

SPEAK

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TOPFOTO

COMMENT

SPEAK staff returned with heavy hearts from a memorial service for the 28 people killed in the massacre at Bisho, Ciskei, in the Border region. Tears have hardly dried since the Boipatong massacre. Not to mention the mourning of individuals killed by shadowy assassination squads; the continuing deaths in prison cells and the bitter fear which has become part of life for many South Africans. To blame marchers at Bisho for being killed is like blaming black people for Bantu Education.

SPEAK pays tribute to South African exile Ruth First, who was assassinated ten years ago in Mocambique. We share with you historic photographs of First from the 1950's and 1960's. Xoliswa Tom explains how, despite repression, village women in the Border region are holding meetings to discuss the laws and customs they want to change.

We have some celebrating to do - African women athletes are beginning to move into the Olympics spotlight - and we are proud of them. Share in our glorious photographs from Barcelona.

South Africa's first women Anglican priests have been ordained - making both history and progress for all women. Newly-ordained Professor Nancy Charton, tells how it feels.

Two women talk about the challenge of being bus drivers. We offer information on where to find night schools; how alcohol can affect you and advice on how to live positively with HIV and AIDS.

As we mourn, we must continue to educate, empower, mobilise and organise. The suffering of our people must never be in vain.

Talk back

Women should change first

I am so glad SPEAK showed information about these dirty and cruel beauty contests. These contests have robbed women of their dignity and progress in life. Now men see women as Christmas trees, not as people who can take part in decision-making about the future of this country. Even at work women waste their time in front of pocket mirrors. At work, if a woman has on a new expensive dress, all women will praise her as if she's bought an aeroplane.

Women play a role in discriminating and undermining other women. If a woman is called in front of a meeting to make a speech, it's women who will make some bad comments about what she is wearing. "Look at her socks, look at her hair!" is what they will say. This is the result of these beauty contests.

A woman must be a beauty queen wherever she is - as if there's nothing else important in her life. Before men change, I believe women should change first. They must show the world they are human beings, not sex objects.

Vera Vimbela
Umtata, Transkei

Information about teenage pregnancy

I am a youth who has a healthy mind in a healthy body - so I want to be up to date. I need information about teenage pregnancy so I can have good knowledge to live a better life.

John
Northern Transvaal

SPEAK has a package of articles on teenage pregnancy, which includes information on contraception. Send R7.00 to SPEAK, PO Box 261363, Excom, 2023, Johannesburg to order it if you live in southern Africa. Anyone living outside of southern Africa who wishes to receive the package, please write to us for the cost.

Stop the bad treatment

Our black African women do not get good treatment when they are ready to deliver their children. Mistakes happen because black nurses in the maternity wards carry on their back doctors who are still in training.

But white women giving birth in their hospitals are helped by fully-trained doctors who are assisted by white nurses because they don't want any mistakes to happen to their people.

When black women deliver their babies by operation, doctors stitch them up as if they are stitching a sack - you stitch it anyhow because a sack doesn't feel pain. But the women being stitched have reason to worry. If a woman is stitched in the wrong way that operation will worry her and cause a lot of pain.

Black peoples' lives are not safe in black hospitals, because of apartheid treatment. White patients in South Africa get ten times better treatment than black patients. Apartheid in hospitals must come to an end.

Caswell Bafana Sithole
Diepkloof, Soweto

Joining up

I would like to congratulate you on the July issue of SPEAK. It was my first time to

see your magazine. I am a 20 year-old female and very much concerned about women all over South Africa. I would like to know more about women and their organisations.

Please send me the address of any woman's organisation I can join.

Keep up the good work,
sisters

Jabulile Mkhasibe
Soweto

Thank you for your praise. We suggest you contact the Women's National Coalition (WNC) which is made up of a wide range of women's organisations, including those who give advice and support to abused women, political, social and religious groups. This may help you decide which organisation you would most like to be part of. The address is: WNC, P Bag 72136, Park View, 2122, Johannesburg. Phone: (011) 3394451.

Letter from a winner

Thanks for the good message that I won the radio cassette player in the competition of May 1992. I was so happy when I received the congratulatory letter. As a boy who believes women are oppressed, I will go on buying SPEAK magazine and answering the questions in the competitions.

I will jump high on the great day I receive the prize. Viva SPEAK magazine and the liberation of women, Viva!

Hendry Nkuna
Sovenga

We hope you enjoy your prize. ♡

Competition winners!

Cassette player winner

Congratulations to Glory Mkhwanazi of Esikhawini - you are the winner in the SPEAK 41 'Win a cassette player' competition. You will receive your musical prize soon.

Book winners

The following people will soon receive their copy of the book "**No turning back - the struggle for gender equality in the unions**" from the competition in SPEAK 43. We're sure you'll enjoy reading it. The winners are:

Margaret Mminele of Chuenespoort, N Transvaal

Francina Mkomazi of Braamfontein, Johannesburg

Jabulile Mkhasibe of Orlando East, Soweto

Mduduzi Zuma of Embalenhle, Eastern Transvaal

Meera Modi of Fordsburg, Johannesburg

Write to SPEAK

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

Rumour has it Brigadier Oupa Gqozo's wife is concerned about the problems in Ciskei and has urged him to give up politics and go home to Kroonstad. Do women *always* come up with the best ideas?

* * * * *

Gatsha Buthelezi said in a TV interview, "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander." We're not sure if this shows he's becoming more gander ... um ... gender sensitive.



Kwa-Sophie...

Looks like 'Derek Bauer's World' (see the cartoon which appeared in the Weekly Mail) is really a man's world. No white women lose jobs? No black women lose their lives?

* * * * *

A male delegate at WUS-SA's recent conference about empowering women got carried away in his speech when he declared, emotionally, "we are all women here!" Unfortunately, he went on to talk about how policies mustn't forget "the man in the street." Sounds like he's half-in and half-out of Bauer's world.

* * * * *

Women as fetchers of water, collectors of firewood, tillers of the land and as mothers are usually the first to feel the effects of environmental problems in the developing world. They are also in the best position to manage the environment but their role is often ignored by policy-makers and planners.

Adapted from New Internationalist, July 1988. ♀

DEREK BAUER'S WORLD



Cartoon from the The Weekly Mail, September 18 to 24, 1992

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Border women look at the law



Photo by Paul Weinberg, Southlight

Rural women face a huge challenge in their battle for equal rights. Xoliswa Tom, who works with rural women in the Border region, tells Jo Anne Collinge about it

Women work the land most of the time ... But men own the land

Xoliswa Tom is a fieldworker in the Border Council of Churches Development and Training Ministries women's programme. She says the women's charter campaign is important. Collecting demands gives women in the Border region the chance to make their voices heard.

Tom and other women leaders in the Border region believe drawing up the charter of women's rights must happen step by step. Educating each other is just as important as drawing up a charter.

"The most important thing is empowerment. Women must be able to understand and explain

their own situation and to say which needs are most important. Then they must come up with programmes which suit those needs."

Women who cannot read and write are just as capable of taking part as those who have schooling. "We must stop thinking that people are dumb just because they didn't go to school," says Tom.

Women have taken seriously the idea they must understand the law in order to change it.

"We first went around to villages asking women to hold meetings to talk about the women's charter campaign. At these meetings women were elected to represent the village at the regional workshop," says Tom. 120 women elected at village level attended

the regional "Women and Law" workshop which took place in July this year. Many issues came up at the workshop.

Tom says, "There were many things women thought were in the law when in fact they were just cultural and social issues, just something that has been happening for a long time. Many people did not know where custom stops and the law begins. When the women heard that some of the things which oppress them were not in the law, they said 'What!'"

Women saw how different marriage laws gave women different rights. "This region is mostly rural so women are often married under customary law," says Tom.

Customary law does not give the wife strong rights. In a region where most women stay in the villages while the men go out to look for work this can spell trouble.

"When the husband stops sending money home and the wife goes to the city to find him, she often finds out he has a second wife. When the first wife tries to fight for her rights, the other wife will come up with a marriage certificate. She is more recognised by the law. The rural wife is more recognised by the husband's family," says Tom.

Tom says the question of customary marriages is tied up closely with the issue of land rights. "Women are working on this land most of the time because the men are not there. But the men own the land. They can sell the land if they want to."

Tom says Border women want to have more discussions about customs which shut women out of decisions about the family.

"With migrant labour, a man is only interested in his children when they are old enough to marry. When he sees the girls all grown up. When he knows he will get lobola.

"The marriage negotiations are all between men. The women are not involved. Women say "Those are our children. We are the ones left behind to look after them, to see they get educated".

Women also felt they were denied their proper place in the family when a child dies a violent death. Custom demands that only men should be allowed to bury these victims. This is very painful for women. "We want to see where our children are buried," some women said at the workshop.



Map to show Border region

Tom says custom is a funny thing. Customs which hold back men are quick to disappear but customs which oppress women stay firmly in place.

"It is one thing for women to become aware of their rights. It is another thing for them to be able to claim these rights in day to day living," she says.

Unless women are able to earn their own living, it is very difficult to change customs which keep them from gaining power in the family and in society. This is why in a future South Africa development programmes (programmes which provide better education, housing and jobs) must pay special attention to women, says Tom.

Women at the workshop said women should get special development aid to make up for years and years of being kept from work in the cities.

Tom is sure the battle for women's rights will be uphill. In Ciskei permission is needed for all meetings of more than 20 people. Already in Jubisa village, the headman has refused to allow women to hold a local follow-up meeting to the law workshop. Armed policemen forced the meeting to disperse when the women tried to go ahead without permission. Women are deeply

Map: Human Rights Commission

affected by the political unrest in the region. Tom says after the recent massacre in Bisho, women were running all over looking for missing children. Including women's rights along with human rights is a burning issue for Border women. ☉

XOLISWA TOM

Xoliswa Tom grew up in Queenstown as part of a big family. Her parents believed in treating boys and girls equally. When she was high school age and all the high schools in Queenstown were "whites only", she was sent away to boarding school.

She did a commercial course after matric. She then opened a shop in the Ciskei village of Ku-Dubani. It was only then she realised how women struggle under the migrant labour system. There



Photo by Peter Mokagi, The Star

Xoliswa Tom

are few jobs in the Border region so most men are forced to migrate to towns to look for work. Tom says women often raise their children to the age of two or three years without the father seeing the baby. Few men are able to send home enough money to look after their families so their children grow up in poverty.

Tom is a firm believer in women's rights. ☉

WIN!



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All you have to do is tell us which woman and which man you would like as the next president of South Africa. Write down two names - one name for a woman president and the other for a man president. We'll have a lucky draw from all the entries and you could be a winner! Good luck!

1. I would like the next woman president to be: _____

2. I would like the next man president to be: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone number (if you have one): _____

Send your entry form to: SPEAK Cutlery Competition, PO Box 261363, Excom, 2023, Johannesburg, South Africa. This competition is only open to people living in southern Africa. No employee or relative of an employee of SPEAK may enter. The winner will be announced in the February 1993 issue of SPEAK. Make sure your entry form reaches us by 5 December 1992.



Ten years ago South African exile Ruth First was assassinated in Mocambique. Jo Ann Collinge writes about this remarkable woman

RUTH FIRST

South African exile Ruth First was killed by a letter bomb in Maputo in August 1982.

Ambassadors, members of parliament and even presidents from 34 countries came to her funeral.

They came to mourn Ruth First not only because she was a victim of apartheid's death squads. They came to honour the way she lived, as one who knew no national borders in the

struggle to win power for the poor and oppressed.

The University of the Western Cape recently held a conference in honour of First on the 10th anniversary of her death. The event was a reminder that First stood out among South African exiles as one who made a mark on other parts of Africa. Academics and well-known people came from far and wide to speak with loving respect

about their work with her.

In South Africa, First was a political activist in the Congress of Democrats. She was a gifted writer who helped to draft the Freedom Charter. She was also an underground member of the banned South African Communist Party.

She was best known as a journalist who opened people's eyes to issues like migrant labour, the women's struggle

against passes, and the way workers on the Transvaal potato farms were treated like slaves.

First was married to Joe Slovo. She stood trial with him and 154 other Congress supporters in the huge treason trial of the late 1950's. After Slovo left the country, First was detained in solitary confinement in 1963. When she came out of jail after 117 days, she found her close comrades on trial after their arrest in Rivonia. She left South Africa in 1964, never to return. First did a lot of anti-apartheid work in her early years of exile in London. She used her gift of research and writing to give a voice to the African National Congress leaders who were jailed for life in the Rivonia Trial. It was First who put together the speeches of Nelson Mandela for his famous book, *No easy walk to freedom*. She also edited Govan Mbeki's writing, *The Peasants' Revolt*.

First wrote about struggles in other African countries - South



Ruth First with close friends (from left): Yusuf Cachalia, Walter Sisulu and Albertina Sisulu. Human Rights Day, Alexandra, 1952

West Africa (as it was still called), Kenya and Libya.

As a Marxist she believed political freedom was important, but not enough. The people as a whole should share the wealth of their countries. It disturbed her deeply that, after the foreign rulers left Africa, newly independent African

governments did not improve conditions for the people as a whole.

When she worked at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mocambique, she helped the Frelimo government develop policies.

Anna Maria Gentili, a professor from Italy who worked with First in Maputo, said when the government talked about better policies, First would always ask "better for whom?" First always fought for policies which would benefit the poorest classes, Gentili recalled. Gentili believed First's work was special because she did not start with fixed theories. She started by finding out what was really going on and asking questions about it.

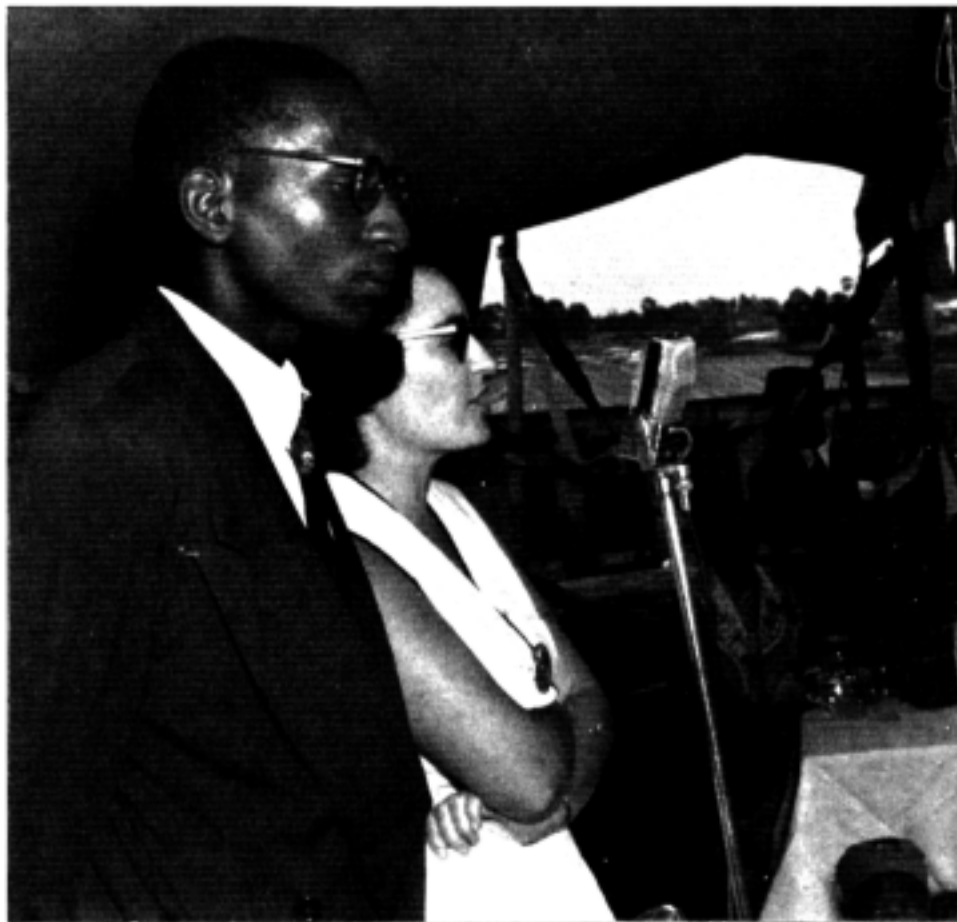
First realised even with a democratic government, you couldn't get better policies unless government workers were trained. They needed to know how to research the problems people had as farmers and as industrial workers.



Ruth First with daughters Robyn and Gillian, Johannesburg, 1962

Peter Katjavivi, who will head Namibia's first university, remembers First as one of the first people to say Namibia's struggle for freedom should be looked at as a struggle in its own right and not just as part of the problem of apartheid. Katjavivi said the oppressed had a way of telling who their friends were - and Ruth was clearly a friend of the oppressed. ☪

SPEAK thanks Mayibuye Centre at the University of the Western Cape for providing photographs for this article.



Mayibuye Centre

Ruth First speaking in Alexandra Township, Johannesburg on Human Rights Day, December 1952. Her speech is being translated by ANC activist John Mavuso

Ruth First - her life

Ruth First was born in Johannesburg on 4th May 1925. Her parents were Jewish immigrants who settled in South Africa in 1906. First's upbringing was very different from most white South African children. Her parents were founder members of the Communist Party of South Africa. Their home was always alive with political discussion between people of all races and from all walks of life.

First went to Jeppe High School for Girls. From 1942-46 she studied at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) where she obtained a BA in Social Studies. She was very active in politics. Her fellow students included Nelson Mandela, Eduardo Mondlane and Joe Slovo.

In 1949 she married Slovo, a lawyer and labour organiser who later became Chief of Staff of Umkhonto we Sizwe and

Secretary-General of the South African Communist Party (SACP). They lived in the Johannesburg suburb, Parktown North.

First's eldest daughter Shawn Slovo made a film about her mother called *A World Apart*. The film showed the home of Slovo and First as a place where people of all races met as equals. It also showed how the Slovo children suffered from the arrest of their mother and the constant police raids on their home.

In 1953 First helped start the Congress of Democrats. She was also an underground member of the banned SACP and African National Congress (ANC). She helped draft the Freedom Charter but did not attend the Congress of People in Kliptown in 1955 because she was banned.

In 1956 First and Slovo were

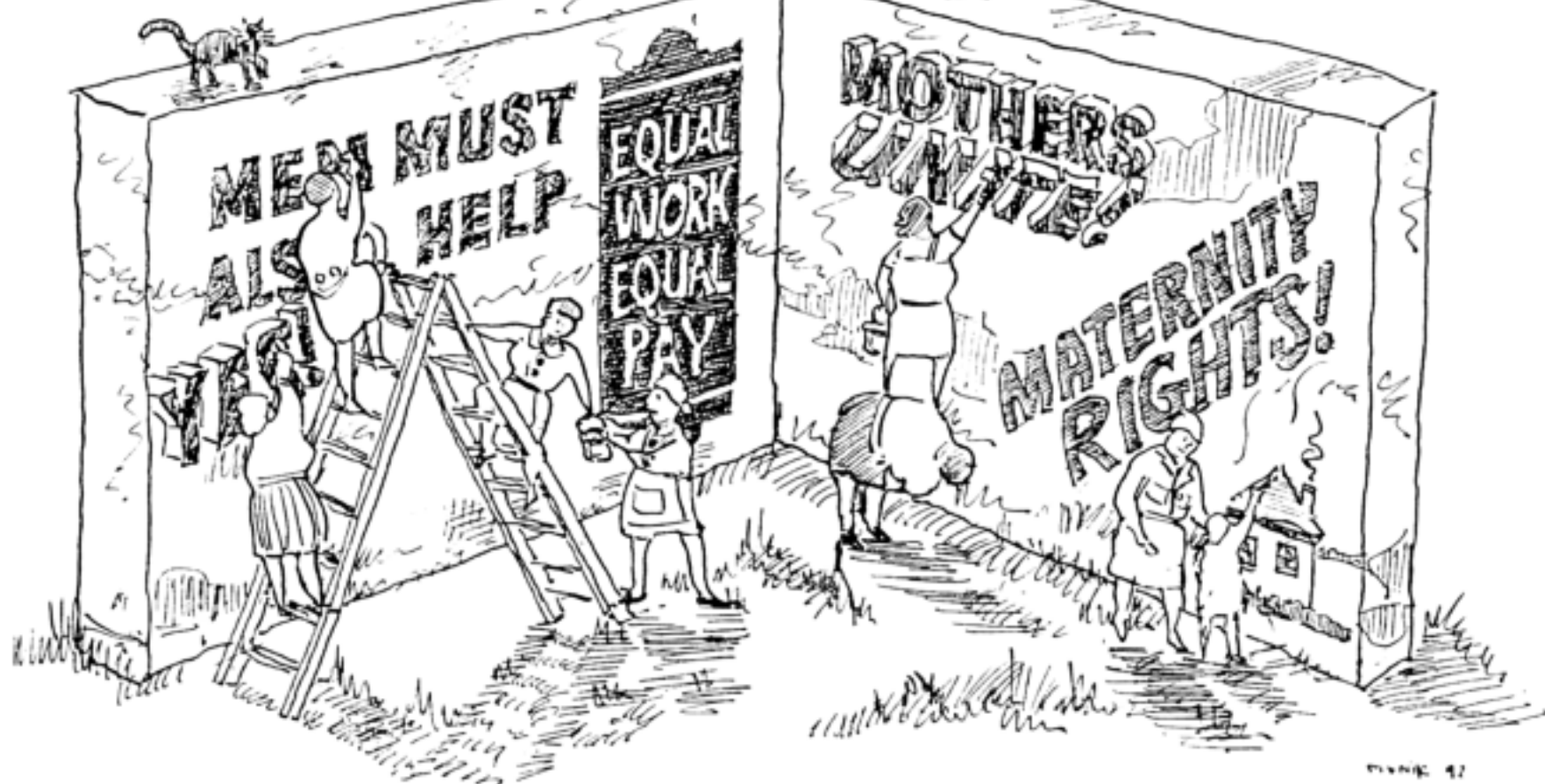
among the 156 leaders who stood accused in the Treason Trial.

First was banned from journalism in the 1960s. In 1963 she was detained in solitary confinement. She wrote about this in her book called *117days*. After her release from prison she went into exile.

In 1977 First joined the Centre for African Studies at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Maputo. She researched and wrote about the lives of Mocambican migrant labourers, especially those who worked on the mines in South Africa.

In 1982 she was killed by a letter bomb, believed to have been sent by South African agents.

Information from Don Pinnock *Writing Left: The South African Journalism of Ruth First* (1992) ☪



WALLS CAN SHOUT!

Women's demands are being listened to, written down and collected all over the country - "Operation Big Ears" is happening

The walls of the Sactwu hall in Woodstock, Cape Town, were covered with plain white paper.

Hundreds of women, armed with pens, wrote up demands and ideas of what they as women want in South African society.

This was how the Western Cape Women's Charter Alliance launched the Women's National Coalition's (WNC) "Operation Big Ears" campaign for a charter for women's rights.

The launch, held on 16 August, was attended by women from all over the Western Cape.

"There was a very militant spirit," said Beatie Hofmeyr of the Alliance.

Amongst the speakers were a domestic worker, disabled woman

and a woman from the rural areas. They spoke about the particular problems they face in society.

The writing on the wall was clear. Women want:

- domestic work to be shared by women and men;
- a health system that cares about women's health;
- equal rights under the law;
- a more effective child maintenance system;
- housework to be seen as real work which is valued by society.

The Alliance is not without problems.

"Some women are not really taking the campaign seriously enough," said Hofmeyr.

Asked why, she said, "these women do not see the oppression of women as something they want to fight in their organisations."

SPEAK asked if one year was long enough to draw up the charter. Hofmeyr replied: "We will produce better results if the campaign is short-lived." ○

The Western Cape Women's Charter Alliance was launched in July 1991. Forty organisations, including the Democratic Party, Black Sash, Rape Crisis, African National Congress and Congress of South African Trade Unions make up the Alliance. It is part of the Women's National Coalition.

For further information about the Alliance contact:
The Western Cape Women's Charter Alliance
PO Box 13078, Mowbray,
7705, Cape Town

The Women's National Coalition is made up of a wide range of organisations. It was launched in April this year with the aim of drawing up a charter for women's rights. This campaign was given the name "Operation Big Ears" by the WNC. For further information contact: The Women's National Coalition, PO Box 62319, Marshalltown, 2107, Johannesburg.
Telephone:
(011) 331-5957 ○



“Night school helps us make our dreams come true. It has given us a second chance,” say domestic workers Jane Yisa and Promise Phoseka. They tell Bobby Rodwell why

Learning together. From left to right: Promise, Cynthia and Jane

Night school

Jane Yisa was forced to leave school in Standard Eight when she became pregnant. **Promise Phoseka** had to leave school because her parents did not have enough money to pay her school fees.

Jane and Promise are two of many thousands of South Africans who have not been able to finish their schooling.

Bantu education and poverty have left millions of black South Africans without a good education. More than 10 million adults in South Africa cannot read or write. Many turn to night school for a chance to complete their education. There are thousands of adults all over

South Africa who go to night school.

Jane and Promise work in Yeoville. At night they go to school at Ikageng Barnato Park in Berea, Johannesburg. They have just finished writing examinations for their Standard Eight certificate.

Jane said she first heard about night school from one of her friends. She went to see the principal of the school.

“The principal told me all about the school. We were put into classes and told how much to pay for our subjects. It was R75 for each subject for the year. I was very nervous at first, but I soon felt relaxed because there

were many women like myself who wanted to complete their education.”

Promise felt excited on her first day of night school. “I was so happy, it was like a dream.”

Going out at night can be dangerous. We asked Jane and Promise how they deal with this.

“We walk together in a big group to night school in Berea because it is unsafe for women to walk alone at night. While we are out walking we talk about our lives. We have learned a lot from one another. Night school starts when we set off walking together!”

Promise left school because her family was poor. “I had to

come to the city to work as a domestic worker to help support my family”.

She said: “I come from Nongoma, a very small place in rural Natal. I was very frightened when I came to Johannesburg in 1989. I had never been to a city before! Night school helped me feel more at home. I started meeting other people and feeling more independent”.

Jane said it was like the end of the world when she had to leave school because she was pregnant. “I was seventeen years old and living in De Aar in the Northern Cape. I did not even know I could fall pregnant from having sex! Suddenly life changed, I was pregnant and no longer at school. It was very hard.”

When asked about the future Jane said: “I have worked very hard. I was very happy when I won a prize at night school for coming first in English and Afrikaans. When I have finished Standard Eight, I will do matric. Then I want to study nursing. I want to work to help my people. I feel I am going to succeed with my studies”.

Promise is determined to carry on with her education even though her employer does not like the idea of her going to night school. “When I told my employer that I go to night school she said it would be too much work for me to go four nights a week,” said Promise. “I think she knows I will leave her if I succeed in getting my education. I am very badly paid but if I can get my education I can improve my life”.

“Going to night school will help you make your dreams for a better future come true,” they told SPEAK. ●



Photos by Andrew Shabangu

From left to right: Jane Yisa, Promise Phoseka, and their friend Cynthia Enge in front of their night school

The Department of Education and Training (DET) runs night schools through their adult education department. Write to the DET Adult Education Officer in your area. The addresses are as follows:

Johannesburg area

The Regional Director, P Bag X01
Booyens 2016, Johannesburg

Highveld (Springs)

P Bag X063 Springs, 1560

Vaal Triangle

P Bag X054 Vereeniging,
1930

Natal

P Bag X9026
Pietermaritzburg, 3200

Orange Free State

P Bag X20513, Bloemfontein,
9300

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THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES

How can women's rights be included in all the changes taking place in South Africa? Delegates at a conference held in Johannesburg in August did some hard thinking



Photo by Anna Zierninski

Conference delegates discussed the role of women in a new South Africa

Phumzile Ngcuka, the director of World University Service of South Africa (WUS-SA) told SPEAK, "We decided to hold this conference because things are changing so quickly in South Africa. We have to see that women's rights are included in the political changes taking place. Development projects must also be run in such a way that they empower women".

More than 150 women and a few men sat down to discuss ways of including women's rights in the political, social and economic changes taking place in South Africa. Those taking part came from different

backgrounds, including political organisations, non-governmental organisations (NGO's), trade unions, religious and professional organisations.

There was some serious talking as delegates shared ideas about women in education, health, employment, culture and religion. Visitors from Zambia and Sweden talked about how women's rights are promoted in their countries.

Delegates felt the women's charter campaign has an important role to play in raising awareness of women's demands and rights in all parts of life. They said television and

radio must be used to tell all people, rural and urban, organised and unorganised, about the charter campaign. Women should lobby (talk to powerful people to get support) for the campaign, said delegates.

Delegates said there was a need for an "apex" or umbrella women's organisation with information on women's organisations in the whole of South Africa. WUS-SA was asked to organise another meeting to discuss this issue.

WUS-SA is a fundraising NGO with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The main work of WUS is:

- * fundraising for other NGO's
- * projects for returned exiles ●

The Olympics - then and now

Photo by Topphoto International



Derartu Tulu of Ethiopia passes South Africa's Elana Meyer in the 10 000m race at Barcelona. Tulu became the first African woman to win an Olympic gold medal in the 10 000m race

Women did not take part in the ancient Olympics Games. Things have changed since then. At the Barcelona Olympics this year African women athletes have shown they too can be Olympic champions

The Ancient Greeks first started the Olympic Games in honour of the Greek god, Zeus. The first Olympiad (Olympic Games) ever written about was held 776 years before Christ in the Ancient Greek city of Olympia. Only men took part and only men watched. The ancient games were held every four years for 1500 years before they stopped.

Olympic Games started up again in 1896 in Athens, Greece. Since then the Olympics have been held every four years - except in 1940 and 1944 because of the Second World War. More and more countries have taken part in each Olympic Games.

In 1964 South Africa was thrown out of the Olympics

because of its Apartheid policies. South Africa returned to the Olympics in Barcelona this year.

The United States of America, the former Soviet Union and the Eastern European countries usually win the most medals at the Olympics.

Despite problems of poverty and poor facilities, Africa has produced its share of Olympic champions. Since 1960, African athletes have dominated the middle and long distance races. Kenya has produced a string of Olympic champions - Amos Biwitt, Kipchoge Keino, Julius Korir, John Ngugi and Peter Rono. Ethiopia has produced Abebe Bikila, Mamo Wolde and Miruts Yifter. Other athletes who have won gold medals are John Akii-Bua from

Uganda and Said Aouita from Morocco.

All these athletes were men. Nawal el Mutawakil made Olympic history by becoming the first African and first Arab woman to win a medal on the Olympics track at the Los Angeles Olympics in 1984.

El Moutawakil's win encouraged other African women. In the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, African women scored a number of "firsts" by winning four medals - two gold, one silver and one bronze. SPEAK celebrates the achievements of these woman.

They give hope that one day we will have black South African women among Africa's Olympic champions.

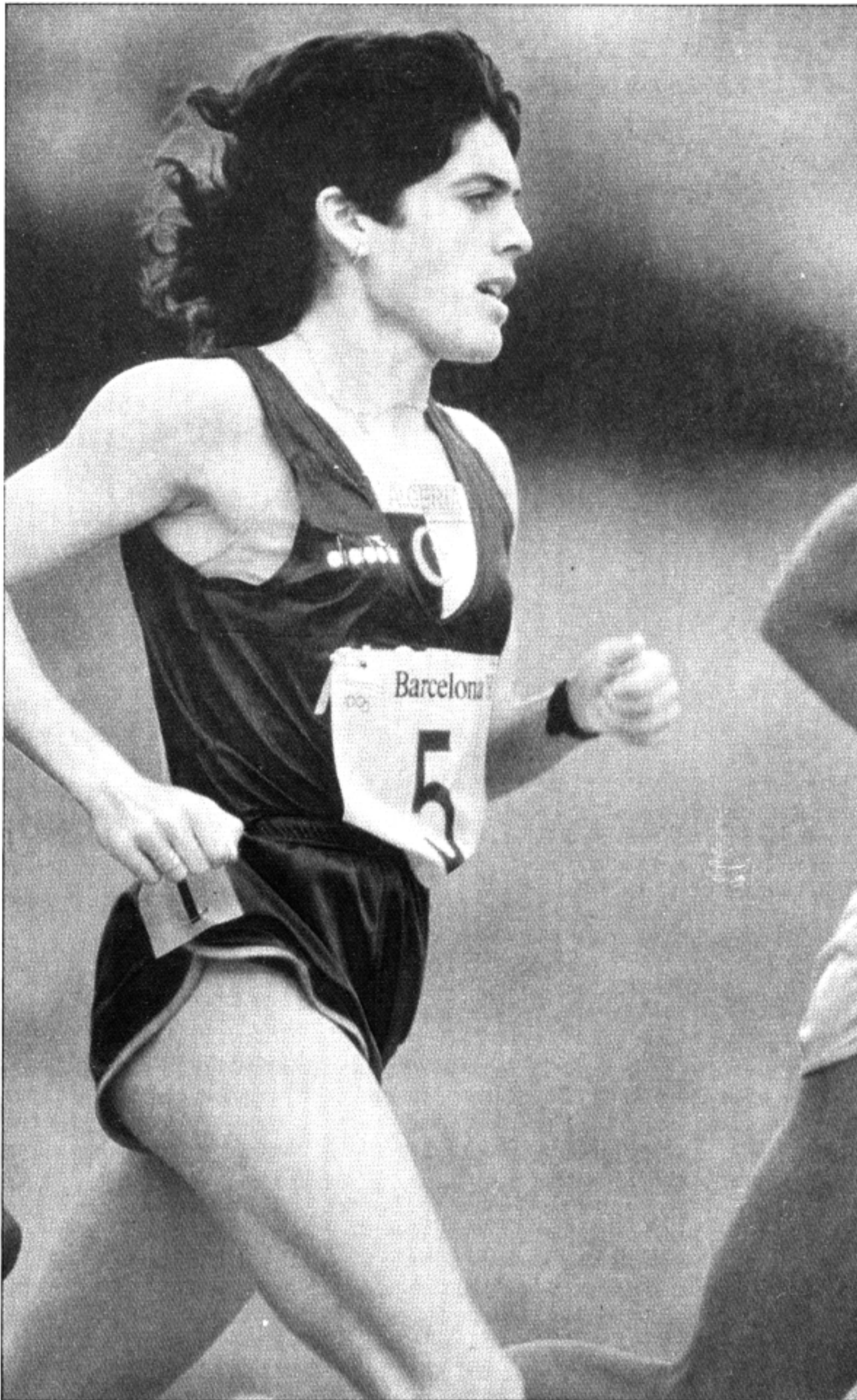


Photo by Brunskill, Topfoto International

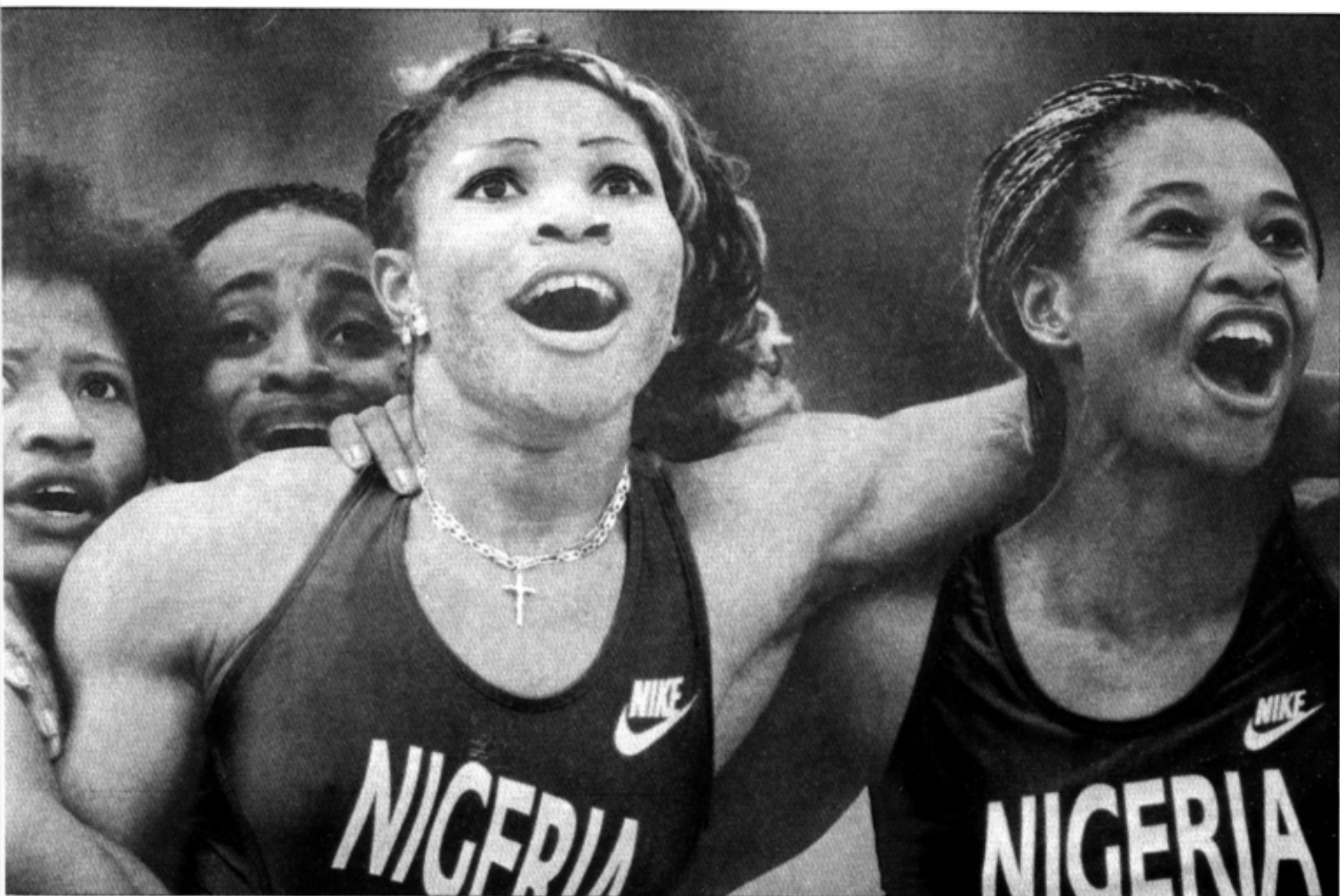
World champion in the 1500m race, Hassiba Boulmerka on her way to Olympic victory. This victory was particularly sweet for Boulmerka because she comes from Algeria, where women are not allowed to show their legs in public. Religious fanatics looked down on her for "running half-naked". She was forced to leave her own country to practice running elsewhere. Boulmerka was the first Algerian and the second Arab woman to win a gold medal in the Olympics



Photo by Allisport, SASI

What a team! Nigeria's Faith Idehen and Maureen Hodge passed the baton to win a gold medal in the 100m women's relay

CH



winners (from left) Faith Utondo, Christy Opara, Faith Ugochuku, and Christy Opara celebrate their bronze medal win in the 4 x 100m relay at the Barcelona Olympics. They became Africa's first women's relay team to win a medal at the Olympics.

CHAMPIONS!

Future Olympic champion? Mocambican runner Maria de Lurdes Mutola leads the field at the Unity Games in South Africa earlier this year. She ran in the 800m and 1500m races at the Barcelona Olympics. Although she did not win either race she showed great promise ☉



Photo by Topfoto International

TAKE NOTE:

Zambian women made sure the politicians could not ignore them in Zambia's multi-party elections last year. Rose Mulumo tells Elinor Sisulu just how they did it



Photos by Anna Zieminski

Will politicians bother about women's needs and demands when there are elections in South Africa? Only if women force them, is the answer from Rose Mulumo, director of Zambia's National Women's Lobby Group. The Lobby Group played an important role in Zambia's October 1991 elections, which brought a new party, the Movement for Multi-Party Democracy (MMD), to power.

The Lobby Group was formed in July 1991. Women from different non-governmental organisations (NGOs), church groups and political

parties came together to discuss what women could do in the elections. They felt they had gained nothing from 27 years of independence.

"During the struggle for Zambia's independence, men, women and children fought side by side and died together for freedom," Mulumo explained. "This was forgotten after independence in 1964.

"The Constitution of Zambia promises equality and fair play for women yet there are still laws and customs which discriminate against them," said Mulumo.

WOMEN VOTE!

The Women's League of the United National Independence Party (UNIP), Zambia's previous government, was supposed to do something about women's issues. It spent more time singing and dancing to welcome leaders at airports and political rallies than fighting for women's rights, believes Mulumo. "The sing-song-dance role played by UNIP Party women was part of the reason why there was a loss of focus on gender issues," said Mulumo.

'*The hour has come*' was the slogan of the MMD, the main party which put pressure on President Kaunda's UNIP government to allow multi-party elections. The Women's Lobby Group believed the hour had also come for Zambian women. It wanted politicians who were standing for elections to be aware of women's rights. The



Rose Mulumo, director of Zambia's National Women's Lobby Group. "We have to keep reminding the government women are here"

"The sing-song-dance role played by UNIP Party women was part of the reason why there was a loss of focus on gender issues"

Lobby Group decided to be non-partisan - it did not want to support any one political party or take sides in the election. It wanted to make sure women's issues were included in the programmes of all the parties and that all the parties had women in the leadership.

The ruling party UNIP rejected the Lobby Group, saying it was anti-government and a front for the MMD. The UNIP Women's League called the Women's Lobby Group "a bunch of educated publicity-seekers" and "American-sponsored feminists".

The Lobby Group took no notice and set to work on a big campaign to educate women about voting. It became part of the Zambian Election Monitoring Coordinating Committee (ZEMCC) which was set up to raise awareness of the elections and to make sure the elections were free and fair.

The Lobby Group wrote small books telling people how to vote. Mulumo herself travelled with the ZEMCC team through all the provinces of Zambia, holding workshops in the local languages.

"In some places people did not know why they should vote. We had to tell them voting was one of the most important ways of changing things. We had to make sure women knew they had the right to vote and that their vote was secret. We told them they did not have to tell anyone who they voted for - not even their husbands. We showed them step by step how to vote and explained the election laws in simple language," Mulumo told SPEAK.

The Lobby Group encouraged women to vote for women and men candidates who supported women's struggles - no matter which political party they came from.

Following the elections, five women were voted into the new parliament of Zambia. There are also five women permanent secretaries in the civil service and three women diplomats. The Lobby Group felt they had achieved some success but Mulumo says it is not enough.

"We have to keep reminding the government we are here. We have to keep up the pressure to have more women in leadership and better laws for women," explains Mulumo. ♀

We Miss You All



This month we bring you the last part of a three part story from Noerine Kaleeba's book "We Miss You All: AIDS in the family"

Shattered by the news in June 1986 that her husband Chris had AIDS, Noerine went to England to spend some time with him. In September 1986 she returned home to Kampala, Uganda. The following month, Chris followed her home even though the more advanced medical care in England would have kept him alive longer.

Chris' return home

I arranged for an ambulance to meet Chris. I thought he would be too ill to walk, but he came off the plane walking! This was a wonderful sight for me and the whole family who were there to meet him. We went back to his parents' house where we celebrated his homecoming with a huge meal. A big crowd turned up. Most of them had come to show Chris their support and wish him well. Others came to see how a person with AIDS looked.

After Chris returned we were very close as a family. Our daughters loved being with their father, especially Christine, the baby. Chris fixed things around the house, I thought he would be ill for a very long time so I went back to work. I organised things around the house so he had everything he needed within easy reach.

Even though we tried everything to help him,

including traditional herbal medicines, Chris became ill again. He was admitted to hospital in November 1986. He was nursed, cleaned and fed by his family and friends because the nurses would not touch him. Chris was coughing, vomiting and had diarrhoea. His meningitis (swelling of the covering of the brain) which had got better in England, came back. We could not get the medicine he needed in Uganda because it was too expensive. On 23rd January 1987, Chris died.

Chris died in a lot of pain and I couldn't take it. I had a lot of support from my family and friends. After the funeral I went away. I was heartbroken. I had known Chris was going to die, but I wasn't prepared for the way in which he died. Such terrible pain and suffering! Sometimes, when I talk about these things, like the headache Chris had the week he died, I live the moment again, and the pain is deep in my bones.

An AIDS support organisation

After Chris died I began to plan for the future. Even though my HIV test had been negative, I did not believe I was free of HIV infection. I asked God to give me one more year to do something useful for people with AIDS.

AIDS in the family



Before Chris died I found other people who had AIDS. I invited them to our house, just to talk or share meals. They visited Chris regularly. After Chris died I contacted friends who used to visit him and other people who had AIDS. First we met to talk, cry, pray and share our problems. Then we realised we needed to help people with medicine, clinical care and professional support. We decided to start The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO).

Today TASO is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) which helps thousands of people in Uganda. TASO provides care and counselling for people with HIV. TASO has programmes to help people learn more about AIDS. These programmes are for everyone in the community, including health workers and political activists. We try to show that people with HIV and AIDS need the love and support of their communities.

Fighting AIDS in the open

I have chosen to live my life as if I am infected with HIV. It is not the test results which are important. It is what we do with the results - whether we behave in a way which will avoid infection or in a way which will spread infection.

I understand why people with HIV infection want to keep it a secret, but how can we fight this infection if we hide it? We can't. I wanted to be open about AIDS in my family so at least my children and yours would be spared. They would know about the danger of AIDS before they start having sex.

In Uganda, the only person, other than myself, who has spoken on TV and radio about being HIV positive, was the popular Ugandan musician and singer, Philly Lutaaya. A video "Born in Africa" was made about him. When he stood up and said publicly "I have AIDS" it did a lot to bring AIDS into the open.

AIDS took my man away. Since then it has come back many times, taking from my side young men and women who I worked with as we built TASO. I live with the terrible fear of when, where and how AIDS might come for me.



I have chosen to live positively with these fears. I want to fight in the open and do as much as I can for as long as I live, in the fight that will eventually lead to HIV's defeat.

You can buy Noerine Kaleeba's book "We Miss You All" from the Women and AIDS Support Network (WASN). WASN's address is PO Box 1554, Harare, Zimbabwe ♣

HIV, AIDS and living positively

People who are HIV positive can live healthy lives for many years. The healthier their lives are, the longer they are likely to live. Many people who are HIV positive have, however, developed AIDS. A person who develops AIDS gets very sick and may in the end die from it. Here are some ideas on living positively with HIV and AIDS:

If you are HIV positive or have developed AIDS you should:

- get medical care when you get infections like bronchitis, thrush and skin sores. Everytime a person who has developed AIDS gets an infection their body finds it more difficult to get better;
- try not to smoke or drink alcohol as this lowers your body's ability to fight disease;
- eat food which is rich in proteins, vitamins and carbohydrates;
- get enough sleep and try not to get overtired;
- do enough exercise to keep you fit, but don't do exercise which will use up a lot of energy and make you very tired;
- carry on working, if you can;

- do things which relax you and bring you pleasure, like reading, craft work, going out with friends, being with family;
- you need physical affection, like being hugged, and emotional affection, like being told you are loved. Tell people you need this;
- go to AIDS counselling to help you keep a good attitude about your life. Talk about your feelings, whether you are angry, sad, want to blame people, or feel hopeful;
- always use a condom if you have sex, even if both you and your partner are HIV positive. This will lessen the risk of getting more of the HIV virus into your body. Condoms also prevent pregnancy and help you and your partner to avoid getting any other sexually transmitted diseases;
- Pregnancy makes it harder for a woman's body to fight sickness and can make AIDS develop faster. If you are HIV positive and want to get pregnant think carefully before you make your decision. Make sure you have all the facts about the health problems this could bring you and your baby. ◊



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A plea from the unemployed

by Sano Maputuma

I've been going mad these past six months, trying to get a job. In spite of all my efforts, I do not have one.

I wake up every morning with a dull feeling, listening to my neighbours getting ready for work. In the past I have gone with them, hoping someone on the train would say they need workers at their factory. I have spent the day walking around the factory estate - and come home hungry and tired on a train with the same workers with whom I set out in the morning.

Now I don't go with them. I am not one of the workers. I feel alone. I wait until they have gone

and then creep away from the township. I go into town or the industrial area and stand by the robots, hoping to get a day's casual work. Or I beg - or steal. Unemployment has robbed me of my self-respect.

Lungile has been unemployed for two years. He was my friend once. Now I hardly recognise him. He is like an animal, bitter and cruel, killing and robbing. He is feared and hated. It is two years since he was retrenched from his job. What will have happened to him two years from now? Death will have found him - a police bullet, an opposing gangster envious of his power, or

in the wreck of one of the cars he steals.

A whole army of disappointed, desperate people who do not support any political organisation is growing. We feel left alone in a wilderness of poverty.

I need to work, my brothers and sisters. African, Coloured and White people need to work. I am not a politician, nor a man of great education, but I can see the despair which people feel.

Remember, we the unemployed were once part of you. Do not put us out of your minds. Politicians should deal with unemployment - for truly, it is the key to the future. ☪

Women behind the wheel

*Don't kill us!
Can you drive?
This is man's
work....* These
are some of
the things
passengers
say when they
see a woman
driving a bus.
Hassen Lorgat
asked two
women bus
drivers about
their work



Photo by Hassen Lorgat

Bus driving is hard work but that does not mean it's men's work

Jenny Solomon and Rachma Kubie were among the first women to be employed as bus drivers by the Johannesburg Municipality Transport Department. Some men bus drivers did not want women to join them. "What do you want here? You must go and cook at home!" was what some of them said.

Passengers also found it hard to accept. Jenny remembers the days when her bus ran empty "because passengers were not sure of us women drivers.

"When they eventually began to get into our buses they would say things like 'don't kill us', 'can you drive?' and 'this is a man's job'", says Jenny smiling.

Jenny laughs when Rachma describes how people behaved when they saw women bus drivers: "When I drove my bus down Fox Street many people were shocked to see a woman driver. But that was not the end of it, because my bus was followed by Jenny in her bus. You should have seen the shock on their faces - two women bus drivers in a row! That was too much for them!"

There is more laughter as Jenny tells of a conversation she had with an old blind woman who once boarded her bus:

Blind woman: "Is this the bus going to Forrest Hill?"

Driver (Jenny): Yes lady, this is the bus going to Forrest Hill.

Blind woman: Listen lady, I'm talking to the bus driver, not to you!

Jenny: But I am the bus driver.

Blind lady: Oh! ... are there women bus drivers now?

Although Jenny and Rachma laugh and joke about their job, bus driving is hard work. They work odd hours and long shifts. Their wages are not very good so they often work overtime to make ends meet. They get backache and problems with sleeping because of shift work. These late hours and the shift work affect family life. When Jenny got married her husband wanted her to leave work. She told him he married her as a bus driver and she would continue driving buses because she loved her job.

Rachma and her husband have a "first come first cook" policy - the one who gets home first does the cooking. Her husband also shares the work of cleaning the house.

"You should have seen the shock on their faces - two women bus drivers in a row!"

SPEAK asked Rachma and Jenny why they became bus drivers.

Jenny was working as a secretary, when she said jokingly to a friend who owned a driving school that she would like to get a code 11 licence because she wanted to become a bus driver. He said "why not?" and took her to the bus company to apply for the job. She started work as a bus driver in March 1982, becoming the second woman driver to work for the company.

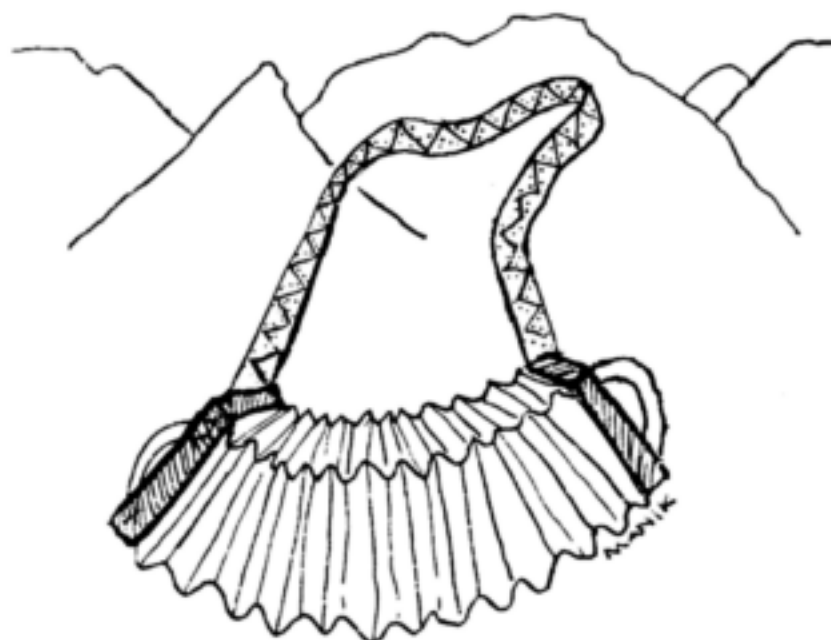
Rachma became a bus driver in February 1983. Before that she was a factory worker in a printing factory for 12 years. She became a bus driver because she wanted to do something different and challenging. The pay was also better.

Men drivers are now used to working with women drivers. There are more women bus drivers now but it is still mainly a man's job. Of the 520 bus drivers who work for the company, only 11 are women.

Asked what they like most about their jobs, Rachma and Jenny say they love meeting new people. ☺

WIN!

Khathazile Gasa's book "The Concertina - Khathazile Follows Her Heart"



Grandmother Khathazile Gasa tells stories. Born in the shadow of the Drakensberg mountains, she tells of her different experiences - life, love, families and being forced to move. The book is written in easy English, and has lots of photographs.

Five SPEAK readers will each win a copy of Gasa's book. Send us a postcard with your name and address to: 'The Concertina' Book Lucky Draw, SPEAK Magazine, PO Box 261363, Excom, 2023, Johannesburg, South Africa. Your entry could be one of the lucky ones.

This competition is only open to people living in southern Africa. No employee or relative of an employee of SPEAK may enter this competition. The winner will be announced in the February 1993 issue of SPEAK. Please make sure your entry reaches us by 1 December 1992. If you want to buy a copy of the book, send R10.00 to Working Life Distributors, 68 Manor Drive, Durban 4001, South Africa. Cheques and postal orders should be made out to: Working Life Distributors. The price includes registered mail postage. ☺

WOMEN PRIESTS

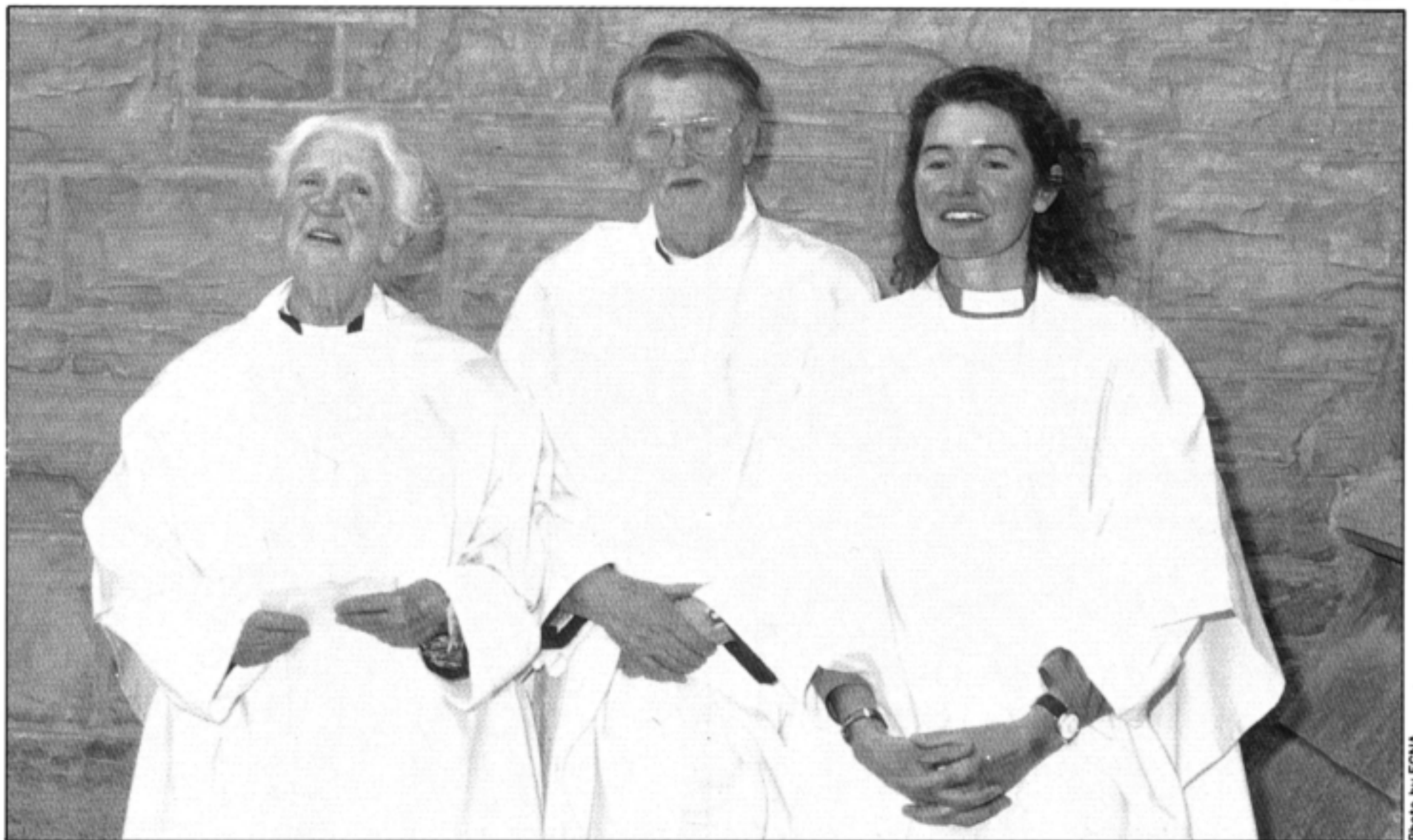


Photo by ECNA

... AT LAST

South Africa's first Anglican women priests were ordained in Grahamstown, Eastern Cape, in September this year. Professor Nancy Charton, Dr Bride Dickson and Su Groves were ordained by the Bishop of Grahamstown, the Right Reverend Russell.

Bishop Russell said it was a "rich and special day for all."

The decision that women could be ordained as priests was made by 79% of those

who attended the Triennial Synod of the Anglican Church Province in South Africa. The synod was held in Swaziland in August this year. However, the decision is not forced on all the country's dioceses. It is left up to

individual bishops to decide whether or not to allow women priests in their diocese.

There was a moment of tension in the Cathedral of St Michael and St George when Bishop Russell asked if anyone

had any reason why the ceremony should not go ahead - but no-one stood up. Friends and relatives joined the ceremony, helping the newly-ordained women priests put on their priestly clothes.

The Dean of

Three women were recently ordained as South Africa's first Anglican women priests. Nicola Coningsby went to the event and spoke to one of the history-makers, Professor Nancy Charton

Grahamstown, the Very Reverend Anthony Mdletshe, said in his sermon the church was standing between the dying, old order and the new, emerging order. He quoted the American civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, saying: "what we see today is a foretaste of things to come."

Newly-ordained Professor Nancy Charton said: "Jesus came to proclaim the Kingdom 2000 years ago. It's taken 1700 years to accept slavery wasn't part of the Christian dispensation and it's taken 2000 years to realise women are full human beings." She said the decision would make more women want to join the ministry. "Some women have held back because they did not want to accept second-class citizenship in the church. I accepted it seven years ago in obedience to Christ."

A big problem has been tradition. "Traditionally, people with authority are men. It's a culture shock for some men and women to accept women as people with authority ... Jesus didn't take notice of tradition. He invited Mary to sit at his feet and learn the law when only men could be scholars."

This was the second time Charton, who is a retired Head of the Rhodes Political Science Department, makes history. She was the first woman deacon in the Anglican Church in South Africa in 1985. Her parish is in Grahamstown. She has three children and seven grandchildren.

When asked what, as a woman priest, she would be

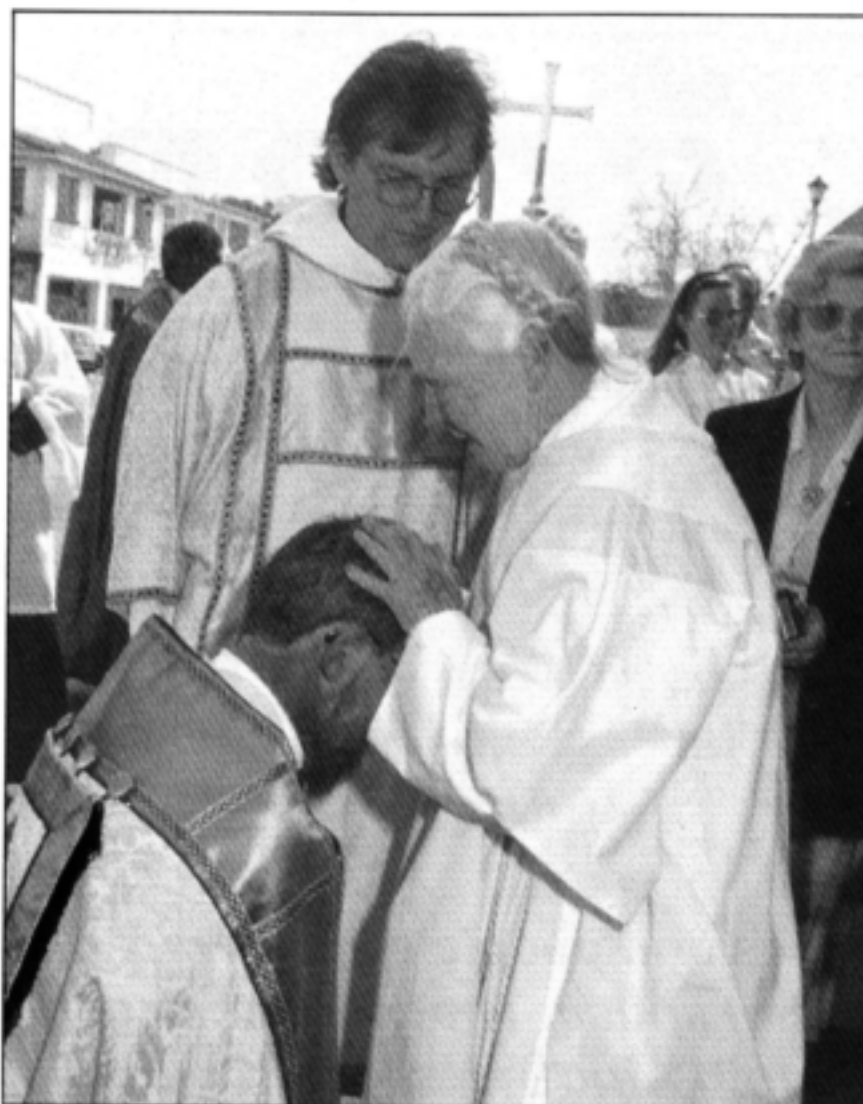


Photo by ECNA

"It's taken 2000 years to realise women are full human beings". Nancy Charton, newly-ordained priest

able to bring to the church that is different to what male priests could bring, she said: "Women

have gifts which are different but go together well with the gifts of men. The church hasn't recognised their gifts, only letting them make tea and do housekeeping duties. In particular, women have the gift of caring and the Church hasn't recognised this gift."

Charton said she felt sorry for those who had opposed the ordination of women. "I have experienced pain and rejection for 16 years but I haven't left the church or made a song and dance about it. I know the pain they are experiencing and I pray for them," she said. ☩

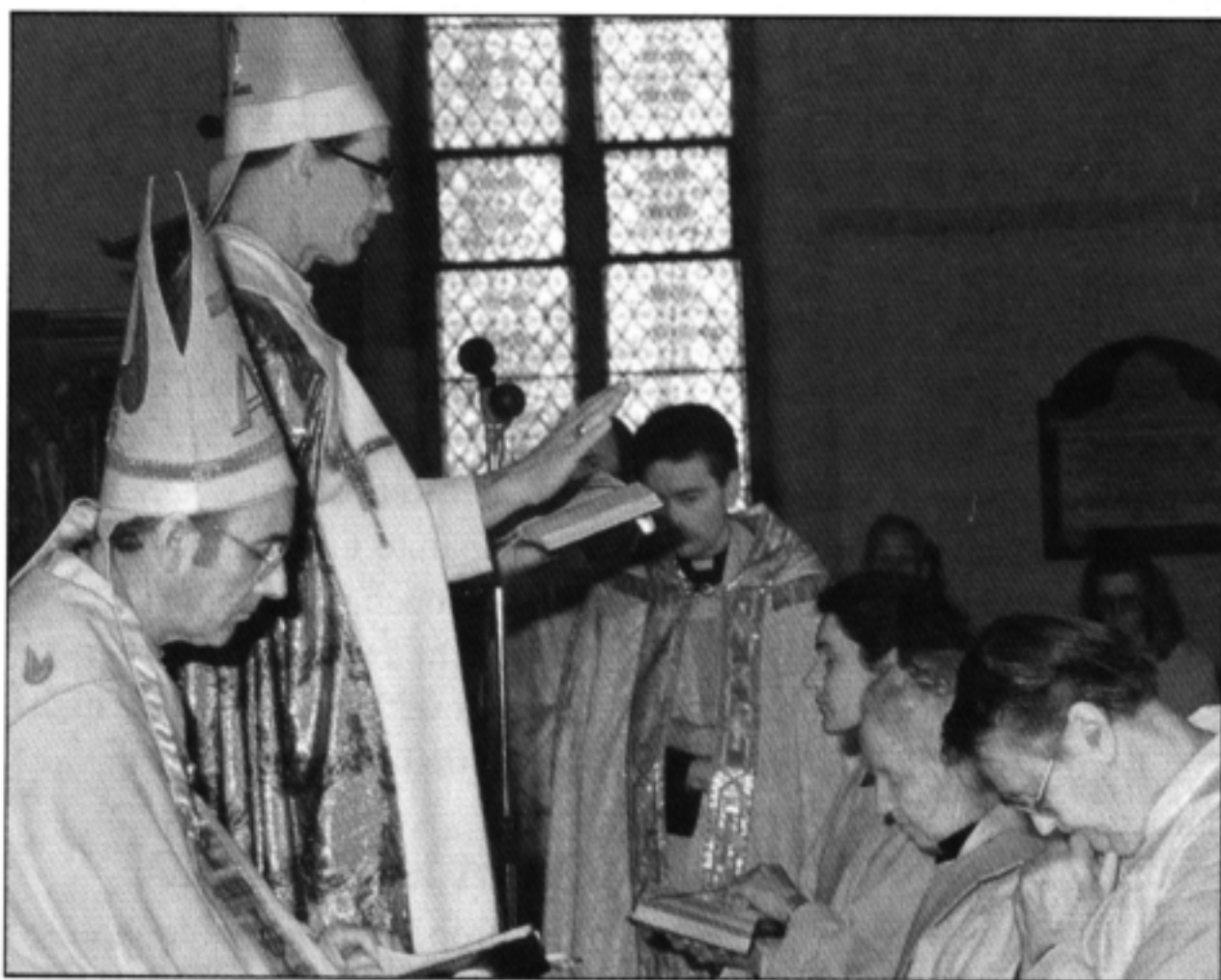


Photo by ECNA

History is made. South Africa's first three women Anglican priests are ordained. From right to left: Dr Bride Dickson, Professor Nancy Charton and Su Grove

THE SOBER FACTS ABOUT ALCOHOL

Friendships, families and people's lives are destroyed by alcohol abuse. The problem is getting worse, says the South African National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence (SANCA). Mahadi Miya and Karen Hurt look at the problem of alcohol abuse

About 6 out of every 100 alcohol drinkers are likely to become dependent on alcohol.

Serious abuse of alcohol can shorten a person's life by ten to 15 years.

In South Africa, more than 353 000 people are alcoholics, of which about 55 000 are women.

These are facts from SANCA.

Thandi, a qualified teacher, started drinking alcohol after finding out her husband was having an affair with another woman. Soon she was drinking until she saw the empty bottom of each bottle. Things started going badly at work. Her relationship with her teenage sons got bad. She couldn't cope

with life anymore. She couldn't live without the bottle. She started drinking secretly at work. Her marriage broke up. Some friends turned away from her.

Those who stood by her realised how badly alcohol had affected Thandi's health - both mentally and physically. They took her to hospital where she too began to understand how ill she had become. Thandi has started the battle to build her life all over again - a life which the bottle nearly destroyed.

What is alcohol?

The proper name for alcohol is Ethyl Alcohol. It is a liquid without colour. South African beer has about 5%, wine about 10% and spirits, like cane and

gin about 40% of Ethyl Alcohol. Alcohol is like a drug which, when taken in large amounts over time, affects almost every part of the body. You can develop a physical and mental dependence on it, like people do with other drugs, such as mandrax. Alcohol affects your brain, making you less able to think and act clearly.

What is an alcoholic?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) says an alcoholic is any person whose drinking causes problems in any part of his or her life. The problems could be in any one or more of the following:

- mental, emotional, physical health;



- social life;
- working life.

If the person appears unable to control or limit the amount of alcohol they drink, he or she is said to be alcohol dependent.

What is alcoholism?

Alcoholism is a disease which can be treated. Part of the treatment is to help the person to feel good again without needing to drink alcohol.

You can never be too old, young, rich or poor to become an alcoholic. Both men and women can become alcoholics. If a young person drinks he or she is likely to become an alcoholic faster than an older person who drinks. This is why teenage drinking is so serious. There is no proof that

alcoholism can be passed on from parents to children, but children can learn drinking habits from their parents.

What problems do alcoholics face?

Alcoholics risk damaging their bodies in many different ways. Here are just a few:

- stomach illnesses - ulcers, damage to the lining of the stomach, bleeding, swelling of the stomach lining, increased chance of cancer;
- high blood pressure;
- damage to the brain, heart and liver;
- vitamin shortage;
- the unborn baby (foetus) of a pregnant woman can be seriously affected by it's mother's drinking;

- infertility in men.

Alcoholism causes social problems, like:

- child and woman abuse;
- senseless violence;
- loss of earnings through being fired from a job because of drinking;
- accidents at work, at home and on the road;
- family arguments and breakup, sexual problems;
- anxiety and depression.

Women alcoholics

Society looks down more on a drunken woman than a drunken man. The pressure of bringing up children and being responsible for housework falls on women. This burden makes it harder



for a woman to admit she has a drinking problem. Women often drink secretly - making them more anxious and depressed. This double standard makes it harder for women to ask for help. When they do, there may be another problem.

“Most research about alcoholism is done about men so treatment is directed to men. Women find it harder to fit in,” says Fiona Geddes of SANCA in Johannesburg. “Men are taken more seriously than women. Women are treated as if they are just over-anxious”. But women should not be put off, says Geddes, “the more women alcoholics become involved in treatment the more they can make it change to suit their needs.”

Women can get drunk more quickly than men because women’s bodies are made up of less water than men’s. Alcohol is absorbed into the blood more quickly. Just before and during a woman’s period she can also get drunk more quickly. Some of the diseases caused by alcohol happen faster in

women, like liver disease.

Men find it easier to sexually and physically abuse a drunk woman.

Curing alcoholism

If you are an alcoholic the first step is to admit your problem and work out why you became dependent on alcohol in the first place.

Where to get help?

There are clinics in South Africa where alcoholics can be admitted (as an inpatient), or which they can visit regularly (as an outpatient). There are also support organisations, like Sanca, Lifeline and Alcoholics Anonymous. Phone numbers and addresses are in the telephone book. Family members and friends who want to give support can play an important role. However, only the alcoholic can make the decision to stop drinking.

SANCA Johannesburg Society: (011) 836-5942
 SANCA national office telephone: (011) 725-5810
 Alcoholics Anonymous national office: (011) 836-8735

Is someone you know dependent on alcohol?

Here are some signs of a person who is dependent on alcohol.

A person who:

- drinks more often than before and seems to be losing control over life;
- needs increasingly more alcohol before they get drunk;
- has a puffy or swollen face - sometimes called ‘phuza face’;
- needs to drink to bring relief, solve problems or cope with life;
- does not stop drinking - even when others do;
- finds excuses to drink;
- does not think, speak or act clearly;
- drinks in the morning;
- has memory loss. Unable to remember what happened the night before even though to others he or she did not seem drunk at the time;
- drinks at a time when it is important to be sober, like before a job interview or an important event;
- often stays away from work;
- has personality changes. They might feel guilty, aggressive, jealous, or have a bad memory. They might lie about their drinking;
- is not interested in doing anything which does not involve drinking alcohol;
- needs to set aside a certain part of the day for drinking.

In the November issue of SPEAK we look at what alcohol does to an unborn baby.

As a matter of fact...

Ban on the Pill in Japan

The Japanese government has decided to keep a ban on the contraceptive Pill. The Health and Welfare Ministry said use of the Pill could increase the spread of AIDS because couples would stop using condoms. Condoms are used by 70 percent of Japan's adult population. About 43 percent of married women use condoms - this is the highest rate in the world.



Men taking responsibility for prevention

"Vasectomy, an act of love," said a 1989 Brazilian TV advert.

42 million married couples of child-bearing age throughout the world use vasectomy (male sterilization) to prevent pregnancy. Vasectomy is a small operation which sterilizes men. It takes about 15 minutes to do, and is 99% effective. It is one of the safest ways of preventing pregnancy. Once the operation is done, however, it is very difficult to reverse.



Abortion numbers

Every year throughout the world, 26 to 31 million women have legal abortions and another 10 to 22 million women have secret abortions,



says the International Planned Parenthood Federation.



Husband sentenced for raping wife

A man from Louisiana, in the United States of America, was sentenced to life and 45 years in prison for raping his wife in front of their two small children. Willie Williams is the first person charged with spouse (married partner) rape under a new state law.



More of us all the time

Every year the world population increases by almost 100 million. There are presently about 5.5 billion people in the world.



Polluted Soweto

Dr Colin Turner of Eskom says for four months of each year pollution in Soweto is more than, and sometimes even double, the internationally accepted levels. He said there were times when the air was too thick to measure.



HIV spreads

More than one million people in the world have been infected with the HIV-virus since April 1991, according to an international report. The report said one out of every ten of those infected are children born to HIV-positive mothers. About 12 million people worldwide are HIV-positive. It is said about 40 million people will be HIV-positive by the year 2000.



Information from: local daily and weekly newspapers, international and local journals, health articles and magazines.Ⓞ

Taxi Talk

Parents, if you get divorced don't force your children to take sides, says 20 year-old Aurelia Mazibuko. She talks from bitter experience

Not much is said about how kids of divorced parents suffer. Divorce tears you into two people - the one which you show to the outside world and the other which is hidden inside you. You have to please both your parents.

You are damned if there is a cold war between them - you have to side with the one you are living with.

Divorce takes your confidence away, leaving you feeling insecure. You are unsure of your decisions. You feel as if you have to rely on other people for direction in life. This is all because events in your life have been decided for you - sometimes without being asked whether you like it or not.

It becomes even harder when both your parents remarry. You have to rearrange your character to accept these two new strangers into your life as 'mom and dad'. From that time on your reason for doing things is always questioned. You get



labelled a gold-digger - or a bed bug which is ungrateful when its had it's meal.

If the mother wins custody of the children she becomes the one who watches every move you make. She may even stop you having contact with your father, especially if he pays nothing towards your maintenance.

When the father sees the progress the mother is making in raising the kids, he comes out from hibernation and claims his rights as the father.

As a 20 year-old who last saw and received money from my father ten years ago, how do I deal with the situation? Wouldn't it seem like betraying my mother who has been with me through thick and thin if I see him?

I do not blame either of the two, but children should be prepared for such situations. Divorced parents must not force the children to take sides. If there is a cold war between the parents it should not be allowed to affect the kids. ●

NOTICES

IF YOU WANT TO PLACE A NOTICE IN SPEAK, GET IT TO US BY THE 10th OF EVERY MONTH!!!

SEND IT TO US:
PO BOX 261 363, EXCOM, 2023
TELEPHONE: (011) 296166

The Weekly Mail/Guardian Film Festival will take place from **25 October to 7 November 1992**. Films will be screened at the **Market Theatre in Johannesburg, Alexandra, Kagiso and Soweto**. The **Cape Town** venue is the **Labia Theatre**. Indian director, **Mira Nair** (*Mississippi Masala* and *Salaam Bombay*) will be giving public lectures and running workshops for film students. If you want to know more, about these workshops and films contact:

**The Weekly Mail/Guardian:
Telephone: (011) 334 3719**

The African Research and Educational Puppetry Programme (AREPP) was formed in 1987. AREPP works mainly through grassroots organisations to take their message about AIDS to people in the streets in both rural and urban communities. 1 December is International AIDS Day. If you want AREPP to assist you with providing drama for a programme you are organising for that day,

Contact them at:
**PO Box 51022, Raedene
Johannesburg, 2124.
Telephone: (011) 483 1024
Fax : (011) 483 1786**

A group of women activists has produced a package for women's organisations on how to organise and run workshops. The package is designed for six workshops. It includes information, literature, posters and illustrations. The topics for the workshops cover a wide range of women's issues such as "Women and the Law", "Women and Violence".

The package is available from:
The Media Department
IDASA
1 Penzance Road
Observatory, Cape Town
Telephone: (021) 47 3127
The package costs R16,00



A call on lesbians to write!

A North American lesbian-feminist publisher, New Victoria Publishers, is collecting short stories and essays from lesbians. These will be published in a book.

The stories or essays must not be more than 3500 words and must be written in English. The deadline is March 31, 1993. You can decide if you want your name printed in the book.

Send your work to: **New Victoria Publishers
Box 27, Norwich
Vermont
05055
United States of America**

SPEAK

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FEMINISM
IS IT A DIRTY WORD?

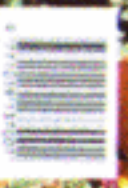
RAPE
AT THE POINT OF AN
ARMY GUN

PLUS
HOW TO GET AN ID BOOK
HOW TOBACCO KILLS

**SHADO
TWALA**

ON HER LIFE, RADIO,
SEX AND AIDS

WIN! * CAMERA
* TAPE RECORDER



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**ELLEN
KUZWAYO**

ON HER LIFE, FEMINISM AND
POLITICAL TOLERANCE

**A MAN SAYS YES
TO ABORTION**

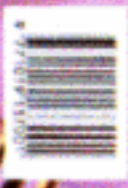
**SHOULD HEALTH
WORKERS STRIKE?**

VUKUZENZELE
HAWKERS SUCCEED

BUYING ON HP
BEWARE OF DANGERS

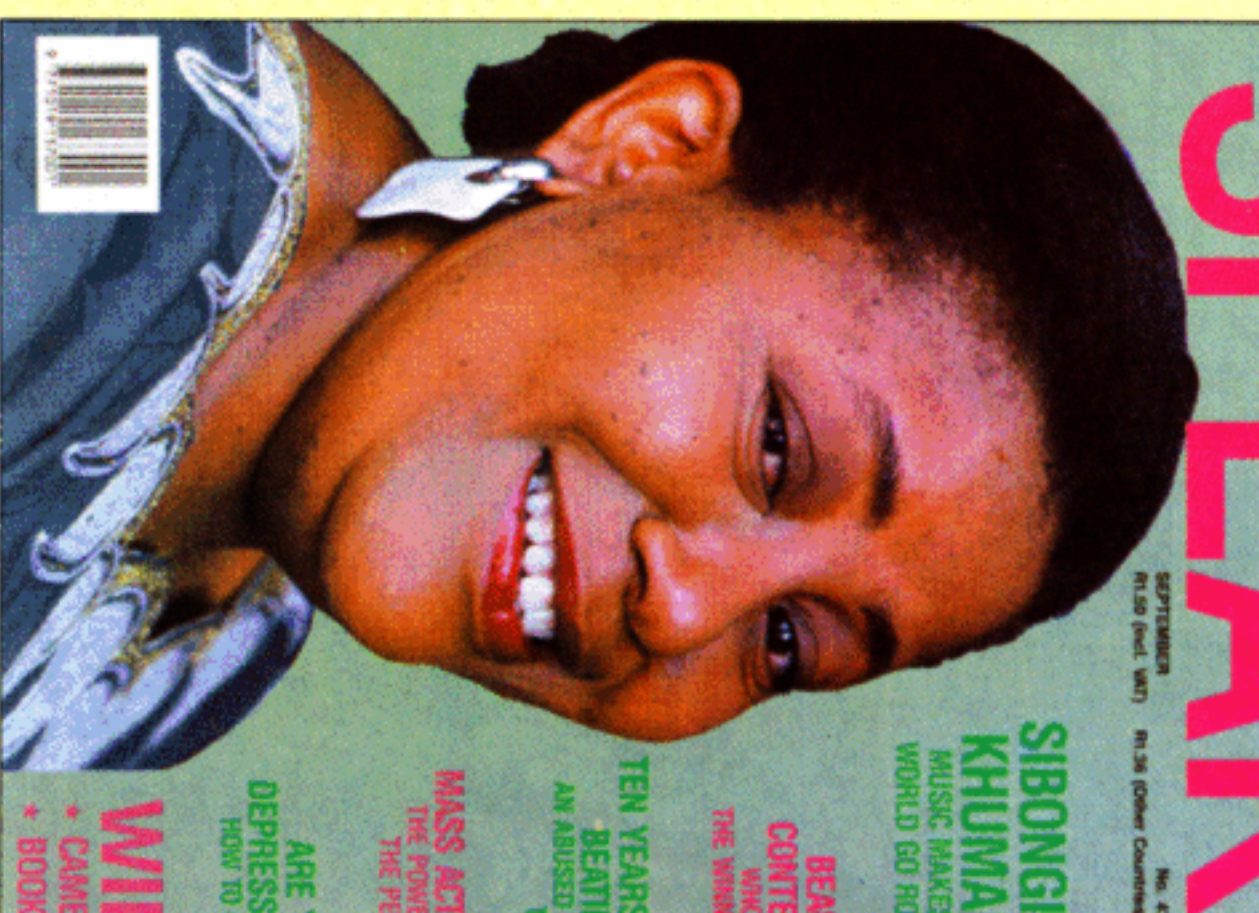
BREAST CANCER
WHAT EVERY WOMAN
SHOULD KNOW

WIN! * WALKMAN
* BOOKS



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**SIBONGILE
KHUMALO**

MUSIC MAKES MY
WORLD GO ROUND

**BEAUTY
CONTESTS**
WHO ARE
THE WINNERS?

**TEN YEARS OF
BEATINGS**
AN ABUSED WIFE
TALKS

MASS ACTION
THE POWER OF
THE PEOPLE

**ARE YOU
DEPRESSED?**
HOW TO COPE

WIN! * CAMERA
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