

SPEAK

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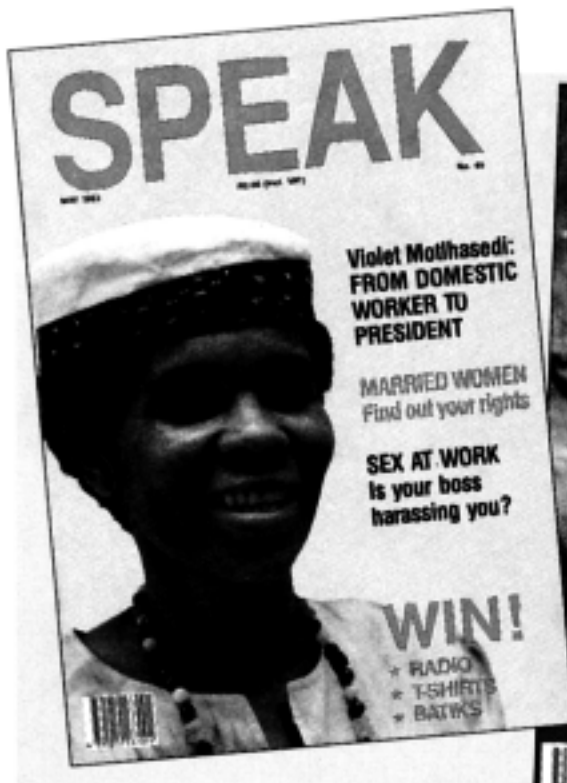
**WOMEN
& VOTING
TEENAGE
PREGNANCY**

**LYDIA
KOMPE**

**A champion
of rural
women's
rights**

BODY BUILDING
A woman flexes her muscles





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Elmond Jiyane

COMMENT

The month we have all been waiting for is finally here — April 1994. In this month all the hopes and dreams that we have fought for, for so many years, can come true — if we vote in the first election for all South Africans.

The question is, though, are women's demands going to be taken seriously by the political parties that women will be voting for?

We hope so. Still, we have to make sure that the parties we vote for keep their promises.

It is very easy for politicians to make empty promises when they want your vote.

We have to make sure our voices are not only heard but listened to.

At the same time, women really have to push political parties to say, in public, how far they are willing to take the demands of the women who support them. Women need to know so that, when they vote, they are informed and are therefore able to make the right choice.

Our vote is not the end of our struggle. We have to let politicians know we will still raise our banners and fight for our rights.
SPEAK WITH YOUR VOTE!

Talk Back

Thank you SPEAK

Thank you very much for the nice and comfortable T-shirt you sent me in November last year. Each time I wear the T-shirt I feel great and proud because SPEAK is the magazine that puts women first.

My message to other women is that they must buy SPEAK Magazine so that they can read the stories written for them. All along women were afraid to stand up for their rights. Now that they have a magazine like SPEAK and attend meetings, they know their rights.

*Paseka Moloele
Bloedfontein*

Women have a right to choose

A friend has just shown us a copy of SPEAK (November 1993). We had not come across this magazine before and we were impressed with the directness and reality of your approach, particularly on abortion.

Most publications try to show a "neutral" face, which in fact adds to the power of those opposed to choice over reproduction.

We rejoice in the honesty and courage of SPEAK's editor, who firmly states support for "choice". The Abortion Rights Action Group (ARAG) has worked for 20

**Thanks to all our readers who have written in. Please keep your letters flowing. We are often forced to shorten letters because of space. Send your letters to:
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South Africa**

years to enable women to decide for themselves when and if to bring a child into the world.

When we started, we had mainly women's health and children's well-being in mind. But, in recent years, it has become clear that the quality of life in South African — and ultimately the world — rests on women having total control over the number of children they have.

South Africa remains one of those countries which do not have abortion laws. Our efforts, which are supported by many concerned women and women's organisations, to get the right to abortion included in the Bill of Rights have been rejected.

Until something is done about this, many women will continue to turn to illegal backstreet abortions. Hospitals wards will continue to be filled with "repair" cases.

At least 24 000 babies are abandoned each year and all child welfare organisations are already failing to cope.

May SPEAK's stand serve it well. May women see it as a friend and respond in strength.

Dolly Maister
Honorary National Secretary
ARAG

Bob Mabhena — I'm not impressed

If your interview with Bob Mabhena was meant as a warning to women against smooth-talking men, then maybe publishing the article served a purpose.

I used to admire this entertainer, but after reading about the children he fathered with different women, I have definitely changed my mind. As a regular reader of your magazine, I would rather read articles about women who have made it in life and whose partners have supported them. Please tell us about women who can be our role models, women who can inspire us to become proud and strong.

Pinky Tolmie
Rothdene

I need help

I like reading your magazine

every month and I know you are the only people who can help me. I would like to study law but my problem is that I do not have the address of the Black Lawyers Association. I would like to apply for a scholarship. I would be grateful if you could help me with the address.

Molefi Phumo
Kutloahong

The Black Lawyers Association offices are at No 85 Eloff Street, 3rd Floor, Royal St Mary's Building, Johannesburg. Tel: (011) 33571535 — Editor

I want to vote

I read your December issue which included an article on voter education. I also read in a local daily newspaper that foreigners who are South Africa citizens will be allowed to vote in the April elections.

I am a Mozambican and I came to this country in 1979 when I was still young. I am now married to a South African and we have four children. I have no documents to register my children and myself.

Please help me.

Dan Makamo
Dennilton

You can contact one of these organisations for help. The Legal Resources Centre, 401 Elizabeth House, 18 Pritchard Street, Johannesburg or Lawyers for Human Rights, 3rd Floor

Zambezi House, Cnr Commissioner Street/Von Welligh Street, Johannesburg. South Africans who want to get Identification Documents (IDs) can go to any Department of Home Affairs office near them. — Editor

WINNERS!

Congratulations to the 10 lucky winners of SPEAK T-shirts

- ★ Sharon Magomane (Hoedspruit)
- ★ Edward Motebejane (Moletsane, Soweto)
- ★ Regina Munyai (Makonde, Venda)
- ★ Jeanette Kraai (Edenburg, O.F.S)
- ★ Moswane Ledima (Masemola)
- ★ Khululiwe Zikhali (Mbazwane)
- ★ JJ Mcwango (Verwoerdburg)
- ★ Indongo Augustus (Walvis Bay)
- ★ Eric Mashimbye (Giyani)
- ★ Joyce Thebula (Matatiele)

The winners of the cassette player and two radios will be announced in the next issue.

Kwa-Sophie

Last weekend I was having dinner with some friends — all women. We started talking about men and how they do not seem to want to change their attitude towards women. We imagined what it would be like if men were to experience what women have to put up with everyday. Imagine...

A pregnant man

Bra Biza, kneeling down and polishing the floor with a baby on his back, is thinking how he is going to tell his wife that he is pregnant — again. His five-year-old daughter wakes up and starts crying. As Bra Biza rushes into the bedroom to comfort the child, he realises that it's four in the afternoon and he hasn't finished cleaning. As he stands there thinking how he is going to feed the baby, finish cleaning and cooking before his wife gets home, she walks through the door. He starts apologising, but she just walks past him into the lounge and switches on the television. Bra Biza rushes into the kitchen to make her a cup of tea. As he is about to give her the tea



she stands up shouting: "You good for nothing! Sometimes I really wonder why I paid so much lobola for you. I could have gotten someone better for less money."

Shivering, Bra Biza kneels down and with a shaky voice says: "I'm so sorry, mama, I will do my best from now on. It's just that today at the clinic they told me I was pregnant and I was so worried I could not work." She just laughs and, pointing a finger at him, says: "I told you if you get pregnant again, I

would send you back to your father. Now pack your bags and get out of my house."

Man in a bar full of women

As soon as Charlie comes through the door, all the heads turn. He knows he should not have come here alone on a Friday night when there are so few other men around. At a table near the door, five women are sitting looking at him. One of them says in a loud voice: "These men do not know their place anymore — going out to parties and their men's meetings all the time. Then they come home and tell us they want to be liberated." Her friend nods her head in agreement and says: "I wonder, if he is here on a Friday night, who is taking care of the house and children. He must really have a weak wife."

Husband of a chief

Themba is married to Chief Thandi Khumalo. Themba is Chief Khumalo's fifth husband and, as a young husband, he has no say in what goes on. Most of the time, Themba sits in his hut with his two children (the other husbands have up to six children each), thinking about how to change his life. He knows Chief Khumalo will not let any of her husbands work. She thinks they will start adopting the lifestyle of city men who do not listen to their wives and join political organisations. Every day, Themba thinks of how, as a young boy, he dreamt of becoming a pilot and how his dreams were dashed when Chief Khumalo paid lobola for him. He was only 13.

Now he hopes that the new government will get rid of all the sexist laws, including customary laws that oppress men.

Quote of the Month

"I want to write, film, talk about us as the subjects of our own lives, as the speakers in our own discourses, as the centre of things."

— Dionne Brand, a Black lesbian, feminist activist, writer, poet, filmmaker and academic.

More and more people are reading

Challenge

Church & People

South Africa's fastest growing colour magazine for Christians who are progressive and forward-looking.

- = stories, reports, features, taxi talk
- = current events, bible studies, spirituality, contextual theology
- = churches, people, politics, youth, gender, green peace

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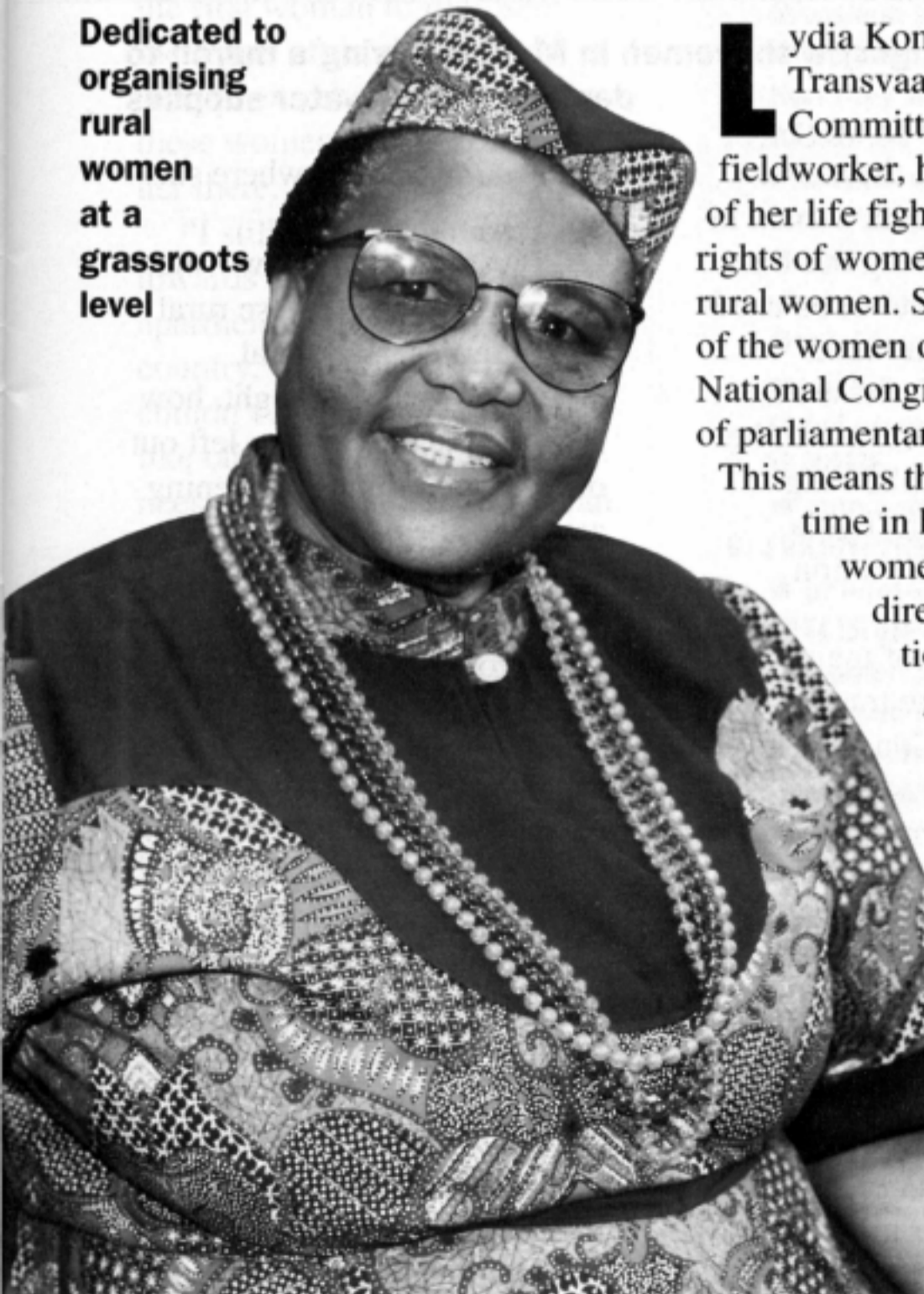
For nearly 20 years, Lydia Kompe has devoted her life to organising, first in trade unions and, for the past eight years, among rural women. She was a key figure in helping to

form the Rural Women's Movement and, as one of the ANC's election candidates, could become rural women's first representative in a new parliament.

Lydia Kompe

Fighting for rural rights

Dedicated to organising rural women at a grassroots level



L ydia Kompe, veteran Transvaal Rural Action Committee (TRAC) fieldworker, has spent most of her life fighting for the rights of women, especially rural women. She is also one of the women on the African National Congress (ANC) list of parliamentary candidates.

This means that, for the first time in history, rural women could have direct representation in the new government.

Mam'Lydia has been a leading force in starting the Rural Women's Movement (RWM), a women's organisation based in Transvaal rural commu-

nities. She first joined TRAC as a fieldworker in 1986, dealing with victims of forced removals. It was then that she became more involved in working with women.

Mam'Lydia says rural women are worst affected by apartheid. They are often left with no money and with children to care for. Her first step was to organise them into groups.

"The Rural Women's Movement organises women through helping them form structures in their communities and empowering them to seek ways of exposing their problems," says Mam'Lydia.

She moves back and forth between hard-hit rural communities, working with women's groups, mainly in Northern Transvaal areas such as Moutse and Nebo.

H er African name is "Makwena", or mother of the crocodile, and when she is representing rural women's demands and fighting for their basic rights, she lives up to her name. But, to the rural women and their families, she is simply known as Mam'Lydia, the woman who knows their daily hardship and struggle because she has been there herself.

Born in 1935 in Matlala, near Pietersburg, Mam'Lydia says, unlike many rural children whose fathers left home to

work on the mines, she was lucky because she grew up with both parents at home. Her father was a small-scale farmer who kept livestock. But, she says, when the government's betterment scheme was introduced in 1950, everything they had was taken away.

"It was a disgrace," she said. It was one of the Nationalist Party government's ways of enforcing the migrant labour system.

"Our fathers had to hide in the hills, hunted by police for alleged political activities, and we were forced to leave school early to find jobs."

Left with no means of survival for her and her family in the rural areas, Mam'Lydia, like thousands of others, went to Johannesburg to work.

Her first job was as a domestic worker in Hyde Park. Later she found work as a factory worker and after many factory jobs over the years, she joined the trade union movement, one of the first women to do so.

"When I joined the Metal and Allied Workers Union in 1974, women were not seen as equal to men," she says. "It was interesting to see how, even then, men always used tradition and custom to control women. The only time we had support from them was when improved maternity leave conditions and paternity leave for them became a possibility. This was because they knew that, in our custom, men do not look after small babies and they would have a holiday and a rest from work instead.

Twenty years later, some of



Photo: Elmond Jiyane

Mam'Lydia (right) with women in Moutse during a march to demand better water supplies

the issues remain the same.

"Even now, rural women in the RWM are saying custom and tradition must not be used to exploit us at any level".

After being dismissed from her job in 1977 because of her union activities following strike action, Mam'Lydia became a full-time union employee.

The highlight of many years' work in the trade unions came when the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) was formed in late 1985. "I felt as if my dream came true, but I now wanted to leave the young ones to carry the fight forward. I was also looking forward to going back to my roots."

In 1986 Mam'Lydia did just that, and since then, she has spent most of her time living among the rural women back

in the communities where she grew up.

"I was struck by how isolated women were in these rural communities. As a rural woman myself, I thought, how long are we going to be left out of important things happening around us because we are women left on our own?"

She began questioning why rural women were not part of the movement for change and bringing about a better future.

After a first meeting in Mathopetad, attended by nine groups, the RWM continued helping rural women organise themselves into groups until it was formally launched in 1990.

The RWM has successfully mobilised women around issues which affect them directly, such as a critical

shortage of health facilities, inadequate water supplies and the right to own land.

Mam'Lydia feels strongly about the right of women — whether they are married or not — to own land. She says the RWM is now negotiating about the issue of owning land with the government, farmers and village elders who enforce customary law.

Married many years ago, Mam'Lydia has three grown-up children, one a teacher and two who are completing their teachers' training.

Ever humble, Mam'Lydia prefers not to speak about herself. If she becomes the first woman to represent the rights of rural women in parliament, she says, it will be these women who helped put her there.

"I still feel a bitterness towards the oppressive laws of apartheid in the history of this country, which is why I couldn't further my education like others on the list of nominees. And, even though we can forgive these injustices, it's very hard to forget them".

"Work among the rural communities is very hard and can sometimes be frustrating", says Mam'Lydia. She has not yet decided if she will accept a seat in parliament, but she knows she has the support of the rural women.

Whatever she decides to do, she will never forget her roots. "I belong to the grassroots," she says. "I am needed most among the people, helping women win their daily struggles. ✪"

Demands for a new South Africa

Adopted by the Rural Women's Movement, November 1992

1. HEALTH

- there must be a clinic in every village with a 24-hour service
- there should be full-time staff at the clinic
- there should be more doctors provided
- the roads to the clinics must be upgraded
- the conditions in rural hospitals must be improved
- transport must be provided for expectant mothers, blind people, accident victims and old age patients.
- children should be trained as health workers.

2. EDUCATION

- more schools and creches must be provided

3. JOBS

- jobs should be created in rural areas

4. PENSIONS

- ID books must be corrected
- the payout points must be monitored for corruption

5. BEERHALLS

- beerhalls should be closed — we should be able to sell our own beer.

6. OUR BODIES AND CHILDBEARING

- women should be able to decide how many children they want
- women should have choices about the kind of pregnancy prevention they want to use

7. MARRIAGE

- lobola must not be seen as an exchange of women as objects — we should return to the traditional meaning of the system
- there must be protection of rural wives' access to benefits gained via marriage
- customary marriage must be given the same legal status as civil marriage
- polygamy should be abolished

8. AT HOME

- men and women should share domestic work

9. TRADITIONS

- promote the traditional ways of preparing food which are healthy

10. DECISION-MAKING

- women should be allowed to make decisions about livestock
- women should be part of kgotlas (traditional village decision-making structures), local government, regional government and national government structures

11. WATER

- there must be adequate water supply to rural areas

12. LAND

- women should have rights to land — married or unmarried
- land should be registered in women's names
- women should be able to farm and produce own food crops
- women should have access to land for grazing and cattle posts

13. TELEPHONES

- there must be automatic telephone exchanges in rural areas

14. ELECTRICITY

- electricity must be provided to all rural houses

**“ I HAVE PRAYED.
I HAVE LAUGHED.
I HAVE SUNG.
AND I HAVE CRIED.
BUT UNTIL NOW I HAVE
NOT HAD A VOICE.”**

For decades, women in this country have been treated like children. Seen and not heard. Well, no more.

Women have much to offer this country. Not only in our homes, factories and businesses, but in government itself.



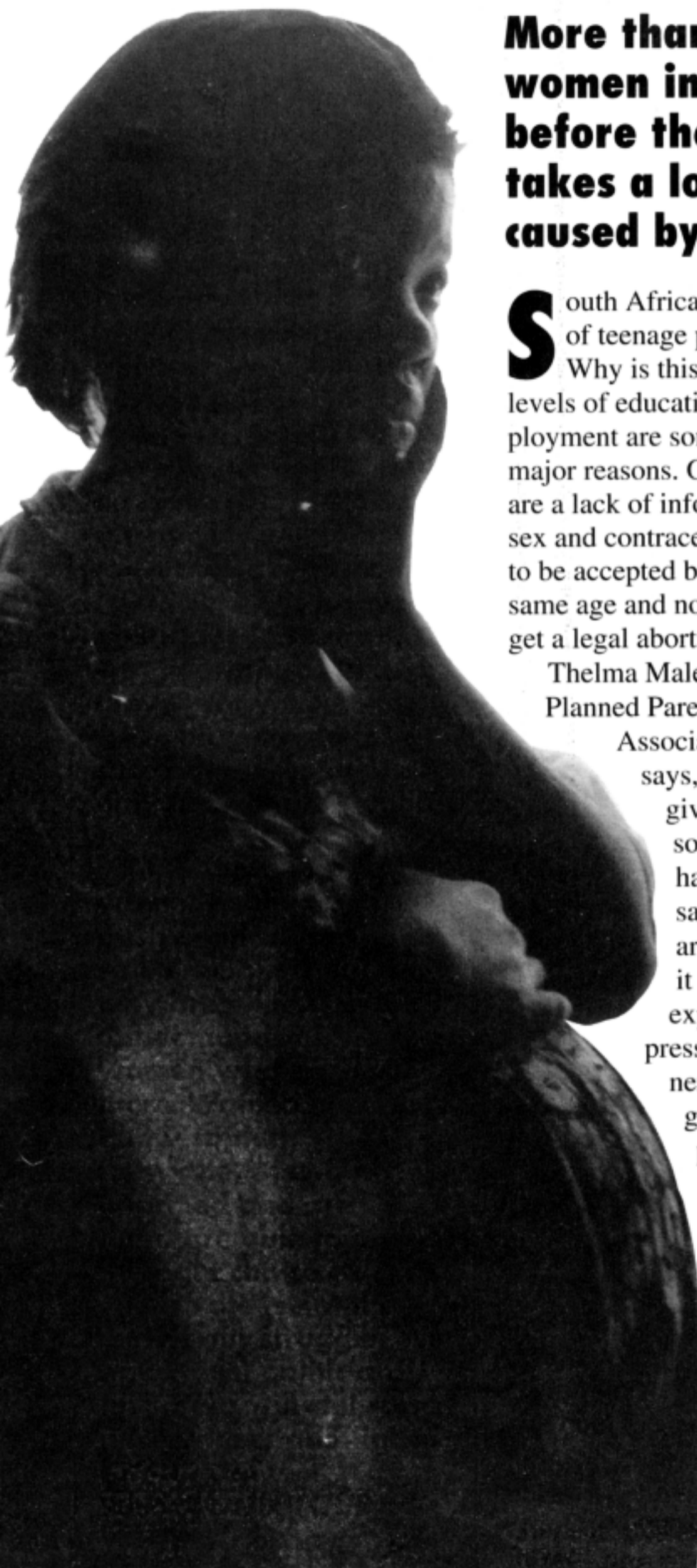
Which is why a powerful percentage of our representatives will be women. At last women will have equal opportunities and equal rights. And they will see an end to discrimination.

It's time.

Now is the time for women to be heard.



Teenage pregnancy



More than 50 percent of African women in South Africa give birth before the age of 20. Rosalee Telela takes a look at the pain and suffering caused by unwanted pregnancies

South Africa has a high rate of teenage pregnancies. Why is this? Poverty, low levels of education and unemployment are some of the major reasons. Other factors are a lack of information about sex and contraception, a desire to be accepted by people of the same age and not being able to get a legal abortion.

Thelma Malepe of the Planned Parenthood

Association (PPA), says, "Teenagers give different reasons why they have sex. They say it proves they are women/men, it is a way of expressing love, pressure from partners and friends, going against parents or simply because there is nothing else to do."

Malepe believes one of the biggest problems is that parents do not talk to their children

about sex. Many teenagers get the wrong information.

"Sometimes young people believe that if you drink coca-cola, epsom salt and vinegar before and after sex, it will prevent pregnancy," says Malepe.

"The way society portrays women puts pressure on young women to have sex at an early age. Often they feel they have to give in to their boyfriends' demands for sex. Sometimes they see themselves simply as wives and mothers, and do not believe that they have any potential outside these roles."

Thandi had a child at 17. She told SPEAK her story. "When I was in Standard nine, I fell in love with a boy in my class. After we had gone out for a while, he started insisting that we have sex. He said I should not be afraid because none of his former girlfriends had fallen pregnant. In the end I agreed.

"It was only when I started getting sick in the mornings that I realised I was pregnant. When I told my boyfriend, he said it was not his child and accused me of sleeping around. When I told my mother, she was very angry.

"She asked me how I was



Teenage pregnancies cause quarrels and unhappiness in families

Family planning clinics and centres give free guidance and advice on sex, contraceptives and sexually transmitted diseases.

Here are some of the places you can go to:
PLANNED PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION (PPA)

PPA NATIONAL OFFICE
 13th Floor, Auckland House
 Corner Smit & Biccard Streets
 Braamfontein 2001
 Telephone: (011) 339 1361/2

PPA JOHANNESBURG
 3rd Floor, Marlborough House
 60 Eloff Street
 Johannesburg 2001
 Telephone: (011) 331 2695/6/7

PPA CAPE TOWN
 Unit 8A, The Waverley
 Dane Street
 Mowbray 7700
 Telephone: (021) 448 7312

PPA DURBAN
 Suite 318
 320 West Street
 Durban 4001
 Telephone: (031) 305 2588

PPA PORT ELIZABETH
 39 Fettes Road
 North End
 Port Elizabeth 6001
 Telephone: (041) 34 3003

There are also government family planning clinics. Look in the telephone book for the address or telephone number of a clinic near you.

going to raise a child when I was a child myself. I had to leave school and find a job. My mother could not afford to feed me and my two brothers and a small baby. I did not want to have an abortion because I heard women sometimes bleed to death when they have an abortion.

“I left school and had the

child, but I never found a job. Sometimes I earn money washing other people’s clothes, but my mother pays for most things. Next year I will go back to school because my aunt said she would take care of my son.”

Margaret, fell pregnant when she was 16 and in Standard eight.

“My parents were very upset but agreed to look after the baby so that I could complete my schooling. It was a very difficult time. My parents struggled to support me and my baby, and I felt strange with my friends at school because they did not understand what was going on in my life.

“When I finished school, I married the father of my child and we are very happy. But I lost out on my childhood. My warning to young women is: understand what you are doing when you have sex at a young age, and use contraception if you do.”

The health of teenagers who fall pregnant is also an issue of concern.

Women under 20 often have problems with pregnancy and giving birth. There are often problems during childbirth because teenagers’ bodies may be too small to deliver a baby safely.

Another problem is that pregnant teenagers often try to hide it and therefore do not seek proper medical advice and care. This means their babies have a greater chance of dying or having a low weight at birth.

The high rate of teenage pregnancies in South Africa is cause for great concern. Steps must be taken to deal with the problem. Parents need to be encouraged to speak more openly to their children about sex and sex education should be made compulsory in schools. The media — newspapers, magazines, radio and television — have a responsibility to give teenagers proper information about sex. ★



Photo: Peter McKenzie

What the election means for women



About 18 million black South Africans will vote for the first time in the April election. Over nine million of these new voters are women who have worked very hard to bring South Africa to this historic moment. As preparations for the elections gather momentum, many women are asking what the "new South Africa" will hold for them.

A major task facing all organisations is voter education. For the first time, the African National Congress (ANC), the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), the National Party and 20 other political parties will fight it out at the elections. Many organisations are conducting voter education to help people prepare for the elections. These include church bodies, trade unions, political parties, the media and non-

After three years of negotiations, South Africa's major political parties finally agreed on April 26-28 1994 as the dates for the country's first national, democratic elections. A 400-seat Constituent Assembly will be set up. This will draw up the South African constitution and serve as the interim government of national unity. Rachel Kagan looks at what it means for women

governmental organisations (NGOs).

The largest voter education body in the country is Matla Trust, a non-partisan (does not favour any political party) group.

A Matla Trust study says women have contributed as much as men to the country's social, economic and political

development. However, women's issues are not taken seriously. Women have suffered because of political and economic hardships and poverty. Most women still live in areas with no water, proper sanitation, transport, child care facilities and so on.

The study concludes: "Unless there is an effort to do something about the negative

aspects created by tradition, apartheid and lack of basic needs, women will be left out and robbed of their right to make good choices on voting.”

The majority of women have little to lose and a lot to change by voting.

Unemployment and illiteracy is rife and 7,5 million urban blacks (more than the entire white population) live in shanties and tents without electricity or running water. The majority of black women live in rural areas, where unemployment, illiteracy and poverty are even worse.

The social and economic hardships of apartheid, combined with the complete lack of political rights for black South Africans, make voter education an enormous task.

One initiative women have taken is the campaign for a Women’s Charter. The charter outlines women’s rights to be included in the new constitution. The Women’s National Coalition (WNC), a broad-based alliance of women, launched the charter campaign in March last year. Pregs Govender of the WNC described the project: “Women know the issues they face on a daily basis and need to be involved in the campaign. This is about South African women taking the opportunity to begin changing society and their lives.”

Among the demands women have put forward are:

- More participation of men in domestic duties;
- Equal pay for equal work;
- Inclusion in the political process;
- Easier access to health

facilities;

- Equal property rights; and
- More schools.

WNC members believe that a Women’s Charter will ensure that not only men benefit from the transition to a new government.

Who will be in government? Since the elections will be based on proportional representation, people will vote for parties, not individual candidates. Each party will submit a list of names of people to stand for election. The number of those who serve will be determined by the percentage of the vote the party receives.

Women must therefore make sure that the names of the people they want to represent them are at the top of the list of the political parties they support.

They must also make sure that those women high up on the lists are people who will fight for women’s rights and gender equality.

Political violence, which has killed more than 10 000 people since February 1990, remains the biggest threat to free and fair elections.

It has taken us three years to reach the point we are at today. The decades of struggle before that must not be in vain.

Women and men have a responsibility to go to the polling stations on April 27 and vote for the party they believe represents their interest.★

COMPETITION WIN A RADIO!

Answer the question below and you could be the lucky winner of a radio

■ How many seats will there be in the Constituent Assembly?

Answer

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

Code

I agree to abide by the rules of this competition

Signature.....

Send your entry form to
SPEAK/Matla Trust Voter
Education Competition,
PO Box 261363, Excom,
2023,

South Africa

Competition rules: The decision of the judges is final. This competition is only open to people living in South Africa. Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter. The closing date is 25 April 1994. The winner will be announced in the July issue of SPEAK.



Matla Trust

**This page is a joint project
of**

MATLA TRUST & SPEAK



A credit agreement is only legal if both buyer and seller have signed it

Buying on hire purchase

Many people buy furniture and other household goods on Hire Purchase (HP) because they do not have cash. But, before you do so, it is important to understand how HP works because, if you do not, you may lose the goods when you fail to pay

What is Hire Purchase?

Hire Purchase (HP) means buying household and other goods on credit. When you buy something on HP, you have to pay a deposit, then a certain amount called an instalment, every month until you have paid off the full amount.

Once you have paid the deposit, you can take the goods home, but they do not belong to you until you have paid the last instalment.

You, the buyer, enter into an instalment sales agreement (this used to be called an HP agreement) with the seller. This is a credit agreement.

It says that the buyer can pay the rest of the amount owed (balance) in small

amounts. The seller is allowed to charge interest because he or she is not being paid in cash.

Many people who buy on credit do not know that it costs more than buying for cash.

What must a credit agreement contain?

A credit agreement must be in writing and is only legal if both the buyer and the seller have signed it. It must state exactly how much the goods cost, what deposit is to be paid, and how much the monthly instalment is. A statement saying how much is still owed must be sent to the buyer every month.

Once you have signed a credit agreement, keep a copy of it in a safe place. Keep receipts for every payment so that you can prove you have paid if something goes wrong.

The trap of easy credit — repossession

The seller can take back the goods if you do not make your payments.

A seller can only take back the goods if:

- You have signed a voluntary repossession or consent form;
- The seller obtains a court order. In this case, a person sent by the court, called a Messenger of the Court, will come to your home to take back the goods.

Know your rights

- Sellers sometimes use false summons. Make sure that your summons have been issued by the court;
- It is illegal for sellers to use physical threats or force. If they do, you must report it to the police;

- If a seller interferes with your private life, they may be taken to court for invasion of privacy;
- If a seller enters your property illegally (without a court order or consent form), they must be reported to the police for trespassing;
- If a door or window (or any property) is broken by a seller, they may be charged for damaging your property.

Here are a few tips

- Always read a document carefully and make sure you understand what it says before you sign it;
- If you are not sure of something, take the document home and ask a friend or relative to read it and explain it to you;
- Ask the salesperson questions such as what will happen if you lose your job or cannot make the payments;
- If a relative dies, find out what agreements he or she

signed. Make certified copies of the death certificate. Documents are certified by a lawyer or commissioner of oaths. Take the copies to every place where your relative owed money to. If the manager of the shop is rude and not helpful, contact the company's head office;

- Make copies of every letter you send to the seller and keep letters you receive. These letters can help you prove your case.

Remember, it is not good to buy something on HP, especially if it is expensive, without thinking carefully about it. Be sure you understand the terms of the sale.

If you need more information and advice on HP, go to your nearest advice centre or write to:

Learn and Teach Publications
17th Floor, Conlyn House
156 President Street
Johannesburg 2001 ☼

WIN! WIN! WIN! WIN!
You stand the chance of winning a wonderful camera!

All you have to do is answer the question below and send your entry form to us.
Is interest charged on household goods bought on Hire Purchase?

Answer

Name

Address

.....

.....

.....

.....Postal Code

Telephone number (if any)

I agree to abide by the rules of the competition

Signature

Competition rules: The decision of the judges is final. This competition is only open to people living in South Africa. Employees and relatives of employees of SPEAK are not allowed to enter. The closing date is 15 April 1994. The winners will be announced in SPEAK.

Our Time To Choose

A Comic Story about Voting

Chapter 5

This is the fifth episode of Our Time to Choose, a 6-part story about people finding out about South Africa's first democratic election. In this election, all South Africans of 18 years and older will be able to vote.

In our story so far, we joined a rural community that decided that they needed more information about the election. They raised enough money to send our two main characters, Tshepo and Thembi, to a voter education workshop. Here they take part in discussions and learn more about the actual process of voting by participating in a mock election.

Our Time to Choose explores the common issues that many South Africans are facing as we approach the election. We need to know what the election is about and how it will be run. The story allows you, the reader, to share in the process of preparing for the election as we follow our characters question, discuss and learn more about democracy and voting.

In this fifth chapter, the participants at the voter education workshop learn more about what will happen at the voting station on election day and discuss the issue of democracy.



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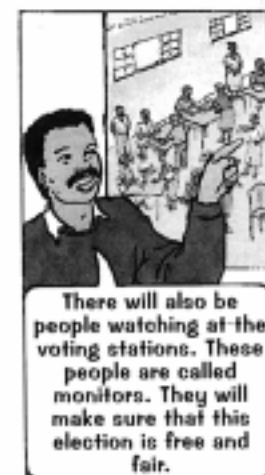
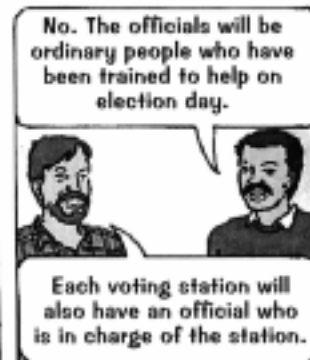
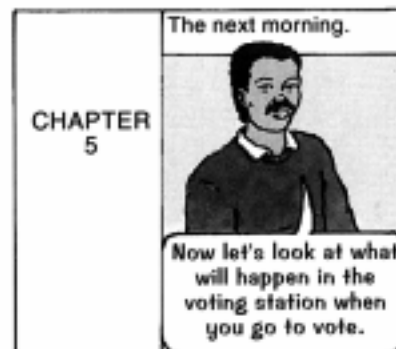
Our Time to Choose was commissioned by Matla Trust on behalf of the Independent Forum for Electoral Education (IFEE). IFEE represents a wide range of independent non-governmental and non-partisan organisations whose main aim is to educate us about this election.

Our Time to Choose was researched and developed by The Storyteller Group.

The research phase involved the participation of individuals and organisations throughout rural and urban South Africa: community-based and development organisations, civics, churches, educational and other organisations involved in democracy and voter education.

Copies of this story are available to organisations in 9 languages. For more info contact IFEE on (011) 836 8061.

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After you have shown your ID, you put your hand into this box. This is how the election officials check to see if you have voted before.



Don't look so worried, ma! It's not magic.

But how does it work?



When you get your ballot paper, they put some ink on your hand.



This ink is not harmful. Nobody can see the ink. Only when you put your hand in this box with the special light can you see the ink.



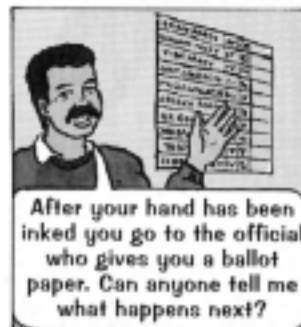
What happens if someone tries to vote twice?

They will be turned away.

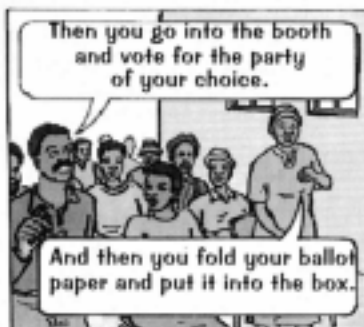


How long will this ink stay on our hands?

For about seven days.

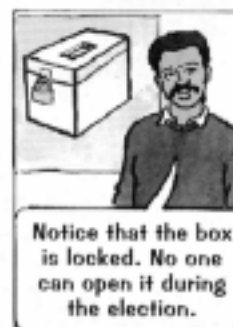


After your hand has been inked you go to the official who gives you a ballot paper. Can anyone tell me what happens next?

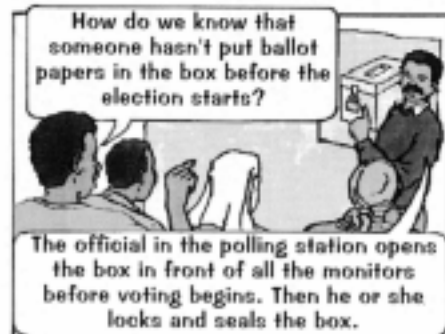


Then you go into the booth and vote for the party of your choice.

And then you fold your ballot paper and put it into the box.

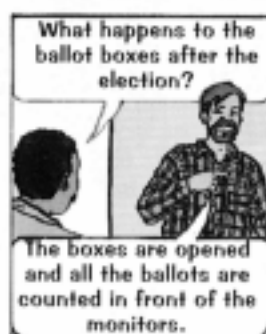


Notice that the box is locked. No one can open it during the election.



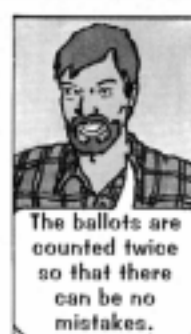
How do we know that someone hasn't put ballot papers in the box before the election starts?

The official in the polling station opens the box in front of all the monitors before voting begins. Then he or she locks and seals the box.



What happens to the ballot boxes after the election?

The boxes are opened and all the ballots are counted in front of the monitors.

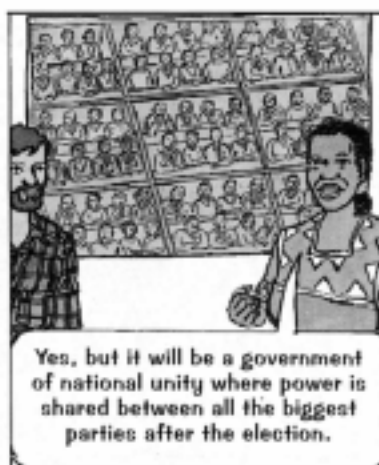


The ballots are counted twice so that there can be no mistakes.

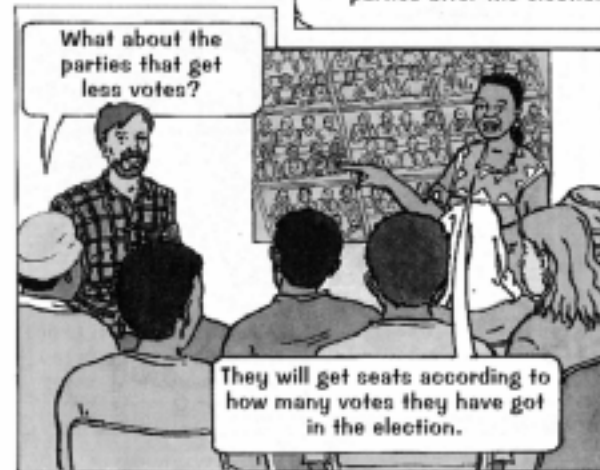
The winning party will be announced on radio and TV after all the votes have been counted throughout the country.



Will that party then become the new Government?



Yes, but it will be a government of national unity where power is shared between all the biggest parties after the election.



What about the parties that get less votes?

They will get seats according to how many votes they have got in the election.



The party that gets the most votes in the election will get the most seats in the national assembly.



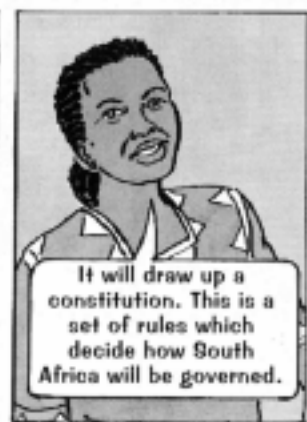
If my party gets ten seats, who will my party choose to go to the national assembly?

Each party will announce a list of candidates. The first ten people on your party's list will go to the national assembly.



What will this national assembly do?

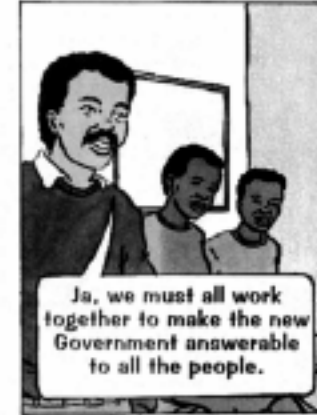
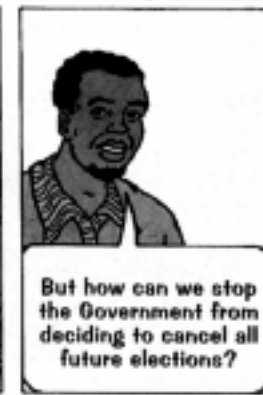
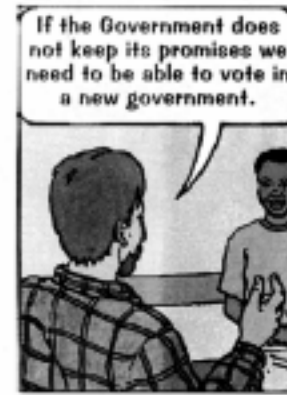
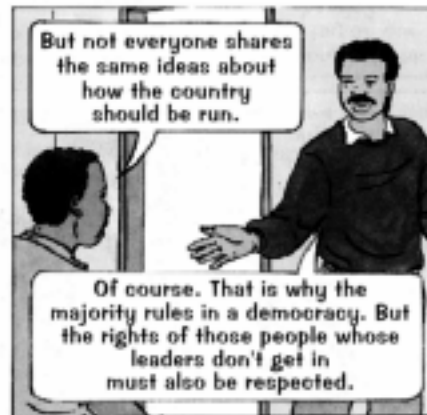
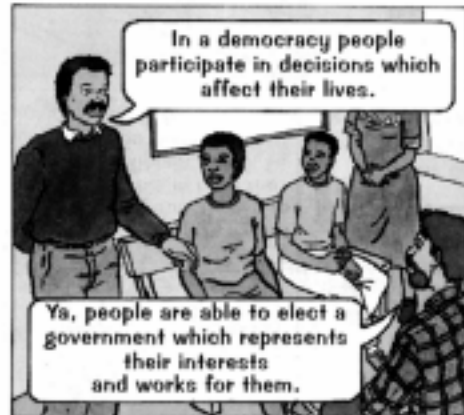
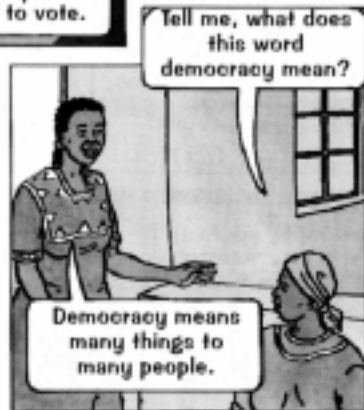
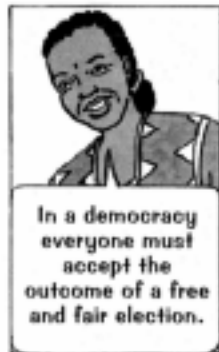
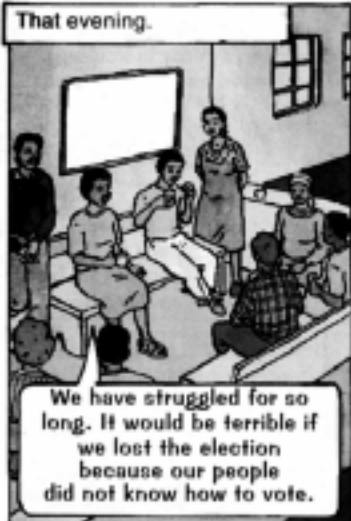
It will govern the country.



It will draw up a constitution. This is a set of rules which decide how South Africa will be governed.



The parties which get the most seats will have more say in how the constitution is drawn up.



Our Time To Choose

A Comic Story about Voting

Chapter 6

This is the sixth and last episode of Our Time to Choose, a 6-part story about ordinary people learning about the voting process and preparing themselves to vote in South Africa's first democratic election. In this forthcoming election, all South Africans of 18 years and older will be able to vote and to make the choices that will determine the future of our country.

Our Time to Choose aims to provide information about the voting process; and to provide information to those who will be teaching others about voter education. The story explores the common issues that many South Africans are facing as we approach the election. The story allows you, the reader, to share in the process of preparing for the election as we follow our characters

question, discuss and learn more about democracy and voting.

In the story so far, we joined the community of the rural village as they discussed the forthcoming election. The main characters in our story, Thembi and Tshepo, realised that they all needed more information about the election. Helped by the community, they attend a voter education workshop where they learn more about the actual process of voting by participating in a mock election; and discuss what will happen at the voting station on election day.

In this sixth chapter, Thembi and Tshepo return home and share their knowledge of voter education with the whole village.



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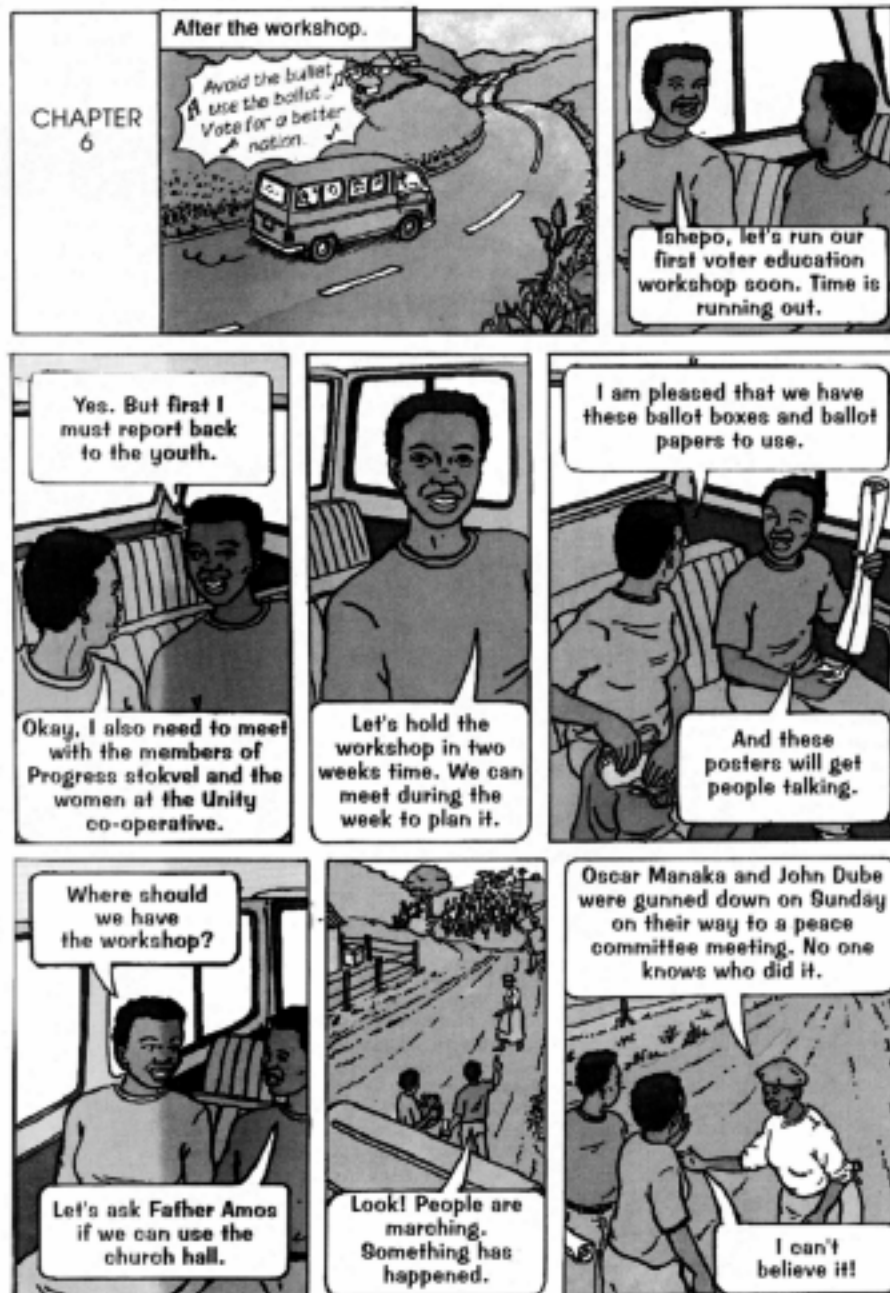
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The next day Thembi and Tshepo visit Father Amos.

Bantwana bam', this has been a tragic weekend.

Yes, Father, we heard about the killings.

Have you brought back a lot of knowledge to share with us?

We were planning a workshop for two weeks time. But now...

Voter education is a waste of time. There is no hope for this country!

No, my child. We must continue to work hard for justice and peace.

We mustn't give in to the forces that are against democracy.

The next week Thembi meets with Unity co-operative and Progress stokvel.

There is no time to lose. We all have to learn how to vote for the party of our choice.

But, Thembi, our husbands are a problem. They will tell us who to vote for.

Don't worry, ma, your vote is a secret. No one will know who you are voting for.

Ya, say you will vote for their party. But then vote for who you like.

Well, don't tell our husbands that or they won't let us vote at all.

Everyone has a right to vote in this election.

If we women give our vote how can we be sure that the new government will meet our needs?

Ma, many women's organisations have come together to make sure that women's issues and needs are listened to.

These organisations are writing a women's charter.

What is this women's charter?

The document will be presented to the new government.

Our local women's groups must get involved. Our voices must also be heard.

Thembi invites all the women to a voter education workshop to be held at the church in two weeks' time.

It is a document that demands equal rights for all women.

A week later Tshepo meets with the youth.

Don't tell us about an election. Tell us who killed our friends!

All this talk is getting us nowhere. The time has come to fight back.

Can't you see that the forces that are killing people are against democracy?

Ya, they are too scared to fight an election because they know they won't win.

We have fought so long for a chance to run our country. We mustn't give in now.

Eventually the youth agree that voter education is important.

Thembi and Tshepo's voter education workshop at the church is a great success. Since then everyone in the community has been talking about the forthcoming election.

A few months later.

Is it true that different political parties will be sending speakers to our community in the next few months?

Yes. I hope all those speakers will be safe.

Don't worry, ma. We youth will make sure that they are all safe - even our opposition.

No way! We can't let our enemies come and speak here! Not after all they've done to us!

Mfo, do not become like them. Our community must be free to hear other people's views. Or this election will not be democratic.

Mfo, do not become like them. Our community must be free to hear other people's views. Or this election will not be democratic.

I heard the leaders of all the political parties speaking on the radio. They were making lots of promises.

Ya, I read about their promises in the newspaper. They all sound the same.

What I want to know is: How are these parties going to make their promises come true?

And are they really committed to a democratic country with equal rights for all?

Words, words, words! I think we must look at what each party has said and done in the past.

That will tell us what sort of party it is.

Ya, can a leopard change its skin?

These speakers had better do their homework. I have some difficult questions for them.

We talk too much. It's time to work.

To think that six months ago we did not even know how to vote!

Now that we have knowledge it's easier to speak out.

No one will silence us again!

Fatal statistics

It is estimated that, in South Africa, about 500 people a day are infected with the HIV virus. At this rate, nine million people (27 percent of the adult population) could be infected with HIV by the year 2010. But if strong AIDS prevention and education programmes are set up, this number could be cut down to 7 million (19 percent of the adult population).

This government is not doing enough to slow down the spread of AIDS. The new South African government will have to do much more if it wants to bring down the HIV infection rate by the year 2005, says Mbulelo Bungane, National Director of the National Progressive Primary Health Care Network's (NPPHCN) National AIDS Programme.

The first AIDS case in South Africa was reported in 1983. Since then, more than one million people (about three percent of the adult population) are estimated to be infected with HIV, the virus which causes AIDS.

Bungane says the amount of care and support for people with AIDS in government institutions is very disappointing.

The government health services send people with AIDS to the National AIDS Programme for counselling. He believes the government must train more counsellors to help the increasing numbers of HIV-infected people. He is annoyed that there is no national plan to care for these people.

Bungane slammed political parties that are only interested in getting votes and do not pay enough attention to the AIDS problem and other health issues.

He believes the new government must play a central role in preventing the spread of AIDS and caring for people with the disease. The new government must also put more money and resources into the fight against AIDS. At the same time, it must support AIDS work which

Do more about AIDS!

Millions of lives could be saved – but only if the new South African government sets up a strong AIDS education and prevention programme, Mbulelo Bungane (right) of the National AIDS programme told SPEAK



is being done in different communities.

Educating the public and spreading information on AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease (STDs) — especially in communities where AIDS is spreading fastest — is one of the main strategies of any HIV prevention programme.

“The whole education system should be changed so that AIDS and other issues relating to sex are included in the subjects taught at school. We would like to see a national plan to do this, even before we enter the new South Africa. Teenagers should be taught the social skills needed to prevent HIV infection,” says Bungane.

The main problem in the fight against AIDS is that most people still think AIDS is not their problem, it only happens to other people.

“Our aim is to educate and convince everyone that AIDS

could happen to them. It is important that people take personal responsibility and adopt safer sexual practices to ensure a healthy new South Africa,” said Bungane.

One of the best ways to practice safe sex is by using condoms. However, many people still do not want to use condoms.

Bungane believes political parties should help change people’s ideas and attitudes to condoms and contraceptives. “Besides person to person education and education through TV, radio and newspapers, politicians should talk openly about the promotion of safer sex to encourage people to change their sexual behaviour,” he says.

An important factor in the spread of AIDS is the women’s position of weakness in a male-controlled society. It is difficult for women to protect themselves against AIDS

if their men refuse to use condoms. Women need to have more power over their sexual lives.

The NPPHCN National AIDS programme is the only organisation in South Africa that devotes all its resources to AIDS work. It has 12 regional offices across the country and 84 full-time community workers who have the responsibility of making sure AIDS education is part of other community activities. ★

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

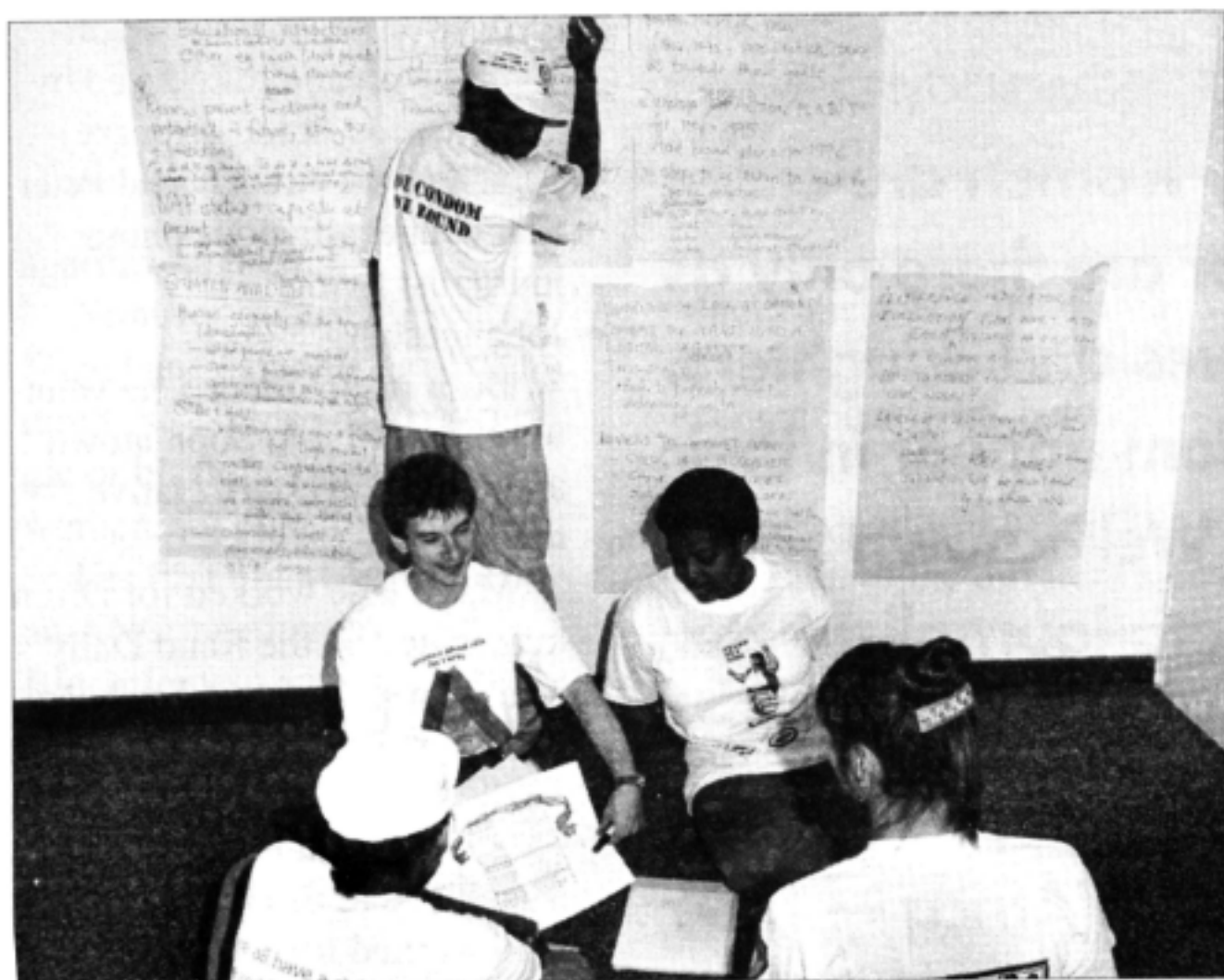
Northern Natal: (0354) 74 181

Border: (0431) 43 6733

Eastern Cape: (041) 41 1618

Transkei: (0471) 31 0757

Western Cape: (021) 696 4154



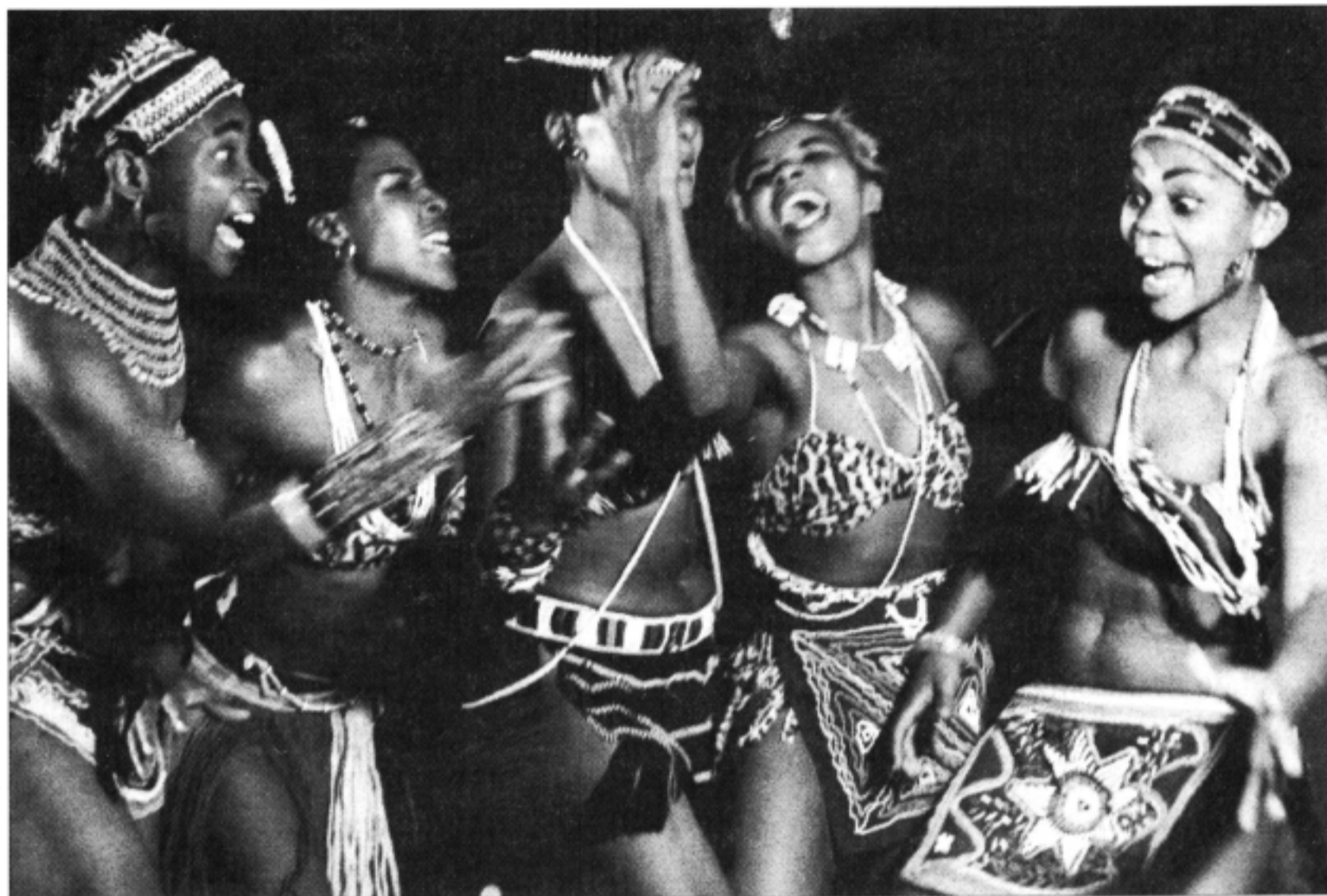
Action against AIDS: Staff of NPPHCN's National AIDS Programme at a workshop

These pages have been made possible by NPPHCN National AIDS Programme



Photo-journalist Peter Magubane's portrayal of the Mzumba dancers of Soweto, 1967

Photos: Peter Magubane



The power of pictures

In books, films, newspapers and magazines, women are either absent or are there only as mothers, wives and daughters. Women seldom appear in their own right. Well-known South African photo-journalist Peter Magubane has set out to change this in his latest publication, *Women of South Africa — Their Fight For Freedom*. Rosalee Telela spoke to him

Page after page of powerful pictures make up the book, "Women of South Africa — Their Fight for Freedom". What kind of person takes such incredibly moving pictures of South African women, as fighters and survivors?

"I'm a person who is concerned with and influenced by the situation of the ordinary person in the street," said Peter Magubane, a famous photo journalist living in Johannesburg.

Born in Vrededorp, he went to school, first in Sophiatown and then in Western Native township.

Magubane worked for Drum magazine and the Rand Daily Mail newspaper, and has been with Time magazine since 1978.

It was Drum that inspired Magubane to be a journalist who worked for justice.

"It was through Drum that I found out how many of our people were being killed by



A suspected police informer's car burns outside KwaThema stadium where a funeral of political activists was being held



The historic march of 20 000 women on the Union Buildings to protest against pass laws, August 9 1956

apartheid," he said.

Now, for almost 40 years, Magubane's photos have captured the essence of the struggle of black people and women, for equality.

His first big assignment was an ANC meeting in Bloemfontein and his first clash with the police was during the 1956 Treason Trial involving ANC and South African Communist Party (SACP) activists.

In the same year, on August 9, 20 000 women marched on the Union Buildings in Pretoria

to protest against the pass laws. Magubane was at the march and his photos of the historic event appear in his book.

The book goes beyond women's political lives. "It is a collection of the different sides of women's lives in South Africa — from the home to the struggle."

Indeed, each picture shows different aspects of women's lives — at home, at work and in the struggle. Yet, their struggle, as seen through Magubane's eyes, was

not only a struggle against apartheid.

"Women are oppressed in the house and by the law. They share the same political platform with their husbands, but it is the woman that has to prepare food for everybody when they get home. That is oppression."

Magubane believes women have been 'holding up the sun' of the struggle since the 1950's, yet their stories have never been told.

"The way I could tell it and at the same time pay tribute to

Ntsiki, wife of Steve Biko who was killed in detention in 1977, leaving the inquest into his death



ANC supporters outside the court during the 1967 Rivonia Trial of Nelson Mandela and others



women was to put together photos I took from the 1950's which show how and where women came from and where they are going."

Magubane has great admiration for women: "Women do not hesitate. If they want to do something, they do it."

This, he discovered at a young age. "My mother did not stand for any nonsense at all, especially when it came to policemen who sometimes came to our home, kicked the door down and asked my father

to produce a pass. My mother would step in and give them a rough time."

In the course of his career, Magubane has been beaten up by police, detained several times and banned for five years.

"Despite all that, I'm not bitter. If you hate, there is absolutely nothing you will do properly," Magubane argued.

Not only did Magubane learn that hatred gets you

nowhere, he also learnt how to be responsible for himself. "I have no problems cooking for myself or cleaning my house. I have no problems doing any job that is done by women."

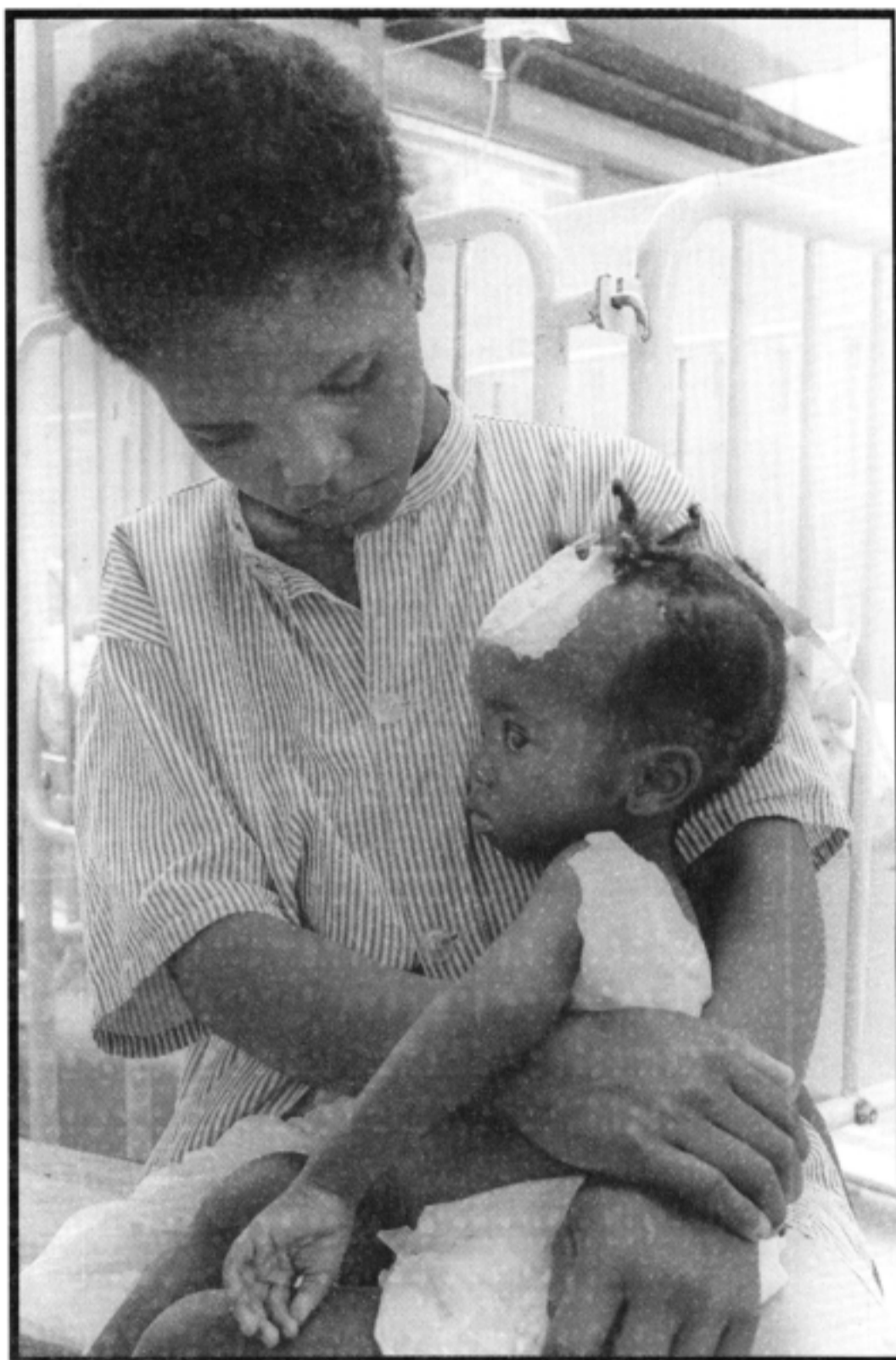
He strongly believes that South African men should change their attitude towards women.

Magubane sees his future as clearly as he recalls the past: "I shall carry on doing my work as I have been. I just show my camera where the action is." ★

The Reconstruction and Development Programme

Women's only hope

The ANC, SACP, Cosatu and other progressive political organisations have come up with a plan called the Reconstruction and Development Programme. *Susan Shabangu*, ANC candidate for the new government and gender co-ordinator of the Transport and General Workers Union, argues it is the only hope for women in this country



The ANC's Reconstruction and Development Programme says all children under the age of six should have free health care

Alice Radebe has to wake up at 5 am every morning to fetch water from the nearest pond. She has to walk a long distance carrying a heavy bucket on her head. It is worse in winter when it is still dark and very cold. And to wash with cold water is a big problem, especially for the little children.

This is only one of the problems affecting women every day of their lives. Women are affected more than anyone else by unemployment, homelessness and not having electricity,

proper toilets and running water. As women, we live in fear of violence and rape, every single day — not only in the streets but also in our homes.

As a woman worker, I know the hardships women face and I say — we have had enough. The new government must make sure that women in South Africa are treated with respect and as equal citizens.

African National Congress (ANC) president Nelson Mandela knows the problems affecting women. The ANC, together with the Congress of

South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), the South African Communist Party (SACP) and other progressive organisations, has come up with a plan called the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP). In drawing up this programme, these organisations looked at our problems very seriously.

Many proposals which were put forward by women's organisations have been included in the RDP. Throughout the programme, women's issues are highlighted as a priority.

Photo: Cedric Nunn

The RDP has plans aimed at building the economy and providing jobs, homes, electricity, water, affordable health care, education and laws that do not discriminate against women. It is the only hope for women to get a better life in the new South Africa.

JOBS

The RDP aims to create between 300 000 to 500 000 jobs a year through public works programmes. These programmes will build houses, provide electricity, water and sanitation and build schools and creches, playgrounds and roads.

These are basic needs which the new government will have to meet.

The people who work in the public works programmes will also be given training so that they have skills to find other employment when the projects are completed. Women will be given preference in the public works programme, not only in employment but also in meeting specific needs. For example, the RDP will see providing clean water and electricity as an urgent matter, so that women like Alice Radebe do not have to walk miles to fetch water.

The RDP proposes to build one million new houses within the next five years and electrify two-and-a-half million new homes. Water and sanitation will be provided to more and more people as the years go by. These programmes will create jobs and, at the same time, meet the basic needs of the people.

Jobs will also be created



Photo: Cedric Nunn

The RDP says clinics and hospitals should be built close to where people live so they don't have to travel too far

through other programmes aimed at building the economy. Affirmative action is one way the ANC will ensure that women are promoted and developed to take on key positions. The ANC has already set an example by electing many women as candidates for the new government.

It is not enough to say women must have equal opportunities when we know that mothers are tied up looking after children. The programme therefore looks at ways of providing affordable childcare facilities so that women can take up challenging jobs. It also supports the rights of women to have an abortion early in their pregnancy if they choose to.

HEALTH

Because health care is very expensive and out of reach of many people, the RDP looks at building clinics and hospitals

in the areas where people live so that they do not have to travel long distances. Health care will be free for all children under the age of six and all children will be vaccinated against measles within the next three years.

EDUCATION

Our education system today does not care much about girls and women. The school system trains girls to be secretaries, nurses or teachers — if they are lucky. Careers like medicine, law, engineering and management are reserved for boys. The RDP will encourage girls to take up subjects like maths and science.

When families cannot afford to educate all their children, it is always the girls who are made to leave school so that their brothers can have an education. That will not be a problem if the RDP is set in motion because it will provide 10

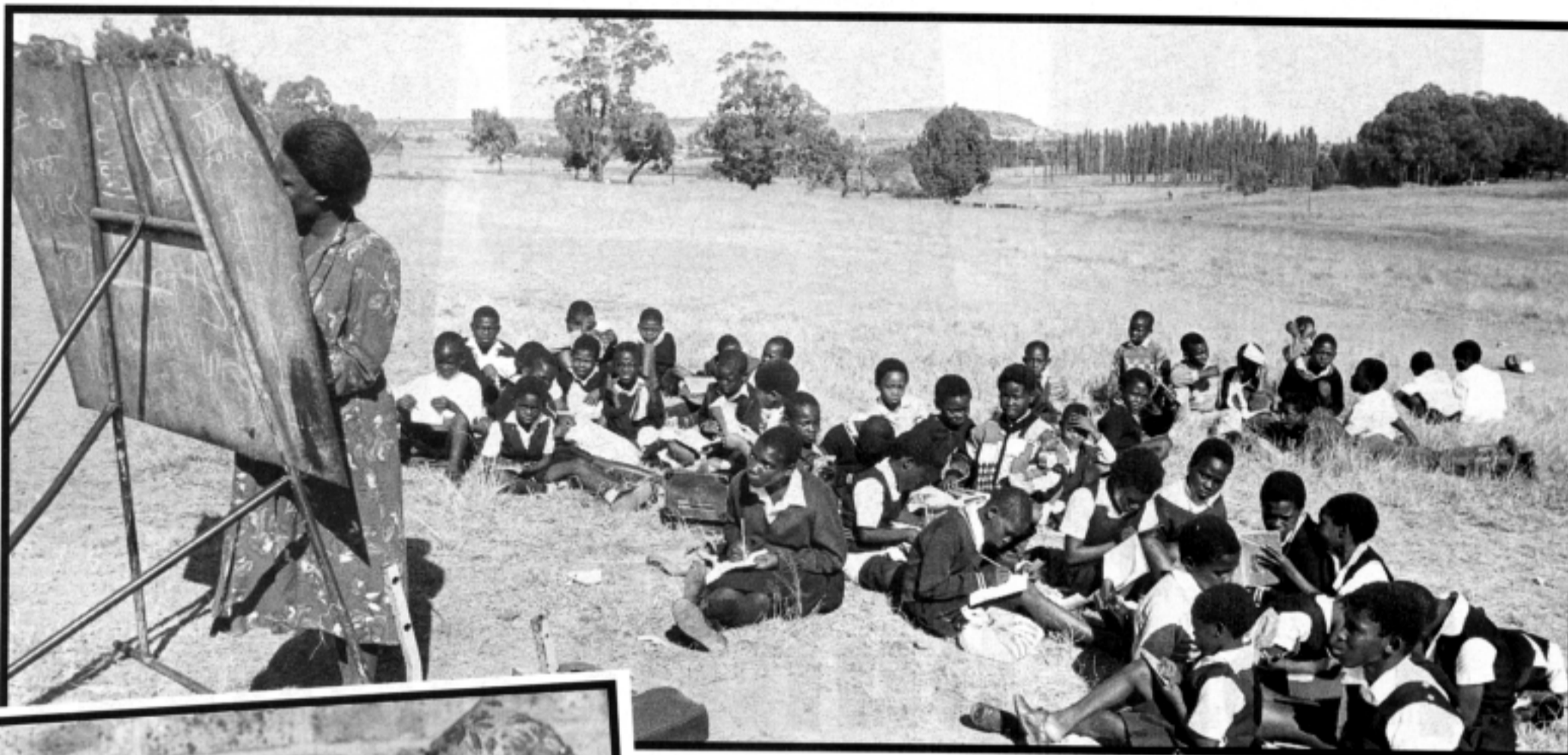


Photo: Elmond Jiyane



Photo: Andrew Tshabangu

**Above:
Education
under the
National Party
government
suffered due to
a lack of
facilities.
Under an ANC
government, all
children will
have 10 years
of free
schooling
Left: Affordable
childcare will
be provided so
that women
can follow their
careers**

Every day, our courts let rapists go scott free or give them light sentences. Lawyers and police often make women feel that they are responsible for rape and battery. The law dealing with rape and battery cases must be more sympathetic to women and give stronger sentences to rapists and men who beat up women.

Daily, women are raped and beaten up by their husbands or partners. The police and law officers often see this as a domestic matter which must be sorted out in the home. The ANC wants this changed. Women will be educated about their rights under the law so that they can take the culprits to court.

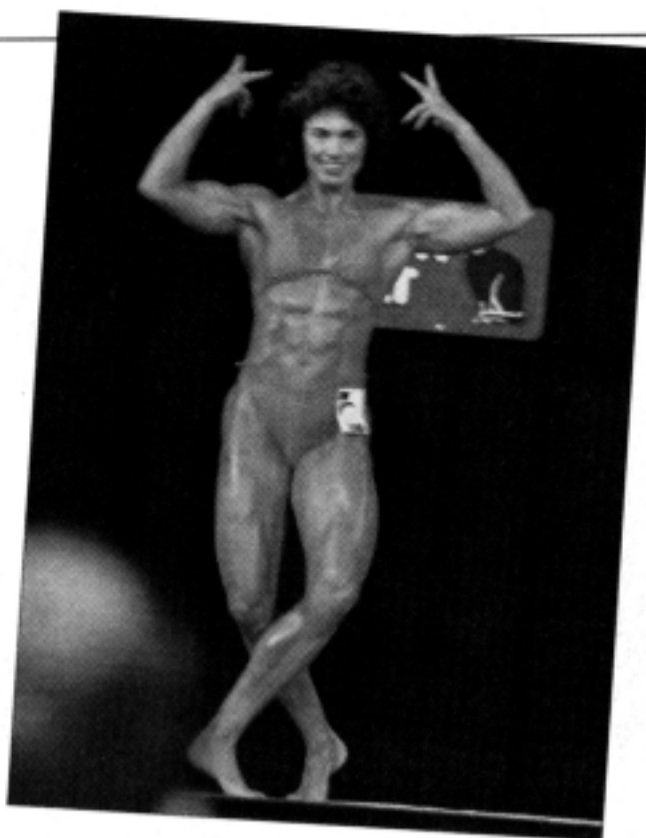
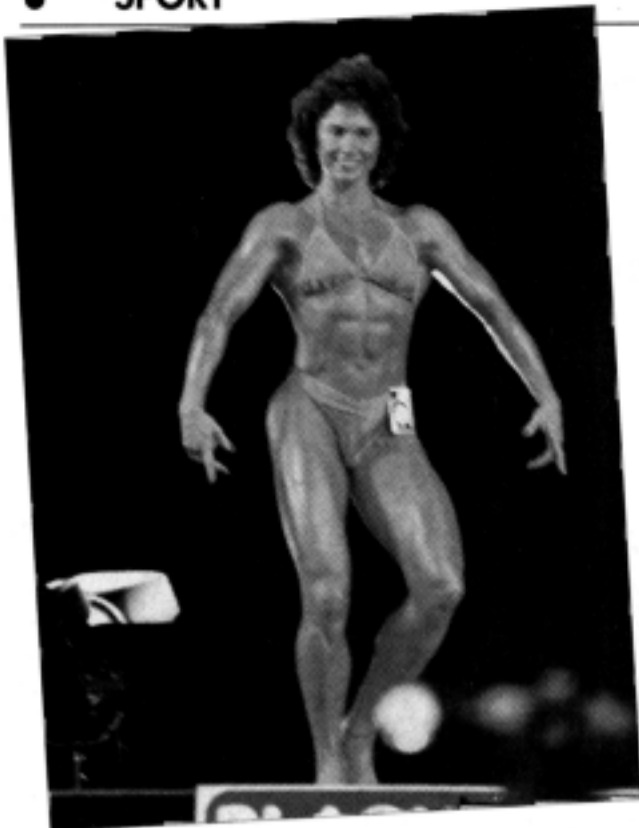
The RDP is the only programme which aims to meet the needs of all the people and gives special attention to women. It is therefore important that, as women who want change, we become involved in discussions on the RDP and how to implement the changes. ★

years of free schooling for all children.

LAWS

We know that there are many laws and customs which discriminate against us as women. For example, laws which allow

men to inherit the family's wealth, tax laws which make married women pay more than men, traditional laws which allow men to have more than one wife and laws which discriminate against single mothers. The RDP argues that these laws must be scrapped.



Photos: Claire Keeton

From ballet dancer to body builder

From ballet dancer to body builder, Lynda Delpont is in top form. She was recently placed fifth when she represented South Africa at an international body building championship.

A 40-year-old mother of two children, Delpont has been national champion in the middleweight division (52-57 kg) for three years in a row. She also won the Southern African Championships and the Grand Prix last year, before taking part in the Mr and Ms Universe competition in Wales earlier this year. The South African team beat eight countries to take top honours.

She started body-building eight years ago, after seeing photographs and reading articles about the sport. "I liked the fact that you can change the shape of your body. You can improve weak parts of your body and can make cer-

Body building is a good sport for women, says South African body building champion, Lynda Delpont.

Claire Keeton spoke to her

tain parts of your body balance up with other parts. You cannot do this with normal exercise."

In the beginning, body building was just another way of keeping fit. "I told my trainer I was against building muscle. I wanted to make my body firm and get fit. But, in less than a year, I was very involved in the sport. I am competitive by nature and soon started taking part in competitions."

After one year of body

building, Delpont entered the first women's championships and won it. She has not looked back since then.

But she says body building is a difficult and demanding sport. "It is a lonely sport and not many people have the concentration needed. I must motivate myself because I train mostly on my own."

Delpont says she is stronger than many men, which proves how strong women can become when they train with weights. "There are not many men who train at the gym who can keep up with me."

Success depends on the right combination of training and nutrition.

When the sport is out of season, Delpont trains for up to two hours daily. In season, she trains for twice that time. Training involves the use of weights and exercises.

She uses a split routine of

training, where the chest and legs are trained on one day, for example, and the next day the back and shoulders. Each body part must have 24-28 hours to rest from one session to another.

"You must be very self-disciplined. It is not relaxing. The training and dieting is very stressful. Your body can only take so much. You must know when to stop."

Before a competition, Delport follows a very strict diet for ten weeks by eating no salts, sugar and fats. "It is a very plain food. That is how you bring down the fat in your body to bring out the muscularity and definition of the body.

"We starve in the last week and cut down on drinking water on Wednesday or Thursday if a show is on Friday. You need to dehydrate to draw the water out from under your skin."

In the competition, participants go through basic set routines to show their muscles — their size, proportion and symmetry (balance) — and

they do a dance-like routine to music.

Delport says, when the championships are over there is a camaraderie (friendship) between the women contestants, who talk to each other and exchange information. "I have never experienced women being nasty to each other. With the male body builders, there is often a lot of tension between them."

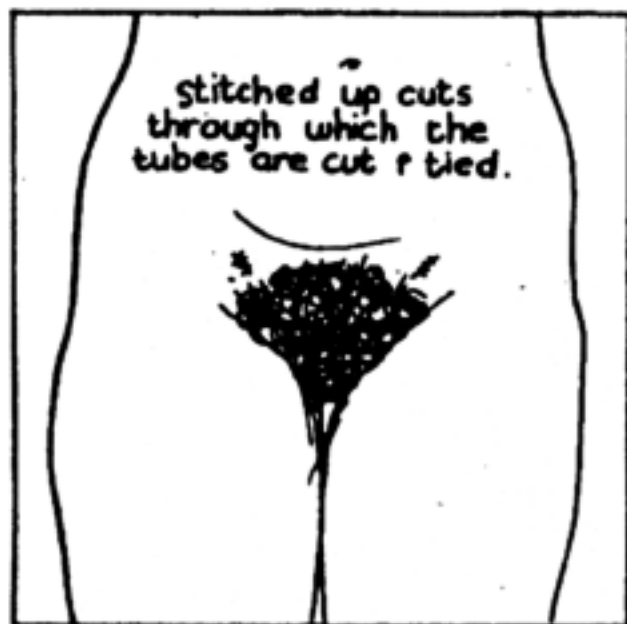
One problem is the use of steroids (drugs) to build muscle strength. Delport says this is common at the top level. "It is a big problem. And it is not going to get easier or better."

Body building gives Delport a lot of satisfaction, and her family is proud of her. When she is not training, she works as a body therapist in East London, advising on nutrition and training.

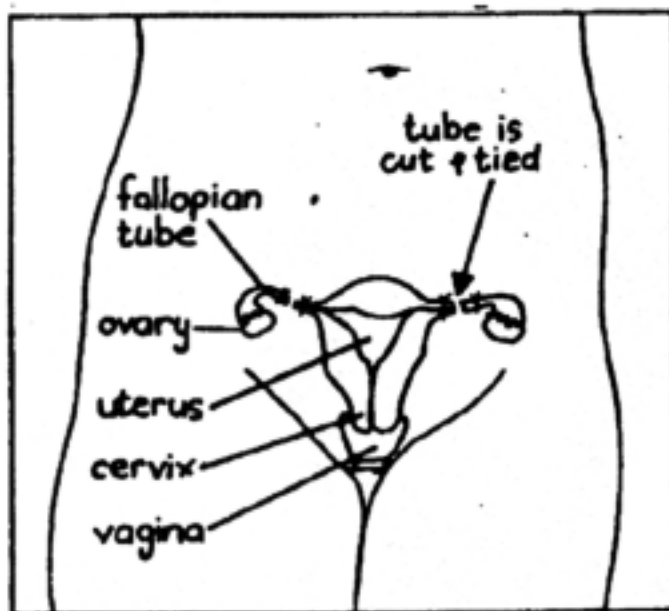
Delport says, "Body building should be more popular and should be promoted more as a sport. It is neglected when you compare it to sports like cricket and rugby. Body building is a good sport for women."



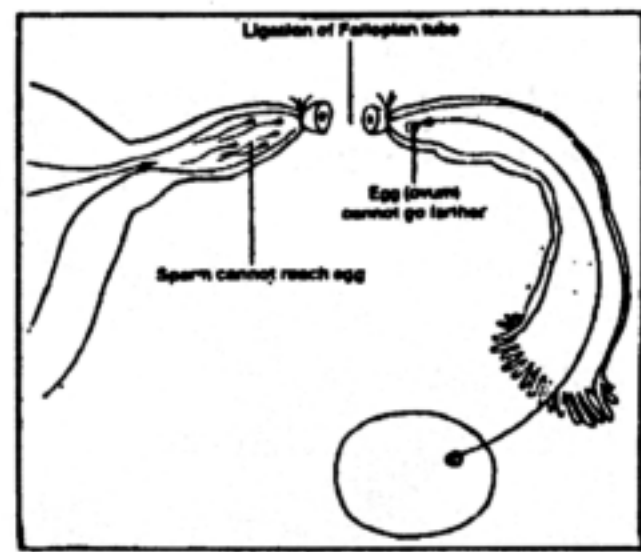
Body building champ and mother of two, Lynda Delport: "There are not many men at the gym who can keep up with me."



Outside view of tubal ligation.



Inside view of tubal ligation.



The sperm and the egg cannot reach each other to form a foetus.

■ STERILISATION FOR WOMEN

Female sterilisation is called tubal ligation, although people often talk about it as 'having your tubes tied'.

How does tubal ligation prevent pregnancy?

Tubal ligation prevents pregnancy by cutting the fallopian tubes so that eggs from the woman's ovaries cannot move to the womb to meet the man's sperm. And the man's sperm cannot move up the tube to meet the woman's egg.

How is a tubal ligation done?

This operation is done with an instrument called a laparoscope. This instrument looks like a thin telescope and has a very bright light built into it.

The woman is usually given a general anaesthetic which puts her to sleep for the operation. Sometimes she is given an injection which prevents her from feeling pain, but she stays awake during the operation.

Once she is ready, a small cut is made on the lower part of her stomach. Another cut is

When you're through having babies

Sterilisation is a big decision for a man or woman, because it means a permanent prevention of pregnancy. In other words, once you are sterilised, you will never have children. SPEAK looks at what happens to a man or woman who wants to be sterilised

made just beneath the belly button. The laparoscope is pushed through the cut beneath her belly button. Another instrument is pushed through the other cut near her fallopian tube.

This instrument takes hold of the fallopian tube and either cuts or ties it. Sometimes a small metal clip is put around

each tube. The operation usually involves a short stay in hospital.

Will a tubal ligation affect a woman's sex life?

Like a vasectomy, tubal ligation does not affect a woman's sex life. She can have sex as

soon as it feels comfortable for her. A woman will not lose interest in sex and will continue to enjoy a healthy and active sex life.

Is the operation always a success?

The operation has a high success rate, but not as high as vasectomy. About one in 300 women becomes pregnant within two years of the operation. This can happen if there was as an egg present when the operation was done. This is why a contraceptive should be used up to and just after the operation. Another reason could be if the woman's fallopian tube had a clip put on it and the clip was not put on properly. There is also a very, very small chance that the tube joins together again.

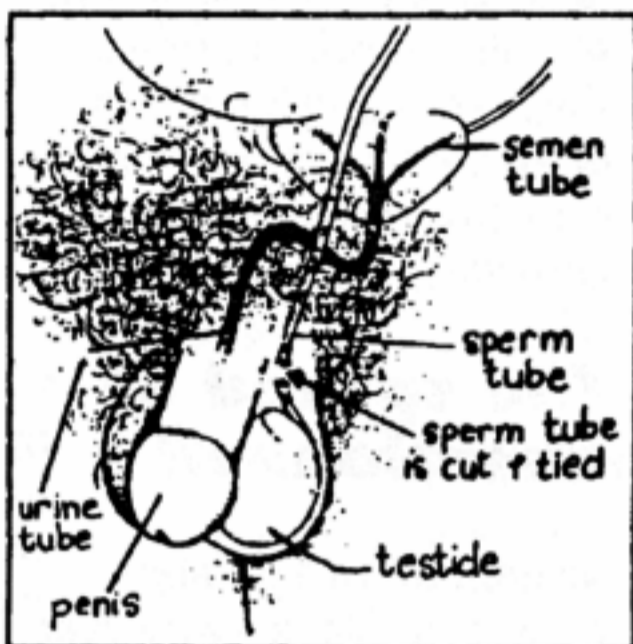
■ STERILISATION FOR MEN

Male sterilisation is called a vasectomy. This is a simple and safe operation that takes less than half an hour. A small cut is made at the top of the man's scrotum. The scrotum is the bag of skin that holds and protects the man's penis. It is usually done under local anaesthetic. After the operation, the penis may be bruised and a bit painful. The man would not have to stay in hospital after the operation.

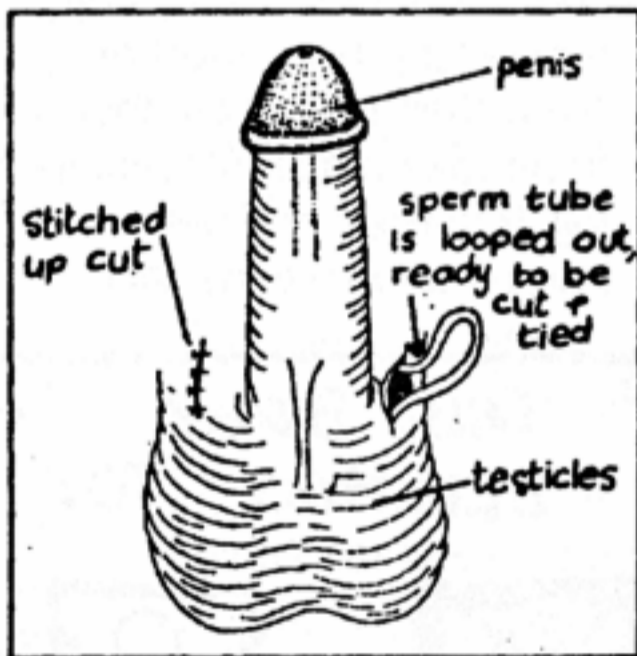
How does a vasectomy prevent pregnancy?

When a man ejaculates, he produces white liquid called semen. The semen has sperm in it. When the sperm joins

Sterilisation does not affect your sexual performance



Inside view of vasectomy.



Outside view of vasectomy.

with a woman's egg, she will fall pregnant.

When a man has a vasectomy, the tube which carries the sperm is cut.

The man still produces semen, but there are no sperm in it. However, after the operation, it is recommended that a man use condoms until he has ejaculated 30 times. This is because there is still sperm stored in his body which takes a while to disappear.

Will the vasectomy affect a man's sex life?

Men seem to worry that a vasectomy will affect their sex life. As long as the man is very sure he wants the vasectomy, his sex life should not change after the operation. It does not make him lose interest in sex and does not change his enjoyment. Because the sperm make up just one small part of his semen, he will not even notice a difference when he ejaculates.

SPEAK asked Xoli why he had a vasectomy and what his sex life was like after the operation.

"When my partner and I decided we did not want any more children, I felt it was my turn to take responsibility for prevention. After all, she was the one who had been on contraceptives throughout our relationship.

"At first I was nervous because I thought the operation would take away my manhood," laughed Xoli, a bit embarrassed.

"Actually," he added, "it has improved my sex life and has certainly not destroyed my manhood!"

Can the operation be changed back

It is difficult and costly to reverse this operation and it may not succeed. Reversing the operation has been found to be successful in two or three men out of every ten men. Health workers we spoke to said men who have vasectomies should see it as final. This is why a man must be very sure he wants it done. ☆

HEALTH BRIEFS

What is menopause?

Menopause is that time in a woman's life when her periods start becoming irregular and eventually stop. This is because the ovaries have stopped producing a hormone called oestrogen.

This means she will no longer be able to have children. This process can take place over a period of 15 years or more, usually between the ages of 40 and 55.

Every female child is born with oestrogen in her body. A woman's hormone levels increase until she is between her late 20's and her mid-30's. Then her oestrogen levels begin to slow down. When a woman is near 50, her oestrogen may reach a level which is too low to maintain her regular menstrual cycle. This is menopause.

What are our reproductive rights?

Reproductive rights mean the right to:

- Full information about sexuality, health and reproduction, the advantages and disadvantages of medicine, contraceptives and medical treatment.
- Reproductive health services that meet

women's needs and are available for all women.

- Safe and effective contraception.
- Safe and legal abortion.
- Safe women-controlled pregnancy and childbirth.
- Prevention of and safe effective treatment for the causes of infertility.

The spread of abortion

Around 50 million abortions take place every year in the world. It is said that one out of every four pregnancies ends in abortion. More than half of all abortions take place in developing countries and nearly half of all abortions take

place outside the health care system.

Between 36 and 53 million abortions were performed worldwide in 1987. Of those, 10 to 22 million were illegal. It is clear that abortion is a common experience among women.

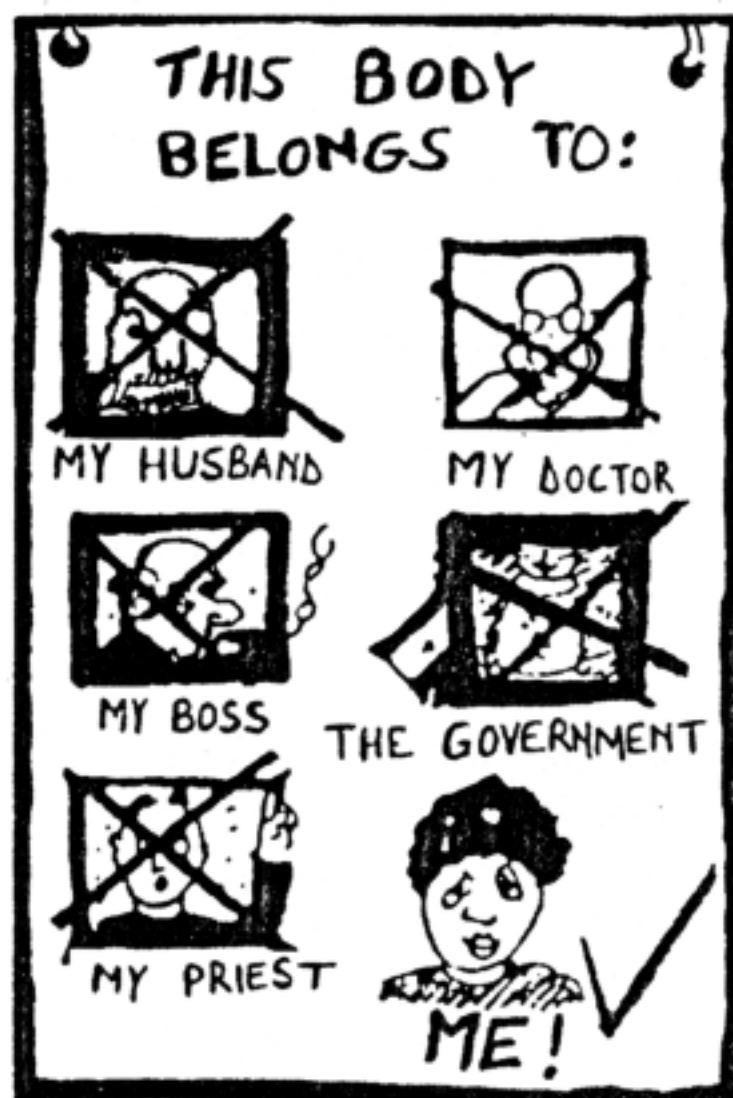
AIDS is growing fastest among young women

Among sexually active people, those being infected with the AIDS virus at the fastest rate are women in their teens and early twenties.

According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme, women between the ages of 15 and 25 make up about 70% of the 3000 women a day who become infected with the AIDS virus and 500 women a day who die of AIDS.

In many societies, the youngest women are exposed to rape, incest and adultery. Access to health care is poor and many sexually transmitted diseases go untreated.

The report said: "The silence surrounding the infection of young women must be broken. Girls and young women must be able to speak out, to stop feeling silenced and powerless to change what happens to them. Others, too, must speak out..."



As a matter of fact...



Women and work in South Africa

Women make up 53,6 percent of the population, but only 36 percent of the workforce.

In the workforce, working class women are the least skilled, lowest paid and least unionised. Many women who are said to be unemployed actually work in the informal sector, where 86 percent of the 2,4 million people earn less than R250 a month.

On top of this, apartheid has denied black working class women most of their basic needs and rights like shelter, food, health care, clothing, education and land.

Not too pretty

In England, a former sales manager who was told she was too pretty for her job won a sex discrimination claim against her employers.

Tracey Gatehouse left her job after her boss complained her attractive image might make her clients' wives jealous.

During the trial, Gatehouse said she was told by her boss to have a more manly appearance as she was working in a 'man's world'.

Editor told to stop abusing his wife

The editor of the Financial Gazette, one of Zimbabwe's most respected independent newspapers, has been ordered by a Harare court to stop assaulting and insulting his wife.

Documents handed to the Harare Customary Law Court said: "Trevor Ncube had brutally assaulted his wife Eva Mazuva. He threatened to kill her and destroy her property. He has stopped her from meeting friends and relatives."

In her affidavit, Mazuva said: "I can hardly talk to him without inviting abuse, threats or assaults."

Women raped in refugee camps

Thousands of refugee women have been raped in Kenya. While the majority of rapes are committed by bandits, many are also committed by policemen and soldiers in both the camps and Nairobi. Most are gang rapes.

Some women have been raped along with their daughters, including girls as young as thirteen. Often, fear of rape stops midwives from leaving their tents at night to deliver babies. Women who live alone, or only with their children, are most at risk. No special measures have been taken by the United Nations or the camp authorities to protect women in the camps.

Worldwide violence against women

In Peru, 70 percent of all crimes reported to police are of women beaten by their husbands. Sixty seven percent of rural and 56 of urban women in Papua New Guinea are abused by their husbands. In Santiago, Chile, a survey showed that 80 percent of women have suffered physical, emotional or sexual abuse by a male partner or relative. Every 15 seconds in the United States of America (USA), a woman is beaten and four battered women die every day. In this country, a woman is raped every 83 seconds.

TAXI TALK

Women are not punch bags

It took a woman to cut off her husband's penis for the world to sit up and listen to a story of domestic violence and battery. How often do we hear stories of women being beaten up and raped by their husbands and partners, and no one takes any notice. Suddenly we have world attention on a story of abuse. Why? Because a man lost his penis — which was sown back on, anyway. I believe he will only know in a year's time whether he will have the use of it again. And, of course, one can only hope that he will not. Both his male and female friends spoke out about his brutality against women.

"Such a barbaric act," said one young man on the taxi the other day. "She should get a life sentence," added his friend. "No one can be allowed to take the law into their own hands."

It is true that people should not take the law into their own hands. But what happens when no one listens to the crime? Battery and domestic violence are daily happenings all over the world.

In South Africa, the statistics of battery are so high it makes you want to cut off the

Was it right for a woman to cut off her husband's penis? I'm not sure how I really feel about it, except to say that it has turned the world's attention to the abuse and battery of woman, writes

Sissy Ntombela



penis of every man you know who beats his partner. Yet the newspapers and people in the street fail to say or do anything about the millions of women who live in constant fear of their lives.

One can understand the position of the radical feminist movement in Guatemala, where Bobbitt comes from, which said that, if she was found guilty, they would go on the rampage and cut off the penises of 100 American men in Guatemala.

Of course, Bobbitt must have been completely desperate to commit the act that she did, desperate from years of abuse and battery. The Bobbitt trial has drawn the world's attention to the horror of domestic violence. Let us hope that men are starting to get the message: "We will not be your punch bags anymore."

One young man was heard saying, "Well, she will never get another date." Well, I imagine that Bobbitt probably does not want another date for a while. ☼

NOTICES

Wanted: Black Women Writers

We are a new, small publishing house seeking the work of rising artists. We want honest, moving stories; poems and visuals for our collection of personal stories of black women writers.

Please send a self-addressed envelope for more information to:

JP Holliman Publisher
703 Bryden Road,
Suite 2,
Columbus, Ohio
43205

Child Care — Where to get Help

The SA Association for Early Childhood Educare (SAAECE) has a free parent booklet which explains what kind of care your young child needs. The booklet includes a list of things to check when choosing day care for your child.

For a free booklet, write to:

SAAECE,
P O Box 673
Pretoria 0001

Telephone: (012) 322 0601

Other places where you can get more information are:

Entokozweni Early Learning and
Community Service Centre.

Soweto:

269 Legwale Street
Moletsane

PO Kwa-Xuma 1869

Telephone: (011) 930 3711

Alexandra

166 12th Avenue
Alexandra

PO Bergvlei 2012

Telephone: (011) 882 2508/9

Building women's links across the globe

"Bad Attitude" is a radical newspaper in Britain. It focuses on international news of interest to women, such as the struggle against capitalism and patriarchy, reproductive rights, labour struggles and violence against women. The newspaper needs articles, news clippings and information from individual women and progressive organisations. The aim is to build greater links between women around the world and to improve women's understanding of one another. If you have anything you think will enhance the newspaper, send it to:

Bad Attitude,
121 Rialton Road,
London
SE24 OLR,
Britain

Starting Your Own Business

Do you want to start a small business? Or maybe you have already started one and you want to learn more about how to run it.

Well, here are the addresses of organisations that can help you:

African Council of Hawkers and Informal Businesses

1st Floor, Pasteur Chambers
191 Jeppe Street
Johannesburg 2001

Centre for Developing Business

University of the Witwatersrand
P O Box 98
Wits 2050

Get Ahead Foundation

P O Box 3376
Pretoria 0001

Small Business Development Corporation

P O Box 7780
Johannesburg 2000

YOU'VE

PRAYED

FOR IT

YOU'VE

WORKED

FOR IT

YOU'VE

STRUGGLED

FOR IT

YOU'VE

LONGED

FOR IT

NOW

VOTE

FOR IT



**HEAL
OUR
LAND**



**VOTE
APRIL
27TH**

John DePoe 61001