

# SPEAK

MAY 1993

R2.00 (incl. VAT)

No. 49



**Violet Motlhasedi:  
FROM DOMESTIC  
WORKER TO  
PRESIDENT**

**MARRIED WOMEN**  
Find out your rights

**SEX AT WORK**  
Is your boss  
harassing you?

**WIN!**

- ★ RADIO
- ★ T-SHIRTS
- ★ BATIKS



9 771019 137001



# What do people say about SPEAK?

*SPEAK has now become the traditional weapon of women. It is a forum where we can air our views to educate our womenfolk and at the same time liberate our menfolk.*

**Phindi Mavuso,  
Azanian Youth Organisation**

*SPEAK's wide coverage of issues around women's lives increases the awareness of readers. SPEAK's wit and simplicity makes it an accessible mouthpiece for South African women.*

**Ivy Matsepe, Education Development Trust,  
Johannesburg**

*I love SPEAK Magazine. I feel the voices of South African women speaking directly to me through its pages. They aren't just journalistic voices, but the personal voices of women speaking about all aspects of their lives.*

**Jean Carstensen, Feminist International Radio Endeavour, Costa Rica**

**Subscribe to SPEAK before 30 May 1993 and you may be one of three winners of a beautiful batik from Kenya. See the batiks on our back cover.**

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR SPEAK ARE:

	6 issues	12 issues
<b>South Africa</b>		
Individuals	R12.00	R24.00
Organisations	R40.00	R80.00
Institutions	R40.00	R80.00
Donor	R40.00	R80.00
<b>Southern Africa</b>		
Individual	R18.00	R36.00
Organisations	R45.00	R90.00
Institutions	R45.00	R90.00
Donor	R45.00	R90.00
<b>Overseas</b>		
Individuals	US\$ 40	US\$ 80
Organisations	US\$ 80	US\$160
Institutions	US\$ 80	US\$160
Donor	US\$ 80	US\$160



Please send your payment, name, and address to SPEAK, PO Box 261363, Excom 2023, South Africa.

# INSIDE

## PEOPLE

**A president speaks**  
Sadwu's Violet Motlhasedi 5

**Bowling them over**  
woman cricket broadcaster 19

**Strategy for non-sexism**  
male unionist speaks 22

## FEATURES

**Reclaiming our lives**  
disabled woman talks 10

**Community theatre**  
where are the women? 24

**Winning women**  
feminism in the Philippines 26

## POLITICS

**Making your mark**  
what is democracy? 8

## REVIEW

**Telling students about AIDS**  
books which help 14

## SPEAK READERSHIP SURVEY

**Tell us what you think**  
... and get a T-shirt 15

## ADVICE

**Sexual harassment**  
what it is and what to do 12

**Marrled women's rights** 20

## HEALTH

**Oppression makes us sick**  
women's health 28

**Health briefs** 30

## WIN

- Radio 9
- T-shirt 15
- Batiks from Kenya 34

## REGULARS

**Readers talk back** 2

**Kwa-Sophle** 4

**As a matter of fact** 31

**Taxi Talk** 32

**Community Notice Board** 33



Reclaiming our lives page 10



Oppression makes us sick page 28

## SPEAK STAFF

### CO-ORDINATOR

Karen Hurt

### ACTING EDITOR

Lynn Danzig

### DESIGN AND LAYOUT ARTIST

Dipuo Masetlha

### JOURNALIST

Thoraya Pandy

### PROJECT MANAGER

Jacqueline Mathabe

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Pumla Baloyi

### RADIO/AUDIO

#### PROJECT

Libby Lloyd

Rita Thathe

### VOLUNTARY MANAGEMENT

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gill Lincoln, Nise

Malange, Shamim Meer,

Boitumelo Mofokeng,

Refiloe Ndzuta,

Helen Rees

### 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

### SUBSCRIPTION

#### ENQUIRIES:

NND

Telephone: (011) 402 1205

If you still have problems,  
phone or write to SPEAK

### ADVERTISING

#### ENQUIRIES:

Karen Hurt

Cover photo by

Ruth Motau



## COMMENT

When the new round of multi-party talks started, it got called Son of Codesa. This was not just sexist language - it showed the alarming absence of women from the negotiations on the future of South Africa. The recent budget shows the present government's insensitivity to millions of black women in South Africa who are battling to survive against rising unemployment and costs.

Although the budget removed VAT from some basic foodstuffs, it increased VAT on other items to 14 percent. Petrol and fuel have gone up too, which will make everything more expensive.

Every day more government corruption is exposed. It is shocking that government ministers are paid huge sums of money to live in their own houses, while millions of South Africans are homeless.

Some of the worst corruption is going on in the bantustans, but the budget is giving them even more money than before.

Obviously, the men who have been running South Africa undemocratically for so long cannot be trusted with the purse-strings any more.

One woman, Maxine Cainer, has decided she would rather go to jail than pay taxes to a corrupt government. She says the government cannot make her pay tax when it does not take responsibility for how the money is spent.

South Africans need to come together to demand an end to government corruption before more millions are wasted. The voices of ordinary women who are struggling to feed their families must start to count. It is time these women take part in deciding how the resources of the country should be used to build a South Africa that cares for the needs of all its citizens. ●

# Talk back

## **Sarafina should not be discredited**

I wish to reply to Masepeke Sekhukhuni's comment on *Sarafina* (SPEAK, March 1993). It is wrong to discredit the whole film or label it "unSouth African" simply because Leleti calls Mr Nelson Mandela by his first name. We have to admit that Mr Nelson Mandela IS "Nelson" or simply "Mandela" to all township kids. And this, to them, does not lower his dignity, and we can't blame Hollywood for that! If offensive, it was up to Mbongeni Ngema, the scriptwriter, to correct that. I wonder too, which is "the American way" of teaching. I am a teacher myself and I hate stereotypes (for example, seeing someone as inferior just because she is a woman or is black). A teacher is a teacher regardless of the country of origin. We have

South African teachers working overseas and I wonder if they are "teaching the South African way". I for one, do not teach "African students" but people with goals, aspirations and dreams. Masepeke should learn to look at both the positive and the negative. This would teach readers to do likewise and be better people.

*Mrs Sina Mhinga  
Giyani*

## **What do others think?**

### **Taxi drivers: think of your passengers!**

I will be very happy if I can see my letter published in your SPEAK magazine.

I want to tell the taxi drivers about the things which are boring the passengers.

You drivers of the taxis must stop talking the way you like to the passengers.

Please just try to talk very well





with your passengers in your taxi.  
 Communication is needed among the people of this country.  
 Please check your speed limit. I don't want to see so many deaths caused by the drivers who drink while they drive. May I request the taxi owners to try by all means to check the drivers.  
 Lastly I would like to congratulate our magazine. Carry on giving knowledge. It is an interesting magazine for our community and to our fellow comrades.  
 May god bless our Editor.  
 Yours in arms

*William Maabane  
 Witbank*

*Thanks for your praise! Perhaps some taxi drivers would like to respond?*

**Thanks to all 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**



# WINNERS!

**Congratulations to the lucky winners of *SPEAK's* competitions!**

## *Book* **Competition**

***Gladys K Teme***  
 of Orlando East, Soweto is the winner of the book, *Don't be afraid, Gringo*

## **Ekhaya Fashions Competition**

***A H Mangqu***  
 of Tuinplaas won the beautiful outfit from Ekhaya Fashions





# Kwa-Sophie

## Derek Keys: Minister of Seduction

No wonder our economy is in a mess. Finance Minister Derek Keys obviously thinks the economy is a sex game. Talking about the budget, he told the press: "The government is really in a feminine posture."

In the past, he explained, the government made investment decisions by itself - "a masculine role". Now the government wants to get the private sector involved. Keys asked: "How are you going to seduce [investors] into behaving in the kind of way you want them to behave? This is a feminine role." For millions of unemployed and homeless people, the economic mess is not a joke. The NP government is clearly still not used to the idea that these people will soon be voting, and more than half of the voters are women!

\* \* \* \* \*



## Right for the wrong reasons

*The Star* newspaper correctly criticised male politicians at a multiparty planning meeting for jeering when the ANC suggested more women should be included in the talks. But the paper then spoiled things by giving all the wrong reasons. It said: "Not only have they actively helped - while keeping the home fires burning - but many sacrificed husbands, fathers, sons and lovers in death, jail or exile ... Women are often natural mediators ..."

Women do not want to be defined as home-makers, wives, daughters, sisters or "natural" mediators. They want equality! With friends like this, who needs enemies?

\* \* \* \* \*

## Quote of the month

*"Only by admitting to and coping with their weaknesses will men ever become truly strong. If women accept that men face obstacles to personal fulfillment, just as they do, they can make a huge contribution to genuine equality between the sexes ... In the end, it's no good men complaining about women: they've got to get up and win a better life for themselves."*

From **Not guilty - In defence of the modern man** by David Thomas

## Challenge

*A New Ecumenical Magazine of Church and People*

*Published in Southern Africa by Contextual Publications  
(an initiative of the Institute for Contextual Theology)*

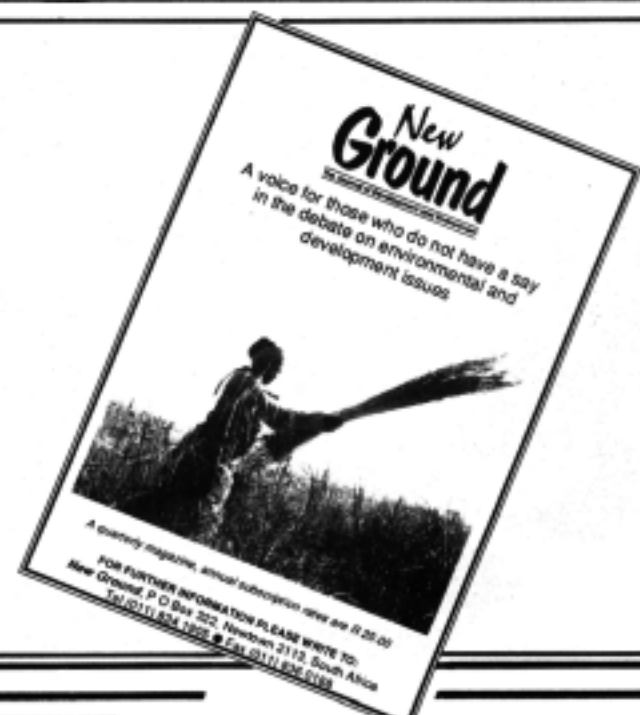
- news, views, comment, reflections on current issues
- contextual bible studies, liturgy, theology, spirituality

Editor: Albert Nolan

Editorial Board: F. Chikane, J. Cochrane, T. Farisani, K. Mgojo, S. Mkhathshwa, K. Mofokeng, M. Mpumwana, B. Naudé, B. Ncube, C. Villa-Vicencio

Subscription Rates (10 issues p.a.): South Africa-R22.00; Neighbouring Countries-R25.00; Africa, Asia, Latin America-US\$20.00; Europe, North America, Australia-US\$50.00

Contributions and Subscriptions:  
Challenge, P.O. Box 32047, Braamfontein, 2017





# THE SOFT-SPOKEN PRESIDENT

**Violet Motlhasedi (right) worked as a domestic worker for more than 15 years. Today she is the national president of the South African Domestic Workers Union (Sadwu). Motlhasedi told *Thoraya Pandy* about her life and involvement in the union**



**V**iolet Motlhasedi was a very worried woman when she was elected national president of Sadwu. "At first I did not believe Sadwu made the right decision. I did not think I was suitable for such a high position," she says plainly. "Everything I had to do seemed too great. I was forever questioning myself about things I did and said."

She proved herself wrong. "With time, I realised I had to have faith in myself and in the people who put me there," says the soft-spoken president. "I attended workshops, meetings and conferences. I gave speeches and I read a lot, so that I could learn as much as possible."

Motlhasedi soon gained con-

fidence in herself, but on the way she lost two things - her job and her husband. Her husband became more and more abusive toward her after she became president, so she moved out.

And her employer told her to choose between the union or her job as a domestic worker. "That was an easy decision," she says laughing.

Motlhasedi worked for the same family for 11 years. Her employers could not understand why she joined a union when she was so "well-treated". "But everything I got from them I had to fight for," she says. "Even though they would tell me I was 'part of the family', it was a battle to get a higher wage, or to go on leave, or take

out a pension for me."

She tells the story of the day she brought home an application form for a pension fund. "My employer took it and threw it in the bin. I was so furious, I ran to the bin, pulled out the form and spread it out in front of her. I calmly told her to agree to the pension fund or I would leave. She agreed," says Motlhasedi.

**I**t is hard to imagine the gentle Motlhasedi breathing fire. But when she believes in something, Motlhasedi says she goes all the way. She first began organising domestic workers in the early 1980s. In 1981 she met Leah Tutu and Sue Gordon who invited her to join the Domestic Workers Employees



Project (Dwep). Dwep was a forum for domestic workers to share their experiences and teach each other different skills, like dressmaking.

Motlhasedi was a good dressmaker and every Thursday she taught other domestic workers how to sew. "I loved Thursdays because I was happy to be out of prison – out of the back yard." She also taught others ways of negotiating with their employers.

**T**his was where Motlhasedi's life as an organiser began. She would spend most of her free time speaking to other workers and encouraging them to join Dwep. "It was not easy because I could only visit domestic workers when the employers were not home. It's not like a factory where all the workers are together. It would take weeks to recruit one worker. Many were scared of losing their jobs, so it was hard work making them see the importance of being organised."

Motlhasedi said they had to be very careful because once an employer found out the worker was part of an organisation, the worker would be dismissed. "And because domestic workers are not protected by the Basic Conditions of Service Act, they did not get their jobs back."

Things, however, are changing. The government recently proposed a Bill that will protect domestic workers under the Basic Conditions of Service Act. "We welcome this move by the government, but we are



**"When my employers found out I joined a union, they treated me differently."**

doubtful if employers will implement the Bill once it becomes law."

She says domestic workers visit Sadwu's offices every day with complaints about their employers. "There is very little we can do because the law still does not protect domestic workers and many of the cases that end up in court are lost.

Workers have to face their employers alone in the courtroom because we are not allowed to represent them. Very often, they lose the case and their job," says Motlhasedi.

She says even if employers do not implement the laws, Sadwu will continue to be a "watch-dog" and expose those who pay very low wages and





**Motlhasedi (second from right) with other union organisers at a meeting**

treat their workers unfairly.

Another common complaint of domestic workers is that their employers tell them which party they must vote for in the next elections. Workers are told that if they want to keep their jobs they must vote for the party their employer supports. Motlhasedi says employers must learn to respect their workers and accept that they have a right to vote for who they want.

Violence against domestic workers is also a big problem. This includes sexual abuse.

“Many are too scared to do anything because they think the police won’t believe them. So

they keep quiet and their employers continue to rape, beat, verbally abuse and threaten them.”

**S**adwu is trying to change this. Motlhasedi encourages workers to speak out against the violence they suffer. “Violence against women is something I cannot accept. It is something that can only be dealt with if women come out in the open. This is what I’ve been trying to tell these workers,” she says.

Motlhasedi spends most of her time dealing with other people’s problems. In her free time – “that is, if I can find any” – she sews. “That’s partly to relax and partly to bring in extra

**Motlhasedi on her employer’s tennis court. “I love playing tennis,” she says**



money,” she laughs. “I also enjoy listening to country music while running the material through my sewing machine.

She says she has never been happier. “I trust myself, I like myself and I believe in myself,” she says proudly. “I have truly gained a lot!” ☺

**Sadwu’s head office is at:  
Community House  
41 Salt River Road  
Salt River  
Cape Town 7925**

**Telephone: (021) 47-5145**

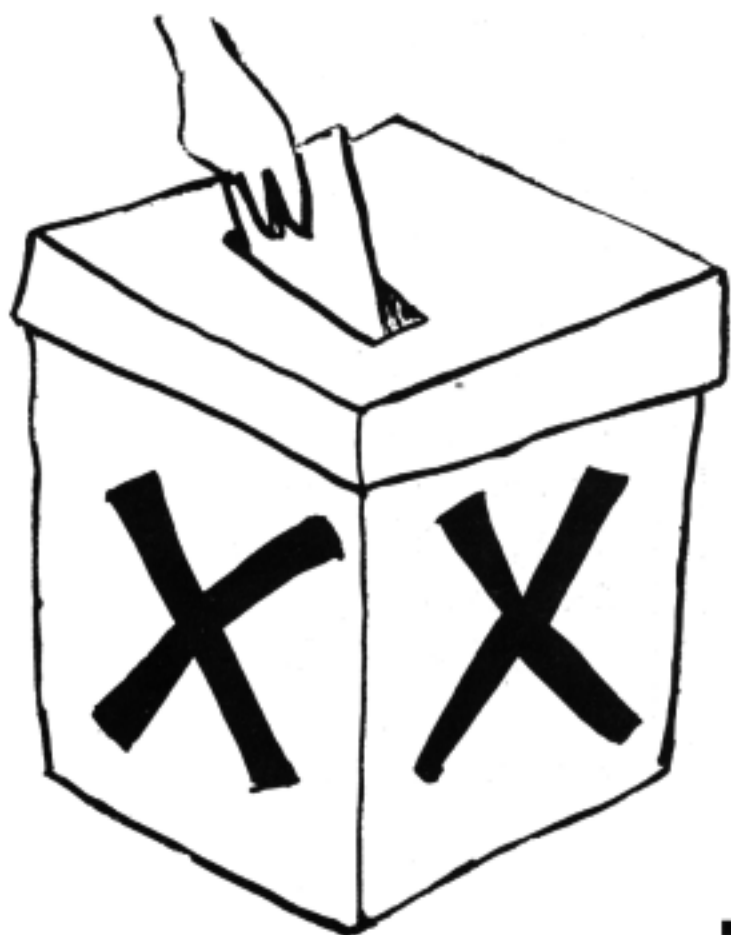


# WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?

Democracy is only as good as the people make it. This article looks at some of the responsibilities of voters

**W**e all know the word democracy means “rule by the people”. In other words, that people vote for the government they want to rule them. But over the centuries, the word “people” has been used differently. In ancient Greece, the only people who could vote were men who were not slaves and who owned property.

Women were not allowed to vote. In fact, in most countries, women did not have the vote until after the first World War (1914-1918).



In South Africa, black people have never been allowed to vote, although at one time, “coloured” people could. Today, most countries have democracies which allow all citizens over 18 to vote. In the next elections in South Africa, everyone will be able to vote, as long as they are over the voting age and are citizens of this country.

Democracy has also changed in another way. In ancient Greece, because there were very few people who could vote, those who could had a big say in how they were ruled. Today, there are many more people on earth, and countries have populations of many millions. In the coming elections in South Africa, between 20 and 21 million people will be qualified to vote.



It would be impossible for all these millions of people to have a direct say in the government. Instead, people vote for either a person or a political party that represents their views and their hopes.

For women it will be very important to find out what the position of each party is on women's rights.

**T**he only way to know who to vote for is to be informed: read everything you can about the different political parties and what their policies are and talk to your friends. You can also get information by listening to the radio and watching television. At the moment, the government owns the SABC and so controls most of the information presented on radio and TV. This gives it an unfair advantage over other parties.

All the media (the radio, television, newspapers and magazines) will have a big responsibility in the elections. The media must make sure all the political parties and their politicians have a fair chance to present their policies. It is important that before the elections the SABC is controlled by an independent and impartial body.

Once the new government is in power, they have to be watched carefully by the people. Are they doing what they promised when the people voted for them? Or are they doing something different that the people do not like?

If a new constitution is adopted - and there will be a new one in South Africa - does it say what the people want? Does it protect the human rights of all people?

If the constitution does not protect the people's rights, then it is the duty of the people to take action. Every citizen has the duty to make sure that the government is not abusing its power.

An example of the people taking action was in the United States in the 1950s. The United States constitution said that schooling must be "separate but equal", in other words, white children should have their own schools and black children should go to their own schools. The Civil Rights movement objected and went to court to get this clause removed. In 1954, they won. The United States constitution no longer says that schooling must be "separate but equal".



This is a strong example showing that the success of democracy in any country depends, not only on the government, but on the people themselves.

As women, we have the duty to make sure that not only do we vote for the political party that supports the rights of women, but also that it delivers what it promises. ●



**Matla Trust**

This page is a joint Project of Matla Trust & Speak

## C O M P E T I T I O N

### WIN A RADIO!

**Tell us how you feel about voting in South Africa's first democratic elections and you could be the lucky winner of a radio.**

Just answer the following question: **Are you going to vote in South Africa's first democratic elections and why?** Fill in either A or B:

**A. Yes, I am going to vote because** .....

.....

.....

**B. No, I am not going to vote because** .....

.....

.....

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Code .....

I agree to abide by the rules of this competition.

Signature .....

Send your entry 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 1 June 1993. The winner will be announced in the July issue of SPEAK.





Photos by Kate Truscott

**Shanaaz Majiet represents Disabled People South Africa in the Western Cape Women's National Coalition. She has just completed a law degree at the University of Cape Town**

# I had a choice...

At the time of the accident, I had just passed Standard 9. I spent only three months in hospital: most people with my injuries spend at least eight months. But I was in a rush to get on with my life.

I said to myself: "Don't waste time, Shanaaz. You've got a choice. Either you can sit here and rot or you can get on with your life." So I went back to school.

**Shanaaz Majiet was a young girl of 17 when she was paralysed in an accidental shooting. Now in her early 20s, she talked to *Kate Truscott* about her life since the accident...**

That year, I failed matric. This was a big blow because I had always done well at school. It was hard to come to terms with failure. People asked me: "Wouldn't you be better off with your own kind in a disabled school?" I said: "No way."

I swallowed my pride and went back to my old school. This was tough but I persisted, and passed my matric the next year.



I am the eldest child and my parents are divorced, so I was used to having responsibilities. But after the accident, the reaction of my family was confusing. We went through months of arguments.

**T**hey wanted to do everything for me. The flat we lived in was very small. I couldn't get into the kitchen in my wheelchair. I thought I was the only one who had to adapt to the situation. I didn't realise my family had to adapt too. I had to create space for them.

coming to terms with myself as a woman. I didn't know how to see myself. Was I a woman, or was I a girl? I had to think about what a woman is.

Women are often presented as sexy in magazines and on television. Their ability to have babies is also stressed. I had to struggle to find out where I fit in.

I wondered if I would have a boyfriend. I came to the conclusion you can't depend on what other people expect of you. I had to establish my own identity and my own sexuality.

men, but their families as well. They want to know if I can cook and clean.

Well, I'm not going to be subjected to this! I'm going to call the shots. I can see my own womanhood clearly. I'm going to fall in love and fall out of love like anyone else. I won't allow anyone to think of me as less than a woman.

I became a peer counsellor for the disabled in 1989 to advise other people with similar difficulties. This helped me see gender and disability more clearly. I'd like to say to women

with disabilities: we have a right to control our own lives. We have a right to a place to live, a job and to decide our own sexuality.

We want the freedom to choose what lives we want for ourselves. We want to decide our own destiny. It does not have to be a husband and housework. We have allowed our voices to be

taken away. We must reclaim our collective voice. ☪



**Shanaaz Majiet with other delegates at a conference on women and government in Durban, December 1992**

It had always been my dream to be independent. So when I passed matric and went to university, I moved out of home.

My mother thinks I'm too aggressive. But I have to be, otherwise I am treated like a child. For example, some people don't speak to me directly, but ask my mother what is wrong with me. I refuse to allow this.

The hardest struggle was

**A**fter I sorted this out for myself, I felt more confident about talking about it with other disabled people and also with men who are not disabled.

This is important because men often see me as asexual - as if I'm not really a woman. They don't see me as a partner in bed. They want to know if I can have sex and whether I can have children. And it's not just the

**For information about organisations for disabled people in your area, contact: Disabled People South Africa PO Box 39008 Booyens 2016 Telephone: (011) 982 1130**

# End sexual harassment now!

Graphic: reproduced from You and the Constitution published by the Black Sash. Artist: Karen Allsop



**Companies should have a "woman-friendly" policy to end sexual harassment in the workplace. Carolien Saayman reports**

**M**ary's boss pats her bum every time he walks past her. The foreman at Zodwa's factory loves to embarrass her by talking about sex in front of her. Jane's boss says they must meet outside the office to talk about her promotion.

Mary, Zodwa and Jane are among the many women who are victims of sexual harassment in the workplace.

In 1989, the Industrial Court defined sexual harassment as "unwanted sexual attention" - behaviour of a sexual nature that

is unwelcome and offensive to the person treated that way. Sexual harassment can include comments, suggestions or hints, gestures, fondling or touching without consent or by force. The worst form of sexual harassment is rape.



The ANC Women's League, together with Unisa's Centre for Women's Studies, the Institute for Personnel Management, the Institute of Directors and the Women's Bureau South Africa, recently carried out a survey on sexual harassment. The results of the survey showed that companies don't take the issue seriously. Only a few companies answered the survey questionnaires. Of these, just under 40 percent said they knew of sexual harassment in their organisations, but only 6.5 percent have a policy to deal with the problem.

**The harasser counts on you being embarrassed and not saying anything. Don't be shy. You have the right to say so if someone offends you.**

One of the reasons companies don't treat the issue of sexual harassment seriously is that very few women complain about it. Women interviewed in the survey said this was because they thought their employer would not do anything about it, they were afraid no one would believe them, or they would be laughed at or victimised.

When women did complain, people said the incident was "a joke". Sometimes the management did not want to do anything because the person guilty of harassment was in a senior position. In some cases the harasser was counselled, warned or disciplined. This proves something can be done.

The survey was done to help work out a policy for companies to deal with sexual harassment. Such a policy must say what will be done to a person who is guilty of this type of behaviour. Both men and women employees will then know their rights and responsibilities in the workplace.

Women must be the ones who work out the policy so it meets their needs and is "woman-friendly". But it will be hard work and take a long time before the workplace will become free of harassment. In the meantime, we need to empower ourselves and start challenging sexual harassment.

Here are some tips on what to do if you are harassed:

- The harasser counts on you being embarrassed and not saying anything. Don't be shy. You have the right to say so if someone offends you.

- Tell him you don't like it when he touches you or makes comments about the way you look. Be firm about it, not apologetic. Sometimes men don't realise they offend women. If we don't tell them, they will never know.

- If the harasser does not want to listen to reason, get a couple of women or even sympathetic men together and tell the harasser you know what he is doing and you will not put up with it any longer. In most cases he will be so embarrassed that he will stop harassing you.

- Organise a meeting of women employees, say, once a month. It does not have to be a formal meeting. It could just be a chance for women to talk about their complaints. If you have been harassed, you may blame yourself and wonder if you "invited" the harassment. Talking to other women employees will show you that you are not to blame - the harasser is. ☺

**You can get a booklet on how to develop a company policy on sexual harassment from the Institute of Directors. The booklet costs R7.00 plus R1.00 postage.**

**Write to: The Executive Director, Institute of Directors of Southern Africa, PO Box 908, Parklands 2121 or phone: (011) 648 8068.**

**LEARN & TEACH MAGAZINE — IT'S A FRIEND YOU CAN TRUST!**

**L**EARN & TEACH is a magazine written especially for people who want to improve their English. Not only that — each issue is packed with articles that show you how to get ahead in life; stories that inform you; stories that entertain you; and stories that show you that knowledge is power. Learn & Teach also runs an advice office — by mail. Got a problem with work, money or love? We'll help you sort it out. There's all that and much more in Learn & Teach. Make sure you get it by subscribing for the next 11 issues.



**SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

South Africa & Namibia:	R21
Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia & Swaziland:	R30
Companies & Institutions:	R50
International:	R120

Name: .....

Address: .....

**IT'S MORE THAN A MAGAZINE. IT'S AN EDUCATION!**

# AIDS awareness for school kids

**M**any programmes around issues like AIDS, sex and abortion do not take into account the real life situations that young people face. Much AIDS education material has been criticised for presenting a narrow, moralistic approach which just switches young people off.

The package produced by the Macmillan Boleswa AIDS Awareness Programme takes a new approach.

The package includes 14 interesting and appealing story books on AIDS for students. The books are aimed at students from standard four to matric. A traditional African story-telling style is used to get the message across. There are also teachers' guides with ideas

**The Macmillan Boleswa Aids Awareness Programme has produced a package of 14 story books on AIDS for school children from standard four to matric, as well as teachers' guides. You can get the package from Macmillan Boleswa, PO Box 32484, Braamfontein 2017, South Africa. Telephone: (011) 339 2935**

on how to run AIDS programmes at school. The package gives teachers the chance to try out a creative teaching method aimed at drawing students in rather than pushing them away.

The stories use language, characters and situations that students can easily identify with. This will help them realise AIDS is something that can happen to anyone.

All the stories stress that AIDS is mainly a sexually-transmitted disease. If you are careless about your sex life and do not use condoms, it could happen to you - no matter who you are, where you live or how rich or poor you are.

They also describe how people respond when they learn about AIDS for the first time. Here are a few examples.

- "Only gays get AIDS."
- "If I really want him, I cannot ask him to wear a condom."
- "I cannot wear a condom because I won't feel anything."

However the characters in the stories eventually accept that AIDS does not discriminate.

The stories are realistic and do not scare the reader away. They give clear, simple and detailed information about AIDS and encourage students to get involved in the fight against the killer disease.

This package is a must for all primary and high schools. ☼



*"I also didn't know enough about AIDS. That's why I'm here."*

Graphic: Macmillan Boleswa Aids Awareness Package



# Tell us what you think of SPEAK

FREE T-SHIRT!

## SPEAK Readers' Survey

Dear SPEAK readers,

Help us make SPEAK a better magazine, and get a free T-shirt! This is your opportunity to tell us about yourself and what you like and don't like about SPEAK. Once we know what you and our other readers think, we will be able to improve SPEAK. The first 300 people who fill in the questionnaire will receive a free SPEAK T-shirt.

After you have filled the questionnaire in, pull it out and put

it in an envelope addressed to:

SPEAK c/o CASE,  
Freepost JH2604,  
Braamfontein, 2017.

You do not need to put a stamp on the envelope - SPEAK will pay for the postage!

Please post it as soon as possible, so it reaches us by 15 June 1993. Don't forget your name and postal address so we can send you your T-shirt.



*Lynn Dipuo Thoraya*

Lynn Danzig, Dipuo Masetlha and  
Thoraya Pandy  
SPEAK Magazine

## Tell us about SPEAK and you

### 1. If SPEAK were a person, how would you describe that person? Do you think SPEAK is:

(mark as many boxes as you like)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Interesting | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Challenging |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Informative | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Fun         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Boring      | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Too serious |

### 2. Does SPEAK help you in any of these ways?

(mark as many boxes as you like)

- <sup>1</sup> Helps me improve my English
- <sup>1</sup> Helps me change my life
- <sup>1</sup> Gives me useful information
- <sup>1</sup> Gives me ideas which I share with others
- <sup>1</sup> Gives me good advice
- <sup>1</sup> Helps me be more confident
- <sup>1</sup> Entertains me
- <sup>1</sup> Doesn't do anything for me

Something else?

(write in) \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. After reading SPEAK, do you use it:

(mark as many boxes as you like)

- <sup>1</sup> At school
- <sup>1</sup> At church
- <sup>1</sup> At meetings or workshops
- <sup>1</sup> At social gatherings
- <sup>1</sup> At work

### 4. How long have you been reading SPEAK?

(mark one box only)

- <sup>1</sup> Four years or more
- <sup>2</sup> About two or three years
- <sup>3</sup> About one year
- <sup>4</sup> Six months or less

### 5. How many people read your copy of SPEAK?

(please write in)

Females \_\_\_\_\_ Males \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Since you first started reading SPEAK, do you think it has become:

- <sup>1</sup> Better
- <sup>2</sup> Stayed the same
- <sup>3</sup> Worse

### 7. How do you usually get your copy of SPEAK?

(mark one box only)

- <sup>1</sup> I subscribe
- <sup>2</sup> I buy it
- <sup>3</sup> I read someone else's

### 8. If you buy SPEAK, please tell us where you buy it:

(mark one box only)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> CNA            | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> Cafe/shop    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> Streetseller   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>4</sup> At a meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>5</sup> Somewhere else |  |

### 9. Is it easy or difficult for you to get hold of a copy of SPEAK?

- <sup>1</sup> Easy
- <sup>2</sup> Difficult

### 10. Have you had problems getting hold of or buying SPEAK in the last six months?

- <sup>1</sup> Yes
- <sup>2</sup> No

### 11. If you have had problems, what type of problems have you had?

(mark as many boxes as you like)

- <sup>1</sup> It was sold out
- <sup>1</sup> It had not arrived at the shop/streetseller when I wanted to buy it
- <sup>1</sup> It was badly displayed or hard to find at the shop/streetseller
- <sup>1</sup> It was not sold nearby
- <sup>1</sup> I could not find a place to buy it

Other problems?

(write in) \_\_\_\_\_

12. **SPEAK** is published once a month. How often do you read it?

- <sup>1</sup> Every month  
<sup>2</sup> Every second month or so  
<sup>3</sup> A few times a year  
<sup>4</sup> I have only read **SPEAK** once or twice

13. After reading **SPEAK**, do you:

- <sup>1</sup> Keep it  
<sup>1</sup> Give it to someone else  
<sup>1</sup> Throw it away

14. If you keep **SPEAK**, how long do you keep it?

(write in) \_\_\_\_\_

15. How often do you read the following regular features in **SPEAK**?

**Readers Talk Back (Letters)**

- <sup>1</sup> Usually    <sup>2</sup> Sometimes    <sup>3</sup> Seldom

**Kwa-Sophie**

- <sup>1</sup> Usually    <sup>2</sup> Sometimes    <sup>3</sup> Seldom

**As a Matter of Fact**

- <sup>1</sup> Usually    <sup>2</sup> Sometimes    <sup>3</sup> Seldom

**Taxi Talk**

- <sup>1</sup> Usually    <sup>2</sup> Sometimes    <sup>3</sup> Seldom

**Community Notice Board**

- <sup>1</sup> Usually    <sup>2</sup> Sometimes    <sup>3</sup> Seldom

**Comment**

- <sup>1</sup> Usually    <sup>2</sup> Sometimes    <sup>3</sup> Seldom

16. Thinking about topics which **SPEAK** covers, please tell us which ones you would like to read *more of, less of, or the same amount?*

More    Less    Same

- |                                       |                                       |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Education                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Health                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Women leaders                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Unions/workers                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Advice                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Personal stories                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Women organising locally                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Women organising nationally              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Photo stories                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Interviews with men                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Politics                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Book reviews                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Artists and musicians                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Poems                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Sports                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Comics or cartoons                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>2</sup> | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>3</sup> | Women's organisations in other countries |

17. What do you like most about **SPEAK**?

(write in) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

18. What *don't* you like about **SPEAK**?

(write in) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

19. What other issues or topics do you think that **SPEAK** should cover?

(write in) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. Do you think **SPEAK** seems to favour one political party over others?

- <sup>1</sup> Yes                      <sup>2</sup> No

If yes, which political party?

(write in) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

21. Thinking about how **SPEAK** is written, is it:

- <sup>1</sup> Too difficult to read  
<sup>2</sup> Just right  
<sup>3</sup> Too simple

22. Is **SPEAK** a magazine for:

a. (Pick one box only)

- <sup>1</sup> Women            <sup>2</sup> Men                      <sup>3</sup> Both

b. (Pick one box only)

- <sup>1</sup> Older people    <sup>2</sup> Younger people    <sup>3</sup> Both

c. The whole family

- <sup>1</sup> Yes                      <sup>2</sup> No

## Now tell us about yourself

23. Are you:

- <sup>1</sup> Female                      <sup>2</sup> Male

24. What language do you speak at home:

- <sup>1</sup> Sotho            <sup>2</sup> Tswana            <sup>3</sup> Xhosa            <sup>4</sup> Zulu  
<sup>5</sup> Afrikaans    <sup>6</sup> English            <sup>7</sup> Other

If other please write in

\_\_\_\_\_

25. How old are you?

- <sup>1</sup> Under 19  
<sup>2</sup> 20 to 24  
<sup>3</sup> 25 to 29  
<sup>4</sup> 30 to 34  
<sup>5</sup> 35 to 39  
<sup>6</sup> 40 to 49  
<sup>7</sup> 50 or more

26. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

(mark one box only)

- <sup>1</sup> No schooling  
<sup>2</sup> Primary (Sub A to Std 5)  
<sup>3</sup> Std 6 to 8  
<sup>4</sup> Std 9  
<sup>5</sup> Matric  
<sup>6</sup> Diploma  
<sup>7</sup> Degree



27. If you are presently studying, how do you study:

- <sup>1</sup> At school
- <sup>2</sup> A correspondence course
- <sup>3</sup> At a technikon
- <sup>4</sup> At night school
- <sup>5</sup> A secretarial or trade course
- <sup>6</sup> At university

28. If you are not studying, would you like to?

- <sup>1</sup> Yes
- <sup>2</sup> No

29. Are you:

- <sup>1</sup> Working full-time
- <sup>2</sup> Working part-time
- <sup>3</sup> Working when you find some work
- <sup>4</sup> Self-employed
- <sup>5</sup> Unemployed
- <sup>6</sup> A student
- <sup>7</sup> Taking care of your home full-time

30. If you work full-time or part-time, tell us what your job is:

(write in) \_\_\_\_\_

31. What are your main forms of transportation to and from your work or studies?

- <sup>1</sup> I walk
- <sup>1</sup> Minibus taxi
- <sup>1</sup> Bus
- <sup>1</sup> Train
- <sup>1</sup> My car
- <sup>1</sup> My family's car
- <sup>1</sup> My friend's car

32. Do you have any of the following:

(mark as many boxes as you like)

- <sup>1</sup> Current account
- <sup>1</sup> Savings account
- <sup>1</sup> Retirement/pension fund
- <sup>1</sup> Investment account
- <sup>1</sup> Insurance
- <sup>1</sup> Home loan
- <sup>1</sup> Other loan
- <sup>1</sup> Hire purchase

33. What is your personal income each month, before taxes?

(mark one box only)

- <sup>1</sup> Less than R199
- <sup>2</sup> R200 to R499
- <sup>3</sup> R500 to R999
- <sup>4</sup> R1 000 to R1 499
- <sup>5</sup> R1 500 to R1 999
- <sup>6</sup> R2 000 to R2 999
- <sup>7</sup> R3 000 or more

## Tell us about your household

34. Are you:

- <sup>1</sup> Single
- <sup>2</sup> Married/living with a partner

35. If you are married or living with a partner, does your partner also read SPEAK?

- <sup>1</sup> Yes
- <sup>2</sup> No

36. Do you have children?

- <sup>1</sup> Yes
- <sup>2</sup> No

If yes, how many do you have?

(write in) \_\_\_\_\_

37. How many people altogether live in your house, including yourself?

Females \_\_\_\_\_

Males \_\_\_\_\_

38. Who makes the important decisions in your household?

- <sup>1</sup> You
- <sup>2</sup> Your husband/wife/partner
- <sup>3</sup> You **and** your husband/wife/partner
- <sup>4</sup> Your mother
- <sup>5</sup> Your father
- <sup>6</sup> Your mother **and** father
- <sup>7</sup> Another female relative
- <sup>8</sup> Another male relative
- <sup>9</sup> Someone else

39. Who is the main breadwinner in your household?

- <sup>1</sup> You
- <sup>2</sup> Your husband/wife/partner
- <sup>3</sup> You **and** your husband/wife/partner
- <sup>4</sup> Your mother
- <sup>5</sup> Your father
- <sup>6</sup> Your mother **and** father
- <sup>7</sup> Another female relative
- <sup>8</sup> Another male relative
- <sup>9</sup> Someone else

40. Do you live in a:

- <sup>1</sup> City
- <sup>2</sup> Township
- <sup>3</sup> Squatter camp
- <sup>4</sup> Town
- <sup>5</sup> Rural village

41. Please tell us where you live:

(for example, Soweto, Hammanskraal, Khayelitsha)

\_\_\_\_\_

**42. Please tell us if you live in a:**

*(mark one box only)*

- <sup>1</sup> House you or your family owns
- <sup>2</sup> House you or your family rents
- <sup>3</sup> Flat you or your family owns
- <sup>4</sup> Flat you or your family rents
- <sup>5</sup> Room in a house or backyard
- <sup>6</sup> Shack/zozo
- <sup>7</sup> Hostel
- <sup>8</sup> University residence
- <sup>9</sup> Other

**43. Please tell us which of the following you have in your household:**

*(mark as many boxes as you like)*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Running water   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Inside toilet  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Electricity     | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Gas/paraffin   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Radio           | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Fridge         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Telephone       | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Television     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Music system    | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Video recorder |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Washing machine | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> M-Net          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Car             | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Computer       |

**44. Thinking about everyone in your household including yourself, what is the total income each month of everyone in your household, before taxes?**

*(mark one box only)*

- <sup>1</sup> Less than R199
- <sup>2</sup> R200 to R499
- <sup>3</sup> R500 to R999
- <sup>4</sup> R1 000 to R1 499
- <sup>5</sup> R1 500 to R1 999
- <sup>6</sup> R2 000 to R2 999
- <sup>7</sup> R3 000 to R4 999
- <sup>8</sup> R5 000 or more

**Tell us about how you spend your time**

**45. Do you take part in any of the following types of organisations?**

*(mark as many boxes as you like)*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Political          | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Civic/community  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Trade union/labour | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Women's          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Youth              | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Church/religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Choir              | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Sport            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Educational        | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Stokvel          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Burial society     |  |

**46. Do you hold a position in any of these organisations?**

- <sup>1</sup> Yes
- <sup>2</sup> No

**47. Thinking about what you do in your free time, what are your hobbies?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**48. Please tell us if you have done any of the following in the last six months?**

*(mark as many boxes as you like)*

- <sup>1</sup> Bought music cassettes or CDs
- <sup>1</sup> Bought books
- <sup>1</sup> Bought new clothes for yourself or others
- <sup>1</sup> Bought household appliances or furniture
- <sup>1</sup> Eaten at a restaurant
- <sup>1</sup> Gone to a movie
- <sup>1</sup> Gone to a party
- <sup>1</sup> Gone to a meeting or conference
- <sup>1</sup> Gone to a music concert
- <sup>1</sup> Gone away on holiday

**Tell us what you like to read**

**49. Which of the following magazines do you read?**

*(mark as many boxes as you like)*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Bona          | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Cosmopolitan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Drum          | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Fair Lady    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Femina        | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Huisgenoot   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Learn & Teach | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Pace         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Personality   | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Thandi       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> Tribute       | <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> True Love    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <sup>1</sup> You           |  |
| Others _____  |  |

**50. What is your favourite magazine? (excluding SPEAK)**

*(write one name only)*

\_\_\_\_\_

**51. What one thing does your favourite magazine have that SPEAK does not have?**

*(write in)*

\_\_\_\_\_

**52. Which newspapers do you read?**

*(write in)*

\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to tell us more about what you think of SPEAK, write it on another piece of paper and send it in with your survey. Remember, postage is FREE! Thanks for your help! You are helping us make SPEAK a better magazine!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_



# Bowling them over

**Donna Symmonds from Barbados in the West Indies is a world-class sports broadcaster. The SABC invited her to be a guest broadcaster during the one day cricket series between South Africa, Pakistan and the West Indies. She talked to Pearl Majola**

**A**s a young girl, Donna Symmonds was a star tennis player and represented her country, Barbados, in the under-18 tennis league. She quit tennis for university in Britain. After qualifying as a lawyer, Symmonds was keen to practise law at home in Bridgetown.

Her career as a broadcaster started when the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation asked her to stand in for one of their broadcasters who was sick. Later when there was an opening in the cricket broadcasting team, the dynamic Symmonds took a shot at it.

Symmonds, who broadcasts on both radio and television, says she prefers radio.

"On TV you are talking to people watching the game for themselves, as well as listening to what you are saying. But on radio, listeners depend entirely on the broadcaster. This is where creativity is needed. The broadcaster has to set the mood and create a picture of what is taking place in the listener's mind," she explains.

Although Symmonds has become very popular with cricket fans all over the world, she has come up against male chauvinist attitudes. She tells what happened when she was supposed to commentate on a match between her home team and India in 1989.



Photo by The Star Newspaper

"India objected, saying Indian audiences would not take too kindly to a woman's voice commentating on the traditionally male-dominated sport," Symmonds recalls.

"Luckily the match was on our home ground and the West Indies team insisted that I be on the broadcasting team. Otherwise there would not be any broadcast of the match. The Indians had to give in, of course," she says, smiling.

"If people realised that sportswomen are as good as men, they wouldn't look down on women," says Symmonds. "But I have always enjoyed the support of my colleagues and even the players. They treat me

like a professional and that makes my job much easier."

Symmonds has grown to love cricket. Her work on television and radio takes a lot of time. She often has to travel to do this job. But this has not drawn her away from the other love of her life, working as a lawyer.

During her South African trip, she bowled over the sports fans, as she has done in many other cricket-loving countries. This is a challenge for South African women who hardly feature in sports broadcasting. Symmonds certainly proves a determined woman cannot be held back. ✪

# YOU AND YOUR MARRIAGE: *Minors and marital power*

---

In this article, *Cathi Albertyn* explains some of the ways a married woman is seen by the law and what her rights are

---

**A**ll unmarried women over 21 are seen as independent adults. But, in some cases, when a woman marries, she is treated as a minor in the law, even if she is over 21.

A *minor* is the same as a child. A woman who is a minor needs her husband's permission to do certain things because her husband is seen as her guardian.

A woman who is subject to *marital power* needs her husband's permission to enter into an agreement or go to court.

Marital power also means that your husband can control your property. This includes property that you own together if you are married in community of property, and your own property if you are married out of community of property.

The law sees married women who are minors and married women who are subject to marital power as different. In practice, however, they are the same.

## **Who is a minor?**

Women married by customary law are minors, except women married in Natal by customary law.

## **Who is subject to marital power?**

All women who are married by customary law in Natal are subject to marital power. Some women who were married in civil law (by a marriage officer) are also subject to marital power. This includes coloured, Indian and white women married before 1 November 1984 and African women married before 2 December 1988. Women

who were married in a civil ceremony after these dates are seen as adults. If you have an antenuptial contract (a legal agreement drawn up before getting married), the contract will tell you whether marital power exists.

## **Can your husband sell your property without your permission if you are married in a civil marriage and you are subject to marital power?**

YES. If you are married in community of property and your husband gets into debt, the money he owes can be claimed against your joint property. Or he can sell the property to pay for his debts. Property here includes all your belongings.

## **Is there any protection against your husband selling or giving away your property?**

YES. But you must make sure that the title deeds (papers proving ownership) say the property is protected. To get your property protected, you must have your property endorsed at the deeds office.

If the title deeds are endorsed, your husband cannot take out a bond or sell your property without your permission. Property in this case means:

- land or a house that is in your name, if you are married out of community of property;
- land or a house that is part of the joint estate if you are married in community of property, provided that you owned the



Graphic: Zenda Woodman



property before you married, or you bought the property with your own money or you inherited it.

Also, your husband cannot interfere with:

- your wages or bank account;
- the tools of your business;
- life or education policies if you pay the premium.

**If you are married in a *civil marriage*, are there any cases where you do not need your husband's help?**

YES. You don't need your husband's help:

- to buy things for the household (like food);
- to take out education policies for your children or life policies for yourself or your husband;
- to run a bank account, as long as you don't get into overdraft;
- to accept a gift that does not cost you anything.
- to run your business if the business is your own.

You can also go to court about:

- any wages that you are owed;
- anything to do with your business;
- divorce, custody or maintenance;
- your insurance or education policies;
- claiming money for bodily injuries.

To do these things, it does not matter whether you were married in community of property or out of community of property.

**If you are married in customary law, are there any cases when you don't need the help of your husband?**

YES. If your husband has abandoned you and he cannot be found, you can control your own property, enter into agreements and go to court on your own.

If you live with your husband, you can rent or buy land in townships and get a bank loan to build or fix up your house without your husband's permission.

You can also claim maintenance. ☺

Dr Cathi Albertyn works at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.

# A CHANGE OF HEART

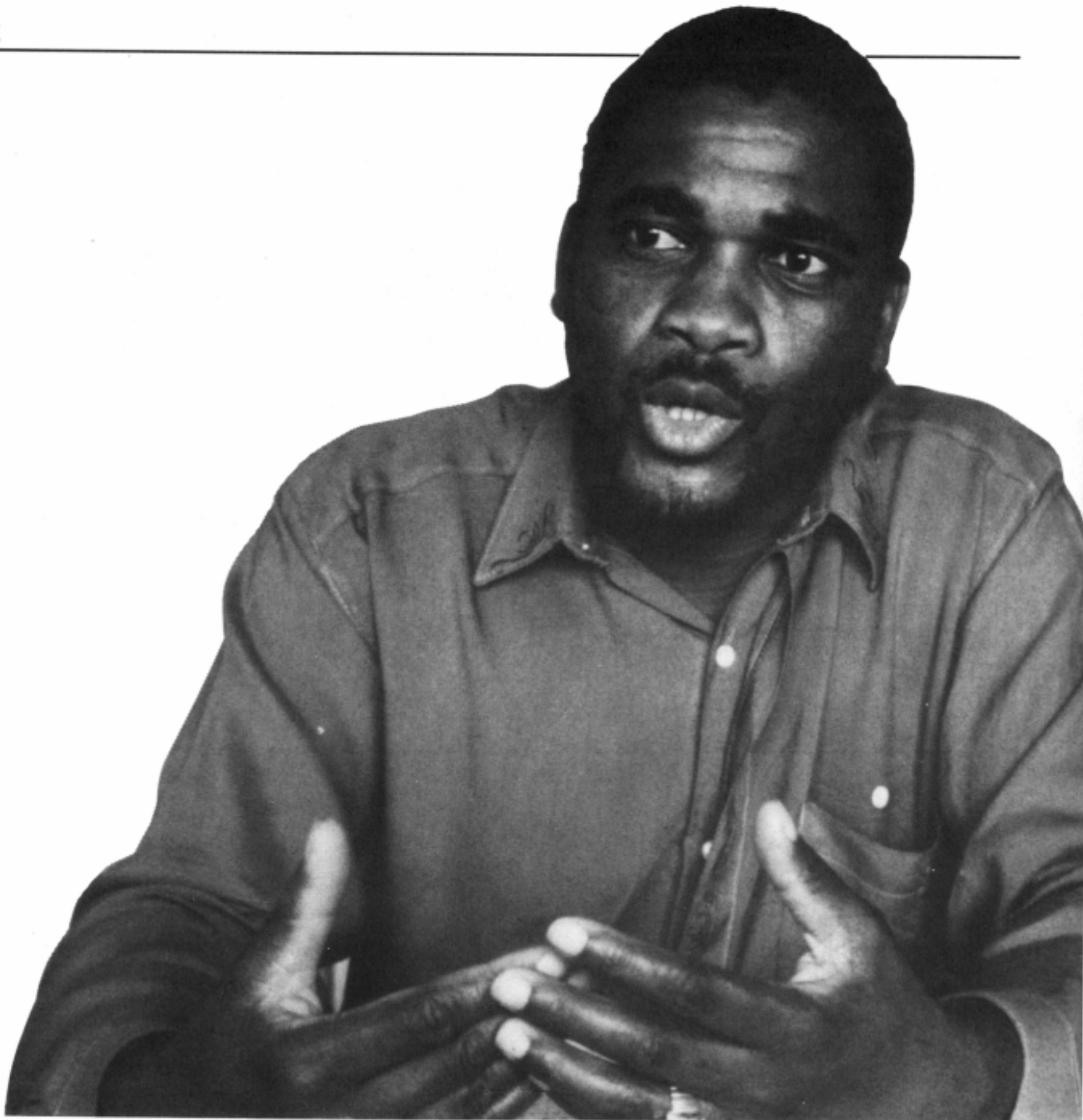


Photo by Thoraya Pandey, SPEAK Magazine

**In the past, trade unionist Kaiser Sebedi saw women's issues as "unimportant". Today, Sebedi actively works for gender equality in his union. Thoraya Pandey asks him what made him change**

Kaiser Sebedi used to be one of those men who listened with only half an ear when a woman spoke in a meeting. Like most other men in his union - the South African Commercial, Catering and Allied Workers' Union (Saccawu) - he thought that he was doing women a big favour by letting them talk about women's issues.

Now, Sebedi is a changed man. Or,

rather, a changing man. "It's a bit slow and sometimes it's not an easy task," he says. "But I'm trying."

SPEAK asked Sebedi what he means by "change" and why he has changed.

"I was always aware of the women's struggle," says Sebedi, who is assistant general secretary of Saccawu. "But, of course, I made no effort to fight sexism or to change my own ideas. I think the change in me came when I



attended a gender awareness course which was organised by the Ford Foundation."

The course was attended by men and women from all around the world. One of the things that Sebedi learnt on the course was how women feel when men don't see their issues as important.

**"I was always aware of the women's struggle. But, of course, I made no effort to fight sexism or change my own ideas."**

He explains: "I realised that men make women feel that they are wasting time when they raise problems or give a report. The way men do this is by making noises when women speak, and by not listening properly.

"I also learnt that men don't watch their language in meetings and when they are corrected, they brush it off," he says openly.

Sebedi also realised how important it is for men to be involved in gender issues.

"Women have to lead that struggle, but the gender-aware man must play a role in taking it forward. If a man is challenged by other men about his sexist attitude, it has a greater impact."

Sebedi is already using his new gender awareness in the union. A few weeks ago, Saccawu organised a national gender workshop which was attended by women and men delegates from the union's eight regions. Sebedi helped to organise the workshop.

At the workshop, it was agreed to set up gender committees in all branches, not only in the regions. The gender committees will act as "watch-dogs" to make sure gender is always on the agenda.

Saccawu also plans to conduct a survey of its membership. "We want to get an idea about what our membership feels and what their needs are. This will help us to implement a strategy that will work," he adds.

"It's not going to be easy.

We expect many workers to say we should fight our employers, instead of fighting within the union. But gender inequality affects every part of society - including the workplace and the unions. For example, only three women were elected onto Saccawu's executive committee of 60. It is difficult to say how much will have changed by our next congress."

Saccawu is one of the few

unions that has won worker rights for women, such as paid maternity leave, better working conditions and facilities as well as parental rights.

"One of our main demands is for child-care facilities at the workplace. If this demand is won, the men in Saccawu will take their kids to work with them. In this way they will become more involved in the family."

Sebedi believes that change must not only take place in his union, but in the home as well. He has started to take on more responsibility at home. "My wife might say it is not enough," he says with a smile, "but even she says I am doing things she never thought I would.

"I am not claiming to be liberated but I correct myself. I watch the way I speak and question the things I do," he says. "There are still many things about myself I would like to change but it won't happen in one day." ★

*South African*  
**LABOUR  
BULLETIN**

*South African*  
**LABOUR  
BULLETIN**

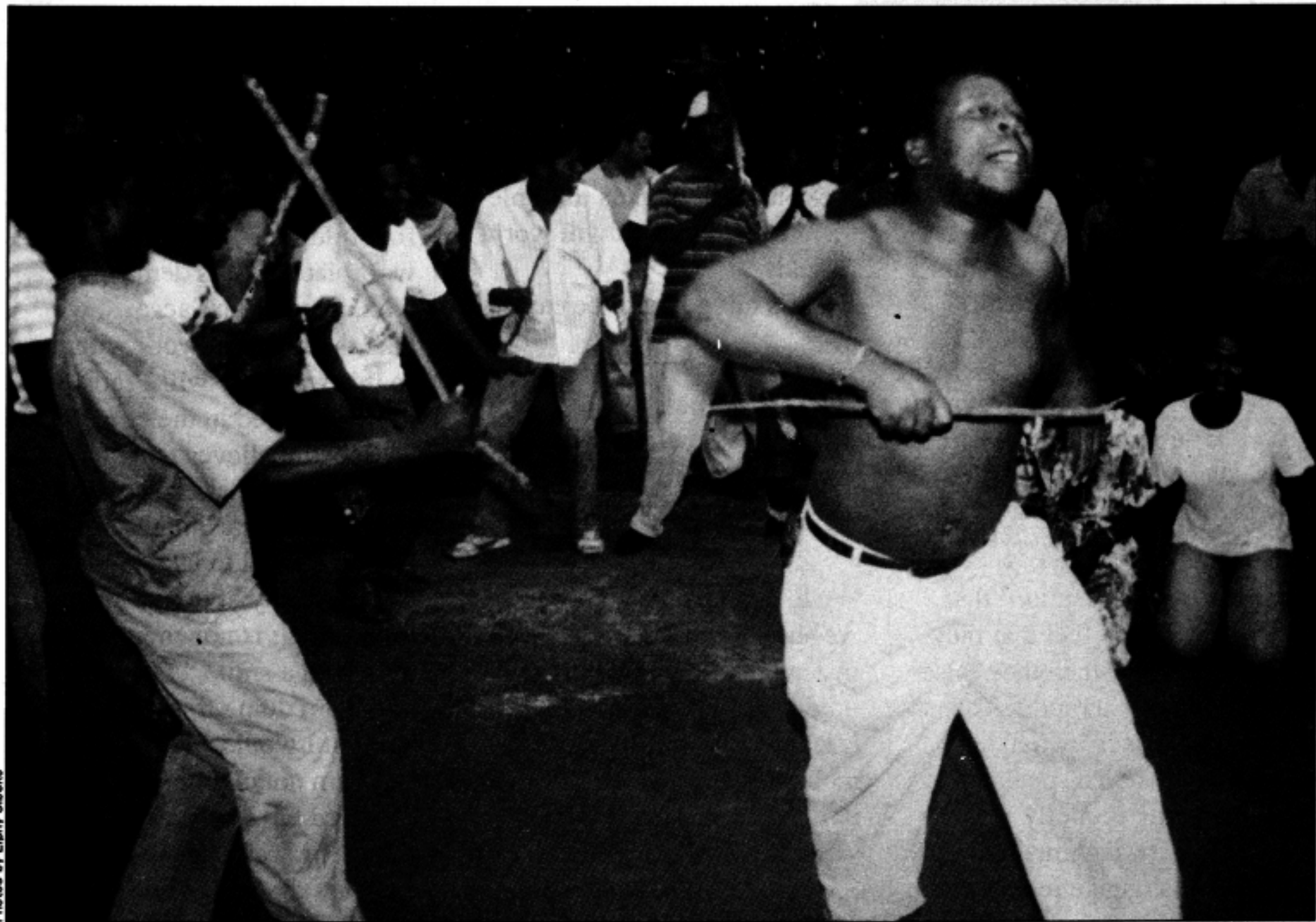
**S A Labour Bulletin** has articles about unions; strikes and other labour action; community issues; and about the politics of the working class. It is read by a wide range of people and is used by unions and other organisations as part of their education programmes.

**Subscription rates** (send to the address below)

Workers (send copy of payslip)	R24 for six editions
Students (send copy of student card)	R24 for six editions
Salaried individuals	R54 for six editions
Organisations etc	Please contact us for rates

**If anyone wishes to help distribute Bulletins by selling them for us, please contact us at the address or phone number below.**

**SALB P O Box 3851 JHB 2000 Tel: (011) 337 8511**



Photos by Elphy Sibeko

Using song and dance to reflect the current violence in South Africa

# COMMUNITY THEATRE WITHOUT WOMEN?

---

**Why are there so few women in community-based theatre groups? Bobby Rodwell attended a conference on Theatre for Development where this topic was discussed**

---

In countries where many people do not know how to read and write, theatre is an important way of educating people and raising debates. Issues like health, housing, education, teenage pregnancy, AIDS and literacy are

dealt with through dance, music, puppetry and drama in this kind of "development" theatre.

In South Africa, there are many theatre groups that put on plays for different communities. About 50 of these groups from

all over the Transvaal met in Venda in March this year at a conference on *Theatre for Development*. One of the issues discussed at the conference was that there are so few women in the theatre groups.



*Bachaki Theatre Group* from Soweto, which participated in the conference, is one example of a group with no women members. As *Bachaki's* Thulani Sifeni admits: "This is a big problem. Our play, *Golden Gloves* is about unemployment and how to deal with it. Lack of jobs affects more women than men, yet there are no women in our group. It is not because we choose to have only male members. It is part of the larger problem of the exploitation of women in theatre."

Women were also under-represented at the conference. Only 20 percent of all the delegates from the PWV area were women even though the organisers, aware of

the problem, asked all groups to give consideration to gender representation. Of the participants from the Northern and Eastern Transvaal, women made up 60 percent. However, because the biggest delegation was from the PWV, women were outnumbered.

There was much debate about how to change this situation. Some people said that 50 percent of the participants at conferences should be women and 50 percent men. But others felt it was no good

sending women to a conference just because they are women. The real change has to take place in theatre groups where more women begin to take an active role.

**O**ther people felt a way forward is to have a women's conference. It can be argued this would just separate women from men. It would not change the fact that women are still under-represented in theatre groups and at conferences. Also, there are some men who are

ship roles.

The problem of the way in which women and men interact was also raised. When a woman got up to speak, some men made noises and reacted differently compared to when men were speaking. The women at the conference felt very angry about this and challenged the male participants.

It is important that debates of this kind are raised. The role of women in theatre has not been debated very much. What



**Puppets make their point**

gender-sensitive. Is it right to exclude them?

It was agreed women's groups should be contacted. However, there are very few women's theatre groups. Also, simply inviting women's groups will not ensure that the real issue of men dominating in theatre groups will be addressed.

The conference also suggested that women's participation in conferences should be strengthened. Women should begin to take on more leader-

often happens is that one of a few "strong" women in theatre is asked to read a poem or perform at an event and everyone leaves feeling that women have been represented.

This conference highlights a problem common to many democratic organisations. Urgently needed development in communities can never succeed if women do not take part. The challenge is for theatre groups and other organisations involved in development to find ways to ensure women take part fully. ☛

**Aida Santos has been a women's activist in the Philippines for many years. When she visited South Africa, she told *Thoraya Pandy* about the achievements of Filipino women**



Photo by Mono Badela

# A force that can't be ignored

Many hundreds of years ago, a woman Filipino general fought against the Spanish who had come to take control of her country. Her name was Gabriela.

Even though the Filipino people lost to the Spanish, the courage of Gabriela lived on. Today, in her honour, there is a women's organisation called Gabriela. Its aim is to unite all Filipino women and arm them with the education and power to

improve their lives.

Aida Santos, a Filipino women's activist, came to South Africa recently. She talked about the lives of women in the Philippines and about the work of Gabriela.

"Filipino women are the poorest of the poor and lead the hardest lives," she said. "Like most South African women, they are landless and cannot read and write. Many have to leave the farms to find work in

the factories where they are badly paid and have few maternity rights. Jobs are scarce, so many women sell their bodies for money. Some even sell themselves as brides to foreign men they have never met.

"Until recently, our men didn't see women as important, even though 51 percent of the population is female. There is a lot of violence in the home, and women have few legal rights," she continued.



"So when we started Gabriela in 1984, we decided that the best way to unite women was to focus on four main issues: violence in the home, reproductive rights (for example, maternity leave), women and development and changing the laws."

At the time the women's movement was forming, the Philippines was a country in change. For over 20 years, it had been ruled by the dictator Ferdinand Marcos who was overthrown by the people in 1986. Elections were held and a woman, Corazon Aquino, was elected president.

Santos said that Filipino women made a mistake when they believed that national liberation would mean freedom for women because women were active in the struggle for democracy. In fact, the lives of women did not change. When women tried to raise their needs and demands, they were told there were other more "important" things to do.

"That was when we realised that we had to unite and organise.



"It was not an easy task. We were called radical feminists and accused of dividing the oppressed and exploited masses. Everyone turned against us for putting all our energy into campaigning around women's issues. It was tough trying to explain to political organisations why the women's struggle was so important."

But things changed and the women's movement became a force in the Philippines that could not be ignored. In the elections last year all the different women's organisations and coalitions came together to draw up a Women's Electoral Agenda. Women from all walks of life - peasants, workers, the urban poor and professionals - took

part. The Agenda looked at issues like domestic violence and reproductive rights.

"Politicians began to realise how important the women's vote was and they begged us to allow them to be the ones to introduce laws on violence and rape," Santos said.

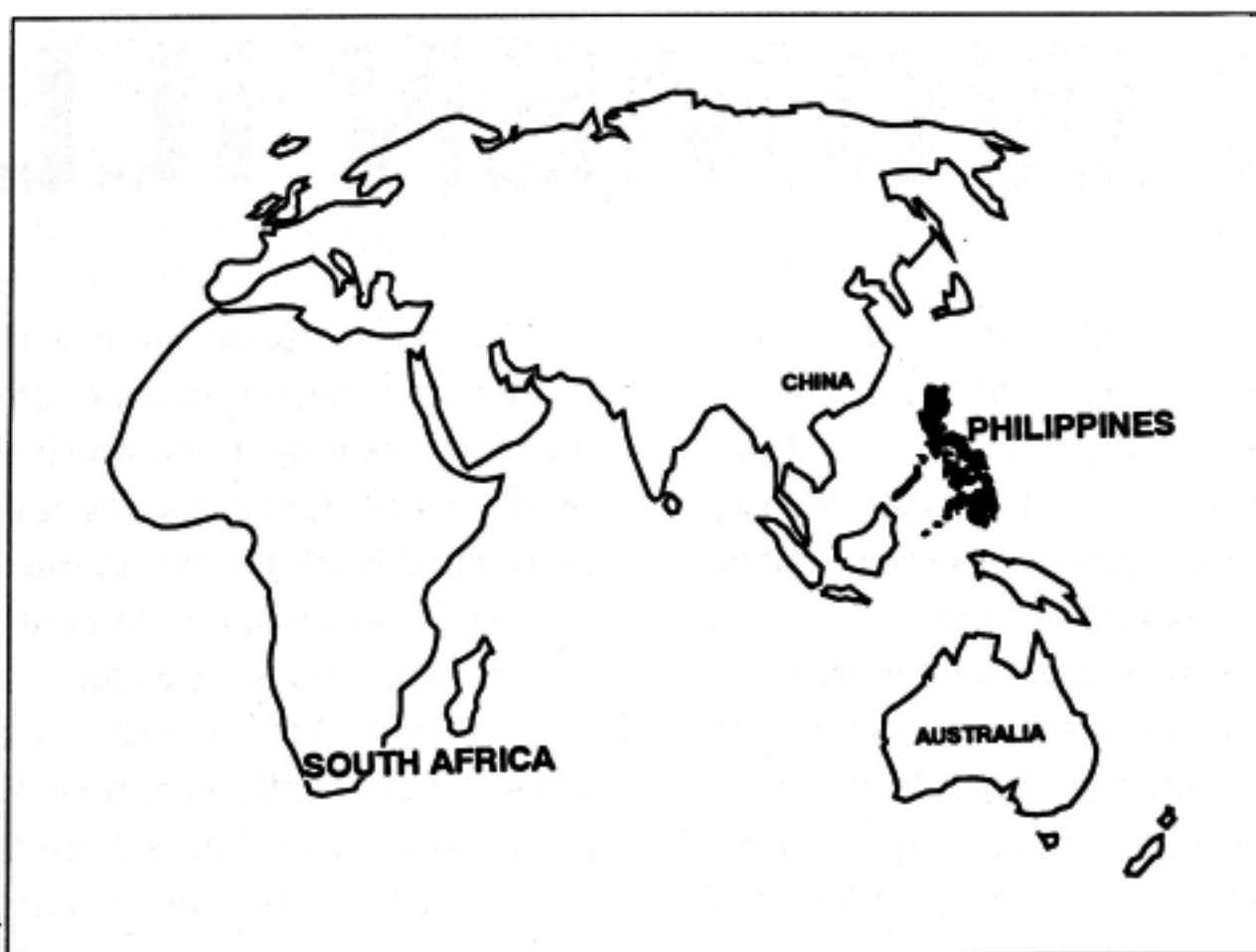
She explained that the women's movement won support through hard work, research and asking women what they wanted to change in their lives.

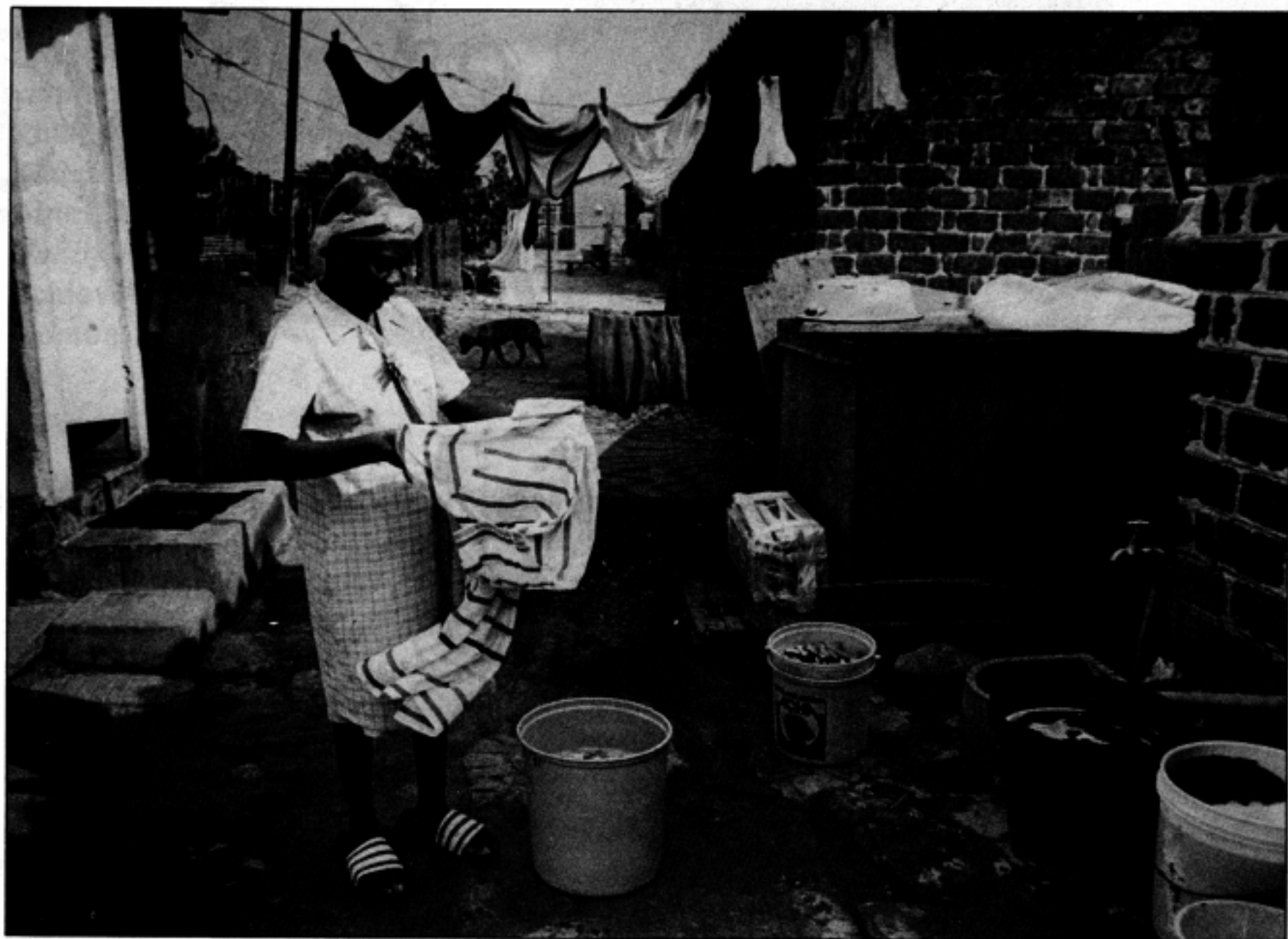
"Women are now setting the framework for debate in this country. This is very positive. Women are saying: Our agenda for change is as important as anyone else's!"

Santos said it took a long time for the word "feminism" to be accepted in the Philippines. She added: "Now some men have started to call themselves feminists, but we call them pro-feminist."

She believes that South African women can learn a lot from the Filipino experience by uniting around common issues - even if they have different political views. "It is the best way to achieve your goals as women."

*Aida Santos visited South Africa as a guest of the Theology Exchange Project.* ★





**"Women's work" without electricity or running water in the house is hard labour. This can make women sick**

**Women's health depends a lot on their living conditions. The truth is, says *Khosi Xaba*, oppression makes you ill. The question is: can oppression be prevented?**

# OPPRESSION MAKES WOMEN ILL

South African women experience oppression through apartheid laws, at home and at work. Anger, frustration, helplessness, fear, a bad self-image and resentment are just a few of the negative feelings resulting from oppression. These feelings can result in physical illness like headaches, sleeplessness and stomach pains.

All over the world, those who

suffer most from poverty are women. Men may live with women in poverty, but women are hardest hit because of how work is divided between men and women in society.

It is women who have to make the fires, cook the meals, feed the children, clean the house, wash the dishes and wash and iron the family's clothes. All this is hard labour.

Managing a poor home is harder than managing a wealthy one. It takes longer and needs harder work. Just think about the amount of work needed to make a cup of tea in a home without electricity or running water.

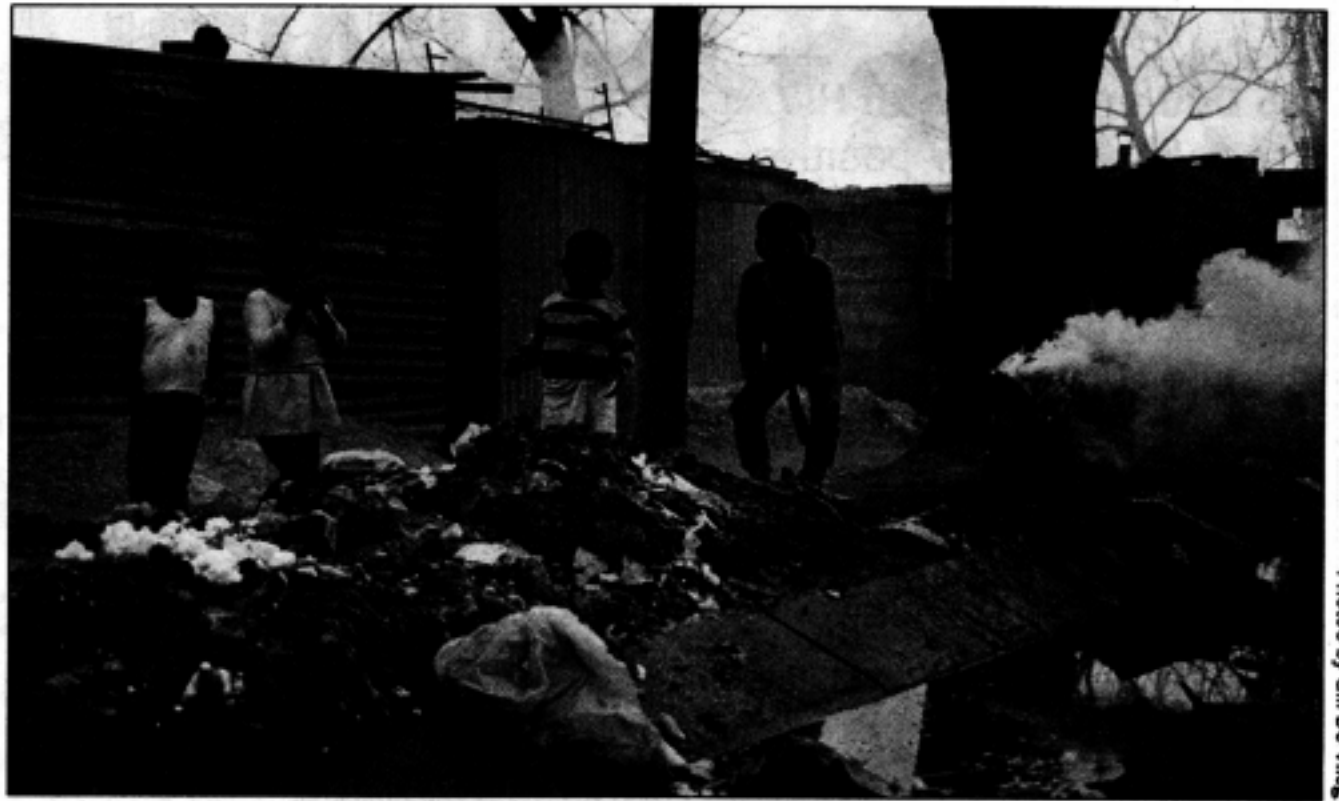
However, this "women's" work is not usually recognised as hard labour. The illness related to this work is also not seen as serious.



Apartheid gave whites a very high standard of living and made millions of black people, especially black women, very poor. In rural communities, squatter settlements and even townships, living conditions are extremely unhealthy. This is because people do not have proper housing, clean water, sanitation or enough food. There are no clinics or hospitals in many communities.

Many diseases are caused by poverty. In South Africa, illnesses like tuberculosis (TB) and malnutrition (lack of a balanced diet) kill many more blacks than whites. More black children die before their first birthday than white children. More black women die of diseases related to pregnancy and child-bearing than white women.

The illness in poor communities places an extra burden on women. It is women who look after the sick and give them physical and emotional support. This damages women's health



Photos by Gill De Villiers

**Women suffer stress when their children get sick because of unhealthy living conditions**

even more. It raises the question: who cares for women when they are sick?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) guides countries around the world on health matters. The WHO defines health as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, not just as the absence of disease. Health must be recognised as a human right. One of the first steps is for women to

have the chance to learn to read and write.

Improving the health of black women in South Africa cannot happen without improving their living conditions.

*Khosi Xaba works at the Women's Health Project, Centre for Health Policy, Wits University, 7 York Road, Parktown, 2193*

*Telephone: (011) 647 1111* ●

## HOW TO IMPROVE WOMEN'S HEALTH

### **Development programmes**

The government must set up programmes which help get rid of poverty. These programmes should ensure healthy living conditions, including proper housing, clean water and sanitation. They should also help women earn a decent living.

### **Training and education**

Women need skills and knowledge to take part in improving their living condi-

tions. Opportunities for training and education will give women a chance to get jobs, earn more and pull themselves out of poverty. Training and education should also help women improve their self-image, learn to be assertive and fight against anyone who tries to take away their dignity. All this will improve women's health.

### **Primary health care**

The focus should be on

preventing disease by creating healthy living conditions and through education. Spending money on educating people about how to be healthy is better than using the money to cure diseases when people are already sick.

### **Clinics and hospitals**

Everyone should be able to get to clinics and hospitals easily and to afford the health care they provide. ●

# HEALTH BRIEFS

## 25 000 infected with HIV

The number of HIV positive people in Swaziland has increased to 25 000 and is expected to double by 1997, the country's National AIDS office said. The government warned the problem was very serious given the fact that Swaziland has a small population.

## First vaccine against malaria

Colombian and Spanish scientists have developed the first vaccine against malaria. The vaccine called SPf66 was tested on 1 548 volunteers and more than 40 percent were protected from the disease. Malaria, which is caused by certain

mosquitoes, kills about 3.5 million people worldwide each year.

## International Day of Action

Marches, rallies, seminars, conferences and many other events in countries around the world have been organised for International Day of Action for Women's Health on May 28. Women's, health and other organisations will focus on the right to proper health care for women, unwanted teenage pregnancies,

contraception and the right to safe and legal abortions.

## Drink water, it'll keep you away from the dentist

Water, it seems, is best for your teeth. In an experiment done by a Sunday newspaper pure fruit juices were found to be as bad for your teeth as Coke and Diet Coke. Four white teeth were placed in different drinks; Coke, Diet Coke, Liquifruit and water for 48 hours. The one in water was normal while the other three were blackened. It is the acid, not the sugar, that causes the damage to teeth.

*Information from local and international publications*



## PENINSULA TECHNIKON

### ACCESS COURSE

Access courses lasting 5 months which allow students access to careers in the fields of

- Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering
- Art & Design
- Business
- Mechanical and Electrical Engineering
- Secretarial work
- Science

#### Apply to:

The Access Programme  
Peninsula Technikon  
P O Box 1906  
BELLVILLE  
7535

**Closing date for applications  
Monday, 17 May 1993**

**Access Courses begin  
19 July 1993**

**FULL SPONSORSHIP OFFERED TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS.**



# As a matter of fact...

United Nations observer Angela Masithela said the Goldstone Commission should investigate the increasing violence against women. Speaking at an International Women's Day rally in

Alexandra, Masithela also said the National Peace Committee should recognise the vital role of women in the peace process and must broaden women's participation in the committee.

-----  
An official of a Johannesburg assurance company is under investigation for demanding sex from women who applied for loans. The official told the women they would get the loan if they had sex with him. The company says it will not take action until the investigation is completed.

-----  
Zimbabwe's ambassador to Geneva has been accused by parliamentarians of demanding sexual favours from female officers in return for promotions or better job situations. The MPs demanded he resign from his position.

I am a woman  
and if I live  
I fight and  
if I fight  
I contribute to  
the Liberation  
of all women  
and so victory  
is born even in  
the darkest hours



Women: A Journal of Liberation

showed Tabet beating women and girls and forcing them to have sex with him. Ten other senior police officers in his department were jailed for between 3 and 18 years.

-----  
Serbian military troops controlled a large part of Bosnia

The fight over whether abortion should be legal in the United States of America took a tragic turn when an anti-abortion protester murdered a doctor outside a clinic in Florida. 186 attacks on abortion clinics were reported in the USA last year and 27 in the first two months of this year.

-----  
Children as young as 12 are being sold into prostitution because clients fear catching AIDS from older prostitutes - so said human rights campaigners at an international conference held in Brussels.

-----  
A senior Moroccan police officer, Haj Mohamed Mustapha Tabet, was sentenced to death after being convicted of rape, kidnapping, violence and assault on women for sexual orgies he held with co-workers. The court watched 118 pornographic videos which

Herzegovina by the end of 1992. The troops have undertaken a so-called "ethnic cleansing" operation by killing Muslim citizens of Bosnia Herzegovina in what has become a bloody civil war. Muslim women, including very young girls, have been tortured, raped and sometimes killed. This is still going on. A feminist group called Tresnjevka has collected two hundred testimonies of Muslim women prisoners who managed to escape the 'rape-death' camps. They said Serbian soldiers told them they would be raped until they became pregnant and would bear ethnic Serbian children. In March this year, a Croatian court sentenced two men to death after they were found guilty of war crimes. The two Serbian soldiers admitted to killing, raping and torturing Muslim women and men, saying they were following orders from senior officers.

-----  
*Information from local and international publications*

# TAXI TALK

## SOAPIES WET OUR TV SCREENS

by Liz Fourie

**S**oap operas (soapies) are very popular. Sadly, I think they make people see women as inferior. They present a picture of women as unconfident, weak and emotional.

To illustrate this point, I want to look at a few of the women characters and the way they are portrayed in two well-known soapies, *The Bold and the Beautiful* and *Dynasty*.

In both soapies there is a clear distinction between the "bad woman" and the "good woman".

Caroline in *The Bold and the Beautiful* is an example of the "good woman".

She stayed sexually pure (for her wedding night of course) and is softhearted and gentle. She waits for the man to come to her. Through her patience she earns the most "handsome" man in the soapie, Ridge.

Stephanie is the typical "bad woman".

She has all the strengths of a woman who has learnt to survive in a man's world. She has drive and initiative.

However her role as a "tough" woman is portrayed in a negative way. The soapie gives the idea it is not right for a woman to be so outspoken because it will only bring her unhappiness.

That is what happens to Stephanie. She loses Eric (her husband) to the sensitive, pathetic Brooke. Brooke suffers one heartbreak

after another and wets our TV screens regularly. After all, women do all the crying in this soapie.

In *Dynasty*, it is Krystle who is pure. She finds true love because she waits for her man and has a heart of gold (which also happens to be the colour of her hair).

Alexis is a successful businesswoman but never finds true love or happiness. She fights her way to the top, hurting and even destroying people. But her determination leaves her unhappy and lonely.

The soapies encourage women to think it is right and natural for them to cry and be soft-hearted. Being the "good woman" inevitably means being submissive. Soapies suggest women should know their place and not challenge men. After all, according to the soapies, the only important thing in women's lives is men.

Many of the characters in soapies

are idolised by viewers who want to be like them. I think the soapies play a big role in the continued oppression of women. ❄



### EARN R70.00 – WRITE A TAXI TALK

SPEAK will pay R70.00 for any Taxi Talk we publish. It can be about any topic which makes you angry or laugh or you think is a burning issue.

Send it to SPEAK Taxi Talk, PO Box 261363, Excom 2023, together with your name, address and phone number (if any). SPEAK has the right to edit contributions. We will not return contributions we don't use.



# NOTICES

## AIDS play

City Health Acting Troupe (Chat) is performing a play called AIDS. The play is produced by the Johannesburg City Health Department's Education section. Lasting 40 minutes, it provides basic information about AIDS, how it is spread and how to prevent it. It is produced FREE OF CHARGE and can be performed in SOTHO, ZULU and ENGLISH.

*For more information or arrangements to have the play performed contact Ms M Crewe on (011) 407 7148 during office hours.*

You can also contact the African Research and Education Puppetry Programme (AREPP) about providing a puppet show on AIDS. AREPP works mainly through grassroots organisation to take their message about AIDS to both rural and urban communities.

*You can contact them at:  
PO Box 51022, Raedene  
Johannesburg 2124  
Telephone: (011) 483 1024*

## SIXTH CALL FOR ACTION

International Day of Action for Women's Health  
May 28, 1993

Abortion: we shall no longer be silent about it!

Campaign for the Prevention of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity



## Invitation to women artists and photographers

Women are invited to submit artwork and/or black and white photographs for a calendar that will be produced next year. The theme of the calendar is WOMEN. It will be produced by Kathy Schultz for the Cape Town Rape Crisis Centre. The Rape Crisis Centre is in need of funds and is calling on people for financial pledges for the production of the calendar.

*For more information, contact Kathy (021) 794 7428.  
Artwork and photographs must be in by the end of July.*

## Every 87 seconds

is a very good 30 minute video about rape in South Africa. The video is directed by Lucie Page and cost R50 for organisations & R100 for individuals.

It is available from:

Afra Vision  
PO Box 16455  
Doornfontein 20286  
Telephone:  
(011) 333 5668

**Every 87 seconds**

## Women and Trade Unions

The International Labour Research and Information Group (Ilrig) has recently set up a project called "Women and Trade Unions". This project provides resources and education programmes on the experiences and struggles of women workers in other countries. The aim of the project is to build an awareness of the living and working conditions of women workers in the world and to assist in building international solidarity between women workers.

**For more information about the project contact Althea Mac Quene at Ilrig, PO Box 213, Salt River 7925.  
Telephone: (021) 47 6375**





**WIN!**  
**A BATIK**  
**FROM**  
**KENYA**

**Subscribe to SPEAK and you could  
be a winner in more ways than one!**



**SEE INSIDE FRONT COVER FOR SUBSCRIPTION RATES**