted.

At the international conference on *The Rights of the Child* this week Mr Omar said a democratic future for South Africa was not assured because the government was not committed to democracy.

"Only the total removal of the apartheid government from the scene and the establishment of a truly nonracial, nonsexist democratic society will create the environment in which human rights, including children's rights, will flourish," he said.

The constitutional debate had major implications for the realisation of children's rights as set out in the Children's Charter adopted at the recent Children's Summit in Cape Town.

"These rights will only be realisable under a dispensation which makes provision not only for access to political power but for social and economic transformation.

"A power-sharing arrangement as proposed by the De Klerk regime ... will entrench the present social and economic inequalities."

Mr Omar said the first draft of a Bill of Rights published by the South African Law Commission made no provision for social or economic rights and did not refer to children.

The second report dealt with children but did not recommend that South Africa become a signatory to the United Nations International Convention of the Child, or its Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

"The Commission says because its proposed Bill of Rights protects all people it would be superfluous to lay down specific provisions for children."

Mr Omar said that as long as mothers were oppressed, exploited, abused and subjected to violence, "for so long will the children suffer the same fate.

"To free the children you must also free their mothers."

# 'Give the children rights, not charity'

South 13/6-17/6/92

**Thomas Hammarberg**, secretary general of the Save the Children Federation, Sweden, believes governments should take active steps to ensure children are not discriminated against

298



**C**HILDREN are victims of hypocrisy as politicians pay lip service to their needs without following through and improving their circumstances

Speaking this week at the University of the Western Cape's Community Law Centre conference, "Putting Children on the Agenda", Mr Thomas Hammarberg said during the eighties the outside world received alarming reports about the repression of children in South Africa, including arrests and severe ill-treatment in custody

This coincided with the drafting of the United Nations' Convention of the Rights of the Child and it highlighted the need for laws to protect children against violations and for international procedures to monitor the behaviour of governments towards younger citizens.

The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly and by May this year 117 countries — excluding

South Africa — had ratified it

"In real terms, when economic and partisan political interests come into the picture, children tend to be let down."

Hammarberg said hypocrisy developed in a climate of depoliticisation around children. It had been assumed problems related to children were not controversial

Issues concerning children were seen by politicians as being non-partisan and above politics.

"However, the truth is that the conditions for children in many countries have been put outside the political agenda

"This has been to the detriment of children. When it has come to the crunch other interests have been given priority at the cost of those related to the rights of the child"

Tracing the history of the fight for children's rights, Hammarberg said the idea took root after World War I when concrete progress was also made in the struggle for equality for women

## Banner

Typically, the women who had taken part in the fight for their equal status carried the banner of the rights of children.

They pointed out children were often victims of politics and needed rights for their protection which could only be established through political changes

Emerging from this emphasis — which differed from a charitable approach — was the idea that society had an obligation to satisfy the fundamental needs of children

"Charity is not as far-reaching. Though often based on a genuine compassion for the little ones, that approach tends to stop at kindness



Thomas Hammarberg

"It does not speak of rights and treats children as objects rather than allowing them to become subjects

"The philosophy behind the Convention is that children are equals. As human beings they have the same value as grown-ups

"This may sound like a truism but is, in fact, a radical thought — not at all respected today"

"The UN Convention forged a new attitude towards children," Hammarberg said. It encouraged governments to accept the best interests of children should be given primary consideration and that due weight should be given to children's opinion and that children had rights.

A fundamental principle of the Convention was that all children should enjoy their rights and that no child should suffer discrimination

"This article is, of course, particularly relevant in South Africa. It is

a message of equality of rights.

"It is not sufficient that the government makes a statement of principle that no child be discriminated against — it should take concrete measures to enforce such a policy.

"This goes for all children and all aspects of social life. Black children have the same rights as white children to receive, for instance, decent education and health care."

Hammarberg said reality would not change in one stroke. The problems facing children were enormous on a global scale

Ten million children died each year as a result of curable diseases and malnourishment. More than 100 million children are today deprived of primary education. Almost as many are exploited in harmful jobs

Hundreds of thousands of children are abused in prostitution. A growing number have been infected by HIV, not least in Africa

Many children are victimised by war — as soldiers or as part of a terrorised civilian population. Ten million children are refugees inside or outside their countries

## Violations

"There is no international court which can sanction these or other violations against the convention," Hammarberg said.

"But there exists, since February 1991, an elected expert committee to monitor the implementation in countries which have ratified the convention

"By September this year states which have ratified will have to report to the committee on its implementation.

"The procedures for monitoring the rights of the child by the com-

mittee will be different from the usual models in the field of human rights

"The thrust is not finger-pointing but rather constructive and aid-oriented

"The committee — together with the reporting government and any and agencies involved — should attempt to define problems and discuss what remedies are necessary

"No other international human rights instrument makes such a clear linkage between reports on violations and development aid."

## Social systems

Hammarberg said the Convention had given the world a definition of the concept of the rights of the child which cut through all social systems as well as religious views

It had also given children and teenagers the status of human beings with full rights

"It is hoped that this will make it easier to show how children are affected by the major crises of our day — the poverty gap, the wars and violent conflicts and the environmental pollution

"That will, hopefully, contribute to a political awakening that will be absolutely necessary if we are to solve these critical matters of survival

"The convention will in all probability result in increased political attention being given to children and young people

"It can from now on serve as an agenda for the discussion of the actual circumstances of children.

"The Convention could also serve as a starting point for further standard setting within the field of children's and young people's rights," Hammarberg concluded.



# Cop gets street-kids into shape

By ELIAS MALULEKE

A MAMELODI policeman is leading the way in combating crime in the township and setting a fine example to his fellow policemen. (298)

Det-Capt Andries "BL" Malebane, the second in command at the Mamelodi police station, has used his own money to buy training equipment and renovated dilapidated buildings to house children and offer them training.

## Flourishing

He started by picking kids off the street in the township, but realizing that feeding and giving them shelter alone was not enough to equip them with the skills to be the leaders of tomorrow and good citizens, he opened a gym to keep them busy and recruited a former teacher to give the children lessons.

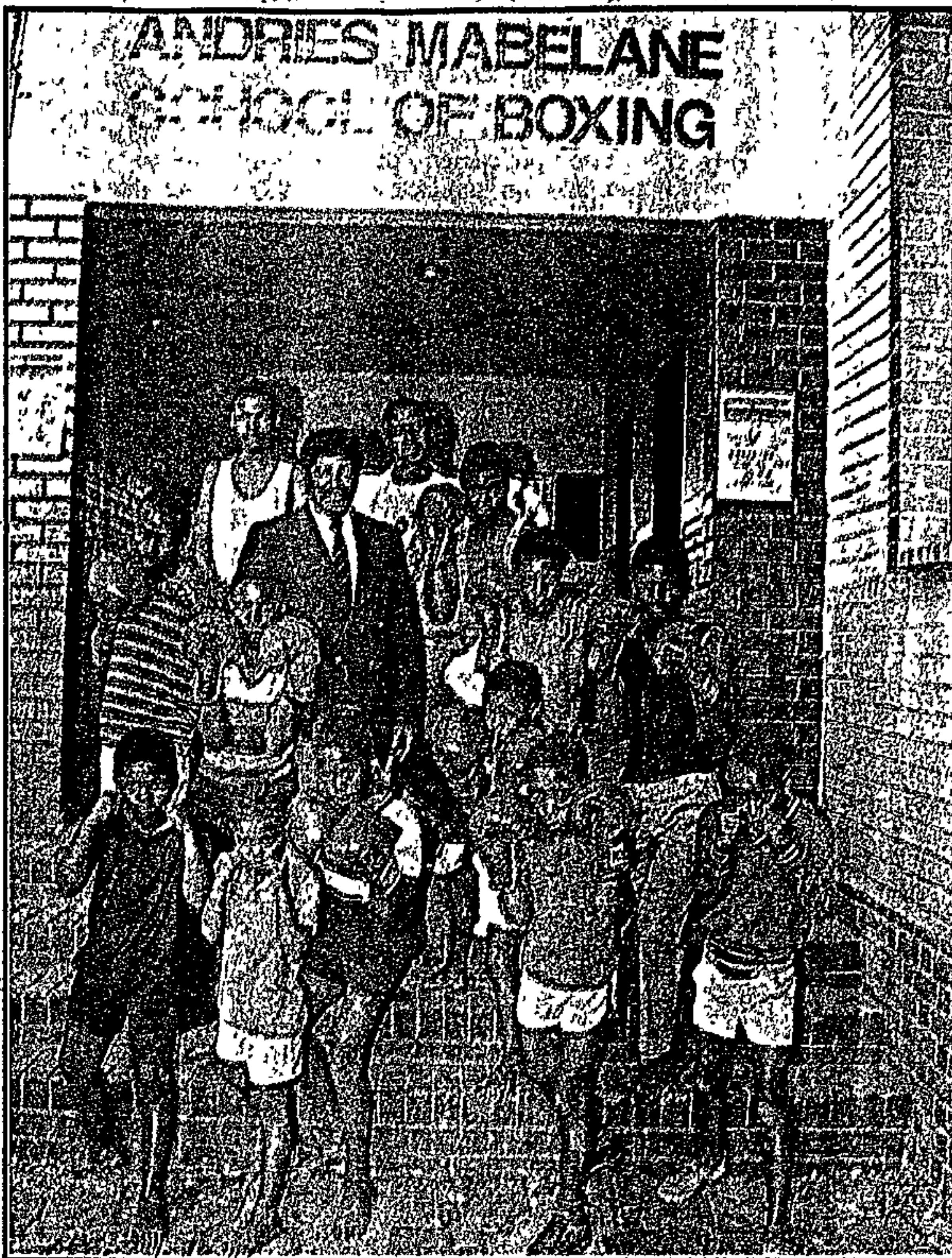
From his humble efforts, the township is now flourishing with regular boxing tournaments, body-building contests and there is an interest in games which have been lacking for more than 10 years.

Malebane, who has remained undaunted by critics who have tried to block his project and alleged it has been State-sponsored, asked: "If I stop, what will you do for the hapless kids?"

In spite of denials of State influence, radicals still urged people to boycott his projects.

But determination paid dividends for Malebane. Today the Mamelodi Mighty Man Sport Organisation and Promotion has the biggest and best equipped training centre in the northern Transvaal or any township, and a membership of more than 1 000 people of all ages who take part in athletics, bodybuilding and boxing.

Malebane is planning to add other sports facilities such as tennis, netball, squash and bowling.



**FIGHTING FIT ... Det Capt Andries "BL" Malebane with residents who have benefited from his community project.** By Pici JONAS MANGKA

Malebane was a sports fanatic as a schoolboy. He started with athletics in 1954 when he was 14 years old and in 1966 he ran in the SA Championships at the Mamelodi Stadium.

## Greats

Humphrey Kgosi, Benoni Malaka, Daniel Mqibisa, James Mokoka, Daniel Metsing were among the greats he competed against.

The 52-year-old father of four stopped running in competitions and took up boxing in 1967, a sport he took seriously until 1975 when he was transferred to Windhoek. He started to organise sport activities

there and trained people in boxing, athletics and football.

"I took the team I had trained to Cape Town for the 1979 national championships and collected more than six gold medals and other trophies," he said.

Malebane returned to Pretoria in 1982 and joined the Kevin McNamara Bodybuilding Studio. He said: "Kevin guided and inspired me in the finer art of bodybuilding and said I was champion material. I was unsuccessful at winning a major trophy until the big break in 1986 when I took the heavyweight title at the northern Transvaal championships, beating talent-

ed stars like Brazil Breytenbach.

"I decided that it was time I shared my experience with my community and started with children. But first I identified dilapidated buildings and approached the council for permission to use them."

## Goal

He said his goal now was to launch school championship at least four times a year to keep the children off the streets. "I want to bring Mamelodi back to where it was in the golden days and if God is for us, there is no way we can fail," Malebane said.



# New SA 'only if all children are cherished'

By KURT SWART

CHILDREN had been degraded, humiliated and marginalised by apartheid and a new South Africa could only be built if all the nation's children were cherished equally. (298)

This was the message of the International Conference on the Rights of the Child this week, the first of its kind held in this country.

The three-day conference at the Arthurs Seat Hotel in Cape Town was attended by more than 300 delegates, including representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

Organised by the University of the Western Cape's Community Law Centre (CLC) and funded by the Swedish Save the Children Fund, the conference followed the recent Children's Summit at which a Charter of Children's Rights was adopted. 14/6/92

CLC director advocate Dullah Omar said: "Only the removal of the apartheid government and the establishment of a truly non-racial, non-sexist democracy will create the environment in which human rights, including children's rights, will flourish."

Added CLC project director Ms Brigitte Mabandla: "Hopefully the conference will provide guidelines towards including children's rights in a constitution."



# Cop gets street-kids into shape

By ELIAS MALULEKE

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■ Pic: JONAS MANGKA

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STAR 17/6/92

## Children in jail with mothers

A total of 235 children were housed with their mothers in SA prisons, Correctional Services Minister Adriaan Vlok said in Parliament yesterday. He said the children were being accommodated in the interests of the children and their parents.

298



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply:

Own Affairs:

## Loans to certain person for farming purposes

8. Rev A D GOOSEN asked the Minister of Local Government, Housing and Agriculture:†

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, obtained loans from his Department in order to buy a farm and start a farming operation; if not, what are the relevant details, if so, (a) what amounts were lent to this person, (b) (i) at what rate of interest and (ii) on what dates were the loans granted, (c) what is the current market value of the farm concerned and

(d) what is the expected annual turnover of this person's farming operation;

- (2) whether his Department has taken any steps to establish whether (a) this person is a *bona fide* farmer and (b) the loans granted were used entirely for farming activities; if not, why not; if so, what are the details in this regard;

- (3) whether the loans were paid to the person concerned by cheque; if not, in what manner was payment made;

- (4) whether this person has to date repaid any instalments on the loans to his Department; if not, why not; if so, (a) what amounts and (b) when;

- (5) whether he will disclose the identity of the person concerned to the House; if not, why not; if so, who is this person?

C22E

## THE MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AND AGRICULTURE:

It is not policy of the Administration: House of Representatives to disclose the private financial affairs of individuals. The rest falls away.

## HOUSE OF DELEGATES

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version

For written reply:

General Affairs.

## Children of prison inmates in prisons

36. 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?

D191E

## THE MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (1) (a) In the interest of the children and parents concerned and in the absence of suitable alternatives, 235 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 30 April 1992 may, however, be of value to the hon member:

0—1 years old	=	143
1—2 years old	=	75
2—3 years old	=	10
3—4 years old	=	7

- (c) 30 April 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 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.

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.

# INTERPELLATIONS UNDER NAME OF MEMBER

Botha, Dr W J—

*General Affairs:*

Finance, 841, 1053

Gerber, Mr A—

*Own Affairs:*

Education and Culture, 291, 537, 1081,

Bruwer, Mr A A B—

*Own Affairs:*

Agricultural Development, 1244

Gibson, Mr D H M—

*Own Affairs*

Education and Culture, 864

Burrows, Mr R M—

*Own Affairs:*

Education and Culture, 185, 436, 1004

Haswell, Mr R F—

*General Affairs:*

Law and Order, 272

Carlisle, Mr R V—

*General Affairs:*

Public Enterprises, 917

Transport, 848

*Own Affairs*

Housing and Works, 619

Local Government, 1310

Local Government and National Housing, 527

Hoon, Mr J H—

*General Affairs.*

National Education, 911

Jacobs, Adv S C—

*General Affairs:*

Home Affairs, 725

Charlewood, Mrs C H—

*General Affairs:*

Local Government and National Housing,  
1059

Langley, Mr T—

*General Affairs:*

Foreign Affairs, 1219

National Intelligence Service, 1

Chiolé, Mr J—

*General Affairs:*

Environment Affairs, 1281

Leon, Mr A J—

*General Affairs:*

Law and Order, 129

Transport, 732

De Beer, Dr Z J—

*General Affairs:*

State President, 981

Ebrahim, Mrs R—

*Own Affairs:*

Housing and Agriculture, 1021

Le Roux, Mr F J—

*General Affairs:*

Foreign Affairs, 123



# Zealous Mamma gives toddlers hope

Star 17/6/92

By Shirley Woodgate

There is a limit to the amount of praying and providing that Mama Sigasa can do at Orange Farm, where she launched the Ekutheleni Khotso creche three years ago in the heart of the dusty squatter camp.

It is in an area which some bureaucrat ironically named Sweetwater Extension 1 — where the only water supply for the matchbox houses and corrugated-iron shacks is provided by a leaking communal tap next to the road.

## Tackles

But Muriel Sigasa, with the kind of zeal displayed only by the truly religious, sees a positive future and tackles the existing problems head-on.

When Orange Farm sprouted 50 km south of Johannesburg, she daily parked her ancient Chev where children were bunking school. She lured the teenagers with food handouts, then launched into impromptu prayer meetings and hymn-singing right at the roadside.

Then, when her husband David, the pastor of the Christ Evangelical Church in Soweto, acquired a piece of barren land for a church at Orange Farm, he built a tin shed for



Big-hearted . . . Mama Sigasa helps the poor and needy at Orange Farm. When she has food, she fills the outstretched hands, but when the supply runs out, they go home hungry.

Mama Sigasa to care for her extended family.

The humble cross which he fashioned from two wooden planks is the tallest structure in the area.

"We evangelised the children, taught them that pre-

marital sex is bad, then started taking in infants for R30 a month from parents who worked away from home for 12 hours a day in far-off Johannesburg," Mrs Sigasa said. Old car tyres, which have a more sinister meaning to their

elders, are the youngsters' only playthings. In their innocence they pray in the dust: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

Mrs Sigasa needs help to fulfil the promises in Psalm 23. "I haven't got a heart big



enough to meet all their needs," she said.

Phone her at 984-2508 if you can assist with books, a heater, chairs, desks, clothes, playground equipment or anything that will make Ekutheleni match Mama Sigasa's dreams.



# Unicef set to open SA office

By Mike Littlejohn

NEW YORK — The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) will open an office in South Africa if a recommendation to its executive board, now in session, is approved.

In a report to the 41-nation panel, Unicef executive director James Grant referred to a dramatic acceleration of the process to end apartheid and establish a nonracial democracy.

This undertaking, while offering an historic opportunity, was likely to bring further social upheavals and trauma during the transition, he said.

Mr. Grant estimated that more than half of the South African population, mainly those living in homelands, were in "absolute poverty."

Basic services and administrative, human and economic resources in the country were "separate and unequal."

In his report, Mr. Grant said co-operation with the National Children's Rights Committee in South Africa should continue. But he declined to give any proposed date for the opening of a Unicef office in South Africa.



# Soweto youth indaba

Soweto 19/6/92  
BY PEARL MAJOLA

**PROBLEMS** facing the youth in Soweto are to be addressed at a conference at Vista University, Soweto campus, tomorrow at 8am.

The conference is organised by the Soweto Youth Club as part of Nation Building and is sponsored by Pick 'n Pay.

Topics to be discussed are peace and security, education, job creation, social services and culture and recreation.

Among all the young speakers will be Mrs Anne Gloria Masetle, a clinical psychologist and head of the Nation Building Parenting Workshops Committee.

## Behaviour

Masetle said the psychological development of a child can be seen through the child's behaviour.

"The behaviour I have come in contact with from the township youths is negative - a lack of discipline, teenage pregnancy and drug and alcohol abuse," said Masetle.

"Parents need to understand them (the youth) so that they are able to help and support their children in problematic situations.

"In everyday life young people are confronted with certain situations that are new to them. These, combined with a lack of parental support, make them feel frustrated."

# Torture of the innocents

Star 20/6/92

and a  
used a  
Klein

WAS lucky for

David, a physically and mentally retarded 11-year-old, that a kindly neighbour cared. His callous parents had gone away for the weekend... leaving him shackled to his bed without food or water.

The neighbour phoned the "cry-for-help" Childline... and young David was rescued. He is just one of millions of South African children subjected every day to the most appalling abuses.

Torture, sexual and emotional abuse, and neglect are terrifying facts of our society that until now have largely remained hidden. Now, it is known that one in three girls and one in six boys across the racial spectrum are subjected to abuse at some time.

Childline is a toll-free counselling service or, in serious cases, a referral service with Government-paid social workers or 24-hour standby. Child Help Line is the body which helps to publicise the service, aids 40 different welfare organisations and runs safe-houses for children in need.

**TORTURE, sexual and emotional abuse, and the neglect of children are terrifying facts of our society that until now have remained largely hidden. But you can help these unfortunate victims. Marketing Editor GRAHAM REES reports.**

**Toll-free 0800-123-321... waiting to answer a child's cry for help**



**BACKING CHILD HELP LINE:** Boxing champion Brian Mitchell with children from the Bellpark Primary School.

Jon Diboli, national executive chairman of Child Help Line, said yesterday: "Child abuse and neglect is no longer merely a national emergency. It is an international crisis."

"Child abuse is the world's greatest leveller. It cuts across race and

dren, but that is because they have easy access to telephones. Cases of cruelty defy belief. The full extent of physical cruelty cannot be gauged, for only the most severe cases come to light when children themselves or concerned relatives or neighbours call Childline or the police.

Among the most common forms of physical abuse is bruising caused either by fists or a variety of "weapons": choke marks; bite marks; burning from hot-plates, cigarettes and various electrical appliances; and scalding. Among the more bizarre injuries are tattoos and fork punctures, gag marks, and rope burns around wrists and ankles.

It is estimated that in the past year approximately 12 000 children in South Africa were murdered, raped, assaulted or sodomised. Countless numbers were abused in other ways. Accurate statistics on sexual molestation are unavailable, but it is considered certain that a third of the girls under 16 and a sixth of



**BEAUTY AGAINST CRUELTY:** Current Miss World Ninbeth Leal Jimenez holds the Child Help Line "Win a Million" logo.

the boys in the same age category will suffer some sort of sexual abuse.

The Child Emergency

Service, better known as Childline, is the most accurate monitor of child abuse and neglect in

South Africa. The service received three times as many calls — 347 495 — in the 12 months up to the end of March as it did in the previous year. And that it probably just the tip of the iceberg.

The current Miss World, Ninbeth Leal Jimenez, and many top South African personalities are now backing a major fund-raising campaign by Child Help Line. Among the stars are cricket star Kepler Wessels, boxer Brian Mitchell, athlete Elana Meyer, broadcasters Adrian Steed and John Robbie, and Miss SA princess Sasha-Lee Walton.

The public, too, can help — and give themselves a chance of winning R1 million Competition tickets at R5 are on sale at major shopping centres in and around Johannesburg, and competition details are being widely advertised in Saturday Star, Sunday Star and the daily Star.

Anyone wishing to make donations can call Child Help Line at (021) 689-5727.



## Group quizzes companies about childcare facilities

A RESOURCE directory of childcare facilities available to working women is being compiled by the Cape Town Business and Professional Women's Club, an international federation aimed at improving the status of women in business.

"A need exists to create awareness of existing childcare facilities and also to discover where additional or divergent facilities may be required by the various communities in Cape Town," says Christine van Niekerk, club president.

"The working woman relies on someone to care for the children in her absence. The confidence which she has in the childminder will affect her attendance, concentration and productivity in the workplace."

Cape Town companies are being asked by the club to complete a questionnaire on childcare facilities available, number of children catered for, number of staff employed at the facility, and the hours of operation.

Companies are also asked if the facility assists with transport, and if they include childcare expenses as an employment benefit.

# Plan to teach job skills to street children

SITimes 21/6/92

By DIANA STREAK

298

THE Child Welfare Society is to teach street children employment skills to make them "marketable" in the informal sector.

Director Alan Jackson said the society had seen a need several years ago to extend their services to the street children beyond simple residential care.

"An alternative school was set up by the Salesian Order of the Catholic Church to educate street children.

"But we also recognise," said Mr Jackson, "that many children we are accommodating and caring for will never be able to obtain a job in the formal sector. So what we are launching is a training programme to teach street children skills which they would be able to market in the informal sector."

He said these would be largely skills requiring the children to use their hands in fields such as building, making wooden toys, and washing cars.

He said the training would depend on the individual child's capabilities and the society would have to check in the open market what skills people were looking for, particularly in self-run businesses.

In terms of the Child Care Act any child under 15 may not be employed or provide work and Mr Jackson said his organisation would be very careful not to employ children under age.

"We are not in the business of child labour," he said. To be able to train younger children they would need more flexibility of the law. He said the minister may, under certain conditions, give permission.

He said the street children were very keen to learn practical skills which would gear them for employment. Although formal education was available at shelters not all children were capable or interested in learning.

"We will move as many as we can through normal schooling but many won't be, so we need the Job Creation Skills Programme."



## Socialites

YOU'LL probably catch the sophisticated, outgoing, modern, mature and creative Socialites shopping with store credit cards because they love to look good for the disco or shebeen.

Two-thirds of Socialites are white (more likely Afrikaans), the rest are black. Most have friends of all races. They know what's going on politically and both De Klerk and Mandela are popular with them. They get their news background from the Sunday Times, TV (six hours a day) and radio (five hours). They read Huisgenoot, You and Fair Lady.

They enjoy playing cards and chess and cooking. They listen to disco, pop, rap, gospel and reggae, and TV1 and Radio 5 are their favourite stations.

Socialites are the biggest smokers, with 27 percent puffing away.

Post-matric qualifications are held by 22 percent, and a fifth hope for professional jobs.



## Strivers



STATUS, winning and innovation — that's what Strivers are after.

They buy new fashions, try out new ideas, set goals and work to them and see themselves as leaders.

Nearly all are blacks who believe South Africans must get along.

They enjoy politics and consider the pace of reform too slow. They are Nelson Mandela fans.

Strivers' favourite spectator sports are soccer and boxing. They also read and cook. They're into gospel choirs and fusion jazz.

The R890 they earn goes on clothes. Pocket money averages R105.

## Traditionalists



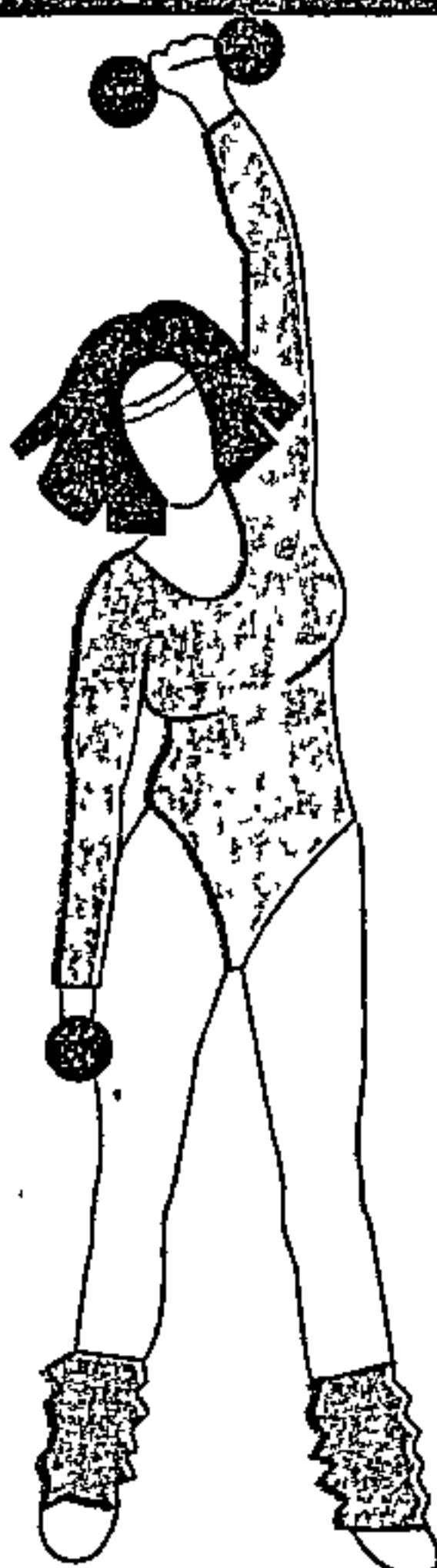
AT home is where you'll find this group, which is mostly black (75 percent) and Afrikaans.

A quarter are still in primary school and only four percent have post-matric education. Workers get an average wage of R708. Pocket money averages R76.

They aspire to the professions — especially teaching — or to becoming artisans. Gospel is their favourite music.

Young Traditionalists are happy folk, fairly unaware of political developments, though the big hero of 40 percent of them is Nelson Mandela.

## Independents



LOOK for Independents in the gym, on the squash, volleyball or tennis court, or on a disco or dance floor. At less energetic times they'll be at a restaurant listening to rock 'n' roll, golden oldies or classical music.

They're self-confident and enjoy new experiences such as overseas travel. But they're not politically aware.

A third of them drink — beer and wine — and the 18 percent who smoke are into mild cigarettes.

Workers get R988. Pocket money is R175.

Most (82 percent) are white and English-speaking.

# THE YOUNG ONE

## Law-abiding, ambitious and materialistic SA's youth, says S

By GWEN GILL

298

S/Times 21/6

YOUNG South Africans are status-seekers not socialists, materialists not marxists.

They are also ambitious, have an average income of R375 a month, take pride in being South African and believe blacks and whites must get on together.

They are not particularly worried about the environment but care deeply about AIDS prevention.

These are the findings of a survey conducted by Markinor among 860 young black and white people living in formal housing around the country. It pinpoints the hopes and habits of 2-million South Africans aged between 13 and 24 years. This group has R9-billion to spend a year.

Two-thirds of them are still being educated, 17 percent work full-time and 18 percent are neither working nor at school.

### Important

The majority of young South Africans aren't very interested in politics. Only just over a third enjoy talking politics. But 83 percent say it's important that blacks and whites try to get on together and 41 percent believe the pace of reform is too slow.

Thirty-eight percent consider reform is at the right speed and only 18 percent would like to slow it down. Three-quarters say mixed schools are essential in the new South Africa.

Parents may be surprised to hear that 89 percent of their offspring believe they get on well with their folks, and three-fifths say if they have a happy home life they need nothing more.

Today's young people believe strongly that they should get involved in community and welfare activities, but for half of them their concern doesn't extend to the environment.

The young people are extremely serious — believing preachers against the disease.

They are also a bit percent believe always be obeyed, cent would steal money to pay for cent would like legalised.

Attitudes toward modern. Only a place is in the responsible for.

Gr

One of the sad survey is the and realised. Most young coming professional accountants and traditional standards make this impossible.

From its findings the young people's names tell.

● Acceptors: the cent) — 92 percent cent male,

● Carefuls (16 are white and F-

● Socialites (14 are white and most

● Strivers (14 are black,

● Young Union half are black, half

● Young Traditional 75 percent are Afrikaans;

● Independents: cent are white



# ENG

# ES

## ambitious c — that's is survey

young people take the AIDS threat  
very seriously, with 93 percent  
saying precautions should be taken  
to prevent the disease.

They are also a law-abiding lot. Eighty  
percent believe rules and laws should  
be obeyed, and a mere eight per-  
cent would steal if they didn't have the  
money to pay for things. Only 12 per-  
cent would like to see dagga-smoking  
legalised.

Attitudes towards women are mostly  
positive. Only a quarter think a woman's  
place is in the home and men should be  
responsible for bringing home the cash.

### Groups

One of the sad notes sounded by the  
survey is the ambitions not likely to be  
achieved. Most youngsters aspire to be-  
come professionals such as doctors, ac-  
countants and teachers, but their educa-  
tional standards and family income may  
make this impossible.

In its findings, the survey divides  
young people into seven groups — and  
the names tell much of the story:

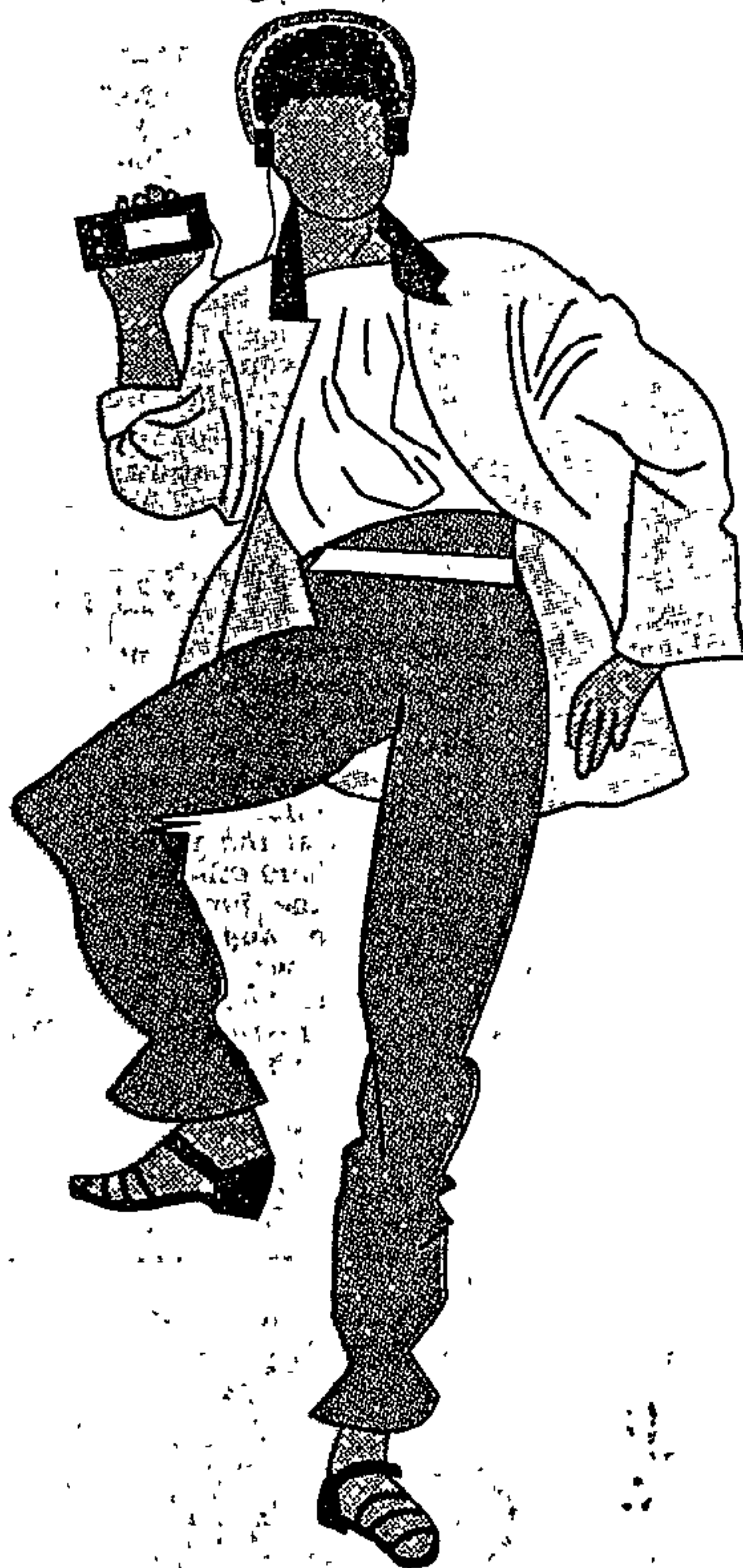
**Acceptors:** the biggest group (22 per-  
cent) — 92 percent are black and 55 per-  
cent are female;

**Carefuls** (16 percent) — 77 percent  
white and English-speaking;  
**Socialites** (14 percent) — two-thirds  
white and most are English-speaking;  
**Workers** (14 percent) — 96 percent  
black;

**Young Uninvolveds** (13 percent) —  
half black, half white;

**Young Traditionalists** (11 percent) —  
96 percent are black, the rest mainly  
white;

**Independents** (10 percent) — 82 per-  
cent white, mainly English-speaking.



### Uninvolveds

THEIR name describes them well. Young Uninvolveds  
have few opinions, 40 percent admire no particular  
leader, and their taste in music is unexciting.

But they are fairly hardworking and happy, self-confi-  
dent, sensible, ambitious and energetic.

Workers earn R754 a month, while those at school get  
R62 a month pocket money.

Nearly a fifth have only a primary school education,  
and only four percent have post-matric qualifications.

They watch TV for six hours a day.

### Carefuls

SCRATCH a Careful, and you'll find a proud  
South African who clings to fairly traditional  
family values.

He or she, who earns R1 294 if working,  
and gets R97 pocket money if not, spends it  
on entertainment, transport, food and  
sweets. Many own guns, decoders, CDs and  
computers.

Just over three-quarters of them are white  
and English-speaking. They enjoy playing  
sport, especially rugby, athletics, basketball,  
cricket or tennis.

Pop, reggae and rap are the music choices  
of these sensible, hard-working and ambi-  
tious youngsters, who are slightly conserva-  
tive and not very politically aware. Presi-  
dent de Klerk and Nelson Mandela are both  
popular, but some feel reform is going too  
fast.



### Acceptors

IF you want to meet an Acceptor, start looking on a  
soccer field, in the boxing ring or at a karate class.

But to find their womenfolk, go to the kitchen. Accep-  
tors firmly believe a woman's place is in the home.

If they're working, they earn R1 042. Schoolgoers get an  
average of R79 pocket money.

Acceptors read one newspaper a day, probably the  
Sowetan. The TV accounts for over five hours of their day.

Musical tastes run to disco, reggae, rap and gospel.  
Nearly 80 percent hope to enter the professions.





The Thabethe children all but orphaned in one appalling night of violence. From left: XOLISILE (8), NSIZWAZONKE (5), JEFFREY (10) and MAVIS (11).

# Their faces tell a horror story

Sowetan 22/6/92

THEIR faces, withdrawn, stopping just short of being bitter, told a story. Above all it was a look of overwhelming sadness and loneliness.

The Thabethe children, neatly dressed by various relatives now attend the Asiqhubeka Lower Primary School, which is linked to Africa Enterprise's Bonginkosi child enrichment programme.

Raph Jarvis is the communications director for Africa Enterprise which runs Bonginkosi child enrichment programme which feeds 16 000 children in 66 schools, including victims of violence. Today he tells the plight of a rural school and its pupils in the violence-torn remote areas of Natal midlands.

They are survivors of one appalling night of violence in which they were all

but orphaned, when several members of their family died in a hail of bullets on August 29 1991. Their mother and grandmother

were among them

Their father survived after jumping through jagged remains of a broken window. His arm was shattered by a bullet and this kept him in hospital for more than seven months.

Their home was in Polcra district, about 120km from Mantzburg. It was one of the rudimentary houses built on the red-mud slopes. It was burnt and the family lost everything.

The children were unharmed.

Xolisile (8) is small, skinny and softly spoken acted as the spokesman for the siblings. She told their story to Asiqhubeka headmistress Mrs Cornelia Madlala.

"They first burnt the house, broke windows and then came in and started shooting ..." the words trailed off while Xolisile's expression remained unchanged.

"My father escaped through the window and went to a nearby house where they wrapped his arm in a towel. We did not run away. We just stayed in the house and tried to hide. Then they left."

## Bodies

The full horror only exploded on the neighbours the next morning when, with the protection of daylight, crept up to the Thabethe home.

There they found the children lying next to the dead bodies of their relatives.

"They had slept with them," Madlala said. "The children did not know they were dead and they got under their blankets. When the neighbours arrived and asked for the elders the children simply replied that they were sleeping."

The four children were split up to live with relatives and the lack of motherly love is affecting their school life.

"We are having some difficulties," Madlala said.

"They have no motherly love and it is affecting their school work. But these difficulties are a common occurrence in this area. Families have left Polcra, leaving their homes in ruins."

"Some of my pupils did not come back but I hope that when things return to normal they will come back to their homes and to our school. Several families did not have their homes burnt down but they are scared to come back."

At one stage, when the violence was at its worst, many children were whisked to safety by their parents. The school stood empty.

But daily, come rain or sun, Madlala went down the muddy path and opened the school - just in case there were children to teach.

Today there are 54 young children at the school. Before violence struck, there were 104.

## OPEN LETTER

### TO ALL STRIKING EMPLOYEES AT TPA HOSPITALS/INSTITUTIONS

#### CONSIDERATION: TERMINATION OF SERVICES

- ☐ You are at present participating in an unlawful strike. Your actions and conduct are unlawful and contrary to your conditions of service.
- ☐ You are also absent from your place of work without the necessary permission.
- ☐ Your actions have a serious detrimental effect on the rendering of essential health services and patients care. In addition your actions carry the risk of potential loss of life or other harmful effects to patients.
- ☐ Your actions are considered to be serious misconduct.
- ☐ You are hereby instructed to resume your duties before 25 June 1992. Please note that even in the event of you resuming your duties as instructed, this Administration reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary action against you.
- ☐ If you do not resume your duties as instructed in the above paragraph or advance acceptable reasons why your services should not be terminated for failing to resume your duties and/or participation in the strike, your services may be terminated. In this regard, you or your representative may submit written representations during official office hours (Monday to Friday: 08 00 - 16 00) pertaining to your individual circumstances, which must reach the office of the Head of your Institution before 26 June 1992.
- ☐ If you do not avail yourself of the opportunity stated above, it will be accepted that you have no reasons which you would like to advance why your services should not be terminated. A decision will then be taken in this regard, whereafter you will be informed of the outcome.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: HEALTH SERVICES  
Dr H van Wyk

Transvaal  
Provincial  
Administration



# Rumpus over housing of destitute children in Dube

By Stan Hlophe

(298)

STAN 22/6/92

The Dube Civic Association (DCA) and Streetwise — an organisation for destitute children — are at odds over housing the children in Dube.

The civic association says about 20 boys aged between five and 18, recently placed in a house in Dube, are not adequately housed and do not get proper care and professional counselling.

DCA spokesman Angie Phaliso said the association was not consulted about the purchase of the house by Streetwise and alleges the boys have become a menace in the community.

She said. "We appreciate what Streetwise is doing. But those children need to be given better treatment than shelter only.

"The boys have only one male volunteer worker to help them. There are no recreational facilities. Only one toilet and a bath is provided for the children, and there is no fulltime counselling.

"We would like to stress that we love these children and would not like to be misconstrued as rejecting our own kind. Our concern is that they

should be housed in proper facilities where they will receive professional counselling," Mrs Phaliso said.

Streetwise founder and honorary president Jill Swart-Kruger said. "Some members of the Dube community have expressed objections to the presence of children urgently in need, whom we have taken in our care.

"It is true that facilities which are being extended to cater for their needs are not yet complete, but there are many wonderful and concerned people in the community who are helping us

"The Dube house is an extension of our programmes in Soweto, where we already run an outreach programme and the Botshabelo shelter. We have had wonderful help from various organisations such as the Housewives' League, Alex Hair, the Ipelegeng Community Centre, the Round Table organisation, members of taxi associations and the National Children's Rights Committee," she said.

"It is important for the community to play an active part in helping us to help the children, otherwise the problem of throwaway children will not lessen."



# Youths turn out for Nation Building

Sowetan 22/6/92

298

THE first Sowetan Nation Building Youth Conference was a success as Soweto youths turned out in huge numbers at the weekend.

The conference, which was held at Vista University, was to find solutions to problems faced by the youths, especially job creation.

Speakers, who were mainly youths, addressed issues like education, peace and security, social services and culture and recreation.

A welcome guest in the audience was Soweto police spokesman, Captain Joseph Ngobeni, who answered questions on police being providers of peace and security.

"This is possibly the first time that youths from 20 different clubs (out of 30 clubs which exist in Soweto) have come to-

gether like this," vice-chairman of the youth committee, Mr Allen Kunene, said.

"The ultimate goal is to empower the youths with necessary skills, hence the topic on job creation.

"This will help them to always be independent of their parents.

"This kind of forum will

also equip the youth with skills to solve their own problems and, with the kind of interest displayed here, I am sure we will succeed," Kunene said.

Some of the people disagreed whether or not the conference was the correct forum to ask Ngobeni about police involvement in township violence.

But Kunene said this was an important part of the conference.

"It is only when we can disagree and finally reach consensus that we can measure our maturity, then we can go home satisfied why we were here in the first place," Kunene added.

"This is a forum through which we can teach ourselves discipline and all the necessary skills to equip ourselves to succeed in life," he said.

**NATION BUILDING**



**The power is in your hands**

## Hostel master acquitted (298)

ARG 23/6/92  
Staff Reporter

A HOSTEL master at a school for autistic children has been acquitted in the Cape Town Regional Court of indecently assaulting two 12-year-old boys.

Mr Cornelius "Niels" Petrus Brand, 26, of Saffraan Street, Loevenstein, pleaded not guilty to interfering with the boys at a holiday camp in the Cedarberg in 1990 and his parents' cottage in Gansbaai last year.

Mr Brand admitted sleeping in the same bed as the boys and romping and wrestling with them, but denied the encounters went beyond play.

Asked by the court why the boys should make such allegations against him, he said that as a "strict disciplinarian" who had punished the boys several times, he was resented by many pupils and.



# Hostel master acquitted

Staff Reporter

A HOSTEL master at the Vera School for Autistic Children in Rondebosch was yesterday acquitted in the Cape Town Regional Court of indecently assaulting two 12-year-old pupils.

Mr Cornelius "Niels" Petrus Brand, 26, of Loevenstein, had pleaded not guilty to charges of indecently assaulting one of the pupils in the Cedarberg and the other at a holiday cottage in

Gansbaai last year.

In a previous hearing he said the boys had "concocted" the charges against him because he was a strict disciplinarian.

Mr Brand admitted sleeping in a double bed with the boys but denied sexually assaulting them.

The magistrate, Mrs E Van Zyl, said both boys had been single witnesses and the cautionary rule had to be applied.

(298) CT 23/6/92

# Tobacco Smoke a blow to kids

Source 23/6/92

298

**AN Environmental Protection Agency report concludes that secondhand tobacco smoke poses severe health risks to children, causing thousands of respiratory illnesses annually, sources familiar with the study say.**

It offered no conclusive proof.

The report, which is based on an examination of dozens of scientific studies and aims to assess the health risks from tobacco smoke to non-smokers, has been under review at the EPA for more than a year.

Agency spokesmen said they could provide no details about the draft study until it was presented to the advisory board, which reviewed a preliminary draft previously and asked that the section on impact to children be expanded.

More than a year ago, the advisory panel generally endorsed the study's findings that secondhand tobacco smoke should be classified as a carcinogen and a known cause of lung cancer.

The preliminary study estimated that tobacco smoke in the air may account for as many as 3 800 cancer deaths, but sources said that figure was being revised in the latest draft.

They said the new study concludes that secondhand tobacco smoke is believed to account for more than 200 000 serious respiratory ailments in children annually, including bronchitis and pneumonia.

The report also suggests a direct link between secondhand tobacco smoke and asthma, an affliction that affects tens of thousands of children.

It says children are twice as likely to develop asthma if they live in homes where at least 10 cigarettes are smoked daily.

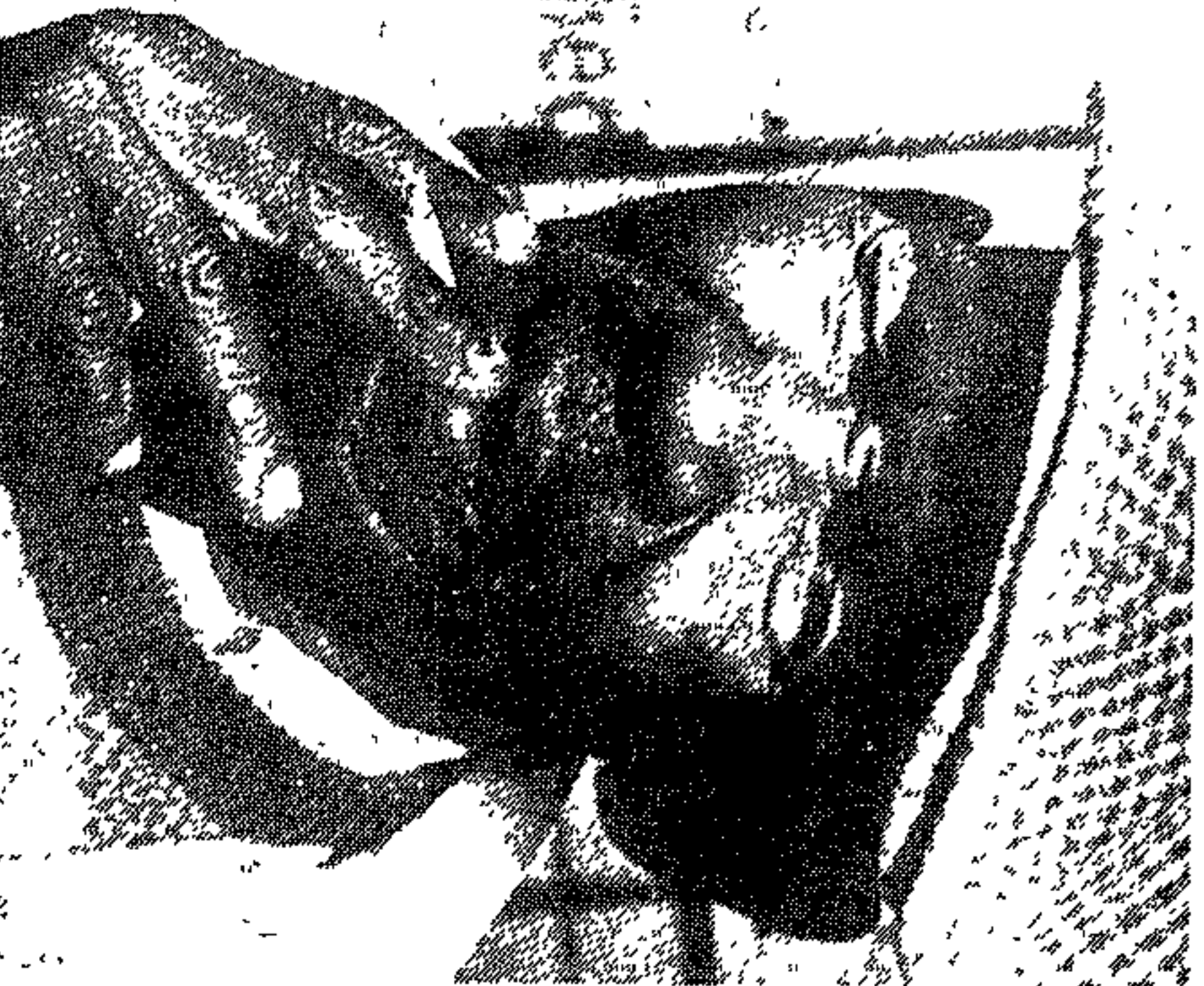
Previous studies have suggested that passive smoke may pose serious health problems for children.

A study last year by the government's National Centre for Health Statistics found that children in non-smoking households were likely to be healthier than children who live with smokers.

That study found 4.1 per cent of young children in households with current smokers were in fair to poor health, compared with 2.4 per cent of children who were never exposed to tobacco smoke.

The Tobacco Institute, an industry group, dismissed the study at the time as inconclusive.

The industry group also criticised the EPA's preliminary findings in April 1991 when its early draft report on secondhand tobacco smoke was submitted to the science advisory panel. - *Sapa-AP.*



Passive smoking is a serious health risk to children.



# No substitute for love, care

MATERIAL bribes, permissiveness and over-indulgence cannot replace love, care and guided discipline and parents are the only ones responsible for moulding children with healthy personalities.

This is the view of clinical psychologist and head of the Nation Building Parenting Committee, Mrs Anne-Gloria Masetle.

Masetle will once again talk about parenting at a *Sowetan*/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshop this Saturday. The workshop is the first to be held in Carletonville since the programme began three years ago.

Masetle said: "More often than not parents function as undesirable role models (as alcoholics and criminals) for their children."

"Children learn from these roles and sadly, mostly they behave in exactly the same way as their parents.

"Permissive parents leave their children to do as they please, setting no limits for discipline and offering no guidance to the children. But this has adverse results because children think that the parents don't care for them," she explained.

"Equally dangerous is an over-indulgent parenting

*Sowetan*  
25/6/92

298

NATION BUILDING



The power is in your hands

style where children are bribed with material things instead of being given proper guidance.

"The result is that children from such backgrounds are incapable of appreciating anything. They lack love, care and guided discipline," she said.

Masetle added that the family, one of the most important structures in any community, and parents, the tools which make the family structure effective, are the starting blocks in rebuilding the nation.

She said that was why the *Sowetan* / Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops were so important in Nation Building.

Aids will also be discussed at the Carletonville workshop.

Entrance is free and everyone is welcome. Further details can be obtained from Mrs Angie Petele at (011) 980 2813.

# A protection plan for your children

Sowetan 25/6/92

(298)

**SINCE** the main purpose of life insurance is to provide financial protection for dependants of the insured person, it is obvious that children have no need for this particular financial product.

Why after all, should a child have a life insurance policy which will, for example, pay out benefits for his parents?

The law even recognises this by not allowing a child to enjoy life insurance cover before the age of 14, death before the age will result only in a return of premiums plus interest.

As with any investment plan, the sooner it is begun, the better is the end result. In addition, life insurance premiums rise as the age of entry increases.

Not only does it become more expensive to take out a policy as you become older, but your chances of becoming uninsurable or obtaining standard insur-

**More and more children are being left destitute when their parents die or get seriously injured in an accident. Bernie Goldman, a general manager in the life division of a leading life assurance company, Fedlife, tells how parents can protect their children.**

ance rates become less.

These factors make a strong case for setting up a life insurance programme for a child as early as possible provided that the objectives of that programme are in the child's interest.

And, since a child would normally not be an income-earner, this programme should, at the outset at least, be financed by a parent or grandparent.

## Major

Provision should also be made for the financing to continue should the major die before completing his part of the programme.

Fedlife's Little Millionaire plan was designed to provide just such a life in-

surance programme, and its launch just over eight years ago led to a marked revival in the popularity of children's life insurance.

Normally a Little Millionaire plan will be financed by a parent or grandparent until, say, the child reaches age 21.

If the proposer dies or becomes permanently disabled before then, the premium continues until the child at 21 takes over premium payments. The plan is sold in premium units of R25 per month; the principle being that for a single unit, on industry agreed assumptions of growth in the Fedlink portfolio to which the plan is linked, a child will have a million rands

available at age 65.

In addition, as the child enters adulthood and assumes greater personal responsibility, he automatically enjoys substantial life insurance protection.

There are a number of other built-in options including the ability to borrow from the investment - without affecting the maturity benefits - for medical purposes.

## Cover

There is also a built-in guaranteed insurability option which enables the child (in adulthood) to build up life insurance cover without having to provide evidence of health.

The Little Millionaire Policy includes the following outstanding features:

- It is unique in every way and exclusive to Fedlife;
- It's not a child's policy but a life-time insurance and investment plan;
- It provides Ready Money for education, from

age 18;

- No evidence of health is required of the premium payer;

- There is automatic premium protection if the premium payer dies or becomes disabled;

- Provision can be made for premiums to increase to keep pace with inflation; and

- From age 21 the life assured has future insurability options which will ensure additional life cover without evidence of insurability right up to age 45.

In short, the objective of this policy is to utilise the regular premiums from as early an age as possible to build up a profitable investment for the child - and, at the same time, to ensure that the child will be able to increase his life cover systematically as his personal responsibilities increase.

The programme is financed as a gift and its completion is ensured through the built-in waiver of premium option.



# Terror In The Townships

By Allister Sparks

*Question 13 in  
ALXANDRA TOWNSHIP, South  
Africa —* If there is a knock on your door in this teeming black township of 300,000 people on Johannesburg's northern outskirts, the one thing you don't do is answer it. You switch off the lights and dive for cover.

One who forgot that rule was John Msimango. He and his wife went to bed early in their little wood-and-iron shack on the night of April 8. They were almost asleep when there was a scream outside, the sound of people running, and loud knocks on the door. Msimango opened it.

A group of men burst in, assault rifles at the ready. Msimango was hit in the face with a rifle butt and thrown into the street. When he came to, he ran next door for help, but the neighbors' shack was dark and no one answered his calls.

Helplessly he waited outside until the attackers left. When he went in he found his wife had been raped and shot through the leg. Their 12-year-old son had been battered. Msimango tried desperately to staunch the bleeding from his wife's wound. There was no telephone, and no way to get help in the violent night. Slowly she weakened and died in his arms. Today, riven with guilt at his inability to protect his family, John Msimango is a patient at a trauma clinic run by Witwatersrand University's Project for the Study of Violence.

The ghastly massacre in Boipatong Township that drew headlines last week was only a larger-scale example of what is now an everyday happening in South Africa's black townships. The kind of random killing that destroyed John Msimango's quiet life, perpe-

trated by armed gangs raiding homes or attacking commuters in trains and taxis, is now an everyday occurrence. Life in these communities has become more nightmarish than ever at a time when the country is supposed to be negotiating a transition to democracy and the world imagines it is changing for the better.

The violence is built on a surplus of weapons. Russian-made AK-47 semi-automatic rifles abound in the townships, the spillover of guerrilla wars in Mozambique, Angola, and South Africa itself. There are stolen revolvers and army rifles, clubs, spears and machetes, and a crude homemade zip gun called a qwash, produced from piping, rubber tubing and springs.

In any week, the township death toll from violence equals that of the Los Angeles riots — an average of eight a day, or 923 from January through April.

"The townships have always been violent, but now the violence is coming right into the home territory. People don't feel safe anywhere. They feel trapped and alone. Whole communities are being traumatized," said Ntobiseng Nogale, a 28-year-old social worker who coordinates the clinic, in a recent interview.

Fear is pervasive. "Mothers tell me how they get up in the morning, get their children ready for school, and then have the kids cling to them, crying and begging their mothers not to go to work because they are terrified they'll be killed on the way," said Nogale. "And even when she is back home with her children they still don't feel safe. At night they will hear gunfire all around. And if there is a knock on

the door — oh, my God. . ."

Fear and guilt run together. Nogale told of another patient who heard gunshots outside her front door and her 12-year-old son's scream for help. Her four other small children were inside the house. She was terrified that if she opened the door the attackers would sweep in and wipe out the whole family. So she kept the door shut.

As it turned out, the boy survived. "But imagine the guilt that mother is suffering now," said Nogale. "And imagine how the boy feels, knowing his mother was prepared to sacrifice him for his brothers and sisters."

Nogale offers many interacting reasons for the escalation of violence in this time of political transition. Her explanation begins with the "lost generation" of young blacks who abandoned school and got caught up in a lawless revolutionary culture during the unrest of the 1980s. They held the apartheid laws in contempt, warred with police, set themselves up as judges of community behavior, and carried out the gruesome "necklace" killings in which bound victims were burned to death by gasoline-filled tires around their necks.

Nogale recalls that her own nephew, age 8 at the time, used to talk of giving people "three cents and guava juice" — slang for the box of matches and gasoline used in the necklacings. The child once warned his father not to associate with the school headmaster who lived next door. He had been "targeted" by the "comrades," the boy said. Three days later the headmaster was killed.

"What do you do with an 8-year-old who grows up like that?" Nogale

wondered. "Fortunately he was in a stable family and he's okay today. But others had little parenting and no schooling. They drifted into gangs and became criminals."

Thousands of youngsters were detained and tortured by the police. They became brutalized. Nogale claimed to know of one who, tortured at the age of 18, has become a seasoned killer of police and citizens.

The tide of violence has been accompanied by a virtual collapse of policing by a police force disenchanted with reform and which most blacks accuse of carrying out a campaign of destabilization in the townships anyway. Ordinary people hate and fear the police, while political rivals carry out their vendettas and criminal gangs their mindless attacks without fear of arrest.

The fabric of traditional African society, with its sense of communalism and mutual support, has broken down. Nobody trusts anybody any more. "If you know that no one is going to help you, and you don't trust the police, then you must protect yourself. And you must get in first," says Nogale.

Feeding the violence and tension is a profound disillusionment. Nelson Mandela has been released from prison, but life in the black communities has gotten worse, not better. The negotiations are bringing no tangible benefits.

"A lost generation, angry and disillusioned, brought up on a culture of violence, without discipline and without tolerance of other people's views, has been unleashed on society," says Nogale. "Those are the ghosts of apartheid that are coming back to haunt us."

# Boys will be boys, but girls need much more

W/mant 26/6-27/92  
By PORTIA MAURICE

GENDER inequality in South African classrooms needs to be challenged by more extensive research, says senior University of South Africa (Unisa) education lecturer Dr Eleanor Lemmer.

Postgraduate research would hopefully be stimulated by the introduction this year by Unisa's Department of Comparative Education and Educational Management of a compulsory theme on gender issues in international perspective as part of its BEd (Honours) course.

Delivering yesterday's high noon lecture at the campus' Centre for Women's Studies, Lemmer said the schooling of South African women reflected the worldwide trends of discrimination and neglect — with the added constraints of racial inequality.

Although the number of girls attending school had increased dramatically in the 1970s and 1980s, their dropout rate remained higher than among boys.

Increased access to education had put more women in the workplace, albeit often in traditionally feminine jobs, but it had not provided income equality.

Among the issues which Lemmer said needed urgent attention were the attitudes and modes of behaviour in the classroom, which could either lull scholars into submission or nurture their natural tal-

ents. The "hidden curriculum" — those things other than academic skills which scholars learn — remained gender differentiated, she said. "Masculine toys are varied, complex, active and social. They encourage spatial, mathematical and scientific skills. Feminine toys are more passive and solitary."

Power relations within schools strengthen perceptions that women teach and men control, she added.

In virtually all Western countries, the majority of teachers are female whereas most school managers, who control the policy and decision-making apparatus, are male.

Lemmer also blamed teachers for cultivating different self-images for boys and girls: "Teachers generally consider girls to be appreciative, calm, co-operative and sensitive, but less independent, creative and autonomous than boys."

"Their expectations of boys are more varied and challenging. They believe them to be more logical and quicker to grasp concepts. Girls, on the other hand, are encouraged to be more precise and neat."

"Boys are regarded as naughty but essentially intelligent, and are given more attention in the form of rewards or punishment. Their failures are seen as the result of a lack of effort, rather than a lack of skill."

"Girls, on the other hand, are more often rewarded for conforming behaviour than for ability."

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# Fighting the fly-by-nights

THE HOUSING Advice Centre, which assisted potential home-owners in the low-income home ownership market, will become part of Lawyers For Human Rights on July 1 1992.

For over two years the centre has been assisting people who have been ripped off by fly-by-night contractors, agents and finance brokers.

According to the centre's director Brian Leveson "the unfortunate reality is that people are as desperate as ever for housing and the problem of people being ripped off is getting worse."

"We therefore need to increase our potential to provide more assistance

## 'Housing rip-off' is getting worse'

to people and also to have greater clout to really tackle the problem."

By joining up with LHR the centre will be able to increase its resources and additional staff will be taken on.

"Unfortunately most of the people in whose plights the centre has intervened have been people who have already experienced problems, for example having lost large deposits to fly-by-night contractors."

"When these contractors disappear very little can be done. It is essential therefore that people who

are considering buying or building houses seek our advice."

Leveson explains "It has always been our hope that people would come to us before the problem arises. We now realise that we have to go to the people and now with extra personnel this will be our top priority."

The centre will now be called Lawyers for Human Rights - Housing Rights Unit. The service will still be provided with-out charge to members of the low-income community and includes advice on

buying or building a house and all the financial consequences

The Housing Rights Unit also intends expanding its service into the other provinces within the next year

Leveson says the golden rule with housing deposits remains the same. Don't give your deposit to anybody or sign any contract before checking it thoroughly with a reputable body.

Housing Rights Unit of Lawyers for Human Rights is at 3rd Floor Zambesi House, corner Von Weiigh and Commissioner streets, PO Box 5156 Johannesburg. Telephone: (011) 331-3465/66 from July 1 1992.

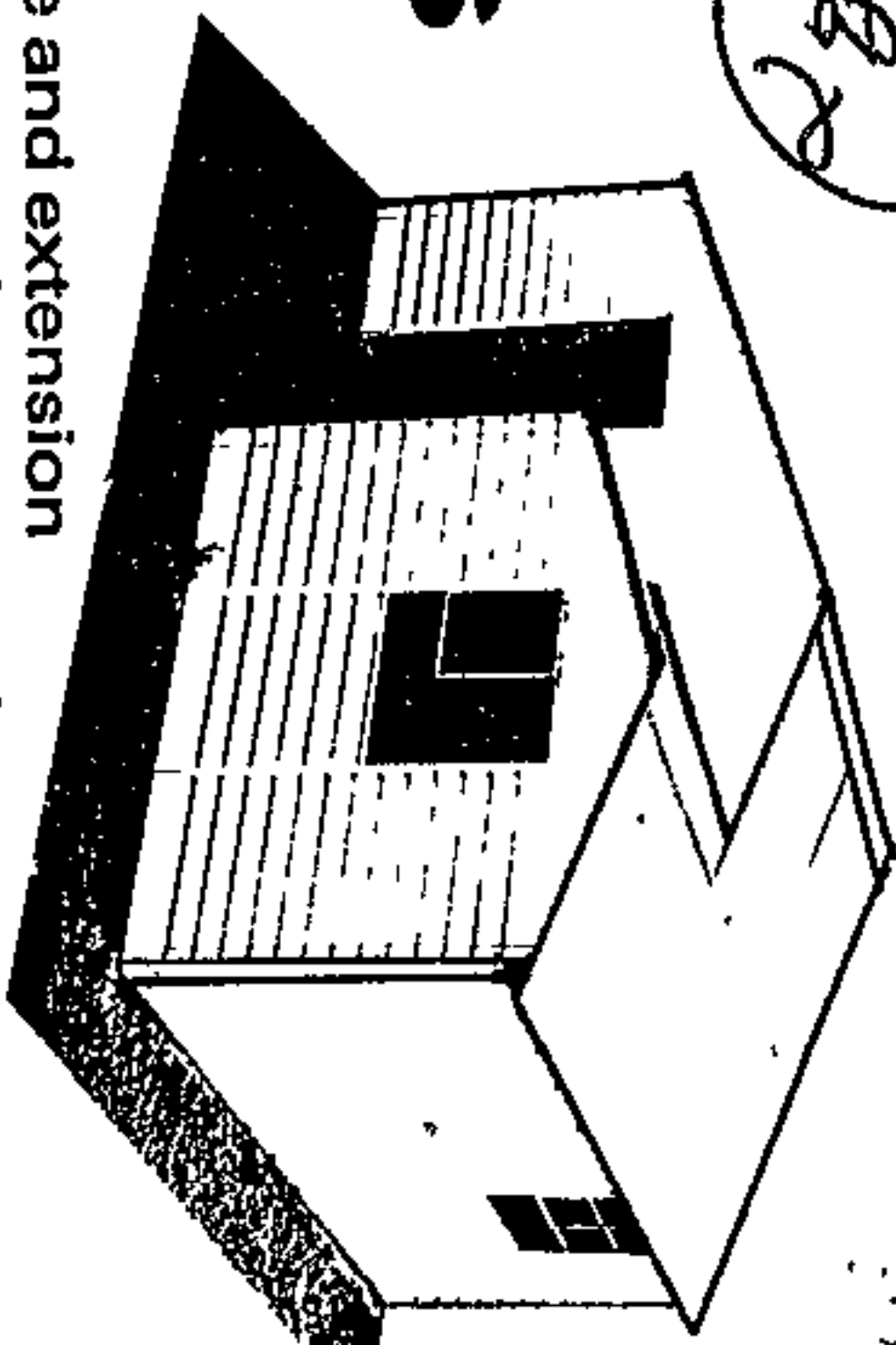


HOME SWEET HOME... Brian Leveson, Cortett Cellojane and Una Gumede advise an aspirant homeowner on potential pitfalls.



## UROWIN

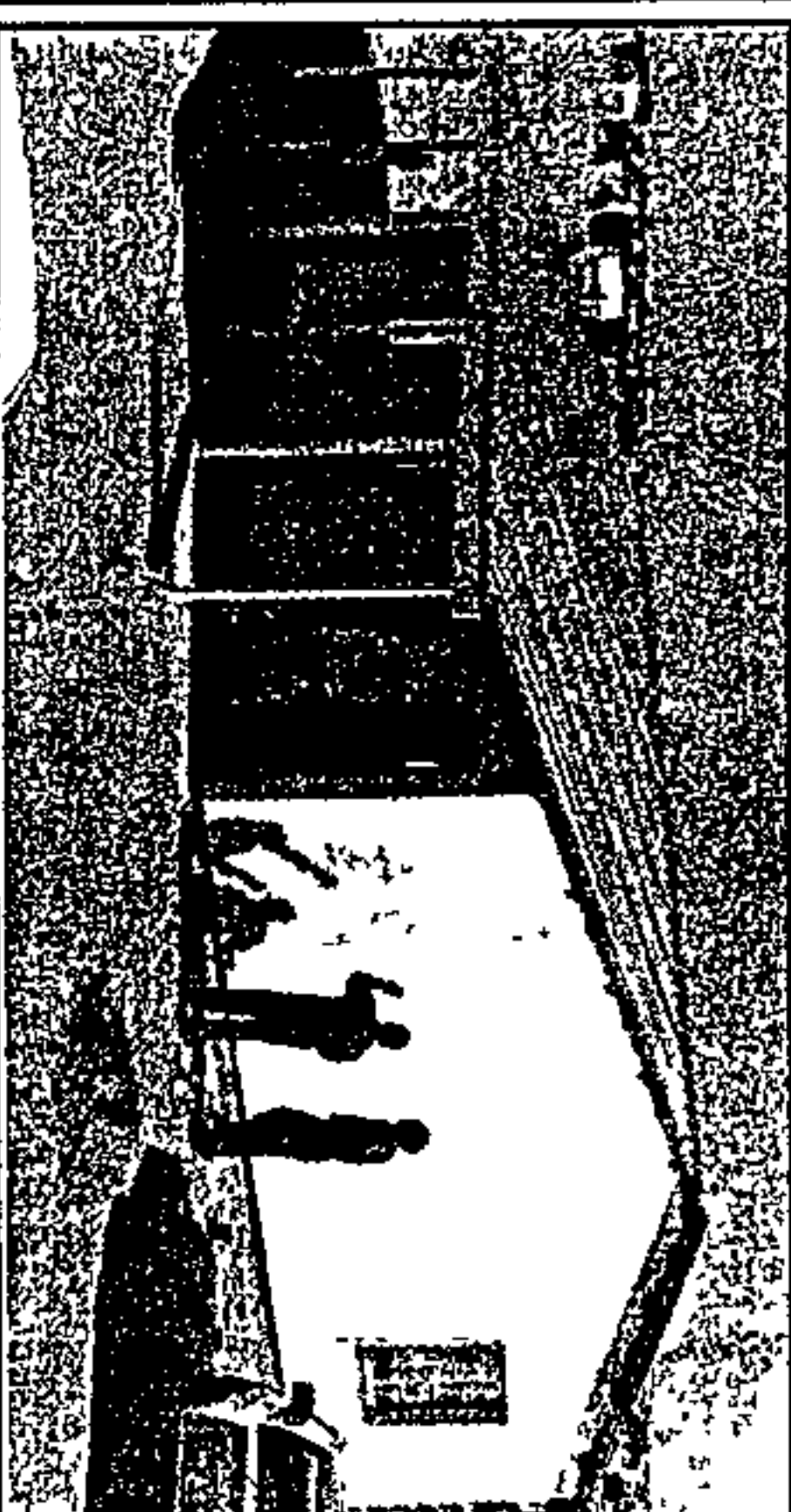
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## Timber creche built



**LOW COST ... This 112 sq metres creche in Ivory Park - the first in the fast-growing area - cost less than R60 000 to build.**

THE first of 64 community creches to be built by the National Council for Child Welfare has opened in Ivory Park, Midrand

What makes this project unique is that the creches are built from timber, the first educational institutions in SA to use this building method

The Ivory Park school is 112 sq metres and cost under R60 000 - which means a saving of at least R15 000 on

each of the 64 schools. There were no facilities at all for pre-school children in the fast-growing area.

The next phase of the project will see creches opening in Refilwe and Mamelodi near Pretoria.

In the next few months, creches will be built in Phola Park, Watville, Belkersdal, and Delmas. The rest of the 64 creches will be built in other urban and rural areas throughout the country

# Kids who room the crime beat

By MOSES MAMAILA

WITHOUT basic needs—homes, families, decent food, clothes and medication—street kids become professional criminals.

These kids, victims of poverty and abuse, are denied their fundamental rights as children.

But unlike most of people who despise the street kids, Streetwise aims to give the kids a chance in life.

"The main objective of our organisation is to rehabilitate these children whose only future is otherwise a prison," says Streetwise secretary Philip Dithipe.

However, getting the kids to the five shelters is difficult as they do not trust anybody.

"When they look at anybody, they see an enemy. Some of them left their homes because they had been abused, even sexually, by their parents.

"Being in the street, they are not better off. They are picked up by wealthy people who promise them money in exchange for being sex slaves," explained Dithipe.

With the little donations they receive from the public and foreign donors, Streetwise is presently housing and caring

for about 200 kids, aged between seven and 18.

"We have no more room for other kids," he said.

According to Dithipe, children who are just off the streets receive some training at a remedial school to enable them to adapt to normal life before being taken to formal schools.

Some of the children were born on the streets.

"There is a certain child we took off the street when he was only two years old.

"His mother was a hobo staying in the parks around Hillbrow and it was pathetic for the poor

kid," Dithipe told City Press.

For the thousands of kids still on the street, life is a perpetual bitter struggle as they have to scavenge in dustbins.

City Press this week spoke to the destitute children whose homes are the cold streets of Johannesburg.

Thirteen-year-old Thabo Mokoena said he was forced to leave home after his widowed mother died.

At the time he had been staying with his unemployed grandmother and two brothers in Davyton. He said he would not

leave the streets for home because there was no food and he would be forced to share the dustbins with dogs, while in town he could easily get the remains of food at restaurants.

The unkempt boy stank of glue and said he slept in the open, but was "coping".

Another youth, Alfred Mokgori, who is about 10, said street life had taught him a number of survival tactics.

Apart from finding parking space for motorists who pay a few cents, Mokgori could raise funds by pickpocketing. "At times you are for-

tunate to get the purse of a white lady who is not careful," he said smiling. He said he left his home because his divorced mother used to "harass" him.

While these kids fled their homes in a desperate bid to avoid abuse, they were exposed to hard conditions which gave them little choice but to become habitual criminals, said a Streetwise worker.

"If prison offers them shelter, food, clothes and company—all of which are unavailable in the street—then these kids will obviously prefer jail," another social worker said.



# 'WHO WILL LOOK AFTER US NOW?'

By SOPHIE TEMA

"OH Lord! Why should it have happened to me?" said young Boipatong massacre survivor, Seipati Mbatha, before breaking into a bout of unrestrained sobbing. *CPW 28/6/92*

The mind-numbing massacre of 39 Boipatong residents last Wednesday has left a trail of orphans like Seipati.

More than that, Seipati has been dumped with the responsibility of fending for her six younger siblings - three brothers and three sisters.

Her parents Elizabeth and Jonas died in the slaughter.

In the cruelest twist, the Mbatha family lost little five-year-old Christine Mbatha, who died of her wounds this week, bringing the final death toll to 48.

Two days after the attack Christine featured on the front page of a daily newspaper being comforted in the arms of Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Controversy continues to rage over the massacre with pictures of the police firing at residents appearing all over the world, allegations that the police "dropped off" the rent-a-mob, and that a Koevoet-linked arms cache was discovered in a mine on the Reef.

Tomorrow Christine and her parents will be buried with the rest of the victims at a mass funeral reminiscent of the terrible days of the black protest and state repression in 1976-77.

## Orphans of Boipatong speak of their fears

After composing herself, Seipati told how she escaped the baying 200-strong male mob who swarmed through the Slovo Park squatter section of Boipatong, slaughtering people indiscriminately.

"Mama, Dad and Christine were in bed. I had already dozed off when Mama woke me and told me that things were bad outside. She also woke Dad and said we must run to my uncle's house nearby.

"Mama took Christine, strapped her to her back and went out the house.

"We tried to run after her to stop her, but a lot of shots went off and we had to run back inside. A few minutes later I opened the front door. I saw Mama standing at my uncle's shack knocking on the door.

"As she stood there knocking I saw two men - one armed with a spear - running towards her.

"The man with the spear said something I could not hear. He stabbed Christine on Mama's back and then he stabbed Mama a lot of times. Mama lay there on the ground with Christine on her back. They were both screaming.

"Dad and I were too scared to get out of the house but Mama and the baby's dreadful screams forced Dad to go out.

"While he was going towards Mama to help her the very same two men came at Dad and stabbed him.

"I was the only one who stayed in the house. I was so scared I locked myself in. By the Grace of God the two men walked past our shack. Mama was dead by the time we got to her. Dad died at the hospital ... and now the little one too ..."

Fifteen-year-old Paul Sebolai is another survivor orphaned by the raid. He lay in terrified silence under a bed with the screams of his dying brother and mother in his ears. They were speared.

While we were talking, the bodies of his loved ones were carried away on stretchers, and loaded into a waiting mortuary van.

Paul, a pupil at the Lebohang High School in Boipatong, spoke in trembling voice of his fears.

"I am all alone ... What will happen now that they are gone? But I will look up to the Almighty for help and I know he will not forsake me," he said with tears streaming down his cheeks.

Dinah Manyika is unemployed. Her parents were also speared to death. Now she has four brothers and three sisters to parent.

She said: "I will never forget their screams. I shudder every time I think of it."

# Children exploited, says labour report

SHARON SOROUR  
Labour Reporter

(298)

ARC 30/6/92

SIX-year-old housemaids. Ten-year-old quarry workers. Twelve-year-old carpet weavers. These are just a fraction of the hundreds of millions of the world's child labourers, according to the 1992 World Labour Report.

Every year they sacrifice their health, education and childhood in a daily struggle to survive, the report says.

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, up to 20 percent of children in African countries and up to 18 percent between the ages of 11 and 14 are economically active in parts of Latin America.

Poverty is the driving force behind child labour: when the family survival is at stake, everyone — no matter how young or vulnerable — has to lend a hand, says the report.

All child labourers sell some of their childhood, but few sacrifice as much as those driven to prostitution, a problem in rich and poor countries.

In developed countries it is often runaway children who sell their bodies. In poor countries child workers may start as street vendors but drift into prostitution since it can offer greater financial rewards — a problem in some Asian countries where child prostitution has been aggravated by tourism.

Many children work because

they cannot, or will not, go to school. Schooling may be unavailable or too expensive, but it may also be so inadequate that parents do not consider it worthwhile, the report says.

But many working children also go to school.

For example, in Asunción, Paraguay, 77 percent of the working street children attend school — some even work to pay for their books.

The majority of working children are in agriculture, helping parents on family plots or working alongside them on commercial farms. In Zimbabwe, for example, children from the age of seven are drawn in to help their parents on cotton and tea plantations.

In urban areas, children have a wide choice of occupations and are likely to be working away from their parents, as domestic servants, selling lottery tickets, working in factories or washing windscreens.

The report says the long-term aim must be to eliminate child labour by effective and enforced legislation. The basic minimum age for work in most countries is 14 years, though the limits may be lower for light work and higher for more hazardous occupations, the report says.

A second important weapon against child labour is legislation providing universal, free, primary education gives children a real alternative to work, as well as the prospect of a better working life as adults.

But the most immediate priority is to remove children from the most hazardous work sites.



## Jo'burg has opened heart to children

Johannesburg, the city of gold, also has a heart of gold. This has been proved time and again, when appeals for help from the Johannesburg Children's Home have gone out.

When, in 1984, Eddy Magid, then mayor of Johannesburg, announced that his project for the year was to raise money for the home, more than R1 million was raised enabling it to build the cottages which now house the children.

Appeals for people to buy clothes for the children for Christmas have been met with generosity by the public.

When the nursery school section of the home was burnt down some years ago, the public once again opened their purses and helped the children by giving money and donating toys and equipment.

Besides those who have befriended the youngsters and have taken them on outings or invited them into their homes, there are also many people who give up free time to go to the school and take part in extra-vocational and educational courses to enrich the children's lives.

## Joan has <sup>(298)</sup> revolutionised <sup>STAR 30/6/92</sup> home concept

Joan Rubinstein is the director of the JCH and in the eight years she has been with the home she has revolutionised the care of children in institutions.

It was largely thanks to her efforts that the concept of cottage-style accommodation for the children came into being. She is also responsible for the inception of several education programmes that have greatly benefited the children and it is thanks to her that the community development programme has been established.

As director of the JCH she takes on the role of mother, friend and mentor to many under-privileged children who find shelter in the home.

The care and concern she provides is unstinting and with her help and love these little ones are able to grow up to face a future of hope.



## The Johannesburg Children's Home

# 100 YEARS



A Star commemorative feature

The Johannesburg Children's Home, the oldest such institute in the city, celebrates its centenary this year. LINDSEY SANDERSON looks at who is behind this remarkable institution and how it survives.

## Funding is the home's biggest problem

Funding for the Johannesburg Children's Home is always a headache.

The State provides only about one third of the finance needed to run the home effectively and the rest has to be found by the JCH itself through various fundraising activities and with the help of the Johannesburg public and businesses.

Johannesburgers have always been exceedingly generous, says Mr Steed. As an example, he points out a letter from a local couple. They have enclosed a cheque but apologise that it is only for a small amount, explaining that this is all they can

manage. They are both in their 80s, the letter says, and neither of them is able to work.

One misconception that Mr Steed would like to point out is that JCH receives financial help from the Johannesburg Child Welfare Society and national child welfare. They do not receive money from either organisation. Many people believe that the home benefits from money raised on Red Nose Day and other similar fund-raising events but this is not so, emphasises Mr Steed.

Another point he raises is the fact that people often think that

the children staying in the home can make do with second best simply because they are in care. Quite the opposite is true he says. What he wants is for them to have the best of everything whenever possible. As he puts it "They need more of everything — more love, more understanding, more caring."

They are often frightened and lonely. It is extremely difficult for them to go out into the normal world and make a success of life with all the disadvantages they already suffer. "These children need everything we can give them to help them on their way."

## Foster parents are always needed

that Christmas spirit is needed, all year round. Many of the children have already been dumped, once too often and the blow to their egos to be dumped yet again can cause enormous hurt. Fostering is a great bridging aid to the children and by spending time in a normal home with a family helps them cross that great divide between living in place of care and going out into the big world. For many of these children a simple shopping trip is a learning experience, while going to a restaurant or movie is an experience that can be a little terrifying but very exciting.

Fostering is one of the best options for the children from the home. While adoption is possible it is not usually the best solution for children, most of whom are not orphans, but come from broken and troubled homes. And for most of them, however unhappy their home life was before they were taken into care, their greatest wish is to be able to return to their own homes.

The JCH is always looking for good foster parents and even runs a course to help those interested in fostering youngsters. Of course, the foster parents have to be screened and

This happens often at Christmas time, says Mr Steed, when people are imbued with do-good intentions. For these children

Johannesburg Children's Home is a very special place.

It is more than just a refuge and shelter for children not fortunate enough to grow up in a normal family environment — for them it is a place where they are nurtured and cared for in a warm and friendly environment, where more than just nourishment and a roof over their heads is provided.

It is a place where these often neglected and unloved children can learn to hold their heads high and go out into a world with a chance of living a productive and happy life.

This year the Johannesburg Children's Home celebrates its centenary to celebrate more than just 100 years of existence.

It also celebrates a century of community involvement and caring and, in today's seemingly uncaring and unloving world, it is proof that love, generosity and concern for those less fortunate



Adrian Steed... "The children deserve the best we can offer. They need all the help we can give them."

shelter was in Johannesburg, but in the 1920s the home moved to Doornfontein. In the 1940s the home moved to its present site in Observatory and until about eight years ago the gloomy and rather forbidding red-brick structure was the shelter for hundreds of Johannesburg's abandoned children.

One of the most exciting developments at the home has been the introduction of the cottage system and today all the youngsters grow up in an almost normal home environment. The cottage system means that between eight and 10 children of

down to a family meal in the evenings — and do the things all ordinary children want and need to do.

They have somebody who will listen to their problems, somebody to help them with homework, somebody to praise them and somebody to help, on an individual basis, to guide them in the right direction through life. Perhaps, most important of all, they have a sense of belonging and a sense of identity.

The change to the cottage system has had an almost miraculous effect on the youngsters, says Adrian Steed, chairman of the management committee.

"When the children stayed in the old building, vandalism and petty thieving were common features. The children were poor achievers academically and were difficult to control. Today, several of our charges have gone on to technical schools or university and we even have one young lady who is doing her honours degree at Cape

Town University." Living in a "family" home, gives the children the sort of environment they need to grow up as independent and self-respecting adults.

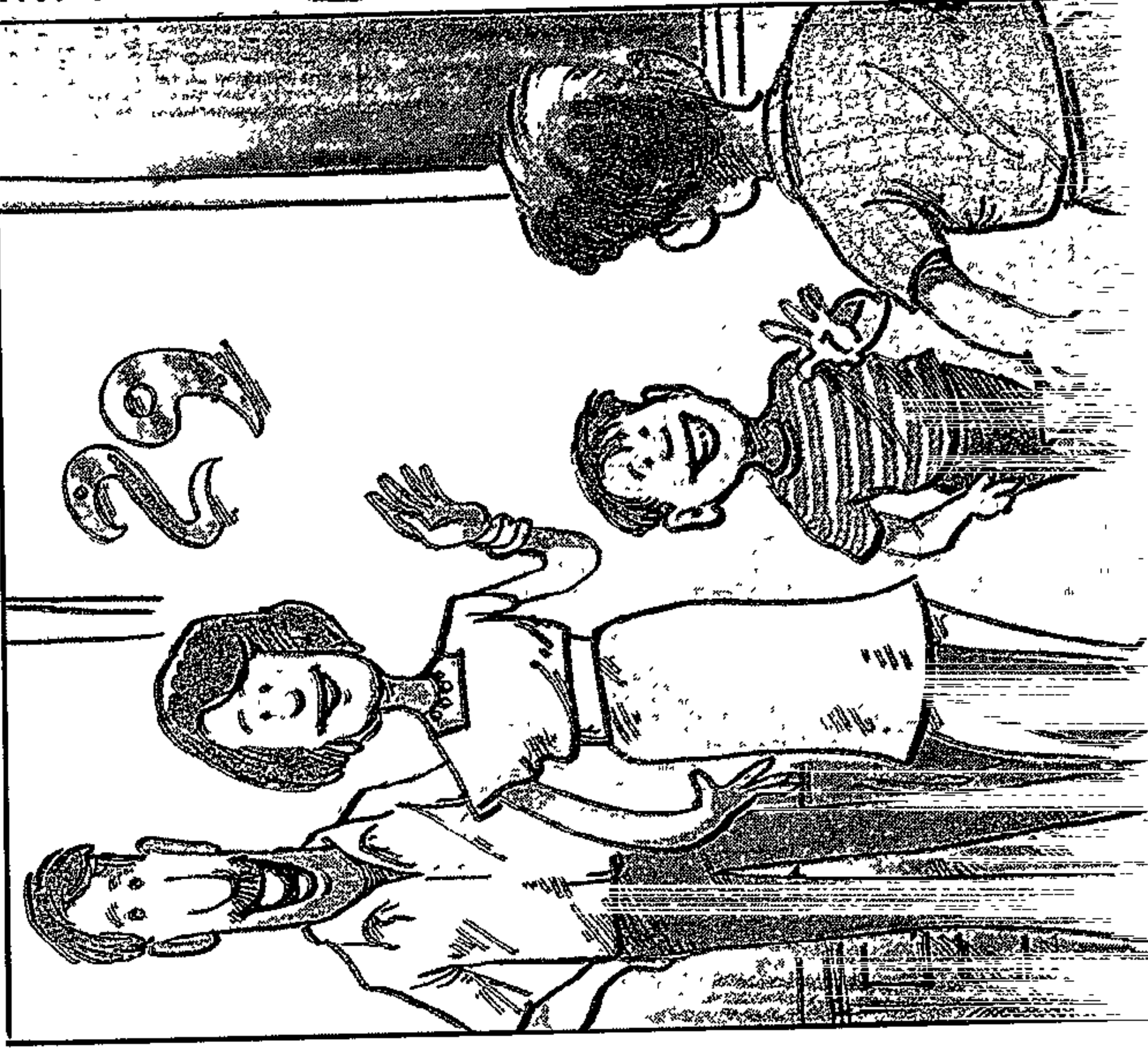
The gap between living in an institution and moving out into the big world is no longer so vast and so frightening and the individual care and love they are able to receive from their "parents" goes a long way to healing the scars that lie deep in the psyche of these children.

Very few of the children are actually orphans and most of them have been sent to the children's home because their own homes are totally unsuitable, because of factors such as drunkenness, sexual or physical abuse or, in some cases, simply because they were abandoned or neglected.

The home accommodates 60 children of all races and ranging in age from three to 18.

Though in a few cases adoption is a solution for the youngsters in most

# 100 years of caring for community





# Steed knows hardships of a home

Adrian Steed joined the Johannesburg Children's Home 18 years ago and is now chairman of the management committee.

From the beginning, he has been totally involved in his work for the home and has been a tireless worker, not only in helping to raise funds for the home, but by becoming personally in-

STAR 2 30/6/92  
volved in its running and day-to-day affairs.

Mr Steed spent time in an orphanage as a child.

At the age of 11 his grandmother, who was looking after him, died and he was sent to an orphanage, so he is able to relate to the problems these children have

His support and enthusiasm for making the

home a better place for the children has helped carry the plans through to fruition.

Even at times when, because of a lack of funds and support, it seemed that schemes for alterations and renovations would have to be dropped, Mr Steed persisted in his fund-raising efforts until success was achieved.



# New drug unit will treat youngsters

SITimes [Cape metro] 5/17/92

By KURT SWART

A DRUG treatment unit for adolescents opened this week in response to an increase in drug abuse by teenagers and pre-teens.

The Avalon Adolescent Drug Unit is believed to be the second of its kind in the country. There is a drug unit for youths in Natal.

The unit has taken over a wing of Groote Schuur Hospital's Avalon Addiction Centre, in Klipfontein Road, Athlone.

"Since the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre in Observatory

was established in 1985 we've been aware that most problems in drug abuse started in adolescence," said the originator of the unit, Dr Don Wilson, a psychiatrist at Groote Schuur Hospital.

"Lentegeur In-Patient Drug Unit has been taking in adult drug-dependent individuals for four or five years, but could not put younger patients with the adults. The question was asked: What about the adolescents?"

"We are seeing more and more adolescents at drug centres and we are aware that this is a constant problem. This unit has provided a place for adolescent drug addicts."

According to this year's statistics from the Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre, 11 percent of abusers started taking drugs in their pre-teen years, and 68 percent started in their teens.

"This emphasises the importance of education against drug abuse at an early age — even at primary school level," said Dr Wilson.

"We have a therapeutic team of five nursing sisters, three part-time psychiatrists, clinical psychologists on loan from the Counselling Centre, occupational

therapists, social workers from Sanca and members of the education and drama departments of UCT."

Dr Mike Louw, head of the Avalon Centre, and Dr Laurie Oliver of Lentegeur Hospital are the team leaders of the unit. Most of the team are either working voluntarily or taking time from their normal occupations to help with the unit.

"A unique facet is that this is an ideal example of members of the community, welfare organisations, and hospitals all combining to put a unit of this kind together," said Dr Wilson.

"We are an open unit, taking in males and females of any ethnicity. We are still looking for more volunteers, like retired teachers, to look at the education component of the unit."

The unit is emphasising the importance of education and career guidance. Addicts with low education will be encouraged to study further.

"Many have left school, have problems at school or have insecurities about their abilities. Those who don't want to go back to school we help with career guid-

ance and direction."

The unit plans to take in about six to eight clients at a time on a six-week treatment course.

"Clients are at the unit from Monday to Friday and go home over the weekend, so that they can try out what they have learnt. We teach them new strategies and coping mechanisms and over the weekend they see how they can deal with family issues, friends who take drugs and other problems that were instrumental in starting their drug abuse."

As drug abuse is a long-term chronic problem, clients at the end of the unit's treatment will be referred to counselling centres, private therapists or other appropriate environments.

The unit has four initial clients and is looking for two or three more to join within the next week.

"The family is involved in the therapy but sometimes their children are not keen to enter treatment."

Families wishing to send their children to the unit for treatment can call the following numbers: Dr Wilson ☎ 404 2151, Dr Louw ☎ 637 9100 and Dr Oliver ☎ 34 3111.

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# Ex-strollers find new role after Children's Charter

(298) 744617/92



**FAMILIAR SIGHT:** Children like these, sleeping in doorways in the early hours of the morning before going off to peddle newspapers or "plague" pedestrians, are a familiar, if unfortunate, sight in South African cities.

**ERIC NAKI**

**EAST LONDON.** — They are both ardent communicators in English and their mother tongue, Xhosa. They are both white-belt karate enthusiasts and former "strollers".

These two boys were among 10 children from the Border region who attended the recent Children's Rights conference in Somerset West, near Cape Town.

For Ayanda Stemele, 13, and Mphunzi Kololo, 12, of Masixole Boys' Home, a sanctuary for former "city strollers" in rural St Luke's near East London, the journey to the conference was like a visit to wonderland.

They will never forget the kindness displayed by "those ladies" who served food on the aircraft during the joyful trip to Cape Town's DF Malan Airport. The conference itself changed their lives, they claim.

Ayanda said the air hostesses gave them a choice of food they wanted and did not force them to eat what they did not like. That to him was impor-

tant, because it gave him a sense of freedom of choice.

Also, "I never thought I ever would go so high up in the sky and beyond the clouds," he said.

Mphunzi was fascinated by the "big planes" and their differently-coloured fuselages at DF Malan. He knew of no jets other than SAA's orange, blue and white aircrafts that overflew his "home" at St Luke's.

On arrival in Somerset West, Ayanda and Mphunzi were sent to different rooms at the five-star Lord Charles Hotel. Neither was bothered by this because they had both already made friends during the trip.

Communication with children from other places and race groups was not a problem. Ayanda said most of the time they spoke English, of which he is a "master".

He is doing Std Five at St Luke's Public School. He wants to be an English teacher, "because I noticed that some children grew up not exposed to speaking English".

The conference opened up new horizons for the boys. They enjoyed the discussions and

were proud of being contributors to South Africa's unique Children's Charter.

Ayanda said: "At the conference, I spoke about how to end violence, especially street violence. As we are moving to a new South Africa, violence needs to come to an end."

His usually sparkling eyes became serious when he talked about children's rights.

"Children are being abused by their parents and relatives and most of them leave their homes. We should be free and given equal and free education as children," he said.

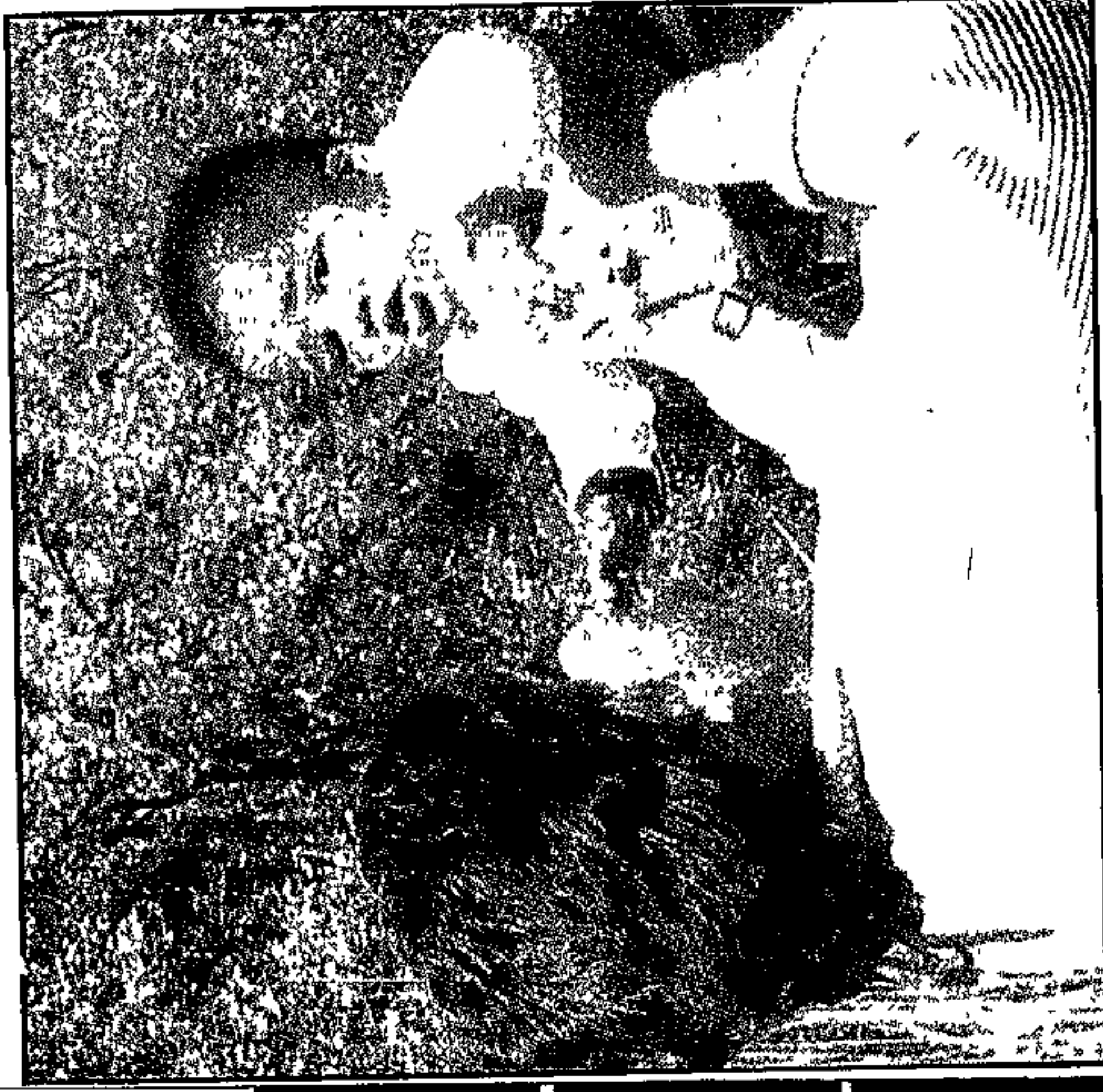
For his part, the conference taught Mphunzi to say "No" when another person, particularly an adult, told him to do something wrong.

"Parents should love their children and that is a right we are demanding from them," he said.

Meeting and talking to other children who could not speak his language, was another lesson for the rather shy boy. He said: "We need to communicate in order to build friendship and happiness, that's what I learnt from the conference." — Eena.



PEOPLE'S LIVES The joys and sorrows of a couple who adopt a child across the colour line in South Africa since the laws changed more than a



Single mother Kim Adams with 10-month-old Jason, a coloured boy she adopted about four months ago.

**F**OR MORE THAN A YEAR a change in the law has allowed interracial adoptions. But attitudes have not changed as fast. The few black children adopted by white parents still attract curious stares.

But Deline, a 10-month-old coloured girl adopted by a Swiss couple now settled in South Africa, is too young to understand what the fuss is all about.

She stands up to cheering onlookers, holds on to the couch and takes a step forward. But as she attempts another one she stumbles and falls with obvious disappointment.

She tries again. This time her excited mother holds both her hands and helps her as she takes a few steps in triumph.

She is one of the few black children adopted by white couples and single mothers since the adoption laws changed.

Deline is a treasure to her adoptive parents, Irmgard and Markus (not their real names).

"I think she is the most wonderful child ever and we are very lucky to have her," Irmgard said.

But there have been some frustrations. In

# Black baby,

South Africa 6/7/92

**CROSS-RACE ADOPTION While every child**

*needs a secure home Pearl Majola finds that*

*racist attitudes could unsettle the adoptive child:*

shopping malls and other public places, they have been the objects of nasty stares and have been rudely addressed by strangers.

"We once went to an Aids benefit concert and were confronted by a person who told us we had no right to adopt Deline," said the new mother.

Irmgard and Markus had been married for three years when they were told by doctors that their chances of having a child were only five percent.

"I was devastated," explains Irmgard. "I asked myself why us? For some time I hoped that one day I would fall pregnant."

But it did not happen. The couple moved to South Africa five years ago and started thinking seriously about adopting a baby.

Finally, after going through formalities to prepare them for the adoption, including the naturalisation of Irmgard as a South African, acute six-month-old baby girl was given to them.

"We just wanted a baby and I want to emphasise that Markus wanted her as much as I."

# white mom

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## Cutting through the red tape

- About 35 children are waiting to be adopted in the Johannesburg region.
- The adoptive parents must be between 25 and 45 years of age. Single parents should be between 30 and 45 years old.
- At least one of the adoptive parents must be a South African citizen.
- At least one parent must be employed.
- The family must have accommodation.

as I did," explained Irmgard.

"We did not choose a coloured baby but to us and our family back home, the race of the child did not matter then and still doesn't. We are aware that there will be problems, we hope that we will be able to handle them," she said.

"We plan to be as open as possible about the adoption and in the case of Deline it is obvious. To change our social life would be artificial so we are not going to rush out and try to make more black friends. We will stick to the ones we have and if new ones come along the way it will be even better," she said.

"Deline has definitely made a difference in our lives and we want another child in about three years," said Irmgard.

"In my opinion, it is ideal for a black child to be with a black family with whom he can identify. But if that family is not available any other family that qualifies to adopt the child is better than an institution," she said.

Cathy met Thandi by coincidence but she felt in love and a few months later she took her into her home and her life forever. (The names have been changed to protect the identity of the subjects).

Thandi is a disabled black seven-year-old girl and when Cathy decided to take her, the adoption laws had not even changed.

Although seven years have gone by and there is much talk about the new South

Africa, the family have had their share of snorts and rude comments like "kyk daardie blanke vrou met daardie klein kalfertjie".

But that seems to have strengthened the bond between Cathy, her two other children and Thandi.

"My attitude is that this is my life and Thandi is my child. Nothing is ever going to change that," she said bravely.

"We have shed our tears but we get over it," Cathy said almost in tears again.

"I didn't take her because she was black. She was just a child in need of help and I took her. What is important now is not just what I have given her, but what life has given me back. Her coming into my life has given me such a sense of value," explained Cathy.

She said she was more concerned about the well-being of Thandi in a normal family environment instead of an institution.

Thandi has, therefore, not been formally adopted by Cathy and she keeps her original name and surname. She knows her real mother and is still in contact with her.

Though she has lived with her adopted family for a long time, Thandi speaks Zulu and is learning Sotho.

"I refuse to adopt her legally because I want her to make up her own mind when she is old enough about whether she wants that or not," Cathy said.

**We did not choose a coloured baby but to us the race did not matter then and still doesn't**



*year ago to give children a chance to have a family*



## The expert opinion: Social workers

Welfare workers are divided on whether cross-racial adoption serves the interests of the child. A black social worker, who cannot be named for professional reasons, pointed out the problem areas:

- The process and the sincerity of the adoptive parents? Are they doing it to fit into a changing South Africa or do they really want children?
- Would transracial adoptions take place if there were enough white children for adoption. Are the black children adopted by whites as a last resort? *Sowetan 8/7/92*
- The children will not be fully integrated and accepted in white communities because of individual racist attitudes. *(298)*
- The children will be confused because they will grow up with white families in white communities but will be black and might be harshly reminded of that fact by racist white people in those communities.
- The interests of the child should come first. Every child has a right to grow up in a family which has his interests at heart.

Given an institution and a white family with those qualities, the child should rather be placed with that family.



**PEOPLE'S LIVES** *A single mother struggles to give her disfigured child a normal life*

Sowetan 6/7/92

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# Itumeleng—the miracle baby

## ■ MOTHER LOVE

*Eighteen months ago  
a fire nearly claimed  
the life of Evelyn*

*Tshabalala's baby.*

## Sonti Maseko

*finds out how the  
family is coping:*

**I**TUMELENG TSHABALALA is permanently disabled after being disfigured in a fire at her home in July 1990. But she is growing up a "happy" little girl.

She plays merrily in the dusty yard at her home in Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria, next to a tin shack while her mother complains that she has become a naughty child.

Her left arm was amputated, she lost four fingers on her right hand and lost her left ear. One day she will have to come to terms with herself and learn to live a full life.

With the stump and the fingerless hand she is helping her aunt with the washing and tells me that she is "very busy".

Her mother, Mrs Evelyn Tshabalala, keeps a neat file of everything relating to Itumeleng. While flipping through it I came across a picture of a beautiful plump baby smiling back at me.

### A photograph from the past

"That is Tsholo (Itumeleng), I had this picture taken four days before her accident. I received this photograph when she was in hospital," she said. After a few silent minutes, she adds, "My God, does this mean I will never see that smile again?"

Tshabalala says the worst is over. Over? She has come back a long way from the night back in July 1990, when she ran out into street like a mad woman, holding a baby whose body was smouldering. Dressed only in a petticoat, she stood in the middle of the road to beg for a lift to a hospital 18km away.

By some miracle Itumeleng lived. A fire had broken out mysteriously. The flame of a candle probably caught the bed linen, and Itumeleng burnt silently while her mother sat with relatives in another room.

What lies ahead now is a series of operations for reconstructive surgery likely to cost tens of thousands of rands. Doctors and specialists will try to improve Itumeleng's chances of living a quality life and take her rightful place in society one day - to the extent that her injuries will allow.

Itumeleng will need an artificial arm, she is receiving tissue growth treatment to expand the healthy skin cells that will replace the scarred skin on her head. The doctors will also try to replace her ear.

All this can be possible only with the help of generous individuals and companies. Reconstructive surgery will require a lot of money. Tshabalala, a qualified teacher, was advised to give up work and care for Itumeleng since the accident, when she was 11 months old. She is delighted doctors found no



**ABOVE:** The courage of Itumeleng ... with the help of her mother, Evelyn, she is now beginning to live the life of a normal child.

**RIGHT:** The disfiguring effect of the fire

PICS. JOE MOLEFE

evidence of brain injury as a result of the accident and it means that her daughter can realise her full mental potential.

The accident has transformed her life, from being a single parent, working hard to support her four children to a fighter, trying to give Itumeleng the best chance in life.

She travels every week to meet the doctors who are treating Itumeleng. She has been to several companies armed with medical bills on one hand and her baby on the other asking for assistance.

So far she has only been able to pay about R15 000 in hospital bills. But a lot more is still needed.

"I do not feel ashamed to go begging. I know that I do not take one cent for myself. The money is paid straight to the clinic which is helping Tsholo. What will happen to her the day I am gone?" she says.

Tshabalala made an important decision when the accident happened. She decided she was not going to hide her daughter, she was going to take her out of the closet so she could learn to live with people.

Through a nursery school the brave

## The victims

- Between April 1990 and March 1991 the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town treated nearly 1 200 children under the age of 14 for burns.
- Most children who get burned are under the age of two.

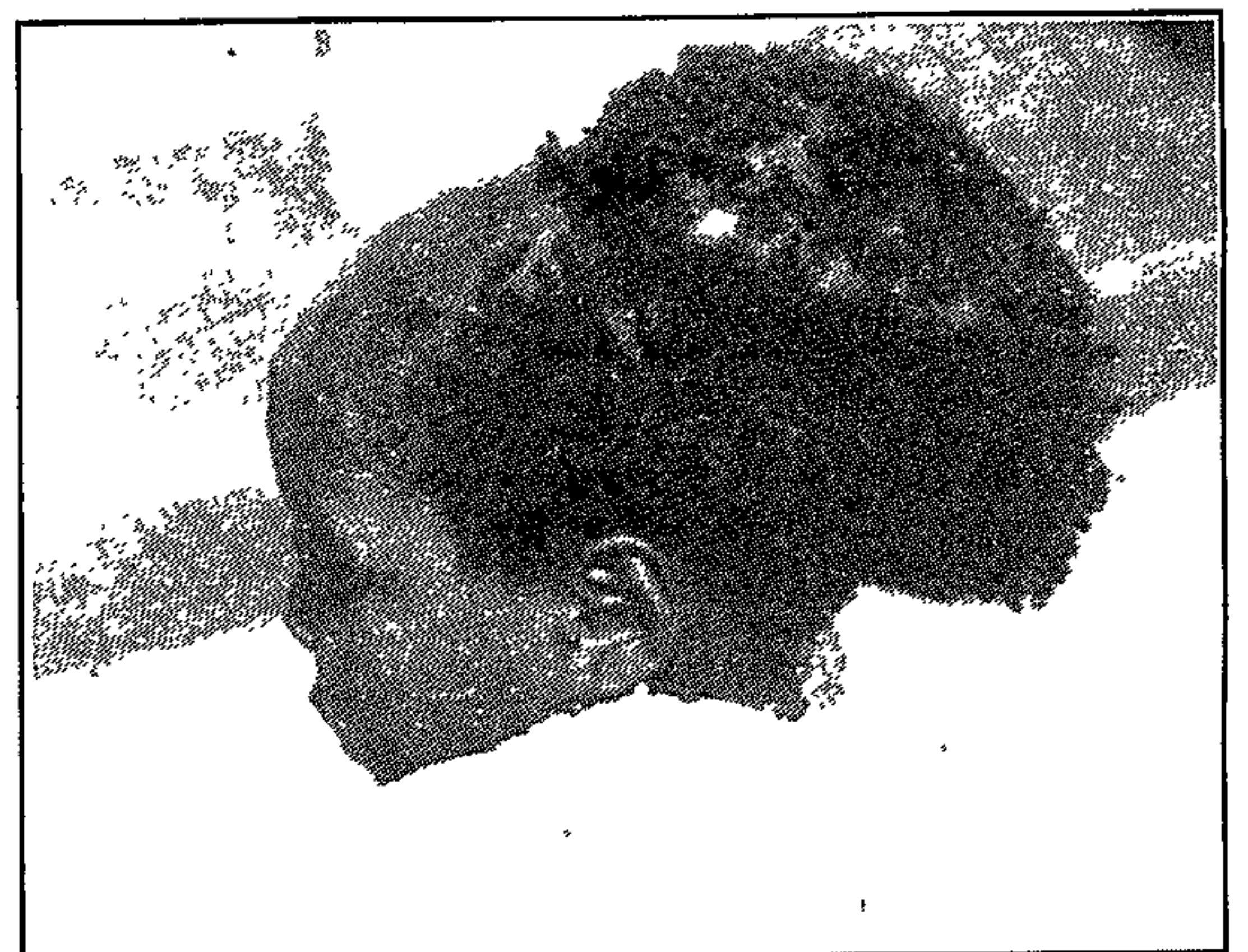
woman started, instead of sitting at home and idling, Itumeleng now has 29 little friends who have all accepted her.

It was not easy though, she said. The first time the children met Itumeleng, they rejected her. They did not want to play with her and she in turn, sensing the rejection, withdrew. She learnt that she was not like other children.

### Just like the other kids

"I had to sit down with each child and explain that Tsholo was a normal child. That she was burnt in an accident but apart from that she was a child just like them."

Their acceptance has made Itumeleng a confident little girl. She giggles a lot while playing football with



a Sowetan staffer, evidence that she has overcome her shyness.

"Children can be cruel at times," the mother said. "Even though she is generally accepted, whenever they fight as children will, they often remind her of her affliction and she comes back to me in tears."

Tshabalala also had to contend with a lot of cruelty from adults. Like an Afrikaner she met once while she was raising funds.

"He said I should get money from Mandela, who, he said, was a rich man

## Protect your little ones from burns

- Keep matches, lighters and candles out of reach of children.
- Never leave a child alone in a room with open fires, a coal or paraffin stove, gas ring or candle.
- Never use a broken or leaking paraffin stove.
- Do not smoke in bed.
- Do not leave a candle burning when going to sleep.
- Do not revive a braai or dying fire with petrol or other flammable liquids.
- To prevent scalding never fill a bath with hot water first. Pour cold water in first, add hot water and test the temperature before putting a baby in the bath.
- Never drink anything hot with a child on your lap.
- Never carry hot drinks while children are playing underfoot.
- Do not leave pot handles protruding so that children can pull them down over themselves.
- Use table mats instead of tablecloths. A dangling tablecloth will attract a curious toddler and he will pull it, spilling the hot beverages and food from the table over himself.
- Remember, burn accidents occur within seconds but take a lifetime to heal. They cause permanent injury and often result in physical handicap and lifelong disfigurement.

**What will happen to her the day I am gone?**

travelling all over the world. I have learnt to expect anything when I am raising money for Tsholo.

"I have also learnt that God would never have given me a problem without showing me the means to cope," she said.

**Readers who wish to contact Tshabalala can reach her at P O Box 343 Hammanskraal 0400**





On the stage . . . theatre can give children a sense of identity and help them master their natural, human resources.

# THEATRE Empowering children through drama

Star 6/7/92 . 258

Semakaleng Tlali (15) has no doubts about the benefits of being involved in children's theatre. "We learn new English words every time we rehearse our plays"

Tlali is one of a growing number of township children fortunate enough to come under the wing of theatre groups such as the Sharpeville-based Busang Thakane Theatre (BT) and the Soweto Youth Drama Society (SYDS).

"Children's or youth theatre is a vehicle for carrying children's thoughts," says Peter Ngwenya, founder of the SYDS. He adds: "The objective of children's theatre is to give the children an identity — so they can know themselves. It helps them to master their natural, human resources."

Ngwenya believes such theatre must encourage children to be creative. He doesn't believe in what he calls the "mug-and-jug" theory, where every available bit of information is pumped into children's minds. Instead Ngwenya prefers

More and more people in the world of theatre are realising the benefits of involving children in producing their own plays. Learn and Teach magazine spoke to some products of child theatre.

to "sit down with them and workshop a play based on anything they want to tell their parents and the world". In this way, he is not forcing his own ideas on them.

Gamakhulu Dimiso — who founded the BT — lets the children compose the content of their theatre, preferring to give advice and direction only. For example, the group's latest offering, "Iizwe — this land", was dramatised by the children.

"Its content is based on the games that the children play in the streets, such as 'housey-housey'. These games contribute to their mental development," Dimiso explains. He continues, "We are dramatising these games because children are no longer able to play in the streets because of violence."

The message of the BT is being spread to a wider audience. "Iizwe" was performed

at Johannesburg's Windy-brow Theatre in March as part of the Pot-Pouri Arts Festival organised by the Performing Arts Council of the Transvaal (Pact).

The work of Dimiso and Ngwenya call for an end to apartheid and the establishment of a democratic country. Ngwenya's play, "Where is my son?", for example, was inspired by the disappearance of Stanza Bopape, a detainee whom police claimed had escaped from detention.

The Johannesburg-based Committed Artists are also involved in children's or youth theatre which conveys an anti-apartheid message. Founded by director, Mbonjeni Ngema, the company is best known for the musical hit, "Saralana", which was recently made into a film. It featured actors as young as 14 when it was first performed in 1986.

The protest plays put on by these three theatre companies are not aimed at children alone. Although the performers are children and youths, their message has often been directed at an adult audience.

The Johannesburg Youth Theatre (JYT) and the People's Theatre aim at a children's audience. They focus on issues such as child abuse.

The JYT tries to teach children how to prevent drug abuse and what to do when they are sexually abused, according to the director, Joyce Levison. "Our plays also arm the children with a survival kit — for example, what to do when your parents are divorced".

The JYT's hit play, "The Little Bear," tried to teach nursery and primary school children about sexual abuse. Levison was inspired to produce the play when she saw police statistics, which said there were 5 886 cases of child sexual abuse in South Africa between July 1990 and June 1991.

The People's Theatre tries to involve children in the audience as much as possible. Shirley Shearing, the musical director of the People's Theatre, explains "We use a participatory method. That is, children who form part of the audience also take part in the play. This makes them feel they are part of the show."

In the People's Theatre production, "Pinocchio," the main actor often evoked a response from the audience. When he was in trouble, he would ask members of the audience what he was supposed to do, and they would help him. He also ran from the stage and joined the audience during the performance.

Similar communication between the audience and actors was seen in the BT's "Iizwe". One of the performers involved in a game of "hide-and-seek", warned the audience "If you tell her where we hid ourselves, I'll fight you when we leave here."

These techniques aim to empower the audience and the young performer. Learn and Teach is available at book stores and street corners at R1.95



**PEOPLE'S LIVES** *They're rough, they're tough, they're ambitious — they're the street kids and it is*

# The streets are alive with the

*Sowetan 7/7/92*

## STREET LIFE *It's a*

*hard existence for the children of the road,*  
reports **Pearl Majola:**

**A**N IDEAL child by nature, after some rough and tumble weeks on the streets of Hillbrow, Dumnisani Skosana decided that the life of a street kid was not for him.

Four years ago he was set for destruction but a simple decision he made that day changed his entire life.

Dumnisani Skosana climbs on top of the neatly-made steel bunk bed and makes himself comfortable in the small dormitory which he shares with five other boys in a commune in Malvern, Johannesburg.

### Dreams and the future

At a glance, he is just another one of those tall and handsome teenage boys who hang out in Smal Street. But unlike many of those, he speaks confidently of his dreams and the future and bravely about his painful and ugly past.

"I want to be an economist," he says confidently. "Then I want to go back home and show my uncle that he could not have broken me if he beat me hard with the biggest stick, show him that I became somebody after all. Then I want my Mamma to be proud that she bore a man," he said bravely.



**Bookworm ... Dumnisani Skosana now has a chance to read.** Pic: ROBERT MAGWAZA

Dumnisani is an 18-year-old who ran away from his home at the age of 13. He landed on the streets of Hillbrow and joined the scores of so-called street children in that slum.

All he had then were the clothes he wore and lots of hatred. Today, four years later, he is a conscientious Standard 8 pupil at Bophelo Impilo Institute with lots of ambition.

"My father died when I was five years old. My

stepmother moved out and my half-sister and I moved between relatives until we settled with our paternal uncle and his family," he explained.

But this arrangement saw the beginning of Dumnisani's problems and was to finally drive him away from home.

According to him, his uncle abused them physically and they had nowhere to go.

"We were told from the beginning that legally

## Kid on the block

### Dumnisani Skosana

**Ambition:** To be an economist  
**Favourite person:** Eddie Murphy  
**Favourite TV programmes:** Sgudi-Snaysi and comedies.  
**Favourite musicians:** Phil Collins, Keith Sweat  
**Favourite sport:** Soccer and tennis

we could not live with our mothers because my father had not married them. We could only visit them," he said.

"One day I was sent to a relative's house a distance from home. I decided never to go back home. I didn't know where to go but I had made up my mind that I could not live there any more."

He took a train without even knowing its destination. After two days without food he arrived at Park Station, Johannesburg.

### Discovered Joubert Park

"I didn't know anyone here except for some boys who had attended school with me from South Africa and that was useless because I didn't know where they were from exactly."

"So I wandered about what I later discovered was Joubert Park. On my first night I saw some boys sleeping outside cafes and flat buildings and decided to join them," he recalled.

The following morning Dumnisani's orientation to life as a "street kid" began - washing cars, directing motorists towards available parking and sniffing glue and smoking.



*a hard climb up from the gutter to a successful, fulfilled life*

# Sound of urchins



**I don't miss home except my mother. I have almost everything I need here and I am very happy**

Dumisani Skosana, former street kid

## Shelter from the storm

- About 43 children live at the Streetwise shelter in Hillbrow and 10 at the commune in Malvern.
- There are about 30 other children reached by Streetwise through a soup kitchen run in Hillbrow.
- Twenty of these children are in formal school and the rest attend the Streetwise informal education project.
- The Streetwise school also accommodates 40 children from the Twilight project.
- The youngest of the children at the Streetwise shelter is eight years old.
- There are about 35 other children cared for by Streetwise in Soweto.
- None of the Streetwise children have been phased back to the community.
- Streetwise can be contacted at 648-1203/4.

Though fearing deportation, he braced himself for the worst and asked around for the local child welfare. He was directed to the Twilight Children's Project.

At the beginning of 1990 Dumisani started school in Standard 5. However, he did so well that he was promoted to Standard 6 that same year and has never looked back.

Through an arrangement between Twilight and Streetwise projects, Dumisani was moved to Streetwise where he was taken to the organisation's informal education project. Once the children have been assessed, it is decided whether they are ready for formal school and what class they can join.

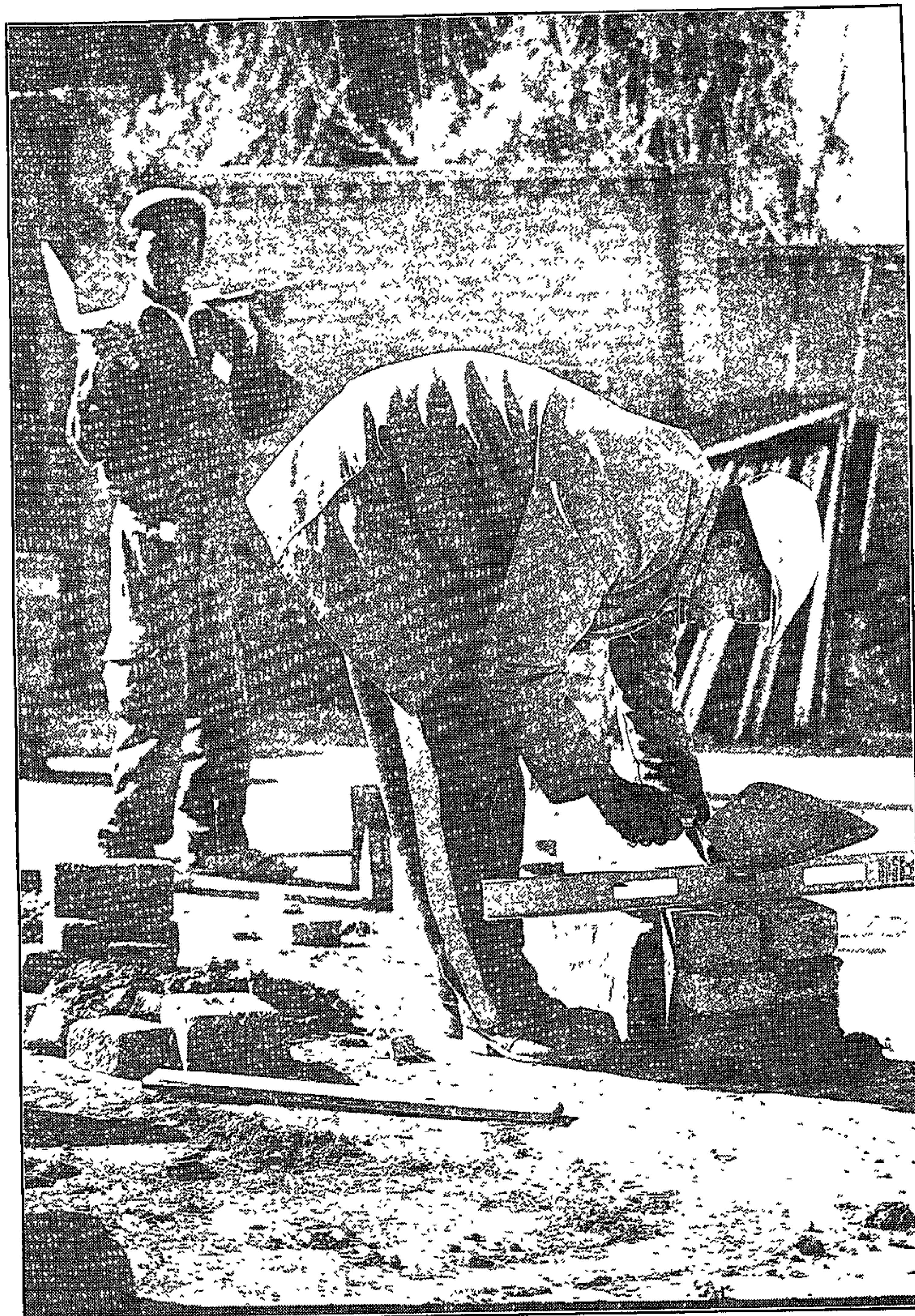
"I don't miss home except my mother. I have almost everything I need here and I am very happy," he said.

With his determination, nothing will stop Dumisani from realising his dream of becoming an economist.

**Up Next**

**TOMORROW** we bring you a success story. Mokgalagadi 'Jobo' Meko — seen at work in the picture above — broke free from the life of a street urchin and obtained a diploma as a hairstylist from a leading academy. Now he wants to go home to show off his success. Don't miss your new-look Sowetan tomorrow.





Keen to go home . . . Ed Mutaung can't wait to get his bricklaying certificate and find a job.

Picture: Karen Fletcher

## Street youths prepare solid foundation

By Abdul Milazi

Twelve streetchildren's dream of leading a normal life will come true when they graduate from a bricklaying course in Bertrams, Johannesburg, at the end of this month

With only three weeks to go, the youths, aged between 16 and 20, said they would return home as soon as they received their bricklaying certificates.

The bricklaying course, sponsored by mining company Samancor, was the brainchild of Johannesburg volunteer worker Sally Tollin, who started working with streetchildren seven years ago

"Various organisations have fed, clothed and sheltered streetchildren, but when these youngsters become men they can no longer be kept in the shelters

"My dream is to see them going back to their communities and becoming normal citizens," said Mrs Tollin

However, she said the problem was far from over and appealed to building companies to give a "follow-up service" by employing the youths after they have completed the course.

"Giving skills alone will not help. Only when these youngsters find jobs will the project be worthwhile. The main aim is to fuse them back into the community," said Mrs Tollin.

She said Samancor had sponsored two bricklaying courses and would sponsor a motor mechanic course later this year

The streetchildren told The Star that poverty and abuse by their step-fathers had made them brave the hardships of Hillbrow

Once in Johannesburg, hungry and without a job, many of them had turned to crime. Some said they had later visited their families, only to return to the streets.



## street <sup>(298)</sup> children <sup>CT 8/1/92</sup>

MOLO SONGOLOLO, an educational, non-profit organisation catering for street children, will now be able to lease 3 251 m<sup>2</sup> of public open space in Copperfield Road, Woodstock, from the Cape Town City Council at a rental of R42 per year for 25 years.

The organisation intends to build a complex which will fulfil three purposes: a "drop in" centre, a skills training centre and a residential centre for about 50 children and youths.

The erf was originally reserved for the development of sports fields, and since Molo Songo lolo has advised the council it now requires less land than it originally applied for, two playing fields and parking will still be able to be developed on the remainder of the land.



**PEOPLE'S LIVES** *A journey from street to salon* • **BUSINESS** *Clean up your money*

# He's a cut above the rest ...

Sowetan 8/7/92

## ■ Rags to riches

*He was once a street urchin but now he's the trendiest kid in*

*town. Lulama Luti*

*spoke to him:*

**S**PORTING A Mike Tyson haircut, a pair of trendy baggy jeans and a matching shirt, Jobo fits the image of the average township teenager.

No one would guess the contrast until he tells his story. And he is determined to give meaning to his life.

It is five months since this 17-year-old lad turned over a new leaf. He has come a long way since those rough days in 1984, when at the age of eight, he became a street urchin.

"Life in the streets is difficult," Jobo says with obvious regret and heartache.

### Lived on handouts

"We were always exposed to all sorts of dangers. We lived on handouts and the few cents that we got from begging. Some of the boys even died in front of me."

Jobo was kicked out of an orphanage in ThabaNchu in 1983 because he was not a Bophuthatswana citizen.

"I was transferred to Emndeni Children's Home in Soweto where I continued schooling in 1984. We used to come to town with some of my friends to ask for money from (white) people."

"Sometimes we stayed the night and would be punished when we went back



### The cutting edge ... Jobo negotiates hairstyles now, not street corners.

home the next day. That is one of the reasons why I never went back. The rules at the home were very strict," he said.

Hardly three weeks on the streets, he was arrested in Hillbrow for roaming the streets.

He got to know Mrs Jill Swart-Kruger, whom he describes as his saviour at the same time. She would later

baul him out of the most difficult situations.

"Jill took us out of prison and we joined Proccess, a refuge for street kids. I stayed at the Magaliesburg branch where I was also kicked out. Their rules were also very strict," he said.

Jobo was given a ticket to go back to Bloemfontein but instead headed for Johannesburg and was back on the

streets again.

"In the evenings I would go to the disco and sleep on park benches during the day," he said.

It was during his park escapades, he claims, that he was attacked and beaten to pulp by two whites who left him for dead.

He decided to go back to Proccess. The refuge was to later save him again

They cannot force us to change. You have to be resolved to change your life

## Kid on the block

**Name:** Mokgalagadi Mekoa  
**Background:** Comes from a broken family  
**Nickname:** "Jobo"  
**Age:** 17 years  
**Home:** Mangaung, Bloemfontein  
**Academic qualification:** Standard 5  
**Favourite personalities:** Alex Molokoane and Jiti Swart-Kruger

by intervening on his behalf after he had spent three months in jail following an arrest for an attempt to break into a car.

"I needed to do something constructive with my life. I decided to go back to school. I always had a keen interest in hair care."

"Fortunately, Streetwise, an institution for street kids, had an agreement with Alex Hair International to offer us training. When I completed Standard 4 I joined the academy," he explained.

After four months of intensive training, he feels he is ready to take up the hair care business in Bloemfontein.

"I am determined to carry on with my life off the streets. I hope to pursue my studies through correspondence once I have established myself in business."

What of his friends, who are still roaming the streets?

"It all depends on the individual. A lot of generous people are offering help. But they cannot force us to change. You have to be resolved to change your life," Jobo said.



# Violence: massacre of mental health

**CHILDREN AND FEAR**  
Spiralling violence has led to an increasing number of children as young as 10 dropping out of school. A small number of people is trying to focus on these children to forestall problems.  
**MPINE QAKISA** reports.

**T**HE Bopalong dust has settled, the dead are buried, the injured are recovering, even a two-month old baby who lost his mother during the massacre has stopped crying for her breast.

But the atrocities of the night of June 17 live on in the minds of hundreds of children who watched with horror rampaging attackers shooting, stabbing and hacking to death their relatives and friends.

For them, witnessing such violent acts is the beginning of a life-long nightmare that may lead to depression, says Dr Solly Rataemane of the child psychiatry unit at Baragwanath Hospital.

This depression breeds defence mechanisms which take the form of violent behaviour in most cases, Dr Rataemane said at a conference organised by the National Council of Mental Health in Johannesburg last week.

Dr Rataemane treats children from Thokozwa squatter camps who witnessed members of their families killed.

"These children have seen their homes invaded. They were asked not to shout or scream. And now, they fear everything around them

**Scared**

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"Many are so scared that they don't even go to school because they think that the attackers may come back again for the little that they've got."

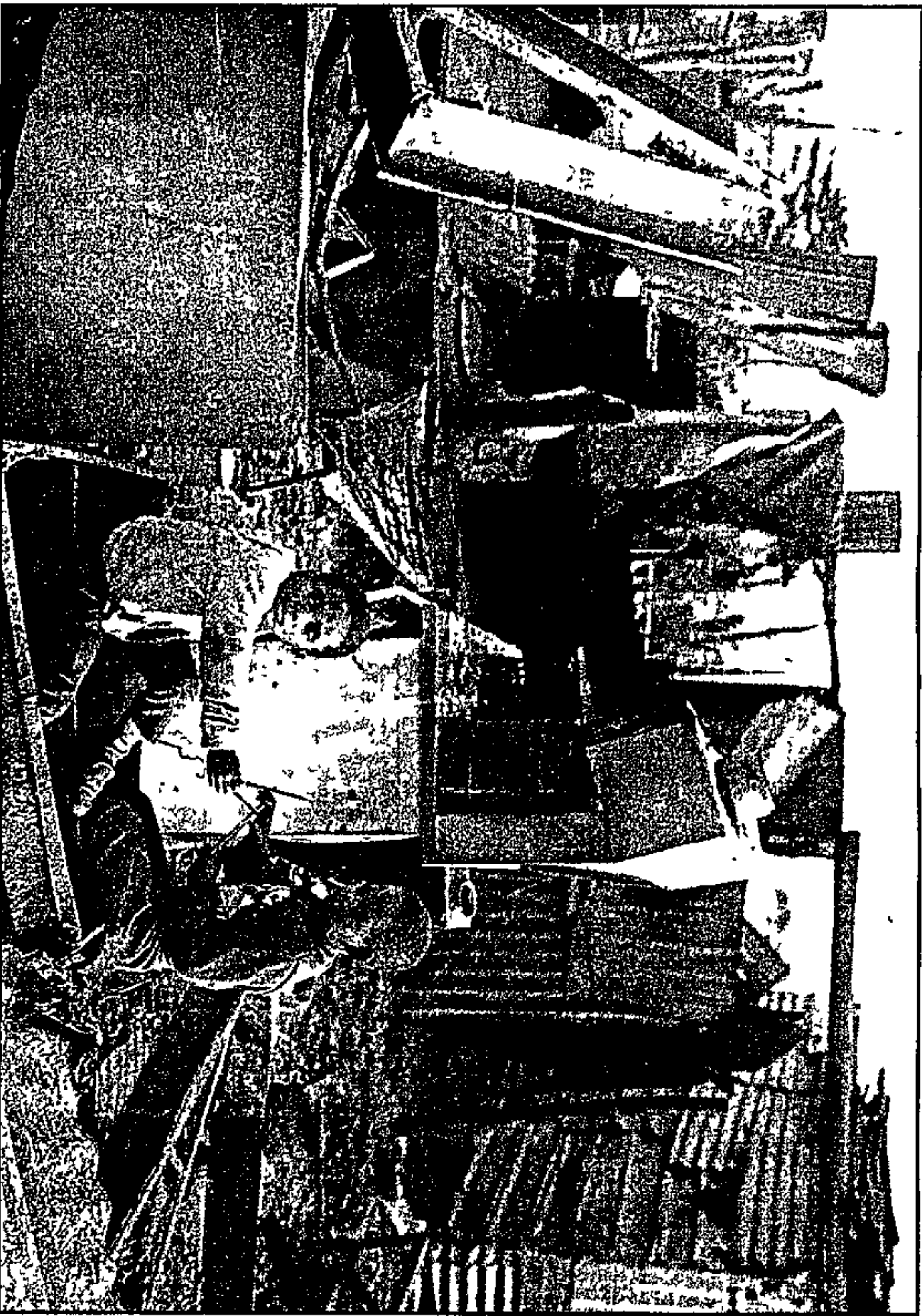
Most of the time children's problems are not resolved and their only outlet becomes depression, which leads to poor performance in schools.

Dr Rataemane says "I was treating a 10-year-old boy who is brain-damaged because of substance abuse. He breaks into people's homes, steals and lies — and that's a child who is supposed to be at school."

When treating such children, he says, the socio-economic and political situation needs to be considered.

The drop-out rate among children aged 10 is "unbelievably" high in black communities, while in white schools the average drop-out rate is 16 as in other civilised countries, he says.

In South Africa, violence is one of the biggest causes of death among the youth. This includes young people who are actively involved in violent behaviour as well as those who are victims. People who are not directly affected



Shattered lives . . . children are bearing the scars of the fractured communities in which they live.

by violence experience tension because "you have to choose where you walk, where you drive and what you say."

Violence is also experienced through the media and through parents talking about it.

Dr Rataemane treated a young girl who was constantly scared when her parents did not come back from work at the expected time.

"This child didn't think that her parents may be stuck in traffic or had gone grocery shopping, but what she saw was

children are bearing the scars of the fractured communities in which they live. death," he says.

Direkhe Moutinho of the National Council for Mental Health says if children witness violence often, they become emotionally numb or they break down.

Resorting to violent behaviour is often a plea for help, she says, and ironically it is viewed as a way of solving problems that plague our society.

Depending on the make-up of a child, she says, children who are subjected to traumatic events may break down emotionally and hurt themselves in the process, while others laugh about the atrocities.

This is often nothing more than a reaction to extreme frustration and in South Africa it is often directed towards the education system.

And while the focus is on the killings in the country, violence in the family should not be overlooked.

The security of a child depends on the family that should provide it. But in the black communities, says Ms Moutinho, it

is difficult for parents to provide security and stability for their children because the basics such as housing, learning opportunities, recreational and health facilities are not there.

Also, there is a need to destigmatise mental health problems. People need to learn that a person who is mentally ill is not necessarily "crazy."

Also, there is a need to destigmatise mental health problems. People need to learn that a person who is mentally ill is not necessarily "crazy."

## Danger signals in the young

Early signs of emotional distress in very young children are:

- Depression may be present if a child loses pleasure in almost all daily activities; is tearful, moody and irritable.
- Overanxiousness and fearfulness may occur when a child is separated from loved ones and worries about future situations.
- The extremely "good child" becomes a perfectionist — compliant and overreager to please.
- Disruptive and uncontrollable behaviour occur where the child is constantly angry, resentful, spiteful and vindictive.
- Low self-esteem and poor self-image where adolescents are severely confused about their own identity, the meaning of life and the future.

If a relative or a friend notices these common danger signals they should contact the National Council for Mental Health in Johannesburg, telephone (011) 725-5800.



# Striving for a better future for YOU

STAR 14/7/79

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**A** PROJECT into which a Germiston woman has put more than two years of her life — and from which she stands to gain precisely nothing — sometimes seems no nearer fruition than the day she first thought of it. But still she doggedly sticks to the task.

viser to the president of the Germiston Chamber of Business.

But the project nearest Mrs Cheshire's heart is YOUNG — Youth Over Unemployment — a project badly bedevilled by the present political climate, but one she is determined to get off the ground sooner than later. To this end she will be travelling to Britain in the near future to discuss the matter of financing the project "at a high level".

She has previously corresponded with Margaret Thatcher on the project, and has a letter from the former British premier expressing her support and approval.

Mrs Cheshire, who is no stranger to dealings with the top echelons of the Government, as well as Inkatha and the ANC, emigrated to this country 20 years ago. In the UK she started nursing at a very young age. "There's nothing worse



Shafto's People

than regret for missed opportunities, and you see this so much in illness. I don't want to die having not achieved anything." She had a near death experience when daughter Amanda was born 13 years ago — "and that more than anything decided me I must do something positive with my life".

What is YOUNG? Though it would be black orientated, it was inspired by the plight of 23-year-old Rodney Thoms, who these days works at the estate agency. It all came about as a result of a letter he wrote to the Germiston City Times, complaining that since his national service

straight from school, he had made 310 employment applications without success. "Can you imagine how much worse it is for blacks?" Mrs Cheshire says.

"Everywhere you look there's violence today," says the tall brunette, "and the single major factor is unemployment. Do you realise there are approximately 6.5 million people unemployed — and as we speak the figure's growing? If we get people jobs — and they're mainly young people — we've got a chance."

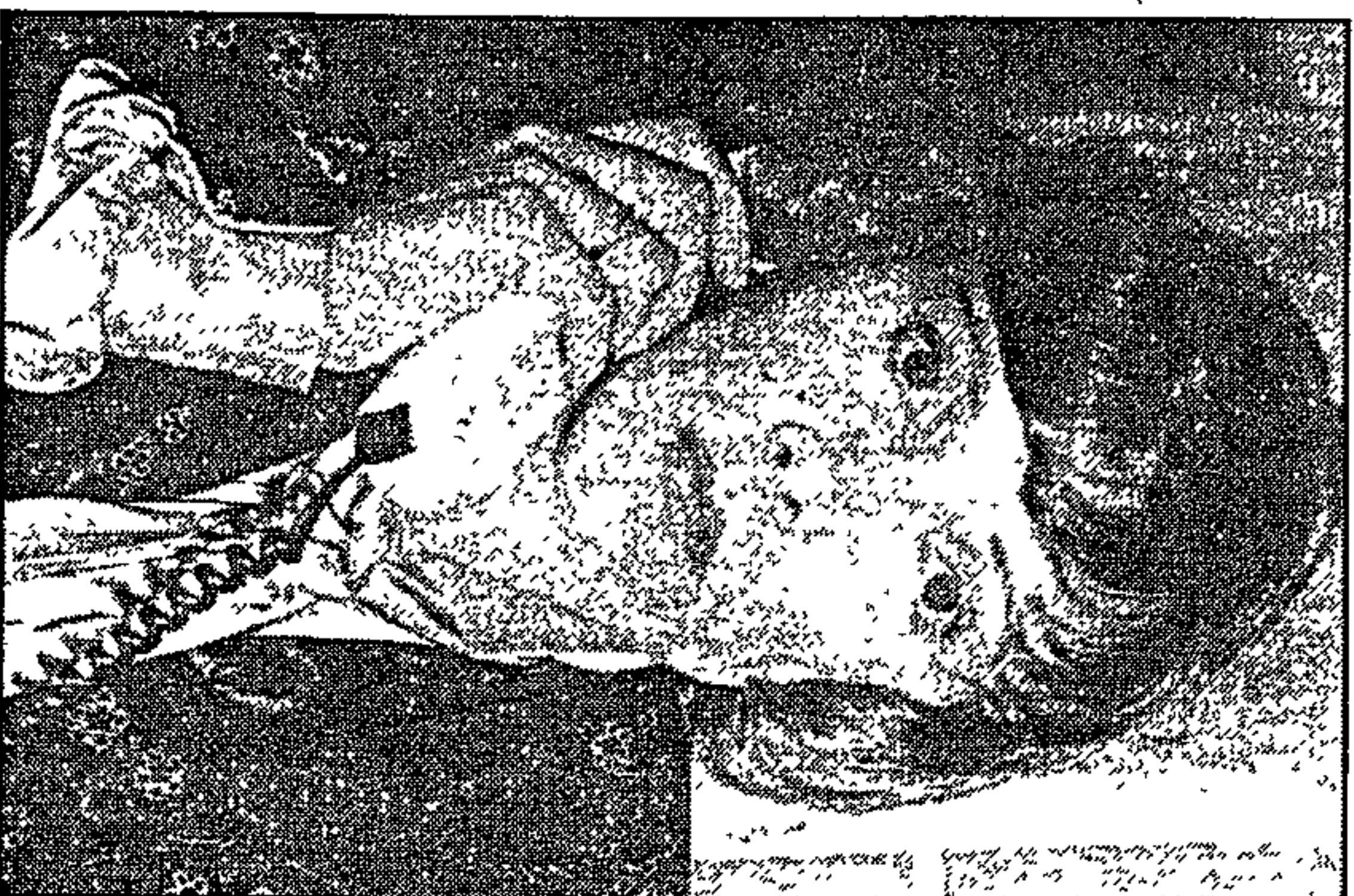
Mrs Cheshire has her eye on a Wadeville factory that would cost R1.5 million. In a project she sees as generating its own finance once it is off the ground, the factory would become an all-purpose HQ where workers could be trained and the project directed. "It needs commitment from business or it won't work," she says bluntly.

But we would be helping each other, we would be providing them with exactly the kind of work force they need for any given area of business."

Mrs Cheshire envisages a three-tier operation covering factory worker skills, any number of entrepreneurial skills from office cleaning to pottery, dressmaking, woodwork, garden service, and for those who are academically gifted. This is no pipe dream. She has done exhaustive studies on the project, and in the case of the academically gifted has already approached the head of the Germiston Technikon, who has given her the assurance that he would help.

"My dream," says Mrs Cheshire, "is to establish similar centres throughout the country. I know it can work. Once the first ones off the ground, it'll mushroom."

**MICHAEL SHAFTO**



Drive and determination . . . keep Lynn Cheshire on the path she has chosen.

Page: 1

ARG 14/7/92

# Strike closes children's home

SHARON SOROUR, Labour Reporter

THE Lindelani Children's Home near Stellenbosch has been closed until further notice as the strike by Cape health workers enters its fourth week.

The Cape Provincial Administration says the home for abandoned children was evacuated on Friday because of mass action by employees. The children have been placed temporarily in other institutions.

Fifty-three employees, almost the entire workforce, are on strike. The remaining 13 were "greatly intimidated", the CPA said.

At the Siyakathala place of safety near Stellenbosch, where 80 percent of the staff are on strike, remaining workers were "still coping" and it had not been necessary to make alternative arrangements for the children, the CPA said.

See page 4

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By SOPHIE TEMA

A GROUP of Soweto boys may have escaped death after a Civic Association member saved them from being taken by police to the Meadowlands hostel.

The boys claimed they were at the home of Cecilia Tobacco on Tuesday night when the police arrived, saying they had come to look for hidden ammunition in the house which they claimed was being used as a mini-office by the ANC.

The boys said they were made to lie side by side on the ground while

# 'Terrified boys are saved just in time'

the police assaulted them with a plank.

"We told them we had no knowledge of any weapons. The police then threatened to take us to the hostel where we would be handed over to hostel dwellers and killed," said the boys.

One of the boys in the group managed to escape and ran to the homes of Civic Associ-

ation chairman West Shabangu and former mayor Sam Mkhwanazi for help.

Shabangu and Mkhwanazi said they arrived at the house just as the police were ordering the boys to climb on to a casspir.

Shabangu said: "I intervened and told the boys not to get on to the casspir if the police in-

sisted taking them to the hostel.

"I wanted to know why they had come to the house, and they said they had received certain information about the house," he said.

Shabangu said the police raid followed the killing of four residents by hostel dwellers last week-end.

Residents claimed that two of the victims were not killed, but police spokesman Lt. E. Fleming said one victim was shot and killed on the Mzimbahe soccer field and then set alight.

Relatives of 30-year-old Hake Shabangu Mkhwanazi claimed he was not killed in the presence of the police by the hostel dwellers.

Lt. Fleming said he had no record of the raid at the Tobacco home nor the assault on the boys.

He added no report was made to him by any of the boys concerned.

(298)  
21/7/92

# Where comrade 'Nduna' and his boys are the 'lawmakers'

Sowetan 21/7/92

**IN CONTROL** They patrol the streets

*of Sebokeng openly carrying guns, and hold regular residents meetings while police Casspirs race away from them:*

**By Abbey Makoe**

**T** EENAGE boys have seized control of parts of Sebokeng. Some are only 14 years old and still at school.

They patrol the streets - day and night - openly carrying home-made quash guns.

The boys are also the core of self-defence units in these areas, known as "blocks".

We found them digging trenches in the block called Solomon Mahlangu, saying that their mission was to ensure police and vigilantes did not gain easy access.

Only local motorists know which routes to follow, said the boys. Residents were up-dated about new developments at meetings, held at least once every two days, the boys said.

They man roadblocks on routes leading to various blocks.

Meanwhile, police seem helpless about the situation. When the boys attacked the Sowetan team in Zone 7, police in a Casspir drove away when hiding residents threw stones from yards.

And when reporters drove in front

of the police Casspir, officers inside blew a hooter continuously and shouted at reporters: "Drive faster we need to pass."

Indeed, their heavy Casspir drove past a barricade, leaving reporters under attack from surfacing youths who wanted to take Sowetan's car, shouting: "Ke ya makgowa." (The car belongs to whites.)

Four weeks ago youths in Solomon Mahlangu block burnt down a house because the owner, a policeman known only as Pule, was suspected of spying for the SAP.

**They give us bullets from time to time. They know what we are doing and they don't spy on us**

**Leader of a Sebokeng defence unit**

In a block called Joe Slovo, youths also set alight a house after one of the girls living there was accused of being an Inkatha member.

The house belonged to an unem-

ployed woman who earned her living by casually doing washing for whites in Vanderbijlpark.

The woman's other daughter, Sophia Mosie (18), said she has since joined "the comrades" to assure them no one in her family belonged to Inkatha.

At a roadblock, mean-looking youths demanded details of our identities and reasons for being in the area. The day was saved by the popularity of photographer Len Kumalo.

The leader of the defence unit was initially reluctant to grant us an interview. It was only on condition that his identity was not disclosed that he started to budge. His code-name is Nduna.

"There is war going on here, Mfowethu," Nduna started. "We will survive," he said, looking impressively at the boys digging yet another trench.

Nduna made it clear that his boys were not against every policeman. "There are some who are living in this area and we don't attack them," Nduna said.

When asked where his boys got the bullets, Nduna smiled and said: "As I have told you, Mfowethu, some policemen here are very co-operative.

"They give us bullets from time to time. They know what we are doing and they don't spy on us," Nduna said.

His boys were patrolling the streets in three shifts, he said. "The first one goes in at 6am to 2pm. The second from 2pm to 10pm and the last group take up arms from 10pm until the next morning at 6am."

The one thing Nduna stressed was discipline. He said boys who misbehaved, like moving around asking for "protection fee" from residents, were sjamboked.

"Depending on the seriousness of the crime, I can give one lash, two lashes, three lashes and soon," Nduna said.

He said all laws governing the blocks were made at the 20-man "council", comprising representatives from all the 13 zones in Sebokeng.

The two-months-old council is based at zone 14 and "it is the highest law-making body," Nduna said.

There was no one in Sebokeng who disobeyed the laws because they were formed in consultation with the residents.

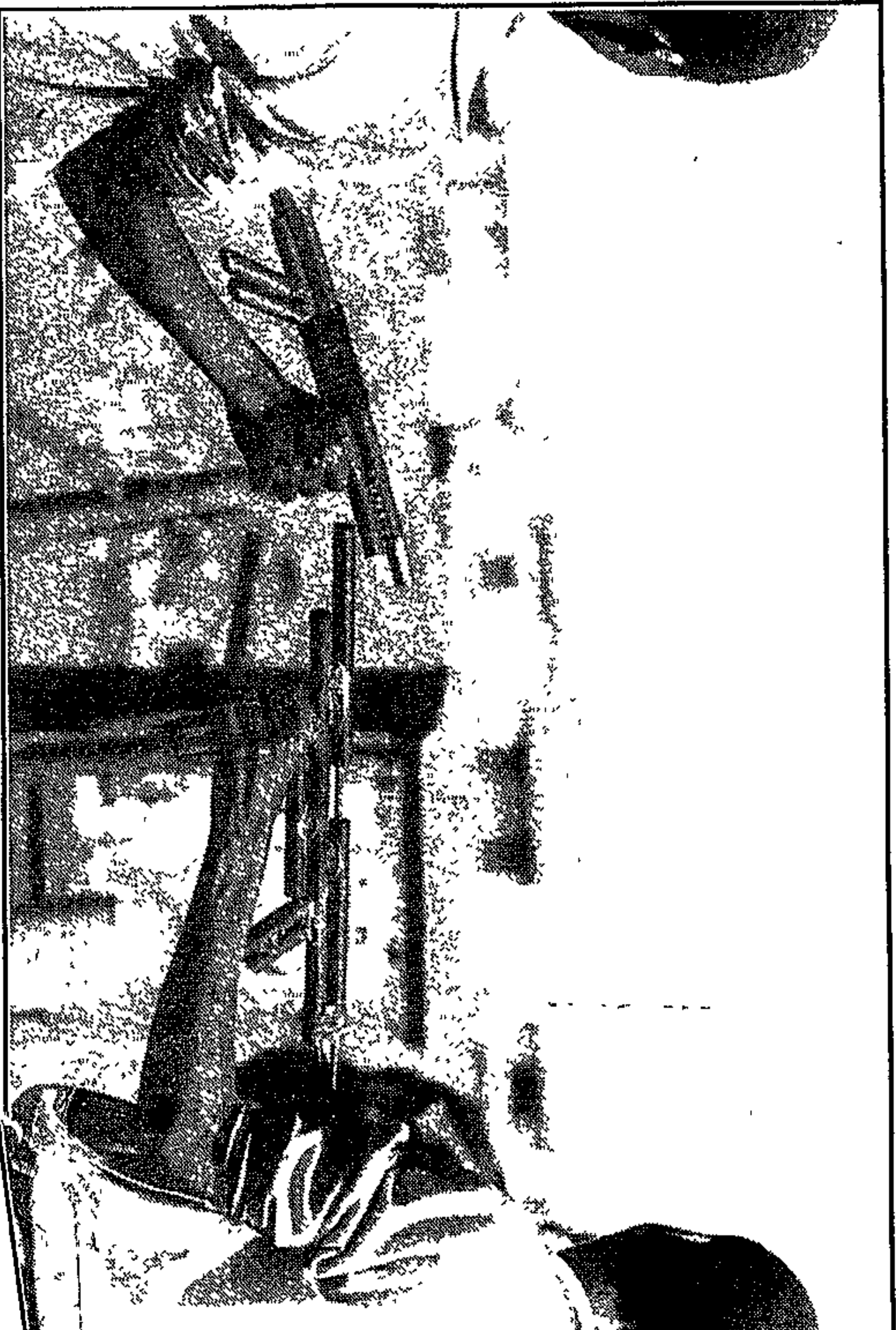


Sophia Mosie joined the comrades to prove that no-one in her family is an IFP member



Tuesday July 21 1992 SOWETAN

## NEWS FEATURE *Even police Casspirs are not immune to attack by the 'comrades'*



Home-made firearms...teenaged comrades display the weapons they use in their 24-hour patrols in the streets of Sebokeng.  
PIC: LEN KIMMATH

## **Eskom to electrify schools**

ESKOM will spend nearly R2-million on the electrification of 84 schools countrywide this year, and has plans for more than 100 others to be linked to its grid before the year-end, a spokesman said yesterday. *Sowetan 21/7/92*

He said the utility, which last year introduced electricity to 10 schools, had firm plans for 84 schools and was identifying 116 others for electrification before the end of the year. - Sapa.

## **25 arrested after sit-in**

TWENTY-FIVE youths were arrested yesterday after they occupied the town council's offices in Mohlakeng, near Randfontein. *Sowetan 21/7/92*

West Rand police spokesman Major Henriette Bester said about 30 people had gone to the offices to demand the Government's resignation.

A charge of trespassing was laid and 25 of the protesters were arrested. *Sowetan 21/7/92*

They were expected to appear in the Randfontein Magistrate's Court late yesterday - Sapa.

## **Giwu funeral plans**

MR MICHAEL Malizo Giwu (68) of 7124 Mahe Street, Orlando West, Soweto will be buried on Thursday at Avalon cemetery.

The service will be at his home at 9am and the cortege leaves at 10am.



## 25 arrested after sit-in (298)

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Over 50 000  
children to  
see the light

Star 2/11/92  
Education Reporter

Educational opportunities for more than 50 000 children will be a whole lot brighter by the end of the year following the announcement yesterday by Eskom to provide electricity to 84 schools across the country.

Eskom chief executive Dr Ian McRae said the electricity giant was committed to "making things happen" and the electrification of schools was seen as part of the organisation's contribution to educational development in disadvantaged communities.

Ten schools were electrified by Eskom last year.

"Eskom realises that the most significant contribution the organisation can make to the development of a child is the electrification of schools.

"This leads to the creation of an environment which is more conducive to learning," Dr McRae said.



# Fight against 'child killers'

STAR 22/7/92

Medical Reporter

(298)

Thousands of children die and many more are injured each year as a result of the careless handling of unwanted medicines and poisonous household liquids.

A leading pharmacy group intends tackling the problem head-on and will launch a major campaign to encourage households to get rid of their unwanted drugs as part of National Child Accident Prevention Week at the beginning of next month.

According to the pharmacy group, more than 3 000 children under the age of five die in South Africa each year and thousands more are permanently disabled as a result of accidental injury related to medicines and other chemicals.

At the Red Cross's Cape Children's Hospital alone, more than 2 000 incidents of poisoning were reported in a single year, including:

- 1 661 incidents of poisoning by medicine;
- 333 incidents of poisoning by paraffin;
- 439 incidents of poisoning by household products;

- 421 incidents of poisoning by agricultural products, and;

- 160 incidents of poisoning by handyman products.

Link, a pharmacy chain and major distributor of medicines, will promote the "Dump (Disposal of Unwanted Medicines Programme) Campaign" during August when members of the public can discard their unwanted medicines.

According to Druggists SA manager: professional services, Dr Natham Finkelstein, the campaign aims to remove the "potential killers" from homes, where children can get hold of them.

However, the campaign will not just focus on medicines but also on household cleaners and insecticides — "anything an inquisitive child might come into contact with". This issues will be dealt with in the first week of August on TV1's Good Morning South Africa.

Link Pharmacy will also distribute pamphlets detailing what to do in the case of a poisoning as well as a list of poison information centres countrywide.

## NEWS Parenting workshop for Soshanguve • Alleged chop-shop mastermind refused bail

# Healthy way of bringing up kids

*Sowetan 23/7/92*

■ The Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshop to be held in Soshanguve on Saturday focuses on healthy child-parent-teacher relationships:

By Pearl Majola

HEALTHY relationships with parents and teachers are essential in the development of a child.

This is the view of Mrs Anne-Gloria Maselle, co-ordinator of the Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshops who will be the key speaker at the workshop in Soshanguve on Saturday.

One or both of these support structures could break down and present problems for children, she said.

"Today's children are the product of external forces within their environment - parents, teachers, political and church leaders," Maselle said.

"The children are moulded by these agents."

Topics to be discussed include the role of the church in the development of the child, how the parent-teacher-pupil relationships can be improved and the role of politicians in parent-teacher-student associations.



Courier giants DHL International had their hands full when they were asked to transport 2 735 blown up balloons to various destinations in Durban, Johannesburg and Cape Town last week. Copies of Sowetan were delivered in the balloons as part of a campaign to attract the attention of marketing people.



lare emerged the bright butterflies of today



Mr Marks Sibanyoni is another lucky winner of R200 from Sowetan. He was spotted at Fenyane's garage in Mamelodi, Pretoria, displaying the latest Sowetan bumper sticker. Miss Francinah Ratema presented him with his prize.

# 'Hunting' of street kids is condemned

■ People of all races all over the country get a kick out of harassing street children, attacking them without provocation:

‘Street children are delightful individuals’

President of Streetwise, Mrs Jill Swart-Kruger

By Lulama Luti

**C**ONCERN has been expressed about the victimisation of street children by people regardless of their colour throughout the country.

Mrs Jill Swart-Kruger, president of Streetwise, an organisation which looks after these children, said:

"A lot of people actually get kicks from harassing these children and they always go out of their way to attack them without the slightest provocation."

The hunting and harassment of street children was a useless sport which was rife among a wide sec-

tion of the South African population, she said.

"Those of us who work with street children and who know the difficult circumstances from which these children originate, feel despair at such brutality," said Swart-Kruger.

She appealed to the broader community to stop victimising street children and rather to help them.

"Street children are delightful and often highly creative individuals with an urge to better their conditions in life. "One of the biggest tasks in helping them is getting adults not to fear these children.

"For as long as they do, the children will be victimised and they will receive very little constructive assistance," said Swart-Kruger.

●Meanwhile, the fatal shooting of a street-kid at the weekend has led to the dismissal of a policeman, East Rand police spokesman Captain Ida van Zweek said yesterday.

"Constable AS Tshamele was immediately discharged after a shooting incident on the night of July 19 in which a 13-year-old child known then only as Oupa was shot dead," she said.

Tshamele appeared in the Benoni Magistrate's Court on Monday and was released on bail of R300 bail. The case was postponed to August 7.

A social worker at the Benoni Child Welfare Society, Mrs Moira Simpson, said the youth, Oupa Ndlovu, will be buried in Daveyton today.

A funeral service will be held at the Benoni Central Methodist Church at 3pm.



# focus on Children

**T**his is my child and I will see him. Don't blame me. Rather spite the gavel.

At last the law has sanctioned that a father has an inherent right of access to his illegitimate child. This, despite the fortunes and mishaps of a couple's relationship. Provided only if such access is in the child's best interests.

The Rand Supreme Court has decided that this is according to "natural law and equity", what in legalese is referred to as *secundum ius et aequitatem*.

The decision heralds a new age in which a father's emotional relationship with his child does not depend on his legal relationship with its mother.

Access to a child should not be an incidence of parental authority nor should the payment of maintenance a *quid pro quo* for access to be granted, the court also opined.

Deciding that the natural father's right of access to his child is fettered only by the child's best interests, the court further placed the onus to prove that such access is not in the child's best interests on the mother.

A recent review of the case by Professor Joan Church in the Unisa Law Faculty publication *Codicillus* concludes that the overriding principle behind the court decision is natural law and equity.

The facts of the decision follow.

A man and a woman conducted a live-in relationship for three years. The woman left the common home, taking her a two-year-old born of the relationship.

## Lawsuit

She went to stay with her parents and access to the natural father was denied. After a lawsuit the parties agreed that the father should have reasonable access to the child. The agreement was made an order of the court.

Giving its reasons for the decision the court found that the right of the natural father to access to his child was an inherent right that could only be denied if this was in the child's best interest.

The decision reversed a trend which emerged in 1987 when the courts acted against the father's inherent right of access to his illegitimate child.

Prior to 1987 the South African Law Commission found that it "appeared that the direction in which the law is tending is to grant the father access to his illegitimate child."

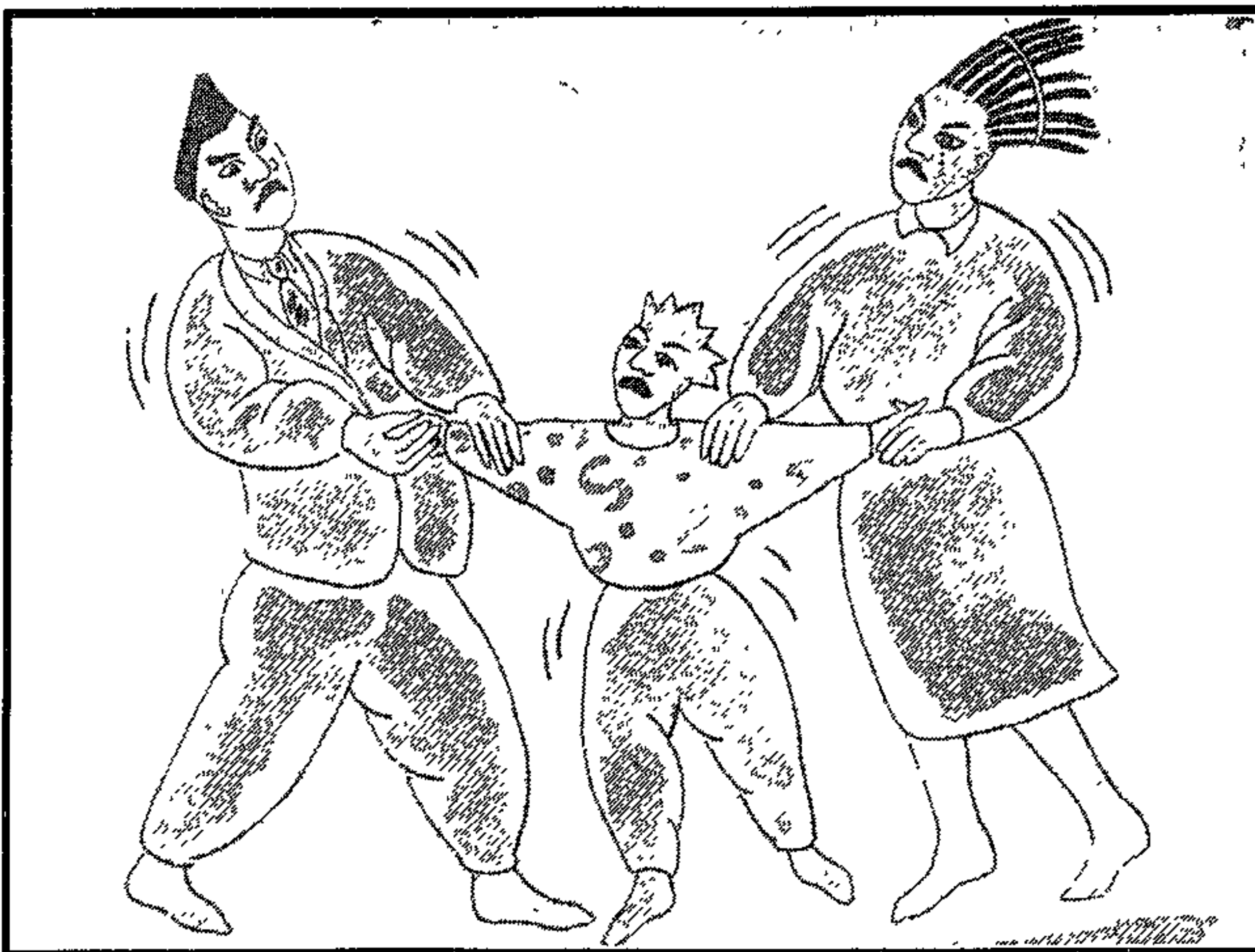
"Since 1987 this notion has been rejected in a number of decisions which decided that the natural father has no right of access unless he proves to the court that his access to the child would be in the child's best interest," Church said.

The decisions were criticised for, inter alia,

Fathers now have a legal right to their illegitimate children and no longer depend on the whims of the natural mother, a court has decided. **Mzimasi Ngudle** takes a broad look at this historic decision.

Swejan  
24/7/92

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**There won't be any need for this to happen in future...fathers now have legal rights to their illegitimate children**

placing strong emphasis on the right of the father rather than that of the child.

Professor M Eckard cited research findings of behavioural and other social scientists which recognise that a child needs to have access to both father and mother for its healthy emotional and social development.

As early as 1988 legal experts have called for legislative intervention, asserting that "as things currently stand, court judgments have not resolved the problem according to equity and justice".

Professor Paul Boberg said "If a man is sufficiently concerned to seek to establish his paternity of a child despite his concomitant duty of support in order to enjoy access to that child, the court should allow the authorities to affirm the right of access rather than being astute to deny it".

Thus the judgment has invoked, Church ar-

gues, the oft-overlooked principles of equity and fairness.

Church says that the reason the decision is a landmark is the fact that the court "engaged in judicial activism within a sound civilian tradition rather than follow a narrow positivist approach".

"It is the task of the judge to apply the principles of natural equity in order to reach a socially and legally equitable solution," he said.

However, Church slammed the court's approach for failing to invoke the African indigenous law despite it recognising the importance of social mores and attitudes in determining a "socially and legally equitable solution".

In indigenous law the concept of illegitimacy is unknown.

"Customary marriage is recognised as an institution of marriage in the same way as a civil marriage," the Church observed.



# Holistic <sup>(298)</sup> look at <sup>SOUTH</sup> <sup>25/7-29/7/92</sup> drugs, kids and health

PHARMACEUTICAL company Warner-Lambert has launched an educational package for pupils that focuses on a holistic approach to health.

It comprises four books, graded for pupils from standards two to nine, and is accompanied by a training programme for facilitators.

The package is entitled "Guide to the Responsible Use of Drugs and Medicine", but looks at health issues more broadly and begins by exploring basic hygiene.

The first book encourages pupils to explore what it means to be sick and to be healthy, and looks at the role of cleanliness and diet in good health.

The second book examines nutrition and how the body functions, while the last two books focus on the uses and abuses of drugs and medicines.

The books include experiments — for example, the presence of microbes in the air is demonstrated by growing mould on bread.

A facilitator's manual enables adults to contribute.

Schools and community-based welfare and health care organisations are invited to apply for their representatives to attend a Warner-Lambert training programme at a nominal cost. They will receive a copy of the educational package.

● The first training programme is on Saturday, August 1. Contact Lutfia Vayej of Warner-Lambert on 710-4111.

# A club that makes you smart

Reading at home does "something to those little grey cells", says Mike Jacklin, MD of a new children's book club and publishing company.

Among the advantages of belonging to the new book club for children are:

● A massive 50 percent savings on normal bookstore prices for the best books internationally, chosen by experts.

● Computer technology fine-tunes selection of books to the child's age, reading level and interests.

● The books arrive in the post every four weeks, packaged to look like the present they are. This reminds children of the joy the gift of reading can bring.

● You pay only for the books you want, and pay only after receipt of the package each month.

● A range of series to choose from in English or Afrikaans: for pre-school children from birth to Std 2, primary school children from 7 upwards, costing R25,98 and comprising two hard-cover books and a soft-cover activity book;

● A "Books for Africa" series for children from birth to Std 2 who have been disadvantaged educationally, costing R14,99. The same quality of books as the other series. The activity book is replaced by a newsletter aimed at supplementing education.





# Youth 'could not stand up'

By Jo-Anne Collinge

(298)

STAR 2717192

Simon Mthimkulu, the 19-year-old Sebokeng youth whose violent death prompted forensic pathologist Jonathan Gluckman to "go public" on his evidence of killings in custody, was allegedly last seen by a fellow detainee lying inert in Sebokeng police station.

Simon was one of four Sebokeng youths who were allegedly detained and severely assaulted by police on Tuesday July 14.

The other three were released the same afternoon. They reported the next day to ANC branch leaders that Simon had not returned home.

A day later, within 48 hours of Simon's disappearance, his parents found his body in the mortuary. On Friday, Dr Gluckman performed a post-mortem on the youth and found evidence of brutal assault.

In statements to Peace Action, the youths said they were all beaten in various ways — with sjamboks, bits of hose, gun butts and bare hands. The two

who were seen by The Star had weals on their faces and necks and one had head wounds.

At Sebokeng police station, one witness claimed, a large stone, which served as a door-stop, was dropped on to Simon as he lay face upward on the floor. The witness said that blood spurted almost immediately from Simon's mouth.

The witness said he had tried to lift Simon and take him along when they were told they could go, but Simon could not stand. The youth said he gave up and ran away as police had continued to assault Simon.

Two members of the group said they were pelted with stones from behind as they left the police station.

They said they knew several of the policemen involved and said the object of the assault seemed to be to get them to state that ANC leader Watch Mothibedi had incited youths to burn policemen's houses.

One of the policemen implicated by the youths had his house burnt down four days before the youths were held for questioning.

The Star attempted to obtain information about Simon the day after his disappearance. Vaal police spokesman Captain Piet van Deventer said he could find no record of him.

He added that he had raised the matter with a policeman implicated in the allegations of assault, but had drawn a blank.

The same day, Captain van Deventer released a statement about the discovery of a teenager's body on a road near the KwaMasiza Hostel. Asked repeatedly by The Star whether this was Simon Mthimkulu, he conceded some days later that this "seems to be the case".

Captain van Deventer confirmed that Simon had not been shot, but his body had borne the signs of multiple assaults, particularly on the head.

"In the matter of assault, all that I can say is that if the people concerned will make statements to the police, we will investigate it.

"Simon's death is being investigated and we appeal to any witnesses and his parents to come forward," said Captain van Deventer.

# Mother to sue over son's death

By Brian Sokutu

A Sebokeng mother whose son died in police custody, plans to sue Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel. **298**

Mapeseka Mthimkulu yesterday told The Star of her shock and grief following the claims by top pathologist Dr Jonathan Gluckman that her son, Simon (19), had been killed by police.

Dr Gluckman said on Sunday it was Mr Mthimkulu's death that prompted him to make public his belief that police had been responsible for about 90 percent of the 200 deaths in custody he had investigated.

Mr Mthimkulu was one of four youths arrested in the Vaal township on July 14. The other three were subsequently released and have made statements to lawyers in which they alleged they had been tortured.

Sakhalo Maseko (16) and Joubert Radebe (16), two of the



Grief-stricken . . . Mapeseka Mthimkulu and husband Mvula, whose son died while in police custody.

STAR 28/7/92

Picture: George Mashinini

three youths detained with Simon, yesterday emerged from hiding to show The Star scars they claimed had been left from wounds inflicted by the police.

Relating the circumstances in which she discovered his death, Mrs Mthimkulu said her son's friends, detained with him, said they had left him lying at the

police station after he told them he was "tired".

"I later went to the Sebokeng police station and told police that Simon did not come back. Police could not tell me his whereabouts and asked for his picture, which we did not have."

She later found her son's body in the Sebokeng mortuary.



## Poverty hits children first

POVERTY and unemployment were impacting more severely than ever before on the well-being of South African families - and because of their vulnerability, children were the first to suffer, Sanlam chief Mr Pierre Steyn said yesterday. *Sowetan*

Steyn was speaking in Johannesburg at the launch of a book, entitled Child Abuse and Neglect by the SA National Council for Child and Family Welfare. *28/7/92*

The assurance company chief said irreversible damage could be done to children's physical, mental and emotional well-being.

Steyn said the book's main purpose was to assist social workers and educationists to identify problem areas and to take preventive action. - *Sapa*



# Bringing the square eyes back to books

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## BEST BOOKS

TV can be educational but nothing can replace books to stimulate the imagination and broaden the intellect. A new book club is now able to bring the best books back into children's lives at a reasonable cost. **MARIKA SBOROS** reports.

If junior is more interested in the frantic antics of Ninja Turtles, Bart Simpson and Batman than cuddling up on your lap to listen to a bedtime tale, don't despair — a new children's book club is here to help.

It is getting harder and harder to drag those square eyes away from the dreaded box, and it's not only children who suffer deprivation from too much goggling at the television. Parents are deprived of the pleasure of physical contact and quality time with their offspring as books become relegated to dusty bookshelves, to be taken out only reluctantly if the TV breaks down.

But while television can be an educational and entertaining medium, nothing can take the pace of books and reading to stimulate the imagination and broaden the intellect.

## Balanced

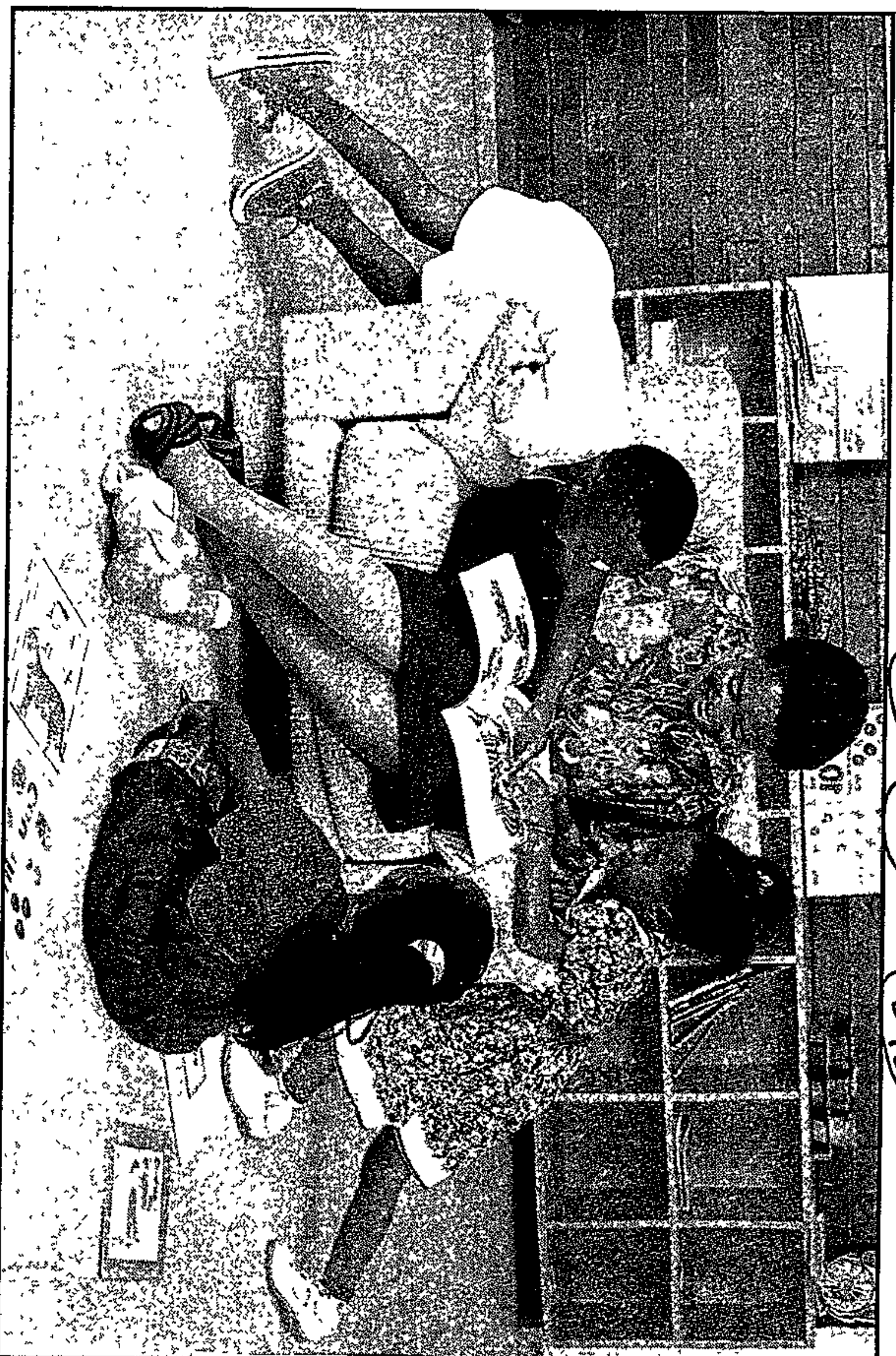
A balanced combination of TV and reading is the ideal environment for children. Scientific research has shown that reading at home is essential to help a child perform well at school.

Increasingly though, books need to be of the highest standard and most colourful quality to lure young eyes back between the pages, where they belong.

Of course as the rand plunges to new lows, punitive exchange rates have helped to put new books beyond many parents' reach. Some concerned parents have opted for more library use, but this still deprives children of the joy of owning a beautiful book.

Book clubs have traditionally been one way of enticing youngsters to read, but the quality of the books available through clubs in this country has been generally of a low quality.

However, the new political dispensation has meant not only that more and more doors are opening up to us — but



Quality time . . . the family that reads together provides a solid future for children.

book covers are as well

Publishing houses who were previously reluctant to do business with South Africa have changed their tunes.

A recently formed children's book club and publishing company in Sandton has acquired the South African rights for the distribution of the well-known BFC (Books for Children), a highly respected United-Kingdom based publishing and distribution company with

world-wide sales.

For around R26 excluding postage, children all over the country can receive two high-quality, beautifully illustrated hard-cover books — one fiction, the other non-fiction — plus an activity book.

Knowledge Unlimited managing director Mike Jacklin says the potential is enormous, as his company now has access to books of an international stan-

dard, produced for the world market. He can now also capitalise on volume discounts.

"The standard of BFC publishing exceeds anything that can be produced locally, and because of economies of scale, the books which will be available to our readers are in their original bindings."

Mr Jacklin is also looking for local and indigenous material.



*wealthiest nation,' says student Sibongile Khumalo*

# for help

*Sowetan 29/7/92*

**NATION BUILDING** *There is an urgent*

*need for the introduction of social workers*

*in all South Africa's township schools: (298)*

another speaker at the workshop, explained the importance of school social workers.

"School social workers are concerned with the educational, the physical as well as the emotional development of the child," said Mabe

"For example, ordinary teachers are not trained to recognise children with learning disabilities. This delays the identification of such children, their treatment and allocation to appropriate institutions," she explained

"If a social worker, with relevant skills and experience, is available at the school, this process would be easier and the child would get immediate attention."

## **Social workers could help**

School social workers could also help with counselling children who are being abused at home or suffering emotionally because of the violence in their communities

"Although the concept of school social workers has not yet been introduced in the townships, it is already working in other areas," said Mabe.

Other speakers at the workshop talked on the role of parents, politics, the

church and teachers in education

The audience then broke into groups to discuss the roles these groups could play in solving the education crisis

They resolved, among others, that

● The planning of the curriculum should involve teachers and parents of the particular students it is designed for,

● School social workers should be employed by all schools,

● The Government should take responsibility and provide free education. It should also create an environment and conditions conducive to learning.



**Mothers and fathers, please stand up and encourage your children to go to school**

Teenager, Sibongile Khumalo

- Parent-Teacher-Student Associations should be formed and made to work effectively and that,
- Sport and recreation facilities should be made available at all schools



**If a social worker, with relevant skills and experience is available at the school, the child would get immediate attention**

Social worker, Tshidi Mabe



Nine-year-old Nation Builder Thabiseng Manyaka who joined with the Soshanguve Community Choir in song.

PICS: JOE MOLEFE



PEOPLE'S LIVES *Longtime activist must continually raise*

# 80-year-old woman

By Lulama Luti

■ **ENDLESS GIVING** *One day changed*

*Mama Beard's life, now she works to change others' lives by providing a safe, educational*

*place for children of working parents*

(298)

*South Africa 31/1/1992*

"We don't get help anywhere. We barely survive. The crèche is not recognised by the Bophuthatswana government and we don't get any subsidies."

"Our biggest problem is transport. We need a kombi desperately. Most of the kids live far from the crèche, and the transport they use is unreliable. On some occasions they have been kept waiting the whole day without a meal, unbeknown to their working parents who leave them at their pick-up points in the mornings," she said.

## Fees not enough

She said the fees that the children pay hardly sustain the crèche for a month. "Those who walk to crèche pay R45, and it is R60 for those who have to be fetched at home. But most of the parents can't afford the fees."

"That is why our numbers are dwindling. The kids are taken in and out of the crèche regularly. The situation is very pathetic," she said.

To ward off closure, Beard has had to

**A** MID THE SQUALOR AND POVERTY that is part of the semi-rural area of Winterveldt, in Bophuthatswana, Francis Beard battles to keep a crèche going.

Although she is 80 years old, partially blind and walks with a hump, she has learnt to live with the daily pilgrimage to the crèche - situated about 15 km from her Mabopane home.

As overseer of Zenzeleni Community Centre, not only does her daily schedule include seeing to the needs of the children, but she also has to raise funds for it.

"There is no way that I can sit at home and watch the crèche close. For as long as I can still walk, I'm going to continue raising funds to keep it alive," said Mama Beard, as she is known in the community.

The crèche, which stands on a dry piece of land rented from the Bophuthatswana government, is housed in two old Zozo huts donated by the American Embassy in 1984.

The prefabricated structures are divided into a reception area, a kitchen, two classrooms, and Mama's office, which is situated next to a storeroom.

The kids make do with the few teaching aids available and sleep on worn out carpets with no blankets.

There is no running water and no proper sanitation.



Francis Beard



*funds and battle lack of transport - or children may go unattended, unbeknown to their parents*

# keeps Winterveldt crèche open

**I love children very much. There's nothing that compels me to come here everyday. But seeing these children fills my heart with joy** 298

*Sebeke 31/7/92*

struggle," she recounted.

What followed were years spent doing door-to-door organising for the Food and Canning Workers Union and the ANC.

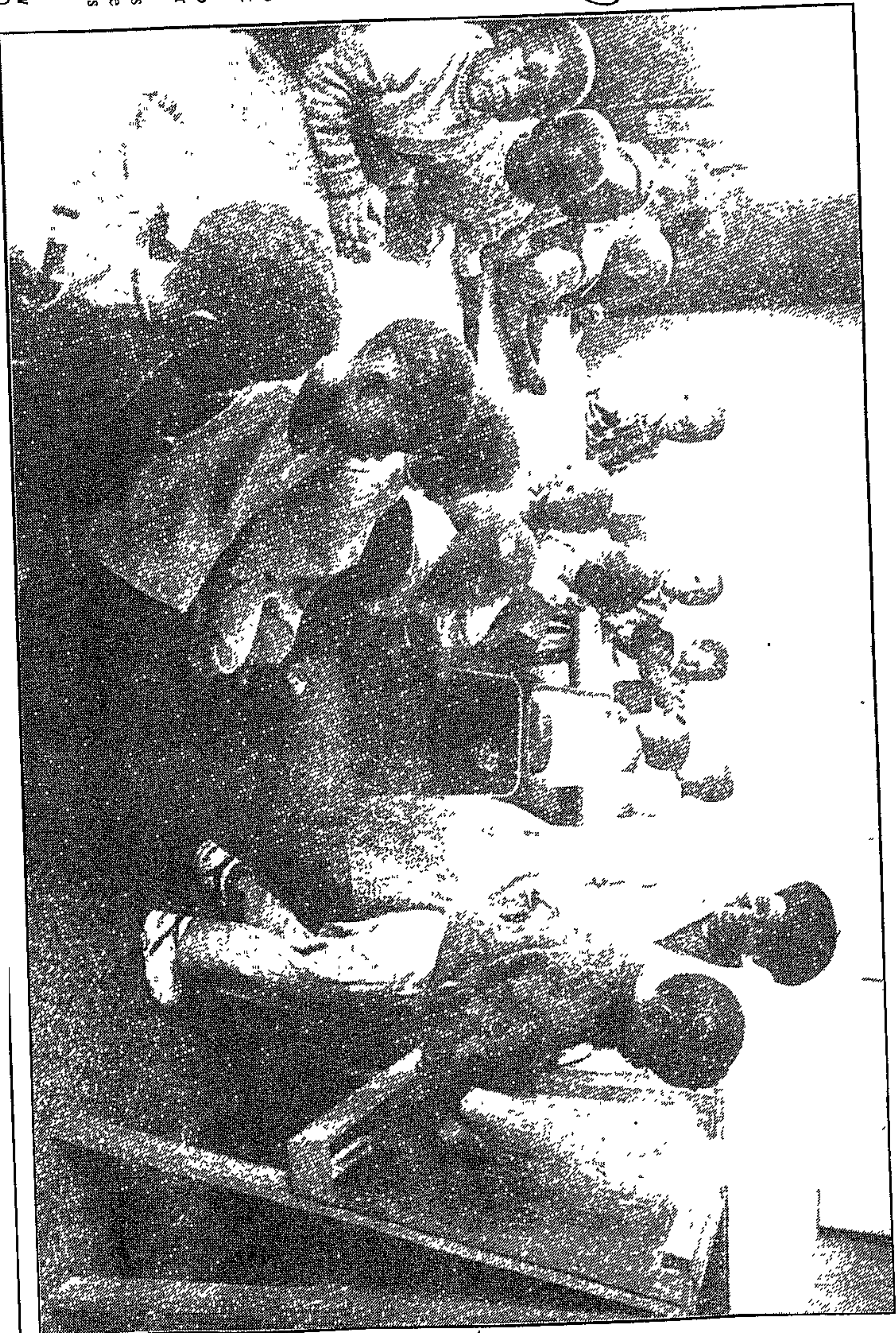
There were constant arrests and harassment from the police. She also was arrested in the national swoop that led to a famous treason trial, although she was subsequently discharged.

Her freedom was short-lived because in 1963 she was charged under the Suppression of Communism Act and sent to the Barberton Prison, where she spent five years.

Upon her release, she was banished to Winterveldt and later moved to her present home in Mabopane.

"I love children very much. There's nothing that compels me to come here everyday. But seeing these children fills my heart with joy."

The preschool class learns how to write. PICS: PAT SEBOKO





# Rebuilding a shattered town

C/pen 2/8/92,

By FRED KHUMALO

298

TWO years after the ANC-IFP war ceased in Mpumalanga township, at least 1 500 families still haven't returned - because they have nowhere to return to.

Over 1 500 houses were razed to the ground and have to be rebuilt.

In other cases only burnt out shells of houses remain and major repairs are needed.

"The reconstruction is taking longer than we had anticipated," said ANC chairman Meshack Radebe, the man who, together with his IFP counterpart Sipho Mlaba, pulled the township from the cauldron of war and destruction when they signed a peace agreement in 1990.

They carved their names in the books of history by bringing about sanity in Mpumalanga, the worst hit township in the political carnage which ravaged Natal.

"With good reason, we made promises that we would ensure quick relocation, and

people became expectant. We thought it would be easy to rebuild the houses, but now that we're faced with the task, we're realising that it is not as easy as we had thought," says Radebe.

Residents stopped paying rent in 1986 when the fighting reached its peak. Electricity bills have since accumulated, and the continued supply of electricity in the township is under threat.

## Priority

"But," argues Radebe, "the people are not to blame for the non-payment of rent."

"The township manager's offices were razed and people had nowhere to pay their rent and never received their electricity bills."

"The government is to blame; they did nothing to ensure that people were paying rent. People never refused to pay rent. They cannot be expected to settle the accumulation of bills."

The ANC and IFP have appealed to the KwaZulu government to waive the payment of outstanding bills. The government has not yet made a decision.

Peace and Reconstruction Committee chairman Steve Simpson is concerned that the leaders who ended the carnage are losing credibility because they are not delivering the goods.

"Our first priority was the reconstruction of schools. Children roaming the streets had to be brought under control immediately. We are almost through with repair work on the schools, and now are left with the biggest challenge - the reconstruction of the houses," said Simpson.

Simpson said the project will cost millions in funds from the Independent Development Trust.

"We have to work out a strategy to accommodate genuine Mpumalanga residents, even if that means getting alternative accommodation for them," said Simpson.



# Viva the future you must build yourself

## BE TOUGH, HANG IN

A community "culture of success" programme is telling township youth that no goals are unreachable for the self-motivated, personally ambitious young person who won't quit.

ADAM GORDON reports.

THE chant was all too familiar. But the words, at a recent South African Students Christian Association (Sasca) pilot seminar in Soweto, were worth hearing: "Viva education viva. Viva future doctor, viva future lawyer, viva future stockbroker Viva."

"Do you want your freedom?" South African-born US actor Abner Moriri asks the group of 100 youth leaders? "Yes" (Clapping and whistling and foot stamping)

"Well my friends, freedom is responsibility, accountability, commitment, sacrifice. Are you sure you really want freedom?"

"South Africa is changing, opportunities will open up. But they won't open up for mobs. They will open up for the few individuals who qualify themselves.

"Don't fool yourself in the new South Africa. You can't rely on the Government. This Government, the next government, any government cannot take care of you. They cannot make your dreams come true.

"Who is going to solve unemployment? Who is going to give you a good job and a nice house and a big car? The Government? Never! Your friends? Never!

"Rely on yourself. Stay in school. We are the only country in Africa with so many universities and technicians. Use them.

"Your parents are making huge sacrifices to bring you up. Take the opportunities given you. Build yourself. Repay them with your success."

This is the stark message of Sasca's "I Can" programme, currently being presented in Reef townships by Mr Moriri, another South African returnee



David Malopo  
"If you stop dreaming, you start to die."

Dr David Malopo, his wife Mamkie, and other community leaders.

It amounts to systematic intervention on behalf of good-old-fashioned values: respect of parents, responsibility, purpose, self-discipline, fair play, hard work and self-improvement.

"Many township youths have lost these values," says Sasca director Dr Malopo. They have fallen by the wayside often just because they don't get the right guidance and good example.

"What they don't get growing up is a culture of success."

Dr Malopo developed the programme while studying in the US, for inner city "ghetto kids" who, he says, are in a situation comparable to township youths here. Despairing US parents and community leaders are fighting a similar rear-guard action against a syndrome of crime, violence and mob values.

Youths, he says, have tremendous expectations in the new South Africa, but are despondent and disillusioned and in danger of following the downward spiral to the well-documented US "permanent underclass"

The "I Can" success culture rests heavily on building up individual self-worth and valuing personal ambition and individual achievement. Delegates at the seminar are unashamedly told: "Get ahead of the pack."

They are urged to be performance oriented, judge themselves by their results and to assume individual responsibility for success. No goals are unreachable for the person who won't quit.

This sunk-or-swim philosophy has no time for hard-luck stories and does not allow blaming of life's hardships on apartheid or anything else for failure. It scorns the "pass one pass all" mentality.

"Your generation are not prisoners of apartheid, you are pioneers of the future, and you must prepare yourself to lead the way to that future," delegates are told.

Dr Malopo, who at 29 is a teacher and a church leader, with a PhD is living proof that growing up in a shack in KwaThema need not kill the spirit.

Says Dr Malopo: "I never stopped dreaming of what I wanted to become. If you stop dreaming you start to die. We are searching for a way to rekindle those dreams in our youth."

At the moment the "I Can" programme plays to invited high-school-age community representatives in Soweto, Alexandra and Deduza. With more funding it hopes to go national.

Dr Malopo specifically aims to get young leaders from across the political spectrum — ANC, PAC and Inkatha — into the same room. He then obliterates the agenda of political division by shifting the ground to individual and national fulfilment.

The programme has its base in Christian values, but is pitched at youths of any or no religious affiliation.



Kindling the spirit... a new programme is aimed at rekindling the dwindling fires of hope for a better future in children who are exposed daily to violence and despair.

Picture: Joao Silva



**NEWS** Sadtu denies involvement in the incident ● Historic youth conference

# Disabled kids' bus set alight

*Sowetan 13/8/92 (298)*

■ **JC Merkin has been a scene of demonstrations:**

DAMAGE estimated at R50 000 was caused when a bus belonging to JC Merkin, a school for handicapped children in Soweto, was set on fire early yesterday morning.

Another was partially burnt.

Bus driver Mr Silas Rabapane said he heard two explosions about 2am. He said he peeped through the window and saw the bus in flames.

Soweto police liaison officer Captain Govindsamy Mariemuthoo confirmed the incident.

In July, 36 of the school's teachers were arrested when they staged a sit-in to demand the reinstatement of a dismissed colleague.

The school has been the scene of demonstrations by members of the South African Democratic Teachers Union who were protesting against the dismissal of Mrs Rebecca Sebudi.

Mr Guy Houghton, director for the Transvaal Association for the Physically Disabled, said that the school was closed on July 29 because of intimidation and harassment by Sadtu members.

Sadtu chairman of the Soweto branch, Mr Matakanye Matakanye, denied allegations and said the union knew nothing about the bus incident.

"We do not know anything of that sort," he said.



Bus driver Silas Rabapane inspects a bus at JC Merkin School for the Handicapped in White City Jabavu, Soweto, which was set on fire yesterday. Another was partially burnt.

Pic: PAT SEBOKO



## Halt sale of State land, urges ANC

By Jo-Anne Collage

The ANC is gearing up for battle over the proposed auction of 53 parcels of Government land in prime residential areas across the Reef.

Yesterday the ANC released a statement calling on the Government to suspend the auction on August 26 at the Carlton Hotel in Johannesburg.

Sources close to the ANC said the organisation viewed the auction as a test case, and would fight the Government with all its resources.

"The offer of this land to speculators and developers completely ignores the enormous land and housing crisis in the country, particularly in the PWV," the statement read.

The ANC demanded that the sale be halted "in order to provide the opportunity for a more socially responsible approach to be formulated — an approach more in keeping with the future of our cities than with their past."

### Protested

The ANC said its demand for a halt to State land sales extended to provincial and local authorities.

Recently the Department of Public Works suspended the auction of several agricultural properties in the Queenstown and Tarkastad areas of the eastern Cape. The auction was due to have taken place yesterday, but land rights groups and communities uprooted by forced removals protested against the sale.

In rural areas the demand for a moratorium on the sale of State land relates largely to the fact that the Government still holds many areas from which "black spot" communities were removed.

Since the appointment of the State President's Advisory Commission on Land Allocation, several communities have lodged claims for the restoration of this land.



Filling empty bellies... the headmaster of Dirkie Uys Laerskool in Norwood, Christo Lodder

# Helping hand for hungry Norwood schoolchildren

By Anna Cox

In the heart of the upmarket suburb of Norwood, Johannesburg, there are children who go to school hungry every day.

And if it were not for the efforts of Christo Lodder, headmaster of Dirkie Uys Laerskool, who runs a feeding scheme at the school, many would go home hungry.

"We have our own twilight children at this school. It is

one of the last few Afrikaans schools in the northern suburbs, and when Joubert Park Laerskool closed we got many children from Hillbrow and Berea," said Mr Lodder.

"I found out by accident that certain children were coming to school hungry when a Grade 1 pupil was found stealing a classmate's lunch. She was caught red-handed, with a sandwich in her mouth."

"She had taken nothing except the food and when I asked her why she had done it she answered very simply that

she was hungry," said Mr Lodder, who took over as principal in April.

He began investigating all the suspected cases of hardship and personally visited each family to see what conditions they were living in.

"Some families are sleeping on blankets on the floor of unfurnished flats in Hillbrow. Husband and wife are often unemployed and there is no income. Some parents are even struggling to pay bus fare to school," he said.

After appeals for help from

the local community failed, Mr Lodder asked the O'Connor Foundation for assistance. Forty food parcels a month are now being sent to the school for the children to take home.

"It is not enough. We need money to get these children proper school uniforms, track-suits and clothes for the cold winter days, but not many people are prepared to help."

Anyone who can assist should telephone Mr Lodder at 728-6307.

## New HIV and hepatitis test to be launched soon

Medical Reporter

A new test for the HIV and hepatitis virus — a 10 minute "tongue-tip" saliva test — will soon be launched in Johannesburg.

British dental consultant Dr Marsh Midda, who is involved in clinical trials and the launch of the new test, arrived in South Africa this week to attend the Dental Association of SA congress.

Developed by Oracle Diagnostics of California, the saliva test is reportedly as accurate as the Elisa international standard test on blood but has the convenience of being quick, painless and affordable, and can be done in the privacy of one's home.

National Institute of Virology director Professor Barry

Schoub said the test was still under evaluation and so he could not comment fully.

"If it is proved to be reliable then certainly it would be a very useful facility," said Professor Schoub.

However, he strongly cautioned against people checking themselves in the absence of professional advice.

According to Dr Midda the home test-kit has met with some controversy in the UK and US as any patient undergoing an HIV test must have full professional counselling as well.

"In some cases, however, it would be better to have a quick diagnosis as some patients who were negative committed suicide before receiving the results of their blood tests," he said.

## Arsonists set school bus alight

A bus belonging to a school for the handicapped was set on fire early yesterday, causing R50 000 damage, said Soweto police liaison officer Captain Govindsamy Mariemuthoo.

"There have been problems lately at the JC Merkins School for the Handicapped in White City, Soweto," Captain Mariemuthoo said.

In July, 36 of the school's teachers were arrested after a sit-in demanding the reinstatement of a colleague.

Yesterday at 3.30 am the tyres of the bus were slashed and the bus was set alight.

The arsonists could expect strong action from the police, Captain Mariemuthoo warned. — Sapa.

## Several hurt as hospital workers, protesters clash

By Thabo Leshilo  
Labour Reporter

Several people were injured in a clash between sacked hospital workers and those on duty at Hillbrow Hospital in Johannesburg yesterday.

The confrontation took place at about 2 pm when 200 National Health, Education and Allied Workers' Union (Nehawu) members gathered for their daily picket. The SAP, Nehawu and the hospital gave different accounts of how it started.

A Witwatersrand police spokesman said hospital workers on duty "decided they had had enough of the shouting and noise of the protesters."

Hospital senior superintendent Dr Trevor Frankish said fighting started after two

workers on their way to work were stabbed by strikers.

However, Nehawu's Johannesburg branch secretary Bongani Tsimo claimed the attack was unprovoked. He said three Nehawu members were admitted to hospital in a serious condition.

● The Transvaal Provincial Administration said yesterday it would meet the Soweto Action Committee for talks on restoring Baragwanath Hospital services to normal.

Fanie Ferreira, MEC for health services, said reinstating sacked workers would be discussed at the committee's request. Of the more than 7 000 sacked, just over 1 000 had given reasons why their dismissals should be reconsidered, he said, and about 400 had been re-employed.



# Talk about mothers for child survival

STAR 13/8/92.

298

**I**N the time it takes to read this article, one woman — somewhere in the world — will have died because she is pregnant and has not been given the care to which she is entitled.

Lesotho government advisor on Health and WHO representative Dr Sichilindi Siwale says the WHO's aim of "health for all by the year 2000" does not imply an absence of illness.

"What it means is that we have in place a system where no-one dies without being in contact with a health system," says Dr Siwale. This means accessibility and equity in the health system.

And, as medical organisations scurry to improve the health of children an important element has been virtually ignored: the mother.

World Health Organisation programme manager for Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Dr Mark Belsey spoke at a Community Health Association of South Africa (Chasa) conference in Johannesburg recently.

He says it is impossible to talk about child survival without talking about women. The health status of women and children is transmitted from one generation to the next.

During the last decade, says Dr Belsey, the health of children has in many respects improved remarkably. Immunisation had increased to 80 percent up to October 1991.

But, in the same period the number of anaemic women has not changed, nor has the number of children born underweight.

Of the 13 million children who died in 1990, one-third died within the new-born period.

This, says Dr Belsey, can be attributed to the health and nutritional status of their mothers in pregnancy and before.

Despite inroads made by medical organisations, about 60 percent of women in the Asian sub-continent are anaemic — between 40 and 49 percent of women in Africa are anaemic.

## Weight

The low birth weight rate is often looked at as a child's problem but "it is really a problem with the mother", he says.

Recent research suggests that the impact of low birth weights on adult health could include hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and non-insulin diabetes.

The implications for children with low birth weights include a much higher rate of deaths from diarrhoea and a relative risk of deaths — up to three times higher — from respiratory diseases, according to studies done in Brazil.

Long-term studies in India indicate that for every 10 kg of weight under the ideal during childhood, the individual will have 10 percent less output as an adult.

If all children were breastfed, there would be 1.5 million more living and healthy children a year.

Despite active programmes to encourage breastfeeding, Dr Belsey

says it is a myth that mothers in the developing world breastfeed.

In Nigeria, less than one percent of mothers breastfeed their offspring up to the age of a year; about 50 percent of the mothers breastfeed and give their children water while the rest breastfeed along with a supplement.

Although they are all breastfeeding, very few are doing so correctly.

There is also a dire need for women to have a choice in contraception. The high rate of unplanned pregnancies — about 100 million worldwide a year — highlights this need, says Geneva-based Dr Belsey.

Abortion causes at least one quarter of all maternal deaths in world hospitals.

For every 100 births in the Soviet Union, there are 100 abortions; in Africa there are between 15 and 29 abortions for every 100 births. Of the abortions in 1990, there were 32.3 million unsafe abortions and 28 million safe abortions. There were also a further 40 million unplanned births during that year.

For every 140 abortions performed in Africa, one woman died — compared to the one death in 1 500 in north America.

The WHO representative says there are systems available which would meet the needs of mother and child. Indications are that it would cost about \$2 (about R6) per capita a year.

"It is a question of political will and the sharing of power with communities and families," says Dr Belsey.



# 'Slave labour' in city docks

SOUTH 15/8-19/8/92  
By Justin Pearce

CAPE Town dock workers, some only 15 years old, sleep on a concrete floor and are given one meal of mieliepap after a 12-hour working day — seven days a week.

The workers, mostly recruited from Mafikeng, sleep on the floor of an upstairs warehouse on pieces of cardboard, covered only by blankets that they brought with them.

Those who do not have their own plates eat their mieliepap off pieces of cardboard.

Most of the 60 men and boys were recruited on contract from Mafikeng, and said they were brought to Cape Town in a lorry. The others were brought from Atlantis and Mitchells Plain.

"We only saw these conditions when we got here," one of the Mafikeng workers said, "and now we cannot go back."

"We signed a contract, but we did not know where we were going to," said another.

One worker said the employers were "very secretive" and that the men were kept in the dark about their employment status and rights.

They had not been asked to hand in unemployment cards, and did not know whether they were regarded as casual labourers.

The men are employed to put maize into bags on the quayside. The maize is offloaded mechanically from a United States-registered

ship, Omi Missouri.

There are two shifts, starting at 6am and 6pm.

Some of the men were covered in the white dust from the maize when SOUTH's reporter and photographer investigated.

The workers did not know how long they would be employed — they suspected the jobs would last until the ship's cargo had been offloaded.

## Sausages

They said they had been promised R30 a day, but had not yet been paid their wages. They are hoping to be paid at the end of this week, by which time the Mafikeng people will have worked three weeks and the others two weeks. Some of the men said they had been loaned money by their employers, with which they bought sausages and eggs to supplement the mieliepap.

"I've never come across work like this" said a worker from Mitchells Plain.

"We work 12 hours a day with no overtime or weekend rates. We don't know when the week begins or ends. We feel like slaves, but we need the work."

The workers from the Western Cape live in the warehouse because they cannot get from their homes to the docks by 6am, they said.

Representatives of the company responsible for offloading the maize said the firm was called Great



**HARBOUR HARDSHIP: A dish of mielie pap and a corner of a warehouse are board and lodging for this migrant worker at the Cape Town harbour**

Photo: Fanie Jason

Lakes. They refused to comment, referring inquiries to "the boss", but refused to disclose a telephone number or address where the boss could be contacted.

"We brought these guys from a place where there are no jobs," said a woman, who seemed to be a

supervisor.

Asked how much the workers were paid, she said "Enough".

She then called a male colleague who told SOUTH's reporter and photographer they were trespassing. "You are only making trouble for your people," he said.



# 'Slave labour' in city docks

SOUTH 15/8-19/8/92  
By Justin Pearce

298

CAPE Town dock workers, some only 15 years old, sleep on a concrete floor and are given one meal of mieliepap after a 12-hour working day — seven days a week.

The workers, mostly recruited from Mafikeng, sleep on the floor of an upstairs warehouse on pieces of cardboard, covered only by blankets that they brought with them.

Those who do not have their own plates eat their mieliepap off pieces of cardboard.

Most of the 60 men and boys were recruited on contract from Mafikeng, and said they were brought to Cape Town in a lorry. The others were brought from Atlantis and Mitchells Plain.

"We only saw these conditions when we got here," one of the Mafikeng workers said, "and now we cannot go back."

"We signed a contract, but we did not know where we were going to," said another.

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# Fate's cruel joke

By FRED KHUMALO

(298) C/Prem 16/8/92

WHILE thousands of people countrywide huddled around heaters and guzzled warm beverages to beat the fierce winter chill, seven-year-old S'khumbuzo Madonsela and his four sisters stood frozen, watching what used to be their home lying in a pile of rubble.

Victims of political violence? No. The Madonsela house in Adams Mission on the Natal South Coast is one of at least 100 houses swept away by gale-force winds which wreaked havoc in Natal this week, leaving two people dead, thousands homeless and sugar and tea plantations damaged.

But to the five Madonsela children the devastation of their home was just one of many cruel jokes that fate has visited upon them in the past seven years.

S'khumbuzo, the youngest and the only boy in the family, had not even celebrated his first birthday when his 31-year-old mother was fatally stabbed in the political violence which gripped the area.

"We've been living on handouts from neighbours mostly and occasionally I manage to get odd jobs which enable me to keep the pot on the fire," said Zinhle, 18, the second eldest child.

Two years after their mother died, the children fell in fate's firing line again: their house was washed away by the floods which hit Natal September 1987.

"With the help of neighbours we managed to collect logs and pieces of zinc and put up a two-roomed shelter," explained Lungile, 17, a Standard Seven pupil.

Since then, the children have been living by themselves in the house.

Now the shelter which the girls built with painstaking care and dedication is no more.

They escaped uninjured when the house was battered by the winds which ripped through Natal on Saturday and the greater part of this week.

Said Zinhle: "What is painful is that we can no longer turn to our neighbours. Their properties were burnt down during the political violence and they are using whatever money they have to rebuild their houses and buy furniture."

At least 30 houses in the Madonsela's neighbourhood on the spacious ridge of Adams Mission have had their roofs blown away. Others have been razed. The winds not only battered properties but also fanned runaway veld fires causing at least two deaths.

Freelance journalist S'khumbuzo Miya of Umgababa was away when the angry winds struck.

"I arrived home to find my two-room house destroyed. Where houses had stood, there remained pieces of zinc

and rubble. It was really sad, with people suddenly having to live with the fact that they had joined the ranks of the homeless. Some are now living with relatives," said Miya.

Shadrack Ngcobo of Adams Mission, who

moved into his new block-and-cement house a month ago, was surprised when part of the house gave in to the wind.

Rubble from the roof and part of the wall crashed 10 metres away from the house, flattening

a nearby bush and landing dangerously close to a neighbour's house.

The sugar-cane rich area of the South Coast suffered severely as several plantations were scorched, laying to waste at least 400 000 tons of

sugar cane.

The Paddock tea plantations were also destroyed with damage estimated at R400 000.

At Plains, a woman who fled from the flames of a running fire scampered across her employer's property and was savaged by two Rottweiler dogs. She was badly bitten on the head and shoulders and taken to Murchison Hospital near Port Shepstone.

When City Press left the place where seven-year-old S'khumbuzo Madonsela's home had stood, the boy still could not come to terms with the fact that he no longer had a home.

He stood near the rubble and waved. "Bring us sweets when you come back!" he called. His voice mingled with the winds that whistled through the tall pine trees.



**NO PARENTS, NO HOME ...** These five Adams Mission orphans were left destitute by fierce winds which swept through Natal, knocked down their home.

Photo: DESENI MOODLIAR

## Devastating winds are latest blow to family of 5 orphans



# Streetwise, but not street-happy

By NOMVULA KHALO

298

IF yesterday looked bleak for Johannesburg's streetkids, tomorrow looks even bleaker.

There seems little hope in sight for the hundreds of children who roam the streets with empty bellies and no shelter.

Many have had little or no education. They all left their homes for various reasons.

Walter, 15, who left his Meadowlands home in April last year, said: "I was sent by my mother to buy bread, but instead I decided to gamble with the money, hoping that I would win."

"Unfortunately, I lost all the money and I was too scared to return home." Thapelo Molapoasi, 16, who hails from Krugersdorp, said: "I ran away six months ago after I broke the television. I had to run away because I was afraid of my father - he is a vicious man. He used to beat my mom until she left home."

Thembisa-born Pule Skosana, 16, who became an orphan at an early age, said that after his parents died, his older brother became his guardian. He said he ran away when his brother became abusive.

"Life became unbearable. I could not take it any longer and I left."

Johannes Nkosi, 13, who comes from Newcastle, said: "I come from a rich family and it was silly of me to steal R50 that father had to take to the bank for monthly banking."

"After stealing that money my father questioned us all about the missing money. When he failed to get the answer he beat up all my elder brothers - but not me because I was the youngest. "Because of a guilty conscience, I left home."

"I moved to the bright lights of Hillbrow where I survive from pickpocketing. I have written to my mother begging her to forgive me. As soon as she replies I am going back home,"

because there is no life for me here," Nelson Mnguni, 18, who is a Sowetan, said: "I was unhappy with my father forcing me to love my stepmother who treated us like dirt and loved her own children."

Patrick, 26, who comes from Meadowlands, said: "I left home in 1975 after my mother got married to a policeman and he became a bull at home. He changed the peaceful life that we had with our father."

"Now I live here at my adopted home with these kids and we are like one family."

"If someone could build us a home we promise we will live by the rules."



# Just a little love, homes for 'lost' kids

298  
ARG 17/8/92

ANDREA WEISS  
Health Reporter

THE Child Welfare office in Khayelitsha is desperately seeking foster parents for neglected, abandoned and emotionally and physically abused children.

Any volunteers should have "extra energy and lots of love", according to Miss Ntutu Mtwana, supervisor of the alternative care department at Elukhuselweni Place of Protection.

The shelter has about 20 children in its care and 17 more waiting to come into the home because of a shortage of foster homes.

Two of the children looking for a home are Thulani, 4, and his brother Sandile, 3, who were abandoned by their alcoholic mother.

They were left unattended and unsupervised for days on end until a neighbour reported their case.

The foster-care social workers do not want to separate the boys as they are very close and spend most of their time playing together.

Also at the shelter is a family of four children for whom it will be a battle to find a home for them all together.

Although foster children usually are placed by law in the care of families for two-year periods, they sometimes can be adopted if their own parents cannot look after them.

Also, the new Child Care Act does

not make racial stipulations about the homes in which children are placed, although culture and language are taken into consideration.

Fostering is taxing and prospective parents have to examine themselves carefully to see whether they are able to take up the challenge.

Also, they might need to accept that a biological mother, who may not be able to care for her child because of mental illness, has a right to see her child.

The children usually have special needs as they are "desperate for affection they didn't get from their parents".

Indication of the trauma some of the children have had is that it often takes a long time before a foster mother can win a smile from them.

One such mother is Mrs Muriel Mgwexana who is fostering three-year-old Siphos (not his real name). She describes him as "a bit shy, but all right". She said it was three months before he smiled.

She also fosters a two-year-old girl and says the experience has changed her life. She has angina trouble, but the children have made her feel healthier and happier.

● Anyone interested in giving love and affection to a child in need can contact Child Welfare Society at the following places: Elukhuselweni Place of Protection, Khayelitsha (☎ 361 3468/77) or Child Life House, Wynberg (☎ 761 7130).

## Child welfare gets R3,4-m Red Nose boost

STAR 17/8/92

The largest single amount of money raised solely for child welfare — a whopping R3,4 million — was handed over to the SA National Council for Child and Family Welfare recently.

The council is the sole beneficiary of Comic Relief's Red Nose Day project — of which the R3,4 million is three-

quarters of the money pledged on Red Nose Day in March this year.

"At the end of Red Nose Day, a grand total of R4,5 million was pledged to Comic Relief by the SA public and corporations," according to Comic Relief manager Ian Thompson.

"To date, R3,4 million has been collected and

banked and we hope that the outstanding pledges will be received before the end of this month."

M-Net and the major sponsors involved in Red Nose Day — Addis, Pick 'n Pay, Imperial Car Rental, Spur Steak Ranches, Allied Bank and Mobil — covered all costs of the project. — Staff Reporter.



POLLUTION

# Pollution, respiratory tract illnesses link investigated

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Data collected on more than 10 000 children between the ages of eight and 12 as part of the Vaal Triangle Air Pollution Health Study (Vaps) have indicated that up to 70 percent of the children suffer from respiratory tract illnesses during the year. **Pharmacy Today** reports.

The Vaps project was set up two years ago by the Medical Research Council (MRC) to establish the levels of air pollution in the industry-intensive Vaal Triangle and whether these levels are affecting the health of residents.

The respiratory conditions reported in children include sinusitis, earache, hayfever and

chronic runny noses.

"The high levels of particular matter and pollen measured in the region could be an explanation for these conditions and are being investigated further," Dr Petro Terblanche of the MRC explains.

## Asthma

The prevalence of lower respiratory tract illnesses (bronchitis, pneumonia, wheezing, chronic cough), was 29 percent in the Vaal Triangle population. The normal distribution of this in the South African population is not known.

The prevalence of asthma was 7,7 percent, which is similar to what is expected in the general South African population.

Significant risk factors for respiratory illnesses in the Vaal Triangle children are the period of residency (the longer the residency, the bigger the risk), maternal smoking, younger age and female gender. The study also found that there is a strong correlation between the mother's concern about air pollution and the prevalence of respiratory illnesses.

It is assumed that because the child is ill, the mother is aware and concerned about air pollution rather than the opposite. This hypothesis is currently being tested.

The preliminary results of the Vaps have now enabled the project to focus on specific problems. The top priorities of the study

for the next two to four years are:

- To determine the relative contributions of pollen and man-made air pollution to the high percentage of children suffering from upper respiratory illnesses.

This data is crucial in decision-making regarding control priorities.

## Evaluate

- To closely evaluate the levels of gaseous pollutants to ensure that the levels are acceptable and are not a health risk to the population.

- To characterise risk factors such as maternal smoking and coal-burning better and to communicate the results to the Vaal Triangle residents.

# Children's home on way to new century

STAR 19/8/92

By Shirley Woodgate

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"These children are not sprung from decent, charity-deserving persons, but from the type whose hereditary influences can never be effaced in their offspring," wrote "Woman of Johannesburg" to The Star in 1892.

Opposing Lucy Matthews's plans to launch the Johannesburg Children's Home to provide shelter for orphans or children whose parents worked all day, she ranted on: "They are not the stuff from which useful citizens are made."

But 100 years later the home has not only prospered, it is strongly placed to share a century's expertise with the outside community.

"If the country is to progress, the new South Africa will have

to face the needs of the youth," said JCH director Joan Rubenstein.

"If one looks objectively at the old South Africa, unquestionably its greatest sin was the total inadequacy of its preparation of the youth of our disadvantaged groups," she added.

While the politicians wrangle verbally, Johannesburg's favourite charity has not only proved Woman of Johannesburg woefully wrong, but launched its second century in typically dynamic fashion.

The original red-brick building in Observatory was transformed in July into a school for 300 children.

Plans now in the pipeline are for education and therapeutic services and outreach programmes.

Under the first heading, pre- and primary school education will be provided for black chil-

dren, day- and after-care and "drop-in" facilities for stressed mothers are to be launched soon and programmes for the identification of gifted black children are being prepared.

Therapeutic programmes will include family therapy, legal services for abused children and their families, support groups for parents in distress and children who have witnessed excessive violence, a unit for incest survivors, and music and drama therapy for disadvantaged children.

Ultimately the community will dictate its own needs and with R350 000 already in the kitty, an architect is working on transforming the original home.

Funding? Much of the available service will be self-supporting but the JCH has relied successfully on public assistance since the days of the Randlords.



## 200 babies abandoned, neglected<sup>(296)</sup> every day

<sup>Aug 20/7/92</sup>  
The Argus Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG. — More than 200 babies were abandoned or neglected country-wide every day, according to Vereeniging social worker Mrs Elizabeth August.

An average of three black babies were abandoned in the PWV area alone every week.

Speaking on child abandonment in the Vaal region at the Southern African Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (Saspcan) conference at the University of the Witwatersrand, Mrs August said child abandonment in the Vaal region was increasing every year.

"Despite the inadequacy of the figures, we can draw the general conclusion that abandonment in one form or another is a phenomenon of significant proportions," she said.

While the term "abandonment" was broad, it could be described as "the ultimate form of neglect or the active refusal to nurture," she said.

There were no comprehensive statistics on the number of children abandoned in the Vaal region or common reasons for their abandonment but hospitals in the area record between six and 90 abandoned children every year.

Delivering the keynote address at the conference, Dr Neil McKerrow, a paediatrician at Edendale Hospital in Maritzburg, said child abandonment was becoming "a common child-rearing or parenting practice".

But abandonment today had no relationship to that of the past and was therefore "susceptible to both appropriate intervention and prevention".

# Street kids to meet with cops

By Lucas Mati

TALKS HAVE been scheduled between police and street children in an attempt to end alleged harassment.

The Cape Town children's project, Molo Songololo, last week organised a delegation of street children to hand a list of complaints to police detailing alleged maltreatment.

In the list 15 children alleged that on at least 12 occasions they were harassed or arrested by police.

During several of the incidents they claimed to have suffered physical abuse at the hands of police officers.

The boys alleged that during some of the arrests they were tear-gassed in police cells. Some claimed they were sprayed with teargas in the face, kicked and punched.

In the most severe case, according to Molo Songololo, a boy received stitches in hospital after he

had allegedly been kicked several times by police.

"Every time we were picked up we were punched and kicked and our faces sprayed with teargas," said the children, whose ages range from 14 to 18 years.

Mr Patric Solomons of Molo Songololo said they wanted to draw attention of the police to the plight of children.

Police spokesperson Major Denise Brand said a meeting would be set up between street children and the station commanders of Woodstock and Mowbray police stations.

"I specifically asked the children whether the complainants wanted to lay charges. They said they would find out and let me know," Brand said.

She added police could not investigate any cases of assault until formal complaints had been made.

"To date no official docket has been registered of any alleged police harassment or assault."



# Children

## held on

S/Times 23/8/92

## charges

## of mass

## slaying

By CHARLENE SMITH

SIX of the 82 people held in connection with the Boipatong massacre are children under the age of 18.

One of the children, a 15-year-old who fled to Kwamadala hostel after his mother's house was set alight in Sebokeng last year, doesn't know if his parents are alive, or where any of his relatives are.

Four compatriots being held with him in a prison at a secret location are aged 16.

One has turned state witness.

### Small

Lawyer Anina van der Westhuizen, who is appearing for the Kwamadala inmates, said the 15-year-old had been held in solitary confinement at John Vorster Square.

It had a terrible impact on him, she said.

"He is a small child and doesn't look much older than 12. I'm not sure he is correct about his age and he has no identification."

She alleged police tried to bribe him with R20 to give them information, but the police deny this.

Miss Van der Westhuizen claimed police had made no effort to contact any of the youths' parents.

### Advice

"Most of them are refugees. They don't know where their parents are and police have made no attempts to trace them."

Lieutenant-Colonel Reg Crewe of the police public relations directorate in Pretoria confirmed the detention of the six youths.

He said that "on the apparent advice of their legal representatives they are being very uncooperative".

"The youths were initially detained in police cells, which are, in terms of the Children's Act, places of safety."

"However, at the insistence of their legal representatives, the youths were transferred to a prison."

# SA's tragic child workers miss out on a better life

STAR 24/8/92

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45-4

While other children are still sleeping, 17-year-old Goodenough Nje Sibiya is already at work. He is a coal-seller in Zola township, Soweto

Sibiya, who started selling coal in 1983 when he was nine years old, wakes up at 5.30 am every day to go to work. He starts work at 6 am and knocks off at 7 pm.

"My father died when I was two years old and my mother was left alone to bring us up," he says. "There are five boys in the family and it was difficult for her on her own."

When a friend who was a coal-seller asked Sibiya to help him fix his cart, he agreed and they started working together. Selling coal helps him to buy food and cigarettes, he says, but it is not easy.

"We get robbed often. Just last week I was selling coal in Jabulani when I was robbed," he says, still walking with a limp.

With the price of coal increasing recently to R15 a bag, it is even more difficult to sell coal. This means that some weeks Sibiya gets paid very little.

"If I sell nothing, I get paid R30 short of my wages at the end of the week," he says. "If I sell something, I earn R10 a day."

In summer, it is even worse. Sometimes Sibiya

Some children start working as early as 12 years of age. What chance do these children have of a better life when they get older and is this right? **Learn and Teach** talks to teenage workers and looks at the legal issues.

sells nothing; if he is lucky he sells 10 bags a day.

Sibiya is just one of the many children who are working in the townships.

Bheki Mthembu, who is 16 years old, is another. He works for his brother in Klip-town, selling combs, mirrors, cosmetics and socks.

"I come from Osizweni in Newcastle," says Mthembu. "Last year, my brother fetched me to work in Johannesburg. He said he did not want to employ other people who were not relatives because they would steal his money or goods."

During the week, he works from 7.30 am until five in the afternoon. Sometimes he works during weekends as well.

"At the end of every week, my brother pays me R55. I don't mind because even when I don't sell much, he still pays me the same amount," says Mthembu.

The youngster, who left school while he was in standard six, said he would like to go back to school — but, he says, he can only do so if his brother agrees.

Another child worker is Sithembiso Mashinini, who washes taxis at the rank at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital.

Mashinini, who comes from Duduza in Nigel, is 12 years old. He was in Sub B when he left school because "my mother and teachers used to punish me every time I did something wrong".

When he played with his friends instead of coming home immediately after school, for example, he says his mother would beat him with a sjambok.

Mashinini works for 12 hours a day, and sometimes gets beaten up if the taxis are dirty, even if it is not his fault.

**THE CHILD AND THE LAW**  
Last year, farmers wanted the Government to change the Basic Conditions of Employment Act to allow them to employ children as young as 12 years old. Trade unions opposed this and called on the Government to increase the age limit to 18.

After long discussions it was eventually agreed that only children older than 15

years could work on farms and that the Government could not give exemptions to anyone.

So, in June last year, section 52A of the Child Care Act was changed to prevent children under 15 from being employed unless their parents or guardians gave written permission.

The workshop was held last October, and was attended by 14 organisations. "The participants pointed out that there were a number of factors which produced child labour in South Africa, and that these must be identified if they were to be addressed," says Loffell. "These include poverty and illiteracy."

In an attempt to address these problems, the workshop suggested that some of the money obtained through Value-Added Tax (VAT) should be used to help needy parents. Another suggestion was that free, compulsory education should be extended from primary school to secondary school.

Vocational training was also singled out as important to give adults additional skills to help them get jobs, making it unnecessary for them to send their children to work.

*Learn and Teach* is available from street corners and book stores at R1.95



# Children are 'life's biggest headaches'

STAR 26/8/92

298

A survey on who causes life's biggest headaches shows troublesome offspring are the most widespread cause of stress.

They are a worry for almost one in five people overall. But mothers are more harassed than fathers — 24 percent of women complained about their children against 12 percent of men.

And the ill feeling is apparently mutual. Eleven percent of those aged 16 to 24 said their parents were their biggest problem.

The poll, conducted by Gallup, showed that more predictable targets, such as mothers-in-law, caused less stress than expected.

In fact, they turned out to be the people least likely to upset respondents. Just four percent named them as their main source of headaches. And, de

spite the recession, bank managers were named by only eight percent. Nine percent rated their bosses as the bane of their lives.

After children, the most stress-making person was the respondent's partner, mentioned by 11 percent overall.

Another big worry was leaving the home unattended while on holiday, mentioned by 32 percent.

And 18 percent of women said they feared having to pay extra at the airport for excess luggage.

And how do we deal with our headaches? Twenty-seven percent of women and 12 percent of men chose a long, hot, soapy bath, while four percent of men and three percent of women went in for meditation.

THE STAR BUREAU

After 26/8/92

## Village plan gets go-ahead

Municipal Reporter (298)

AN SOS children's village with 15 houses and a kindergarten is to be built in Thornton.

Ward councillor Mr Clive Justus said Thornton needed housing and "this type of project" should be built elsewhere in the Western Cape.

But town planning committee chairman Mr John Muir said he believed ratepayers favoured the project.



# Kid abuse in focus <sup>298</sup>

■ Workshop to focus on  
children's plight:

Soweto 27/8/92

By Pearl Majola

CHILD abuse is to be the focus of the second Sowetan/Pick 'n Pay Parenting Workshop, to be held in Soweto this Saturday. It will be at Funda Centre from noon.

"The problem of child abuse is growing at an alarming rate here," said Mrs Anna Mosia, one of the organisers.

"Abuse is not necessarily physical as many people tend to think. There is also psychological, emotional and sexual mistreatment.

"At the workshop we will have speakers address the issue in its broader sense," she said.

"The aim of the whole exercise is to create awareness of the patterns of the problem and prevent it," she said.

The Soweto event is part of the second round of parenting workshops sponsored by Pick 'n Pay.

298  
Sowetan  
27/8/92

## First educare centre opens

THE first of 64 "educare" centres planned countrywide is to be opened in Midrand's Ivory Park on Saturday, the South African National Council for Child and Family Welfare said yesterday.

The project, undertaken by the child welfare movement in conjunction with State and the private sector in predominantly underprivileged areas, is funded by the R1 billion obtained from the sale of strategic oil reserves, made available for specific projects by the government earlier this year.

Of this amount R2,24 million was allocated for the construction of "educare" centres. - Sapa.



w/ Mail 28/8 - 3/9/92

**SPOKE** to a young activist this week who says he necklaced former Lekoa mayor Esau Mahlatsi in May this year — and has no regrets.

The 19-year-old Standard Nine student doesn't look like a child from Hell. He cuts an image of a neat youngster in his All Star sneakers, corduroy pants and white shirt. But when he talks about the deed, he won't look at you. He looks down at his hands or his feet, and his speech is halting.

When I met the boy this week, his face was hidden in a balaclava and he would only give his nickname, which translates as "Happy". I had been asking around, trying to talk to someone who had participated in a necklacing. A third person, whom I had given my telephone number, arranged the meeting in a neutral venue but did not appear for the interview. However, Happy was there, as well as an older friend, Mr X, whose face was also hidden.

Happy is a supporter of the Pan Africanist Congress and Mr X is an African National Congress supporter. They boast that the Patriotic Front exists at grassroots level in the Vaal.

Happy sounds unrepentant as he tells me that with 12 others, he poured petrol over the writhing body of Mahlatsi, that he helped set him alight and stayed as his flesh roasted and turned into ashes.

"Every time the flames died down I would pour petrol to revive the fire," he says, rubbing his hands together anxiously.

He says he is not scarred by the necklacing incident. His immediate worry is passing his Standard Nine.

He says his parents are separated. His father, with whom he lives, is aware that he is an activist. Although Happy doesn't have time to go on patrols any more because he's busy studying for exams, he says his father knows he used to go on patrols, dig trenches and man barricades at night.

"But I did not tell him the whole story about pouring petrol," he says. "The situation in our neighbourhood is such that you kill or be killed."

The necklacing incident happened when Vaal townships were on the boil, with residents at loggerheads

# Confessions of a necklace killer

The Weekly Mail meets an unidentified 'comrade' who proudly describes how he took part in the necklacing murder of former mayor Esau Mahlatsi. There is a chilling contrast between the schoolboy comrade's neatly-dressed appearance and his opinions: 'Every time the flames died down I would pour on more petrol ...'

**By RAY NXUMALO**

with kwaMadala hostel dwellers, and youths mysteriously being abducted, tortured and assaulted. The area was in a state of low-intensity warfare and barricades were erected to bring it under control.

The morning of the gruesome incident is vivid in his mind. "We were on guard at a barricade and had to burn tyres to keep ourselves warm when this car came upon us. Like all cars, it was stopped and searched."

In the driver's possession they found a gun which the comrades temporarily confiscated while he went home to fetch the licence. It was on his return that he committed what Happy called "a blunder that cost him

his life

"He came back with another gun and fired a warning shot to disperse the group." The group at the barricade had been looking for mysterious gunmen who had been shooting randomly at residents at night. They overpowered the driver. While he lay on the ground one of the men at the barricade produced an AK47 and shot him. Then he was recognised as the former mayor, and the decision to torch him was "spontaneous".

Happy says it was blind fury which

fuelled his action. "It's not possible to necklace a victim if you are not angry enough."

Two years ago, Happy says he was shot in the back by Mahlatsi's bodyguards — and this fuelled his rage. He had been part of a group of youths who had attacked the mayor's house and set it alight.

What is alarming is that Happy says he has no regrets. He was aware of what he was doing and didn't want to stop, but he is adamant that he does not need counselling.

Seeing the man had already been badly hurt and shot, why the need to

burn him?

"We were too emotional at the time. What we wanted to do was to totally get rid of him." The hatred in his voice is almost tangible. "The only thing that disturbed me was the screams he made as the flames ate at his flesh."

Speaking to the youth, it becomes apparent that he is little more than a child. His voice changes; the bravado is gone. I have to wait while he swallows a lump in his throat.

His friend, 24-year-old Mr X, says he came late to the necklacing scene. He says the thing he remembers most clearly about the incident is the stench. "It was a mixture of rubber, petrol and nauseating burning human flesh."

He tells me he would not mind watching his enemy burn to death, and after pondering, adds "maybe even participate in the burning itself".

He talks about the kind of people he considers "ideal candidates for necklacing" — informers. Despite the fact that the political organisations Happy and Mr X belong to uphold political tolerance, they say they have no tolerance for state agents and informers. They are incensed

and unforgiving that "comrades" have been poisoned while in exile and camps bombed because of collaborators. "Those are some of the obstacles we have to move out of the way to freedom."

Both youngsters are aware that the necklacing is barbaric and "an embarrassment to the leadership" of both their organisations, but they are convinced that the gruesome method sends a clear message to would-be collaborators that "our struggle is serious".

"The movements have to distance themselves from necklacing because it damages their image," Mr X says, cynically, and Happy nods his head.

"Obviously we would like to see collaborators getting rehabilitated and absorbed into the community but our organisations just don't have the room for this. If they did, such things would not happen."



**'The only thing that disturbed me,' Happy boasts, 'was the screams he made as the flames ate at his flesh'. Then Happy's voice changes, and the bravado is gone. I realise he is little more than a child**



Sowetan 28/7/92  
**Aids stigma dodge**

Children who have lost one or both of their parents to Aids will be treated in the same way as orphans to avoid possible stigmatisation, the Department of National Health and Population Development said yesterday.

The department said existing channels in the welfare system would be extended and the move would eliminate duplication. (298)

There were about 2 000 Aids orphans in South Africa, and the number could rise to 22 000 within three to four years, said the department. "At present, 400 people are being infected daily with the HIV."

- Sapa (298)



## DEAF AWARENESS About 3million South Africans are deaf or suffer from hearing impairment

# Deaf Week

## begins

*Sowetan 28/8/92*

■ Programme will highlight problems encountered in the 'normal' world:

By Mokgadi Pela (298)

THE South African National Council for the Deaf hosts the national deaf awareness week from today until September 6, focusing on particular problems of the deaf.

Called *Building Bridges of Understanding*, the programme will highlight problems like the inability to communicate, learn and cope in a world geared for the needs of "normal" people.

The campaign will also highlight the incidence and causes of hearing impairment.

It also wants to create awareness about the fact that much of the loss of hearing in South Africa is preventable. However, once lost, it can never be restored.

W/mail 28/8 - 3/9/92

■ THE first of 64 edu-  
care centres planned by  
the child welfare move-  
ment, the state and  
private sector will open  
in Midrand's Ivory  
Park tomorrow. The  
project is funded by the  
R1-billion obtained  
from the sale of oil  
reserves, made available  
by the government  
earlier this year. (298)



# Dental unit reaches out to street children

By Paula Fray

STAN 28/8/92

(298)

Students at Kingsway Care Centre — a "farm" school situated in the heart of Randpark Ridge, Randburg — would barely have had a chance of education were it not for the sponsorship of the surrounding community.

The school supplies not only access to learning, but also clothes and food on a daily basis for the area's street children and children from the squatter communities.

According to principal Liz Thompson, the school is funded

entirely with donations. Many of the street children are usually collected off the street for a day's learning.

The school also has a nurse who identifies various ailments — including TB — and the children are sent off to the relevant clinics.

But costs are high.

And were it not for the Wits Community Health Centre's mobile dental clinic, most would never have access to basic dental care.

However, this week the trail-

er-drawn mobile unit was taken to the school where it was set up within 20 minutes. A team of six — three dental therapists and three assistants — worked on all 120 pupils over the entire week.

Team leader Ronald Phiri explained that once permission was received from the relevant authorities, the team first talked to the school teachers on dental health before talking to the entire school.

In a "brushing programme", children were given toothbrushes and toothpaste and

taught how to clean their teeth. This programme continued at the school after the team had left.

Inside a large tent, dental therapists checked teeth and did necessary extractions and basic fillings. A video on dental health kept the waiting children amused.

"While the children are waiting for treatment we try to make them comfortable, as this is very often the first time they have come to a place like this and they are always scared," said Mr Phiri.

## 'Robot kids need love, not money for drugs'

VUYO BAVUMA

Weekend Argus Reporter

A FORMER nurse who is heading an anti-drug crusade among township children believes her task would be easier if people refrained from giving money to "child beggars".

Mrs Nompumelelo Ngoqo, known as "Auntie" by the children, works at Ulwazi Centre in Langa where youngsters attend classes in various subjects including music and art. Since 1989, Mrs Ngoqo has helped more than 60 drug-users to break the habit.

Some of the needy children are from the homelands and others live in the migrant labourers' hostels where they are often not properly cared for.

Some sniff glue and petrol, while other children smoke dagga.

Mrs Ngoqo said: "Every Friday I do an outreach programme by going out to search for the kids on the streets. I normally meet children at robots, like along Vanguard Drive.

"Some recognise my car and I persuade them to come with me to the centre. I organise food for them before I counsel them about the dangers of drugs."

Mrs Ngoqo said her task would be a lot easier if motorists stopped giving the children money.

"We'll be glad if people could bring the children to the centre instead," she said.



# Kreiner takes top exco job

By IVOR CREWS

NEWLY-ELECTED chairman of the Cape Town City Council's executive committee Mr Louis Kreiner yesterday said he intended improving the council's image and addressing vital issues affecting the city.

It was quite possible that Mr Clive Keegan, deputy mayor, who is due to succeed Mr Frank van der Velde when his two-year term of office expires, could be Cape Town's last white mayor under the current regime, he said.

It was not yet known what form local government would take in the future but community involvement in the running of the city was of paramount importance.

Mr Kreiner allayed concern in council circles about his health saying he felt "fit and healthy" and was fully capable of coping with the tough job.

Mr Kreiner, 63, a diabetic, said the job was a "big challenge" but not the most enviable after all the "flak" the council had been getting.

"I intend improving the image of the council with the public and rate-payers who perceive they are being overcharged and to motivate staff to be more positive and productive than in the past," he said.

The council needed a balanced budget to meet the needs of the greater community as well as maintaining existing standards and services.

Other problems that needed to be addressed included service cuts, improving relations with trade unions and reducing protracted council meetings.

● In yesterday's closed session in which councillors chose a new exco by secret ballot, Mr Leon Markovitz was elected deputy chairman. He moves from the utilities chair to head the amenities and health committee.

Accountant Mr Kenny Penkin is the new chairman of the utilities and works committee.

Mr John Muir remains town planning committee chairman and Mr Neil Ross remains housing committee chairman.

## SOS probe to take 'a few more months'

Staff Reporter

THE police investigation into the alleged misappropriation of over R1 million in public donations to the South African Exploration Society by its former national director and his mother will take "another few months", police said yesterday.

Police and the government launched a fraud and theft investigation in October last year after receiving complaints that Dr John Clayton and his mother, Mrs Gertrude Heckler, were misappropriating the society's funds.

The government investigation, by the Business Practice Committee, recommended in June that no steps should be taken against the society, which runs SOS youth camps.

However, the police probe will take "another few months", investigating officer Captain Gordon Duguid, of the Commercial Branch, said yesterday.

The society is a national non-profit educational youth movement.

## Dog attacks estate agent

JOHANNESBURG. — An estate agent was mauled by a rottweiler in Bryanston this week while she was showing clients a house, the Sandton Crisis Control Centre said yesterday.

The centre said Mrs Jean Muir was showing a house on Wednesday afternoon when she was attacked by the dog which dragged her around the property.

She was injured on both arms and the head.

Mrs Muir is in a stable condition at Johannesburg Hospital.

Police are investigating. — Sapa

(298) CT 29/8/92

**THE SA WAY ... A man is set alight with petrol after being stabbed and assaulted (above). His crime: Accused of being an Inkatha supporter. His sentence: Murder in the cruellest way imaginable.**

**NO DIGNITY IN DEATH ... (Left) Are South Africans becoming immune to atrocities like this?**

**By MOSES MAMAILA**

TWO victims of street justice were this week saved from "the gallows" by police who arrived at the scene just before the final blows were delivered.

The two Sebokeng youths were severely assaulted by a mob of pupils who wanted to kill them in revenge for the death of a school-mate.

The two teenagers are fighting for their lives at Sebokeng Hospital where they were admitted on Monday.

They were bleeding profusely from their heads and covered in blood - which led many people to conclude that their eyes had been gouged out. (298)

The youths were targeted by pupils of Botetso-Tsebo High after

they were implicated in the murder of matric pupil Shimi Makhoba.

Armed with pangas, knives and other weapons, the pupils attacked the two youths in an open field, said witnesses. (298)

"Police saw a mob of people attacking two youths with knives but when they went to the scene, the attackers fled," said police

spokesman Capt Piet van Deventer.

When City Press reporters visited them this week, the two youths lay in their hospital beds, unable to speak.

Their faces had been sliced several times and were swollen. Their eyes remained closed.

Police said a youth has been arrested in connection with the incident.

# 30/8/92 City Press Saved from a bloody end