

SPEAK

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FEBRUARY 1994

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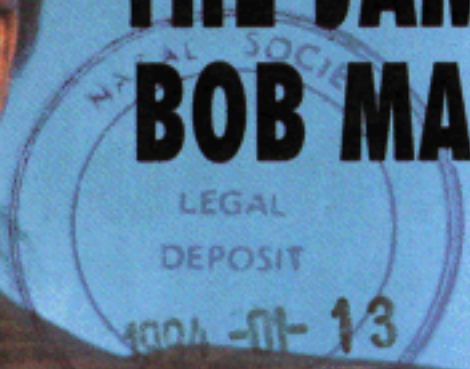
**EAST RAND
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WOMEN ACT**

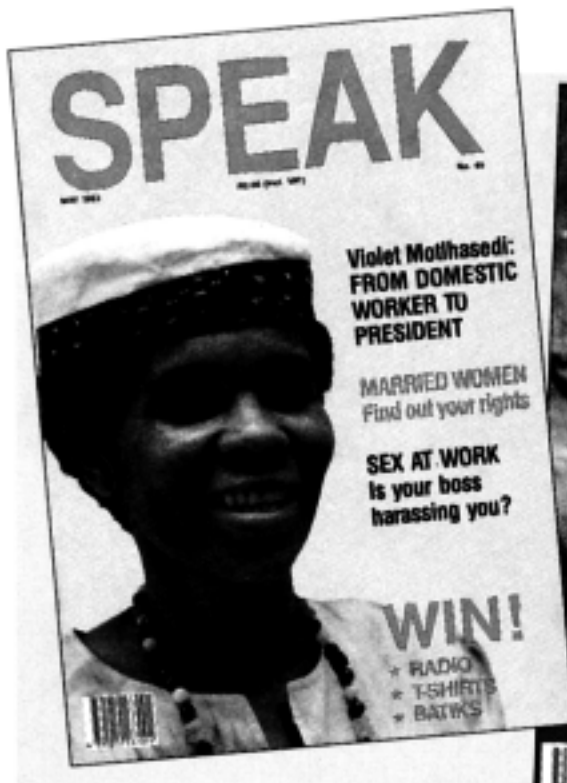
**MOJANKU
GUMBI**

**Her life
Her work
Her struggle**

**Meet top
award winner
MARY AGNES
KHUNWANA**

GIVING BIRTH
The final countdown





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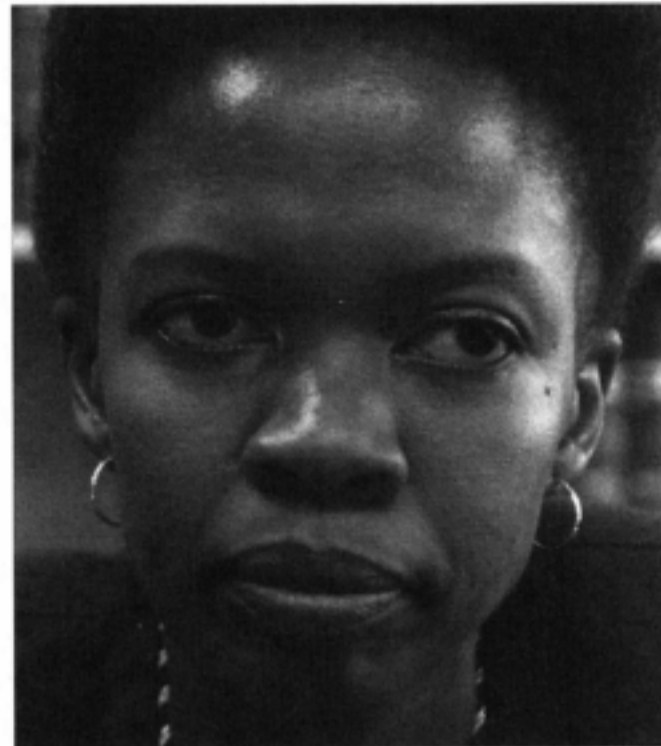
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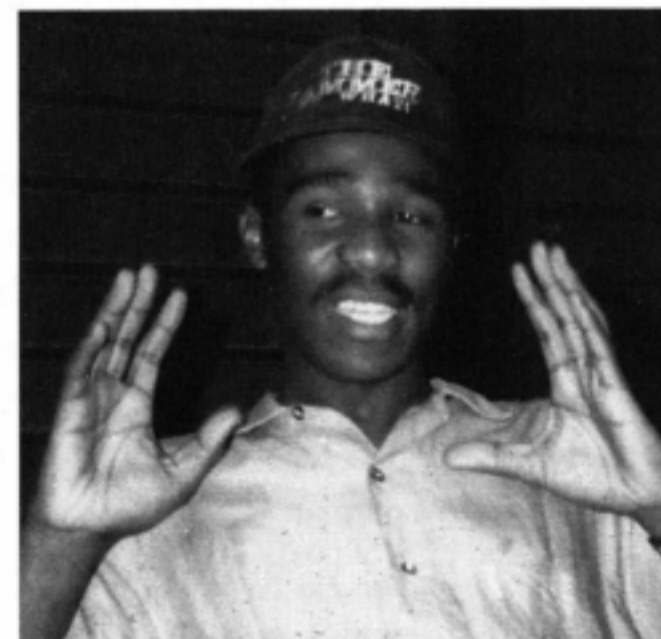
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SPEAK STAFF

DIRECTOR

Karen Hurt

EDITOR

Thoraya Pandey

JOURNALIST

Rosalee Telela

Thanks to Bobby Rodwell and Annette Griessel for assisting with this issue

PROJECT MANAGER

Jacqueline Mathabe

ADMINISTRATIVE

ASSISTANT

Pumla Baloyi

ADVERTISING

Jacqueline Mathabe

RADIO/AUDIO PROGRAMME

Libby Lloyd

Rita Thathe

Best wishes to Karen Hurt during her maternity leave

VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gill Lincoln, Nise Malange, Shamim Meer, Boitumelo Mofokeng, Helen Rees, Elinor Sisulu

SPEAK OFFICES:

Office 7, 17th Floor
Conlyn House
156 President Street
Johannesburg 2001
South Africa
Telephone: (011) 29 6166
Fax: (011) 333 5862

POSTAL ADDRESS:

SPEAK, PO BOX 261363
Excom 2023, South Africa

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COVER PHOTO:

Pumla Radu

COMMENT

This is the first issue of SPEAK in 1994. We have come into the new year celebrating, because on April 27 1994 all South Africans can cast their vote. Many of us will be scared to vote because of the violence, but we can only end the violence by voting for a government which cares about the lives of all South Africans. A government which will bring about peace. We can all bring peace to our land by voting on 27 April.

Women have a very important role to play before voting day. Encourage your organisation or party to put women candidates on the national and regional lists for that new government. The African National Congress has agreed to have one-third of all their candidates women. Congratulations to the ANC women who fought hard for this. Are other parties and organisations going to follow the example set by the ANC?

Women's participation and struggle at the multi-party negotiations bore fruit. The new Interim Constitution says "women shall be equal to men" and does not recognise customary law. It also refers to men and women instead of just men. The word "chairperson" has taken the place of "chairman". Isn't it a victory!

Let us all play a role in changing women's lives for the better. It is up to us to bring in more victories for women.

Talk Back

Nice T-shirt

Thank you for the T-shirt which you sent me and for the work you do. I believe SPEAK is a pillar of society that can be relied on to develop women and men with a constructive and positive outlook.

*WD Maobane
Witbank*

It is thanks to the support of readers like you that SPEAK grows from strength to strength. — Editor

Broken dreams

Last week I sat in a taxi with my friend Dipuo, who was very depressed. I asked her what the problem was. Dipuo tried to answer but stopped, tears flowing from her eyes. She told me how her marriage gives her problems: "Teko is a changed person. He does not give me money anymore and comes home at midnight, sometimes in the morning. He insults me in front of the small children and always says he is going to shoot me."

There was silence in the taxi as she told her story. Then one man said, "We don't want to hear your home affairs, sister." The old woman sitting next to him said, "Hey tlogela

**Thanks to all our readers who have written. Please keep your letters flowing in. We are often forced to shorten letters because of space. Send your letters to:
SPEAK
PO Box 261363
Excom 2023
Johannesburg
South Africa**

ngwanyana a bua (let her speak)." Another woman said, "Eeke kgale re idiwa jaanong re a bua (Yes, it is long that we have been silenced, now we must SPEAK)."

Dipuo alighted at the magistrates court for one good reason, she had made up her mind to divorce Teko.

As Dipuo got off the taxi, I started thinking about all the women in the world who are in marriages — and who have children — and feel that their own lives, their own dreams have been broken.

*Angeline Lesotho
Pudimoe, Northern Cape*

It is indeed a sad reality

that many women find themselves in situations where they are abused by their partners. The only way this can be changed is if more women and women's organisations get involved in the struggle for true equality between women and men. — Editor

Change that ad

I am very unhappy about an advertisement that I hear on the radio. It talks about a person's (in this case a man's) busy day at work. One of the things he is said to be doing in his "busy day" is "eyeing the secretary". I find this very objectionable and ask that the ad - or part of it - be withdrawn.

Su Grove

We certainly agree that the advertisement should be withdrawn and call on all our readers to write to the Advertising Standards Authority of South Africa, Box 41555 Craighall, 2196, JHB - as we plan to do - to complain about this. — Editor

Hani left us so much

As we lead up to elections, it is important to remember our heroes. Chris Hani's death shocked the oppressed people. The death sentence of Hani's killers will never cover the value and importance of his life.

Comrade Chris survived many attempts on his life. It was not his time to die now.

The killers thought his death would disturb the peace process. They were wrong. We will honour him with dignity.

Comrade Chris fought for people of his country, and people in other countries. He fought in many organisations like Zapu of Zimbabwe and Frelimo of Mozambique. Many comrades tell the story of Comrade Chris carrying a Zapu soldier, gun and all, on his back. The soldier had been hurt and could not walk. He led by example, not by giving orders. He also worked with Eduardo Mondlane, the leader who established Frelimo, during the hard days.

Comrade Chris was a Christian, he died for peace in the same way that Jesus Christ died for peace.

All in all, the memory of Chris Hani cannot easily be taken away by some white men. He was the greatest liberation fighter in the history of our struggle and a good negotiator. Comrade Chris left us with wonderful signals to reach freedom.

*Enoch M Witbooi
East London*

Thank you for your very inspiring tribute to a great leader. We must never forget the people who have contributed so much to the struggle for a better life for all in South Africa. — Editor

About contraceptives

I am a guy of 20 years, healthy and strong. I have a

girlfriend of 18 years who is still at school. My problem is that I am in love with her and want to have sex with her.

I am worried because, if I sleep with her, she might fall pregnant. Please give me advice on contraceptives I can use during sexual intercourse.

*Thabo
Huhudi*

The best advice I can give you is for both you and your girlfriend to go to a clinic near your home. Get advice from the sister there. Also, you can get free condoms from the clinic, and they will tell you how to use them.

— Editor

WINNERS!

The winner of the radio Matla Trust Voter Education Competition is

★ Charity Nxumalo
(Ximhunge)

Congratulations to the lucky winners of calculators

★ T G Mabasa
(Malamulele)

★ Verocia Pilane
(Lime Acres)

★ Albert Gumede
(Marine Parade)

Kwa-Sophie

No means No

Well, people in the advertising industry (most of whom are men) just don't get it. They feed us adverts like the one we see on TV for Aspro Clear.

The advert shows a man waking up his partner to offer her an Aspro in the middle of the night. He tells her it's for pain, fever, headaches.

She says she does not have a headache and he finds this an "excellent" chance for him to come on to her. And, as she realises his intentions she gets this look of disbelief and panic on her face.

Are these people trying to 'clear out' any intention on the part of women to say no to sex just because they do not have a headache?

Well, I say if men do that, women should offer to 'clear' them out of the house. Then they'll probably need that tablet.



Womandla!

One evening I decided to go buy myself a burger for supper. On my way back from the shops, a man who was walking towards me, grabbed my breast as he went past.

I did not even stop for a second, I did not say a word, I just turned around, put my burger down, walked after him and started hitting him with my fists and an umbrella I was carrying.

You should have seen the look on his face as he tried to defend himself. After a while, a security guard from one of the shops came to his rescue. This is one man for whom the words "you struck a woman, you have struck a rock" came true that night.

In her own words

A woman sent us a fax with these "sayings":

- The only problem with women is men
- When a woman makes a fool of a man, it's usually an improvement
- Boys will be boys — but men are better at it
- The average man is proof enough that women can take a joke
- Every man has it in his power to make one woman happy by remaining a bachelor
- Men prefer looks to brains because most men see better than they think!



Challenge

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Editor: Albert Nolan
Editorial Board: F. Chikane, J. Cochrane, K. Mgojo,
S. Mkhathwa, K. Mofokeng,
M. Mpumwana, B. Naudé,
B. Ncube, C. Villa-Vicencio

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Mojanku Gumbi Proud to be black

Through her involvement in the Black Consciousness Movement and her work as a lawyer, Mojanku Gumbi learnt to believe in herself and to fight against racism and sexism. Rosalee Telela spoke to her

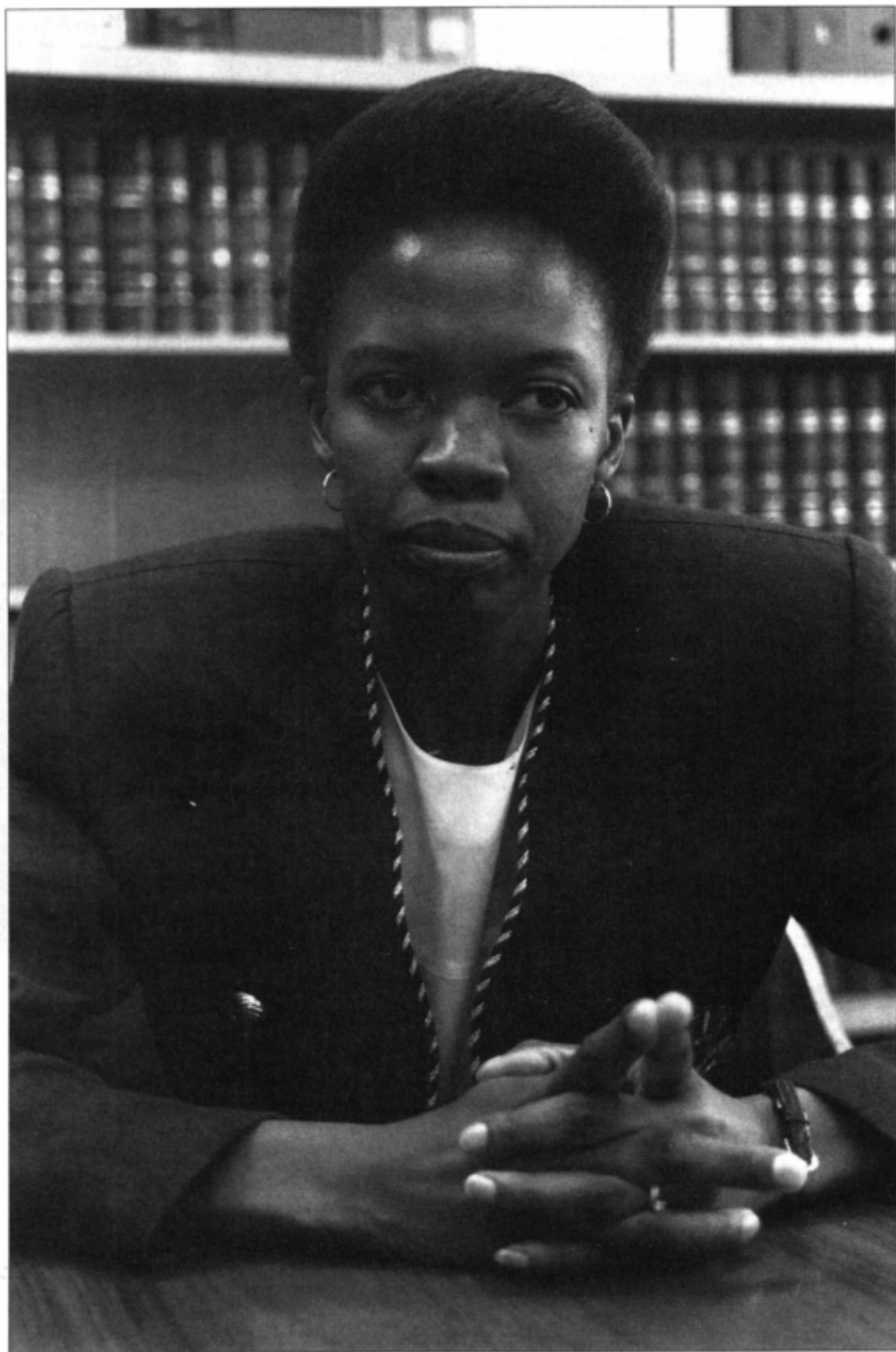
When Mojanku Gumbi was growing up, she had one wish: To become a lawyer so that she could understand why her family was poor, why she had to walk a long distance, barefoot, to school and why black people had to struggle to survive.

Her wish came true. She did not only find the answers to her questions in the law, but in her involvement in the Black Consciousness Movement. She was able to believe in herself as a black woman and work towards fighting racism and sexism.

Mojanku Gumbi was born in Thaba Nchu, Orange Free State.

"It was a rural area and the people there were very poor," she remembered.

Her ambition to become a lawyer began while she was still at school. "I thought the law was the beginning and end of everything. I saw it as one way of finding out what was happening to our people and



Advocate Mojanku Gumbi: fulfilled her childhood dream of becoming a lawyer

doing something about it.”

And this is exactly what Gumbi did. Today she practices law as an advocate in the Pretoria Bar (Supreme Court). She is a member of the Black Lawyers Association (BLA) and is the Executive Director of its Legal Education Centre. Gumbi also serves on the Turfloop University Council and the Legal Working Group of the Women's National Coalition, is the director of the Women's Development Bank and secretary of Constitutional Affairs for the Azanian Peoples Organisation (Azapo).

She finds it hard talking about herself. “If someone asked me to describe myself, I would not know what to say. I've never been one to talk about myself.”

“I work too hard. My colleagues think I drive them too hard. My family says it bothers them that I'm not there most of the time.”

Gumbi is married and has two children, an eight-year-old son and a five-year-old daughter. Her husband is a student at the University of Cape Town.

When she cannot be there for her children, she does not have to worry. “My helper lives with us full-time,” she said.

So, how hard does she work? “I usually get to the office at nine. First I do some administrative things which usually have to do with money. Then I go through a lot of letters, faxes and my diary. After that I see clients. This is usually followed by a meeting. I usually have meetings at lunch time and in the evening.”

This is only her work timetable at the BLA. It does



Photos: Compliments Mojanku Gumbi

Gumbi introducing ANC president Nelson Mandela at an event to mark the Black Lawyers Association's tenth anniversary

not include her work in Azapo and other organisations.

“It is very difficult. Having two other lawyers in Azapo has really been of a great help to me because they do most of the legal work. I only come in when it is necessary.”

But Gumbi's numerous commitments mean she is under constant pressure. “Most of the time I feel as if I'm cheating on everything. I'm not doing things properly because I have so many things to do.”

For Gumbi, working in the BLA is a rewarding experience: “Our projects are aimed at helping and developing black people who have come into the law profession, such as providing bursaries to law students.”

For her, developing black lawyers is important. “If we are really going to build a society that has some respect for the law, then the role of lawyers is going to be important.”

Being a member of both the BLA and Azapo can be difficult. The BLA does not support any political organisation and Gumbi is sometimes forced to put her political views aside.

“The BLA is taking part in

voter education programmes while Azapo is not involved in the negotiations and the voting process. But, as a BLA member, I have to get involved in voter education, even if my organisation is not going to take part in the elections.”

Gumbi explained how she deals with this situation: “When I'm invited to speak at a conference, I make it clear to the audience on behalf of which organisation I am speaking.”

Gumbi says her firm belief in Black Consciousness (BC) has made her the person she is today. “It's about who I am and how I see people and the world. It's a belief that, as a black person, you are equal to anybody.”

Does the BC view of equality include women? “I think it does. In Azapo we have pushed for the participation of women and have had a woman as president of our organisation.”

But the battle against sexism is not yet won, even in Azapo. “Azapo men think they overcame sexism a long time ago. I do not think they went all the way. When you look at



Gumbi with fellow Azapo members, Dumisa Ntsebeza (left) and Willie Seriti (right)

Photo: Phumla Radu



Gumbi: "You need to tell people what sexism means. You need to explain what sexist behaviour is and talk about sexism in such a way that ordinary people can understand."

their private lives, you actually see how badly some of them treat their partners."

She believes the understanding and practice of equality can only be won through 'people's education': "You need to tell people what sexism means.

You need to explain what sexist behaviour is and talk about sexism in such a way that ordinary people will understand. Talk to people in their own language and use situations in their homes as examples."

Gumbi gave an example to show the importance of language when organising women. "Not too long ago, we had a meeting of black women from all over the country. I was acting as the Tswana translator while others translated in Pedi, Xhosa, Zulu and so on. The women at the meeting who spoke in their own language explained what they thought the way forward for Azapo was. I was shocked to find that for so long we thought that we spoke for them, when they could easily speak for themselves.

"The minute you speak in English, you have lost 70 percent of black women, and for a long time many of us have done that.

"In speaking for themselves, women say what they want.

"Most people say women want to get out of the kitchen, but I think what women really want is to have choices. A choice to go out and work and to have the support of society or the choice to remain at home. That is the bottom line," said Gumbi.

"It is not wrong for women to support their liberation movement while at the same time pushing separately for gender equality.

"By doing this, women are saying they want to be part of the whole society," she argued.

Her message is strong and clear: "Men, just like white people, must make a clear commitment to take women as full partners. Full partners in the economic, social and cultural... in all areas of life." ★

Welcome to the new SA

In the early hours of the morning of 18 November 1993, while most South Africans were sleeping, the old apartheid South Africa was officially signed away. What does this mean?

“We the people of South Africa declare that... there is a need to create a new order in which all South Africans will be entitled to a common South African citizenship in a sovereign and democratic constitutional state in which there is equality between men and women and people of all races...”

This is the first paragraph of the new South African Interim Constitution, which was signed by political organisations at 4 am on 18 November 1993, after three difficult years of negotiations.

The Constitution is the highest law of the land. This is called an Interim Constitution because it will have to be finalised by the new government elected on April 27 next year. The new government can be taken to court if it goes

against the Constitution. A special Constitutional Court will be set up to make sure the government sticks to this law.

One thing is clear though — apartheid is gone from the law books. Men and women of all races are equal in terms of the law. This is a victory for South Africans who have been fighting for a non-racial, non-sexist, democratic society.

The signing of this document means the negotiations are over, and a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) will be set up to oversee the country until elections.

What other agreements have been made?

Election Day

● South Africans who are 18 years and older can vote in the 27 April 1994 election.

Prisoners sentenced to jail for crimes of violence or corruption, without the choice of a fine, will not be allowed to vote.

● Each voter can vote for the party they support. Every vote will be counted twice — once for the national government and once for the provincial (regional) government.

The new government

There will be national and provincial governments — but the national government will have the most power. There will be nine regions.

The new national government will be made up of a National Assembly (parliament), a Senate and a Cabinet. There will be a President (from the winning party) and two Deputy Presidents (from those parties which have more than 20 percent of the vote).

● **The Cabinet** is the most powerful structure in the country. It is made up of the President, Deputy Presidents and the Ministers. All parties with at least five percent of the vote will get places in the Cabinet.



The multi-party negotiation council which reached agreement

● There will be 400 people in the **National Assembly** — 200 national representatives, and 200 from the provinces. The party with the most votes will get the most places. If, for example, the ANC wins half the votes, it will get half the national seats.

● **The Senate** will be made up of regional representatives. Each region will have 10 members in the Senate. The Senate and the National Assembly will draw up the final constitution.

Your new rights...

● The new constitution says women shall be equal to men. It was a battle to make sure equality between men and women would be more important than customary law. Up until the last moment, traditional leaders said that customary law — which often oppresses women — should be recognised in the constitution. Women won the fight and customary law is not recognised in the Interim Constitution.

The constitution also always refers to men and women instead of just men. The word



Matla Trust

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MATLA TRUST & SPEAK**

chairperson has taken the place of chairman.

● There will be eleven official languages. This means we could hear Zulu, Tswana, Sotho, Xhosa ... spoken in parliament.

● The right to life is guaranteed. This could mean abortion will still be a crime, though some lawyers say that is not so. It is also not clear if this means the death sentence will go.

● It was decided that bantustans like Bophuthatswana should be abolished. Homelands like KwaZulu will also not be recognised any more.

● All people who lost their land because of apartheid have the right to be paid back for their loss. Claims can date back to 1913.

● Workers have the right to strike around work issues. Bosses have the right to lock-

out workers.

● Education will be a right for all South Africans.

● Detention without trial has been scrapped.

● A new national army and police force will be formed — including liberation movement armies.

The new Interim Constitution ends with these words:

*“Nkosi sikel’ iAfrika
God Seen Afrika
Morena boloka sechaba saheso
May God bless our country
Mudzimu fhatustshedza Afrika
Hosi katekisa Afrika*

Now it is up to us all to help make this blessing come true by voting wisely in the April 27 elections. ★

**COMPETITION
WIN A RADIO!**

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

■ Are you going to vote on 27 April 1994? (Tick the right block)

Yes No Unsure

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 February 1994. The winner will be announced in the May issue of SPEAK.



Photo: Mbuzeni Zulu, Sowetan

on an Interim Constitution

**When Mary Agnes
Khunwana won
the Community
Builder of the Year
Award in
November last
year, it was a
dream come true.
Bobby Rodwell
spoke to her**

“I was very surprised. I thought someone else would win. I did not believe the project was good enough and did not have enough faith in the work I have done”, said Mary Agnes Khunwana.

Khunwana is the winner of the Adult Section of the Sowetan, CCV, Old Mutual Community Builder of the Year Award for 1993.

She won the award for setting up a clinic in the garage of her home in the Western Transvaal township of Khuma.

When SPEAK first wrote a story about Takalani (which means joy) Clinic in 1991, Khunwana told us: “There are no decent facilities for women to give birth in this area. There is a provincial hospital, Tsepong, in Klerksdorp, which is so overcrowded that women who have just given birth often have to share a bed.”

Khunwana said although the Vaal Reefs Mines Hospital — where she worked as a sister — accepted family members of mine workers, it only had six beds at the time.

“Provincial hospital services are open to all now, but we are in CP (Conservative Party)

Khuma's pride



Khunwana with a baby in an incubator

country here. Black people simply do not go to white hospitals,” she added.

“Many women have babies at home, which often result in death. Sometimes the baby or both mother and baby die.

“One has to understand that Khuma is in a mining area. After the influx control laws were scrapped in 1986, women could join their husbands or boyfriends. This meant there was a growing need for decent maternity services. But there were none.

“I got to the point where I could not watch this happening any more. I resigned from the Vaal Reefs Mines Hospital, and with my final salary, all the savings I had and my pension

fund, I opened Takalani Clinic, believing that it would bring joy to the women of Khuma,” Khunwana told SPEAK.

Things have been very difficult for her and Takalani Clinic. Although people and businesses donated some equipment and patients paid a small fee, most of the money to run the clinic was paid in by Khunwana herself.

“That is why the award meant so much to me,” she said.

The award acknowledges the work Khunwana has done for her community — and Takalani certainly has done a lot. When SPEAK first visited the clinic in 1991, three babies had been

and joy



Khunwana outside the clinic with one of the babies delivered there

delivered. Today about 1 500 babies have been delivered at the clinic. "In the beginning, it was mainly women from the local squatter camp who used the clinic. Today it is women from all over Khuma," Khunwana said.

We asked her how the Khuma community responded to the setting up of the clinic, and her getting the award.

"To me the clinic belongs to the community. And I think the community sees it that way as well. When we had our first birthday party in 1992, people from all the organisations in the community came to celebrate the development of Takalani.

"When I won this award, the community rejoiced. People

have been coming to the clinic every day to thank me for turning the nation's eye to the Western Transvaal, an area which is often forgotten about."

SPEAK asked Khunwana about Takalani's future. "We are busy working on an Outreach Programme. We have 11 health workers who go to people's homes in Khuma. They visit women who have had babies, people suffering from HIV and AIDS and the disabled. The Roman Catholic Church in the area donates food to Takalani, and the health workers distribute it on their rounds. We have managed to get sponsorship to pay the health workers, and from next year they will be getting

"To me the clinic belongs to the community... When I won the award, the community rejoiced. People have been coming to the clinic every day to thank me for turning the nation's eye to the Western Transvaal, an area which is often forgotten about."

formal training at Alexandra Health Centre.

"The R10 000 given by the award will go towards the new clinic we plan to build. At the moment Takalani has only six beds. With so many deliveries, we need to move to a bigger clinic," she added.

Khunwana also received some of the award money for herself.

"It was wonderful getting R5 000 for my own personal use. There were times when I told myself that I should go back to work and forget about the clinic because I needed to earn a salary again. Then I would look at my patients and think, how could I leave them? If Takalani closed down, they would have nowhere to go.

"I have no regrets and every moment has been worth it. It is better to help people than to earn a good salary for yourself. My wealth has been seeing women have more control over where and how they want to give birth. That has been my satisfaction." ★

In South Africa today, men get jobs more easily than women and have better chances of being trained in different skills.

Women struggle to get jobs because they "do not have the skills". Women workers also face job discrimination and are the first to be retrenched.

Most of the top positions in trade unions, which should represent all workers, are held by men.

These are some of the issues Crecentia Mofokeng has been dealing with since she joined the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) in 1990.

Mofokeng started as a trainer in Nactu's education unit.

"When I saw no work was being done on the problems that women workers have, and there wasn't a women's co-ordinator, I decided to do something about it."

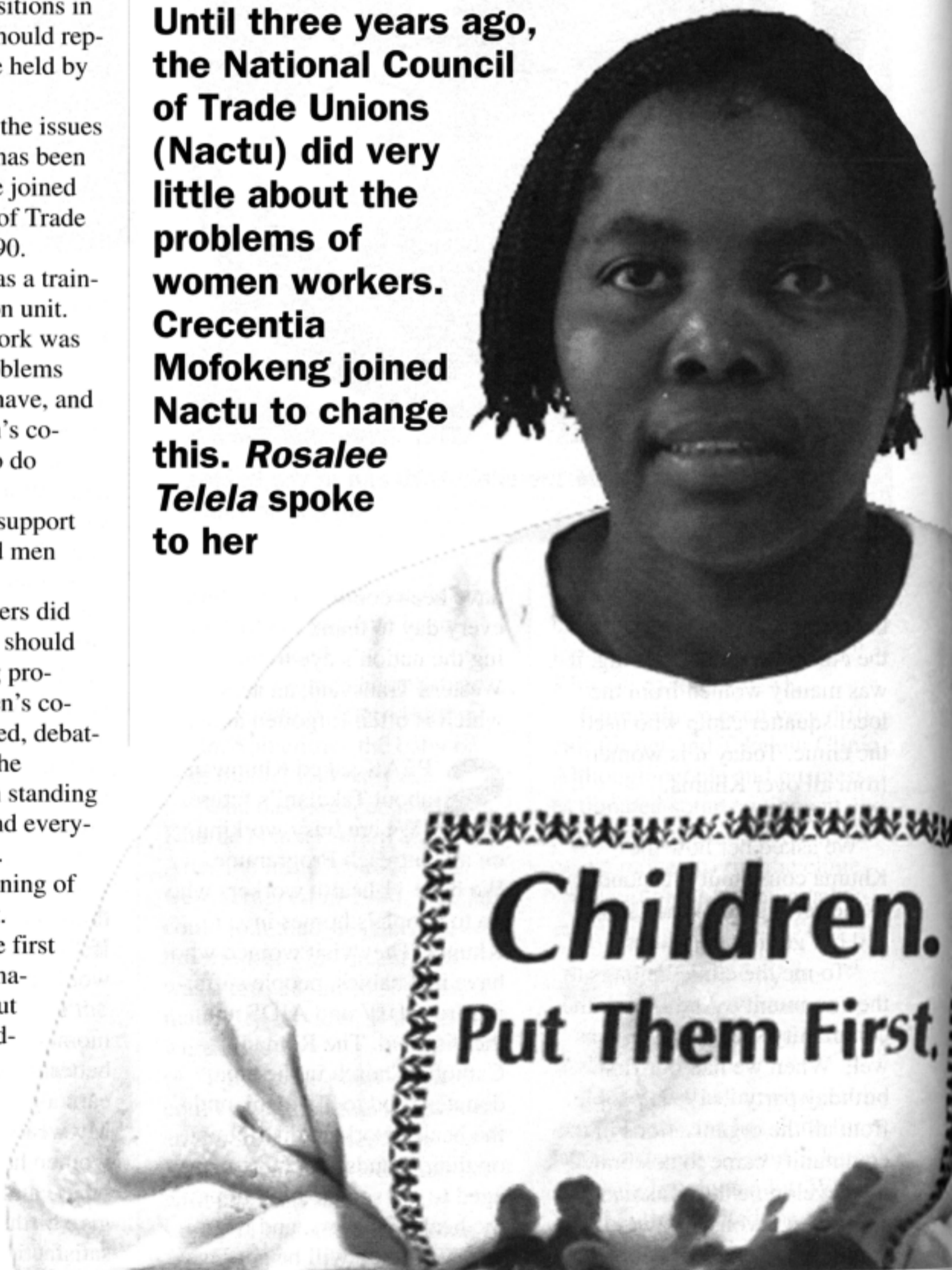
She got very little support from both women and men workers.

"The women workers did not agree that women should have separate training programmes and a women's co-ordinator. We discussed, debated and argued about the importance of women standing together, and in the end everyone agreed," she says.

This was the beginning of Nactu's women's unit. Mofokeng became the first Nactu gender co-ordinator. The unit started out to train women in leadership skills in their unions and to put women's issues on Nactu's agenda. Today women have won the right to hold their own work-

Nactu works for women

Until three years ago, the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) did very little about the problems of women workers. Crecentia Mofokeng joined Nactu to change this. Rosalee Telela spoke to her



shops, something they really had to struggle hard for.

"In these workshops, women talk about problems they have not been able to speak of before," says Mofokeng.

She says, as workers, women face the same problems as their male co-workers, such as low pay, racial discrimination, long hours, no pension and bad working conditions. "But, as women, we also face other problems, such as a lack of maternity rights and child-care facilities."

Women's health and safety at work is also a big problem.

"Women complain of standing all day, lifting heavy things without proper training or help, poor toilet facilities and slippery floors. On top of this, there is a lot of sexual harassment at work from male supervisors," says Mofokeng.

Women not only have problems with employers in the workplace, but also with union officials.

"Often

women shop stewards complain of male union officials sexually harassing them. Because of this, women choose not to stand for election, and unions and their members suffer because they miss the skills and qualities women can bring," says Mofokeng.

For the first time, women in Nactu have started to question the unions' commitment in taking up women workers' problems. "Most shop stewards, organisers and negotiators are men. When they negotiate with bosses, they do not negotiate on behalf of women, not because they do not want to, but because they are not well informed on women's issues and problems."

She sees women taking part in union activities as a way of dealing with this problem: "The only way women can have confidence is through education.

"Women have to realise that men learnt how to be shopstewards and organisers. They were not born leaders," she added.

The support for the women's unit is growing in Nactu, which has 24 affiliated unions. When gender training programmes are

run, each union sends five women for training.

During 1993, six workshops took place. Some of the issues discussed and debated were the role of women in trade unions, Nactu's policy on women's participation, how AIDS affects women workers and women in the economy. Always high on the agenda is sexual harassment in the workplace and in trade unions.

The Nactu leadership are only allowed to come to these workshops once we plan our programme of action.

Mofokeng explains: "These workshops are very important as women need to feel comfortable when discussing problems.

"But, at the same time," adds Mofokeng, "men should be part of discussions around the problems women workers face, if women are to gain respect and equality in society and in the workplace."

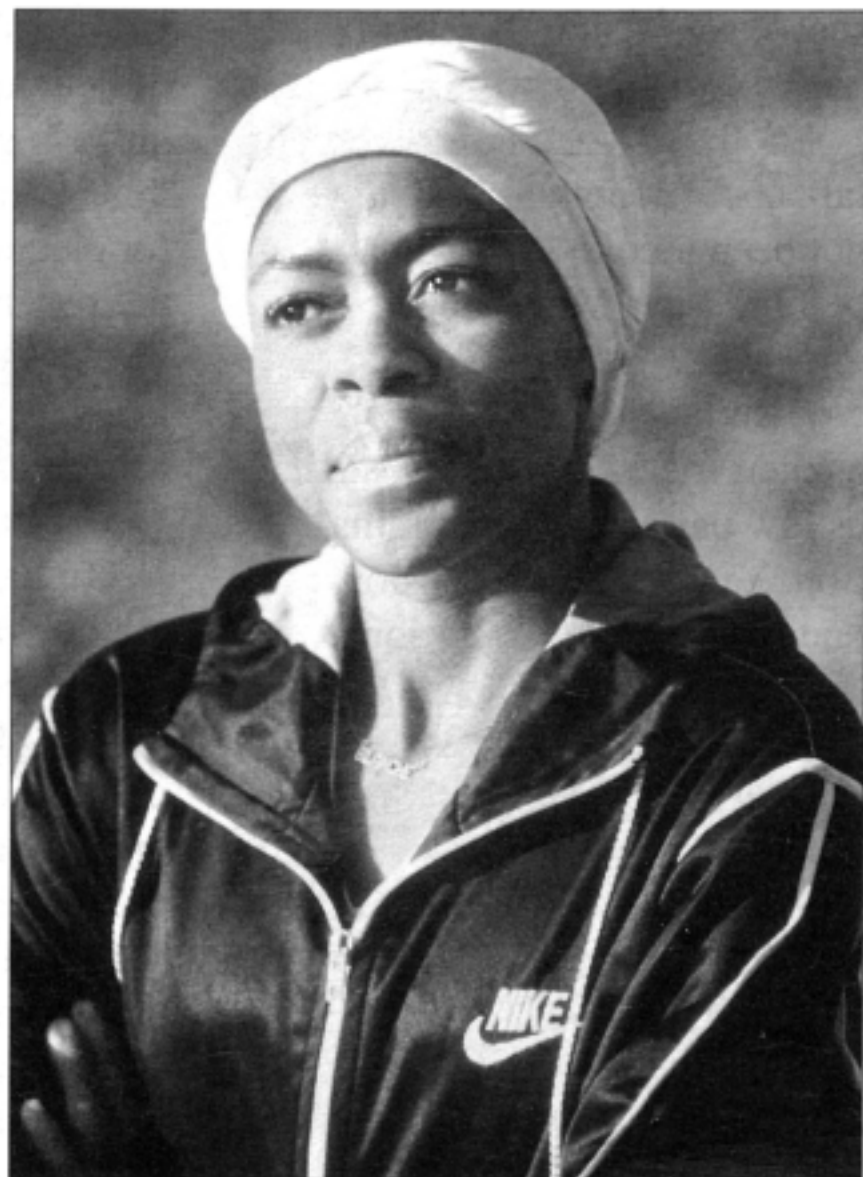
"I hope that, in the future, Nactu's women's programmes will be part of the general training programmes for all unionists within Nactu," says Mofokeng. ☼

Photo: SPEAK

"Often women shop stewards complain of male union officials sexually harassing them. Because of this, women choose not to stand for election and unions and their members suffer because they miss the skills and qualities women can bring."

Women on the right track

Athletics is becoming increasingly popular in South Africa. But men steal most of the limelight while women remain in the shadows. Cheryl Roberts looks at why so few black women take part in athletics



Photos: Julian Drew

Blanche Moila, one of the pioneers

The African continent has produced many outstanding women athletes who have gone on to become world Olympics champions. There's Ethiopia's Derartu Tulu, Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria and Maria Moutula of Mozambique. But it hasn't always been like this.

For decades, only African men competed in international sports events. Many people believed that African women do not play sport at all.

In the 1990s, African women's participation in sport began to increase. At the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, Derartu Tulu and Hassiba Boulmerka won gold medals and South Africa's Elana Meyer won a silver medal.

Athletics is one of South Africa's biggest sports. Road running is very popular among black men, and they dominate championship victories.

Today, more and more black women are taking part in athletics, particularly road running, and are also coming up as champions.

Lydia Mofula of Sebokeng became the first black woman to win national colours when she represented South Africa in a road relay in Japan last year. Mofula said the woman who gave her inspiration was well-known Durban athlete Blanche Moila.

"I used to see Blanche Moila on TV and in magazines. I thought, if she can do it then so can I," she said.

But Mofula, like many other black women athletes, had to battle to get companies to sponsor her.

"Many athletes who I beat regularly get free shoes, and even though I've been running well for many years, no one offered to help me," she said.

For years Blanche Moila

was the only black woman runner in the country. Her participation, with successful results, has served as an inspiration to many women. She told SPEAK how she became a runner. "I was never into athletics. While doing my nursing training, a doctor friend asked me to take part in race. I really enjoyed the race and didn't do too badly. I started running competitively and, in 1982, was awarded Natal cross country colours," said Moila.

She went on to win junior Springbok colours in 1983 and, in 1984, was awarded full Springbok colours. For many years, Moila held all the long distance titles in Natal. She has also represented South Africa in other countries.

Moila hasn't given up her love for running. "I'm always keen to see how long I can go



Louisa Leballo winning the women's race at the Soweto 10 km Fun Run – January 1993

and to improve my time. It motivates me.”

She said women do not take part in sport because of customs and traditions. “Men do not want women to run because they believe women



Lydia Mofula running for South Africa at the 1993 World Cross Country Championships in Spain

have to be in the kitchen. Some people even believe that you will not be able to have children if you exercise a lot. This is not true,” added Moila.

How can such ideas be challenged? “We should begin at school. Children must be told it is okay for girls to take part in sport. We also need to hold seminars about women in sport so women can gain the confidence to go out there and take part in any sport they want to.”

Winning has never been the most important thing for Moila: “Anybody can be a runner. You don’t have to win to be a winner, it’s achieving your goal that is important.”

Louisa Leballo is still at school. She is already a junior international and has participated in events in Spain and Germany. She is considered as one of South Africa’s best hopes for international honours in the year 2000 and beyond.

For the several black women who are competitive athletes it has not been easy. Three main factors affect women’s participation:

- Cultural traditions,
- The apartheid system, which provided no facilities in the townships and rural areas, and
- Patriarchy, which means women have to face the double burden of working and taking care of their families. Because of this, women have no time for sport and leisure.

Leaders of sport agree that black women face much discrimination. If black sportswomen are to realise their potential, they will need assistance on all levels. It is important that they alone don’t bear the brunt of domestic responsibilities. Sponsors, too, must realise that by deliberately ignoring black women’s participation in sport they are actively contributing to the gender and racial imbalance.

Because of apartheid and very little or no opportunities, black women are yet to make their mark in international sport.

South Africa has a pool of talent among black women, but much assistance and co-operation is needed to release this talent and make South Africa a proud sporting nation. ★

Our Time To Choose

A Comic Story about Voting

Chapter 1

Our Time to Choose is a 6-part story about voting in South Africa's first democratic election. In this election, all South Africans, 18 years and older, will be able to vote. Your vote will help to shape the future of our country. But, in order to make informed choices, we need to understand what this election is about, and how the voting process works.

Our Time to Choose is about a rural community that decides to find out more about the election and sends two delegates, Thembi and Tshepo, to a voter education workshop in a nearby city. The knowledge they gain is then shared with the whole community.

The story explores common issues that face many South Africans who will be voting for the first time. The story offers you, the reader, a chance to share in the election process as our characters question, discuss and learn more about democracy and voting.

In this first chapter of our story, we join the rural village community as they discuss the forthcoming election. They realise that they need more information about the election. Our main characters, Thembi and Tshepo, approach Father Amos from the local church for help.

We hope that you enjoy the story.



Matla Trust

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.

**independent forum for
electoral educaXion**

CAST OF CHARACTERS



Thembi
Leader of Unity
sewing co-operative



Tshepo
A student in Standard 9
at the local school



Father Amos
A minister of
the local church



Ma Thabo
The head of
Progress stokvel
and an influential
community member



Karl, Chris & Bongli
Voter education workshop facilitators.

CHAPTER
1

One afternoon in a village somewhere in South Africa.

Oh, my back is killing me. I hope the rains come this year. If they don't, our children will go hungry.

I believe the rains will come, ma.

I've also got hope but it's not the rains I'm waiting for. They say there is going to be an election.

Don't tell me about elections, my boy. They're just dirty tricks!

He introduced us to a somebody and said: "Vote for this man and your lives will improve."

Ghai The only thing that changed was the chief got a big car.

I remember when our chief first called us to a voter meeting.

We were so hopeful. Everybody voted for that man.

And now we call the chief "Chief Promises." And no one bothers to vote anymore.

Except the pensioners. They are afraid they won't get their pensions.

The election I am talking about will really make a difference. It is not just another homeland election.

This election is for everyone in South Africa.

You are dreaming, mfana!

No, ma, this is the new South Africa!

New South Africa? It looks like the same old South Africa to me.

No, baba, things are changing. Today you can be a member of the ANC or the PAC and they won't put you in jail.

And look what happened after they unbanned those political organisations. You youth started turning against your elders and boycotting your schools.

I don't want anything to do with an election - it will just cause more trouble.

I was very hopeful when the mouths of those organisations were opened. But nothing has changed - the whites are still in power.

Now we are all fighting each other.

I don't think the vote will change anything.

I can't believe you people are saying these things! We have been suffering for so long under the white Government.

At last we have won the chance to vote for our own government. Do you want to throw that chance away?



Tshepo is right! We need to vote for leaders who know how we have suffered. Leaders who will listen to our cries.



We need jobs, water and better education.



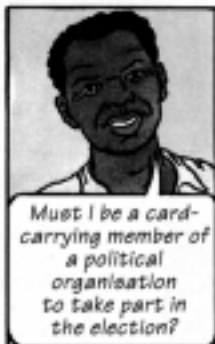
We have dreamed of a better life for so long. Everyone must vote in this election!



Ngwanaka, tell me more about this election. When is it going to take place?



Will we be voting at the Tribal Authorities?



Must I be a card-carrying member of a political organisation to take part in the election?



I don't know...



You are asking a boy who has never voted before about an election!

Mkhulu, I have voted before! In my school we voted for the SRC by putting up our hands.



Do you mean that all people in South Africa are going to put up their hands?

What about those people who don't have hands?



Lieten, Tshepo, we must invite someone to come and tell us about this election.



Who will come here? Our leaders never bother to come and speak to us.

We in the rural areas are always left in the dark.

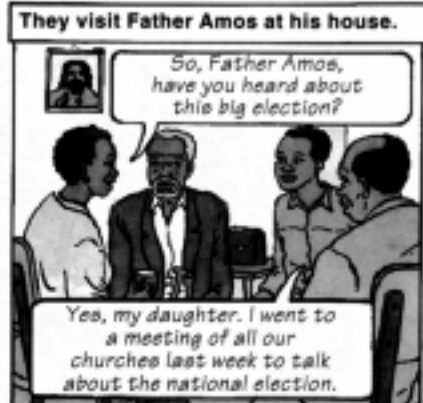


LATER.

They're right! Nobody cares about us in the rural areas.



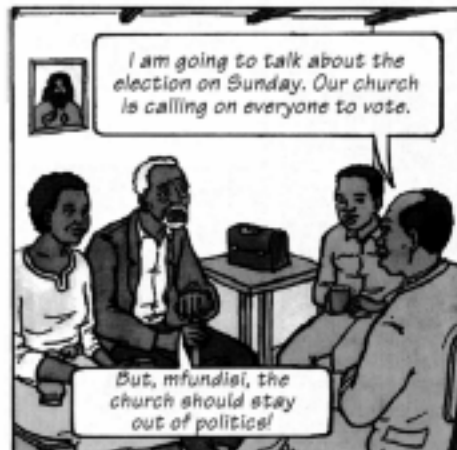
Hey! Let's go and see Father Amos. Maybe he can help us.



They visit Father Amos at his house.

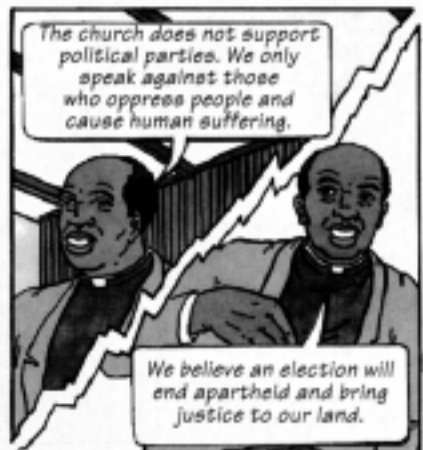
So, Father Amos, have you heard about this big election?

Yes, my daughter. I went to a meeting of all our churches last week to talk about the national election.



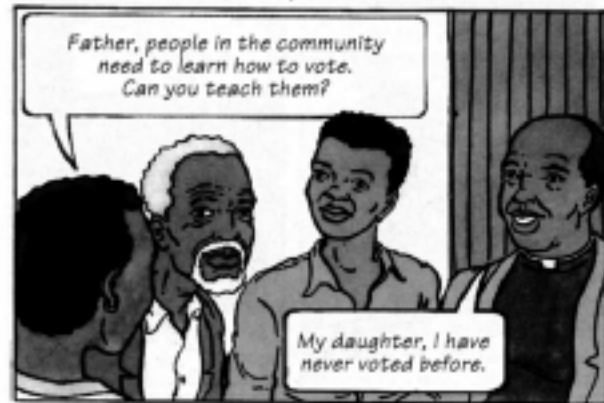
I am going to talk about the election on Sunday. Our church is calling on everyone to vote.

But, mfundisi, the church should stay out of politics!



The church does not support political parties. We only speak against those who oppress people and cause human suffering.

We believe an election will end apartheid and bring justice to our land.



Father, people in the community need to learn how to vote. Can you teach them?

My daughter, I have never voted before.



But I will try to find out more information about voting for you.

Our Time To Choose

A Comic Story about Voting

Chapter 2

This is the second episode of Our Time to Choose, a 6-part story about ordinary people preparing themselves to vote in South Africa's first democratic election.

In the story so far, we joined the community of a rural village as they discussed the forthcoming election. The main characters in our story, Thembi and Tshepo, came to realise that their community needed more information about the election. They approached Father Amos from the local church for help. Father Amos agreed to find out more information for them. Our Time to Choose aims to

provide first-time voters, of 18 years and older, with information about the voting process. The story explores the common issues that many South Africans are facing as we approach the election. It offers you, the reader, a chance to share in the election process with our characters as they question, discuss and learn more about democracy and voting.

In this chapter of the story, we follow Thembi and Tsepo as they make preparations, with the help of the community, to go to a voter education workshop in a nearby city.



Matla Trust

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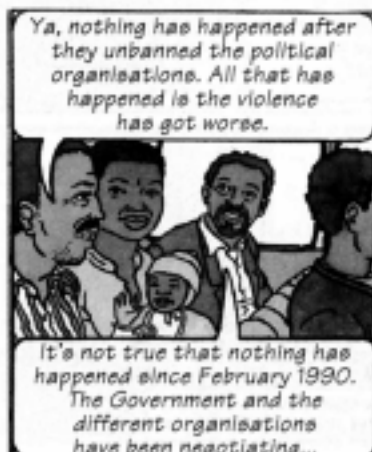
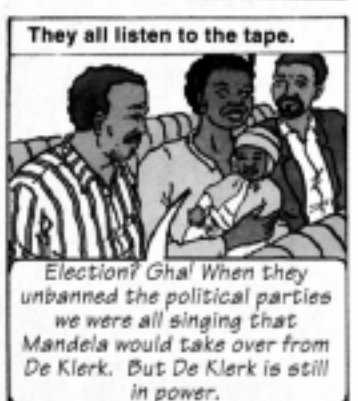
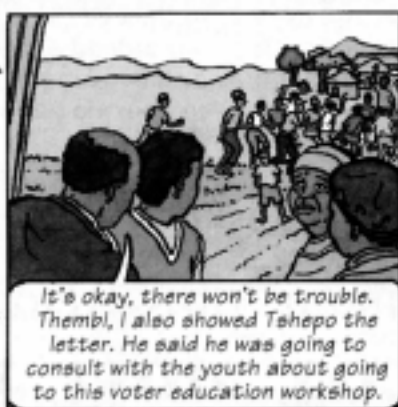
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Who is calling this election - the Government? I think it's just another one of De Klerk's tricks!

No, mfana, the election was decided at the negotiations.

Elections ... negotiations ... these things have nothing to do with me.

Siel, I think maybe you and I can negotiate...

Be serlous, brother. This is no joke.

But it's the police and the army that I'm worried about!

The police and the army will be monitored by the TEC. They will have to protect everyone on election day.

What is this TEC?

TEC stands for Transitional Executive Council. It is made up of people from all the parties in negotiations.

The TEC will have the power to change government decisions before elections.

This election is a victory for all those who fought for democracy. It means we will have our freedom!

And we will have peace at last.

Ai, it will be a great thing to feel free and safe in our own country!

Ya, a democratic government will put an end to these senseless killings. The new government and the police will track down the killers.

What about radio and TV? Everyone knows the SABC favours the Nationalist party.

Don't worry. There will be an Independent Media Commission to check that the SABC is fair to all parties.

Yes. And the newspaper said that S'dumo will be acting in a TV programme about voting!

Gha! But what about now? We will not even be safe to vote in these elections.

Yes, that is something I also worry about...

People are too quick to fight with each other when they disagree.

Hmmm. Maybe I must find out more about voting.

Let's build a better world.

Things are really starting to happen.

How to write a CV

What is a Curriculum Vitae?

Curriculum Vitae are Latin words which mean "personal history". A CV, as it is called, should have your:

- contact details,
- personal history,
- educational background,
- work experience,
- interests and hobbies.

A CV is sent with a letter when you apply for a job or a bursary. The job advertisement will tell you if you should send a CV with your letter of application. Even if the job advertisement does not tell you to send a CV, it is a good idea to send one anyway, so that the company can see the kind of person you are.

CV's must be neat

As with all formal documents, your CV should be neat, clear and to the point. There are a number of different ways of writing out a CV. Choose a style that is simple and easy to read.

- If you have access to a typewriter, type your CV. If not, hand write it neatly.
- CV's should be well laid out. Break it up into sections, for example, personal details, educational background, and so on.
- Skip two lines between the different sections.
- Make sure that all your details are in the CV.

In the second article on job skills, SPEAK looks at how to write a Curriculum Vitae (CV)

When is a CV used?

A CV is usually sent with your job application form, or you can take it with you to the job

interview. Unless a CV is specifically asked for, it is usually not necessary to include it when applying for admission to a tertiary institute or for a bursary.

An example of a CV

CURRICULUM VITAE: NOMALANGA QAMATA

Home address	89 Cele Street Zone Five Diepkloof 1864
Telephone number	(011) 938-1456
Postal address	P O Box 2389 Diepkloof 1864
PERSONAL DETAILS	
First Name	Nomalanga Mary
Surname	Qamata
Date of Birth	10 July 1950
Nationality	South African
Home Language	Xhosa
Other languages	English and Zulu
EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND	
High School	Thaba Jabula High School Highest Standard: Standard Eight
Subjects Passed	Maths, Biology, English, Xhosa, Afrikaans, History

2

Leadership Roles

Chairperson Student Representative Council

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

Name of Company

Fanfare Paper Company
P O Box 1837
Johannesburg
2000

Post Held

Administrator

Main Job Function

Answering telephones, typing, handling clients, office duties

Dates

1970 to 1987

Name of Company

Womens Co-operative
P O Box 7452
Chiawelo
1818

Post held

General Secretary

Main Job Function

Organising and running the co-operative
All administrative duties
Ordering material
Arranging of merchandise

Dates

1988 to 1993

Reasons for leaving

The co-operative is closing down

Hobbies and Interests

Reading poetry

References

1. Ms Bongzi Matthews
Manager
Women's Co-operative
P O Box 7452
Chiawelo
1818
Telephone: 984 1976
2. Ms Ellen Brown
Human Resources
Fanfare Paper Company
P O Box 1837
Johannesburg
2000
Telephone: 29 5342

As with all formal documents, your CV should be neat, clear and to the point. Choose a style that is simple and easy to read

Give two references

Ask two people if they would mind being your referees. A referee is someone who can be contacted to give information about you to the company. A referee could be someone who knows you from:

- school,
- a former workplace,
- church, or
- a social club

Make sure the people you have asked to be your referees have agreed to this. The company will contact them to ask if you are suitable for the job.

What happens when details of your life change?

CV's can be written and easily updated when it is necessary. Once you have the document, it is easy to make the changes to it.

You can make your CV look attractive, but remember that it is important to keep it simple and neat. ✪

● In our next issue we will look at going for job interviews

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: Elmond 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.

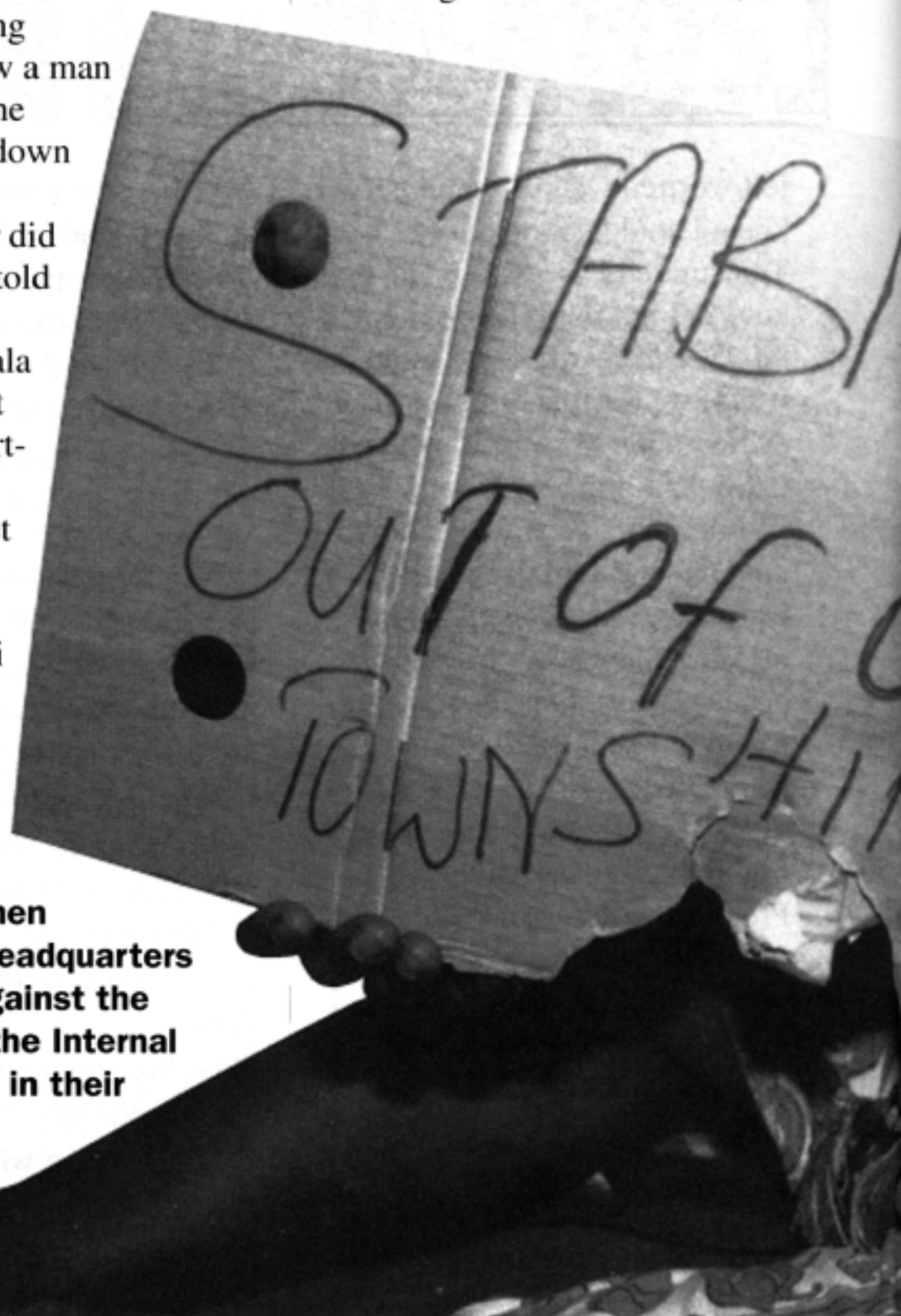
She said, after the driver dropped off two women carrying babies, she saw a man indicating to the driver to turn down a road.

“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

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

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



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.

“**A**s 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.

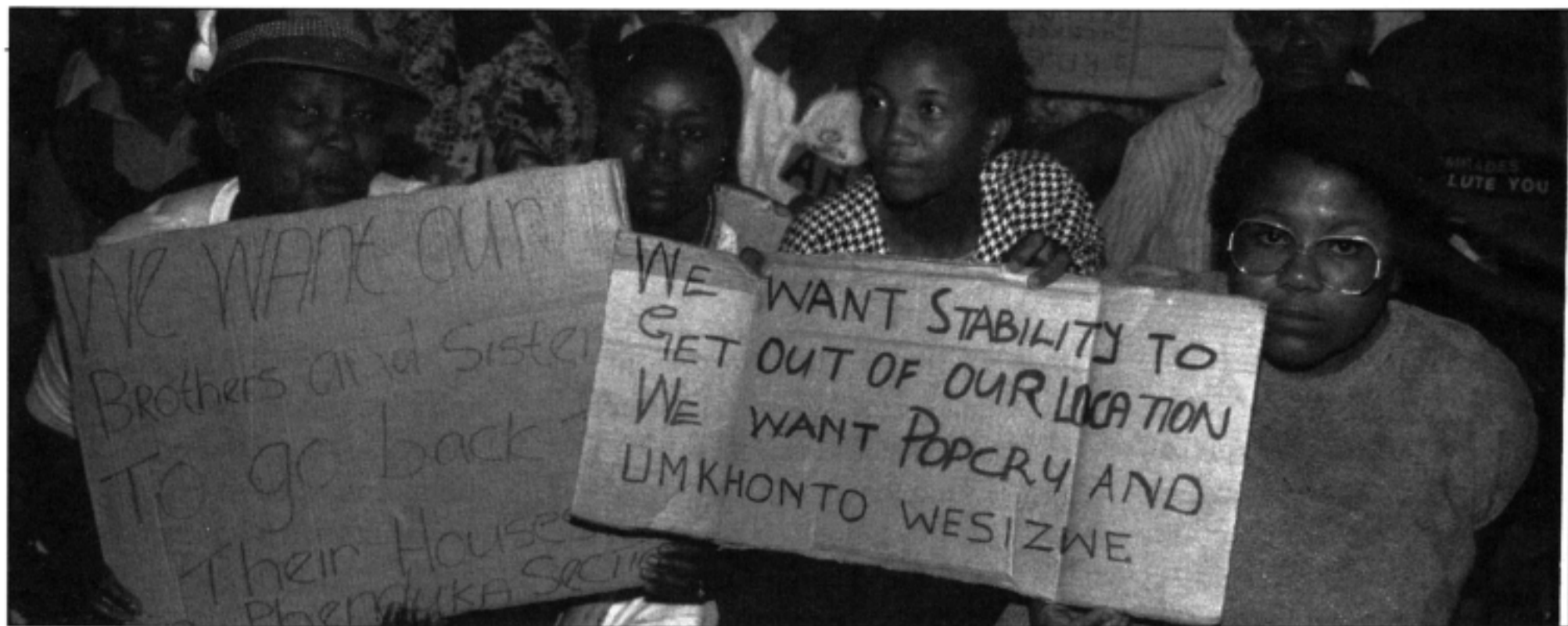
“When I got to her house, I was told the family had found the woman’s body in the Germiston Mortuary.”

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 Radu





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

HEALTH BRIEFS

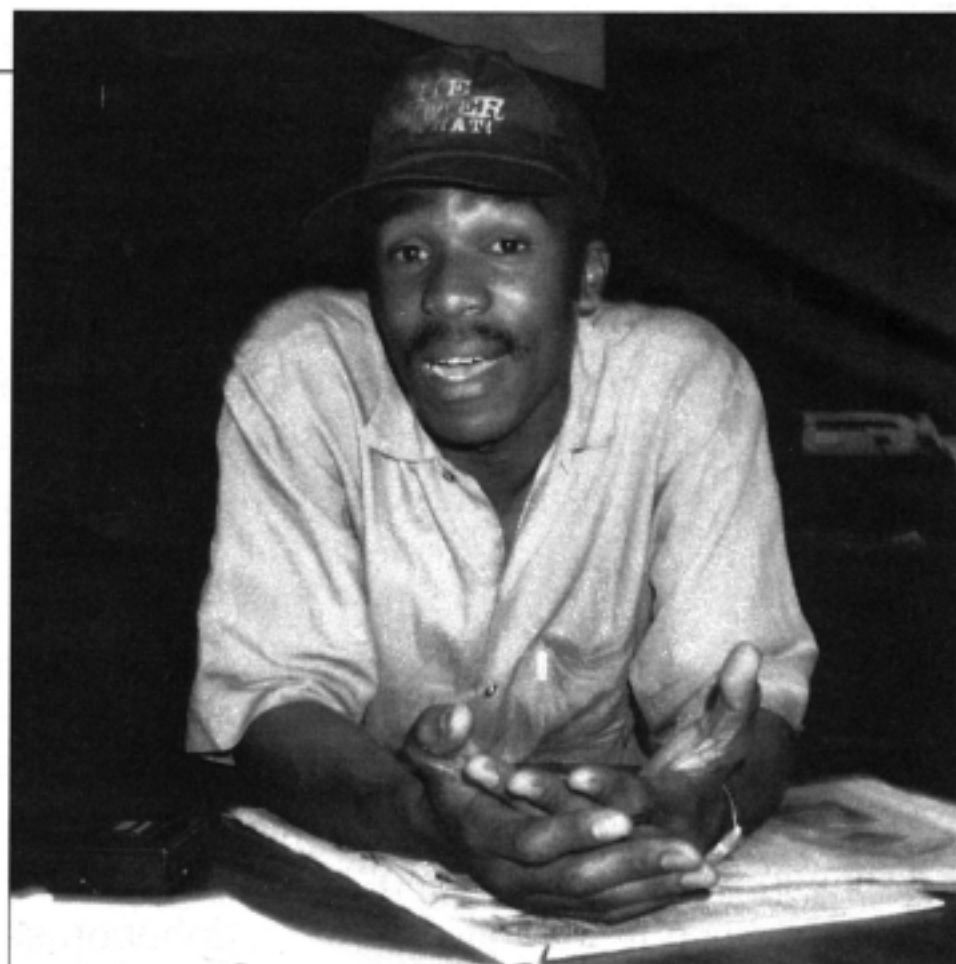
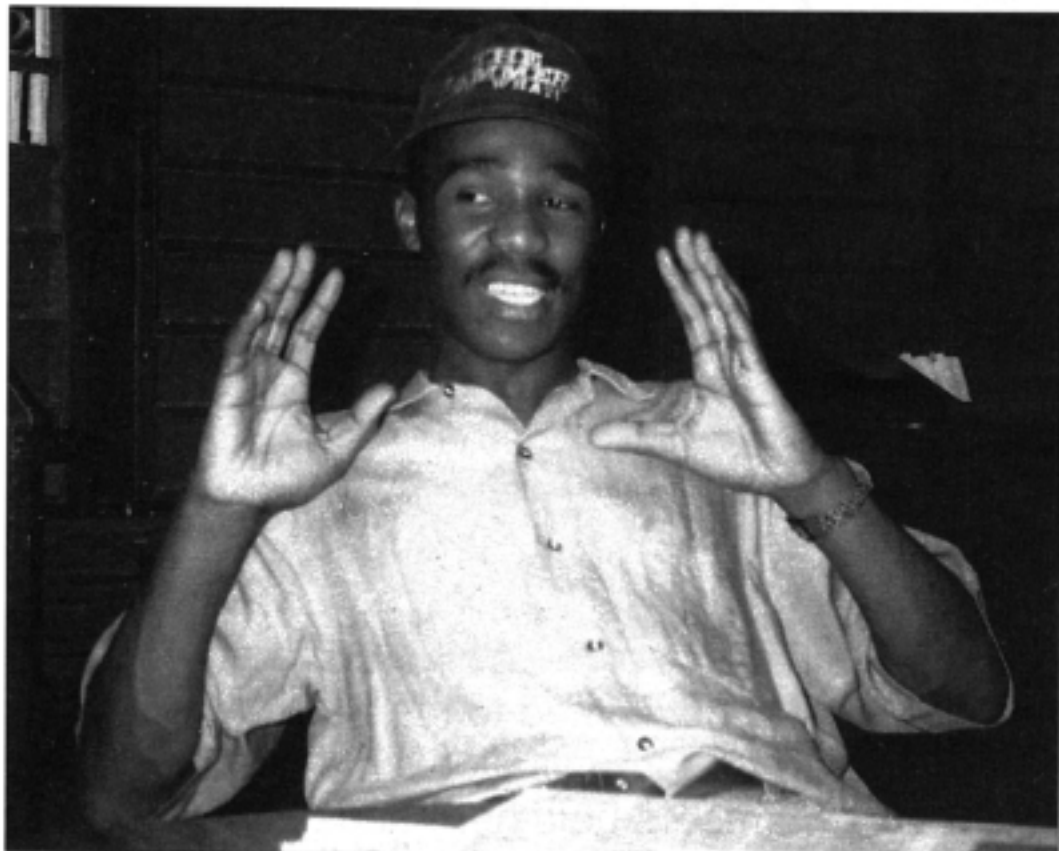
the United States and Canada found that the risk of getting lung cancer, for women who smoked 20 cigarettes a day, was three times higher than for men.

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

'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. ✪



Photos: Rosalene Tetelela, SPEAK

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 Attridgeville, 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

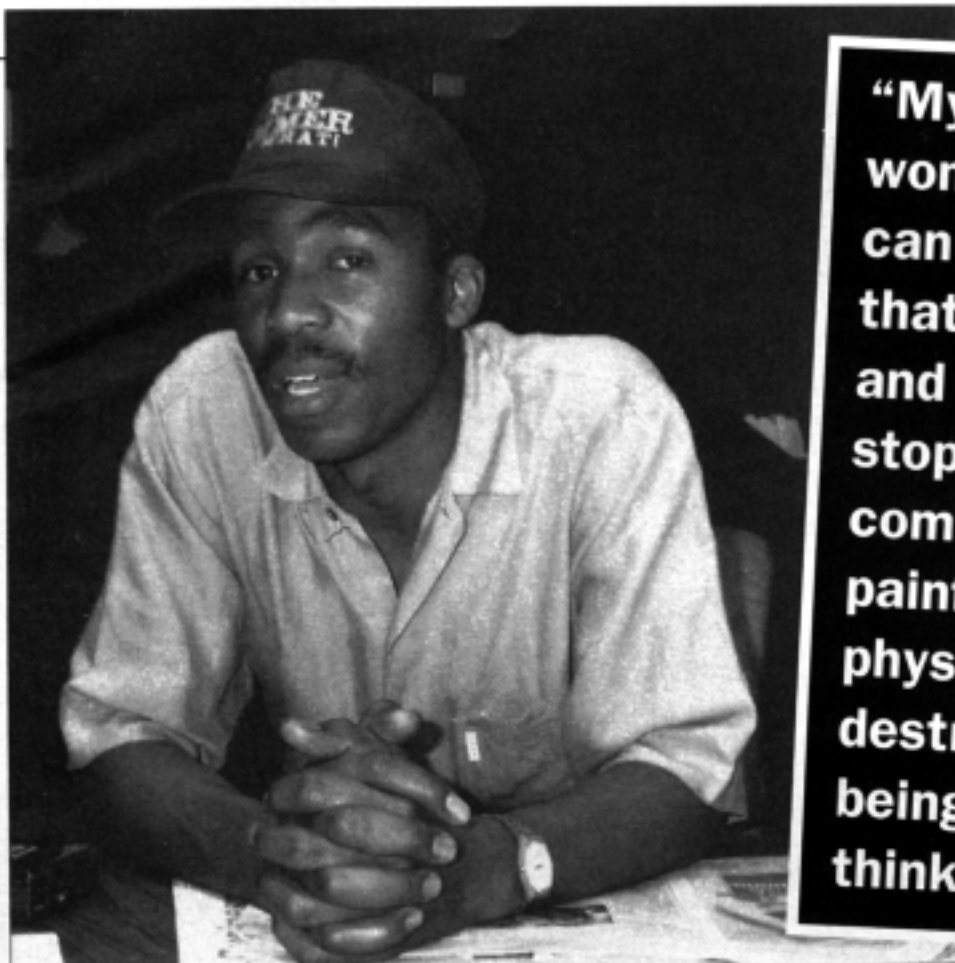
my children.

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

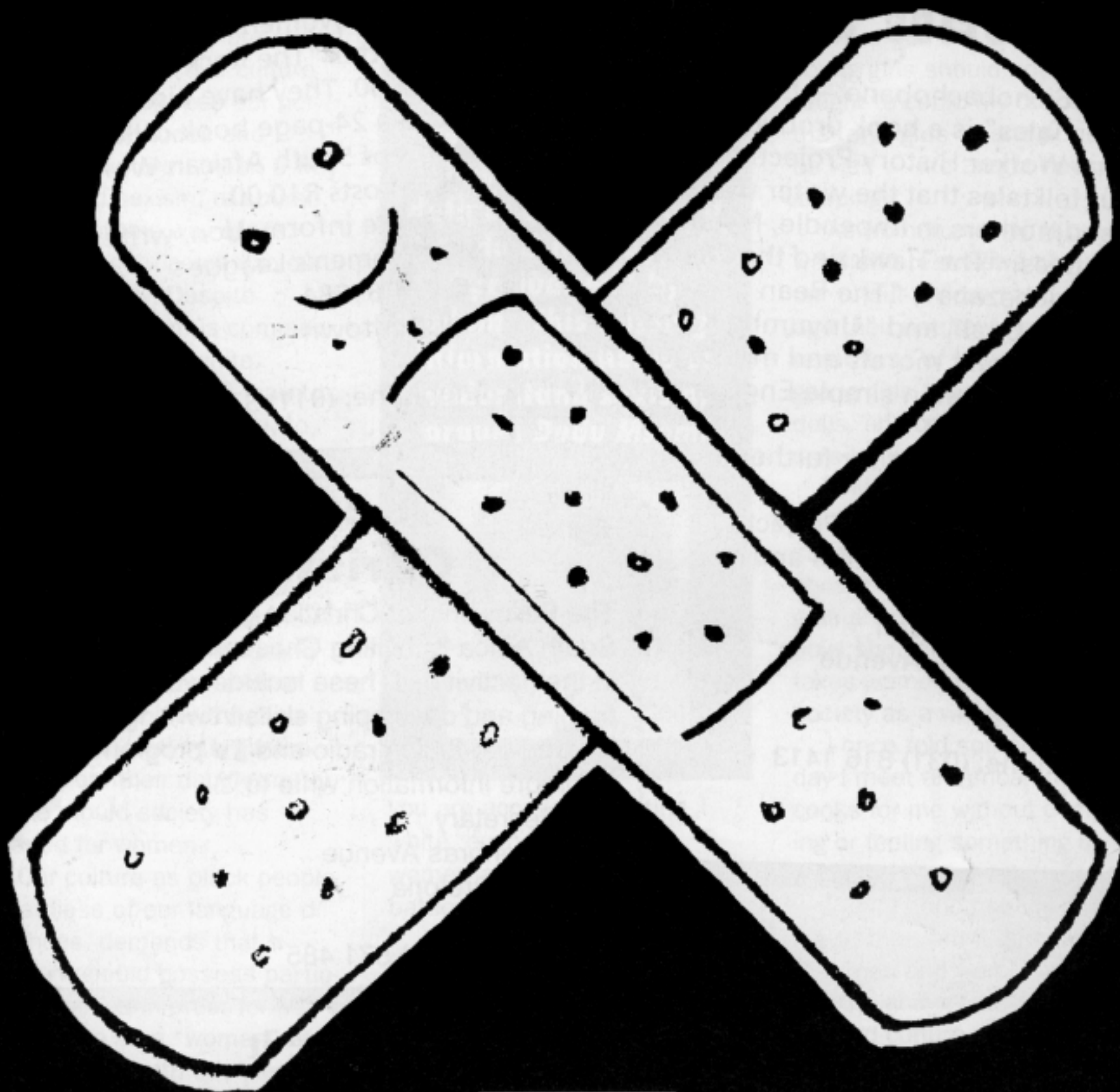
All Open Schools must have it

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

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