

AIDS is a women's issue. AIDS was killing women before it had a name and before anyone knew what caused it. By the late 1980's, AIDS had become one of the main causes of death among women between 15 and 49 years of age in many parts of the world. **SPEAK** looks at how women who are HIV-positive cope.

HIV is the virus which leads to AIDS. There is a lot we still have to learn about it, especially when it comes to women. Stories of women who have HIV or AIDS give us a sense of how the disease affects women. They question their whole lives. They worry about the future and about what will happen to them, their close relationships and families.

Two women, living with HIV, told **SPEAK about their lives**

Lerato is a 23-year-old woman from Soweto. She lives with her husband and their two children. Lerato is a housewife.

This is her story:

“I did not know I was HIV-positive until I went to the hospital to book for delivery — I was seven months pregnant. The doctor asked me if I would agree to an AIDS test. I did. I agreed to the blood test because I wanted my baby to be safe.

When I went back to get the results, I was told I was HIV-positive. I wanted to die. Later I realised it was no use killing myself because I had this thing all along.

I did not tell my husband I



Photo: Emmond Jiyane

People who are HIV-positive need support

Learning to live with AIDS

am HIV-positive. I told him the hospital had taken blood tests and that maybe we should start using condoms for the safety of the child. I think I got it from him. My first born is five years old and is he not HIV-positive. I hope my baby is not positive. If she is and there is no cure by the time she grows up, I'll teach her about HIV and AIDS.

I'm a strong person. I don't worry about myself but about other women who don't know. I don't give a damn about men. They are the ones giving this to us because they sleep around and refuse to use condoms.

I'm not going to be sad. I'll live with HIV and I won't let it kill me.

My advice to women who know they have HIV is they should keep it a secret. Do not tell your partner or you will end up alone. Be strong and have courage. You can still

live. It all depends on the way you live. Remember you are not alone.

I thank all the doctors and nurses at Baragwanath Hospital. If everyone who is positive listened to them, they'd be as strong as I am.”

Thembi Zintle is a young woman from Empangeni in Northern Natal who now lives in Durban. Thembi is a sex worker (prostitute).

This is her story:

“I came to Durban because of my boyfriend. He told me he was coming to work here. When I came to join him, I found out he was here because wanted to continue with his schooling. Life was very difficult for me. I had no money. I decided to sell my body so I could survive.

I first learned I was HIV-positive in October this year. I



At Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital, one out of every 25 pregnant women is found to be HIV-positive

One of the banners women held high at a march in Johannesburg recently

The PPHC National AIDS Programme helps communities fight ignorance about AIDS. If you need the support of a community worker or if you have any further questions contact the PPHC National AIDS Programme. The telephone numbers of their offices are:

National office: (011) 337 8539

Eastern Transvaal:

(01315) 41 181

Northern Transvaal:

(01521) 91 4221

Southern Transvaal:

(011) 337 7126

Orange Free State:

(057) 396 5509

Natal: (031) 301 2582

Natal Midlands: (0331) 45 0453

Northern Natal: (0354) 74 181

Border: (0431) 43 6733

Eastern Cape: (041) 41 1618

Transkei: (0471) 31 0757

Western Cape: (021) 696 4154

felt worried when I found out. I knew I could get Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD's), but I did not think I would get AIDS. I'm scared because there is no cure for this disease. My doctor was very nice to me and I still visit him.

I do not have any idea how I got HIV, but I think I got it from one of my clients. I haven't told my boyfriend, because he will leave me. If he found out he is HIV-positive, he would say I gave it to him.

At the moment I am coping. I go to the PPHC AIDS Programme for counselling and I am still working as a prostitute. I'm able to do everything I used to do except have sex with a man without a condom.

I'm not angry any longer. I have accepted my situation. I don't have any choice. You know, life is tough. When you are HIV-positive you need sup-

port. Choose good people to help you deal with your situation. The people at the PPHC AIDS Programme helped me.

Many people think HIV is a disease only 'loose' women get. Yet, the majority of women with HIV are not prostitutes."

Blaming sex workers only encourages blame and discrimination against all women. As a result, women are often told they are responsible for spreading HIV, whether as sex workers, wives and sexual partners, or mothers.

We must remember that HIV does not discriminate against your sex, race, class or nationality. We should not think we are divided into those who have HIV and those who do not. The fact is, we are divided into those who know they have it and those who don't. ★

These pages have been made possible by NPPHCN National AIDS Programme



Women take a stand

Violet Mncube lives in Thokoza. She is one of many women who came face to face with the horror of the violence on the East Rand of Johannesburg. When Mncube was invited to attend a march organised by women, she did not hesitate. On 27 October 1993, she, together with 1 000 other women from Thokoza, marched on the offices of the African National Congress (ANC) because they have had enough — enough of the violence in their communities. They say the ANC has not done enough to help their communities deal with the violence.

The women demanded an end to the meaningless killings that have claimed the lives of more than 1 300 people in less than a year. They also wanted the Internal Stability Unit (ISU) out of the townships. The ISU was sent into the East Rand to keep law and order. Instead, according to residents, the ISU is partly to blame for the breakdown of law and order and the violence.

Mncube knows this very well. She would do anything to make sure that no other woman ever has to experience what she did one day in September last year. Mncube was lucky to escape with her life. Another woman was not so lucky.

"I was on my way home with my grandson after visiting my husband's mother. I got into a

Women from communities on the East Rand are tired of seeing people being killed every day. They are organising themselves to demand an end to violence and the removal of the Internal Stability Unit from their townships. *Thandeka Mbuli* takes a closer look at the situation

taxi at Natalspruit Hospital," Mncube said.

She said, after the driver dropped off two women carrying babies, she saw a man indicating to the driver to turn down a road.

"The driver did what the man told him and drove into KwaMadala Hostel. We got scared and started shouting at the driver to let us out, but he just drove on.

"As the taxi drove into the hostel area, I saw a green police van parked at the

side of the gate. Its door was open and four white ISU policemen with guns were standing outside the vehicle,"

Thokoza women at the ANC headquarters protesting against the presence of the Internal Stability Unit in their township



against violence

Mncube remembered.

She said two of the policemen came to the taxi and started counting the passengers.

She said the taxi went into the yard of the hostel and parked behind another green ISU vehicle.

"Two white police-

men, also with guns, got out of the car. One stood in front and another at the back of the taxi.

Mncube and the other passengers were ordered to go into a room, where a woman with a machine gun was sitting on the floor and five men were standing against the wall.

"We were told to take off our clothes. While we were taking off our clothes, members of the police came in to pick out their victims," she said.

At this time, Mncube's grandson started crying and saying he wanted to go home because he was scared. She was very surprised when they told her she could go.

"As I grabbed my clothes, a woman who knew me grabbed my hand and told me to say goodbye to her family for her. She was not crying, she was just sad," remembered Mncube.

"When I walked through the gates, one of the policemen pointed a gun at me and said to me: 'You must have prayed hard. No ANC supporter gets out of here alive.'"

Mncube was so frightened that she only told her family about the incident the next day and decided to go to the woman's home to give the message to her family.

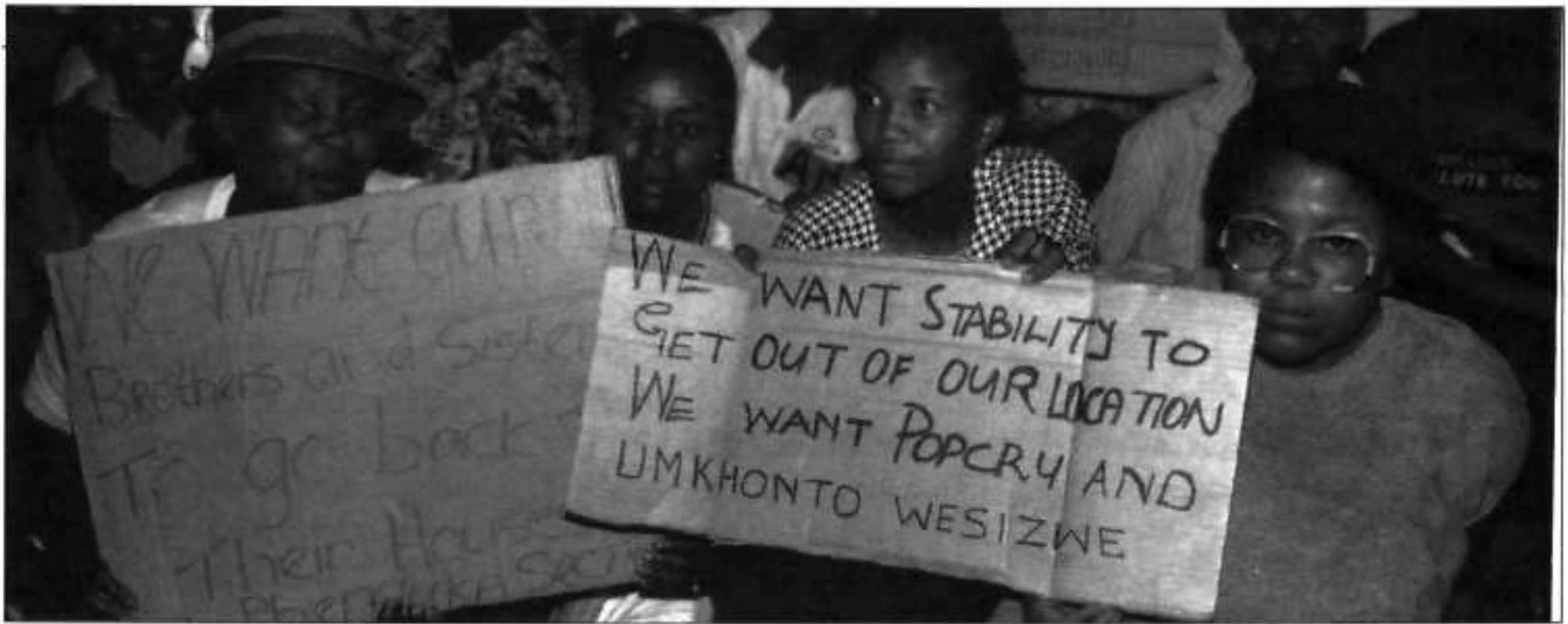
"When I got to her house, I was told the family had found the woman's body in the Germiston Mortuary."

The police claimed they had found her body in the veld.

"People say we want chaos and lawlessness when we say we want the ISU out of our townships, but how could they (the ISU) let

Photo: Phumla Rado





Thokoza women say enough is enough: We want the Internal Stability Unit out

people be taken to their deaths and do nothing?"

The police don't agree. They said the police were not responsible for the violence on the East Rand and that the ISU had only killed 16 people in the area so far.

Witwatersrand SAP spokesperson Colonel Dave Bruce said the ISU will not be withdrawn from the township until the violence has gone down.

Three women who spoke at the march accused the ISU of breaking into their houses, damaging their property, raping women, arresting people and not informing their families of the arrests, and pointing guns at little children.

The marchers called on the ANC to help them remove the ISU from their communities.

Mncube's story is just one of many women have come face to face with the brutality of the ISU.

SPEAK tried to find out how many women have been raped, but could not. A field-worker in the area said many women did not report that they have been raped because they are too scared and ashamed to

A Poem by Thabang Mabidikama from Alexandra

**last night I heard a gun shot
I knew another life was gone
I knew the grave population was multiplied
Who will stop this war?**

**people die everywhere in trains, in buses, in homes
the mass media is flooded with slaughter
Who will stop this war?**

**leaders talk.....
negotiate.....
peace accords are signed
they are misconstrued
Who will stop this war?**

**as corruption escalates where is justice?
how do we justify killing innocents
Who will stop this war?**

tell people about it.

Since the women's anti-ISU march, two meetings between police and the ANC have failed to take place. The police did not come to the meetings.

This did not stop the communities from taking the matter further.

On November 10, people from the East Rand demonstrated outside the World Trade Centre (where the multi-party negotiations are taking place) calling on organisations and parties to support their plea for the ISU to be removed.

In a statement to the negotiating council, the demonstrators said: "The government of the National Party has let loose their security forces to harass, torture, rape, arrest and kill our people in Thokoza and Kathlehong. The life of a black person has become very cheap in the eyes of the government.

"We have had enough of their barbaric method and we are making a plea that they should leave us in peace and not in pieces."

People in the East Rand say they long for peace, especially over Christmas and the New Year. ☼

As a matter of fact...

Rapist remains in police force

A policeman convicted of rape and sentenced to seven years in prison earlier this year is still working as a member of the South African Police force.

Patrick Elder was found guilty in August 1993 of raping a woman in the toilets at

Caledon Square police station in Cape Town last year. He has appealed against his sentence. Meanwhile, he is working, with full pay, behind police radio controls in Pinelands. Police

spokesperson Colonel Raymond Dowd said: "The decision on whether to suspend a policeman found guilty of a crime is up to a district commissioner."

When will rape be considered a serious crime in this country?

SASCO members rip woman's bra off

South African Students Congress (Sasco) members attacked her, ripped her bra off and exposed her at their annual meeting at the University of the Western Cape. This is what a 21-year-old student, Bernadette Johnson, said happened to her while she was addressing a meeting on violence against women on campus.

Johnson and four other members of the Coloured Committee for Democracy were not invited to the Sasco meeting and were removed by the organisation's members.

Johnson said two Sasco members held her hands tight while another kicked her and then "grabbed my left breast, digging his hand into my bra below my breast, ripped my bra off, exposing me".

Sasco's chairperson said Johnson had been "assisted" to leave the meeting because she was not a Sasco member.

Violence against women

In the latest issue of their newsletter, The International Women's Rights Action Watch congratulates all the women in every country of the world for: "Making violence against women an issue people, and the media, now talk about openly."

They say: "Until recently, violence against women was ignored in every nation. Violence, especially domestic violence, but also rape, incest and sexual harassment were considered private, women's problems, not important, not discussed publicly. That is now beginning to change."

Young women and HIV

Among sexually active people, younger women are being infected with HIV at the fastest rate.

According to the United Nations, women between the ages of 15 and 25 years make up about 70 percent of the 3000 women a day who become infected with HIV and of the 500 women who die of AIDS every day.

Women and lung cancer

Women who smoke are much more likely to develop lung cancer than men. A study done in

the United States and Canada found that the risk of getting lung cancer, for women who smoked 20 cigarettes a day, was three times higher than for men.

The World Health Organisation estimates that, by the year 2020, one million women would have died as a result of smoking-related illnesses.

HEALTH BRIEFS

'Germ' contraceptives

The Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR) has launched a campaign to call for a halt to research on anti-fertility "vaccines", also known as immunological contraceptives.

The vaccines make the immune system mistake the pregnancy hormone for an infectious germ and react against it. Women's groups believe the vaccines are open to abuse as they can be given on a mass scale, without people's knowledge, and have long-lasting effects. ★



SPEAK went to visit Bob "The Jammer" Mabena at Radio Metro to find out who this famous DJ really is

Where were you born and where did you go to school?
In Atteridgeville, near Pretoria. I went to school there until matric.

Where do you live now?
In Midrand on my own.

What about your family?
If I bumped into my father, I'd tell him where I live. He left when I was young. My mother and one brother died. My other brother is married with three children. I'm the youngest.

How did your father's 'disappearance' influence you?
It has given me the strength and need to have my own family.

How did you become a DJ?
I auditioned three times and was turned down by the SABC. They said I was hopeless. The

Face to face with Bob Mabena

fourth time I auditioned with Radio Bop, I was successful.

Have you always wanted to be a DJ?
Yes, and nothing else.

What personal qualities helped you to become a DJ?
A knowledge of music.

And a good voice?
I don't know if I have a good voice.

Who was the person who influenced you most?
My grandmother. She's strong and sensible.

Are you like her?
No. I'm too soft, especially on

my children.

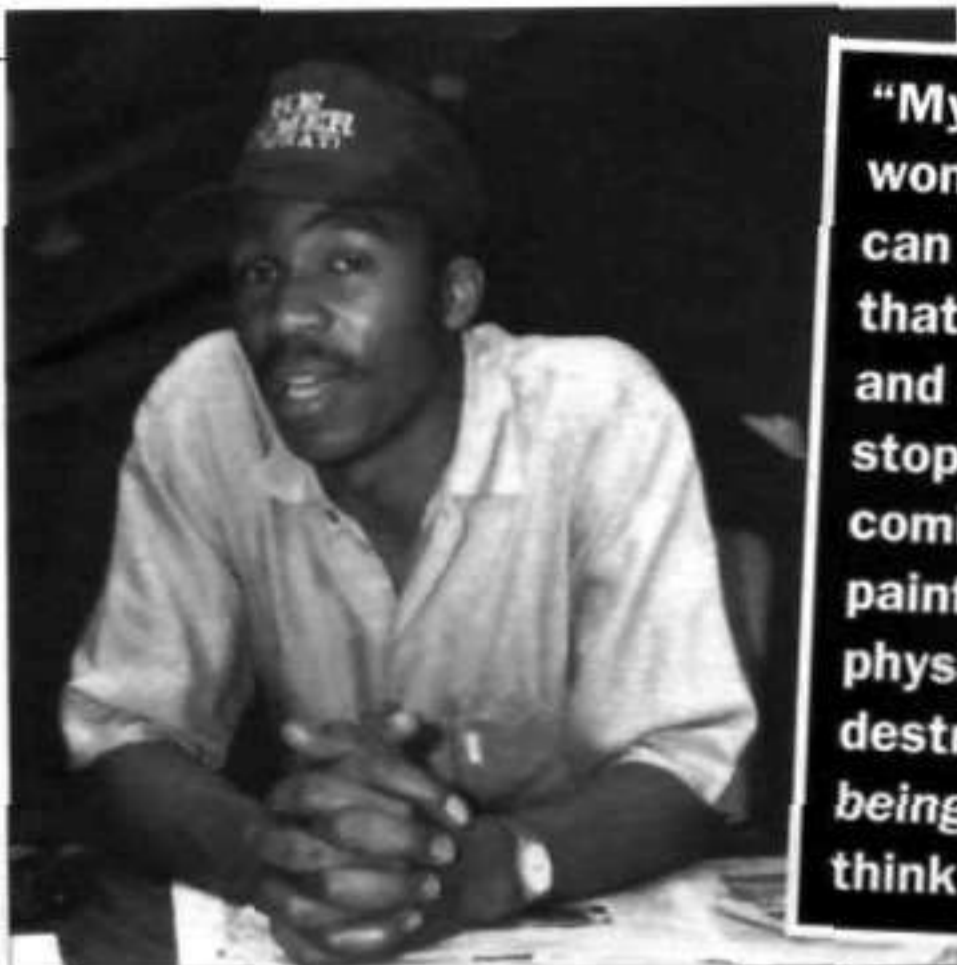
How many children do you have? Do they live with you?

Two, a four-year-old girl and an 18-month-old boy. I would like to live with them but their mothers will not have it.

Do you spend time with them?
I see them a lot.

How would you describe yourself?
Easy to get along with and patient.

Are you concerned about the position of women in society?



"My message to women is that if a guy can slap you once, that's the beginning and it should be stopped. If you see it coming, get out. It's painful to leave, but physical abuse can destroy you as a human being. It makes you think less of yourself."

Yes, but I haven't thought about it strongly.

What do you think of the term non-sexism?

I'm black, I'm traditional. The woman I expect to get married to must stay home and take care of the kids. That's not sexism, it is the way I was brought up. I respect women. My hero is a woman, my grandmother.

What do you think of beauty competitions?

They are a white thing. They started in the black community because promoters want to make a lot of money. The only person we've seen go far is Jacqui Mofokeng.

What do you think about men beating their partners?

I saw it happen in my family. Every time it happened I prayed to God I wouldn't become like that. I don't think I will ever beat a woman, I saw my mother and my aunts being beaten up.

My message to women is that if a guy can slap you once, that's the beginning and it should be stopped. If you see it

coming, get out. It's painful to leave, but physical abuse can destroy you as a human being. It makes you think less of yourself.

A guy who beats up a woman doesn't think much of himself. He doesn't know how to direct his anger and frustrations.

What's your favourite TV programme?

I don't watch TV much. If I have time, I love watching Picket Fences. It's crazy and funny.

Who is your favourite musician?

There are a number of them: Donny Heatherway, Roberta Flack, especially when they are together, Billy Joel, Foreigner, Keith Sweat, Silk.

What do you like most about yourself?

My patience. I take my time and that's why, so far, I have not made a lot of mistakes in my life.

What do you like least about yourself?

My shoe size. It's size eleven.

What do you think about being able to vote?

I have to take time and think about voting and which party to vote for. I want my vote to make a difference in this country.

What is your ideal relationship?

One based on understanding. There has to be mutual understanding.

If you were President for one day, what would you do?

I would never be a president because I'd have to answer questions like this.

Is there another job you would like to do?

Yes. I would love to stand in front of a class and teach English and History.

What do you think about homosexuality and lesbianism?

Well, we are all going for democracy so there should be freedom to choose how to behave and live for everyone. But if a homosexual made a pass at me, he might just get a bullet between his eyes.

Do you have any dreams?

I have a lot of dreams about this country. I want to be appreciated for what I am. Not as a black person, but as a person. Also, I want to own a record company. I want to live a happy life, be well off and have my kids living with me.

My immediate dream, which I must achieve by next year, is to have my own TV talk show. ☺

A child is born

Getting ready for the big day

Many women feel nervous and a little scared before and on their final day of pregnancy. Giving birth is something the majority of women go through at some stage in their lives. It is important to prepare properly for that day. *Kosi Xaba* takes a look at what you can expect

Worrying about the big day

Many pregnant women worry about what will happen to them or their baby when the time to give birth arrives. Worrying is normal because giving birth is a big event. Giving birth will be much easier if you feel confident and prepared.

In dealing with the worry, it is a good idea to talk to people about your worries and fears. Talking can help lessen the fears and help you learn and prepare for that day.

Childbirth is very painful. But the pain does go away. Try to remember that all the pain brings your baby closer to being born.

Learn to relax. Pain is not always easy to handle. The earlier in the pregnancy you learn to relax and breathe through the pain, the better you will cope with the pain. This way, more of your energy will go into

helping the baby to be born.

Read as much as you can. Knowing what to expect on the day of your baby's birth will help you prepare better. You will learn what the people who will help you deliver your baby will expect from you and what you could expect and demand from them.

Know about danger signs. If you start bleeding, having a bad smelling discharge or stop feeling your baby's movements for a long time, you must seek help immediately. After about 34 weeks, your baby should move about 10 times a day. You might also get severe headaches and not be able to see properly.

Signs of labour

It is believed that hormones in the women's body help start labour. Messages are sent to the parts of the body telling them to prepare for labour.



Photo: Cedric Nunn

The show

The mouth of the womb, called the cervix, is sealed with a mucous-like plug during pregnancy. The plug has been there all through your pregnancy to prevent infection going into your womb. This plug breaks around two weeks before the day of delivery. What you will see is a discharge mixed with some blood coming through your vagina. The blood is from the blood vessels that join this plug to the cervix. This is painless. However, not all women get the show.

Waters breaking

Your baby has been living in a



A baby being delivered by Caesarian section. Learning about what will happen during labour will prepare you for that day

sac all this time. This sac is filled with a fluid called amniotic fluid.

As your baby's head pushes its way down to be born, it breaks the sac. It is impossible to hold back this fluid. It has no smell and looks clear or milky. For some women, their waters break as early as 12 to 24 hours before labour begins properly. With other women, it happens just before the head comes through.

Contractions

Contractions are the movements of the walls of your uterus/womb in preparation for the birth of your baby. The feeling is different for every

women. Some contractions feel like strong menstrual pains, pulling in the lower abdomen or backache. Contractions come and go. They start off mild and get stronger with time. They also get closer and closer together. When they are still mild, you can move around, take walks and encourage the labour to progress. When there is more than one contraction in five minutes, your labour is more established. Learning the different ways of breathing during labour is very important. You can ask the doctor or sister at the clinic to tell you how to breathe.

If you choose to deliver

your baby at home, make preparations with qualified birth attendants or midwives. You must also have transport on standby should you need to be taken to the clinic or hospital.

What to expect at the clinic or hospital

In South Africa there are still only very few clinics and hospitals which allow women to have their partners or friends with them through labour. If you want to have someone to support you during labour, make enquiries in good time.

Try to arrange this months before your baby is due.



Most babies can start sucking immediately after the birth if they are not too tired

Labour can be much easier if you have a loved one with you throughout to support you.

You have the right to know every little thing done to you. Ask for explanations. The midwife will see if your contractions are getting stronger. They will examine your vagina using their fingers to see if the cervix is opening up well. They will also use a fetoscope to listen to your baby's heartbeat to make sure your baby is okay.

When your cervix has opened widely enough (dilated by about 10cm) the baby's head will have gone right down and will be ready to be born. However, not all babies are born with their heads first. Most women get the feeling to bear down, the same feeling one has when wanting to pass a stool. This usually signals that your baby is ready to be born. The midwife will check to see

that you are ready.

You will be advised to push when you have a contraction. In between contractions you must try to relax. Pushing during a contraction means that you are helping your baby to be born. When the baby's head is born, the midwife will see if the cord is not around the baby's neck. You will need to rest again during this time. Once this is done and more contractions come, you will push the rest of the baby out. The baby will be put on your body so that you can see it and touch it straight away. Most babies can even start suckling immediately if they are not tired.

The placenta comes out

Some minutes after the baby is born, the placenta or "after-birth", which feeds your baby

in your womb, will come out. If it does not come out naturally, the midwife or doctor may put their hand in to pull it out. This marks the end of labour and natural childbirth. Often the vagina tears as you baby comes through you. The doctor will stitch up the tear afterwards.

You must remember that something can go wrong with giving birth naturally and can result in you having to give birth by caesarian section. This means you will undergo an operation for your baby to be born.

Knowing what will happen during labour will help you prepare for that day. Get information at your local clinic. If there are classes at the clinic for pregnant women, try to attend them. If there is anything you do not understand, do not be shy to ask your doctor, nurse or a friend. ☼

Angelina Ribebe (right) is the traditional leader of the Sambiyu people in the Kavango in Namibia. A woman's magazine called *Sister Namibia*, visited her at her home in Vungu Vungu



"Women can do a very good job as traditional leaders of their communities."

back a stolen animal to its owner. So we always give fines as part of the punishment.

Sister Namibia: Are there any specific problems affecting women in your community, such as violence?

Ribebe: Violence against women is not a particular problem here.

Sister Namibia: Not even in connection with alcohol?

Ribebe: No. We do not have a problem with alcohol — people make and drink a lot of traditional beer. But it does not often lead to violence.

Sister Namibia: Do you think there should be more women chiefs in Namibia?

Ribebe: Yes, definitely. We are having a lot of meetings between chiefs these days. Sometimes I am the only woman at such conferences, and I get left out of the "bed-room politics" of men. They share rooms and continue their debates into the night. I also think women can do a very good job as traditional leaders of their communities. ♀

● Thanks to *Sister Namibia* for granting permission to use this article

Meet the chief

Sister Namibia: How did you become a chief?

Ribebe: My grandmother, Maria Mwengere, was our chief for many, many years. When I was a young girl, she took me with her wherever she went. I learnt all about her work, and after she died in 1987, I became the chief.

Sister Namibia: Is it common to have women chiefs in your community?

Ribebe: Not only in my community. In the whole of the Kavango we have a system where women can become chiefs.

Sister Namibia: What do you think about your work?

Ribebe: I really enjoy it. I like

to help solve the problems in the community. When something has been stolen or there is a dispute about land, I call all the people together to discuss the matter.

Sister Namibia: Do you punish people?

Ribebe: If necessary, we do. We have a small prison where they can be locked up for a few days. People are also given fines to pay in money or cattle.

Sister Namibia: Do people prefer the traditional court or the magistrate's court?

Ribebe: We prefer our traditional court because we believe in compensation. It is not enough to just send someone to prison — that does not give

TAXI TALK

What the dictionary forgot

As women, we are raised in a particular culture which shapes our personalities, attitudes and ideas. By culture I mean a way of life. And sexism, of course, is a part of this way of life.

Sexism cuts across colour and nationality. Despite apartheid, sexism is common to both black and white.

While growing up, I learnt to cook, to clean the house, to do the washing and so on, as if it was the most natural thing to do. When I could do all of these things, I was seen as a "real woman". This is what all girls are expected to become.

What I cannot understand is that even some mothers who are members of a women's liberation organisation expect their daughters to fit the mould society has shaped for women.

Our culture as black people, regardless of our language differences, demands that a woman should possess particular qualities in order for her to be seen as a "woman". If you disagree with this view,

"Sexism is the sexual prejudice against women" — this is how a dictionary defines sexism. But it does not say "prejudiced" by whom. This missing information helps us understand sexism, argues Dudu Msomi



you are accused of acting white, even though white women are fighting the same battles.

It is, however, true to say that many white women managed to address this problem to some extent because of the help of domestic workers.

My argument is not that young girls should not be taught to cook. My concern is that only girls — and not boys as well — are taught house-keeping.

As women, we must put forward different views about gender to our children and encourage their natural talents regardless of their sex. Stop giving girls only tea-sets and dolls, and boys only guns and cars to play with.

Children define their roles from a tender age by what we say and do as adults. You should not say this is what girls should do and this is what boys should do. This not only takes women backwards, but society as a whole.

I once told someone: "The day I meet an African man who cooks for me without complaining or feeling something is wrong, I will marry him."

Well, I hope nobody holds me to that, but it is my wish that men and women will change and create a new society and culture of equality and respect. ☺

DOONESBURY

by Garry Trudeau



NOTICES

Our grandmothers' stories are best

"Ake Sichobachobane — Let's tell each other Tales" is a book produced by the Natal Worker History Project. The book tells four folktales that the writer was told by grandmothers in Impendle, Natal. The tales, "The Hawk and the Fowls", "USogebezana", "The Bean and the Burning Coal" and "Unyumba Kayizali" have different morals and messages. The book is written in simple English and Zulu and costs R5.00

To order a copy or for further information, write to:

Natal Worker History Project
c/o Centre for Industrial and
Labour Studies
University of Natal
King George V Avenue
Durban
4001
Telephone: (031) 816 1413

Women's Publications

The ANC Women's League's newsletter "The Rock" is on sale for R2.00. They have also published a 24-page book called The Status of South African Women, which costs R10.00.

For more information, write to:
ANC Women's League
PO Box 61884
Marshalltown
2107
Telephone: (011) 330 7288

A call to Christians

The Fellowship of Christian Communicators in South Africa is inviting Christians to join them in their activities. These include workshops for training and developing skills in writing, editing and producing radio and TV programmes. For more information write to:

The Secretary
130 Steenbras Avenue
Sinoville, Pretoria
0182
Telephone: (012) 571 485

All Open Schools must have it

A new programme to help teachers deal with problems faced in new racially mixed schools has been put together by the University of Stellenbosch Centre for Educational Development. The programme, "**Open Schools — A Professional Growth Programme for Teachers**", was encouraged by the Open Schools Association in Cape Town. The organisation looked at the problems in schools that once were whites only and are now more than 50 percent black. One of the problems is that teachers in these schools are unhelpful and fail to understand the difficulties many black students have in learning to school in English.

The programme aims to give teachers communication, language and awareness development skills.

For more information telephone: (021) 797 5101