

# INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT & HEALTH

1983

JANUARY — SEPTEMBER

# Asbestos measures

## criticised

Weekend Post  
Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Strict enforcement of permissible levels of asbestos fibre is not being practised in South Africa, say two doctors

One is the head of the Department of Medicine at the University of Cape Town's Medical School, Prof S R Benatar

South Africa has lagged behind the rest of the world in setting and enforcing acceptable asbestos fibre levels in the working environment in mines and factories, say Prof Benatar and Dr E D Bateman in an editorial in the South African Medical Journal

They call for a review of the mechanisms by which compensation is awarded to affected workers

Asbestos fibres released during the mining and industrial processing of asbestos are known to cause lung tumours and cancer if inhaled continually over a long period

Until 1975 the permissible fibre level for South African asbestos mines and factories was 45 fibres a millilitre. This was later reduced to 12 and then to five in 1982

In the United States the acceptable level since 1976 has been two fibres a millilitre

131

8/1/83

$$K = \frac{1}{\rho w}$$

$$\frac{\rho w}{\rho w}$$

$$R = \frac{\Delta T}{\rho w}$$

$$R = \frac{\Delta T}{\rho w}$$

# Fight to control sugar

10/1/83  
mill

fire

## Mercury Reporter

FIREMEN battled for almost three hours to bring a fire at a Maidstone sugar mill storage bin under control on Saturday night.

The blaze — at the Tongaat-Hulett mill near Stanger — began at 8.30 p.m. when highly explosive sugar dust on a 50 m-long conveyor belt to the bin exploded.

Although the cause of the explosion has yet to be established, the group's public relations officer, Mr Ron Phillips, believes an electrical fault could have caused the fire.

Mr Phillips said although the corrugated iron bin, used to load bulk tankers, had been damaged considerably, there was no sugar in the bin at the time.

By 11 p.m. the blaze was under control and production was back to normal using other storage bins.

**Settlement  
reached  
in asbestos  
dispute**

*Mercury*  
*12/1/83*  
Labour Reporter  
A DISPUTE between the asbestos company Turnall Ltd and members of the South African Allied Workers' Union dating back to March last year was settled yesterday.

A joint statement released by the union and the company said an out-of-court settlement had been reached

This was between the management of Turnall and certain workers formerly employed by the company following lengthy negotiations.

The settlement was reached with neither party conceding the validity of the case of the other, the statement said

The dispute arose last March after a work stoppage when 33 workers formerly employed by Turnall Ltd alleged the company had refused to negotiate with them and was guilty of selective re-employment.

The company denied these charges, and the workers made a request to the Industrial Court to be reinstated.

# Asbestos

~~16~~ row ~~14~~

Staw settled 131

12/1/83

Labour Reporter

An out-of-court settlement was reached yesterday between a Durban asbestos firm and the South African Allied Workers Union over a dispute dating back to last March

A joint statement released by the two sides said that Turnall Ltd and members of Saawu's building affiliate who were former employees of the firm had reached the out-of-court settlement after lengthy negotiations at the recommendation of the president of the Industrial Court

The settlement was reached with neither side conceding the validity of the other's case

Turnall dismissed about 50 workers in March last year allegedly over demands for union recognition

# Employee dies in shop fire

NELSPRUIT — A woman employee was killed in a massive fire that destroyed the OK Bazaars here within two hours yesterday morning.

According to a spokesman for the OK Bazaars in Johannesburg the dead woman was separated from a group of employees vacating the building after the fire started.

She was found during cleaning operations yesterday Her name has been withheld

"The fire started shortly after the air-conditioning was switched on," the OK Bazaars spokesman said "But an investigation would have to find whether it was the cause. Some people heard an explosion but that could have been anything."

Damage is estimated to be several million rands and a new store would have to be built before trading could start again

OK Bazaars will meet employees today to discuss their future.

Cleaning up operations carried on into the evening

A Nelspruit police spokesman said last night arson was not suspected at this stage Police believed the fire may have been "an accident".

Investigations are continuing. — DDC

1974/75 Affiliat

Registration: N

Founded: 1950s

Area of Operatio

Officials: Secretary: L.C.M. Scheepers

Address: P.O. Box 3400 Johannesburg 2000

Telephone: (011) 834 8029

Year	Membership		
	African	Asian and Coloured	White
1980	25		
1979	100		
1978	100		
1977	100		
1976	100		
1975	100		
1974	..		
1973	..		
1972	..		
1971	..		
1970	..		
			Total

AFRICAN TRUNK AND BOX WORKERS UNION

## Narrow escape for baby in North Beach blast

# Two injured as aqualung explodes

(13) Mercury 19/1/83

### Mercury Reporter

A COMPRESSED air cylinder belonging to South African Diving Services exploded on the North Beach pavement of the Lower Marine Parade in Durban yesterday morning, injuring two pedestrians.

The equipment was being off-loaded at North Beach for use by another contractor working on the North Beach groyne when the accident occurred.

The steel cylinder had been propped up against a wooden fence.

Two pedestrians, Mrs D Jones, with her baby, and accompanied by her servant, Mrs Annie Masibuku, were passing when it exploded.

### Damaged

Mrs Jones suffered lacerations to her left arm and Mrs Masibuku lacerations to her left leg. They were treated in hospital and discharged. The baby was not injured.

The vehicle from which the equipment was being off-loaded was damaged and a part of the wooden fence was damaged.

The force of the explosion flung a piece of steel from the aqualung across the road. It landed at the entrance of the beach office on North Beach.

The cause of the explosion is not known.

The director of SADS, Mr John Young, said: 'We have not yet determined the cause of the explosion but we are holding an in-house inquiry. We are also investigating in conjunction with the Department of Manpower.'

The department controls the use of aqualungs and also conducts regular safety checks on diving equipment. According to their regulations aqualungs must be hydraulically tested every four years and visually inspected every year.

### Pitting

'This particular cylinder was due to undergo its legal hydraulic test in 1985. However, according to our company policy it was to have been tested in the near future,' Mr Young said.

Mr Ian Prosser, a senior department inspector, confirmed yesterday the accident would be investigated.

'On inspection of the remains of the cylinder, severe pitting was evident on the inside,' said Mr Prosser.

'By law every aqualung must have a record book. This contains, among other things, its certificate of manufacture, the inspections it has had, its repairs and cleaning.'

(131) RDM 2019/1183

# Two hurt as diver's aqualung explodes

## Mail Correspondent

DURBAN — A high pressure diver's aqualung, belonging to the South African Diving Services, exploded on the North Beach sidewalk of the Lower Marine Parade in Durban yesterday morning, injuring two pedestrians

Equipment was being off-loaded at the North Beach for use by another contractor who was working on the North Beach groyne when the accident occurred

The steel aqualung had been propped up against a wooden fence

A pedestrian, Mrs D Jones, her baby and her servant, Mrs Annie Mazibuko, were passing when the cylinder exploded

Mrs Jones suffered lacerations of her left arm and Mrs Mazibuko lacerations of her left leg They were treated in hospital and discharged The baby was not injured

The vehicle from which the equipment was being off-loaded was damaged and a part of the wooden fence was also damaged

The cause of the explosion

is not known

The director of the SADS, Mr John Young, said yesterday that the aqualung was not intended for use on the beach but was to be transported to Vetch's Pier for use by divers at sea

"We have not yet determined the cause of the explosion but are holding an in-house inquiry We are also investigating in conjunction with the Department of Manpower"

The Department of Manpower controls the use of aqualungs in South Africa

and also conducts regular safety checks on diving equipment

According to their regulations, aqualungs must be hydraulically tested every four years and visually tested every year

"This particular cylinder was due to undergo its legal hydraulic test in 1985," said Mr Young

Mr Ian Prosser, a senior inspector of the Department of Manpower, said yesterday that there would be an official investigation



# Loader driver escapes injury

By NKOPANE  
MAKOBANE

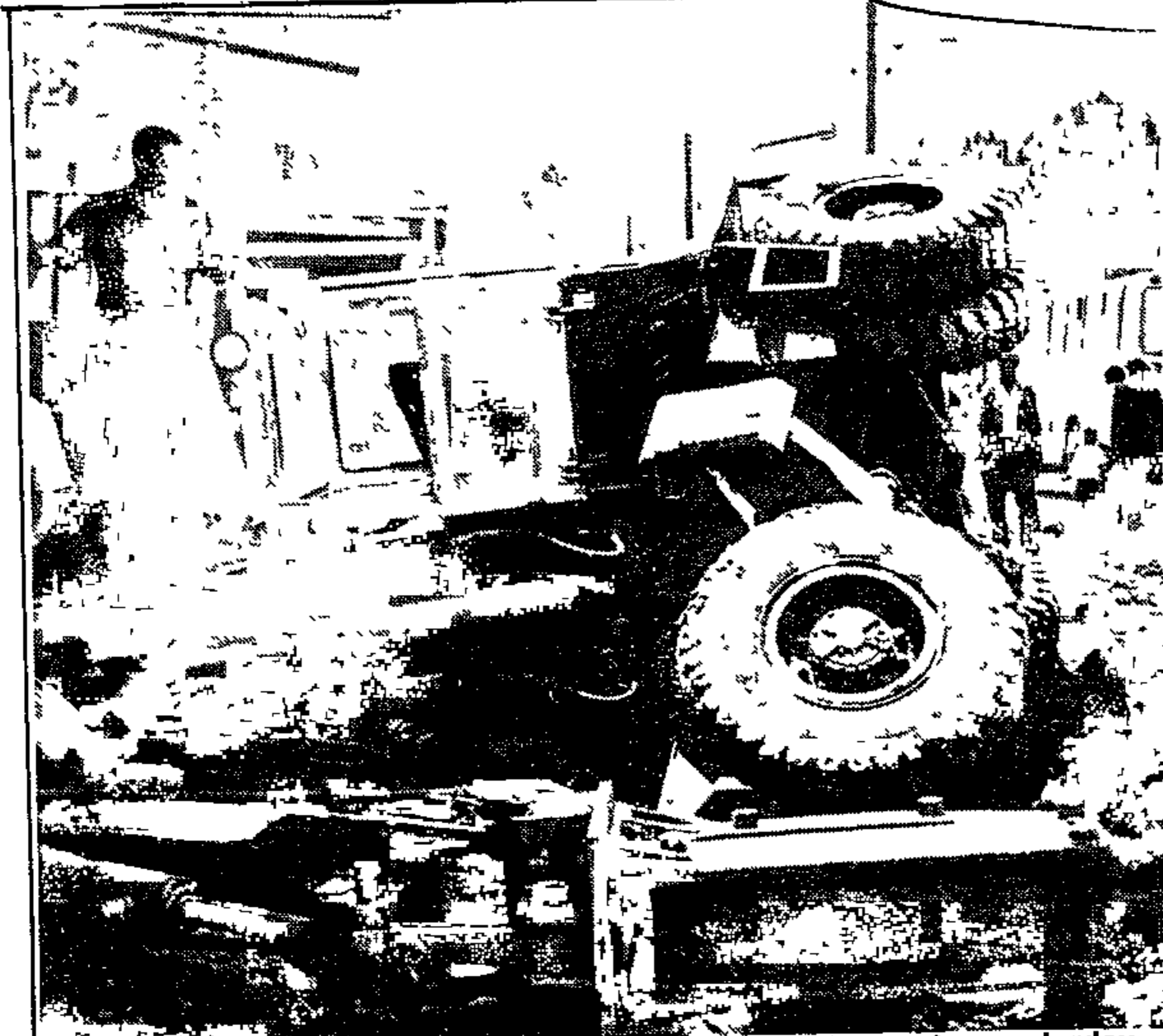
A DRIVER of a front-end-loader digging a trench next to a Dube shop yesterday escaped death when the machine suddenly lost grip and fell causing minor damage to the shop building door.

Mr Jacob Seadue who still looked shocked one-and-a-half hours after the incident said it was a miracle that he sustained no injuries.

I was busy trying to

reverse when suddenly one of the rear wheels slid on the wet soil and the machine came down with a big thud. At this stage I jumped off and was fortunate not to be hit by anything," he said.

The manager of Rich Joy Sports and Schoolwear store Mr Jackie Mogoerane said they thanked God no one was injured. He said he shuddered to think what would have happened if it was after school because children come in big numbers to buy stationery and uniforms.



FRONT-END LOADER: Mr Jackie Mogoerane standing on top yesterday

Address: P.O. Box 978  
Pretoria  
0001

Telephone: (012) 217123

Officials: Secretary: J.A. van Wyk

Area of Operation:

Founded:

Registration: Yes

Leaves the S.A. Confederation of Labour in 1978.

HEALTH — 1 (131)   
**Lead poison threat**

FM 21/1/83

Though few seem aware of it, lead poisoning is a notifiable disease in SA. In the last 10 years only one case, involving a child, has been reported. Yet a study by Yasmin von Schirnding of UCT's Department of Environmental Studies shows that a significant number of children living near Cape Town's city centre have lead levels in their blood above international safety limits.

Von Schirnding believes that high atmospheric lead levels may be a significant factor, particularly as most of the children with dangerously high lead concentrations attend schools on busy roads with high traffic densities.

Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs P T du Plessis has promised action if it is proved that the high lead levels are related to the lead content of petrol.

The study was prompted by earlier data showing that Cape Town has the highest atmospheric lead levels in the country — comparable to those in the largest urban industrial complexes in the world.

Von Schirnding says "At one Woodstock school alone we found that 17% of pupils had blood lead levels above the US safety limit of 29 micrograms a decilitre. In addi-

tion, there is evidence that this lead accumulation is affecting their behaviour and that they could be suffering from behavioural and metabolic problems."

There is considerable debate as to the health effects of relatively low level lead exposure and whether it causes intellectual impairment. However, says Von Schirnding "there is no doubt as to the health hazards of lead exposure at high levels."

She says that "young children are particularly vulnerable to lead poisoning which could result in irreversible brain damage. One of the other effects is a slight lowering of the IQ which could have profound effects on the community in later years."

The study suggests there should be legislation limiting the amount of lead in petrol. "The ideal situation would be to remove all lead from petrol, but in the absence of this, to remove it in stages from the present 0,836 g/l to 0,15 g/l — which is the West German standard and the standard which Britain and Australia are aiming at."

She also suggests that "legislation be introduced limiting the lead content of certain paints, and that schools and creches should not be sited on roads with heavy traffic flows or next to garages."

CAPE TIMES  
24/1/83  
131

# Dung is deadly

HORSE manure can kill, according to Durban's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Colin Mackenzie

He warned last week that horse manure was a prime carrier of tetanus spores which could survive for up to 30 years in the soil

His warning was aimed at householders who use horse manure on lawns and gardens

Dr Mackenzie didn't mince his words "Infections can be caused at any time within 30 years of manuring your lawn" All it would take to contract the disease was to receive a small wound or graze on the lawn

He explained that the germ was not of the "invasive" sort. It could enter the body only through wounds, even comparatively minor cuts or a puncture caused by a thorn. The majority of cases followed injuries too trivial to warrant medical attention

Though the incidence of tetanus infections had decreased dramatically in the past decade, Durban still had the highest number of cases in South Africa. This was the reason King Edward VIII Hospital was equipped with the country's best tetanus unit

The "horse-dropping issue" was raised last week after reports that the Johannesburg City Council was considering horse-back patrols to combat crime in parks

Dr Mackenzie made his stand on the matter clear "There is no way I can allow horses in any area where children play or sports activities take place"

His advice to anyone in a tetanus area was to ensure that they and their children received a regular anti-tetanus booster injection — usually given every three years

The Western Cape is regarded as a tetanus area

be used

- Names must be (e.g. graph paper examination book)

Any dishonesty will

## science focus

bob molloy



when a match is found, puts out a signal

This gives the possibility of high-speed flight at low altitudes by voice control only, as might be required by a military pilot in a combat situation

Using the computer, the pilot could fly the aircraft with his voice while concentrating on other tasks

Tested recently in a specially equipped F-16 fighter, the computer successfully recognized 36 different commands. Scientists claim the facility could be fully operational within a few years

### Meteorites

RARE meteorites discovered in Antarctica could provide clues about life elsewhere in the universe, according to the National Science Foundation

Scientists on a project funded by the foundation have reported finding 31 meteorites, including several very rare types which contained carbon molecules

Only about a dozen meteorites containing carbon have been discovered so far. Some of them had molecules of amino acids, the basic component of living cells. The finds indicate that there may be life elsewhere in the universe

The meteorites were found in a mountainous area about 500 km from the South Pole

### Fossils

FOSSIL remains of a dozen previously unknown, 200-million-year-old reptiles, were among bones of 24 species discovered last summer in a petrified forest in Arizona

Among the species identified by scientists from Berkeley University, California, and the Field Museum of Chicago was

one with 15cm teeth, a 1.8m skull and a 13m body

Paleontologist Robert Long told newsmen "The creature probably weighed 10 tons. In its time, it could have been the largest living animal on earth. It carried armour like a tank"

The reptile, named Phytosaurus Rutiodon, probably spent most of its life submerged in water to support its body

### Pickled fish

SCIENTISTS have found a remarkable breed of fish in a stream deep in a Scottish forest — an acid-resistant trout which survives in waters harmful to other fish

The discovery could be of vital importance in solving problems caused by acid rain falling over large areas of Europe and North America

The acid rain is caused by massive quantities of sulphur-dioxide released into the atmosphere by power stations, factories, and households burning coal and oil. The result is a general rise in acidity levels in rivers, lakes, and streams

Because of this, freshwater fish stocks have been drastically reduced in many areas

The effect of acid water on fish is a rapid loss of body salts and eventual death. Females are often unable to release their eggs in acid conditions

Researchers say the discovery demonstrates that fish are capable of adaptation. Lack of reliable records of water quality going back more than 20 or 30 years prevented accurate assessment of the time scale of the adaptation, but recent work suggested it would take many generations to accomplish in the wild



Dropping from a horse can be a very dangerous activity — as this picture shows, but horse droppings pose an entirely different kind of threat.

or with any person except the invigilator.  
an answer book is to be torn out  
r books must be handed to the commis-  
o an invigilator before leaving the exam-

on and to possible exclusion from

(151) RDM  
24/1/83

# Toppled safe kills girl, 2

By EMIELA JAROSCHEK

A two year old girl was crushed to death when a safe fell on top of her in a camping shop in central Johannesburg at the weekend

Rebecca Benjamin of 1st street, Bez Valley North, Johannesburg was with her mother, Mrs Ruth Benjamin, who had gone into the shop in Commissioner Street to buy something when the accident occurred

The girl had apparently touched the delicately balanced safe causing it to topple onto her head

She was killed immediately. Ambulance men who were called to the shop were powerless to help the girl or her near-hysterical mother

The accident occurred at about 10am on Saturday morning

Mrs Benjamin stayed alone in a cottage with Rebecca

The landlady of the property, who asked not to be named, yesterday described Rebecca as an extremely polite and intelligent child

Mrs Benjamin was unavailable for comment yesterday

**Bus step (131)  
homicide 204  
25/1/83**

Mail Correspondent

PIETERSBURG — A Lebowa Transport bus driver was found guilty of culpable homicide in the Pietersburg Regional Court and sentenced to 60 days or R120, suspended for three years

Mr William Mashkinya, 44, who had pleaded not guilty, was found by the court to have caused the death of a passenger who slipped off the bus steps

Mr Mashkinya told the court he had closed the bus door before it moved off into the road

The magistrate, however, found that the door could not have been closed

X

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**GO**

**Imported**  
**Fabrics**  
**983 to New**

**CKHEATH**  
**UARY WILL BE**

**Safe death inquest to follow probe**

**Mail Reporter**

THE inquest on a two-year-old girl who died when a safe fell on top of her on Saturday will be held when police investigation are complete.

The accident occurred in Saturday a camp equipment shop at Commissioner Street Johannesburg.

Rebecca Benjamin of First Street Bez Valley North Johannesburg was with her mother Mrs Ruth Benjamin when the accident happened.

The safe, which was delicately balanced fell and crushed the toddler's head when she touched it.

The manager of the shop who refused to be named said a tragedy had occurred and that he had no further comment. He would not say if any arrangements had been made to prevent this type of accident from recurring.

Rebecca was buried on Tuesday.

The date of the hearing will be set when investigation are completed.

**MATTER OF FACT**

TO CORRECT specific errors of fact write to the Editor at P O Box 1137 Johannesburg or telephone the Editor's secretary at 710 9111 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays.

If you have broader complaints about the Rand Daily Mail these can be taken up with the Mail Ombudsman, James McClurg c/o the Editor's secretary.

POLITICAL comment in this issue is a Gift of Benoni. For a newsworthy article or news item, send it to the Editor's office by 11 AM on the day before publication. No late submissions.

**HAMBRO**  
**COLO**

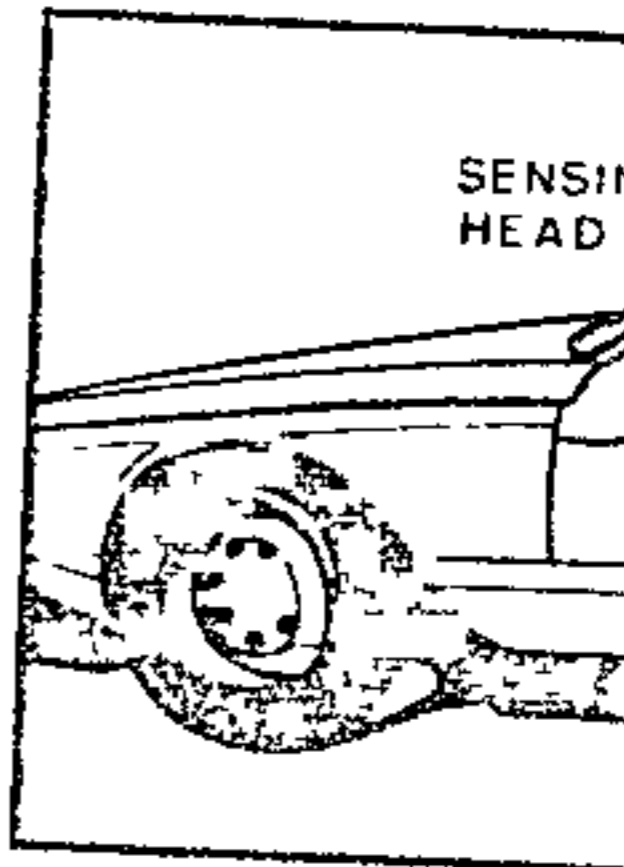


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on Page 24

S 4671

# TRUCK IN HOSPITAL

## TRUCK OVERTURNED

1315 Charles  
Swetson  
MOGALL

28/1/83

FIFTEEN men were injured yesterday when a truck they were traveling in overturned outside Soweilo.

All the men were treated at Bragwanath Hospital but the most seriously injured, driver Mr P Willemse, had to be driven to a white hospital.

A spokesman for the men's employers said Mr Willemse had sustained a loud bang and saw the truck

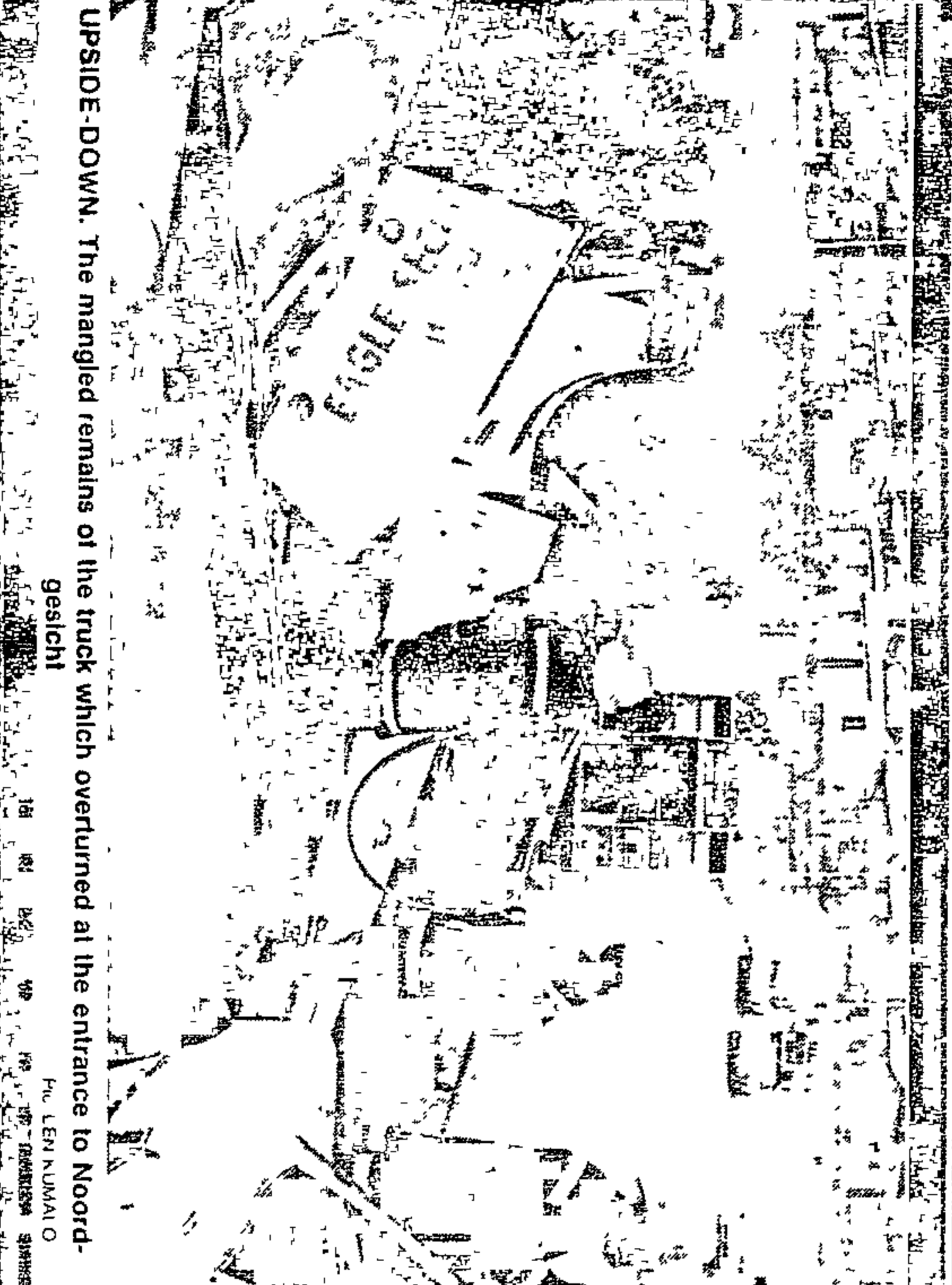
lamed the injuries and had broken both his arms. By late yesterday afternoon it was not known when the men would be discharged.

Mr Willemse was driving the men to the Meadowlands Hostel after they had come off night duty when the truck overturned at the entrance of Noordgesicht township.

One witness said We heard a loud bang and saw the truck

swere before it turned upside-down. We rushed to the scene and saw blood on the truck. Some of the passengers crawled out while others had to be helped.

While the rest of the men were rushed to Bragwanath Hospital, Mr Willemse had to be driven to the Strydom Hospital in Johannesburg from where he was moved to the Millpark Hospital.



**UPSIDE-DOWN.** The mangled remains of the truck which overturned at the entrance to Noordgesicht

PHOTO BY THE LENS OF THE PRESS

Worker is  
*CAPC Tint 21/1/83*  
burnt at  
*(131)*  
oil refinery

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — A fitter is fighting for his life after receiving burns when a fire broke out at the Shell-BP oil refinery here on Saturday

He was identified only as a Mr Van der Merwe who was doing maintenance work on the plant. He received burns to 85 percent of his body and is in the intensive care unit at St Augustine's Hospital.

"Mr Van der Merwe is badly burned over most of his body and is critically ill," a plastic surgeon said yesterday.

Shell-BP's managing director in Durban, Mr Peter Tiso, said the fire had been caused by a "gasoline flash" about 10.30 am.

"It was just one of those things that can happen at any time. A flange was opened and there was an ignition," said Mr Tiso, who estimated damage at about R2 000.



**Fitter (131)**  
**Mercury**  
**critically**  
**burned**  
3/1/83

**Mercury Reporter**

A FITTER who was doing maintenance work at the Shell-BP oil refinery in Durban is fighting for his life in the intensive care unit at St Augustine's Hospital after suffering 85 percent burns in a blaze which broke out at the plant on Saturday

Identified only as a Mr van der Merwe, the man will be operated on — as soon as he has sufficiently recovered — by a plastic surgeon, Mr J H Youngleson

'Mr van der Merwe is badly burned over most of his body and is critically ill as a result of his injuries,' Mr Youngleson said yesterday

'It might be some time before I can operate'

Shell-BP's managing director in Durban, Mr Peter Tiso, said the fire had been caused by a 'gasoline flash'

'It was just one of those things that can happen at any time. A flange was opened and there was an ignition,' said Mr Tiso

Cape Times 12/13/31 (131)

# Three injured as scaffolding falls

Staff Reporter

THREE workers were injured yesterday — one of them seriously — when the scaffolding they were dismantling alongside the Southern Life Association building in Dean Street, Newlands, fell three storeys to the ground.

One of the men, Mr Pieter Koordom, who was halfway up the scaffolding when it collapsed, was trapped in the wreckage and had to be freed by members of the Metro Rescue Unit, an ambulance spokesman said.

The other two men, Mr Hendrik Lewis and Mr Frans Booyesen, were at the top of the scaffolding and received only minor

injuries.

The foreman of the crew dismantling the scaffolding, Mr A Daniels, said that a burst underground water pipe directly under the legs of the scaffolding had softened the ground and this was believed to have been the cause of the fall.

"The one side of the scaffolding came away from the wall after a rope securing the scaffolding to the building had snapped, and the whole lot fell sideways to the ground," Mr Daniels said.

The men were taken to Victoria Hospital.

Mr Lewis and Mr Booyesen were treated and discharged.

# Worker in death plunge

ARGUS 2/2/83  
131  
Staff Reporter

A CONSTRUCTION worker was found dead today at the bottom of a service duct shaft at a post office microwave and automatic telephone building being erected in Durban Road, Bellville

He had apparently fallen about two storeys to his death nearly 24 hours earlier

The name of the dead man, a Transkei migrant worker, is being withheld until his next-of-kin have been notified

His colleagues found his body in the basement when they arrived on the site today

A spokesman for the construction company said the man's absence was noticed yesterday at about 5 pm

At the time no attention was paid as a number of workers had been sent home early because of the rain

131 RDM 4/2/83

# ILO acts to ease eye strain on workers

GENEVA — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has limited work on visual display screens to a maximum four hours a day to protect employees' health.

The UN agency also ordered a mandatory 15-minute break after every 90 min-

utes' work on the electronic units.

Personnel will receive an eye test every year, the ILO said, and if necessary be transferred without prejudice to another job.

Last year the ILO reported regular use of the screens

caused eye strain, backache and headaches.

"The main stress factor is the frequent switching of eyes from the copy to the keyboard, screen and back — up to 33 000 head or eye movements a day," it said — UPI.

5/2/83 (131)  
**Blast**  
**kills B. Dispute**  
**worker**

JOHANNESBURG — A worker was killed and another slightly injured in an explosion in the detonation-fuse plant at the Modderfontein explosives factory on the East Rand yesterday afternoon, a spokesman for AECI said

The cause was being investigated by a board of inquiry, but sabotage had been ruled out, he said

Damage to the plant was minimal and production would not be affected — SAPA

# Three die in Walvis Bay trawler blaze

5/2/83 E. Post

(131) ~~2~~  
WINDHOEK — Three dockworkers died and a Spanish seaman was admitted to hospital with serious burns sustained in a blaze on board a fishing trawler in Walvis Bay harbour, a spokesman for the vessel's agents said today

the hold, the spokesman said

It was understood that a number of cartons caught alight and the flames quickly spread throughout the ship

Firemen have been battling for nearly 30 hours to put out the fire and by late this afternoon the Betanzos was still smouldering

The names of the dead were not released

According to provisional estimates, damage running to several million rand was caused

The full extent of the damage to the trawler could not be assessed because of the intense heat, but reports said the inside structure of the vessel had been destroyed — Sapa

The fire on the trawler, the Betanzos, broke out late yesterday while repairs were being carried out in

# Chemical drums spring a leak

By CARLO MERCORIO

A CONTAINER carrying highly corrosive phosphorous tetrachloride had to be unloaded from the container ship SA Helderberg at the Port Elizabeth harbour today after fumes were seen escaping from it in transit from Cape Town

The container, containing drums of the chemical, was bound for Durban. Officials from the Port Captain's office, the South African Railways Fire Department and crews from the Cape Ambulance Rescue Service, were on hand at the container berth when the ship docked at 7am.

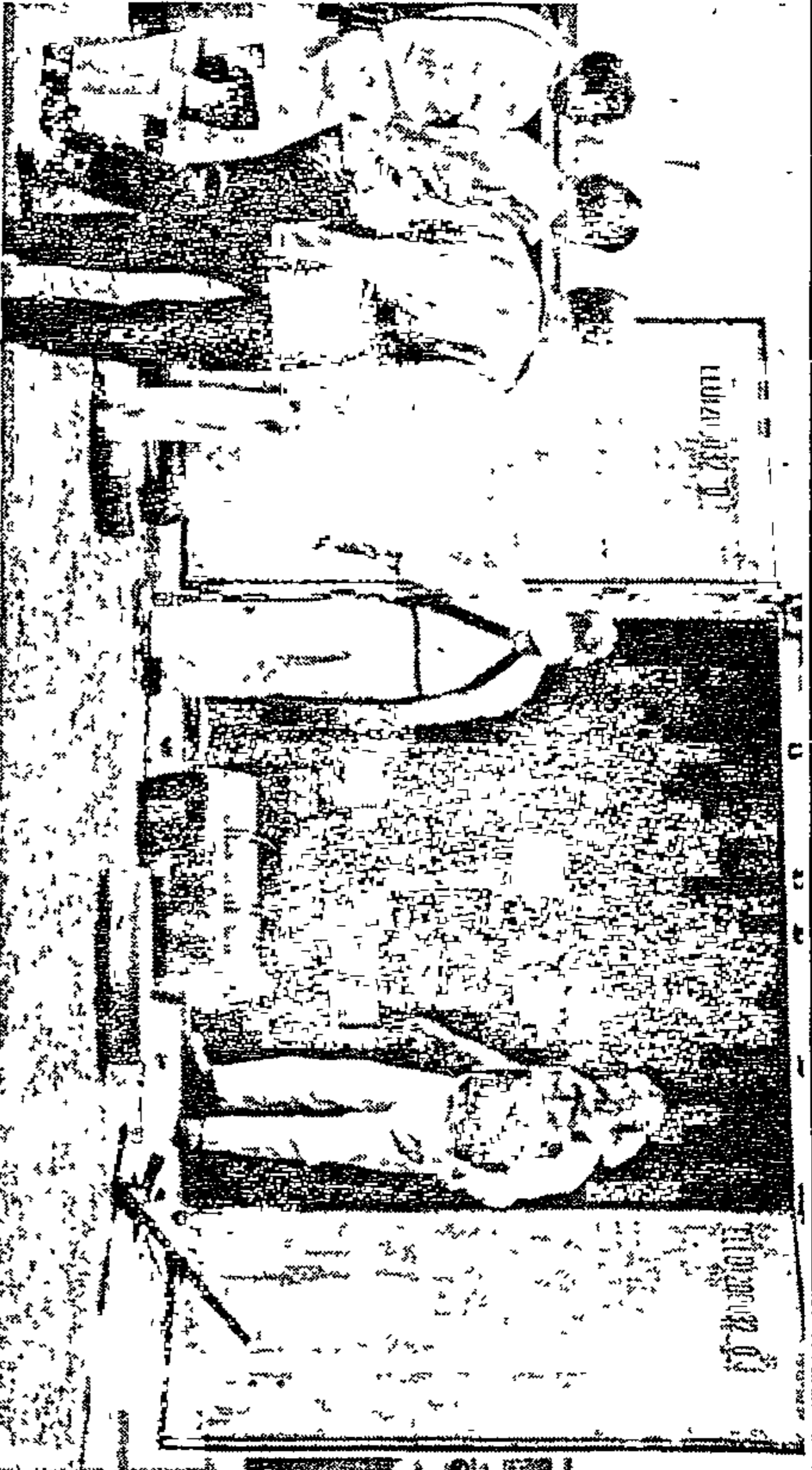
The chemical, from Southampton in England, were destined for a chemical plant in Sasolburg.

Chemical engineers, wearing special protective clothing and breathing apparatus, opened the container which had been unloaded soon after the ship docked.

The engineers flew from Sasolburg specially for the task.

As the container was opened, fumes billowed out. The entire load of 80 200-kilogram drums was laboriously unloaded, partly by forklift and partly by the chemical engineers and firemen.

A spokesman for the Port Captain's office said the leaking drums would be disposed of and the rest of the consignment reloaded.



Chemical engineers, clothed in protective garments and wearing breathing apparatus, inspect a container of corrosive phosphorous tetrachloride which had to be unloaded at Port Elizabeth Harbour today after certain drums had developed leaks in transit from Cape Town to Durban.

## Don't miss our new edition!

A NEW Uitenhage/Despatch edition of the Evening Post will be published daily (Monday to Friday) from Monday, February 14

NOREEN SUTCLIFFE (right) will be the Evening Post's full-time representative in Uitenhage. Her office is at 223c Caledon Street (☎ 25748)

She is already in Uitenhage getting to know people and preparing for the Uitenhage/Despatch area's own daily edition.

One of the most popular features in the Evening Post is Robin Stevenson's *It's All Happening* column, which carries bits

and pieces about events that are coming up

A similar feature carrying only items of Uitenhage and Despatch interest will appear in the new edition

So if you have any happening from February 14 you would like publicised, let Robin Stevenson know, either by writing to him at "Uitenhage/Despatch Happenings", Box 1121, Port Elizabeth 6009, or telephoning him at ☎ 523480, extension 414

And don't forget to telephone NoREEN SUTCLIFFE with news tips. Or, better still, pop in to the Evening Post's Caledon Street office to say hello

## R220 000 paid for two storey Mill Park home

Post Reporter

A PRICE of R220 000 has been paid for an eight-roomed double storey Tudor style house in Mill Park.

According to an estate agent, Mr Martin Nieburg, the gracious home, which is situated on 0,2 hectare of ground in Eaton Road, was bought by a local professional man.

It was built in 1949 as a replica of the original owner's home in England, was owned by Mrs Selma Brodie who put in on the market last August.

The house features handcarved stonework in the living room, teak fixtures and ducted air conditioning in the upstairs rooms and a roof of Canadian shingles.

It has a pool, garden, double garage and overlooks the Port Elizabeth Golf Course. There are four bedrooms and two bathrooms and a very spacious entrance hall.



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tya  
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*Cape Times 9/2/83 (131)*  
**Soal's maiden speech**

**Political Staff**

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY**  
— Mr Peter Soal, Progressive Federal Party MP for Johannesburg North, made his maiden speech in Parliament yesterday.

Mr Soal was elected to Parliament in a by-election in October last year following the resignation of Mr Kowie Marais, sitting MP since 1977

Mr Soal made his parliamentary debut during the Second Reading Debate on the Machinery and Occupational Safety Bill.

Replying to the debate, the Minister of Manpower

Utilisation, Mr Fanie Botha, congratulated Mr Soal on his maiden speech and wished him a successful parliamentary career

In his speech, Mr Soal said there was mounting concern for the protection of health and safety and he therefore welcomed the establishment of the Advisory Council for Occupational Safety. He referred to the "distressing news" that a 10-year-old Vereeniging girl had had both hands amputated by a scrap metal press. He hoped the bill would help prevent such accidents.





**Labour**

# Bill aims at safety for workers

131  
CARE TIMES  
9/2/83

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY** — The Machinery and Occupational Safety Bill was aimed at providing for the safety of people at their places of work, the Minister of Manpower, Mr Fanie Botha, said yesterday.

Introducing the debate on the bill's second reading, Mr Botha said it would also cover the use of machinery and establish an advisory council for occupational safety.

"This bill is dependent for its implementation on the principle of tripartism — that is, co-responsibility of employers, employees and the State, with maximum self-governance," he said.

"Accordingly, the bill provides for the establishment of an advisory council, consisting of representatives of the government, employer interests and employee interests, and protects the general public."

## High safety standard 'essential'

"It is essential that South Africa maintains a high standard in the working environment. The bill gives effect to the government's earnest resolve to ensure physical safety and good hygiene in the workplace," Mr Botha said.

Expressing the Official Opposition's support for the bill, Mr A Savage (PFP Walmer) said it was to be welcomed, as it accepted that it was the government's responsibility to ensure the safety of all workers.

"For the first time farm and domestic workers will be given some protection as well."

## Safety committees 'very important'

"The establishment of safety committees is also very important. But there is room for improvement."

Safety representatives should be elected and not appointed by management, and the bill also made no provision for the training of these safety representatives, he said.

Mr Frank le Roux (CP Brakpan) said his party welcomed all legislation aimed at ensuring worker safety and would support the bill's second reading.

"It is healthy legislation which provides for a good partnership between the State, employer and employee," he said.

The bill was read a second time — Sapa

3 Blue or black ink must be used for written answers. The use of a ball point pen is acceptable. Red or green ink may be used only for underlining, emphasis or for diagrams, for which pencil may also be used.

4 Names must be printed on each separate sheet (e.g. graph paper) where sheets additional to examination book(s) are used.

## TOWN ER BOOK

EVERY CANDIDATE MUST enter in column (1) the number of each question answered (in the order in which it has been answered); leave columns (2) and (3) blank.

	Internal	External
(1)	(2)	(3)
2	14	
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## WARNING

- 1 No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed.
- 2 Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator.
- 3 No part of an answer book is to be torn out.
- 4 All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination.

Any dishonesty will render the candidate liable to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

**Father of two  
drowns in dam**

ARGUS 9/2/03  
Staff Reporter

A LABOURER has drowned after falling into a dam on a farm at Raithby, near Firgrove.

Mr Isak Blom, 45, a father of two, was found floating in the muddy water yesterday

Mr Blom lost his balance and fell in the dam while tethering a horse

# Experts swoop on deadly leak

Mall Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH — Port Elizabeth emergency services were alerted and chemical experts from Sasolburg flown in to handle a deadly chemical leaking from drums aboard a container ship yesterday.

Railways Police, the harbour fire department and ambulances were on standby while two experts worked for four hours to remove 80 drums of a highly-corrosive chemical, phosphorus trichloride

The alarm was given when crew members of the ship SA Helderberg smelt gas leaking from a container on

Monday afternoon

At first it was thought that the gas could explode if it came into contact with moisture, but this fear proved groundless

The ship docked in Port Elizabeth at 7 30am yesterday

Two ambulances, an emergency equipment vehicle and a fire engine were on standby at the harbour's container security area

The experts, Mr J C Scholtz and Mr S Odendaal, arrived at 9am

A cloud of gas filled the air when the men, dressed in yellow protective suits

and using breathing apparatus, opened the container

They said they found the chemical — which can cause severe burns and can be damaging if inhaled — leaking from three drums

Mr Scholtz and Mr Odendaal said they had had no problems removing the drums, except for the heat they had to endure in their protective suits

One ambulance remained on standby for the four hours they were involved in the task

The SA Helderberg, which apparently suffered no damage during the incident, left for Durban yesterday afternoon

# Chemical drums <sup>131</sup> taken <sup>Post</sup> <sup>10/2/83</sup> by road

Post Reporter

SEVENTY-SEVEN drums of the container consignment of 80 drums of a corrosive chemical, phosphorous trichloride, which were removed from the container ship, SA Helderberg, in an emergency operation at the Port Elizabeth container berth on Tuesday, left Port Elizabeth in two transport trucks for Sasolburg yesterday

The drums were originally due to be unloaded in Durban, from where they would have been transported by road to the AECI chemical company in Sasolburg

The chemical company decided to transport the undamaged drums by road in two specially equipped trucks to reduce the danger of further leakage.

They are expected to arrive at their destination later today.

The remaining three drums, which developed leaks in transit from Cape Town on Monday, were destroyed and their contents thrown into sand

25 000 volt  
shock but  
man lives

DURBAN — A 22-year-old South African Transport Services driver, Mr Hendrick van Biljon, survived a 25 000-volt electrical shock at Richards Bay this week

A spokesman for Sats said Mr van Biljon had climbed on to the top of his unit and had inadvertently touched overhead wires

His survival has astounded engineers. The overhead cables can draw as much as 1 000 amps.

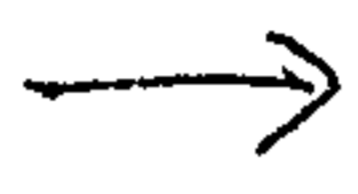
Mr van Biljon was taken to hospital in Empangeni with multiple burns. His condition was reported as satisfactory

“His clothes were burned right off him, only a shirt cuff was left around his wrist and a piece of material around his ankle. He is a lucky man,” the spokesman said — Sapa

16/2/83  
X Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health  
131 Hansard Q. Col. 138-139  
\*25 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

Whether any of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health, as referred to in his reply to Question No 21 on 9 September 1981 were implemented during 1982, if not, why not, if so, (a) which recommendations and (b)(i) when and (ii) how were they implemented?

†The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE



No, the necessary legal power was lacking

Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health

\*26 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

Whether the interdepartmental discussions with a view to reaching consensus or the recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health, as referred to in his reply to Question No 21 of 9 September 1981, have been concluded, if so, with what result, if not, when are such discussions expected to be concluded?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Yes, the Minister of Manpower has introduced the Machinery and Occupational Safety Bill and the Department of Health and Welfare is busy drafting legislation on occupational medicine

# Man hurt in silo fall

EAST LONDON — A Transport Services systems manager here, Mr A J Jonker, said Mr Leon Pretorius injured his head and pelvis and broke an arm

The South African — DDR

D. Dispatch 17/2/83 (131)

FM 18/2/83" (131)

That it's a dog's life being a postman in Durban. Last year 131 postmen were nipped you-know-where while doing their rounds. Districts where postmen most fear to tread include Chatsworth and Reservoir Hills.



Poison (131)

victim E. Post

conscious

2/2/83  
Post Reporter

THE condition of Mr Bayu Abe, an employee of a chemical drum cleaning company in Paterson Road who is in the intensive care unit of the Livingstone Hospital, has improved, a spokesman for the hospital said today.

Mr Abe, whom police believe can help them in their investigations into the death of three employees of the firm and two women found dead near the premises, is conscious

He cannot speak but shows signs of understanding speech.

The police, who suspect that the victims drank pure alcohol from a drum, are still waiting for the results of the post mortems which were sent to Cape Town for detailed analysis.

Faint, illegible text or markings on the right side of the page, possibly bleed-through or a separate document.

Man, 26, <sup>(131)</sup>  
<sup>S. Post</sup> loses hands  
<sup>24/2/83</sup> in machine

PRETORIA — A young Bronkhorstspuit man has had both his hands torn off by a machine in an accident at a brickyard in the town.

Mr Freddie Mouton, 26, who had just joined the brickworks, apparently caught his hands in a machine while trying to extract some clay from it.

He was rushed to the H F Verwoerd Hospital in Pretoria, together with parts of his hands. Doctors failed in an operation lasting several hours to sew the hands back on.

He was said to have lost a lot of blood in the accident, and his condition was causing concern. — Sapa

(131) PSM 24/2/83  
**Sasol 2 sets a new work safety record**

SECUNDA — A new safety record, 5-million man hours worked without time lost due to injuries, was reached by Sasol Two at Secunda at 7am yesterday, according to Mr Willem de Waal, general manager (operations)

It is the first time in the

history of the Sasol Group of companies that the 5-million mark has been exceeded

The one-million mark has been exceeded 15 times since operation activities started in 1979. The two-million mark has been exceeded six times, and the three-million

and four-million marks twice

The previous record of 4 100 000 man hours worked without time lost due to injuries at Sasol Two was set up on January 21 last year — Sapa

# Blaze at Pelindaba

DOM 24/2/83  
A clampdown on details of a fire which raged at the Atomic Energy Board's Pelindaba headquarters last night, has been ordered by the board.

It is believed at least four Pretoria municipal fire engines were called out to the fire in one of the Atomic Energy Board buildings, and police cars and ambulances were on standby. A cordon was thrown around the area and access prohibited — Sapa.

# Horror (31) as brick truck 2004 crashes 25/2/83

Mall Reporter

A MAN was killed and four people seriously injured when a truck loaded with bricks hurtled down the M1 off-ramp west of the University of the Witwatersrand, ploughed across Empire Road, then overturned and smashed into a car.

Empire Road was cordoned off by senior Johannesburg Traffic officials as workers tried to clear the road of about 4 000 bricks, the 15-ton truck and a wrecked white sedan.

Two labourers who had been travelling on the back of the truck were flung off and buried beneath the bricks which were hurled from the overturning vehicle. A passenger in the lorry was killed.

Johannesburg's traffic chief, Mr John Pearce, was on the scene minutes after the accident happened yesterday at 1.50pm.

A witness to the accident, Mr Gilbert Martin, said the truck had been travelling down the off-ramp at "a very high speed".

Failing to negotiate the bend, it hit a car, seriously injuring the woman driver, and crashed across the centre island of Empire Rd, winging a lamp-post.

The injured driver of the truck, still conscious after the accident, said the vehicle's brakes had failed.

131  
**Fire**  
*Mercury*  
**heroes**  
26/2/83  
**thanked**

**Mercury Reporter**

SIX fire-fighting heroes of a chemical fire at a Pinetown factory got their rewards yesterday when they were given shares in the company

The fire, which broke out in a chlorine tablet plant in a swimming pool chemical factory on Thursday, was extinguished by the six employees who rushed into the smoke and gas filled room with extinguishers

At a ceremony at the factory yesterday, share certificates worth R100 each were presented to Mr Bongikosi Xesibe, Mr Amos Nzimponde, Mr Danny Kellerman, Mr Jay Haripersad, Mr Vitalis Bulose, and Mr Doyi Mboyi, by the managing director of Swimline South Africa, Mr John Puttergill

'Braving intense heat and strong gasses, my men extinguished a fire that could easily have destroyed the entire premises

'Thirty tons of inflammable raw materials were stored in the adjoining room. If that had gone up we might just as well have sat back and watched the place burn down.

'Chlorine is a highly flammable material which can be spontaneously ignited by many organic substances, but I believe yesterday's fire was sparked off by static electricity,' he said.

A spokesman for the Pinetown Protection Services confirmed there had been a fire, but was not prepared to comment on the issue.

A timebomb that could have wiped out a suburb, was the way fire officials described this leaking petrol tanker that crashed near Vereeniging yesterday. Petrol vapour was bled off and burned to avert an explosion.

By Mike Cohen  
Crime Reporter

131

Staw 26/2/83

# Disaster averted as crashed tanker spews out petrol

More than 5 000 people could have lost their lives yesterday in what might have been South Africa's worst disaster had a tanker carrying petroleum exploded when it overturned at high speed

According to a senior fire department officer from Vereeniging, the Indian suburb of Roshnee would have been destroyed in the explosion

"Only a miracle saved the suburb and the people," the spokesman said

At least two square kilometres of residential area would have been wiped out. The tanker, which was travelling at about 80 km/h, failed to negotiate a right-hand turn and toppled over. The tank sprung a leak and fire department officials were rushed to the scene to avert a disaster.

Only a small spark would have been needed to ignite the 28 000 l of petroleum

Almost immediately, technicians from the Mobil Oil company were sent to the scene to assist the firemen. About half of the petroleum was pumped into another tanker but the fire department and technicians were left with the problem of a leaking tanker with 14 000 l of petrol still left inside

They used water to cool off

the leaking area in case of an explosion and burned off thousands of litres of petrol vapour into the night air

Fire department officials were on stand-by at the scene as the vapour burned. They began the operation — at a cost of hundreds of thousands of rands — at about 5 pm yesterday. By dawn today they were still burning the vapour.

The fire department spokesman said the energy emitted by the burning vapour was more than that used by a Boeing 747 on take-off.

Traffic police threw a 3 km cordon around the endangered suburb. Roadblocks were manned by police and traffic officials while the petroleum was being transferred to the second tanker

Residents living nearby were evacuated by the officials when the potential danger was realised. Hundreds of people were

told to move away from the danger area and were only allowed to return to their homes at sunset when fire department officials decided the area was out of danger. Late last night, curious residents were still gathered watching the burning petrol vapour. Several times firemen doused the veld with high-powered jets of water when the flames began burning the dry grass.

Police manned a roadblock outside a nearby petrol station to prevent anyone going near the danger area.

The senior fire department official at the scene described the crippled tanker as a "potential timebomb"

He estimated the petrol vapour would burn for at least 14 hours.

He said the driver was lucky not have been hurt as the tanker had narrowly missed an electricity pylon when it crashed

27/2/83  
131  
S. Tindana

# changes in the factories

LABOUR  
EXECS  
OUTLINE  
REFORM

By Mike Peirson

TOP Natal industrialists and personnel chiefs were given the first detailed indication this week of what the government has in store over changes to the old Factories Act.

In the hot seats, answering a barrage of questions confidently and with a surprising sense of humour, were two executives of the Department of Manpower in Pretoria, Mike van Noordwyk (director of labour relations) and Gus Weich (chief Factories inspector)

The centre of attention at the seminar, organised by the Natal Chamber of Industries, was the basic conditions of employment and machinery and occupational safety legislation which will become law later this year

It is a rationalised and up-dated form of the Factories Act, although most of the provisions of the existing legislation will stay intact

"We had to keep in mind the rights and privileges of those in the work place, and we have been able to make some subtle changes particularly in the field of employment of women," said van Noordwyk.

It has been classified as the Magna Carta for female workers as sex discrimination in terms of conditions of service have been abolished — except when it comes to pregnancies. Women will not be allowed to work four weeks before they are due to give birth and for eight weeks afterwards.

In fact, the new legislation will now encompass thousands of people who were not covered by the old law

Among the points made by Van Noordwyk were

- Victimization penalties have been increased

- Company records can now be kept on microfilm instead of gathering dust and taking up unnecessary space in storerooms

- Certificates of service must be given to employees when they leave a job

- A tighter rein is to be kept on labour brokers, many of whom even operate from the back of bakkies on building sites

They will be required to provide their workers with the benefits related to the industry in which they normally work, despite the fact that they

might be moving from company to company in the course of their contract work

Problems are anticipated, but Van Noordwyk explained that disputes over individual workers as to which industry they might belong, can be taken to the industrial court for a determination

- The 53 unregistered trade unions in the country will now be able to make use of the conciliation machinery which exists for registered unions

"We have had a very good response from the unregistered unions on this matter," said Van Noordwyk. "Only one told us to go to hell."

- There will be no more compulsory overtime. Any overtime that is considered by the employer to be regularly necessary must be written into the contract of the employee before he starts the job.

Details given by Weich of the new safety legislation included.

- The formation of an advisory council for occupation safety comprising representatives of employers and employees, with technical experts co-opted whenever necessary to deal with specific topics

- The appointment

of safety representatives on the shop floor to a ratio of one to every 50 workers

"If we do nothing else in the next two years we will enforce these two factors," said Weich

- No-one may sell machinery in future which does not comply with South African safety regulations, and this includes imports

- The Ministry may appoint local authorities to assist the department in enforcing the new regulations. This could be some time off because of the finances involved

- The powers of factory inspectors are to be extended to the level where he can stop any machine or process (both mechanical and chemical) which he might deem dangerous to the worker.

- For injuries to workers caused on the job through negligence and not necessarily the direct contravention of the regulations, an employer can be fined up to R4 000 or jailed for up to two years, or both.



131

~~131~~

131

# Creating an environment for the worker — not just the machine

**The James Clarke column**



Many types of industrial work are, by their nature, pretty filthy

Some people work in environments so contaminated they have to wear thick protective clothing even in the sweltering heat of summer. I have visited industrial plants in Britain and here which were so noisy that

workers were often stone deaf.

Nowadays, under industrial regulations, earmuffs have to be worn or the worker forfeits any compensation should he one day suffer hearing loss.

Even so, many young workers refuse to wear them because they say

it's "sissy". Neither are they taught to appreciate what a terrible and lonely handicap deafness is.

Charles Dickens, one feels, would find some of the conditions prevailing in factories very familiar dirt, dross, inadequate light, foul odours, airborne dust, and, often enough, gases and fumes which, over a period, can lead to fatal diseases.

Some years ago town planner Nola Green of Johannesburg pointed out how it was often quite unnecessary for factory environments to be so unpleasant.

At the time a great deal was being done by architects for office workers. There were, and still are, specialists in office decors, designers trying to perfect the office chair, specialists working on white sound and pink sound, even firms specialising in office plants.

Escom spent R2 million on its "hanging gardens" at Megawatt Park. Since then office gardens have become "commonplace

But factory workers were largely ignored. In the Johannesburg area one can see factory and warehouse workers sitting on filthy pavements to eat their lunch among parked trucks.

Nola Green felt that not enough was being done to ensure that the industrial worker spent

his eight hours a day in an atmosphere designed for humans rather than simply for machinery. That might be difficult in a plant pounding out large girders, but there should still at least be somewhere to retreat to during breaks.

Now, at last, we might be getting somewhere.

Last year the National Building Research Institute of the CSIR held a seminar on the environmental design of factories. I was one of many who learned of it only after it was all over. But what augurs well for the future is that it was still so well attended many could not get in and they have petitioned for another.

The NBRI has now set up a repeat two-day seminar for March 10 and 11. The seminar is aimed at architects, engineers and industrialists.

*Star*  
**Freak death  
of mechanic**

**131**

Lowveld Bureau

SKUKUZA — A Kruger Park mechanic, Mr Hannes Lindeque, was crushed to death between two pieces of heavy earthmoving equipment yesterday

Mr Lindeque (55) and three mechanics were repairing a heavy duty machine on the Lower Sabie/Tjokwane road.

When it failed to start another machine was parked alongside and jumper cables used. The broken machine lurched forward, crushing Mr Lindeque between the two

**Police**

# 27 hurt in accident

(131) C. J. van der Merwe Staff Reporter 9/7/83

TWENTY-SEVEN men were injured when the truck in which they were travelling overturned on the Agter-Perdeberg road between Malmesbury and Paarl at 7am yesterday.

The men, all labourers employed by an engineering firm busy on a water pipeline project, were on their way from the Nyanga hostels to a work site when the accident occurred.

One of the men was critically injured and four others were seriously injured. Twenty-two men received minor injuries and were discharged after treatment at the Paarl Hospital.

It is believed that the driver, Mr Jack Klaas, 43, lost control of the truck about 15km from Paarl and that the truck overturned, throwing the labourers to the ground.

# Farmer dies as tractor flips

By Gavin Engelbrecht, West Rand Bureau

A Pretoria woman watched in horror yesterday as a tractor flipped over backwards and killed her husband on a farm at Tarlton outside Krugersdorp

Retired farmer Mr Pieter Wilhelm Johan Coetzer (52) was removing scrap from a piece of land at Hillside, Tarlton when he died in the freak accident. The steering wheel of the tractor hit his head, killing him instantly.

Members of the Krugersdorp fire brigade had to give oxygen to his wife, Mrs Lennie Coetzer, to revive

afternoon

Star 4/3/83

(31)

Mr Israel Sebetlela, who was on the farm at the time, described the accident

"Mr Coetzer was towing a scrap car when I saw the front wheels of the tractor lift into the air and the tractor fall backwards on to him. The back wheels just kept spinning," Mr Sebetlela said

Mr Chris Wright, Mr Coetzer's son-in-law, said Mr Coetzer had sold his farm in Swartruggens and had bought land in Tarlton

He planned to build a house and they were going

**Youth (31)**  
*C. Herald*  
**crushed**  
*5/31/83*  
**to death**

A 17-year-old Eerste River youth was crushed to death in Observatory last Wednesday night when a towbar he was holding to keep two trucks apart collapsed, causing the trucks to crash into each other

Melvin Moses of Wildebeest Street, Kleinvele, died immediately

According to the police, a lorry broke down in Main Road Observatory. Another lorry stopped and the drivers decided to use a towbar between the two

Melvin was asked to hold it in position but it collapsed before the lorries were connected

(131) DOM 9/3/83  
**Inquiry being held into  
fire extinguisher death**

**Mail Reporter**

INVESTIGATIONS have begun into the death of a senior Kelvin power station worker who was killed by a fire extinguisher, according to the city electrical engineer of Johannesburg

The engineer, Mr Wessel Barnard, told the Rand Daily Mail yesterday the assistant shift superintendent at the Kelvin power station, Mr Graham Scott, died at the Kempton Park Hospital on Monday shortly after arrival

He said "A small fire had started in the basement at

the power station about 8am on Monday Mr Scott used a fire extinguisher in an attempt to put the fire out

"He apparently activated the fire extinguisher which exploded and injured him seriously There were no other people nearby when the incident happened"

He said investigations were being conducted by inspectors of factories, the South African Bureau of Standards and the manufacturers of the fire extinguisher They had never had a similar accident previously

2/1/77

poor

Man (131)

falls into  
Mercury  
hot wax

12/3/83

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

AN UNIDENTIFIED black man was taken to Northdale Hospital yesterday after he had fallen into a container of hot wax at a Willowton factory here

A spokesman at the hospital said the man had been resuscitated and transferred to Edendale Hospital in a satisfactory condition

In another accident yesterday, a black man was seriously injured when he fell off the back of a lorry in Church Street and was run over by a car

## 2 survive as cradle collapses

Staff Reporter

A BUILDING worker slid 20 floors to safety on a steel rope from a high-rise building on the Sea Point beachfront today, after the cradle in which he was working collapsed

His fellow worker, who was injured and trapped 20 floors up on Mutual Place opposite the Sea Point Pavilion, was rescued by members of the Sea Point fire brigade after a nerve-wracking 30 minutes

Both men were taken to Somerset Hospital. The man who slid down the steel rope was badly cut on his arms and hands. The full extent of his injuries is not known.

### "RUMBLE"

The workers were employed by SGB Building Equipment (Pty) Ltd. A spokesman for the company refused to comment on the accident.

An interior decorator, Mr Achmat Sabam, who was working in a flat on the 20th floor described the incident.

"I heard a rumble and went on to the balcony. The cradle was dangling by one cable with a man clinging to it.

"The gondola fell against the building with him still holding on to it. Fortunately he didn't let

(Turn to Page 3, col 7)

## 2 survive cradle collapse

ARGUS 14/3/83 (Contd from Page 1)

go otherwise he would have been a goner.

"We managed to tie him to one of the concrete pillars on the face of the building. We had to dismantle the louvre frames in the flat window to reach him.

"He remained tied to the concrete pillar 20 floors up for about half an hour. Members of the Metro Unit and the fire brigade managed to pull him through a narrow opening of about 25 cm.

"The man wasn't unconscious, but we could see he was suffering from shock. I believe the other man slid to safety down a steel cable."

Describing the rescue of the second man, a domestic worker in a first floor flat, Mrs Evonne Grootboom, said

"I was in the bedroom making a bed when I heard someone shouting for help. I rushed to the balcony and saw a man with one leg inside the balcony. I pulled him inside and the cleaner helped me take him downstairs."

The men — David Nglelwani and Headman Dyosini — were taken by ambulance to the Somerset Hospital. Both were suffering from shock but neither was reported to be seriously hurt.

Representatives of the structural repair company, Szerleley, were at the scene this morning trying to piece together what had happened. A spokesman for the company said that his men were not involved in the accident. The workers were from the scaffolding company SGB.



# High-wire drama as gondola tips

*131 D C. Times*

*15/3/83*

By COLIN HOWELL

TWO repairmen had a brush with death yesterday when a gondola they were on collapsed outside the 21st storey of a Sea Point block of flats.

Suspended by a single cable, the gondola dropped to an almost vertical position and smashed into the side of Mutual Place, in Beach Road, Sea Point, about 9.45am

One of the men, Mr Headman Dyosini, grabbed a cable and slid 20 storeys to safety, mutilat-

ing his hands, arms and legs in the process. He checked his momentum outside the first floor of the block and was helped inside

The other man, Mr David Ngciliwane, clung desperately to a scaffolding pole 70 metres above the block's parking area until he was rescued by interior decorators at a 20th-storey flat who broke a window, reached out and tied his "shaking" body to a concrete column and called for help

A short while later, a Metro

rescue team and firemen from the Sea Point fire brigade arrived at the scene, cordoned off the area, attached a harness to the man and pulled him to safety.

An ambulance rushed the men, both in their twenties, to Somerset Hospital. Mr Dyosini was admitted and last night was in a "satisfactory" condition. Mr Ngciliwane was treated for shock and later discharged.

A servant at a first-floor flat, Mrs Evonne Grootboom, told

how she had helped the man on to a balcony. "It was horrible — his right arm was cut through to the bone," she said.

One of the interior decorators at the 20th-storey flat where Mr Ngciliwane was rescued, Mr Yusuf Abrahams, told how he had heard a "loud bang".

"We ran on to the balcony and saw a man dangling from one of the smashed platform's poles," he said. "He was very lucky — the pole swung outwards and then came to rest against the

building, and we were able to reach him.

Firemen later pulled Mr Ngciliwane through a narrow gap between the columns and a painter, Mr Arend Davids, gave him some sugar water to calm him.

After several failed attempts yesterday afternoon, workers of SGB Building Equipment, who employ the two injured men, last night tied a rope to the gondola from one of the flats and lowered it to the ground.

● Colour picture, page 3

# Gondola fall repairman

## 'improved'

131  
times  
16/3/83

Staff Reporter

THE condition of the repairman who slid 70 metres to safety down a cable after a gondola collapsed at a Sea Point block of flats on Monday had "greatly improved", a hospital spokesman said yesterday.

Mr Headman Dyosini received serious lacerations to his hands and arms in the accident. A witness, Mrs Yvonne Grootboom, said his right arm had been "cut through to the bone" by the steel cable.

### Clung to pole

Mr Dyosini and the other man on the gondola, Mr David Ngcilwane, were taken to Somerset Hospital after firemen had harnessed Mr Ngcilwane, who was clinging to a pole outside the 20th storey of the building, and pulled him to safety. Mr Dyosini was helped into a first-floor flat.

Neither Mr Dyosini nor Mr Ngcilwane, who was treated for shock after the accident but returned to his job at SGB Building Equipment yesterday, wanted to comment.

The smashed gondola was eventually lowered to a parking area at Mutual Place, in Beach Road, more than nine hours after the accident.

Mr Dave Best, the man-

ager of SGB's Cape Town branch, said yesterday that the accident was "being investigated" and it would be "improper" to comment at this stage.

Asked whether the men had been wearing harnesses, Mr Best replied: "I don't know. We found harnesses in the cradle but what do you attach them to?"

Speaking from Pretoria last night, Mr HJ Matthysen, national general manager of the National Occupational Safety Association, said current legislation did not prescribe that workers on a gondola should wear safety belts.

He said accidents such as the gondola crash were investigated by the Factory Inspector of the Department of Manpower.

### New Act

Mr Matthysen said a new Act, the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, which has had its third reading in Parliament, would be gazetted this year.

This Act would make employers liable for the safety of any machinery used by their employees.

He had himself campaigned to have architects design buildings with outside "eye-bolts" to which safety equipment of painters and general maintenance crews could be attached.

## Water tank kills man, 76

131 C. Times Staff Reporter 18/3/83

A 76-YEAR-OLD man died this week when a tank containing 12 000 litres of water collapsed on a hut at a nursery near Muldersvlei.

A Boland police spokesman said yesterday that the accident occurred at a property belonging to the Salvation Army, where Mr George Nicholson stayed, on Wednesday.

He said Mr Nicholson was in a hut at the nursery when the water tank came away from its base and collapsed on the hut, killing the elderly man.

# Death after E. Post accident 131

18/3/83  
Post Reporter

A PATENSIE resident who was seriously injured last week when an irrigation system collapsed while he was repairing it, died in the Provincial Hospital, Port Elizabeth, yesterday.

Major Annelize Melville, acting police liaison officer for the Eastern Cape, said Mr Andries Pienaar, 20, of Patensie, was busy repairing an irrigation system on the farm, Condoma, belonging to Mr Zol Ferreira, on Wednesday last week when the pipes fell on top of him and crushed him.

131 210H  
19/3/83  
**Driver dies  
in train crash**

PORT ELIZABETH — A train driver died last night when a locomotive and 15 trucks were derailed 30km from Humansdorp.

Mr T A Smith died instantly. His assistant, Mr O van der Watt, 17, and the conductor, Mr R Hughes, were slightly injured.

Mr Smith is survived by his wife and two children.

The system manager of the SA Transport Services of the Cape Midlands, Mr Gordon Engelbrecht, said an investigation was under way to determine the cause of the accident. There was no suggestion of sabotage — Sapa

Boy (10) <sup>137</sup>  
killed by  
*Mercury*  
mealie bag

21/3/83  
Mercury Reporter

A 10-YEAR-OLD Matatiele boy was crushed to death when a bag of maize fell on him at the weekend

He was identified as Johannes van Vuuren, son of W/O F van Vuuren, who is in the police force at Matatiele

According to police, Johannes and other children were playing on a stack of mealie bags in the town.

Johannes climbed to the top of the stack and one of the bags came loose

Johannes and the bag plunged to the ground and he was crushed to death when the bag landed on top of him

A postmortem will be held this week

2014 (131)  
21/3/83  
**Crushed  
farmer dies**

PORT ELIZABETH — A young Patensie farmer, Mr Andries Pienaar, 20, died in the Port Elizabeth Provincial Hospital yesterday after a heavy irrigation machine had fallen on him.

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# Power tool death was family's 2nd tragedy

(151)  
E. Post  
23/3/83

Charles took a hectic day to their Prince of seen  
ce has ma, a ranch, red the towns s and  
aid the outback een too who has e of his Barnes, parents  
so far al cou- ck to terday out the  
outside Charles are ng  
up the couple's banner closed

By SHIRLEY PRESSLY

A FARMER who died yesterday with lumps of metal in his chest from a machine which disintegrated, was the second son in the family to die tragically in 2½ years

Mrs Alice van Rooyen of the farm Drummond in the Fort Beaufort district said today her son, Ronald, 25, must have died almost instantly. Flying pieces of metal from a fractured grinder punctured his chest

She said that 2½-years ago her son, Richard, had been killed in a motor cycle accident in East London while on leave from the army on a 14-day pass

Soon afterwards the family moved to Fort Beaufort. Mrs Van Rooyen was alerted by a farmhand, Mr Jimmy Costa, who was helping Ronald put up metal poles. He ran four kilometres to the farmhouse with the news

The sight of her son lying next to his bakkie had been terrible and a "great shock"

God had given her the strength to drive back to the farmhouse and made the necessary calls and arrangements

Her husband, Mr Duncan van Rooyen, had left for Pretoria before the accident to be near their married daughter, Bonita, who is expecting a second child

She had tried to reach him in Bloemfontein, hoping he would call at her sister's home there

"But he decided to go straight through. He arrived in Pretoria at 7pm and the news was broken," said Mrs Van Rooyen

She was expecting her husband, daughter and son-in-law to arrive "in a minute". Other arrangements could final further

Their youngest son, Duncan, 10, attends school in Fort Beaufort

The funeral would probably be held on Friday from the Methodist Church



# envoy silenced

According to the Middletown Times Herald-Record Moments earlier, about 30 black students, who had crowded into a Political Science classroom to protest against Mr Pieterse's talk, formed a path to let him out safely.

"We just want to let you out of here alive," shouted one student.

For 30 minutes he had stood silently in the front of the room while students called him "racist pig", and demanded that his

talk be cancelled. Mr Pieterse was only able to utter a few words.

"You are a racist, a racist pig," shouted a pupil. He carried a sign reading "South Africa — Crime Against Humanity".

Four members of the college's campus police formed a semi-circle in front of Mr Pieterse as some students came to the front of the room shouting and jabbing their fingers towards him — Sapa-AP

CARE TALKS 24/3/83

## Two Koeberg men in court

Staff Reporter

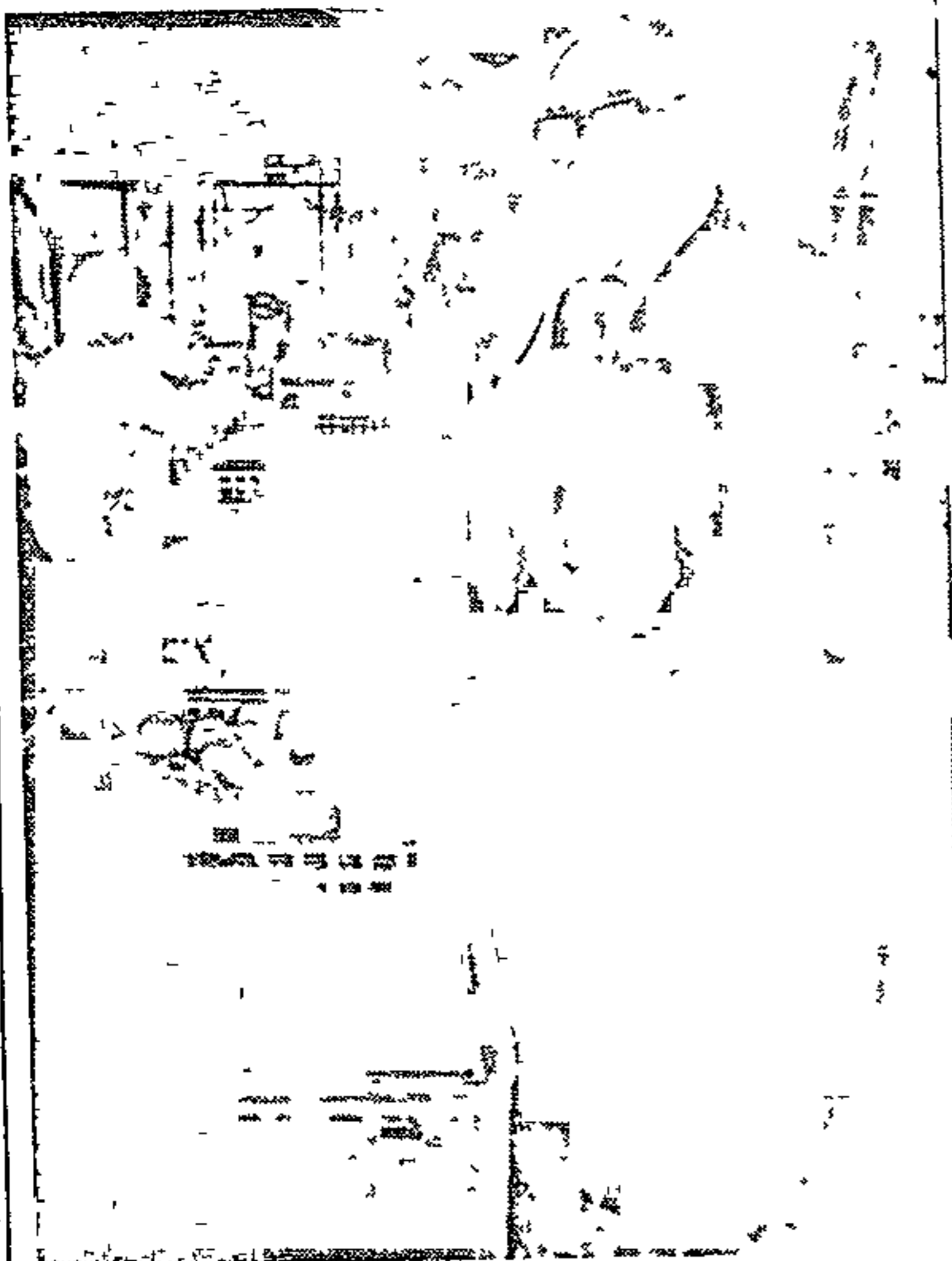
TWO Koeberg Nuclear Power Station employees were each fined R2 300 in the Paarl Regional Court this week for failing to ensure that a trainee industrial radiographer, who handled radio-active material at the power station, had adequate knowledge and experience to do so.

The men, Abraham Carel Spies, 32, of Paarden Eiland, and Adrian Mynhardt Knoetze, 30, address given as Koeberg Power Station Melkbosstrand, pleaded guilty to seven charges.

The State alleged that between October 21 and 22, 1981, the men allowed Mr John Marais, a trainee industrial radiographer, to handle radio-active material without satisfying themselves that he was medically fit and had adequate knowledge and experience to handle such items safely.

The men were also charged with failing to notify the Atomic Energy Board of Mr Marais' employment within the required period of 30 days, failing to keep records of occupational exposure to radiation, failing to keep a daily account and log book of radiation exposure times, and failing to issue suitable radiation exposure monitoring equipment to Mr Marais.

Mr P J le Roux was the magistrate. Mr W B Badenhorst appeared for the State. The men were not represented.



The 62-year-old Rondebosch produce market has new guttering, concrete tables and a water-proofed roof. Admiring it yesterday were Mrs N Steer, of the Rondebosch Ratepayers' Association, Mr W C Hinreichsem, its chairman, Mr A G du Toit, a markets superintendent, and Mr D J Smith, director of the City Council's markets branch.

## Chemists blamed for 'drug' death

Staff Reporter

A WYNBERG inquest magistrate found yesterday that two pharmacists were responsible for the death of a Heideveld man, Mr Kenneth Ivan Barnes, after the wrong drug was issued to him.

Mr Barnes, an asthma sufferer, collapsed and died on May 2 last year, after he took the tablets.

The two pharmacists, Mr Samuel Friedman and Ms Jill Bernstein, both

him not to use unknown tablets but he had been unconcerned as he had obtained the tablets at the hospital.

He had taken the tablets for the first time on May 2 and shouted for help soon after. He had collapsed minutes later and died the same day.

Mr Friedman testified previously that the tablets were the correct treatment for asthma. The initial "F" on the prescription indicated that he had issued the medi-

## Swapo: 28 SA troops killed

Staff Reporter

SWAPO claimed yesterday that it had shot and killed 28 South African troops this month.

A Swapo spokesman said in Lusaka that 14 soldiers had been killed on March 15 during operations by Swapo's military wing, the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (Plan).

Five soldiers had been killed by a landmine in

TV
1 & 2  
tonight

- 5 27 Programrooster
- 5 30 Boekevat Scripture reading by C Engelbrecht
- 5 34 Jacky, die Beer van die Berge Die Vreemde Huis The two little bears are taken to an Indian hut where they are lovingly looked after by Sonda. But they miss the big cedar tree under which they used to sleep
- 6 00 Nuus
- 6 14 Die Kraaines A magazine programme for children
- 6 37 Uit en Tuis A family magazine programme
- 7 20 1945 It's the end of the war and people are finding it difficult to adjust. In this 10-part series, we look at a poor Afrikaans farming family struggling to survive
- 8 00 News
- 8 28 Weather
- 8 44 Then came the English A seven-part series which traces the history of English-speaking South Africans
- 9 42 Tom Jones in Las Vegas Tom Jones sings his most popular songs in front of a capacity audience in Las Vegas
- 10 27 Portfolio An arts magazine programme presented by Roger Corfield
- 10 57 News
- 11 12 Epilogue Rev Sand Gilfillan

TV2

- 6 30 Umakhulu Uyasibalisela Iphupha Letyuwa A Dream about Salt A continuation of the story of a chief and his three daughters. Ezabasha Jikelele (Youth News)
- 7 00 Izindaba/Iindaba (News)
- 7 10 Jikelele (Magazine Programme) Including Amalahle (Coal) The mining and uses of coal and its derivatives
- 9 00 Iindaba/Izindaba (News)
- 9 27 Imozulu/Isibikezelo Sezulu (Weather)
- 9 29 Iphunga Elimnandi/Ezenkolo (Epilogue)

## Last night's TV

TV 1

"HOUSE CALLS" came back to our screens last night with its taped laughter — and taped one-liners.

Without the jokes the programme would last a week. With them, it should last no longer.

However, SATV has promised us 17 more weeks — if they are to be believed — of Lynn Redgrave and Wayne Rogers so viewers better lie back, plug in their intravenous drips and enjoy it.

Gerald Durrell said about zoos on Midweek last night that the bad ones should not be closed down but should be made better.

Capetonians may not agree after the recent controversy regarding the Grootte Schuur zoo but the animals shown on the programme last night, which are esconced in other zoos around the

The fly in the milk was the SA Prisons Services' Band Sure, the Baviaan-spoot prison warders' brass band is excellent and plays delightful orchestrated tunes, but I am afraid they have been featured so often now that their performances have become repetitive.

A panel discussion on the subject of mental health, with emphasis on overcoming stress, was enriching.

Since March is set aside for the observation of mental health, a continuation of this discussion would be welcome.

You cannot get better entertainment than having superstars like Diana Ross and Michael Jackson in one night.

Tonight's soccer special is a British FA league game between Luton and Liverpool around 7.30pm.

JOE GUW

ARBUS 24/3/83  
131

# Mist hampers search for trawler crew

Shipping Editor

THE search was intensified today for the four Lamberts Bay fishermen missing since Tuesday when their boat sank 55 miles north-west of the harbour and about 16 miles offshore

The search is being hampered by thick mist  
The missing men — Mr Henne van der Horst,

Mr Dirk Atkins, Mr Lottie Don and Mr Apie Philand — were crew on the 80-ton pelagic trawler, Boy Donald, which sank after capsizing shortly after 3am on Tuesday

All four are aged between 40 and 50 and are married with families

The other five crew were rescued by fishing boats operating in the area at the time

The manager of the firm that owned the Boy Donald, Mr M G Potgieter, said today that three of the company's craft were searching for the missing men, "but they report thick mist in the area"

Several land-based teams are using four-wheel-drive vehicles to scour the coastline as far

north as Hondeklip Bay, but they have been hampered by wind

"We have several teams checking the coast as well as a number of police units now we have asked every farmer along the coastal strip north of Lamberts Bay to send out small squads to search their respective beachfronts," Mr Potgieter said

197 131 10A WDM 6/4/83

# SA union fights against 'brown lung' disease

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN  
Labour Correspondent

THE National Union of Textile Workers has stepped up its campaign against a disease which, it says, has hit thousands of textile workers throughout the world

The disease, "brown lung", is potentially fatal and afflicts workers who work for long periods with cotton dust

Recently, the union — affiliated to the Federation of SA Trade Unions — announced it was launching a campaign against "brown lung" and had begun by getting a union-appointed doctor to test workers at an East Rand textile plant for the disease.

In the latest issue of Fosatu's journal, Fosatu Worker News, it says it has now extended the East Rand cam-

paign by testing more than 1 000 workers at a factory in Mooi River and recently followed this up with tests at a textile plant in Port Elizabeth.

A spokesman for the NUTW said the campaign had thus far unearthed "numerous" workers who were permanently disabled. He said the union would now claim workmens' compensation on their behalf.

He said other workers had been found to be suffering from diseases which would heal if they were moved to less dusty areas of their factories and the union would urge that these workers be moved

According to the union, "hundreds" of workers overseas annually claim compensation for "brown lung", but

only two workers had ever applied for compensation in South Africa, despite the fact that the Workmens' Compensation Act allowed them to do so

It said employers argued that this meant no South African workers were suffering from the disease "but this is highly unlikely, as the campaign is beginning to show".

The union is also planning to keep medical records of its members which it believes will enable it to link lung illnesses to factory conditions, even if they occur after workers had left a particular plant

Workers would also be urged to make "reasonable demands" for the reduction of dust levels in their factories.

(B) E. Post.  
9/4/83

# Worker dies after lethal gas mixture leaks in factory

**DURBAN —** An unidentified man died last night and three other workers were taken to hospital when a lethal mixture of hexane gas and steam leaked into a section of the Universal Mills factory in Mobeni.

The factory was evacuated as firemen rescued workers who had been overcome by the gas.

One man was admitted to Addington Hospital. Two others were taken to King Edward VII Hospital but released after treatment.

According to a fire department spokesman, there had been a power failure in a section of the plant, causing a pressure build-up of hexane and steam, a mixture used in removing oil from maize and wheat.

Power was later restored, but the gas build-up leaked through air vents into a section of the factory.

The affected men had been working under a vent, unaware of the leakage. Other workers, having smelt the gas, left the factory and called the fire brigade.

The managing director of the company, Mr W F Frankel, said last night he was not certain what had happened.

"All I can say is that I believe it was like something we have never had before," he said.

Leicester Road was cordoned off by firemen during the rescue operation and production at the factory was halted for the night to allow the gas to dissipate by natural ventilation. — Sapa

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# Gas death man named

(131) Mercury Mercury Reporter 9/4/83

A MAN who died on Thursday when a lethal mixture of hexane gas and steam leaked into a section of the factory in which he was working has been identified

He was Mr Cornelius Jacobus Hearn, 50, of 9 Topping Road, Woodlands

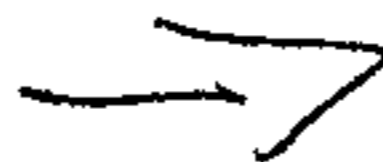
Mr Hearn and three other workers were overcome by the gas as they were unaware of the leakage which had been caused by a power failure.

(131) Hansard Q 61 926 - 927  
11/4/83  
607 Mr I ARONSON asked the Minister of Manpower

- (1) How many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic during the last specified period of 12 months for which figures are available
- (2) what amount was paid out by the Workmen's Compensation Fund in respect of such accidents.
- (3) what was the total period for which the persons injured in such accidents were absent from work?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

(1) Workmen's Compensation Fund	192 276
Other risk carriers	107 247
Total	<u>299 523</u>



927

MONDAY, 11

	R
(2) Workmen's Compensation Fund	36 649 971
Other risk carriers	38 316 997
Total	<u>R74 966 968</u>
(3) All risk carriers	3 017 990 man days

(Figures are in respect of the period 1 January 1979 to 31 December 1979)

(131) (22) 1204  
12/4/83  
**Mine deaths  
lead to riots**

By CHRIS OLCKERS

ABOUT 700 black miners went on the rampage at the Beisa uranium mine near Welkom on Sunday after 16 miners died in a methane gas explosion on Friday

Three hostels were extensively damaged after the miners refused to go underground following the death of their colleagues

Yesterday 509 miners out of a work force of more than 4 000 asked the mine management to cancel their contracts and to send them home

Nobody was injured during the riots but five men were arrested and will appear in court today on charges of public violence

# Why city transport has more injuries...

131

Henry

13/4/83

## Municipal Reporter

DURBAN'S Transport Department obviously would have far more lost-time injuries than the Electricity Department, according to the general manager, Mr Marshall Cuthbert.

He was reacting to a city councillor's complaint that his department had lost 43,57 man-hours for every million hours worked during 1980 while the Electricity Department had lost only 2,31.

This, Mr Cuthbert said, was like comparing apples with pears.

His drivers travelled millions of kilometres a year on public roads, buses were stoned during the boycotts and occasionally his drivers were attacked.

One driver had broken his ankle while chasing a robber, another had slipped on a concrete step, yet another had cut his finger while opening a tin.

'But this does not mean we are not safety-conscious,' he said.

'In the workshop every foreman is responsible for the safety of his men. The most modern safety devices have been installed and our training school, which also emphasises safety measures, is one of the most advanced in the country.'



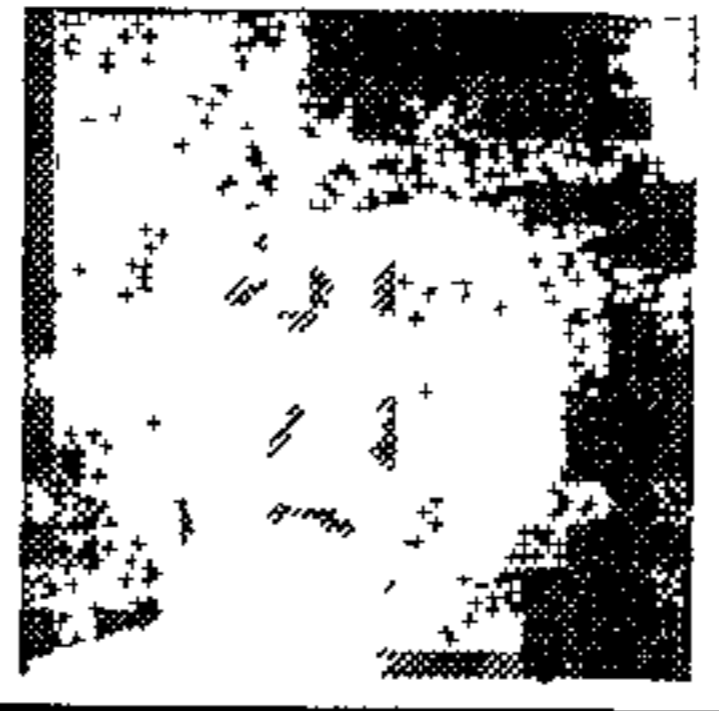
# Stress on site is dangerous

*Understand what 131*

*14/4/83*

By Bob Lumley

Bob Lumley is the general manager of the Grayston Group. This is the third of a series of articles he is writing on the equipment hire industry.



IN the past few weeks, we have either read of have been contacted about the new Contractors Plant Hire Association's (CPHA) Insurance scheme which, as I have said before, is aimed at taking the hassle out of claiming damages when an accident occurs.

All in the garden, so to speak, looks rosy and most people will say that we have now done everything we can to protect the hirer.

In the interest of safety, we should now be asking what the hirer is doing to protect the owner's equipment and the sometimes

dangerous situations which are imposed on the owner's operator.

Some would say I am over-reacting to a situation on site, where the skills of the owner's operator and equipment are abused continuously by ignorant site people, whose sole purpose at times, it seems, is to convince the crane operator that his machine is capable of lifting far more than the manufacturer's rated capacities.

It would seem, in the main, that most site personnel of large and small companies, have little, or worse, no working knowledge of a mobile crane, to the extent that cranes are sometimes used to their absolute limits and beyond because the hire rate for a larger machine looks to be too expensive.

Hiring a machine, in

some cases where their own machine struggled to do the job, (which has now broken down or transferred) is another example of appalling safety standards.

The situation that now develops, is an ugly scene of verbal abuse and ignorance between the hirer's personnel and the owner's operator who does not wish to put his life and the safe keeping of the machine at stake because of a total disregard of operational safety.

There is no doubt in my mind that safety regarding the use of mobile cranes should be tightened up to the extent that the hirer should be fined heavily together with his person/s supervising the crane, in the event of the blatant abuse of man and machine.

Tough Government legislation should be introduced now with trained Safety Inspectors to carry out investigations after an accident and more especially, regular checks on companies ensuring that safety procedures are being adhered to.

In addition, special regulations regarding lifting tackle should be introduced governing the regular checking, testing and logged accordingly by responsible people.

Two or three years ago, there were moves to introduce legislation in some form of another, making it compulsory for every mobile crane to have fitted a safe load indicator. No body has seen or heard anything about this since and I doubt if anyone cares either.

I even doubt whether the Government body concerned has even decided on safe load indicator calibrations governing tipping.

A lot of companies dread the idea of any Government legislation imposing regulations in the interests of safety because put to the test, and I am not just singling out small companies here, safety instructions and procedures being actually applied would show that the present day safety standards leave much to be desired.

Voluntary in-house safety schemes, as far as cranes are concerned, operated in the majority of cases, are nothing but glorified preventative maintenance systems aimed at general plant and do not cater for site abuse.

Cranes can be lethal pieces of equipment and should be regarded as such.

Most crane hire companies offer free expert advice on what capacity rated machine will be needed. Take it!

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garage  
petrol  
flash

CAPE TOWN  
16/4/83  
131

By COLIN HOWELL

TWO MEN were burnt on Thursday when a match was struck in an Oudtshoorn workshop to light a cigarette, while a mechanic was siphoning petrol from a car

There was a "tremendous bang" and the men were severely burnt in a flash fire. A short while later, the fire was extinguished and they were taken to Oudtshoorn Hospital

The explosion happened about noon at ED Motors in Kloof Street. The mechanic, Mr Jan Malgas, 37, was standing in a repair pit. His clothes caught fire and a client, Mr Sam Damons, jumped into the pit and tried to smother the flames

His clothing caught alight in the process and the owner of ED Motors, Mr ED Ellis, had to use a fire extinguisher to put out the blaze

#### Warning

Mr Ellis yesterday told how, a few minutes before the accident, he had warned a man not to smoke in the workshop

"Mr Malgas was repairing a leaking fuel tank," Mr Ellis said "To do so, he first had to siphon out the petrol

"The air was thick with petrol fumes. A client came into the workshop and I told him not to smoke as it would be dangerous

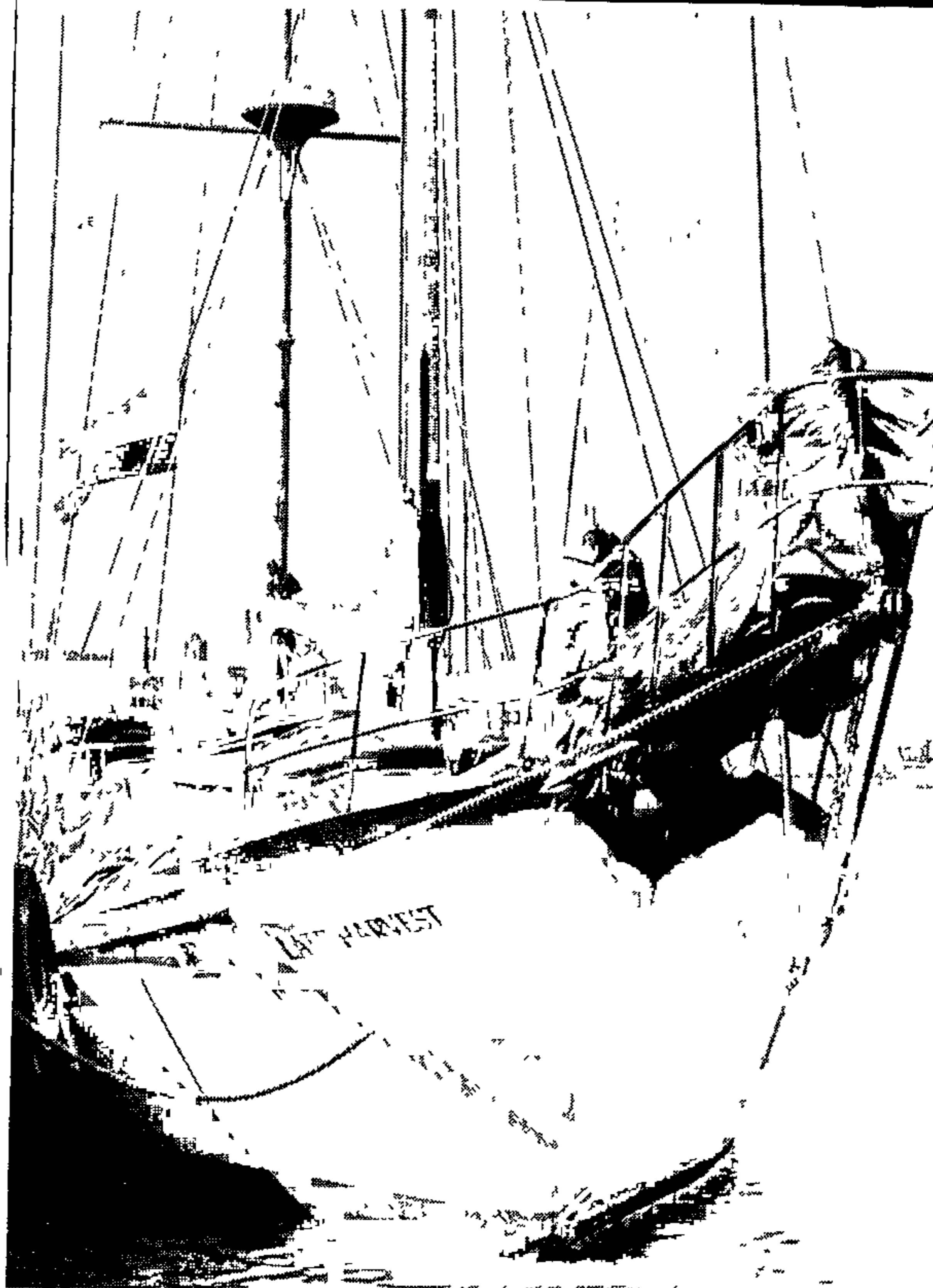
"I left the workshop and a few minutes later there was a tremendous bang," he said. "After I put the fire out, I found a cigarette on the floor. It had been blown to shreds"

A hospital spokesman said yesterday that both men were in a "satisfactory" condition. Mr Malgas, who was wearing nylon pants at the time of the accident, received serious burns to his legs. Mr Damons has burns to his face, arms and hands

The workshop and its contents were not damaged in the blaze.



# Fire aboard yacht



The Late Harvest, which was damaged by fire, in East London harbour yesterday

## Man hurt in explosion

**EAST LONDON** — A Durban yacht, Late Harvest, valued at R400 000, was extensively damaged and its bosun slightly injured in a gas explosion in the bilges here

Mr Jonathan Dladla from Durban was superficially burnt on his face and ankle. He was treated and discharged from Frere Hospital yesterday. He was playing a card game at the time of the explosion.

Mr D. Taylor, a member of the East London Yacht Club, said the yacht was on its way to Durban and had called at East London for engine repairs.

He said one of the owners of the

yacht, Mr Alec Edelson, had come to East London to have a look at the boat. Mr Edelson was not available for comment yesterday as he had already left for Durban.

Mr Taylor said the explosion ruptured floor boards and damaged the cabin and wheelhouse hatches.

"The hull is intact but the furnishings are a complete shambles," Mr Taylor said.

He said he had been a crew member on the yacht in February when it went to Cape Town.

The length of the boat was about 28 m and the weight was 85 tons, Mr Taylor said — DDR

18 APR 1983

~~2 APR 1983~~

# Cow attacks farmhand

D. Dispatch (131)

FORT BEAUFORT — A middle-aged farm labourer, Mr George Dashe, is in the Fort Beaufort Provincial Hospital after being attacked by a cow on Saturday

Ayliff when the incident occurred

The cow, which had a calf, knocked Mr Dashe to the ground and tried to gore him

Mr Dashe was herding cattle on Dr John Mil-denhall's farm Mount

He had a fractured leg and ribs, and his condition is said to be satisfactory — DDC

DDC

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<sup>AK(20)</sup>  
<sup>21/4/83</sup>  
<sup>(121)</sup>  
**Lift  
crushes  
worker**

Staff Reporter  
AN APPRENTICE was crushed to death by a lift in the Trust Bank Centre on the Foreshore

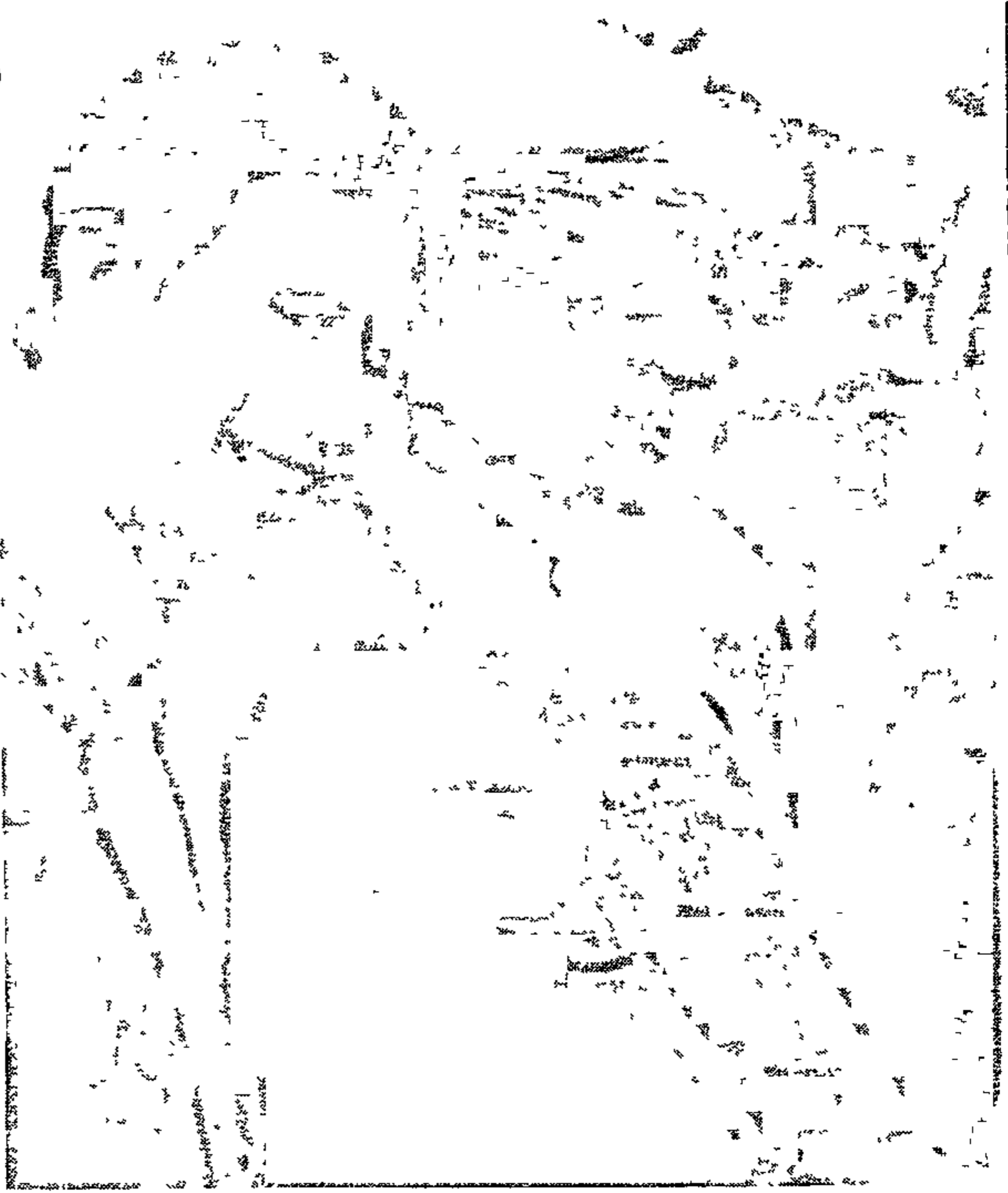
Mr Mogamat Sedick Ravbin, 19 of Jackson Crescent Mountview Athlone an apprentice maintenance worker with Otis Elevator was preparing to repair the lift yesterday

Police said the lift moved while Mr Ravbin was climbing on to its roof from a first floor doorway. He died shortly after being pinned between the lift and the top of the doorway

**BODY FREED**

His body was freed by his workmates before the arrival of units from the Metro emergency service and fire brigade

He lived with his parents Mr and Mrs A Ravbin and was the youngest of their nine children. He was to be buried this afternoon at the Muslim cemetery in Johnson Road, Athlone



**THE Prince and Princess of Wales were joined on their tour of New Zealand yesterday by Prince Edward who flew with the royal couple to Wellington.**

# ORANGE



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# No prosecution <sup>(131)</sup> after divers die

Pietermaritzburg Bureau  
THE Attorney-General of  
Natal, Mr Cecil Rees, SC,  
has declined to prosecute  
two men who were respon-  
sible for a salvage oper-  
ation that led to the deaths  
of two divers in Richards  
Bay harbour last year.

Mr Melvyn Richards Mc-  
Carthy, 36, and Mr Bryn  
James Lewis, 30, were both  
drowned on September 17  
last year while retrieving a  
suction pipe in Richards  
Bay harbour.

The inquest Magistrate,  
Mr W R Ewart, found that  
Capt C B Etherington, act-  
ing Port Captain of Rich-  
ards Bay, and Capt J M de  
Mello Machado, master of  
the dredger, R E Jones,  
had 'failed to comply with  
prescribed diving regula-  
tions and safety precau-  
tions'.

The Empangeni Magis-  
trate also found that the  
two divers had drowned  
after a probable loss of  
consciousness.

Evidence in statement  
was that the suction dredg-  
er H R Moffat had lost the  
nozzle section of her bow-  
well suction pipe while  
dredging at the harbour  
entrance.

Mr McCarthy and Mr  
Lewis had dived and found  
a wire connected to the  
pipe. They asked the R E  
Jones to dredge as near as  
possible to the wire to un-  
cover the buried pipe.

Mr Rene Bouffe, chief  
engineer for the R E Jones,  
said that 10 minutes after  
the men had entered the  
water he noticed that the  
bow thrust propulsion en-  
gines were running. He  
said he had immediately  
notified the master, Capt  
Machado.

In his statement, Capt C  
B Etherington said he was  
responsible for the oper-  
ations of the R E Jones.

He said his reaction was  
one of 'absolute horror'  
when he approached the  
dredger to hear that the  
bow thruster and main en-  
gines were running while  
divers were in the water.

The two men failed to  
resurface and their bodies  
were found the next day.

# Train death two in court

26 APR 1983 131

D. Di Paschi

EAST LONDON — Two East London South African Transport Services (SATs) employees appeared in the magistrate's court here yesterday on a charge of culpable homicide following the death of a labourer under a train

Mr Allen Bezuidenhout, 22, of Embassy Court, Fleet Street, and a youth, both carriage examiners, are charged with the death of Mr Maselandile Bandla, 35, at the Cambridge Railway Station.

Both pleaded not guilty to the charge

Mr T Nosworthy, also a carriage examiner for the SATs said Mr Bandla who was under their supervision, was working beneath a train at 3.00 am when it moved and decapitated him

He said that the accused were responsible for erecting precautionary devices when trains were static and undergoing routine inspection

These measures included lamps, boards and detonators

Another witness, Mr Louis Nel, a foreman, said he saw none of these precautions and assumed he could couple the train. He said he saw no light from Mr Bandla's lamp (which was recovered next to his body) to indicate there was someone under the train.

Mr Zolile Vetyeka said he was on the side of the train when it started moving. He moved out of the way

He said he had a lamp with him and he noticed no boards erected and heard no detonators going off

The case was postponed to May 13 — DDR

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# Occupational disease grants increased by Govt

Parliamentary Correspondent

THE Government has announced a 16 per cent increase in the monthly pensions of widows and dependent children of victims of occupational diseases.

The increase, which comes into effect on October 1, would also apply to workers whose cardio-respiratory systems had been damaged a maximum of 50 percent by such diseases, the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, Mr du Plessis told Parliament yesterday

Speaking during the debate on his vote, Mr du Plessis also announced a 12 percent increase in special monthly grants to sufferers of occupational diseases

He said the increases were an interim measure to bring relief while the Cabinet was considering the recommendations of the Niewenhuizen Commission on a uniform system for occupational disease compensation. A wide range of Government departments and public institutions had to be consulted before the Cabinet could complete its decision on the matter

## Value decreased

The announcement by Mr du Plessis followed appeals by other speakers in the debate that urgent attention be given to increasing compensation payable to beneficiaries of the Occupational Diseases Act.

Mr Ron Miller (NRP Durban North) said these pensions had remained stagnant for two years and, considering the inflation rate, their purchasing power had decreased by some R80 a month

Mr du Plessis said legislation to implement the increases would be introduced during the current session of Parliament

Mr Peter Gastrow (PFM Durban Central), a spokesman on pensions, welcomed the 16 percent increase, but said sufferers of occupational diseases had waited for two years for an increase

The present increase does not nearly keep pace with the inflation rate over the last two years, said Mr Gastrow. This is the first increase since 1981. Surely these people are entitled to a better deal. The increase should have been at least 30 percent.

Inflation had been about 14 percent a year and social pensioners had had two increases in the past two years

up to 30%

(131) Mercury  
28/4/83

op a nuclear weapon capability' that one ministry - Sapa

CAPE TIMES 28/4/83 (131)

# Job victims to get more

Political Staff

**HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY** — The government has announced a 16 percent increase in the monthly pensions of widows and dependent children of victims of occupational diseases.

The increase comes into effect on October 1.

Speaking during the debate on his vote, the Minister of Mineral and En-

ergy Affairs, Mr Pietie du Plessis, also announced a 12 percent increase in special monthly grants to sufferers of occupational diseases

He said the increases were an interim measure to bring relief while the cabinet considered the report of the Niewenhuizen Commission

Legislation to implement the increases would be introduced during the current session.

**Six  
die  
in**

(131)  
~~11~~

**Mercury  
lorry  
plunge**

2/5/83  
Mercury Reporter

SIX blacks were killed at the weekend and 24 seriously injured when a lorry carrying 82 passengers plunged down a steep slope near Jozini in northern Zululand.

None of the dead — three young women, two men and a boy — has been identified.

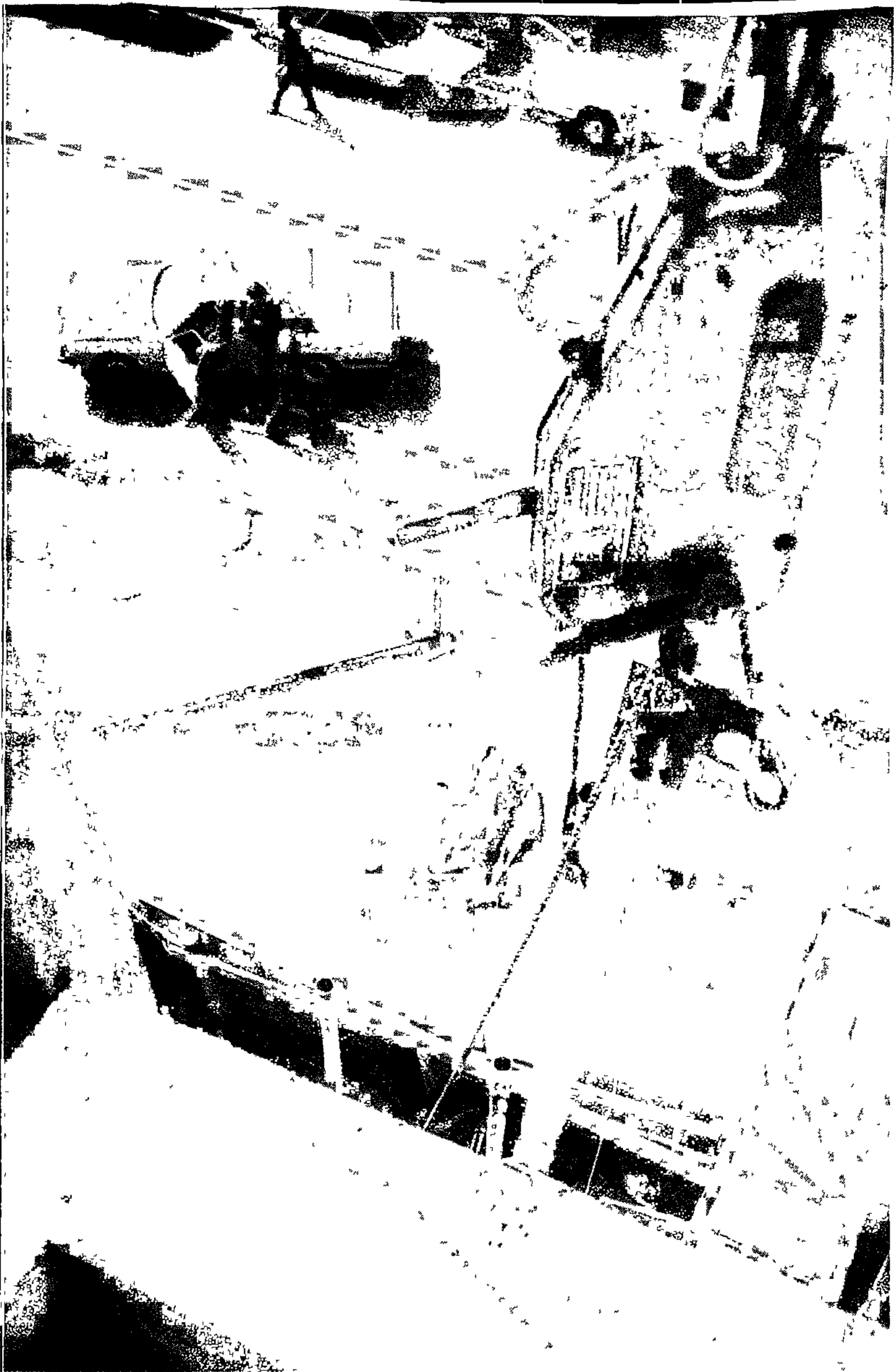
Names of those injured will be released only after their relatives have been told.

The passengers, all workers from the Makathini Research Farm at Ubombo, were returning from a morning's shopping in Mkuze when the accident occurred.

Rescuers battled to bring the dead and injured up the mountainside to waiting ambulances.

Police said the lorry's brakes appeared to have failed. The driver was one of the seriously injured, all of whom were taken to the Bethesda mission hospital near Ubombo.

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The body of a construction worker, known only as Bolo, is seen from the fifth floor of the building from which he fell to his death yesterday when one side of the scaffold he was working on gave away.

Picture GREG ENGLISH

(131) RUM  
Worker in  
6/5/83  
death fall

By ANN PALMER

A CONSTRUCTION worker plummeted five floors to his death yesterday when one side of a pulley scaffold on which he was working gave way.

The man, known only as Bolo, was working on the mobile scaffold which is supported by two arms with weights on both, at a building site in Ameshoff Street, Braamfontein.

The right arm came away causing the scaffold to swing around and throw the man on to the pavement. He died instantly as a result of head injuries.

The arm fell to the ground beside him causing a small hole in the road.

A witness at the scene said the accident should not have happened unless the weights were removed from the one arm.

# Fisherman lost after sinking

By STEPHEN WROTTESELEY

A FISHERMAN is missing, believed drowned, after the sinking of a fishing boat near Mossel Bay yesterday morning

Ten other people were rescued from the sea when the 10,7m boat, the Seal, sank in Dana Bay.

A police spokesman said yesterday from Mossel Bay that the missing fisherman, Mr Petrus Valentine, 50, disappeared after apparently going into a cabin to fetch a life-jacket while the boat was sinking.

A search by other vessels in the area was launched but there was no trace of the missing man

The spokesman said the boat was fishing in Dana Bay about 2,5km from the shore about 8am. The master decided to weigh anchor and move to another area

It is thought that the boat's rudder broke loose and the vessel sprang a leak

Ten crew-members took to the water, wearing life-jackets or clutching pieces of debris. According to sources, the water was calm at the time

Another boat fishing in the area, Mooi Diamant, rescued the men

Captain Rodney Chalk, the Mossel Bay harbour master, said that as soon as he heard of the sinking, he organized a search for the missing man.

Other fishing boats and a helicopter from Republic Helicopters were involved in the search

By Jo-Anne Collinge

Much is said about the stress suffered by executives and its impact on their mental health, whereas the effect of job pressures on the ordinary worker is almost ignored

Yet research in Britain and the United States indicates that the working class has the highest rate of mental health problems — and the most severe forms

Figures for South Africa are not available, but University of Natal psychology lecturer Mr Graham Hayes has something to say about the high rate of body-related mental health problems such as high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma and frequently depression, anxiety and suicidal behaviour

He suggests that working conditions — and working class life in general in South Africa — affect the mental health of workers in a serious way

He argues in the periodical *Work in Progress* that the links between specific working conditions and mental health problems require better understanding if treatment is to be improved

Mr Hayes stresses the

# Stress takes its toll of the worker

9 MAY 1983

131  
S.M.K.

need to guard against ignoring the conditions which contribute to mental problems of workers

He bases his arguments on earlier clinical experience with unemployed workers

"What seems clear is that while more specific mental health problems arise in work situations, problems associated with unemployment are far less specific"

Mr Hayes also says that victims will be unclear about where they are and what they have been doing. They give a poor account of themselves and their family and community relations. They may also feel depressed

He goes on to show how this condition is

partly created by the harsh world in which the jobless find themselves

● The unemployed are usually entirely without income and are often undernourished. "This in itself can give rise to mental confusion, disorientation and depression"

● Some workers are brought to State psychiatric hospitals by the police, who have picked them up in a confused, unruly and toxic condition which is usually the result of excessive drinking coupled with poor nourishment

● An unemployed member is a strain on a working class family. One who becomes unbalanced is a greater strain because job prospects diminish

The difficulty of sus-

taining the member and his reliance on hand-outs result in an intolerance in the family

● Admitting the disturbed, unemployed person to hospital is a way for the family to get round the economic and social strain he causes, Mr Hayes argues. So the problem comes to be viewed as a medical one

● A high proportion of black workers in psychiatric wards are from rural areas

Many have come to the city without contracts or permits, "to escape the appalling conditions of underdevelopment and poverty in the homelands. They usually find it extremely hard to cope in the urban areas and hence are subjected to massive personal and social stress which can result in mental health problems and madness"

Mr Hayes concludes that work and lack of work contain serious hazards to the mental well-being of poorer classes in the industrial world

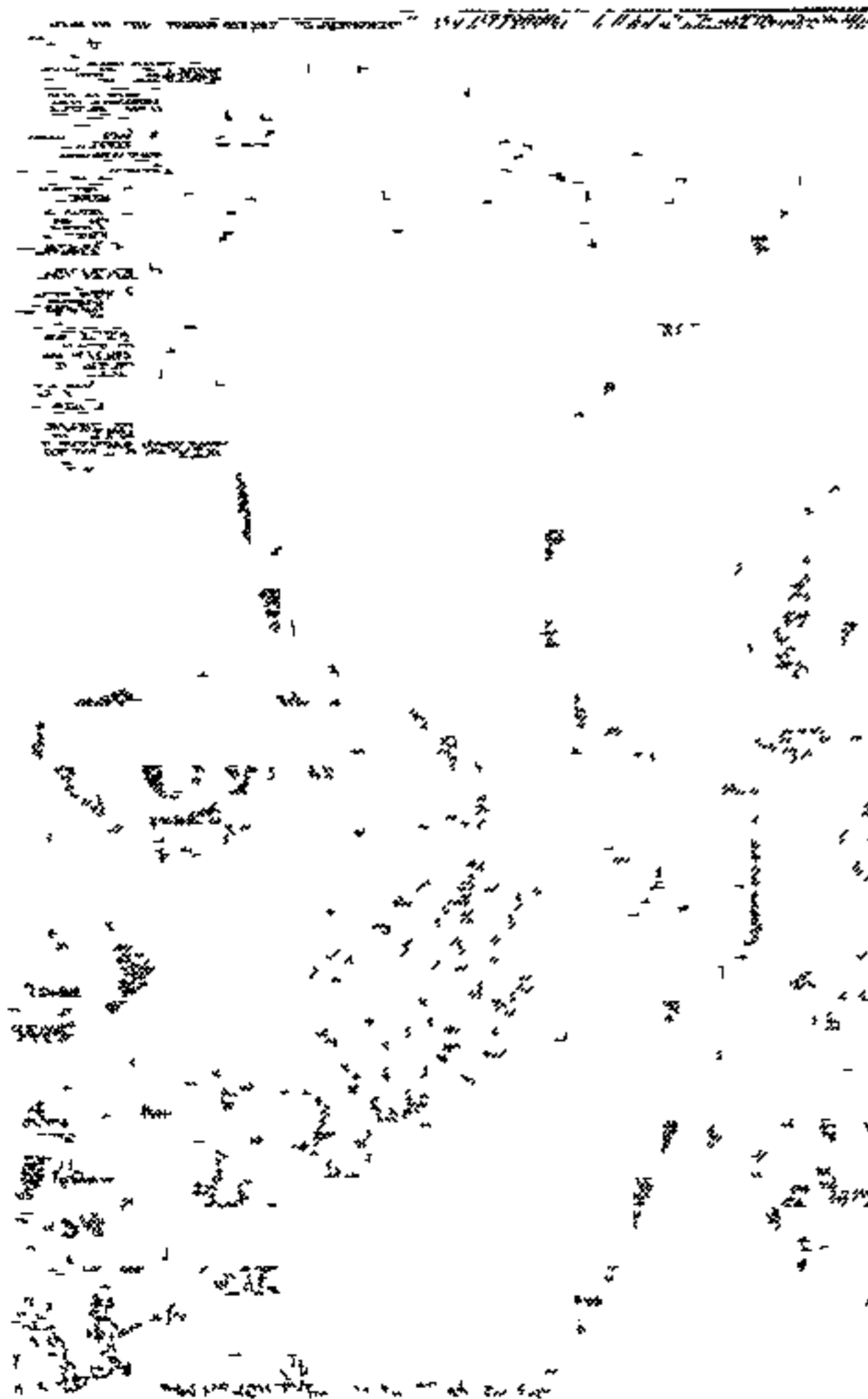
He pleads for mental health professionals to acknowledge that "madness has to do with the daily activities and struggles of our ordinary working lives"



en a little smoke relaxes the nerves  
players seem to think so, anyway.  
beth player, Mr NORMAN HUANG,  
African National Bridge Congress  
h Pictures by Mike Holmes



ia, the son of the Mayor of Port  
and Mrs Marie Cillié, has a stretch  
- smoke.



voted by noon with special  
and postal votes this  
amounts to about 34%

Polling booths there  
were very busy

Posters around the  
booths summed up the dif-  
ferent party ideologies NP  
posters read "Forward Wi-  
thout Fear", NRP posters  
bore the words "Modera-  
tion Is Might", CP posters  
advised voters to "Reject  
Mixed Government", while  
PFP posters urged "Co-op  
eration Not Conflict"

In the Soutpansberg vot-  
ing was unusually brisk  
with about 2 000 having  
been to the polls well be-  
fore midday

Voting in the Carleton-  
ville provincial by-election  
remains relatively quiet,  
with about 1 100 having  
voted by noon

The first result is ex-  
pected after midnight It is  
likely to be either the pro-  
vincial contest in Carleton-  
ville or the four-cornered  
fight in Waterkloof

The results will be broad-  
cast on all services of the  
SABC as they are received

## PE man loses <sup>131</sup> fingers

<sup>E. Post</sup>  
10/5/93  
Post Reporter

A PORT ELIZABETH  
man Mr D J de Wet, lost  
three fingers of his right  
hand in an industrial acci-  
dent in Westering yester-  
day

The thumb index and  
middle fingers of his hand  
were cut off in the accident  
and the other two fingers  
were broken

A spokesman for the Am-  
bulance Service in Port  
Elizabeth said the fingers  
were packed in ice and Mr  
De Wet was admitted to the  
Provincial Hospital

A hospital spokesman  
said Mr De Wet was "doing  
well", but could not say  
whether any attempt had  
been made to sew the fin-  
gers on again

## Elsie, the talking bus stop

LONDON — Britain has  
developed a talking bus  
stop named Elsie

In honeyed feminine tones  
she announces when the  
next bus will arrive and  
what route it will cover

Elsie — short for Elec-  
tronic Speech Informa-  
tion Equipment — looks  
like a little loudspeaker  
with a press-button and  
can be fitted to existing  
stops

She gets her information  
through a system of  
computers linked to ap-  
proaching buses

The Department of Trans-  
port said Elsie was pri-  
marily designed to help  
blind or handicapped  
people. — Sapa-Reuter

## Resignation over meat row

Post Reporter

AN executive member of the Meat Trad-  
er's Association of Port Elizabeth, Uiten-  
hage and Despatch, Mr Leon van Dalen,  
today resigned after disagreements with  
the association over the stocking of frozen  
meat from the Meat Board

This follows a report in the Evening Post  
yesterday in which Mr Van Dalen objected  
strongly to the way the Meat Board was  
disposing of the meat surplus

Mr Van Dalen said today "I voiced my

disapproval of the way the Meat Board is  
disposing of their surplus and I have been  
told to keep quiet

"I will not keep quiet and this morning  
Mr Don Futter, the chairman of the associ-  
ation, asked for my resignation

"I have decided to resign because of the  
bad feeling which has resulted," said Mr  
Van Dalen, who owns a butchery in Sid-  
well

Mr Futter confirmed that he had asked  
for Mr Van Dalen's resignation today

## Hiker drives off in man's bakkie

Post Reporter

UITENHAGE — A kind act  
turned sour for Mr Fran-  
cois Dorfling, a farmer of  
Skietnek, Glenconnor, yes-  
terday when the man to  
whom he gave a lift, later  
drove off in his bakkie  
which had 21 bags of maize  
in the back

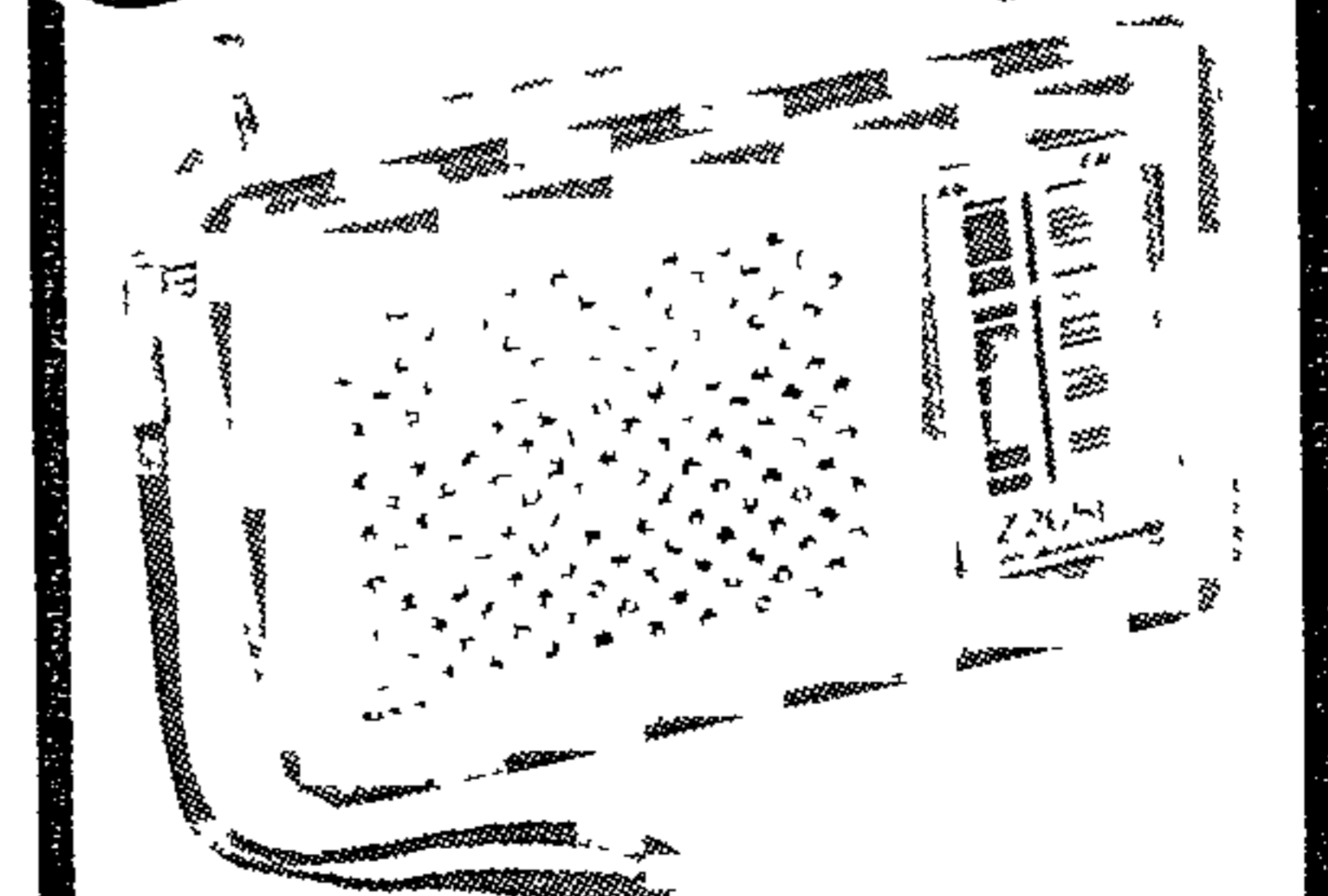
Mr Dorfling said he  
picked up the hitch-hiker on  
his way to the town and  
later parked the vehicle  
outside 3 Nuwe Street

When he came out the  
house, the bakkie, CEB  
7246, had disappeared  
There was no trace of the  
passenger

According to Captain A  
Prinsloo, of the Uitenhage  
CID, the man was wearing  
a blue suit and a hat

It is thought the man was  
heading for Port Elizabeth  
Anybody who may have

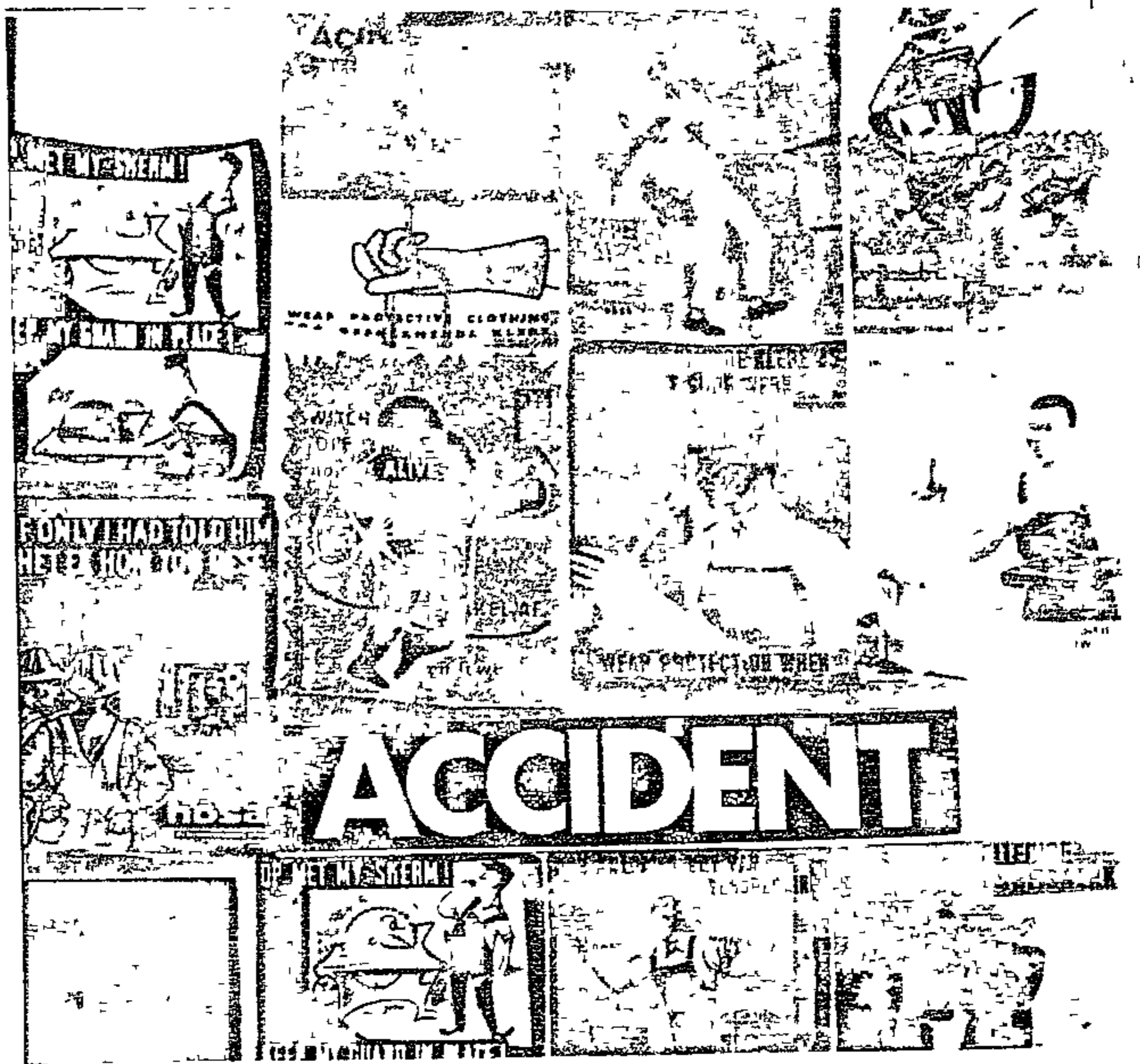
# Grand Bazaars



### Sharp FM-AM RADIOS

Z 20 SL Battery powered  
Telescopic antenna

Guarantee



Safety .. new negotiating issue

FM 20/5/83  
**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY**  
**Worker participation**

The recently promulgated Machinery and Occupational Safety Act may result in a new item being placed on agendas for negotiations between employers and trade unions

Unions — especially some in the emerging groupings — are having a close look at sections 9 to 12 of the Act, which provide for the appointment of safety representatives and safety committees

In very broad terms, the Act compels an employer, who employs more than 20 people, to appoint one safety representative for every 50 employees. A safety committee must be created in companies where two or more safety representatives have been appointed. Excluded from this provision are the mining and farming industries.

The Act stipulates that a safety representative must conduct monthly workplace safety inspections. The representative must

be appointed from the ranks of the company's full-time employees and must be allowed to perform his safety duties during normal working hours. He must report any threat or potential threat to the safety of any employee to his employer or the safety committee, if one has been created. He may also make reports to a government inspector about serious accidents at the workplace, or injuries or deaths resulting from exposure to hazardous working conditions.

Safety committees must hold meetings at least once every three months and may co-opt people who have a particular knowledge of health matters, as advisory members. Committees can make recommendations to an employer or an inspector about safety, and report serious accidents to an inspector.

Unions whose members work in potentially dangerous environments are naturally taking a great interest in the new Act because it provides for a significant degree of employee involvement in safety. Not surprisingly, they would like their shop stewards to become safety representatives. The FM is told by some sources that a few government men had once toyed with the concept of elected safety representatives, but that it was eventually decided that the Act should allow employers to designate the representatives.

However, this does not prevent unions from attempting to persuade employers to accept elected representatives. And it seems likely that some managements may soon face demands for this.

Manpower Director-General Piet van der Merwe certainly believes that employers would be wise to consult employees

about the appointments. He says that such consultation could make the representatives more credible and help them to carry out their duties more effectively.



FN 20/5/83  
COMPENSATION

## Blacks lose out

131  
The latest report of the Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases (CCOD) highlights racial inequalities in the compensation system on the mines. For example, a black miner who contracts tuberculosis while working on the mines receives a lump sum benefit of R895 while his white counterpart gets R7 454.

Workers who contract diseases such as pneumoconiosis and occupational tuberculosis (TB) caused by dust, gas and vapours are compensated in terms of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act of 1973. They are entitled to specified lump sum benefits.

The degree of impairment must be assessed before compensation is paid. Whites are classified in terms of first degree impairment (less than 40%) or second degree impairment (more than 40%). Compensation Commissioner Julius Brauckman says that "blacks are classified differently. Blacks receive R895 for TB and R1 491 for pneumoconiosis, irrespective of the degree. For a combination of both diseases they receive R1 790."

However, whites suffering from first degree compensatory disease other than TB will receive R17 889. Coloureds receive R8 945 and blacks R1 491.

According to the CCOD report,

R17 488 988 was paid out to all races in lump sum benefits as compensation for occupational diseases on the mines in 1981/82.

Payouts for black miners are generally regarded as inadequate, particularly as the lowest paid unskilled blacks are most dependent on physical fitness for their livelihood. The report states that blacks worked 149 920 195 risk shifts while whites worked 11 453 048. However, total lump sum payouts for white employees totalled R12 633 076. Blacks received R5 025 049.

Mineworkers' Union general secretary Arrie Paulus is adamant that "the lump-sum payout system is not discriminatory because payouts are based on different salary structures. Whether they should be based on a percentage of salary is debatable and we're prepared to look at this. But you can't expect a man earning R2 000 a month to receive the same compensation as someone earning R500 a month."

The black National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) disagrees. "It is clear that compensation payments are based on race," says NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa. "The entire mining industry is based on discrimination. This is reflected in areas like wages, benefits and pensions."

"How can a white get R7 454 as TB compensation and all that black workers receive is a fixed amount of R895 — regardless of the responsibility they carry?"

Medical adviser to The Employment Bureau of Africa (TEBA), Dr Oluf Martiny, says. "The mining industry submitted a report to the Nieuwenhuisen Commission recommending that arbitrary amounts should not be paid out but compensation should rather be based on a percentage disability — in the same way as Workmen's Compensation. I think payouts should ideally be based on skills, responsibility and productivity and compensation should be paid as a percentage of salary."

When a black miner is certified compensatable, the Compensation Commissioner pays the money to the Black Compensation Fund, which is run by the Director General of the Department of Co-Operation and Development. White and coloured miners are compensated directly.

Until recently, more than half of black miners entitled to payments received nothing because the onus was on them to claim the money from the local commissioners. In addition, the amounts paid in small bi-monthly instalments were too small to allow many migrants to remain unemployed in their home areas.

Some progress has been made. Martiny says that "since February compensation for occupational chest diseases has been paid in full to beneficiaries at the mines, who now receive active assistance with deposits, remittances and investments."

"Government regulations have also been amended, enabling mines to re-employ workers in their previous occupations after TB treatment."

**Probe into  
# 131  
death fall**

*Mercury*  
Mercury Reporter  
25/5/83

A DEPARTMENT of Man-  
power inquiry is investi-  
gating whether the worker  
who fell to his death from  
the top of the Old Mutual  
flats at Windemere centre  
on Monday was wearing a  
safety belt at the time

It is understood that 40-  
year-old Mr Elliot  
Khanyile was on a half-  
metre wide ledge and  
guiding a drum of paint  
attached to a length of  
rope down towards two of  
his co-workers when he  
fell

# Blast rocks powder plant

By DAVID CAPEL

AN EXPLOSION rocked one of African Explosives and Chemical Industries' powder-producing plants at Modderfontein early yesterday morning. No one was injured.

The plant will only be back in operation in about two weeks.

AECI's public relations manager, Mr Murray Joubert, said the explosion occurred in the fully-automat-

ed black powder Number 2 mixing plant about 6.55am.

The plant produces black powder used in the manufacture of safety fuse and igniter cords. No one ever enters it, as it is operated by remote control.

The plant is one of two used for the same purpose. Damage was limited to the plant itself. Mr Joubert has ruled out any possibility of sabotage.

# Killed while saving three

Cart Times 11/6/83

131

Own Correspondent

PAARL. — A railwayman swept three labourers from the path of an oncoming train but was fatally struck in mid-air as he tried to dive to safety, an inquest magistrate heard here yesterday.

This was stated in evidence at the inquest on Mr Floris Hoffman 59, a railway welder from Bellville

The Chief Magistrate, Mr JTP Swart, found that Mr Hoffman had died of multiple injuries when he was struck by a passenger train between Paarl and Klapmuts on September 22 last year

Nobody could be held responsible for Mr Hoffman's death

Statements handed to the court said the men had been welding on the line when the train approached. The noise of the welding machine had drowned out other sounds and Mr Hoffman had seen the train only when it was 10 m away.

The train hit him in mid-air as he was diving for safety after saving the others.

alleviate this shortage if not why not if so what steps?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER (Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House)

- (1) Yes The number of vacancies were not mentioned in the advertisements but merely the centres where they exist
- (2) Yes The qualifications for appointment are a three year National Diploma in Industrial Hygiene or Public Health or another equivalent appropriate qualification
- (3) Yes 27
- (4) Yes Five applicants were appointed
- (5) Yes (a) Because enough appropriately qualified persons cannot be recruited locally  
(b) The United Kingdom
- (6) Yes Six
- (7) The suitability of the six candidates is now being gone into
- (8) Yes There is a shortage of 39 units
- (9) Yes Posts are advertised regularly Letters were addressed to universities in an effort to recruit graduates Ranks of Learner Inspectors of Occupational Safety were introduced so that the Department itself can train persons in the work situation and enrol them at Technicons for full time courses to make them of use sooner. The first persons in these ranks have already been recruited. The Commission for Administration was further requested to conduct an investigation into the salary structures of the specific careers in the divisions in an effort to improve the service package of this branch. Considerable improvements have been effected and the Department is now busy with further intensive re

131 Factory safety inspectors  
 Col. 1553-1555  
 Hansard 15/6/83  
 Dr A L BORAINÉ asked the Minister of Manpower

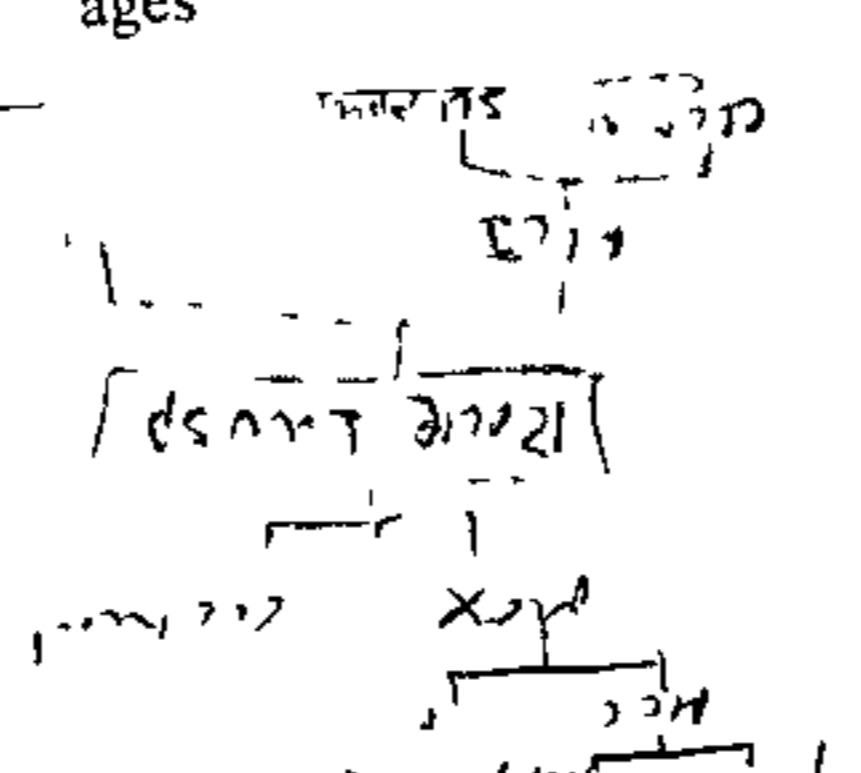
- (1) Whether his Department advertised for factory safety inspectors in 1982, if so, how many posts were advertised,
- (2) whether any conditions were attached to such posts, if so what conditions,
- (3) whether any applications were received, if so, how many,
- (4) whether these applications were successful, if not, why not,
- (5) whether his Department has subsequently advertised any of these posts in countries other than South Africa, if so, (a) why and (b) in which countries,
- (6) whether any applications have been received as a result, if so,
- (7) whether any of these applications were successful,
- (8) whether there is a shortage of factory safety inspectors in his Department at present, if so, what is the extent of the shortage
- (9) whether any steps have been taken to

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recruitment efforts through its employment section and advertisements in the press to supplement the shortages

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# Attention to worker health 'insufficient'

Staff Reporter

**MOST** South African industrialists paid insufficient attention to the health of their workers, putting "little time, money or organization into the prevention of occupational diseases"

This observation is made in the latest issue of the South African Medical Journal by Dr S R Benatar, Professor of Medicine at the University of Cape Town, Dr J T Mets, a senior lecturer in UCT's department of Community Health, as well as a visiting professor, Dr P C Elmes

They said that the report of the Erasmus Commission of Inquiry on Occupational Health was published in 1976, but "to date only a few minor recommendations appear to have been accepted and implemented"

Among those not implemented was a recommendation that a single Act be promulgated to incorporate all aspects of industrial health under the Department of Health. Had this been accepted, all industrial workers would have been protected within a uniform industrial health policy for the first time

"Workers would have to be consulted about working conditions

which might affect their health, and employers would be obliged to provide industrial health services"

To ensure safety and health in the workplace, the doctors suggest that legislation be drafted to include

- An advisory council of occupational health and safety experts to formulate regulations and guidelines for health and safety from all hazards in industry, and to make recommendations to the responsible minister. Also to review and revise regulations continually and encourage applied research

- An inspectorate to report on maintenance of safe working environments and health, injuries and occupational diseases

- High-quality medical care for occupational diseases and injuries, and expert assessment of compensatable disability

- The establishment of a department of occupational health at every medical school for teaching under-graduates and post-graduates, for service commitments and for independent research, and for technikons to extend their role in training health inspectors in occupational hygiene

# Ammunition explodes in hostel blaze

PRETORIA—Four-hundred rounds of 45 ammunition exploded in a local youth hostel room which was completely destroyed in a fire yesterday

A cleaner at the hostel, in Vermeulen Street, Mrs Beauty Nkosi, collapsed from inhaling smoke and had to be dragged out of a corridor outside the room

Mr Pieter Wiid, 23, a computer programmer, who lived in the room, said the 400 rounds of reloaded ammunition were in his built-in cupboard

Miss Elzabe Gibson arrived at the youth hostel from town and noticed flames and smoke bellowing from the fifth floor window of Mr Wiid's room

She called a man watering the gardens of the hostel and he in turn alerted the Fire Department

One of the men living in the hostel, Mr Neels Steyn, clutching a fire hose, edged along a narrow ledge outside the room and tried to get the fire under control until the Fire Department arrived

Firemen using oxygen masks brought the fire under control quickly

All Mr Wiid's clothing, some electronic equipment and bed were destroyed

Mr Wiid said he thought the fire might have started from a fan heater he had in the room — (Sapa)

# 56 hurt in collision

~~13~~ (13) Mercury Reporter *Mercury*  
18/6/83

FIFTY-SIX people were admitted to hospital after two farm vehicles collided at Mvutshini Citrus Estates near Pongola on Wednesday morning

Five people are in a serious condition at the Benedictine Hospital in Nongoma. One is critical

Mr A Roux, secretary of the estate, said 'The accident involved our seven-ton truck and one of our tractors, pulling a trailer. Both were carrying labourers to the orange orchards and the packhouse'

By yesterday 42 people had been discharged from hospital



SA industry can be justly proud of its achievements in industrial safety compared to the rest of the Western industrialised world, according to the National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA)

"The US national injury rate of 2.7% is higher than the SA figure of 1.92%. The Canadian figure is 6% and the Australian rate is 10%," said Don Carroll, chairman of NOSA at the NOSA national awards presentation

### Principles

Frank Bird, executive director of the International Loss Control Institute of Georgia State University was so impressed with the NOSA grading system that he has introduced the principles to the US, Canada, the UK, the Philippines and Holland

Carroll said "it is tough going to improve the safety of a plant so that it brings about a reduction

# SA among leaders in work safety

(131) Industrial Week  
21/6/83

in disabling injuries

"But what is tougher still is to maintain the reduction in disabling injuries, because each firm is competing against itself. One almost has the case of the law of diminishing returns," he said

Prof Nic Wiehahn, head of industrial relations at UNISA said that the injury frequency figure had been reduced over the past 30 years

In most countries in the western world over the past 11 years employers had to pay the same premiums for accident in

surance, whereas in SA it had been reduced

Prof Wiehahn also said that the good relationship between NOSA and the Workmen's Compensation Commission was one of the best examples in SA of exceptional co-operation between a state institution and a private sector organisation

Last year the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, Henrie du Toit, reduced the premiums of 91 out of the

109 industrial and business classes of employment

Prof Wiehahn noted that it was also now quite clear that with a low safety consciousness on the part of workers, industrial relations could be seriously impaired in a company

### Studies

Recent studies had shown that workers' non-observance of safety rules

in a company, negligent damage to equipment and a general "don't care" attitude to safety and protective measures were important conflict indicators

### Example

He cited the recent case of a company's loss of three vehicles within a week being a warning that its workers were dissatisfied with "a certain condition of service"

"Unfortunately, the company only discovered in the conflict recuperation phase that its management could have anticipated from the rise in the accident rate of vehicles, the strike that took place after the spate of accidents"

### Belonging

Prof Wiehahn said that case studies had proved that workers who felt they "belonged" and the company belonged to them were not so prone to accidents

They were safety conscious, had a stronger sense of pride and their productivity was higher

By Priscilla Whyte

(131) ~~131~~ *nom*  
Supplement to the Rand Daily Mail, Wednesday, June 22, 1983

# SABS code of practice for safe cargo loading

THE South African Bureau of Standards has announced that it is in the final throes of preparing a code of practice for the safe loading of all types of cargo on all types of vehicles. Technical work for the code, which will be issued soon, has been completed.

The Bureau became involved in drawing up the code because of a lack of nationally-recognised standards for the securing of cargoes.

There is no shortage of reports of objects, and sometimes full loads, falling from heavy vehicles. It is probably more because of good luck than anything else that there are not more reports of such incidents causing damage, serious injury, and even loss of life.

A spokesman for the Bureau said the code is comprehensive. "It will not only provide guidance to large carriers, corporations and government institutions, but will also be of considerable use to the ordinary consumer who has to transport his own goods occasionally," he said.

It apparently goes right down to the fundamental aspects of cargoes and cargo securement, and describes (in simple language) forces that cause cargoes to slide or fall from vehicles.

It emphasises that once a load starts to slide, a much greater force is needed to stop it than that needed to secure it in the first place, and that because of this, it is vital to secure the whole cargo in such a way that no part of it will move.

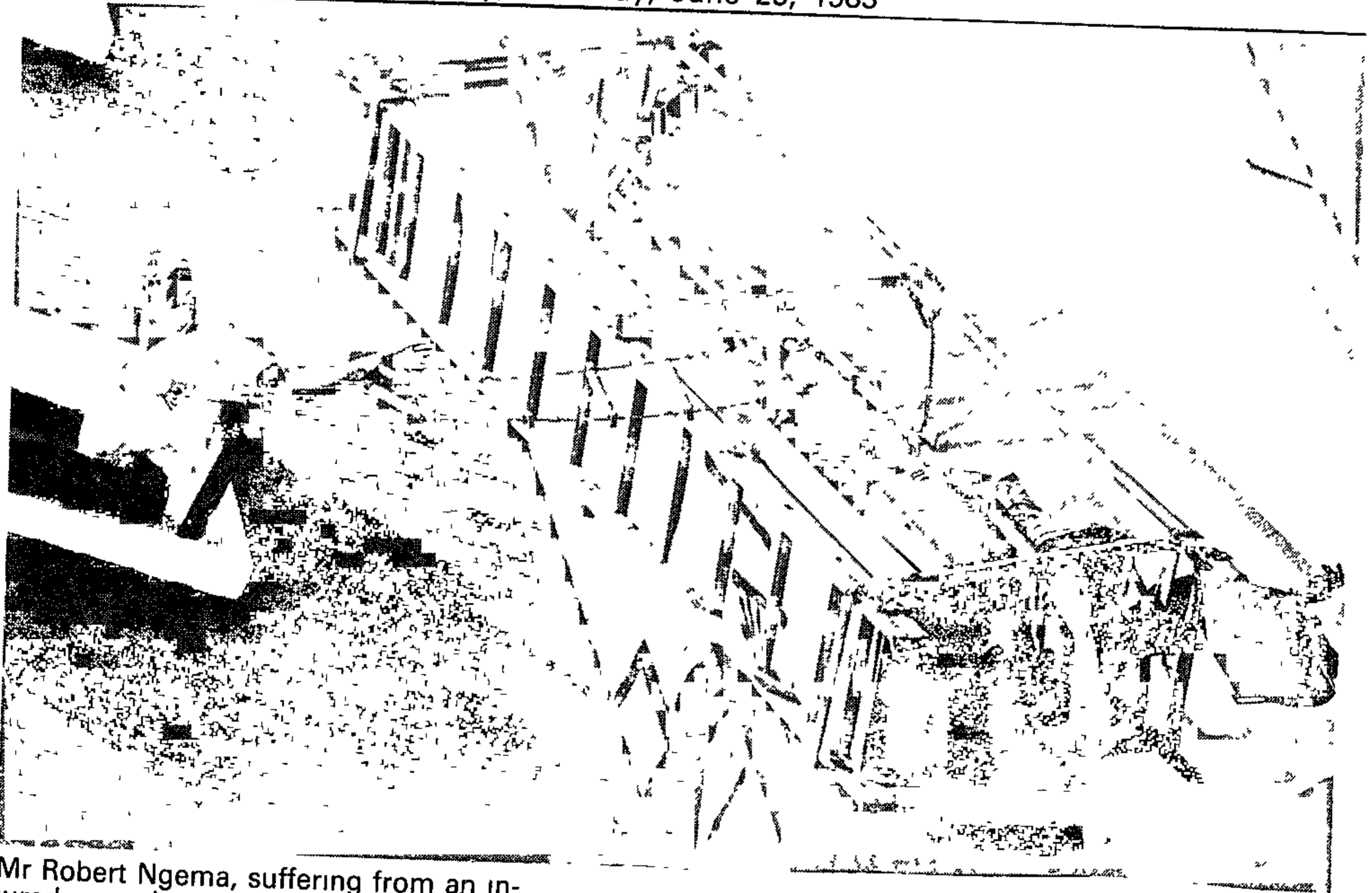
The effects on cargoes of vehicles braking, negotiating bends, being driven over rough surfaces and being jolted — plus combinations of these forces — are also described, to underscore the necessity of securing cargoes properly.

One chapter deals exclusively with the distribution of cargo, and how it influences safety and cargo securement.

Another deals with securing materials, their selection, minimum strength requirements and methods of securing. It spells out how securing materials (such as harnesses, nets, cables and chains) should be selected.

Not much, if anything, has been overlooked. Whole chapters have even been devoted to specific types of cargo, dealing with such things as different types of freight containers and pallets and how they should be packed and secured.

There are also details on: heavy cylindrical cargoes (pipes and rolls of newsprint), logs and sawn timber, tins, boxes and cardboard containers.



Mr Robert Ngema, suffering from an injured arm, almost fell from the suspended cradle — but was able to cling to the rails until rescued by members of the fire department.

# Two cling to cradle of death

(131) Mercury  
27/6/83

**Mercury Reporter**  
TWO men were left clinging for their lives to a damaged scaffold cradle, dangling six storeys from the ground, after a third had plunged to his death in central Durban yesterday just before 1 p m

The two men clung desperately to the cradle after one of the supporting cables apparently snapped and a heavy iron weight crashed to the busy city pavement below, narrowly missing a plate glass window

Thousands of lunch-time shoppers gathered at the corner of Smith and Field Street and saw one of the men, crumpled in the corner of the cradle, lose his grip and come close to falling — sending a hail of cardboard boxes and tiles, on which he was resting, tumbling to a ledge below

He managed to pull himself on to a rail of the cradle and could be seen shaking with fear

## Warned

A section of Field Street between the Victoria Embankment and Smith Street was closed to traffic while members of the fire department rescued Mr Clive Goodwin and Mr Robert Ngema from the wrecked cradle on the Union Club building

Police used loud-hailers to warn bystanders that fines would be issued unless people remained on the pavements

Mr Robert was treated for shock and an injury to his arm

Mr Ken Mobey, owner of KLM Decorators, said an immediate investigation into the accident had been launched

“There is no way of telling what caused the accident until the results of the investigation are out. Everyone is very shocked at this stage”

A bystander, who asked not to be named, said ‘I

was crossing Field Street when I heard a loud clattering I realised the scaffold cradle had come adrift — two men were clinging to it. They were in a terrible state. The crowd was silent, people were horrified’

## Probe

The Department of Manpower is to hold a formal inquiry into the incident

Mr E Warburg, the department's inspector of machinery, who arrived at the scene of the accident within minutes, said he and another senior inspector of the department had held a preliminary investigation yesterday, but a formal inquiry would be held

He said they still had to talk to witnesses and also inspect the scaffold equipment

The manager of Solly Kramer's bottlestore at the corner of Field and Smith Streets, who would not give his name, said he heard a loud crash and rushed out of his shop to find a ‘huge piece’ of iron lying across the pavement — only metres from his shop's window

‘Lucky it did not crash into the glass. All of us would have been injured,’ he said, adding that it was also ‘extremely lucky that the accident had occurred shortly before 1 p m, missing lunch-time shoppers

Firemen battled for more than an hour after the two men had been rescued from the dangling scaffold to secure it

Attempts to bring the scaffold down to the ground were abandoned after it was feared that the concrete supports on the roof of the building from which the cables were suspended would fall

A section of Field Street was cordoned off until late yesterday while a crane was used to lower the scaffold to the ground



A fireman supports Mr Ngema as he is brought down.

ners' Initials		
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ation Paper)

## WARNING

- 1 No books, notes, pieces of paper or other material may be brought into the examination room unless candidates are so instructed
- 2 Candidates are not to communicate with other candidates or with any person except the invigilator
- 3 No part of an answer book is to be torn out
- 4 All answer books must be handed to the commissioner or to an invigilator before leaving the examination

able to disqualification and to possible exclusion from the University

PSL / PD UCT

Vervaardig in Sud Afrika

## Railway workers in shave with death

131) ~~470~~ <sup>Sowetan</sup>  
By LEN MASEKO

MORE than 30 South African Railway workers narrowly escaped death when their staff bus skidded off the road and overturned near Nigel early yesterday morning.

Four of the workers were admitted to the Nigel Hospital after sustaining injuries while the rest were treated for shock and discharged.

A hospital spokesman said the condition of the injured workers was sat-

isfactory, adding that he expected them to be discharged before the end of this week.

Those injured are Messrs Moses Mzila (32), Msiki Phungula (41), Madisba Solomon Ndlovu (33) and Zwelimpi Dumakude, all of whom are migrant workers originally from Natal.

According to a police spokesman, the accident occurred at 3 am while the Railway bus was carrying about 37 passengers

on the road between Springs and Nigel. The bus, which was ferrying the workers to various stations on the Reef for their daily work, skidded off the road and overturned.

Ambulances and other emergency vehicles arrived on the scene within minutes after the accident occurred and the trapped passengers were rescued out of the bus. Railway police are investigating the incident.

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MS 28/6/83

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# City agrees to Maiden's Cove scheme

MS 28/6/83

Municipal Reporter

THE City Council today approved a R543 000 Maiden's Cove development plan which will provide more safe bathing areas and sheltered sunbathing and improve parking facilities

The council also decided to seek approval for the project from the Provincial Administration and the National Monuments Council "as a matter of urgency"

An application will be made to the province for grants of R228 000 and R261 000 for work during the 1983/84 and 1984/85 financial years

If the plan gets under

way another tidal pool will be built and loose boulders will be removed at the western end of Maiden's Cove channel to improve bathing

The toddlers' pool will be extended to provide a sheltering low-level wall and more splash pools and a playground will be built

By providing parking bays north of the access road, the present dirty sandy area will be developed for picnicking and sunbathing

The parking area, east of the existing toilet block, will be sufficient for 110 cars

### Braai units

Forty braai units will be built near the new tidal pool and grass will be planted and paths made between the rocks

A tearoom east of the toilet and change-room block will replace the existing kiosk

According to the City Engineer's report, the buildings have been designed to blend with the scenic beach's characteristic rock outcrops and boulders

### City R50 000 for fund

Municipal Reporter

CAPE Town City Council is to give R50 000 to the State President's Fund for victims of terrorist attacks

Various other city councils in the country have donated money to the fund the council heard today. These include Johannesburg which donated R50 000, Pretoria R25 000, Maritzburg R10 000 and Bellville which will contribute R50 000 over five years

The Mayor of Cape Town, Mr Koste van Zyl is one of the trustees of the fund

## Shot at with own gun

Crime Reporter

A WIDOWER aged 76 was shot at twice with his own pistol as he fled from an assailant in his Hoekwil home in the George district

He was then locked in a bedroom for 20 hours before being rescued by a friend

Mr G C Fuchs, who lives on an isolated plot in the Hoekwil farming community, was not wounded

Four people have been arrested

### ATTACKED

An elderly woman was attacked in Paarl yesterday and robbed of her gold watch

Miss J H de Kock, 79, of Vooruitsig Flats, Paarl, was attacked by a man after she parked her car at 7 pm. She was thrown to the ground and her watch ripped off

The gold watch has SASCO — H de Kock 1951-1976 engraved on the back

Paarl police request that anyone seeing the watch telephone them at 22358

### Art record

LONDON — A painting by Dutch artist Pieter Mondrian has been auctioned for R24-million, nearly double the previous world record for an abstract. Sapa Reuter

## Worker injured by crane

131

Staff Reporter

A WORKER was injured today when he was pinned by the sliding hoist of a crane against a pillar in a Kuils River factory

Mr David Mzwani, who injured his right leg and pelvis, was freed by his colleagues.

### METRO TEAM

A Metro emergency service unit and the Kuils River fire brigade were summoned to bring him down from the 10 m-high rail of the crane

### STRETCHER

Mr Mzwani was lowered to the floor after being strapped to a special stretcher

He was given emergency treatment and taken to Conradie Hospital, where his condition was described as "satisfactory on arrival"

A rescue team spokesman said the accident occurred about 6 am while Mr Mzwani was helping a technician

## Row over council equipment

Municipal Reporter

CAPE Town City Council has been criticised for offering earthmoving equipment to the government to prepare the Khayelitsha township

City Councillor Mr Frank van der Velde today objected to the council's actions saying that it was not in the city's interest to move residents of black townships

By offering its equipment to the Government, the council was giving tacit support to the scheme

Mr John Muir chairman of the executive committee said the council had offered its earthmoving equipment because it was concerned about the squatters and wanted to help remove them on humanitarian grounds

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the cause of the delay and (b) when it anticipated that this legislation will be introduced?

\*The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

- (1) Yes.
- (2) yes.

(a) it took time to reach consensus on the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health, and it was decided that the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, 1983 (Act No 6 of 1983) should first be introduced, whereafter complementary legislation would be introduced;

(b) during the 1984 Session

Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health

\*7 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 5 of 30 September 1981, consensus has now been reached on the functions to be performed by the various Government departments in terms of the recommendations made by the Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health, if not, (a) why not and (b) what steps are being taken to bring about consensus; if so, what is the nature of the agreements reached?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

Yes.

(a) falls away.

(b) it has been agreed that the Department of Manpower will perform the functions expounded in the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, 1983, that the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs will control occu-

paternal health in mines and works and that the Department of Health and Welfare will perform the complementary functions. In this connection I wish to invite attention to the White Paper on the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Compensation for Occupational Diseases which was tabled yesterday

*(131) Howard Health Vol. 1731*  
 29/6/83

\*5. Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 21 on 9 September 1981, the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health have been implemented, if not, (a) why not and (b) when will they be implemented, if so, when were they implemented?

The MINISTER OF HEALTH AND WELFARE:

The matter will be dealt with in the replies to questions 6 and 7

Occupational health

\*6 Dr M S BARNARD asked the Minister of Health and Welfare

(1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 21 on 14 August 1981, it is still his intention to introduce legislation in respect of occupational health, if not, why not, if so,

(2) whether any delay has been experienced in this regard; if so, (a) what is

29 JUNE 1983

1764

1765

THURSDAY,

(bb) None

(cc) None

(ii) (aa) Five

(bb) None

(cc) None

(b) (i) Seven applicants were in possession of the National Diploma for Health Inspectors Sixteen were in possession of the National Diploma in Public Health One was in possession of a senior Certificate and a National Technical Education Diploma One was in possession of a NTC II and a Trade Certificate in fitting and turning One was in possession of a Senior Certificate

(ii) (aa) BSC (Honours) Environmental Sciences, Diploma in Population Observation

(bb) Safety Officer certificate, NEBOSH Certificate Fork Lift Truck Instructor's Certificate Kenetic Lifting and Handling Instructors Certificate First Aid Instructors Certificate

(cc) Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety

(dd) Radiation Safety Practice Stages 1 and 2 Educational Test 1 Member of the Institution of Industrial Safety

(ee) Higher certificate in Occupational Safety and Health

(ff) Diploma in Safety.

(2) No—as these are entrance posts, the Department itself decides on the appointment of suitable candidates  
(3) Normally no statements are released on appointments in the entrance posts When candidates for these posts are not considered suitable for appointment or when they are no longer interested after having been informed of the salary for which they qualify, the posts are re-advertised

131  
1074 Dr A L BORRAINE asked the Minister of Manpower

Homeward 29/6/83  
Factory safety inspectors  
R. C. 1763

(1) (a) How many of the (i) 27 applicants for and (ii) five appointees to the posts of factory safety inspectors referred to in his reply to Question No 13 on 15 June 1983 were (aa) White, (bb) Coloured and (cc) Asian and (b) what were the qualifications of (i) each of the above-mentioned applicants and (ii) the six applicants from the United Kingdom,

(2) whether these applications were referred to the Commission for Administration for consideration, if not, who makes the final decision on the appointments, if so, (a) when were they so referred and (b) (i) what was their recommendation and (ii) when did they communicate this recommendation to his Department,

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

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER.

(1) (a) (i) (aa) 27



CAPE TIMES 29/6/83

# Falling bricks kill worker

131

Staff Reporter

A GUGULETU man died yesterday morning when tons of brick and mortar from a collapsing chimney fell and buried him at a Muizenberg home

It was Mr Mzimkhulu Nelson's first day at work, according to fellow contract labourers renovating the Mynhard Road home.

"I was standing in the yard when I heard a rumble. the chimney had collapsed on him and I asked if anybody was there He just answered 'here here' — there was quite a lot of blood," said Mr Gammat Sale Smith

A desperate bid to free the trapped man by a bystander, Mr John Shapley, proved futile and Mr Nelson, 35, of NY 11, No 20 Guguletu, died shortly after being trapped

Mr Shapley, a development projects officer at the University of Cape Town, said he was working on his car across the road when the chimney fell.

"He couldn't have stood a chance When I got there his fellow workers were just standing around looking stunned Ony when I started moving bricks did they start helping The poor guy was completely squashed"

Mr Shapley's wife telephoned for an ambulance and Metro Rescue workers arrived within minutes, freeing the body



His wife Annemarie and their daughters

# tha comes ull of joy

recalls how good news "I by a knock opened it I got in I saw our said they had and I just believe him to the hos- there we saw of us broke

Mrs Annemarie Clark said words could not describe her joy "I thought I would never see my baby again

"I'm not going to let her out of my sight"

Mr Clark said they wanted to thank the police and all who helped

"I also want to say a big thank-you to the anonymous woman who was prepared to increase the reward by R1 000"

No reward would in fact be paid, as the person who gave the tip-off did not want to be identified

Mr Clark said he did not want to press charges against the woman who stole the child, but the matter was out of his hands

"If the police want to charge her I can't do a thing about it"

## ennis ive

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## Venice plans visitors' toll

The Star's Foreign News Service

ROME — Venice may soon become the world's only city where outsiders have to pay to get in and controversy is raging over a plan to charge tourists a R7 "toll"

All cars would have to park in the suburb of Mestre Visitors would then be boated across

All motor boats would

# Four injured in Sasol blaze

Four white maintenance workers at Sasol 3 at Secunda were injured in a fire at the plant yesterday, a Sasol spokesman said in Johannesburg.

The fire was caused by spontaneous combustion of inflammable material in a filter, the spokesman said

The men had been in the immediate vicinity of the blaze when it broke out.

Three of the workers, Mr W Zayick, Mr P Patel and Mr A Choir, were admitted to hospital

A fourth worker, Mr S Spencer, was slightly injured and did not require

hospital treatment.

The spokesman said the men were doing maintenance when the fire began.

Production at the plant would not be adversely affected by the fire, he said

A detailed investigation into the cause of the fire has been launched

A Midpark Hospital official said later that two of the men were in a critical condition and she described the other man's condition as fair She declined to identify which of the men were seriously hurt — Sapa

(B1)

12 MAY 1983



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Sasol  
fire: 2  
critical

JOHANNESBURG. —  
Four maintenance workers at Sasol 3 at Secunda were injured in a fire yesterday, a Sasol spokesman said in Johannesburg.

Two of the men are in a critical condition in Milpark Hospital.

Three of the workers, Mr W Zayick, Mr P Pátel, and Mr A Choir were admitted to the hospital.

A hospital official later said two of the men were critical and the other man's condition was fair.

However, she declined to identify which of the men were critically injured. A fourth worker, Mr S Spencer, was slightly injured and did not require treatment.

The fire was caused by spontaneous combustion of inflammable material in a filter, the Sasol spokesman said.

The four men injured had been close to the blaze when it started.

He said the men were doing maintenance when the fire started.

Production at the plant would not be "adversely affected", he said. — Sapa

(131) Mercury  
**Rail death**

14/5/83  
Mercury Reporter

AN EMPLOYEE of the South African Transport Services was killed when he was hit by a train on Thursday. He was identified as Mr M Madloalumbo of Durban.

Railway Police said his badly mutilated body was found at Bayhead after a train left the station.

And at Hammarsdale a black boy, aged about nine, was found suffering from internal injuries and rushed to hospital in Durban.



Free State miner Mr Oupa Gobodi, in his bed at Baragwanath Hospital, tells how his hand was severed during a rock-fall while he was working underground. The hand has been sewn back and Mr Gobodi is making good progress ● Picture by Alf Kumalo.

# Sceptical Oupa now believes in miracles

By Jon Qwelane

A Free State miner, whose right hand was severed last week, said yesterday that he did not believe doctors when they told him they would sew the hand back

Mr Oupa Gobodi (19) said he told the doctors that he did not think such an operation could succeed

"Now I believe in miracles," he said, as he wiggled the fingers of the hand.

Mr Gobodi was underground with several other miners at the Free State Geduld Gold Mine in Welkom last week when there was a rock fall

"It happened so quickly that before I knew what was happening it was all over and I was without my right hand

and in great pain. I was the only one injured," Mr Gobodi said

He said that immediately after the accident the other miners applied a tourniquet to his arm

Later he was flown by helicopter to Johannesburg

"By then I was in great pain and slightly confused. When we landed at Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto I was wheeled straight to the operating theatre and the hand was sewn back.

"I took what the doctors said with a pinch of salt. But they told me my hand would function again — and it does," said Mr Gobodi

The young miner is third oldest in a family of eight and lives at Ficksburg in the Free State

*Star 20/5/83*

*(13)*

# Surgeons sew back the hand of a miner

By Pamela Kleinot

Surgeons at Baragwanath Hospital have successfully sewn back the hand of a Free State miner after it was severed above the wrist by a falling rock

Mr Oupa Gobodi (19) has early movement of his right hand after an 11-hour operation

"He should regain almost normal sensation in his hand and we expect him to have about 50 per cent movement," said a member of the surgical team

The operation was successful because Mr Gobodi had a guillotine-type cut.

"It was a sharp cut — like a knife cut," the surgeon said, adding that Baragwanath's hand unit had carried out more than 50 such operations since 1965.

## SUCCESS RATE

There was an 80 per cent success rate with guillotine-type cuts but results with crushing-type injuries were poor, the surgeon said

"The reason is that, with crushing injuries, there is considerable damage to the inner linings of the blood vessels"

Mr Gobodi was flown from Welkom to Baragwanath Hospital by helicopter last Tuesday after his right hand was severed by falling rock at the Free State Geduld Gold Mine

The surgeon paid tribute to doctors at the Ernest Oppenheimer Hospital, Welkom, who did the right things — they put the hand in a plastic bag and chilled it with ice cubes

A team of five surgeons carried out the operation which involved a vein graft from the foot.

Mr Gobodi will return to work in about six months after he has been rehabilitated. He will spend about two months at Baragwanath for physiotherapy

● See Page 2.

# Worker dies in inferno

26/6/83

Mercury Reporter *Mercury*

A MAN burned to death and another was transformed into a fireball when an auxiliary boiler exploded at a Pinetown PVC and polyurethane coating plant yesterday.

A third man was slightly injured in the accident at Beiers Plastics, a division of OTH Beier and Company.

The dead man has been identified as Mr Fixon Cetshwayo Ngubane, of Clermont. The seriously injured man who was admitted to King Edward VIII with first degree burns was Mr Phillip Msoni, of Shongweni. Last night a hospital spokesman described him as 'critically ill'.

The lightly injured man was Mr Jerry Madondo.

The men had been repairing a heater when the accident happened at 10.30 a.m. Mr Ngubane and Mr Msoni were underneath the boiler, which was off-line at the time, removing the bottom plate.

Two minutes after the plate had been removed and while the men were pulling it away an explosion occurred, covering the men in oil fumes and enveloping the boiler house in flames.

## Stuck

Mr Hans Beier, managing director of the factory, said yesterday: 'Mr Msoni ran past my office to the first aid centre covered in flames. However, we couldn't do anything to help Mr Ngubane as the flames were too intense.'

Mr Ngubane was probably stuck underneath the boiler as he burned to death.

Mr Beier said damage to the plant would probably cost the company about R500 000.

Workers were sent home on full pay and would return to work today. The estimated loss in production was R100 000.

Initially our fire-fighting team fought the blaze and then were assisted by the Pinetown Fire Brigade,' Mr Beier said.

## Repaired

A spokesman for the Pinetown brigade said the fire was under control within 20 minutes of their arrival. They spent about two hours cooling down the machinery.

Last night the factory's electrical engineer and workers repaired the damaged switch gear of the second boiler so it could be commissioned this morning.

Mr Beier described the boiler as being the heart of the factory.

A Department of Manpower investigation has been launched but the results of the preliminary inquiry are not yet known nor is the cause of the explosion.

### Another injured as boiler explodes

# Man dies in fire at factory

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Fire ripped through the boiler room at the OTH Beier plastic and footwear factory in Pinetown yesterday, killing one man and injuring two others

The owner of the factory, Mr Hans Beier, said an 'auxiliary heater exploded' while it was being repaired. A man was killed instantly, another suffered third-degree burns and a third was slightly injured.

The boiler room was completely gutted.

Factory inspectors have started an inquiry into the incident.



Man critical

131 after blast 2/7/83

Mercury  
Mercury Reporter

MR PHILLIP Msomi, seriously injured in a boiler explosion at Beier Plastics in Pinetown on Wednesday, is still in a critical condition in King Edward VIII Hospital, a hospital spokesman said yesterday.

One man died and another was slightly injured in the explosion which occurred while the boiler was being serviced and repaired.

Mr Msomi suffered first degree burns.

(131) S. Times 3/7/83

# Stress-at-work conference

By Eben Venter

STRESS in the workplace is costing South Africa hundreds of millions of rands every year

This will be discussed at a conference on "Wellness at Work" during the first two days of August.

The conference, arranged by the South African Mental Health Foundation and the University of the Witwatersrand Business School, will be addressed by 16 distinguished speakers, including four from overseas.

"This is a business conference aimed at helping industry and commerce to utilise health-enhancing measures which will facilitate improved productivity, profitability and long-term improvement in labour relations," says Hennie Joubert, director of the Mental Health Foundation.

The keynote address will be delivered by the Chief Minister of KwaZulu, Chief Gatscha Buthelezi, at a formal dinner.

The conference, which will be opened by Mr Justice M T Steyn, president of the foundation, has been described as

a most important contribution to health in the workplace

"We wish to create an awareness of the urgent need to cope not only with symptoms but with the interrelated causes of ill-health," Mr Justice Steyn said.

The vice-president of the Mental Health Movement, Dr Zac de Beer, who will be speaking on the cost of occupation-related illness to South Africa, said that there were established parallels between the Canadian and South African work situations.

Research has shown that the Canadian workforce had serious emotional problems linked to stress at any one time.

"While we cannot measure the exact South African figures, the problem is obviously far greater and far more expensive than envisaged in the past," Dr de Beer said.

South Africa is considered by actuarial and psychological experts to have an even more stressed population than Canada at management level, taking all races and language groups into account.

Dr Stephen Weiss, American founder of behavioural

medicine which treats stress by treating behaviour, will lead a team of experts from abroad.

Among speakers who will discuss costs, causes, prevalence and ways of diminishing the adverse effects of stress will be Professor Arie Shirom, director of the Institute for Labour and Social Research at Tel Aviv University; Professor Ethel Roskies of the University of Montreal, and Dr Sharlene Weiss, an American consulting psychologist to the Pentagon and Control Data



Dr ZAC DE BEER  
"Far greater problem"

(134) (45) (123)  
RWM 5/7/83  
**350 strike after gas  
blast kills two men**

By ANTON HARBER

THE death of two workers in an accident at the Sasolburg plant of AECI Ltd has sparked off a strike over the safety of the plant

More than 350 workers have refused to work since last Thursday when an explosion in the factory's acetylene plant killed two men, according to Mr Robbie Vermont, a spokesman for AECI

Yesterday afternoon, shop stewards were negotiating with management at plant level. Although the strikers are members of the SA Chemical Workers' Union, the union is not involved in the dispute at present

A union official said the

workers believed the plant to be unsafe after the explosion

They refused a demand from management to return to work on Friday, saying they would be risking their lives. They demanded an inspection of the factory before they returned. The official said management had responded by saying the accident had been investigated and the plant was safe

Mr Vermont, an AECI public relations officer, said two teams were investigating the cause of the accident and negotiations with the workers were in progress

He could not say what the workers' demands were but said the strike appeared to be centred around the explosion

131 ~~131~~ D. Orputh  
7/83

# Patient, driver die in ambulance collision

UMTATA — An ambulance driver and his maternity-case patient were killed in a head-on collision in which two other people died

Two other people were injured in two accidents which occurred within 14 hours of each other in a black two days on Umtata roads

Ambulance driver David Jubeni, 42, was transporting Mrs Mam-

cedi Valitheli, 32, from Isilimela Hospital in the Port St Johns area to Umtata General Hospital when the accident occurred near Corana Bridge. A car travelling in the opposite direction was involved in a head-on collision with the ambulance on a bend, killing Mr Andile Mvusi, 25, and Mr Sparji Vanga, 58

Nursing sister Bertha

Gqweta was admitted to Umtata General Hospital with a knee and thigh injury and last night her condition was described as satisfactory

In the central business district, a Transkei Freight Services driver, Mr Geoffrey Voco, 35, escaped death when his van went under a truck at the York Road-Sutherland Street intersection — DDR

# Conference experts will tell how to overcome stress killer

Stress is a serious problem in South Africa. It is not limited to senior management and it calls for urgent attention. At a conference organised for next month 16 experts will give advice to industry on how to overcome its effects. Also, on how to increase productivity and profitability and improve labour relations — and probably save lives in the process.

By Malcolm Fothergill

The high price South Africa pays for stress will be under the spotlight at a conference organised by the South African Mental Health Foundation and the Wits Business School for August 1 and 2.

Sixteen speakers, including four from overseas, will outline ways in which industry and com-

merce can improve productivity, profitability and labour relations by reducing stress at all levels

Stress is a particularly serious problem in South Africa.

Professor Deo Strumpher of the Wits Business School, one of the speakers at the conference, has found that South African managers

are much more coronary prone than their counterparts in America and Canada

Testing for Type A people — those who try to do too much at once, who cannot relax and are generally irritable and hostile — on a scale that ranged from minus 10 to plus 10, he found South African businessmen scored an average of plus 6, against the average American score of zero

"This serious problem ties in with the American Academy of Family Physicians' research and that of the Mental Health Association of America, which shows that 60 percent to 80 percent of all illnesses have stress-related contributory causes," he says

Stress is not limited to top and middle management. It affects all levels of workers and plays a part not only in accidents at work but also in employee fraud.

By far the largest num-

ber of people affected are black, coloured or Indian, blue-collar or white-collar workers and the new class of black management

Mr H J "Bunny" Mathysen, general manager of the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa), says almost 90 percent 330 000 accidents a year that injure South African workers are caused by human factors

Fraud depends closely on the emotional state of the person committing it

Dr Zac de Beer, vice-president of the South African Mental Health Foundation, says Canadian research has shown that 15 percent to 30 percent of their workforce have serious stress-related emotional problems

"While we cannot measure the South African figures the Canadian figures, adjusted for population size, can be used to give us a feeling for the most obvious results of stress. The problem is ob-

viously far greater and far more expensive than envisaged in the past," he says

Leading the team of overseas experts at the conference will be Dr Stephen Weiss, the US founder of behavioural medicine — which treats stress by treating behaviour

His wife, Dr Sharlene Weiss, a stress management consultant, will accompany him

The other overseas experts will be Professor Ethel Roskies, international consultant on stress management, and Professor Arie Shitrom, director of the Institute for Labour and Social Research in Tel Aviv.

The conference will be opened by Mr Justice M T Steyn, president of the South African Mental Health Foundation. The keynote address will be delivered by Chief Gathsha Buthelez, Chief Minister of Kwazulu.

# Safety talks after fatal AECI blast <sup>6/7/83</sup>

<sup>131</sup> Mail Reporter ~~133~~

MORE THAN 350 strikers at the Sasolburg plant of AECI who downed tools last week because of fears for their safety, spent yesterday afternoon talking to management

A spokesman for AECI, Mr Murray Joubert, said management was talking to shop

stewards and was attempting to allay the workers' fears about safety at the plant

The strikers, who are members of the SA Chemical Workers' Union, downed tools on Thursday after two men were killed in an explosion. The union is not recognised by AECI and negotiations took place only with

shop stewards

Mr Joubert said they were trying to get the workers to accept the findings of a technical team which had inspected procedures in the plant

An official inquiry would be undertaken by the Chief Inspector of Machinery later this week, he said

# METRO BRIEFS

## Talks continue on death strike

Negotiations continued today at AECI's Sasolburg plant, where about 220 workers went on strike after the deaths of two of their colleagues in an explosion last Thursday.

An AECI spokesman confirmed that management was meeting shop stewards of the SA Chemical Workers Union about the incident.

## Kew strikers back on the job

Most of the 500 strikers at the Barlow Manufacturing plant in Kew returned to their jobs today after downing tools last week over wage demands.

Management at the plant agreed to start negotiations today with the Metal and Allied Workers' Union for a procedural recognition agreement, a Barlows spokesman said.

*Handwritten notes:*  
131  
Star  
6/1/83

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# Two die in explosion

MORE than 350 workers at African Explosives and Chemical Industries in Sasolburg are on strike following the gruesome deaths of two colleagues who died as a result of an explosion at the plant.

Workers at the plant have refused to work claiming that they would be risking their lives if they did so.

The bereaved families of Mr Clement Sibusiso Ngwenya (29), of 6605 Sharpeville, and Mr William Springkaan (32) of Bophelong, Vanderbijlpark, had expressed their concern about the safety of the workers prior to the incident.

It is understood that this is the second accident to happen at the plant within a month, according to union



DEAD Ngwenya

sources

Mrs Nellie Ngwenya said that the family received a report last Friday that her son was badly injured and that he had been taken to the Sebokeng Hospital

"We went to the hospital where we found him badly scarred. Minutes after we had left the hospital we received another report that he had died."

"We need a proper explanation from the firm's officials about the circumstances leading to his death because it would appear the safety measures are poor," Mrs Ngwenya said.

AECI's public relations manager Mr Murray Joubert, said that there was a "blow out" at the company's carbide plant last week which killed two workers.

Following the incident, workers have refused to work and shop stewards were yesterday negotiating with management.

131  
Sowetan 6/7/83



# Three die in Barkly Pass truck smash

131

D. Dispatch

7/7/83

**EAST LONDON — Three men died when a truck and trailer carrying 200 sheep plummeted off Barkly Pass.**

Power cables supplying Elliot were damaged in the crash leaving the town freezing in sub-zero temperatures

Late last night technicians were still battling in icy conditions to restore power to the town

The truck was travelling

up the pass, 40 km from Elliot, near midnight on Tuesday, when it went over the steep side of the pass

The driver and two passengers, were killed as the truck ploughed through power cables and telephone lines, before coming to a standstill near the bottom of the pass

The accident left Elliot without electricity, at a time when temperatures were nearly five degrees C below freezing point

Telephone links with the town were also cut off

Sheep that survived the smash had to be destroyed. A fourth badly injured passenger crawled to a nearby village to find help. Police arrived on the scene the next morning

The injured man was taken to hospital in Elliot where he is in a "satisfactory" condition, according to Major W. W. Brown, police liaison officer for the Border

Yesterday morning Escom and post office technicians arrived at the scene to repair the damage

The telephone lines were soon repaired, but the town clerk of Elliot, Mr. N. van Niekerk, said late yesterday that technicians were still battling to repair the damaged power lines

He said part of the town was being run on an emergency generator, but most of the residents, who keep warm with electric heaters, were phoning his office all day complaining how cold they were

"It's very cold up here," said Mr van Niekerk

The assistant town clerk, Mr G. Crouse, said temperatures were expected to be around four degrees below zero again last night

"People are going to get cold if the power does not come on," he said. He said the hospital was functioning as normal because it was equipped with an emergency generator.

The truck and trailer involved in the smash belonged to Mr A. C. du Plooy, of the farm Utopia, near Stutterheim

Mrs Annetjie du Plooy, the farmer's wife, said yesterday "We are insured but it's not the sheep we are worried about it's the dead men who have been working for us for years"

Their names are being withheld until their next-of-kin have been informed — DDR

*Somerton 7/7/83*

# Poison suspects

BY ALINAH DUBE  
TWO employees of United Breweries in Ga-Rankuwa were yesterday rushed to the local hospital after suspected food poisoning.

Sources at the company said a man and a woman suffered severe stomach cramps and vomited after lunch. Some workers had earlier complained about the meat served in the canteen having gone

bad

*(131) (12/1/83)*

The manager at the company, Mr A Joubert, confirmed that two of his employees were taken to hospital but stressed he did not believe it was food poisoning. He said he did not know about any food complaints and declined to comment further.

The workers yesterday decided to boycott the canteen

Administration Board".  
 However, several ex-  
 ts on influx control  
 d there was no law  
 mpting people from  
 72-hour provision of  
 Black Urban Areas  
 because they stayed  
 international hotels  
 rs Sheena Duncan,  
 tional president of  
 e Black Sash, said in  
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 ovement and Settle-  
 nt of Black Persons  
 ll out-of-town blacks  
 ayng in hotels needed  
 o permits to stay in  
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 n 72 hours. But the  
 "ll was not yet law  
 She said homelands  
 esidents as well as  
 hose with permanent  
 esidence in other  
 "hite" areas had to ac-  
 are a permit to stay  
 onger than 72 hours in  
 "white" urban area

**'Ridiculous'**

Mr Gumede said it  
 was a "ridiculous" situ-  
 ation

"Nafcoc has over the  
 years repeatedly con-  
 demned this sort of leg-  
 islation because for the  
 free enterprise system  
 to work in this country,  
 freedom of movement is  
 one of the prerequisites"

It was ironic that  
 when he went to confer-  
 ences overseas, he  
 experienced greater  
 freedom of movement  
 than in his own country,  
 he said

● More Nafcoc reports,  
 pages 11 and 12

**Lord Grey in  
 'sordid' case**

Own Correspondent

LONDON — Lord Grey,  
 a figure of the British  
 establishment whose  
 family name lends dis-  
 tinction to one of the  
 world's most famous  
 brands of tea, was yes-  
 terday charged with liv-  
 ing off prostitution.

The earl was charged  
 with four other men  
 after a series of police  
 raids in east London

He is the second lead-  
 ing member of the  
 Liberal Party to hit the  
 headlines in recent  
 years in sordid circum-  
 stances

The Facts correction service,  
 ☎ 41-3361 (Mon to Fr)  
 Cape Times, Box 11,  
 Cape Town  
 (Registered at the GPO  
 as a newspaper)

some viewers had  
 why Mr Solomons had TV1

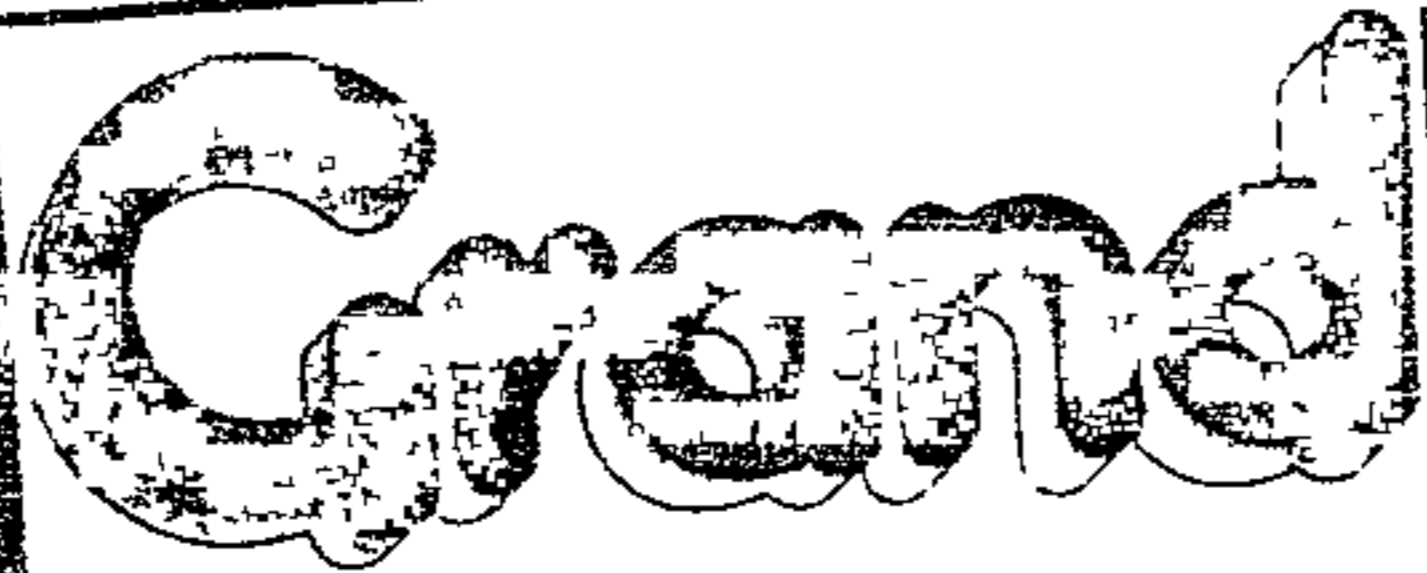
**Worker dies in wood-slicer**

Own Correspondent 131

EAST LONDON — A timber factory employee, Mr  
 Zamani Ndlebe, 45, died after falling into a log-  
 slicing machine yesterday

The personnel officer of Kei Timbers, Mr T T  
 Kentane said Mr Ndlebe was leaning over a log-  
 slicing machine when his blanket, which was  
 wrapped around his shoulders, got caught in the  
 machine. Mr Ndlebe was pulled into the machine

One of the employees switched off the slicer, but  
 by this time Mr Ndlebe was already dead



**CARMEL ISRAELI  
 NECTARINES  
 CLASS I**

**1 99**

**per tray**

GST EXCLUDED

**BUTTERNUT 199c**  
 per kg

**Borrie SWEET POTATOES 299c**  
 per kg

**Grand Bazaars  
 Grand Ultramarkets**

KNABVETHA

# Three men die as gas leaks in mobile home

By Mike Cohen, Crime Reporter

Two East Rand land surveyors and a northern Cape engineer died yesterday when they were overcome by gas fumes in a mobile home at a construction site near Danielskuil.

The three men, who were working on a construction site in the northern Cape, were found in different sections of the caravan home in which they had sought shelter from the bitter cold.

A police spokesman said the flame from the heater had apparently gone out during the night while the men were sleeping. Gas fumes filled the caravan and the men died during the early hours of the morning.

The dead men are Mr Andre Kok (20) of Horak Street, Elsburg, who was single, Mr Martinus Botes (31) of Lower Road, Brakpan, who was married, and Mr Alfred Sawyer (37) of Danielskuil, who was divorced but was due to marry on Saturday.

All three men were employed by General Erection Projects (Genrec) in Wadeville, Germiston.

The police spokesman said the men had gathered in the caravan on Tuesday night for dinner and drinks.

## Sat in front of heater

They sat together in front of a heater in the mobile home for most of the evening before falling asleep.

During the night, the flame in the heater apparently went out and the caravan was filled with gas.

Shortly before 6 am yesterday, Mr Willem Selinge (37), an employee of the firm which is busy with construction work at the Union Line mine, brought the men coffee. There was a strong smell of gas when he entered and he found the three men dead.

Two of them were lying on the floor in the passage of the caravan while the third man was found in the bedroom.

Mr Selinge fled from the scene in a state of shock and only reported the incident to a woman 15 minutes later. Police were then called.

The bodies of Mr Botes and Mr Kok are to be flown to the Reef.

Mr Botes had been employed at Genrec for three years. His father, two brothers and a sister all work for the company.

Mr Kok began with Genrec this year. His mother has been employed by the company for 20 years.

● A Kempton Park man died recently, apparently as a result of a faulty heater in his caravan. He was found to have died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

(131) ~~100~~ ~~100~~ ~~100~~ Sowetan 7/7/83

# Sasol deaths to be probed

AN OFFICIAL inquiry is to be undertaken by an AECI inspector into an explosion in which two employees were killed at the Sasolburg plant.

The company's public relations manager, Mr

Murray Joubert, told The SOWETAN yesterday that the two men were working in the immediate vicinity of the furnace when the blow-out occurred at about midnight last Thursday

The workers were Mr Clement Ngwenya (29) of Sharpeville (an operator), and Mr William Springkaan (32), of Bophelong (a stoking machine driver)

He said that negotia-

tions were continuing at the plant between shop stewards and management after about 350 workers, fearing for their safety, had downed tools after the accident

Meanwhile a worker has been admitted to the Sebokeng Hospital after he was knocked down by a fork-lift at another Sasolburg plant. His condition is said to be improving, according to Mr Joubert

the Cabinet's Inner Defence Committee's general staff to withdrawal option a decision so as Mr Begin before Mr Shultz

by Israel will de-employment of its canon before Mr to Washington at arrival in Israel in Damascus with Assad The two understood to have range of Middle but there was no Mr Assad had opposition to the Israel-Lebanon agreement — News Service

forces loyal to President Hissene Habre had launched a counter-attack to relieve pressure on the town which has been besieged by rebel forces for the past 24 hours

The radio said that about 1 500 Libyan-backed troops were besieging the town, which lies about 1 000 km north-east of N'Djamena, near the Sudanese border

President Habre said yesterday that the southward drive of former President Goukouni Oueddei's troops was aimed at capturing the key eastern city of Abeche about 700 km from N'Djamena

With the capture 12 days ago of the northern oasis town of Faya-Largeau the rebels now control one-third of Chad — Reuter

# ce accused of uring air force stage detainees

Seery, Bureau Zimbabwe police accused in the Court yesterday of persistently unhe will of six air by isolating abus- ing them defence counsel, Mr Harry Ognal, against De- Superintendent Ri- ba, who led the gation into last at Thornhill Air Mr Ognal also ac- team of merately to "warp y of justice by de- ficers of access to epresentatives for is of time" ff by "deliberate seeking access to

● Being prepared to frustrate the inquiries of the Attorney-General and the Director of Public Prosecutions

● Deliberately keeping lawyers in the dark until their clients' confessions had been confirmed by a magistrate

Mr Muremba denied the accusations

The six officers — Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slatter, Wing Commander Peter Briscoe, Wing Commander John Cox, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir — have all pleaded not guilty to being involved in an alleged South African-backed conspiracy to destroy Zimbabwe's front line jet fighter strength The raid destroyed aircraft, equipment and hangars

All the airmen have claimed in court that confessions allegedly made to the police were not given freely and voluntarily, some even said they were tortured by electric shock until they made their statements

The men were also kept separated at different rural police stations for interrogations

Mr Muremba said the detainees had been separated because the police knew that "some South Africans were coming into Zimbabwe to rescue their friends"

On August 17 last year three South African soldiers died in a clash with Zimbabwe troops in south-eastern Zimbabwe — a raid SADF chief General Constand Viljoen later called an "unauthorised incursion" to rescue detainees

The trial is continuing

# 3 killed aziland

Three crocodiles killed in Ubombo, is now more water drought-hit great nearby were taken to idence of the head Regent Dzwe in Swaziland is the property of the crocs were stoned workers, while the by police — The News Service.

holds near the Honduran border army sources Reuter

# Asbestos: 9 000 deaths a year?

WASHINGTON — Nine thousand Americans will die from cancer each year over the next three decades, simply because they were exposed to asbestos years ago a leading expert on asbestos hazards said yesterday Dr Irving Selikoff of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City said the fibres remained in the lungs for years and effects usually went unnoticed for at least 20 years "There will be 9 000 cancer deaths a year for the next 30 years, from asbestos exposure," he said — Reuter

# Lead linked to kidney disease

BOSTON — Lead poisoning may be a hidden cause of kidney disease in people with high blood pressure, according to a report in the New England Journal of Medicine A group of doctors said they found high levels of lead in 48 patients suffering from both high blood pressure and kidney failure Doctors may be able to reverse the kidney disease with lead-removing chemicals Lead poisoning is often caused by industrial and vehicle pollution — Reuter



# Actor dons the whig for hoarse Labour contender

The Star Bureau



LONDON — Mr Neil Kinnock (left) the leading contender for the leadership of the Labour Party, went to the stumps at a conference in Birmingham with the politician's equivalent of a batsman's "runner" — someone to read his speech

Leon Tanner, a former member of the Royal Shakespeare Company, delivered Mr Kinnock's speech to an education, training and development conference after doctors ordered the Labour MP to rest his voice

The only rehearsal the actor had was a brief meeting with an extremely hoarse Mr Kinnock only minutes before he delivered the speech He said afterwards "I would do it again, of course I think some politicians might appreciate a bit of declamation"



TRANSVAAL — Fine and cold but very cold overnight over the highveld Daytime temperatures will be slightly higher

Temperatures and rainfall for the 24 hour period ended 8 am today

	Max	Min	Rain mm		Max	Min	Rain mm
Brvanston	17	4	—	Vereeniging	14	-05	—
S Suburbs (Hill Ext)	14	1	—	Cape Town	14	0	—
West Suburbs (Melville)	N/A	N/A	—	Durban	19	11	—
Nelspruit	18	2	—	Port Elizabeth	15	5	—
Pretoria	16	3	—	East London	17	6	—
Krugersdorp	13	1	—	Bloemfontein	13	-3	—
Springs	N/A	N/A	N/A	Pietersburg	19	2	—

JOHANNESBURG CENTRAL — Today 8 am 4 deg C Wind Calm Chill factor at Jan Smuts at 8 am was 0 Yesterday Maximum 17 deg C minimum 1 deg C Rainfall so far this month Nil mm so far this year 225.7 mm (Average total rainfall for July over 25 years 11 mm Average annual rainfall 769 mm)

SUNSET today 17.30 sunrise tomorrow 06.54 sunset tomorrow 17.30

MOONRISE today 07.25

ROUND THE WORLD

	Mx	Mn		Mx	Mn	
Rome	30	18	Clear	Paris	30	17
Lisbon	23	15	Cloudy	London	25	18
Los Angeles	27	20	Cloudy	Frankfurt	29	18
Athens	33	21	Clear	Tokyo	25	20
Tel Aviv	28	20	Clear	Toronto	24	16
Amsterdam	28	15	Clear	Dublin	22	18
Honolulu	29	22	Cloudy	Jerusalem	26	15
Perth	16	8	Clear	Sydney	15	10
Vienna	28	21	Clear	Rio De Janeiro	28	13
Copenhagen	23	14	Clear	Stockholm	23	13

131  
ROM 2/7/83

# AECI still has staff problems

By ANTON HARBER  
Political Reporter

NEGOTIATIONS continued yesterday with 350 workers who downed tools at the AECI factory in Sasolburg after a fatal accident at midnight last Thursday

Two men, Mr Clement Ngwenya, 29, an operator, and Mr William Sprinkaan, 32, a stoking machine driver, died after a gas explosion

The strikers are members of the SA Chemical Workers' Union, which has concluded a number of agreements with AECI but does not have a recognition agreement that covers this plant

A spokesman for AECI said the accident was being investigated and management was trying to allay the strikers' fears about safety. No serious damage had been caused in the blow out and production had resumed

An official inquiry would be undertaken by the Chief Inspector of Machinery tomorrow

The plant has had its share of trouble recently. Yesterday a worker was admitted to hospital after being seriously injured by a fork-lift truck

● An AECI paint plant and warehouse in Alrode on the East Rand, was yesterday also hit by a strike involving about 350 workers

According to a shop steward, the workers went on strike on Monday because of dissatisfaction with a wage increase

He said the workers were told late yesterday that they had all been dismissed, but they were still hoping to meet with management this morning

The AECI spokesman confirmed the strike, but said he did not have any details

12 PM (13)

# Call for a fitter working force 8/1/83

EMPLOYERS in South Africa should be more concerned about health and safety "before it becomes an additional area of conflict between management and labour", the president of the Federated Chamber of Industries, Mr Rod Ironside, told the Medical Association of South Africa conference in Cape Town yesterday.

Giving the Masa conference an industrialist's view of medical services, he said "Some members of the medical profession have quite legitimately criticised the inadequate legislation on occupational health in South Africa

"It is below the standards the level of industrialisation in South Africa warrants and which is essential to protecting the health of those employed

"It is not difficult to imagine why people become disappointed, depressed and militant and begin to see their employers as enemies. Add political frustrations and community-based trade union influences and you have prime ingredients for uncertainty, dissatisfaction and potential unrest"

Mr Ironside said under such conditions "health, particularly deterioration of mental health, can become a serious matter"

He said "The records of employees consistently off work for various reasons are worth examination, particularly those growing numbers admitting to anxiety state or depression. Prompt action taken by employers to obtain appropriate medical treatment can pay dividends

"I believe a growing awareness by South African employers of the extent of lost time caused by these and other hidden complaints must receive high priority in their business planning." — Sapa



183 (150) (131) ROM 8/7/83

# 250 paint workers fired

By ANTON HARBER

AECI PAINTS yesterday dismissed about 250 workers who had refused to work since Monday because of dissatisfaction with a pay increase

In a statement yesterday, a spokesman for AECI Paints, in Alrode on the East Rand, said the workers had ignored an instruction to return to work and were therefore dismissed

Negotiations with the SA Chemical Workers' Union, who have a signed agreement with the company, were continuing

The spokesman said wages had been set for the industry,

at the industrial council, to which both the union and the company belonged

A new wage agreement had been gazetted and the company had paid its employees at or above the minimums in the agreement

"Considerable debate has taken place with the workforce on this matter and on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday illegal work stoppages took place

"The company has an established agreement with the union, including grievance procedures, and these procedures have not been adhered to in any respect by the workforce

"During yesterday's illegal stoppage, workers were told to return to work

"They declined to do so and thus were dismissed," he said

● At AECI's Midlands plant in Sasolburg, where 251 workers have downed tools since an accident killed two of their colleagues a week ago, negotiations were still continuing yesterday

The two men were killed in a gas explosion at midnight last Thursday and the workers, who claimed that there have been two other deaths in the past eight months, have said they do not consider the plant safe

Sowetan 8/7/83

# Another food poisoning case

131

A **THIRD** person has been taken ill because of alleged food poisoning in the United Breweries canteen in Ga-Rankuwa.

Two employees had to undergo treatment at the local hospital after suffering severe tummy cramps. Workers complained about the meat served in the canteen and were yesterday on a food boycott.

One of the victims told **The SOWETAN**: "At first I thought I was suffering from a minor stomachache but became suspicious when another colleague who complained of the same symptoms started vomiting. I believe there was something wrong in the food we ate because we only experienced pains after lunch."

A white lady from the canteen company head offices in Pretoria said "My company is not aware of complaints at any of our canteens," and then banged down the receiver.

# Firms should view health as key issue

131 star 8/7/83

South Africans are becoming increasingly less happy with their working environment because of the rapidly changing social fabric of the country, the pace of events and the scope of international communications

This is the view of Mr R J Ironside, president of the South African Federated Chamber of Industries

He said blacks in particular felt themselves tied to repetitive jobs at the low end of the scale. Their aspirations were towards being more affluent and they had a will to acquire the necessary experience

"It is not difficult to imagine why people become disappointed, depressed and militant and begin to regard their employers as enemies"

Mr Ironside added that these factors, combined with political frustrations and community-based trade union influences provided the "prime ingredient for uncertainty, dissatisfaction and potential unrest"

He urged employers to seriously view responsibility for health and safety before it became an additional area of conflict between management and labour.

Mr Ironside said some doctors had "legitimately criticised" the inadequate

legislation on occupational health in South Africa

"It is beyond question below the standards that the level of industrialisation in South Africa warrants"

**Pamela Kleinot reports from Cape Town on the annual congress of the Medical Association of South Africa.**

He said there was a need for health protection to be conceived, planned and executed as part of production

Medical professionals involved in occupational health are "going straight into a war zone", said Mr Halton Cheadle, assistant director of the centre for applied legal studies at the University of the Witwatersrand

Speaking at the Masa congress in Cape Town, Mr Cheadle said occupational health professionals would be in the midst of conflicting claims about their neutrality

Trade unions would accuse them of "being very biased and in the pay of the employers" while the employers would accuse them of being on the side of the employees

It was a major problem which the medical profession would have to face

"Who do you answer to

— the employer who pays your salary or the employee who comes to you when he is ill? Who do you give the information to? Do you keep information that essentially belongs to the patient to yourself or do you disclose the information to the employer?"

Mr Cheadle said in future trade unions would probably insist on having a say in the appointment of medical officers in companies. The only solution would be real neutrality and scientific independence on the part of doctors

He also said doctors had a role to play in alerting employers and trade unions to the hazards associated with work

For instance it was "some brave professionals" who had alerted the public to the dangers of asbestos.

Because unskilled black workers in South Africa did not have the vote and could not have a direct say in changing legislation they would probably try to mobilise public opinion around occupational health issues

They would also try to make sure health regulations were enforced inside the factories.

Occupational safety would increasingly become a collective bargaining issue

8/7/83



he says, policemen walked into his garden and started Opposition speaker on Law and Order. Mr Pitman, who outside Durban, met Mr Gumede there yesterday

## Workers to plant closes

account the effect that the decision will have on 400 workers," the statement said. At Wednesday's meeting workers demanded that they be kept on and said they would not accept their severance pay until their continued employment within the Premier Group had been guaranteed. They asked that management give "a categorical guarantee" by yesterday to establish a joint committee to investigate the need for the closure and retrenchments. The union would lodge an urgent application to the courts to protect their rights if there was no such guarantee, the statement said. A spokesman for Premier Milling referred questions to Premier Biscuits, whose spokesman could not be contacted last night.

## Workers fired

"During yesterday's illegal stoppage, workers were told

## 600 at Checkers now on strike

By HARRY MASHABELA  
WORKERS at eight more branches of Checkers in Johannesburg and on the East Rand yesterday joined a strike which started at the Killarney branch last Friday. This brings the number of workers striking to 600, affecting 17 branches, said a spokesman for the Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union (CCAWUSA), yesterday. The strike started when 70 workers struck after a colleague had been fired. They demanded his re-instatement but management refused, informing strikers they would not be paid for the days away from work. On Tuesday, eight other branches joined the Killarney branch and said they were striking in sympathy with their colleagues at Killarney and for better pay and working conditions. The CCAWUSA spokesman also said the strike at Frasers in Heriotdale, Johannes-

# Driver dies after truck collides with goods train

By JOHN MILLER  
A TRUCK and a goods train — each laden with cement — collided at a level crossing on the outskirts of Lichtenburg yesterday killing the truck driver and spilling hundreds of tons of cement on to the road.

The truck and engine unit were destroyed. Damage is estimated at R1-million.

Mr A J Rossouw, 38, of Schweizer Reneke, who was married with five children, died instantly. He was on his way to Ventersdorp, 80km away.

Three passengers of the truck, which carried 15 tons of cement, managed to leap off before it crashed into the train.

The train driver, Mr R J Pretorius, of Hendrik Potgieter Street, Lichtenburg, and his two assistants suffered minor injuries.

Mr Pretorius, who was at home last night and suffering from shock, said he saw the truck and several cars approach the level crossing.

"I saw the truck slow down and also saw smoke from the exhaust as he tried to brake by using the gears," he said.

"After the collision I asked my assistants if they were all right and we managed to climb through the broken window frame to the ground.

"The truck and unit are write-offs and several of the railway trucks are badly damaged. There was cement everywhere."

Minutes before the accident at 10,40am the train left Anglo Alpha Cement factory in Lichtenburg with 30 trucks in tow. The train, with over 100 000 tons of cement, was heading for a private siding.

Each of the trucks carried 39 tons of cement. Nine

trucks were derailed in the collision.

A Lichtenburg resident Mr R Allison, who drove past an hour after the crash, said "It was incredible. It was almost as if a bomb had gone off. There was cement everywhere I looked."

He said many town residents were unhappy with the level crossing.

"This is not the first accident there. I am personally going to draw up a petition and get people to sign it."

"The only warnings you have when you approach the crossing are a couple of lights smaller than my car's lights," he said.

However, Lichtenburg's town secretary, Mr C A van der Walt, said the level crossing was safe and motorists could see the railway line from more than 300m away.

He said only one person had died from an accident at the level crossing in the past two years.

Mr C M Redelinghuys, director of the Anglo Alpha cement division, said yesterday that damage might run to over R1-million. He said the unit, which belonged to the company, would cost R750 000 to replace.

He added that most of the 360 tons of cement that spilled on to the road would be recovered.

He could not say how much it would cost and if any of the trucks would need to be replaced. A maintenance team would be working through the night and he expected the line to be open this morning.

"I know a lot of money is involved but my concern at the moment is for the death of Mr Rossouw and the damage suffered by his company," he said.

## Dissidents destroy Zimbabwe villages

BULAWAYO — Dissidents armed with bazookas and AK and FN rifles attacked two resettlement villages between Bulawayo and Hwange on Sunday morning, leaving 58 families homeless, according to victims.

It was the second such attack within a month. On June 11, the burning of huts at the Dombodema resettlement village left 156 villagers homeless and several injured.

The attackers of Villages 24 and 25 of the Mbembesi resettlement project, about 60km east of Lupane, said they belonged to "The People's Army".

The settlements are about 20km north of where a band of dissidents abducted six

Villagers said yesterday the dissidents arrived at Village 24 at 10pm on Saturday and told the inhabitants they were surrounded and must remain inside the village.

The attackers then disappeared but returned at 4am the following day.

They woke the inhabitants and told them to remove their belongings from the huts.

They said the dissidents told them they were destroying the village because they disagreed with the resettlement system.

As the village burned, the attackers fired several shots into the air. Shots came in response from Village 25, about 10km away.

The attack on Village 25

ARGAS  
8/7/83  
(131)

# Occupational health field seen as 'a war zone'

**Medical Reporter**  
MEDICAL professionals involved in occupational health are "going straight into a war zone", according to Mr Halton Cheadle, assistant director of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand

Speaking at the Masa congress in Cape Town, Mr Cheadle said occupational health professionals would increasingly have their neutrality challenged

## SOLUTION

Trade unions would accuse them of "being very biased and in the pay of the employers" while employers would accuse them of being on the side of employees. It was a major problem which the medical profession would have to face

"Who do you answer to — the employer who

pays your salary, or the employee who comes to you when he is ill? Who do you give the information to? Do you keep information to yourself that essentially belongs to the patient, or do you disclose the information to the employer?"

Mr Cheadle said in future trade unions would probably insist on having a say in the appointment of medical officers in companies. The only solution would be real neutrality and scientific independence on the part of doctors

He also said doctors had a role to play in alerting employers and trade unions to the hazards associated with work

For instance it was "some brave professionals" who had alerted the public to the dangers of asbestos

to return to work until management has given them acceptable assurances that the factory is safe

Sources in the SA Chemical Workers Union (SACWU) say "There have been four deaths in the carbide section of the plant since November Predictably, workers are worried and they say they will not return to work until the factory is proven safe by independent experts"

Earlier this week the union's consultants were turned away by management An AECI spokesman says "Management would not allow the union's consultants access to the plant because their credentials were regarded as unacceptable They did not have experience of carbide furnaces"

#### Power failure

SACWU sources claim that a leaking pipe had been pointed out before the explosion and that water had collected in the furnace as a result of an earlier power failure The company spokesman says "We are presently involved with delicate negotiations with the union and don't want to comment at this stage"

Neither was AECI prepared to comment on workers demands But the FM learns that they want first aid training to be provided on an extended basis, better protective clothing, a health and safety shop stewards committee established, and inspection of repairs by furnace operators and two shop stewards They have other demands of a technical nature

A recognition agreement has not been formally negotiated between AECI and SACWU But the AECI spokesman says "Although the agreement has not been formally negotiated, recognition arrangements exist and we do negotiate with SACWU Negotiations on this issue are taking place with shop stewards at plant level"

The spokesman adds "We've had a highly skilled team investigating the problem including our own experts and an outside consultant with 40 years experience on carbide furnaces They have assured us that the plant is safe so our negotiations are aimed at reaching a settlement We're trying to reassure the workers as to the safety of the plant which they are concerned about"

Union sources say that earlier this week management agreed to most of the demands and then changed its mind

AECI says that "the inspector of machinery will be conducting an inquiry this week and a further meeting between management and union officials is also scheduled So, hopefully, the matter will be resolved"

## DISPUTES

### Now a safety strike

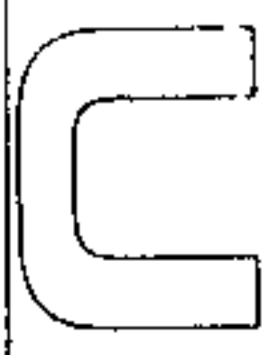
Last week two people died in an explosion at AECI's acetylene plant at Sasolburg Now more than 300 workers have refused

Fm 8/7/83

183

131

132



# Better deal for injured workers

Pretoria Bureau

8/7/83

The Draft Workmen's Compensation Amendment Bill, which will affect the benefits of injured workmen and raise some existing pensions by 15 percent, was published for the first time today.

The Minister of Manpower, Mr SP Botha, said in a statement the new Bill would provide for

- Increased benefits payable to injured workmen.
- A revision board to hear and decide on objections against decisions by the workmen's compensation commissioner
- Uniform procedures for all population groups regarding the lodging of compensation claims
- Extension of cover for workmen under the Workmen's Compensation Act (1941) by increasing the compulsory earnings limit from R12 000 a year to R18 000
- An increase of certain existing pensions by 15 percent

The Bill was published in the Government Gazette today

(131) RDM 12/7/83

# Read the rules, appliance users warned

## Mail Reporter

MANUFACTURERS of electrical and gas appliances have warned that accidents caused by the explosion and faults of appliances could be avoided if people followed the instructions provided in every purchase

The warning came after a spate of accidents last week which resulted in at least five deaths

In one incident, three men died in the Eastern Cape

last week after a gas-heater leakage in their caravan

In another incident, a Randfontein woman sustained facial injuries when a tumble-drier exploded

In Port Elizabeth, a woman died two weeks ago after being electrocuted by a washing machine at her home In yet another incident, a Kempton Park man died recently as a result of a faulty heater in his caravan

The South African Bureau of

Standards said all electrical and gas appliances imported or manufactured in South Africa had to comply with certain regulations

These are

- Sellers should demonstrate to customers how to operate the appliances
- Customers should follow the instructions given in the handbook provided with every purchase
- All electrical appliances should be earthed to avoid any explosions

The earthing of electrical appliances helped in tripping any possible leakages

"And people should make sure their earth wires are functioning properly," said a Bezuidenhout Valley electrical appliance dealer

A spokesman for the SABS said people should not fiddle with their appliances

"People should consult experts for advice, repairs and for replacing frayed or worn out plugs," he

warned Mr Jim Clark of Rand Gas in Orange Grove gave the following advice "All burning processes require a well ventilated room and people must never subject a cylinder to heat

"Modifications and adjustments must be done by qualified people and all gas appliances must be equipped with safety devices In addition, owners of gas appliances should have their equipment serviced regularly," he said



cultural agreement which will allow all aspects of the Afrikaner culture to come to full rights — including the Afrikaners language

"We won't be satisfied with lucrative agreements some or other small

"We are being swamped by the electronic media. There are seven broadcasting stations at present on our borders," Prof Senekal said



Pretoria Press Club/Volkston can be tough as Mr. [Name] will be announced in Pretoria, tonight.

## Mail

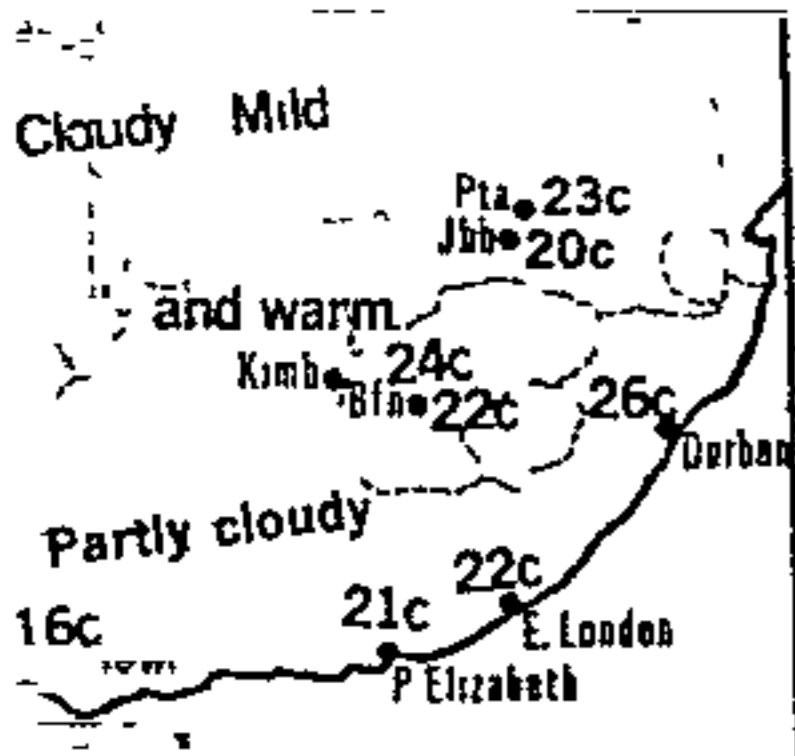
Today: — Fine and mild but warm to hot over

of the Orange: — Fine and mild to west. It will however become

Fine to partly cloudy and mild to over the west and south-west the Cape south-west mountains and hot with bergwind conditions to partly cloudy and warm but

and warm to hot — Sapa

EXPECTED FOR EACH CITY  
Mail Station



### YESTERDAY

°C	°C
30	Potchefstroom 24
30	Pretoria 24
24	Skukuza 32
22	Rustenburg 24
flats 33°C Coldest at 08h00	
- 32°C Coldest at 08h00 Stander	

### YESTERDAY

Los Angeles	21	29	Clear
Madrid	17	35	Clear
Miami	28	31	Cloudy
Montreal	14	31	Clear
Moscow	20	27	Clear
New York	22	35	Clear
Paris	18	33	Clear
Rio de Janeiro	17	30	Cloudy
Rome	19	31	Clear
San Francisco	15	30	Clear
Stockholm	15	30	Rain
Tokyo	-	23	Clear
Toronto	20	32	Clear

## Mail Reporter

THE "bad" Afrikaans used in the Government's constitutional proposals came under fire at the annual meeting of the Federasie van Afrikaanse Kultuurvereniginge in Pretoria yesterday

A delegate Mr Nic van Rensburg said that the way Afrikaans was used in the constitutional proposals was "bad" and "worrying". "Irrespective of whether the constitutional proposals are accepted or not, it is difficult for me to see how some of our foremost legal advisers could have worked on the proposals," Mr Van Rensburg said

Professor J H Senekal, chairman of the language committee of the FAK, declined to comment on Mr Van Rensburg's speech

ties, a cheque for R25 000 by Sasol, and the Branch, VOIKSK

## Mines Benefit Society to employ full-time doctors

By JOHAN BUYS 14/7/83  
THE Mines Benefit Society is to appoint two full-time doctors for its 1 750 members in Boksburg to replace 11 panel doctors who resigned because of the "capitation fee system"

The panel doctors were leaving because they claimed the scheme did not cover overhead costs and was "no longer an economical proposition"

The mass resignations left the MBS with only three panel doctors

The doctors had given their patients three months notice of their intention to contract out of the scheme by the end of July

A doctor said yesterday "The capitation fee does not cover our costs and we still have to pay for increased rents, nurses salaries and other essentials"

The general manager of the Mines Benefit Society, Mr C Cook, said "We intend to appoint two full-time doctors to attend to our members from the beginning of August"

"They will be able to look after their needs adequately"

According to Mr Cook, a panel doctor was paid a monthly "capitation fee" for each MBS member regardless of whether the member visited him once, or 10 times a month

# TRADE NOTICE

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WE HAVE BEEN VERY FORTUNATE ACQUIRING A LARGE CONSIGNMENT

## PURE WOOL FLOKA

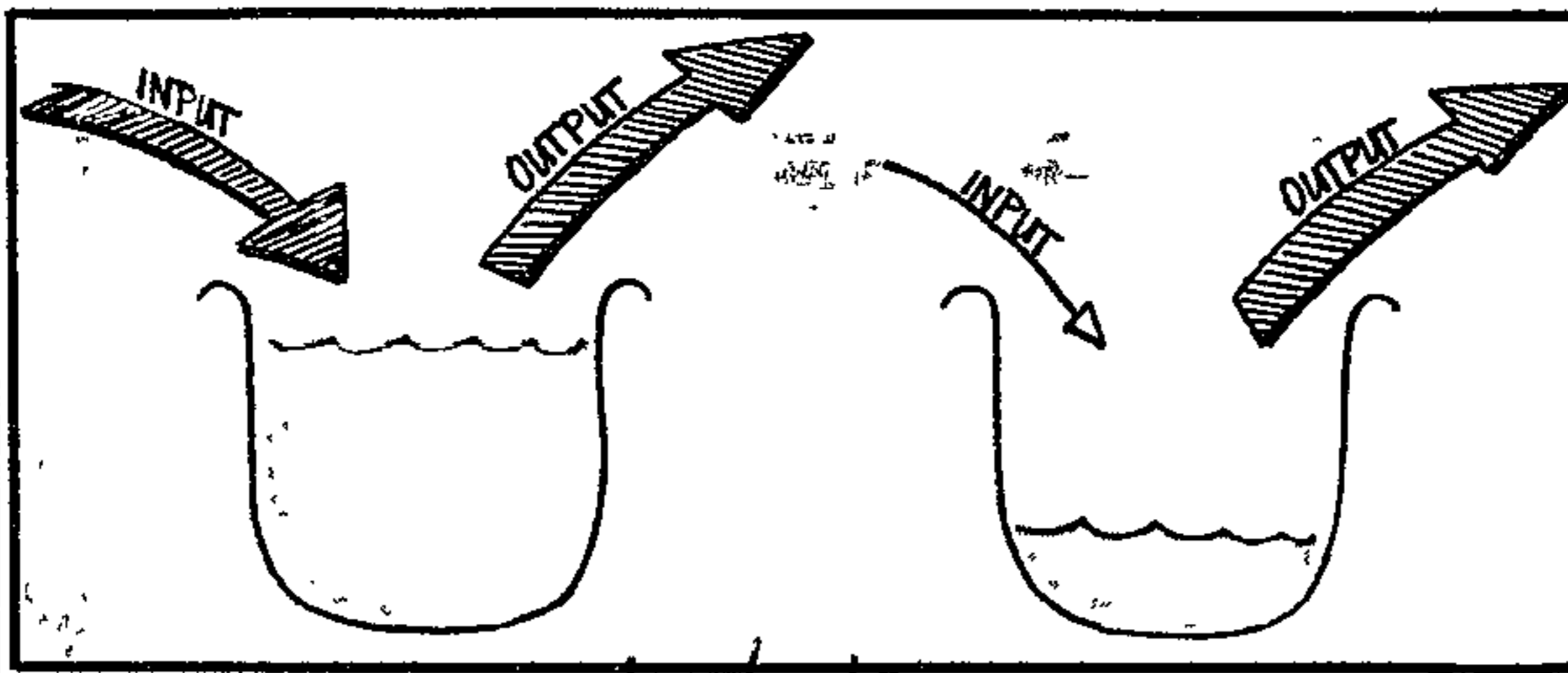
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JOHANNESBURG



16/7/83 ROOM 131

# How to make your cup run over

INDUSTRY treats people as objects of production, not as human beings — and this is one of the main causes of the problem of job burnout, said Dr Ken Israelstam, the visiting psychiatrist on Talk Radio yesterday

“Burnout occurs when a person is over-extended and not replenished — an imbalance between output and input,” he said “You can tell when a person is suffering burnout

“Someone who was once enthusiastic becomes less motivated, has a decreased capacity for enjoying the role he fills Symptoms could include headaches, tiredness in spite of sufficient sleep, negative thinking, rattiness and clock-watching These people may start drinking too much, take to drugs, and their marriages might flop”

He believes too many people lack self-awareness They don't ask “Do I like what I'm doing? What can I do to change things?” If businesses monitored their workers' job satisfaction, all this could be prevented

Dr Israelstam, head of the Child and Family Unit at Tara H Moross Centre, asked listeners to test their own vulnerability to burnout.

“Get a pencil and paper and draw a cup Draw an arrow pointing into the cup and an arrow coming out Now draw a level in the cup indicating how full or empty you feel yourself to be in terms of life satisfaction

“If your cup is full your input arrow reflects effectiveness, creativity, having the right skills for the job You are getting enough praise and are also able to pat yourself on the back You have close relationships and fun

“If it is empty, this means you are suffering role overload, over-high expectations, your rewards are poor, you feel isolated and have nobody to complain to You are in line for burnout”

Perfectionists tend to push themselves hard, either because they need approval or because they are Type A personalities — driving achievers who, research shows, are high heart-attack risks These are frequent victims of burnout Perfectionist bosses can drive workers too hard, especially in these times of increased business pressure

“Enlightened companies treat their workers as human beings They need to build in recreation facilities such as squash courts and gyms,” said Dr Israelstam But he warned against companies going overboard on the fun side

“This can break down families and cause stress at home Where firms have a bar, businessmen are often under pressure to stay behind and have a drink after work Wives complain,” he said

Businesses should build in proper support systems and effective communication channels

“The people in charge should get feedback from employees If workers don't have the freedom to complain, resentment builds up

“A company may be staffed with people suffering from burnout and nobody realises it,” he said “It is difficult for top-star businessmen to admit to burnout They often have no permission to say they feel lousy and overworked They hang on until they crack up The endpoint of burnout is depression”

But burnout is not a problem exclusive to job situations Many housewives feel stuck in

their roles, especially when they are over-worked and are without emotional support

“I can't cope any more,” said a tearful young mother who phoned in “I do my own housework and deal with a screaming baby all day I'm isolated with no neighbours, and I'm ratty with my husband when he gets home at night”

Dr Israelstam advised her to change her isolation or to change her attitudes

“You're doing a job for your husband Ask him to help you with ideas on how to feel less stuck The more you suffer burnout, the less you feel like doing something about it People like you become resentful and stop enjoying being with the baby Find some sport and recreation Take your baby and go and meet people”

He commented afterwards “People in this situation benefit enormously by getting into groups for mutual support It is a powerful help to sit down and talk to people with similar troubles Professional helping agencies like the Family Life Centre organise groups for isolated housewives”

Even schoolchildren can feel the stress of burnout A 16-year-old schoolboy said he felt too pressurised to continue working for exams

“I've been left behind and don't feel like catching up My mother and father expect a lot My brothers and sisters all went to university” he said

People suffering conflict are more likely to burn out They do better if they take some of the pressure off themselves, Dr Israelstam advised

“Get your matric but tell yourself you will do as well as you can It sounds as if you've been overdoing it and not having enough fun”

Although burnout is a buzzword coined in the United States in the 1970s, the problem has always been with us But the increased pressure of modern life has brought it to the fore

“Burnout affects people worst in large cities where the nuclear family has broken away from support groups such as other family members and religion They feel caught up in a machine

“The best prevention is to monitor what you are giving against what you are getting for yourself If you feel stuck, think what you can do about it If you can't change your environment, change your attitude to it. Be kinder to yourself Complain Change your job People are never helpless They can always do something to improve their situation”

20/7/83 (131) 2004

# 159 fire deaths last year as record R252m is lost

**Mall Reporter**

**FIRES** in South Africa claimed 159 lives and caused losses of more than R252-million last year — an increase of R91-million over the 1981 record figure of R161-million, according to statistics compiled by the Fire Protection Association of Southern Africa

From 1979 to 1982 the total loss was R622-million, compared to a loss of R319-million from 1975 to 1978

The industrial sector last year incurred losses of R128-million, 50,9% of the total loss figure, and 28,6% higher than in 1981

According to figures sup-

plied by fire brigades throughout South Africa, 159 people died as a result of burns or asphyxiation last year, an increase over the previous year when 126 people died. These figures exclude fires outside the jurisdiction areas of local authorities and deaths which occurred some time after victims had been admitted to hospital

Domestic fires caused 96 deaths, while 18 people died in industrial accidents. The 45 deaths in the miscellaneous category included motor accidents (18) and murder and suicide (8)

Fire brigades attended to

more than 7 600 fires — excluding rubbish, grass and bush fires — with the peak period being between 6pm and 9pm

Most of the fires — 27,5% — resulted from electrical faults

Open flames, such as matches, caused 16,6% and smoking 9,2% of all fires

Fires in the home were caused mainly by open flames (21,6%), smoking (17,3%), electrical faults (16,6%), cooking (10,9%) and unknown causes (20,8%)

Cape Town firemen were worst hit with 2 003 calls last year, followed by Port Elizabeth (1 890) and Johannesburg (1 886)

20/7/83. (21) (131)  
**Policemen injured  
in barracks fire** *RDH*

By CHRIS OLCKERS

SEVEN policemen were slightly injured when a fire broke out in a 16-storey barracks adjoining the Pretoria Central Police Station early yesterday morning causing damage estimated at about R30 000

The Northern Transvaal CID Chief, Brigadier H A du Plessis, said the fire is believed to have started about 2am in a rubbish bin on the seventh floor and spread to several other floors in the building.

Several policemen were trapped in their rooms and

stood on a 45cm ledge outside the building as colleagues fought the blaze

The fire was virtually extinguished by policemen by the time fire units from the Pretoria Fire Brigade arrived at the scene

Brigadier Du Plessis said seven policemen were admitted to the H F Verwoerd Hospital, where they were treated for light burns and discharged

Apart from the injured all the others reported for duty after the fire and the injured policemen would resume their duties today.

# Mechanic burnt in explosion

CAPE TIMES 22/7/83

(131)

By COLIN HOWELL

A 31-YEAR-OLD Kraai-  
fontein man is in a criti-  
cal condition at  
Tygerberg Hospital  
following an explosion  
at a Stikland transport  
firm yesterday morning  
in which he suffered 100  
percent burns

Mr Jacques Cockeram,  
of De Waal Street,  
Springbokpark, was en-  
gulfed in flames after  
the explosion in a work-  
shop at JH Retief  
Transport in Willow  
Street about 8am

A spokesman for the  
Bellville Fire Brigade  
said Mr Cockeram, a me-  
chanic, had been work-  
ing with oxy-acetylene  
welding equipment. The  
explosion had caused a  
flash fire and Mr Cock-  
eram's clothing had  
been "burnt off"

"Colleagues smoth-  
ered him with a dry  
blanket and called for  
help," the spokesman  
said. "He was severely  
burnt, but still con-  
scious"

Two fire engines and  
a rescue vehicle arrived  
at the badly-damaged  
workshop a short while  
later. A wet blanket was  
wrapped around the in-  
jured man, who was lat-  
er treated by the  
assisting medical con-  
sultant of Metro, Dr  
Philip van Rensburg,  
and taken by ambulance  
to Tygerberg

A police liaison offi-  
cer for the Western  
Cape, Captain Gerhard  
van Rooyen, said yester-  
day that it was believed  
a 20-litre can of thinners  
standing near Mr Cock-  
eram had exploded.

## R15 000 damage

The fire brigade  
spokesman said the esti-  
mated damage to the  
workshop was between  
R10 000 and R15 000. He  
said gas-bottles from the  
welding equipment had  
not exploded and had  
been taken out of the  
building to "cool down"  
after the explosion.

The severely injured  
man's wife, Mrs Hilet  
Cockeram, was too upset  
to speak to the Cape  
Times last night. A  
spokesman for the  
family said the couple  
had three sons.

A Tygerberg Hospital  
spokesman said last  
night that Mr Cocker-  
eram's condition was criti-  
cal.

The Star Bureau

NEW YORK — The United States Government is being sued for failing to inform tens of thousands of World War 2 shipyard workers that they were exposed to dangerously high levels of asbestos dust. Much of the asbestos referred to in the suit was bought from South Africa by the United States and sold to The Manville Corporation, which has brought the suit.

The case against the government is part of the largest group of lawsuits ever brought against a company for damaging people's health. At least 20 000 workers and their families are expected to sue Manville for sums amounting to between R2 400 million and R4 800 million for death and injury resulting from exposure to asbestos.

Manville has declared bankruptcy to protect itself from the suits. Manville's case against the US Government is based on a confidential 1941 memo written by the navy chief of preventive medicine to the service's surgeon general, warning

'We are having a considerable amount of work done in asbestos and from my observations I am certain that we are not protecting the men as we should.'

The company argues that the

121

# US victims of SA asbestos want massive payouts

## Former 'white lung' job brings dusty deaths

The Star Bureau

NEW YORK — The asbestos dust that William Wenner carried home from his job for 30 years has affected his whole family and may bring an early death to his four sons.

Mr Wenner has asbestosis, a potentially lethal disease that is also known as "white lung disease."

The head of the East Coast branch of "Asbestos Victims of America", he is one of about 20 000 people in the US who have sued or are expected to sue asbestos companies.

About 13 million people were exposed to the substance between 1940 and 1980 and at least 9 000 of them or their families will die from disease related to asbestos exposure every year until the turn of the century. Most of them, like Mr Wenner, were shipyard workers handling asbestos used for the insulation and fireproofing of US Navy vessels in World War 2.

Mr Wenner carried the dust home on his clothes. His wife who washed them has asbestos-related lung cancer. The dust was also passed on to his four sons, now in their 20s and 30s.

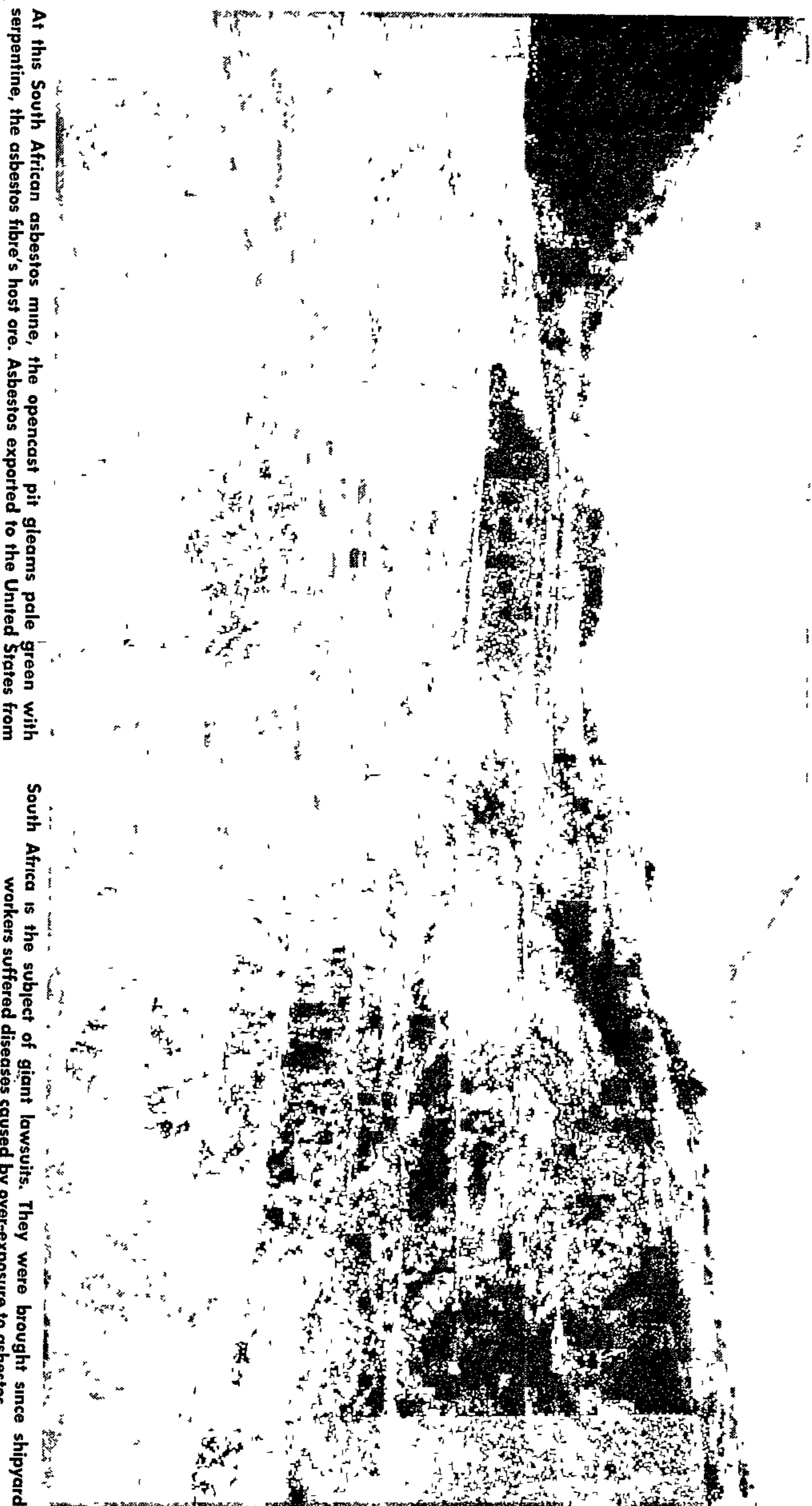
Federal Government failed to pass this knowledge on

During World War 2 Manville used asbestos to insulate and fireproof equipment used on US warships. It has since used it on a vast array of construction projects.

The Justice Department has repudiated the suit, claiming the company is trying to use

bankruptcy to transfer responsibility to the taxpayer for the asbestos injuries and deaths.

Asbestos fibres are responsible for a number of crippling lung diseases including an emphysema-like disease called asbestosis, and mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer that appears many years after exposure.



At this South African asbestos mine, the opencast pit gleams pale green with serpentine, the asbestos fibre's host ore. Asbestos exported to the United States from

South Africa is the subject of giant lawsuits. They were brought since shipyard workers suffered diseases caused by over-exposure to asbestos.

*Over*

*(31)*

# Four miners killed

THE bodies of four black miners were recovered after a fall of ground at the Randfontein Estate Gold Mine on the West Rand.

Rescue teams searched throughout the night be-

fore the bodies were discovered at the weekend

The names will be released after their next-of-kin have been informed, a spokesman for the mine said — Sapa



# '325 000 workers hurt every year'

ARGUS 28/7/83 131

**Labour Reporter**  
ABOUT 325 000 workers are injured in industrial accidents in South Africa each year.

This was said by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, Mr H du Toit, at the annual meeting and awards presentation of the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) in Parow last night

He said 162 workers were injured every hour in a working day of eight hours. Of the daily accidents, 10 were fatal and 125 resulted in permanent disablement

Seven women lost a husband every working day

### Money troubles

"Having regard for the fact that the Act provides for the payment of a maximum compensation of R600 per month, these injured workmen, apart from pain and discomfort, suffer serious financial hardships"

If the figures quoted took into account workers not covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act, "they would have painted a much darker picture", Mr du Toit said

"The real tragedy of work accidents is the hardship, the pain and the suffering being experienced by the injured and their families"

### Appeal

Mr du Toit appealed to employers to report accidents at work promptly.

He said it was imperative that all levels of management became fully involved in the well-being of their workmen as individuals and breadwinners

Some employers did not realise the plight of injured workers laid off for long periods without their usual income because of delays by employers in submitting regular medical reports to the Workmen's Compensation office



# Battery blasts injure many

131  
ms  
29/7/83  
A CAPE-TOWN man lost the sight in his left eye and sustained severe burns when his car battery exploded, apparently after he lit a match near it

The National Occupational Safety Association's monthly magazine, Safety Management, quotes results of a two-year study by Dr S Siebert of the Royal Adelaide Hospital which found that 28 people suffered serious eye injuries from exploding car batteries

in Adelaide, Southern Australia

The Royal Australian College of Ophthalmologists found that about 250 people a year were injured by exploding car batteries

During the charge-discharge cycle, the battery water is broken down into oxygen gases and hydrogen, which is highly inflammable

Dr Siebert said that in most batteries these gasses

were vented from the battery through cell cups, but some gasses were always present in a battery. In the case of sealed or "maintenance free" batteries, the level of gas could be quite high, especially if there was a fault

He said there should be a "flame trap" in the vent of the cell to stop any flame igniting the gases from getting back into the chambers and causing an explosion, the report said — Sapa

## A deadly blaze toll

21/7/83  
FIRES killed one man and caused damage estimated at R662 000 in Johannesburg and Randburg this weekend. Mr Alexander Wilson, 48, of Atholl, died on

Friday when he was overcome by smoke at his home. Yesterday fire destroyed a house in Emmerentia. Damage is estimated at R150 000.

OMIO

Central bank

(131)

buy bonds on the open market

If they want to decrease money supply they

sell ~~money~~ bonds on the open market.

Also increases <sup>supply</sup> money by buying bonds from bank, which raises their cash base.

In the 1st instance when account is with the central bank, so money they receive for bonds goes into account and when bank spends money, by paying bills & firms the money is circulated until it reaches the commercial bank. Thus deposit <sup>balance</sup> money and asset liabilities at the commercial bank are raised by an equal amount and ~~money~~ supply of money  $\Rightarrow \uparrow$ .

When bonds bought, price goes up (R of I  $\downarrow$ ) therefore money held  $\Rightarrow \uparrow$ .

(131) KDM 2/8/83

# Take more care on health of workers, industry told

By GEOFFREY ALLEN

SOUTH AFRICAN business and industry must urgently pay more attention to the physical and mental health of its employees — this was the message from speakers at a conference in Johannesburg on "Wellness at Work".

Several speakers at the conference — organised by the SA Mental Health Foundation — called urged companies to introduce programmes for the health care of their employees — ranging from the lowest worker to the most senior executive.

They emphasised that industry had a duty to provide expert health counselling and recreation programmes and facilities.

Startling figures delivered to the conference revealed that South African industry was losing R230-million a year in lost working hours caused by alcoholism, and R2 500 000 a day because of mental health problems.

A major cause of physical illness, loss of working hours, smoking (and resultant ill-health), alcoholism was stress, to which South African managers were particularly prone because they had to work 15% more hours than their American counterparts, the conference was told.

Dr Zac de Beer, executive director of Anglo-American Corporation and chairman of LTA Construction, said 10% of industrial accidents were caused by mental health problems and he called for a concerted effort to educate "line management" to spot signs of stress in blue-collar workers.

"At management level we are poorly

placed and the need to take appropriate action is urgent.

"At the moment we do not have any training in this country which alerts line management to signs of stress or ill-health in workers. It's the workers' superior who can spot signs of trouble and see that treatment is available," he said.

Mr Justice M T Steyn, president of the Urban Foundation, said that a unified, efficiently coordinated programme was needed nationally to care for workers' health.

"It is necessary for the very survival of our community," he said.

Dr Stephen Weiss from the United States said that only in the past five years had effective health promotion programmes been instituted and results showed that they had an appreciable effect not only on the good health of the employee, but also on productivity.

Dr J Laing, medical director of Anglo-American Corporation, told the conference in a paper on the health of executives, that stress was the result of the interaction between the environment and an individual operating against a variety of personal background factors such as his family relationships and his lifestyle.

He said statistics showed that top executives were 20% healthier than the general population.

"But perhaps they are slightly brighter people who have taken note of what they have been told about health care," he said.

● See Page 2

# Asbestos <sup>RDY</sup> slumps on <sup>131</sup> health fears

By BRENDAN RYAN

ASBESTOS consumption in Britain dropped by 52% between 1975 and 1982, according to Johannesburg Stock Exchange stockbrokers EW Balderson Inc.

The firm says in a report entitled Asbestos — an industry under siege — that this drop was largely a result of the health and environmental controversy over asbestos and the world recession.

Over the same period asbestos consumption dropped by 37% in the United States and by 4% in Japan

The anti-asbestos movement has had a profound effect on Western asbestos use and the more developed and democratic a nation, the more vociferous is the environmentalist lobby, the report says

Asbestos use in third world countries has been increasing, but not enough to prevent the overall world decline

A further effect of the anti-asbestos campaign is increasing emphasis on a search for substitutes, which until now have been generally inadequate or too expensive

"Consumers appear to be prepared to sacrifice performance, quality and to a certain extent price to eliminate or minimise perceived health risks

"The long-term future of the asbestos industry is a race between the industry proving it has instituted suitable controls which make asbestos fibre and finished products 'safe' and the technological development of suitable fibre substitutes which are commercially viable or at least not commercially prohibitive"

The report says Canada's output of asbestos declined from 1 700 000 tons in 1975 to an estimated 880 000 tons in 1982

Reasons for this are weak world demand, mining problems associated with depth in

opencast mines, fires and strikes, the environmental issue and the ever-present threat of nationalisation of the mines by the Quebec state Government

Worldwide the asbestos industry is estimated to be operating at 65% to 70% of capacity, Canadian producers working at below 50% of capacity

The report forecasts earnings for SA's Gefco of 46,4c a share in 1983 and 44,2c in 1984 Total dividends are forecast at 25c in each year

Msauli's earnings are forecast at 50,7c a share in 1983 and 46c in 1984 Dividends are estimated to total 15c in each year

Neither Gefco nor Msauli publishes detailed mining statistics, such as grade and production, because of competition between producers

However, the report estimates Gefco has a crocidolite stockpile of about 50 000 tons and an amosite stockpile of 25 000 tons The stockpiles equal about six months' production from the group

The report estimates Msauli has a stockpile of 15 000 tons of chrysotile asbestos — equal to about two months' production

# SA miners resist job stress factors



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**Own Correspondent**  
**JOHANNESBURG** — South African miners working in almost medieval conditions do not show any more signs of stress on the job than workers in other industries

This is the finding of a study of work conditions and health-care in the industry, presented in a paper at the South African Mental Health Foundation conference

on "Wellness at Work" by Dr D H White, a senior personnel adviser for the Anglo American group

Further, underground and surface workers do not show significantly different stress patterns, even though the men are subjected to extreme hardships

Dr White said considering the men were working under the constant possibility of acci-

dents or death, in extreme heat conditions, with water sluicing underfoot to keep dust down, and often in very cramped spaces, it was "amazing that any human being could work there at all"

● In another paper, Mr W L Baqwa, group industrial relations consultant to Barlow Rand Ltd, said that in order to begin to satisfy aspirations of black workers,

companies might have to advocate moves which "the government has not accommodated"

He said it was common knowledge that South African companies had started racially integrating their offices long before the government had thought of doing so and had, as a consequence, been prosecuted for employing blacks in certain senior positions in

"whites only" jobs  
Mr Baqwa said employees generally found it difficult to address themselves to certain issues for fear of victimization

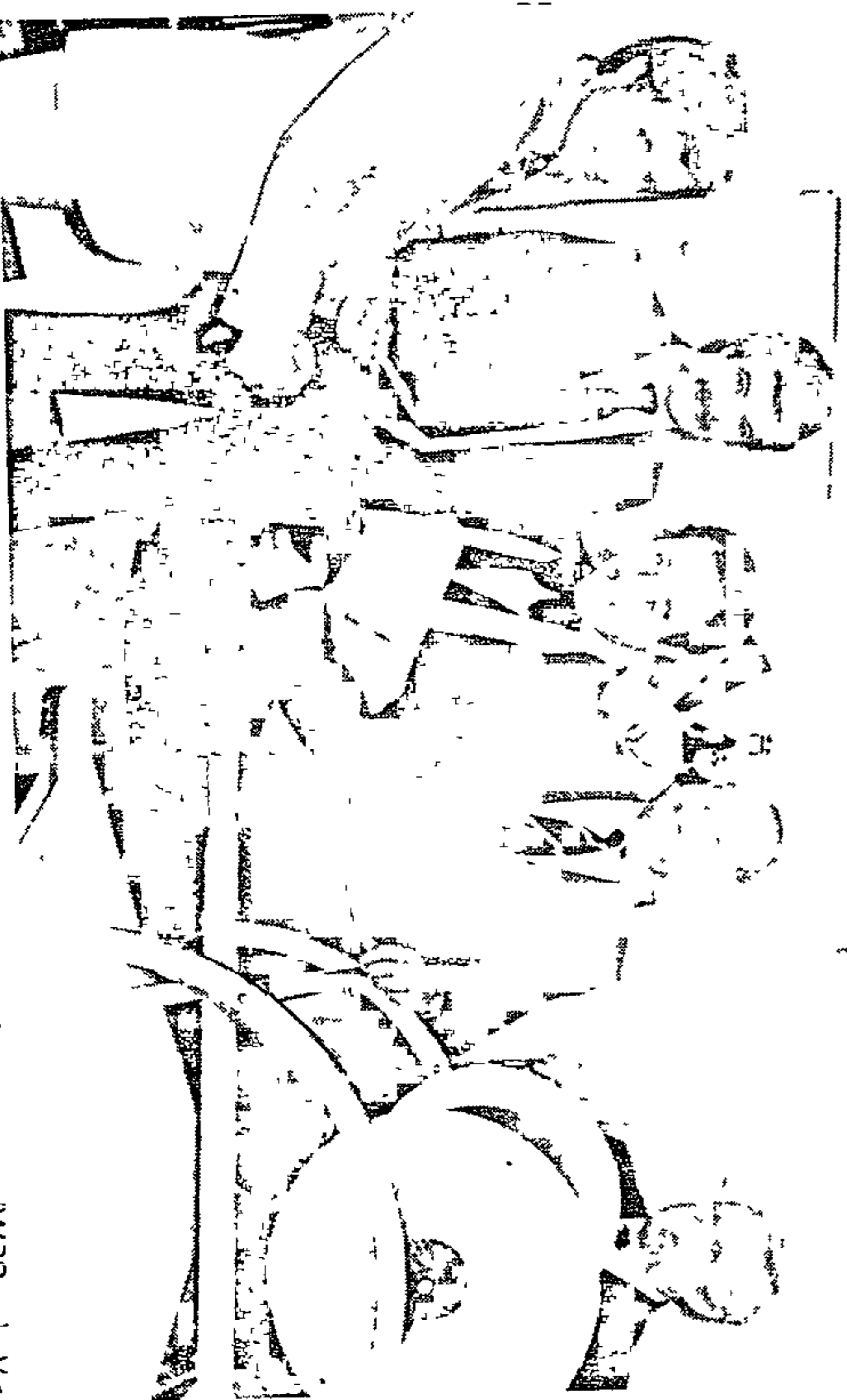
In comparison with an analysis of the demands made on employers by trade union organized workers in other countries, South African workers were only in a position to demand six of the 16 conditions

which German workers believed were imperative to their welfare

In South Africa, workers were in the process of demanding improvements in the following areas: Higher wages, humane working conditions, shorter working hours, free collective bargaining, further development of service and labour laws and equal education opportunities

By contrast, their Ger-

man counterparts were in a position to demand additional and more sophisticated conditions in the following areas: Greater social security, more co-determination of how the job should be handled, the fundamental right to work, independent media, greater old age security, improvement of taxation and finance policy, social tenancy and land laws and environmental protection



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Jan 3/8/85

By Lynne Cornfield,

The lower down a worker is on the job hierarchy, the more prone he is to stress-related cardio-vascular disease, Dr. J. Myers, head of the industrial health research

# Unskilled workers 'bear the brunt of stress-related woes'

group of the Department of Sociology at the University of Cape Town, told the Human Resources Conference in Johannesburg yesterday. Dr. Myers said certain research has shown that situational variables

played an even greater part in cardio-vascular diseases than personal variables such as personality, overweight or smoking. He said overseas research showed that the brunt of diseases were borne by the lower classes and that there was a direct translation from these classes to races in South Africa. The research had shown further, he said, that the less decision power the employee had

over his own job and the greater the demands the job made on him either in terms of an overload of work or of monotony, the more likely he was to suffer from cardio-vascular disease. "In other words, a man

whose job is machine paced, repetitive, and who cannot decide how to do his work himself, is more likely to have a heart problem than an executive who can fashion his own working style," he said.

This type of stress on unskilled workers was prevalent in South Africa because authoritarian leadership was often imposed and because there was a trend towards breaking jobs down into smaller, repetitive tasks.

The overseas trend differed in that employers encouraged greater worker participation or at least rotation of jobs to avoid monotony. While Dr. Myers regarded the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act as better in many ways than the Factories Act it replaced, he said it was a backward step in terms of industrial relations because it did not adequately provide for worker participation.

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131  
3/8/83

## R35 000 claim *Mercury* against drinks firm

Mercury Correspondent

**JOHANNESBURG**—A bottle which exploded in the hands of a 23-year-old production secretary, severing her achilles tendon, led to a damages claim of R35 678 against the Coca-Cola Bottling Company in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday.

Miss Kim Borowsky of Aintree, Sevoy, Johannesburg, said in papers the litre bottle exploded in her hands when she tried to open it on September 9, 1981.

The glass lacerated a leg and severed the achilles tendon of her left foot, causing scars and a limited range of movement for the foot.

Miss Borowsky is claim-

ing the amount from Amalgamated Beverage Industries (Pty) Ltd, trading as the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, for past and future medical expenses, future loss of earnings, damages for pain and suffering, the loss of the amenities of life and disability and disfigurement.

She claimed the defendant had failed to ensure that the pressurised bottle would not explode, alternatively that it had failed to warn the public the bottle might explode.

She also claimed the drink was bottled at a too high a pressure.

Mr Justice B O'Donovan granted her request for discovery of certain papers.

(131) 20M 4/8/83

# Stressing the basics for health at work

THE Human Resources conference this week brought together — in an opulent, chandelier-lit room of Johannesburg's Carlton Centre — brilliant minds armed with fancy slides and diagrams to discuss various "systems" for ensuring the health of employees in industry and to try to minimise stress on workers



Dr D H WHITE .. miners don't get undue stress

They talked of the sorts of stress which produce heart attacks, alcoholism or broken families among the upper echelons of employees — managers and the like — and turned up some impressive statistics to show how effective their scientific endeavours had been in sophisticated economies, such as Germany and the United States

It took two black men — delivering the shortest papers in terms of verbiage — to blow a massive hole in that comfortable academic fabric

● Mr W Baqwa (group industrial relations consultant for Barlow Rand Ltd) "If you drive along the M1 motorway on a rainy winter's day and see a group of men huddled together on the back of an open truck trying to shelter under their jackets, remember that these are men who are being transported to work!"

"We really expect them to be grateful to be working for us? If we get 50% efficiency from them it's a lot

"One could literally count the curses and moans and anticipate the resultant productivity . . . or lack of it

"Wellness at work or psychological health is not necessarily a result of implementing scientific research findings.

"On the contrary, the application of basic human princi-

ples, the furtherance or transfer of one's own likes to be applied to the supervised employee could, in fact, warm their hearts

"As long as employees' envy of the amenities of their superiors is extremely high, the degree of psychological health could be expected to be very low

"I do not think that these are novel ideas at all. Instead they are the very things which we would expect should be done for us"

● Mr Ben Mokoatle (education and training manager, 3M SA Ltd) "Black managers get king size titles and are consigned to Mickey Mouse jobs"

Those statements summed up neatly the remoteness of the academic analyses from the nitty-gritty of the black-dominated South African labour market and the types of basic stresses which are placed on workers at the lowest possible level

In effect, they were asking what was the point of spending money and time on super-sophisticated health-care in industry when the man on the shovelling end of the job hasn't got even the basics for minimum comfort?

Mr Baqwa "Employee aspirations cover a very wide field. In fact, they project beyond the immediate work sit-

uation needs. They could include education, social institutions, extra-mural activities, housing, etc

"If a code (of employment practice in a company) did not address itself to these items, even though they do not necessarily have a direct work-related connotation, it would probably not generate an enthusiastic response

"If, on the other hand, it went beyond the employees' present expectations and projected into the future, it would be looked at as a progressive and genuine attempt to update employees' conditions"

Elaborating on the discomfort of working conditions for the blue-collar worker, Dr D H White (Divisional Personnel Manager, Gold Division, Anglo American) outlined the dangerous, dark, hot, damp, dusty, noisy conditions in which the country's 470 000 miners worked each day and concluded that it was amazing that anyone could work in such conditions at all

The mines, he said, provided a copybook example of

## By GEOFFREY ALLEN

how to cause high blood pressure, stress and heart attacks in employees, but, astonishingly, a carefully conducted scientific study had revealed that in fact there is no significantly higher level of stress in the mining industry than in any other field of employment in South Africa

Furthermore, there is also no significant difference between the stress felt by the men underground and those working on the surface

Dr White said there were several reasons why miners did not feel undue stress. They are

● Habituation to the effects of stress. For example, driving a car is the major cause of death or injury in men under 35 years old, yet few people feel themselves under continual stress while motoring

Similarly, miners become habituated to the underground environment and finding that little or nothing happens to them

● The "It can't happen to me"

syndrome. Dr White said "Miners admit they do not think about the dangers, and that they relegate their anxieties to the backs of their minds

● Miners have a considerable amount of latitude in their work (unlike a production line worker) and therefore see themselves as having a measure of control over their situation

But it took Dr J Laing (Medical Director of Anglo America) to point out the obvious truth behind the statistics, and impressive academic collations, and to bring to earth flighty talk which tends to sound comfortable while having little application

"We all know we should stop smoking, we all know the excessive use of alcohol is injurious, we all know that we should regulate our diets," said Dr Laing

"We all know these things, but we don't do them"

It will be fascinating to see what solid results emerge in the workplace as a result of the Carlton health indaba



# Mid-air act by Joseph saves a life

Municipal Reporter

LABOURER Joseph Ciliza saved a colleague by unhooking him from two conductors which were shooting 220 volts through his suspended body, it was learned yesterday.

His action is to be recognised by the Durban City Council which learned yesterday how a corporation electrician, working on a street light, had lost consciousness and would have died had it not been for Mr Ciliza's prompt action.

According to City Electrical Engineer Denis Fraser, the men were working up a pole in Warrior Road, Hillcrest, when Mr Ian Smith grasped two conductors he thought were 'dead'.

Because of the muscular contractions caused by the current passing through his hands, arms and across his body, he had been unable to free himself before collapsing.

Mr Ciliza had repositioned himself on the ladder until he was beneath his colleague's suspended body.

Clothing does not conduct electricity, so taking hold of Mr Smith's overalls Mr Ciliza lifted him up until his hands broke free of the conductors.

Then he lowered the man and let him hang from the safety belt he had been wearing at the time of the accident.

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Labourer

5/8/5

(131) ROM 9/8/83

# Butcher charged after boy loses arm

Mail Reporter

A BUTCHER appeared in the Johannesburg Magistrate's Court yesterday charged with being responsible for a 10-year-old boy losing his right arm when it was caught in a mincing machine.

Mr Michael Mhlongo pleaded not guilty under the Factories, Machinery and Building Work Regulations Act.

The State alleges that at the Popi Butchery in Zondi, Soweto, on April 1 last year, Mr Mhlongo permitted the boy to use the mince-making machine without making him fully aware of the dangers

attached to the operation of the machine and the precautionary measures to be taken.

The boy, whose arm has been amputated at the elbow, told the court that Mr Mhlongo asked him and a friend to help him mince the meat.

He said he pushed the meat down into the machine with his hand and his hand got caught in the blades inside.

Mr Mhlongo had demonstrated without pushing the meat down with his hands.

Mr Mhlongo denied asking the boys to help him.

The case was postponed to August 23.

# New impetus for safety at work (13)

By Zenaide Vendeiro

South Africa is already a world leader in the field of occupational safety and the pending promulgation of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act will give new impetus to the safety movement, says Mr H J Matthysen, general manager of the National Occupational Safety Association

More than 2 000 people are killed in on-the-job accidents in South Africa each year. And about 300 000 workers — 1,9 percent of the total work force — are seriously injured

This compares favourably with percentages of 2,7 in America, six in Canada and 10 in Australia

South African companies hold three world rec-

**South Africa is already among the world leaders in safety in the workplace and a new Act will add impetus to this, the chairman of the National Occupational Safety Association believes.**

ords in occupational safety

Foskor, an open-cast mine in Phalaborwa, has not had a serious accident in 20 million man hours

The Duvha power station in the Eastern Transvaal has gone for 9,9 million hours without a disabling injury and the Mobil Petroleum Refinery in Durban has not had a serious accident for 9,1 million man hours

Mr Matthysen believes this fine safety record is due to improved manage-

ment — “accident prevention is a management technique, after all” — teamwork, the Government inspectorate and NOSA

“The unique feature of the new Act is that, in contrast to the Factories, Machinery and Building Work Act, it provides protection not only for employees in factories and on building works, but all persons in employment,” says Mr Matthysen

The only exceptions are miners and employ-

ees working with explosives as they are covered by the Mines and Works Act of 1956 and the Explosives Act of 1956

“This places fresh responsibility on every employer in the country, even down to the householder,” he says

The Act provides for the appointment of safety representatives, requires employers in certain circumstances to establish safety committees and prohibits the sale of machinery and safety equipment that do not meet specified standards

Another development in the field of occupational safety comes from the South African Bureau of Standards. It is preparing national specifications for equipment for the protection of the face — and especially the eyes

# Tanker traffic: A perennial problem

Macus  
10/8/83

(131)  
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THE tanker disaster off Saldanha Bay at the weekend provides ample evidence of the suddenness with which serious mishaps can happen at sea, and to which tankers with their lethal cargoes are particularly vulnerable

Crews of tankers are well aware of the risks they run. Many undergo a change of personality known among seamen as 'tankeritis'. True, they have always received a special tanker allowance, but it scarcely compensates for the constant knowledge that one's floating home can, within seconds and often without warning, become a funeral pyre

About 20 years ago a tanker belonging to a company in which I was serving blew up on a quiet Sunday afternoon while tank-cleaning after discharging at Bombay

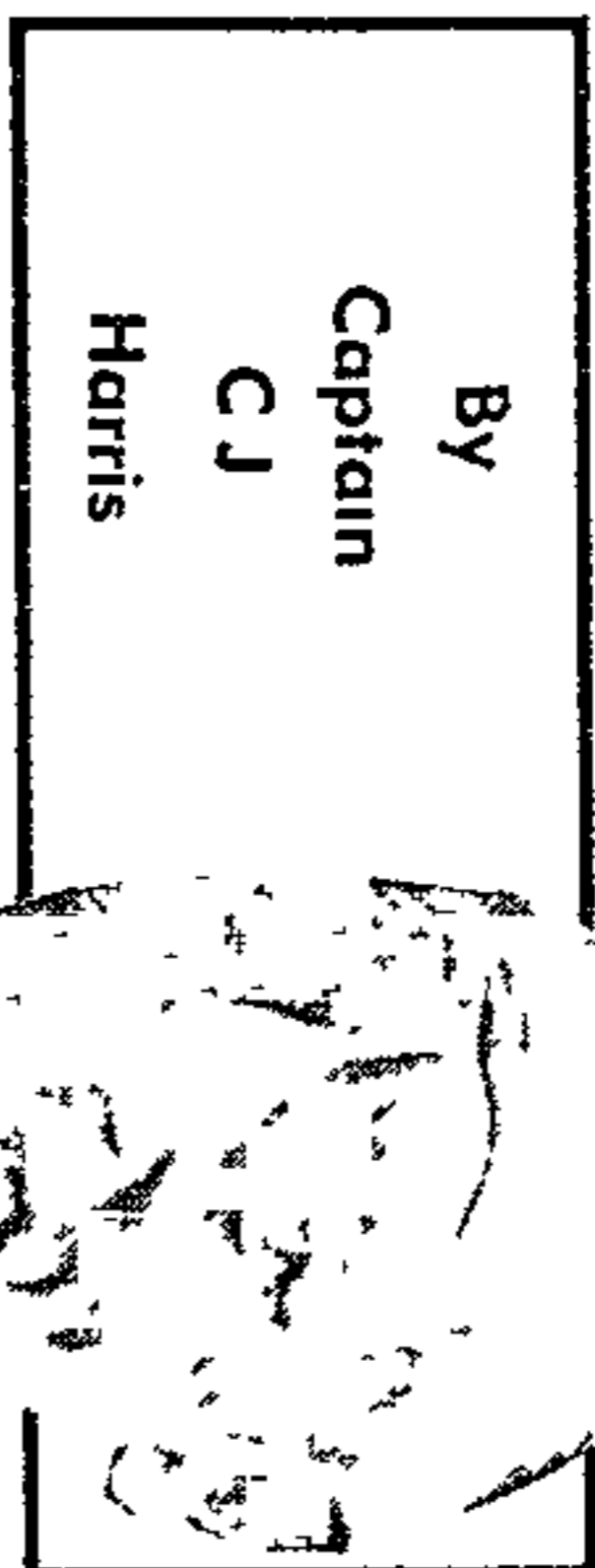
The second officer was on watch in the chartroom when he heard a rumble like distant thunder. Glancing out of the window he was appalled and shocked to realise that he and the entire chartroom had become airborne. He was lucky, for everyone else in the bridge accommodation perished

In spite of the grimness of the event, a touch of humour was added by the Indian crew, some of whom lost no time in launching a lifeboat without first removing the cover — and bobbed around looking like ducks flapping their wings on a rock

The ship was split open for her entire length — for all the world as if she had been sliced open by a huge can-opener. She survived and was towed to Bombay and then on to Norway, where she was repaired and converted into a bulk-carrier and aptly renamed Escape

Another ship in the same company broke in half off Singapore, but both halves were salvaged with most of the cargo intact

At the subsequent inquiry the chief officer, who first saw the crack in the deck plating, was asked why he had not called the captain. Rather foolishly he replied that he was averse to waking the captain's



By  
Captain  
C J  
Harris

## 'It could happen to any ship, and at any time — and it usually happens without warning'

wife who was sleeping'

About 10 years ago my ship was employed on oil dispersal patrol around the burnt-out hulk of the Chinese tanker Silver Castle. There were 16 charred bodies in that ill-fated ship and our little fox terrier — which challenged every passing ship — covered away in a quiet corner whenever we passed close to the gutted hull

In bygone years exhaust gases from the tanks were led up the masts and dispersed clear of the ship. Mostly they did just that, but I recall one short passage in a following wind when the ship moved in an envelope of nauseous petrol fumes which permeated everything. Smokers signed the pledge for those few days

Today, inert gas is fed into the tanks above the cargo where it absorbs any oxygen and thus mini-

mises the risk of fire or explosion. The full tale of the Castillo de Bellver is still to be told, but general opinion has it that the hull or deck plates fractured because of the ship "working" in the heavy seas and swells and the crack caused the inert gas to escape

It is further assumed that the subsequent holocaust was caused by friction and sparking at the site of the fracture

The captain wisely refused to comment. He has a gruelling inquiry to face and must marshal his thoughts. Perhaps he too has seen the picture of the gaunt, drawn features of the captain of the Torrey Canyon hiding under a bed from his persecutors

Judging from the impressive pictures appearing on TV and in the media, the crew were extremely fortunate that only three of their number were lost. It is surprising that any escaped at all

The shocked survivors were accommodated in a local hotel and the story is that a shop was specially opened on the Sabbath to fit them out with the necessities of life

Tanker disasters are all too commonplace, yet with the constant procession of this type of traffic around the Cape it is remarkable that there have been so few

These disasters are mainly the result of collision or explosion when washing and gas-freeing empty tanks. If the presumed cause of Saturday's tragedy was as supposed, it could well be classified as a freak accident attributable to bad weather and possibly a structural weakness in the seven-year-old ship

Freakish or not, it is as well to remember that every tanker is a potential bomb. For that reason many seamen are reluctant to sign articles — in spite of extra financial inducement

The sympathy of all those who go down to the sea in ships goes out to the unfortunate master and his crew. It could happen to any of them, any time — and usually without warning

# Driver killed as trains crash head on

Pretoria Bureau

A TRAIN driver died and fifty-one passengers were slightly injured in a collision between a passenger train and a goods train along the Pretoria-Pietersburg railway line yesterday.

Mr D T Cloete, from Pietersburg, died when the two trains collided near Buyskop Station between Warmbaths and Nylstroom at about 1 40am, a spokesman for the South African Transport Services said yesterday.

The injured passengers were rushed to hospitals in Nylstroom and Warmbaths. Four were admitted with minor injuries and the other 47 were treated for shock and minor injuries before being discharged.

A spokesman for the St Vincent Hospital in Warmbaths said the condition of the four passengers who were admitted after the accident was not serious.

A commission of inquiry has been appointed to investigate the cause of the accident.

A Sats public relations section spokesman said the disruption on the main line

between Pretoria and Pietersburg had been cleared by 1.35pm yesterday and that everything was back to normal.

The passenger train was travelling from Nylstroom to Warmbaths, while the goods train was travelling in the opposite direction to Pietersburg.

Mr Cloete, who was in the diesel locomotive of the passenger train, died when the passenger train was derailed. Nobody else in the diesel locomotive was injured.

The three front coaches of the goods train were derailed.

Passengers were ferried by Sats busses from Janting Station to Pretoria.

Unconfirmed reports said a white woman had been injured in the accident.

On July 15 nine passengers died and more than 80 others were injured when a Pietersburg-bound passenger train collided with a goods train outside the Hamanskraal Station.

That accident took place in the evening, and results of the investigation into the causes of the crash have not yet been released.

# Killer dust: Expert calls for inquiry into asbestos

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S. Express

14/8/83

**SOUTH Africans are daily exposed to a killer substance — asbestos dust — without any warning of the cancers and lung diseases it can cause.**

And a visiting American expert has accused the country's health authorities of throwing a "blanket of secrecy" over information about the effects of exposure to the tiny fibres. Mr Barry Castleman is a chemical engineer who acts as a consultant on occupational and environmental health to United States government agencies, and has been studying the effects of asbestos exposure since 1971.

This week he called for a commission of inquiry into all aspects of asbestos use in South Africa, composed of independent medical experts "who are not affiliated to the asbestos industry and to its past history of playing down hazards, as did some Government officials". Mr Castleman said "There is no safe level of exposure — except zero".

By LAUREN GOWER

"It takes only one particle of asbestos to initiate a malignant transformation in a (body) cell. After that the cell reproduces itself."

Asbestos is still being used as a construction material in South African homes, schools, offices and shops — at a time when the potentially lethal substance is being ripped out of buildings in the US and Europe.

Mr Castleman said that, as a result of a "blanket of secrecy" surrounding exposure to asbestos, "the public is hardly aware of the enormous threat of asbestos, contaminating the South African environment".

He said details of the deadly potential of asbestos fibres had constantly been suppressed by health authorities around the world, and in South Africa

"The history of your Government's handling of the situation is reflected in its sensitivity about acknowledging its (asbestos) potential for harm."

Numerous official statements to the Press over the years have played down the hazards of the industry. Dr Gerhardus Oberholzer, chief director of consumer goods at the Department of Health and Welfare, said "It is general knowledge throughout the academic world that asbestos is linked to cancer — like smoking is linked to cancer — that's why it is being controlled."

However, he said, his department had no control over conditions in asbestos mines or in the workplace. These, he said, were the responsibility of the Departments of Manpower and Mineral Affairs, and mining companies.

He did not know who would be responsible for warnings to consumers.

Mr Castleman said there was a crying need for the South African Government and its health officials "to register all plants and to scrutinise products — not only for workplace hazards, but for potential consumer exposure and environmental danger to the general population".

He was adamant people should be warned of the potential dangers or, he said, the deadly fibres — often too small to be seen with a naked eye — could lead to an increased incidence of lung cancer.

"Health authorities in the US recently predicted that for the next 30 years there will be 8 000 to 10 000 cancer deaths a year from exposure to asbestos."

"And those are only counted from occupational exposure. It is impossible to offer a figure for those environmentally exposed, it's just too speculative," he said.

In Europe and the US, asbestos is being ripped out of buildings and some countries have entirely banned its use. And the British and US governments have recognised the dangers of the dust to householders and authorised warning labels for all asbestos products.

But as campaigns against the use of asbestos grow more and more powerful in overseas countries, South African schoolchildren are among those who daily breathe in the deadly dust.

"When, in thirty or forty years time, they develop lung cancers and other chest diseases, who will make the connection between exposure to asbestos and the cause of death?" Mr Castleman asked.

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For written reply 131 ~~252~~ Hausand  
Q 61-1902 17/8/87  
Industrial accidents/compensation

1093 Dr A L BORAINÉ asked the  
Minister of Manpower

- (1) (a) How many industrial accidents occurred in each of the latest specified five years for which figures are available and (b) what was the total cost of these accidents to (i) the State, (ii) the Accident Fund and (iii) assurance companies in each of these years,
- (2) (a) how many persons (i) applied for and (ii) received compensation in terms of the Workmen's compensation Act, No 30 of 1941, and (b) what was the total amount paid out in compensation, in each of these years?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

- (1) (a) 1975—348 989  
1976—334 552  
1977—309 223  
1978—309 086  
1979—299 523

- (b) (i) 1975—R3 072 239  
1976—R3 524 223  
1977—R3 585 615  
1978—R4 689 788  
1979—R5 091 848

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THURSDAY, 11

- (ii) 1975—R27 049 055  
1976—R27 886 297  
1977—R31 454 375  
1978—R35 328 680  
1979—R37 517 274

- (iii) 1975—R10 208 868  
1976—R11 293 556  
1977—R17 423 019  
1978—R22 383 631  
1979—R22 995 420

- (2) (a) (i) 1975—349 250  
1976—334 552  
1977—309 447  
1978—309 325  
1979—305 012

- (ii) 1975—348 989  
1976—334 803  
1977—309 223  
1978—309 086  
1979—299 253

- (b) 1975—R46 430 510  
1976—R49 911 852  
1977—R59 651 176  
1978—R71 816 647  
1979—R74 966 968

# New Safety Act a boon to all workers

By Carolyn Dempster,  
Labour Reporter

The new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, 1983 is unique in South African history, claims the National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA).

For the first time provision has been made for the health and safety protection of virtually every worker in the country, and in addition employers will be held responsible for introducing safety programmes or modifying existing ones.

These are two of the key points highlighted by the general manager of Nosa, Mr Bunny Matthyssen, in a pamphlet designed to explain the wide-reaching changes which the Act will effect.

Other major points.

● The Act covers every worker in employment except those who fall under the Mines and Works Act and the Explosives Act. This means that people in commerce, the civil service, educational institutions and even domestic employees are all protected in terms of the new Act.

● Employers with a workforce of 20 or more will be required to appoint safety representatives and, in the case of large businesses with more than 100 employees, a safety committee will have to be chosen from the ranks of the employees on the ratio 1:100. This is the first time in

any South African legislation that the establishment of a safety committee is a requirement.

● In future, nobody may offer for sale machinery or safety equipment that does not comply with prescribed safety and performance standards.

This is a major innovation as under the old Factories and Machinery and Building Work Act of 1941, manufacturers and merchants could market and sell equipment without adhering to any standards. There was nothing the purchaser could do if he found the equipment to be unsafe.

It is noted that "sale" is widely interpreted to mean importation, exhibiting, exchange, donation or leasing.

● The cost of complying with the Act and providing personal protective equipment will have to be borne by the employer. The employer is also responsible for ensuring that his employees can follow the provisions of the Act in working hours.

● The employer can be held responsible for the acts or omissions of employees, and similarly, a representative of the State can be held responsible and charged for any act or omission which runs contrary to the Act.

All of the existing regulations under the old Factories Act are still applicable as the new regulations will be introduced on a piecemeal basis.



# 'Millions at risk' under new SA law

By STEVEN FRIEDMAN  
Labour Correspondent

A NEW law on industrial health and safety — which has been hailed as a major step forward and is the subject of a meeting between industry and the Government today — offers workers little protection and places the health and safety of millions of South African workers at risk

This is the view of Mr Barry Castleman, an American expert on occupational health, who yesterday delivered a stinging attack on safety and health standards in South African factories and mines

After visiting two mines and an industrial plant he branded local health and safety standards as "primitive"

Mr Castleman, of the School of Hygiene and Public Health at Johns Hopkins University, has advised the US Congress, the International Labour Organisation and US Government agencies on occupational health issues

He was invited to South Africa by the University of the Witwatersrand Science Students' Council

He was interviewed yesterday on the eve of talks between industry and the Department of Manpower on the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act,

which has been passed by Parliament but has not yet come into force

The Act has been hailed by the National Occupational Safety Association as a breakthrough for workers which is "unique" in the country's history

Mr Castleman said the Act lagged decades behind protection offered workers elsewhere in the West and "reads like some Mexican statute of the 1940s"

He said workers in the United States had considerable protection from diseases and injury on the job through legislation and the creation of a Federal agency with substantial powers to act against health and safety abuses

South Africa's new law was introduced without consulting black workers, he said

It was vague and contained no list of hazardous materials to which workers should not be exposed "The whole issue is left to the employer," he said

A further major defect was that inspectors had to inspect a factory several times before taking action

"This gives the employer ample time to cover his tracks by the time the inspector has completed his visits. In America an inspector can be fined if he announces a factory visit beforehand," Mr Castleman said

He said clauses in the law, which

made workers liable for prosecution if they did not wear protective clothing, were "unprecedented" in the West, where employers were liable for safety violations

Mr Castleman also doubted the effectiveness of "safety committees" which the Act compels employers to set up in factories. Employers would choose their own nominees unless there was a strong union in their factories

On safety standards in South African factories, Mr Castleman said visiting a plant was "like going back in a time machine"

He claimed he had seen workers welding with no face shields, pouring gold without dark glasses and working in noisy areas without ear protection. In one plant workers had no protection against machinery with movable parts

He had spoken to local unions on safety issues "and it is apparent that workers here have little or no protection from injury and disease on the job"

The fact that black workers had no access to political power meant most of the country's workers were ignored when safety laws were drawn up

Mr Castleman said unions should "give the new law a chance — but make clear to the Government that the law is on trial and that they will challenge it"

## You can sue over health and safety, workers told

Labour Correspondent

LOCAL emerging unions have been told they can take legal action against factories where they believe their members' health and safety is at risk by suing the managers of these plants

The advice comes from Mr Barry Castleman, an American expert on health and safety who is visiting this country as a guest of Wits University's Science Students Council

Mr Castleman has held talks with local unions and, if his advice is adopted, it could lead to lawsuits against companies on health and safety issues similar to those launched in the United States

In an interview yesterday, Mr Castleman said US unions had made gains in protecting members' health and safety by taking legal action against employers

This was made possible, he said, by the American legal concept of "product liability" which meant anybody who suffered physical

damage because of exposure to a product could sue

This applied also to workers who were injured or contracted disease at work, and such lawsuits were mainly responsible, for example, for a sharp decline in the use of asbestos in the US, he said

No such concept existed in local law and it was also not possible in law for workers to sue a company if they were hurt or fell ill at work

"However, there is nothing to stop a worker suing the plant manager, who is also an employee and who is responsible for health and safety in the plant

"If unions were to send the plant manager a list of the health and safety issues they felt were being neglected prior to taking legal action, they might see results," he said

Mr Castleman said he had also advised unions to develop their own panel of doctors to examine workers

Firm <sup>(131)</sup>  
denies  
illness <sup>Mercury</sup>  
due to <sup>18/8/83</sup>  
chemical  
product

**Mercury Reporter**

A CHEMICAL substance which is highly irritating to the skin and respiratory system and can cause pneumonia and gangrene has been used in the Chemserve factory in Pinetown

Chemserve is a subsidiary of the Johannesburg-based AECI giant

During the course of a lengthy cross-examination by Mr George Miller, a former factory inspector, Chemserve general manager Alan Roth told the two-man commission of inquiry into the borough's affairs yesterday that paraformaldehyde was one of the chemicals used at the factory

He was reluctant to say more as the factory's affairs were privileged information

Mr Miller, now a Pinetown ratepayer and one of at least five objectors to the Chemserve factory, said he and his wife had become ill while living near the factory, and the symptoms suggested that this chemical might be responsible Mr Roth denied the possibility

**Material**

Commission chairman Mr Selwyne Greene said Mr Roth was not obliged to answer any questions which concerned private aspects of Chemserve's operation

He said the commission was trying to avoid holding a further session of the inquiry behind closed doors

Earlier in the day Mr Miller asked Mr Roth if he considered the after-hours manufacture of materials to be more important than the welfare of the townsfolk living near the factory, which is situated in a light-industrial area bordering a residential area

Mr Roth replied that Chemserve did not choose to work at night, but was forced to provide the material to other industries

Counsel for the Pinetown municipality, Mr M G Hands, asked Mr Roth if he thought that his factory was inspected often enough

'I get the impression that we are being very carefully policed,' said Mr Roth Since the beginning of 1983 an endless stream of officials had been to the factory

Mr Roth added that Chemserve had also taken precautions against the possibility of terrorist attacks

# Asbestos fibre hazard — <sup>19/8/83</sup> SA regulations 'out of date' <sup>(131)</sup>

Staff Reporter

GOVERNMENT doctors had done "a terrible job" of informing the South African public about the hazards of asbestos, an American environmental consultant told a meeting at UCT

Mr Barry Castleman said last night that the lack of public awareness here was one of the main reasons for failure to prevent occupational cancer

## HOMELANDS

There was also a high labour turnover in asbestos mines and factories, with workers being sent back to homelands where tumours were not diagnosed

Workers were not organised in unions and had

no say in the formulation of protective legislation. Compliance with the regulations was largely left to the employers themselves

## NO LAWS

There was no product liability laws comparable to those in the United States, where claims against asbestos companies were being filed at a rate of about 500 a month

Mr Castleman said South African regulations on asbestos fibre levels in mines and factories were about 15 years behind those in Britain.

"People who know better are telling newspapers and the public not to worry about asbestos.

"They are saying it's

okay to use asbestos in the proper way. But they know it is not being used in a proper way"

There was a lack of information, regulation and adequate compensation — the three pillars on which prevention of occupational cancer stood

## PLANTS CLOSED

Mr Castleman said the use of asbestos in the United States had dropped by 70 percent in the last 10 years

At least six asbestos cement pipe plants had closed down in North America in the past four years

Suitable substitutes for asbestos were available in every product category, from brake linings to water pipes

# Focus on asbestos



Barry Castleman is an independent consultant on toxic substances for US federal regulatory bodies and environmentalist groups, and has served as an expert witness in litigation arising from asbestos-related disease. The whole question of asbestos and its dangers is a controversial one. In an interview with the *FM*, he outlined recent developments in the US.

**FM:** Are US practices in industrial health relevant to SA industry?

Castleman: Yes. In the US a variety of tests and standards for industrial health and safety have been developed, which can be applied in other countries to gain control over environmental and health hazards arising out of industry.

In 1970, occupational health was covered by federal law, requiring that employers provide a safe and healthy workplace. The courts later prohibited discrimination against workers who protected themselves by refusing to undertake hazardous jobs. Before that there were only state laws enforced by inadequately financed and trained state agencies. There are hundreds of toxic substances which are limited, and the regulation process is highly complicated.

**Is it possible to apply the US standards to less industrialised or developing countries?**

My hope is that the Third World will be able to assess the risks based on full knowledge of the dangers if they decide to allow "dirty industries" into their countries. Long-term effects are costly economically as well as in human terms.

In the case of asbestos production, for example, the evidence of its effectiveness as a cancer cause — of lung, gut, pleural and peritoneal cancers — is at least as well documented and re-

searched as the link of smoking to lung cancer. This affects not just producers, but all workers who come in contact with it or its wastes.

If asbestos production were banned tomorrow in the US, there would still be 8 000 to 10 000 deaths yearly resulting from it for the next 30 years. The cost of the care and reparations involved to a region which had benefited from the industry would ultimately be greater than the industrial spinoffs.

Manville Corporation has filed for protection against its creditors under the bankruptcy code, as it is facing 16 500 damages claims for personal injury as a result of asbestos health damage, with more claims being filed at the rate of 500 monthly. It's a manoeuvre that's being closely watched by other companies who are co-defendants, and who face similar claims.

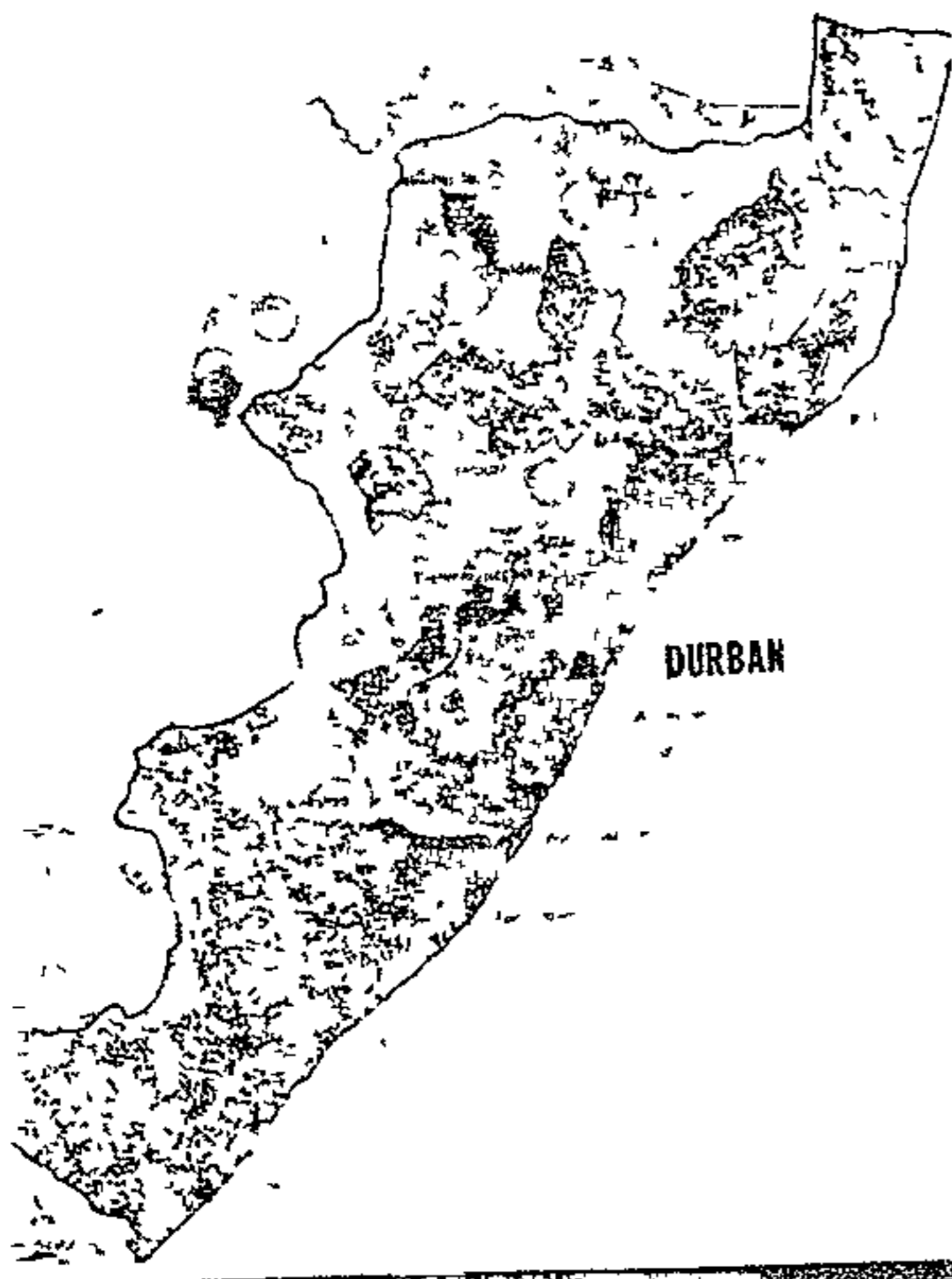
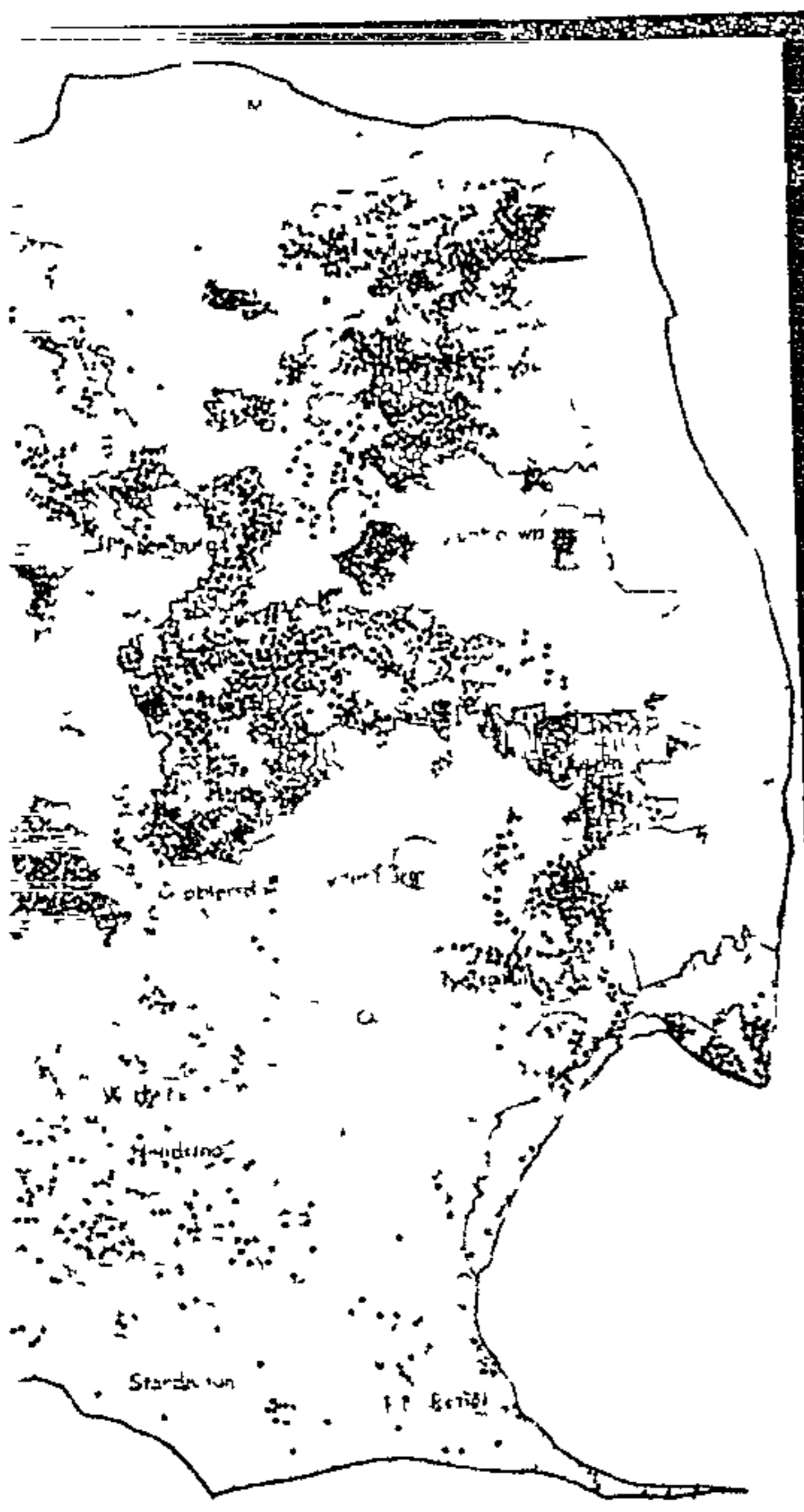
In the US, other products are increasingly being substituted for asbestos. Consumption in the US has declined by more than two-thirds in the last 10 years, and asbestos products are not being imported either.

Six asbestos-cement pipe plants have closed down in the last five years, partly because local public works won't use them for anything related to drinking water supply, substituting plastic, cast iron or pre-stressed concrete.

Similarly, asbestos use in fire protection clothing has just about disappeared. The only area where it is still extensively used is in manufacture of brake linings; and the changeover's beginning there too.

**Have you first-hand information about the asbestos industry in SA?**

I've visited a mining operation here. It appears that factories are extremely concerned about bad publicity, particularly, I think, because of their export markets. They appear concerned that increasing knowledge and fear of the hazards will spread to developing countries where they still have markets for their products.



# Everite seeks alternative to asbestos fibres

131 S. Express  
21/8/83

By LAUREN COWER

EVERITE, the country's largest manufacturer of asbestos-containing products, is studying alternatives to asbestos

The company said in a statement this week it was trying to move away from the use of asbestos fibres in fibre-cement products because it recognised there were "potential hazards with asbestos if not properly handled"

"Everite is convinced that there is no undue risk at present to workers in the FC (fibre-cement) construction industries or to consumers who come into contact with FC products"

The statement said other reasons for seeking an alternative included the limited asbestos reserves in the world, the high cost of worker education and maintenance of severe safety standards, and the high cost of customer and consumer education "as to the potential dangers of incorrect usage of FC products"

Everite pointed out that while it had "a number of promising developments in sight" arising from "considerable progress made in the search for alternatives", it was necessary to remember that "asbestos is unsurpassed by any known natural or synthetic fibres in its physical characteristics"

The Everite statement came in response to a spate of publicity about asbestos products, most of it stemming from the visit of Mr Barry Castleman, a consultant for United States envi-

ronmental groups, who has criticised the use of asbestos

FROM the kitchen to the carport, from the office to the school, "fibre-cement" and other asbestos products are part of the South African way of life

Ironing boards, flower pots, heaters and insulation, garden furniture and pre-fab schoolroom walls are among the products that contain asbestos

The variety of fibre-cement products is enormous. It includes gutters, ventilation pipes, sewerage, water and insulation pipes. Sound protection boards, floor tiles — and in the motor-car industry clutch facings and battery boxes — all contain asbestos

Mr Castleman was invited this week to tour Everite's plant at Kliprivier near Vereeniging

During the visit, the factory manager and the chief technical advisor to the company pointed out safety measures and explained where improvements would be made

Everite is aware of the dangers of the 'killer dust' — a name to which the company objects — and says it is committed to protecting both its employees and the public

Mr Hans Guettinger, the company's technical advisor, said "It is a top priority to look for a suitable alternative to asbestos"

But Everite pointed out that the research and development programme needed to be seen against the background of practical considerations

Any alternative fibre should not pose health risks, had to be economically viable and of comparable quality and performance to asbestos

Everite managing director, Mr E Arni, who is chairman of the SA Fibre-Reinforced Cement

Manufacturers' Association (SAFRCMA), said Everite held the largest share of the South African market for FC products

There are three other producers of similar commodities

Mr Arni said that while information was exchanged on health, "we have no power of command and manufacturers can use the information as they choose"

Everite complies with legislated standards which are monitored by Government health and industrial inspectors

A SAFRCMA brochure also accompanies asbestos products likely to be cut into sections

It describes tools approved by the Asbestos International Association and says "only the cutting tools recommended in this brochure should be used"

It advises that the "use of slow revolving cutting tools producing chips ensures that the dust produced is minimised, thus eliminating the potential danger to health caused by the inhalation of very fine dust"

However, domestic products do not carry a warning that asbestos can be a health hazard



A new range of handcrafted Rattan

Rowan is 'doing very well'

Staff Reporter  
FORMER Springbok cricketer Eric Rowan, 74, was said yesterday to be "doing very well" in the intensive care unit of Johannesburg's J G Strydom Hospital

# Safety standard row all set to go on the boil ...

22/8/83  
131 RPM  
AMERICAN occupational health expert Mr Barry Castleman has kicked up a storm with charges about the state of health and safety protection for workers here

His charge that standards here are "primitive" and that the law offers workers little protection will be hotly contested by employers and the Government

But local unions have been saying much the same thing for some time

There is a growing interest in health and safety among unions here — witness the recent strike at an AECI plant after several workers died in an explosion

Because the resources of emerging unions are thinly stretched, the issue has not been given sustained attention, but union interest is certain to grow.

Already there has been a campaign against the effect of cotton dust on textile workers' lungs — including an impending demand that workers be paid "hazard pay" if they work in dangerous areas of a factory.

There are also signs of union interest in the effect of substances in food plants on pregnant women's health.

One of Mr Castleman's charges which is undisputable is that both safety laws and most company safety measures in this country have been introduced without consultation with black workers and it is clear this will be challenged by unions

They may win changes in some factories, and last week one union won a modest victory at the national level

Last week, the National Union of Textile Workers revealed that one of its members, Mr John Hlela, had been awarded Government compensation after contracting "brown lung" — a disease contracted from cotton dust

It says he is the first worker to be compensated since brown lung was made a compensable disease in 1972, and that overseas hundreds of workers have been compensated for it



**Labour  
Week By  
Steven  
Friedman**

# Man killed in crash

131

*Mercury*

Pietermaritzburg Bureau 23/8/83

AN UNIDENTIFIED labourer was killed and six others were slightly injured yesterday when the pick-up they were travelling in went down an embankment on the city's by-pass.

## LETTERS

The Editor, Rand Daily Mail,  
Box 1138, Johannesburg 2000.

# Asbestos: today's disease, yesterday's cause

131

ROM  
24/8/83

AS ONE who is perhaps closer than most to the facts related to industrial health and safety, I should appreciate the opportunity to respond to recent criticism of the occupational safety measures in South African mines in general and asbestos mines and asbestos manufacturing plants in particular

Respirable asbestos fibres can cause cancer but, as sometime consultant to companies within the asbestos industry, I obviously would like this fact placed in perspective

This is particularly important due to the unfortunate paucity of historical statistics on dose-response relationship between asbestos and disease and the consequent vacuum in which claim and counter claim is made in respect of illnesses and deaths. However, for many years the Workmen's Compensation Act and acts relating to occupational illness in the mining industry have required of doctors to report all suspected cases of asbestos-related diseases

There are some 400 000 deaths a year in South Africa, including approximately 2 000 due to lung cancer. Of these some 1 200 are directly attributable to smoking and probably 10-15 to asbestos exposure. It should also be remembered that today's asbestos-related

diseases are the result of exposure some 20-40 years ago

Since the relation between asbestos and lung diseases was fully recognised by scientists, public health authorities and the industry in the 1960s, enormous improvements in industrial hygiene have been achieved

The South African underground mining industry is recognised worldwide as a leader in dust control techniques and the asbestos-cement industry has voluntarily adopted stringent internationally-accepted hygiene standards

The mining industry falls under the control of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs and the asbestos-cement industry under the Department of Manpower

I am convinced that due to these stringent precautionary measures instituted by mines and the asbestos-cement industry, the likelihood of workers contracting asbestos-related diseases today is minimal. We must recognise, however, that further cases will become evident due to the latency period for asbestos-related diseases which may have started many years ago — PROF A M COETZEE, (Occupational Medicine), head: Department of Community Medicine, University of Pretoria



**Crushed** 131  
*Mercury 25/1/83*  
**man better**

**Mercury Reporter**

A TRANSVAAL man who was seriously injured when a cobalt machine weighing two tons fell against him at Addington Hospital on Monday, is in an improved condition

'His condition remains serious but stable,' a hospital spokesman said

Mr Michael Smith, an Atomic Energy Board employee, was helping to move the machine when it slipped from a trolley and fell against him, crushing his chest against a wall. He was placed under intensive care

(131) P. Dispatch 25/8/83

# White asbestos gets green light

LONDON — Tough new rules governing the use of asbestos are to be introduced in Britain following a decision by the Health and Safety Commission concerning asbestos-related lung disease and cancer

The new rules will include a legal ban on the importation and use in manufacture of blue and brown asbestos, leaving white asbestos the only permitted substance. The ban will come into effect on June 1 next year.

South Africa is the world's major producer of blue asbestos, or crocidolite, as it is known. Reserves of this kind of asbestos are confined almost wholly to South Africa.

The new rules will also provide for the mandatory licensing of companies engaged in asbestos insulation and coating work.

Trade unions in Bri-

tain have also been taking a close interest in the use of asbestos and the dangers that may exist to the health of union members who are brought into contact with asbestos.

Television films have been shown on asbestos hazards, including one which severely criticised conditions at an asbestos factory in the Cape Province.

The health and safety commission has decided at a day-long meeting in London to implement in Britain common market directives on asbestos, requiring labelling of all asbestos products, demarcation of asbestos areas in factories, assessment of asbestos risks in work places and other additional safeguards.

Dust reduction regulations will apply to all types of asbestos, because although blue and brown asbestos are to be

legally banned they have been widely used for insulation in buildings.

The permitted level for brown asbestos dust will be cut from 5 fibres to 2 fibres per millilitre of atmosphere, the present level for blue asbestos, considered the most harmful of the three substances.

This will mean stricter controls on building work involving removal of or interference with asbestos insulation.

The permitted level for white asbestos is to be reduced from one fibre to 5 fibres per millilitre, requiring more stringent safeguards in asbestos factories.

In addition to improved dust extraction systems, workers may be required to wear full protective clothing and respiratory equipment if the new permitted dust level cannot otherwise be achieved — DDC

(131) Jan 25/8/83

# Warning by brokers on asbestos

By Carolyn Dempster

South Africa's asbestos industry is "under siege" as a result of the powerful anti-asbestos health lobby in the West and the worldwide recession

This is the claim of the authors of a comprehensive report released by Johannesburg stockbroking firm E W Balderson

The Balderson report, which highlights the profit sensitivity of national asbestos mining, recommends long-term investors to sell — as "the long-term future of the industry has a shadow over it"

The industry is also awaiting a medical study on the incidence of cancers in South Africa's asbestos-mining areas, due to be released this year

South African Government officials say strict dust controls are applied at asbestos mines. However, a visiting American international occupational health expert last week described conditions on the two mines he

had visited as "archaic"

Mr Barry Castleman, a chemical engineer and consultant to a number of top environmental and government bodies on occupational health hazards, said South Africa was decades behind First World countries on stringent dust control

It is now widely accepted that asbestos mining is a health hazard, but the argument between environmentalists and producers still rages over the acceptable level of asbestos fibre/dust in the working area (under and above ground)

South Africa, after Russia and Canada, is the largest asbestos producer and exporter and holds a monopoly of crocidolite (blue asbestos) and amosite

The asbestos "twins" of the national industry who together account for nearly all domestic production — the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company Ltd (Gefco) and Msauli Asbes Beperk (Msauli) — are now

LETTER FROM



ASBESTO.  
ASBESTO  
CANCER.

This poster was used in an anti-asbestos campaign by schoolteachers in Puerto Rico in 1970 when it was discovered that a government low-cost housing project, for more than 1 300 families, was constructed out of asbestos-cement panels. The entire housing project was demolished less than two years after completion as a result of the campaign. The poster warns, "Danger, this room is constructed of asbestos. Scientific research has demonstrated that asbestos causes cancer".

operating near breakeven point, says the Balderson report

"The anti-asbestos lobby is dealing with a highly emotional, graphically illustrative subject that makes for headlines and sensationalism. In our view there is still time for the industry to present its case, for it to be accepted and to stabi-

lise or reverse the downward sales trend"

It concludes that the long-term future of the industry rests on "the race between the industry to prove it has instituted suitable controls and the technological development of suitable fibre substitutes commercially viable"

●See reports on Page 7.

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# SA under spotlight in anti-asbestos lobby

Full asbestos lobby in the US, Canada and Europe are beginning to be felt by South Africa as a major exporter

"Projected deaths from asbestos-related diseases in America alone range from 8 500 to 10 000 a year for the next 30 years — and that is if we stopped using asbestos today" (Mr Barry Castleman, international expert on industrial health)

South Africa, the major producer of blue asbestos (crocidolite) and amosite, has frequently come under the spotlight in the asbestos debate

It was in South Africa in 1960 that research conducted by Dr C A Steggs and Dr Chris Wagner produced sufficient medical evidence to show that blue asbestos caused or promoted asbestosis (a non-malignant lung disease) and a rare type of

Cancer of the lung — mesothelioma — among the miners and people who lived in communities near asbestos mines

In their research, precipitated by the outbreak of the strange lung disease in Kuruman in the Northern Cape, the doctors found "unbelievable conditions on the asbestos mines and mills"

Among the workers in the open-cast mines were women, often with babies on their backs, who separated the asbestos fibres from the serpentine rock by hand

The asbestos industry has been at the centre of international controversy since the 1960s when it was discovered that the refined fibre was a "killer dust" with an estimated 40 percent fatality rate among occupationally exposed workers. CAROLYN DEMPSTER reports.

were used as repositories and every time the load was moved clouds of blue dust filled the air

Workers emerged from the mills covered with layers of the lethal dust, and asbestos waste was used for the roads in the communities. The result

1962 stated "People who live or have lived in the areas of Priestka, Koegas, Kuruman and Penge are in danger of contracting asbestosis — even though they have no industrial exposure to asbestos dust inhalation

"An alarmingly high number of cases of mesothelioma have been discovered among people who live or have lived in the North Western Cape

There is evidence to suggest that this condition is associated with exposure to asbestos dust, which again need not be industrial"

The report was never published in South Africa, allegedly as a result of pressure from business interests in the industry.

As a result of this and other research conducted in First World countries, it is now scientifically widely accepted that blue asbestos is so dangerous

that even the most stringent dust-control safeguards are not sufficient, and the mineral should rather be left below the Earth's surface

more than 10 years ago Less than a year ago two films, shot on site at South African asbestos mines and shown by the BBC overseas, caused an international outcry because of the lack of adequate safeguards at certain mines.

The outcry was an inquiry by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs into health conditions at asbestos mining towns

This was followed by an announcement that stricter controls to reduce health hazards would be introduced.

Among the controls scheduled to come into effect next year are:

- A reduction in the acceptable asbestos fibre concentrations at surface operations from five fibres to two fibres to a millilitre of air. (The threshold limit value for blue asbestos has been set in Western countries and is 10 times lower — 0.2 fibres/ml).
- Modernising asbestos mills that are still regarded as antiquated.
- Phasing out sun-drying and double handling of asbestos materials.
- A pre-employment information system to tell workers of the dangers of working with asbestos

The government mining engineer, Mr G P Badenhorst, used the World Symposium on Asbestos in Montreal in 1972 to support the State's stance "The answer lies in the systematic and concerted application of a rigorous and continual control in the mining industry," he said.

However, the fact remains that it can take up to 20 years before the asbestos-related diseases reveal themselves.

Activities of the power-formation system to tell workers of the dangers of working with asbestos

Consumption of asbestos, used in more than 3 000 applications, has dropped by more than two-thirds in the US over the past six years

As a result of community pressure, six asbestos-cement plants in Canada and the US have been closed, schools with high asbestos-fibre insulation content have been shut down, and in England asbestos heaters and other fabricated products have been banned.

The industry is reeling from the counterblows of multiple lawsuits

## Third World — a dump for hazards

Academy of Sciences and one-time adviser to the US Congress on occupational health issues, he is in the forefront of the anti-asbestos lobby

It has brought the major American asbestos producer and manufacturer John-Manville to its knees through thousands of health lawsuits

He is an acknowledged authority on the transfer of hazardous materials to Third World countries

This involves the export of industrial hazards to countries where there are few or no regulations or controls. Major corporations

50 years behind the standard practise these firms are forced to observe at home"

In 1980 the entire asbestos textile factory of the Deutsche Kap-asbestwerke was dismantled and shipped to Cape Town

According to documents collated by Mr Castleman the shipping and reconstruction costs "were more than offset by other factors, and the move itself was attributed to the restricting influence of trade unions and less expensive imports from Spain, Yugoslavia and South Korea"

But, as Mr Castleman is quick to point out, asbestos is not the only hazardous material

Thirty percent of the pesticides exported to the Third World are either banned or severely restricted in the industrialised world

It is estimated that three million tons of hazardous wastes cross international borders in Europe each year as highly industrialised countries attempt to find suitable dump ping grounds



Mr Barry Castleman

"Probably the classic unprotected barrels were case study of exported hazards is the story of Hoffmann-LaRoche's trichlorophenol plant in Seveso, Italy," says Mr Castleman.

"Subsequent to the 1976 explosion, in which the surroundings were contaminated with dioxin and hundreds of people were relocated, 41 barrels of waste-material were gathered up for disposal

In Science it was reported recently that the

unprotected barrels were discovered near a slaughterhouse in Paris."

Although the United Nations Environmental Programme was stepping up the pace to develop global guidelines for hazardous waste disposal, there would still be Third World countries where the lack of regulations and strict controls provided an "out" for the major corporate producers

## There are 3 types of killer fibrous mineral

Asbestos is the name applied to a loose grouping of fibrous minerals. Three are commercially viable — chrysotile (white asbestos), crocidolite (blue asbestos) and amosite.

Chrysotile is the most widely mined and refined, and accounts for 95 percent of the world's production, but the special properties of crocidolite and amosite (mined exclusively in South Africa) give these types added importance.

There are more than 3 000 uses for asbestos. In construction it is used in asbestos cement pipes, cement sheets, roofing and flooring products.

Other major uses are in textiles, thermal and electrical insulation, coatings, brake pads, plastic reinforcements and in household goods such as hair dryers, heaters, iron rests and electric toasters.

The Soviet Union is the world's largest producer and consumer of asbestos. Canada is second, closely followed by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Swaziland

Three types of diseases are related to asbestos: ● Asbestosis — the lung lining is scarred by inhaled asbestos fibres. It has been described as one-symptom-death, the only symptom being shortness of breath, and can take from 10 to 20 years to develop. It can be prevented and treated.

● Lung cancer — there is no cure — has only recently been associated with exposure to asbestos, although the causative links are not proven.

● Mesothelioma — a rare type of cancer which eats away the lining of the lung and the abdomen and may strangle the aorta. It takes up to 40 years to develop and is incurable.

People do not have to work consistently with asbestos fibres to be affected. Many incidents and surveys have shown that one exposure to the raw fibres or dust is sufficient.

## Cancer link: UK plans tough laws

LONDON — Safety officials have recommended tough new restrictions on the use of asbestos in Britain after studying reports linking the material with cancer.

The government's Health and Safety Commission urged import bans on blue and brown asbestos and restrictions on the use of the common white asbestos.

A commission statement last night said: "It is clear from the medical reports before us that there is no longer any medical doubt on the need for controls to be as tight as possible in work places where asbestos is present."

The commission recommended that in work places the amount of white asbestos allowed in the air should be reduced from one fibre to half a fibre per millilitre.

The ban on imports will come into operation next June and the dust regulations from next August, assuming parliamentary approval.

Public concern over asbestos has mounted in Britain this year following checks on housing estates, schools and other public buildings to see if dust levels were dangerous. — Reuter.

# Tough new UK rules over asbestos usage

131  
25/8/83

London Bureau

LONDON. — Tough new rules governing the use of asbestos are to be introduced in Britain following a decision by the Health and Safety Commission concerning asbestos-related lung disease and cancer

The new rules will include a legal ban on the importation and use in the manufacture of blue and brown asbestos, leaving white asbestos the only permitted substance. The ban will come into effect on June 1 next year.

South Africa is the world's major producer of blue asbestos, or crocidolite, as it is known. Reserves of this kind of asbestos are confined almost wholly to South Africa.

The new rules will also provide for the mandatory licensing of companies engaged in asbestos insulation and coating work.

Trade unions in Britain have also been taking a keen interest in the use of asbestos and the dangers that may exist to the health of union members who are brought into contact with the substance.

Television films have been shown on the hazards of asbestos, including one which severely criticised conditions at an asbestos

factory in South Africa.

The Health and Safety Commission has decided at a meeting in London to implement in Britain Common Market directives on asbestos, requiring labelling of all asbestos products, demarcation of asbestos areas in factories, assessment of asbestos risks in work places and other additional safeguards.

Dust reduction regulations will apply to all types of asbestos, because although blue and brown asbestos are to be legally banned they have been widely used for insulation in buildings.

The permitted level for brown asbestos dust will be cut from 0.5 fibres to 0.2 fibres per millilitre of atmosphere, the present level for blue asbestos, considered the most harmful of the three substances.

This will mean stricter controls on building work involving removal of or interference with asbestos insulation.

The permitted level for white asbestos is to be reduced from one fibre to 0.5 fibres per ml, requiring more stringent safeguards in asbestos factories.

In addition to improved dust extraction systems, workers may be required to wear full protective clothing and respiratory equipment.

(131) P. Dis Patch 25/8/83

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The Soviet Union has produced its own recorders using open-reel tapes but quality has been poor — SAPA-RNS

## Radicals say they attacked

LONDON — A British radical group of the 1970's claimed responsibility yesterday for a bomb attack on an office of the American Express group in London on Saturday

A letter sent to Britain's national news agency, and signed Captain Scarlet, said the attack was carried out by the angry brigade, but gave no explanation. The firebomb blew out windows, but nobody was injured — SAPA-RNS

# White asbestos gets green light

LONDON — Tough new rules governing the use of asbestos are to be introduced in Britain following a decision by the Health and Safety Commission concerning asbestos-related lung disease and cancer

The new rules will include a legal ban on the importation and use in manufacture of blue and brown asbestos, leaving white asbestos the only permitted substance. The ban will come into effect on June 1 next year

South Africa is the world's major producer of blue asbestos or crocidolite, as it is known. Reserves of this kind of asbestos are confined almost wholly to South Africa

The new rules will also provide for the mandatory licensing of companies engaged in asbestos insulation and coating work

Trade unions in Bri-

tain have also been taking a close interest in the use of asbestos and the dangers that may exist to the health of union members who are brought into contact with asbestos

Television films have been shown on asbestos hazards including one which severely criticised conditions at an asbestos factory in the Cape Province

The health and safety commission has decided at a day-long meeting in London to implement in Britain common market directives on asbestos requiring labelling of all asbestos products, demarcation of asbestos areas in factories, assessment of asbestos risks in work places and other additional safeguards

Dust reduction regulations will apply to all types of asbestos because although blue and brown asbestos are to be

legally banned they have been widely used for insulation in buildings

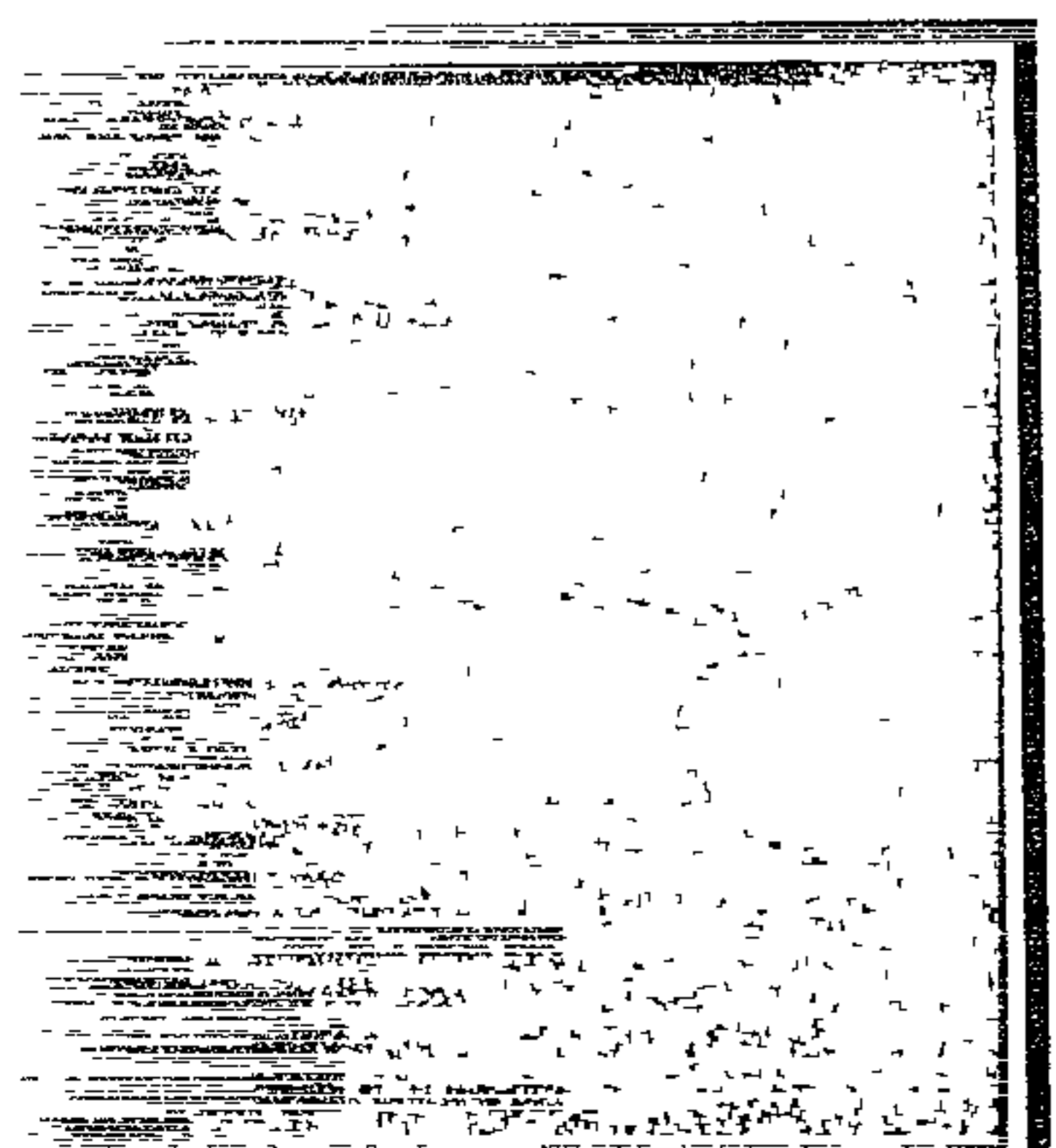
The permitted level for brown asbestos dust will be cut from 5 fibres to 2 fibres per millilitre of atmosphere, the present level for blue asbestos, considered the most harmful of the three substances

This will mean stricter controls on building work involving removal of or interference with asbestos insulation

The permitted level for white asbestos is to be reduced from one fibre to 5 fibres per millilitre requiring more stringent safeguards in asbestos factories

In addition to improved dust extraction systems workers may be required to wear full protective clothing and respiratory equipment if the new permitted dust level cannot otherwise be achieved — DDC

# money. ing the ou?



## Outrage over molesters grows

LONDON — The Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE) — which advocates sex between adults and children in contravention of the law — came a step closer to prosecution yesterday as a wave of public outrage against child molesters grew

Scotland Yard yesterday handed a report on PIE — the result of a two-year investigation — to the director of public prosecutions — who will study the evidence with a view to possible prosecutions

And the Home Secretary — Mr Leon Brittan, called for the report to be on his desk when he returns from holiday tomorrow

The move follows a spate of sexual and sadistic attacks on chil-

dren in various parts of Britain over the past two weeks

The worst case was a nightmare attack by a gang of three perverts — dubbed the Brighton Beasts — on a six-year-old Brighton boy. Police are still hunting the attackers

Leading the campaign to outlaw PIE is a Tory MP, Mr Geoffrey Dickens, who has threatened to disclose the names of celebrities and influential people who belong to the secret organisation

He has also threatened a backbench revolt in Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government if something is not done to crack down on child molesters

While the government's view in the past has been that there are

sufficient laws to deal with child molesters, Mr Brittan has acted swiftly to ally public outrage by calling for the Scotland Yard report

PIE's members operate a network through code names but they have regular meetings and publish a magazine called *Minor Problems*

Mr Dickens said yesterday that there were over 2 000 children missing in Britain and that he would not hesitate to use parliamentary privilege to reveal a list of paedophiles in the Commons

"We must get rid of this evil child cult," he said

Mr Dickens said it was clear Mr Brittan meant business by calling for a copy of the Scotland Yard report — DDC

## Janice compiled an anthology of pros

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Cape Times 25/8/83

# UK to take tough stand on asbestos

Own Correspondent

LONDON — Tough new rules governing the use of asbestos are to be introduced in Britain following a decision by the Health and Safety Commission concerning asbestos-related lung disease and cancer.

The new rules will include a legal ban on the importation and use in manufacture of blue and brown asbestos, leaving white asbestos the only permitted substance. The ban will come into effect on June 1 next year.

South Africa is the world's major producer of blue asbestos — or crocidolite, as it is known.

The new rules will also provide for the mandatory licensing of companies engaged in asbestos insulation and coating work.

Trade unions in Britain have also been taking a close interest in the use of asbestos and the dangers it may pose to the health of union members who are brought into contact with asbestos.

Television films have been shown on asbestos hazards, including one which severely criticized conditions at an asbestos factory in the Cape Province.

The Health and Safety Commission decided at a day-long meeting in London to implement Common Market directives on asbestos, requiring labelling of all asbestos products, demarcation of asbestos areas in factories, assessment of asbestos risks in work places and other safeguards.

Dust-reduction regulations will apply to all types of asbestos, because although blue and brown asbestos are to be banned, they have been widely used for insulation in buildings.

This will mean stricter controls on building work involving removal of or interference with asbestos insulation.

The permitted dust level for white asbestos is to be reduced, requiring more stringent safeguards in asbestos factories.

Govt council to  
probe <sup>Mercury</sup> complaints  
on safety rules  
26/8/83

**Mercury Correspondent**

JOHANNESBURG—A newly-appointed Government Advisory Council on Occupational Safety is to investigate complaints raised by employers about recently-published draft Government regulations on safety at work

This was announced this week by the Director-General of Manpower, Dr Piet van der Merwe, and follows a recent meeting between the Department of Manpower and key employer organisations about the regulations

**Exact**

The inquiry, to be carried out by a technical committee appointed by the council, will centre on 'technical' complaints about details of the safety standards imposed on employers by the regulations — drawn up in terms of the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act

In some cases, the regulations stipulate the exact specifications of safety measures employers must install in their plants and it is believed they argued that some of these were impracticable and too costly

The names of members of the new advisory council which is to undertake the investigation were released only on Monday. The council has no black worker representatives among its members

Dr van der Merwe said the meeting was held at the request of commerce and industry.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss 'the practical implications of the application and effects' of the draft regulations

Employer groups at the meeting were the Federated Chamber of Industries, Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut, United Municipal Executive, Building Industries' Federation and the Steel and Engineering Industries' Federation

At the meeting Dr van der Merwe said 'certain problem areas' were identified

The department undertook immediately to appoint members of the advisory council — which is provided for in the new Act — and to request the council to 'establish a technical committee to look at the technical aspects concerned'

This committee would make recommendations after which the regulations would be looked at again

The new advisory council will be chaired by Mr A A Weich, of the department's occupational safety division, and will consist of five Government and four private sector representatives

The private sector men are Mr D B Mostert of Dorbyl, Mr P W Watchurst of Firestone, Mr Brian Currie, president of the Confederation of Labour, and Mr Lief van Tonder, general secretary of the Typographical Union



DATE 17  
EXPERTS →

(131)  
ROM 27/8/83

# IS NOW under fire

By ANTON HARBER  
Political Reporter

THE National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) has invited Mr Barry Castleman — an American expert on occupational health who last week delivered a stinging attack on safety standards in South African factories and mines — to tour local factories

And yesterday Mr Bunny Matthysen, director of Nosa, described Mr Castleman's criticism of new safety legislation as "kaff" (rubbish) and said he doubted Mr Castleman had read the regulations that accompanied the legislation

Mr Castleman said in an interview last week that the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act lagged decades behind protection offered workers elsewhere in the West and read "like some Mexican statute of the 1940s"

He said the new law was vague and was introduced without consulting black workers. He also criticised clauses that made workers liable for prosecution if they did not use protective clothing and "safety committees" chosen by employers

Mr Matthysen said South Africa was a world leader and held three world records in occupational safety. Only 1,8% of South Africa's workforce were injured every year, compared to 2,7% in the USA, 6% in Canada and about 10% in Australia

Mr Castleman had based his views on a small sample of factories and this was why Nosa had offered to take him on a tour.

The legislation was only a starting point, but one could not legislate a complete safety programme

It introduced statutory "safety committees" and gave workers a direct link to inspectors for the first time.

"I know that some people are saying safety committees must be elected from the factory floor. But management is in the best position to know who can make the best contribution," he said

Mr Matthysen also said it was not the task of the Department of Manpower to go out and consult black workers on the legislation.

"There was ample opportunity for anybody to comment on the law and if they wanted to consult they could go and see the Department of Manpower."

There was also no reason why workers should not be prosecuted for not wearing protective clothing.

"Employers are prosecuted if they do not supply it, but what is the use if the workers won't use it?" he said.

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A palm tree is hoisted into the air and, on touch down, added a touch of the Rosebank. The Palace opens in the middle of next month and will offer a breakfasts 24 hours a day. The restaurant will be run by brothers Cedric,

## Avoid rush for homes



Mail Reporter

MEMBERS of the coloured community have expressed interest in a recent announcement that seaside homes are to become available to them at Kleinkrantz along the Garden Route

The first houses should be ready for occupation by the end of December, the Minister of Community Development, Mr S F Kotze, said recently

Members of the coloured

## Brother admit

Mail Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — A volunteer serviceman in the South African Corps admitted in the Supreme Court yesterday that he had killed his younger brother with a knife while under the influence of alcohol.

Nathan Elvis Patterson, 23, who was found guilty of culpable homicide by Mr Justice Fagan, was sentenced to four years imprisonment, conditionally suspended for five years. In addition, he was ordered to pay a fine of R500 in monthly instalments of R50 each. If he failed to pay the fine, he would face a 12-month prison sentence.

Patterson pleaded not guilty to murder, but guilty to culpable homicide

In a statement, he told Mr Justice Fagan and two assessors that he and his brother, Mr Anthony Theodore Patterson, had passes to leave their camp on Saturday, October 3, 1981

## Trial of Smith case de

# 3: SA Under the spotlight too

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'PROJCTED deaths from asbestos-related diseases in America alone range from 8 500 to 10 000 a year for the next 30 years — and that is if we stopped using asbestos today," says Mr Barry Castleman, international expert on industrial health.

South Africa, the major producer of blue asbestos (crocidolite) and amosite, has frequently come under the spotlight in the asbestos debate.

It was in South Africa in 1960 that research conducted by Dr C A Sleggs and Dr Chris Wagner produced sufficient medical evidence to show that blue asbestos caused or promoted asbestosis (a non-malignant lung disease) and a rare type of cancer of the lung lining — mesothelioma — among the miners and people who lived in communities near asbestos mines.

In their research, precipitated by the outbreak of the strange

lung diseases in Kuru-Cape, the doctors found "unbelievable conditions on the asbestos mines and mills".

Among the workers in the open-cast mines were women, often with babies on their backs, who separated the asbestos fibres from the serpentine rock by hand.

Unlined hessian sacks were used as repositories and every time the load was moved, clouds of blue dust filled the air

## Lethal

Workers emerged from the mills covered with layers of the lethal dust, and asbestos waste was used for the roads in the communities. The result was that not only the miners, but people who passed through the area or lived there for short periods, were developing mesothelioma.

The confidential report of the Pneumoconiosis Research Unit's mesothelioma survey of April 1962 stated: "Peo-

ple who live or have lived in the areas of Prieska, Koegas, Kuruman and Penge are in danger of contracting asbestosis — even though they have no industrial exposure to asbestos dust inhalation.

"An alarmingly high number of cases of mesothelioma have been discovered among people who live or have lived in the North Western Cape ... There is evidence to suggest that this condition is associated with exposure to asbestos dust, which again need not be industrial."

The report was never published in South Africa, allegedly as a result of pressure from business interests in the industry.

As a result of this

and other research conducted in First World countries, it is now scientifically widely accepted that blue asbestos is so dangerous that even the most stringent dust-control safeguards are not sufficient, and the mineral should rather be left below the Earth's surface

## Controls

Blue asbestos is now banned in England and Holland. Sweden banned all asbestos products more than 10 years ago.

Less than a year ago two films, shot on site at South African asbestos mines and shown by the BBC overseas, caused an international outcry because of the lack of adequate safe-

guards at certain mines

The outcome was an inquiry by the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs into health conditions at asbestos mining towns.

This was followed by an announcement that stricter controls to reduce health hazards would be introduced.

Among the controls scheduled to come into effect next year are:

- A reduction in the acceptable asbestos fibre concentrations at surface operations from five fibres to two fibres to a millilitre of air. (The threshold limit value for blue asbestos has been set in Western countries and is 10 times lower — 0.2 fibres/ml).
- Modernising asbestos mills that are still regarded as antiquated.
- Phasing out sun-drying and double handling of asbestos materials.

● A pre-employment information system to tell workers of the dangers of working with asbestos

The government mining engineer, Mr G P Badenhorst, used the World Symposium on Asbestos in Montreal in 1972 to support the State's stance. "The answer lies in the systematic and concerted application of a rigorous and continual control in the mining industry," he said.

## Diseases

However, the fact remains that it can take up to 20 years before the asbestos-related diseases reveal themselves. Activities of the powerful asbestos lobby in

the US, Canada and Europe are beginning to be felt by South Africa as a major exporter.

Consumption of asbestos, used in more than 3 000 applications, has dropped by more than two-thirds in the US over the past six years

As a result of community pressure, six asbestos-cement plants in Canada and the US have been closed, schools with high asbestos-fibre insulation content have been shut down, and in England asbestos heaters and other fabricated products have been banned. The industry is reeling from the counter-blows of multiple lawsuits.

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# Asbestos under siege

## 1: Brokers warning

By Carolyn Dempster

SOUTH Africa's asbestos industry is "under siege" as a result of the powerful anti-asbestos health lobby in the West and the worldwide recession

This is the claim of the authors of a comprehensive report released by Johannesburg stockbroking firm E W Balderson

The Balderson report, which highlights the profit sensitivity of national asbestos mining, recommends long-term investors to sell — as "the long-term future of the industry has a shadow over it"

The industry is also awaiting a medical study on the incidence of cancers in South Africa's asbestos-mining areas, due to be released this year

South African Government officials say strict dust controls are applied at asbestos mines. However, a visiting American international occupational health expert last week described conditions on the two mines he had visited as "archaic"

Mr Barry Castleman, a chemical engineer and consultant to a number of top environmental and government bodies on occupational health hazards, said South Africa was decades behind First World countries on stringent dust control.

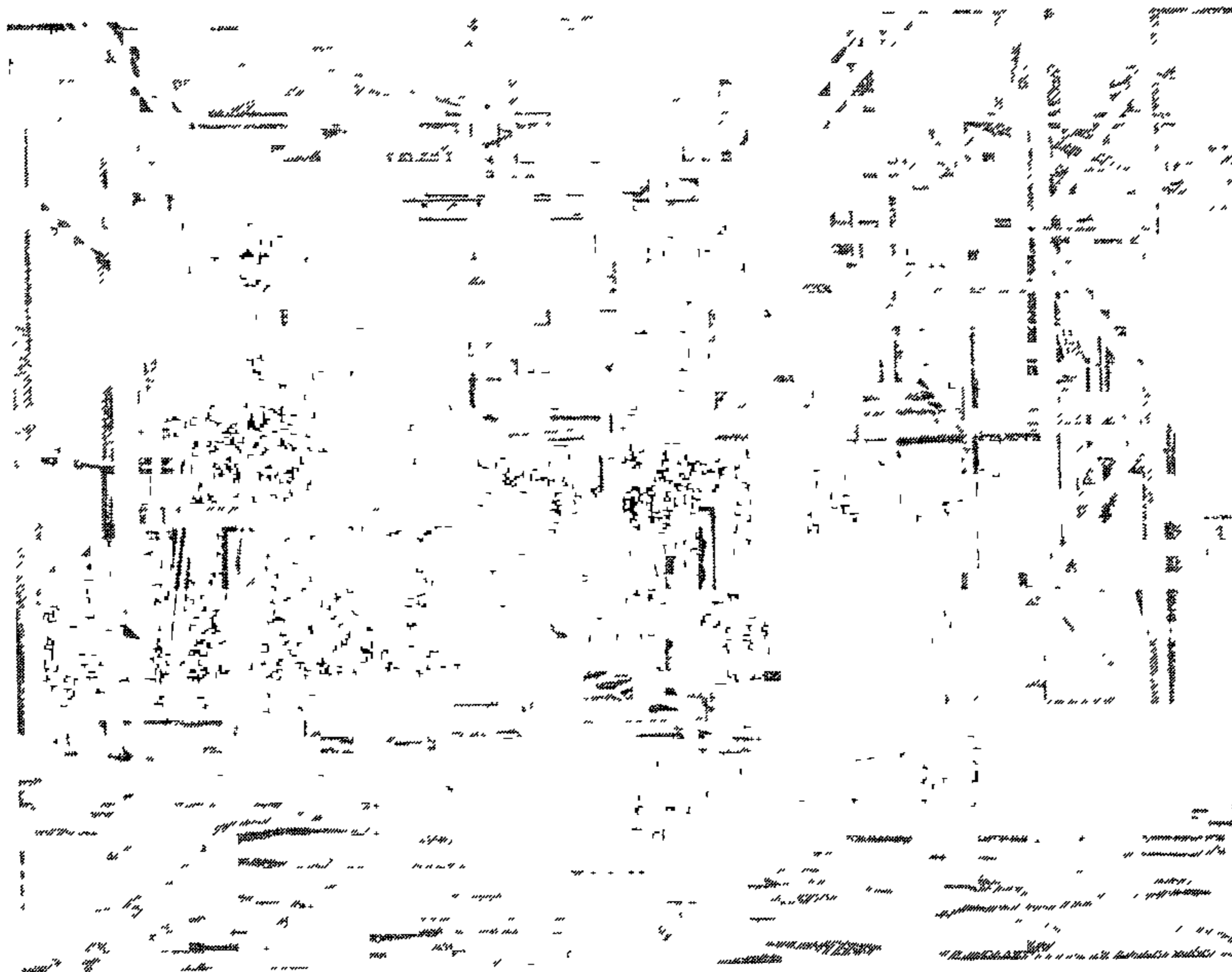
It is now widely accepted that asbestos mining is a health hazard, but the argument between environmentalists and producers still rages over the acceptable level of asbestos fibre/dust in the working area (under and above ground).

South Africa, after Russia and Canada, is the largest asbestos producer and exporter and holds a monopoly of crocidolite (blue asbestos) and amosite

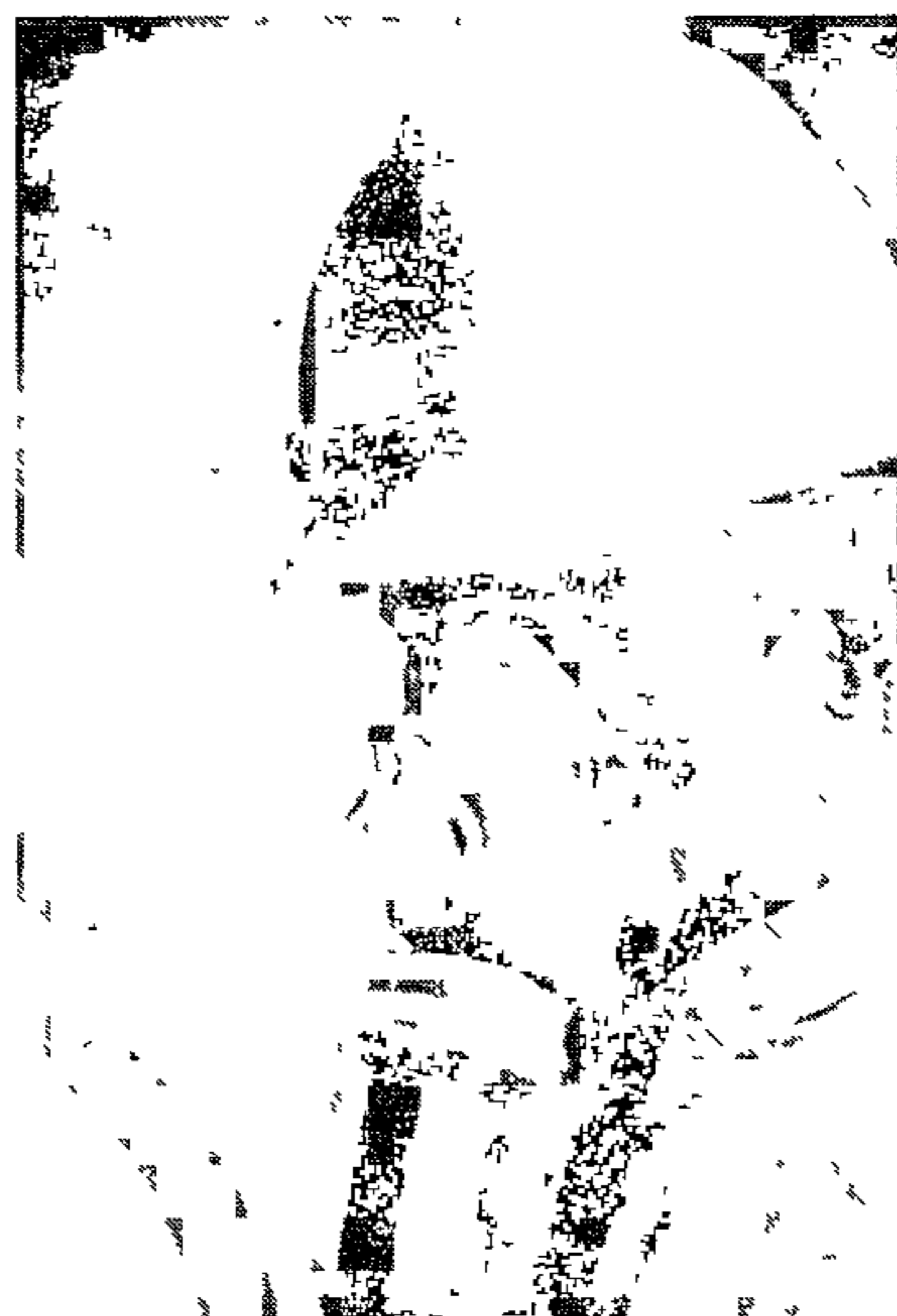
The asbestos "twins" of the national industry who together account for nearly all domestic production — the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company Ltd (Gefco) and Msauli Asbes Beperk (Msauli) — are now operating near breakeven point, says the Balderson report

"The anti-asbestos lobby is dealing with a highly emotional, graphically illustrative subject that makes for headlines and sensationalism. In our view there is still time for the industry to present its case, for it to be accepted and to stabilise or reverse the downwards sales trend"

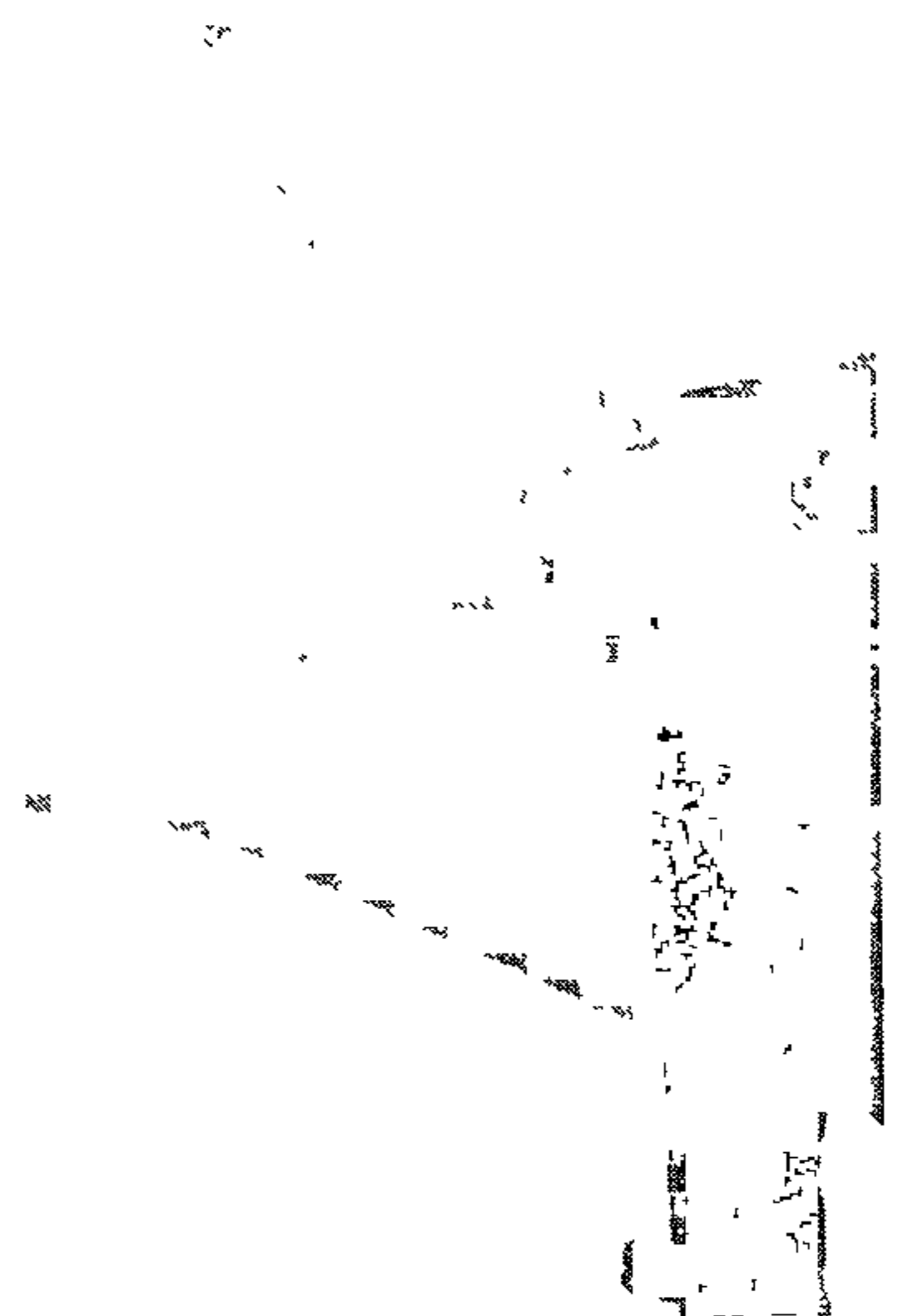
It concludes that the long-term future of the industry rests on "the race between the industry to prove it has instituted suitable controls and the technological development of suitable fibre substitutes commercially viable".



AN asbestos mill in the Kuruman district of the Northern Cape.



A worker wears a mask at an asbestos bag-filing station



A workman near Kuruman sprays water on asbestos dust

## 2: Ban by Britain

By GARNER THOMSON

Weekend Argus Foreign Service

LONDON — "All medical doubts" about the safety of asbestos are officially over, and by next August Britain will have introduced tough new measures to limit the exposure of asbestos workers — and the public — to the cancer-producing fibres

This week the Health and Safety Commission imposed much more strict controls on the use of all types of asbestos in the United Kingdom, and recommended a complete ban on the two most dangerous types, brown and blue asbestos

The move will go a long way to allaying public fears about the dangers of lung cancer and asbestosis from even relatively low exposures to asbestos fibres — but not far enough for some

Unions are almost unanimous in wanting the industry to commit itself to a complete phase-out of asbestos and, as one workers representative put it, "to make sure they are well in with the asbestos-substitutes before it is too late"

For some, it is too late. Many people suffered crippling and fatal diseases as a direct result of breathing in asbestos fibres. One woman known to the country simply as "Alice", the subject of an horrific television investigation into the effect of asbestos on people who had worked with it, was directly responsible for the outcry that led to the commission

Unfortunately, Alice did not live to see the victory

While the new restrictions will come into effect only in a year's time, the eight-member commission also agreed to hold immediate talks with the Department of the Environment to see what protective measures could be taken to limit the public's exposure to asbestos

Throughout the country, thousands of buildings are known to have asbestos roofing, insulation or ceilings. Its disposal remains a major health risk

The commission also recommended that the present limits to the amount of asbestos in the air in factories and loading bays should be reduced from one fibre to half fibre per millilitre of air

This refers only to white asbestos. Blue asbestos will be cut from 0.5 to 0.2 and brown asbestos will remain unchanged at 0.2

"All medical doubts (about the safety of asbestos) are over and we've got to get the limits down as low as possible," said commission chairman Mr Bill Simpson

"I think that most people will feel that this important package of regulations will begin to meet the very serious problem facing asbestos workers"

# First black worker wins lung disease case

By SHAUN HARRIS

THE R109 former textiles worker John Hlela will receive a month may help to feed his wife and four children, but nothing can save him from the crippling effects of "brown lung" disease.

Mr Hlela has become the first black to win compensation for the recently scheduled occupational disease

Now that brown lung has been recognised as a hazard for textiles workers, thousands of claims could follow the decision to award Mr Hlela compensation for the life-sapping disease

Until recently sufferers of brown lung were thought to have contracted asthma or other chest ailments and were treated accordingly

## Grateful

But Mr Hlela's case has thrown the crippling disease into the spotlight

"I'm grateful for the money I will receive every month, but my health is ruined

"I cannot even do part-time jobs to earn extra money and my wife will not be able to work until our baby is older," he said at his house in Mpumalanga Township, near Durban, this week

Mr Hlela made history when the National Union of Textile Workers used him as a test case to claim compensation for brown lung, a disease caused by unrefined cotton dust

The union, which is affiliated to the Federation of

S T. Kelly 28/8/83  
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ILOA



JOHN HLELA  
Life-sapping illness

South African Trade Unions, won the case when the Bureau for Occupational Diseases accepted that Mr Hlela was 70 percent disabled and ruled that he should be paid compensation

## Symptoms

According to the general secretary, Mr John Copelyn, the union is working on about 20 claims for compensation made by workers who have contracted the disease

He said since the union had begun a brown lung campaign 18 months ago an alarmingly high percentage of cases had been discovered

"Out of 800 workers we investigated in textiles factor-

ies about 100 had symptoms of the disease," he said

According to Mr Copelyn, the symptoms of brown lung are similar to other bronchial diseases such as tuberculosis, and for this reason doctors have failed to detect it in the past

This happened to Mr Hlela

He said that three years after he began working in the spinning department of Natal Thread, a textiles company in Hammarsdale, his chest began to tighten up and he had difficulty breathing

## Collapse

"Sometimes I would collapse at work and have to be carried outside before I could breathe properly again," he said

He saw several private and company doctors and was told he had asthma, he said

He became increasingly ill, often spending several days off work, until Natal Thread fired him for absenteeism in 1980

Besides the R109 Mr Hlela will receive a month, he was also awarded back payment of more than R1 000

Mr Copelyn said the problem with brown lung as an occupational disease was that it was not specifically catered for in health and labour regulations

He said Mr Hlela was only the second person in South Africa to be awarded compensation for the disease

The first claim was made by a white foreman in East London nearly 10 years ago, he said

South Africa far behind latest measures aimed at halting agonising asbestos-related diseases

# DUSTY DEATH

ST news 28/8/88

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IF it becomes law, the tough clamp-down on the use of asbestos proposed in Britain this week will leave South Africa wallowing in its wake, with unknown hundreds of people dying agonisingly of asbestos-related diseases each year

The Health and Safety Commission calls for much stricter controls in Britain on the cancer-producing fibres and recommends a total ban on brown and blue asbestos

Main target of the protective measures are people who work regularly with the material, but there are indications that a fatal form of cancer, mesothelioma, can arise from relatively low exposures to the material, such as a home handyman using improper saws to cut asbestos sheeting

might experience, the Tribune's London bureau reports

The Society for the Prevention of Asbestosis and Industrial Diseases (Spaid) says it has evidence to show that using asbestos products is more dangerous than manufacturing them

The eight-man commission is now to have talks with the Environment Department to see what protective measures can be taken to limit the public's exposure to asbestos, with asbestos roofing, ceilings and insulation common throughout the country

The new regulations, if introduced, will cut back sharply on present limits to the amount of asbestos in the air in factories and loading bays — from one fibre to half a fibre per millilitre of



Workmen inspect a pile of asbestos dust — a deadly killer

## ANTHONY SWIFT reports

air in the case of white asbestos, from 0,5 to 0,2 in the case of brown, while blue asbestos remains unchanged at 0,2

According to Dr John Myers, an industrial health researcher at the University of Cape Town, there are no statutory limits in South Africa

"There are internal guidelines that operate separately within the different authorities, the Department of Mines, the factories and environmental pollution inspectorates attached usually to municipalities, but they don't differentiate between different types of asbestos"

The limits they work to are considerably in excess of the new British limits although they claim they are ahead generally of international standards

Pat Hart, managing director of GEFCO, the biggest asbestos mining enterprise in the country, said the mines worked to a limit of five fibres per millilitre of air on the surface and two fibres underground "We usually relate to the Canadians, by far the biggest producers in the free world Their mines work to five overall — they don't differentiate be-

tween surface and underground

"We in the mining industry have given an undertaking that by next January we will drop our surface limit from five to two as well"

This was still well behind the new British restriction, but Britain was "out of line" with the rest of the EEC in the toughness of it curbs — apart from Sweden which had a total ban on asbestos

Mr Hart said GEFCO operated strict protection and information services for its workers

"Of course the lower the fibre levels the better — you arrive at a level which industry, scientists and the medical people believe is safe We believe that at today's safety levels asbestos can be used safely"

The new UK proposals will be challenged by Asbestos International Association, the Canadian Asbestos Association and the EEC

Everite, the biggest manufacturer of asbestos products in SA, said most of its plants were working well within the agreed two-fibre limit A spokesman said 80 percent of

the company's units were maintaining limits of below one fibre and would aim at the new standards accepted by the British Meanwhile it was experimenting with substitutes for asbestos in its products

Dr Myers believes there are no safe limits

There were three major diseases related to asbestos, all incurable

• Mesothelioma started with severe pains in the chest or abdomen and "from then on it's a miserable and painful downhill course for about 18 months, with a maximum life expectancy of two years,

□ Lung cancer, which takes a similar course,

□ Asbestosis, which may progress even after exposure, rendering you increasingly breathless "until you have to be tied to an oxygen cylinder and becoming very susceptible to being knocked off by a simple cold"

Professor Tony Davies, director of the National Centre for Occupational Health, said they were being notified of about 100 cases of mesothelioma a year and suspected there might be another 50 they were not knowledgeable about These figures had to be balanced against the fact that there was a large but not accurately known number of people exposed to asbestos, "many of who are gainfully employed in this risky industry"

He pointed out the risk of dying on the roads was much higher and there had been considerable improvements in the industry

Both Dr Myers and Barry Castleman, a visiting US consultant on toxic substances, believe the number of deaths from exposure are much higher, and they dismiss the road hazard argument "The guys who work with asbestos also cross the roads but they also have the chance of getting some very nasty disease"

Mr Castleman said in America there was a sharply declining consumption of asbestos and a move towards substitutes "My guess is that asbestos will be virtually finished there within three years"

By Amrit Manga  
PAT Hart, managing director of Gencor's Gefco and Msauli asbestos mines, this week hit back at allegations that thousands of asbestos workers will die because SA hesitated to ensure acceptable levels of fibre concentration.

Fears were raised after Barry Castleman, an American consultant on occupational health, warned that thousands of workers, particularly blacks, may face death while hundreds may have already died as a result of contact with asbestos.

The industry employs more than 40 000 workers in mines and the related product industry.

■ ■ ■

But, says an angry Mr Hart: "South African health standards in most cases surpass those of international health authorities."

A year ago health threats to workers caused the world's biggest producer of asbestos products, Manville Corporation, to close after 50 000 lawsuits totalling more than R2 000-million were brought against it.

A year ago, Turner and Newall's share price in the UK lost 9p in a day after the screening of a TV film on the carcinogenic properties of asbestos.

"The world has overreacted to an obviously emotional issue of occupational cancer, and world events are no indication of the seriousness of the hazard," says Mr Hart  
Asbestos consumption

**Fears of heavy asbestos death roll refuted**

dropped by 52% in Britain, by 32% in the US and by 4% in Japan during the period between 1975 and 1982 SA's asbestos industry, however, operates in a relatively protected environment.

According to Mr Castleman, SA workers do not have recourse to laws which allow employees to sue employers, as in the US.

Mr Hart says SA asbestos producing and processing industries have invested millions of rands in dust suppression and extraction equipment.

"In the past five years the State and the industry in SA have spent R2,7-million on local research specifically directed at asbestos-related diseases.

"Respirators are provided to all workers to be used in cases of emergency and in instances where dust is unavoidably created in repair work.

"Smoking is discouraged, as research indicates that smoking contributes significantly to the lung-cancer risk among asbestos workers."

Workers are medically examined upon engagement and finally at termination of each service contract, Mr Hart says.

More than R150 000 has been spent over the past five years educating workers on potential hazards through regular lectures and reading material.

Workers are then given the option of accepting or rejecting the contract offer.

Mr Hart rejected allegations that the SA asbestos industry has actively suppressed reports on conditions at mines and associated health risks for fear of shrinking export markets.

■ ■ ■

SA mines export 90% of their total production.

He also attacked claims that SA mines were exporting a major proportion of their product to East European and developing countries, where safety regulations were not as stringent.

Almost 64% is exported to developing nations, including Korea and South Korea in the Far East, and Eastern Europe

"A zero-risk situation is not possible in industrialised countries where all sorts of mineral dusts are considered potentially harmful," says Mr Hart.

"We should instead aim to achieve socially acceptable risk levels

"An affected rate of 33%, reported after an investigation at the Kuruman asbestos mine in the Cape, was definitely not acceptable."

See LABOUR - Prisons and farm prisons  
GOVERNMENT - Prisons Department

See also CAPITAL

INVESTMENT

See SOCIAL SECURITY - Pensions and care of the aged

See also Individual Provinces

See also GOVERNMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

POLITICS

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS

See MANUFACTURING - Paper

See also BASIC NEEDS

See MINING - Other

PRISONS

PRODUCTIVITY

PROFITS

Provident Funds

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATIONS

PUBLIC SECTOR - General

Pulp and Paper

QUALITY OF LIFE

Quarrying

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RECREATION

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# Metal unions drive hard on dispute routes

30/8/83  
131  
RDM

SOME metal employers might be hankering for the good old days when emerging unions boycotted the official disputes machinery

Fosatu's Metal and Allied Workers Union has clearly embarked on a strategy of using this machinery — with gusto

It has declared disputes with five Natal companies over a range of issues

Add to this its dispute with the Association of Electrical Cable Manufacturers, cable firms Siemens and Asea, and with Dunswart, Highveld and Union Steel, and the impression that MAWU has decided the procedures provide a useful weapon is inescapable

Most of the disputes, which could lead to mediation, industrial court action or legal strikes, centre around wages. Three have wider significance

At Barlow Rand's W B Cameron, MAWU is threatening the second legal strike by black workers in seven years

(Whether it will go ahead is unclear; the company says the dispute has been referred to mediation)

MAWU may also turn the dispute into the long-expected industrial court hearing on whether employers can refuse to disclose financial information to unions

In its dispute with Scottish Cables, the union is threatening court action on the company's unwillingness to bargain on wages after the employer association to which it belongs granted workers an increase

This, too, could have important implications for labour relations law

And MAWU has also declared a dispute with a Natal company over its alleged refusal to supply protective clothing to workers — another sign of growing union interest in safety

A feature is that several of the disputes have been declared in terms of a new disputes procedure set up by the Metal Industrial Council

This is a further sign of MAWU's willingness to use council machinery, which is confirmed by a recent recognition agreement at Mather and Platt which provides for disputes to ultimately be referred to council machinery

Equally notable is that the unregistered General Workers Union has declared an official dispute — with a Cape Town company

Whether this is a temporary tactic dictated by the recession may depend on the extent to which unions believe they have gained from using the machinery, so the progress of the disputes will be watched with interest

<p>331.762 234 22 CMLT</p> <p>GOVERNMENT safety regulations seem to be running into flak from both sides. Recently, the Government's new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act was attacked by visiting American Mr Barry Castelman for not providing enough protection for workers. Now the Department of Manpower has asked its new Advisory Council on safety to appoint a committee to look at aspects of draft regulations drawn up in terms of the new Act. This follows a meeting between it and key employer groups and seems to follow complaints by the employers that some standards in the regulations were too costly and impracticable. It remains to be seen whether this will lead to major changes. But a key criticism of our safety laws has been that they are passed without consultation with black workers, and the new Advisory Council has not a single black worker representative. So, while both black workers and employers might object to some safety regulations, only one side takes part in official decision-making on safety.</p> <p>workers 1886 - 1924 - a people's uth Africa, Vol. I, Johannesburg, 1980.</p>	<p>0965</p> <p>Brindley, M. Western Coloured Town urban slum. Johannesburg,</p>
<p>330.967 62 SWAJ</p> <p>development of corporate capitalism in London, Heineman, 1980.</p>	<p>0964</p> <p>307.76 WIMS</p> <p>Willsworth, M.J. Strategies for su culture of poverty in township. Grahamstown, Economic Research, Rho</p>
<p>331.544 096 8 INTL</p> <p>Lacey, M. Working for Boroko : the origins of a coercive labour system in South Africa. Johannesburg, Ravan Press, 1981</p>	<p>0963</p> <p>307.2 WEST</p> <p>Western, J. Outcast Cape Town. Cape Town, Human and Rousseau, 1981</p>
<p>320.968 GRBZ</p> <p>Greenberg, S.B. Race and state in capitalist development - South Africa in comparative perspective. Johannesburg, Ravan Press and Yale Univ. Press, 1980</p>	<p>0962</p> <p>331.761 640 46 COCK</p> <p>Cock, J. Mads and Madams : a study in the politics of exploitation. Johannesburg, Ravan Press, 1980</p>
<p>307.76 MDAN</p> <p>Cook, G. and Opland, J. (eds.) Mdatane : transitional city. Grahamstown, Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, 1980</p>	<p>0961</p> <p>338.4 INDU</p> <p>Rweyemamu, J.F. (ed.) Industrialisation and income distribution in Africa. Dakar, Codesria, 1980</p>

(131) 12004 [ ] [ ] 30/8/83



# What SA safety men say about asbestos ...

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THE SERIOUS health problems caused by asbestos are well known, but people who exaggerate or distort the situation do not help to solve those problems.

We refer to a statement in the Rand Daily Mail, dated August 19, 1983, attributed to Mr B Castleman, and I will deal with a few of his remarks which are incorrect or misleading.

1 Mr Castleman said that South African law "did not allow workers who contracted lung cancer and who had asbestosis to claim compensation".

Does Mr Castleman not know that this Bureau has compensated asbestos miners for lung cancer for approximately 20 years and for asbestosis for much longer than that?

If he is not aware of this easily ascertainable fact he cannot claim to speak with any authority about asbestos problems in South Africa.

2 "Thus lagged behind Nazi Germany, which in 1939 made lung cancer a disease for which compensation could be claimed" (The date is wrong - it should be 1943, but that is a minor error).

Mr Castleman must know that many Western countries (Britain is one example) did not compensate lung cancer in asbestos workers until after 1960.

Under these circumstances the comparison of South Africa with Nazi Germany" is an emotive and headline-seeking tactic utterly unworthy of a scientist.

3 "I was told workers (from mills at an asbestos mine) went off shift each day with hair white with dust".  
To quote hearsay evidence like

Asbestos has been 'a major killer in SA'

In an article in the Rand Daily Mail recently, an American expert on occupational health, Mr Barry Castleman, was quoted on his critical views of the safety of workers in the South African asbestos industry. F J WILES, director of The Medical Bureau For Occupational Diseases and G K SLUIS-CREMER, director of The Epidemiology Research Unit, reply to his criticism.

this does no credit to a reputable scientist

The true facts are that mills at South African asbestos mines apply standards of hygiene which are as strict or stricter than the standards at mills at asbestos mines in any country in the world.  
4 "Medical evidence suggests that there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos".

Mr Castleman omitted to say that the evidence to which he refers is theoretical and speculative. He must know, and should have admitted, that it will be impossible for another 20 to 30 years (that is 20 to 30 years after the strict enforcement of standards of two fibres or one fibre per ml) to be sure when

there is a completely safe level of exposure or not.

5 "Hundreds may already have died as a result of contact with asbestos. In most cases the causes of deaths have not been established".

Does Mr Castleman know that the law in South Africa makes it compulsory to do an autopsy on every man who has worked in a mine?

Admittedly the law cannot be universally enforced, but every year about 3 500 autopsies are done on deceased miners and many cases of asbestos-related disease are found and compensated.

6 "Both the asbestos industry and the Government have repeatedly

attacked claims that asbestos damages the health of workers"

This is a completely unjustifiable accusation. How can the Government possibly have said that asbestos does not damage the health of workers when this Bureau (a Government institution) regularly compensates miners for asbestos-related diseases and the number compensated is published annually in official reports.

Had Mr Castleman read these reports he would have known that his statement (quoted above) cannot be true.

If he has not read the reports he should not pose as an authority on the subject of asbestos in this country.

7 In another newspaper, Mr Castleman "accused the country's health authorities of throwing a blanket of secrecy over information about the effects of exposure to asbestos fibres".

This is totally untrue. The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs has never withheld information and was, in fact, so concerned about the asbestos problem that in 1977 it sponsored a symposium in Johannesburg attended by experts from 10 countries.

The full proceedings of the symposium were published within six months.

In our positions we are as well placed as anyone to know that asbestos can be dangerous if it is not strictly controlled, and we certainly do not wish to minimise the dangers.

We do, however, urge that people should make sure of their facts before distributing sensational and misleading statements that only serve to confuse an already complex problem.

Joint <sup>(137)</sup>  
~~Head~~ Post  
rescue  
31/8/83  
mission

Post Reporter

PORT ELIZABETH'S Ambulance and Fire Departments were called out on a joint rescue mission yesterday when scaffolding gave way, causing three municipal employees to plunge five metres to the ground.

The incident occurred inside an empty reservoir they were inspecting in McCallum Road, Lovemore Heights,

Miss Alice Jackson, 25, of Moresby Landing, South End, Mr Ernie Pike, 38, of Hoepoe Street, Cotswold, and Mr Desmond Billson, 45, of Tarn Avenue, Goldwater, were admitted to the Provincial hospital

A hospital spokesman today described their condition as "satisfactory"

Miss Jackson has a fractured pelvis, Mr Pike has chest and head injuries and Mr Billson has a cracked ankle

131 RDM  
1/9/73

# 2 dead as trains collide head-on

Mall Correspondent

DURBAN — Two train drivers were killed and an estimated R3-million damage was caused when two goods trains collided on a railway line in Natal yesterday morning.

The dead are Mr C J Gouws of Durban and Mr D J Strydom of Empangeni.

Two assistant drivers were seriously injured and were taken to Stanger Hospital, from where they were taken to Durban's Entabeni Hospital. They are Mr J J Coetzee of Durban and Mr Daniel Venter of Empangeni.

The condition of Mr Venter, who has chest injuries, was described by a hospital spokesman as "stable and satisfactory". Mr Coetzee, with hip injuries, was described as "making progress".

The smash, which occurred between the Darnall and Newark stations, was discovered when a train didn't arrive at one of the stations.

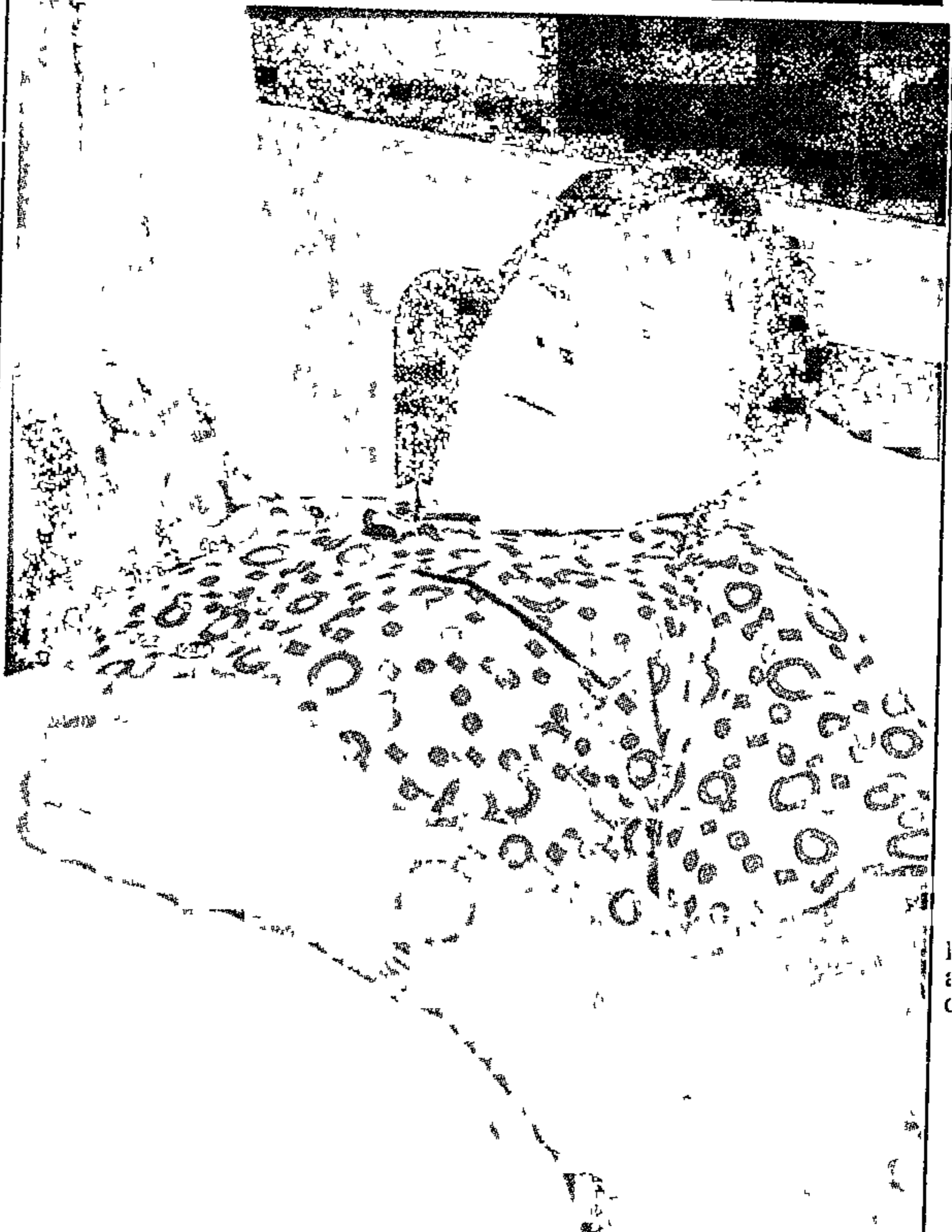
Two electricity pylons were knocked down and hundreds of metres of cable torn

down. One truck landed at the bottom of a ten metre bank. Trucks, locomotives and pieces of twisted wreckage littered a 200m length of railway line.

The Assistant System Manager for Natal, Mr Bertie Heckroodt, said "One diesel locomotive and possibly one electric unit will have to be scrapped. Another two units and four trucks will need extensive repairs. About 150m of track will have to be relaid.

"A board of inquiry will be set up to investigate the cause of the accident," he said.

## Impact threw relief man clear



Mr Capy Coetzee in hospital yesterday.

# 'No time to jump in loco smash'

*3/9/83 131 Mercury*

### Mercury Reporter

SENIOR train driver Capy Coetzee, called in at the last minute to act as assistant driver, was lucky to escape with his life when two goods trains collided head-on near Darnall early on Tuesday

Both drivers, Mr DJ

Strydom of Empangeni, and Mr CJ Gouws of Durban, were killed in the crash

Mr Coetzee, who has never had an accident in 16 years as a driver, was only last week awarded the 10-year safe driving medal

He and Mr Daniel Ven

ter, the other assistant driver, were taken to Entabeni Hospital. According to a hospital spokesman both are recovering satisfactorily

Mr Venter sustained chest injuries and Mr Coetzee's hip was dislocated. He was also badly grazed and lost the tips of a thumb and two fingers

'I think the only reason I'm alive is because the impact threw me out of the locomotive,' Mr Coetzee said

'By the time we saw the other train it was too late to stop or jump or do anything

'I'm very lucky to be alive. I just want to forget the whole thing

'As far as I know the other train shouldn't have been there, but I suppose it's for the authorities to decide who was in the wrong'

The railway line was cleared and traffic resumed by midday on Wednesday

131 ~~263~~ R.M.Y 3/9/83

WITH public concern mounting at the number of rail accidents, South African Transport Services this week candidly admitted "We are just as concerned and we are doing all we can to cut down the accident rate. With us, safety is number one priority"

The words came from SATS assistant general manager, operating, Mr Gert van der Veer, in an exclusive interview — probably his last in that capacity before assuming his new duties as assistant general manager, airways

Mr Van Der Veer also disclosed that to further ensure the safety of passengers SATS was to introduce automatic train stopping systems on heavily frequented suburban lines

Soweto would probably enjoy priority, followed by Durban and Cape Town

"The programme will take years to implement and will cost millions but it will be implemented," he said

The system, developed in Europe and adapted for local conditions, consists basically of a device inside the engine and transponders on the tracks

The transponder monitors the signalling system and if danger is apparent it signals the driver to apply brakes

If further monitoring makes it apparent that not enough brake has been applied and that the train is in danger, the transponder equipment takes control from the driver

The system has already been tested locally and will be installed in the new high-speed trains between Johannesburg and Pretoria, which are to come into operation in November

The transponders would be situated in the high-speed section between Germiston and Pretoria, Mr Van Der Veer said

SATS was also rapidly phasing out wooden coaches and replacing them with steel coaches. Wooden coaches heightened death and injury risk in the case of accident

Mr Van Der Veer said "Every accident, fatal or not, is a cause of great concern to us"

Accidents could basically be divided into two areas

● Open line accidents — including collisions and derailments — with or without loss of life

● Shunting accidents where no loss of life occurred

Loss of life, or injury, could not be measured in terms of money but SATS keenly felt a sense of shock and concern at every death or injury, Mr Van Der Veer said

On the material side, with a locomotive costing R1-million, a head-on collision involving five locomotives would cost R5-million. This did not take trucks and cargo into account

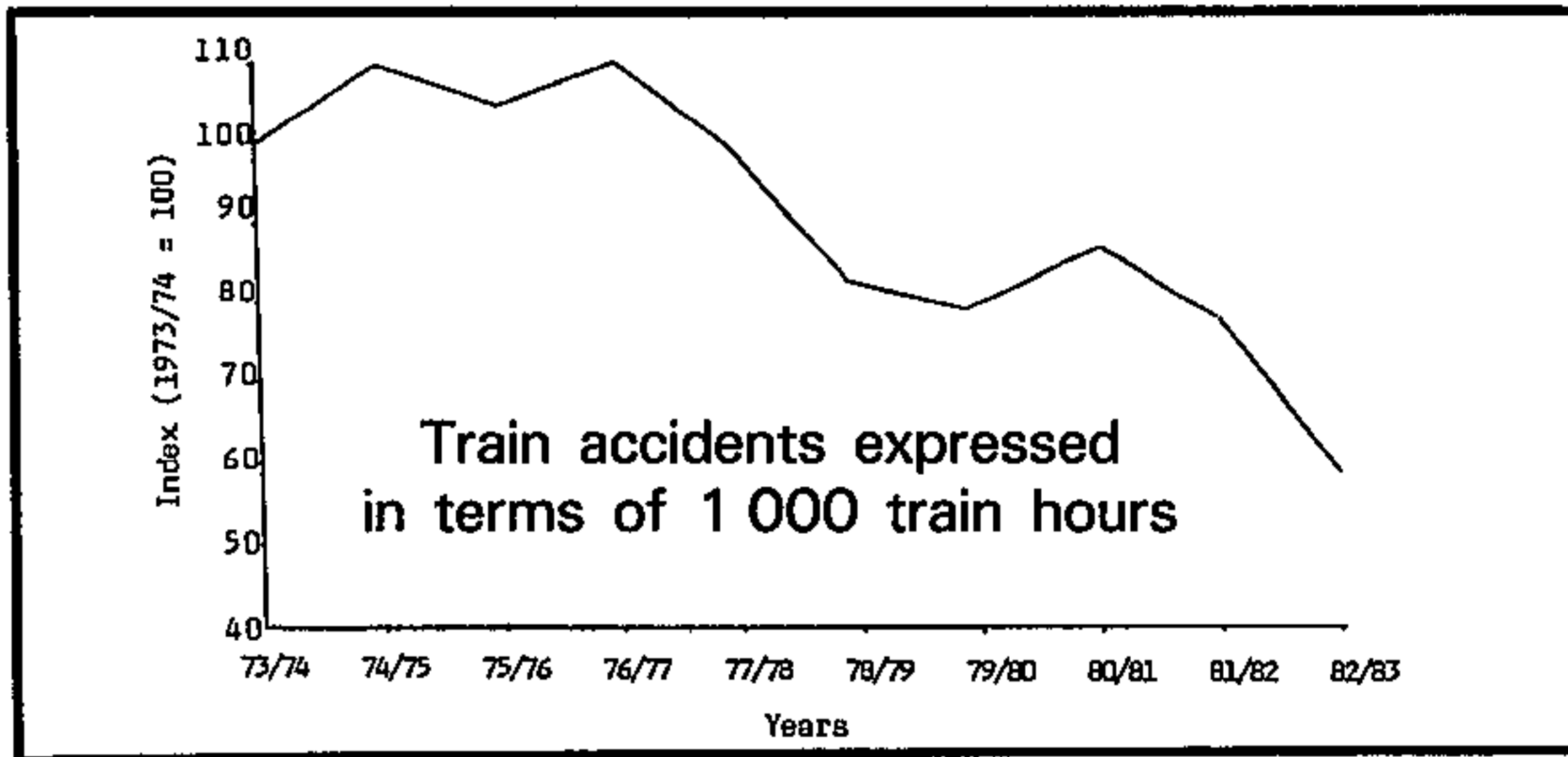
After every accident, whether in shunting yards or open lines, a board of inquiry was appointed. Depending on the nature of the accident the number of people on the boards could range between two and five

Where there was loss of passenger life an immediate head office inquiry was instituted

Mr Van Der Veer said boards of inquiry investigated every possible facet of an accident — including protection of an accident scene so that no other collisions occurred, emergency services, technical aspects and possible systems rectification for future



# Why safety is No 1 at SATS



By J MANUEL CORREIA

avoidance of similar accidents

Mr Van Der Veer said he was proud of the reliability and safety record of SATS, given the services' 6 000 trains a day, more than 36 214km of track distance, more than 5 300 locomotives and more than 195 000 passenger coaches and goods trucks

Millions of passengers were conveyed daily on 3 200 suburban, mainline and mixed goods and passenger trains

But what really causes accidents? One would be entitled to think that two trains colliding head-on would inevitably be the result of human error. But this was where Mr Van Der Veer produced a trump card

The number of accidents caused by direct human error has dropped from 24% in 1979 to 14% in 1982-1983

"We are constantly striving to bring it even lower but I think we must accept that it is impossible to achieve a completely accident-free record

"In money terms alone it would be an impossibility. It would be the equivalent of every motorist travelling between here and Pretoria being provided with his own highway — and even then he would probably still roll his car at some time"

Mechanical causes of accidents could be due to almost anything. In cold weather a rail could break — this despite the fact that SATS used acoustic probes to examine rail lines and spectroscopic examination during welding. A wheel could crack and one would have to start investigating why it had happened

Overall, train accidents had dropped dramatically by 56.5% since 1976-1977 and yard

accidents by 44% And from April 1 to July 31 this year main-line accidents had dropped to 32% and yard accidents to 30%

"I am proud of this, but not complacent," Mr Van Der Veer said

He conceded that in this latter period rail traffic was down by 10% over the same period last year but the percentage did not significantly alter the accident rate reduction equation

Mr Van Der Veer emphasised that safety at SATS assumed the proportions of an ethic. Operating executives were on call 24 hours a day 365 days a year

In parenthesis, on the day of the interview a head-on collision had occurred on the Stanger-Mandim line. Two drivers died and their two assistants were seriously injured

Within a short time of the accident Mr Van Der Veer had been informed and a full report had been placed before the Minister by 8 30am

A board of inquiry, however, would still have to investigate the accident and Mr Van Der Veer declined to say anything that might anticipate the board's findings

Mr Van Der Veer said operating procedures — well tried and tested over the years — were firmly laid down. SATS did not operate on an ad hoc basis. Apart from intensive training courses in safety, each of the 10 SATS regions had safety instructors whose job it was to promote safety and motivate staff

SATS also held quarterly safety meetings, which could involve up to 50 people from all branches of the service

Drivers attended regular symposiums on safety and discussions were held on accident avoidance, among other things. Drivers also earned badges and trophies for five, 10, 15 and 20 years accident-free driving

Given the multinational composition of SATS it was an education and source of pride to see how whites, blacks and coloureds took safety seriously

In an attempt to remove the direct human factor as an accident cause SATS was constantly introducing more advanced signalling systems. But even with all these factors accidents still occurred

One area of concern to SATS was the number of level-crossing accidents. Though the number had declined the drop had not been significant enough and SATS intended taking further steps to minimise such accidents

For an organisation with an annual budget of R8 500-million — 41% of the country's budget — and employing 244 000 people SATS feels that it is doing everything humanly possible to reduce the accident rate and succeeding

Mr Van Der Veer said that if a board of inquiry held that negligence was responsible for an accident the person or persons concerned were subjected to a disciplinary hearing

If accidents were the result of criminal conduct the South African Railways Police took over and those responsible were charged

"I would like the public to know that we are doing all we can to promote safety. We have nothing to hide," Mr Van Der Veer said. To end the interview I put a loaded question in view of his being transferred to SAA "Is it safer to fly or to go by train?" A discreet "no comment" was the reply

(131) (L)

# R2

## For a hero who risked his life to save a blazing petrol tanker from exploding

### Tribune Reporter

A PACKET of biscuits and a packet of rusks costing R2,16 was the reward a motorcycle messenger received after risking his life to save a blazing petrol tanker from exploding in the centre of Pietermaritzburg. The heroic deed was carried out by Justice Zulu, a Sobantu resident, when he saw flames and smoke spewing from the undercarriage of the fully-laden R120 000 tanker.

In what he described as a "reflex action", Mr Zulu ran to a nearby garage to grab a fire extinguisher which he used to smother the flames and prevent them from spreading.

Had the R14 000, 25 000-litre load exploded the busy city street would have become the scene of carnage, chaos and devastation.

Later, he was visited at the pharmacy where he works by a representative of the local office of Caltex Oil (Pty) Ltd, who thanked him on behalf of the company and handed him a "small present" in recognition of, and appreciation for, his unthinking gallantry.

Obviously disgusted, Mr Zulu promptly made his own presentation of the 200 g packet of biscuits and 500 g packet of rusks. He passed them on to a beggar whom he felt needed them more than he did.

"A word of thanks would have been more appropriate," he said.

"I wasn't looking for a reward at all — but



□ Justice Zulu with the packet of biscuits and rusks he received as his reward

what would I have got had I been a white man?"

It was insulting that in return for risking his life he should be given "dry cakes" for which, in any event, he had no taste.

The incident has proved highly embarrassing for the oil company — especially after the manager of the Caltex's Pietermaritzburg branch, Russell Lazenby, told a reporter "What does he expect? If he's not satisfied with biscuits he can give them back."

Caltex's delegated spokesman, Keith Buick, of Cape Town, said there was an established procedure when the company decided to make awards for bravery, long service or the like — but this did not

extend to handing out biscuits or rusks.

"It's neither our style nor policy."

"With similar incidents in the past we have made presentations of gold watches."

It appeared Mr Lazenby — "whom we will be speaking to about this" — had contravened company regulations by not informing head office of the incident in which a tanker had caught alight and then by speaking to the Press.

Asked whether it was likely that Mr Zulu would be presented with a more suitable gratuity, Mr Buick replied. "Oh, indeed."

"We will ensure that Justice Zulu gets a just reward."

Mr Lazenby was not available for comment.

(131) Dispatch  
**Caretaker**  
**dies in fire** 5/9/83

EAST LONDON — The elderly caretaker at a Quigney boarding house collapsed and died shortly after a fire had started in the building on Saturday

Mrs Susan Schultz, who had been caretaker at The Eden boarding house for 13 years, was found in her office from where she had apparently phoned the fire brigade after noticing smoke at 8.30 am. An ambulance spokesman said she was certified dead on arrival at Frere Hospital.

A fire department spokesman said the fire broke out in the space between the ground floor ceiling and the wooden floor of the first storey.

He said there had been considerable damage to the building,

affecting two rooms on each floor, but little damage to belongings. Firemen had to cut through the ceiling and floorboards to find the source of the fire.

He said the fire had apparently been caused by an electrical fault. A flooring nail had at some stage been driven through some electrical conduit piping and this could in time have resulted in a short circuit, he said.

He said there had been considerable smoke, but it had not been necessary to evacuate the building.

Mr Robert Hill, a resident at The Eden and friend of Mrs Schultz, said she would be greatly missed. "She was like a mother to all the residents here," he said —  
DDR

AS FAR back as November 2, 1941 — under the headline "Asbestosis: latest disease" — the Johannesburg Sunday Times said that asbestosis was South Africa's newest industrial disease to receive attention from the Government.

The report went on to say "In view of the vast experience gained on the Rand in the treatment and prevention of miners' phthisis, there is every hope that the disease will be wiped out before long"

In contrast, the December 1982 edition of the South African Medical Journal contained an article which said

"As the current standard in South Africa is in the range well known from the USA and UK data to be associated with significant asbestos-related disease, and the lag period between asbestos exposure and the onset of disease is as long as 50 years, it can be confidently predicted that we in South Africa will continue to see asbestos-related disease in abundance over the next half-century"

As a major asbestos producer, South Africa has predictably spawned a number of internationally recognised authorities on the subject of asbestos-related diseases

Two of the country's best known scientists in this field are Dr G K Sluis-Cremer, director of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs' Epidemiology Research Unit, and Professor Neil Webster, until recently head of the National Centre for Occupational Health in Johannesburg

In recent interviews, both Dr Sluis-Cremer and Prof Webster conceded that asbestos may well be the cause of most of South Africa's occupational deaths

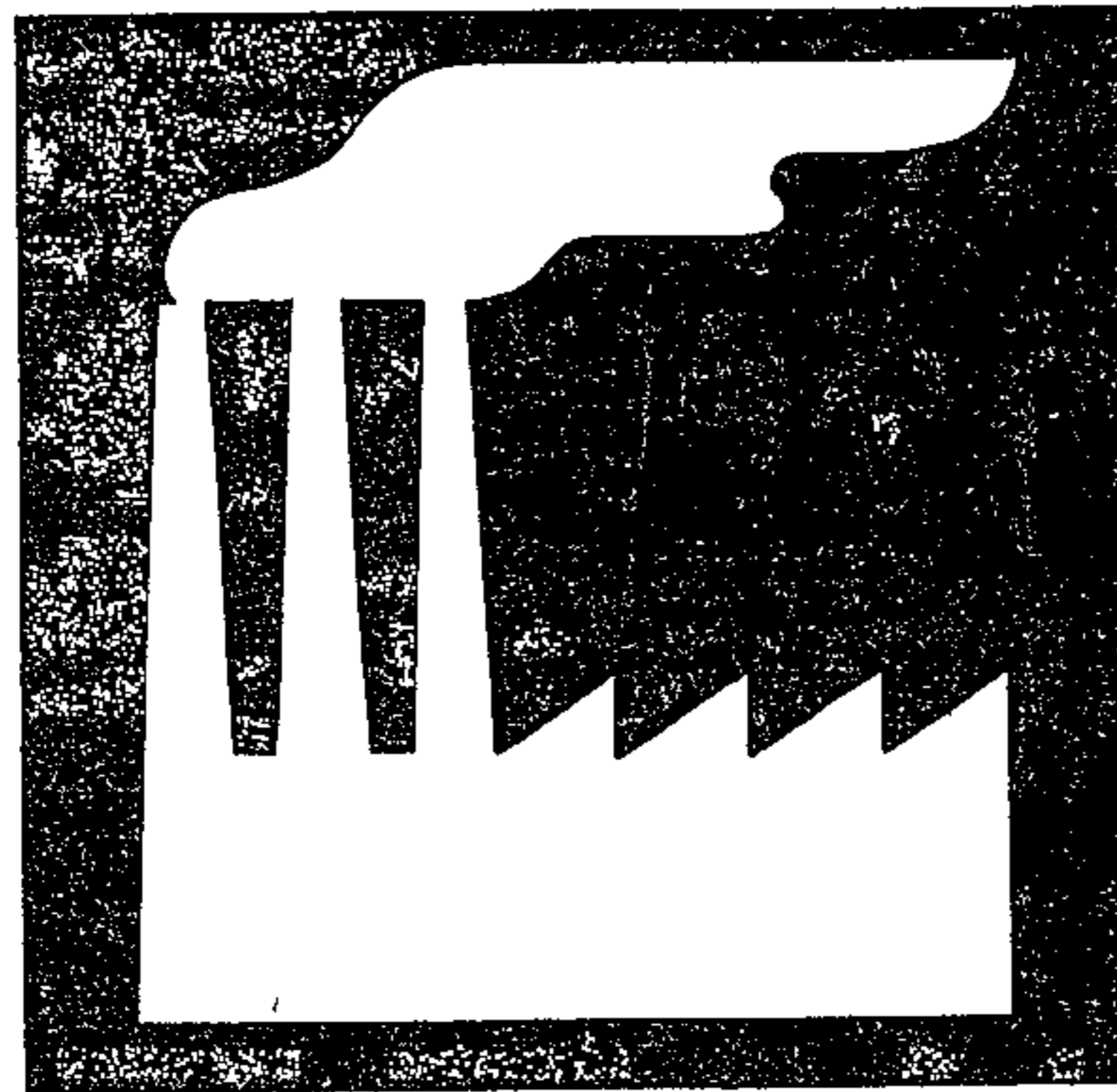
Figures released in the United Kingdom show that it is definitely Britain's biggest occupational killer

"South African figures are not as good as they are in the UK," Dr Sluis-Cremer told me

"In the absence of statistics of that quality it is difficult to say whether asbestos is responsible for most of South Africa's occupational deaths, but there is certainly nothing to prove that it is not"

Prof Webster said that, with the possible exception of industrial accidents, it was quite possible that asbestos-related diseases were the

# Asbestos could be SA's biggest killer at work



An American expert on occupational health, Mr Barry Castleman, has exposed a nerve in the South African mining industry by claiming that local laws on asbestos diseases in the workplace are far from adequate. PETER BUNKELL, who recently investigated health dangers associated with asbestos, found that while serious efforts were currently being made to reduce the hazards, asbestos-related diseases still constituted a major problem in this country. This is his report

main cause of occupational deaths

There are three serious diseases related to asbestos exposure. They are asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma

A working paper compiled for the Cape Town-based Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit (SALDRU) by Dr Jonathan Myers describes asbestosis in

the following terms

Asbestosis is a process whereby the lungs or the linings of the lungs are scarred by asbestos fibres inhaled from the air. The fibres irritate the lung tissue

When the lung itself is scarred, parenchymal asbestosis results and this means that the lung does not function as well as it should

"Depending on the degree of

damage done, the person will have various degrees of difficulty breathing, especially on exertion

If exposure has been heavy or prolonged the damage may become progressively worse with time and result in heart failure and ultimately failure of the lungs

If only the lining of the lungs is damaged by scarring, pleural asbestosis, the person will not show signs of disease, such as breathlessness

Only special tests like X-rays will show up the damage. However, with time this damage also becomes more marked and the risks of developing other asbestos-related diseases are statistically increased

As dire as it may sound, asbestosis is regarded as the least serious of the asbestos-related diseases

In the Fifties, an association between asbestos exposure and lung cancer was established. There is, of course, no cure for lung cancer and those who contract it normally die within months

People who smoke and are occupationally exposed to asbestos considerably increase their chances of developing cancer of the lung

Without doubt the most serious of the asbestos-related diseases is mesothelioma

Mesothelioma is a cancer of the lining of the lungs and is always fatal. It is a certifiable disease in South Africa, and a register is kept by Prof Webster at the National Centre for Occupational Health

Prof Webster told me that the register had been opened in 1956. By the latter part of last year, there were 1025 cases on the register

The professor confirmed that mesothelioma was still a fairly common ailment, with about 100 new cases being di-

agnosed each year

He conceded that it was quite possible that many workers — particularly migrant labourers — could have died of the disease years after leaving the mines and escaped being listed on the register because they were not close to the type of medical institutions capable of correctly diagnosing the cause of death

There are three different types of asbestos mined in South Africa: amosite, which is known as brown, chrysotile, or white, and crocidolite, which is known as blue and for some years has been accepted as the most lethal of the three, although overseas medical experts have recently contended that they are all equally dangerous

The three diseases are caused by the inhalation of asbestos dust and there is some disagreement among doctors as to whether the incidence of mesothelioma, in particular, is likely to be reduced by a significant reduction in dust levels

The reason for the disagreement lies in the fact that there seems to be no specific dose/incidence relationship when it comes to mesothelioma

Prof Webster says mesothelioma is caused more by the type, particularly size, of fibres inhaled rather than the quantity

"For the disease to develop," Prof Webster said, "the worker has to have inhaled fibres which are more than 10 microns in length but less than three microns in diameter"

"To place these figures in perspective one may look at the size of the average red blood cell, which is about seven microns in diameter"

Dr Sluis-Cremer, on the other hand, is of the view that significant reductions in dust levels will bring down the incidence of all asbestos related diseases

The existing permissible dust level at asbestos mines in South Africa is five fibres per ml. New safety guidelines published by the Department of Mines earlier this year seek to reduce dust levels to two fibres per ml by 1984

In Britain, the permissible atmospheric levels for asbestos dust have been progressively reduced from 15 fibres per ml in 1933 to the current standard of 1 fibre per ml for chrysotile, 0.5 fibres per ml for amosite and 0.2 fibres per ml for crocidolite

As the South African Medical journal points out, these stringent requirements mean that the use of the most feared fibre has literally been eliminated

In the United States, the admissible level since 1976 has been two fibres per ml for all types of asbestos

The figures for Britain and the United States indicate that South Africa has most certainly lagged behind in setting and enforcing dust levels in the working environment

Because mesothelioma can take anything between 20 to 50 years to become evident in the body, it will be some time before current efforts to reduce dust levels will show whether the incidence of the disease has been reduced

Prof Webster revealed that most of the mesothelioma cases being diagnosed today were among people who had contact with the industry at least 20 years ago

There are exceptions to this rule. The professor said he knew of one case where

mesothelioma had been diagnosed in a boy aged 17

Twenty to 30 years ago, although the industry had been warned of the dangers — there was little or no effort to control dust levels

In fact, one study carried out by Dr Sluis-Cremer between 1960 and 1962 revealed that dump material containing asbestos fibres was used to surface roads and playing fields

As an indication of the number of fibres a worker could inhale during an eight hour shift, Prof Webster said — accepting that the average person breathed 30 times a minute — he would take in about 16-million fibres at a dust level of two fibres per ml

These, according to Professor Webster, are the fibres that would be detected on a light microscope and would be at least that many again if an electron microscope was used

Remembering that the present permissible dust level on South African mines is five fibres per ml it can be assumed, Prof Webster said that the number of fibres inhaled by workers will be at least double the number at two fibres per ml

Prof Webster did point out, however, that most of the fibres inhaled would be discharged from the body by coughing, nose-blowing and sneezing

Dr Sluis-Cremer believes that virtually every South African, particularly those who live in the cities, will have varying quantities of asbestos fibres in their bodies.

He said the same applied to European and American cities, but added that there was no evidence to suggest that these quantities of fibre were a danger to the general public

The doctor said fibres had also been found in other organs of the body, particularly the liver and intestinal tract

He denied that asbestos products — such as heaters, ironing boards and insulation panels — constituted a danger to public health

In the United States, meanwhile, a local expert, Professor Ivan Selikoff, has predicted that every 50 minutes of every day between now and the end of the century someone in the United States will die from cancer caused directly or indirectly by industrial contact with asbestos

Prof Selikoff has based his projection on the number of asbestos-induced cancer deaths between 1940 and 1980, but concedes that his predictions may be open to dispute



131  
204  
7/9/83  
15 gas bottles pulled free just in time as customers flee

# Blast averted in Randburg fire

Mail Reporter

DISASTER was averted at a fire at Blackheath Plaza, Randburg, on Friday night when bottles of highly inflammable gas nearly exploded

The 5kg metal bottles, containing liquid cooking gas under pressure, were dragged out of the restaurant into the street as flames flickered closer and the heat grew

The manager of the Sai Woo Restaurant, who did not want to be named, described the fire as "vicious" and said the cooking tanks had been removed from the back of his restaurant "just in time. The flames were a

couple of metres away"

The fire, which broke out in a building yard adjacent to the Plaza, sent waves of heat and smoke into both the Sai Woo and the Ut en Tuis Restaurant, forcing more than 200 patrons to abandon their meals

"People ran away in panic when they heard the sirens and saw the smoke. No-one had a chance to pay for their meals," said the Sai Woo manager, who is planning to claim for loss of business

The Sai Woo caters for more than 250 people on a Friday night. Damages have not yet been estimated, but air conditioning equipment was damaged as well as the restaurant's cooking extracting unit

Window frames were charred and electricians worked on Saturday to enable the restaurant to re-open for its busy Saturday night sittings

The manager of Ut en Tuis, Mr Alan Hoffman, estimated his restaurant had suffered thousands of rands worth of damage. All the windows of the restaurant were cracked, and the heat melted refrigerator motors. Most of the food had to be thrown away because of smoke contamination

The restaurant, which holds more than 100 people, was described as "just about full" at 8pm when the fire broke out. Said Mr Hoffman: "A neighbour called to warn me about the fire in the yard. He offered me his hose but it was fruitless to even try to put it out. When the firemen arrived about 20 minutes later, the fire had spread across the whole width of the property. They worked until after midnight to put it out."

Teams from the Randburg, Roosevelt and Brixton fire stations worked to put out the fire. A spokesman for the Randburg Fire Station said that the Randburg machines were back by 9.35pm when the two Johannesburg fire stations took over. "Everyone got excited, it actually looked worse than it really was," he said

# Man crushed under truck

(31)

Crime Reporter

C. Taine

A MAN died instantly when he was crushed under the wheels of a truck after he had fallen from a platform at the Epping Market yesterday morning

The man, who man not be identified as his next of kin have not yet been informed of his death, fell from the platform of one of the stalls and landed in the path of the approaching vehicle

He was taken to Conradi Hospital where he was certified dead on arrival

6/9/83 (131)

Watchman

51, shot dead

Crime Reporter

*C. James*  
A NIGHTWATCHMAN at a Philippi fish company died instantly when he was shot in the chest during an attempted robbery on Sunday night

A police liaison officer, Captain Gerhard van Rooyen, said Mr William Funda, 51, was on duty at Snoekies, Lansdowne Road, and went to a filling station across the road to talk to a petrol attendant

Three men, one armed with a gun, approached Mr Funda and demanded money while he was talking to the attendant

A scuffle ensued during which a shot was fired. The bullet hit Mr Funda in the chest. The three men fled. No arrests have been made

Wednesday, September 7, 1983 19

131 Mercury

## Seaman dies as hawser snaps

Mercury Reporter

A FILIPINO seaman, Mr Domungo Romaxa, 29, was killed on Monday when a mooring cable snapped and struck him on the head while he was on the fo'c's'le of the Beirut-registered vessel, Phoebus.

Railways police said the vessel drifted away from the quay where she was berthed in high winds, and the accident took place when attempts were being made to bring the vessel closer to the quay.

Mr Romaxa was certified dead on arrival at Addington Hospital.

High winds have caused havoc in the Durban area.

The roof of an Isipingo house blew off, falling on to a parked van. Damage was minimal but the firemen were called out to clear the mess.

The mobile sight-screen at the Northlands Sports Club's cricket field was ripped off its wheels by winds on Saturday night.

A spokesman for the meteorological office at Louis Botha Airport described the recent winds as being typical for this time of the year. He said south-westerly winds had been created by a coastal low causing a strong south-westerly gradient which was rising rapidly behind another cell of low pressure with a strong north-easterly gradient

'It's part of the transition from winter to summer. The change in temperature causes exaggerated weather conditions,' he added.

# Asbestos dangers: — the pros and cons

South Africa — for which no effective substitutes have yet been found?

## Fibrous minerals

First of all, what is asbestos? The word is simply a general name applied to a fairly large range of naturally-occurring minerals, all of which share the common factor of being fibrous.

The fibres, of varying lengths depending on the particular type of asbestos, are easily separated and are soft and flexible, yet of high tensile strength. They are fire-proof, resistant to heat, acids and alkalis.

Because of this they are woven into materials and made into other forms, all of which find a wide range of applications. Fireproof theatre curtains are made out of asbestos, as are brake linings and a wide range of insulating materials. Almost all power stations and other large factories, for instance, have tons of asbestos in use as lagging for pipes.

In the form of asbestos cement and panels of all shapes and sizes, the material is much used in the building industry, while corrosion-resistance makes it popular with the chemical industry.

## No suitable substitute

So there is no doubt that asbestos is a very useful and economical product, with the added problem that no suitable substitutes are available.

So what about the health hazards? And in particular, what about the cancers of the lung and of the membranes lining body cavities — mesothelioma — that asbestos is said to cause?

These moves have had the effect of considerably reducing the usage of asbestos in America and Britain — by 37 and 52 percent respectively between the years 1975 and 1982 — with a corresponding impact on the producers of the raw material.

So it is of relevance to attempt an assessment of the facts about asbestos. Is the substance a dangerous villain to be avoided at all costs or is it a near-indispensable material, and a very valuable export — eight percent of the world's total is contributed by

tain a total ban on the use of all asbestos products in parts of Scandinavia, as well as stringent restrictive regulations in several other countries including Britain.

## Reduced usage

The dust from all these substances gives rise in time to small brown nodules in the lungs. These may remain dormant or they may cause a variety of conditions including cancer.

Other symptoms can include laboured breathing, exhaustion and a dry cough with a rattling sound.

The evidence about mesothelioma is more circumstantial but becoming fairly convincing. This rare tumour of the membranes lining body cavities is being found increasingly in people working with asbestos.

## Other dangerous materials

Asbestos, of course, is not alone in this. At least three other materials widely used in industry can initiate the same train of events — aluminium, talc and beryllium.

## Slow developer

A map has been drawn up in Britain showing the incidence of mesothelioma. It forms part of a comprehensive Atlas Of Cancer Mortality. In all the areas showing high incidence of the disease, asbestos has been used extensively.

One problem is that mesothelioma takes at least 20 years to develop and can take as much as 40 years. So one has to look into the past to understand the present.

To give but one example, a sudden rash of mesothelioma deaths among women has recently occurred in Nottingham and around Preston in the northern part of England. Investigation showed that during World War II, thousands of women in these areas worked on gas mask assembly.

## Call to stop imports

The filters for the masks were made out of blue asbestos, acknowledged to the worst form of the mineral where disease is concerned. The map was first published about a fortnight ago but is convincing enough for Professor Ernest Acheson, chief scientific advisor to the UK Department of Health, to recommend that Britain should stop importing asbestos and cease to make any products involving its use.

Other groups are also taking the threat seriously. Official orders have been issued stopping a demolition programme for redundant power stations in Britain until the tons of asbestos insulation they use has been safely removed.

## Even in the home

A further problem with asbestos is that it is not known how much of the substance must be inhaled before the potential cancer-forming process gets under way. A few fibres, in accidentally swallowed during, perhaps, putting in home insulation or ceiling board might be enough to cause trouble years later.

No one really knows. Against these chilling arguments must be set the fact that scores of substances are known to be able to cause cancer. Exhaust fumes are among these, and we are all exposed to these daily. But we do not develop cancer and die from it, although after heart disease, it must be admitted that it is the second biggest killer.

## Looking ahead

What of the future, particularly for a South African industry employing about 40 000 people? There is evidence from various sources that not so many years back the local house was not in order.

Quite a number of journalistic and small-scale medical investigations turned up stories of clouds of asbestos dust blowing over whole towns.

But of course the dangers of asbestos were not brought to public notice until quite recently and the local industry now claims to be putting its house in order by laying down standards comparable to overseas for the permissible number of asbestos fibres in the atmosphere.

But the answer does not lie in South Africa. It lies with the countries that import the material. If all of them follow suit on the Scandinavian, British and American lead of stringent regulations, the market for asbestos could well dry up, and with it any new problems this material might pose.

Asbestos is very big business in Southern Africa which is the third largest exporter in the world. Here is a giant mill recently built in Zimbabwe.



(131) Mercury 8/9/83

# Never again, says injured train driver

Mercury Reporter

MR DANIEL Venter of Empangeni, one of the two men who survived a head-on collision between a goods train and two diesel locomotives near Darnall last week, will never again get on a unit.

'It was a terrible experience I'm going to change my job,' Mr Venter said yesterday. 'I'll take up a trade or something.'

Both he and Mr Capy Coetzee, the other survivor, are progressing satisfactorily in Entabeni Hospital. They were the assistant drivers of the trains that collided.

'They're both doing fine,' a hospital spokesman said. 'There are no complications.'

The drivers of the trains, Mr D C Strydom of Empangeni and Mr C J Gouws of Durban, were killed in the accident.

'All I remember about the accident is the light of the other train shining through the cutting about 30 m away

'The driver and I ran for our lives into the corridor of the unit. I was in front

'They found me in the back cab of the unit, although I don't remember ever reaching it. I don't even remember the crash itself

'I think I'm very lucky



Mr. Daniel Venter in Entabeni Hospital yesterday.

the diesel locomotives were not pulling any load or the damage would have been much greater.'

A board of inquiry began its investigation on Monday.

'It will be several weeks before any of the findings are known,' a South African Transport Services spokesman said

'But as it is an internal departmental investigation its findings will not be made public.'

Railways Police have opened a homicide investigation into the death of the two drivers. If a decision to prosecute were made, the docket would be sent to the public prosecutor

77

# Freak blasts rock medicentre

131  
pharmacy  
8/9/83

**THE devastating explosions that ripped through the 10-storey Lorne Street Medicentre block in Durban early yesterday have baffled experts.**

The first was apparently a freak explosion caused by the spontaneous combustion of fumes, given off by a fire in the fibre-glass garbage disposal chute, mixing with fumes from a carpet adhesive in an office on the eighth floor.

The result was a fiery explosion which wrecked the interior of the entire floor and set it ablaze

Minutes later the fire probably ignited inflammable fumes concentrated in the lift shaft causing another massive explosion which blew out the lift doors on all floors of the building, caused extensive damage to rooms

The windows of all the floors were blown out and eighth floor-fire spread to the two floors above

Brig J R van der Hoven, chief of the Security Branch in the Port Natal S A Police Division, said yesterday that his explosive experts had sifted through the building after the fire had been brought under control

**By Deven Moodley  
and Gehri Strauss**

... explosion which in turn set off another in the lift shaft'

Many people would have died and scores would have been injured had the explosions happened two hours later

Two explosions shook the building, which houses more than 50 doctors, specialists, dentists and a large clinic at 5 40 a m yesterday

Rooms on all floors were badly damaged and most of the windows in the building were shattered

Windows in a flat and another medical centre across the street were also shattered by the blasts

Police, ambulancemen and the firemen arrived on the scene within minutes and cordoned off the area

The building is owned by a group of doctors

The plate-glass windows of the ground-floor pharmacy were shattered

## No leaks

'We are satisfied that it was not caused by a bomb or any similar explosive device and have withdrawn from the investigation,' he said

Mr E Gardiner, administration manager of Afrox Ltd in Durban, whose firm supplies all the gas cylinders in Medicentre, said the explosion had not been caused either by an exploding cylinder or by gas leaking from one

'After the explosion we accounted for every single cylinder. Not one was missing

'Nor was any leaking. In any event, the cylinders contained only medical gas which is non-inflammable and non-explosive,' he said

This was confirmed yesterday by Mr Steve Smith, Durban's Chief Fire Officer, who said that the chain of events leading up to the two explosions had started sometime before they occurred in a bin at the bottom of the garbage disposal chute which spans the height of the building

'In a case like this one cannot be 100 percent sure of the cause of the explosion. But we believe that the fire in the bin spread to the fibre-glass chute which started burning, giving off fumes that could be explosive if they came into contact with certain other substances

## Later

'On Tuesday night a carpet had been laid on the eighth floor. An adhesive that gives off inflammable fumes had been used and we believe that when the fumes from the chute mixed with these fumes it caused a spontaneous ex-

## Display

A very shaken Mr Mohan Modi, owner of the pharmacy, said 'I am lucky to be alive because it was barely three minutes after I'd entered the chemist when explosions rocked the building'

He said he had gone to the pharmacy early yesterday to prepare a window display

'Five minutes later I would have been at the window. I would have been killed,' he said

Three patients and a nurse in the Lancet Clinic on the third floor screamed in terror when the blast smashed down walls within the building, blocking the escape route

Nurse Devi Naicker, who was with the patients during the night, said firemen had arrived within minutes of the blast and rescued them

The patients — Mrs Rampathy Ramluggan, Mrs Yasmin Abdool and Mrs Mavis Mseleku were all suffering from shock yesterday. They were accommodated at another clinic in the building across the street

Damage would take at least two months to repair, a spokesman for the doctors said yesterday

Many doctors said they hoped to resume their practice before the end of the week even if it was on a temporary basis

However, doctors at Maxwell Centre, across the street from the Medicentre, have decided to share their rooms with doctors affected by the blast

# Employers criticised on workers' health

By Anrit Manga

THE private sector came under fierce attack this week from health educationists for resorting to the "Victorian whip" as a solution to industry's chronic absenteeism problem.

Employers were also criticised for failing in their inherent responsibility to invest in the social reproduction of a healthy workforce.

Workers often go on duty when they are sick for fear of losing their jobs, spreading disease and sickness among workmates and doing little for the country's dismal labour-productivity performance, says Brenda Robson,

secretary of the Baragwanath Trust

The trust is engaged in organising an R800 000 health fair for workers in which industry will participate for the first time.

The criticism comes at a time when 11 major producers of health-care and clinical products embark on a health-education programme as part of the private sector's responsibility for improving the quality of life off the shop floor.

"While many companies have enlightened views on health education, too often there is ignorance among workers on the shop floor," says Mrs Robson.

At a pre-health fair seminar, the managing director of Carlton Paper, Keith Partridge, one of the chief underwriters of the programme, said it was encouraging to note that an increasing number of industrialists were beginning to reconcile the economic alternatives of business with a measure of social responsibility.

This was particularly true when it came to the problems of the community in which the company operated.

Mr Partridge pointed out that these could range from urban manifestations of national problems to inadequate housing, unemployment and substandard medical care.

He cautioned companies severely limited in their resources not to venture into a programme not strategically related to their present and prospective economic functions.

"Here, mutually beneficial corporate or business-related projects such as vocational training are easily identified and developed."

In addition to a sense of security for workers, industry should ensure fair and adequate compensation, and a healthy social environment to reproduce a productivity-conscious workforce.

"The company's final responsibility, however, is to its shareholders," Mr Partridge said.



Courageous mission by petite and plucky rescuer

# 131 ROM 12/9/83 Flying mum saves terrified cleaners

By EMILIA JAROSCHEK  
Crime Reporter

A MOTHER-OF-TWO diced with death 11 storeys above the ground in Braamfontein, Johannesburg, at the weekend to rescue three terrified window cleaners clinging to a platform buffeted by the wind.

Crowds gathered as petite Mrs Maxine Ash, attached to the Brixton ambulance department, absailed from the roof of the towering Nedbank Centre in Jorissen Street to the platform which had become stuck at the 11th floor.

While balancing on the rickety platform, slender Maxine — who is in her 30's — coaxed the men into allowing her to attach them to absailing equipment.

Secured by the equipment, the men followed each other up a ladder to the roof — where Brixton Fire Department officials grabbed them and pulled them to safety.

The life-and-death balancing act lasted 45 minutes and cheers and applause rang out from the excited crowd on the street below as each rescue was completed.

When dark-haired Mrs Ash — who is only 1.53m tall — finally climbed back over the roof's ledge the crowd went wild with hoots, cheers and applause.

Badly shaken, the three workers — Julius Letsoela, Rejoyce Moraka and Edwin Lobakeng — told how they thought they would die when their platform's hoisting mechanism jammed, leaving them stranded on their lofty perch as businesses around them were closing for the weekend.

"We called and called to the people in the street, but they were so far away. Finally they heard us," the cleaners explained.

After the rescue, an elated but slightly nervous Mrs Ash told that this was the first time she had risked absailing from such a height since she started absailing lessons under the department's supervision last year.

Mrs Ash — who is renowned as the bubbly, laughing character of the ambulance station — said the men were very nervous when she reached them.

"They did not trust my absailing equipment and the platform swayed violently bumping against the window each time a man climbed up the ladder which firemen had lowered onto it from the roof

131  
Grenade kills  
RDM 13/9/83  
farm worker

**BLOEMFONTEIN** — A herdsman has been killed by a high-explosive grenade he picked up on Defence Force ground near Bloemfontein

The man, Mr Sam Mhlaba, 50, worked for a local farmer, Mr Ben Pretorius

Police found his mutilated body after searching for him for two days on restricted land on which farmers had permission to graze cattle

According to the police, the grenade apparently exploded as Mr Mhlaba tried to put it in a rucksack. — Sapa

US order  
against  
UK, SA  
asbestos  
firms

131  
13/9/83

MARSGALL, Texas — A federal US judge yesterday ordered a British asbestos supplier and its South African subsidiary to pay \$12 million (about R13 million) to 160 Texas residents exposed to the mineral

US District Judge William Steger entered default judgments against the two firms, which have refused to accept court papers served on them

The plaintiffs, some of whom are dead, were each awarded \$75 000 (R82 500)

Mr Blake Bailey, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said the US State Department has agreed to collect the judgments from the two companies, Cape Asbestos Co of England and Egnep Proprietary Ltd of South Africa

"The US Government agreed to bear the cost of collection of default judgments against the companies," Mr Bailey said

He helped file medical summaries of 160 East Texas residents exposed to asbestos while working in or near two plants in Owentown

Egnep and Cape Asbestos shipped asbestos to several American companies who in turn supplied the Texas plants

Asbestos fibres have been linked to a fatal lung disease known as asbestosis — Sapa-AP

# 63 die in Natal mine gas explosion

131

C. Times

13/9/83

## Into a mountain

The victims, mostly single black men who lived in hostels at the mine, included drill operators, blasters and other specialists involved in every facet of coal mining, Mr Blom said

The shaft is one of several that cut horizontally from the surface into a mountain rich with coal deposits reaching 5 to 6km from the surface

● Four severely burnt miners, swathed in bandages and attached to intravenous drips, were carried from a Puma helicopter which landed on the Johannesburg Hospital roof last night. They were put on to stretchers and wheeled away at a running pace by nurses

A further six critically injured patients were flown to the hospital later — Own Correspondent and Sapa

**DURBAN.** — Sixty-three people were killed and several injured in a methane-gas explosion underground in the Hlobane coal mine near Vryheid yesterday morning.

Ten critically injured men were flown in an Air Force Puma helicopter to the Chamber of Mines Hospital in Johannesburg. All had first-degree burns

Several others were treated for minor wounds at the Vryheid hospital

The explosion, followed by fire, occurred shortly before 8am at sections five and ten of the mine

Rescue teams from mines in the area were on the scene within minutes and helped remove the victims. By last night everything was under control at the mine

Seventeen of the 80 workers in the crew sur-

vived the explosion, which apparently occurred when methane gas seeped from the coal seam or the bedrock and ignited, Mr Jurie Blom, coal-buying manager for the Hlobane Colliery, said

Three of those killed were white, the rest black, according to a statement from Iscor

▲ The disaster has been described as one of South Africa's worst in a coal mine

Two of the dead men, from Vryheid, were Mr Harvey Cronje, 28, married and a father of three children, and Mr J P Venter, 26, who leaves a pregnant wife and one child. The other fatality was a single

man, Mr P J Bezuidenhout of Hlobane

The names of the dead black miners will not be released till their next-of-kin have been informed

The mine employs about 1 000 workers. Hlobane is about 27km east of Vryheid

Mr Blom said at a press conference at the mine offices last night that it was not possible at this time to say why the gas had not been detected

Mr Blom said extensive ventilation systems in the mine shafts were designed to prevent methane build-ups

"Over the weekend, one sometimes finds that the ventilation system hasn't cleared the air as it should"

# Explosion victim dies

131

*Mercury*  
Pietermaritzburg Bureau

13/9/83

ONE of the four men who were injured in a gas explosion at a Hammarsdale textile factory earlier this month died in hospital here at the weekend

He was Mr Arthur Howarth, 40, of Hulett Road, Hammarsdale, a police spokesman said yesterday

Mr Howarth and three other employees of Hebox Textiles were injured in an explosion in one of the machines in the dye house

He was taken to Grey's Hospital's intensive care unit in a serious condition and died early on Sunday

The incident is being investigated by the Department of Manpower

# SOWETAN

*Sowetan* TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1983

# 63 DIE IN GAS BLAST

A METHANE gas explosion in a coal mine shaft five to six kilometres underground killed 63 workers in northern Natal yesterday morning, mine officials said.

Seventeen of the 80 workers in the crew survived the explosion, which apparently occurred when methane gas seeped from the coal seam or the bedrock and ignited, Mr Jurie Blom, coal buying manager for the Hlobane Colliery said.

Three of those killed were white, the rest black, according to a statement from Iscor

The mine employs about 1 000 workers. Hlobane is about 27 km east of Vryheid

"The situation is back to normal. We've just got the last report in that the only missing man has been found alive," Mr Blom said in a telephone interview

He said the blast occurred at 8 am about an hour after the crew had begun the first shift after the weekend. He said methane gas may have leaked

## SA PRESS ASSOCIATION

spontaneously from the coal seam during the weekend and been ignited by the mining equipment

He said extensive ventilation systems in the mine shafts were designed to prevent methane buildups

"Over the weekend one sometimes finds that the ventilation system hasn't cleared the air as it should," Mr Blom said

Mine managers were below ground assessing the damage and no estimate of losses was immediately available

The victims mostly single black men who lived in hostels at the mine included drill operators, blasters and other specialists involved in every facet of coal mining. Mr Blom said. The shaft is one of several that cut horizontally from the surface into a mountain rich with coal deposits reaching five to six kilometres from the surface

The explosion was muffled above ground because it occurred so far below the surface, he said

IsCOR purchased the mine recently from General Mining Union Corporation



FIVE Soweto teachers, state's Court on an all-year

Mr Calvin Mohale (27) Thomas Mokgothu (28) asked to plead and were on November 3.

In the picture are Mr and Mr Calvin Mohale.



GIRLS DRESSES

GIRLS SKIRTS

LADIES DRESSES

Star 14/9/83

(131)

# SA asbestos firm may have to pay up in US

The Star's Foreign News Service

DALLAS — The State Department may assist in collecting R15 million after a default judgment given by a federal judge against a British supplier of asbestos and its South African subsidiary

US District Judge William Steger entered the judgment at Marshall, Texas, against Cape Asbestos Company of Britain and Ednep Proprietary Ltd of South Africa after the two companies allegedly refused to accept court papers which

had been served on them.

Each of the 160 plaintiffs, all at one time employees of either Union Asbestos and Rubber or Pittsburg Corning of Tyler, Texas, should receive about R70 000 if the judgment is met

The plant at Tyler was opened in 1954 and shut down in 1972

An aide to Judge Steger said court papers were sent to Cape Asbestos in Britain and to Ednep in South Africa

Mr Blake Bailey, an attorney for some of the plaintiffs, said the State Department had agreed to collect the judgments from the companies.

The 160 now involved all have medical problems.

● The chairman of Ednep Proprietary Ltd today denied that the company had received or refused to accept any court papers served from the United States

# Asbestos:

R13m

award

131

DALLAS Texas — A United States federal judge yesterday ordered a British asbestos supplier and its South African subsidiary to pay \$12-million (about R13 million) to 160 Texas residents exposed to the mineral.

US District Judge William Steger entered default judgments against the two firms who have refused to accept court papers served them, lawyers say.

The plaintiffs, some of whom are dead, were each awarded \$75 000.

Mr Blake Bailey, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said the US State Department had agreed to collect the judgments from the two companies, Cape Asbestos Co of England and Egnep Proprietary Ltd of South Africa.

## Collection costs

"The United States Government agreed to bear the cost of collection of default judgments against the companies," Mr Bailey said. "They have retained major law firms in England and South Africa to assist in collection efforts."

Bailey and Tyler lawyers filed medical summaries of 160 East Texas residents exposed to asbestos while working in or near two plants in Owentown.

Egnep and Cape Asbestos shipped asbestos to several US companies, who in turn supplied the Texas plants.

Asbestos fibres have been linked to a fatal lung disease known as asbestosis — Sapa-AP



131 WSM  
14/9/83

# Office window cleaners await legal protection

By SUE FAULKNER

MAINTENANCE men and window cleaners, already risking life and limb on high-rise buildings, will not be protected by any specific safety regulations until the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act comes into force early next year.

Mr H J "Bunny" Matthysen, general manager of the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa), said "There has been little provision for the safety of window cleaners in the past."

He was commenting on the incident at the weekend in which three window cleaners, at the 11th floor of the Nedbank Centre in Jorissen Street, Braamfontein, were rescued after their hoist jammed

"It's a problem area — architects have sometimes neglected to include a device for attaching safety harnesses when designing a high-rise building

"In the past, window cleaners were not included in any safety regulations — they were excluded from the Shops and Offices Act.

"The new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, which will come into force early next year, will greatly improve safety in this area — the employer's responsibility to his workers is clearly mapped out."

Window cleaners and maintenance crews must be trained to follow a precise safety programme, he said

"It's not unusual to see men hanging from windows on high-rise buildings, to clean them. It's shocking"

High-rise office windows are cleaned in different ways. The most common is a device called a gondola, which hoists the cleaners up and down. The Carlton Centre, the country's highest skyscraper, has wide ledges so that the cleaners work in safety

"I am disappointed there is no mention of these points in the new building regulations," he added

Mr Craston Wilson, chairman of the South African Protective Equipment Manufacturers' Association (SAPEMA) said many people had been badly hurt in falls because they were not secured properly

"Men doing this kind of work should be on a safety line attached independently to the building where they are working," he said

Mr Dolf Kemp, assistant executive director of the South African Property Owners Association, said property owners were concerned for the safety of their workers



SPCA, moving dogs from the hospital at the SPCA in Chambers, tail on the site. The old hospital has been partly demolished to

Picture: JILLIAN EDELSTEIN

(131) 2074  
14/9/83  
**Office window cleaners await legal protection**

By SUE FAULKNER

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eaty could be... ade boycotts

## Crime rate down in US

Mail Correspondent

NEW YORK — To a beleaguered reading public, inundated with daily stories of gruesome crime, the Federal Bureau of Statistics announcement that the crime rate across the US has dropped, comes as a real pick-me-up.

According to the FBS figures for 1982 released this weekend, the overall incidence of serious crimes fell 3% compared with 1981, and was the lowest rate since 1979.

It is still, as the Attorney General, Mr William French-Smith, pointed out, a horrifying 47% higher than 10 years ago, and any undue optimism can be dampened by the reminder that after the last significant drop in 1977 crime soared again.

## Guerrilla battle to save dolphins

By TONY WEAVER  
Mail Africa Bureau

WINDHOEK — Concerned residents of Walvis Bay have begun a guerrilla campaign against a dolphin-catching team from the Durban Oceanarium.

The team, which intends catching two bottle-nosed dolphins in the bay this weekend, has already suffered one major setback.

Their holding pool, where the dolphins will be kept before being transported to Durban, was badly damaged by saboteurs this week.

The two dolphins, once captured, will be held in the pool until ready to be airlifted to Durban in a six-hour flight which will cost the Oceanarium R2 500 an hour in charter fees to the South African Air Force.

Walvis Bay residents opposed to the capture of the two female dolphins have strung a large banner across one of the main streets which

reads "Dolphins should be free".

Last week the Namib branch of the Wildlife Society of South West Africa sent a telegram to the Minister of Environment, Affairs and Sea Fisheries, Mr Sarel Hayward, which read "The Namib Centre of the Wildlife Society hereby wishes to record its strongest objections to the contemplated capture along the SWA coast of bottle-nose dolphins."

SWA conservation officials have themselves expressed strong opposition to the capture, but are powerless to intervene, as Walvis Bay is classified as part of South Africa.

Meanwhile, in a surprise move yesterday, another wildlife society, the Namibia Wildlife Trust, came out in cautious support of the capture of the dolphins.

It said the capture of the dolphins were needed for research purposes, and for their continued survival.

## No yoga, warns NGK Synod

By MAURITZ MOOLMAN

MEMBERS of the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk were warned this week by the Northern Transvaal Synod of the church to stay away from yoga because it was an integral part of Oriental mysticism.

They were also told to stay away from karate unless it could be exercised in a Christian manner.

A resolution rejecting transcendental meditation was, however, scrapped after Dominee A E Gaum of Vilhiera East, Pretoria, told the Synod that the commission which investigated Oriental religion, was totally uninformed.

Dominee Gaum's move that the issue of yoga, karate and transcendental meditation be referred back to the

way into the causes of the explosion.

isco's managing director Mr Floor Kooze said the official finding would be announced as soon as it was available. In a statement issued in Pretoria he said unnecessary speculation before the facts were known would be inappropriate.

The condition of three of the mineworkers injured in the explosion and being treated in the intensive care unit at the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg was described yesterday as 'critical'.

### Major burns

Five other men all treated in Ward 3 of the hospital also received major burns and of three of them it could be said that their burns were very serious. Dr D Visser superintendent of the Rand Mutual Hospital in Johannesburg said yesterday.

Only two of the mineworkers flown to the hospital on Monday afternoon received minor burns. One man had a fractured skull and burns on his eyes and the other a fractured tibia. Mrs Vanessa Ward, nursing superintendent said.

Yesterday the hospital was still waiting on an official at the Hlobane Colliery to identify some of the men. Only a few of them were able to give their names.

Their names could not be made public as it is not known if their relatives have been informed yet. — Own Correspondent and Sapa

# Blast at Durban sweet factory

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — A bomb exploded against the outer brick wall of the Wilson-Rowntree factory in Umbilo Road Durban about 7.45 last night.

Little damage was caused. Bricks from a low brick wall separating the factory from the pavement lay strewn across the road.

The blast shook buildings in the area and windows in nearby blocks of flats were broken but no serious damage was reported.

No damage was done to the factory itself and no-one was hurt.

A loud bang was heard several kilometres away and people came from as far away as the city centre to see what had happened.

The pavement across the road from the blast was lined with curious spectators.

### Security police

Security police under command of Brigadier J R van den Hooven were soon on the scene. A section of the road was cordoned off and closed to traffic.

An explosives dog Baxter and his handler, Sergeant Andy Budke, were brought in. It is not yet known what the dog found.

A police mobile generator with powerful arc lights was brought in to illuminate the scene of the blast while members of the security police swept up debris to be taken away for analysis.

Mr James Scorgie, who lives at Hagan Court across the road from the scene of the explosion, said "I saw a blue flash through the window and then felt the shock of the blast."

"I went flying down the stairs and saw a white car pull casually away from the robot in the direction of the city."



A file picture of Mrs Monika Zumsteg-Telling whose decapitated and buried husband, Mr Michael Telling, 33, a member of Britain's richest families, was charged on Monday with her murder. Mr Telling was found in the garage of their home in West Wycombe and there was no body had been kept in a freezer. Mrs Telling's parents live in Santa Barbara, California.

# UDF plans campaign against referendum

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — The United Democratic Front (UDF) is to hold a nationwide "people's weekend" of mass rallies, prayer services and vigils on the eve of the November 2 referendum.

Leaders of the UDF announced at a press conference yesterday a broad programme of action for their campaign against the proposed new constitution and the "Koornhof Bills".

The programme will culminate in "huge regional mass rallies calculated to reflect vibrant opposition to the new Constitution Act and the Black Local Authorities Act", they said in a statement.

### House-to-house

They have already launched a house-to-house campaign to educate people about the new constitution and to mobilize opposition.

lies and church services. Towards the end of October a special weekend of meetings and vigils would be organized.

National publicity secretary Mr Terror Lekota said the UDF will oppose "all processes which will be set in motion by this so-called new deal."

### 'People's will'

The present minority government was seeking to force upon the people of South Africa a constitution not based on the will of the people, he said.

"We assert that an acceptable and truly democratic constitution can only be worked out in an atmosphere which is free of fear, mistrust and harassment of one section of the population by another."

"That includes the release of all political prisoners, the unbanning of the banned and restricted and the return of all those who

and for all that they are determined to control their own destiny by doing all in their power to halt the current process of apartheid legislation."

The rest of the programme of action would be made known later.

"Obviously there are going to be shifts and changes by the Nationalists which will necessitate adjustment of our tactics," they said.

### 'Every person'

The Transvaal vice-president the Rev Frank Chikane, said they hoped to reach every person in South Africa and to succeed in their goals.

National treasurer Mr Cas Saloojee declined to say whether they were calling on white supporters to boycott the referendum.

"We say we reject the constitutional proposals and all the processes that flow from it."

**REGINA**  
**Restaurant**  
 KNOWN FOR QUALITY FOOD AND FRESHNESS!  
**September 1, 1983**  
 WEDDING RECEPTIONS, TZVANS AND CHRISTMAS DINNER CATERED FOR ON THE RANGE FROM 50 TO 200 PEOPLE  
**YOUR PARTY NOW!**  
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 60R MAIN & GLENGARIFF ROADS, SEA POINT  
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## Reply by PM on Roads



**U'hage**

**fire:** (131)

**R15 000**

**ε. Post  
damage**

16/9/83

Post Reporter

A FIRE caused about R15 000 worth of damage in the spray-painting plant at Volkswagen, Uitenhage, last night

According to Mr Demetrios Argyrakis, manager of the safety and fire department at the plant, the fire started when an electro-static spray-gun was dropped by an operator after it burnt the palms of his hands. It then ignited a tin of thinners. He was treated for first-degree burns.

"We have our professional fire team on standby 24 hours a day" said Mr Argyrakis.

"If it had not been for their quick action, it could have turned out to be very, very serious."

The plant's fire department called the municipal Fire Department as a back-up.

**We're here to stay.**

**Don't throw  
our future away.**

**Vote Yes.**



**Put South Africa first**

# New call for inquiry into mine safety

Star 16/9/83  
By Carolyn Dempster,  
Labour Reporter

Claims by the injured survivors of the Hlobane coal mining disaster that methane gas levels were not tested on the morning of the explosion have led to renewed calls by the National Union of Mineworkers for a commission of inquiry into safety on the mines

In a statement released yesterday, NUM general secretary Mr Cyril Ramaphosa said the injured miners had told the union the methane gas tests — regulated by the Mines and Works Act — had not been carried out on the morning of the tragedy.

The survivors had also told the union the Hlobane colliery still used flame safety lamps to detect methane gas

"Safety lamps are no longer used in countries like the United States because they are faulty and do not reveal the precise methane level.

"In view of the appalling safety conditions in South African mines, we call upon the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs to institute a commission of inquiry into safety," said Mr Ramaphosa

In response to the injured miners' allegations, the Hlobane mine manager, Mr DW Watson, said today he did not know how it was possible anybody could make statements of this nature

"I cannot see how these statements can be made at this stage. The accident is now subject to a full investigation by the Government Mining Engineer and until his inquiry is complete the facts of the matter will not be fully known," he said.

Mr Watson also denied that flame safety lamps were a faulty means of measuring methane gas levels on the mine. "Flame safety lamps are used throughout the country and in other countries overseas. It is a safe, acceptable way of determining methane gas levels."

urging Johannesburgers to referendum on November 2

Jeppe, Johannesburg, Mr Hendry blamed right-wing extremists for a R200 reward for information responsible for this action.

to NP supporters not to retaliate

the spoiled posters in Rissik Street City Hall and those in President building would be replaced.

## TV bid to screen the title fight

CAPE TOWN — SABC-TV is negotiating for live coverage of the Gerrie Coetzee-Michael Dokes heavyweight world title fight in Cleveland, Ohio, next week, a spokesman for the corporation said yesterday

**E IS THE SAME  
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ITY IS THE SAME  
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~~131~~  
Ciskei to  
check <sup>(131)</sup>

workers'  
health <sup>20/9/83</sup>  
*D. Disvater*

KING WILLIAM'S TOWN — With the remarkable industrial growth in Ciskei it had become necessary for the Department of Health and Welfare to look into the health care of the employees at the various factories, according to the Minister of health, Dr C H Beukes

At present there are 66 factories with just over 12 000 employees in Ciskei

"These employees, of necessity, have to handle all kinds of material, some of which may cause occupational diseases and this makes protection and safety vital," he said

Dr Beukes added that it was essential that health officials inspect the factories in the interest of the employees  
— DDR

Guard

131

**shot while  
Mercury  
handling  
29/9/83  
firearm**

Crime Reporter

A SHOT went off while two security guards were handling their firearms, creasing the cheek and temple of one of the men.

Police yesterday said the guards, Mr Pieter Coetzee and Mr Shan Naram, of Pinetown Security, were in a room at the firm's New Germany headquarters at 8 30 p m on Tuesday.

Both men were handling their firearms when one went off and Mr Naram was wounded on the left side of his face.

He was taken to hospital where his condition was described as being satisfactory yesterday.

That this is a

# Contention over workers' safety

CAPE TIMES  
13/10/83

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK, Labour Reporter

LISTENING to the differing views aired on the government's new safety legislation — the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act — it is difficult to believe that people are talking about the same thing

The National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) believes the Act, which is to replace sections of the Factories Act, is an important breakthrough, providing for the safety protection of almost every worker in the country

But a visiting American safety expert, Mr Barry Castleman, said several weeks ago that the Act provided little protection for workers and that local health and safety standards were "primitive"

It seems likely that the new legislation will emerge as a major point of contention between employers and trade unions, which are increasingly taking up health and safety issues on the shop floor

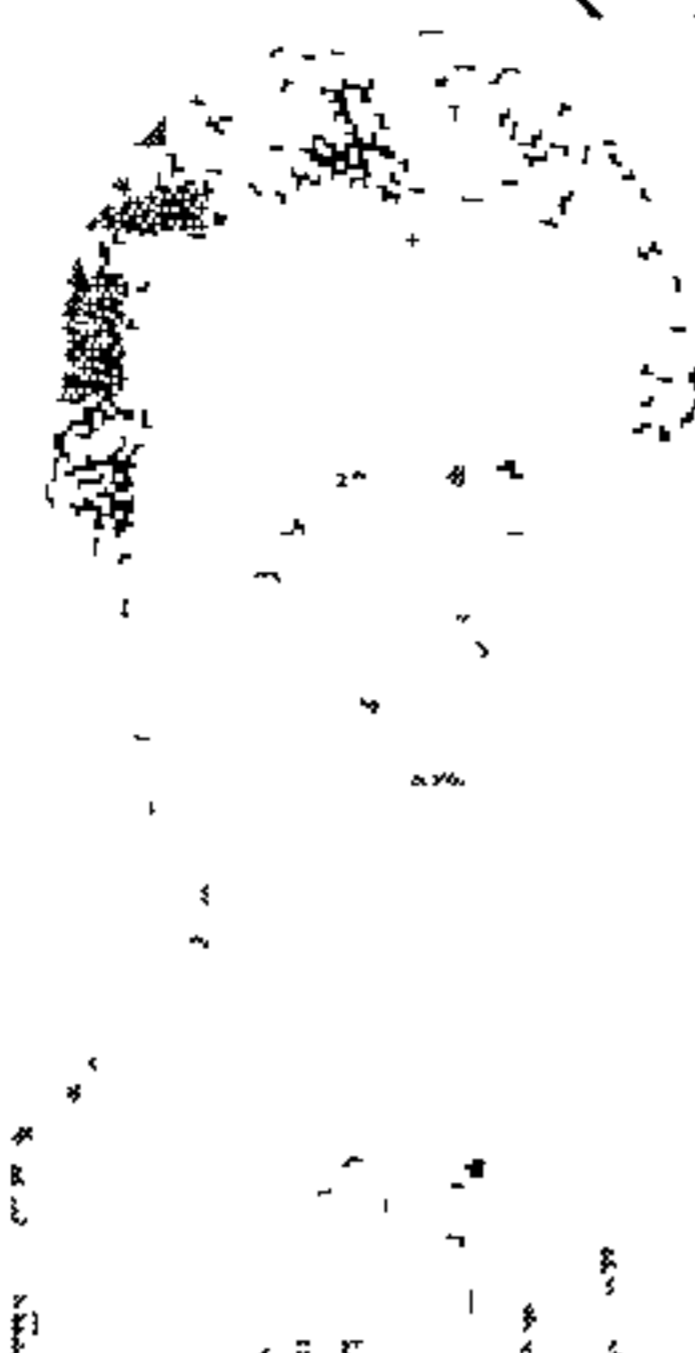
## On strike

In August workers went on strike at an AECI plant after several colleagues had died in an explosion, and last month the National Union of Mineworkers charged management at the Hlobane mine with negligence after the death of 65 workers in a methane-gas explosion. Thousands of workers

## From the Bible

"Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts. Teach and instruct each other with all wisdom"

(Colossians 3 16)



downed tools for half-an-hour in sympathy

With the evolution of shop-floor organization of workers, there have been attempts to set up representative, union-based health and safety committees at factories. This could be the main area of dispute over the new Act, which provides for safety representatives and safety committees — but provides that they be appointed by management

According to an article in the latest South African Labour Bulletin, by Dr Jonathon Myers and Mr Malcolm Steinberg, the new law is totally out of line with the spirit of reforms ushered in in the wake of the Wiehahn commission report in 1979

They state that the Act makes no provision for real participation by workers or their unions in health and safety matters and the rights of the safety representatives and safety committees will be severely circumscribed

Safety committees are

likened to the old liaison committees, which were regarded as unrepresentative bodies appointed as a substitute to genuine worker organization

Myers and Steinberg hold that the interests of workers in most workplaces would best be served by ensuring that safety representatives were elected democratically

## Disaffiliation

● THE departure of the 54 000-strong S A Boilermakers' Society from the Trade Union Council of South Africa (Tucsa) last week casts further doubt on the future of the council

The boilermakers have been one of the few affiliates of Tucsa who have maintained a measure of credibility with the emerging unions. Their decision to disaffiliate further confirms Tucsa's drift to the right and their distance from the mainly black unions

In a letter to the council, the boilermakers said they were leaving because of two decisions at Tucsa's recent conference in Port Elizabeth: a call to the government to outlaw unregistered unions and the defeat of a resolution calling for workers to be free to belong to the union of their choice

Taken together, the two resolutions showed that most Tucsa unions were "prepared to place what they conceive as their vested interests above the interests of their members and the labour movement as a whole" The boiler-

makers' aim was to work towards trade union unity, a task which could no longer be performed while they remained within the ranks of Tucsa

While they are unlikely to be party to the unity moves among emerging unions at this stage, the boilermakers are centrally involved in the local council of the International Metalworkers' Federation where unions from Tucsa, the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu) and the Council of Unions of South Africa (Cusa) are already working together

## Call condemned

● TUCSA'S call for a ban on unregistered unions has been predictably condemned by emerging unions, both registered and unregistered

One of the strongest reactions has come from Mr Zwelakhe Sisulu, the president of the Media Workers' Association of South Africa (Mwasa), who held their annual conference in Cape Town at the weekend.

Mr Sisulu said Tucsa's call, seen together with the banning of Saawu in the Ciskei, was a "forerunner to government action against the labour movements" He warned against a government "pogrom" about to be unleashed against the unions

And while Mr Arthur Grobelaar, the general secretary of Tucsa, believes Tucsa's stand has been misunderstood, there is no doubt the resolution lays them wide open to such interpretation



131  
2004  
14/05/83

**Own Correspondent**  
DURBAN. — Ten people lose their lives each working day in South Africa, and another 125 are permanently disabled in accidents at work which cost the economy R480m a year.

The figures were revealed this week by the workmen's compensation commissioner, Mr Henne du Toit.  
Speaking at the annual prize-giving of the Natal Coastal branch of the National Occupational Safety Association (NOSA), he said that every hour, 162 workers were injured in 1 300 daily accidents in the workplace.

# Work injuries cost SA R480m a year

A total of 325 000 workers were injured annually, of whom 6 700 suffered serious physical impairment, such as the loss of a limb.  
Figures compiled by Mr Du Toit's department show that each year, 3 618 workers lose a part of an arm or hand, 20 lose both hands and six lose both arms.  
Fatal accidents in the workplace result in seven women losing their husbands each working day, which

adds up to 1 875 widows a year.  
He said that each day, breadwinners in 85 families were injured so severely that some degree of disablement followed.  
"The maximum compensation is currently R600 a month, which means that injured workmen or their dependants could suffer serious financial hardships," Mr Du Toit said.  
He said the statistics had been

compiled on the basis that every worker worked five days a week and eight hours a day. The statistics referred only to those workers covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act.  
As the Act dealt only with workers earning up to R12 000 a year, "one can only speculate as to what the position would be if all accidents, including those who are not covered under the Act, are also tak-

en into account," he said.  
Nearly 30-million man-hours were lost each year because of injuries to workers. The direct cost to industry was R80m a year, but it was the indirect results which cost the country most, Mr Du Toit said.  
Indirect expenses were about R400m a year. These included loss of production, taking the injured worker to a doctor and the time spent at the site of the accident and in the investigation of it by company officials, as well as damage to equipment.  
Mr Du Toit appealed to industry to keep up its attempts to reduce accidents and "make a much needed contribution to the fight against inflation and the maintenance of a sound economy in this country."

## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY No role for workers?

The Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (MOSA), which is due to come into effect in mid-1983, has been hailed by many as a major advance in this kind of legislation. However, serious criticism has now been levelled at its provisions for safety representatives and safety committees.

Writing in the latest edition of the *SA Labour Bulletin*, Jonny Myers and Malcolm Steinberg charge that the Act creates a situation in which management can dominate health and safety issues, leaving workers with no real say. Myers is employed by the Cape Town-based Industrial Health Research Group while Steinberg is based in Johannesburg working for the Health Information Centre. The aim of both bodies is to offer information on occupational health to trade unions and worker organisations.

In very broad terms, the Act compels an employer who employs more than 20 people to appoint one safety representative for every 50 workers. In companies in which two or more representatives are appointed, a safety committee must be created.

Myers and Steinberg contend that in the pre-Wiehahn period the labour scenario in SA was one in which management controlled all factors backed by a strong-arm state. Since then industrial relations has

131 PM 28/10/83  
changed to a tripartite system in which management, unions and the state participate.

However, they say the MOSA goes against this spirit of the change as it views matters in terms of management and the State only, without specifically making provision for union participation. This, they argue, parallels the situation which prevailed in the pre-Wiehahn time when in-house liaison committees were widely favoured. Today liaison committees are largely discredited, especially among emerging unions. There have been fears among some employers that certain unions may try to persuade them to allow safety representatives to be elected by employees. But Myers and Steinberg predict that just as unions fought battles against liaison committees, they will fight against the safety committees.

Their main bones of contention with the Act are that

- Management is empowered to designate the safety representatives, denying workers the opportunity to elect their own representatives,
- The definition of "employee" in the Act is too wide. Myers and Steinberg say this makes it possible for management to nominate supervisors, middle management and even MDs (providing they are not the owners of a concern) as safety representatives,
- Compared to trade union safety repre-

sentatives in Britain, the rights of safety representatives in SA are extremely limited. Here they are only entitled to once-monthly inspections of their workplaces and to report a threat to safety and health to management or a safety committee. This, Myers and Steinberg argue, makes the safety representatives "toothless".

Safety committees are merely consultative bodies with no decision-making powers. They have no rights, only a procedure for reporting or making recommendations to management or the factory inspectorate. They also do not have a procedure for reporting back to workers on health and safety issues, and

More than one safety committee can be created in a plant. Myers and Steinberg say this could lead to confusion, fragmentation and division among workers — especially in big plants. They also point out that the possibility exists that worker safety representatives could even be totally excluded from one or some of these committees, particularly the more technical ones.

INDUSTR. ACCIDENTS  
RELATIONS ~~—~~ AND HEALTH  
1983

- OCTOBER — DEC,

letter, early this  
he said that the  
was "essential"

principals have point-  
ed out that Mr de Wet's  
priced at R1 94  
was much more ex-  
pensive than other graph  
exercise books and  
not justifiably, be-  
cause in the light of the  
department's tight  
budget

**EXPENSIVE**

He said the book did  
differ much from  
others which were less  
expensive and being used  
at the moment

The book had been ap-  
proved by a Department-  
appointed committee which had  
accepted Mr de Wet's opin-  
ion as senior subject

A J Arendse, Direc-  
tor of Coloured Educa-  
tion could not say wheth-  
er Mr de Wet had  
presented the committee  
with a book he had designed and  
written

# Garage worker shot in holdup

A PENLYN Estate service station manager this  
week called for more protection for garage em-  
ployees who have become the target for after-  
dark holdup gangs

One of Mr Faiz Albertyn's employees, 23-year-  
old Mr Paterson Tom, of Guguletu was shot and  
seriously injured at 9 pm on Sunday night, while  
cashing up the day's takings

Almost R3 000 was stolen

"I'm not worried about the money, but about  
the safety of my workers. It breaks my heart  
that something like this should happen to some-  
one who came in to earn an honest day's wages,"  
Mr Albertyn said

**SECURITY**

"Perhaps all garage-owners should get togeth-  
er and organise some sort of security network  
which could serve all service stations"

"Also, licensed owners of firearms should be  
more careful with their guns. Perhaps they  
should keep them on their persons because inno-  
cent people could be hurt if these guns fall into  
the wrong hands"

Mr Albertyn said the robbery took place just  
after nearby shops had closed at 9 pm, and that  
he had been on the scene within 10 minutes

"There were only two employees on the prem-  
ises when the robbers struck. One of them pushed  
the panic button which alerts our director, before  
the shots were fired" he added

ises when the robbers struck. One of them pushed  
the panic button which alerts our director, before  
the shots were fired" he added

"The robbers forced open the door to the atten-  
dants room shot Mr Tom twice below the rib-  
cage and ran off with the money

"I'm proud of my employees because, despite  
having been shot at they ran after the robbers to  
try to catch them"

Mr Albertyn said he had been told the robbers  
were men in their twenties, who drove off in a  
white Valiant which had been waiting for them  
behind the garage

"I took Mr Tom to the Woodstock Hospital and  
this morning they told me he was in a satisfac-  
tory condition" he said

Recently there has been a spate of service sta-  
tion robberies in the Peninsula

● On August 30 Mr Witbooi Gugu was taken to  
hospital after being shot by would-be robbers at 9  
pm at the Good Hope Service Station in Grassy  
Park. No money was taken

● At 8 pm on September 10, R700 was taken  
from an attendant at the Philflat Service Station  
in Lansdowne Road, Philippi. Armed robbers also  
shot the attendant, Mr Colin Mduli, in the liver

# Call to reinstate 'sacked'

MYSTERY pamphlet  
distributed through-  
out the Peninsula last  
week calling for the rein-  
statement of the imam of  
the Peninsula's  
Husam Mosque in  
Cape

The anonymous pam-  
phlet called on business-  
men and residents in the  
area and in surrounding  
districts, to withhold fi-  
nancial contributions to  
the running of the  
mosque. The pamphlet  
said the

withholding of the funds  
should continue until the  
Husam Mosque Commit-  
tee had called a general  
meeting at which they  
should supply reasons for  
their action against the  
Imam

**DENIED**

A spokesman for the  
Cravenby Action Com-  
mittee, which was appar-  
ently formed specifically  
to fight the issue, denied  
responsibility for the  
pamphlet

However, demands  
listed by a spokesman for

the committee, were  
identical to those on the  
pamphlet

The Imam, Hashiem  
Julius, has been informed  
that his contract would  
not be renewed when it  
expired at the end of the  
year

The action committee  
spokesman claimed that  
the refusal to renew the  
contract could be regard-  
ed as an effective  
dismissal

He said that a genera-  
tion gap, which gave rise  
to differences between

the young Imam and the  
older members of the  
committee, had led to  
the "dismissal"

There was also a mi-  
nority group of racists  
which was opposed to  
Imam Hashiem, he  
claimed. This group  
wanted Imam Hashiem,  
classified "Malay", to be  
replaced by an Imam  
classified Indian

The chairman of the  
Husam Mosque Com-  
mittee, Dr A N Mowzer,  
denied the racism  
charges

Asked why Imam Ha-  
shiem's contract would  
not be renewed, Dr  
Mowzer replied "The  
committee which em-  
ployed the Imam is a pri-  
vate one and, just like  
any other employer, we  
regard staff matters as  
private"

**CLAUSES**

"We entered into a le-  
gal contract with Imam  
Hashiem. One of the  
clauses states that the  
contract can be termi-  
nated by both parties. It  
provided three months'



rain  
into  
sed  
ther and blind baby

Some of the people  
back into District Six if  
we build these houses  
"If people move in  
there some vacancies  
Six and dumped in the  
uprooted from District  
where they felt  
erase the pain we felt  
only Everyone  
Six which is to be re-  
turned to the coloured  
people and to be re-  
sponsible for the build-  
Development.  
C o m m u n i t y  
would be subject to the  
council getting a loan  
from the Department of  
Development.

# Five fishermen lost in W Cape sinking

Cape Times 3/10/83  
Staff Reporters

FIVE Bonnievale fishermen are believed to have drowned when the boat they were fishing from — the six-metre Bakvissie — went down off the Gouritz River mouth west of Mossel Bay at the weekend.

A 4½-hour search on Saturday by an Albattross aircraft from 27 Squadron at Ysterplaat proved fruitless, as did two separate searches by fishing boats on Friday night and Saturday morning in the area in which the Bakvissie was last seen.

Wreckage which has been positively identified as coming from the Bakvissie has washed up along a 7-8km stretch of beach about 20km from Stilbaai, but so far no trace has been found of the five fishermen — Mr Deon Muller, about 25, and Mr Hannes Robertson, 41, both of New Cross Street, Bonnievale, Mr Johnny

Africa, 39, and Mr Willem Page, age not known, of Milner Street, Bonnievale, and Mr Hansie Claassen of Hanepoort Road, Bonnievale.

The owner of the Bakvissie, Mr Kobus Cronjé, said yesterday that the Bakvissie was his standby boat. He operates nine others.

At the time of the sinking, the boat was being operated by a Mr Rensburg of Bonnievale, whose own boat was being repaired. Mr Rensburg was operating the Bakvissie with his own crew, but was not on the boat.

The Bakvissie was launched from Stilbaai about 6.30am on Friday, and was last seen by other boats fishing the same area about 12.30pm, Mr Cronjé said.

A boat was sent out to search for the Bakvissie when it had still not returned on Friday night.

"The crew could not find the Bakvissie and had to return because the weather became quite bad and the sea very rough," Mr Cronjé said. Another boat was sent out at 9am on Saturday, again with no result.

According to a South African Air Force spokesman, Lieutenant Francois Baird, an Albattross reconnaissance aircraft from 27 Squadron, was diverted from a normal patrol to search for the Bakvissie about 11am on Saturday. It stayed in the air until 2pm, after which it refuelled at George.

"From about 3pm the aircraft conducted a low-level search in the Ystervarkfontein Point area after the Albertina police had found wreckage in the area positively identified as coming from the Bakvissie," Lieutenant Baird said. The search was discontinued at 4.30pm.



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS  
BEGIN ON PAGE 14 TODAY

## The Cape Times on Kruger Day

THE Cape Times will be published as usual on Monday, October 10, (Kruger Day). The advertisement offices on the ground floor as well as on the fourth floor of our building at 77 Burg Street, will be closed from 5pm on Friday, October 7, until 8am on Tuesday, October 11. Birth and death notices may be telephoned to 41 3361 between 10am and 5pm on Sunday, October 9, for publication in Monday's Cape Times and between 10am and 5pm on Monday, October 10, for publication on Tuesday.

# IRA escape: Family's v

From MARGARET SMITH LONDON — An amazing detail of the recent mass IRA jailbreak has come to light of a family held hostage by eight of the men soon after their escape from the Maze Prison.

The most surprising aspect is that the family did not inform the security services of their ordeal for three days, because they had sworn on a Bible to the IRA jailbreakers that they would not do so.

The farmer and his family — staunch Protestants and oppo-

nents of the mainly Roman Catholic IRA — kept silent for three days.

As a result, the hunt for the 38 IRA jailbreakers lost 72 vital hours while eight of the most prominent prisoners were hiding in a nearby farmhouse they had entered only minutes after their escape.

The farmer, Ian McFarlane, his wife Doreen and three sons were held hostage at gunpoint while the jailbreakers hid from the security forces.

They had arrived in a car and, after five hours left on

foot. But before they went they made the couple take a three-day oath of silence.

The couple, staunch Presbyterians, later consulted their minister, the Rev Bertie Moore, who confirmed that the oath was binding. The McFarlanes then waited three days before telling the security services.

They disclosed that one of the jailbreakers appeared to be top IRA man Brendan McFarlane, who led the IRA in Maze Prison during the 1981 hunger strike and who

was serving life for five years as a Protestant.

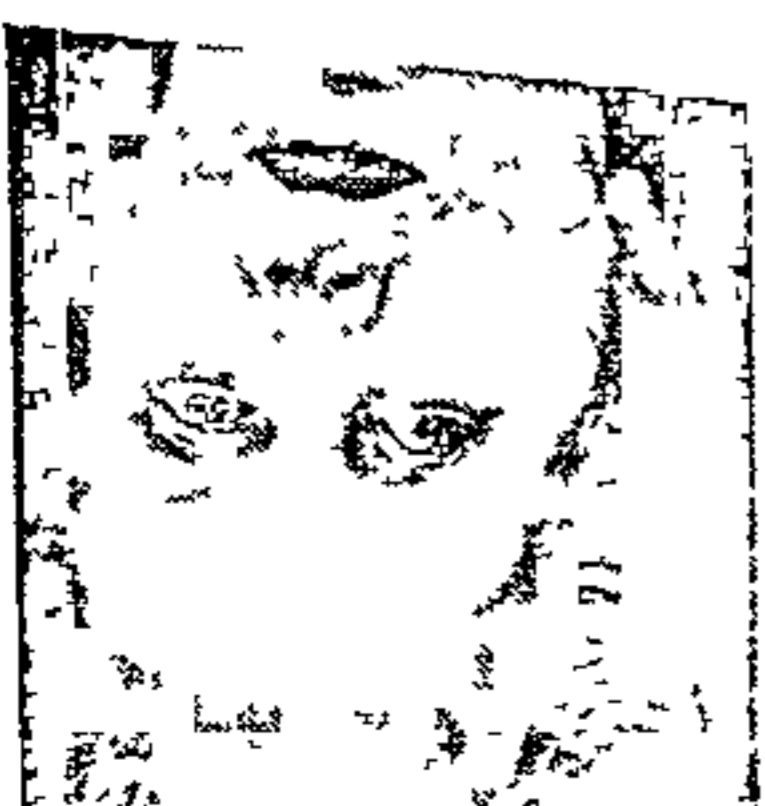
While the farmer was held hostage, the security forces threatened to shoot the son unless they obeyed. The farmer was then shepherded into a bedroom and in the morning was found that the son had gone.

Security forces were searching homes in the area as well as fearing other families might be held hostage. The captives are still on

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The Facts correction  
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Cape Times, Bo  
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as a newspaper



These views were expressed during a television programme where Mr Crutchley was not at all hesitant in attempting to cut Mrs Thatcher down to size. This attack would not be so significant if it did not closely follow that...

image among her supporters might be slipping. Eyebrows were raised at the Conservative central office when Mr Crutchley described Mrs Thatcher on Friday as "a great Churchillian".

5.27 Progr... From 5.30 From 5.34 Battle Wienar fiction - 7-Zark-7 - vil for

# Police probe horror death

131) Sowetan 5/10/83  
POLICE investigating the dog pack killing of a Pretoria worker are trying to establish what the man was doing in the backyard of a Koedoespoort business when he was savaged.

Mr Petrus Magakgo of Mamelodi died at dawn on Saturday after being savaged by three Rottweiler guard dogs as he apparently reported for work at De Luxe Dry Cleaners in Eland Street, Koedoespoort.

Flesh was ripped from his throat and body. Marks on the ground indicated that a furious struggle had taken place and that Mr Magakgo had been pulled back and forth by the

dogs

Northern Transvaal CID chief, Brigadier Hendrik du Plessis, said that although a murder docket had been opened, no formal charges had been pressed.

Neither had the future of the three Rottweilers been decided, he added.

The manager of De Luxe Dry Cleaners, Mr Bernard Kaplan, denied saying that mystery surrounded the attack, or that the Rottweilers were trained to guard the premises and attack any intruders.

Mr Kaplan also denied saying that it had not yet been decided whether to put the dogs down — Sapa

# Fewer strikes says minister

Finance Reporter

WITH THE deepening of the recession the number of strikes arising from wage disputes has declined dramatically, but the number resulting from disciplinary action or dismissals increased markedly, the Minister of Manpower said last night

Speaking at the annual banquet of the Natal Chamber of Industries, Mr Fanie Botha said there were only 90 strikes during the period January to July 1983, compared to 224 during the same period last year

On average only two days per striking worker were lost, he said

'The emphasis has shifted to work security and employers would do well to bear this in mind when handling dismissals and reductions in staff and generally to avoid the injudicious handling of labour,' Mr Botha said

He warned employers to expect greater vigilance on the question of the basic rights of workers for the protection of their safety and health in the course of their employment.

The Machinery and Occupational Safety Act passed during the 1983 parliamentary session extended statutory protection to all employees, he said

The Advisory Council for Occupational Safety had its first meeting on September 29 to consider the draft Factory Safety Regulations

Referring to the new act Mr Botha said 'It can be expected that trade unions whose members work in potentially dangerous environments will



MR S P BOTHA

now take a greater interest in ensuring workplace safety and will understandably try to have their members appointed as safety representatives

'It would be wise for

employers to consult their employees on the appointment of safety representatives so as to ensure their widest possible acceptance by the workers in general'

He appealed to employers to adhere to the guidelines provided by the Government, particularly in terms of the sharing of facilities

Despite the difficulties and costs this may involve, he said it would avoid unnecessary malcontentedness

Referring to the closed shop practice Mr Botha said the National Manpower Commission was further investigating certain aspects of the issue

It was particularly looking into the question of closed shop agreements not entered into in terms of the Labour Relations Act.

5/10/83  
Mercury

# 11 000-volt shock kills youth on farm

(31)

Mercury Correspondent

A 16-YEAR-OLD black youth was killed instantly while holding a chain hanging from a crane which touched 11 000 v high-tension wires, it was learned yesterday.

The accident occurred on Sunday in a canefield on the farm of Mr Ken Wilkinson at Umzumbe.

The youth, Thamaliya Maganu, was helping the driver of a cane loader to offload chains from a truck. As he was guiding the chains, the crane touched overhead high tension wires.

'He was killed instantly.

Eleven thousand volts passed through him,' said Mrs Shirley Wilkinson.

'We gave him mouth to mouth resuscitation for about half an hour but he had no pulse the whole time. When the doctor arrived he certified him dead.

'The driver was insulated by the tyres. He didn't even know he had touched the wires at first. He thought the other chap had been hit by the chains.

'It was a freak accident. We load there often and we've never had anything like this happen,' she said



# Firemen saved from tower of fire



The two firemen, Kelvin Bloem and Mike Smith (inset) wait to be rescued from the blazing tower. Picture by CHRIS JENNINGS

# 131 <sup>7/10/83</sup> Drama at night cricket

*Murray*  
**Pietermaritzburg  
Bureau**

**TWO Pietermaritzburg firemen fell 10 m while climbing up the inside of a huge floodlight tower, at Jan Smuts Stadium yesterday.**

Station officer Kelvin Bloem, 23, and fireman Mike Smith, aged about 29, had been climbing up to put out a large fire which broke out among the lights during the Natal-Northern Transvaal night game.

Acting Divisional Fire Officer David Penny, who was in charge of a turntable ladder at the scene, said the two men had been sent up the tower with extinguishers to fight the fire.

He described it as a 'one-in-a-million fire, the likes of which I have never seen in nine years' service'.

The two men managed to open a small hatch at the top of the 37 m tower, but that let in hot debris, and electrical apparatus crashed down, knocking them off the ladder.

### **Injured**

The men fell about 10 m before they managed to grab rungs in the narrow tower. Although slightly burned and injured, they made their way back up.

'We sent the highest ladder we have — about 30 m — but it was about 5 m short because of the angle.'

The injured firemen worked their way to the furthest part of the platform to escape the flames, while a fireman played a hose at the top of the fire engine ladder.

The two were slightly concussed and other firemen were sent up to rescue them.

Mr Bloem and Mr Smith were reported to be 'satisfactory' in Grey's Hospital last night.

The game was postponed.

● See also Page 31

# Dark cloud over SA asbestos

CAPE TIMES 10/10/83 (131)

A DARK cloud hangs over the South African asbestos industry

Overseas, alarm over the deadly asbestos fibres — which have been proved to cause asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer — has led to a steady tightening of controls to protect people who work with the substance

Sweden and Norway have banned asbestos-based production. In Britain this year, the Health and Safety Commission found that "no medical doubt exists that workplace controls on asbestos should be as tight as possible"

A serious challenge to the South African asbestos industry was issued seven weeks ago by Mr Barry Castleman, a visiting American expert on occupational health.

## Death hazard

He charged that thousands of South African workers faced death and many might already have died as a result of contact with asbestos

In the United States, he said, between 8 500 and 10 000 people were expected to die in the next 30 years as a result of contact with the substance

While some scientific controversy still surrounds the safety of the asbestos industry, even spokesmen for the industry agree that asbestos is a potentially hazardous substance

The difference of opinion is between those who believe there is no safe level and those who believe there can be acceptably-safe

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

levels if controls are applied

Professor A M Coetzee, head of the Department of Community Medicine at the University of Pretoria and a consultant to an asbestos company, wrote to a Johannesburg newspaper

"I am convinced that due to stringent precautionary measures instituted by the mines and the asbestos cement industry, the likelihood of workers contracting diseases today is minimal"

This is countered by experts such as Mr Castleman who have found that even marginal exposures to blue asbestos can cause mesothelioma, a rare type of cancer of the lung, and that there is no safety limit for lung cancer. And lung cancer is not a recompensable disease in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act

Clearly, South Africa is lagging behind the standards of the developed world

## UK import ban

The British Commission's recommendations on asbestos, to be enforced next year, include a ban on the importation and manufacture of blue and brown asbestos

Workplace limits for brown asbestos are to be reduced from 0,5 fibre to 0,2 per ml of air for brown asbestos and from 1,0 fibre to 0,5 per ml for white asbestos. The blue asbestos limit

is to remain at 0,2 per ml of air

In South Africa, a change in the job-safety laws from early next year will limit the permissible level of all fibres to 2,0 per ml of air — 10 times higher than the current UK standard for blue asbestos, regarded as the most dangerous fibre

Mr Castleman believes that large corporations are exporting industrial hazards to countries where there are few or no regulations or controls

## Factory transfer

When West Germany announced in 1980 that they would be phasing out asbestos, the machinery and equipment of an asbestos textile factory was dismantled and moved to Cape Town, where a new factory, Kapsit Asbestos, was set up

A spokesman for Everite, which has the largest share of the domestic asbestos cement market, said that though they had consistently improved on control standards since the early sixties, they were searching for alternative fibres to replace asbestos

This was because they recognized that fine asbestos dust was a danger and wanted to eliminate it "where humanly possible", the control mechanisms were costly in economic terms, it was very demanding for management and workers to conform to the control procedures and, finally, asbestos reserves in the ground would not last forever

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# Everite seeks substitute for asbestos in fibre-cement

ARGUS 13/10/83

131

EVERITE has been carrying out research on the use of alternatives to asbestos in fibre-cement products and some promising developments are in sight, its chairman, Mr H Thoeni, says in the annual report.

He says meanwhile the company shares public concern about the effect on health of breathing in asbestos fibres.

It has invested heavily in measures to control respirable asbestos fibres at all work places in the fibre-cement division to international safety standards.

## NO RISK

"Everite is convinced that, under present safety and health conditions and providing recommended precautionary measures are observed, there is no abnormal risk to employees in the fibre-cement industry nor to contractors who use fibre-cement products containing asbestos."

Mr Thoeni expects the recession to continue until at least mid-1984.

But in spite of this and the effects of the drought he expects profits to be close to the past year's performance.

The group lifted after-tax profit for the year to June by 16 percent to R15.4-million and turnover by 7 percent to R176.1-million.

## SURPLUS CASH

"The improvement in profit is mainly due to increased investment income arising from surplus cash, a lower Lifo stock adjustment and fees earned for participation in lessor trusts formed for the lease of certain manufacturing facilities.

"A further contributing factor was tight cost and staff complement control."

Dividends were maintained at 50c a share.

Audrey d'Angelo

131 RSM 22/10/83

# Cleaner plunges five floors — and survives

By STAN HLOPHE  
and EMILIA JAROSCHEK  
A JOHANNESBURG cleaner who plunged from the fifth floor of a block of flats on to the concrete below said hours later that he was lucky to be alive

Mr Sydney Ngcobo, 21, was picked up by Johannesburg ambulance men at 2am yesterday — about an hour after they had attended to a Hillbrow woman who died after falling three floors

When ambulancemen arrived at the flats in Mitchell Street, Mitchell Park, Mr Ngcobo was sitting on the

pavement, dazed and holding his head

Mr Ngcobo, who suffered scratches from glass which shattered when he fell through a window, was immediately taken to the Hillbrow Hospital

Speaking from his hospital bed yesterday, Mr Ngcobo, who came to Johannesburg two years ago, said he was still baffled that he had survived

Blood was still oozing from a wound on Mr Ngcobo's head when Mail reporters visited him

Speaking softly, he said he remembered missing the step while climbing the fire escape. The next moment

he found himself lying in hospital

Mr Ngcobo, who comes from Vrede, said it was "a miracle" that he only received head and hand injuries

It was late when he began cleaning windows, and he remembered vividly how he had missed his step while climbing a ladder. At the time he was holding a bucket of water

"I thank God for saving me from such a disaster. I am still dizzy from the injuries I sustained

"I will never forget this day in my life. I remember only seeing a dark cloud around me as I went down

"I still consider myself lucky to be

alive, though I don't know if I will recover fully," Mr Ngcobo said

Miss Renate Friend, 22, of 306 Belmont Hotel, Banket Street, Hillbrow, died after falling three storeys yesterday

Police said Miss Friend, who fell from a window of the hotel, hit a curbstone and was killed instantly

A friend told detectives that he was in the room with Miss Friend when she fell. He said he woke to hear her moving about, and suddenly heard a thud. He looked out of the window to find Miss friend lying below

Foul play is not suspected

(131) RDM 2/11/83  
**Gas victim 'burnt black and screaming'**

**BLOEMFONTEIN** — Two men were seriously injured and a woman received light burns and cuts when gas tanks exploded in a Bloemfontein shop yesterday

According to a witness, a Mr A H Oosthuizen, manager of Home Gas, in Zastron Street, was seriously burnt when gas exploded in the shop at about 11am

A female employee was

burnt and cut in the explosion

According to a police spokesman, Lieutenant C L Louw, Mr Oosthuizen was filling gas tanks when the explosion occurred. He was thrown out of the door of the shop by the impact

People in nearby shops said Mr Oosthuizen fell on to the pavement

Mr Jan Vermeulen said Mr

Oosthuizen was so badly burnt that his clothes were stuck to his body

Another witness, Mr Frans van Aard, said Mr Oosthuizen was "burnt black and was screaming" when he was thrown out of the door by the blast

Mr Oosthuizen and another man, who was also badly injured, were admitted to hospital — Sapa.

Handwritten scribbles and marks on the left side of the page, including a large '200' and other illegible marks.

# Job change saves factory worker

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Fate was on the side of a factory worker when he missed death by metres in the killer explosion at the Westmead paper factory yesterday after swopping jobs with another worker

Mr Jabulani Shongwe (35), a machine operator at the Allied Paper and Industrial Paper Distributors, escaped unscathed from the explosion, while two of his friends were killed and a third was seriously burnt close to the machine where Mr Shongwe usually worked

The manager of the firm, Mr Denys Blackbeard, said about 26 workers managed to run away from the disaster area after a steam cylinder exploded

The 1.5 m. wide cylinder, used to make crepe paper, exploded after pressure built up inside it, probably as a result of a blocked pipe, he said

"I was sitting at my desk when I heard an enormous bang and glass shattered all around me. At first I thought the boiler had blown up, but later found it was a steam cylinder"

The powerful explosion hurled chunks of metal and shrapnel across the room, ripped down the coater machine, knocked down pillars, tore window frames from

their sockets and shattered windows throughout the building and in the next-door factory

"We ran out the door at the side. I usually work near where the men died, but had to take over from someone on night shift at the back of the room yesterday. If I was at the usual place it would have killed me," said a shaken Mr Shongwe

The names of the two dead men, one the 31-year-old father of three small children and the other a 22-year-old single man, have not yet been released.

A critically injured man, Mr S Govindasamy, was admitted to R K Khan Hospital with severe burns

# Two die, one injured as boiler explodes

Mercury Reporter

A BOILER exploded in a Westmead machine room yesterday, killing two workers and injuring another.

The blast, in a ground floor room belonging to Allied Paper and Industrial Distributors (Pty) Ltd, blew out all the windows, sent heavy machinery flying several metres and destroyed windows at a steel manufacturing company next door

After the blast, distressed workers stood around among the mess of broken machinery,

water, bricks and oil which had covered the bodies of two machine operators

## Many inside

'Lots of people who work on this floor — a total of about 30, were inside at the time,' said machine operator Mr Roy Singh who was working less than 10 m from the boiler.

'We all ran in different directions,' he said. 'There was so much steam that it was difficult to see where we were going.'

'Those of us who are safe are really lucky,' said another machine

operator, Mr Sunny Govender.

The injured worker, Mr Soobramoney Govinda-samy, was taken to R K Khan Hospital where he is suffering from 80 percent burns

According to a hospital spokesman he is 'very ill'.

The names of the two dead have not been released yet.

A spokesman for the company said that no estimate had been made of the damage and the cause of the explosion was not yet known.

● Picture Page 3

8/11/83

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Mercury



(131) S-Times 13/10/88

# Asbestos breakthrough

By Barry Sergeant

AFTER two years of research, Cemenco, the listed mining-supplies company, claims to have come up with a unique product that will prevent asbestos disease among miners.

A delighted chairman, Ronnie Shaw, told Business Times that two break-through products seal dust and fibres that cause the dreaded asbestosis and killer lung cancer, mesothelioma. They were developed by Cemenco subsidiary Cementation Chemicals.

Says Mr Shaw "The new products present a solution to a worrying problem"

South African asbestos mines have been criticised internationally for failing to protect workers from the killer diseases, a charge they reject.

The products are designed to prevent fibres and dust from entering the air that miners and asbestos workers breathe. They can be used in any kind of mining environment but are particularly applicable to asbestos.

The brainchild of scientist Desmond Louw of Cementation Chemicals, the two products — Dust-Con and Dust-Mem — have proved conclusively successful.

Dust-Con is a stabilising agent for horizontal application, and Dust-Mem is a copolymer solution that is used on vertical surfaces.

Both form a transparent elastic shell over roads, dumps, mine faces and other surfaces. Both are non-toxic, non-flammable and non-corrosive.

The products were tested by Cemenco, the Chamber of Mines and Gefco at Pomfret mine in the north-western Cape.

Here drought, extreme temperatures and high winds tested them to the limit. The products demonstrably reduced the amount of asbestos in the air in and around the mine and its dumps.

In addition, over six weeks, they saved 500 000 litres of precious water. The products also obviated the need to tar certain roads at great expense.

Tests were also conducted

## Disease preventative claimed by Cemenco

and Newell is facing serious attack

Now that protection for miners and people living near mines has been improved, the biggest objection to asbestos appears to have been removed.

Chairman of both Gefco and Msaulh Luther Jooste says the health hazard posed by asbestos has been exaggerated.

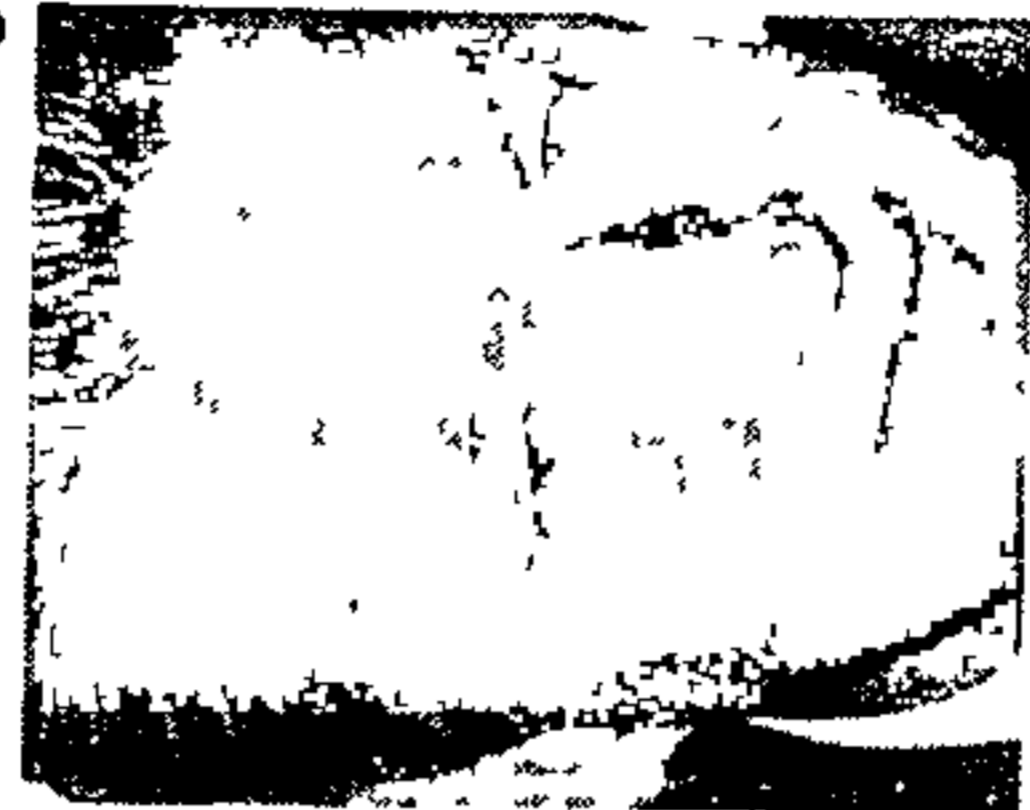
"Asbestos poses minimal risk when handled correctly," he says. Consumers, he reckons, are not threatened, as asbestos is nearly always insulated by other products such as cement and special polymers.

Gencor has a South African asbestos monopoly — through Gefco and Msaulh — and a world monopoly (93%) of crocidolite (blue asbestos).

Because of depressed world demand, Gencor is said to have several months' supply on hand and Msaulh retrenched 1 000 workers this year. Informed sources say that it has closed two of its mines because of slack demand.

Until now Gencor mines have used wet mining methods and air filtration to control dust levels.

Asbestos is specially packed before leaving the mines among specially covered dumps on tarred or paved roads. Gencor has spent about R3-million on medical research concerning



RONNIE SHAW  
"Worrying problem"

underground in coal mines and on mine surfaces. The experiments were kept secret because of the controversy surrounding asbestos and, says Mr Louw, "to keep the formulation of the products away from our competitors". He says it will take competitors years to catch up.

Only Ron Hart, MD of Gencor subsidiary Gefco, Theo Grace, chief environmental officer of Gefco, and Mr Louw knew of the confidential experiments.

World demand for asbestos has been severely hit by accusations that it is dangerous not only to miners but to handlers and users of asbestos products.

America's biggest asbestos mine, Johns Manville, has filed for bankruptcy under a mountain of medico-legal claims and the UK's

# Ford SA has unique plant safety record

FORD (SOUTH AFRICA) has achieved a unique position in the realms of plant safety in the country and is probably a leader world-wide

This is the judgment of Mr Bunny Matthysen, general manager of the National Occupation Safety Association, after the announcement that five Ford plants in Port Elizabeth had been re-awarded five-star safety ratings and two re-awarded four-star ratings

"There are 30 000 factories in South Africa and of these 150 to 180 receive five-star ratings after we've carried out 9 000 audits and inspections a year," said Mr Matthysen

"For a company to be awarded a single five-star rating is an achievement to be proud of, but for Ford to have five plants each with these ratings places it in a unique position in South Africa

"There is no other company with a multi-plant complex that measures up to this standard

"And that is not all On top of this, Ford holds 22 Noscars — the supreme accolade of safety achieve-

ment — adding to its unrivalled standards and record"

The plants whose five-star gradings have been renewed are

- Truck plant (now in contention for a Nascar)

- Engine plant (which has won Noscars for 10 consecutive years)

- Struandale assembly plant (winner of four Noscars)

- Neave assembly plant (winner of eight Noscars)

- Product development

Four-star re-awards were made to parts and accessories at Struandale, which has been recommended for upgrading to five stars, and education and training

Mr Matthysen explained that to win a five-star rating a plant or factory had to achieve 91% or more in meeting Nosa's exacting standards, to achieve a Nascar a 95% plus rating had to be gained

He added that South Africa, through Nosa, was a worldwide leader in auditing and inspecting plants and factories on the basis of star ratings

"We introduced this system in 1960 and, because of its success and the positive results achieved, it has been adopted in some parts of the United States

"Australia will be introducing a system modelled on ours early next year

"That places Nosa, and companies like Ford with long associations with it, to the forefront in the world"

Mr Matthysen said that the Nosa programme worked on a management-by-objectives basis, coupled with a system through which everyone in a company was made fully aware of the needs for safety

"Each company is evaluated against itself — we inspect the factory and see what it manufactures or what is stored in it and set the objectives, against which it is measured

"We also take into consideration the frequency of accidents, and one measure of the success of the Nosa programme is that the national average has been reduced from 4% in the 1950s to 1,8% now

"Ford's frequency is below even this figure, which is among the lowest in the world"

# Kreef men lost at sea

Cape Times 16/11/83

131  
Crime Reporter

TWO Port Nolloth kreef fishermen are missing, presumed drowned, after their three-metre vessel was found yesterday balancing on a reef out at sea

The men, whose names have not been released, worked at the Higson Canning Company in Port Nolloth. They set sail in Die Anna about 8am on Sunday

When they had not returned by Monday, a search was launched and the boat was found on the reef

"There was no trace of the men," Major George Kershoff, a police liaison

officer, said. The search is continuing

● Eight Kalk Bay fishermen watched helplessly yesterday as their boat, Lochinvar, sank while being towed

## Leaking

The boat began leaking during a snoek run off Cape Point, and the captain, Mr C Daniels, called for the help of another fishing vessel

The Anna Amelia came to the rescue and took the fishermen on board. Another vessel, Taj Mahal, towed the Lochinvar, but it sank at Basaja Rock near Smitswinkel Bay

The Lochinvar was estimated to be worth R15 000

# Guard, 70, attacked

131 Crime Reporter

ROBBERS got away with goods worth R2 000 after attacking an elderly security guard at Kwambonambi on Wednesday.

According to a police spokesman, the 70-year-old Mr Jackson Mtetwa, was on duty at the Wela shop. Four black men confronted Mr Mtetwa and beat him with their fists.

They dragged him into bushes where he was tied with rope before three of the men broke into the shop. One of the men guarded Mr Mtetwa with a knife.

The men fled with clothes and cigarettes.

# Workers in freezing hold had no protection — union

ARGUS 22/11/83 (15) (131)

**Staff Reporters**  
THE General Workers' Union has criticised the employment of about 30 casual workers, without protective clothing, to off-load fish from the freezing hold of a ship

The GWU was referring to an incident at the Cape Town docks at the weekend when a shipping agent, Pescanova, which has a stevedoring li-

cence, employed about 30 workers to off-load frozen fish from the Ilha Dao Sol Nicalau to another ship, the Basilea

The GWU, which has an agreement covering wages and working conditions with the largest stevedoring company in South Africa, SA Stevedores, said "If the authorities permit casuals to be employed in a com-

pletely unregulated manner it could lead to a situation where they work with no protection whatsoever"

According to a GWU spokesman, SA Stevedores (SAS) did not take on casuals for the job because the company did not have sufficient protective clothing

At the quay where the ship was berthed, a su-

pervisor agreed that it was dangerous for the men to work without protective clothing, but "the agent brought these men along here to work" He added that protective clothing was not his concern

The manager of Pescanova, Mr W de Bruin, said the casual workers had provided their own protective clothing

# Cement slab crushes builder

(31)  
EAST LONDON — A father of three young children was killed yesterday when a heavy slab of concrete fell on top of him while he was building a basement in the grounds of a Stirling home

*D. N. N. N. N.*  
Mr Simon Qhwashile, in his mid-twenties, of Nxarhuni, a village near Mdantsane, was inside the basement at the home in Kenilworth Road with two other labourers when the incident occurred at mid-day

*23/11/83*  
A metre long slab of concrete slid off a sandpile alongside the basement and fell onto Mr Qhwashile, crushing him

Sand started pouring into the basement as Mr Jacob Tunywa, who shared a house with Mr Qhwashile in Nxarhuni, and Mr Kenabo Fana, of Mdantsane, rolled the cement slab off Mr Qhwashile and struggled to get him out

"We had to dig him out. It fell down and hit him from behind, just missing me. It could have hit me on my head."

"When the sand started pouring in, we were trapped for a while," said Mr Tunywa.

Mr Fana described the incident as "very frightening." Minutes after the incident occurred, ambulances and fire engines arrived at the scene after a domestic servant in the home had telephoned for help —

DDR

Picture page 2.

# Stress affects black mineworkers most

Spec 25/11/83

(31)

By Malcolm Fothergill

A research project has found significant differences in the way English-speaking mineworkers and Afrikaans-speaking mineworkers react to the perils of their job

It found that black mineworkers suffer more stress than their white colleague, but that underground workers suffer more stress than surface workers

The research was carried out for a doctoral thesis by Mr David White, an Anglo-American divisional personnel director, and is quoted in the latest Chamber of Mines newsletter

Mr White analysed stress in terms of four major variables: job satisfaction, overall life satisfaction, anxiety and job-related tension

Some 720 mineworkers, 240 of them white and the remainder split equally between Shangaans, South Sothos, Tswanas and Xhosas, took part in the study

Half were supervisors and the rest were in non-supervisory positions, half were experienced and half inexperienced, half were from low-stress mines (those popular with migrant workers and with low accident rates) and half from high-stress mines

The first of Mr White's five hypotheses, that underground workers suffered higher levels of stress than their colleagues on the surface, was disproved — surprisingly, in view of the hazards underground

The second hypothesis, that blacks

suffer more stress than whites, found more support

Blacks were found to be more alienated than whites, to have higher anxiety levels and to drink for escapist reasons significantly more frequently

The third hypothesis, that stress was related to job level, was not confirmed

"Among whites the only significant difference is in satisfaction scores, with shift bosses being significantly more satisfied with their jobs than artisans"

The fourth hypothesis, that men working on high-stress mines would suffer higher levels of stress than men on low-stress mines, was by and large confirmed

Language proved an interesting qualifier

"Workers on high-stress mines do report more health problems than workers on low-stress mines, but among whites it is only the English-speaking employees who are in better health on a low-stress mine"

"Similarly it is only the English-speaking employees who experience higher anxiety levels on high-stress mines"

"The Afrikaans-speaking employees appear to have been unaffected by employment on a high-stress mine — it did not make any difference to them what type of mine they worked on"

Mr White's fifth hypothesis, that experience in a job reduced the amount of stress associated with it, was confirmed

131

# Search ends

(cont from Page 1)

But the captain of the Verbena, Mr Bobbie Naidoo of Colorado, Mitchell's Plain, said none of the 22 survivors was in the water for more than 10 minutes

"We just have to thank God it didn't happen in the dark," he said

## Engines failed

He said the Saint Gerard was dragging a netful of fish in a strong south-easterly wind at about 6.15 this morning when its engines failed. The Verbena was lying about 30 miles away when it received a call for aid

"With the help of the wind we were righted by him in hardly any time. The boat was lying with its stern towards the wind, shipping tons of water. The crew was trying to cut away its gear (the nets) to free themselves.

"As I approached, it capsized. In less than five minutes it was gone," Mr Naidoo said.

## Roll-call

The full 26-man crew managed to assemble for roll-call on the deck and abandon ship before the vessel capsized, he added.

Three I&J vessels and two Sea Harvest trawlers joined in the search for the missing men, but the search was discontinued at 5 pm

An Albatross reconnaissance aircraft on a routine patrol began a search early this morning, to be relieved by another which continued until mid-afternoon

## "Flawless"

But Lieutenant Francois Baird, liaison officer for Southern Air Command, said the search was hampered by a two-mile oil slick from the Saint Germain, a wind reaching 10 to 15 knots, a one-metre swell and "a lot of white foam".



Safe, thank God ... a wife embraces her husband, one of the 22 rescued crewmembers of the Saint Gerard.



Crew members of the Saint Gerard in new overalls.



Verbena skipper Bobbie Naidoo ... "thank God it wasn't dark."



~~Trawler~~

26/11/83  
sinks:

(131)

**22 saved**

CAPE TOWN — Twenty-two survivors were picked up from a fishing trawler, the St Gerard, which sank at about 8.15am today, 60km west of Cape Columbine

The survivors were picked up by two trawlers and the search is continuing for four other crew members

Two other trawlers are standing by and two Albatross reconnaissance aircraft are assisting in the search

Conditions in the area where the trawler is believed to have sunk are reported to be far from ideal

The sunken trawler was based in Cape Town but no details of the crew were available — Sapa

# Breakthrough is expected soon on asbestos substitute

131

E. Post

28/11/83

## Post Reporter

ONE of South Africa's largest fibre cement building material manufacturers, Everite Limited, could be on the brink of finding an alternative to asbestos, a known health hazard, in fibre cement

The company's managing director, Mr H Thoeni, is expected to make an announcement of a breakthrough in the first half of 1984

Mr Thoeni said in the company's annual report that there were promising developments in the area of asbestos fibre alternatives, a statement which led almost immediately to speculation that an announcement was imminent

However, this could not be confirmed

The company had been actively engaged in developing wood fibre as an alternative over the past few years, but research proved wood fibre on its own was not strong enough for the

manufacture of pressure pipes

Work was therefore continuing on the development of a substance which, combined with wood fibre, would have the resilience and strength of asbestos without its potential health risk

Mr Brian Gibson, a company spokesman, said that in certain circumstances asbestos posed a danger to health

However, the industry was taking stringent asbestos control measures and had been doing so since 1960

Asbestos levels were kept down by using wet production methods and by removing dust from working areas with dust extraction systems

Mr Gibson said the air in every plant was monitored and where levels exceeded the acceptable standards, it was compulsory for employees to wear protective

clothing and respirators

All employees had regular training to make them aware of the possible asbestos dangers in the factories. Mr Gibson said consumer products that contained asbestos fibre were now well labelled, warning the public to avoid causing dust when cutting asbestos products by using high speed electric tools. Customers were encouraged to use handsaws and to work out of doors preferably

He said more and more of the products for consumer use were pre-cut and needed no further cutting

Mr Gibson said the company believed every human being had some asbestos fibre in their lungs

He said there were natural asbestos outcrops in the ground and large amounts of asbestos in the brake linings of cars

"So if asbestos was all that lethal, we would all be dead," he said

(131) *RAM* *29/11/83*

# SA sets industrial safety records

**By Financial Reporter**

SOUTH Africa has captured three world records in industrial safety, says the National Occupational Safety Association

Foskor, Phalaborwa, captured the opencast mine category with 20,65-million injury-free manhours

Escom, Duvha, had 9,9-million and Mobil Refinery (Durban) 9,1-million injury-free manhours.

NOSA chairman, Mr Don Carroll,

says there has been a drop in assessment rates paid to the State Accident Fund from R1,15 a R100 wages in 1972 to R0,81 in 1983/84

The national injury frequency rate has dropped from 20,1 disabling injuries for 1-million manhours worked in 1951 to 9,3 injuries currently

This is based on 4 329 surveys and gradings carried out at some 4 000 factories, works and quarries employing 1,8-million

# Kentucky — an appeal to Jomo

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

THE Commercial Catering and Allied Workers' Union (CCAWUSA) is planning to meet soccer star Jomo Sono in an attempt to resolve the labour dispute at several Kentucky outlets in Johannesburg and the Reef.

A union official said that Sono, who has bought a Kentucky franchise operating in Soweto, might use his influence in persuading the "recalcitrant management" to change their

minds

If he refuses, the official continued, then "we shall call on his staff in Soweto to join the strikers because he uses the name of the people who are oppressing black workers."

About 80 workers employed at Kentucky outlets in Johannesburg, Roodepoort, Krugersdorp and other areas have downed tools demanding the reinstatement of a colleague, better wages and improved working con-

ditions.

Sono said that he was prepared to meet the union officials but this would have to be in two weeks' time because "I am going on holiday soon."

He was not against his workers joining the union because they knew their rights. "I cannot pull workers by their noses, they know what is good for them," he said. Kentucky workers were talking to

management about their grievances which led to the strike and which had left many outlets empty yesterday.

Meanwhile, workers at Grand Bazaar have called on the public to boycott the Maponya Shopping Centre in Soweto because of links between it and the bazaar.

The sacked workers demand that their union (Ccaawusa) be recognised. The shopping complex is to open today.

JOMO: Kentucky franchise

(31) D-Dispatu  
30/11/83

## Work injuries among lowest

EAST LONDON — The disabling injury frequency rate in industry in South Africa has dropped from 20,1 in 1951 to 9,3 in 1983, making it among the lowest in the world

This was disclosed in the annual report of the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa)

The figures reflect a decrease in the injury rate of over 50 per cent — from four per cent of the workforce sustaining injuries during the 1950's, to 1,8 per cent during 1983

The comparable figures in the United States are 2,7, in Canada 6,0 and in Australia 10 per cent

Mr H J Matthysen, general manager of Nosa, attributed the decrease to management upgrading their skills and to the government inspectorate's improved advice and guidance in the field of safety in the

workplace

"I also believe that Nosa has played an invaluable role as a catalyst in the whole operation. We are able to give management a complete package deal in the shape of all the documentation necessary to introduce a safety programme and meet the requirements of legislation," Mr Matthysen said

He also outlined some of the notable achievements in safety standards of industry in South Africa during the past year

The Escom Duvha power station set a new world record for generating plants of 9,9 million injury free man-hours

Foskor set a new world record for an opencast mine of 20,65 million injury-free man-hours and the Mobil Refining company recorded 9,1 million injury-free man-hours, also a new world record — DDR

21<sup>2/12/43</sup> SADF (131)

# workers injured 9. Post

## Post Reporter

**TWENTY-ONE** members of the SA Defence Force's kitchen staff were slightly injured at 5am today when their vehicle left the road and overturned

The workers were being taken to Algoa Training Base to prepare breakfast.

The Samil 50 personnel carrier in which they were travelling left the road on Marine Drive and overturned.

Seventeen of the workers were treated at Livingstone Hospital and discharged. Four others were detained for further examination because their injuries were thought to be more serious

# Row erupts over deadly weedkiller

Mail Correspondent

DURBAN. — A major supplier of the deadly chemical paraquat, used in weedkillers, is telling clients that there is an antidote to the poison.

But medical authorities yesterday confirmed that there is no antidote, and death almost certainly follows poisoning.

The poison can get into the system simply by skin contact or being inhaled. The poison is used extensively in agriculture and horticulture throughout the country.

A spokesman for the poison unit of Addington Hospital said that the poison was considered one of the most lethal and there was no antidote.

"In some cases fatal pulmonary fibrosis (malfunction in the respiratory tract) follows the ingestion of very small quantities of paraquat."

A Cape Town doctor writing in the SA Medical Journal has called for stricter control following a number of deaths

due to poisoning by weedkillers with paraquat as an ingredient.

According to the article, once the poison is ingested, even in small quantities, death is virtually certain.

The Addington poison unit confirmed that ingestion, inhalation or skin contact could result in death — even when amounts of the poison were exceedingly small.

But a technical adviser for the Farmer's Organisation, a major outlet in Maritzburg, said that according to the manufacturers there was an antidote — Fuller's Earth.

"If you mix paraquat with muddy water it loses its toxicity," he said.

But the poison unit disagreed.

"According to the Poisindex, an American system of rating poisons, there is no specific antidote, but the recommended treatment is the oral intake of large quantities of activated charcoal."

"Of course, this would work only in cases where the poison had been taken by mouth, and the treatment

would have to commence very shortly after the poison had been taken.

"Even with this treatment there is a good chance that some poison would be taken through the stomach wall. The charcoal is a treatment, not an antidote," the unit spokesman said.

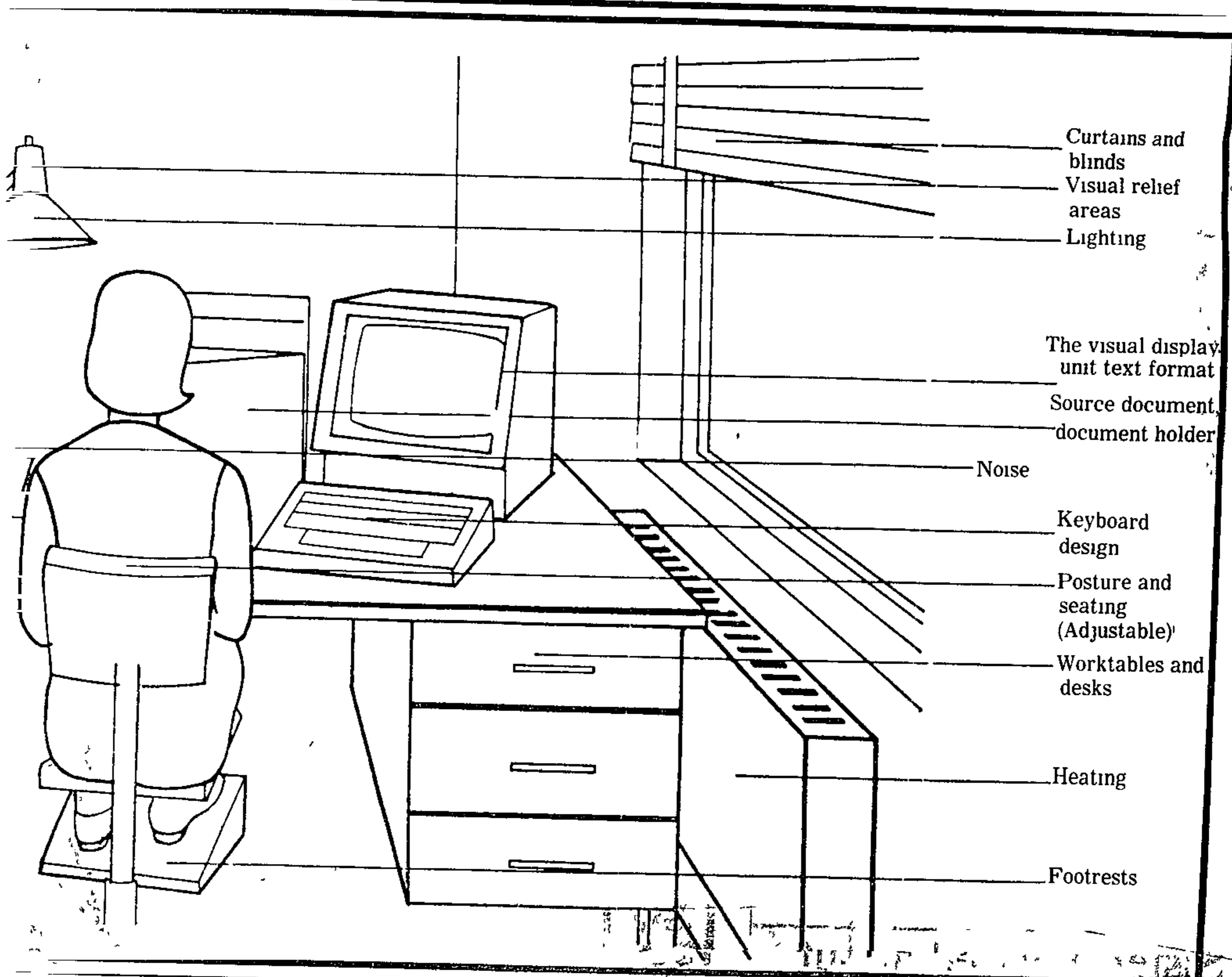
Doctors have written to the Department of Health asking that over-the-counter sales of paraquat be restricted, and that users should be educated about the extreme dangers associated with its use.

According to the poison unit, death can occur within 24 hours of ingestion, due to failure of the liver, heart, kidneys and adrenals.

"Survivors (of the initial 24 hour period) often develop progressive pulmonary injury and often respiratory failure within five to 10 days or longer."

"All cases of exposure to paraquat, no matter how small the amounts, must be treated as potentially fatal poisoning," the unit spokesman said.

Handwritten notes and scribbles in the top right corner, including the number 131 and some illegible scribbles.



Curtains and blinds  
 Visual relief areas  
 Lighting

The visual display unit text format  
 Source document document holder

Noise

Keyboard design

Posture and seating (Adjustable)

Worktables and desks

Heating

Footrests

# Scientists strive to improve daily round

6/12/83 Skw

In recent decades the advent of electronics has revolutionised the relationship between people and their machines.

Today the traditional idea of adapting the worker to the place of work is being reversed.

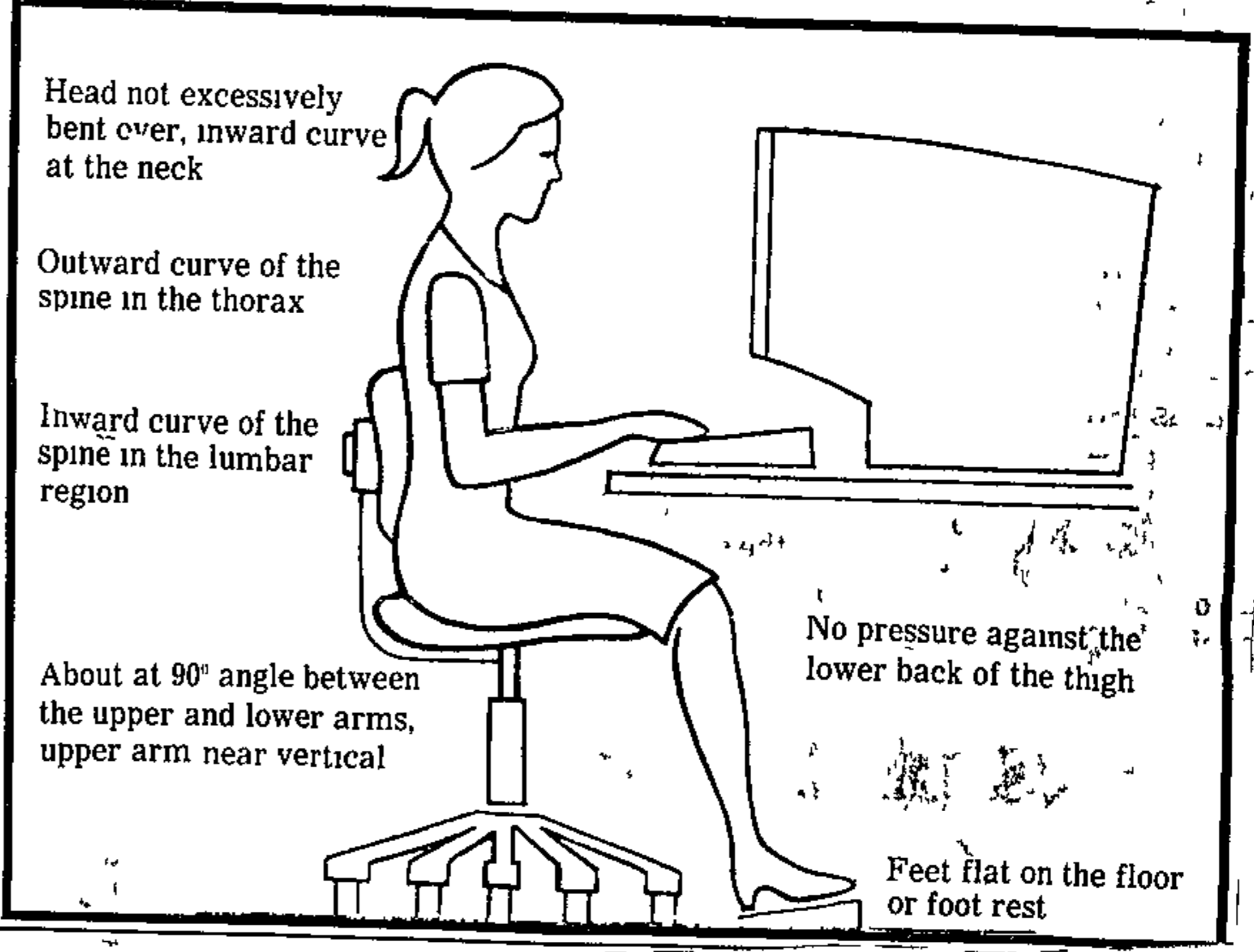
The modern office should be based on scientific research, to ensure that workers are comfortable and prod-

uctive as well as safe.

Chairs and tables, flooring and air-conditioning, the setting must be right.

Otherwise illnesses and inefficiency result on a scale previously unimagined.

The visual display terminal, VDT, has been suspected of causing trouble, but probably is innocent.



Head not excessively bent over, inward curve at the neck

Outward curve of the spine in the thorax

Inward curve of the spine in the lumbar region

About at 90° angle between the upper and lower arms, upper arm near vertical

No pressure against the lower back of the thigh

Feet flat on the floor or foot rest



People are more precious than machines

# Unplanned working situation can impair the health of the fittest employees

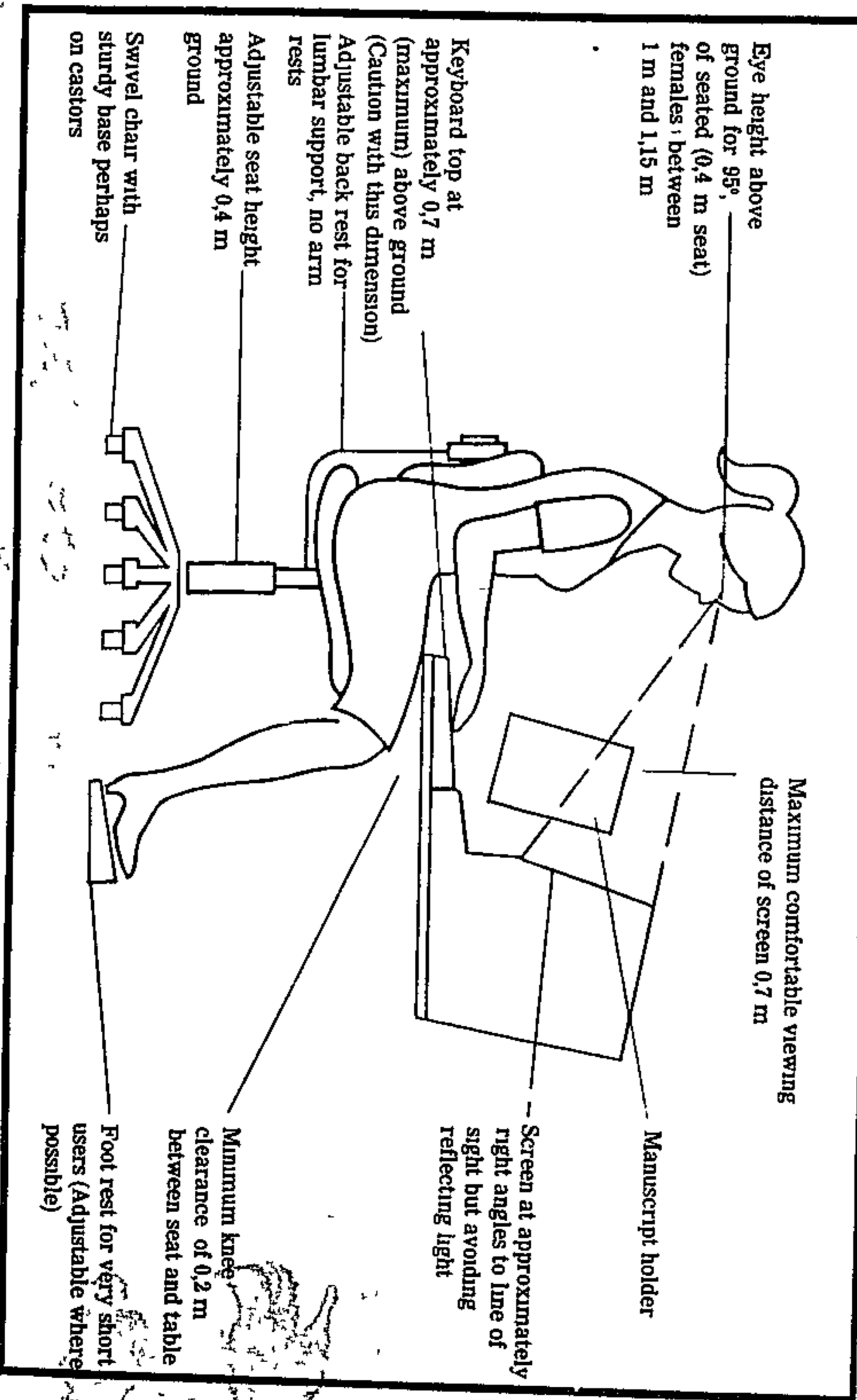
few 131

By Sheryl Raine, Pretoria Bureau

Many large business organisations in South Africa have not yet adapted their traditional offices to suit the electronic age. Instead they have moved electronic equipment into existing offices, sometimes at the expense of safety, productivity and the health of their employees, according to Mr A T Murphy, manager of the administration department of the Standard Bank Group

Fluorescent strip-lighting produced glare on VDT screens and indirectly planned open-plan offices undermined productivity and raised noise levels

The time had come, the experts agreed, to pay special attention to specifications for office furniture, the temperature and humidity in the office, noise levels, lighting and workers' complaints. The office furniture industry has already studied the modern worker



cont ↓

At a recent conference at the South African Bureau of Standards in Pretoria, a panel of experts including Mr Murphy expressed concern for the human needs of office personnel in the electronic age.

The experts spoke about the changes which have revolutionised office design and the relationship between man and his machines.

For many decades the officeworker was pinned behind a desk of no particular height, sat on a chair of no specific proportions, scooped over his work with no special lighting to ease the task and at the end of the day took his fatigue and frustration out on his wife or the cat.

Today, the birth of the computer and the dawn of the electronic communications age have not only wrecked the Dickensian principles of office layout but spawned the science of ergonomics, the study of the efficiency of workers in their working environments.

As a result of ergonomics the traditional philosophy of adapting the worker to the workstation is being reversed.

It's not so much a case of being kind to the workers as ensuring productivity and safety in the workplace.

Ergonomics has led to the introduction in Europe of codes of standards for the design and use, for instance of visual display terminals (VDTs). The VDT has made different demands on the workplace and the worker.

orthopaedically, psychologically and ergonomically.

Choosing an office chair, for instance, has now become a science in itself.

According to the experts an office chair should have

- A five-pronged base on castors because a chair on only four wheels is a mobile disaster of instability.

- A pneumatic height adjustment device to absorb the shock of a worker sitting down.

- A seat of high-density foam which is firm, supportive and has a waterfall front to ensure good blood flow to the legs.

- A back rest shaped to the spine to give support to the small of the back.

- Armrests that are shorter than the seat to allow the chair to be pulled in close to a desk.

Similar specifications have been written for all facets of the office and are listed with the SABS Design Institute.

Mr P J Piek, an occupational health medical practitioner who has studied the known hazards of the VDT, has identified common problems and their effects on VDT operators.

Health issues associated with VDT operation included

- Radiation Both ionising and non-ionising radiation is emitted by VDTs but whether these levels are harmless, potentially harmful or demonstrable remained a matter of dispute.

- Properly functioning VDTs posed no threat

## Canadian guidelines

Sweden now has its set of specifications for VDTs and West Germany has made provision for VDTs to be examined under is equipment safety laws.

The Canadian Standards Association is drafting guidelines for VDT workstations.

In South Africa provisions for VDT operation may be included in the recently introduced Machinery and Occupational Safety Act of 1983. At the SABS conference experts concluded that South Africa and other countries swept up by electronics had reached the stage where the business requirements of efficient work were very quickly outstripping concern for the human needs of office personnel.

Traditional buildings, still being used as offices, offered little in the way of accommodation for modern business equipment.

Kilometres of electrical and telephone cables had resulted in spaghetti jungles on the office floor.

## Strip lighting

Existing air conditioning units were unable to

- Photo-sensitive epilepsy. The onset of such epilepsy usually occurred before the age of 20 while watching television.

## Risk of dermatitis

This appears as skin rashes which vanish at the end of the working day.

The dry atmosphere of machine rooms and synthetic carpeting encourages static on the screens which in turn induces charges on the face of the operator. Such charges attract dust and cause skin irritation.

- Eye strain. Symptoms include burning, headache, twitching of the eyelids, and most symptoms are believed to be temporary.

- Bio-mechanical fatigue due to posture. This results in aching and dull pain in the head, neck, lower back, and between the shoulders.

- Circulatory factors including impaired blood flow.

In general Dr Piek believed that the requirements for job fitness were no different for the VDT operator than for the ordinary office worker.

Special attention, however, should be paid to the eyesight of operators.

# Stress on UK workers is on the increase <sup>6/12/83</sup>

London Bureau

LONDON — Stress is one of the major health problems affecting "white collar" workers today, according to a report published by the trade union, APEX (Association of Professional, Executive Clerical and Computer

Staff)

<sup>131 ADM</sup>  
A wide range of ailments, ranging from headaches to heart attacks are stress-induced the APEX journal states and contrary to what is commonly believed a secretary is more likely to suffer from stress than a manager  
Coronary disease, a major

result of stress, is on the increase in the UK, while it is on the decrease in the US where the problem is recognised

The factors responsible for stress include a too-heavy workload, excessive supervision, unsocial hours and bad job design

Another stress factor, the union says, can be personal relationships within an office, particularly in a manager/secretary type situation Sexual harassment is also thought to cause stress

The article calls for greater stress awareness

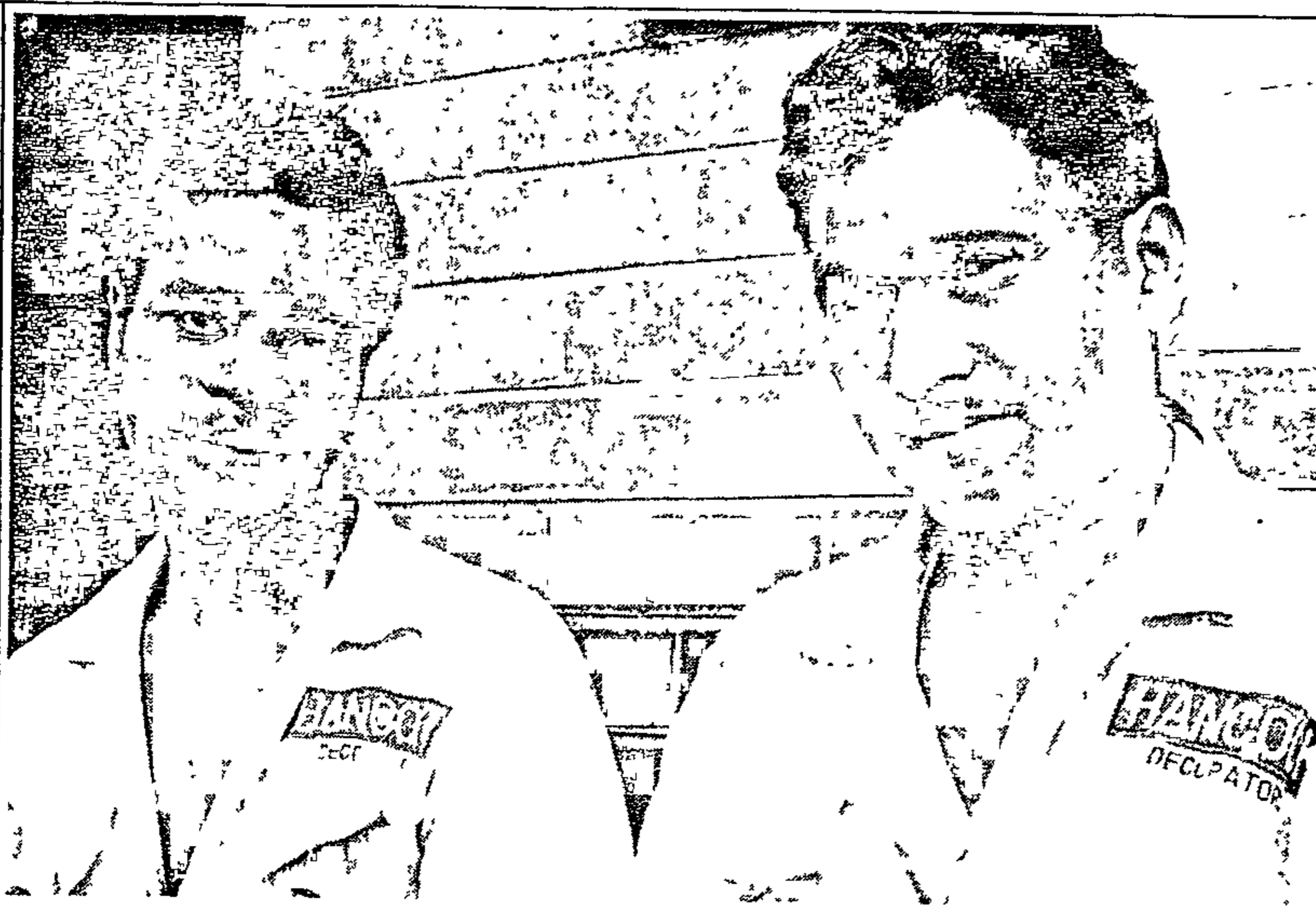
# Blast & plea aware

Mercury Correspondent  
JOHANNESBURG — Police yesterday appealed for increased security measures following the limpet bomb blast at the Commissioner's Court here

The limpet mine, placed in a wastepaper basket on the third floor of the building, destroyed at least three offices of welfare officers at the Department of Co-operation and Development

It is feared that the blast could signal the start of a wave of bombings at Government buildings, and police yesterday appealed to employers and workers to be on the lookout for any suspicious bags or parcels

Colonel Fred Bull, Witwatersrand Divisional



The men who had a narrow escape on their painters cradle in Durban yesterday morning Mr Joe Luthuli (left) and Mr Johnny Govender

## Painters in terrifying drama nine floors up

*131 Mercury 9/12/83*

Mercury Reporter

TWO painters narrowly escaped serious injury yesterday when the cradle they were working from on the ninth-floor level of Olympic Court in Gillespie Street, Durban, collapsed

They clung to the cradle, screaming for help for about 10 minutes before workmates alerted a flat owner, who opened one of her windows, allowing the two to crawl to safety

Cans of paint crashed to the ground and a huge crowd of holiday makers and shoppers gathered on the streets below to watch the drama. Police cordoned off the section of Gillespie Street in front of the building

The accident happened soon after the men, Mr Joe Luthuli and Mr Johnny Govender, began work

yesterday morning

Mr Govender said they were attempting to adjust the cradle when the winding-gear system suddenly failed, dropping one side of the cradle until it hung perpendicularly, supported by the other cable

'I thought the ratchet was on, but when I let go of the handle the whole thing collapsed to one side,' said Mr Govender

'We just grabbed on to whatever we could hold. Joe was above me, our feet were hanging free and the cradle was swaying all over the place. We were both screaming and shouting for help

'We managed to get a footing on the railings and then the other painters opened a window and helped us in'

Neither of the men was seriously injured but both were treated for

shock

Mr Govender has worked for Hancock Decorators for five years and Mr Luthuli for three. Neither has found himself in a similar situation before and both said they would return to work on the cradles

Mr Sydney Sykes, a senior inspector of machinery with the Department of Manpower, said after inspecting the cradle that there had been a failure in the gear system of the machine

'Something is fractured in the gear system as this type of equipment has a self-locking safety device which is supposed to prevent accidents of this kind,' he said

Mr Sykes said the firm's equipment records would be inspected to see whether the prescribed inspections and tests had been carried out.

**by the**

**FARM FRESH FRUIT & VEG**

## Detective 'didn't

131 E. Post  
9/12/83

# Two men hurt in explosion

Post Reporter

TWO men working with a cutting torch were injured today at a factory in Chevrolet Street, Markman Township, Port Elizabeth, when a petrol drum exploded

One man was taken to Livingstone Hospital with minor injuries and the other admitted to the Port Elizabeth Provincial Hospital with a fractured femur

The men were treated on site by Dr R McMahon, who is operational head of the Metro rescue service in Cape Town

Dr McMahon was a guest at the presentation of awards ceremony of 96 ambulance and firemen at the City Hall today

# Neglect delays injury claims

~~302~~ (131)

By Amrit Manga  
A NUMBER of employers are neglecting prescribed procedures in reporting job-related injuries. This results in lengthy delays in compensating injured workers.

The Workmen's Compensation Act (WCA) Commissioner, Hennie du Toit, says his office receives an average of 250 000 claims every year.

According to the National Occupational Safety Association, 200 000 of these claims have to be followed up because of employers' negligence in following procedures laid down by the WCA.

This figure does not include the thousands of subpoenas issued to employers for failure to respond to the Commissioner's inquiries.

The result is the generation of unnecessary correspondence between the Commissioner and the employer, which in turn de-

lays the settlement of claims.

But delays in compensation are also to a large extent blamed on the fact that workers are not aware of their right to compensation in terms of the WCA.

"Thousands of workers also fail to claim compensation because they are fired soon after they are injured," says Mr du Toit.

The most recent figures indicate that up to 1 000 workers entitled to thousands of rands in compensation have not claimed their money.

In some cases the maximum not claimed is in the region of R4 000.

Ellison Mohlabi, chairman of the Industrial Aid Society (IAS), which deals with worker problems, says it is becoming an increasingly common practice by employers to dismiss employees who are injured at work.

He tells Business Times "The IAS attends to an average of 20 WCA cases every week, the majority of which are related to employees being dismissed before resuming work."

"The WCA Commissioner will not settle claims unless the resumption report, normally completed after a worker resumes employment is submitted."

"In our previous experience with death benefit claims in terms of the WCA, we have found that employers are ignorant of the claims procedure prescribed according to the WCA," says Mr Mohlabi.

11/12/83

# Workers in Cape at risk *Star*

131

Own Correspondent

12/12/83

CAPE TOWN — Western Cape farm labourers and municipal workers risk being poisoned by an extremely toxic weed-killer called paraquat for which there is no antidote

Three people have been admitted to Groote Schuur Hospital in the past six weeks with paraquat poisoning. Two of these mistook the poison for a soft drink.

Symptoms take a long time to appear. At first there is usually only a burning sensation in the throat, gradually developing into respiratory problems.

Of those who take it between 70 and 80 per cent die.

*Handwritten notes:*  
—  
2  
12/12/83

131

# Two workers *Mercury* burned in 16/12/83 oil explosion

**Mercury Reporter**  
TWO workers were burned, one seriously, when they were covered in burning oil from transformers they were dismantling with cutting torches yesterday

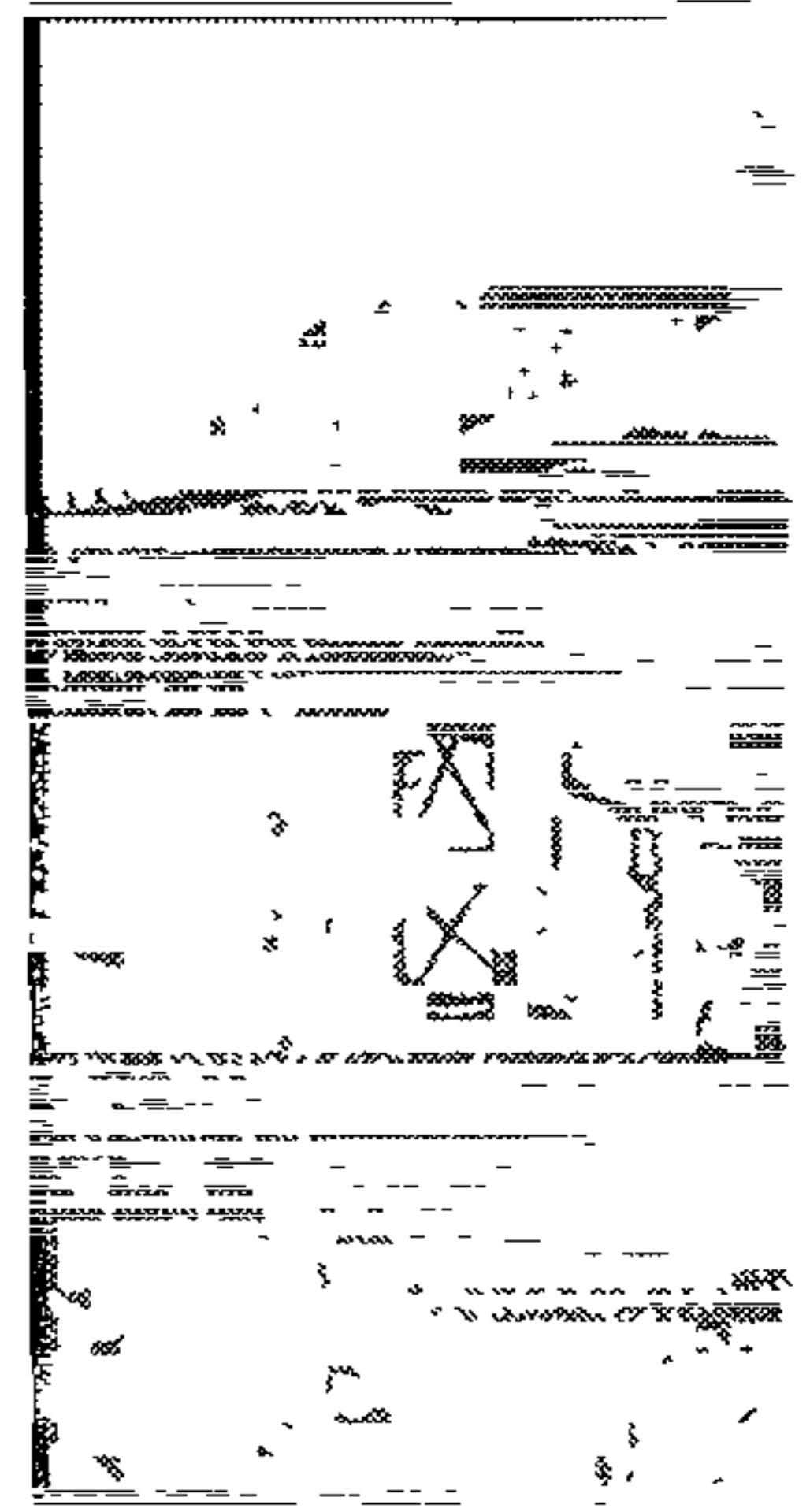
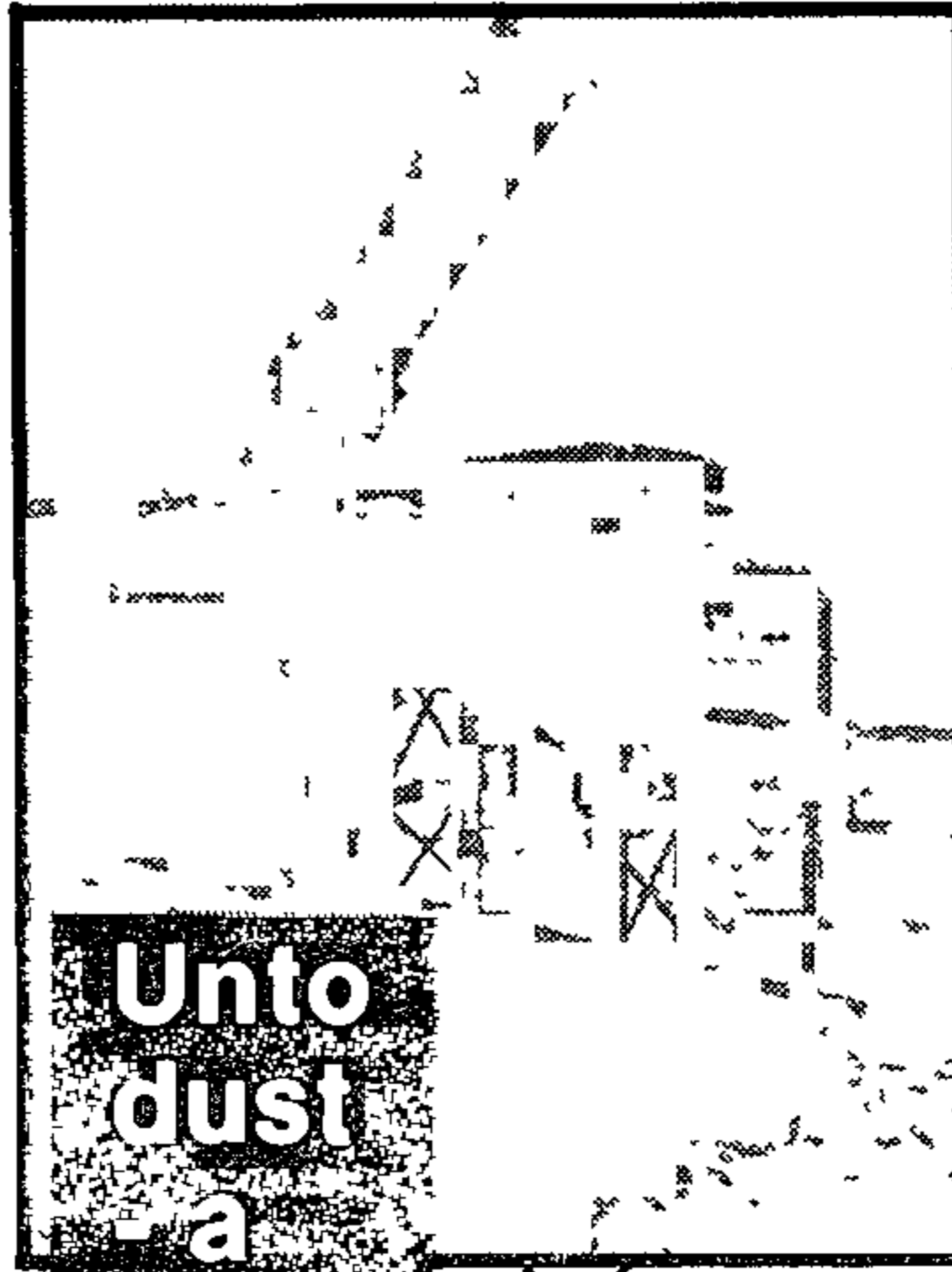
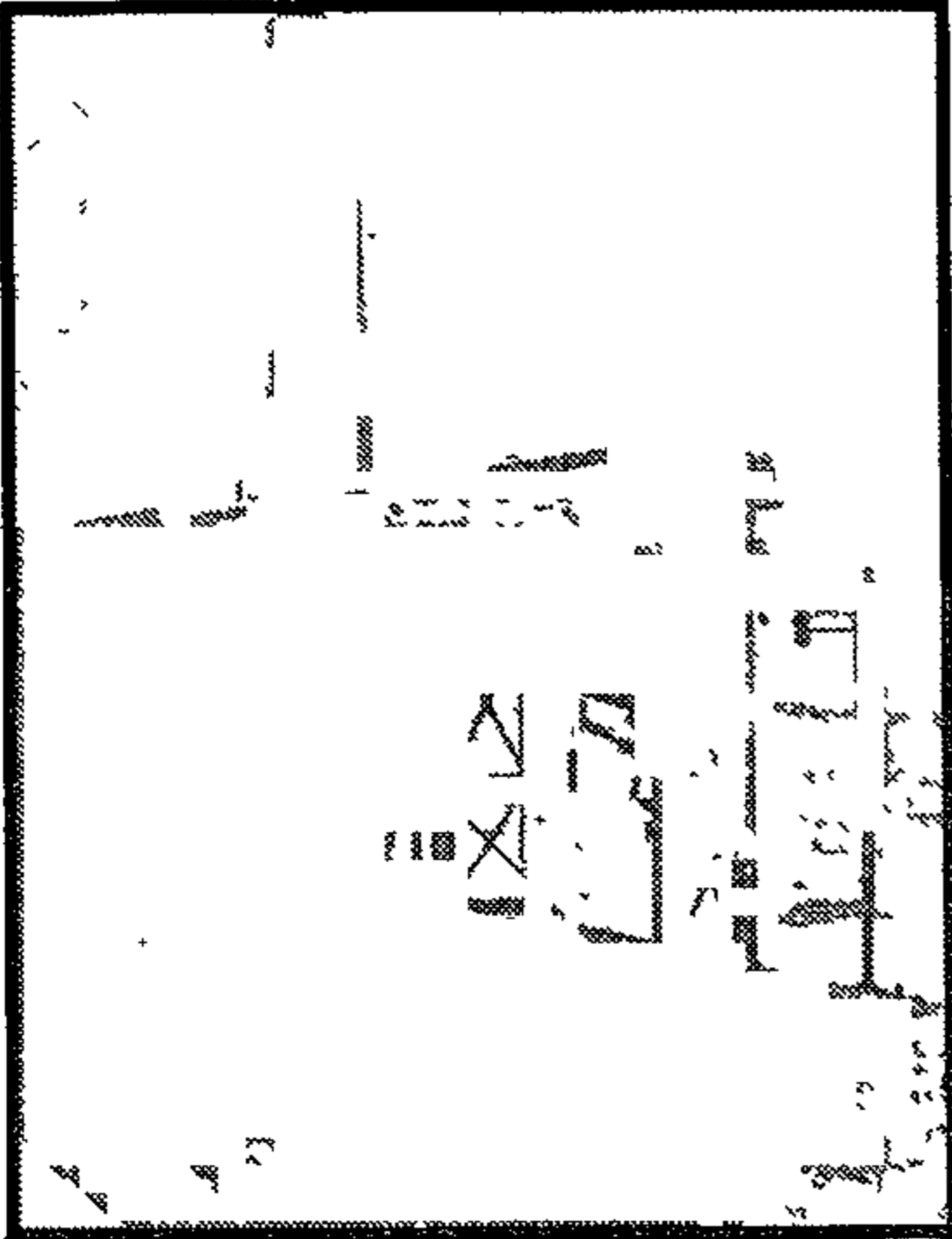
They are Mr J Mkhize, and Mr A Mayeza

A Fire Department spokesman said oil in a high-tension transformer at the old whaling station on the Bluff caught alight, causing an explosion, when the men tried to cut into the transformer using oxy-acetylene torches

They were covered in burning oil, which was

spread over a wide area  
A spokesman for King Edward VIII Hospital was unable to comment on the condition of the men, but a Fire Department source said one of them had been burned 'pretty badly'





**Unto  
dust  
- a  
giant  
falls**

The end of Old Smokey — going...going...

# Death-fibre threat kept at bay

131  
Sib

S. Tribune 18/12/83  
Tribune Reporter

WHEN the demolition of Old Smokey, Durban's old coal power station, began three years ago, the environmental threat of asbestos dust was unknown, but has since become recognised as a major health hazard.

As reports have highlighted the dangers of this cancer-producing dust, the authorities have shown increasing concern for the disposal of asbestos waste used as insulating lagging at the power station.

Opinion was sought from experts in the field, and Eskom and municipal officials have been monitoring demolition procedures both to safeguard workers on the site and ensure the atmosphere is not polluted with the killer-dust.

"We're very aware of the threat," says Errol Hunter, Natal regional manager of Coalfields Metal Dealers, the demolishers.

"I'm just as concerned for the safety of the people living nearby as for my workers," he says, explaining that careful procedures are now used to dispose of waste asbestos lagging.

Durban's Medical Officer of Health, Dr Muriel Richter, says a medical officer of health and a health inspector have been assigned the old power station project with a watching brief.

"We advised the best methods of restricting the dust," she says, "and advised them to do the dusty work on a windless, damp, rainy day"

The demolishers were also advised to spray the lagging when it was broken down, and to make sure that every tiny bit of asbestos waste was taken to the municipal tip.

While Dr Richter says the sheer size of the project plus the enormous height of some of the towers has made this a "very, very difficult exercise", she says the asbestos threat to neighbouring residential areas can be discounted.

Etienne du Plessis, a spokesman for Eskom says sampling of the immediate environment at the Congella power station for asbestos fibre pollution "has shown that the extent is not of a level detrimental to human health".

He says measures adopted to reduce the threat of asbestos dust include spraying a special sealant on asbestos waste, and wetting asbestos insulation before removal.

One worker is responsible for going around the site and collecting all bits and pieces of asbestos he can find. These are kept wet in a special bin. When the bin is full this asbestos waste is trucked wet and covered to the municipal toxic waste dump.

In all between 15 000 and 20 000 tons of metals have to be removed from the power station.

ONE hundred tons of steel was toppled in a pile of dust on Thursday when the last remaining tower at Durban's old power station at Congella was demolished

The towers, the first of which was erected in the 1920s, have been famous Durban landmarks.

Demolition work at Old Smokey, as the old power station is known, began three years ago, and will be completed in the new year

The coal power station breathed its last in December 1978 when it was phased out for economic reasons. At the same time much of Durban breathed a sigh of relief as the old smoker had often been criticised for fouling the air

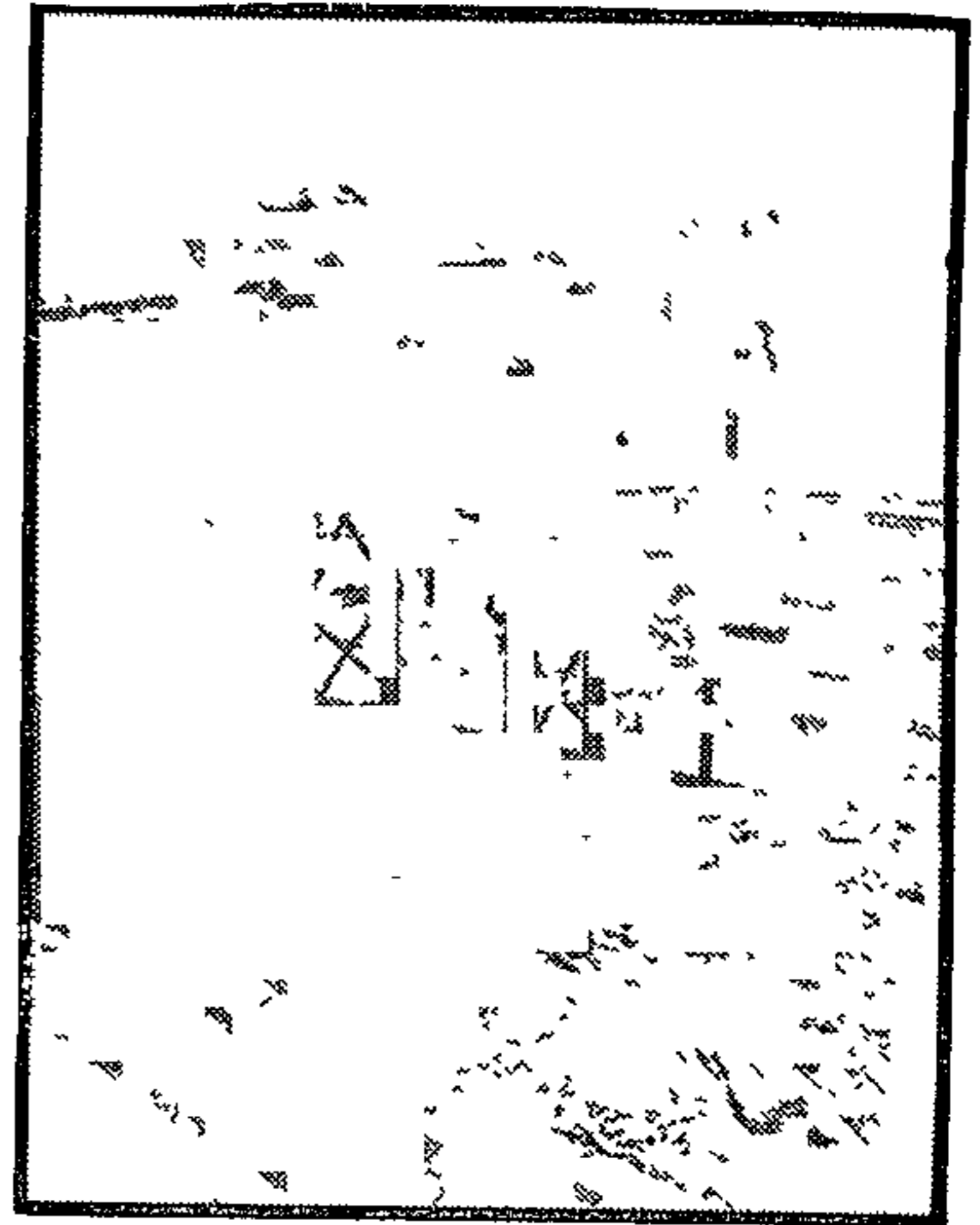
Two of the towers were made of brick and two of steel. The two brick towers were demolished brick by brick, because of the threat they posed to the nearby southern freeway, but the shorter steel towers have been cut with propane gas, then toppled

The last of these steel towers, originally built towards the end of the war in 1943, was cut down this week

The whole job took about half-an-hour, the tower suddenly falling and landing on the roof of the old power station in a huge pile of dust

Mr Hunter says it will now take "about two or three days" to hack up the towers

The steel will probably go to Iscor to be smelted down and begin life again next year as anything from a car to a pin



(ROGER BULL)

ARK Times 2/12/83

# Gas in 'unsafe' area killed miners

Own Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG — Six black miners at Western Deep Levels mine one morning last month entered a work area which had been sealed off because it contained noxious gases, and were found dead in the area 12 hours later, an official inquiry heard yesterday.

The inquiry also heard that the team-leader of the men, who died with them, had been due to undergo safety retraining the day before the incident because his superiors were unhappy with his handling of safety procedures.

But because of an apparent error in the personnel department, he had not been sent on the course, and died in the accident on November 15.

The inquiry, being held at the mine, outside Carltonville, is being chaired by a senior Inspector of Mines, Mr Dick Baker.

Although inquiries are routine where miners have died in accidents, they have acquired a new significance since the black National Union of Mineworkers' (Num) decided to take part in them.

The union is participating in all inquiries in which its members are af-

fect, and yesterday lawyers representing both a Num member and the mine attended the hearing, which continues today.

Inquiries of this nature do not deliver a final verdict on an accident. The chairman compiles a report on the evidence and on the basis of this, the Attorney-General decides whether to prosecute any of those involved for breaking the Mines and Works Act safety regulations.

A key safety dispute between Num and West Driefontein mine is to be referred to the industrial court for a final verdict after an official conciliation board had failed to settle the

dispute yesterday. The dispute arose after 17 Num members were fired by the mine in September after refusing to work in an area they considered unsafe.

The union alleges the mine was guilty of an "unfair labour practice", but Gold Fields, which owns West Driefontein, disputes this.

The industrial court recently ruled that the 17 men be temporarily reinstated.

The mine has decided not to re-employ them at this stage, but to honour the ruling by paying them for the period since they were fired.

131

# 'Hit with hammer' charge

CARL TUNIS 22/12/83 (131)  
Staff Reporter

A VREDEHOEK man, who allegedly hit a gardener several times on the head with a hammer, yesterday pleaded not guilty in the Magistrate's Court to a charge of assault with intent to do grievous bodily harm

Francis Patrick Flynn, 49, of Clovelly Avenue, was yesterday charged with assaulting Mr James Rolfe repeatedly on the head with a hammer at his Vredehoek home on December 15

No evidence was led and the hearing was postponed to February 10, 1984

Asked to disclose the basis of his

defence, Mr Flynn told the court that on the day in question, his landlady had been stabbed in the arm by Mr Rolfe

He had asked Mr Rolfe, who had been drunk, to leave the premises and Mr Rolfe had refused

Mr Flynn said he had then tried to remove Mr Rolfe from the house, but because of the man's superior strength he had failed

He had then grabbed a hammer, which had been lying on the stoep, and hit Mr Rolfe on the head

The magistrate was Mr G Rossouw Mrs B Krynauw prosecuted Mr Flynn was not represented

# Seaman tells how arm cut off

*131 Diskwater*  
*29/12/83*

CAPE TOWN — "As I came to my senses I saw my arm lying in the scuppers on the other side of the ship and the first thought which crossed my mind was that my career had more than abruptly come to an end."

This is how the 36-year-old Dutch chief engineer of the service vessel Smit Lloyd 109, Mr Joseph Heiting, described the accident in which a thick cable severed his arm and a part of his lower left leg last Saturday afternoon in an interview at the

Tygerberg Hospital yesterday, Mr Heiting, in excellent spirits after being informed that there was a good blood circulation in his re-attached arm, described how the accident happened.

"The Smit Lloyd service vessel to the Sedco 7 oil rig, had just taken out the last anchor of the rig after moving it to a new location. We were in reverse pulling a steel cable with a steel

ring which is slipped over the anchor chain, back to the rig.

"The cable ran in the centre of the vessel but when I put my hand on the cable to feel if the ring was slipping along the chain or dragging the anchor it suddenly slipped to starboard and knocked me unconscious.

"I felt no pain and when I tried to roll over I discovered that my right leg was a mass of blood

with bone sticking out.

"The first thought was that my career with Smit had come to an abrupt end as nobody would want an engineer with a wooden arm and leg. As I lay I could see my severed arm lying near the port scuppers.

"I was aware that within seconds the second engineer Koos De Leeuw threw the heavy 50 mm diameter cable overboard and the captain made for the rig where I

was put aboard within 10 minutes of the accident."

Mr Heiting, who was due to fly back to Holland on January 2, said luck had been with him because the new anchor-plate of the rig was within flying range of the Tygerberg Hospital. If the accident had happened at the previous spot the helicopter would have had to refuel at Mossel Bay which would have

taken more time.

With the severed arm packed in ice Mr Heiting was flown to the Tygerberg Hospital where a team of three surgeons attached it during a four-hour operation on Christmas Eve.

He has a severely bruised left arm and right hip but feels "fine". "My arm still feels heavy and it throbs at times but I feel there is hope."

Doctors have told him that he will be in hospital for about a month before being allowed to fly back to Holland — DDC

## INDUSTRIAL HEALTH Fight for records

131

Growing trade union concern with health and safety issues is generating new conflicts in the workplace. One of the major points of contention at present is whether unions should be allowed access to company medical records

For the unions, access to members' health records is crucial to their bid to improve the health and safety of workers. But complaints of company stonewalling have risen — prompting unions to question not only management stances but also the ethical standards of company doctors.

The rationale for refusing unions access to records which many company doctors appear to be adopting is to regard the records as private property because the companies foot the bill for the examinations. This is analagous to the stance taken by insurance companies. Other company doctors are accused of simply "passing the buck" onto management when unions request records.

The bottom line on the issue, in the view of a number of union doctors, is that no matter who conducts the examination, ultimately it is the patient who has the final right of say about the release of medical information to any source. "Medical examinations are always confidential. No information can be released unless there is verbal and written agreement from a patient," says one doctor.

According to a Cape Town GP, denial of access to medical records to a doctor of the employee's choice amounts to preventing a patient from getting a second opinion. It also, he charges, violates the SA Medical and Dental Council Act. "In terms of the primacy of the doctor-patient relationship, employees have the ultimate right to decide on the release of their medical records

to a doctor of their choice — no matter who pays for it," he says

The upshot of this wrangle is that company doctors involved stand accused of bending their medical principles in the face of company policy

Conflicts have also arisen in situations in which workers are advised to obtain a second medical opinion. Union doctors complain that in many cases, companies behave unethically by refusing to release data relating to a potentially hazardous aspect of an examination, like an X-ray, thus forcing a patient to repeat a test.

The other side of the coin is that many independent doctors are being subjected to pressure from management or management medical personnel to disclose results and diagnoses of medical examinations.

It also seems that as the recession continues to bite, company doctors and medical personnel are under pressure to cut the time workers take off sick. Union doctors complain that sick leave is being curtailed and that attempts are being made to overrule sick certificates issued by independent doctors. Indeed, they point out that a seminar was arranged by textile manufacturers last year for Cape Town doctors in which sick leave was discussed

Says one doctor "This is also not professional or ethical behaviour for company doctors to attempt to overrule independent doctors' decisions. The reason seems to be that company medical personnel are looking to increase productivity by cutting down on the leave required by employees to recover from their illnesses. We know that company nurses are visiting employees to check that they are sick and that sick certificates are being queried. Complicity in this type of productivity drive places the doctor/patient relationship in a secondary position and is unethical"

# New Bill will protect health of all workers

131  
16/1/84  
Sten

By Carolyn Dempster,  
Labour Reporter

For the first time, the health of all employees in the workplace is to be protected by a single piece of legislation

The first draft of the Occupational Medicine Bill 1984 was published in the weekly Government Gazette on Friday, seven years after the Erasmus Commission submitted its report on occupational health to Parliament

The new legislation is designed to complement the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act which was promulgated in March last year

The new Bill will cover the health and safety of employees everywhere with the exception of workers who fall under the Mines and Works Act and Industrial Diseases in Mines and Works Act

Among the more important provisions of the draft Occupational Medicine Bill are

● Employers will be obliged to prevent exposure of employees to certain substances, liquids, gases, vapour, radia-

tion, light, noise, biological material or organisms or ergonomic factors

● Employees may not work in certain prescribed areas without a medical examination — the responsibility of the employer — and a certificate of medical fitness

● Victimization of employees is forbidden and employers will be held responsible for medical treatment and rehabilitation arising from a medical condition caused by working conditions

● The Department of Health and Welfare is empowered to appoint inspectors to enter and examine premises and take samples for analysis

The penalty for the contravention of any of the regulations stipulated is a fine of R2 000 and/or imprisonment up to 12 months

The Bill also provides for the establishment of an advisory committee for occupational medicine

Comment on the legislation must be submitted to the Department of Health within the next 90 days

Call to death

February, 1984

# INDUSTRY CONCERN ABOUT HEALTH (131) BILL

*C. Business News*

THE Cape Chamber of Industries fears there will be confusion and conflict over the new Occupational Medicine Bill. In its bulletin the chamber says now both the Dept of Health and Welfare and the Department of Manpower will be involved in the field of industrial health and safety under the new Occupational Medicine Bill

The new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act is concerned with industrial safety ('safe' is defined under that Act as free from any threat which may cause bodily injury, illness or death)

The Occupational Medicine Bill appears to involve substantial overlap. It provides for the establishment of an Advisory Committee for Occupational Medicine,

consisting of up to 15 members (two of whom will represent employers). It will advise the Minister on the prevention of 'medical conditions', rehabilitation of employees and on training, standards, research and health promotion measures.

Subject to the provisions of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, each employer shall take the steps that are reasonably required to ensure that none of his employees is exposed to any agent or factor or a nuisance that threatens or harms an employee's health.

The special powers which the Bill proposes be conferred on inspectors are 'extremely wide' and a further provision in the Bill rules out legal proceedings against the

State or any of its agents for anything done in good faith under the Act.

The Chamber's Manpower Committee will shortly be meeting to consider the implications of the latest Bill with a view to making representations through the SA Federated Chamber of Industries.

Cape Times 9/2/84  
131

# UCT medics criticize health, safety laws

## Political Staff

THE government's decision to use two separate departments to protect the health and safety of workers has been criticized by three members of the University of Cape Town's medical school

They say the attempt to provide separate regulations and separate inspectorates in two different departments will "lead to unnecessary expense and chaos"

They were reacting to the implementation of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act under the Department of Manpower and the proposed Occupational Medicine Bill under the Department of Health.

Professor S R Benatar, Professor of Medicine, Dr J T Mets, Senior Lecturer, and Professor P C Elmes, of the Departments of Medicine and Community Health, have submitted their comments — published in the South African Medical Journal — to the government, which has called for comment on the Occupational Medicine Bill

They said in 1976 the Erasmus Commission had called for a single law to be promulgated to incorporate all aspects of industrial health, under the Department of Health

It had made this recommendation after finding a lack of managerial concern with industrial health and the prevention of industrial diseases.

The commission also found that, at that time, at least eleven government departments were involved with industrial health, causing confusion and ineffectiveness



Professor S R Benatar

However, Parliament passed the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act in 1983, but this law excluded occupational health from its scope — and occupational health is to fall under the Department of Health.

The authors said the exclusion of occupational health from this law "greatly detracts from the overall value of this legislation"

The primary responsibility for the health and safety of the employee lay with the employer, while the employee shared in the responsibility for himself and his colleagues

But they called for "adequate, clear legislation, regulations and guidelines", an enforcement agency with an inspectorate, provisions for appropriate treatment and research

"Whether the unified single body governing industrial health in South Africa should be in the Department of Manpower or in the Department of Health can be debated

"Without doubt, however, it is essential for there to be a well-organized, competent medical component in the structure as a whole, with its main objectives the maintenance and promotion of the health of worker populations

"In our opinion there should be no clear distinction between health and safety in the workplace. The two are intimately interwoven"

"To attempt to provide a separate set of regulations and separate inspectorates under two different ministerial departments, one for safety and one for health, would lead to unnecessary expense and chaos," they said



MONDAY, 12 MARCH 1984

†Indicates translated version

For written reply

12/3/84

131 Hausand  
Industrial accidents

Q. Col. 597

472 Mr T ARONSON asked the Minister of Manpower

- (1) How many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available,
- (2) what amount was paid out by the Workmen's Compensation Fund in respect of such accidents,
- (3) what was the total period for which the persons injured in such accidents were absent from work?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

- (1) 311 648
- (2) R52 298 451
- (3) 3 688 711 man days

Note The figures are in respect of the 1980 calendar year

131 Hansard Q Col 665  
Industrial accidents  
#6/3/84

512 Dr A L BORAINÉ asked the Minister of Manpower.

- (1) (a) How many industrial accidents occurred in 1980 and (b) what was the total cost of these accidents to (i) the State, (ii) the Accident Fund and (iii) assurance companies,
- (2) (a) how many persons (i) applied for and (ii) received compensation in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, No 30 of 1941, and (b) what

was the total amount paid out in compensation in that year?

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER

- (1) (a) 311 648
- (b) (i) R 5 471 886
- (ii) R52 298 451
- (iii) R27 788 033
- (2) (a) (i) 320 130 (other risk carriers included)
- (ii) 311 648 (other risk carriers included)
- (b) R97 355 307

# Health, safety may be big 1984 union issues

By Carolyn Dempster,  
Labour Reporter

Occupational health and safety issues are likely to become major flash-points for industrial action in 1984.

This is the warning issued by labour relations consultants and experts in the face of the implementation of the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act this month.

The gross neglect of occupational health and safety in South Africa, as outlined in the Erasmus Commission Report of 1976, has not prepared either managements or unions for dealing with health and safety matters, say labour advisers.

## CRITICAL

With the consolidation and rapid growth of black unions there are widespread fears that health and safety could prove as fundamental and fiery matters on the shop floor as wages.

"What is going to be critical is the extent to which unions want to participate in the management of health and safety," says Mr Stuart Pennington, an industrial relations consultant.

"The trade union movement has got over the initial stages of establishing credibility and securing recognition from management, and is now looking to areas where it can best represent workers — health and safety being one of the most basic aspects of working conditions.

"If there are accidents or unsafe conditions and management ignores these, unions are likely to take strong action."

## REPRESENTATIVES

There is also intense worker dissatisfaction with certain provisions of the Act.

The Act specifies management will appoint safety representatives — who could come from the ranks of line supervisors.

The unions maintain it is the workers' right to elect safety representatives, and have already begun negotiating for this on at plant level.

In a recent article on health, safety and potential industrial conflict, the Council of Unions of South Africa states:

"The Act is an attempt to pre-empt worker organisation around health

and safety, and entrench management control in this area.

"It is important that workers try to counteract this exclusion by keeping negotiations around health and safety under their control as much as possible."

## PROBLEMS

The Federation of South African Trade Unions stated the Act might "pose new problems if employers try to supplant shop stewards by nominating their own health and safety representatives — a step that will be strongly opposed by Fosatu."

There is also growing dissatisfaction over:

- Health services for workers, identified by the Erasmus Report as being hopelessly inadequate.
- The shortage of inspectors from the Department of Manpower to police factories.
- The lack of effective safety representation of black mineworkers in an industry which has a high annual injury record.
- Unequal rates of compensation for black and white workers in the mining industry.

1283

FRIDAY 18 MAY 1984

Sales tax

\*4 Dr A L BORRAINE asked the Minister of Finance

Whether general sales tax is charged on items sold in duty-free shops, if so, why?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE

Yes The duty referred to in connection with the so-called duty-free shops, is the excise duty chargeable on a selective basis in respect of some, but not all, of the commodities sold in such shops Sales tax, on the other hand, is a levy on all transactions in terms of which goods are acquired in the Republic by end consumers or users thereof

Transactions in terms of which goods are exported, are exempt from sales tax provided such goods are "sold and consigned or sold and delivered to a purchaser at an address outside the Republic." Where goods are purchased in a duty-free shop, delivery is taken on the spot and, bearing in mind that tourists must bear the tax in respect of goods acquired elsewhere for conveyance abroad by them, special treatment of such purchases is not considered to be justified

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*Hansen and Q. 61. 1283*  
Cape Town docks: workers killed  
18/5/84

\*5 Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs.

(1) Whether any workers were killed while off-loading maize at the Cape Town docks during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available, if so, (a) how many, (b) on what dates and (c) what was the cause of death in each case.

(2) whether any inquiry has been held

1284

into these deaths, if not why not, if so, (a) when, and (b) with what result, in each case?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS.

1 May 1983 to 30 April 1984

(1) Yes

(a) One

(b) 20 September 1983

(c) The worker was crushed between the roof hatch of a rail truck and the chute of the loading hopper during a shunting operation

(2) (a) and (b) Yes A departmental inquiry was held on 29/30 September 1983 but the police investigation has not yet been finalised

Liability in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1941, was accepted for the accident and a cheque for R27 924 was forwarded to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, Umtata, on 10 April 1984 for administration on behalf of the dependants of the deceased

\*6 Mr D J N MALCOMESS—Mineral and Energy Affairs—Reply standing over

*Hansen and Q. 61 1284 18/5/84*

\*7 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Community Development

(1) Whether teachers employed at schools in rural Coloured areas are eligible to participate in the State housing loan scheme, if not, why not,

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FRIDAY 18 MAY 1984

if so, what procedure is followed in this regard,

(2) whether his Department has received any representations concerning the inability of such teachers to obtain housing loans from financial institutions, if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was (i) the nature of these representations and (ii) his response thereto?

The MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

(1) Yes The usual procedure which involves the Department of Internal Affairs, the Department of Community Development and a financial institution

(2) No (a), (b) and (c) Fall away

Housing subsidies

\*8 Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Internal Affairs

(1) Whether teachers employed at schools in rural Coloured areas qualify for housing subsidies, if not, why not, if so, what procedure is followed in this regard,

(2) whether such teachers may (a) purchase property in these areas and (b) acquire title thereto, if not, why not,

(3) whether he has received any representations concerning the provision of accommodation for these teachers, if so, (a) when, (b) from whom and (c) what was (i) the nature of these representations and (ii) his response thereto,

(4) whether he intends to take any steps

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to provide accommodation for these teachers, if not, why not, if so, (a) what steps and (b) when?

The MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

(1) Yes They qualify under the housing subsidy scheme applicable to teachers everywhere and use the same procedure when applying

(2) (a) and (b) Yes, where townships have been registered

(3) In general the problem facing teachers in these areas is that subsidies are only paid to the registered owners of property and that in many such areas it is not possible to acquire and register ownership I have at various times and from various bodies and persons received representations regarding this problem In response to these representations, I have caused the Department to encourage the establishment of townships wherever possible in these areas The Department has, of course, over the years already addressed the problem on its own initiative

(4) Steps to assist teachers in these areas in the obtaining of accommodation have been taken over a long period and are still being taken Townships have now been registered in Steinkopf, Ebenezer, Mamre, Saron, Enon, Oppermansgronde, Komagagas and Thaba Patchoa In Concordia this is expected to happen soon In these townships teachers will be able to buy a plot, obtain a housing loan and receive a subsidy Also those teachers that have already built houses before obtaining title will be able to receive subsidies on existing loans In a number of areas the man-

Sowetan 23/5/84

# Worker safety ~~131~~ govt acts

THE Government has passed legislation, aimed at protecting the safety and health of workers at workplaces country-wide.

The Minister of Manpower, Mr P T C du Plessis, said that the important feature of this legislation — the Machinery and Occupational Act of 1983 — required employers and employees to consult each other about hazards which might exist.

The legislation also required employers and employees to form a consensus through a system of safety committees. The legislation will soon replace the Factories, Machinery and Building Works Act of 1941.

“The legislation spreads its protective umbrella over everybody who is in employment in South Africa with the exception of those who work in the mining industry and who are protected by the Mines and Works Act.

“If there is a healthy relationship between the employers and employees and a genuine desire to ensure the safety of the workplace, infinitely more can be done to safeguarding the safety and health of the worker in that workplace,” the minister said.

The minister appealed to employers to appoint representatives and give them a “fair hearing” when they come with requests or suggestions.

Employers should ensure that senior management took an interest in the workings of safety committees so that these committees could be meaningful and make a “real contribution” towards the safety of workers, he said.

(166/72)

FM 15/6/84

peace in SA "

Miller was equally emphatic "Inevitably there are going to be more strikes in the future, as a result of this clause (dealing with the non-enforceability of agreements) In the final analysis, those trade unions will resort to strike action, which in itself will be illegal. We are, however, leaving them no alternative. We are driving them into a corner and when they are in a corner and have nothing to lose, they will go for illegal striking"

But Manpower Minister Pietie du Plessis — who has said that the new law would only apply to "five or six" unregistered unions who refuse to comply with the LRA's minimum requirements — would not back down

He argued that these unions wanted to benefit from the advantages of the labour

**face to face**

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We are also busy organising at all three Sasol plants. As soon as we have enough members we will apply to have our scope extended to them

Are white workers threatened with crisis?

Yes. As I see the situation, the white worker — and especially the trained white worker — is in a dangerous position

By the year 2000 there will be so many trained people in SA that the supply will be greater than the demand. Then the time will come for the employer to dictate the salaries of trained people

We all know that if white workers want to maintain their living standards they cannot work for the same wage as other racial groups

How will white workers protect themselves against that?

There is only one way they must stand together and belong to a strong union which is not afraid to stand up for their rights

The MWU used to be associated with the Herstigte Nasionale Party. But this year Andries Treurnicht, head of the Conservative Party, opened your congress. Does this indicate a change in the MWU's alliance?

The MWU has nothing to do with politics, but MWU members may belong to any party of their choice in their individual capacity

What is the MWU's attitude towards the newly formed Afrikaner Volkswag?

The MWU plays no role in it although individual MWU members are involved. I think it is the right of every individual to do what he wants to do

**THOSE FOR AND AGAINST**

Unusually, the report of the select committee which considered the original draft of the Labour Relations Amendment Bill was not published before the measure was debated in Parliament

Chief Opposition labour spokesman Alex Boraine, describing this as an "undesirable state of affairs," said "One would have thought that under normal circumstances a report of a select committee would be available when one was debating a new Bill that emanated from that committee"

By the time the debate was over, the select committee report still had not been published

But another Opposition MP, Nic Olivier, gave an indication of the division of opinion about the measure

He said those who had submitted evidence in support of the Bill included the Department of Manpower, Motor Industry Employees' Union, Transport Own-

ers' Association, Mine Workers' Union, National Union of Furniture and Allied Workers' Union, Industrial Council for the Clothing Industry of the Cape, Sigma Motor Corporation, Textile Workers' Industrial Union, SA Confederation of Labour, and the SA Police

Olivier said those who had opposed the measure included the Steel and Engineering Industries' Federation of SA, General Workers' Union, Leyland SA, Natal Chamber of Industries, Federated Chamber of Industries, Midlands Chamber of Industries, Transvaal Chamber of Industries, Mine Surface Officials' Association, Assocom, Food and Canning Workers' Union, University of Cape Town's Graduate School of Business, University of Port Elizabeth's Industrial Relations Unit, Premier Group Holdings, SA Bus Employers' Association, SA Labour and Development Research Unit, as well as the Association of Attorneys and other bodies

relations system but refused to accept any of the obligations that went along with it. This "permissive" situation could not continue. It was necessary to have "order" and "discipline" to ensure compliance with the minimum requirements of the law. He also said that both the Wiehahn Commission and the NMC had recommended compulsory registration

In many cases, he said, the Manpower Department and factory workers did not know the *bona fides* of these unions. Yet their officials acted on behalf of workers. "They could be ordinary agitators or people who have motives other than the advancement of the interests of the employers. They could be people with strange motives who want to slip in through the back door to achieve certain political objectives by making use of the machinery which has been introduced into the labour market," Du Plessis said. The Bill would be a protection to workers and union members

While no one would argue that the minimum requirements demanded of unions are excessive, the Bill does amount to compelling unions to register. In the labour field — which Du Plessis himself has described as "sensitive" — such a move could turn out to be dynamite

**INDUSTRIAL HEALTH**  
**Brown lung battle**

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FM 15/6/84

The National Union of Textile Workers' brown lung campaign among cotton mill workers is being stymied by the tiff over representativeness between the NUTW and the Frame Group. Union officials claim the company refuses to allow them access to the mills to examine workers and test lev-

els of dust emission

So far the union's two-year national campaign has turned up 30 workers suffering from suspected brown lung (byssinosis), a disease thought to be associated with cotton dust particles

The survey, which has received the cooperation of most employers in the industry, has revealed vastly varying levels of dust control. The Frame Group's New Germany factories employ between them some 7 000 mill workers, a group the union believes could be at high risk

To circumvent the ban, the union's medical examiner, Dr Neil White, has been conducting medical examinations of workers at a local church hall. Tests have shown that of the 1 500 workers examined, 90 displayed symptoms of brown lung

Frame Group joint MD, Selwyn Lurie, however, vigorously denies that the tests mean the workers are stricken with the disease. He says byssinosis is a notoriously difficult disease to diagnose conclusively and that its symptoms are common to a host of other diseases. This is confirmed by Dr White

Further, Lurie says the group is in the forefront of industrial health and safety in the textile industry and has modern and sophisticated machinery which reduce cotton dust to the maximum extent possible. In addition, plants have been re-equipped with modern waste filtration which has further reduced hazards

According to Lurie, the group is co-operating with the special committee on byssinosis set up by the Textile Federation. It has two representatives on the six-man committee, chaired by a doctor, and he says he will act on any of its recommendations

Laudable as the federation's efforts are,

in my opinion

HANK LA BRIE

# 'Majority journalists'



Hank La Brie is an assistant professor of journalism at Boston University. He has just spent a month in Johannesburg where he conducted a workshop for black

journalists at Wits University, under the sponsorship of the United States-South Africa Leadership Exchange Programme (Ussalep)

There are two main distinctions between the black press in SA and the US

In the first place the SA black press is not independent it is white-owned. The Argus group controls most of the black press. Argus started the *Sowetan* in February 1981 and it was preceded by two other Argus-owned black weeklies, *The World* (banned in October 1977) and *Post* (closed by a strike in 1980). Argus also owns *Ilanga* in Durban. Nasionale Pers owns *Drum* and *City Press* — a somewhat surprising new development in the South African black press.

The second distinction between the black press in the US and SA is the strict press laws which exist in this country although these laws apply just as harshly to the white press. In America, we have been blessed with and aggravated by an aggressive press which has taken on the label of the Fourth Estate of Government — primarily because of the press freedom rights granted under the First Amendment to our Constitution.

Nonetheless, considering the lack of opportunities for SA blacks, it is remarkable that of the 25 Nieman fellows SA has sent to Harvard University, seven have been black. But if there is a belief that black journalists and a black press may be important role players in the challenging years ahead in SA, several points must be addressed.

### Training programmes

More training programmes must be created to prepare blacks for entry into the mass media. Rhodes University has embarked upon an ambitious mass media programme but the cost of tuition and geographical location work against promoting black enrolment. Both Argus and the SA Associated Newspaper groups have their cadet schools, but very few blacks have been able to take advantage of these.

Relegating black reporters to the "Extra" or "Africa" editions doesn't

help Blacks need to feel they can report all types of stories and, for the sake of the citizenry, need to be seen doing just that.

In the US, black reporters were consigned to reporting black news and this concept backfired in the editors' faces and is no longer a policy.

The concept of "Extra" editions also needs to be examined. While there is clearly some sense in having a section of the paper devoted to regional reporting, the front page and first edition should be a place where all segments of the population may learn and read about the crises and desires of the other groups. How can problems ever be solved if they are not first named?

### Racial identification

The policy of using racial identification in stories — it appears to be especially popular in crime-related stories — needs examination. This approach was used without a great deal of thought in the US until the Fifties.

But it merely served as another vehicle for perpetuating stereotypes and inaccuracies and, currently, newspapers steer clear of racial identification in a story unless the story involves substantiated racial confrontation.

An effort should be made to blueprint the launching of an independent black newspaper in the near future. This may require training programmes in such areas as management, circulation and distribution, and advertising. But there are considerable talents in the professional community who would volunteer time and effort toward the creation of a black weekly newspaper.

In the US, we have fallen into a pattern of referring to black journalists as "minority journalists," I suppose because blacks compose just over 10% of the population. It has taken considerable time to understand the role they can play in the mass media and, as journalists, within society. Still, there is a lack of blacks in decision-making positions where they would have a better chance to shape the news. There's still work to be done.

For SA, where the black population exceeds 80%, the task ahead is finding a place for the "majority journalists." If attitudes about change in SA society are ahead of action, which I sense they are, then the vital role which the black journalist and an independent black press could have, as positive change agents, will be appreciated in the days ahead.

union officials say they would prefer an independent investigation into the problem of brown lung. Two pieces of legislation could provide the solution. The new Occupational Medicine Bill is expected to give local authorities greater powers of factory inspection. If the picture is as bad as Dr White suspects, he says he will request that a regulation be written into the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act setting dust emission at the prescribed World Health Organisation level of 0.2 mg/m<sup>3</sup> and banning machine blow cleaning.

As far as the suspect brown lung cases at Frametex are concerned, he admits that further tests are necessary. If it can be conclusively proved that they are suffering from byssinosis, he says the union will apply for workmen's compensation on their behalf.

White says the number of suspects at Frametex is high by national standards, but points out there could be a distortion. "We are obviously getting those workers who are concerned about their health. Consequently it cannot be said to be a true representation of the 7 000-odd Frametex workers."

### Concerned

Lurie says the company is concerned about the welfare of its workers. A team of specialist physicians has been appointed as consultants and the company doctors are screening workers during medical examinations. He gives his assurance that if any workers are found to have symptoms of byssinosis they will not be retrenched.

"Workers who show any symptom of lung disorders will be transferred to other departments immediately where there is less risk of dust contamination," he adds.

## NAMIBIA

### The Cuban riddle

There seems to have been a significant shift in emphasis in government strategy on the issue of a Cuban withdrawal from Angola. This may be an indication of new stalling tactics on the Namibian issue — but it is certainly not unconnected with US pressure on Pretoria.

On April 27, Prime Minister P W Botha said in Parliament that Namibians "cannot wait indefinitely for a breakthrough on the Cuban issue."

If the Namibian political parties came to an agreement on the future, "SA will not stand in the way of implementation of such an agreement," he added.

Then, in Europe, the PM said that not only did SA make a Cuban withdrawal a precondition for implementation of UN Resolution 435, but it also demanded a withdrawal by its right as a regional power.

This week a government spokesman told correspondents it would be "futile" to think

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Star

18/6/84

By Carolyn Dempster,  
Labour Reporter

South African employers have been warned not to divorce occupational health and safety from industrial relations

This issue had all the elements necessary for it to rival the pensions crisis, they were told at a one-day seminar on Health and Safety in Johannesburg last week

Problems related to implementing the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act — due to come into force on August 1 — dominated discussion

According to the Act, employers have to appoint safety representatives and committees to ensure the stringent health and safety standards set out by the Department of Man-

## Safety rules: warning issued

power are adhered to. Professor Johan Piron, a labour academic and adviser, said the way employers carried out these obligations would be crucial

If health and safety were seen as negotiable issues, and an integrative approach towards the unions was adopted, this could promote industrial peace

Employee participation was vital but employers would have to ensure supervisors were

not excluded, "otherwise I foresee grave problems", Professor Piron said

Mr Nick Haysom, a labour lawyer from the Centre for Applied Legal studies, presented a worker-oriented view

Many emergent unions have slammed the new safety legislation because it excludes direct worker participation

Mr Haysom said workers should be entitled to bargain on health and safety issues, as these were a question of perception.

There might be instances when safety came into conflict with productivity, and the law alone was not a satisfactory means of covering the diverse set of situations that might arise in industrial relations, he said



Argus 12/7/84  
Industrial accidents lost 3,7m days

(131)  
Shipping Reporter

**INDUSTRIAL** accidents in South Africa last year resulted in 3,7 million work days being lost — an average of three days off for each worker.

Strike action, however, resulted in a comparatively low 1,2 million days being lost, an average of about 15 minutes lost each day by each worker.

The figures were put to members of the South African Stevedoring Employers' Association (Sasea) during a seminar in Cape Town yesterday on

the implications of the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (Mosa), which is expected to be enforced by the end of August.

An industrial consultant, Mr S K Pennington, said R52-million had been paid out by the workmen's compensation commissioner last year and that 230 claims had been made by stevedoring companies.

Of those, 58 had been for frostbite victims who had to deal with frozen cargoes.

RAM 7/8/84

131

# Nosa seeking to defuse safety regulation issue

**By PRISCILLA WHYTE**

The National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) has no wish to see safety regulations made a bone of contention, says the president, Mr Don Carroll.

He told a news conference at Naschem's Lenz plant, 30kms southwest of Johannesburg last week; Nosa did not want to be seen by trade unions as merely another management organisation.

"The important lesson South African industry has to learn is that safety has been a source of contention among trade unions of our major trading partners"

Nosa is examining the criteria traditionally used for granting awards and has decided more emphasis should be laid on industrial relations and the state of the industrial environment.

The demarcation of safety areas will, in the future, be secondary to the larger issue of industrial relations in assessing safety performance

"Fortunately in South Africa safety has been a voluntary concern of management who have committed themselves to the Nosa philosophy"

Some 55% of accidents occur in the first two years of a worker's employment

Another consequence of following a safety programme is that absenteeism and labour turnover rates are reduced

Mr Carroll thinks 2% is a good absenteeism rate amongst blacks, coloureds and Asians. Among whites the rate is higher at 3% to 3,5%

He notes that labour turnover is 30% to 50% in the major urban areas. Among companies that have achieved the highest

Nosa five-star safety grading, a 5% labour turnover rate has been found.

In South Africa there are 200 000 companies and Nosa has historically concentrated its effort on the larger 4 000 companies who employ 1,9-million people — 50% of the economically active workforce

Nosa is trying to promote safety among smaller companies through a direct-mail-shot campaign. The farming community, too, will also be exposed to a safety-awareness programme

The various television channels will be transmitting safety programmes in the near future

Naschem's Lenz plant has won Nosa's most coveted safety award — the Noscar — for ten years in succession

Naschem is part of the Armscor group. The Lenz plant manufactures

heavy-calibre ammunition for the Defence Force. Safety is one of the highest priorities in this dangerous working environment

Naschem is responsible for the development of new products as well as for the examination of existing products

The plant employs 2 500. The ratio of black to white is 3:1

The general manager of Naschem, Mr Johan Koorts says: "The employer pays into the Workmen's Compensation fund, depending on the company's safety record."

The average is 45c a R100 in South Africa. Naschem is paying 20c a R100, saving between R25 000 and R30 000 a year.

He believes there is a definite correlation between safety and productivity.

He says Armscor's policy is to pursue export markets wherever possible

222 131 1977 1977

# Brown lung: textile workers claim relief

8/8/84 D. Dispatch

DURBAN — Workmen's compensation claims have been made for 30 employees of a New Germany factory who are believed to have the potentially fatal brown lung disease

These claims follow a health and safety campaign by Dr Neil White, medical officer of the National Union of Textile Workers, who screened 2 000 workers of the Frametex mill in May

Brown lung, or byssinosis, is an insidious lung disease contracted by workers inhaling cotton dust. It blocks lung passages and is incurable if not detected in the early stages

Dr White said his survey showed 30 people "who can safely be said to have brown lung"

They were screened by a radiologist to exclude diseases such as tuberculosis, which could show the same symptoms. They were then referred to another doctor for more examinations

Dr White said he expected the claims to take about a year. He had

written to the joint managing director of the Frame Group, Mr Selwyn Lurie, asking him to transfer the workers to a dust-free area.

Dr White, an authority on brown lung disease, said he was concerned at the lack of protection for the country's 42 000 cotton workers

"At the most conservative estimate, quoted by employers, the incidence of the disease is four people in 1 000"

Mr Lurie said the group had only had one case of a worker with brown lung disease and he had been transferred to a dust-free section

"Our policy is not to retrench any workers found to have symptoms of byssinosis. Workers who show any symptoms of lung disorders are transferred to where there is less risk of cotton dust contamination"

The textile federation was asked to research the problem internationally 18 months ago, Mr Lurie said, and overseas diagnostic equipment (the same used by the union) was being bought for the industry — SAPA

# LAW LOOKS

(131)

C. Press 14/10/87

# after profits

THERE was much fanfare when the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act came into effect last week. It is regarded as long overdue to safeguard the country's workers — particularly black workers

Commentators say it is the most advanced safety legislation yet and

point out that hotel workers, school workers and domestic workers are also covered for the first time

But at the same time an important publication quietly appeared which takes a different view — Judy Maller's Health and Safety for Workers

"MOSA, like the Erasmus Commission, can be seen as an attempt by the State and capital to control trade unions and democratic worker organisations around working conditions," says Ms Maller

She feels that MOSA is set "to pre-empt worker demands that could adversely affect productivity and profitability"

She also charges that the legislation represents an attempt to introduce liaison committees into the arena of struggle around health and safety.

Ms Maller's book is a dissertation in partial fulfillment for a BA (Honours) degree at the University of the Witwatersrand last year

It takes a sober look at the implications of workers' health and safety — a focal point

which is gradually generating conflict as it becomes a political issue at the workplace

Health and safety are issues which threaten to haunt labour relations in the country for a long time

Within this framework, Ms Maller offers a critical analysis of the predominantly black Metal and Allied Workers' Union's health and safety campaign in the Vaal Triangle, within the broader context of developing a worker strategy to assert control at the workplace

The metal industry was chosen for the study because it is the largest component of secondary industry in South Africa

A large number of workers are affected by this industry's health and safety policy. The Vaal Triangle, particularly, is one of the most important growth points in the metal industry

The struggle for health and safety in factories must be seen in the context of the fundamental contradiction between the working class and its allies, and capital and

Dissertation Series No. 4  
HEALTH AND SAFETY  
FOR WORKERS



DOES DUST IN THE FACTORY MAKE YOU SICK?  
UTHULI EFEKTRI LUNGAKUGULISA N  
NA LEROLE FEKT LE YA HO KUDIS



NIGHTWORK IS BAD  
MOSEBETSI WA BOSIU HA OA LOKA  
UMSEBENZI WASEBUSUKU AWULUNGAGA NEZE

Extracts from Judy Maller's book

the capitalist state, says Ms Maller

Workmen's compensation, which became enshrined in law in 1914, is a focal point in the struggle

"The Workmen's Compensation Act and common law claims involve an ideological component of great importance," she writes.

In the case of employer negligence, workers find themselves at the mercy of the Workmen's Commissioner — of 18 applications for additional compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act in 1981, only one was successful

Ms Maller also looks at the emergence of the black trade union movement in the 70's, the Erasmus Commission in 1974, the Labour Relations Act of 1982 and other responses of the Government to the country's labour problems

Her book can be obtained for R3 (exclusive) from Critical Health, P O Box 16250, Doornfontein, 2028.

RDM 25/10/84 (131) 272

# Nosa aims to achieve more trade union contact

By PRISCILLA WHYTE

CONTACT with trade unions was essential to steer the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) through the hazards of industrial relations.

Nosa's president, Mr Don Carroll, told the annual general meeting in Johannesburg last week. "There is no doubt that the manager who does not take his safety responsibilities seriously will reap the industrial relations whirlwind"

He said Nosa was working with trade unions to teach safety procedures. Considerable time was being spent on establishing contacts with major unions.

Contact was necessary because of the increased legal responsibilities imposed by the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act

Mr Carroll said Nosa had taken

the safety message to more than 4 000 firms but there were nearly 200 000 companies registered with the State Accident Fund.

"We are getting through to 2,1% of the firms and 40% of the employees

There were 2,5-million workers insured by the State Accident Fund whom Nosa was not reaching directly

A third of the fatalities, but only 8,6% of injuries, reported in the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner's report were related to vehicles.

Vehicle accident deaths absorbed a large proportion of compensation payments

Mr Bunny Matthysen, Nosa general manager, said that in 1951, 4% of the workforce had disabling injuries. The most recent figure released by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner showed a decline to

1,7%.

The Commissioner, who administers the State Accident Fund, had been able to reduce the assessment rates of 82 of the 109 classes of industry and commerce in the period 1972 to 1984/85.

Of these, 12 classes had remained constant and 15 had increased

The average unweighted assessment rate for all industry had dropped from R1,15 to R0,84 per R100 of wages

The merit rebate paid out for the 1980/82 cycle was expected to be a record, said Mr Matthysen

The Nosa safety budget was R3,5m and had grown at 20,5% compounded over the past five years. Grants still comprised 60% of the total turnover

The number of trainees attending courses had increased by 69%. Field staff had grown by 29% over the past five years

# SAFETY: REALISM MUST RULE

EMPLOYERS' safety systems should be "fool proof — but not bloody-fool proof."

This is the feeling of Roland Freakes, executive director of the Natal Chamber of Industries, to the implications contained in the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act

Opening a seminar organised by the Chartered Institute of Industrial Safety Engineering in Durban this week, he said investments in occupational safety and health, while essential, were subject to the law of diminishing returns. Nobody could expect industry to achieve 100 percent safety and health in the workplace. A certain point was reached where residual hazards were either so

## 'Expanding industry S. African cannot afford idealistic legislation,' says Freakes

"It is fair to expect that an employer will be required to adopt the best practicable means to ensure that the likelihood of any of his workers suffering serious or fatal injury is reduced to an absolute minimum.

"But he cannot reasonably be expected to set up safety systems which unconditionally guarantee that no employee will suffer death or injury. If

I may put it inelegantly, employers should be required to make their safety systems foolproof but not bloody fool proof."

Mr Freakes added that, ancillary to any legislation, there was a need to exclude people who were accident prone or whose intelligence quotient exposed them to high risk from potentially hazardous situations

He admitted that he did not know whether personnel selection procedures had been developed to identify the accident-prone but it could be a fertile means of reducing risk.

The health front was where industry had a "very real problem."

"One immediately accepts the need for protection of employees against biological and chemical hazards," said Mr Freakes. "But it is under this head that regulations have been proposed which relate essentially to worker comfort."

These contained both reasonable and unreasonable requirements — wholly arbitrary and out of keeping with what was required.

"We have seen over and over again Government's propensity for over-legislating and unnecessary over-specification, often taking as a model highly sophisticated Western economies," he went on. "We must use as our benchmark for legislation and regulation, realism and not idealism."

He gave as an example a large local company

which, in order to comply with the original regulations governing heat exhaustion, would have had to spend R100 million.

Yet the same company had a performance record of 670 million man-hours without a single instance of heat exhaustion or stress.

"We cannot afford that kind of inessential expenditure," he said. "These sums should be dedicated to the expansion of industries, the creation of new jobs and upgrading economic growth and prosperity. That is what our future is all about."

Mr Freakes added that the introduction of safety representatives and safety committees would bring about a new kind of formal involvement by employees in the health and safety of the workplace. This would be beneficial, so long as did not become a means to other, less desirable ends.

"Unfortunately, there are a few trade unions bent on disruption and this will open up a new front for confrontation which in itself will detract from the true objects and advantages of this legislation," he said.

# Industrial health care a problem

Occupational health care in South Africa suffers from an inadequate infrastructure and insufficient numbers of well-trained occupational health nurses

There are only 777 industrial clinics registered with the Department of Health and Welfare, and the number of occupational health nurses must be about the same. There are 39 000 factories in South Africa, of which 4 300 — 11 percent — employ nearly 75 percent of the industrial labour force.

To provide adequate care for these numbers we need about 2 500 full-time, and 4 000 part-time, occupational health nurses — backed by 500 full-time and 800 part-time occupational doctors. The South African Society of Occupational Health has, however, only 120 members

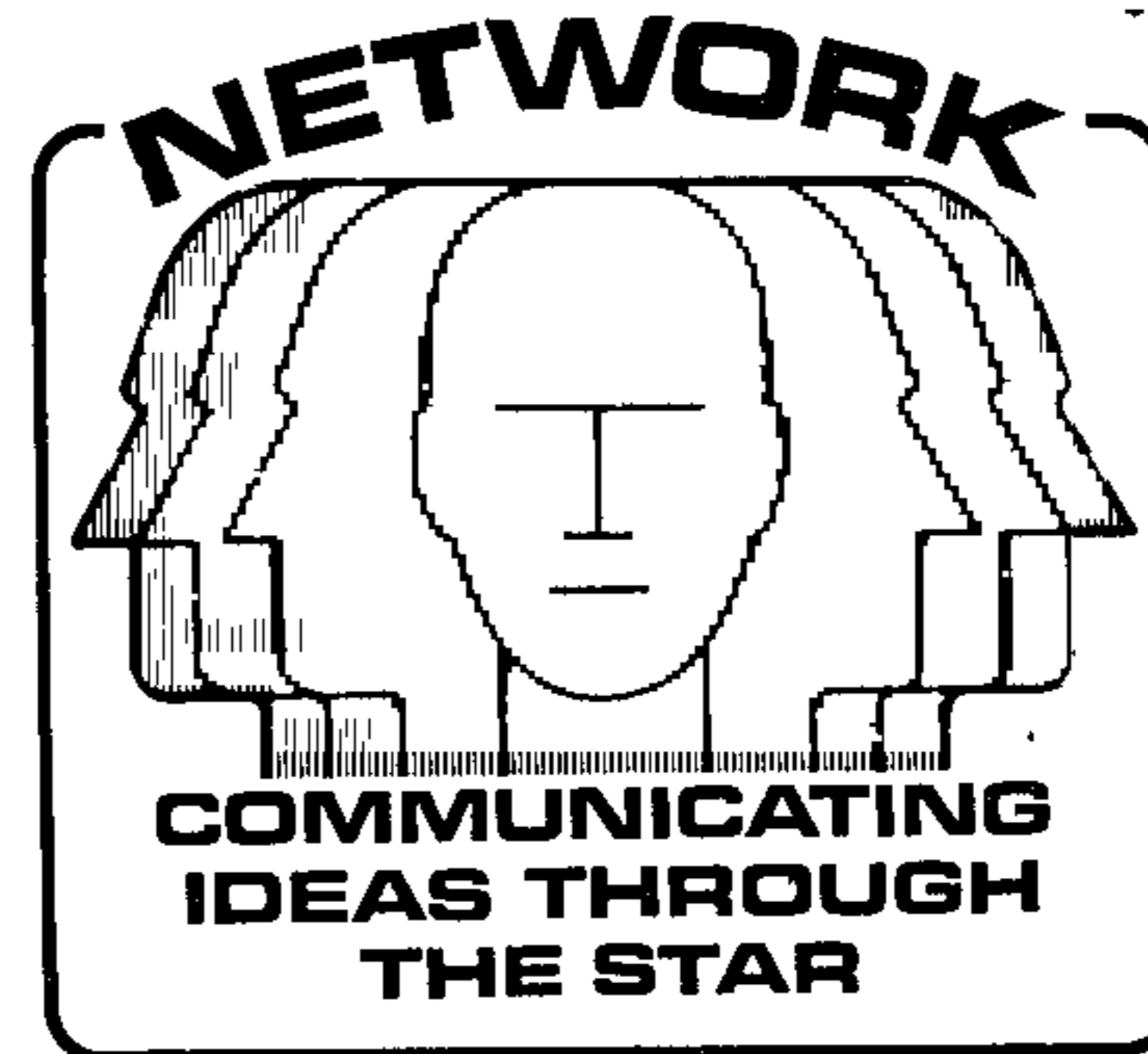
The situation in industrial health care was extensively analysed by the Erasmus Commission of 1976, whose recommendations have been relegated to the archives

Large corporations, the mining houses and the multinationals operating under one of the various employment codes have good health care systems. The main problem is not with them — it is with the many medium-sized and smaller operations for whom industrial health simply means a nurse in a first-aid room.

Admittedly, for the smaller firm with health hazards in its working environment, health care is difficult to organise. A solution for these companies must be sought in a combined service through an industrial health care centre

While the cost of providing occupational

health is considerable, the costs of failing to provide it could be higher in terms of unnecessary absenteeism. Lack of a service on the spot can mean a worker being off for days with a minor complaint or injury. A realistic cost-benefit analysis is essential for management to make effective investment decisions for health care



health is considerable, the costs of failing to provide it could be higher in terms of unnecessary absenteeism. Lack of a service on the spot can mean a worker being off for days with a minor complaint or injury. A realistic cost-benefit analysis is essential for management to make effective investment decisions for health care

If managements fail to do this, the unions will remind them. Responsible unions could be a strong force to the good for the installation of sound occupational health services. Unfortunately unions will use every area of grievance to compensate for the lack of influence of the black worker outside the employment situation.

The recently promulgated Machinery and Occupational Safety Act and the tabling of the Occupational Medicine Bill could develop into highly contentious issues unless sound communication is established between unions and management

As with the ill-fated Pensions Bill, the question arises whether sufficient consultation took place between the authorities, management and the unions

It is regrettable that the existing certificate course for occupational health nursing has been repealed in the Government Gazette of August 17 1984

The occupational health section in the community health course is patently insufficient to equip the nurse for the many and complex tasks in industrial health care. It is essential that all parties concerned — the Nursing Council, the Nursing Association, the SA Society for Occupational Health Nurses, occupational physicians, the unions and management — confer on what needs to be done to provide the country with a viable occupational health care system.

● Syncom is staging a one-day national conference on health care at the CSIR auditorium in Pretoria on Thursday November 29. Inquiries: 728-1341.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - ~~W~~ ACCIDENTS AND  
HEALTH

1984

JANUARY — DEC.



# Three seamen die, three hurt in tanker explosion off Cape

Cape Times 9/1/84  
Staff Reporter

THREE crew members were killed and three seriously burnt in an explosion caused by welding on an oil tanker off the Western Cape coast

The three injured were flown to Cape Town by helicopter last night.

The assistant manager of the ship's agents in Cape Town, Mr Mike Matthews, said today the men were welding in a tank of the 176 000-ton Liberian-registered tanker Brazilian Splendour at 5 30 pm yesterday when the explosion occurred

The working group's superintendent and two seamen were killed. They were all Chinese

## DOCTOR

A Court helicopter flew a doctor to the tanker, cruising 212 km (115 nautical miles) north-west of Cape Town

The aircraft brought the injured men to Tygerberg Hospital. Two were later transferred to Conradie Hospital.

The seaman in Tygerberg Hospital, Mr Shian-Chai Cha, 47, who is Chinese, is said to be in an "unsatisfactory condition" with 25 percent burns.

A spokesman at Conradie Hospital said later today that the two injured seamen admitted there were Mr Sebastian Ramasalbez, 50, and Mr Deon Vegadiaz, 32. They were not critical but had serious and widespread burns

(131)  
The bodies of the seamen were brought to Cape Town by launch today.

The pilot who captained the emergency helicopter flight, Captain Jeremy Labuschagne, said he went out with a co-pilot, flight engineer, doctor and representative of the ship's agents

The helicopter arrived at the tanker about 8 pm and reached Tygerberg Hospital at 9 15 pm. The injured men were wrapped in blankets

"They looked quite blackened, but one could not see much of their injuries because of the blankets," said Captain Labuschagne

The tanker, moving southwards, reduced speed off-limits in Table Bay to enable a launch to come alongside and remove the bodies.

A ship's agent who was on the emergency flight said today "All we know is that there was an explosion while they were welding in a slop tank and there was a brief fire which was put out by the crew"

# Gas plant explosion 'minor'

131 Star  
10/1/84

A technical problem caused a "minor explosion" at Samancor's Meyerton factory gas plant last night, according to a statement released by the corporation today.

The corporation said the accident happened at the gas plant serving the No 12 electric furnace, which is used in the production of ferro manganese.

"Although the explosion was accompanied by a loud bang, little damage was done and no one was injured. The furnace operation has not been affected," said the statement.

The corporation did not say what the nature of the technical problem was, but a police spokesman is reported as saying it was caused by water reaching quantities of phosphor.

Samancor has not commented on reports that officials at the factory refused the local fire department access to the scene of the blast, claiming that it was too dangerous.

# Injuries (131) 'directly related' 20/11/84 to profit

## Financial Reporter

PROFITS can be measured by the number of accidents a company has, says Mr Bunny Matthysen, general manager of the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa).

He told senior personnel at the Industrial Development Corporation's new headquarters in Sandton: "Under normal market conditions there is a direct correlation between injuries and profit margins."

Methods by which management could predict the maximisation of profits and the minimisation of losses were to

- set the target of injuries at less than 2% of the workforce;
- see that Workman's Compensation Act insurance claims did not exceed 24% of premiums — thus ensuring a 50% rebate on total premiums over a three-year cycle,
- see that insurance claims on other losses, such as fire, did not exceed 10% of premiums paid,
- aim at getting three- to five-star Nosa safety grades.

# Sandton man escapes mystery rock blast.

By Stuart Flitton

A Sandton businessman narrowly escaped injury yesterday when an unusually large explosion during rock blasting on a nearby construction site blew the glass from his office windows on to his chair. He was visiting a colleague in another part of the building.

Several windows in two office blocks and in the corridor of a block of flats were blown out.

A spokesman for Sandton Fire and Emergency Services said a worker on the construction site was taken to Tembisa Hospital with minor injuries.

No other injuries were reported.

Mr Brian Butler, whose desk and chair were covered in broken glass, was in the office of colleague Mr John Little when the blast occurred.

"There were a couple of little blasts and then one almighty blast. If Brian had been sitting at his desk his office windows would have landed on his head," Mr Little said.

A spokesman for the blasting sub-contractors said there had been "an accident" and the exact cause of the big blast was being investigated.

(131) S. Post  
12/1/84  
**Electrocuted by stove**

PRETORIA — An apprentice electrician was electrocuted on Tuesday while repairing the stove of a friend in Pretoria.

Mr. Hermanus Johannes Crafford, 17, also of Pretoria, apparently touched a live wire.

Mr Crafford was apprenticed to the Transvaal Provincial Administration. — Sapa

# Labourer killed by enraged elephant

By Clyde Johnson  
Lowveld Bureau

A game park labourer, Mr Luckson Zitha, was mauled to death by a bull elephant in the Klaserie Private Reserve late on Thursday afternoon.

Police said Mr Zitha (40) and a colleague, Mr Jors Ngomane (26), were cycling in the reserve shortly before sunset when a fully-grown elephant appeared from a clump of bushes.

For no apparent reason the elephant, trumpeting loudly and flapping its ears, charged them.

Both jumped from their bicycles and ran in different directions.

The elephant followed Mr Zitha into dense bush for about 40 metres, uprooting and flattening trees in the process.

Mr Zitha was grabbed around the waist by the elephant and flung 20 m into the air, landing in a thorn bush.

Fearing for his life, Mr Ngomane ran about 15 km to the nearest farmhouse for help.

Mr Zitha's body was found beneath a thorn bush and an area 30 m in diameter had been flattened by the elephant which had left the scene by the time the rescuers arrived.

# Asbestosis: 19 workers retiring

Cape Times 14/1/84 (131)

By RIAAN DE VILLIERS  
Labour Reporter

NINETEEN workers at the Brackenfell plant of Everite Ltd are retiring early after contracting asbestosis

This was confirmed last night by the company's personnel director in Johannesburg, Mr Evert Claasen, following inquiries yesterday

Mr Claasen said in a statement that the workers — 18 blacks and one white — had chosen to retire early in terms of a recently-improved company scheme for workers who have contracted the disease

He said their average degree of disability was 35 percent. The average age of the group was 52 years, their average period of employment 23 years, and they had continued working for an average of three years since asbestosis was first certified

## Farewell

A farewell function was held for six of the workers yesterday. The others are leaving at the end of the month

Mr Claasen said company policy had been that any worker certified in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act and who wanted to retire would continue to receive an income

equal to their basic monthly pay at the time of retirement

In December last year, the company decided that such workers would also receive similar annual increases to other employees until the age of 65. Thereafter, their pensions would increase at the same rate as normal company pensions.

The workers concerned decided to exercise their option to retire after the new policy had been announced, he said

## Deaths

Since the Brackenfell plant had opened 37 years ago, a total of 35 cases of asbestosis — including three deaths — had been diagnosed among an estimated 9 000 workers at the plant during this period

He pointed out that asbestosis diagnosed in recent times related to excessive exposure to asbestos fibre more than 15 years ago.

Since the early 1970s, strict control measures and personnel education had resulted in the reduction of exposure to a level where "no undue risks" existed for personnel

Mr Claasen added that Everite would continue to monitor the health of the workers



Three people were injured and more than 5 000 people had to be evacuated when a fire started in the Sanlam office block in central Johannesburg, the cause is not known, but it started in a switch room.

**Mail Reporters**

A 31-FLOOR office block in central Johannesburg was evacuated and 5 000 employees sent home yesterday after an accidental explosion caused an electrical fire on the 12th floor

Three people were injured  
 Hundreds of workers — at Sanlam Centre in Jeppe Street — were sent home when it was discovered the building's power had put the lifts, air-conditioning and escalators out of order  
 The drama began at about 8 45am when

**Three injured as fire hits offices**

an explosion in the switch room on the mechanical floor sparked off a fire  
 The explosion was due to an electrical fault  
 Fireman, police and ambulance officials were called and the building was evacuated  
 At least five ambulances and two fire engines rushed to the scene

Police cordoned off Smal Street to traffic for about 20 minutes  
 Fireman conducted a floor-by-floor search of the 31-floor building to ensure everyone had left  
 Mr Johan Bezuidenhout and Mr Chris Cornelissen — both working in the switch room when the fire started — were taken to Milpark Hospital where a spokesman

described their condition as satisfactory  
 According to an ambulance spokesman a third person, Miss W Fick, was also injured. Her whereabouts could not be established  
 Mr Bezuidenhout and Mr Cornelissen suffered electrical burns to the arms, and smoke inhalation



This generator started the fire

Picture ROBERT TSHABALALA



# SA industry has best injury prevention record in West

BY PRISCILLA WHYTE

SOUTH African industry has the best injury prevention record in the West, according to published comparable Western world statistics, says Mr Don Carroll, chairman of the National Occupational Association (Nosa).

Mr Carroll says fewer disabling injuries occurred in 1983 than in 1977 despite 33% more man hours being worked in 1983. The accompanying graph (below) indicates that the increase in safety training by Nosa has had the desired effect.

Had the same accident ratio occurred last year as in 1981, there would have been about 90 000 more serious injuries in South Africa

Mr Bunny Matthysen, general

manager of Nosa, says: "One of the best ways to gauge a firm's profit performance is to measure the number of accidents it experiences. Under normal market conditions, there is a direct correlation between the number of persons injured and the profit margin."

From an average of the 9 000 safety gradings and audits which Nosa carries out each year, these correlations have become apparent.

"Accidents are usually caused by some weakness in the management system — in the same way that weaknesses in management point to poor profit performance."

Mr Matthysen says one of the simplest barometers is a firm's claims experience in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The benchmark should be that not more than 2% of the workforce is

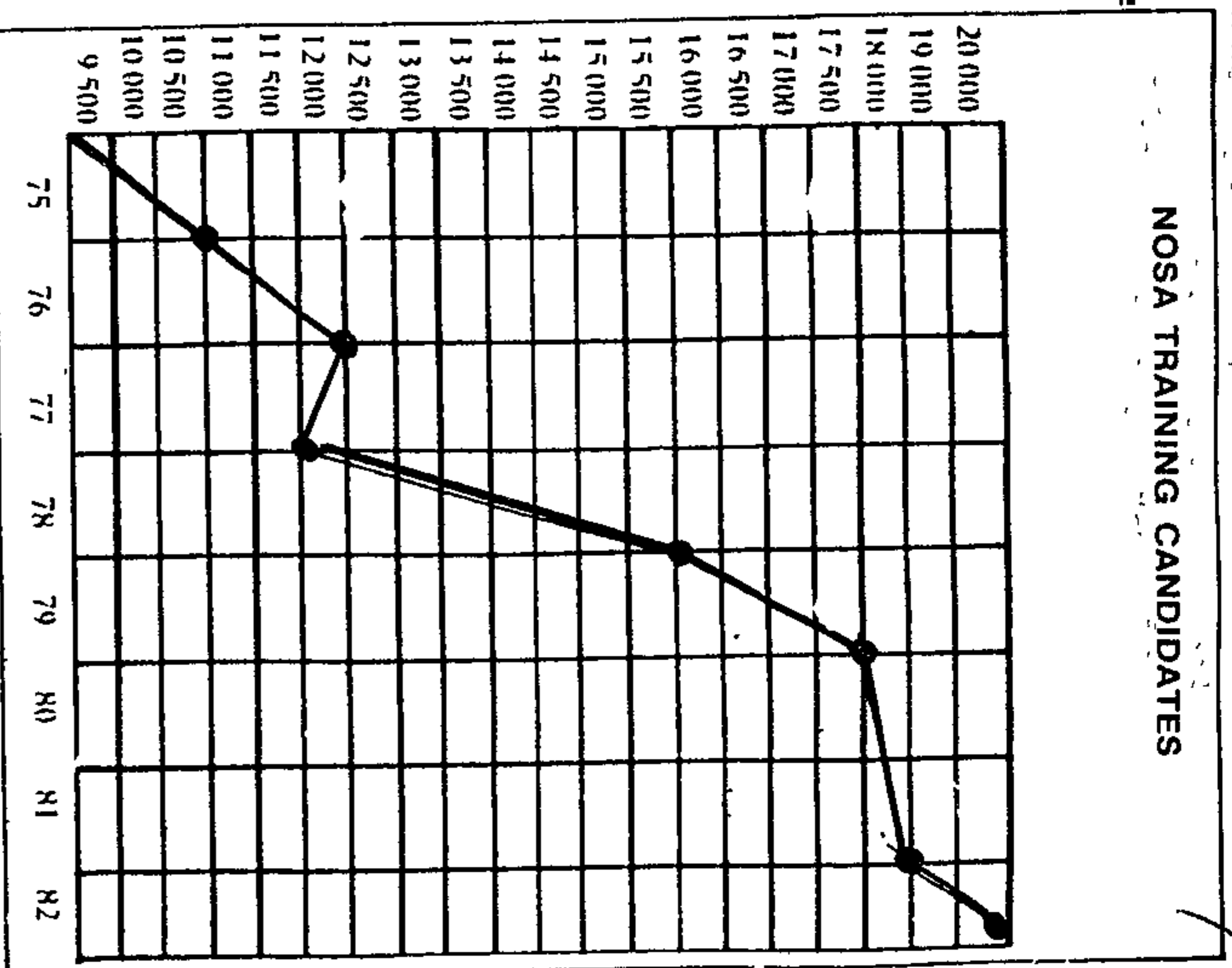
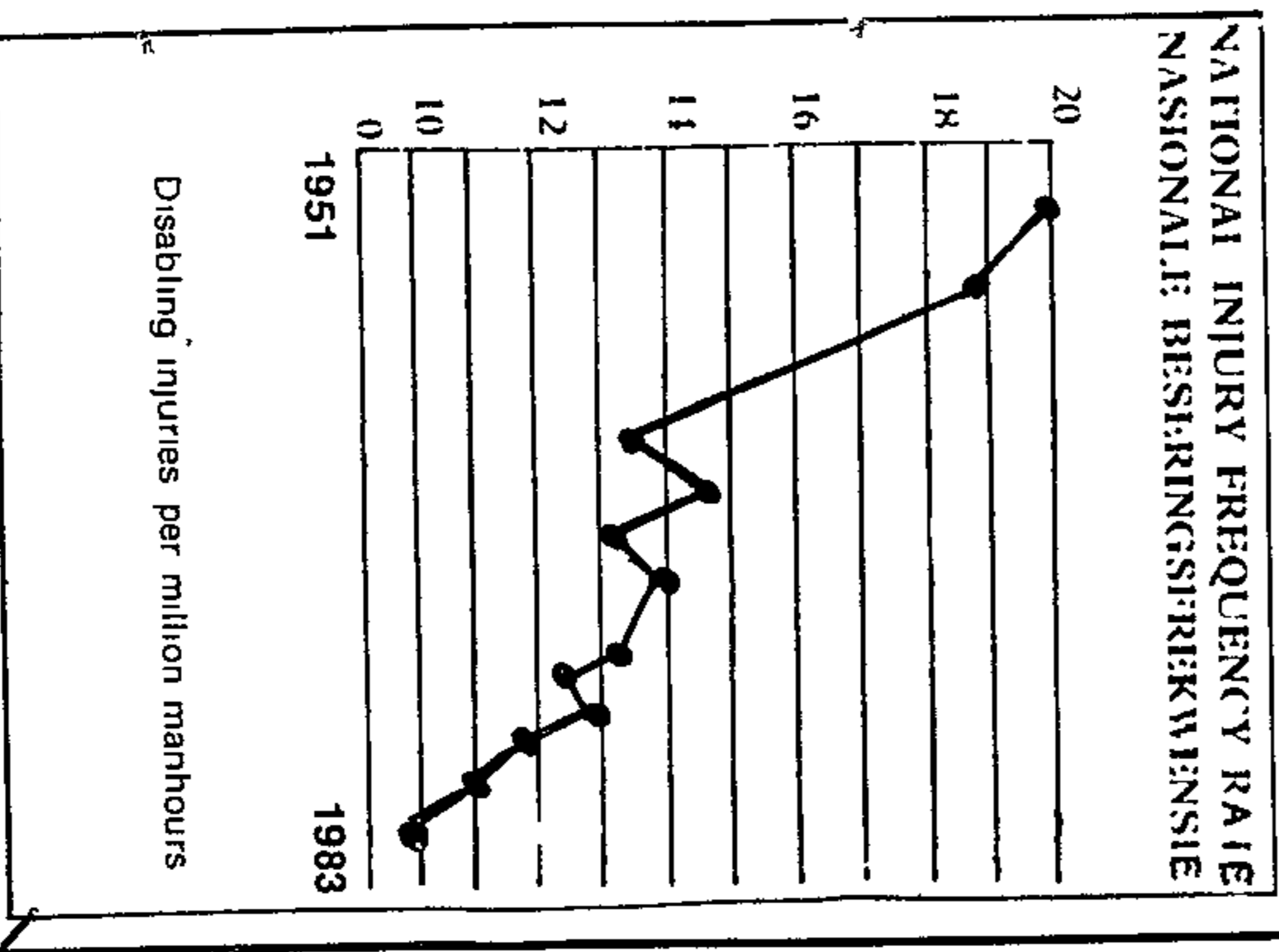
injured.

Workmen's Compensation Act insurance claims should not exceed 24% of premiums. This will ensure a 50% rebate on total premiums over a three year cycle

From statistics released by the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner, it would seem that some 55% of all accidents take place within the first two years of a man's employment with one employer.

The National Occupational Safety and Health Convention (Noshcon) is to be held at Sun City from May 15 -17 and has drawn attention locally and from overseas.

Noshcon 84 includes an exhibition and will have two main topics — aviation safety and successful case histories. About 1 000 delegates are expected to attend the conference



# Asbestos disease hits 23

Labour Reporter

THE asbestos manufacturing company Everite Ltd has announced that 23 of its workers have contracted asbestosis at its Brakenfell plant and will retire early.

And a 400-member trade union, which is about to negotiate an agreement with Everite, expects negotiations over health and safety matters to "play a major role"

In a statement the personnel director of Everite, Mr E B Claasen, said workers certified with the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner as having asbestosis would receive a monthly wage, with annual increments, and would be in the same position as if they had worked until 65

Asbestosis is a scarring of the lung tissue, according to a Cape Town doctor. He said the condition "seriously increased the chances of getting lung cancer"

According to Mr Claasen, the average age of the 23 workers was 52 and their average length of service 23 years. The degree of disability was about 35 percent

All employees were medically examined before joining the company and then every three years up to 10 years' service, every two years between 10 and 20 years' service and annually thereafter

Mr Claasen gave the total record of asbestos-related diseases at Everite plants as 71, with 15 deaths recorded, out of about 24 000 employees over 43 years

CAR-Times 23/1/84

~~12/1~~  
131

# Draft bill for workers' safety

From BARRY STREEK

A NEW draft law to promote the safety of workers in factories has been published by the Department of Health

The Occupational Medicine Bill will impose a duty on employers not to expose workers to prescribed agents for a longer period, or in a concentration higher, than prescribed

Employers will also have to ensure that ergonomic factors do not harm the health of workers

Ergonomic factors are defined in the draft bill as any workplace or any machine, appliance, equipment or article used by, or to which an employee is exposed in the performance of his duties which may cause a psychosomatic illness or which does not fit the anatomical and biological characteristics of man

The new bill will operate in conjunction with the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act which was passed by Parliament last year and which falls under the Department of Manpower

Both measures follow a long dispute between the two departments as to which one would be responsible for ensuring the safety of workers

Stronger action to ensure the protection of workers in South Africa was called for by the Erasmus Commission of Inquiry into Occupational Health which was published in 1976

Comment on the Occupational Medicine Bill has to be submitted by the end of February

## Examinations

It provides for free medical examinations, at the cost of employers, where workers are exposed to prescribed agents or ergonomic factors and no employee may work under these conditions without this

examination

It will prohibit the victimization of any worker, either through dismissal or reduction of pay, if the employee provides any information to the Minister or department, or if he is suspected of doing so, about matters falling within the ambit of the law

Employers will also not be able to make any deductions from salaries if they are required to take steps to protect the safety of workers

The bill provides for inspectors who will be able to enter any premises without previous notice and they will be able to question any person

The inspectors will also be able to seize any certificate, report, book, document or sample

They will have the power to stop workers continuing working with an agent, order the medical examination of workers or rectify medical conditions

## Provision

The bill also makes provision for the appointment of an Advisory Committee for Occupational Medicine

In addition it will apply to the state and employees of the state

Fines of R2 000, or imprisonment of 12 months, or both, can be imposed for contraventions of the new bill

# Boy tells how dad was electrocuted

131  
26/1/84  
Star Vereeniging Bureau

A Vereeniging schoolboy today described how he made a desperate attempt to save his father's life.

Mr Eric Smith (53), of Van Riebeeck Avenue, was electrocuted and his son Ernest (16) was badly shocked when he tried to save him.

Ernest said that on Tuesday evening he went with his father to fix a faulty power board at a foundry in the industrial area.

"I was sitting about 2 m away from my father when I suddenly heard him scream. I jumped up and saw that he was being electrocuted," Ernest said.

He shouted to a man standing nearby to switch the power off while he tried to grab his father by the arm.

"I got a hefty shock myself and let go of his arm. I then saw him collapse."

While the other man was searching for the power switch the lights suddenly went off, plunging the room into darkness. Ernest ran to a nearby office, where an ambulance was called for.

By the time it arrived Mr Smith was dead.

## Industrial mishaps decline

SOUTH AFRICA is a world leader in industrial safety according to the National Occupational Safety Association Foskor's Phalaborwa open-cast mine has just completed 20,65 million injury-free hours, Escom's Duva power station achieved 9,9 million and Mobil's Durban refinery 9,1 million injury-free hours—all of them world records.

NOSA's Cape representative, Neville Rasmussen, can't remember the last time a company in the Cape achieved those levels. 'There are a number who have worked over 2 million injury-free hours. I think 7 million hours is the highest and that was years ago'

Rasmussen says there has been a steady drop in injuries per million man-hours. 'Last year it was 9,3. In 1951 it was 20,1 disabling injuries per million man-hours. There are also a number of companies that have worked several years without accidents. Fedmris in Kuilsriver, for example, have worked ten years without a disabling injury'.

There has also been a decrease in the assessment rate paid to the State accident fund from R1,15 per R100 wages in 1972 to R0,81 per R100 in 1983/4. Each industry and class of industry is assessed separately as to its risk and accident record in deciding its rates (although individual companies may show cause why their record is above average)

Rasmussen says there has been a drop both in the severity and frequency of accidents which he attributed to the fact that industrialists have adopted a very positive attitude on safety and loss control

training for lower and middle level management in safety and accident-prevention

### SA INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT RECORD

Year	No. Accidents	Cost (1)	Per Accident
1975	348 989	R40,3m	R115
1976	334 552	R42,7m	R128
1977	309 223	R52,5m	R170
1978	309 086	R62,4m	R202
1979	299 523	R65,6m	R219

(1) Cost to the State, Provident Funds and Insurance co's

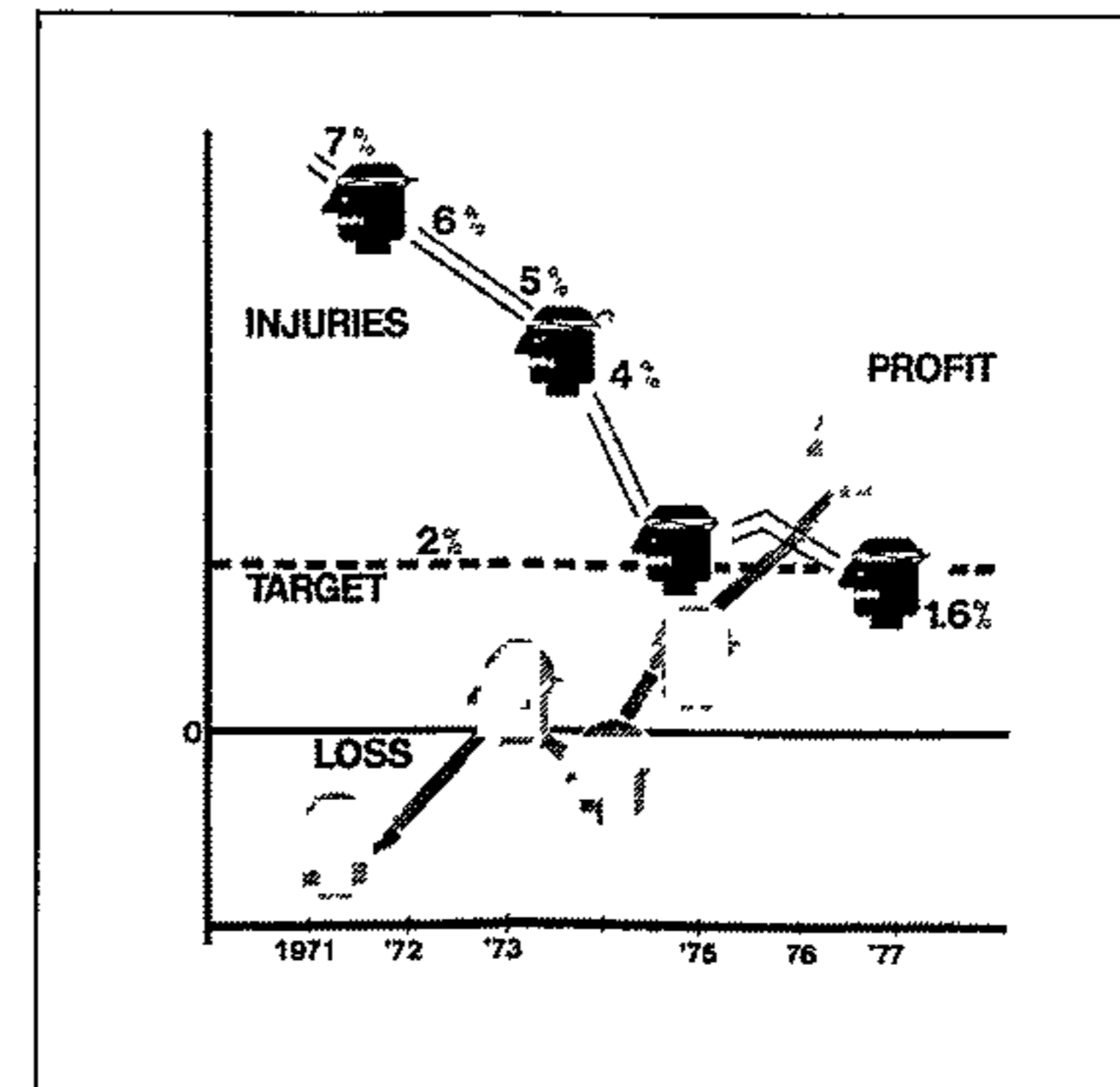
Source Hansard No 23 of 1983 Q&A 1914/1915  
Courtesy Volkskas Economic Spotlight OCT 1983

The National Occupational Safety Association operates on a grant from the Workers' Compensation Commissioner in providing an advisory service to industry on safety. The association also provides

## Accident rate pointer to profit/loss

A company's profit performance can be measured by the number of accidents it experiences, says Bunny Matthysen of the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa)

'From an annual average of 9 000 safety gradings and audits by Nosa, these correlations have become apparent. Matthysen says the great advantage of using this type of barometer is that a company does not have to wait until the year-end to see how it has done profit-wise



The simplest barometer is a firm's claims experience in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act

Management objectives should be

- Set the target of injury less than 2% of your workforce
- See that Workmen's Compensation claims do not exceed 24% of premiums. This will ensure a 50% rebate on total premiums over a three-year cycle
- See that the insurance claims on other losses (fires, motor vehicle damage etc) do not exceed 10% of premiums paid
- Set the target of a 3 to 5 star Nosa safety grading

# Seven who died in fire came from Transkei

CAPE TOWN — The Department of Forestry yesterday released the names of seven of the nine men who were killed fighting the Franschoek fire on Sunday.

The blackened Purgatory Ridge, where they died, is marked by a large cross, laid out in stones near a flat spot where the helicopter landed to remove the 19 survivors and nine bodies on Sunday afternoon.

The men died when they were trapped by flames at Aasvoelberg, near the Franschoek Pass, when the wind suddenly swung from south-east to north-west.

Only one of the men, who were all aged between 23 and 45 and came from Transkei, was not married and all had worked for the Directorate of Forestry for less than a year.

They were the Mr Kayaletu Sidziya, 23, of Idutywa, who was unmarried and started working for the Directorate of Forestry in April 1983.

Mr Ntshuntshe Mayile, 37, and Mr Isaac Awu Idutywa, 24, both from Idutywa, and

Mr Ntubeni Marwanqana, 27, from Willowvale, started working for the Directorate in April 1983

Mr Ntintasi Ngqosini, 45, started working for the Directorate in September 1983, while Mr Mthutyana Qhaba, 43, and Mr Zolile Ntlemenza, 40, both from Lady Frere, started working for the Directorate last February.

The once beautiful Franschoek Pass is now devastated and has been stripped of its vegetation

Now that the fire has destroyed their 20km by 30km habitat, the animals that survived the raging flames are suffering from hunger and exposure. Troops of baboons can be seen rummaging around their territory, with little to eat, although there are enough streams and dams from which they can drink.

Hundreds of birds' nests were burned out and countless rabbit and buck carcasses were found by foresters after the fires had swept through the area — Sapa

forestry 131 ROM 30/11/84

X

# SA unions face homelands problem

THE BOPHUTHATSWANA GOV-

LABOUR WALK BY PHILIP VAN NIEKERK

ernment's ban on South African trade unions operating in the territory raises important questions for unions seeking to organise in the homelands.

Until the strike by about 400 mineworkers at the Ucar mine near Brits last week, unionisation in the homelands was largely an academic issue.

The hostility of the Ciskei Government towards trade unions — seen in the banning of the South African Allied Workers' Union (Saaau) — affected commuter workers from Mdantsane organised in the factories of East London. In Ciskei itself, union organisation hardly exists.

With the homelands earmarked for increasing industrial development, unions guaranteed freedom of association in South Africa, but facing a hostile environment in those territories, could be drawn into major conflicts with homeland governments.

The homelands are at the heart of the policy of grand apartheid and any union struggles must of necessity have a political dimension.

Bophuthatswana is the most industrially developed of the homelands and it is no surprise that the first major clash of this kind took place there — and in the mining industry.

The fast-growing National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) has a potential membership of thousands in Bophuthatswana. The dispute at Ucar, where the workers are demanding union recognition from the Armerican multi-national, Union Carbide,

Mr Rowan Cronje, the territory's Minister of Manpower, says it is an independent country. Nowhere else in the world do independent countries allow a foreign country's unions to operate.

The Bophuthatswana Industrial Conciliation Bill, which comes before the territory's parliament next month, provides for the establishment of Bophuthatswana-based unions.

South African-based unions are to be outlawed, says Mr Cronje. At the moment they are illegal because the law makes no provision for them.

Union officials argue that, aside from the fact that they do not recognise Bophuthatswana as separate from South Africa, there are numerous instances of unions operating across international borders.

They say that before South Africa amended the Industrial Conciliation Act to provide for the registration of black unions, such unions were not illegal — just as unregistered unions like the NUM are not illegal now.

And the treatment the black unions have received contrasts markedly with the attitude towards the all-white Mine Workers' Union, which has had lengthy discussions and worked out an "arrangement" with the Bophuthatswana Government.

The big fear among unionists is that the unions to be set up in Bophuthatswana will be tame creations of the government, established to head off high wage demands and the potential political threat they might pose.

□ □ □

AFTER a long-standing dispute between the Department of Health and the Department of Manpower over areas of jurisdiction in the occupational health and safety field, the Department of Health has published a draft Occupational Medicine Bill.

The dispute was reportedly behind the delay in implementing the recommendations of the Erasmus Commission published in 1976.

But, according to Dr J Myers of the University of Cape Town's Industrial Health unit, the Bill shows signs the dispute is still raging. He has accused the Department of Health of "petty competitiveness" with the Department of Manpower's Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (Mosa).

"The Bill has a tone of attempting to guard the professional territory of the Department of Health — rather than improving the health of workers," says Dr Myers. He says the Bill overlaps Mosa and will lead to a duplication of inspectors and safety structures at the workplace.

According to spokesmen for both departments, the Bill is intended to

operate in conjunction with Mosa, which became law last year.

Dr G Oberholster, a senior official of the Department of Health, says the Department of Manpower's area of jurisdiction is occupational safety, while the Department of Health deals with occupational health.

"When they are talking about the control of machinery, the physical conditions in the plant, we are talking about safety. When we are talking about man, which is the medical side, that is health. We look after man maintenance, they look after machine maintenance."

But according to Dr Myers, there is no attempt to link the new Bill with the shop floor committees set up by Mosa and the inspectorate is to be duplicated. This is costly and confusing, he says.

"It seems that Mosa is being pointedly ignored. This flies in the face of the findings of the Erasmus

Commission, which held that this kind of fragmentation should be overcome."

Dr Myers said the Bill had not adequately dealt with the setting up of structures to provide occupational health services to workers or a data base — another recommendation of the Erasmus Commission — which could do research on occupational health and safety when requested by employers and trade unions.

"Certain aspects of the Bill could be good, but on the whole it is a shoddy and hastily conceived piece of legislation."

(131) RDM 31/11/84

# Asbestos claims ruling

WASHINGTON. — Manville, the world's biggest producer of asbestos products has won a crucial legal battle in its attempt to reorganise and resolve thousands of asbestos-related lawsuits against it

Manville filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the US bankruptcy code in 1982.

A judge has dismissed four challenges to the company's Chapter 11 petition and agreed to appoint someone to represent the many claimants the company expects.

A committee representing plaintiffs suffering from asbestos-relat-

ed diseases had sought for 17 months to challenge the original Manville filing by claiming that the company had acted in bad faith.

The judge's decision to appoint someone to oversee future claims seems to set legal precedent. Manville has said its potential liability could reach \$2bn by the end of the century.

The decision appears to be the first to imply the courts can deal now with claims expected to arise — perhaps over a period of 30 years — by affected workers — Financial Times.



# Factory accident burns victim dies

Staff Reporter  
A. MACCASSAR man has died in Conradie Hospital of burns received 12 days ago in an accident at the Somchem plant near Somerset West

Mr. Ehas Abrahams, 31, died yesterday, leaving his wife Iris and five children

Five other workers were also burnt in the accident. Two were admitted to Woodstock Hospital and the others to Conradie Hospital.

Their condition was said to be "fairly satisfactory".

<u>Balance Sheet of Lessee Ltd at 30.6.82</u>	
<u>CAPITAL EMPLOYED</u>	
Long-term Liability	
Long term portion of liabilities	364 000
under financial lease agreements	
<u>Current Liability</u>	
Current portion of liability	36 000
under financial lease agreement	
<u>EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL</u>	
Fixed Asset	
Capitalised leased assets	500 000
Plant and Machinery, at cost	
Less: Acc Deprn	40 000
	<u>460 000</u>

(31) FZDM 2/2/84

# Fosatu claims gains in safety

## Labour Correspondent

THE Federation of SA Trade Unions says its union in the textile industry has made important gains in protecting the health and safety of workers — and that its metal and motor unions are also becoming involved in safety issues

But Fosatu also warns that a new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act passed last year may enable employers to supplant safety negotiations with union shop stewards and says it will strongly oppose this

These points are contained in Fosatu's annual report for 1983, which was released this week

Fosatu's increasing interest in health and safety comes at a time when this issue is emerging as a major bargaining point on the mines

It says it has been interested in health and safety issues "for some years" but found that bargaining on them was difficult "in an environment that still required a struggle for basic recognition rights"

Last year, however, it decided to encourage its unions to carry out health and safety campaigns

The new Act which Fosatu criticises in the report provides that employers must establish health and safety committees in their plants

Fosatu says it fears this may enable employers to nominate their own safety representatives and thus bypass negotiations with union shop stewards

It warns that it will take action if this occurs

In the textile industry, the report says the National Union of Textile Workers

has started negotiations at two large plants on a "comprehensive health and safety agreement"

It also gives details of a campaign by the NUTW to protect workers against "brown lung", a disease which, it says, is caused by exposure to cotton dust and could be fatal

Last year, a NUTW member became only the second worker in South Africa to be granted Workmen's Compensation after contracting "brown lung"

The report says the campaign has also prompted the Government's National Centre for Occupational Health to investigate "brown lung"

It adds that Fosatu's National Automobile and Allied Workers' Union and the Metal and Allied Workers' Union have also held a seminar on safety issues

Man, 60, (131)

**electrocuted**

S. Post 7/2/84  
Post Reporter

AN Adelaide municipal employee, Mr C de Jager Jonker, 60, died in hospital several hours after being shocked by a high-voltage overhead cable on Sunday.

He had climbed a ladder leaning against an electricity pylon to remove a branch from the line.

# Gold drilling rig <sup>131</sup> crushes man to death

8/2/84 West Rand Bureau

Staw

A Westonia man was killed and two others were injured yesterday when the pulley of a drilling rig broke loose and fell on top of them while they were boring for gold.

A police spokesman said Mr Mutbatse Tjane (30) of Doornpoort Diamond Borers, Westonia, and the two men were on the platform of a rig.

They were taking the pipes out of the borehole when one of the pipes stuck.

The pulley broke loose and fell on Mr Tjane, killing him.

The other two men, who have not been identified, were slightly injured.

## Koornhof promises aid for flood victims

Government was as much action as the flood- of North- Kwazulu, of Co-oper- development, Koornhof, said

was to cre- ment and use ve methods, possible in gramme, he weekly Press in Cape

### ROAD

ment also participating in provision of relief mea- as re-estab- munications' in emergen- like tents, food

Minister of ent and Land

Affairs, Mr Ben Wilkens, who toured the area re- cently, said one of the immediate objectives was to ensure at least one access road to every village in the disaster area

The aid was available but a difficulty at this stage was a lack of infor- mation flowing to the de- partment on the type of aid most needed at some of the more isolated places

He appealed for infor- mation in this regard to be passed on wherever possible

Dr Koornhof reviewed the "good progress" made so far, saying "Our hearts really go out to these people who suf- fered so much in the drought last year and now in these floods" — Sapa

## Miner did not test for gas before blast, says manager

Argus Correspondent VRYHEID — A miner, Mr T J Bezuidenhout, had not tested for meth- ane gas before the Hlo- bane mine blast, the mine's manager and di- rector Mr David Watson, told an inquest hearing here

Mr Bezuidenhout and 67 others were killed in the blast

Mr Watson said today that if Mr Bezuidenhout had tested for gas, he would have found it

A man, who escaped the blast, had told him when workers arrived at the waiting point in Sec- tion 5 underground, Mr Bezuidenhout had not ar- rived

### MOVE OUT

"He said the team leader instructed them to move out and they went into the works before Be-

zuidenhout arrived," said Mr Watson

Mr P W A Strydom, for the mining company, re- ferred Mr Watson to the report of a gas find Mr Bezuidenhout had en- tered in the production record book on Septem- ber 5, one week before the explosion on Septem- ber 12

Mr Watson said yester- day that a week before the Hlobane explosion, a mine overseer scratched out a report in an official document which warned that explosive levels of deadly methane gas were present in the coal mine

Because the report was erased, no investiga- tion had been made into the build-up Mr Watson said he heard of the re- port after the blast and it had shocked him

There was nothing to associate this with the subsequent tragic explo- sion though there had been no investigation

Proceeding

## Uncut diamonds: Ex-boxer fined

Argus Correspondent

PRETORIA — A former South African feather- weight boxing champion, Herbert Hendrick Clarke, was sentenced to a fine of R2 000 (or 18 months) and 10 months jail sus- pended for five years in a Pretoria Regional Court for dealing in four uncut diamonds

Mr Clarke, 40, of Mor- gan Avenue, Parktown, pleaded guilty

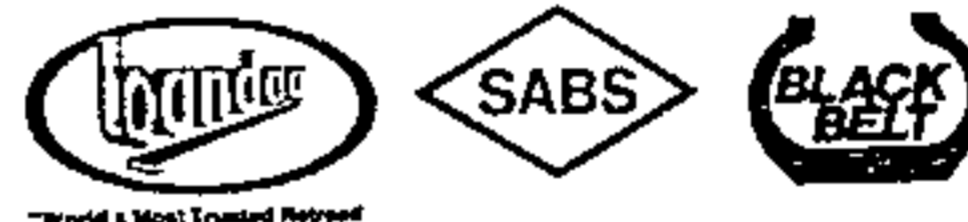
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ISS'



# 'Faulty scoop' may have caused blast

Argus Correspondent VRYHEID — A faulty coal scoop which was not flame-proofed was identified in the Magistrate's Court here today as the most likely source of the spark which triggered the Hlobane Coal Mine explosion, killing 68 miners

It was also stated that 14 pieces of machinery, which had not been flame-proofed, were found underground after the explosion

Mr R G Boswell, an inspector of mines, told the court "I could find no evidence of anything that would have caused that ignition, except the scoop"

## Supported

He was giving evidence before the chief magistrate, Mr N J Reynders, at the inquest and inquiry into the causes of the Hlobane disaster on September 12 last year

His evidence was supported by the inspector of machinery in the Government Mining Engineer's Department, Mr J H Klynsmith, who said

in his affidavit that in his opinion the scoop was the source of the spark

The 14 pieces of machinery which were not flame-proofed and were found underground after the explosion were also mentioned in Mr Klynsmith's affidavit

The court heard how the flame travelled to where deadly methane gas had accumulated about 90 m away. This is where the main explosion occurred

## Loose bolt

Mr Klynsmith said in evidence an inspection of the scoop while still underground after the explosion had revealed that the SCR panel was not flame-proofed and a bolt had come loose

On a more extensive inspection after the scoop had been taken to the surface, he found there was a 10 mm gap between the panel and the cover

In one place the cover was burnt off, and the inside of the panel was burnt black

He told the court the scoop had been taken above-ground for welding by the underground electrician, Mr J Z Zabicki. On the morning of September 12, the scoop went underground again

He also said a safety switch inside the panel had been taped and was out of working order. This meant there could have been a power surge in the panel

Supportive evidence to indicate that the scoop was the source of the spark had come from two survivors of the explosion who had been working next to conveyor belts

The magistrate, Mr N J Reynders, is assisted by Mr B N Morris, a representative of the Government Mining Engineer

Appearing for the families of five of the deceased and three others involved in the case is Mr Dennis Kuy, SC. Appearing for Iscor and Mr Watson is Mr P W A Strydom. Appearing for four of the underground officials is Mr Bob Dunn, and appearing for the underground electrician is Mr A Heidmann. Mr T Barnard is appearing for the State.

ARGUS 9/2/84

(31)

(20)

PROLONGED exposure to chemicals is by far the highest risk workers face today, but safety regulations cover only a fraction of toxic substances, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said in Geneva this month.

Those regulations that do exist are also applied by just a limited number of countries, the United Nations specialised agency said

"Human exposure to chemical substances has grown to an unprecedented extent in recent years," the ILO reported. The number of registered chemicals has climbed from 211 934 in 1965 to more than 5-million today.

"Among the 60 000 or so chemicals in common use, however, occupational exposure limits have been adopted for only a fraction of the substances known to be toxic for human beings," and then only in a restricted number of countries, it said

The ILO explained that the huge discrepancy between hazards and controls are

RDM 10/2/84  
**Chemicals**



(ISI)

**— top risk**

**for workers**

due to the research costs and complexity of the problem. Research on the long-term effects of exposure to just one chemical substance involves thousands of experimental animals, several years of research and more than R1-million

In addition, it said, the toxic effects of some chemicals are evident only after a long latency period, sometimes detectable only in the children of the exposed worker.

The ILO encouraged careful monitoring of chemical substances in the workplace and international co-operation in research, to avoid costly duplication. — UPI.

# Hlobane ventilation 'often inadequate'

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK VRYHEID — Sufficient air ventilation to disperse methane gas often did not reach the working faces inside the Hlobane Colliery.

This was said yesterday by Mr Peter Shand, chief ventilation officer at the colliery, when the inquiry and inquest continued yesterday into the death of 68 mineworkers in a methane explosion at the mine last year.

Mr Shand told the Vryheid Magistrate's Court that it was not "humanly possible" to disperse methane gas in a coal mine according to the regulations all the time.

He conceded that the main

object of the ventilation system was to provide an air current to the working faces, where there was a danger of methane gas being released.

According to Mr Shand's quarterly ventilation reports handed into the court, only three out of 14 "worst" readings in December last year were above the legal minimum. Only three out of 11 in September 1983 were above the legal minimum.

In some cases even the "best" readings did not meet the Mines and Works Act regulations.

Mr Shand said the "human factor" made it impossible to get the correct volumes of air to the working surfaces to disperse methane. He said an improved system was busy

being devised.

Mr Shand conceded, under cross-examination by Mr Denis Kuny, SC, that a ventilation test done on August 26 — about 18 days before the blast — had shown a "grossly inadequate" amount of air getting to the working faces.

Mr Kuny is appearing for the families of five of the deceased.

Leakages had reduced the air flow to the working surfaces. He had recommended that the leakings be repaired, he told the court.

Under cross-examination by Mr D Barnard, for the State, he said he had not subsequently checked to see whether all the leaks had been repaired.

Mr Shand admitted to Mr

Kuny that a test done in October to reconstruct ventilation conditions at the time of the blast had been done under more favourable circumstances.

This was because four brick stopings had been put in subsequent to the blast, the type of brattice cloth being used was more effective and there were no workings in the sections at the time of the reconstruction.

The readings were only given for the entire district and not at the working faces, where methane was more likely to be present and which had a different minimum.

The inquest and inquiry is proceeding.



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## 2 injured workers serious

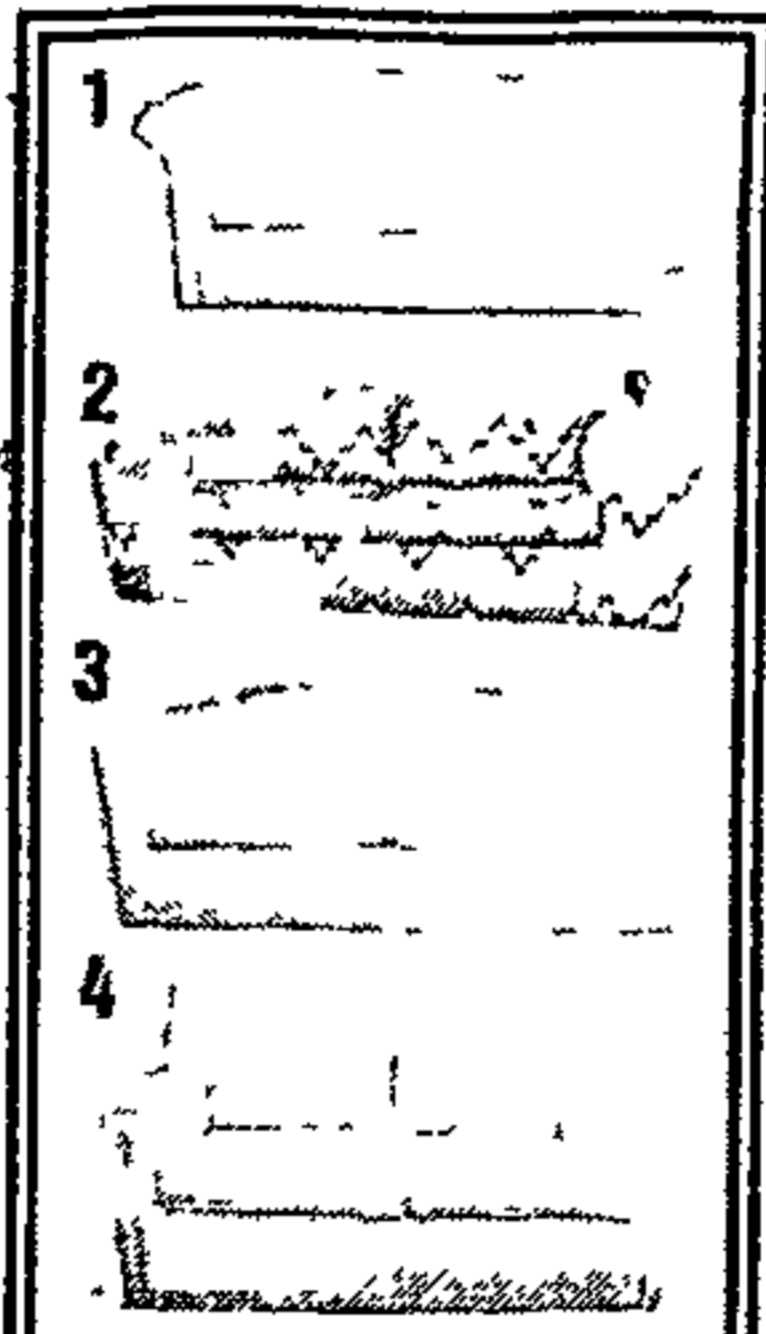
Own Correspondent  
PAARL — Two of five  
workmen injured here  
when a gable of a histor-  
ic Paarl farmhouse fell  
on them on Thursday,  
are in a serious condi-  
tion in the Conradie

Hospital  
The accident hap-  
pened when the men  
were chipping plaster  
from the base of the ga-  
ble of the historic farm  
Vlakkeland, outside  
Paarl

Mr Adonis Mentoor, 59,  
of Suider Paarl, and Mr  
Pieter Hermanus, 39, of  
Paarl East who had  
back injuries

A Paarl Hospital  
spokesman said Mr  
Mentoor and Mr Herma-  
nus were in a satisfac-  
tory condition and Mr  
Fiemies had been dis-  
charged

Yesterday the owner  
of the farm, Mr Micheal  
Copeland, said the  
brickwork on the old ga-  
ble of the 250-year-old  
farmhouse had appar-  
ently been rebuilt twice  
and the men were busy  
restoring the gable's  
"hol bol" stucture for  
the third time when it  
collapsed outwards



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## Ex-sergeant robbed bank

Staff Reporter

A FORMER police sergeant who robbed a Parow  
bank of R9 970 cash at gunpoint on Tuesday, was  
convicted in the Bellville Regional Court yesterday  
on a charge of armed robbery

Arjen Peter Klomp, 33, of no fixed adress, was also  
convicted on two other charges of theft and illegal  
possession of a firearm He pleaded guilty to all the  
charges

On Tuesday Klomp stole a pistol worth R300 from  
Mrs Elena Klomp of Main Road, Belhar, and used it  
to rob the Bank of Lisbon in Voortrekker Road,  
Parow

The case was adjourned to March 20 for sentence  
and Klomp was remanded

Mr Mr W J Faught was the magistrate Mr P V Higgs was  
the prosecutor Klomp was not represented

ING OF 20 TONS OF ROCK  
THROWING PUPILS,  
lobster in the Hoult  
time a police ve

MR CHRIS HEUNIS  
PROFESSOR NIC OLIVIER  
Sapa

# Ingested asbestos fibre poses 'low risk' to health

AK&US  
13/2/84

Staff Reporter (131)

THE health risk from ingesting asbestos, particularly through drinking water, appears to be zero or very low, a British environmental scientist and consultant says

Dr B T Commins, a former member of the British Water Research Council and now an independent consultant on air and water pollution, is on a lecture tour of South Africa at the invitation of the South African Fibre Reinforced Cement Manufacturers Association

He is addressing water engineers, medical officers of health and others on asbestos fibres in drinking water and the use of fibre-reinforced pipes, based on a report which he published last year

He indicated that it was a comprehensive report with worldwide implications

At a Press conference today, Dr Commins said that specifically carcinogenic effects on health of ingested asbestos appeared to be "sensibly zero" or "very low indeed"

He also said it appeared to be "perfectly OK" to use fibre-reinforced cement pipes, and he expected the use of these pipes to increase, especially in Third World countries

He drew a distinction between the ingestion and inhalation of asbestos fibres and referred to a foreword to his report which said his findings on health risks of ingestion were in sharp contrast to

the problems of inhaled asbestos

Dr Commins said his conclusions were based, among others, on scientific experiments on rats which, if extrapolated to the weight of a man, indicated he could ingest up to 15,6 micrograms of asbestos fibres a day without affecting his health. The normal dose a man would ingest a day was about 0,02 micrograms.

# Material at mine 'did not meet SABS specifications'

Argus 13/2/84

(31)  
72  
42

Argus Correspondent

VRYHEID — The brattice used at the Hlobane coal mine to regulate the ventilation flow did not comply with specifications laid down by either the South African Bureau of Standards or the National Coal Board in Britain, the inquest court was told here today

Mr Francois Joubert from the National Institute for Fuel Research in Pretoria was giving evidence before the chief magistrate, Mr N J Reynders, at the inquest and inquiry into the Hlobane coal mine disaster in which 68 miners were

killed on September 12 last year

He told the court that brattice, a polymer fabric, ignited easily and burned easily.

## EXPOSED

Samples of the fabric which had partially vapourised in the explosion on September 12 last year were taken to the SABS and the British board for testing to determine whether it complied with the minimum volatile content specified.

Not only did it not comply, but the tests also showed it had been exposed to temperatures of 800 deg C — the point at which Mr Joubert said

the fabric would begin to smoulder

In evidence submitted last week, the court heard that burning brattice gives off noxious gases

The general secretary of the Mineworkers' Union, Mr Arrie Paulus, has taken a personal interest in the case and arrived in Vryheid today to attend the hearing as an observer for the remainder of the week.

He said the three members of the Mineworkers' Union who were at the mine at the time of the explosion would be represented by Mr A Lynch

(Proceeding)

18/2/80  
131

# Mine deaths: Isco blamed

Own Correspondent

VRYHEID — Iscor, owners of the Hlobane coal mine, should be held criminally responsible for the death of 68 mineworkers in a methane blast on September 12 last year, the magistrate presiding over the joint inquiry and inquest on the disaster has found.

Delivering his findings in the Vryheid Magistrate's Court yesterday, Mr M J Reynders said the explosion was due to the negligence of miner Mr T J Bezuidenhout — also killed in the disaster — who had failed to test for gas properly on the morning of the blast.

Mr Reynders said that from interpreting the Criminal Procedures Act widely, the company should be held liable for Mr Bezuidenhout's negligence and for the disaster.

He said his finding was being forwarded to the Attorney-General of Natal, who would then decide whether or not to prosecute the mine, which was owned by Iscor.

Mr Donald Morris, the Deputy Government Mining Engineer, who assisted Mr Reynders, agreed with the finding.

He said he would also be sending a report to the Attorney-General on contraventions of the Mines and Works Act regulations at the mine which were not directly related to the explosion.

## Explosive

Earlier, Mr Denis Kuny, SC, representing the relatives of five of the dead, submitted a list of 21 regulations which, according to evidence, had been contravened at Hlobane. Some of them had been contravened up to 14 times.

Mr Reynders said the explosion had come about because there was methane gas present in explosive quantities and some source had ignited the gas. In addition coal dust had played a role.

There had been a lot of evidence that an earlier holing operation had created a significant opening which should have been sealed. It was the fault of Mr Petrus Claasens, the shift boss, and Mr Robert Morgan, the miner, that it had not been sealed.

The mine captain, Mr P Swanepoel, was not criminally responsible in this regard.

Mr Reynders found that Mr Claasens and Mr Morgan had been negligent but their negligence was too remote to be a direct cause.



Walmer postman Mr MARIUS GEYSER shows some of the bites he received when attacked by a dog yesterday.

# Dog shot after it savaged <sup>Post</sup> PE postman <sup>1/3/84</sup> (131)

By RAYMOND HILL

A WALMER-BASED postman, Mr Marius Geysler, had his wounds stitched in hospital yesterday after he was savaged by a bull terrier while doing his rounds in Charlton

He was bitten on one side, his front, back, left thigh and hand

The dog was destroyed soon afterwards

Mr Geysler, 22, of Davies Street, Sidwell, said he was delivering letters in Gregory Street when the incident happened

He has been a postman for the past six years and has been based at Walmer for the past few months

He has never before been attacked

Mr Geysler said he went into the unfenced grounds of a house to deliver some mail to the owner, who was sitting in a car nearby

"All was quiet and a gate leading to the garage was closed," he said

"But after handing the mail over to the owner, I

looked around and saw the bull terrier rush at me through the same gate

"I had seen the dog while on my rounds before. But this time it looked wild. I got such a fright that I forgot to use my mailbag to ward off the animal

"Instead, I flung the mailbag on to the ground while the dog attacked me. I was in pain and almost lost consciousness," he said.

According to Mr Geysler, the owner — a woman — came to his aid. But the dog turned on her and bit her on the leg

He managed to run to a neighbouring house where he was helped before being taken to the Provincial Hospital by car

Later, he was told that the dog had been shot dead by the owner

Mr Geysler has been booked off from duty and is not sure whether he will be delivering mail in the same area again.

The owner of the dog was not available for comment

# Boat missing in thick fog

ONE TIMES 12/3/00  
Staff Reporter 131

TWO National Sea Rescue boats were searching a wide, fog-bound area around Dassen Island late last night after a four-crew fishing boat, the L23, had failed to return to Yzerfontein village.

One of the boats interrupted the search to escort a five-crew ski-boat, the Collie, through thick fog to Yzerfontein.

The NSRI boats were alerted late yesterday afternoon by Port Control in Cape Town after the owner of the L23, Mr C de Engelbrecht, of St Helena Bay, had reported his vessel overdue.

A Port Control spokesman said the Howard Davis, a training yacht based at Granger Bay which had been cruising in the Dassen Island area, had joined the search.

● Meanwhile rescuers in Cape Town spent an anxious hour searching for a diver, Mr Godfrey Herringer, who was thought to have gone missing while diving near the wreck of the Antipolis at Oudekraal yesterday.

Camps Bay police were alerted by a fellow diver, Mr Richard Ridge of Rondebosch, and an NSRI boat was launched from Bakoven at 4 40pm.

Mr Herringer, of Walmer Estate, surfaced near the rescue launch and told the crew he had become disorientated in the fog and had lost his way.

● Humid conditions prevailed over the Peninsula during the weekend, reaching 100 percent yesterday. The highest temperature recorded in Cape Town was 27C.

Widespread rain has fallen over large parts of the southern and south-western Cape and up to 90mm has fallen at Clanwilliam, Worcester and Laingsburg.

● Forecast, page 15

(130) Stan  
9/3/84

# Striking Indian dockers may seek foreign assistance

NEW DELHI — The leaders of the 300 000 striking dock workers, who have paralysed Indian ports, said yesterday they may seek foreign help if the armed forces were used to bring essential supplies ashore

About 140 ships were stranded at India's 10 major ports as the strike began to bite into dwindling stocks of petroleum products, industrial raw materials and grain.

A government spokesman said the navy may be used to help unload essential supplies if the strike continues to deplete stocks.

A senior police officer and two other people were killed yesterday during riots in the port area of Calcutta, the Press Trust of India said

It said the three people were killed when unidentified rioters went on the rampage in the city which has dock repair facilities — Sapa-Reuter

Martin

# 9 SATS men hurt in Natal derailment

DURBAN — Nine people were injured when three coaches of the main line passenger train from Durban to Cape Town were derailed outside Durban on Monday night

According to Mr Johan Uys, assistant manager of South African Transport Services, Natal, the derailment occurred at 8pm between Shallcross and Cavendish stations

The three coaches, which were not attached to the main train at the time, were derailed in a shunting movement, apparently because of a technical fault

The nine injured, all staff members of the SATS, were taken to Addington Hospital, where eight were treated for shock and discharged. One man was admitted to the hospital with injuries to his kidneys. His name has not yet been released

The derailment delayed thousands of workers yesterday morning. Buses provided a shuttle service between Shallcross station and Durban

The Trans-Natal Express train — due in Durban at 8.15am, was also delayed by an hour — Sapa



# Diabetics harmed by firms' ignorance

131

S. Post 29/3/82

Post Reporter

EMPLOYERS were sceptical about employing diabetics mainly because of overcautiousness or ignorance of the disease.

This is the opinion expressed in an article in *Salus*, the official newsletter of the Department of Health and Welfare, quoting from the *British Medical Journal*.

Despite the media giving prominence to the sporting achievements of diabetics, there was still confusion among both doctors and employers about the suitability of diabetics for certain types of work.

This confusion could be attributed to

- A lack of understanding of the different treatments for those dependent on insulin and those not dependent on insulin

- Misconceptions about the nature and appearance of complications arising from diabetes

- Possible unfitness for a job situation resulting from complications

Diabetics whose condition was regulated simply by following a specific diet should be allowed to practise any occupation

Those whose condition was regulated by

diet and also oral medication should also be allowed to practise any profession, unless there were signs of complications or hypoglycemia

Even diabetics dependent on insulin were suited to any type of work, but should be restricted from doing any work where the results of hypoglycemia could endanger lives

They should not be allowed to work on scaffolding or at moving machinery. Nor should they be allowed to drive public transport or heavy vehicles.

Certain employers refused to employ diabetics because they were under the impression that diabetics necessarily caused problems.

This "unreasonable attitude" caused fear, insecurity and a feeling of inferiority among diabetics and, in particular, among those for whom the sickness was still strange.

The doctor should tell the patient whether he was capable of handling the situation, said the article.

This encouragement moved the diabetic to new levels of self-motivation.

# A balanced approach to asbestos

SAY asbestos and people think of cancer. Say cancer and people fear.

It's not a pleasant emotion, but fear can be positive. It makes people cautious. However, unreasonable caution can also be a negative — a disadvantage. It must be kept in balance.

That's the key to the so-called 'asbestos threat' — a cautious but balanced approach.

● Asbestos is a natural and prolific fibrous mineral. It's in the air we breathe. All of us have many thousands of fibres in our lungs. It is clear, however, that consistently high levels of exposure to asbestos fibres over a period of time — highly unlikely for the man-in-the-street — can be dangerous, leading to disease of the lung or cancer.

● Fibre-cement products like roofing sheets, ceilings, rain water gutters, facias, (which are used widely in the building industry) and pot plant containers contain approximately 10% of asbestos fibres. However, the fibres are 'locked' into a cement matrix and don't escape in any significant quantity under normal usage.

If these items are cut with a high-speed disc saw, fine respirable dust will be created. This can potentially 'overload' the lungs with as-

*Is asbestos dangerous? Not if handled correctly, argues BRIAN GIBSON, consultant on health matters for Everite, manufacturers of fibre-cement building products*

(21) asbestos fibres if somebody had to cut fibre-cement often enough and without wearing protective equipment.

The products can, however, be safely cut with a hand tool or even a slow-revolving power tool when coarse, non-respirable dust is created. The fibre-cement industry has special tools available for frequent users.

The tragedy of the asbestos and health issue is that in years past the industry did not know of — or did not take seriously enough, according to some — the threat to employees.

Controls were implemented in the late Sixties and Seventies. Because asbestos-related diseases have a latency period of 15 to 45 years, we can expect occupationally-exposed employees to be diagnosed after the turn of the century.

However, Everite believes occupational exposure to respirable asbestos fibres in its factories is now so low, there will not in future be an undue incidence of asbestos-relat-

ed diseases among employees.

In order to achieve this, manufacturing processes are strictly controlled.

Everite has introduced a disability pension plan for employees who have contracted an asbestos-related

disease. In Everite's case 73 employees have been certified as having an asbestos-related disease.

While Everite acknowledges and shares the concern of all parties in the debate on asbestos and health, we are satisfied that neither

employees nor customers who come into contact with fibre-cement products are exposed to undue risk of contacting an asbestos-related disease.

As far as the man-in-the-street is concerned, our advice is to carefully observe manufacturers' safety and handling instructions. However, it should be recognised that fibre-cement products, once safely installed, represent an insignificant health risk.

S. Exwells 1/4/84

# Man, 55, killed by earthmover

CAPL Times 12/24/84 (B1)

Staff Reporter

A 55-YEAR-OLD dam construction company employee died yesterday when he lost control of the earthmover he was driving and the machine plunged down the bank of a dam on a Piketberg farm

Mr Jan Hartneck, of Herbst Brothers Dam and Earth Moving Company, was rushed to the Swartland Hospital in Malmesbury with multiple injuries but died on the way

A police spokesman said the company had been contracted to build a dam on the farm Steenbrug about 10km outside Piketberg. Mr Hartneck had been employed with the firm for 25 years

The spokesman said Mr Hartneck had been using an earthmover on one of the banks of the unfinished dam when he lost control of the machine

● Three Bredasdorp men were seriously injured in a head on collision between two cars on a gravel road near Elim on Tuesday

Mr S J Geldenhuis, 66, of Fletcher Street, Bredasdorp, sustained arm and leg injuries. Mr Myburgh Briers, 20, of Elandsdrift, sustained a leg injury and his brother, Mr Melchior Briers, 16, sustained internal injuries

The men were taken to Tygerberg Hospital in a "serious" condition

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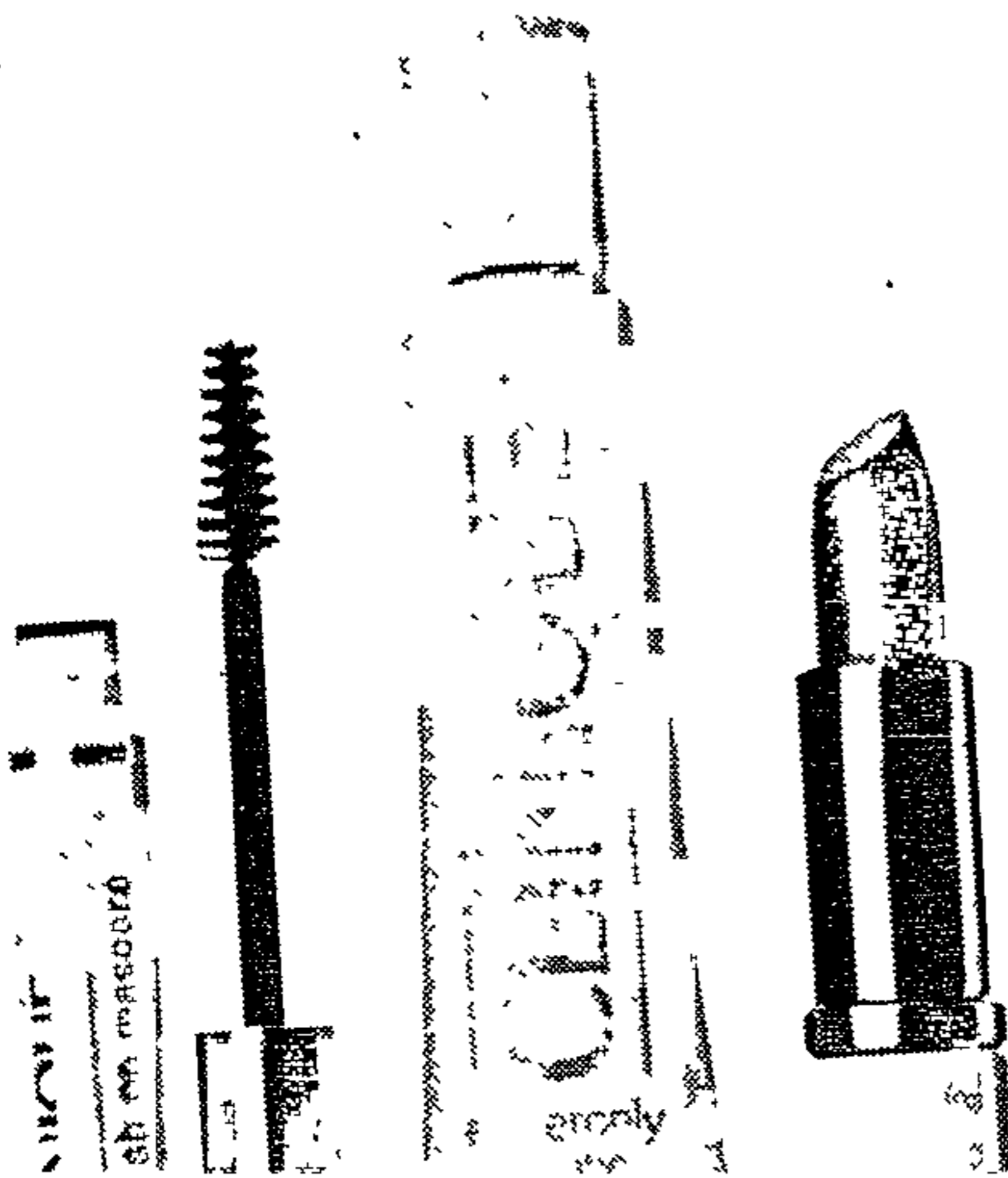
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petrol was announced by the

# Labourer breaks his back in 5-floor fall

By DANIELA WYSZKOWSKI

A LABOURER working on a construction site in Randburg was seriously injured when he fell five storeys on to a pile of bricks and scaffolding yesterday morning.

Mr Mondli Johannes Mazibuko, in his late 30s, was pushing a wheelbarrow filled with bricks when the accident happened. Randburg ambulance officials said Mr Ma-

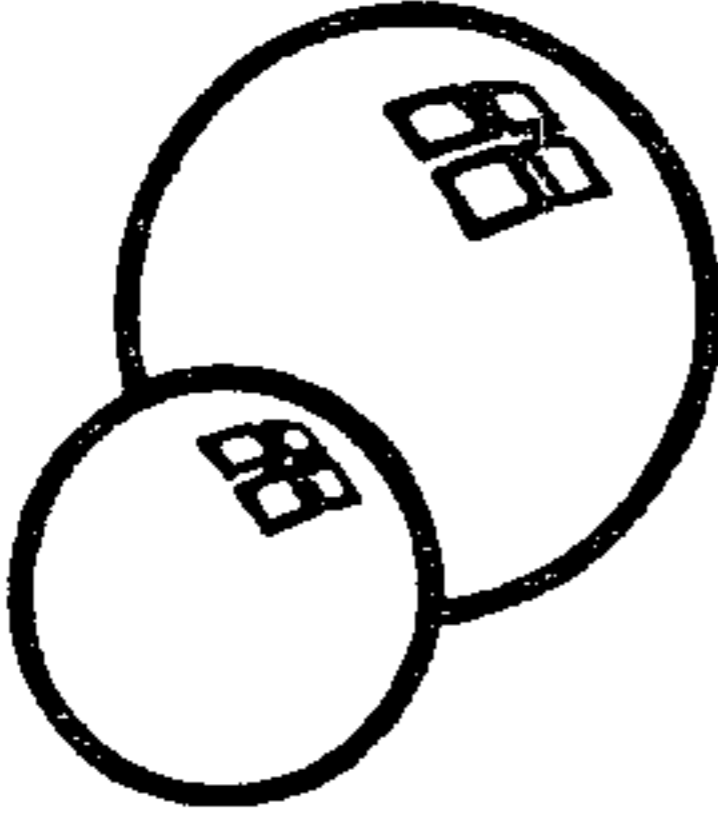
zibuko's spine was broken in the fall. He also broke both his legs and an arm and suffered internal injuries.

It is believed the wheelbarrow Mr Mazibuko was pushing struck a pillar causing him to lose his balance.

Mr Mazibuko's condition is unknown at this stage as he was still in the operating theatre when the hospital was contacted late yesterday.

*Exposure 131*

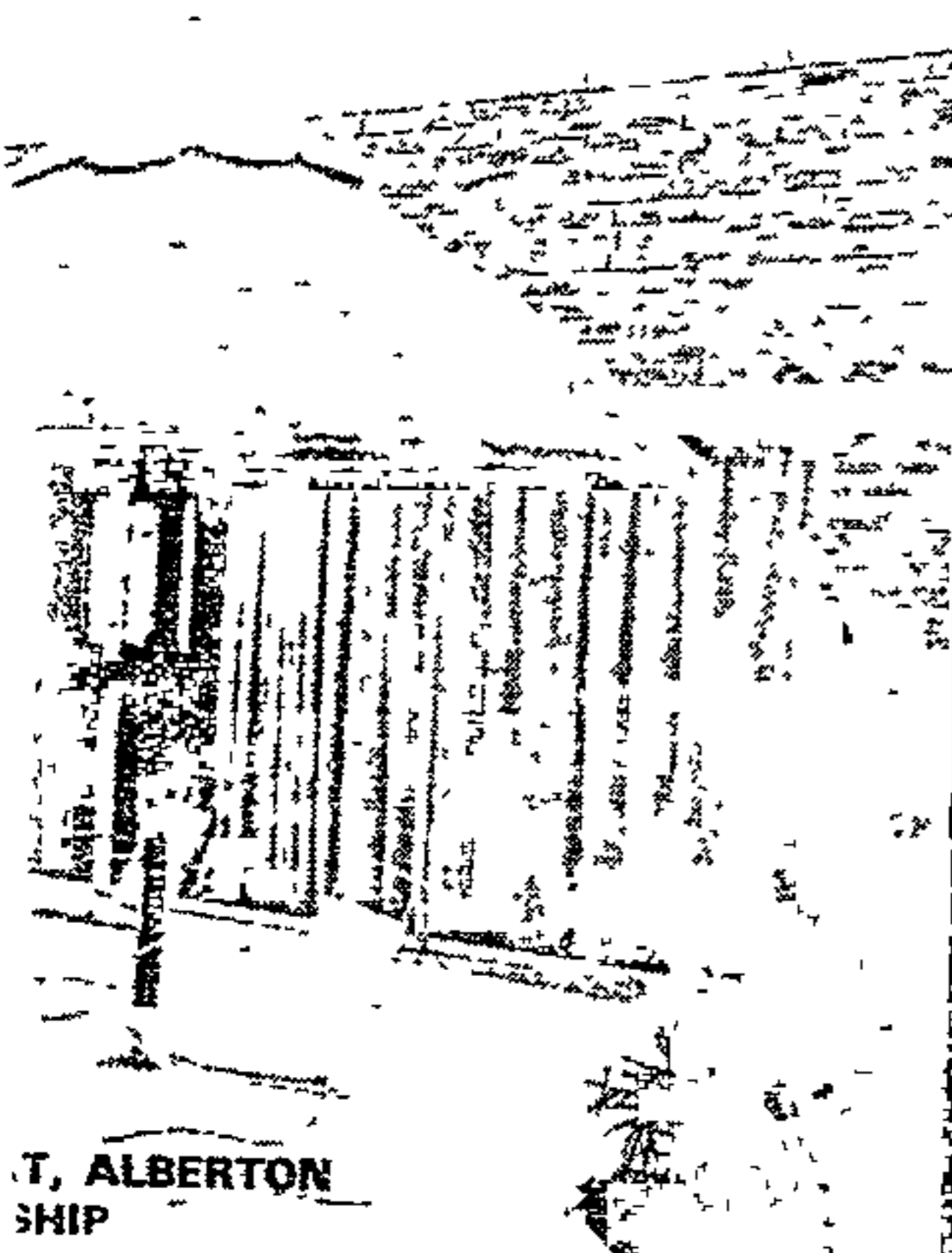
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MEMBER OF THE MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Every day, millions of South African workers are exposed to the hazards of heat, dust, light, toxic substances, complex machinery, noxious gases and intricate working procedures  
In 1982, an estimated six people a day were permanently disabled as a result of industrial accidents, with an average of three a day being permanently blinded.

The National Occupational Safety Association estimates that more than 355 000 injury-causing industrial accidents take place each year, while the Workers Compensation Commissioner pays out an average of R47 million annually in compensation, rehabilitation and medical expenses

There are no definitive figures for the thousands who are injured or who contract slow crippling occupational diseases such as pneumoconiosis or asbestosis — which can take 20 years or longer to develop and eventually maim or kill

In a country where vast numbers of workers are black migrant labourers, much "evidence" simply disappears back into the rural areas

EMPLOYER NEGLIGENCE

Aggravating the problem was 50 years of employer ignorance and neglect, a flimsy spider web of laws which barely afforded protection to workers in the most hazardous of industrial occupations and the failure of many established unions to lobby for the health and safety rights of workers

In the face of mounting pressure, the Government turned a critical eye on occupational health and safety with the establishment of the Erasmus Commission in 1976

The report, the most comprehensive ever to be compiled, noted that

● It was "almost impossible" to determine the prevalence or incidence of occupational disease Statistics were scanty and unreliable

● The majority of lead industries would be faced with closure if overseas standards were applied in the Re-

# New health and safety law leaves workers out in the cold

131

few led by

public.  
● At least 230 000 workers in South African industries were threatened by industrial deafness.

● Workers were, on the whole, ignorant of the dangers of hazardous substances

● Industrialists were largely indifferent to health and safety protection measures. This was to be seen in the failure to use protective equipment, the lack of health staff, absence of warning signs and preventive measures, lack of knowledge of products handled and scant guidance given to workers

The most crucial of the Commission's recommendations to Government was that health and safety be covered by a single piece of umbrella legislation

This has still not become a reality  
After six years of internal power-politicking between the Departments of Manpower and Health and Welfare, the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act was drafted and passed last year. The regulations are due to come into effect this month

But despite the fact that the legislation will govern, for the first time ever, the safety of all workers, it has elicited severe criticism from labour lawyers and unions

"The law is an advance on its predecessor, but its failure to provide mechanisms for proper consultation and communication with employees is a key flaw," said Miss Adrienne Scott, a law lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, who is currently

After decades of neglect, occupational health and safety now threaten to become the focus for industrial conflict in South Africa. At stake are the interests of 10.5 million workers. In the first of a four-part series, Labour Reporter CAROLYN DEMPSTER examines the deficiencies, attitudes and legislation which will determine the future of worker health and safety.

completing her masters degree on health and safety legislation

"In England and America for instance, employees elect their own safety representatives. In South Africa, management has been given this responsibility. This negates the principle that employees should participate fully in the attainment of safe working conditions

Miss Scott said that for this reason, she did not believe the Act would be effective "It fails to do what it was intended to do — the interests of workers are not protected"

POLITICAL MOVE

What is less well known is that the decision to leave the appointment of safety representatives in the hands of management was a political move

In both draft Bills on occupational safety, provision was made by the Department of Manpower for the election of safety representatives by employees Parliament saw fit to give management the responsibility in the final Act

Miss Scott also asks who is to police the system  
"The success of the new legislation relies on enforcement," she commented "At the last count, there was a dire shortage of factory inspectors. And they spend most of their time passing factory plans"

The likelihood that the differing views of management and worker bodies over safety representatives will result in confrontation is underlined by the stance adopted by the Metal and Allied Workers' Union, one of the larger affiliates of the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu)

At a meeting of the MAWU council early this year, it was decided that safety representatives should be union shop stewards or representatives elected by the union membership "We will not accept a one-sided designation of safety reps by management," a spokesman for the union emphasized

Other Fosatu affiliates are also likely to adopt this position — if they have not already done so

The Council of Unions of South Africa and several of the "community-based" unions have wasted no time in introducing safety issues into negotiations for recognition or procedural agreements  
During 1983, several disputes centred on safety

## Fine for firm with machine that killed man

Mr K, a foundry worker in an East Rand plant, was responsible for the operation of an automatic moulding machine

The machine was fitted with a protective gate by the manufacturer when the gate was open so that the mould could be cleaned, operation of the machine was stopped automatically to prevent accidents

The company employing Mr K decided to re-move the gate, allegedly to speed up productivity by 25 percent last year  
Mr K, reaching in to clean the machine, was piston-moulded to death

The company was fined for a breach of the Factories Act.

issues Marwu declared a dispute with CYC Engineering because the company allegedly refused to supply free protective boots and overalls to workers  
Workers at a Pretoria company who were required to wear protective clothing were forced to bear laundry costs — an issue seized on by the National General Workers' Union

Workers themselves are becoming more health and safety conscious  
At a five-day course given by the International Metalworkers Federation, delegates were warned that in the absence of strong and active trade union organisation at the workplace, the hazards would continue

Mr Mamie Mulder, Director of Occupational Safety in the Department of Manpower, agrees that "things are still not right and we have a long way to go in this country." But he believes the changes which have been made are a good start, adding that "a lot of employers are far more responsible than one thinks"

One of the department's responsibilities is to provide trained inspectors to "police" the new system  
Based on a quota of two inspectors per 400 factories, the department is currently short of 98 inspectors, with a 50 percent vacancy rate

"We have the same staff shortage problems as the rest of the civil service," explains Mr Mulder "It is such a multi-disciplinary field, we are not nearly successful enough in recruitment drives"

For the post of factory inspector (there are also machinery inspectors), the department requires a person with a three-year post matric diploma in occupational hygiene or a related field

The diploma is not offered in South Africa, and a course in Public Health and Chemical Technology, devised in conjunction with the CSIR, will only be offered by Technikon from 1985

Responding to criticism that factory inspectors spend most of their time passing factory plans, Mr Mulder said this would no longer be the case in terms of the new legislation

The passing of plans would henceforth be left to local authorities, which would also cut out unnecessary duplication  
"The question has also been posed as to it in the national interest to supply a man with a job, or is it more important to have a few people working in clinically safe conditions"

"That will determine the future course we will take," states Mr Mulder  
It has long been recognised by union organisers that the majority of unskilled workers are caught in a vicious circle

"The majority of workers are much more interested in staying alive — by that I mean earning sufficient to feed themselves and their families," said a Fosatu organiser

"Because of their economic situation they often opt to work long hours in terrible conditions to earn a pittance Health and safety, be-

But some observers hold that loss control management, as it is practised by a number of major South African companies, prescribes to workers what is good for them without their participation or understanding, adapts people to the environment and not vice versa and is tied to profits

Says Mr Matthysen "The people in top management are the most important in the whole process, because if you have failed to influence them and do not have their co-operation, you won't get anywhere with safety

Nosa's primary concern has been with educating management in curbing the accident rate. It sells on an increased productivity ticket.

Research conducted by Nosa shows that 55 percent of all accidents take place within a worker's first two years on the job.

In the view of Mr Bunny Matthysen, general manager of the National Occupational Safety Association, "lack of skill and lack of knowledge are among the key things causing accidents"

A standard question posed by students was "What do you do if one of the workers were found to have a much greater impact

Posters designed by the students with the aid of management to line them up on the approach by line during 1983 concentrated paid little or no attention to them

psychology students at an engineering company found to be virtually useless because of their complexity, and workers during 1983 concentrated on the approach by line

LACK OF SKILL  
Safety Association were found to be virtually useless because of their complexity, and workers during 1983 concentrated on the approach by line

KDMA  
23/4/84

# Industry loses

(131)

# R250m to alcohol

The cost of alcoholism to this country in lost production is now estimated to be more than R250-million a year, and that excludes the cost of alcoholism-related road accidents

This information was given by the Chamber of Mines social service manager, Mr Japie Starker, in a recent Springbok Radio programme "Top Level"

He said it was difficult to give accurate figures of the cost of alcoholism to South African commerce and industry, but it was at least R250-million a year

He said statistics were not available, but this minimum figure had been arrived at by estimating the cost of both alcoholism and hidden alcoholism which took a variety of forms.

These included absenteeism, accidents on the job and unwarranted sick leave

In addition, there were hidden costs which could not be determined because alcoholism was responsible for a variety of effects — changes in personality, people becoming irritable and causing on-the-job frictions, grievances and grievance procedures that would not otherwise arise.

Thus, in addition to the estimated costs of R250-million a year, there remained hidden costs that were impossible to estimate.

World-wide research, Mr Starker said, had also shown a correlation in accidents both on and off the job with alcohol

These accidents in themselves led to a loss of manpower which South Africa could ill-afford, Mr Starker said. — Sapa.

RAM 30/4/84

(13)

## Electrician dies of burns

LADYSMITH — Mr Johan Verster, 43, a senior electrician, died in the intensive care unit of St Augustine's Hospital in Durban at the weekend after sustaining 80% burns in a fire at the Escom sub-station at Vryheid.

The fire, in which two other men were also injured, occurred on Good Friday.

Mr Brian Hazel, a municipal electrician, sustained 45% burns and is still in St Augustine's Hospital and Mr Errol Pike, Vryheid's electrical engineer, was discharged on Tuesday from the local hospital.

Mr Verster leaves a wife and three children — Sapa

# Asbestos: No safe level

Staff Reporter

NO SAFE level of exposure to asbestos fibres had been discovered, Professor Hans Weill of the School of Medicine at Tulane University in the United States said yesterday.

He delivered a paper on "Natural and Man-Made Mineral Fibres" at the International Symposium on Environmental Pollution and Man at a Sea Point hotel

Because scientists had been unable to show that any level of exposure was safe, "it is assumed there is no threshold", he said.

However, certain risks were regarded as reasonable or acceptable.

Over the years, public authorities all over the world had been tightening control over the asbestos industry by introducing more stringent measures

In South Africa, the acceptable level had also declined, but at 2,0 fibres a millilitre it was far higher than the acceptable US level



CAPE TIMES 3/5/84  
131  
**Mine death toll grows**

**JOHANNESBURG.** — Accidental deaths in South Africa's coal and gold mines totalled 831 last year, 230 more than in 1982, the Chamber of Mines said this week.

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs said it could not explain the increase because operations at some mines were reduced.

The Hlobane colliery disaster last September in which 68 miners died and the methane gas explosion at Beisa Uranium mine in April, which killed 16, swelled the death totals.

The Chamber of Mines said the death rate for collieries jumped from 0,99 per thousand mineworkers a year in 1982 to 1,49 in 1983. — UPI



# Seminar on wage negotiation

Labour Reporter

PREPARING businessmen for wage negotiations with trade unions is the theme of a seminar to be held in Cape Town next week.

The seminar, which will be addressed by Professor Blackie Swart of the University of Stellenbosch's graduate school of business, and industrial relations consultants Mr Steuart Pennington and Mr J Myburgh, hopes to attract chief executives, senior managers and industrial relations managers

A spokesman for the industrial relations consultancy Steuart Pennington and Associates, which is hosting the seminar, said that wage practices in companies were "increasingly being challenged by the trade union movement".

"Management should be aware of the likely union stance on these issues and be in a position to reduce expectations, while at the same time ensuring the continuity of acceptable wage practices which are geared towards rewarding for skill and job worth."

A subsequent seminar, hosted by the same consultancy, will focus on new industrial safety and health legislation.

Trade unionists have attacked the new legislation for not allowing enough worker control of safety practices

Speakers will include Mr J Baard, industrial relations adviser to the Cape Chamber of Industries, and Dr Jonny Myers, an industrial health expert from the University of Cape Town.

The two seminars will be held on May 15 and 16 at the Arthur's Seat Hotel, Sea Point

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# Law will aid domestics

By SAM MABE

DOMESTIC workers have hailed the new legislation — soon to become effective — which gives them the right to sue their employers if they get injured while on duty.

The legislation, the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (No 6 of 1983), makes it the responsibility of employers to provide safety clothing or other equipment that will protect an employee against injury while on duty.

The employer will also be expected to give full explanation of dangers involved in any task an employee is to perform.

Describing the legislation as a "little silver lining" on laws related to domestic workers, Mrs Leah Tutu, director of the Domestic Workers and Employment Projects (Dwep), said there were areas she thought needed to be covered by law on conditions under which domestic workers worked.

"I call this a little silver lining because domestic workers have had no recourse to the law in cases where they got injured due to their employers' negligence.

"But I need to know how far does this law cover domestic workers who are eaten up by their employers' dogs. This is one area that needs looking into because it is the duty of the employer to ensure that their dog does not attack a domestic worker, who is a member of the household," she said.

She also said that her concern was over domestic workers who have been attacked by robbers who strike during the day when the owners of the house were away.

"I don't suppose that this would be covered by the Act. Domestics will need some form of compensation for their sufferings in cases of such incidents taking place," she added.

A gardener, who would not be named, said he was happy to know that he could sue his employer if he injured his toes with a lawnmower or any other garden tool for which he has not been provided with proper boots.



JAYCEE Johannesburg launched a BMX track in Soweto at the ... have Soweto BMX fanatics form their own club which would then ... by the Jaycee's and Soweto Self Help Paraplegic Association on the ... Jaycees and Friday Mavuso of the association. They ...

# Cop denie-

# on-

AN EAST RAND Murder and Robbery Squad detective yesterday denied in the Benoni Regional Court that he had assaulted a man while interrogating him in connection with a robbery.

Warrant Officer Ernest Michael Holmes, who is attached to the Brakpan Murder and Robbery Squad, said this under cross-examination at the trial of Katlehong town councillor Mr Aaron Jimmy Hlahane (47) and two other men, Mr Meshack Mosewe (38) and Mr Seret Mofokeng (38), all from Katlehong township near Germiston.

They have all pleaded not guilty to an armed robbery charge. They appeared before Mr L C Coetzee.

The State alleges that on December 19, 1982, in Katlehong, the three held up Mr Simon Tsoetsi, a driver for Ever-

By MZ

last Manufacturers robbed him of his company's kitchen ... to the value of R41

## Recovered

Warrant Officer Holmes told the ... that after arresting three men, they ... ingly took him to a ... ber of houses in ... hong and Tho ... townships where ... covered some of the ... len goods.

## Monday to Friday

# SOWETAN

THURSDAY APRIL 26 1984

**ANC urged to support investment**

**Slabbert on Prime Minister's vote**

# BOTHAS

**KHARRAI MOTORS**  
SPECIAL OFFER

# Sats deni-

THE SOUTH African Transport Services (Sats) terday came out strongly against reports that

RAM 16/5/84 (131)

# SA sets safety example

## Financial Reporter

INDUSTRIAL safety programmes are among the best in the world, says the Director-General of Manpower, Dr Piet van der Merwe.

He told the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa) conference at Sun City yesterday that other major countries were keen to learn about them.

"Nosa has been invited to Australia to introduce its programme there. It has also helped the Canadians and the Americans to get a similar programme off the ground. Exporting these home-grown techniques is a remarkable achievement."

"How successful we have been is proved by the fact that, in 1950, 4% of the workforce suffered a disabling injury compared with 1,8% in 1983. This figure compares favourably with the American figure which stands at 2,1%."

Part of the improved safety record had been achieved by mechanisation, allowing machines to take over potentially hazardous manual jobs.

"The economic pressures for greater productivity have, therefore, also been conducive to our achievements in the field of occupational safety."

Although occupational health had not always kept pace with occupational safety, the Department of Health had published pro-

posed legislation covering all aspects of occupational medicine. This legislation would be complementary to the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act and should lead to comprehensive statutory protection of workers.

Dr Van der Merwe said management motivation was vital in ensuring worker safety. Equally, management considered worker participation an essential prerequisite.

"I believe that, with the new approach in our legislation of promoting worker participation in the form of safety representatives, this rapport between management and workers will become even better and contribute to better labour relations."

# Bosses place firms at risk

## Financial Reporter

TOO many managers are placing their companies at risk in the industrial relations field because they are unaware of the importance of effective safety measures, Mr Don Carroll, the president of Nosa, told Noshcon '84.

Safety was becoming more and more of an issue in union/company negotiations and managements that ignored the need to implement proper loss-control techniques would encounter increasing worker resistance.

"The first thing that has to be done is to create an awareness in the minds of management that work can be done without injury or illness."

But without extremely effective participation, with management listening, and joint problem-solving between employees and management, effective safety was impossible, said Mr Carroll.

"This is the major area of overlap between an effective safety code and good industrial relations. Similar communication is essential in broader areas if good overall industrial relations are to be achieved."

Mr Carroll said that regional and national safety competitions and training were two important elements in developing a safety-consciousness among management. They were already helping to develop a safety awareness.

"Last year more than 4 000 firms were involved in these competitions which involve the five-star grading system and they are all extremely proud of the results achieved."

"We also have an ongoing reduction in the cost of insurance in the same period where there has been a massive increase in training. The average insurance cost has been reduced from 115c to 81c an employee during the last 10 years."

1958/4  
131  
**Officer  
blamed  
for sea  
tragedy**

By NOEL BRUYNS

THE chief engineer of the I & J trawler, St Gerard, which sank last year claiming four lives, was yesterday found responsible for the loss of the vessel by a marine court of inquiry held in Customs House.

Mr Roy Langwood's certificate as chief engineer was suspended for 12 months.

The skipper, Captain Peter Cottee, was found to be in default and remanded. The owners, Irvin & Johnson Ltd, were also found to be in default.

The Cape Town-registered St Gerard sank off Dassen Island on November 25 in heavy seas when water entered through the fish hatch on the ship's ramp.

In his judgment, Mr C F W van Zyl, the Chief Magistrate in Cape Town, said Mr Langwood had failed to check the emergency hand air compressor before the ship left Cape Town harbour. It was found to be inoperative when it was needed after the main engine stopped at sea and the auxiliary engine could not be started owing to lack of pressure in the air bottles.

**'At all costs'**

Mr Langwood had drunk eight beers within three hours before duty while he was on

Irvin & Johnson Ltd were also found responsible for the loss of the St Gerard. Captain Cottee had been instructed by the owner's Fishing Master, Captain Yaghya, not to cut the trawl warps but "save the fishing but 'save the costs' gear at all

In sentencing Mr Langwood, Mr Van Zyl said the order to "suspend his certificate should be seen as a condemnation, personal deterrent, and a general deterrent to others."

Mr Van Zyl was assisted by Captain H G Hoy and Captain H S Toxopeus. Mr P L Erasmus appeared on behalf of the Director General of Transport. Mr Langwood was represented by Mr A Abercombe, and Captain Cottee by Mr T Walters. Mr R Field appeared for Irvin & Johnson Ltd.

# Lost trawler: Court suspends ticket of <sup>AR643</sup> chief engineer <sup>21/5/84</sup>

## Shipping Reporter

THE loss of the trawler St Gerard was partly by default of the skipper and the owners and by default and wrongful action of the chief engineer, a marine court of inquiry has found

Captain Peter Cottee was reprimanded by the court, Irving & Johnson Ltd were advised to "reconsider company policy" and the chief engineer, Mr Roy Langwood, had his chief's ticket suspended for 12 months

First mate Mr Daniel Wolhuter was absolved from blame because he acted under Captain Cottee.

## CAPSIZED

The 40-metre trawler capsized and sank about 29 miles off Dassen Island on November 26 after losing power and being "anchored" with her stern to weather by the trawl gear.

Weather and sea conditions deteriorated over 21 hours while the crew tried to restart the engines. During this time the swells washed up the trawler's ramp, flowed into the stockerpond and into the factory deck which became flooded

The trawler listed to starboard, capsized and sank with the loss of four lives

The presiding officer, Chief Magistrate C F W van Zyl, said the court found Mr Langwood guilty by default through not checking the emergency equipment before sailing, and he had committed a wrongful act by consuming alcohol while on duty

## FISH HATCH

The skipper was in default because he allowed the fish hatch to be hammered down with a hammer without first finding out from the chief whether there was another way of closing it.

He also failed to take

sufficient preventive action to stop the inflow of water and allowed advice and instructions to influence his decision to cut the trawl

The company was in default by not giving the skipper its approval to cut the trawl on the three times he had sought it

Assisting Mr van Zyl were Mr Henry Hoy and Mr M Toxopeus Mr Roger Field appeared for I&J, Mr Tom Walters for Captain Cottee, Mr A Abercrombie for Mr Langwood and Mr Peter Whelen for Mr Wolhuter Mr P L Erasmus appeared for the Department of Transport

## Maitland landlord fined R300

## Court Reporter

A MAITLAND landlord who harassed his tenants has been fined R300 by a Cape Town magistrate for contravening the Rent Control Act

The magistrate suspended R200 of the fine for five years

Lucas Steenkamp, 62, of Steenkamp Properties, Hely Street, Maitland, had pleaded not guilty.

Evidence was that between 1981 and November 1982 Steenkamp harassed his tenants by sending his workmen to remove the roof and a bedroom window from a house at 194 Coronation Road, Maitland, rented by Mr L W Napier and his wife

## INSTALMENTS

Steenkamp's defence was that during the period Mr Napier had been paying instalments for the house and not rent.

He acknowledged a previous conviction of charging more rent than stipulated by the Rent Board

Mr B Carroll was on the Bench Mr J G van Zyl appeared for the State Steenkamp was not represented

# Occupational safety myths and the facts

131  
S few  
22/5/84

I refer to your recent series of articles on occupational safety and health in South Africa.

Your Labour reporter is to be congratulated on covering a difficult subject, about which, unfortunately, little is generally understood.

As a result of this general lack of knowledge a number of myths are beginning to develop. It would be as well to dispose of these at an early stage.

## 1 Occupational safety:

### (A) Industrial accident statistics:

Your reporter notes "more than 355 000 injury-causing industrial accidents take place each year" This is incorrect. This figure is taken from the Workman's Compensation Commissioner's report and represents all occupational injuries in South Africa.

The figures are not at all confined to industrial accidents. Not only are all industries included, but also all types of accidents, including those caused by vehicles.

Accidents involving vehicles account for 42 percent of all occupational fatalities.

The courts have even ruled that persons who are assaulted (mugged) during employment, have suffered an accident, indicating the diversity included in so-called occupational accidents.

Not only are all types of accidents included, but also minor accidents

### (B) Historical trends:

Your reporter has neglected to point out the historical trends in accident statistics. She has not pointed out, for example, that the accident frequency has been reduced by half since the 1950s.

In other words, if the safety performance was the same today as in the 1950s, then it could be expected that 710 000 persons would be injured every year, instead of the 355 000 recorded.

The 355 000 who were not injured bear testimony of the concern there exists for safety

A safety officer's daughter once described her father's occupation as being that of saving lives. These statistics indicate the simple truth of her statement.

### (C) International comparisons:

Your reporter also failed to note that South Africa's safety record compares favourably with other more developed countries

#### Country, percent of labour force injured:

S Africa.....	1,86
USA.....	2,7
Canada.....	6
Australia.....	10
Brazil.....	+ 30

The Workman's Compensation Commissioner recently reported the accident frequency of 9,6, the lowest yet, is a world record. Let us not read again that South Africa has neglected occupational safety, it certainly has not

### 2. The Erasmus Report:

Your reporter states that the Erasmus Commission investigated safety and occupational health in South Africa. This is incorrect.

This report dealt with occupational health and not safety.

In Chapter II of the report it is clearly stated that the commission excluded occupational safety from the inquiry as a specific subject for investigation

The Erasmus Commission's report cannot be used to support statements on occupational safety.

Your reporter states that the report noted that "industrialists were — indifferent to safety measures," I cannot find this in the report at all

### 3 Safety representatives

Your reporter states that the decision to leave the appointment of safety representatives in the hands of management was a political move. This is incorrect

The Erasmus Commission was strongly opposed to union appointment of safety representatives (paragraphs 11.504 et seq) and concluded that how these committees are constituted may, for the time being, be left to the discretion of management.

The Wiehahn Commission (part 4) was silent on this point.

Contrary to your reporter, the two draft bills only made provision for possible regulations on this point. There is no indication that the Minister would ever make these regulations. The provision was for the appointment or election of representatives. Union appointment was not considered.

During the parliamentary debate on MOSA, the opposition conceded that legislation on the election of representatives by employees was not practical.

I can find no authority for your reporter's contention that this is a political move. It is important to be objective when dealing with this sensitive issue.

Robert W Vivian

Johannesburg.

### ● Labour Reporter Carolyn Dempster replies

"A My figures were drawn from the National Occupational Safety Association's report Nosadata 4 13.02 I quote 'According to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner's figures we experience over 355 000 injury-causing industrial accidents a year. This excludes those injuries requiring first-aid treatment only

"These accidents, which exclude home and road accidents involving private vehicles, result in some 32 000 people being permanently maimed each year"

"B The article did not set out to trace historical trends as there are any number of variables — mechanisation, modern technology, which have a bearing on South Africa's safety record, in addition to the efforts of NOSA and individual employers.

"C The basis upon which South Africa's safety statistics are compiled is such that it is open to question whether our figures can be compared to those of other countries. Hence the article avoided drawing comparisons

"2. Although the ambit of the Erasmus Commission was essentially confined to an investigation of occupational health, the subsequent safety and health legislation — Machinery and Occupational Safety Act and Occupational Medicine Bill was based primarily on the commission's findings

"3. The source for this information was a top-ranking government employee who was involved in preparing and drafting the legislation" — Editor



# Scaffolding in Rissik Street falls: 7 injured

131  
By Caroline Hurry and  
Gavin Engelbrecht.

Sfaw 22/5/84

At least seven people were injured and four cars damaged when scaffolding on an office block under construction on the corner of Albert and Rissik streets, Johannesburg, collapsed at 10 45 am today.

The scaffolding on the first floor of the building collapsed under the weight of wet concrete while workers were trying to extend the floor of the building belonging to Commercial Union Assurance Company of South Africa.

"I thought we had been hit by an earthquake," said Mr Joe le Roux who witnessed the accident from his office across the road.

Mr Andre Smit said he saw the construction workers throwing concrete over the platform.

"The next moment I saw a man throw his hands in the air. Several men started running for their lives and I saw about six workers falling with the collapsing platform."

Traffic officials closed off Rissik and Joubert streets and had to clear the pavement of crowds.

Inside the labyrinth of the half-built block, a man surrounded by several shaken workers was taking a roll call.

The injured were rushed to Hillbrow Hospital in an ambulance and their condition was described as satisfactory.

Three of the injured are Mr Daniel Mathale, Mr Elias Matabula and Mr Willis Matabula. The names of the other four are not yet known.

Mr WA Rutherford, managing director of Commercial Union Assurance, could not be reached for comment.

Falling (137)  
wall kills  
worker E. Post

22/5/84  
Post Reporter

A MAN was killed on the construction site at the Beacon Island Hotel yesterday when a wall which was being demolished fell on him.

This was confirmed by a spokesman for the building contractors, who said the identity of the man could not be released until his next-of-kin had been informed.

Mr Richard Weilers, general manager of the hotel, said he had not seen the accident and could not comment because the man had not been employed by the hotel.

Argus 22/6/86  
Seven (131)  
injured as  
scaffolding  
collapses

Argus Correspondent  
JOHANNESBURG — At least seven people were injured and four cars damaged today when scaffolding round a building under construction on the corner of Albert and Russik streets collapsed

The scaffolding on the first floor of the building belonging to the Commercial Union Assurance Company collapsed under the weight of wet concrete while workers were extending the floor

Mr Andre Smit said he saw the construction workers throwing concrete over the platform

#### RUNNING

"The next moment I saw a man throw his hands in the air. Several men started running for their lives and I saw about six workers falling with the collapsing platform."

Inside the semi-constructed building a man surrounded by several shaken workers was taking a roll-call.

"I was badly frightened. It all happened so fast," said one of the workers who escaped injury.

The injured were taken to Hillbrow Hospital in an ambulance. Their condition was described as "satisfactory" after treatment.

# STUNNED 'BLOB OF CONCRETE' WALKED OUT OF THIS SHAKING HIS HEAD



The construction in Albert Street, which collapsed yesterday morning, slightly injuring seven workers, as seen from the Receiver of Revenue building.

## Building caves in — seven hurt

By EMIELIA JAROSCHEK  
Crime Reporter

SEVEN people were injured when a building under construction caved in under the weight of wet concrete in Albert Street, opposite the Receiver of Revenue building, in Johannesburg yesterday morning.

Traffic officials cordoned off Albert Street between Russik and Jonbert streets while ambulance officials sent out a disaster bus, paramedics and ambulance in case workers had been trapped, injured or killed by the tons of concrete and steel.

Seven construction workers suffered superficial injuries and were taken to the

RSM 23/5/84 (131)

Hillbrow Hospital

The building, which was to have housed the offices of an insurance company, collapsed at 10.50am according to traffic officers at the scene.

The managing director of the construction company Mr. Hans Heynecke, said yesterday that a large section of the building's support work on the second floor collapsed during the casting of concrete.

Mrs Sophie Tema, who arrived minutes after the building caved in, said she saw one man covered "in a grey soggy mixture". He was a "walking blob of cement" who shook his head and walked off.

# Row after factory roof crash

By Estelle Randall

WORKERS at Park Avenue Lingerie are angry at the way they say they were treated when part of the factory's roof caved in last Wednesday, injuring at least one woman

According to one of the employees, Vanessa Van Beulen, workers arrived at the factory on Wednesday to find the floor flooded

"Everything was wet. But instead of letting us have the day off, we had to mop the floors and start work.

"As we worked, part of the roof fell in and part of it hit one of the women. She had to be taken to hospital and her mother was telephoned by the management and told that her daughter had slipped and hit her head on a machine

"After this the women refused to continue with their work and gathered in the canteen. Mr Le Roux, the manager of Park Avenue, said that he would see what could be done about the situation. All he did was move our machines out from under the hole.

The Clothing Workers' Union says it is "shocked" at what happened. Union representative Zubeida Jaffer said "To our knowledge no attempt was made to assess whether the factory

was fit to be occupied or not."

Mr Francois Le Roux, manager of Park Avenue denied that workers had been forced to mop up the water on the factory floor

He said most of this had been done by his cleaning department. He confirmed that one worker had been injured when part of the ceiling collapsed. The area had been cleared so that production could continue at the sides of the factory floor where no danger existed

The ceiling had not yet been repaired but the safety of the room had been guaranteed by the head of maintenance, he said. Mr Le Roux denied having spoken to the injured woman's mother.

*L. Herald 26/5/84 (131)*

12-ton <sup>ARGUS</sup>  
<sup>24/5/66</sup> propeller <sup>131</sup>  
hits man as  
cable snaps

Staff Reporter

A MAN was seriously injured today when he was hit by a falling 12-ton propeller after a crane cable snapped at Robertson dry dock in the harbour.

A second man, understood to have been hit by the cable, was slightly hurt.

The propeller and shaft were being hoisted when the main cable of the crane broke.

#### HEAD WOUNDS

Mr Wilmot Heyana, who works for an engineering firm in the docks was seriously injured when the propeller and shaft hit him.

He was taken by ambulance to Woodstock Hospital.

A hospital spokesman said the extent of his injuries had not been established, but confirmed that he had "serious head, neck and shoulder wounds".

"The doctor is busy examining Mr Heyana and a report will be issued later," he said.

Mr Lance van Graan, who was slightly hurt in the accident was treated for shock at Somerset Hospital.

#### WHIPLASH

He has slight grazes on the side of his face thought to have been caused by the whiplash of the crane cable.

Workers at the site said that the crane had just started lifting the load when the cable snapped.

A spokesman for the company for which both injured men worked said the incident was being investigated.

● Pictures, Page 2.

# Asbestos levels *CAPE TIMES 28/3/84* '10 times higher' *(131)*

Staff Reporter

THE recommended acceptable level of blue asbestos concentrations in South African factories — which is informal and therefore unenforceable — is 10 times higher than the strictly-enforced, legal control limits imposed in Britain, according to Dr J Myers of the Industrial Health Research Group at the University of Cape Town.

Dr Myers was responding to a letter in the Cape Times on Friday from the managing director of Everite, Mr E L Arni, who said the South African level of two fibres per millilitre was the same as the legal limit in the United

States

The legal limit in Britain is 0,2 fibres per millilitre and the limit in the US is a statutory, strictly-enforced control

"So comparing permissible levels of exposure in South Africa and the US by quoting figures is not very meaningful or credible," Dr Myers said.

Dr Myers said the reason for the increasingly low limits for asbestos concentrations set in other countries was that "people exposed only transitorily to cancer-causing blue asbestos have been known to contract fatal mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the lung) years later"

ROM 29/5/84 (131)

# SA asbestos levels 'unenforceable'

## Mail Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — The recommended acceptable level of blue asbestos concentrations in South African factories — which is informal and therefore unenforceable — is 10 times higher than the strictly enforced, legal control limits imposed in Britain, according to Dr J Myers of the Industrial Health Research Group at the University of Cape Town

Dr Myers was responding to a letter in a Cape Town newspaper on Friday from the managing director of Everite, Mr E L Arn, who said the South African level of two fibres/millilitre was the

same as the legal limit in the United States

The legal limit in Britain is 0,2 fibres/millilitre and the limit of 2 fibres/millilitre in the United States is a statutory, strictly enforced control

"So comparing permissible levels of exposure in South Africa and the USA by quoting figures is not very meaningful or credible," Dr Myers said

Everite in South Africa, which uses blue asbestos, conforms to a level of 1 fibre/millilitre, according to Mr Arn

Dr Myers said the reason for the increasingly low limits for asbestos concentrations set in other countries was

that "people exposed only transitorily to cancer-causing blue asbestos have been known to contract fatal mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the lung) many years later"

On Mr Arn's implication that a "safe" level for asbestos fibres existed, Dr Myers said he was confusing a threshold level, below which there was no risk of disease, with a dose-response relationship which was used to determine at which concentration the risk became socially unacceptable

"This means there is no level of exposure to asbestos for which the risk of developing fatal lung cancer is trivial"



(a) How many (i) Coloured, (ii) Asian, (iii) White and (iv) Black learner telephone electricians completed their training in 1983 and (b) how many electricians in each race group are employed by his Department at present?

**THE MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

- (a) (i) 138,
- (ii) 57,
- (iii) 414,
- (iv) 158, and
- (b) (i) 676,
- (ii) 441,
- (iii) 7 506, and
- (iv) 422

NOTE: The figures under (b) reflect the position on 31 March 1984 and include all electrician grades except learners

934. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs

What was the maximum wind-strength recorded in (a) Cape Town, (b) Port Elizabeth and (c) East London on 25 April 1984 and 26 April 1984, respectively?

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:**

- (a) *Cape Town* (D F Malan Airport)
  - 25 April: Maximum average wind-speed 25 knots
  - Maximum gust 45 knots
  - 26 April: Maximum average wind-speed 22 knots
  - Maximum gust 42 knots

(b) *Port Elizabeth* (H F. Verwoerd Airport)

- 25 April: Maximum average wind-speed 17 knots
- Maximum gust 33 knots
- 26 April: Maximum average wind-speed 32 knots
- Maximum gust 64 knots

(c) *East London* (B. J. Schoeman Airport)

- 25 April: Maximum average wind-speed 14 knots
- Maximum gust 25 knots
- 26 April: Maximum average wind-speed 32 knots
- Maximum gust 49 knots

For your information it may be mentioned that average wind-speed refers to the wind-speed average over a ten minute period. Owing to the extreme variability of wind-speed over short periods it is international practice to report the ten minute average of wind-speed.

*131* *Howard*  
*Industrial accidents*  
 953 Dr A L BORAINÉ asked the Minister of Manpower

- (1) How many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work in 1983,
- (2) (a) how many industrial accidents occurred in the Republic in 1983, (b) what amount was paid out by the Workmen's Compensation fund in respect of such accidents and (c) what was the total period for which persons injured in such accidents were absent from work in that year?

**THE MINISTER OF MANPOWER.**

- (1) (a) Whites 1 949 (other risk carriers included)
- Asians 218 (other risk carriers included)

Coloureds 1 602 (other risk carriers included)

Members of the Black population groups 23 305 (other risk carriers included)

- (b) Whites 191
- Asians 19
- Coloureds 160
- Members of the Black population groups 1 816

- (2) (a) 311 648 (other risk carriers included)
- (b) R52 298 451

*Howard*  
*Apprenticeship contracts*  
*29/5/84*  
 955 Dr A L BORAINÉ asked the Minister of Manpower

How many new apprenticeship contracts were registered in each trade in 1983 in respect of (a) White, (b) Coloured, (c) Asian and (d) Black persons?

**THE MINISTER OF MANPOWER**

Industry	(a) Whites	(b) Coloureds	(c) Asians	(d) Members of the Black population groups
Aerospace	170	—	3	—
Automobile	74	57	3	17
Building	427	510	88	135
Coal Mining	52	2	11	—
Diamond Cutting	3	—	—	—
Electricity Supply Undertaking	344	8	51	—
Explosives and Allied Industries	70	2	—	17
Furniture	14	62	10	3
Government Undertakings	253	47	4	—
Hardressing	347	17	—	—
Jewellers and Goldsmiths	31	3	—	—
Local Authority Undertaking Northern Transvaal	68	—	—	—
Metal	2 723	383	176	295
Mines	1 529	34	3	42
Motor	1 470	239	122	122
Printing	354	74	14	11
South African Transport Services	1 906	1	1	2
Sugar Manufacturing and Refining	19	5	—	7
Tyre and Rubber Manufacturing	13	11	—	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9 867</b>	<b>1 455</b>	<b>507</b>	<b>656</b>

968 Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Internal Affairs.

**Damage to schools**

Whether any (a) Coloured and (b) Indian schools have been damaged as a result of boycotts, unrest or similar occurrences in the course of the current year, if so, (i) which schools, (ii) when did the

damage occur and (iii) what was the (aa) nature, (bb) cause and (cc) total cost of the damage in each case?

**THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS.**

- (a) and (b) No
- Rest of the question falls away

# Worker's death to be investigated

By Terry Friend,  
West Rand Bureau

30/5/84

131  
Star

The circumstances surrounding the death of a worker who was killed by a falling wall at a church construction site in Roodepoort are to be investigated by the city engineer

Mr Daniel Setodunela (26), of no obtainable address, died when the wall fell on him at the site in Ouklip Road this week

The site supervisor of the Pretoria construction company building the church claimed yesterday that all due care had been taken in building the wall.

"It was just an accident, and a wind simply blew the nine-metre wall of freshly-laid cement bricks over," said the supervisor.

But the city engineer, Mr Hans Engelmann, said he could not see how a wall could have been blown over by the wind. He said he did not yet have details of the case, but if the wall was nine metres high as reported, and of single brick width, as a reporter observed, then it was "quite a dangerous structure".

"It seems unbelievable that a contractor could do that, and I will certainly look into it," he said.

Mr Engelmann explained that municipal building inspectors had no jurisdiction over private contractors as far as safety was concerned, but could inform the Inspector of Factories if there was danger.

"But we ask for an engineer's certificate with the plans for any big building with a complicated structure, to certify that the design is safe. I cannot as yet say whether one was required in this case?"

CAPE TIMES 30/8/80

# Worker injured as crane arm collapses

~~32~~ (131)

Staff Reporter

A CONSTRUCTION worker was injured yesterday when the arm of a crane collapsed at the site of the new Woodstock bridge over the railway line.

Mr Patrick Petersen, no age or address given, was taken to the Woodstock Hospital with arm and head injuries. Mr Leon Els, a South African Transport Services spokesman, said later that Mr Petersen was not in a critical condition.

Mr Els said the crane arm collapsed about 8 40am yesterday as the crane was being used to lift a concrete beam. During the incident Mr Petersen was injured.

The crane arm fell across the railway line but did not strike any overhead cables.

Workers immediately removed the damaged crane arm and only one train was delayed, for about 12 minutes, Mr Els said.

Mr Els said industrial inspectors would investigate the accident.

# Two workers died down manholes, Court hears

Mercury 31/5/84 (131) ~~2/3~~

## Pietermaritzburg Bureau

SAFETY equipment for a number of labourers working in manholes in Pietermaritzburg was not available on site, the Regional Court heard this week, following the death of a worker

Mr Valentine Ngubo was giving evidence at the trial of Mr Manuel da Silva, of Thistle Construction Company, who has pleaded not guilty to two charges of culpable homicide and four relating to contravening the Factories Act

Mr Philip Mvelase was killed after being electrocuted while working close to a live powerline

in November last year

In a separate incident, Mr Isaiah Zondi died after inhaling carbon monoxide while in a manhole in College Road, Pietermaritzburg, in December

Mr Ngubo said a fellow worker, a Mr Jilli, had called to him from the manhole that he could not come up as he had 'lost energy'

The fumes had prevented anyone going into the manhole to help

Mr Ngubo suggested to the foremen that the fire brigade should be called. While they were waiting a rope was thrown to Mr Zondi who gone into the manhole

Mr Ngubo told the Court there were no oxygen masks, safety belts or resuscitation equipment on the site and that such equipment was available 'if we wanted it' in an office about 20 minutes away

Mr Ngubo said he had never been personally told not to go down the manhole while the pump was running, 'though the others could have been told'

The trial was adjourned until July 19

The presiding magistrate was Mr G Barnard, Mr R Hiemstra appeared for the defence and Mr A Groenewald appeared for the State

(31) Staw  
Driver killed as

truck falls 25 m

<sup>4/6/84</sup>  
The driver of a heavy vehicle was killed instantly this morning when the truck he was driving plunged 25 m from the Krugersdorp-Pretoria freeway into the valley below.

Mr Neil Pienaar, who arrived on the scene minutes after the accident occurred, said the two back tyres of the articulated vehicle had burst.

"The truck went out of control, climbed the steel guard rails next to the freeway and dropped into the valley below," he said.

"The driver, a white male, was killed on impact and a black passenger was badly injured. He has been admitted to the intensive care unit of the Krugersdorp Hospital.

The truck, owned by Strydom Transport, was carrying a half load of sand at the time of the accident.

The names of the two men have not yet been released.

# Safety law leaves domestics' position largely untouched

By Kate McKinnell

The position of domestic servants will alter little when they are covered by a new occupational safety law, says Mrs Bernadette Mosala, Director of Home and Family Life of the South African Council of Churches

According to another expert, area manager of the National Occupational Safety Association, Mr Raymond Meyer, the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act will cover all master/servant relationships

He said the Act — due to take effect this month — would require the employer to ensure that the employee's work was done as safely as possible

Failure to make adequate safety provisions could result in a fine of R2 000, a 12-month jail sentence or both

"The new law does not provide for any compen-

sation to the domestic servant," said Mr Meyer

"But if the employer is penalised for not taking adequate safety measures, the domestic servant has more chance of receiving compensation in a civil case."

The servant in question would have to approach a lawyer to institute a civil action against her employer

But, as Mrs Mosala pointed out, such workers "have neither the time nor the money to contact a lawyer"

"Besides, they are often too scared of losing their jobs to bring charges against their employers. It is only when women are completely disabled that they approach us

"It is unlikely that many domestic servants will get to hear about this law," she added.

"Even if they do, they will hesitate to enforce their rights, because they are too frightened or ignorant to do anything"

Mrs Mosala said it was generally difficult to establish who was to blame in domestic accidents, especially as there were often no witnesses.

Nosa's Mr Meyer agreed it was unlikely that many domestic servants would make use of the new Act.

He said it was designed primarily to cover informal employment situations and had not been introduced because of a history of domestic accidents.

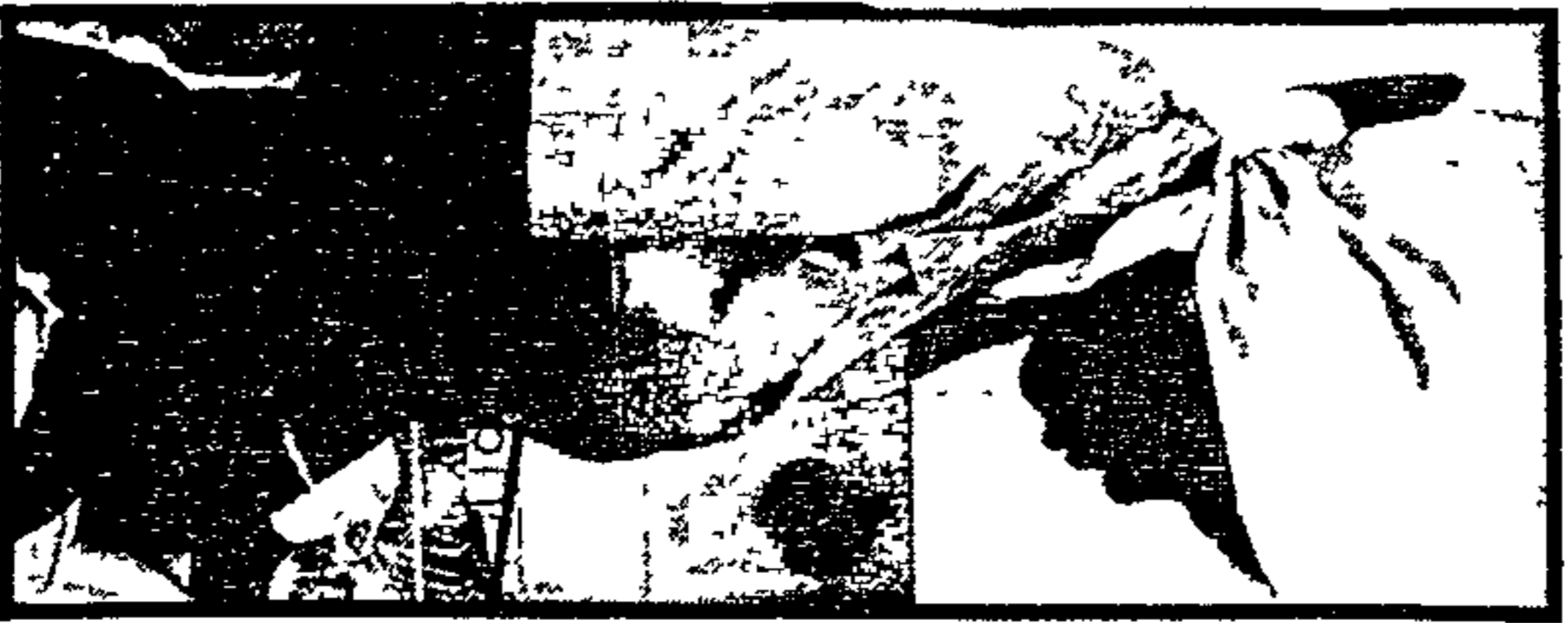
Mrs Sheena Duncan, president of the Black Sash, said her organisation rarely saw cases of women injured while working in homes.

"If domestic servants have good relationships with their employers, they will hesitate to lay charges

"Some employers will provide for their injured employees, paying their medical expenses or giving them time off," said Mrs Duncan

She said a far more meaningful change would be the inclusion of domestic workers in the Women's Compensation Act — which provided a central fund paying compensation to workers injured on the job.

This would be easy to implement because employees would merely have to send in reports of accidents



THE DOMESTIC WORKER — may now charge her employer.

# Frantic 15-minute dig for buried worker ends in death

Mercury 131  
11/6/84

Mercury Reporter

RESCUE workers dug frantically for 15 minutes to free the head and face of a black construction worker trapped under several metres of rocks and sand, it was learned yesterday.

But the man, Patrick Dinkkali, aged about 30, imprisoned by the fall for more than two hours, died before he could reach hospital.

The accident happened on Saturday afternoon at Mt Edgecombe at excavations for a

new road to Verulam.

Mr Dinkkali was completely buried for about 15 minutes, according to an Umhlanga Protection Services spokesman.

'It took a while to find him and uncover his head. He was trapped in a 3 m ditch with a pile of slate-type rock about 5 m high on one side.

'He was standing in the ditch when the pile collapsed on him, pinning him to the side.

'There were some large boulders in the rubble too.

Ambulancemen and a rescue team from the Umhlanga Protection Services were called

'He had a lot of trouble breathing and had to be given oxygen the whole time the team were trying to dig him out. It took at least two hours.

'He was in a bad way when they got him out and was certified dead on arrival at the hospital'

# Worker crushed to death at car plant

131  
E. Post  
11/6/84  
Post Reporter

A MAN was killed in an accident at a Uitenhage motor assembly plant and four people were seriously injured in vehicle accidents in the Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage area this weekend.

Mr Bonsele Willard, Take-la, 34, of Ndelebe Street, Kwanobuhle, died when his torso was caught in a clinching press at the Volkswagen plant

On Saturday a Uitenhage woman, Mrs S Kleynhans, was concussed and received serious neck and back injuries in a head-on collision near Despatch on the main road to Port Elizabeth. She was taken to the Provincial Hospital in Uitenhage and her condition was today described as "satisfactory"

Mr Matthew Plaatjes, 19, of Lange Township, Uitenhage, was seriously injured when he was knocked down by a bus in Duiker Street on Saturday afternoon

He fractured his pelvis and some ribs. He was taken to the Uitenhage Provincial Hospital but was later transferred to Livingstone Hospital, Port Elizabeth, where his condition was today described as "satisfactory".

Mr Lawrence Saunders, of Canon Street, Uitenhage was injured in Rose-dale Drive on Saturday afternoon when the motorbike on which he was riding pillion skidded.

The driver of the motorbike, Mr Vincent Finnis, of Daffodil Street, Uitenhage, received minor abrasions

Mr Saunders and Mr Finnis were admitted to Uitenhage Provincial Hospital and are both in a satisfactory condition, according to a hospital spokesman

Mr James Mabela, 24, of Seringa Street, Gamble, injured his head and broke an arm when the vehicle in which he was travelling hit a lamp-post in Gamble Township yesterday evening. The driver was not injured. Mr Mabela was treated at the Uitenhage Provincial Hospital and then discharged



131 146/84 244  
Safety law covers  
domestic workers

EAST LONDON — All householders employing domestic workers or gardeners will be responsible for their safety and health under the new Machinery and Occupational Act which will come into practise in July

Mr A A Weich, the chief inspector of the Department of Manpower in Pretoria, said yesterday that the act made provision for the safety of persons at a work place, in the course of employment or in using machinery

Mr Weich said domestic employees were also entitled to the protection of the law

He said an employer

or householder could be held liable for a criminal offence if an employee was injured due to unsafe surroundings and machinery

Such offences would be dealt with as any other criminal offence in court, for which a fine or prison sentence could be given, he said

As an example, he said if a domestic employee was injured while working with a faulty electrical appliance, the employer would be liable

If such an accident occurred, an inspection of the injured employee's working conditions could be held if deemed necessary, he said — DDR

# Worker <sup>(31)</sup> killed <sup>S. Post</sup> <sup>20/6/84</sup>

POTCHEFSTROOM — A 31-year-old factory employee died instantly yesterday when a paper-cutting machine suddenly turned on and "grossly" mutilated her.

Mrs Annah Mathediso Maselane, an employee of the SA Waste Paper Company at Potchefstroom, was inside the machine separating plastic from paper when it started up.

She received "gross mutilations" and died instantly, a spokesman for the firm said.

Mrs Maselane, of Wilgeboom, leaves a husband and two children — Sapa

M...

spobdent

(131) Star  
5/6/84  
**Breakdown bus:  
driver is killed**

A Roodepoort bus driver was killed on Friday night as he was placing hazard triangles at the back of the vehicle, which had a flat tyre

Mr J G Mans was knocked down and killed in SR Swart Road by a bakkie which skidded under the bus. The driver of the bakkie was not hurt.

There were no passengers in the bus at the time

# teaching profession' Call for probe on job deaths

million — in R70-million — has been supplement expenditure for the teaching package

And the pay increases would not bring them back at this late stage, he said. "I hope that the Government has now learnt a lesson and that in future they will adapt teachers' salaries and conditions of employment to keep pace with inflation and with changing circumstances so the country is not again landed in an unacceptable crisis as we have experienced over the past few months," he said.

In response, Mr Horwood

said Mr Van Rensburg was "trying to make cheap political capital out of a very important issue."

He accused Mr Van Rensburg of "mischief-making" and said he had displayed "his complete ignorance of sound Budgetary procedures"

He challenged Mr Van Rensburg to indicate what figure he should have included for teachers in the main Budget.

## Call for probe on job deaths

Political Staff

**THE ASSEMBLY** — A total of 2 186 workmen died and 27 074 were disabled during 1983, the official Opposition spokesman on labour, Dr Alex Boraine, said yesterday.

Calling for a commission of inquiry into occupational accidents, Dr Boraine said the numbers were "totally unacceptable" both in terms of "the deplorable loss of human resource and the desperate impact it must have on family life"

Dr Boraine was speaking during the debate on the Third Reading of the Budget.

He said a total of 311 648 industrial accidents occurred during 1983 and the amount paid out by the Workmen's Compensation Fund was "a massive R52 298 451"

He said a further indication of the wastage was that 3 688 711 man days were lost as a result of absenteeism following industrial accidents.

"This in itself is very worrying and there must be something very seriously wrong that so many industrial accidents occur in a single year, at such a cost," he said.

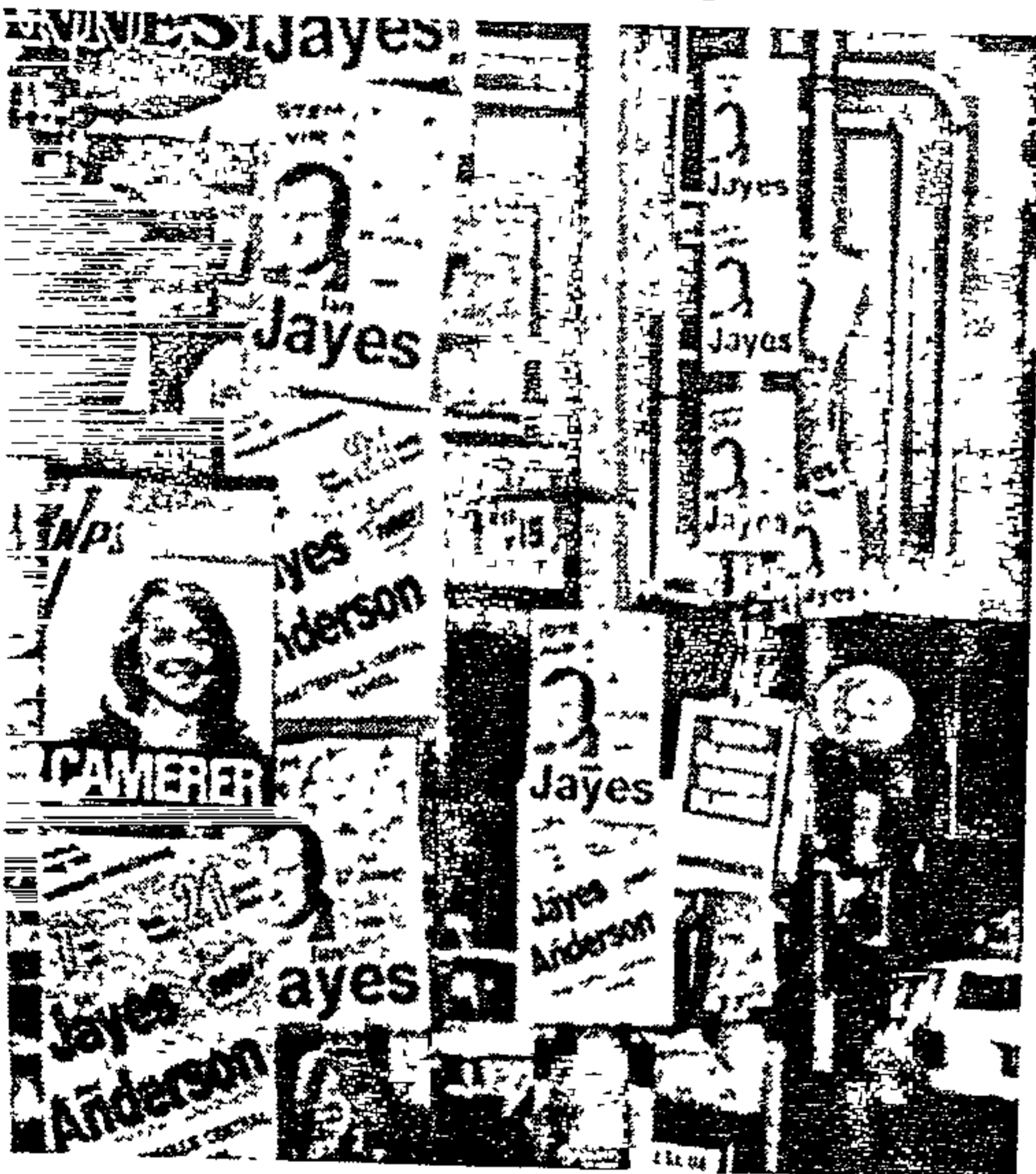
Dr Boraine said of those who died, 1 816 were black, 160 coloured, 19 Asian and 191 white. Of the 23 305 workers permanently disabled, 23 305 were black, 1 602 coloured, 218 Asian and 1,949 white.

Dr Boraine said that stability in the labour field was essential for growth and development in South Africa. Statements by black leaders and labour leaders showed politics on the factory floor was inevitable as long as blacks were excluded from the constitution of South Africa.

Turning to the dispute in the mining industry, Dr Boraine said the dispute could lead to the first legal strike by black mine-workers.

He warned that unless the impasse between the Chamber of Mines and the union was resolved "widespread unrest in South Africa's key economic sector cannot be ruled out"

Dr Boraine said the Government could no longer afford to 'drag its feet' on the blatant discrimination which existed in the Mines and Works Act.



PICTURE: Glenn Middleton

air to the southern suburbs in the fight for political control

## using 'fear tactics' to PFP, NRP backers

PRETHA GOOSEN

by-election in Rosettenville, the National Party was accused for using Conservative to win Progressive Federal Republic Party votes.

Sheila Camerer has dismissed in the constituency call for PFP supporters claiming a the PFP as the official Provincial Council.

PFP as a dwindling political force to NRP supporters to

PFP leader in the Province yesterday called Mrs Camerer shabby attempt at and said it should be

Party is not going to official Opposition — and very well," Mr Gibson

underestimating the PFP's supporters."

Mr Ian Jayes, NRP candidate, said Mrs Camerer's appeal "was the height of political cynicism" as it followed a remark in which she likened the PFP to South Africa's enemies abroad.

As far as the NRP was concerned, Mrs Camerer had not addressed the issues they had raised, but concentrated on attacking him personally, Mr Jayes said.

● Mr Clive Derby Lewis, CP candidate in the Rosettenville Provincial by-election, yesterday announced that he had laid complaints with the Media Council over two reports in Beeld and The Citizen.

The complaint against Beeld follows allegations last week that Mr Koos van der Merwe, MP for Jeppe, had told Mr Derby-Lewis not to speak to the Afrikaans Press and that Mr Derby-Lewis had attended the founder's meeting of the Afrikaanse Volkswag.

Mr Derby-Lewis also complained about a report in yesterday's Citizen which alleged the NP was ahead of the CP by 200 postal and special votes.

Cape Times 26/6/84  
**2 186 workers died**  
**27 074 disabled**

130

Political Staff

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY — A total of 2 186 workmen died and 27 074 were disabled during 1983, Dr Alex Boraine (PFP Pinelands), said yesterday. This, he said, was "totally unacceptable" both in terms of economic wastage and "the deplorable loss of human resource and the desperate impact it must have on family life" and called on the government to institute a commission of inquiry.

Speaking during third reading debate on the Budget, the PFP spokesman on manpower said a total of 311 648 industrial accidents occurred during 1983 and the amount paid out by the Workmen's Compensation Fund was "a massive R52 298 451".

He said a further indication of the wastage was that 3 688 711 man days were lost as a result of absenteeism following industrial accidents.

"This in itself is very worrying and there must be something very seriously wrong that so many industrial accidents occur in a single year, at such a cost," he said.

Dr Boraine said of those who died, 1 816 were African, 160 coloured, 19 Asian and 191 white. Some 23 305 of those permanently disabled were African, 1 602 coloured, 218 Asian and 1 949 white.

**Factory-floor politics**

Dr Boraine said that stability in the labour field was essential for growth and development in South Africa.

While politics and labour "don't mix" he said, judging by the statements of many black leaders and labour leaders of all races "politics on the factory floor is inevitable so long as blacks are excluded from the constitution of South Africa".

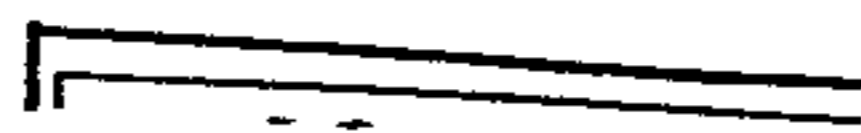
And, he warned, as the downturn in the economy continued, "the dreaded spectre of unemployment" would continue to haunt more and more workers.

"This in itself can cause instability, but as the economy improves so will workers have greater security to pursue political ends.

"Whether we are in recession or whether we are in an upturn, political rights for blacks remain a fundamental problem crying out loud for resolution."

Turning to the dispute in the mining industry, Dr Boraine said the dispute had brought about a situation which could bring about the first legal strike by black mine-workers.

He warned that unless the impasse between the Chamber of Mines and the union was resolved, "widespread unrest in South Africa's key economic sector cannot be ruled out".





Mr Essop indicates the section of wall which fell over, trapping the construction worker.

# Falling wall pins worker in trench

Mercury Reporter

A WORKER was trapped in a trench when a wall fell over on a construction site yesterday

He was dug out by his mates. He seemed unhurt — and even managed a smile

The drama began when a workshop wall at Alice Street Motors, in Albert Street, Durban, collapsed into the adjoining property in Derby Road, where construction work was in progress

Three fire engines, ambulances and the city police arrived on the scene with a blare of sirens, but garage manager Mr Jay Maharaj said the man —

who worked for the Pulbo Construction Company — had already been freed

Mr Maharaj said the accident happened about 2.45 p.m. 'Luckily the three mechanics who were busy in the workshop managed to run out just before the roof collapsed,' he said

Two cars and some workshop machines were damaged by the falling roof

Mr Amod Essop, director of the company to which the garage belongs, said 'Piling on the construction site apparently weakened the wall's foundation, and when a trench was dug next to it, the wall collapsed'

Mercury 29/6/84 (31)

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# Man crushed to death

(3) 2. Post Crime Reporter 3/7/84  
AN employee at a Port Elizabeth brickfields was killed yesterday afternoon when a wall of bricks fell on him. Major Annelize Melville, acting police liaison officer for the Eastern Cape, said Mr Douglas Skabela, 27, of Zwide, was buried under the rubble.  
The accident occurred at EP Brick and Tile at Aloes

been provided by the State in each specified (i) White, (ii) Coloured, (iii) Indian and (iv) Chinese group area as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

Statistics are not kept separately for group areas but for the country as a whole, the particulars as at 31 March 1984 in respect of amenities financed out of the National Housing Fund and the Community Development Fund, were as follows

- (a) Community centres (Including halls, clinics and administrative offices)
  - (i) 7.
  - (ii) 97
  - (iii) 15
  - (iv) None
- (b) Libraries
  - (i) 2.
  - (ii) 28.
  - (iii) 4
  - (iv) None
- (c) Recreational areas (Including sports centres and play parks)
  - (i) 4
  - (ii) 70
  - (iii) 21.
  - (iv) 1.

1104 Dr A L BORAINÉ asked the Minister of Manpower:

- (1) With reference to his reply to Question No 953 on 29 May 1984, how many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work in 1980, 1981 and 1982, respectively,

non No 953 on 29 May 1984, how many workmen in each race group (a) suffered permanent disablement and (b) died as a result of injuries sustained at work in 1980, 1981 and 1982, respectively,

**THE MINISTER OF MANPOWER**

Figures in reply to question No 953 on 29 May 1984 should have read as being for 1980 and not 1983. The latest figures available are for 1980

1107. Mr A SAVAGE asked the Minister of Transport Affairs.

- (1) Whether the South African Transport Services have opened a hostel for Black employees in New Brighton, if so, (a) what was the total cost of the hostel, (b) how many persons can it accommodate, (c) what is the cost per bed in this hostel and (d) how many persons will each unit accommodate,
- (2) whether there are any facilities for visiting families at this hostel, if not, why not, if so, what facilities,
- (3) (a) what is the proposed commencement date for phase 2 of the construction of this hostel and (b) where is the proposed site for this phase located?

**THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS.**

- (1) Yes.
- (a) R10,25 million.

- (b) 1 764
- (c) R5 810
- (d) 9

(2) No although it is policy to provide such facilities, it was not done in this case as most of the families of the residents reside in the vicinity of Port Elizabeth and home visits can be made with convenience on weekends

(3) (a) and (b) Phase 2 will be commenced with when the need for additional residential facilities arises and will be erected on the site where the present old buildings are situated

**Telephone directories**

1109 Mr A B WIDMAN asked the Minister of Post and Telecommunications

- (1) (a) How many copies of the (i) white and (ii) yellow page telephone directories were printed for the whole of the Republic for the 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 years, respectively, and (b) what was the total cost involved

**THE MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

- (2) in printing these directories in each case in each such year,
- (3) how many copies of (a) white and (b) yellow page telephone directories were printed by subscribers in each of these years,
- (4) whether any of the costs incurred in printing these excess copies were recovered by his Department, if not, why not, if so, what amount in respect of each specified year,
- (5) what was the loss incurred by his Department as a result of the printing costs of the excess (a) white and (b) yellow page telephone directories for the 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 years, respectively,

whether his Department incurred any costs as a result of the storage of excess telephone directories in 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, respectively, if so, what amount in respect of each region in each of these years?

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
(1) (a) (i)	4 727 541	4 620 316	4 748 993
(i) (ii)	916 856	1 019 904	1 060 251
(b) white	R8 327 300	R9 983 750	R11 505 826
yellow	R2 962 831	R3 896 399	R 4 295 973,
(2) (a)	147 970	132 008	not yet available
(b)	13 050	34 031	not yet available,
(3) no, because the Post Office does not share in the revenue derived from the recovery of waste-paper in terms of the State contract,			
(4) the approximate printing costs for the years concerned are as follows			
	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
(a)	R252 334	R280 284	not yet available
(b)	R 43 198	R118 205	not yet available;



RDM 11/7/84 (131)  
**Scooter  
men hit  
at bosses**

**Mall Reporter**

THE South African Scooter Drivers' Union (Sacdu) — whose slogan is "An injury to one is an injury to all" — have blamed their employers for the high accident rate of scooter drivers

At a meeting held in Dube at the weekend, Sacdu — representing delivery workers who travel on scooters — accused their employers of exerting pressure on drivers by not preparing orders on time and by not paying good wages to drivers

In addition, the employers refused to provide drivers with safe driving equipment or to service scooters properly.

Mr Lucky Mhlayivana, the president of Sacdu, said yesterday the union had resolved to see that drivers were provided with protective equipment, that bikes were serviced and better wages were paid.

He said they had resolved to ask employers to prepare orders on time "so that scooter drivers have enough time to adjust to the work psychologically" and to ask other road users to "take care of us, the men on two wheels"

Farmer (131)  
Star  
11/7/84  
run over  
by tractor

CAPE TOWN — A 61-year-old farmer lay seriously hurt for nearly four hours in the rugged foothills of the Swartberg waiting to be rescued after he was run over by his own tractor

Mr A J J Kotze, of Middelpos farm in the Citrusdal-Clanwilliam district, fell from his tractor and landed under a rear wheel that passed over him and fractured his pelvis

When he did not return home, his wife sounded the alarm

Rough terrain forced rescuers to search by torchlight on foot. They followed a trail left by the tractor.

A Citrusdal ambulance had to stop near the foot of a mountain as the ground was too rough to continue

"Mr Kotze's voice was hoarse from crying for help as he waited for rescuers to arrive," he said

His condition today was stable — Sapa.

(131) Star  
Men buried as  
10/7/84  
wall collapses

Two labourers were buried to the waist when an earth wall collapsed at a building site on the corner of Paul Kruger and Pretorius streets in Pretoria yesterday

Rescue workers from the Pretoria Fire Department battled for 45 minutes to free the men — Sapa.

# Missing <sup>131</sup>fishermen: <sup>Twice</sup>Hope fades

By MARIANNE THAMM

ALL HOPE of finding three missing Lamberts Bay fishermen faded yesterday when objects belonging to their boat washed ashore near the small fishing village.

Mr Christian Bezuidenhout, 71, his son Gert, 46, and a friend, Mr Ben Swart, 41 — all experienced, professional fishermen — left Lamberts Bay in a four-metre boat with an outboard motor about 7am on Tuesday.

Miss Magrieta Bezuidenhout, Mr Christian Bezuidenhout's daughter, said she had expected the men to return home about 4pm and had called the

police when they failed to arrive.

Mr Christian Bezuidenhout's three other sons — Petrus, John and Christian — waited in thick mist at the harbour for news of their father and brother.

Two lifejackets, a coffee flask and flares were found soon after midnight on the beach near Sara se Gat, about 7km south of Lamberts Bay.

Miss Bezuidenhout said she had seen a flare in the sky about 7pm on Tuesday.

"I told the people in the house I was sure it was Daddy calling for help. He was a fisherman for about 36 years and knew the sea."

The boat's outboard motor and fuel

tank were washed up late yesterday afternoon and she says she has now given up all hope of seeing her father and brother again.

Mr Swartz's wife Kimmeldjie said her husband had been a fisherman for about 12 years. The couple have six children.

She suspected the boat had capsized and that the men had not experienced engine trouble.

A police search party scoured the dunes near Lamberts Bay yesterday in search of further wreckage and, possibly, bottles. A crashboat from SAs Flamingo at Langebaan and a Sea Fisheries vessel, the Wagter, took part in a sea

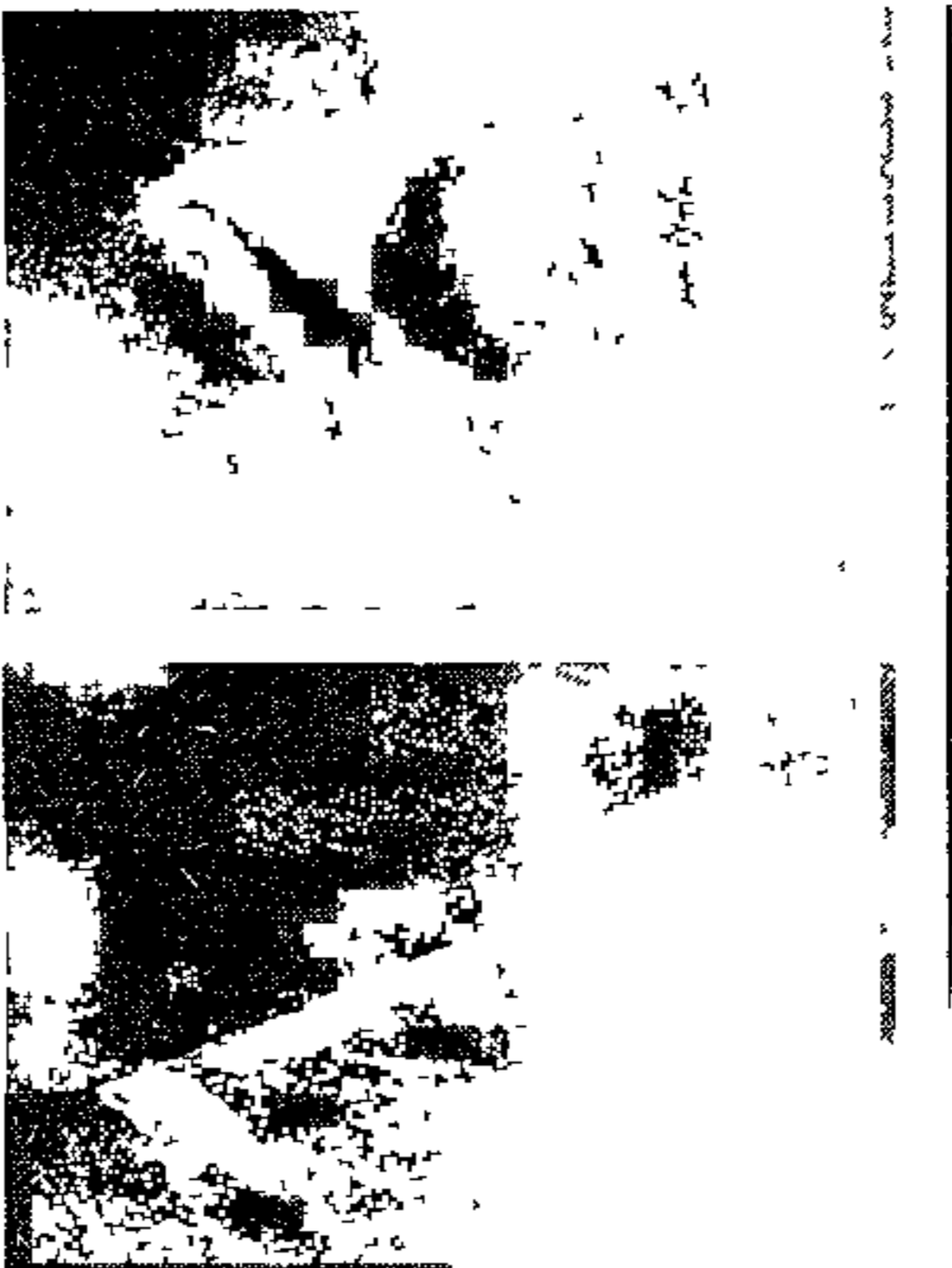
search which was called off when light began to fade.

The search will continue at first light today.

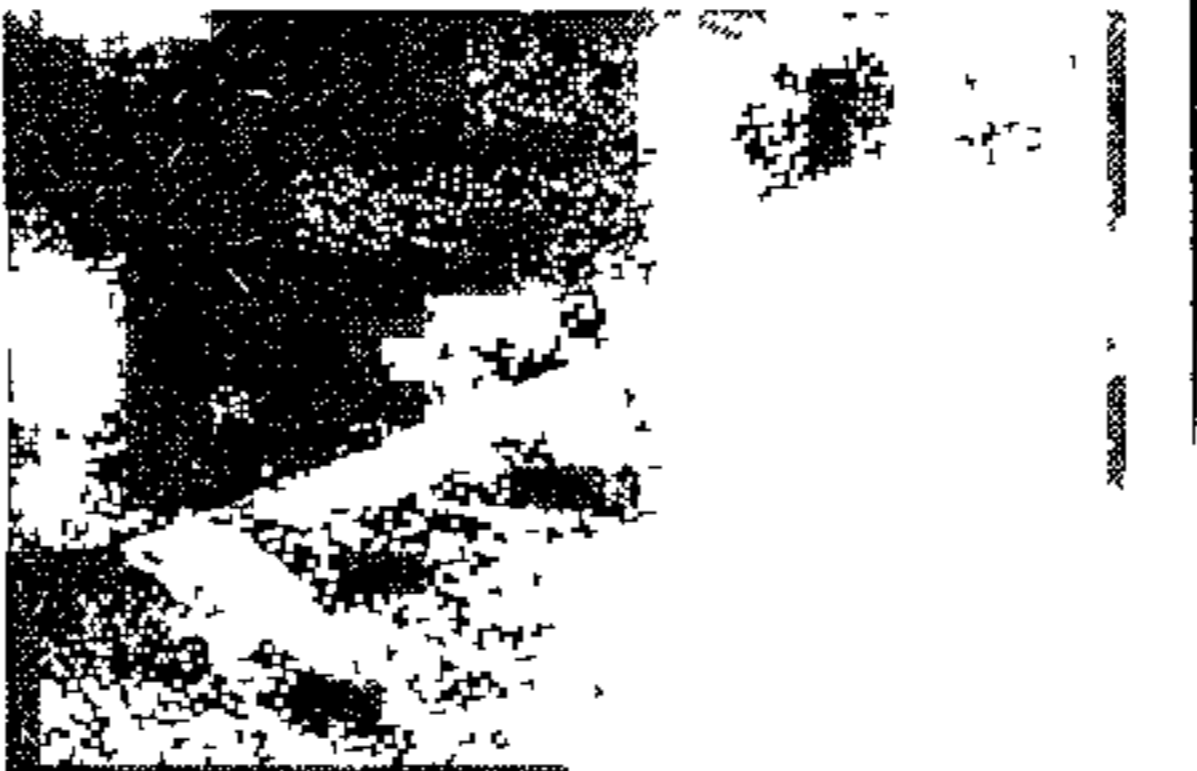
Mrs Joyce Mostert, Mr Bezuidenhout's oldest daughter, said her father was a very strong man but had heart problems.

"I told him to stay away from the sea but he told me he would rather die," she said.

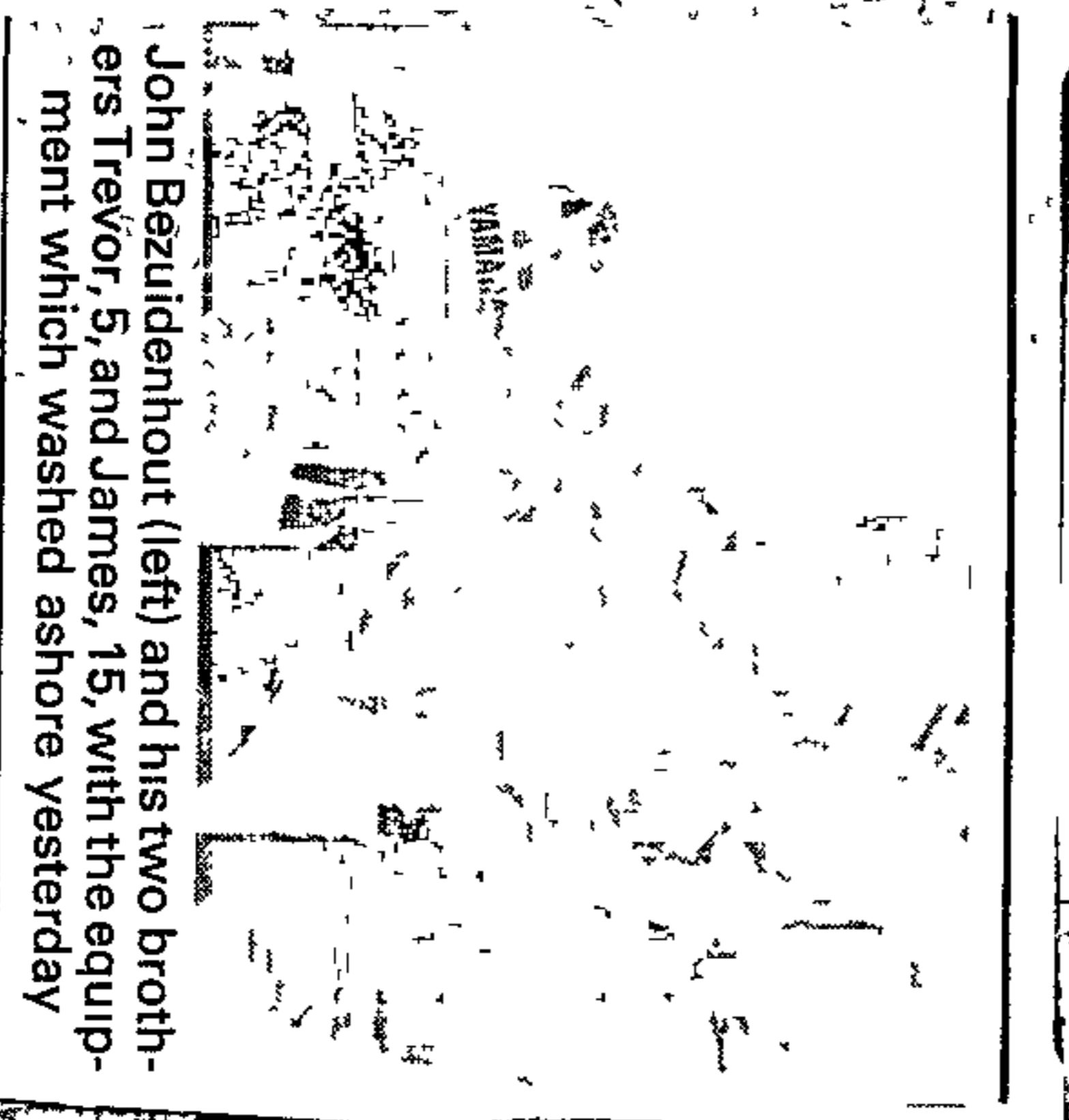
Mr Christian Bezuidenhout, a widower, has six children and nine grandchildren. Mrs Mostert described him as a "gem" and a "very dear person" who would be sadly missed.



Mr Christian Bezuidenhout with one of his grandchildren



Mr Gert Bezuidenhout one of the missing fishermen



John Bezuidenhout (left) and his two brothers Trevor, 5, and James, 15, with the equipment which washed ashore yesterday



Waiting at the Lambert's Bay harbour for news of the missing fishermen were, from left, Mr Christian Bezuidenhout's daughter, Magrieta, his five-year-old grandchild, Juanita, grandsons John, 18, and Trevor, 5, and Mrs Joyce Mostert, Mr Bezuidenhout's oldest daughter

Picture Alan Taylor

Seven (31)

workers

burnt 20/7/84

JOHANNESBURG —  
Seven construction  
workers were burnt —  
two severely — when a  
steel scaffolding tower  
they were carrying  
touched a 42 000-volt  
Escom powerline above  
a Booyens Reserve  
building site yesterday

Two of the men caught  
alight as the huge cur-  
rent surged through  
them

An eyewitness, Mr  
Bangalipi Sokela, said  
one worker had to be  
restrained from throw-  
ing water on the burning  
men while the structure  
sparked

Horrified workers la-  
ter used a plank to push  
the men away from the  
steel tower and the  
flames were doused

RSM 20/7/84 (131)

# 7 workers burnt in powerline tangle

By COLIN HOWELL  
Mail Reporter

SEVEN construction workers were burnt — two severely — when a steel scaffolding tower they were carrying touched a 42 000-volt Escom powerline 10 metres above a Booyens Reserve building site yesterday

Two of the men caught alight as the huge current surged through them, one losing consciousness on a corner pole of the scaffolding and the other collapsing nearby — their bodies

touching

An eyewitness, Mr Bangalphi Sokela, 24, said one worker had to be restrained from throwing water on the burning men while the structure sparked

Horrified workers later used a plank to push the men away from the steel tower and the flames were doused

The two men were rushed along with five colleagues to Baragwanath Hospital and are reported to be "critical"

The other five men were se-

verely shocked and burnt in the accident, which took place behind a partly-constructed factory in 1st Street, Booyens Reserve, about 9 30am

They had been admitted for treatment but were in a satisfactory condition, a spokesman at Baragwanath said

The men — all employees of industrial roofing contractors, M J Cheater and Company — had been moving the steel tower to another side of the factory. They either failed to notice the

powerline 10 metres above their path or were unaware that the scaffolding was slightly higher

A building site spokesman refused to name the injured or comment on the accident yesterday. He said that some of the men's families had not yet been notified

An Escom spokesman said the height clearance of the powerline conformed to the specifications of the Factories Act.

● Picture Page 2

Mercury 20/7/84 (131)

# 7 burnt as scaffold touches powerline

Mercury Correspondent

JOHANNESBURG— Seven construction workers were burnt — two severely — when a steel scaffolding tower they were carrying touched a 42 000-volt Escom powerline 10 m above a building site yesterday

Two of the men caught

alight as the huge current surged through them, one losing consciousness on a corner pole of the scaffolding and the other collapsing nearby — their bodies touching

A witness, Mr Bangalipi Sokela, 24, said one worker had to be restrained from throwing water on the burning men

while the structure sparked

Horrified workers later used a plank to push the men away from the steel tower and the flames were doused

The two men were taken with five colleagues to the Baragwanath Hospital and their conditions were reported to be critical

The other five men were severely shocked and burnt in the accident, which took place behind a partly constructed factory.

They had been admitted for treatment but were in a satisfactory condition, a spokesman at Baragwanath said.

The men — all employees of industrial roofing contractors, MJ Cheater and Company — had been moving the steel tower to another side of the factory

They either failed to notice the powerline 10 m above their path or were unaware the scaffolding was slightly higher

# Portrait of a little boy who may be dicing with death

CHILDREN who play on the asbestos dumps in the Penge mining area are dying with death, according to an occupational health specialist.

"In 30 years time some of those children will show signs of having contracted asbestos-related diseases," said the specialist.

He said cases of mesothelioma — cancer of the lining of the lung — had been found among people who had holidayed in the area of an asbestos mine in the north-western Cape.

The only known cause of mesothelioma is

exposure to asbestos and it may only be for a few months. It takes about 25 to 30 years to surface and is therefore very difficult to trace the origins," he said. "It has a short contraction and a long 'lag' period."

"Even people living in the area of an asbestos mine are at risk of contracting the disease — depending on the dust factor," said the specialist.

There are three main asbestos mines in South Africa — Penge, in the north-eastern Transvaal, one in the Eastern Transvaal and another in the north-western Cape



● Mothevelo Phogole on the asbestos dumps. In 30 years he may have a fatal lung disease

# Probe into asbestosis at Penge

By SARAH CROWE

fused this week to comment on the issue of working conditions in the mines

The mine manager at Penge, Mr A Fouche, referred all questions put to him to the head office in Johannesburg

At head office, Mr Hart was said to be unavailable for comment.

The administration manager, Mr Vernon Carr, said management had been advised not to comment.

A spokesman for the company's lawyers said, "We cannot comment at this stage about anything relating to the case — which may include working conditions

"We don't know how the other side is going to play it."

A MEDICAL expert will visit the Penge asbestos mine this week to investigate more than 100 suspected cases of lung disease

The Black Allied Mining and Contract Workers' Union (BAMCWU) intends to submit the results of the medical screenings to the Medical and Dental Council should that become necessary.

The union's legal advisers will also investigate this week the possibility of taking legal action against Gefco, the owners of Penge mine, over compensation paid to the black miners

Under the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, white mineworkers get R18 000 if an "occupational disease" is contracted and R26 000 if they can prove disability

Black workers receive R1 490 if they contract asbestosis and R1 790 if tuberculosis and asbestosis are contracted

"Cases of asbestosis are too frequent at the mine," said the general secretary of the union, Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe. "We have given case histories to medical specialists and they are compiling a dossier"

The Lebowa-based Penge mine has not disputed information that emerged this week that 134 workers — almost 10% of the work force — were "paid out" over a period of 10 months after having contracted asbestosis

The issue of mine conditions and compensation emerged after workers downed tools two weeks ago because of dissatisfaction with an offered salary increase of between 11% and 13%.

When they refused to meet management deadlines to return to work they were sacked.

Last week hundreds of new recruits were trucked into the mine to keep it running

The managing director of Gefco, Mr Pat Hart, said at that time he believed the offered salary increase of 11% to 13% was "generous"

The profits before tax for Gefco for 1983 were R24-million — more than double the pre-tax profits of 1981

This week management applied for a court order to have the workers evicted from the premises and the hearing continues in the Pretoria Supreme Court on Tuesday.

About 1 600 workers are still on mine property. Gefco management re-



□□□  
RDM 23/7/84 (131) ~~Blair~~ ~~W.H.~~

PERHAPS the most important development in the continuing dispute at Gencor's Penge mine is the revelation that 134 workers received Government compensation over the past 10 months after contracting asbestosis

Admittedly, Penge employs about 1 700 workers, but a nearly 10% incidence of a debilitating disease over 10 months is pretty high

Gencor notes that asbestosis takes years to manifest itself and says the victims are all long-serving workers. Tougher controls in the mine over the past few years mean the incidence of asbestosis will drop, it adds.

But there is no way of verifying this — new workers would not exhibit asbestosis symptoms yet and continuing questions are likely to be asked about the safety of asbestos.

□□□

# Rape: Man, 33, in court

Staff Reporter

A 33-YEAR-OLD Botha man appeared briefly in the Goodwood Magistrate's Court yesterday on a charge of rape and two counts of attempted rape.

Jan Johannes Schietekat, of Mostert Street, was not asked to plead and no evidence was led. Mr Schietekat, wearing a blue jersey and green trousers, appeared nervous and under strain when he entered the dock from the cells below the court.

The prosecutor, Mr L P Müller, told the court that two charges of attempted rape and one of rape against Mr Schietekat were being investigated and asked that no bail be granted.

At the request of Mr Müller, the magistrate, Mr L P le Roux, adjourned the hearing to Friday and remanded Mr Schietekat.

Mr Müller said an identification parade would be held and further investigation was necessary.

Mr Schietekat was not represented.

# School bus service

Staff Reporter

A NEW bus service from Milnerton to the Southern Suburbs schools came into operation yesterday.

Mrs Fay Hughes, the City Tramways assistant general manager for marketing, said a bus for schoolchildren would leave at 3.20pm each day from South African College Schools in Newlands and go to Ixia Road in Milnerton.

Those who lived in Table View could take another bus from there.

Mrs C Prestage, one of the parents involved in organizing the new service, said it would serve more than a dozen schools.

The buses would go along the Main Road from Rondebosch to Mowbray before turning down Durban Road.

The daily fare for the southern suburbs-Milnerton journey would be 22 cents for under-12s and 55 cents for older pupils.

(131) C. T. T. 24/7/84

# Poisoned wine kills three men

Staff Reporter

THREE men died and another was rushed to the Vredendal hospital at the weekend after they had poured their wine rations into a canister used for storing insecticide.

The men, Mr Abraham Daboela, 25, Mr Joseph Carstens, 23, and Mr Karl Love, 42, all of Rooi Erwe, Loetsville, died on Sunday after drinking wine from the canister on Saturday.

A fourth man, Mr Joseph Persens, 18, was rushed to the Vredendal hospital where he was said to be in a satisfactory condition yesterday.

According to a police spokesman, the men had poured their weekend wine rations into the can-

ister marked "Nubacaron/40/B(1) WSC" about 6pm on Saturday.

The spokesman said the poison was used to control pests on tomatoes. Mr Daboela was discovered dead on his bed about 5pm and Mr Carstens was found about 9pm on Sunday.

A group of labourers decided to go to Mr Love's home. When they arrived they saw him stumbling around outside. The police spokesman said Mr Love fell into a deep canal and drowned.

The group of labourers then went to Mr Persens's home and found he was still alive but had begun to suffer from the effects of the poison.

He was rushed to the Vredendal hospital.



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# Union to sound health alarm

By Carolyn Dempster,  
Labour Reporter

The Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union will launch a health awareness campaign among asbestos mineworkers and in rural communities used as a source of labour for asbestos mines.

The announcement follows last week's disclosures that 134 mineworkers at Penge asbestos mine in the Eastern Transvaal have been laid off and compensated for the lung disease asbestosis during the past 10 months.

"As far as we are concerned, people recruited in the rural areas to work in these mines do not know of the enormous

24/7/84 Skw  
Miners will

be alerted to asbestos dangers

hazards they are being exposed to," explained Mr P Nefolovhodwe, president of Bamcuw.

"Our intention is to go all out, distributing pamphlets if necessary, to alert these communities to the dangers of working with asbestos. We owe nothing to the mine managements, but we do owe something to the people who are dying because they were not told and not protected from exposure to the asbestos fibre

closed as a result of the anti-asbestos campaign," he said.

The union was also sending a team of medical doctors to the mine to investigate the extent of asbestosis and compile a dossier to be used as part of the campaign, he added.

Mr Nefolovhodwe said it was up to the mines to institute safety measures and provide workers with protective equipment.

Investigations by The Star revealed last week that women recruited at

Penge as supplementary labour were paid R2,50 a shift (up to 10 hours) and were taken on to sort waste material from the asbestos.

In interviews with the women it was found that they were not given any protective gear and, as their job involved handling raw asbestos on conveyor belts, they were constantly exposed to asbestos dust.

Medical examinations, in terms of regulations, are carried out on the mine every six months to check for signs of lung disease.

Although asbestosis is disabling it need not be fatal. But the mineworkers also run the risk of contracting mesothelioma, the fatal lung cancer caused by inhalation of asbestos fibres

Sunder 26/7/84

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# Safety first call

By JOSHUA RABOROKO

**TRADE UNIONISTS are to fight for workers' health and safety rights — a subject of conflict between workers and employers, according to labour sources.**

Some unionists have indicated that they will launch a campaign to alert workers on the dangers and hazards at their workplaces, especially in the mining industry.

The campaign and the awareness comes in the

wake of disclosures that in the past 10 months about 134 mineworkers at Penge asbestos mine in the Eastern Transvaal have been laid off and compensated for lung disease, from asbestos inhalation

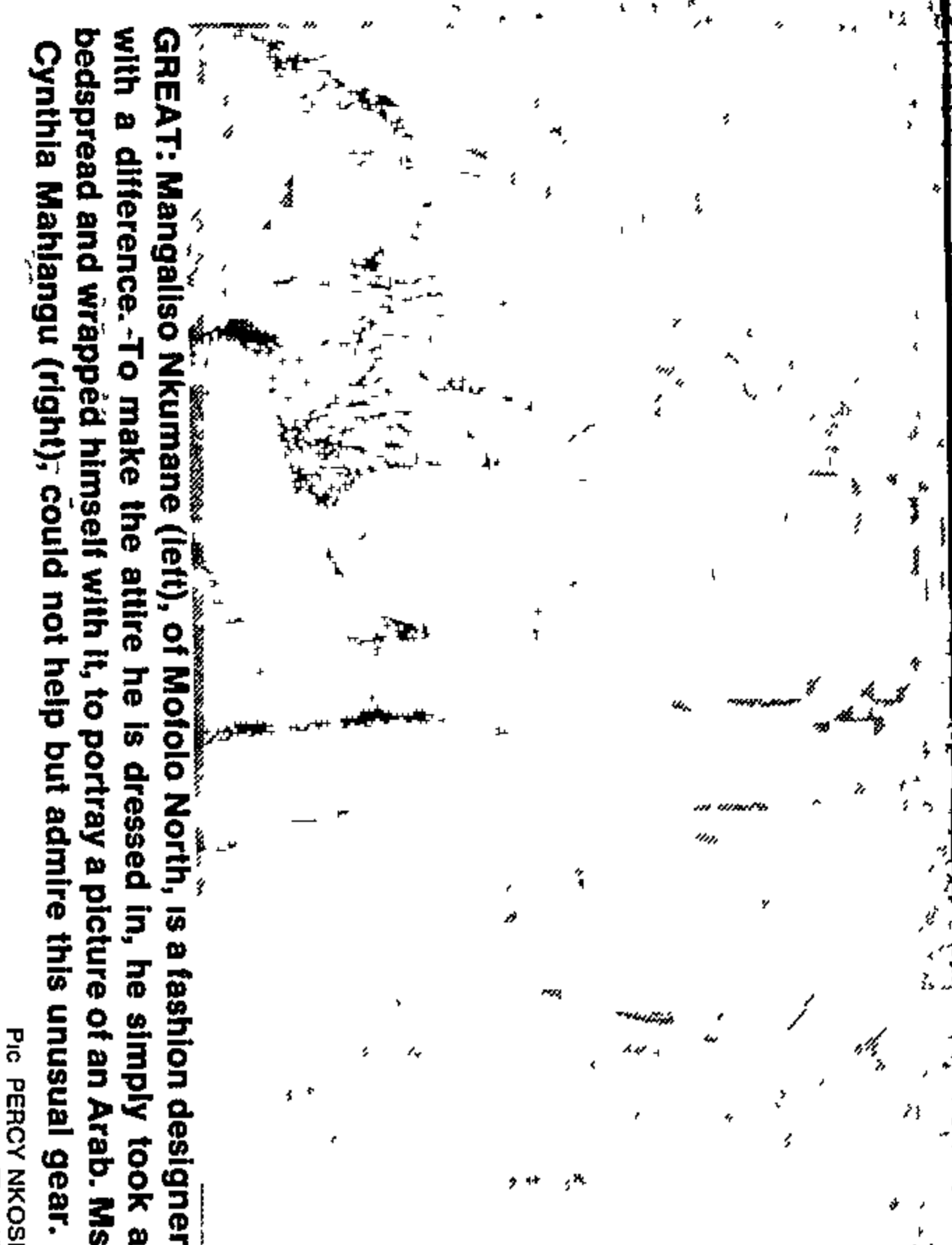
He said that the health and safety of workers was an important issue because protective measures have to be taken by management in this regard, otherwise, he added, a lot of "our people are likely to become victims

of diseases". They intended distributing pamphlets, especially in the rural areas, to conscientise the workers about health and safety matters. Most rural people were still ignorant or did not care about these rights, he said

The National Union of Mineworkers (Num) general secretary, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, said in the mines health and safety is the top priority — it is more important than wages

"You have to get to the top alive and uninjured to earn the wages. Therefore, to us, health and safety comes first," he added

The Num recently urged mineworkers to refuse to work at places they considered "dangerous" following the Hlobane coal mine disaster, and the West Driefontein and Western Deep Levels fiasco



pic PERCY NKOSI

**GREAT: Mangaliso Nkumane (left), of Mofolo North, is a fashion designer with a difference. To make the attire he is dressed in, he simply took a bedspread and wrapped himself with it, to portray a picture of an Arab. Ms Cynthia Mahlangu (right), could not help but admire this unusual gear.**

# The Capoe Times

Cardfinder Inside

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Mrs Carol de Jager with son Dane, 1

## 5 saved from fumes in sewer

**Staff Reporter**  
**A HOUSEWIFE** trained in first-aid and her asthmatic brother rescued a screaming and convulsing council worker from a gas-filled sewage canal in Bakoven yesterday after he and four colleagues had been overcome by exhaust fumes from a petrol-driven pump.  
 Mrs Carol de Jager, of Bakoven, also revived the flagging heart-beat of an unconscious man, hauled up seconds earlier, by giving him a heart massage. The asthma sufferer, Mr Colin Bell, was himself overcome by the fumes and taken to Somerset Hospital along with Mr T Hanton, 29, of Goodwood, Mr R Paul, 28, of Rocklands, Mitchell's Plain, Mr E Green, 18, of Bokmakierie, and Mr Mrs Classen, 30, of Mamre, all City Council workers.  
 Altogether five council workers, who were part of a team pumping out water from the sewage, had been overcome by the carbon-monoxide fumes. Four were admitted to hospital. A worker who had escaped the fumes, Mr Marius Mathee, went to the Camps Bay police station to report the incident. Other workers alerted a Camps Bay matric pupil, Phillip Ingram, who lives near the manhole, who in turn alerted Mrs De Jager.  
 She said her brother, Colin, Phillip Ingram and herself found three men semi-conscious outside the manhole. A fourth man was being hauled out by colleagues who were affected by the fumes to varying degrees.  
 "Collin then jumped down the ladder leading into the canal and tied a rope around the fifth man who was screaming, convulsing and foaming at the mouth and we pulled him out."  
 Mrs De Jager said the fourth man rescued by his colleagues in an unconscious state had "almost no pulse" and she had given him a heart massage. His pulse quickened soon afterwards.  
 The police, an ambulance, the Metro rescue team and a fire engine then arrived.



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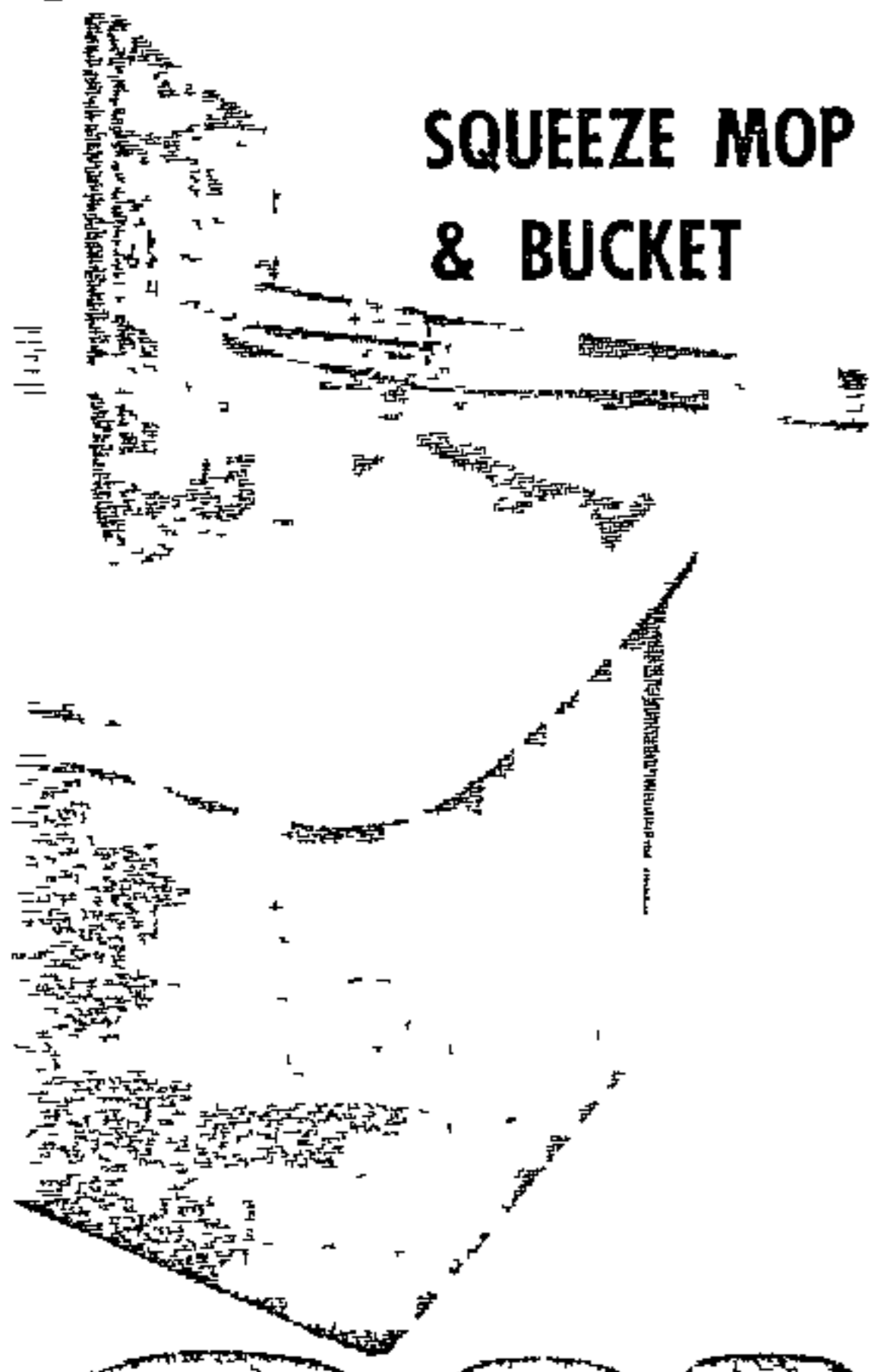


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*Cugno 27/1/84*

(131)

# Formaldehyde poses growing health threat

## Medical Reporter

FORMALDEHYDE, widely used in industry and for making chipboard and insulation foam, could pose serious health problems as it becomes more common in the factory and the home

This is the warning of Dr K Solomons and Dr J W C Cochrane, researchers at Johannesburg's National Centre for Occupational Health (NCOH)

## No legislation

Noting that South Africa had no legislation to protect workers exposed to formaldehyde, the doctors urged their medical colleagues to pay more attention to the possible health hazards posed by it

The NCOH turned its attention to formaldehyde when employees of a newly-built Johannesburg sports

store began choking and sputtering when they entered the basement

Blame was eventually fixed on urea-formaldehyde chipboard. The store was closed for a week and the chipboard painted and sealed

## Nasal problems

Several months later five employees had medical check-ups at the NCOH. They were all found to have nasal problems (swelling of the spongy bone in the nasal cavities). One reported having vomited for a week after leaving the basement

Writing in the latest SA Medical Journal, the researchers concluded that formaldehyde, if inhaled, had an immediate effect on breathing, the central nervous system, the skin and the eyes

They added that it could cause long-term breathing

problems and that several overseas animal studies had shown it could also lead to cancer in humans

Urea-formaldehyde is used as an adhesive in particle- or chipboard, and in foam as insulation in houses, schools and offices

## Industries

It is also used in such industries as clothing, leather and rubber, cosmetics, fertiliser, photographic, paper and plastics, and food and is found in automobile exhaust fumes and cigarette smoke

The researchers said it could be inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin and was released slowly into the atmosphere from new building materials for up to three years

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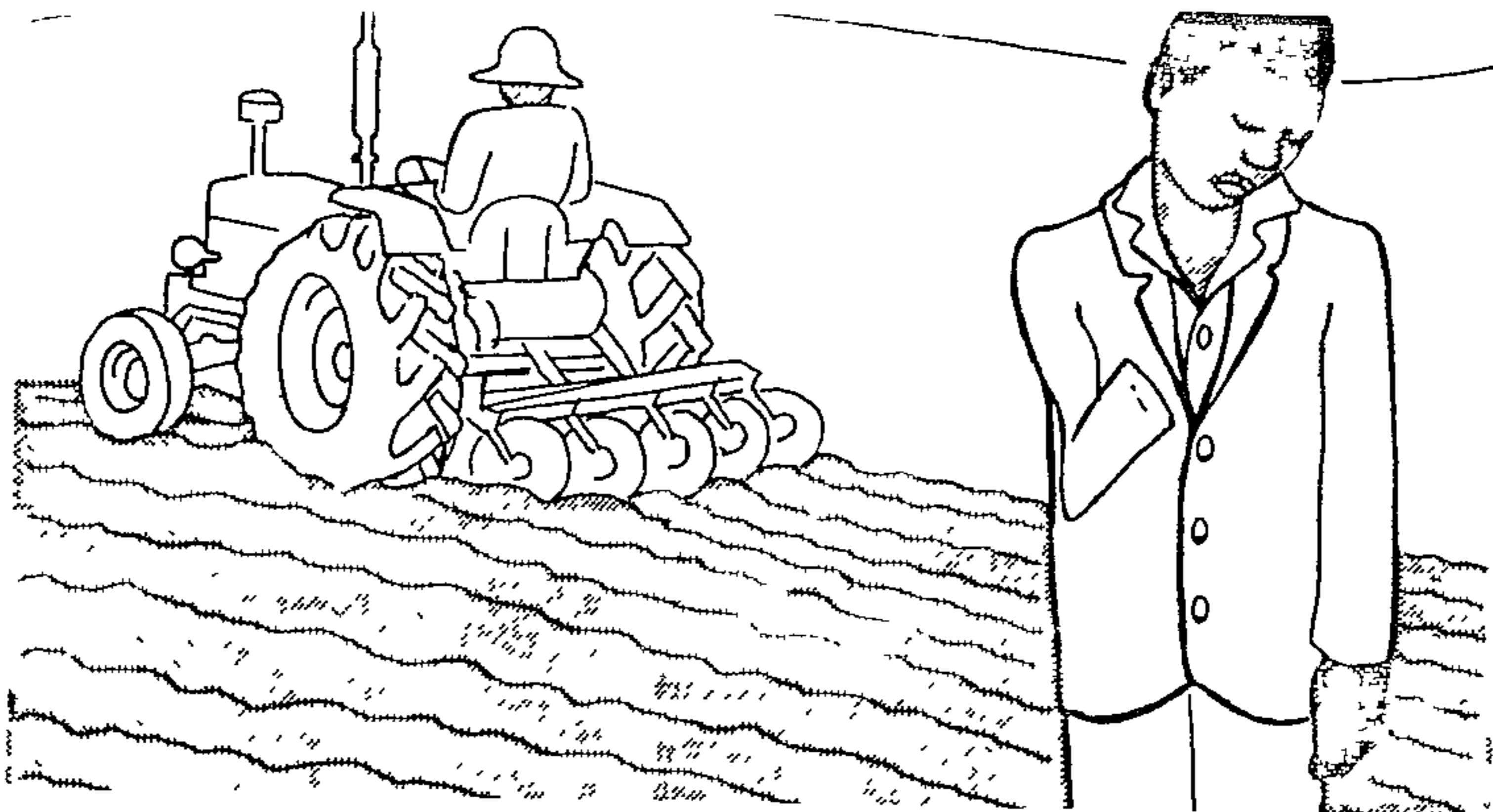
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As a result of the Occupational Diseases Act, the majority of the labour force, in favour of workers on the grounds of the wide proof of cause of the disease.

The Workmen's Compensation Act (WCA), which was passed in 1947, is also coming into force.

Some of the provisions of the WCA have been:

- Thousands of workers now receive compensation.
- R5 million in compensation is being held by the Compensation Commission (WCC).

# The long, long fight for little — or nothing

27/7/84 (131) Star

One of Mr Joseph Mthembu's sleeves hangs limp, the cuff neatly attached to the bottom of his jacket. Until a couple of years ago, the 34-year-old farm worker had both arms and was a healthy and relatively happy man on a wage of R4 a month and four bags of mealie meal at the end of every year.

But, walking near a harvester one day in autumn 1982, he bent down to extract a branch and caught his sleeve in the churning metal.

In Sotho he explains "I was pulled into the machine. There was nothing I could do."

As a result his arm had to be amputated.

cap Security when he was assaulted and killed in March 1982 in the course of his work. He was the sole provider for his wife and five children in the Transkei at the time of his death.

A year after his death his wife started making inquiries about compensation through a relative who lived in Johannesburg. With the support of the Industrial Aid Society, the claim was finally processed in August 1983 and the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner (WCC) forwarded an amount of R3 000 to the commissioner.

merous representations by the IAS and the personal intervention of the deputy WCC in Pretoria, Mrs Dlaza received the compensation money.

- Mrs Marjorie Malotane, a 61-year-old grandmother, was working for a paint and hardware shop when she fell from the top of a ladder and broke her right wrist and foot.

The total compensation she received amounted to R33.

**AMPUTATED**

- Petrus Nkabinde (18), an illiterate migrant worker, had four fingers

ten he was



Mercury 9/8/84 131

# Asbestos 'no threat in Natal'

## Mercury Reporter

NATAL factories which use asbestos in manufacturing processes observe stringent safeguards to ensure the safety of their workers

A spokesman for the Department of Manpower in Durban says many factories have taken extra measures to ensure complete safety

'All machines involved in the processing of asbestos have to be completely covered, dust filters are used and doctors keep a constant check on the health of all workers', he said

'We test conditions in factories throughout Natal every six months and watch them carefully

'The only cases we have had of people contracting asbestos-related diseases

are people who have worked in mines or in old factories a long time before the regulations were brought into operation'

The Chief of National Air Pollution, Mr R Lloyd, said yesterday it was highly unlikely there were any asbestos fibres in the air in Natal

'It is not mined anywhere in Natal and the controls on industry are very stringent. The only other possibility would be from the brake linings of cars,' he said

## Diseases

He added that a recent survey in Johannesburg had shown that the level of asbestos-fibres in the air, as a result of car brake linings, was 'minimal'

An intensive study carried out recently established that asbestos was potentially harmful if inhaled over several years and in very exceptional cases over a shorter period.

Diseases such as asbestosis, lung cancer and mesothelioma (a form of peritoneum or pleura cancer) were found in persons — depending on their individual vulnerability — who had been exposed to asbestos fibres and dust

It said proper handling and transportation of fibre-cement products (such as heaters, flower pots and oven linings) would not pose any danger as no respirable dust would be released.



# Asbestos levels dangerous

## JOHANNESBURG

Shock figures revealing how asbestos has endangered the health of workers at a mine in the north-eastern Transvaal are contained in documents obtained by our Johannesburg correspondent

A report by the manager of the Penge mine, Mr H E Fouche, shows that between 1973 and 1983 about 780 of the mine's employees contracted the lung disease asbestosis

A mill dust report revealed asbestos counts up to 65 times higher than the local recom-

mended fibre limit and 260 times higher than the British legal limit, were recorded as recently as 11 months ago

The dust report shows readings for the mine's entire surface plant on September 28 and 29 last year

It records several counts of more than 100 fibres per millilitre, with the highest being a count of 134

The current recommended limit of the Gov-

ernment Mining Engineer is two fibres/mℓ, though up to the end of last year it was five/mℓ

In Britain, where the links between asbestos and lung cancer and mesothelioma have led to more stringent safety regulations, the legal limit is 0,5 fibres/mℓ

There is a growing lobby overseas — which has already had some success in Scandinavian countries — to have the substance banned com-

pletely as the belief is that there is no safe level of asbestos

The vast majority of Penge's readings were more than two fibres/mℓ while the average of all readings in the plant was 3,9/mℓ

Two weeks ago a consulting physician to Penge's owners, the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco), told our Johannesburg correspondent that conditions at Penge

had been rigidly tightened up over the past five years

The mine manager's report listing the number of cases per month notes that there is a steady increase in the incidence of asbestosis, with 1983 recording the highest average for the decade

Industrial health experts said this could simply mean that the tests were stricter

According to the manager's report, there were 79 cases in 1982 compared to 13 stated in Gefco's annual report to shareholders

# Health hazard of asbestos in spotlight

THE potential dangers of working with asbestos have long been a public issue in America and Europe. Now they are being aired here — and the evidence so far has been alarming.

An internal report by the manager of Penge asbestos mine shows that 780 of its workers contracted asbestosis between 1973 and 1983.

It also reveals that asbestos dust levels in some parts of the mine were, as recently as 11 months ago, 65 times higher than the limit recommended by the Government — and 260 times higher than the legal limit in Britain.

This means workers were — and perhaps still are — exposed to massive levels of a dust which is known to cause a debilitating disease and may also cause cancer.

Even more disturbing is that information about asbestos exposure at Penge issued to the public — and hence to workers — by both the mine's owners and the Government seems to have dramatically understated the problem.

Asbestosis figures in the leaked document are six times higher than those in the annual report of Gencor, which owns Penge, and are also higher than official figures revealed by the Government Mining Engineer.

And incidence of disease is probably higher than the leaked document indicates.

Asbestos-related diseases take years to show themselves. Many miners may only reveal signs of illness long after leaving the mine.

Not only might the mine not know about this — workers may not know it themselves. Another Mail report noted that a man in the Penge area who makes bricks out of asbestos

KDM 13/8/84

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LABOUR WEEK



STEVEN FRIEDMAN

suffered from lung disease — but had not linked this with his exposure to asbestos.

Pressure on the asbestos industry in the US has prompted leading producer Manville to file for bankruptcy after facing claims for damages from former workers running into billions of dollars.

In Sweden, asbestos has been largely banned — leading to a sharp drop in asbestos-related diseases.

Similar pressure could mount here now grave doubts have emerged about the accuracy of official information on asbestos dangers.

# Are computers an occupational hazard?

By Stan Kennedy

Do you sweat, want to be sick, feel dizzy or your blood boils when confronted by a computer? If so, don't worry, you are among the five percent which suffer from computerphobia, says Mr Richard Dekker, general manager, Hewlett-Packard Personal Computer Group.

Tests made in the US on managers and students who use computers regularly found that a third showed fear symptoms while five percent showed all the symptoms of classic phobia — nausea, dizziness, sweating and high blood pressure

Computer psychologist Dr Shoshona Zuboff of Harvard, who specialises in finding ways to smooth the relationship between humans and computers, says some of the social costs of computers are "an altered relationship with co-workers, less worker control and initiative and frustration at the intangibility of computers"

Most at risk are executives and managers

Mr Dekker says that typing, the most common way of getting into the computer, is seen as an "unfit" occupation for managers, besides which very few have learned to type. Even the simplest electronic spreadsheet programme can take a week to learn

Another is the fear of messing up the system and causing the computer to "crash". The competitive element with younger whizz-kids, who cut their teeth on the school computer, is another major factor

"The boss's image of himself as the all-knowing leader, but who knows less than his secretary about how computers work, is also at risk. This undermines his ability to "be the boss"

"Some executives fear the computer's speed in showing up mistakes. The computer does not sugar-coat errors. Others fear, with due cause, that the computer could be an unsafe depository of the company's valuable information."

Middle managers fear that the computer could replace them because they are information conveyors which could be short-circuited. Another concern is that they fear the computer will diminish the interpersonal skills which got them to the top in the first place

"Computers are a fact of life and we are all going to have to come to terms with them. Workers, in fact, usually have them thrust upon them.

"A relatively painless way to introduce them to the bosses is to start them off with calculators and video games and then build up their confidence and expertise with private individual lessons

# SA could face asbestos scandal involving

By Carolyn Dempster

The lives and health of half-a-million people may have been placed at risk in what could become a major asbestos scandal for South Africa

It has been estimated that the uncovered dumps and abandoned workings of more than 30 asbestos mines in the Northeastern Transvaal and Lebowa constitute a considerable environmental hazard — affecting some 500 000 people in these densely populated areas

This is the conclusion of a team of medical and scientific researchers who have undertaken a study of the asbestos-rich region in recent months

The team is operating under the umbrella of the Technical Advice Group, a voluntary body of socially concerned engineers and scientists based in Johannesburg

Well-documented medical evidence has revealed that ingestion and/or inhalation of asbestos fibres can result in any of three lung diseases: asbestosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer

Asbestosis is a progressive disabling disease, while mesothelioma results in painful and certain death

For mesothelioma victims, exposure to asbestos dust — hence asbestos fibres — need only have been minimal

A 1980 report by the United States Department of Health and Human Services states that "at very short exposure periods — one day to three months — significant disease can occur"

Mesothelioma takes from 20 or 30 years to develop, but once the symptoms become manifest life expectancy is shortened to two or three years

In the North-Eastern Transvaal towns of Bewaarskloof, Mahlangane, Mmatefe, Dalton and Krommellenboog, children play on asbestos tailing dumps near disused crocidolite (blue asbestos) mines, local black entrepreneurs mix asbestos waste with cement and water to make bricks, and primary schoolchildren study in classrooms with the blue asbestos fibres protruding from roughly-hewn walls

And when the wind blows the blue dust swirls innocuously through the narrow valleys of this hilly region, spills over on to the roads and is ground to a

finer fibre powder by bare feet

ing it more lethal

The tragedy of it is that most are not aware of the danger, say have conducted interviews in the

In addition, should any of the asbestos, mesothelioma or environmental exposure, they will compensation of any kind

Wherever asbestos has been in world, stringent controls have been kept down dust levels to a "safe health hazard"

In Scandinavia, asbestos has while Britain has imposed a severe

## Centenary frolics 'will inject new life into Jo'burg'

By Andrew Beattie

Private enterprise will inject new life into Johannesburg for its Centenary Festival in 1986, and the multimillion-rand extravaganza will not overburden the ratepayer

This is the message from the chairman of the Centenary Festival Association (CFA), Mr David Lewis

## Doctors warn on asthma 'myths'

By Susan Fleming

Asthma is "grossly under-diagnosed and undertreated" in South Africa and six to seven percent of the

Speaking at the Johannesburg Chamber of Commerce's annual meeting last night, Mr Lewis promised that the year-long centenary festival would — like the Los Angeles Olympics — be sponsored almost entirely by private enterprise



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# Asbestos hazard to be probed

By Carolyn Dempster

The office of the Government Mining Engineer is to launch an investigation into widespread asbestos pollution in the north-eastern Transvaal.

Mr D M Morris, deputy Government Mining Engineer, this week openly admitted that the asbestos dumps of the old north-western Cape and Transvaal mines posed a major environmental hazard.

"It is a very serious problem and something has to be done about it," he told *The Star*.

He was horrified to hear of schoolchildren playing on dumps of blue asbestos waste and traversing the mounds to get to and from their homes.

A rehabilitation committee was set up several years ago to look at the environmental problems created mainly by open-cast mining.

"The committee has been looking at these hazards but hasn't come up with any definite answers," Mr Morris said.

The question of who is responsible for the disused dumps remains a major obstacle.

The Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act of 1965 requires mine owners to ensure they dispose of their assets and dumps without leaving behind a major environmental disaster.

But in most cases, and particularly in the Transvaal, the asbestos mines were closed and abandoned before the legislation was enacted.

"Bewaarskloof was a shambles. There were so many small companies operating there, and most of them closed when they closed the mines," said Mr Morris.

*[Handwritten scribble]*

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Star

15/8/80

The State and, more specifically, the Government of South Africa should be responsible.

"But until such time as a Supreme Court judge makes the position clear and the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs is made responsible, our budget is not likely to be increased."

In any event, the company which derived profit from the mine should make good the damage, he added.

Air samples showed fibre counts well below the regulated limits, said Mr Morris, but he agreed this would not necessarily be the case where people were living close to open dumps.

● See Page 2.

RDM 21/8/84 (130 21/8/84)

# 100 deaths each year linked to asbestos

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

MORE than 100 South Africans are dying every year from mesothelioma, the rare cancer of the lung-lining which is associated with asbestos, says Professor Tony Davies, director of the State-run National Centre for Occupational Health (NCOH).

Of the 100 cases at least 15, though possibly many more, are people who have never worked with asbestos and have only been exposed to it in the environment.

Mesothelioma is an incurable tumour of the lung-lining which is known to occur after very low exposure to asbestos.

It is one of three diseases associated with asbestos, the others being asbestosis, a scarring of the lung tissue which is much more common, and lung cancer.

In releasing these statistics publicly for the first time, Prof Davies said it was about time they became common knowledge.

"I lament the fact that these figures — as well as the recently publicised figures on asbestosis — have not been nailed to the walls of factories and mines to remind people of the dangers of asbestos," he said.

The figures — soon to be published by the NCOH — were established by a mesothelioma panel, a permanent group of pathologists

analysing the occurrence of the disease.

The panel's figures indicate there have been 1 228 known cases of mesothelioma diagnosed in the past 26 years. The actual figure could be much higher.

Prof Davies said recent analysis of the figures showed that around 100 people a year were dying from mesothelioma. Of these, 20 were from the mining industry while 15 experienced only environmental exposure.

A further 40 cases had no accurate history available and could have resulted from mining or environmental exposure.

Prof Davies said he had no doubt that the children who were playing on old asbestos dumps in the north-eastern Transvaal were at risk of contracting mesothelioma.

He said mesothelioma often took a long time to manifest itself, "and in this sense we are now living in a situation where our chickens are coming home to roost."

It was very unfortunate that South African asbestos — whether the blue asbestos mined in the north-western Cape or the brown asbestos mined at Penge in the north-eastern Transvaal — seemed to be more dangerous.

It was also unfortunate that in the public health field in South Africa everything had been kept confidential.

131 Star 23/8/84

By Carolyn Dempster

## Hundreds at risk in Tvl asbestos mining towns

Hundreds of people breathe in potentially dangerous levels of asbestos fibre every day in North-Eastern Transvaal asbestos mining towns

This emerged during an investigation by *The Star* last week of the townships of Mmafele, Penge, Kromellenboog and Bewaarkloof in the Strydpoortberge

The survey found

- Home-owners are using material from the dumps to make bricks. There are hundreds of new as-

bestos houses in Mmafele

- Asbestos fibre is used for plastering houses

- Children play on the exposed blue asbestos dumps in Mmafele

- Few of the hundreds of blue asbestos and brown asbestos dumps have been properly covered. They pose a major health hazard

Up to 15 000 Lebowa people may suffer as a result of environmental exposure to dumps

The Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs' air quality section takes regular samples to test asbestos fibre levels in the townships

According to the Deputy Government Mining Engineer, Mr D M Morris, the counts are usually

below the recommended limits for environmental exposure

However, the conditions which *The Star* found in these areas does not support the 1982 report of the Government Mining Engineer, which states that "old tailings dumps are covered with soil or broken rock"

● See Page 6



# Mine dust levels exceed UK limit

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By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

**MORE** than 80% of the employees at the Penge brown asbestos mine in the north-eastern Transvaal are working in fibre levels above the British limit.

And in several key areas the mine is still unable to meet the Government Mining Engineer's (GME) limit of two fibres a millilitre, or 2-million fibres a cubic metre, and has had to be granted an exemption.

The mine's latest dust figures were revealed by Mr Pat Hart, the managing director of the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco), when he took a Rand Daily Mail reporter on a tour of the mine this week.

The tour followed the publication of reports of extremely high dust levels and the fact that 780 workers at the mine were compensated for asbestosis between 1973 and 1983.

Mr Hart showed the Mail attempts made in recent years to lower the mine's fibre counts and to cut down on environmental pollution.

However, Mr Jean Leger, a chemical engineer and research officer at the University of the Witwatersrand who accompanied the Mail on the tour, said management was only now introducing dust control technology that had been available for decades.

He said the present GME requirement of 2-million fibres a cubic metre was introduced in Britain in 1969 and had been found to be inadequate in preventing asbestosis and lung cancer.

The new British standard

was 200 000 fibres a cubic metre and, according to the mine's own figures supplied by Mr Hart, 80% of Penge's employees were working in fibre levels higher than this.

According to the figures, workers in the bagging and weighing departments — about 8% of the total staff — were working in levels consistently above the GME level.

Mr Hart said these workers all wore respirators and the mine had been exempted by the GME from meeting the levels as long as there was evidence they were attempting to improve the situation.

The highest counts for workers in a number of other departments — such as mill supervisory staff and workers in the sorting plant and the processing plant — were as high as 9 900 000 fibres a cubic metre (9,9 fibres a millilitre).

The average count for workers at the underground faces in the first quarter of this year was 2 000 000 fibres a cubic metre with the highest count being 4 600 000 fibres a cubic metre.

Mr Hart said the earlier publicised counts of up to 134 000 000 fibres a cubic metre were engineering counts taken with a kumometer and did not reflect what a worker in the mill would be exposed to.

He did not deny earlier reports that the mill's dust average had improved substantially since 1980, but said he "did not want to put the needle into" the previous owners — Transvaal Consolidated Land — who sold the mine to Gefco two years ago.

PAUL DUNN'S disability is part of the legacy of asbestos mining in the North Eastern Transvaal.

Unable to walk a few steps without stopping for breath, 54-year-old Mr Dunn spends his days in an armchair in the darkened lounge of his Randfontein home.

Two years ago he was pensioned off from Penge mine suffering from "asbestosis" - what medical people call "pneumoconiosis" and what miners call "pthisis"

He is one of the more than 800 victims of asbestos dust who have been compensated for the disease at Penge mine since 1973

These figures - which only became public knowledge after they were leaked to the Press - have led to widespread concern at the dust levels in the mine.

They have also sparked calls for the figures of asbestos-related and other occupational diseases to be made public and subject to scrutiny

As one of the victims, Mr Dunn speaks with a characteristic asbestosis croak in his voice when describing the mine "The pthisis was on the surface," he says

He pauses between sentences to catch his breath

"I was lazy and used to sit on the stoep. Hell, when the trucks went by they used to raise a lot of dust."

Yet Mr Dunn believes the company (Gencor, which controls Gefco, which owns Egnep, which owns Penge) has been good to him

# Sent home — to a lingering death



Mineworkers at Penge wait in a corridor of the mine hospital to be medically examined

As a white miner, he was paid R24 000 workman's compensation and receives a monthly pension of R400

Had he been black - like the vast majority of compensation cases - he would

have received R1 490 workman's compensation and returned to his village in Lebowa, without a pension, to die

Mr Pat Hart, managing director of Gefco, says the mine has sought to provide jobs in the non-dusty areas on the surface for compensated workers.

But less than 10% of the mine staff works on the surface. There are not enough jobs for asbestosis sufferers, and the rate of cases has shot up this decade

In 1980 there were 116 cases, 122 in 1981, 118 in 1982 and, in 1983, more than 148

## PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

This year there have been 45 confirmed cases, with another 22 "suspicious" cases

A senior medical officer summed it up "They're like plastic syringes. You use them and when they're damaged you throw them back to the homelands"

Asbestosis is a disease that gets progressively worse

When he was first found to be suffering from it, Mr Dunn was switched from shaft foreman to banksman. Three years later, an X-ray test ended his working career by revealing he had second phase asbestosis

Two years later, Mr Dunn walks with difficulty, supporting himself on the wall and stopping frequently as he slowly goes down the passage

He is glad of one thing he does not have cancer

Both lung cancer and mesothelioma, the rare cancer of the lung lining, are promoted by contact with asbestos. In fact, about half the asbestosis sufferers will die with lung cancer

According to Professor Tony Davies, director of the National Centre for Occupational Health, more than

100 people die in Africa every year from mesothelioma

At least 15 of those who worked with asbestos were exposed to it in the environment.

Mesothelioma is a disease that occurs after very low levels of exposure to the substance, which is often cited in the debate over what is a safe level of asbestos

Industry spokesmen as Mr Hart believe the present level of two cubic centimetres (2 fibres a cubic centimetre) is a socially acceptable standard

An educational programme handed out to miners starting work at Penge is present disease related to working conditions that prevailed years ago

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**'In view of the vast experience gained on the Rand in the treatment and prevention of miner's pthisis there is every hope the disease (asbestosis) will be wiped out before long'**

SUNDAY TIMES, November 2, 1941

**'I am satisfied that with the intensive precautionary measures in existence, the risk of contracting asbestosis can, proportionately speaking, today be said to be ...'**

Dr CAREL DE WET, Minister and Planning, September 2

# The asbestos battle in US

ELAINE DURBACH  
in New York

THE THREAT to health posed by asbestos in buildings is very much more serious in the United States than was previously realised.

According to new figures gathered by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), hundreds of thousands of public and commercial buildings, blocks of flats and private homes contain asbestos in a form that could possibly be inhaled or swallowed.

The New York Times recently quoted a United States government study, not yet published, that said there were as many as 700 000 such buildings with asbestos in an easily crumbled or powdered form.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences was investigating evidence that as many as another 200-million homes could contain the insulation material — mainly in air-conditioning systems — the paper said.

The new findings intensified concern and brought new discussion on the problem it presents.

Schools across the United States were earlier this year threatened with fines if they did not begin to remove asbestos.

According to Mr Mark Wein, a spokesman for the association of companies that used to manufacture building materials with asbestos, the process of removing the asbestos could release the damaging particles into the air, causing more of a health risk.

There were few contractors qualified to do the removals safely, he said.

Earlier studies focused mainly on schools and workplaces. This is the first time there has been a nationwide

assessment of asbestos in public and private

According to a new study on schools, about 15-children and 1,4-school employees at risk in buildings with asbestos.

For private buildings, the cost of removing asbestos can be prohibitive. An insurance company was going to spend \$30-million to remove one 52-storey building in Boston.

A leading researcher on the health impact of asbestos — Dr Irving Selikoff at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York — said that there is at least about 30 tons of asbestos in buildings across the United States.

He describes this as the "third wave of asbestos hazards". In an interview with the New York Times he explained that the first wave involved those who mined or milled asbestos, then came those who worked with it in construction, transport and other businesses.

Now those at risk are occupants of buildings with asbestos and those involved in removing or disposing of it.

He said that within the next few years, asbestos could cause between \$35 000-million and \$100 000-million worth of damage to the industry.

American unions are currently fighting to gain compensation for slow-growing diseases, such as asbestosis, caused by exposure to asbestos.



PAUL DUNN ... "Hell, when the trucks went by they used to raise a lot of dust"

other industrialised countries who have returned to their villages in Lebowa, mounting pressure is building up to protect those who have not yet gone that way.

**'We know conditions were bad in the Sixties. There has been a tremendous improvement in our dust counts over the last decade... the risk of asbestosis for a miner who's entered the industry in the past five years is remote'**

CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN to Gefco, July, 1984

a

said after a tour of the mine last week that management was only now introducing dust control technology that had been available for decades.

The implication is that if the industry had acted on what was available at the time, it could have substantially cut down the level of disease.

Mr Leger said the present Government Mining Engineer's requirement of 2-million fibres a cubic metre had been introduced in Britain in 1969 and found to be inadequate in preventing asbestosis and lung cancer.

At Penge today, more than 80% of the workforce still work in levels above the current British limit of 200 000 fibres a cubic metre.

As recently as 1980 the average fibre levels at the mine's mills was 64-million per cubic metre.

Even in 1984, the mine has not been able to bring all its levels to below the GME's 2-million limit and has had to be granted an exemption for about 8% of its staff.

Industrial health experts believe that disease levels could have been reduced substantially if the public had been kept properly informed of the dangers of asbestos.

Prof Davies said that he "lamented the fact that the figures of asbestos disease are not nailed to the wall of factories and mines".

Since 1941 the public has been told not to be alarmed, that the situation is under control.

These statements have been disproved, sometimes only decades later by the continuing high rate of disease. Disease from the current levels will only be diagnosed in years to come.

For this reason, the National Medical and Dental Association (Nmda), last week called for the setting up of emergency statutory limits for exposure to asbestos.

They believe that South Africa workers are being exposed to risks which would be unacceptable in

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# Sent home — to a lingering death

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Unable to walk a few steps without stopping for breath, 54-year-old Mr Dunn spends his days in an armchair in the darkened lounge of his Randfontein home.

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He is one of the more than 800 victims of asbestos dust who have been compensated for the disease at Penge mine since 1973

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Mineworkers at Penge wait in a corridor of the mine hospital to be medically examined

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have received R1 490 workman's compensation and returned to his village in Lebowa, without a pension, to die

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Mesothelioma, after very low exposure to the substance, which is often cited in debate over whether there is a safe level of exposure to asbestos

Industry spokesmen as Mr Hart believe the present level of two cubic centimetres (2 fibres a cubic millimetre) is a "socially acceptable standard"

An educational pamphlet handed out to miners starting work at Penge in 1973, present disease related to working conditions that prevailed years ago

However, though the past two years have clearly been vast improvements both in education as well as in dust control at the mine, this statement has been seriously disputed.

Mr Jean Leger, a chemical engineer and an officer at Wits Un-

**'In view of the vast experience gained on the Rand in the treatment and prevention of miner's pthisis there is every hope the disease (asbestosis) will be wiped out before long'**

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28/8/84 (131) ~~3~~ D. Dispatch  
**What about the workers?**

People who work in mines or in plants that process ore are covered by the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act.

Whites are entitled to a benefit examination which may be conducted at the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases in Braamfontein. Blacks have to have an examination at the mines where they work or they may be referred to the Employment Bureau of Africa (TEBA) by their own doctor.

If the worker has a disease which qualifies him for compensation (under the Act, these are asbestosis, pleural fibrosis, mesothelioma and lung cancer attributable to asbestos) the case is referred to the medical committee of the Medical Bureau for Occupational Disease for certification.

Diseases are classified according to their seriousness by the terms first and second degree.

If a white person is

found, after initial examination, to be suffering from such a disease he is paid out a lump sum of R17 889 for a first degree disease. If after a subsequent examination the disease is found to have progressed to a second degree he is paid out a further R8 945. If, however, after an initial examination he is found to have a second degree disease, he is paid out R26 833.

A coloured person is paid about half of the R26 833. In regard to blacks, if after an initial examination, the victim is found to be suffering from a first degree disease, he is paid out R1 491. He is not paid out a second degree sum.

As for factory workers, there is no obligation in law for them to be examined although a number of factories have medical teams on their premises.

A worker may go to his own doctor for evaluation (who may di-

agnose an asbestos-related disease if he is familiar with the conditions — and a lot of doctors aren't) or he may be referred to the National Centre for Occupational Health in Braamfontein.

If a positive diagnosis is made, the doctor must refer the worker's case to the Workmen's Compensation Commissioner in Pretoria. The Commissioner then uses the Bureau as his medical panel. If the patient is certified (asbestosis and mesothelioma are the only two diseases which qualify for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act) he is then paid out. Compensation is based not on race but on earnings at the last date of exposure and on the percentage of disability as assessed by the medical committee.

Pleural diseases and lung cancer in the presence of asbestosis may be considered for compensation but are not listed in the Act.

# Injured prisoner claims <sup>Staw</sup> R 30 000 <sup>28/8/54</sup> (131)

Pretoria Correspondent

An inmate of the Pretoria Central Prison has sued the Minister of Justice for R30 000 compensation after losing two fingers in the prison's carpentry workshop

The prisoner and former policeman, W S J M Bower, was sawing a piece of wood. It snapped and his right hand was pulled into the machine, according to papers before court

His middle finger was amputated completely and his index finger was amputated at the middle joint. He lost the tip of his thumb and the saw cut into the knuckle of his ring finger, which will no longer bend

Bower, who was 23 when the accident happened 2½ years ago, claimed a Prisons Service sergeant was negligent because he did not properly supervise Bower, whom he knew was not qualified to work the machine

He also claimed the saw was in a poor and dangerous condition

Gardening and working with tools, his two hobbies, as well as any sports in which one needs to use both hands, were now out of the question

He used to play golf, cricket and rugby and was a shottist

Mr Justice Stegmann reserved judgment in the matter

Melony 29/8/84 (131)

# Asbestos 'phobia' persists in spite of laws

**STRICT** new control measures aimed at improving the safety standards applied by contractors handling asbestos, especially those involved in stripping asbestos from buildings, have been in force in Britain since the beginning of this month.

But the measures have not succeeded in allaying growing public concern over the potential lethal effects of asbestos. Numerous reports about the suffering caused by asbestosis have been a constant reminder of the killer potential of this fibrous silicate mineral.

Legislation introduced in Britain on August 1 requires all companies engaged in stripping asbestos from buildings to be licensed by the Government's Health and Safety Executive.

The Health and Safety Commission agreed last year that the import, manufacture, marketing and use of blue asbestos, generally regarded as the most dangerous, should be prohibited. It asked the HSE to prepare regulations. A voluntary ban on blue asbestos exists already.

The commission also agreed that there should be a ban on brown asbestos and it asked the HSE to discuss the implications with the relevant government departments.

Under the new legislation licences are

## LONDON BUREAU

granted only to companies with unblemished safety records of stripping operations.

The legislation requires contractors to provide workers with protective clothing and other safety equipment, such as ventilators. Workers must also be examined by a doctor at least every two years.

Since the licensing system was introduced it has been revealed that licences have been issued to contractors who have already been convicted for contravening existing safety measures. The HSE admits it has approved more than 700 applicants, some of whom it knew nothing about.

The licences have been branded 'licences to kill'.

Many councils are conducting concerted asbestos searches on their properties, and one council in south London recently found traces of asbestos in 10 000 homes. Large-scale operations are also under way in power stations.

A housing spokesman for the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that, ironically, unless greater care was taken to safeguard the health of workers involved in asbestos removal more people would actu-

ally die removing the material than would have been the case if it had been left where it is.

Many people feel the new safeguards are not only long overdue but woefully inadequate.

Mr D Gee, of the General Boilermakers and Allied Workers Union, wrote recently to a national newspaper saying the real tragedy was that thousands of construction workers were exposed to dangerously high concentrations in spite of the existing knowledge of asbestos disease and the protective safety laws that have been available since 1931.

In another letter to the national Press, however, Dr Muriel Newhouse warned that 'wild statements' about the alleged perils of asbestos were dangerous.

She said she had a patient with such a degree of 'asbestos phobia' that the patient felt compelled three or four times a day to scrub an airing cupboard that had previously been lined with asbestos boarding.

Efforts have been made since 1980 to achieve common standards in the EEC on the marketing and use of asbestos products and the protection of workers in the asbestos industry, and there is a possibility that an agreement is in sight.

# Two men hurt in LP gas explosion

Post Reporter

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TWO unidentified men were slightly injured in an explosion at a Uitenhage automotive component manufacturing plant yesterday afternoon, according to the town's Chief Fire Officer, Mr C C Bezuidenhout

Mr Bezuidenhout said the explosion at Dorbyl Automotive Products apparently occurred after liquefied petroleum gas had leaked from a gas pipe on to which a small container of steel components had fallen

Gas had collected in an enclosed area below ground level and exploded when it was ignited, he said

The damage was "minimal" although heavy steel covers were lifted by the explosion and a small fire was started. The flames were quickly extinguished by plant workers before the fire engines arrived, he said

A spokesman for Dorbyl said it was company policy not to release any Press statements on such incidents



pdm 1/9/84 (131) (211) (211)

# US Steel holds interests in asbestos dumps

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

UNITED States Steel — one of the wealthiest and most powerful corporations in the world — holds investment interests in abandoned asbestos dumps which are polluting large areas of the North Eastern Transvaal and creating a health hazard to thousands of people, a Rand Daily Mail investigation has disclosed

Also holding extensive land and mineral rights in the area is the British asbestos multinational, Turner and Newall

The Mail has established that several farms in the area littered with asbestos dumps have been sold to the South African Development Trust in the past 18 months for incorporation into Lebowa

At present sparsely populated, these contaminated farms are soon to be the scene of large-scale settlement by blacks

The sales could be in contravention of a provision of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act that a mine-owner cannot dispose of any asset of that mine unless he has taken the necessary steps to prevent dust pollution

The Mail was the first to report the existence of numerous uncovered dumps in the area four weeks ago. Since then researchers have estimated that at least 200 000 people living there could be exposed to the pollution

Only one tailing dump in the entire asbestos area running along the Strydberg mountains, which includes densely-populated sections of Lebowa, shows signs of attempts to cover it and prevent environmental contamination

The main companies still owning land and mineral rights in the area are Associated Asbestos, Lagerdraai Asbestos, Dublin Consolidated Mines and Egnep, alongside numerous other small owners

Dublin Consolidated is owned by Turner and Newall, while Egnep is owned by the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco), which is controlled by the mining giant Gencor

Associated Asbestos and Lagerdraai Asbestos are wholly owned subsidiaries of Associated Ore and Steel which is controlled by Oresteel Investments in which US Steel has a 49 % share and is the largest single shareholder.

An Italian company, Italiani Prodotti Minerali, also holds a substantial interest in Associated Ore

Mr Robert E'sperance, a director of Oresteel based at US Steel's headquarters in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, told the Mail yesterday that he was "totally unaware" of the situation

"We are minority shareholders," he said, adding "I can't comment on the environmental situation, though US Steel is very, very concerned about environment all over"

Three farms contaminated by asbestos dumps and in which US Steel, through Associated Ore, holds a major shareholding have been sold in the past 18 months to the SA Development Trust.

They are Piezangsdraai, Lagerdraai and Beesthoek. On Lagerdraai there is an old mill and a tailing dump with a family living right on top of it.

Mr Guido Sacco, the chairman of Associated Ore and Steel, admitted that they had taken no steps to cover the dumps on their properties

"We stopped mining asbestos a long time ago, about 15 years," he said. "We were a very, very small producer. At the time we did not know asbestos was injurious to the health."

According to company reports, there were mining operations on both Lagerdraai and Piezangdraai as recently as the early seventies

The Turner and Newall-owned Dublin Consolidated — which has maintained substantial base mineral rights in the area — has been gradually selling off its farms with old mine dumps on them

All the farms have been sold in the past five years, and the dumps show no signs of having been covered up

At Bewaarkloof — which Egnep sold to the SA Development Trust in May for almost quarter of a million rand — vegetation has been planted on the dump but fibres have continued to spill into the road despite a wall being built around it.

Mr C Good, the group finance executive for Turner and Newall Holdings, said that as far as he knew the mines on Dublin property had been worked by tributors

"To the best of my knowledge — and I must concede its scanty — the Government Mining Engineer's approval was granted for the sale of the properties"

However, according to an old newspaper report Dublin Consolidated employed 15 000 workers in 1968 working mines in the Bewaarkloof valley alone

# Effect of Vietnam chemical war felt

CT 12/19/84

STOCKHOLM — United States use of herbicides in the Vietnam war continues to have long-ranging effects, according to a report issued yesterday, pointing to new evidence that men exposed to Agent Orange may father genetically-deformed "monsters"

The renowned Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) said yesterday that the use of herbicides, in Indo-China continues to have long-ranging effects on humans as well as their environment.

Sipri especially noted a study showing that the herbicide Agent Orange might cause fetus damage even when the father alone was exposed to it.

"The rate of monsters born to families of Vietnamese veterans of war seems to be higher than in normal families"

The herbicide also appeared to lead to increased liver cancer and chronic hepatitis

Many tree-covered areas with a rich animal life had been turned into savannas mainly supporting disease-carrying rodents.

It might take 100 years to re-establish the most heavily-affected forests, the report said

During the war in Indo-China, the US poured some 900 000 tons of herbicide over 10 percent of Vietnam's soil in order to refuse the enemy access to crops and cover from the forests

Although the destruction of crops and forests had been part of warfare since biblical times, when Romans used salt to destroy fertile fields, Vietnam represented the first opportunity to study the effects of massive use of herbicides in war, the report said —  
UPI

# Worker crushed in cotton baler

Mercury 12/9/84

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## Mercury Reporter

A WORKER was crushed in a cotton baler at a Pinetown factory yesterday afternoon and died before rescue workers could get to him

His name has been withheld until his family has been told.

It is believed he was in a pit where cotton is compressed into bales when the apparatus was switched on and he was crushed

Factory workers removed his body before rescue workers arrived on the scene

Police are investigating

13/9/84 (131)

## Worker dies in explosion at Epping factory

Staff Reporter

A WORKER was killed this afternoon in an explosion at a chemical factory in Epping Industria

An ambulance took the worker, whose name is being withheld, to Conradie Hospital, where he was certified dead

Cape Town fire brigade were called to the plant of Fine Chemicals in Hawkins Avenue

A brigade spokesman said the worker was fatally injured when a lid of a centrifuge separator machine came off and hit him following an explosion

It will never be known how many people have suffered ill effects or even death from asbestos dust exposure in a time when effective action could have been taken, or how many more face this grim prospect as a result of past exposure

Dr Carel de Wet, then Minister of Health, was quoted on September 29 1967 as saying he was satisfied that with the variety of intensive precautionary measures then in existence "the risk of contracting asbestosis could, proportionately speaking, today be said to be slight."

He further said he was convinced that the so-called dangerous effects of asbestos on the human body were greatly exaggerated on the strength of misrepresentations or insufficient knowledge and for the purpose of creating sensation

Yet there had been repeated warnings in the medical Press world-wide as early as the beginning of 1961 and similar articles had appeared in South Africa

At the Pneumococcosis Conference held in Johannesburg in 1959, a paper on the pathological aspects of asbestosis described a number of patients who had died of the disease in the period 1954-58 and several cases of mesothelioma — a rare tumour in South Africa. The speaker concluded that a very serious hazard may exist on the Cape asbestos fields."

On January 14 1961, the *SA Medical Journal* published an article by three respected researchers on diffuse pleural mesotheliomas in South Africa. They referred to 41 cases, eight of which had been exposed to asbestos in the north-west Cape. Not all of the unfortunate victims were miners or had even worked with the mineral

A survey was then undertaken in asbestos areas, in which it was found that 27 percent of blacks living in the vicinity of asbestos mines or mills, but not occupationally exposed, had chest X-ray changes consistent with asbestosis. There was also an abundance of reports from other countries concerning the dangers of exposure to asbestos dust. The British Press pub-

# Killer-dust warnings that went unheeded 18/9/84



Asbestos mill dust menace is tackled with a water spray

scribed as a "generally unscientific publication" by a leading local pathologist who was advising one of the asbestos companies in an honorary capacity at the time. The same article was reviewed in the January 1968 edition of *International Abstracts on Hygiene* as "this comprehensive and informative paper".

The article traced the use of asbestos in history, described the various types of mineral and where they occurred in the Republic. It then set the alarm bells ringing with a review of the hazards of exposure to the mineral and a description of an asbestos refining factory in Durban that produced unbelievable exposure to asbestos dust of all three varieties mined in South Africa together with the rapidly produced pulmonary disability suffered by workers in this environment.

It was this article which to a great extent was responsible for forcing the then Minister of Health into a clamour

At the heart of the asbestos scandal lies an official cover-up which "extends over two decades and makes the Salem oil affair seem trivial". This is the claim of Dr Theo Collins, superintendent of the Durban Chest Clinic and regional medical officer for the Department of Health for 31 years. He wrote this article in the light of recent Press reports on the health hazards of neglected asbestos waste material in South Africa.

In 1966 I received information that women engaged in assembling gas mask filters in England during World War 2 were exposed to asbestos and I wrote to the Cape Asbestos Company head office in London requiring further details. (Cape Asbestos was part of the UK-based Cape Industries, a mining enterprise controlled by Charter Consolidated, the English investment wing of the Anglo American Corporation)

Following considerable delay, I was informed that "we cannot of course disclose the composition of the material used in these filters, but as a matter of fact, asbestos was not a component of the great majority of the pads produced."

Subsequently the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine* in February 1982 dealt with the mortality of World War 2 female gas mask assemblers following a 30-year period. The women showed a pronounced excess of deaths from mesothelioma and lung cancer. The authors discovered that the filter pads of the gas masks consisted of merino wool mixed with 15 percent pure crocidolite (blue) asbestos.

My suspicions that an official cover-up of the asbestos story was being applied by frightened bureaucrats and the industry itself were revived by an article in *New Scien-*

York Academy of Sciences conference

After the first paper had been read, the scientists were flatly ordered not to read the second one and the order allegedly came directly from the SA Medical Research Council. The article further stated that the information was suppressed at the direct request of the asbestos mining companies.

Naturally there were subsequent denials, but the order to withdraw was issued at the last possible moment, after the direction of the research became clear.

Up-to-date informed comment on asbestos waste — such as that lying exposed in large areas of this country — equates asbestos waste with "special" toxic waste and recommends immediate disposal (journal of the Institution of Environmental Health Officers in Britain)

I have written this article because I believe that every day hundreds of thousands of people, perhaps millions, and including men, women and children who are not involved in any way with asbestos mining or its use in industry, are exposed to a form of environmental pollution which is truly a killer dust.

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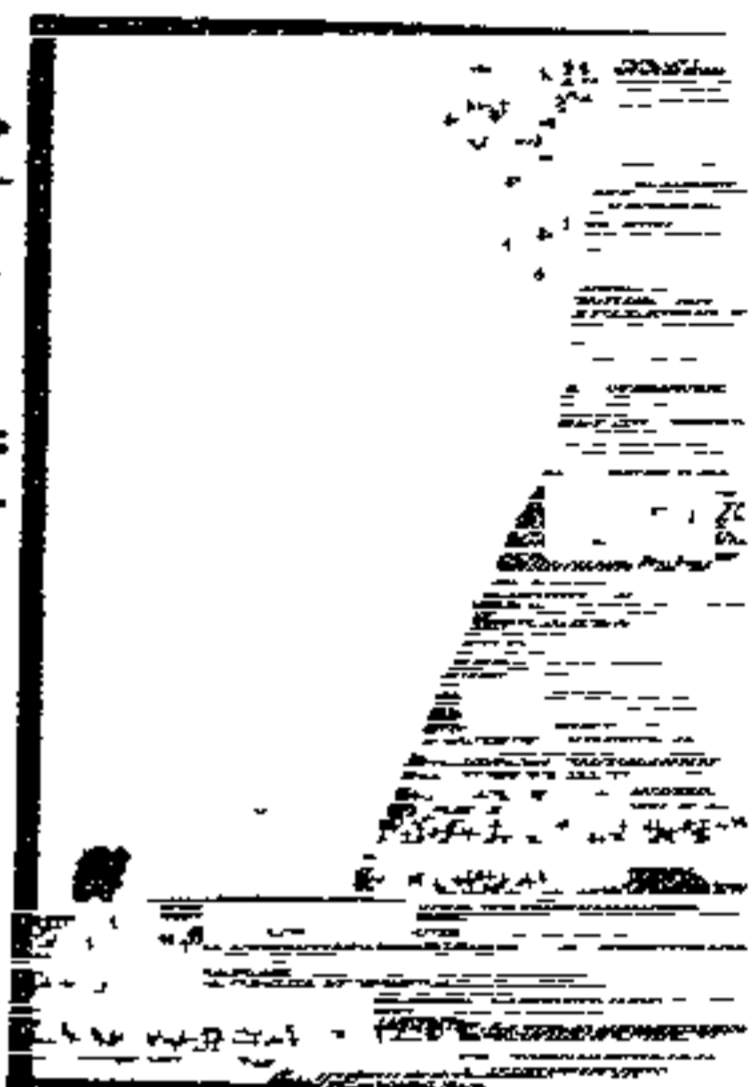
Yet there had been repeated warnings in the medical Press world-wide as early as the beginning of 1961 and similar articles had appeared in South Africa.

At the Pneumoconiosis Conference held in Johannesburg in 1959, a paper on the pathological aspects of asbestosis described a number of patients who had died of the disease in the period 1954-58 and several cases of mesothelioma — a rare tumour in South Africa. The speaker concluded that "a very serious hazard may exist on the Cape asbestos fields."

On January 14 1961, the *SA Medical Journal* published an article by three respected researchers on diffuse pleural mesotheliomas in South Africa. They referred to 41 cases, eight of which had been exposed to asbestos in the north-west Cape. Not all of the unfortunate victims were miners or had even worked with the mineral.

A survey was then undertaken in asbestos areas, in which it was found that 27 percent of blacks living in the vicinity of asbestos mines or mills, but not occupationally exposed, had chest X-ray changes consistent with asbestosis. There was also an abundance of reports from other countries concerning the dangers of exposure to asbestos dust. The British Press published a report of a wife who developed a mesothelioma from the dust on the clothing of her husband, who worked with asbestos.

On the home front, an article submitted to the *SA Medical Journal* was initially accepted but never saw the light of day. After almost a year and numerous inquiries, it was returned to the author for abbreviation under conditions which suggested there were those who would rather that it were not published at all. When it eventually appeared in print in shortened form, it was de-



Asbestos mill dust menace is tackled with a water spray

scribed as a "generally unscientific publication" by a leading local pathologist who was advising one of the asbestos companies in an honorary capacity at the time. The same article was reviewed in the January 1968 edition of *International Abstracts on Hygiene* as "this comprehensive and informative paper".

The article traced the use of asbestos in history, described the various types of mineral and where they occurred in the Republic. It then set the alarm bells ringing with a review of the hazards of exposure to the mineral and a description of an asbestos refining factory in Durban that produced unbelievable exposure to asbestos dust of all three varieties mined in South Africa together with the rapidly produced pulmonary disability suffered by workers in this environment.

It was this article which to a great extent was responsible for forcing the then Minister of Health into claiming that the "so-called dangers were greatly exaggerated" and the *SA Medical Journal* in an editorial on April 6 1968 concluded that "there is now a grave need to halt the headlong risk of assumption and to pause for a careful reappraisal of the situation by all available methods."

Meanwhile, the number of cases of mesothelioma had been growing. Twenty-five cases were diagnosed from 1955 to 1959, 64 cases from 1960 to 1964, and 113 cases from 1965 to 1969.

## of neglected asbestos waste material in South Africa.

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My suspicions that an official cover-up of the asbestos story was being applied by frightened bureaucrats and the industry itself were revived by an article in *New Scientist* dated April 22 1982.

It was claimed that senior members of the medical research establishment in South Africa, on the urging of the asbestos industry, suppressed research pointing to the link between asbestos and cancer.

The claims were that research papers by South African scientists — on the risks faced by workers in crocidolite and amosite asbestos mines, and mortality from asbestos-related disease — were withdrawn at the last moment from presentation at a New

York Academy of Sciences conference.

After the first paper had been read, the scientists were flatly ordered not to read the second one and the order allegedly came directly from the SA Medical Research Council. The article further stated that the information was suppressed at the direct request of the asbestos mining companies.

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I have written this article because I believe that every day hundreds of thousands of people, perhaps millions, and including men, women and children who are not involved in any way with asbestos mining or its use in industry, are exposed to a form of environmental pollution which is truly a killer dust.

## Boiler-room fumes kill

A Hillbrow night-watchman, who spent a night next to burning coals in closed boiler room, died of carbon monoxide poisoning, a Johannesburg inquest magistrate found yesterday

*(131) Star 21/9/84*  
Mr Edward Buthelezi (44) worked at Berea Heights in Prospect Street.

He was found lying on his back in the boiler-room at 6 45 am on May 15. The room was filled with the smell of burning coal.

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# Man falls off ladder, drowns in dam

Staff Reporter

A MAN drowned when he fell off a ladder while painting a dam wall and two people, including a four-year-old boy, have died in motor vehicle accidents in the Boland

Major George Kershoff, a police spokesman for the Boland, said Mr Phillip Wicomb drowned when he fell off a ladder while painting a wall of a farm dam in Grabouw on Wednesday. Mr Wicomb, 55, of the farm Lorraine, was painting the high wall about 3pm when he lost his balance and fell off the ladder

## Boy killed

Major Kershoff said Mr Wicomb plunged into the dam, where he presumably drowned. A team of police divers was still searching for his body yesterday.

Major Kershoff said Henry Plaatjes, 4, of the farm Spioenkop, Grabouw, died instantly when he was knocked down by a car on the Vijoenshoop road.

The accident happened about 4 40pm on Wednesday about 14km outside the town.

A Rawsonville woman, Mrs Roos Enslin, 22, died instantly when she was crushed by a tractor on Wednesday.

Major Kershoff said Mrs Enslin, of De Nova, was sitting on the tractor when she fell off and landed under the wheels. The accident happened about 5pm.

## Life how

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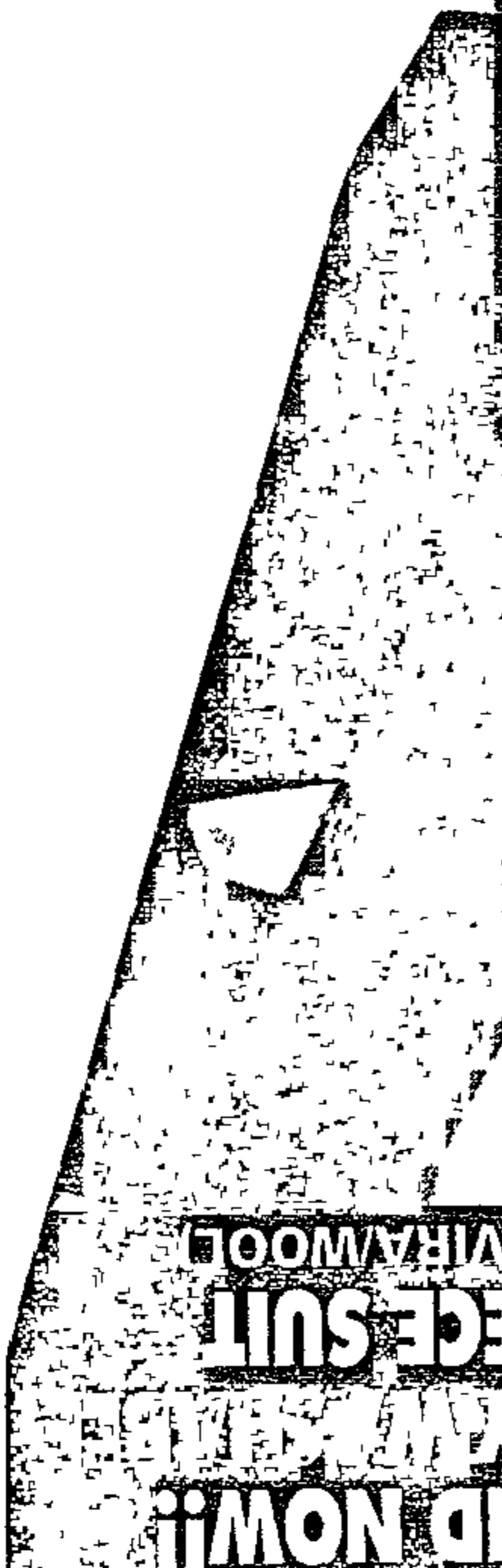
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September 21, 1984 3

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S Express 23/9/84 (131)

# Asbestos is out in new Everite products

By LAWRENCE BEDFORD

UNDER pressure because of asbestos-related health hazards, South Africa's largest manufacturer of asbestos fibre cement products now plans to launch a number of asbestos-free building products

With a 60% share of the R130 million-a-year domestic fibre cement market, Everite's net income on fibre cement sales in 1983 totalled about R12.2-million

"We will publicly launch non-asbestos fibre cement products only when they have been thoroughly tested — after all, our customers have become used to the indefinite lifespan traditionally offered by asbestos cement products," said Dr Llewellyn Lewis, Everite's marketing manager

In the meantime, the flat sheeting made in the alternative asbestos-free material is being tested in ceilings, partitions and fascias in a number of housing and industrial schemes.

The company's research efforts continue, however, as asbestos fibre remains the only suitable reinforcing for a large proportion of its fibre cement building materials and pipes. Much research and development remains to be done before it can produce profiled, corrugated sheeting and piping in new materials

Everite's alternative fibre research programme started in 1967 with the criteria that the new fibre should not pose a health risk, had to be economically viable and should not only match the performance of asbestos, but lead to new product opportunities

## Replicate

Technicians discovered it was impossible to replicate the characteristics and performance of asbestos on a fibre for fibre basis. The breakthrough came when they recognised that a large proportion of the 10% asbestos used in the asbestos cement mix was to facilitate the production process rather than for reinforcing. This process requirement resulted in asbestos cement products being 'over-qualified' when judged purely on the performance standards required for building products.

The design philosophy for the new products was then switched from a "quality backwards" to a "performance forwards" approach. Researchers stopped trying to match the brute strength of asbestos cement and started concentrating on matching the performance criteria for various products. They adapted the production process to suit available substitute fibres, leading to a new generation of building products

Everite are now using a mix of man-made and natural fibres with cement, instead of chrysotile or white asbestos.

"The new fibres may not themselves be a match for asbestos but, in an advanced production process, they provide us with the necessary strength coupled with other innovative benefits," Dr Lewis said

"Most importantly, the new approach will allow us to introduce asbestos-free fibre cement products at comparable prices"

Everite has conducted extensive laboratory tests, including accelerated weathering, for some years. Now certain of the new technology pro-

● To PAGE 2

# Asbestos is out in new Everite range

ducts — such as the sheeting — are undergoing field and test marketing trials

"Assuming all goes well, we should be using alternative fibres in about 30% of our product range by late next year. Naturally we have made the greatest progress in replacing the less-sophisticated asbestos cement products which, by co-incidence, are those frequently used indoors," said Dr Lewis

Under this heading come moulded plant pot containers. Dr Lewis said

● From Page 1

there was "no risk" to consumers from asbestos cement as asbestos fibres were firmly locked into a cement matrix. "However we are a market-driven company and if consumers have concerns about the use of asbestos in building products, we endeavour to provide alternative solutions."

Everite is confident that where no suitable alternative fibres are available, it can continue to use asbestos without undue danger to health

"The response of architects and specifiers to the launch of the new technology products has been extremely positive, particularly as the new products are not simply replicas of asbestos cement, but offer a number of additional benefits," said Dr Lewis

● From 1960 to 1970 total sales of asbestos increased by 236%, according to the Government's Minerals Bureau. Since then the domestic demand has declined. Asbestos sales totalled about R8.5-million in 1982 and about R6.6-million last year

# 2 die as <sup>(131)</sup> ceiling <sup>Star</sup> collapses <sup>26/9/84</sup>

By Karen Bowes,  
West Rand Bureau

Two building workers died and six others were injured when a ceiling collapsed during renovations at a Krugersdorp West home this morning.

The ceiling collapsed at about 10 30 am while a team of workers, employed by Mr Sarel Swanepoel, was trying to knock an archway through a wall adjoining Mr Swanepoel's home.

Fire and ambulance officials arrived minutes after an alert. They rescued one worker and recovered the body of another.

The rescued worker was taken to Leratong Hospital with five other injured workers.

The fire department later recovered the body of a second man under rubble.

RDM 27/9/84 (131)

# Sasol worker dies

A SASOL II maintenance worker died at the weekend after being trapped by burning gas in a fire at the plant last Friday

Mr Robin Hugo, public re-

lations manager of Sasol, confirmed in Johannesburg yesterday that Mr Daniel Beukes, 35, of Petrusburg, had died on Sunday at the Johannesburg General Hospital of burns.

## City Council worker drowns

1.31 C. T. vms Staff Reporter 27/9/84

A CITY Council worker drowned when he was trapped under a dredging barge after he apparently tried to rescue a fellow worker when the barge overturned in Marina Da Gama yesterday.

Metro divers recovered the body of Mr Stanley Adonis, 30, of Mitchells Plain, from the water a short while later

Earlier Mr Adonis, Mr John Jacobs, the operator, and another man, Mr Louis Serfontein, were dredging weeds about 10 30am when the barge suddenly overturned. Mr Serfontein and Mr Jacobs swam to safety. It is believed Mr Adonis tried to rescue Mr Jacobs

# Man <sup>(131)</sup> dies in *C. Times* Parow 28/9/84 blast

By ANTON FISHER

ONE man died and four were injured in a massive explosion which rocked Parow shortly after 7 last night

Members of the Metro Emergency Rescue Unit who rushed to the scene soon after a column of flame had shot up from the construction site in Voortrekker Road, used pneumatic jack-hammers to free the body of an unidentified man from under a concrete slab. The rescue team also freed a lightly-injured man from under the debris.

Later a second man, with 80 percent burns, was freed and taken to the Tygerberg Hospital.

Two other men who were injured in the explosion at the new Dion's site, which was heard as far away as Parow Valley and Bellville, were rushed to the Tygerberg Hospital.

Late last night a spokesman for the Tygerberg Hospital said the three lightly-injured men were in a satisfactory condition. They were later transferred to the Conradie Hospital.

A spokesman for the Parow Fire Brigade said the explosion had been caused by leaking gas on the site.

He did not know what type of gas it had been, but it was believed that it could have been Liquefied Petroleum Gas.

There had been a strong gas smell when the firemen arrived at the scene. There was no fire and rescue operations had begun immediately.



Rescue workers try to free the body of a man killed in a gas explosion on a construction site in Parow last night

Picture Alan Taylor

Wednesday 29/9/84 (131)

# Foreman killed in explosion at new sub-station

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

A CITY electrical foreman, who is a father of two, was killed instantly when a powerful explosion rocked the inside of an electricity sub-station at Sobantu, near here, yesterday morning.

Mr Cyril Klose, 36, is believed to have been electrocuted when the 11 000-volt switch gear he was checking exploded in his face. His body was badly burned when oil inside the equipment caught alight.

The cause of death will not be officially established until the results of a postmortem are released.

Mr Klose's brother, Colin, is also an electrical foreman with the department. The wives of the two brothers are sisters.

When the family was notified of Mr Klose's accident, they were busy preparing for a cheese-and-wine party which was to have been held at the electricity department last night.

A fellow electrician was only metres away out-

side the sub-station when the explosion occurred and he ran to the scene.

Black smoke and flames were still pouring out of the half-open and bent steel doors.

The sub-station itself did not catch alight and it was unnecessary to call the fire brigade.

The Natal Provincial Medical and Rescue Unit was called to the scene, but Mr Klose appeared to have died instantly.

The acting City Electrical Engineer, Mr R D Spall, said Mr Klose had been commissioning the

new sub-station, which was to supply power to Suncrush factory.

The power supply was due to be switched on yesterday.

## Force

Mr Klose went into the sub-station to make final checks on the equipment and the major power switch.

It is not known what caused the explosion, but it is believed the switch gear may have been faulty. Mr Spall said the equipment would be stripped down next week to try to find the cause.

He said the switch appeared to have exploded with 'quite a force'.

It was the first time that an accident or death of this kind had occurred in the city's electricity department, said Mr Spall.

Mr Klose was one of the department's top foremen and one of the most capable, he said.

Mr Klose had joined the Town Clerk's Department at the age of 16. He had joined the electricity department in 1973 and there he had served his major apprenticeship.

He is survived by his wife and two children.

(131) C. Times  
**Parow blast meeting**

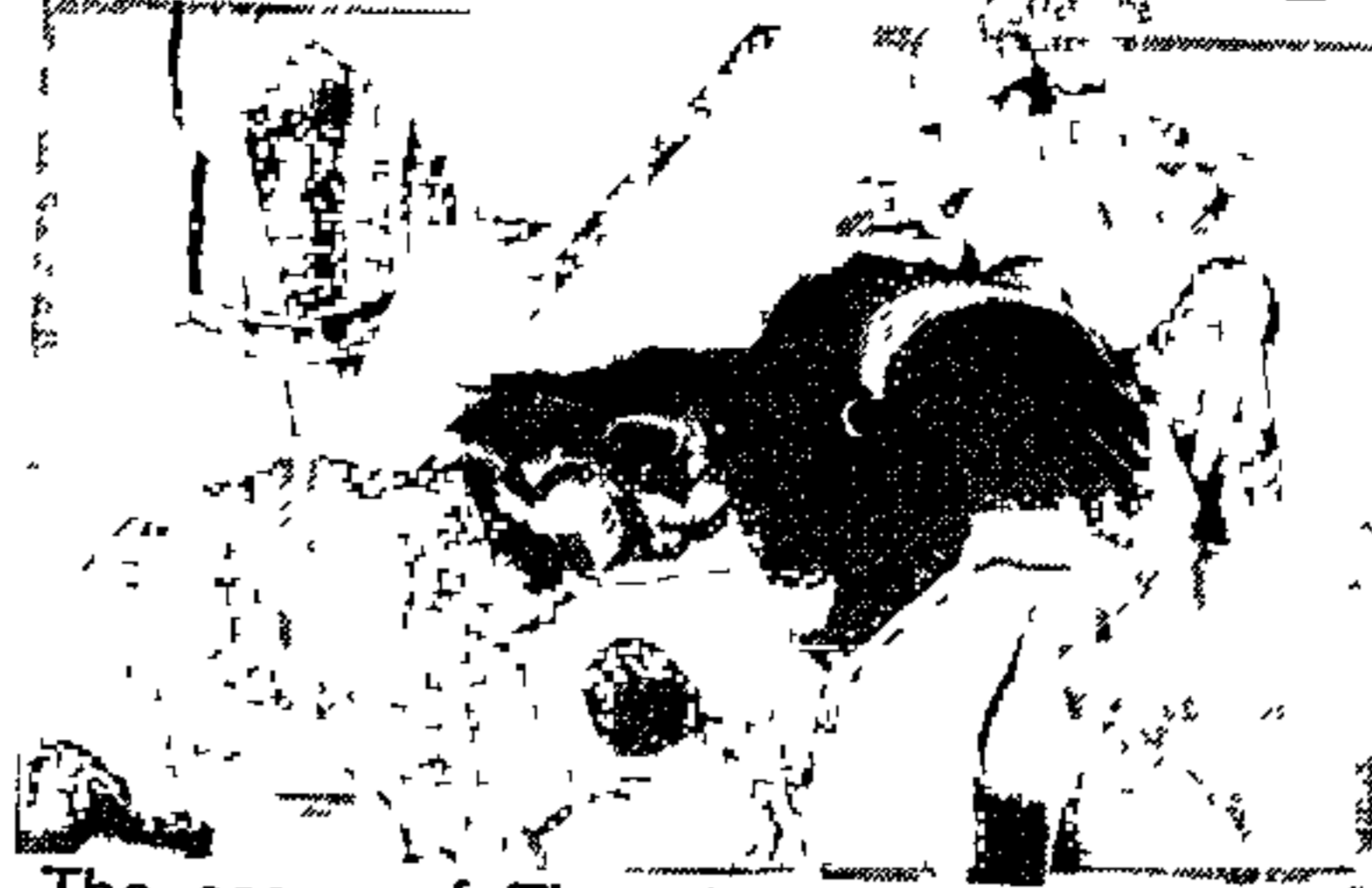
29/9/84  
Staff Reporter

TOP management personnel and at least one company director of the contractors building a Parow supermarket which was ripped apart by a killer blast on Thursday night, held an emergency meeting at the Voortrekker Road site yesterday

Meanwhile, police have identified the man killed when liquid gas from two large gas-bottles ignited, ripping a gaping hole through the roof and tearing large sections of concrete slabs from a wall

He was the construction site electrician, Mr Gerald van Niekerk, 35, of Groenbergweg, Heideveld

Mr Clive Angiers, the site foreman and safety officer, was still in a critical condition in Conradie Hospital last night after receiving 80 percent burns. Two labourers and a security guard were treated for cuts and bruises at Conradie Hos-



The scene of Thursday night's massive blast in Parow.

pital and discharged, while a labourer who suffered an epileptic fit while helping in the rescue operation was discharged after spending the night in hospital.

It was not clear how the blast, which was heard as far away as Parow Valley, Bellville and Goodwood, occurred. Officials of the construction company, Green and Williams Contractors, declined to give any details to the Cape Times yesterday and spent most of the

day in conference in an office at the site.

However, one official, who would identify himself only as the project manager, said the blast occurred shortly after a gas leak had been reported on equipment used to speed the drying of cement.

The contracting company is based in Roodepoort and one of its directors, Mr J Green, was at yesterday's emergency meeting

STANDARD  
1984

# Explosion kills Parrow man, 35

ONE man was killed and four injured — one critically — when leaking gas from a 50 kg cylinder exploded and ripped through a building construction site at Parow.

The dead man, Mr Gerald van Niekerk (35), an electrician of Groenberg Road, Heideveld, was buried under a concrete slab at the site of a new branch of Dions Discount Chain store in Voortrekker Road

The blast sent a column of flame into the air and unts of the Parow

fire brigade, the Metro Emergency Service and six ambulances sped to the scene.

A combined rescue team, including construction workers, used pneumatic drills and jack-hammers and a mobile hydraulic crane to free Mr van Niekerk's body.

131  
Sawyer 1/10/89



# Five seriously hurt by molten metal spillage

(131) Star 1/10/84

Own Correspondent

DURBAN — Eight men were burned — five of them seriously — when molten metal in a transferring vessel at a steel factory at Isipingo Rail spilled over them yesterday

A duty officer at the Amanzimtoti fire station, who was at McWillaw Iron and Steel Foundry (Pty) Ltd shortly after the accident, said the seriously injured included two whites and three blacks.

## 60 PERCENT BURNS

The injured were taken to Addington and King Edward VIII hospitals. The two white men were later transferred

to St Augustine's Hospital, where a hospital spokesman said they were in satisfactory condition.

However, a King Edward VIII Hospital spokesman described the condition of one man, who suffered 60 per cent burns, as critical. Two other men were described as "very ill". Three were treated and discharged.

The managing director of the company, Mr A L Evans, said the accident was a "technical mystery. Nothing like this has ever happened in my 25 years here".

The accident was the subject of "intensive investigation", he said, declining to speculate further.

131 S. Post 3/10/84

# Veeplaas trench deaths: foreman fined R600

## Court Reporter

A GENERAL foreman with Murray and Roberts was yesterday fined R600 after being found guilty of culpable homicide by the Port Elizabeth Magistrate's Court

John Frederic William Butler, 54, of Mangold Street, Port Elizabeth, was convicted as a representative of his firm and in his personal capacity of unlawfully causing the death of two of his workers, Tebi

Ellias Peters and Daniel Noquala, at Veeplaas on August 19 last year

He was fined R400 as a representative of his firm and R200 in his personal capacity

Butler pleaded guilty to the charge which arose from the accidental death of the two men when the side of a trench in which they were working collapsed because it was not shored and braced or had a slope "at the natural angle

of repose"

Giving evidence in mitigation, Butler said in his 33 years of service with the firm this was the first court case he had been involved in as a result of a site accident

He said the trench was dug two to three weeks prior to its collapse. He personally worked in the trench

He said in other areas of the 100-metre trench he used shoring and bracing

when he came across water

In answer to a question from the magistrate, Mr W de Waal Lubbe, Butler said the trench ran about 2,5 metres from the edge of a graveyard at the point where the side collapsed

He said after the collapse he discovered it had been caused by a sand pocket which was not visible when the trench was dug by mechanical shovel

Butler said a company

engineer inspected the site, but never instructed him to use shoring at that point. However, he said, the primary responsibility was his

Mr Lubbe said the result of Butler's negligence was that two lives were lost

He said he was sure Butler would in future ensure that his workers were safe while doing such work

Mr F Wilke appeared for the State. Mr M Searle appeared for Butler

RPM 4/16/84 (131) 2-10

## Union wants pay for 'repetition' injuries

Mail Reporter

THE National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers Union (Nudaw) has asked the Department of Manpower to rule that injuries caused by rapid, repetitive work be compensated for under the Workmen's Compensation Act

The latest issue of the union's newsletter, New Era, says.

"Increasingly, members are becoming aware that the ache or pain in their wrist, joints, shoulders, etc, is not just a strain or arthritis, but rather one of the forms of repetition injury

"Failing to have the problem treated could lead to a partial or permanent disabil-

ity, resulting in the loss of employment and difficulties in coping with everyday tasks."

● The Mail's Durban correspondent reports that Nudaw has asked for a 100% wage increase for workers in major chain stores and shops

The union's Natal branch organiser, Mr Vincent Naidoo, said the purchasing power of the rand had shrunk so much in one year that most workers were finding it extremely difficult to survive.

Mr Naidoo said the union's recommendations had been forwarded to the Wage Board, which will sit early next year

# SABC TV series on work safety

By J MANUEL CORREIA  
TV Correspondent

ONE-MILLION workers are injured in accidents in South Africa every year, the general manager of the National Occupational Safety Association (Nosa), Mr H J "Bunny" Matthysen, said yesterday.

Mr Matthysen was speaking at the SABC on the eve of the launch of a three-part educational TV series on occupational safety, "Getting in on the act", which will be screened by TV1 from next Tuesday.

The new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act comes into effect today, and places legal liabilities on all employers for the safety of their employees.

For the first time, institutions such as hotels and schools come under the umbrella of safety legislation and even employers of domestic servants are affected.

The legislation sets new safety standards and makes provision for the establishment of safety committees.

Mr Matthysen said Nosa was grateful to the SABC for airing the series because it would raise public awareness on safety. Early next year the SABC would broadcast a 13-part TV series on occupation-

al safety.

Nosa will use this series as the nucleus of a training course for safety representatives.

The programmes can be recorded by educational organisations accredited to the SABC. Individuals may also record them, but the programmes may not be sold.

Of two-million serious injuries a year, half were sustained by domestic workers. About 675 000 were due to road accidents and the remainder occurred in industry, Mr Matthysen said.

Asked if bodies corporate in sectional title buildings should set up sub-committees to inform owners of safety standards and precautions, Mr Matthysen said this was an excellent idea.

He conceded that the Department of Manpower had limited staff and could not police the Act properly — hence the need to educate people in preventing accidents.

Although the country's overall percentage accident rate had dropped since the 50s, it was still cause for concern.

There was still a staggering number of deaths and injury

1310  
D. R. Spatch  
5/10/84

# Worker drowns in EL harbour

MDANTSANE — An Mdantsane employee of the South African Transport Services was drowned at the harbour, the railways police liaison officer for the Border, Major R. Coetsee, confirmed yesterday.

Major Coetsee said the incident occurred at 7.15 pm at F shed on the East Bank of the harbour on Wednesday.

The worker was directing a vehicle which was reversing close to the wharf. The man apparently misjudged the distance to the side as he walked backwards and fell in.

Mr A. M. Nel, a crane driver who witnessed the accident, raised the alarm. A crane had to be used to pull the man, who was not breathing, out of the water.

Major Coetsee said the man was taken to Frere Hospital by an ambulance but was certified dead on arrival.

His name was being withheld until his next-of-kin had been notified.

The incident was being investigated, he said. — DDR

# Court told how two workers were killed

131 D. Dispatch 5/10/84

EAST LONDON — A construction company director and his manager appeared in the regional court here yesterday in connection with charges arising from the deaths of two men while in the company's employ

Cape Cladding Contractors director, Mr Olaf Johannsen, and manager Mr Malcolm Francis, pleaded not guilty to two counts of culpable homicide following the deaths of Mr April Bokwe and Mr Elliot Mdyogolo

The men pleaded not guilty to two further counts of failing to provide adequate safety measures for their employees.

Mr Bokwe died after falling through the roof he was working on at the CDA plant on February 5, 1983

Mr Mdyogolo fell to his death through an asbestos roof being built at Nampak Corrugated Packers on June 8, 1983

A driver for the company, Mr M P Mabuya, said he was counting the number of employees on the roof at CDA when he heard a noise and saw a

hole where Mr Bokwe had been walking

Mr Mabuya said Mr Bokwe had fallen with an iron corrugated sheet below him because when he landed, he was on top of the sheet.

"I jumped forward to see what had happened and saw the hole where Mr Bokwe had been standing. Another worker, Mr Goodman Grey, who was carrying guttering with Mr Bokwe, shouted to ask what had happened

"Mr Grey was still holding the other end of the guttering," Mr Mabuya said

Mr Grey said that as an eyewitness he would have come to the inference that this was the case

Mr Mabuya said that when he started working with the company he had received general instructions about the way to walk while on the roof

He said they were told to walk on the guttering or the purlins

The maintenance engineer at the plant, Mr

Cecil Birch, said that the approximate scene of the accident was established with the assistance of an eyewitness

He estimated that the point where Mr Bokwe had fallen was close to the guttering, but added it was impossible to say if the deceased had fallen vertically down

A worker who witnessed the death of Mr Mdyogolo, Mr Gavin Sikiti, said that he could not deny that Mr Mdyogolo had deliberately kicked out the asbestos roofing round which he had cut

He said that the workers were instructed to walk only where roofing had been secured and fastened on supports.

Mr Sikiti said that the accident had occurred early in the morning.

"There was nothing under the roof to break Mr Mdyogolo's fall," Mr Sikiti said

The case will continue today

The magistrate was Mr N R Oosthuysen and Mr D Charters represented the state. Mr Johannsen and Mr Francis were defended by Mr C J Mouton — DDR

W

Men <sup>(131)</sup>  
D. Disputed  
acquitted  
6/10/84

EAST LONDON — Two Cape Cladding Contractors executives, Mr Olaf Johannen and Mr Malcom Francis, were acquitted in the magistrate's court here yesterday on a charge of culpable homicide and contravening building regulations.

Mr Johannen and Mr Francis were found not guilty by Mr N Oosthuysen of being responsible for the death of Mr Elhor Mdyogolo, who fell to his death while working on a roof on June 8 last night.

Judgment on a further charge of culpable homicide and contravening building regulations against the two men concerning the death of Mr April Bokwe, who allegedly fell to his death while working on a roof on February 2 last year, was reserved until Monday. — DDR

KDM 8/10/84 (131) 15

# Home of unionist bombed

Mail Reporter

THE home of veteran trade unionist Mrs Lucy Mvubelo became the target of a petrol-bombing for the second time on Thursday evening while she was attending a union meeting in Johannesburg

Mrs Mvubelo, who Secretary-General of National Union of Clothing Workers. The first bombing, which caused extensive damage to the house, occurred on July 15 this year

Thursday's petrol bomb was hurled at a backyard-room and gutted everything inside it. The pine ceiling was burnt beyond recognition. A wardrobe containing bundles of clothing belonging to Mrs Mvubelo's daughter, Cynthia, was also burned.

The bombing took place while other members of the family were in the main house.

According to Mrs Mvubelo, the family has been using the backyard structure as a bedroom since the first petrol bomb seriously damaged the main house.

Mrs Mvubelo attributed the bombing to statements she had made concerning disinvestment in South Africa. But she emphasised she would not vacate her home because of the bombings

Police are investigating.



... a sight to behold." ... is quoted as saying Princess seems to have high spirits during her ... and is said to have handful of ice on the ... stomach as he relaxed ... chair, saying "This ... you down" — Sapa-



Princess Di . . . beer and sea shanties

### They-back offer by kubus king

Staff Reporter

... boss Mr Adriaan ... said today he was ... a substantial "crop" of ... as a personal invest- ... and claimed he would ... back cultures from proxy ... no longer interested in ...

... rival companies in ... and Transvaal are ... in legal steps brought by ... trying to regain their ... Mr Nieuwoudt prom- ... investors a full payout "if

they do not have confidence in the business"

"Anyone who wants to regain their money can hand in their cultures and will be paid out in full," he said today

"We do not want investors in Kubus who have no confidence in the business. Some investors are harrying my staff by phoning every time there is negative publicity

"I have kept my crop going because I cannot see any better way of investing money than in Kubus cultures," he said

Argus 8/10/84 (131)

## Gas explosion victim dies in hospital

Staff Reporter

MR Clive Angiers, the site manager burnt in a gas explosion at a building site in Parow, has died nine days after being admitted to Tygerberg Hospital

He had 80 percent burns after the blast on the site of a new branch of a discount store in Voortrekker Road

Rescue workers took three hours to reach Mr Angiers, who was buried under fallen masonry

He was the second victim of the explosion, caused by leaking gas cylinders. Mr Gerald van Niekerk, an electrician of Groenberg Road, Heideveld, was killed when he was pinned under a collapsed concrete slab

TRAGEDY

(131) P. Dispatch 9/10/87

## Building executives acquitted

EAST LONDON — Two executives of Cape Cladding Contractors, Mr Olaf Johannsen and Mr Malcolm Francis, were acquitted in the regional court here yesterday of charges of culpable homicide and contravening building regulations.

The magistrate, Mr N. Oosthuysen, said in delivering judgment that the state had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the two

men had acted in a negligent manner by failing to provide adequate safety measures.

The state witnesses had contradicted each other on several occasions, he said.

The charges arose out of an incident in which Mr April Bokwe fell to his death from a roof at the Mercedes Benz factory here on February 2

On Friday, the two ex-

ecutives were acquitted of similar charges after the death of Mr Elliot Mdyogolo, who fell from the roof of Nampak Corrugated Packers on June 8.

They faced four counts, two of culpable homicide and two of contravening building regulations.

Mr D Charters appeared for the state Mr C J Mouton, instructed by Abdo and Abdo, appeared for the defence — DDR

# Black union will fight for asbestos ban

A national campaign to get asbestos mining in South Africa banned has been mounted by the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union.

The aim is to bring to the attention of black mineworkers and black communities the health hazards of occupational and environmental exposure to the mineral fibre.

Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, the union's general secretary, said in Johannesburg yesterday that the campaign had the full support of union members in mining and construction.

He added that communities in and near the asbestos mining areas of the North-Eastern Transvaal and Northern Cape

(131) ~~Star~~ ~~12/1/84~~  
By Carolyn Dempster,  
Labour Reporter

would be told of the dangers of exposure to the mineral fibres. There would be meetings, and pamphlets would be circulated describing asbestos dangers.

The union also plans to rally international support for the campaign, and will alert Lesotho, Zambia and Mozambique to asbestos hazards.

South Africa is one of the world's largest producers of blue asbestos (crocidolite) — held to be the most hazardous of the five types of asbestos fibre — and is the world's sole producer of brown asbestos (amosite)

*Star* 12/1/84  
Inhalation of asbestos fibres can result in asbestosis, a crippling fibrosis of lung tissue; mesothelioma, a fatal cancer of the lung lining; and bronchogenic carcinoma, which has a high fatality rate.

The international health lobby against the mining of asbestos and manufacture of asbestos products has resulted in the fibre being banned in Scandinavia and Holland, with stringent dust levels legislated for in Britain and Europe.

Figures released by the Medical Bureau for Occupational Diseases show that there were a total of 5 140 asbestosis victims between 1967 and 1983, 212 compensated cases of mesothe-

lioma, and 57 cases of bronchogenic carcinoma.

A total of 704 people are recorded to have died from the three diseases

Compensation paid out for occupational diseases on the mines is grossly discriminatory, and black workers receive only a fraction of the amount paid to their white colleagues for the same diseases.

The Azanian Peoples Organisation (Azapo) has called on asbestos mine managements to increase compensation to black workers suffering from asbestosis from R1 790 to R15 000.

White workers receive a lump sum payment of R24 000.

# Azapo calls for equal aid for asbestos victims

Labour Reporter

The Azanian People's Organisation has called for equal compensation for black mineworkers who contract the crippling lung disease asbestosis through the inhalation of asbestos fibres

At present black mineworkers receive only a fraction of the lump sum paid out to their white counterparts for certifi-

cation for the same diseases

In terms of section 107 of the Occupational Diseases in Mines and Works Act, black mineworkers suffering from a compensatable disease receive a lump sum payment of R1 491

If the mineworker is suffering from tuberculosis as well he will receive R1 790

White mineworkers who are certified as suffering from a compensatable disease (second degree) receive R26 833 in lump sum benefits

The call by Azapo's Health Secretariat for equal compensation comes at the same time as the anti-asbestos campaign launched by the Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union (Bamcwu)

131

17/10/84 Stan

# Two crushed to death

Staff Reporter

19/10/84

TWO Escom employees were killed and three were injured when a wooden structure used for a 132km by-pass at a sub-station collapsed near Oudtshoorn yesterday

Mr Mhlavuli Mfaqa, of Cape Town, died instantly when he was crushed under the structure which collapsed about 11am at Haasenjag, about 10km outside Oudtshoorn

An injured man, Mr Mzevelibanzi Mdidinfi, was taken to the Oudtshoorn Hospital where he died later

Three other men — Mr Lolo Somhalafa, Mr Sivovo Nyathela and Mr Nabusi Mdlangazi — were also taken to the Oudtshoorn Hospital, where they were said to be in a "fairly satisfactory" condition

Two of the injured men had broken bones and one had hurt his back.

A police spokesman for the South Western Districts said the men were wearing harnesses while working on the structure.

The public relations officer for Escom, Mr Andre van Heerden, said it appeared that one of the supports of the H-shaped wooden structure had snapped

● A courageous 14-year-old Calvinia girl who could hardly swim drowned when she tried to rescue a 10-year-old boy who had got into difficulty while swimming in a waterhole

Magdalena van Rooyen, of Berg Street, Newtown, Calvinia, drowned in the two-metre deep waterhole when she tried to help Zunayde Bux, 10, about 3pm on Tuesday

The boy also drowned in the waterhole

Both children were pupils at the Hantam United School in Calvinia

● A 28-year-old labourer, Mr Willem September, drowned when he got into difficulty while swimming in a dam on De Tyger farm at Malmesbury on Tuesday afternoon

By Carolyn Dempster

All members of mining family suffer crippling and painful lung disease

"When my father died, they said it was the worst case they had ever seen. Man, he really suffered. I stayed with him here in this house right to the end."

Herman is one of the youngest members of the Davis family — a family which will never be able to shrug off its heritage of a childhood spent on an asbestos mine.

His father died because of it, his mother suffered from it. Herman (40), his three brothers and two sisters also carry the legacy of asbestos dust in their lungs.

All suffer from the crippling lung disease asbestosis.

A progressively disabling disease caused by the inhalation of asbestos fibre, asbestosis results in a fibrosis of the lung, causing acute pain to the sufferer, who has difficulty breathing during arduous physical exercise.

In extreme cases, a person will wheeze and cannot walk more than 10 paces before stopping for a rest.

James (50), the eldest of the Davis children and articulate spokesman for the brood, bears no grudges. Life in the Penge asbestos mining community of the north-eastern Transvaal was good to the family, he recalls from the comfort of his Lowveld home at Cairns, where the climate is kinder to his lungs. "My father originally went to

# Asbestosis — deadly legacy of Penge mine

work on the mine in 1938 and we all grew up and went to school there.

"We stayed in tents for the first two years at Penge, but I was still a youngster then. As children we used to play on the dumps and my mother would repair the soft extractor bags they used for carrying the asbestos fibre."

The white community was a small one, perhaps no more than 40 families to begin with, but there were "hundreds" of black miners from Botswana, Blantyre in Malawi and Mozambique, he remembers. James was only 24 when he was certified as an asbestosis case.

"No, the family didn't really know about the hazards of the asbestos dust. My father was first declared by the Miner's Phthisis Board in Johannesburg, but at that time everyone referred to it as pneumoconiosis." But the mine owners, Cape

Asbestos, knew about the health hazards of asbestos because regular medical checks for the mine employees were instituted as early as 1944.

"It was after several hundreds of blacks had died that they started checking up on the health side of things."

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research also did a survey of the area, trying to establish the incidence of "tuberculosis", he says.

In the early days of asbestos mining in the northern Cape, asbestosis and the fatal lung cancer mesothelioma were often confused with tuberculosis. But tuberculosis is treatable and curable.

James remembers how it was impossible to avoid the dust. The mine houses and mill were situated down the valley and the wind would whip up the fine asbestos fibres, covering everything and everybody with a fine white mantle.

In the mine mills, one would just have to dislodge a piece of machinery and the dust would cascade down.

Then Walter, the second eldest, was X-rayed and diagnosed as suffering from asbestosis.

Both of the boys had started working on the mine from about age 19, James as a carpenter and then as a foreman and Walter as a boilermaker.

"There was a doctor, Dr Huntleigh, who explained to us what would happen, but that was long after we had already been affected," remembers James.

"I spoke to the blacks there and they told me of the young umfana — boys aged nine and 12 — who had died of sore lungs. Blacks I worked with weren't told of the dangers of asbestos and when they got sick, they were told they had TB and were warned not to smoke. They never received any benefits."

Herman was only three days in the army when he collapsed under the rigours of "basics" and was taken to an army hospital at age 20 to be certified an asbestosis sufferer.

He never gave up smoking and as a consequence suffers the most of the entire family today. He looks on his disability with characteristic cheerfulness. "It only really hurts in the winter, with the change of weather."

Phyllis (45), Dora (42) and August (37) never worked on or in the mine, yet were also certified as asbestosis sufferers in their early 20s.

All received compensation, unlike the hundreds of black mineworkers who drifted back home to Malawi, Mozambique and Rhodesia.

As a family who have lived in the close-knit mining community, the Davises can tell of friends, fellow miners and relatives who also suffer from asbestosis — and of many who died from the disease.



A young asbestos worker w

# Workman survives 27 m fall down shaft

Mercury 24/10/84 (131)

## Mercury Reporter

A WORKMAN survived a 27 m fall down nine floors into a lift shaft at a Durban beachfront construction site yesterday.

Mr Michale Ndaba, an employee of the Melcorp elevator company, is in a critical condition in King Edward VIII Hospital with head and chest injuries.

The accident happened about 3 p.m. on the Marine Parade building site where the 32-storey Maluti apartment block is being built, between the Elangeni and Maharani hotels.

The senior inspector, occupational safety, attached to the Department of Manpower, Mr Sydney Sykes, went to the scene of the accident to investigate.

'The man apparently leaned against a steel prop in the elevator opening and it gave way,' he said.

A hospital spokesman said Mr Ndaba had been taken into the operating theatre immediately.

'The doctor who attended him said he was conscious enough to cough out pipes which were used to drain his lungs and that if he survived the next three days he would pull through,' said Mr Sykes.

An inquiry will be held into the accident in terms of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act (1983), which came into effect on October 5 this year.



Rescue workers carry a critically injured Mr Michale Ndaba to an ambulance.

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# Shock asbestos dust figures

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

A SAMPLE from the Government Mining Engineer's (GME's) dust survey in the area of abandoned asbestos dumps in the North Eastern Transvaal far exceeded the GME's own recommended limit for the environment.

This contradicts a statement by the GME, Mr S P Badenhorst, to the Rand Daily Mail several weeks ago that, on the basis of the survey, fibre pollution was low.

The sample readings were revealed this week by Mr L W Isserow, chief inspector of mines in the air quality section, when he answered questions at the Council for Scientific and

Industrial Research's conference on air pollution.

Mr Isserow said that out of six samples of the general atmosphere in the area, most were around the GME's limit of 20 000 fibres per cubic metre while one was "quite a lot higher".

The 20 000 fibres a cubic metre reading — a fibre count which in some countries is regarded as unsafe for the general atmosphere — are in a densely populated area.

In a recent paper, Dr R S du Toit, of the GME's air quality section, pointed out that a figure of 1 000 fibres per cubic metre — 20 times smaller than these counts — had been recommended

by experts as a safe level.

And a count of 11 000 fibres per cubic metre at a mine hostel was described by Mr D J Selles, the environmental engineer of the Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco), at the conference as "very high".

Both Mr Isserow and Mr Selles presented papers — one of them jointly — to the conference.

The papers set out to show that fibre levels in the air at and around asbestos mines had improved substantially and compared favourably with conditions in other countries.

Mr Selles said: "Although we are accused of polluting

the air, the picture is not so bad and we compare favourably with overseas."

Out of six samples taken 100 metres away from an asbestos mill, two showed exceptionally high counts — one of 600 000 fibres and another of 300 000 fibres a cubic metre.

Although the paper said this could have been caused by a "still unprotected tailings dump" in line with the mill, Mr Selles conceded at question time that it was most likely caused by the mill.

The paper said "high" readings in some mine hostels were caused by "workers who still disregard company rules on hygiene".



Mercury 27/10/84 (131) (202)

# Employer

## support called for

### Mercury Reporter

EMPLOYERS were called on last night not to discharge workers who were seriously injured or disabled in occupational accidents, but to do everything in their power to retain their skills and services

Those skills, acquired over a number of years, would otherwise be lost to the labour market, said Workman's Compensation Commissioner Mr H C du Toit at the National Occupational Safety Association's prize-giving

'If they are given the necessary support by their employers through offers of alternative work to suit their handicap or through re-training or vocational guidance they can once more become fully productive,' he said.

The Natal coastal branch of Nosa held its banquet at the Elangeni Hotel last night in which the top prize in the A section of the safety, effort and experience competition was awarded to National Chemical Products (Natal) Ltd

The safety man of the year went to Mr Mike Germishuys of Sappi Mandini, and manager of the year was Dr Jack Goedhals of Richards Bay Minerals

Richards Bay Minerals

also took the best improvement award in the A section

The Durban City Engineer's Department claimed the Toyota Millionaires Shield for three million manhours without a single disabling injury

In his address, Mr du Toit said the most recent injury frequency rate for firms in the Natal Coastal region stood at 8,05 compared with the national average of 8,56 firms reporting to Nosa.

He said there were now more than 500 firms in the region with safety programmes and the 3 800 people trained by Nosa staff were the highest number of any region in the country

Mr du Toit also spoke of the national television coverage for black and white audiences next year which will bring about an awareness of safety.

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# Asbestos (P31) Star curbs seen as 30/10/84 'unscientific'

The most important aspect of the asbestos health issue was the establishment of a scientifically determined threshold for the safe use of the mineral, Mr Luther Jooste, chairman of the South African Asbestos Producers' Advisory Committee, said yesterday.

Addressing the fifth colloquium of the Asbestos International Association in Johannesburg, Mr Jooste said it was essential to the survival of the asbestos industry that permissible safety limits should be based on the "threshold concept" and not on the notion that "the only safe limit is zero".

The three-day colloquium is being attended by more than 100 delegates from 17 countries. It will focus on the latest developments in asbestos dust measurement techniques as well as the biological results of the latest experiments on asbestos dust exposure.

Mr Jooste said there were indications that a reasonable threshold limit for asbestos would be established in the near future.

"All the limit values being applied today are based on health problems stemming from exposures many years ago, when exposure levels either were not, or

could not be, recorded, or where techniques used were unscientific and therefore completely unreliable," he said.

"The result of this lack of precision is evident today in the uncertainty and variations in limit values proposed or already in force throughout the world.

"The approach of 'when in doubt, play safe' has had a marked effect on regulations.

"While we fully support this approach as a temporary necessity, it would be a sad loss to mankind if the benefits arising from the use of asbestos were to be denied to millions of people

because there is no solid scientific basis for limit setting" — Sapa

Merry 30/11/84 (131) ~~222~~ ~~221~~

# Safety limit key to survival of asbestos industry

JOHANNESBURG—  
The most important aspect of the asbestos health issue is the establishment of a scientifically-determined threshold for the safe use of the mineral, Mr Luther Jooste, chairman of the South African Asbestos Producers' Advisory Committee, said yesterday

Mr Jooste, addressing the Asbestos International Association here, said it was essential to the survival of the asbestos industry that permissible safety limits should be based on the 'threshold concept', and not on the notion that the 'only safe limit is zero'

The three-day session is being attended by more than 100 delegates from 17 countries. It will focus on the latest developments in asbestos dust measurement techniques, as well as biological results of the latest experiments on asbestos dust exposure

'The result of this lack of precision is evident today in the uncertainty and variations in limit values proposed or already in force throughout the world

'The approach of "when in doubt, play safe" has had a marked effect on regulations and, while we

fully support this approach as a temporary necessity, it would be a sad loss to mankind if the benefits of a better quality of life arising from the use of asbestos were to be denied to millions of people for lack of a solid scientific basis for limit setting' — (Sapa)

## Health

'There are indications that the epigenetic character of asbestos will find general acceptance in the near future and this would mean that a reasonable threshold limit could be established,' Mr Jooste said

Mr Jooste said it was unfortunate that the standard dust measurement procedure in use was not available 20 to 40 years ago

'All the limit values being applied today are based on health problems stemming from exposures many years ago, when exposure levels either were not, or could not be, recorded, or where techniques used were unscientific and therefore completely unreliable,' he said.

# Asbestos may not be cause of cancer — expert

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK  
ASBESTOS might not initiate cancer — it might only promote it.

This was said by Professor E Beck, director of the Hygiene Institute of the Justus Liebig University of Giessen in West Germany, at the conference of the Asbestos International Association in Johannesburg this week.

The association is made up of asbestos producers, whose industry is being threatened by a growing anti-asbestos lobby concerned over the health effects of the substance.

Prof Beck said: "So far there is no concrete evidence that asbestos is an

initiator of lung tumours, and there is increasing evidence that it acts only as a promoter."

He said fibres posed a risk only when they were inhaled and were of no significance when taken in with liquids or food.

Research was still required to provide conclusive answers to a number of questions relating to asbestos and health.

These included the significance of the size and chemical properties of fibres, whether a single fibre was enough to cause a tumour and whether there was a specific fibre concentration beyond which there was no risk.

ROM 1/21/84 (217) (131) (217)

## Asbestos-cancer link 'firm'

By PHILLIP VAN NIEKERK

IT WAS "playing with words" to say asbestos only promoted and did not initiate cancer, says Dr Jonny Myers, of the University of Cape Town's Industrial Health group.

Dr Myers said there was conclusive evidence to show asbestos was closely linked to various forms of lung cancer as well as a number of other cancers.

He was responding to claims by Professor E Beck, director of the Hygiene Institute of the Justus Liebig University of Gießen in West Germany, that there was no concrete evidence that asbestos was an initiator of lung tumours.

Prof Beck told the conference of the

Asbestos International Association in Johannesburg that there was increasing evidence that asbestos acted only as a promoter of cancer.

But Dr Myers said the link between asbestos and cancer was as clear and as medically beyond doubt as that between smoking and cancer.

It was a "dubious distinction" to say asbestos did not "initiate" cancer.

Dr Meyers also rejected a claim by Prof Beck that asbestos fibres only posed a risk when they were inhaled.

"Some studies have shown that ingesting asbestos fibres leads to cancer of the organs of the digestive system," he said.

(131) C. Times  
2/11/84  
**Worker falls to death  
from dock scaffold**

**Staff Reporter**

A WORCESTER man plunged several metres to his death when he slipped off scaffolding while painting a crane in Sturrock dry dock yesterday morning

Mr E F Coetzee, 32, of Gie Street, died instantly.

● A four-year-old Mitchells Plain boy was seriously burnt before being rescued from a blazing wood and iron home yesterday.

Sergio Isaacs, of Olifantsoog Street, was rushed to the Red Cross

Children's hospital with 70 percent third-degree burns

● A Woodstock man sustained serious facial burns when gas, leaking from his bathroom geyser, exploded when he lit a cigarette yesterday

Mr Gregory Ringquest, 35, of Cavendish Square, tightened a gas valve after smelling gas but lit a cigarette soon afterwards and was enveloped in a ball of flame

He was admitted to the Woodstock Hospital where his condition was satisfactory last night

In the 1980s, with the mortal dangers well known and safer substitutes available for all uses of asbestos, it is patently criminal for some products to still be made with asbestos at all."

This is one of the damning conclusions drawn by Barry Castleman in a comprehensive review\* which traces the development of knowledge of asbestos disease and the health of workers since the early 1930s.

After reading the 500-page documented exposé, it is difficult not to agree with him.

What is perhaps more frightening is that the asbestos-related disease death toll will continue into the 21st century and will be highest among people who have had only "bystander" contact with the mineral fibre. These are those who have not been occupationally or directly exposed, but will suffer as a result of environmental inhalation of asbestos fibre.

As one of the world's primary asbestos producers, South Africa is finding itself increasingly drawn into the health controversy which has dogged asbestos mining, milling and manufacturing since the beginning of this century.

But it has taken more than 50 years for the issues to come under the glare of the public spotlight.

As early as 1930, the signs, symptoms, appearance and pathology of asbestosis — the crippling lung disease caused by the inhalation of asbestos fibres — were well understood and documented, writes Mr Castleman.

By 1935, asbestosis was widely recognised as a mortal threat affecting

# Now asbestos threatens

a significant proportion of those who had worked regularly with the material.

In the early 1940s asbestos was discovered to be a carcinogen (cancer-causing) agent, and Dr Wilhelm C Hueper, chief of the Environmental Cancer Section of the US National Cancer Institute, recommended that where possible substitute materials should be used by industry.

In 1943 Germany declared asbestosis in combination with lung cancer a compensative occupational disease.

Yet the UK company, Cape Industries — a subsidiary of Charter Consolidated (the British investment wing of Anglo American) — paid so little attention to industrial hygiene in its South African Cape Asbestos mining interests that black children less than 12 years old were diagnosed with "radiologic asbestosis with copulmonale" and were dying of the disease.

The asbestos mining and manufacturing industry was well aware of the threat and even more fully conversant with the potentially damaging medical reports from the 1930s onwards.

The extent of the damage and the cost of compensating disabled employees could have been ruinous to the industry at this early stage, says Mr Castleman.

Failure to stress the gravity of the hazard and industry fears about the spread of information on asbestos dis-

# 'Society at large'

Every hour for the next 20 years, a person is likely to die as a result of the "asbestos disease catastrophe". Responsibility for the "epidemic" has been laid at the door of industry and government in a hard-hitting and well-researched book by an international environmental consultant. The book, just released in the US, is reviewed by Carolyn Dempster.

cases may be traced to concerns about compensation.

In support of this, Mr Castleman records that in 1943 Mr Vandiver Brown, attorney and senior executive in the massive Johns Manville Corporation, stated that it was the corporation's policy not to "do anything nor to tell the employees" of X-ray evidence of asbestos disease.

Brown added that if the workers were told, they would stop working and file claims for compensation. It was the corporation's policy to let them work until they quit work because of asbestosis or died as a result of asbestos-related diseases.

The president of Johns Manville, Mr Louis Brown, confirmed this when he stated in conversation that he would let his employees work until they dropped dead, and that "we save a lot of money that way."

Today the corporation has been forced to file for bankruptcy because of the thousands of litigation suits brought by former employees suffering the effects of asbestos exposure.

"If you poison your boss a little bit each day, it's called murder, if your boss poisons you a little each day, it's called a Threshold Limit Value (TLV)" — James P Keogh MD.

Threshold limit values were used as the guideline for asbestos dust

levels from 1938 onwards, but as Mr Castleman notes "few State agencies had the authority and resources to enforce standards for worker exposure to toxic substances."

There was also a considerable degree of concern among manufacturers that the levels would be set so low as to put them out of business.

Over the years an increasing number of asbestos products have been shown to be hazardous, including industrial "protective clothing", drywall patching compounds, vinyl asbestos flooring and most asbestos insulation products.

Mr Castleman says about 900 000 US workers are regularly exposed to asbestos in brake servicing and asks "How many men would have knowingly entered a trade with an almost guaranteed chance of developing asbestosis in 30 years and nearly a 50 percent chance of dying from occupational cancer or asbestosis?"

In the final analysis Mr Castleman comments "The continuing asbestos disaster reveals the depth of failure of societies both East and West to take reasonable steps to protect the health of workers against a long-recognised insidious threat to life. This menace has carried over from the workplace to endanger society at large."

\*Asbestos: Legal and Medical Aspects by Barry I Castleman (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, New York)

5/11/94

# Bamcwu steps up asbestos campaign

13/1

THE BLACK Allied Mining and Construction Workers Union (Bamcwu) has reaffirmed its commitment to the closing down of asbestos mines in South Africa

This assurance was

## SOWETAN REPORTER

given to The SOWETAN yesterday by the union's publicity secretary, Mr Motshumi Mokhoni, who said they will intensify their anti-asbestos

campaign

He was reacting to a conference that was called by the South African Asbestos Producers Advisory Committee and the Asbestos Inter-

national Association in Johannesburg last week

The union said that the conference was a step to draw attention away from the campaign, which was gaining momentum in most parts of the country



7/11/84 (131) RB 80

# Probe on 'official' document

By RIAAN DE VILLIERS  
Labour Reporter

THE Department of Manpower has launched an investigation into "collaboration" between a senior official and a private company which is producing printed items alleged to be required by all South African employers in terms of new labour legislation.

The investigation forms part of a burgeoning controversy about a direct-mail advertisement, said to resemble an official document, produced by a company called "South African Regulations" with a despatch address in Randburg.

## Pamphlet

Dr P J van der Merwe, director-general of the department, said yesterday that the conduct of a department official, and the "nature of the advertisement itself" were being investigated.

The pamphlet advertises two printed items it indicates are required by all employers in terms of the new Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, and a third required by all employers with more than 20 employees.

Prices for the items range from R4 per item for bulk orders to R6,80 for single copies of another.

Mr Charles Groenewald, a director of South African Regulations, said yesterday the advertisement had been mailed to 200 000 employers.

Spokesmen for industry and commerce said this week the advertisement resembled an official document and created the impression that

all employers had to order the items from the company concerned to comply with the law.

The advertisement also states twice that the items were produced "in consultation with the Department of Manpower".

In an interview earlier this week, Mr Groenewald, until recently the managing director of a large stationery firm, said the wording of the pamphlet had been approved by Mr Manie Mulder, director of occupational safety for the department.

Yesterday, Mr A A Weich, chief director of occupational safety, said he viewed the advertisement as "gross misuse of the department's name" — but acknowledged that there had been "collaboration" between Mr Mulder and Mr Groenewald.

● Meanwhile, the Federated Chamber of Industries has written to the department asking for an explanation of the advertisement.

Mrs Friede Dowie, secretary of the FCI manpower committee, said this week that it created the impression that it enjoyed the support of the department. If this were the case, the FCI objected "in the strongest possible terms".

Yesterday, Mr Groenewald said "I talked to other officials besides Mr Mulder". He added that the wording of the pamphlet had been checked by his attorneys.

## 'No obligation'

Mr Weich said yesterday employers were under no obligation to buy any printed items from the company.

Mr Weich said it was correct that employers had to keep a copy of the Act and regulations. However, these were available from the government printer and from a number of authorized private companies.

Employers could prepare the other forms themselves.

The format of the record of incidents had been prescribed in a Government Gazette, but employers could type out the forms and duplicate them.

Argus 12/11/84

# Sub-station blast (131) cuts Durban power

Argus Correspondent

DURBAN — An explosion in an electricity sub-station next to a clothing factory here has slightly injured six women workers.

Some sections of Durban were without power for more than 24 hours after the explosion

Mr Dennis Fraser, city electrical engineer, said it was caused by a fault in a transformer

A police spokesman said "It was definitely not sabotage."

Mercury 14/11/84 (131) ~~131~~

# Firm would need R100m to meet Govt health law

Finance Editor

A LARGE Durban company would have to invest more than R100m to comply with the original health proposals made by the Government in its new industrial health laws.

But Mr Roland Freakes, the executive director of the Natal Chamber of Industries said the company has 'a performance record of 670 million man hours without a single instance of heat exhaustion or stress.'

He was opening a seminar of the Chartered Institute of Industrial Safety Engineering yesterday on 'People, Production and Profits.'

Mr Freakes said that the Government's thermal regulations under the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act had been rejected by industry and referred back to a Technical Committee for reconsideration.

## Valid case

'No amount of persuasive rhetoric, no amount of official dogmatism will ever satisfy me that there is a valid case for imposing such demands upon a company

'Let me assure you that this is not an isolated example. There are many other companies which would be called upon to outlay tens of millions to meet these idealistic rules.'

Mr Freakes said the country could not afford 'that kind of unessential expenditure.'

The money should be devoted to the expansion of industries, the creation of new jobs and upgrading economic growth and prosperity

'That is what our future is all about'

He said that industry accepted that employees had to be protected against biological and chemical hazards and so on

# Accidents at work!

# 5 die

# every

# day

131  
C. P. R. 20  
18/11/84

By ZB MOLEFE

**SIX WORKERS** are killed daily and two permanently disabled every hour from work-related accidents in South Africa, says the Technical Advice Group.

"Accidents often occur when workers are forced to take risks when work is speeded up and when using unsafe machinery and equipment," says TAG in its booklet *Accidents at Work*. But the National Occupational Safety Association argues that only 10 percent of work accidents are caused by unsafe working conditions — the rest are caused by unsafe acts of workers.

The TAG booklet says about 2 000 workers are killed and 23 000 permanently disabled in job-related accidents every year.

It quotes the story of a worker, Samuel Ndlovu, whose fingers were severed by a wood-cutting machine.

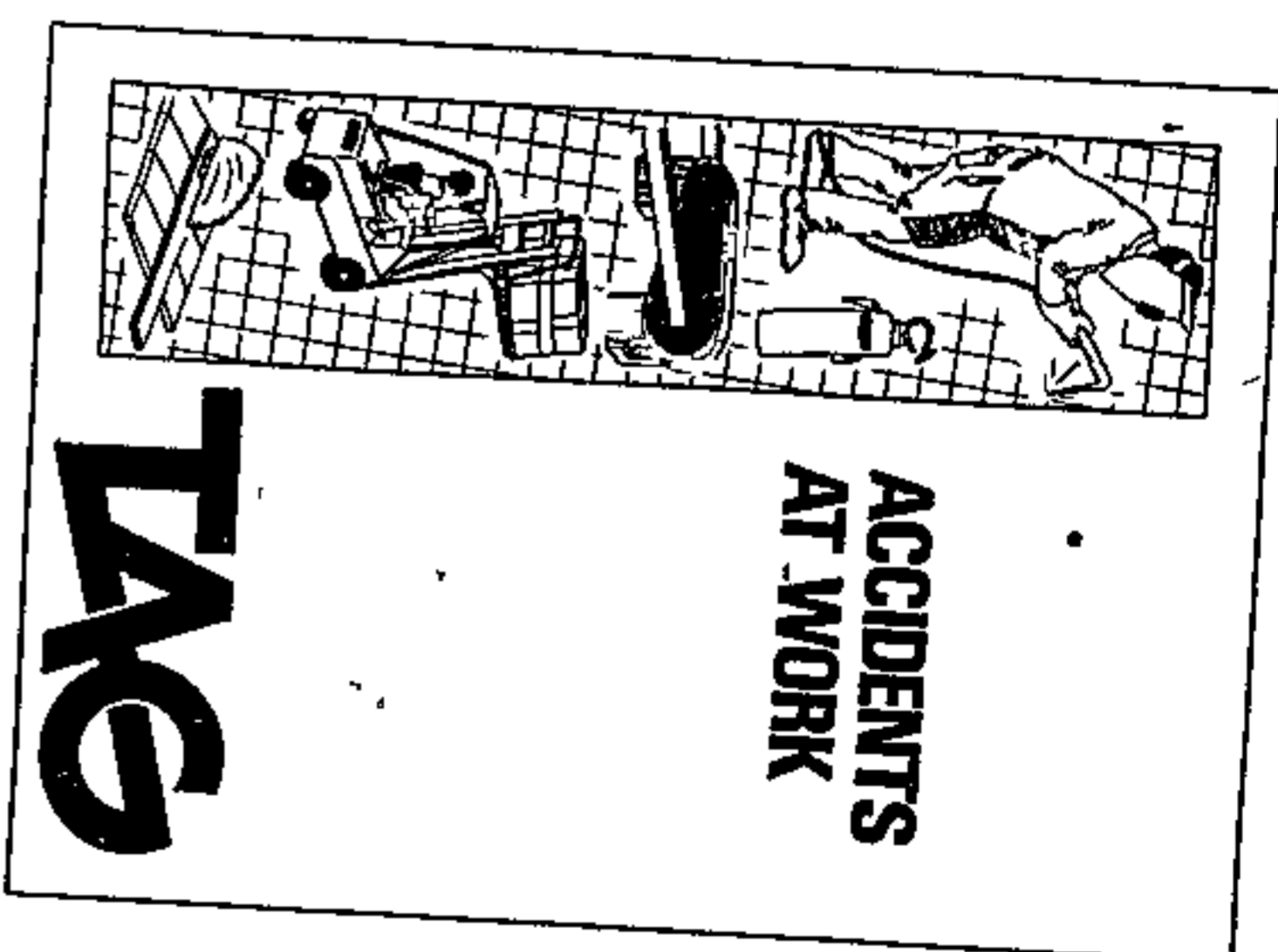
"I cut pieces of wood. The wood-cutting machine has a guard, but the machine is very slow," he said.

"On the day of my accident the foreman said I must hurry up. I told him that the machine cannot work any faster. He told me to take the guard off."

"Later that day my right hand was caught in the machine.

"All my fingers were cut off. When I came out of hospital, I

The TAG booklet *Accidents at Work*



couldn't do my job any more. I was paid off. I cannot find another job."

The booklet spotlights various areas which are crucial to worker safety and also looks at what can be done when there is an accident.

The booklet also includes a model accident report and the addresses of factory and mine inspectors and advice groups who can help when a worker is involved in an accident on the shopfloor.

Areas spotlighted in the booklet are:

- How to investigate an accident,
- How to participate in legal procedures such as enquiries and inquiries;
- How to get compensation, and

● How to monitor accidents at work.

The booklet is available from TAG, 212 Dunwell House, Jorissen St, Braamfontein, 2017, or PO Box 32358, Braamfontein, 2017, at R1 exclusive

~~131~~ ~~131~~ ~~131~~ 131

# Death in the walls of a rural home

*D. Dimpf* 21/11/84

**MAFEFE** — The man seems proud of his almost-complete thatched home in the remote mountains of Lebowa and oblivious to the possibility it could turn into his family's death chamber

The round hut is plastered with asbestos waste, dumped by mining companies in the middle of black communities as developed countries grow increasingly fearful about the health hazards of the mineral

"The thatch and asbestos are strong, the house will last for 20 years," the man said as he put the finishing touches to the hut.

Medical opinion is that in 20 years his family, constantly exposed to the fibrous material, could be fighting a losing battle against lung cancer

The numerous dumps littering the lush countryside are the target of environmentalists who accuse mining companies, among them until recently multinationals based in the United States and Britain, of disregard for the life of blacks in the impoverished homeland

The Black Allied Mining and Construction Workers' Union (Bamcuru) has launched a campaign to close the entire asbestos industry

in South Africa, saying hundreds of miners have died of asbestos-related diseases

The union, supported by medical experts, said that though official statistics were being kept under wraps, many more residents of mining communities had suffered lung damage caused by the mineral

Research over the past 20 years has established direct links between inhalation of asbestos fibre and lung cancer and developed nations have ordered massive reductions in its use

In Lebowa, mining continues and uncovered dumps are still used by villagers to build homes and pave roads

South Africa, which sold 187 000 tons last year, is the world's third largest asbestos producer after the Soviet Union and Canada

Health organisations say up to 200 000 blacks live dangerously close to mines in Lebowa and that measures taken so far are insufficient to cope with the problem

In Krom Ellenboog, 500 children study at a primary school in the shadow of a huge dump created by the now-abandoned mining process

Local villagers say the only attempt to remove health hazards was

advice that the school's playground be hosed every morning to reduce the amount of dust. Water pumps have been out of order for weeks

Mr Pat Hart, managing director of Gefco, which bought the dormant mine in 1981, said his company had embarked on a programme to eradicate the danger

"I expect the dump will be completely covered within a couple of months," he said

Elsewhere in Lebowa, local chiefs have instructed brick producers to stop using asbestos, traditionally a major source of building material — and the cost of building houses has risen dramatically

For the local population, struggling to eke a meagre living in the under-developed area and more concerned with feeding families today than with health problems many years away, the campaign against asbestos poses a dilemma —

In an area with high unemployment, people are reluctant to see jobs lost because of scientific evidence many of them cannot understand

Mr Pandelani Nefolovhodwe, secretary-general of the union, says economic considerations should be removed from the debate about asbestos "The choice we have is between jobs and life" — SAPA/RNS



# Win means lung sufferers may be compensated

Mrs Maria Maseko, a 40-year-old mother who worked for 18 years in the well-winding department of Brai-x (Pty) Ltd in Springs, first applied for compensation for the lung disease in March last year.

Her application was turned down by the commissioner on the basis that she did not qualify for compensation in terms of the Workmen's Compensation Act, in spite of medical evidence revealing she had several of the symptoms of byssinosis or "brown lung" disease.

In August this year, her case was taken on appeal by the National Union of Textile Workers (NUTW) before a hearing of the commissioner.

Legal counsel for the union used local and international medical specialist opinion to show that the criteria employed by the Medical Bureau for Occupational Health in judging whether a person is compensable or not, were inadequate, and fell far short of international standards.

The point of dispute was that as Mrs Maseko was a border-line case, the cri-

teria would be crucial to her success in obtaining compensation.

On the basis of tests conducted in August 1982, Dr Neil White, a medical practitioner with the union, found Mrs Maseko suffering from the characteristic chest tightness and harsh cough found in byssinosis victims.

She described her working conditions as "very dusty" and added that she had never been given, nor worn any kind of respiratory protection at work. Her job involved operating and cleaning

well-winding machines with compressed air which aggravated the dusty conditions. She could not walk more than 500 yards without wheezing and suffered from acute attacks of shortness of breath.

In view of the fact that Mrs Maseko was a life-long non-smoker and had never suffered from any other respiratory illness, the union's lawyers argued that her condition could only have been caused by her occupation.

It was also pointed out that once Mrs Maseko was removed from her dusty working conditions, she no longer suffered from "Monday tightness".

The World Health Organisation describes the byssinosis syndrome as being worse on the first working day of the week when the lungs have to adapt to the cotton dust. By Thursday or Friday, the symptoms start disappearing - only to re-occur at the start of the next week.



**Children's**  
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O. Dispatels 26/11/84

# Textile worker injured

(31)

EAST LONDON — The municipal fire brigade and an ambulance rushed to rescue a textile worker at a plant here after she had caught her right arm in a machine yesterday afternoon

But they were too late as the employee had already been freed

She was taken to hospital with the fingers of her right hand badly injured. — DDR.



# Plan to overgrow asbestos dumps

By Gavin Engelbrecht

The Griqualand Exploration and Finance Company (Gefco) has approached ecological experts at Potchefstroom University for advice on covering its asbestos mine dumps with vegetation.

The managing director of Gefco, Mr H P Hart, confirmed last week that Gefco was entering into a consultation agreement with the university's Institute for Ecological Research.

The move by Gefco comes in the wake of widespread publicity concerning the health hazards of abandoned dumps in the North-eastern Transvaal and Northern Cape.

Mr Hart said the request for research had nothing to do with the controversy but was part of Gefco's policy of covering all its dumps — many of them inherited in a takeover.

Mr Hart added that Gefco's immediate priority would be the covering of dumps near settlements in the North-eastern Transvaal and Northern Cape.

A spokesman for the Ecological Research Institute said that all the dumps had been visited and assessed.

Experiments with various grass strains, fertilisers and other plants would be carried out but he could not say when research would be completed.

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131

# Workers killed in 100m fall

By MARGARETHA GOOSEN  
and GLENDA GAITZ

THREE construction company workers were killed early yesterday morning in a gruesome accident at the new Lethabo Power Station being built near Vereeniging

The accident happened at 7 45am when a roof platform carrying a supervisor and two workers of Grinaker Construction up the second of the three wind-break chimneys at the site collapsed, according to an Escom spokesman

The platform, hoisted up the chimney by a hydraulic jack operated by the workers who were standing on it, collapsed when it reached a height of 100m in the 274m chimney

The platform struck gas bottles on the floor of the chimney and these exploded, bringing a hail of rubble down the chimney

The bodies of the three men — a 25-year-old supervisor, and Mr Thomas Motaung, 30, of Witsieshoek, and Mr William Mojela of Dufwelskloof — were severely maimed and burnt, said Lieutenant-Colonel Vic Haynes of the Police Directorate of Public Relations in Pretoria

The Police were last night trying to reach the supervi-



The chimney (right) from which three men fell to their deaths yesterday

sor's next-of-kin in Britain. His name will be released later

According to a manager on the site, it took at least an hour to haul the three dead men from the fire and the rubble. Rain hampered the process

An Escom spokesman added that four men in an elevator in the chimney at

Go to Page 2

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## Horror accident

From Page 1

the time of the accident suffered severe shock, but were unscathed.

Eye-witnesses said they saw four bodies carried out of the chimney and said that three people suffered severe burns. But a spokesman for Escom said three people were killed and none was injured.

Mr Koos Pieterse said he was working nearby and heard a loud bang.

"It sounded like a jet breaking the sound barrier. Everyone stopped work and went to see what had happened," he said.

The bodies were trapped under the steel platform and it took an hour to get them out, he said.

"They were disfigured, it was terrible. Everyone was shocked."

Mr Pieterse said the supervisor who died was on his last shift before returning to Britain.

Soviets rejoice

Mercury 8/12/84

# Workers flee storeroom vapour blast

(131)

**Pietermaritzburg  
Bureau**

WORKERS at a small factory here fled for their lives yesterday when glue vapour caused an explosion in a storeroom and set the building alight

The incident happened at Capital Sheet Metal Works in Greyling Street just before 11 a m and by the time the fire brigade arrived the factory was well alight, according to a fire department spokesman

Firemen used breathing apparatus as they prevented the blaze from spreading to other factories nearby

One of 12 employees in the small workshop said he had seen a flash in the storeroom and flames quickly spread throughout the building, eventually bringing down the roof.

They had managed to flee through the main workshop entrance.

But one of the factory directors, Mr Jay Pillay, and a worker, Mr Ismail Mohamed, who had been in an office at the back of the building, had had to climb on to the roof and jump across to the roof of a neighbouring factory to escape the inferno

● See picture Page 2

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# 'Protect pregnant workers'

Mail Correspondent

ROM 10/12/84

CAPE TOWN. — A recommendation that pregnant working women should be protected against discrimination in the same way as national servicemen are protected by the Defence Act has been made in the National Council of Women publication, NCW News

The report, by Joan Laubscher, national adviser on women and employment, says child-bearing should be regarded as a social cost rather than an economic cost.

The report says "In terms of Section 4 of the Defence Act it is an offence to dismiss an employee carrying out any service under the Act or to penalise him for having enrolled. A similar provision for pregnancy could assure that women who wished only to break their service for a short time, would keep their jobs, their seniority and long-term fringe benefits."

The report notes that this recommendation was favourably considered by the Wiehahn Commission but that the Government rejected these recommendations, "taking the view that employer organisations and trade unions, in active co-operation should take the initiative in developing fair employment practices"

"It is clear that the State did not appreciate that there is a difference between the perception of the women worker's biological role as an economic cost as opposed to a social cost."